

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A FUEL RETAIL FACILITY IN EPAKO PROPER, GOBABIS -OMAEHEKE REGION: NAMIBIA.



DATE: NOVEMBER 2019

PROPONENT: GHANOMA TRANS INVESTMENT CC

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Definitions

TERMS	DEFINITION
BID	Background Information Document
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioners
ECC	Environmental Clearance Certificate
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
EIA (R)	Environmental Impact Assessment (Report)
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EMPr	Environmental Management Plan Report
GHG	Greenhouse Gasses
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
I&Aps	Interested and Affected Parties
MET: DEA	Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Directorate of Environmental Affairs
NHC	National Heritage Council
NEMA	Namibia Environmental Management Act
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

i. Purpose of This Environmental Impact Assessment Report

This Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) follows on the Scope of Work delineated by GHANOMA TRANS INVESTMENT CC. Existing information and input from commenting authorities, Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) was used to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts (both social and biophysical) associated with the proposed project.

Environmental flaws associated with the proposed project were identified through the Environmental Scoping Report. A conscious decision was made based on the recommendations and guidelines by the Directorate of Environmental Affairs EIA guidelines in order to assess both significant and less significant environmental impacts proposed by the development. The developed Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for this proposed activity will have to be effectively implemented by the client, to ensure that adverse environmental impacts are not considered.

The detailed assessment of the anticipated impacts was undertaken with the purpose of highlighting any areas of concern regarding to the proposed project during its construction, and operation. In addition, an independent sensitivity mapping analysis was undertaken. This analysis characterised the development site on the significant environmental aspects in order to reflect the sites suitable and unsuitable (no-go) development footprint areas. This action guided the final footprint of the PV Plant and the transmission line.

This EIAR will also be used to motivate and define the previously identified, project alternatives (i.e. site, technology and layout) based on the findings of the environmental baseline study and the suitability of the site to the type of development. This EIAR has been compiled in accordance with the regulatory requirements stipulated in the EIA Regulations (2012), promulgated in terms of the Namibian environmental legislation (Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007))

The EIAR aims to:

- Provide an overall assessment of the social, physical and biophysical environments of the area affected by the proposed establishment of the charcoal processing and packaging process;
- Undertake a detailed environmental assessment, in terms of environmental criteria and impacts (direct, indirect and cumulative), and recommend a preferred location for the proposed plant (based on environmental sensitivity);
- Identify and recommend appropriate mitigation measures for potentially significant environmental impacts; and
- Undertake a fully inclusive Public Participation Process (PPP)

- GIS sensitivity mapping was conducted to identify potential impacts, propose mitigation and inform the sensitivity analysis.

A systematic approach was adopted for the successful completion of the EIA in line with the regulated process. The diagram in Figure 1 below indicates the sequential process that will be followed for this study.

ii. Assumptions And Limitations

The following assumptions and limitations underpin the approach to this EIA study:

- The information received from the stakeholders, desktop surveys and baseline assessments are current and valid at the time of the study;
- A precautionary approach was adopted in instances where baseline information was insufficient or unavailable;
- Mandatory timeframes will apply to the review and adjudication of the reports by the competent authority and other government departments; and
- No land claims have been registered for the proposed site at the onset and registration of the study.

NB: The EAP does not accept any responsibility in the event that additional information comes to light at a later stage of the process. All data from unpublished research utilised for the purposed of this project is valid and accurate. The scope of this investigation is limited to assessing the potential biophysical, social and cultural impacts associated with the proposed project.

iii. EIA Approach & Methodology

The proposed project entails the conducting of a mandatory EIA as required by the relevant Environmental legislation and requires four (4) primary activities to be undertaken to ensure the successful completion of the process. These four (4) activities form the Scope of Work for the study and are described below:

Activity 1: EIA Process Development and Initiation

It is required that proper planning is be done in order to ensure that the EIA is conducted according to the legislative requirements and that the process is sound. In order to develop a sound EIA process it is required that an extensive legal gap analysis is conducted and a proper program developed, scheduling all the required activities. The initiation of the EIA process must involve consultation with interested parties and institutional stakeholders in order to identify potential impacts, alternatives and key burning points relating to the project early in the process. During the initiation of the EIA it is important that the project alternatives identify and assessed.

Activity 2: The Scoping Process

The Scoping process must involve the identification of key issues, concerns, alternatives and impacts, over and above what has been identified and assessed during the initiation phase. The vehicle for this process is the public participation process (PPP), whereby I&APs has to be identified and engaged with to exchange information and to establish a platform of engagement. The information needs to form the basis from which to prepare the Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) as well as the various terms of reference for the required Specialist Studies. The environmental baseline needs to be determined from which to assess the likely impacts of the proposed development. Issues raised in the course of scoping must be presented in both the SR and the Comments and Response Report (C&RR).

Activity 3: Detailed Impact Assessment

The impacts, alternatives and issues identified during the scoping needs to be assessed during this phase of the process by means of the identified specialist assessments. Mitigation measures must be proposed and the likely residual impacts highlighted in the EIAR. It is crucial that the PPP be continued throughout this phase as well in order to involve I&APs and ensure transparency in the reporting.

Activity 4: Environmental Management Plan

A crucial aspect of the EIA process is the formulation of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). This programme must be contained within the EIAR and is a concurrent activity to the Detailed Impact Assessment phase of the project. It must state the actions to be implemented during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the proposed project in order to achieve the mitigation targets.

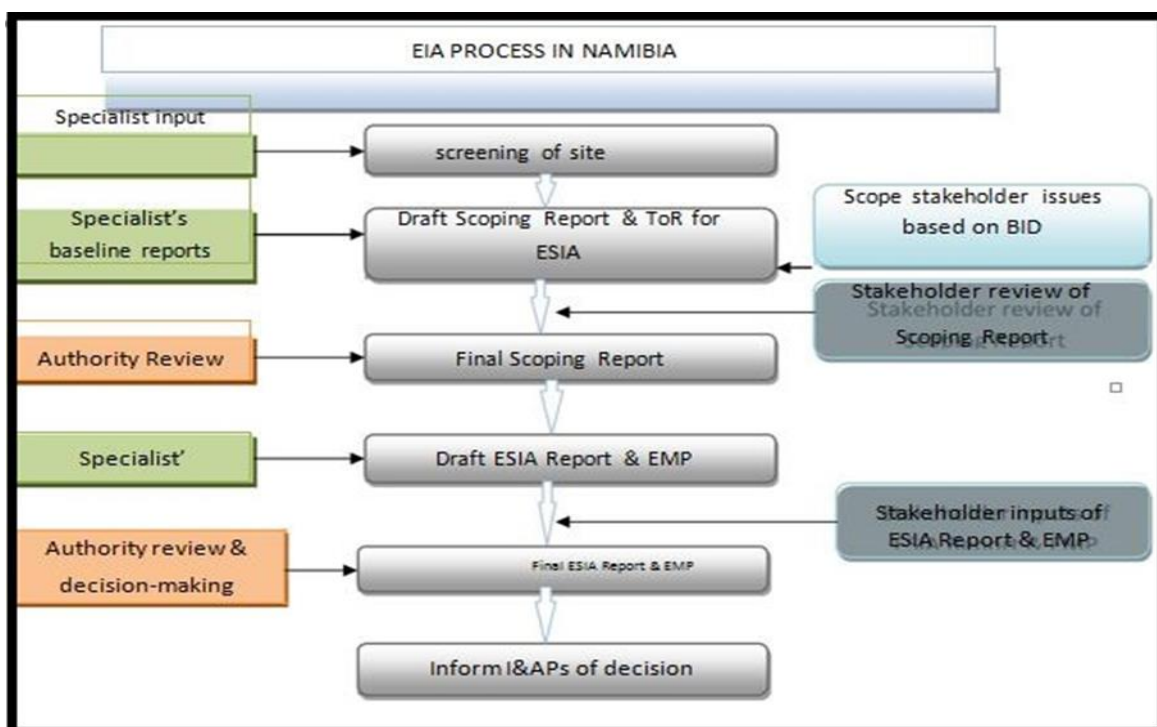


Figure 1: Schematic representation of the EIA Process followed in this study

1. CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND

1.1. Introduction

The proponent GHANOMA TRANS INVESTMENT CC (The Proponent) intends to spearhead direct investments in Gobabis Town. As such modern day fuel station is proposed for development in Epako Suburb. This need is necessitated by the fact that, there is no service station servicing the whole suburb of Epako, such that for fuel requirements, car owners will have to drive into Gobabis CBD. In addition to the service station a small shop will be established to also foster for basic commodities and fast foods.

In this respect the proponent has appointed EnviroPlan Consulting cc to undertake an Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA), formulate an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and apply for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET): Directorate of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for the construction and operation of a fuel station in Epako Proper, Gobabis Town.

This document forms part of the application to be made to the DEA's office for an Environmental Clearance certificate for the proposed establishment of a service station according the guidelines and statutes of the Environmental Management Act No.7 of 2007 and the environmental impacts regulations (GN 30 in GG 4878 of 6 February 2012).

1.2. Project Location

The project site is on ERF 35 of Epako Proper in Gobabis Town, Omaheke Region-Namibia. ERF 35 is adjacent to Gobabis Municipality Epako Offices to the East and Epako Open Market to the North-East in Omaheke Region-Namibia. The project locality Map and site coordinates are as follows:

Table 1: Site Coordinates

A. -22.436626°/ 18.990544°	B. -22.436626°/ 18.990043°
C. -22.437220°/ 18.990048°	D. -22.437263°/ 18.990521°

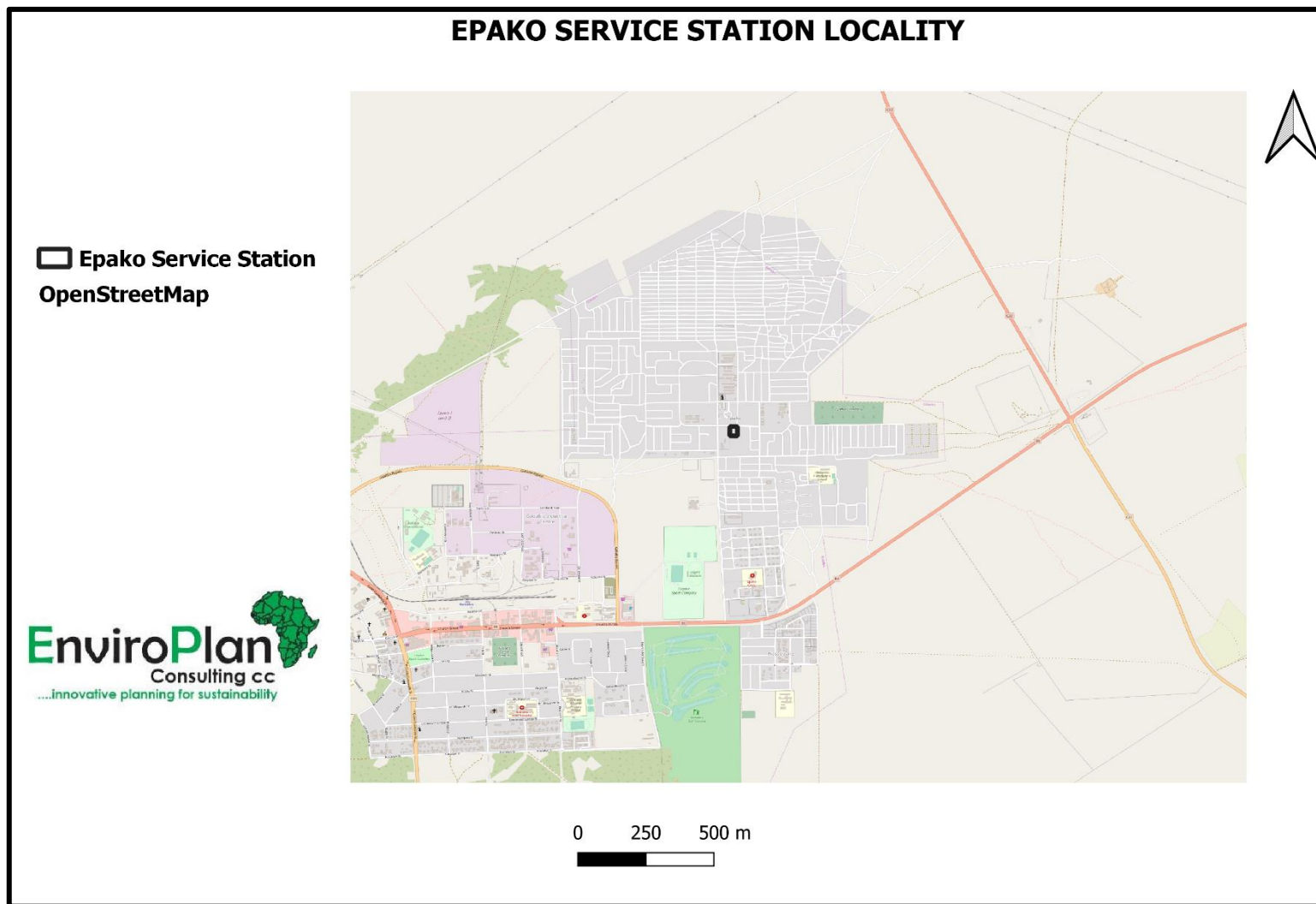


Figure 2: Proposed Project Site.

1.3. Project Overview

The applicant Ghanoma Investment cc, intends to construct and operate a fuel station in Epako Proper of Gobabis Town. The project is aimed at easing fuel supply and general daily groceries and fast foods in Epako Suburb. The construction and operation of a service station and a mini market will be conducted with a high degree of safety for employees and equipment. The proposed infrastructure will have minimal impacts on the natural resources, i.e. water, fauna and flora.

1.4. Proposed project infrastructure

The scope of the EIA is to determine the potential environment impacts derived from the construction and operation of the proposed facility. Relevant environmental data have been compiled by making use of secondary data and from a reconnaissance site visit. Potential environmental impacts and associated social impacts were identified and addressed in this report.

The construction and operation will involve;

- Preparation of the site, including excavations
- Erection of a building (including a convenience store, an office and sufficient parking facilities).
- The installation of new fuel storage facilities.
- Installation of fueling network pipelines and associated pumps.
- Transport of fuel supply with road transport tanker trucks.
- Off-loading of fuel into underground petroleum storage tanks
- The dispensing of fuel into vehicles.
- Construction of a mini supermarket

The proposed project will mainly focus on the following developments

1.5. Accessibility

The site is easily accessible from an existing street connecting to Epako Open Market.

1.6. Land Use and Ownership

The piece of land has been offered to Ghanoma Investments cc.

1.7. Infrastructure and Services

- **Water:** Gobabis Municipality will provide for water supply and there are existing connections on site.
- **Ablution:** Gobabis municipality sewer reticulation system will be used.
- **Electricity:** There is an existing electricity connection line within 20m from the site.
- **Communication:** The site is connected with MTC, TN Mobile and satellite phones.

2. CHAPTER TWO: POLICY, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

2.1. Introduction

An important part of the EIA is identifying and reviewing the administrative, policy and legislative frameworks concerning the proposed activity, to inform the proponent about the requirements to be fulfilled in undertaking the proposed project. This section looks at the legislative framework within which the proposed development will conform to; the focus is on the compliance with the legislation during the planning, construction and operational phases. All relevant legislations, policies and international statutes applying to the project are highlighted in the table below as specified in the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No.7 of 2007) and the regulations for Environmental Impact Assessment as set out in the Schedule of Government Notice No. 30 (2012).

Table 2:Policies, legal and Administrative regulations

The pursuit of sustainability is guided by a sound legislative framework. In this section, relevant legal instruments as well as their relevant provisions have been surveyed. An explanation is provided regarding how these provisions apply to this project

Aspect	Legislation	Relevant Provisions	Relevance to the Project
The Constitution	Namibian Constitution First Amendment Act 34 of 1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article 16(1) guarantees all persons the right to property. It therefore provides everyone a right to acquire, own and dispose of property, alone or in association with others and to bequeath such property. - “The State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting policies that are aimed at maintaining ecosystems, essential ecological processes and the biological diversity of Namibia. It further promotes the sustainable utilisation of living natural resources basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future.” (Article 95(l)). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project will enable the full execution of right to practice any profession, or carry on any occupation, trade or business by availing necessary provisions such as practising any profession, or carry on any occupation, trade or business in the country. - Through implementation of the environmental management plan, the proponent will ensure conformity to the constitution in terms of environmental management and sustainability.
National Development Plans		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Namibia’s overall Development ambitions are articulated in the National Vision 2030. At the operational level, five-yearly national development plans (NDP’s) are prepared in extensive consultations led by the National Planning Commission in the Office of the President. The Government has so far launched a 4th NDP focusing on high and sustained economic growth, increased income equality Employment creation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed project will propel NDP4 targets in logistics and commodities market. Adding on, this will create employment which will work towards the NDP and Vision 2030.
Archaeology	National Heritage Act 27 of 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Section 48(1) states that “A person may apply to the Namibian Heritage Council (NHC) for a permit to carry out works or activities in relation to a protected place or protected object” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any heritage resources discovered would require a permit from the NHC for relocation.
	National Monuments Act of Namibia (No. 28 of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “No person shall destroy, damage, excavate, alter, remove from its original site or export from Namibia: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed site of development is not within any known monument sites, both movable and

	1969) as amended until 1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meteorites, fossils, petroglyphs, ornamental infrastructure graves, caves, rock shelters, middens, shells that came into existence before the year 1900 AD; or - any other archaeological or palaeontological finds 	immovable as specified in the Act, however in finding any materials specified in the Act, contractors on site will take the required route and notify the relevant commission.
Environmental	Environmental Management Act 7 of 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requires that projects with significant environmental impacts are subject to an environmental assessment process (Section 27). - Requires for adequate public participation during the environmental assessment process for interested and affected parties to voice their opinions about a project (Section 2(b-c)). - According to Section 5(4) a person may not discard waste as defined in Section 5(1)(b) in any way other than at a disposal site declared by the Minister of Environment and Tourism or in a manner prescribed by the Minister. - Details principles which are to guide all EIAs 	- This Act and its regulations should inform and guide this EIA process.
	EIA Regulations GN 57/2007 (GG 3812)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Details requirements for public consultation within a given environmental assessment process (GN No 30 S21). - Details the requirements for what should be included in a Scoping Report (GN No 30 S8) an EIA report (GN No 30 S15). 	- This Act and its regulations should inform and guide this EIA process.
	Pollution and Waste Management Bill (draft)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This bill defines pollution and the different types of pollution. It also points out how the Government intends to regulate the different types of pollution to maintain a clean and safe environment. - The bill also describes how waste should be managed to reduce environmental pollution. Failure to comply with the requirements considered an offence and is punishable. 	- The project should be executed in harmony with the requirements of the act to reduce negative impacts on the surrounding environs from waste during construction or operation. Gobabis waste management by laws will be abide to during construction and operation.
	Soil Conservation Act 76 of 1969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This acts makes provision for combating and for the prevention of soil erosion, it promotes the conservation, protection and improvement of the soil, vegetation, sources and resources of the Republic of Namibia. 	- The Project impact on soil will rather be localised, however the Act should provide for guidelines of operation during construction to prevent soil erosion and contamination during operation.

	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The action plan was operationalised in a bid to make aware the critical importance of biodiversity conservation in Namibia, putting together management of matters to do with ecosystems protection, biosafety, and biosystematics protection on both terrestrial and aquatic systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forming part of the EIA of and EMP for this Project, the proponent will consider all associated impacts, both acute and long term, and will propose methods and ways to sustain the local biodiversity.
Forestry	Forest Act 12 of 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tree species and any vegetation within 100m from a watercourse may not be removed without a permit (S22(1)) - Provision for the protection of various plant species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The clearing of vegetation is prohibited (subject to a permit) 100m either side of a river. Certain tree species occurring in the area are protected under this Act. Permits must be obtained from MAWF in accordance with the Act. However, on site there are no trees that require clearing permit.
Water	Water Act 54 of 1956	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Water Resources Management Act 24 of 2004 is presently without regulations; therefore, the Water Act No 54 of 1956 is still in force: - A permit application in terms of Sections 21(1) and 21(2) of the Water Act is required for the disposal of industrial or domestic wastewater and effluent. - Prohibits the pollution of underground and surface water bodies (S23(1)). - Liability of clean-up costs after closure/ abandonment of an activity (S23(2)). - Protection from surface and underground water pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The protection of ground and surface water resources should guide development's layout plans.
Health and Safety	Labour Act (No 11 of 2007) in conjunction with Regulation 156, 'Regulations Relating to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 135 (f): "the steps to be taken by the owners of premises used or intended for use as factories or places where machinery is used, or by occupiers of such premises or by users of machinery about the structure of such buildings of otherwise to prevent or extinguish 	The proponent will employ several people from the local and shall ensure securing a safe environment and preserving the health and welfare of employees at work. This will include applying appropriate hazard management plans and

	the Health and Safety of Employees at work'.	fires, and to ensure the safety in the event of fire, of persons in such building;” (Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare). – This act emphasizes and regulates basic terms and conditions of employment, it guarantees prospective health, safety and welfare of employees and protects employees from unfair labour practices.	enforcing Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) enforcement by contractors.
	Public Health and Environmental Act, 2015	– Under this act, in section 119: “No person shall cause a nuisance or shall suffer to exist on any land or premises owned or occupied by him or of which he is in charge any nuisance or other condition liable to be injurious or dangerous to health.”	– The service station and mini market operations will ensure compliance to the terms of the Act.
Services and Infrastructure	Road Ordinance 1972 (Ordinance 17 Of 1972)	– Width of proclaimed roads and road reserve boundaries (S3.1) – Control of traffic during construction activities on trunk and main roads (S27.1) – Infringements and obstructions on and interference with proclaimed roads. (S37.1) – Distance from proclaimed roads at which fences are erected (S38)	– Although the project is a major boost for the suburb and the commodities market, the proponent needs to ensure that the development do not affect the major roads within their vicinity during construction and operation phases.

3. CHAPTER THREE: RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

3.1. Socio-economic

The proposed project site is sited in Epako Proper, a suburb located to the North-East of Gobabis Town CBD. The area is under Gobabis Electoral Constituency with a population of about 14,278 inhabitants. According to the 2011 Namstat results, 39% of the population speak Otjiherero languages, 27% speak Nama/Damara and 12% speak Afrikaans at home. Omaheke has 42 schools with a total of 18,365 pupils.

Gobabis is the main centre of Omaheke region and links to the Capital City of Namibia-Windhoek by rail and the tarred B6 national road, adding on Gobabis also connects to Buitepos border post which is Namibia's main border to Botswana. The proposed development is going to be a major boost for economic activities in the area, also given the recent extensions and population growth in the town. All the other population centers in the region are linked with Gobabis by road. The major economic activities sustaining Gobabis is the existence and operation of over 900 commercial and 3,500 communal farmers specialising in cattle breeding. Hunting, including trophy hunting, is one of the major sources of income for the region. This takes place mainly in the winter months, from June to August. During these months, tourists from the northern hemisphere can be seen in the area, enjoying the mild and dry winter climate and collecting trophies.

3.2. Climate

Classification of climate: Gobabis has a semi-arid climate (BSh, according to the Köppen climate classification), with hot summers and cool winters (with mild days and chilly nights).

Average rainfall: Gobabis receives a mean annual rainfall of 370 millimetres.

Temperature: Gobabis has an annual average temperature of 12 degrees Celsius minimum and 30 degrees Celsius maximum.

Humidity The relative humidity during the least humid months of the year (i.e. September and October) is around 10-20% and the most humid month is March with 70-80% humidity. Namibia has a low humidity in general, and the lack of moisture in the air has a major impact on its climate through reduced cloud cover, low precipitation and a high rate of evaporation.

3.3. Fauna

Reptiles

Endemic reptile species known and/or expected to occur in the general area make up 22.9% of the reptiles and although not as high as endemism elsewhere – for example the western escarpment areas of Namibia – still makes up a large portion of the reptiles. Reptiles of greatest concern are probably the two species classified as insufficiently known and rare (Mehelya vernayi and Psammophis jallae) and the tortoises (Stigmochelys pardalis and Psammobates oculiferus) which are often consumed by humans; Python natalensis which is indiscriminately killed throughout its range and Varanus albigularis (food) as well as the various Pachydactylus species geckos of which

71.4% are viewed as endemic. Other important species would be the 3 Blind snakes (*Rhinotyphlops* species of which 2 species are endemic) and little known and endemic *Hemirhagerrhis viperrinus* (viperine bark snake) (Annex 2). However, none of the reptiles are exclusively associated with the proposed project site as established during the Baseline survey by the EAP. The site is located on an area that had previous occupation during the colonial times.

Amphibians

Of the 11 species of amphibians expected to occur in the general area, *Pyxicephalus adspersus*, is viewed as near threatened (Du Preez and Carruthers 2009). However, *Pyxicephalus adspersus* is widespread throughout Namibia and not exclusively associated with Gobabis town center.

Mammals

Of the 93 species of mammals expected to occur in the general area, only 2% are endemic and 30% are classified under international conservation legislation. The most important species under Namibian legislation are those classified as rare (Namibian wing-gland bat, Woosnam's desert mouse, hedgehog and black-footed cat), endemic and vulnerable (especially eland) species. Other important species are pangolin (which are used for traditional medicinal purposes) and the African wild dog that occasionally occurs in the general area (Annex 2). However, none of the mammals are exclusively associated with the project site, because of its urban locale.

Birds

The high proportion of endemics – 6 of the 14 endemics to Namibia (i.e. 43% of all endemics) – expected to occur in the general area underscore the importance of this area (Annex 2). Furthermore 14.9% are classified as southern African endemics (or 3.4% of all the birds expected) and 85.1% are classified as southern African near-endemics (or 19.4% of all the birds expected). The most important species known/expected – although not exclusively associated with the general area – are viewed as the Namibian endemics – especially Rüppell's parrot which requires specific nesting sites – and the species classified as endangered – especially martial and tawny eagles which are often persecuted as stock thieves. The birds classified as endangered, near threatened and vulnerable by the IUCN (2014) – Kori bustard, white-backed vulture, bateleur, black harrier, martial eagle and secretary bird – are also viewed as important. However, none of these birds are associated with Gobabis CBD and its surrounding environs.

3.4. Flora

Trees / Shrubs and Grasses

The most important larger trees/shrubs expected to occur in the general area are *Burkea africana*, *Sclerocarya birrea*, *Strychnos cocculoides* and *Strychnos pungens* as all are protected species and used for wood (e.g. *B. africana*) or fruit and the most important grass expected in the area is the endemic *Eragrostis omahekensis* associated with disturbed areas (Annex 2). However, on site several tree species of mature *Burkea Africana*, white thorn and mopane tree species were observed and these will be conserved and the development will accommodate the trees since they were also marked for visibility. The other common plants on site are shrubs composed mainly of white thorn as illustrated on Fig 2:

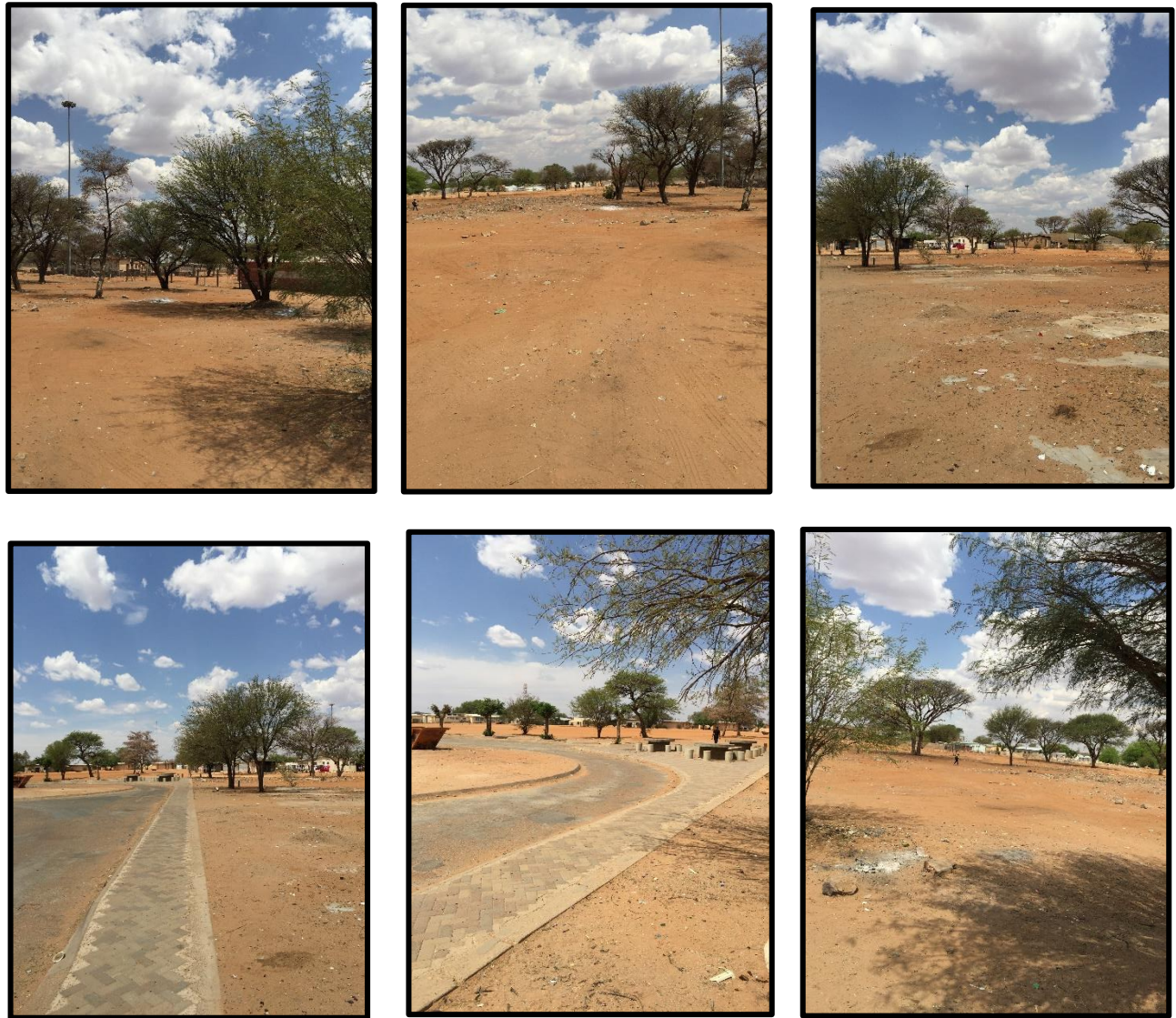


Figure 3: Vegetation on farm 2087 of Gobabis

The site illustrated on figure 2 is largely composed of bare patches of land with mopane, and whitethorn trees. The major trees on site are white thorn species and mopane that are sparsely distributed. The area has been affected gravely by urban developments in its vicinity and residents were already using the open area as a waste dumping spot. In addition, this area has visible old building foundations, because the area had buildings in the colonial era.

3.5. Geology

Gobabis is dominated by sedimentary rocks of the Karoo which have been deposited on a mostly Damaran-age Precambrian basement consisting mainly of metasediments like mica schist, phyllite, carbonate (marble, dolomite, or limestone). These metasediments have been intruded by granites in some places. In most Karoo Sequence basins sedimentation started with the Permo-Carboniferous Dwyka Formation which was deposited under glacial and periglacial conditions and consists of tillite, mixtite, pebbly mudstone and dark shale.

The material is derived from glaciated highs and was transported into depressions, where it either forms a several-hundred-metres-thick blanket, typical of the marine embayment of the Aranos Basin, or, further upland, fills glacial valleys and tectonic grabens in Kaokoland.

3.6. Hydrology

A reconnaissance level field assessment was conducted to confirm the current conditions in the area and to identify potential hydrologic risks associated with establishment of the proposed project. The area is generally flat with very few evidence of surface erosion. The surrounding area is relatively flat giving limited chance for surface drainage, however the EIS Inventory, 2014 using GIS data revealed that there is Daan Viljoen river in the western side of the project. The river is underlain by a deep water table related to the South Eastern Kalahari Basin.

3.7. Surface and Groundwater

There are no perennial or ephemeral riverbeds within the project site, The Huab and Ugab Rivers which are more than 20km from the project site will not be affected by the construction and operation of the fuel station and restaurant. The proposed project will have little or no significant impact to general area hydrological drainage, and thus the project will have a relatively low impact on surface and ground water. Measures to address groundwater pollution will be put in place in the EMP developed for this project and forming part of this ESR.

4. CHAPER FOUR: PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public and Stakeholder involvement, is a key component of the EA process. The public consultation process, as set out in Section 21 of Regulation No 30 of EMA, has been followed during this assessment and the details thereof documented below.

4.1. Printed Media

4.1.1. Background Information Document

A Background Information Document (BID) was drafted at the onset of the EA process to act as a useful information handout about the proposed construction and operation of the proposed fuel service Station and mini supermarket. In addition, the BID provided details on the public consultation process with contact details for further information. This document was advertised for availability through various means of newspaper articles, Public meeting and electronic mail; see Appendix B of this document.



4.1.2. Newspaper Advertisements & Articles

Newspaper notices about the proposed project and related EA processes was circulated in two newspapers for two weeks. These notices appeared in the “Confidante” and “New Era” newspapers, shown in Appendix B.

4.1.3. Site Notices

A site notice was placed at the project site, Gobabis Town Council Epako Office and at Epako Library. These provided information about the project and related EA while providing contact details of the project team.



Figure 4(top): Site Notice at Gobabis Town Council (Left) and at Project Site (Right).

Figure 5(bottom): Consultation and notification of neighboring properties.

4.1.4. Building a Stakeholder Database

A stakeholder database for the project collected through a variety of means. During the advertisement of the project (through public notices in local newspapers and site-notices) the list was augmented as Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP) registered and contact information of stakeholders updated, Please refer to Appendix B.

4.1.5. Stakeholder Meetings & Key Conversations

A public meeting was scheduled on 11 October 2019, and the meeting was attended by local Gobabis Town Council management and several property owners. To augment the meeting, the consultant took to door to door consultation on all neighbouring properties.

4.1.6. Comments and review period

From the onset of the public consultation process and the initial information sharing through the BID, newspaper and site notices, various stakeholders have registered and provided comments. All of the immediate neighbours are not in support of the initiative due to several reasons. The Scoping Report and Environmental Management Plan was made available to the public and stakeholders for comment and review. Questionnaires and proof of stakeholder's engagement are attached in appendix B of this EAR.

5. CHAPTER FIVE: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

5.1. Overview

Ghanoma Investment cc has committed to sustainability and environmental compliance through coming up with a corrective action plan for all anticipated environmental impacts associated with the project. This is also in line with the Namibian Environmental Management legislation and International best practices on hydrocarbon handling. The proponent will implement an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in order to prevent, minimise and mitigate negative impacts. The environmental management plan is being developed to address all the identified expected impacts, the plan will be monitored and updated on a continuous basis with aim for continuous improvement to addressing impacts.

5.2. Assessment Of Impacts

This section sets out the overall approach that was adopted to assess the potential environmental and social impacts associated with the project. To fully understand the significance of each of the potential impacts each impact must be evaluated and assessed. The definitions and explanations for each criterion are set out below in Table 3: Assessment Criteria and

Table 3: Assessment Criteria

Duration – What is the length of the negative impact?	
None	No Effect
Short	Less than one year
Moderate	One to ten years
Permanent	Irreversible
Magnitude – What is the effect on the resource within the study area?	
None	No Effect
Small	Affecting less than 1% of the resource
Moderate	Affecting 1-10% of the resource
Great	Affecting greater than 10% of the resource
Spatial Extent – what is the scale of the impact in terms of area, considering cumulative impacts and international importance?	
Local	In the immediate area of the impact
Regional / National	Having large scale impacts
International	Having international importance
Type – What is the impact	
Direct	Caused by the project and occur simultaneously with project activities
Indirect	Associated with the project and may occur at a later time or wider area
Cumulative	Combined effects of the project with other existing / planned activities

Probability	
Low	<25%
Medium	25-75%
High	>75%

(Adopted from ECC-Namibia, 2017)

Table 4: Impact Significance

Class	Significance	Descriptions
1	Major Impact	Impacts are expected to be permanent and non- reversible on a national scale and/or have international significance or result in a legislative non- compliance.
2	Moderate Impact	Impacts are long term, but reversible and/or have regional significance.
3	Minor	Impacts are considered short term, reversible and/or localized in extent.
4	Insignificant	No impact is expected.
5	Unknown	There are insufficient data on which to assess significance.
6	Positive	Impacts are beneficial

(Adopted from ECC-Namibia, 2017)

Table 5: Environmental Impacts and Aspects Assessment

Environmental Impact	Valued Ecosystem Component	Impact	Project Phase	Duration	Magnitude	Extent	Type	Probability	Significance
TOPOGRAPHY	Landscape Scenery	Visual aesthetic impact	Construction and Operation	Moderate	Moderate	Local	Direct	Medium 25 - 75%	Minor
SOIL	Soil	Contamination to soil from waste disposal	Construction and Operations	Moderate	Small	Local	Direct	Low <25%	Minor
	Soil	Spillages of fuel, oil and lubricants.	Construction	Short	Small	Local	Direct	Low <25%	Minor
	Soil	Erosion	Construction	Moderate	Small	Local	Direct	Low <25%	Minor
LAND CAPABILITY	Terrestrial ecology and aquatic ecosystems	Change in land use	Construction and Operations	Permanent	Great	Local	Direct	Low <25%	Moderate
WATER	Surface water quality	Water pollution from oils and lubricants from vehicles and machinery.	Construction and Operations	Moderate	Moderate	Local	Direct	Medium 25 - 75%	Moderate
	Groundwater quality	Water pollution from oils and lubricants	Operation	Moderate	Small	Local	Direct	Low <25%	Moderate
AIR QUALITY	Noise Pollution	-Noise During Construction and operation	Construction and Operations	Moderate	Moderate	Local	Direct	Medium 25 - 75%	Moderate
	Dust Pollution	-Construction dust	Construction	Moderate	Moderate	Local	Direct	High >75%	High
WASTE	Groundwater quality	Hazardous waste such as waste oil and lubricants.	Construction and Operations	Short	Small	Local	Direct	Low <25%	Minor
	Topography and Landscape	Visual impacts due to infrastructure and unsustainable handling and disposal of waste.	Construction and Operations	Short	Small	Local	Direct	Low <25%	Minor

Environmental Impact	Valued Ecosystem Component	Impact	Project Phase	Duration	Magnitude	Extent	Type	Probability	Significance
FAUNA	Aquatic life	Antifouling paints, eutrophication and sedimentation of streams.	Construction, Operations	Moderate	Small	local	Direct	Low <25%	Minor
	Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity	Destruction of vertebrate fauna (e.g. road kills; fence and construction /land clearing mortalities)	Construction and Operations	Long	Moderate	Local	Direct	Low <25%	Minor
FLORA	Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity	Proliferation of invasive species inland	Construction and Operations	Long	Moderate	Local	Direct	High >75%	Moderate
	Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity	Loss of unique flora and special habitats in the local environment because of general nuisance and animal migrate.	Construction and operations	None	Moderate	Regional	Direct	Low <25%	Moderate
SOCIAL	Noise Pollution	Increased noise levels	Construction, Operation	Moderate	Small	Local	Direct	Low <25%	Minor
	Socio Economic Activities	Temporary and permanent employment prospects.	Construction and operations	Long	Moderate	Regional	Direct	Medium 25 – 75%	Positive
	Contribution to National Economy	Employment, local procurement, duties and taxes.	Construction and Operations	Short	None	Regional / National	Direct	Low <25%	Positive

Environmental Impact	Valued Ecosystem Component	Impact	Project Phase	Duration	Magnitude	Extent	Type	Probability	Significance
HERITAGE/ARCHAEOLOGY	Artefacts, archaeological high value components	Destruction or affecting paleontological and archaeological artefacts	Construction and Operation	Moderate	Moderate	Local	Direct	Medium 25 – 75%	Moderate
HEALTH AND SAFETY	Health Sanitation	Poor ablution and waste management facilities may be detrimental to human health.	Construction and Operation	Moderate	Moderate	Local	Direct	Medium 25 – 75%	Moderate
	Property and human life	Electrical hazards and fires may result in fatalities, damage to properties and power surges.	Construction and Operation	Moderate	Great	Local	Direct	Medium 25 – 75%	Major

6. CONCLUSION

A service station in Epako with a grocer shop is highly desirable in Epako because of the lack of such a development within the location. Surrounding environments are less risky and not likely to be immensely affected by the project as alluded in the Impact assessment matrix. The results of the public consultation process indicated that the Interested and Affected Parties welcome the proposed development. Attention was drawn to the need to hire local labour during construction and operation.

Based on the findings of the basic assessment, potential project impacts during construction and operation phases can be minimized to an acceptable level. An Environmental Management Plan has been developed by EnviroPlan to ensure that it addresses all potential negative impacts anticipated from the project and enhance all positive impacts for a more beneficial impact.

Based on the findings of the ESR, EnviroPlan Consulting recommends that The Department of Environmental Affairs Approve the Environmental Clearance Certificate Application on Basis of full compliance to the developed Environmental Management Plan.