



**APP: 250109005147**

**Environmental Scoping Study For the Proposed Drilling of Boreholes for  
Water Supply between Oruvero and Ozondorohungu area in Sesfontein  
Conservancy, Kunene Region**



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## ACRONYMS

<b>CBNRM</b>	Community Based Natural Resource Management
<b>CCFN</b>	Community Conservation Fund of Namibia
<b>CEO</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>DEA</b>	Department of Environmental Affairs
<b>DWA</b>	Department of Water Affairs
<b>EA</b>	Environmental Assessment
<b>EAP</b>	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
<b>EC</b>	Environmental Commissioner
<b>ECC</b>	Environmental Clearance Certificate
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EMA</b>	Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007)
<b>EMP</b>	Environmental Management Plan
<b>ESI</b>	Environmental Social Indicators
<b>ESMF</b>	Environmental and Social Management Framework
<b>FDM</b>	Frequency Domain Electromagnetic
<b>FPIC</b>	Free Prior Informed Consent
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System
<b>GRM</b>	Grievance Redress Mechanisms
<b>I&amp;APs</b>	Interested and Affected Parties
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IRDNC</b>	Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation
<b>IWRM</b>	Integrated Water Resource Management
<b>KFW</b>	German Development Bank
<b>L</b>	Litre
<b>m<sup>3</sup></b>	Cubic
<b>MAWLR</b>	Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform
<b>MEFT</b>	Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism
<b>MM</b>	Millimetres
<b>Mm<sup>3</sup></b>	Million Cubic

<b>NACSO</b>	Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations
<b>°C</b>	Degree Celsius
<b>OMDEL</b>	Omaruru Delta
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>PPP</b>	Public Participation Process
<b>R</b>	Reversible
<b>RD</b>	Red-Dune Consulting CC
<b>SEMP</b>	Social Environmental Management Plan
<b>SM</b>	Site Manager

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Before Namibia's independence in 1990, people living in communal areas had limited rights to access or use wildlife. After gaining independence, Namibia implemented policies and legal frameworks aligned with Article 95l of its Constitution, which allowed communities and private businesses to benefit from wildlife tourism and sustainable natural resource management. This approach is known as Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM).

### **i. The CBNRM Concept**

The CBNRM concept is based on the idea that when rural communities have rights to use, benefit from, and manage natural resources, they are motivated to use them sustainably. By establishing Conservancies, the CBNRM program connects conservation with poverty reduction, fostering industries like conservation, hunting, and tourism. This drives economic growth, creates jobs, and improves the well-being of rural communities.

### **ii. The Sesfontein Conservancy and Human-Wildlife Conflict**

The Sesfontein Conservancy is primarily frequented by elephants and lions, which are notorious for damaging crops and attacking livestock, respectively. Often, it is observed that wild animals move closer to farming areas during drought in search of water. Conversely, when wildlife zones receive better rainfall, farmers tend to move their livestock, which exacerbates Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC).

### **iii. Addressing Human-Wildlife Conflict through Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN)**

To address the HWC challenge, Sesfontein Conservancy applied for a grant from the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN) to support the drilling of a water point between Oruvero and Ozorondohungu area.



#### **iv. The Ozorondohungu Borehole Project**

With funding from the German Government through KfW Development Bank, CCFN is running the "Poverty-Oriented Support to Community Conservation in Namibia" project. The project aims to promote biodiversity conservation and rural development by establishing sustainable Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) management systems in communal conservancies. As part of this effort, CCFN is helping the Sesfontein Conservancy drill a borehole in the Ozorondohungu area, where the community had previously relocated due to drought and water scarcity. The project focuses on creating long-term HWC management solutions and supporting conservancies to address these challenges in line with Namibia's national policies.

#### **v. Environmental Compliance and the Role of Red-Dune Consulting CC (RDC)**

Section 27 of the Environmental Management Act (EMA) lists the "Abstraction of groundwater" as an activity that may not be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate. To fulfil these statutory requirements, Red-Dune Consulting CC (RDC) was appointed to develop an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that would guide the drilling and operation of the proposed borehole.

#### **vi. Project Impact and Groundwater Monitoring**

The project's scale is relatively small, and its potential negative impacts are minimal. In fact, it has a positive socio-economic impact by addressing the challenge of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC). The boreholes will be drilled in areas that are free of biodiversity. However, excessive groundwater extraction, particularly over the long term, could lead to the deterioration of water quality and depletion of the water table. Therefore, it will be essential to implement groundwater monitoring measures to ensure sustainable management.

# **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

## **1.1 Poverty Oriented Support to Community Conservation in Namibia**

The Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN) is a non-profit Association incorporated under Section 21 of Namibia's Companies Act of 2004. Using a foundation model, the CCFN is mandated to raise funds and manage various financial mechanisms such as endowments, sinking or revolving funds, to ensure the long-term sustainability of Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) activities that are carried out by communal conservancies and other entities with a similar legal mandate.

## **1.2 Community Based Natural Resource Management**

Prior to Namibia's independence in 1990, wildlife management in communal areas was characterized by significant restrictions. Residents had limited wildlife utilization rights, particularly regarding hunting. Wildlife, especially predators and foraging animals, were viewed primarily as threats due to their destructive impact on crop fields, potential for human attacks, livestock predation, and infrastructure damage. These conflicts often led communities to retaliate by killing wildlife, giving rise to what became known as Human Wildlife Conflict and Wildlife Crime (HWC-WC).

Following independence, Namibia underwent a fundamental shift in its approach to wildlife management, guided by Article 95I of the Constitution, which states: "The State to actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting policies aimed at the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future." This constitutional mandate led to the development of new policies, legal frameworks, and strategies to address HWC-WC.

A key innovation was the introduction of Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), governed by the National Policy on Community Based Natural Resource Management. This approach enables local communities and private businesses to benefit from wildlife-based tourism and sustainable resource management. The CBNRM concept operates on the principle that when natural resources hold substantial value for rural communities, and when communities are granted rights to use, benefit from, and manage these resources, they develop stronger incentives for sustainable resource management through conservancy establishment. This program effectively links conservation efforts with poverty reduction by developing conservation hunting and tourism industries, thereby contributing to the national Gross Domestic Product, creating employment opportunities, and improving the overall well-being and social development of rural communities.

### **1.3 Conservancies and Management**

Conservancy establishment and operation is provided for under Section 24 of the Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975. This ordinance requires a conservancy to be composed of a committee which, is elected by their members. Overall, communal conservancies are self-governing, democratic entities, run by their members, with fixed boundaries that are agreed with adjacent conservancies, communities or landowners. Conservancies are recognised by the MEFT, but not governed by the Ministry, which does, however, have powers to de-register a conservancy if it fails to comply with conservation regulation<sup>1</sup>. Wildlife in the conservancies is managed through a wildlife management plan. Like many legal financial entities, conservancies conduct annual general meetings and prepare financial reports<sup>2</sup>.

### **1.4 Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) Challenge in Conservancies**

The Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) initiative has led to the remarkable recovery and increase in wildlife populations, including key predator species and

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<sup>1</sup> Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.meft.gov.na/services/conservancies/193/>

internationally threatened or endangered species such as elephants and black rhinoceros<sup>3</sup>. However, this increased wildlife population resulted into their expanded foraging ranges into communal and freehold farming areas resulting in an increased frequency and severity of Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) especially involving elephants, feline predators, crocodiles and hippopotamus<sup>45</sup>.

The conflicts include damage to crops, gardens and infrastructure (water points, fences, kraals, boreholes, etc.), loss of life or injuries to people and livestock mortalities. The situation is further complicated by climate change impacts on arid ecosystems, where limited environmental resources have intensified competition between livestock and wildlife populations for essential resources, particularly grazing areas and water sources.

To address these challenges, several mitigation strategies have been implemented, including the establishment of zonation systems in conservancies. These systems designate specific areas for farming, multiple-use activities, and dedicated wildlife zones for tourism and trophy hunting. Additional protective measures include enhanced livestock management through supervised herding, secure nocturnal enclosures, and the installation of protective infrastructure around gardens and water facilities.

## **2 SESFONTEIN CONSERVANCY**

The Sesfontein Conservancy, established in July 2003, encompasses 2,465 square kilometers within Namibia's Kunene Region. The name "Sesfontein," derived from Afrikaans, translates to "six fountains," reflecting the presence of natural springs in the area. The conservancy is distinguished by the scenic Hoanib Valley and features a historical German fort, adding cultural significance to its natural landscape.

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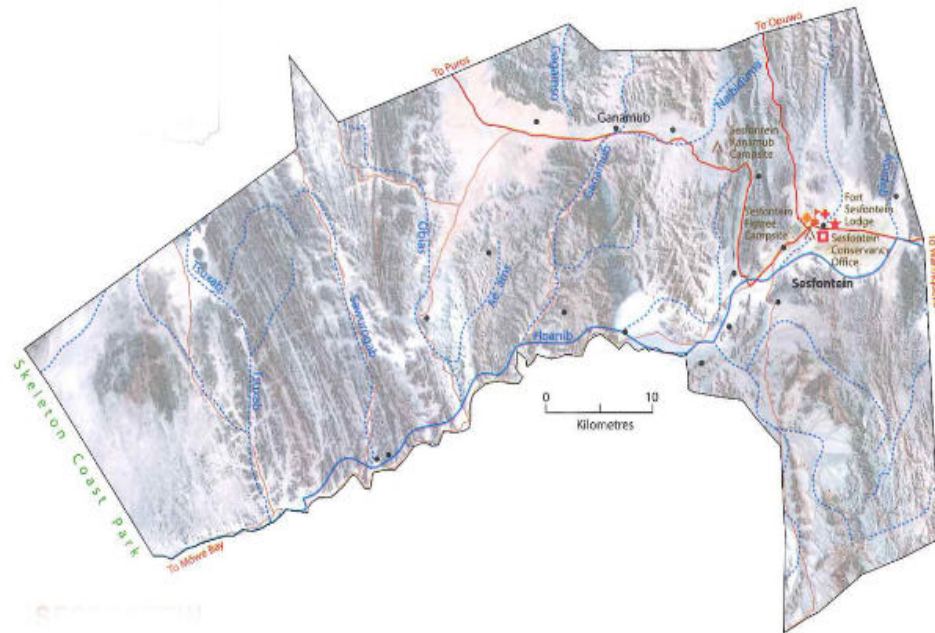
<sup>3</sup> Republic of Namibia: Revised National Policy on Human Wildlife Conflict Management 2018-2027

<sup>4</sup> Brian T. B. J and Jonathan I. Barnes 2006., Human Wildlife Conflict Study Namibian Case Study

<sup>5</sup> Ailla-Tessa Nangula Iiyambula 2021., Identifying the Spatio-Temporal Distribution and Drivers Of Human-Carnivore Conflict In Epupa And Okanguati Conservancies, Erongo Region Namibia

## 2.1 Location

The conservancy is bordered by the Skeleton Coast Park to the west, and the Palmwag Tourism Concession to the north (See Figure 1 below).



**Figure 1.** Map of Sesfontein Conservancy (Source: NASCO, 2022)

The proposed boreholes will be drilled at Ozorondohungu area, GPS coordinate  $19.15388889^{\circ}$  S,  $13.55333333^{\circ}$  E (see figure 2&3)



**Figure 2.** Aerial view of Ozorondohungu Borehole site



**Figure 3.** Ozorondohungu Borehole site (pile of rocks) (Source Red-Dune 2024)

## **2.2 Support from Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN)**

With financial support from the German Government through the KfW Development Bank, CCFN is implementing a project, *“Poverty Oriented Support to Community Conservation in Namibia”*. The project’s main objective is to contribute to biodiversity conservation and rural development through the establishment of sustainable Human-Wildlife-Conflict (HWC) management systems in Namibia’s communal conservancies.

In line with the project objectives, CCFN is supporting the Sesfontein Conservancy in drilling a borehole in the Ozorondohungu area for the community. This area was previously inhabited, but due to drought and a lack of water, the community has since relocated.

This intervention speaks to the project’s objective of (i) working together with CBNRM partners<sup>6</sup> to develop and institutionalize long-term mechanisms and structures that make management of HWC part of the sustainability strategy of CBNRM (ii) providing targeted conservancies with the means to address the HWC challenges they face in line with the National Policies of Namibia, which is of relevance to this proposed intervention.

## **3 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

The protection of the environment is provided for under Article 95l of the Namibia Constitution. The Environmental Management Act (Act No 7 of 2007) (EMA) and its Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation 2012, list Water Resource Developments activities that cannot be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). These activities include:

- a) 8.1 The abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes
- b) 8.2 The abstraction of groundwater at a volume exceeding the threshold authorised in terms of a law relating to water resources.

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<sup>6</sup> IRDNC

To comply with these statutory requirements, Red-Dune Consulting CC (RDC) was appointed to develop an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the drilling of the borehole. In addition to the EMA, other statutory requirements must also be fulfilled. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform, as the custodian of the Water Resources Management Act (No. 11 of 2013), requires that a permit be obtained prior to the commencement of any borehole drilling activities.

## **4 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

This scoping is guided by the provisions of in the EIA Regulation 2012, Section 9 (a-b) but, not limited to the following;

- Provide a comprehensive description of the proposed Project;
- Identify relevant legislation and guidelines for the project;
- Identify potential environmental (physical, biological and social) conditions of the project location and conduct risk assessment;
- Inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and relevant authorities about the proposed project to enable their participation and contribution;
- Develop an Environmental Management (EMP) that would be a legal guideline for the environmental protection by the project.

## **5 THE PROPONENT**

Sesfontein Conservancy is the proponent for this application with financial support from CCFN.

## **6 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES**

The EMA) requires an impact assessment to explore various project alternatives, ensuring that the chosen project component does not have a significant negative impact on the environment. Project alternatives can range from not implementing the project at all (the "no-go" alternative), particularly when environmental impacts are severe or there is a high degree of uncertainty. Other



alternatives may involve changes to the project site, technology, or equipment to be used. The description of alternatives is given in Error! Reference source not found. below.

## **6.1 No-go alternative**

If a "no-go" option is considered, it would mean that the current situation would remain unchanged. The community may be forced to move their livestock at wildlife sanctuaries due to drought. In this scenario, Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) could escalate, potentially leading to greater challenges for the communities living within the conservancies. As HWC intensifies, the negative impact on both the local environment and the livelihoods of the people could undermine the conservation efforts in place.

Additionally, the cost-benefit balance of the conservation incentives provided to conservancy members could be threatened, as increased conflict with wildlife may reduce the perceived benefits of participating in conservation activities. This could discourage ongoing community engagement and cooperation, which are essential for the long-term success of conservation initiatives. Ultimately, the failure to address HWC could hinder the effectiveness of conservation strategies and destabilize the environmental and economic gains made by the conservancy members.

## **6.2 Alternatives**

Generally, a combination of alternatives to drilling could be considered. These include rainwater harvesting and aquifer recharge, which can provide a more resilient and sustainable approach to water resource management. However, none of these alternatives is applicable to the Kunene region due to its arid conditions. Additionally, the environmental priority for the proposed borehole is to respond to the dry and harsh climate of the region. Ultimately, a holistic approach will need to be implemented, one that incorporates the use of renewable energy and the adoption of water conservation measures to ensure water security while protecting the environment.

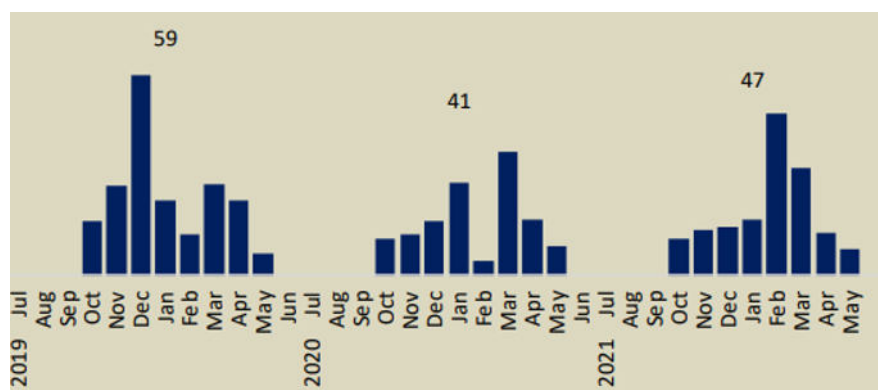
## 7 DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

### 7.1 Climate

Namibia is the most arid country in Sub-Saharan Africa. The country has high climatic variability in the form of persistent droughts, unpredictable, low, and variable rainfall patterns leading to scarcity of water<sup>7</sup>. The rainfall is highly sporadic ranging from 50mm – 600mm per year which increases from the western part of the country to the eastern part.

The geographical feature of Kunene Region makes it one of the most vulnerable Region to climate in Namibia which is still one of the most affected Region by drought in the country. The Region's rainfall is highly sporadic with little as 25mm per year which increases from the western part of the Region to the eastern part. The Region's temperature is amongst the highest with an average maximum temperature between 35°C and minimum between 14°C.

With less rainfall in the landscape, ground water resource risk low recharge and potential over-abstraction. The extreme dry climatic condition thus posing significant risks to agriculture, livestock-keeping and wildlife. Sesfontein Conservancy receives an average annual rainfall of less than 60 mm (**Figure 4**).

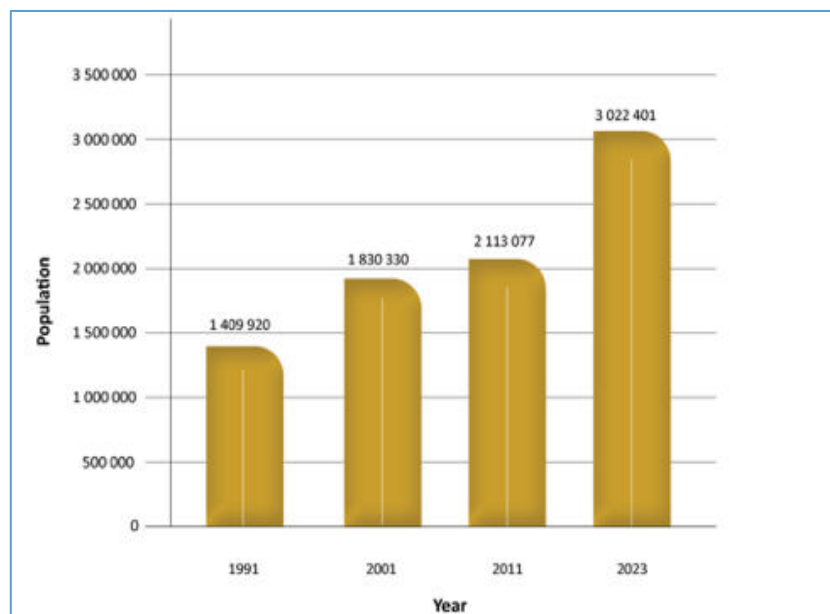


<sup>7</sup> Namibia Fourth National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Windhoek: Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism, March 2020

**Figure 4:** Rainfall trends in Sesfontein Conservancy (Source: NACSO, 2022)

## 7.2 Populational demography

On 13th March 2024 the Namibian Statistic Agency released a preliminary report that gives the provisional results from the 2023 Population and Housing Census (PHC) of Namibia to be 3.02 million people. The population has increased by 909,324 people from the 2.1 million people recorded in 2011, constituting an annual growth rate of 3.0% per annum. This rate is double what was observed in the previous intercensal period (2001 to 2011 which was 1.4% per annum) and is the highest observed since independence (see Figure 6). At this rate, by the year 2050 the population of Namibia would be over 6 million.

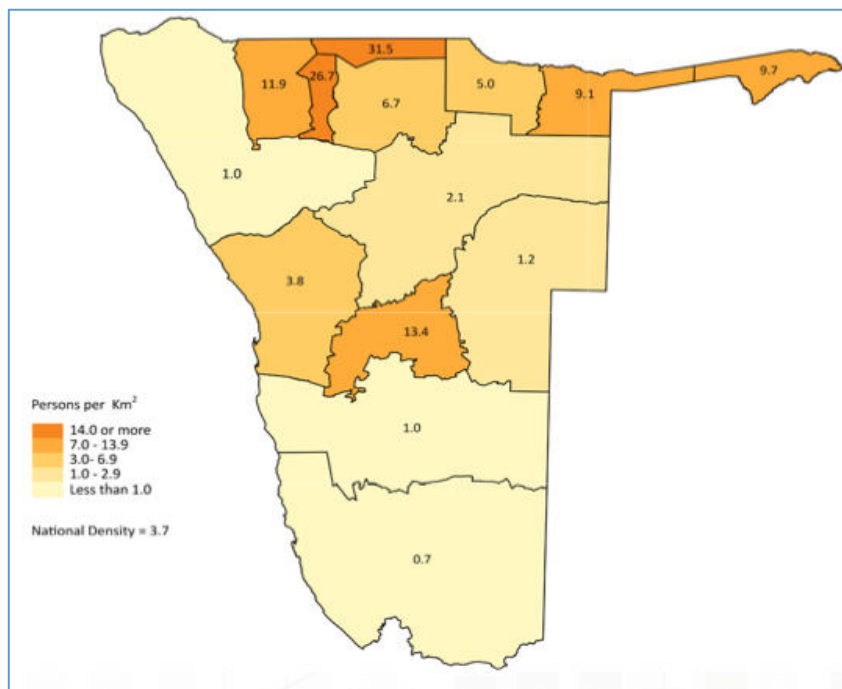


**Figure 5.** Trend of the Namibia Population

- Females make up a greater proportion of the population in the 2023 PHC as has been the trend for the past four censuses.
- Khomas region remains the most populous region in Namibia with a population of 494,729 people. Ohangwena region closely follows as the second most populous region with a population count of 337,729 people. Omusati is the third most populous region,

with a population count of 326,671 people and these are similar trends as observed in the 2011 census.

- Erongo region is the fifth populous region, whose population in 2011 was 150 809 and grew to 240 206 representing 59.3 % change and 7.9% of the total population.
- //Kharas region and Erongo region recorded the smallest household size of 3.1 people per household while the largest household size was recorded in Kavango East and Kavango West Regions, with a household size of 5.3 and 5.5 respectively.
- Average household size has been on the decline since 1991 which is currently at 3.8 persons per household.
- The total number of households has grown by 291,500 (representing a 62.7% increase) over the 464,839 households enumerated in 2011.
- The region with the highest population density is Ohangwena with 31.5, persons per square kilometer, followed by Oshana region with 26.7 and Khomas region with 13.4 persons per square kilometer. //Kharas, Hardap, and Kunene regions are the most sparsely populated regions with 0.7 and 1.0 persons per square kilometer respectively (see Figure 6).



**Figure 6.** Namibian Regional Population Density

### **7.3 Socio-economic profile**

The community of Sesfontein Conservancy are communal farmers who rear livestock. Tourism is one of the main income generating activity for the conservancy through trophy hunting concession.

### **7.4 Biodiversity**

Sesfontein Conservancy is largely semi-desert and sparse savannah. It is rich in plants with common tree species including umbrella thorn, camel thorn, ana tree, mopane, shepherd's tree and Commiphora species.

The conservancy is home to a diversity of keystone wildlife species. Major wildlife includes African Lions, Leopards, and Cheetahs, which coexist with megafauna including African Elephants, Black Rhinoceros, and Giraffes. Other wildlife population includes Mountain Zebras, Greater Kudus, Gemsbok, Springbok, Common Duiker, Steenbok, and Klipspringer as well as Ostriches.

### **7.5 Hydrogeology**

Kunene Region derived its name from the might Kunene River. Except for the Kunene River, all rivers in the Region are ephemeral. These are the tributaries of the Kunene flowing north, e.g., Otjinjange, Omuhongo and Ondoto, and the westward- flowing ephemeral rivers (from north to south), Nadas, Sechomib, Khumib, Hoarisib, Hoanib, Uniab, Koigab, Huab and Ugab.

Generally, the Region has low groundwater potential and knowledge and understanding of aquifer characteristics in the Region is sparse due to few numbers of drilled boreholes and fewer groundwater studies done in the area. The degree of metamorphism affects the groundwater potential in the Region as it is characterized by granitic and metamorphosed rocks which exhibit low tendency to store groundwater.

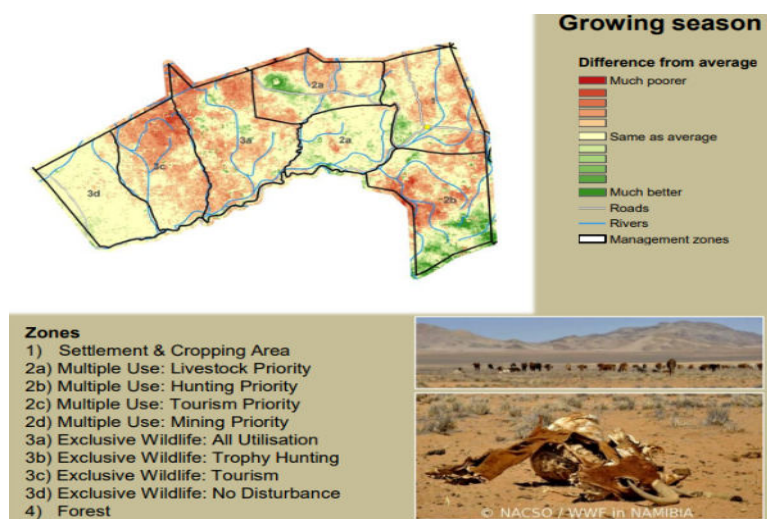
Groundwater in the Region is mostly found in fractured and faults underlain by granite and meta-sediments with low yield of water. The risk of over-abstraction in these fractured ‘aquifers is high and common. Small water supply schemes from borehole in fractures in quartzite and granite of the Huab Complex for schools at Anker and Erwee, south of the landscape, has their water quality deteriorated due to over-abstraction. The low storage capacity of the rocks combined with erratic recharge and high consumption led to over- abstraction of the aquifer.

There are several natural springs in the Region which are critical source of water for human and wildlife, but many dries up due to frequent prolonged drought in the Region. The conservancy name ‘Sesfontein’ is an Afrikaans word for ‘six fountains.

There is not much surface water in Kunene Region. The little rain that falls evaporates, seeps into the ground, or is rapidly drained by ephemeral rivers. Well-developed drainage takes the form of deeply incised and structurally controlled stream-courses leading north to the Huab River and south to the Aba Huab River, from the elevated area within the conservancy areas.

## 7.6 Land use

The conservancy is zone into various uses as indicated in figure 7 below.



**Figure 7.** Conservancy Zones (Source: NACSO, 2022)

## **8 THE NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PROJECT**

The project aligns with the objectives of the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme, specifically in addressing the challenges of HWC while promoting wildlife conservation and fostering poverty reduction. By creating a sustainable solution to mitigate HWC, the project supports the well-being of local communities and provides long-term conservation incentives.

Furthermore, the project contributes to the broader goals of Namibia's Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) framework. IWRM is designed to ensure the sustainable management of the country's water resources, balancing the needs of social equity, economic efficiency, and environmental sustainability. The implementation of this borehole in the Ozorondohungu area, which was deserted by the community due to water scarcity, demonstrate the IWRM principles by addressing water scarcity in rural communities while ensuring that water resources are used in a way that supports both human and ecological needs.

## 9 POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Namibia has developed a comprehensive set of policies, regulatory frameworks, and institutions designed to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystems (*Table 1*). These efforts are in alignment with both international conventions and national legislation. In addition to its domestic policies, Namibia is a signatory to several international treaties, conventions, and multilateral agreements, which further guide its environmental governance. The country actively participates in various international standards, such as the United Nations Development Programme's Social and Environmental Standards (UNDP's SES), and engages in reviews and processes that are critical to the sustainable management of natural resources and the protection of basic rights, including access to a clean and healthy environment.

**Table 1.** Policy and Legal Framework

Legislation	Relevant authority	Applicability
<b>The Namibia Constitution</b>	<b>Government Republic of Namibia</b>	The Namibian constitution is the supreme law of the country and makes provision for environmental protection and sustainable development.
<b>Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007</b>	<b>Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism</b>	The Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 aims to promote the sustainable use of natural resources. It establishes a framework for environmental and social impact assessments, requires precautionary measures and mitigation of activities that could harm the environment, and addresses incidental matters. The Act also specifies a list of activities that cannot proceed without an environmental clearance certificate.



<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Relevant authority</b>	<b>Applicability</b>
<b>Environmental Assessment Policy (1995)</b>	<b>Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism</b>	The Environmental Assessment Policy for Sustainable Development and Environmental Conservation highlights the importance of environmental assessments in implementing integrated environmental management. It urges Namibians to prioritize ecosystem protection and ecological processes. The policy mandates environmental assessments for all developments and provides guidelines for their implementation. It emphasizes that potential impacts should be considered early in the project design and planning stages, with mitigation measures incorporated from the outset.
<b>Pollution Control and Waste Management Bill (in preparation)</b>	<b>MEFT, MHSS and others</b>	The Pollution Control and Waste Management Bill, intends to regulate and prevent the discharge of pollutants into the air and water as well as providing for general waste management.
<b>Public Health Act (Act No. 36 of 1919)</b>	<b>Ministry of Health and Social Services</b>	The Public Health Act aims to protect the public from nuisance and states that 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.
<b>Water Resources Management Act (Act No. 11 of 2013)</b>	<b>Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform</b>	This Act provides a framework for managing water resources based on the principles of integrated water resources management. It provides for the management, development, protection, conservation, and use of water resources. Therefore, water abstraction should satisfy the provisions of the water act (water abstraction / borehole permit should be applied from the respective ministry).

Legislation	Relevant authority	Applicability
<b>Water Act No, 54 of 1956</b>	<b>Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform</b>	<p>This act states that, all water resources belong to the State. It prevents pollution and promotes the sustainable utilization of the resource. To protect these resources, this act requires that permits are obtained when activities involve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Discharge of contaminated into water sources such as pipe, sewer, canal, sea outfall and</li> <li>(b) Disposal of water in a manner that may cause detrimental impact on the water resources</li> </ul>
<b>Soil Conservation Act No. 76 of 1969</b>	<b>Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform</b>	This act promotes the conservation of soil, prevention of soil erosion. Prevent soil salinification.
<b>National Heritage Act No. 27 of 2004</b>	<b>Ministry of Urban and Rural Development</b>	The Act makes provision for the protection and conservation of places and objects of heritage significance and the registration of such places and objects. Part V Section 46 of the Act prohibits removal, damage, alteration or excavation of heritage sites or remains, while Section 48 sets out the procedure for application and granting of permits.
<b>Regional Councils Act, 1992 (Act No. 22 of 1992)</b>	<b>Ministry of Urban and Rural Development</b>	The Regional Councils Act legislates the establishment of Regional Councils that are responsible for the planning and coordination of regional policies and development. The main objective of this Act is to initiate, supervise, manage and evaluate regional development.

## 10 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Section 21 of the EIA Regulation requires the undertaking of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to follow a robust and comprehensive public consultation. This is an important process, because it gives members of the public, especially the Interested and Affected Parties to comment or raise concerns that may affect their socio-economic or general environment because of the project. Further, it solicits crucial local knowledge that the Environmental Assessment Practitioner may not have.

The Public Participation Process (PPP) was focused on members of the conservancy. While competent and or regulatory authority such as Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), were consulted during the project development phase for application for the ECC.

### 10.1 Conservancy Consultation

Red-Dune held two meetings: with members of the Conservancy Management Committee (CMC) and the traditional leaders on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at Sesfontein Conservancy Office and the village respectively (**Figure 8**).



**Figure 8.** Meeting at Conservancy office (Left) and Traditional leaders at village (Right) (*Source: Red-Dune Consulting, 2024*).

- At the Conservancy office, the meeting was attended by the Treasure, a member of Conservancy Management Committee and ordinarily resident of Sesfontein.
- While at the village, the meeting was attended by village headman and two tradition councillors (*See Appendix A*).
- Red-Dune informed the meeting that, the proposed development of water points is a result of the conservancy request to be assisted in dealing with the challenge of HWC and social upliftment of the community. The measure aims to provide water to the community and to wildlife areas to prevent them from coming to farming areas where they often destroy crops.
- Red-Dune presented the meeting objectives, particularly the requirement of the Environmental Social Safeguards (ESS) and the need for environmental impact assessment and community consultations.
- The meeting was informed that, the proposed water point will be developed with funding from Community Conservancy Fund of Namibia (CCFN) which received funding from the KfW development bank to support communal conservancies to mitigate issues of Human Wild Conflict (HWC).
- KfW require that the money is spent wisely and accounted for to the benefit of the communities and ensure that project implementing agencies observe the highest standard of Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) which aims to ensure that the project is environmental and social sustainability.
- The meeting was informed that, the ESS requirement does not be support projects if amongst many red flags, if it involves:
  - Displacement of people
  - Destroying heritage sites
  - Damaging critical biodiversity habitat
  - Conflict in the community
- The meeting was further informed that the protection of the environment is provided for under the Environmental Management Act (Act No. 7 of 2007) (EMA) and its Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation 2012 where EMA has listed Water Resource Developments activities, such as drilling of boreholes not to be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).

- To obtain an ECC, a Social and Environmental Impact Assessment must be undertaken, which is one of the core components of the consultation.
- Lastly the meeting was informed that, a consent letter is one of the requisites for the project to be implemented. This consent letter, called ‘Free Prior Informed Consent’ (FPIC) represent the community in understanding and agreeing to the proposed water development project. The FPIC was explained to the project as follows.
  - **FREE** refers to a consent given voluntarily and absent of coercion, intimidation or manipulation.
  - **PRIOR** means consent is sought sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities
  - **INFORMED** means that community was well informed about the project, and they know all information about the project.
  - **CONSENT** refers to the collective decision made by the rights-holders and reached through the customary decision-making processes of the affected peoples or communities.
- Free Prior Informed Consent was signed by the area headman (*See Appendix B*).

#### **Comment by the community.**

- The Conservancy Treasure, a member of the Conservancy Management Committee (CMC) indicated that the conservancy is fully aware of the proposed drilling of the water point and has been anticipating its implementation. They expressed support for the project, recognizing its potential to positively impact the community.
- During the meeting, the area Headman from the village shared that the community had previously relocated due to severe water scarcity. He highlighted that the proposed borehole would provide a reliable water source, making it feasible for the community to return to the area. He emphasized that the availability of water would greatly improve grazing conditions for livestock, which is crucial for the livelihoods of the local people.

- The Headman thanked Red-Dune Consulting and expressed gratitude for the project. He also called on CCFN to expedite the project's implementation to ensure the community can benefit from the water point as soon as possible.
- The meeting was adjourned following the discussions.

## 10.2 Site Assessment

The Ozorondohungu area is situated on the northern side of the conservancy. Historically, this area has been used for farming activities; however, the community has since relocated due to water scarcity. As a result, the area is now uninhabited, with only sparse vegetation, predominantly consisting of Mopane Trees.

The site is accessible via the D3705 gravel road, which means that no new access roads will need to be developed for the proposed project. Furthermore, the project will not require the removal of any significant vegetation, as the area is already characterized by minimal plant cover. This makes the site suitable for development with minimal environmental disruption on the surrounding ecosystem (*see Figure 9*).



**Figure 9.** Borehole site at Ozorondohungu Village (stone pack in the picture)

## 11 ENVIROMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### 11.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines the potential impacts (negative and positive) associated with drilling the borehole. The identified impacts are categorized into three components: impacts on the biophysical environment; Impacts on the health and safety; and impacts on socio-economic. It further provide the criteria used for impact assessment. The developed Environmental Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the project is a living document. Hence, impacts that could be identified during future maintenance or upgrade of infrastructures will require an amendment to the ESMP.

### 11.2 Impact Identification

Potential impacts were identified in accordance to the key Environmental Social Indicators (ESI)<sup>8</sup> and using literature review, site assessment and public participation process and experience for Red-Dune Consulting (*see Table 2*).

**Table 2.** Impact identification

Component	Impact	Description	Impact Type
<b>CONSTRUCTION PHASE</b>			
<b>Bio-Physical Environment</b>	Loss of habitat and Biodiversity	The clearing of land for site preparation and the occupation of the site itself can result in the direct loss of habitat for local flora and fauna. This may lead to a reduction in biodiversity, as species that depend on the specific habitat may be forced to relocate or face potential extinction.	Negative

<sup>8</sup> Guidance Note UNDP Social and Environmental Standards Social and Environmental Assessment and Management July 2022

Component	Impact	Description	Impact Type
		Furthermore, the presence of construction activities and increased human activities can inadvertently create opportunities for poaching of high valuable species such as Rhinos.	
	Dust emission	Land clearing, digging and excavation of trenches, movement of vehicles and heavy machinery on project sites, concrete work, transportation of sand to site and concrete stones, cement mixing may create fugitive dust. Uncoordinated / reckless driving on gravels roads could cause low visibility to other road users.  Dust from construction and drilling can not only pose health risks to workers, leading to respiratory issues, but it can also affect nearby communities and vegetation, reducing air quality and the overall environment's health..	Negative
	Land degradation / Soil erosion	Site preparation activities, such as excavation and the movement of heavy machinery, can result in soil disturbance and degradation. This includes compaction, erosion, and loss of soil fertility. The removal of vegetation during site clearing can also leave the soil vulnerable to erosion, reducing the land's ability to support future vegetation growth and impacting local ecosystems.	Negative
	Noise and vibration	The operation of heavy machinery and drilling equipment can produce significant noise, which may disturb both wildlife and nearby communities. Prolonged exposure to high noise levels can have detrimental effects on the health of workers and the surrounding population, including hearing loss and increased stress levels. Furthermore, noise pollution can disrupt animal behaviours, particularly in	Negative



Component	Impact	Description	Impact Type
		sensitive species, leading to displacement or changes in habitat use.	
	Traffic emission	The operation of vehicles and machinery, as well as drilling activities, can contribute to air pollution through the emission of exhaust gases of SO <sub>2</sub> , CO <sub>2</sub> , CO, NO <sub>x</sub> and particulates.	Negative
	Waste generation	Construction produce significant amount of solid waste including, building rubbles, plastic and parts of equipment.	Negative
	Household waste	The generation of domestic solid waste from workers and operations on-site can lead to pollution if not properly managed. Improper disposal of waste, such as plastics, food scraps, and other materials, can contaminate the local environment and pose a risk to both wildlife and human health.	Negative
	Soil and water pollution	The use of heavy vehicles and drilling equipment involves the use of oils, grease, and lubricants that, if not properly managed, can leak into the ground and contaminate groundwater sources.	Negative
Health and Safety	Safety risk	Accidents from collision of construction vehicles, and occupational injuries.	Negative
	Health risks	Risks of hearing impairment from excessive noise, respiratory risks from dust inhalation. New social relationships are often a recipe for spreading of communicable diseases and sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, alcohol and drug use could be prevalent during construction and workers are susceptible to vector diseases such as malaria.	Negative

Component	Impact	Description	Impact Type
		Furthermore, the bush working environment makes workers to be prone to venomous insect and snake bites which may lead to fatalities. Other health risk include workers exposure to excessive noise and dust and injuries.	
	Hazardous Impact	Heavy vehicles consume significant amounts of oil, and the handling of hydrocarbons will occur on-site. The area where grease, oils, lubricants, and fuel are managed must be properly designed to prevent soil contamination, which could potentially affect both the soil and underground water..	Negative
Social Environment	Visual impacts	Poor housing keeping on site, disturbance of surrounding view by the height of the hospital, uncoordinated painting.	Negative
	Employment creation	Namibia is facing high unemployment, particularly among the youth. However, the project will create employment opportunities during the construction phase and provide valuable skills development and knowledge transfer.	Positive
	Increase in local economy	Construction provides an opportunity for local people, especially women to sell their produce (food) to construction workers. The local economy will increase from procurement of construction materials and increased buying power.	Positive
	Heritage and Archaeological Resource	Digging and excavation have the potential to uncover archaeological materials. Therefore, raising awareness about the possibility of chance finds is necessary to prevent potential damage.	Negative
<b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b>			
Water abstraction	Risk of underground over-	Uncontrolled underground water abstraction can lead to over-extraction, which depletes water resources faster than they can be replenished. This over-abstraction can also	Negative

Component	Impact	Description	Impact Type
	abstraction water	result in the deterioration of water quality, as it may cause the intrusion of contaminants such as salts or pollutants into freshwater aquifers. Additionally, excessive extraction can disrupt the natural balance of groundwater systems, affecting ecosystems and potentially leading to land subsidence or other environmental issues. Therefore, it is crucial to implement sustainable water management practices to protect both the quantity and quality of underground water resources.	
Safety of borehole infrastructures	Theft	Theft of boreholes infrastructures such as pumps and solar panels.	Negative
	Destruction of water infrastructure by elephant	Potential destruction of boreholes and associated infrastructure by elephants.	Negative
	Corrosion of borehole metal casing	The use of poor-quality borehole casing could lead to short lifespan of the borehole casing	
Conflict of water use by the communities	Claiming ownership of boreholes by nearest community members	The community near the borehole may claim ownership of the borehole which could cause conflict in the community	Negative

### 11.3 Criteria for impact assessment

The criteria used to assess the impacts and the method for determining their significance are outlined in Table 3 below. This process aligns with international best practices and adheres to the

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations under the Environmental Management Act of 2007 (Government Gazette No. 4878).

The core principle of the impact assessment follows a mitigation hierarchy, which aims to first avoid negative impacts through preventative measures, then minimize those impacts to acceptable levels, and, if neither of these options is feasible, to remedy or compensate for the impact.

**Table 3.** Criteria for Impact Assessment

<b>Risk Event</b>	<b>Rating</b>		<b>Description of the risk that may lead to an Impact</b>
<b>Probability</b>	The probability that an impact may occur under the following analysis		
	1		Improbable (Low likelihood)
	2		Low probability
	3		Probable (Likely to occur)
	4		Highly Probable (Most likely)
	5		Definite (Impact will occur irrespective of the applied mitigation measure)
<b>Confidence level</b>	The confidence level of occurrence in the prediction, based on available knowledge		
	L		Low = limited information
	M		Medium = moderate information
	H		High = sufficient information
<b>Significance</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Rating</b>	None (Based on the available information, the potential impact is found to not have a significant impact)
	Negligible	1	
	Low	2	Low (The presence of the impact's magnitude is expected to be temporal or localized, that may not require alteration to the operation of the project)
	Medium	3	Medium (This impact is probable, limited in scale, expected to be of short term / temporary, can be

Risk Event	Rating	Description of the risk that may lead to an Impact
		avoided, managed and or mitigated with simple mitigation measures.)
	High	4 High (The impact is definite, mostly predictable, temporal, can be local, regional or national and in long term and reversible. These are impacts that may affect human rights, lands, natural resources, traditional livelihood, critical ecosystem services. The severity of these impact are more limited than sever impacts.)
	Severe	5 <b>Severe</b> (The impact is definite, it has significant adverse impacts on human population and or / the environment which are of large-scale magnitude and or spatial extend such as large geographic area, large number of people or transboundary nature. The impact duration is long term, permanent and often irreversible. Impacts include displacement of human, destruction of critical ecological systems and or cultural and heritage sites etc. The impact could have a no-go implication unless the project is re-designed or proper mitigation can practically be applied.)
<b>Duration</b>	Time duration of the impacts	
	1	Immediate
	2	Short-term (0-5 years)
	3	Medium-term (5-15 years)
	4	Long-term (more than 15 years
	5	Permanent
<b>Scale</b>	The geographical scale of the impact	
	1	Site specific
	2	Local

Risk Event	Rating	Description of the risk that may lead to an Impact
	3	Regional
	4	National
	5	International

## 11.4 Risk Assessment

The significance of the impact was determined using a risk matrix, as shown in Table 4. A five-by-five matrix was applied, where the severity of the impact was categorized and assigned scores ranging from 1 to 5: Improbable (1), Low (2), Medium (3), High (4), and Severe (5). Similarly, the likelihood of the impact occurring was assigned scores as follows: Improbable (1), Low Likely (2), Probable (3), High Probability (4), and Definite (5). The overall impact rating was then calculated by multiplying the scores for impact severity and likelihood.

**Table 4.** Risk assessment matrix<sup>9</sup>

<b>LIKELIHOOD</b>	<b>5 Definite</b>	5 Low	10 Medium	15 High	20 Severe	25 Severe
	<b>4 High Probability</b>	4 Low	8 Medium	12 High	16 High	20 Severe
	<b>3 Probable</b>	3 Low	6 Medium	9 Medium	12 High	15 High
	<b>2 Low</b>	2 Low	4 Low	6 Medium	8 Medium	10 Medium
	<b>1 Improbable</b>	1 Negligible	2 Low	3 Low	4 Low	5 Low
		<b>1 Negligible</b>	<b>2 Minor</b>	<b>3 Medium</b>	<b>4 High</b>	<b>5 Severe</b>
		<b>IMPACT SEVERITY / CONSEQUENCE</b>				
		Negligible	Low	Medium	High	Severe

<sup>9</sup> Risk Management Guideline for the BC Public Sector (Province of British Columbia Risk Management Branch and Government Security Office 2012)

## 11.5 Mitigation Hierarchy

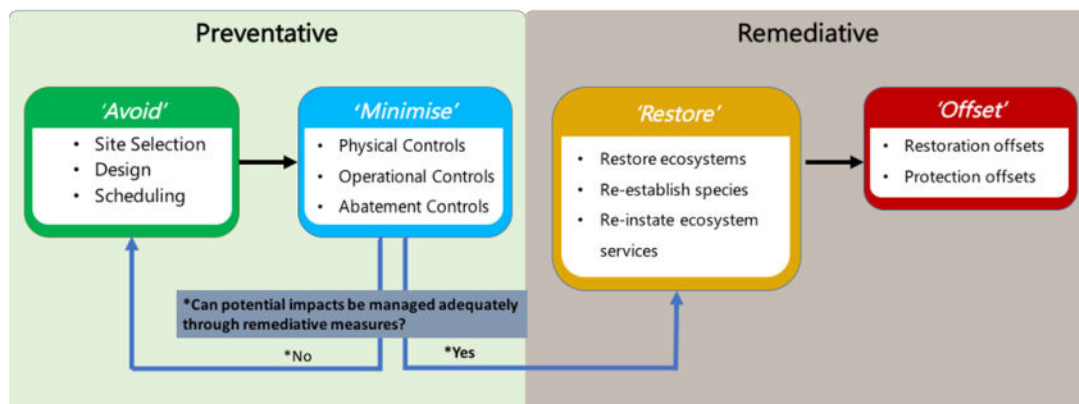
Best practises call for mitigation measures to follow a mitigation hierarchy that favours (i) avoidance of potential adverse impacts, and where avoidance is not possible, then (ii) minimization and reduction; where adverse residual impacts remain, then (iii) mitigation measures need to be applied, and, as a last resort, (iv) measures to offset impacts that cannot be appropriately mitigated (*see Figure 10 below*).

According to EIS regulations, the objectives mitigations are to;

- Find environmental ways of doing thing
- Promote environmental benefits of the project
- Avoid, Minimise or remedy negative impacts and
- Ensure that residual negative impacts are within acceptable levels,

Furthermore, during consideration of the mitigation measure, the following mitigation hierarchy was followed.

- Avoid the negative impact through preventative means,
- Minimise the negative impacts to acceptable low levels and,
- If the above two are not possible, remedy or compensate the impact.



**Figure 10. Mitigation Hierarchy Source** <sup>10</sup>

*11.5.1 Siting Phase: Impact Assessment*

Typically, before drilling of a borehole, a site assessment is undertaken to determine the optimum location for drilling a process called siting of a borehole. This process involve analysis of geohydrology property of the area using two main conventional methods; (i) electrical resistivity and (ii) ground conductivity. These method use Frequency Domain Electromagnetic (FDM) operated by a highly trained geohydrologist.

During this phase, there was no evasive activities that could cause harm to the physical environment. To ensure social cohesion with the siting team, the Conservacny was informed about the presence of the siting team in the area. The sited location was pinned for marking purposes.

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<sup>10</sup> Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative (CSBI). (2015). A Cross-sector Guide for Implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy (p.9)



### 11.5.2 Drilling Phase: Impact Assessment

Drilling is the primary and most significant environmental threat during this phase. This stage involves the mobilization and transportation of drilling equipment to the drilling site, the construction of protective fences around boreholes, and the installation of solar panel platforms. If necessary, a campsite may be set up at the drilling site, complete with supporting infrastructure such as ablution facilities, and provisions for managing household and other solid waste.

During this phase, various occupational health and safety risks arise, including injuries from operating machinery, bites from insects (such as mosquitoes), snake bites, and the potential for oil contamination. Table 5 below outlines the assessment of potential impacts and the proposed mitigation measures for the drilling phase.

**Table 5.** Social Environment: Impact Assessment

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
<b>Employment / Socio- Economic advancement of local</b>	Possible exclusion of local communities from job opportunities and unfair compensation of workers. It is not anticipated that a	1. Ensure that all general work is reserved for local people, unless specialized skills are required.	+ve	2	2	4	Regional	Life of project	n/a	Low	High

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
	significant number of jobs will be created during the drilling phase.	<p>2. Follow fair compensation practices and adhere to Namibian Labour Laws.</p> <p>3. Facilitate skill transfer to local workers.</p> <p>4. Use local suppliers for goods and services where possible.</p>									

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
<b>Health and Safety for Employees and the General Public</b>	Job opportunities can lead to new social relationships that may contribute to the spread of diseases, particularly pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse. Hiring unlicensed employees to operate vehicles and machinery poses safety risks to themselves, co-workers, and the public. Additionally, employees are exposed to dust, noise pollution, and other occupational health and safety hazards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise awareness among employees about the dangers of HIV/AIDS, alcohol, and drug abuse.</li> <li>2. Provide condoms on-site.</li> <li>3. Develop a comprehensive safety plan.</li> <li>4. Ensure all employees undergo an induction course on health and safety.</li> <li>5. All drivers must possess</li> </ol>	-ve	2	2	4	Site Specific and Local	Project Duration	n/a	Low	High

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
		<p>appropriate driver's licenses.</p> <p>6. Install adequate safety signage at designated areas.</p> <p>7. Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) such as overalls, safety boots, safety eyewear, gloves, and hard hats.</p> <p>8. Adhere to the Labour Act, ensuring non-toxic dust exposure levels do not exceed</p>									

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
		<p>5mg/m<sup>3</sup> for respiratory dust and 15mg/m<sup>3</sup> for total dust.</p> <p>9. Ensure noise levels do not exceed 85dB(A) over an 8-hour period.</p> <p>10. Comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act of Namibia and other international labor standards (e.g., ILO).</p> <p>11. Ensure first aid kits are available</p>									

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
		<p>on-site, including supplies for insect and snake bites.</p> <p>12. Train supervisors in occupational health and first aid.</p> <p>13. Supply clean drinking water, such as portable water tanks.</p> <p>14. Use gendered mobile toilets.</p> <p>15. Provide insect repellent, mosquito nets, and, if necessary, immunization to prevent diseases</p>									

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
		like malaria.									
<b>Heritage and Archaeology</b>	Potential unearthing of archaeological material or damaging heritage resources	1. Employee must be trained on the possible find of heritage and	-ve	2	2	4	Site Specific	Construction / Drilling	R	Low	High

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
		<p>archaeological material in the area;</p> <p>2. Implement a chance find and steps to be taken for heritage and archaeological material finding (Heritage (rock painting and drawings), human remains or artefacts) are unearthed</p> <p>3. Stopping the activity immediately</p> <p>i. Informing the</p>									



Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
		<p>operational manager or supervisor</p> <p>ii. Cordoned off of the area with a danger tape and manager to take appropriated pictures.</p> <p>iii. Manager/supervisor must report the finding to the following competent authorities, National Heritage Council of Namibia (061 244</p>									

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
		375) National Museum (+264 61 276800) or the National Forensic Laboratory (+264 61 240461).									

**Table 6.** Bio-Physical Environment: Impacts Assessment

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
<b>Biodiversity: Flora</b>	Destruction of trees	1. Avoid cutting down mature and protected plant species. 2. Ensure that access roads are rehabilitated after use to enhance revegetation	-ve	2	2	4	Site Specific	Construction / Drilling	R	Low	High
<b>Biodiversity: Fauna</b>	Destruction of animal habitats such as bird nests, poaching, stealing of livestock	1. Do not kill animal, unless such animals pose eminent danger to humans 2. There must be ZERO tolerance to poaching to ensure this, no weapon and traps are allowed on site;	-ve	2	2	4	Regional	Construction / Drilling	R	Low	High
<b>Surface and Ground Water Pollution</b>	Heavy vehicle and machinery may pollute water sources from leakages of oils,	1. Fuelling of heavy vehicle on site must be well coordinated at designated places, 2. Stationary vehicles must be provided with drip tray to capture	-ve	2	2	4	Site Specific	Construction / Drilling	R	Low	High

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
	hydraulic fluids, lubricants and greases. These pollutants may reach underground water through seepage. Further surface water may be polluted from surface run off soils that is polluted.	oil, lubricants and hydraulic fluids leakages 3. All vehicle and machinery must be well service to avoid leakages 4. Provide and train on oil spill emergency response 5. Servicing of vehicles and machinery must take place at designate places									
<b>Waste Generation</b>	General household pollution and littering such as used oil cans drums, metals,	1. Provide skip bins to collect waste and be disposed of at an approved disposal site 2. Provide labelled household waste drums for household solid waste. 3. Do not bury waste on site	-ve	2	2	4	Site Specific	Life of project	R	Low	High

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
	and household solid and liquid waste	<p>4. Excavate a small biodegradable waste site that would be dump filled at the end of the project, alternatively, provide mobile toilets that will be disposed at an approved site and ensure separate ablution facilities for men and women.</p> <p>5. Used oil, grease and lubricants cans must be collected in appropriate drums and disposed of at an approved site</p> <p>6. Maintain good housekeeping on site.</p> <p>7. Do not bury waste on site</p>									
<b>Dust Pollution</b>	Land clearing, digging, excavation of trenches, drilling,	1. Movement of heavy vehicles must strictly be restricted on site.	-ve	2	2	4	Local and Site Specific	Immediate	R	Low	High

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
	movement of vehicles and heavy machinery in site, transportation of material to site, will create fugitive dust which could be a nuisance to the surrounding.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adhere to the minimum speed limit of 30 or 40km/hour when on farm roads.</li> <li>On site where soil is loosened by vehicle movement, apply dust a suppression method such as water spraying.</li> <li>During drilling, use water to suppress the dust</li> </ol>									
<b>Land degradation and pollution</b>	Uncoordinated movement of heavy vehicles and uncoordinated land clearing could lead to soil erosion. Possible	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Movement of heavy vehicles must be coordinated and restricted to be on access roads</li> <li>Normally, public gravel roads are meant for light vehicles drilling vehicles have the potential to damage the access roads. Hence proper road maintenance must be</li> </ol>	-ve	2	2	4	Site Specific	Life of project	R	Low	High

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
	spill and leakages of fuel and lubricants from vehicle and machinery could pollute the soil and eventually the ground water resource.	<p>implemented to ensure that the roads are left on good state</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Fuelling of heavy vehicles on site must be well coordinated at designated places</li> <li>4. Servicing of vehicles and machinery must take place at designated sites</li> <li>5. Stationary vehicles must be provided with drip tray to capture oil, lubricants and hydraulic fluid leakages</li> <li>6. All vehicles and machinery must be well serviced to avoid leakages</li> <li>7. Provide and train on oil spill emergency response.</li> </ol>									

## 11.6 Operational Phase:

The main activity during the operational phase of the borehole is water abstraction. If not properly monitored, this could lead to over-abstraction, which may result in the deterioration of water quality and potential negative impacts on vegetation due to a deepening water table. Additionally, the borehole could lead to social conflicts, as surrounding communities might claim ownership of the borehole and prevent other communities from accessing it. Table 7 below outlines the potential impacts during the operational phase and the proposed mitigation measures.

**Table 7.** Operational Phase Impact Assessment

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
<b>Reduced Human Wild- Life Conflict</b>	The borehole operation will ensure wildlife animals stay at wildlife sanctuary The borehole will make water readily available for wildlife even during drought season										
<b>Over abstraction of underground water</b>	High and unsustainable water abstraction which could affect ground water quality	1. <b>Adhere to Permitted Water Abstraction Limits:</b> Ensure that water abstraction does not exceed the volume specified in the permit. This helps prevent over-extraction,	-ve	2	2	4	Local	Life of project	R	Low	High



Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
		<p>which can lead to the depletion of groundwater resources and the deterioration of water quality.</p> <p>2. <b>Install Automatic Monitoring Systems:</b> Where feasible, install automated measuring gauges to continuously monitor water abstraction levels, helping to ensure that it stays within permitted limits and enabling prompt corrective action if necessary.</p> <p>3. <b>Periodic Water Level Monitoring:</b> Regularly monitor the water table levels in the borehole to detect any significant drops that might indicate over-abstraction or other negative impacts. This monitoring should be carried out at consistent intervals to track trends and allow for early</p>									

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
		<p>intervention if water levels begin to decline.</p> <p>4. <b>Conduct Periodic Pumping Yield Tests:</b> Carry out regular pumping yield tests to assess the sustainability of the aquifer. These tests measure how much water the aquifer can supply over time without causing long-term depletion. Based on the results, adjustments to water abstraction rates may be necessary to ensure the aquifer's health is maintained.</p> <p>5. <b>Systematic Water Quality Assessments:</b> Regularly perform comprehensive water quality assessments to detect any changes in the chemical composition or contamination of the water. These</p>									

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
		assessments should include tests for common pollutants, such as heavy metals, salts, and bacteria, to ensure that the water remains safe for use and that the quality does not degrade over time due to over-extraction or other factors.									
<b>Risk of water infrastructure destruction by elephants</b>	Elephant are notorious known for damaging water points in search for drinking water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Construct an elephant proof fence around the borehole and its supporting infrastructures</li> <li>2. Build high and thick enough walls that will prevent elephants access to the water tank and solar infrastructures.</li> </ol>	-ve	2	2	4	Local	Life of project	R	Low	High
<b>Conflict of water use by villagers</b>	Claim of ownership of water point / borehole by some community members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise awareness of the intended purpose of the borehole</li> <li>2. Ensure no one is made to be entitled to owning or have</li> </ol>	-ve	2	2	4	Local	Life of project	R	Low	High

Project- Environment Interaction	Description	Mitigation Measures	Impact type	Likelihood occurrence	Severity	Impact Rating	Geographical Extend	Duration	Reversibility (R)	Significance	Confidence Level
		controlling power on who should use the borehole									
<b>Theft of borehole infrastructures</b>	There are reported cases where boreholes infrastructure such as solar panel are stolen	1. Construct theft proof fence to protect solar panels	-ve	2	2	4	Local	Life of project	R	Low	High

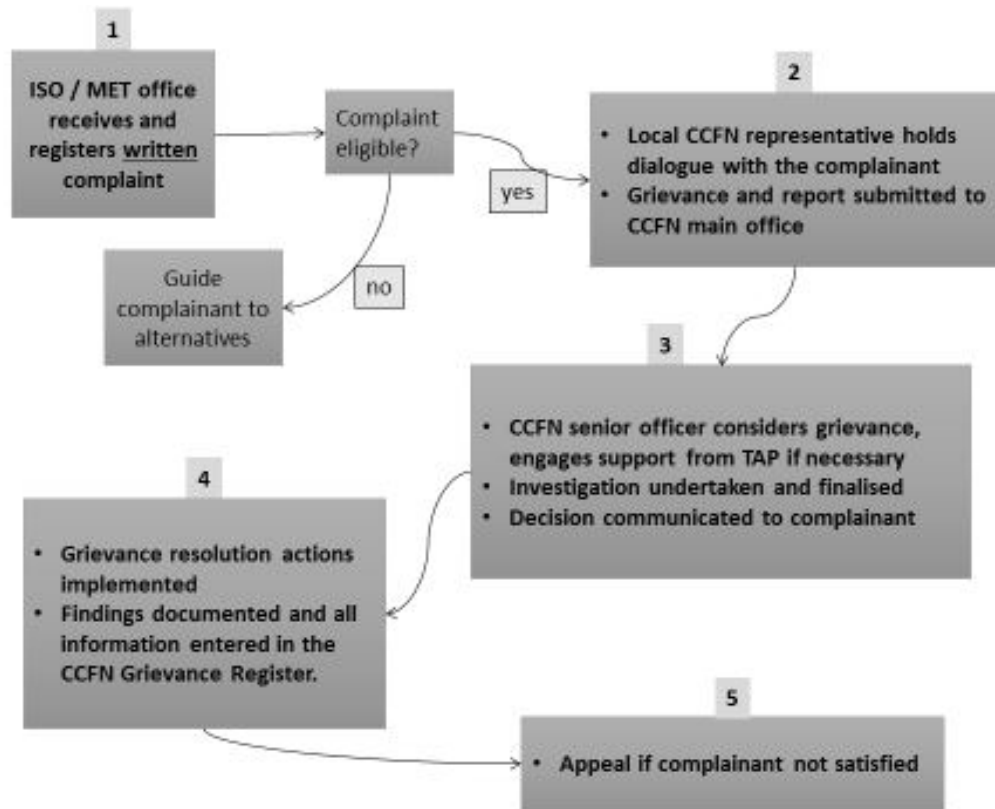
## **12 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

The Grievance Procedures will be a process to facilitate for an easy and smooth process in which stakeholders are able to submit their complaints about the project activities or its consequences i) free of charge ii) without fear of retribution iii) anonymously and iv) user friendly channels.

It is important to emphasise that the Grievance Procedure will not address HWC incidents per se, because those are not caused by the Project. Grievances that are eligible are, for instance, cases where a party is disadvantaged as a result of a Project activity, or as a result of negligence on the part of the Project to follow its procedures thoroughly or fairly. Complainants may be by actual or potential beneficiaries of the Project, or any members of the public.

In generally, the grievances process will follow six (6) Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) value chain, namely; i) Receive and log grievance, ii) Acknowledge grievance, iii) Assess and Investigate iv) Grievance Resolution, iiv) Sign-off on grievance and iiiv) Monitor and continuously evaluate the effectiveness of the GRM.

Grievances will be addressed through the channels in the institutional structure presented in **Figure 11** below, in an efficient, effective and consistent manner.



**Figure 11.** GRM flow chart (Source: ESMF\_ Poverty Oriented Support to Community Conservation in Namibia)

The eligibility of the grievance will be assessed at the level where it is first received, at a local MEFT / ISO office (Step 1) and the following actions / steps will be undertaken. The grievance will be discussed with the complainant, with the objective of understanding the problem and giving the complainant a fair hearing (Step 2). The local CCFN representative will submit the grievance, and any notes of their own, to the CCFN head office for higher-level input to the issue (Step 2). The CCFN senior officer will investigate the substance of the grievance (Step 3). If necessary, assistance may be sought from the TAP. Further dialogue with the complainant and others affected by the grievance might also be necessary. The CCFN senior officer will compile a written report on the grievance and communicate the outcome to the complainant. Any actions necessary to resolve the grievance will be implemented by the relevant parties, under the direction of the CCFN (Step 4). Resolution of the grievance will be documented and entered into the Grievance Register. Under normal conditions, a grievance will be resolved, and redress actions commenced within 30 days of receiving a complaint. A complainant is permitted to appeal against the decision by the CCFN, to the CCFN CEO (Step 5). In such a

case the CEO must present the grievance and the CCFN decision to the Board, for reconsideration.

## **13 DECOMMISSIONING AND REHABILITATION PLAN**

Decommissioning typically involves reversing the construction process, which includes the removal of all installed equipment and structures. The provision of water to the community is intended to be a long-term intervention, unless an urgent issue arises that requires decommissioning. Any aging or outdated equipment that needs replacement should be handled by qualified Namibian professionals to ensure the continued smooth operation of the system and a reliable, uninterrupted water supply.

## **14 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **14.1 Conclusion**

Based on the available information, the following conclusions have been drawn:

1. **Low Groundwater Potential:** The region exhibits relatively low groundwater potential, which suggests that the available water resources are limited and should be carefully managed to ensure sustainability.
2. **Risks of Excessive Groundwater Extraction:** Over-extraction of groundwater could lead to significant depletion of water resources, as well as a deterioration in water quality. This could have long-term negative effects on both the environment and the community's access to clean water.

### **14.2 Recommendations**

1. **Issuance of the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC):** It is recommended that the approving authority proceed with the issuance of the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC), subject to the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures to ensure sustainable water management and environmental protection.
2. **Continued Support for Sesfontein Conservancy:** The CCFN or the responsible government agency / ministry should support for the Sesfontein Conservancy to ensure

regular testing of water quality, obtaining the necessary fitness-for-use approvals, and monitoring the performance of the borehole. These actions will help maintain the sustainability and safety of the water supply, while also ensuring that the community can rely on consistent, safe access to water in the long term.



## **15 ANNEX 1. GROUNDWATER MONITORING PLAN**

The purpose of the Groundwater Monitoring Plan is to establish appropriate procedures for monitoring and assessing the response of the aquifer and surrounding environment to the water abstraction process. The plan aims to manage the impacts of groundwater extraction and contaminant loads, while also tracking changes in aquifer response and water quality. Additionally, the monitoring system will serve as an early warning mechanism for detecting potential over-abstraction or other issues that could arise over time.

### **15.1 Groundwater Quality**

Regular monitoring of the groundwater quality is essential to detect any changes that may occur because of abstraction, natural processes, or contamination. This monitoring should be conducted on a consistent basis to provide early warnings of any deterioration in water quality, which could affect both human consumption and ecological health. Periodic water quality testing should include key parameters such as pH levels, salinity, total dissolved solids (TDS), and the presence of pollutants (e.g., heavy metals, nitrates, or microbial contamination). This information will allow for prompt corrective action if the water quality begins to degrade, ensuring the continued safety and reliability of the water supply.

### **15.2 Groundwater Level Measurements**

Monitoring the groundwater levels in the aquifer is a critical component of managing water resources, as it helps track the balance between the water available in the aquifer and the rate of abstraction. This is particularly important in regions with low or irregular rainfall, where natural recharge rates are minimal or non-existent. Regular water level measurements will provide valuable data on the changes in groundwater levels over time, enabling operators to identify any signs of over-extraction or potential depletion.

These measurements will be recorded through the water meter readings provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform (MAWLR) to the borehole operator. It is important that baseline hydrological data such as the initial water level before abstraction begins is recorded to track changes over time. Regular monitoring will help ensure that water

levels remain within sustainable limits and will serve as a key reference point for evaluating the overall impact of abstraction activities. This monitoring system will also provide clear evidence of any discrepancies or errors when the MAWLR conducts periodic inspections of the site.

## 16 REFERENCES

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## 17 APPENDICES

### 17.1 Appendix A. Attendance Register



KFW



STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING STUDY AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE DRILLING

OF WATER POINTS IN COMMUNAL CONSERVANCIES OF KUNENE."

Place: Sesfontein Conservancy

Date: 09 Dec 2024

Time: 08:00 - 12:00

No	Name	Gender	Organization	Position	Cell	Email	Signature
1	IPESINYE M	M	RDC	Director	0811447785	regdunec3@gmail.com	
2	Steven Kaseera	M	Sesfontein NFM	Supv	0817735229		
3	Bernardus-U. Huel	M	Sesfontein Com	Treasurer	0812448662	bernardush@yahoo.com	
4	Kureya Tiraso	M	Sesfontein	Comm. Member	0813853635		
5	Dennis Xamkhoad	M	Sesfontein	Staff - Lawer	0817151175		
6	Edmond Xamkhoad	M	Sesfontein	Rhino Ranger	0815553449		
7	Eben Garamus	M	Sesfontein	Gen. Guard	0815553449		
8	Gabriel Karatira	M	Sesfontein	Comm. leader			
9	Jakob Kasupi	M	Sesfontein	Comm. leader			
10	Elias Kasupi	M	Sesfontein	Comm. leader			
11							
12							

## 17.2 Appendix B: Consent letter

09 December 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

**Subject: Free, Prior, and Informed Consent for the Drilling of a Water Borehole at**  
**OZONDOROTUNGU village, Sesfontein Conservancy, Kunene Region**

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter serves as a formal reference to the subject above.

At a community meeting held on 09 December 2024, at ~~the office of village in the~~ Sesfontein Conservancy, the community was fully informed about the proposed support for drilling a water borehole, which is being facilitated by the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN).

The community has comprehensively understood the project and its potential benefits. The proposed water borehole drilling does not conflict with our traditional norms or cultural practices. On the contrary, it is expected to enhance the livelihoods of our community and contribute to mitigating the challenges posed by Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC). We fully support the project and encourage continued consultation during its implementation.

This letter serves as our Free, Prior, and Informed Consent for the project.

Yours sincerely,

Village Headman/~~Headwoman~~

Traditional Authority: Kasaona T/A

Signature: Gabi

Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

