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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT (ESA) FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENCE (EPL) NO. 10011 LOCATED WEST OF BRANDBERG MOUNTAIN, IN DAURES CONSTITUENCY IN THE ERONGO REGION, NAMIBIA**

**Environmental Consultant:** Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd

**Proponent:** Pointe Noire Investments CC

**JANUARY 2025**

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Excel Dynamic Solution (Pty) Ltd (*The Consultant*) was appointed by Pointe Noire Investments CC (*The Proponent*) to act on their behalf in obtaining the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for prospecting and exploration activities on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) No.10011. The 141 93.8179 hectares (ha) EPL is located west of Brandberg mountain, about 53 km north - west from Uis, in the Erongo region (Daures constituency) and a minor portion of the EPL is in the Kunene region (Khorixas constituency) (**figure 1**). EPL No. 10011 (coordinates; -21.04584, 14.32930) lies within a communal land, within the Doro !nawas and Tsiseb conservancies (**figure 2**). The target commodities for prospecting and exploration are Base & Rare Metals, Industrial Minerals, Precious Metals and Precious stones.

Exploration and all mining-related activities are among the listed activities that may not be undertaken without an ECC under the Environmental Management Act (EMA) (2007) and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The relevant listed activities as per EIA regulations are:

- 3.1 *The construction of facilities for any process or activities which requires a license, right of other forms of authorization, and the renewal of a license, right or other forms of authorization, in terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act, 1992).*
- 3.2 *Other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not.*
- 3.3 *Resource extraction, manipulation, conservation, and related activities.*

The Proponent is, therefore, required to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) before the commencement of exploration works on the EPL. To fulfill the legal requirements, the Proponent has appointed Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (Environmental Consultants), to conduct the required Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) process and submit the ECC application to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) at the Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Tourism (MEFT).

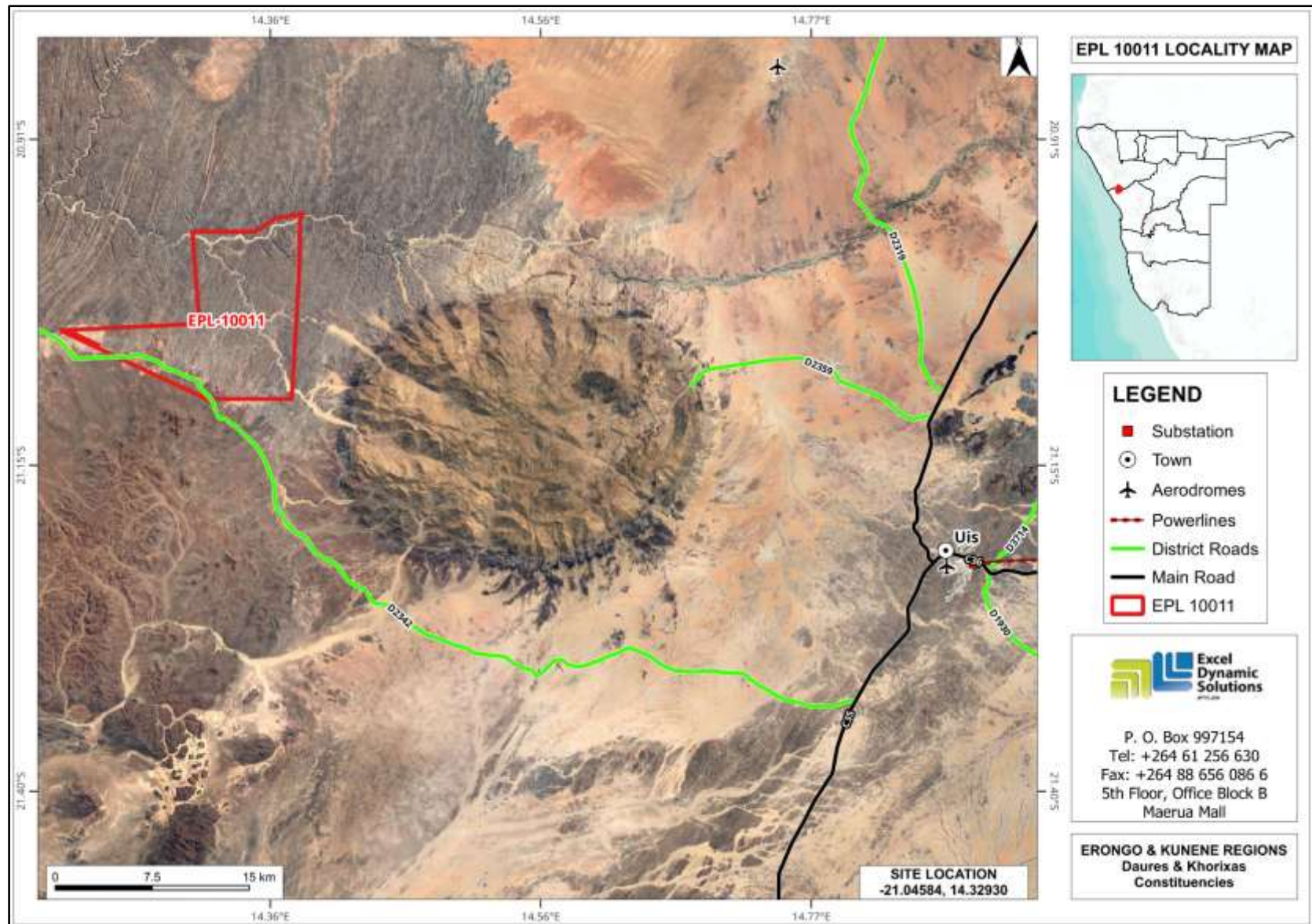


Figure 1: Locality map of EPL No. 10011

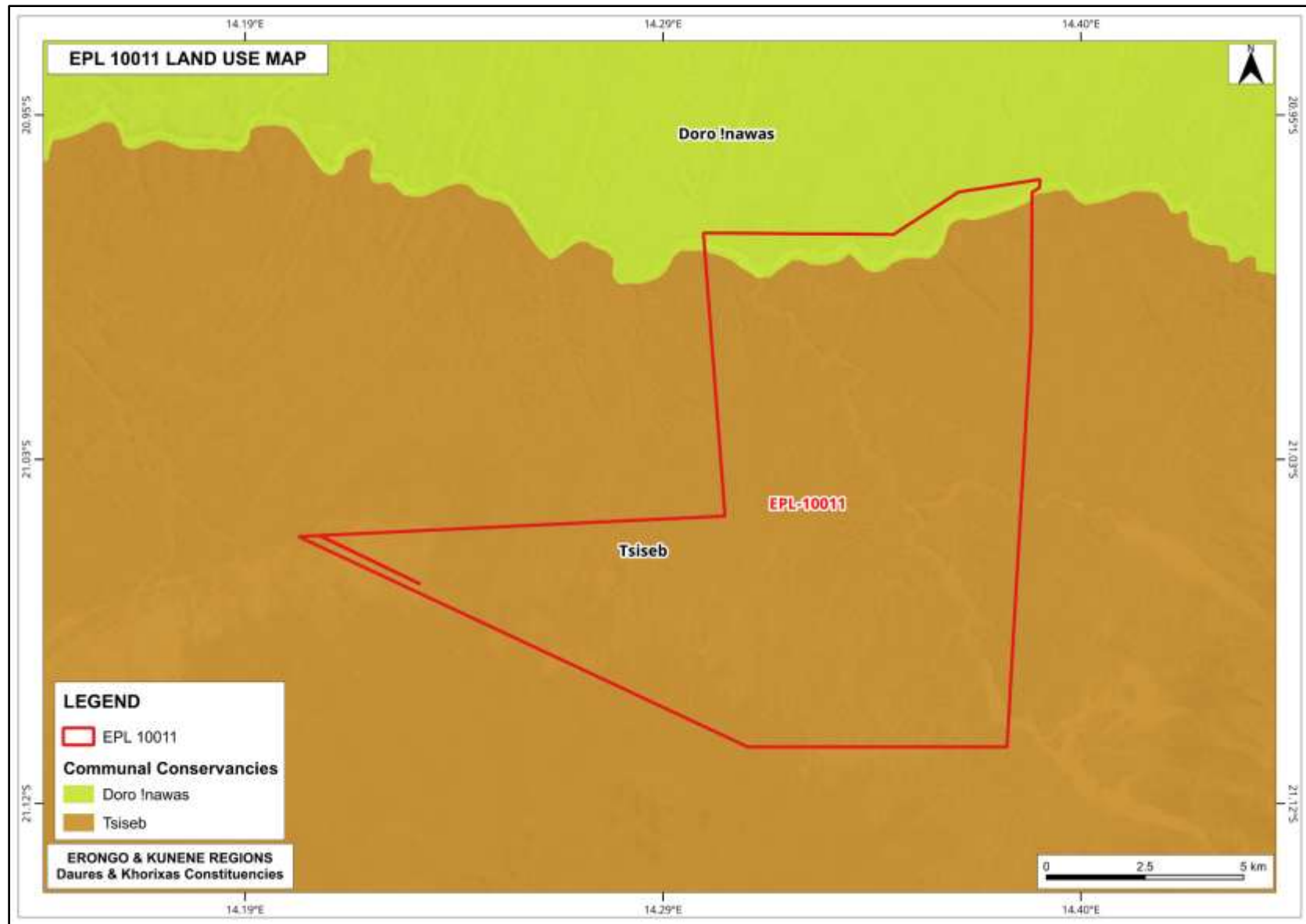


Figure 2: The land use map around EPL No. 10011

## 2. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

It should be noted that the Background Information Document (BID) is a non-technical document of the ESA (not an ESA Report). The BID aims to briefly introduce the proposed project and related activities to interested and affected parties (I&APs) / stakeholders, and provide them with an opportunity to raise issues, and concerns / submit comments about the proposed project.

The planned exploration activities will only commence once the Proponent has been issued with an ECC and obtained all required permits.

## 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed activities entail prospecting and detailed exploration activities to delineate the mineral deposits. This is to determine whether the deposit for the target commodities is economically feasible (to advance to the resources development and mining phase).

Prospecting and exploration of minerals are the first components of any potential mining project. This is done to acquire the necessary data required for further decision-making and investment options.

Exploration activities are anticipated to last for about three years or sometimes longer (depending on the various factors such as turnaround between exploration data analysis and availability of funds between project phases, etc).

### 3.1 Project Activities

The proposed prospecting and exploration activities (methods) are divided into the following categories:

**Phase 1:** Non-invasive techniques (prospecting) – Geochemical, geophysical and radiometric mapping surveys.

**Phase 2:** Invasive techniques (detailed exploration) – soil sampling, trenching, and drilling.

Once the target areas have been selected and verified under the prospecting phase, detailed exploration works will follow.

### 3.2 Human Resources, Services, and Infrastructure

The following services and infrastructure as outlined below will be required for the project activities:

- **Human Resources:** Around 5 - 10 people will be employed for the project. These employees will be accommodated in fenced off tented camps within the EPL, but this will be done upon agreement with the relevant authority and landowners. Alternatively, the employees can also be accommodated in Uis.
- **Water Supply:** Around 3000 liters of water per month will be required for the activities.

**Fuel Supply (machinery and equipment):** Diesel will be used for machinery and equipment, and power generator.

- **Accessibility:** The EPL is accessible via D 2342 district road that diverts from the C 35 main road from Uis (see **figure 1**). Project-related vehicles will make use of these existing roads to access the EPL.

### 3.3 Waste Management

**Sewage:** Mobile chemical ablution facilities will be provided on-site. Sewage waste will be disposed of appropriately as per instructions of the facility manufacturer.

**Solid waste:** Sufficient waste bins (containers) will be made available at exploration sites and campsites for waste storage, then later disposed at the nearest approved waste facility.

**Hazardous waste:** The waste fuel/oils will be carefully stored in a standardized container for disposal at an approved hazardous waste management facility in the nearest Town.

**Health and Safety:** Adequate and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided to project personnel. A minimum of two first aid kits will be readily available onsite.

**Potential Accidental Fire Outbreaks:** Fire extinguishers will be readily available in vehicles, at the sites, and at campsites.

**Project Equipment, Material, Machinery, and Vehicles:** 4X4 vehicles, a drilling supporting truck, an excavator/front-end loader, a dozer, an air compressor, drilling fluids stored in manufacturers approved containers, and a generator for power supply will be required for the proposed project.

Upon completion of exploration works, the disturbed sites will be rehabilitated to their pre-exploration phase as far as practically possible. This will include backfilling of exploration trenches, and boreholes, leveling of stockpiled topsoil, and cleaning of site areas.

#### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

This ESA process is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the EMA (Act No 7 of 2007) and its 2012 EIA Regulations. The primary objective of the ESA is to identify potential negative impacts associated with the project and assess them. Practical and effective mitigation measures will be recommended for implementation.

The main objectives of this ESA are to:

- Identify potential impacts associated with the proposed Activity.
- Inform I&APs and relevant authorities about the project and provide them with an opportunity to participate during the ESA process.
- Assess the significance of issues and concerns raised.
- Compile a report addressing all identified issues and potential impacts.
- Compile a Draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which includes impact management and mitigation measures.

#### **5. PRE-IDENTIFIED POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

The following potential socio-economic and environment impacts are anticipated during exploration activities:

**Positive impact:**

- Employment creation and skills transfer

- Investment opportunities/infrastructure-related development benefits
- Increase in local, regional and economic development
- Improved support for local businesses through the procurement of locally available goods and services.

**Negative impacts:**

- Physical land (grazing) or soil disturbance
- Impact on fauna and flora through habitat disturbance and possible poaching
- Minor noise and vibration pollution associated with drilling
- Minor air pollution through dust generation
- Possible occupational community health and safety risks/hazards
- Minor waste pollution
- Possible impact on archaeological or cultural heritage
- Potential social nuisance and land use conflicts

Other potential impacts may be identified as the ESA process progresses. All impacts and public concerns/comments will be incorporated and addressed in the ESA and EMP reports.



## 6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION REGISTRATION

Public participation is an important part of the EIA process, which ensures that sufficient information is gathered from and/or shared transparently with all I&APs and stakeholders, including the findings of the reports, during the specified comment periods.

I&APs are hereby invited to comment on environmental, social, and economic issues relating to the proposed project.

To comment or receive further information on the proposed project, please register with Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd as an I&AP before or on the **10 February 2025** at the address below.

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