REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

Ref: EIA Exemption
Enq: Bright Sanzila
Tel: 061-284 2728
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Directorate of Wildlife and National Parks

Private Bag 2093 Rundu,

03 February 2025

Mr. Timoteus Mufeti

Environmental Commissioner

Department of Environmental Affairs

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

Private Bag 13306 Windhoek

RE: Request for Environmental Clearance or Exemption for Drilling and Installation of Seven (7) Boreholes in Communal Conservancy Areas under the Lifolofolo Ki Bupilo Project

Dear Mr Mufeti,

The Community Livelihood Development and Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation (CLD-HWCM) Project (Locally known as the Lifolofolo Ki Bupilo Project), is directly coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT) as the Project Executing Agency (PEA). The project is

co-financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (**BMZ REF. NO 2012 66 519)** via the KfW Development Bank.

The project's objective is to contribute to biodiversity conservation and rural development by establishing sustainable Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) management systems. A key activity within this initiative involves the drilling and equipping of seven boreholes across five communal conservancies, including Mashi, Kwandu, Salambala, Wuparo, and Bamunu conservancies. These boreholes are critical for improving water access, enhancing community livelihoods, and addressing the severe impacts of the recent drought that has affected these communities.

Importance of Boreholes to the Communities

The planned boreholes will:

1. Ensure reliable access to water for irrigation, livestock, and household use, mitigating the adverse effects of drought.
2. Strengthen local livelihoods by supporting agriculture and livestock farming, which are key economic activities in the Zambezi Region.
3. Reduce human-wildlife conflict by providing water sources for livestock away from rivers.
4. Promote resilience among local communities by addressing water scarcity, a persistent challenge in the targeted conservancies.

Implications of Late Commencement

Due to delays in project commencement and subsequent approval processes, the implementation timeline has been severely impacted. The project must complete the drilling and installation of boreholes by December 2025 to comply with donor funding requirements and prevent the reallocation of funds.

To ensure adherence to KfW's Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) policy and the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework, we understand the need to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate. However, given the urgency of the situation, we respectfully request an exemption from conducting a full Environmental Impact Assessment for these boreholes.

We are committed to complying with all necessary environmental standards and are prepared to provide any additional documentation or information required to facilitate this process.

Your prompt attention to this matter is crucial to ensuring timely implementation of this critical initiative, which will have significant and lasting benefits for the communities involved.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Yours faithfully,

Apollinaris Kannyinga
Deputy Director
North East Regions

Attachments:

Annex 1: Map showing an overview of the proposed livelihood projects

Annex 2: Summary description of the project sites

Annex 1: Maps showing an overview of the proposed livelihood projects

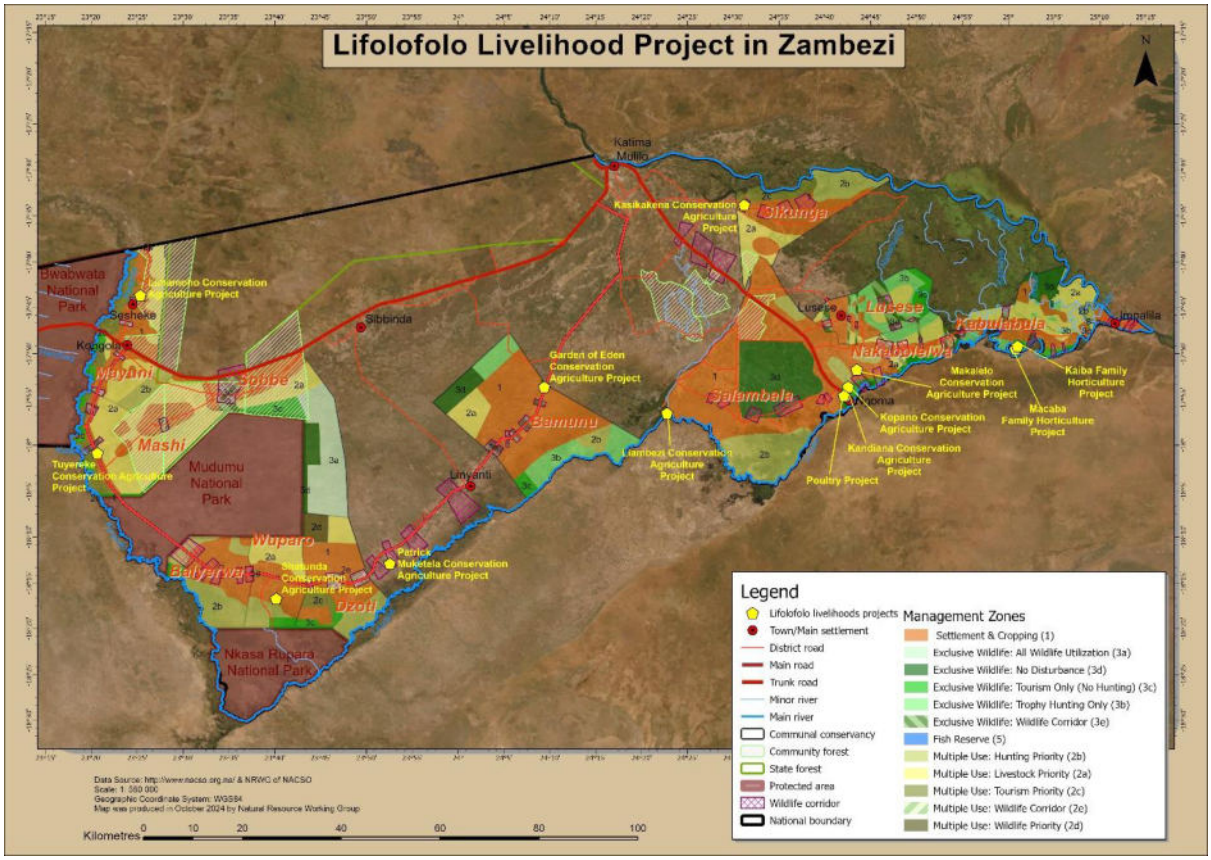

Figure 1, Map of an overview of all livelihood projects supported under the Lifolofolo ki Bupilo Project in Zambezi Region

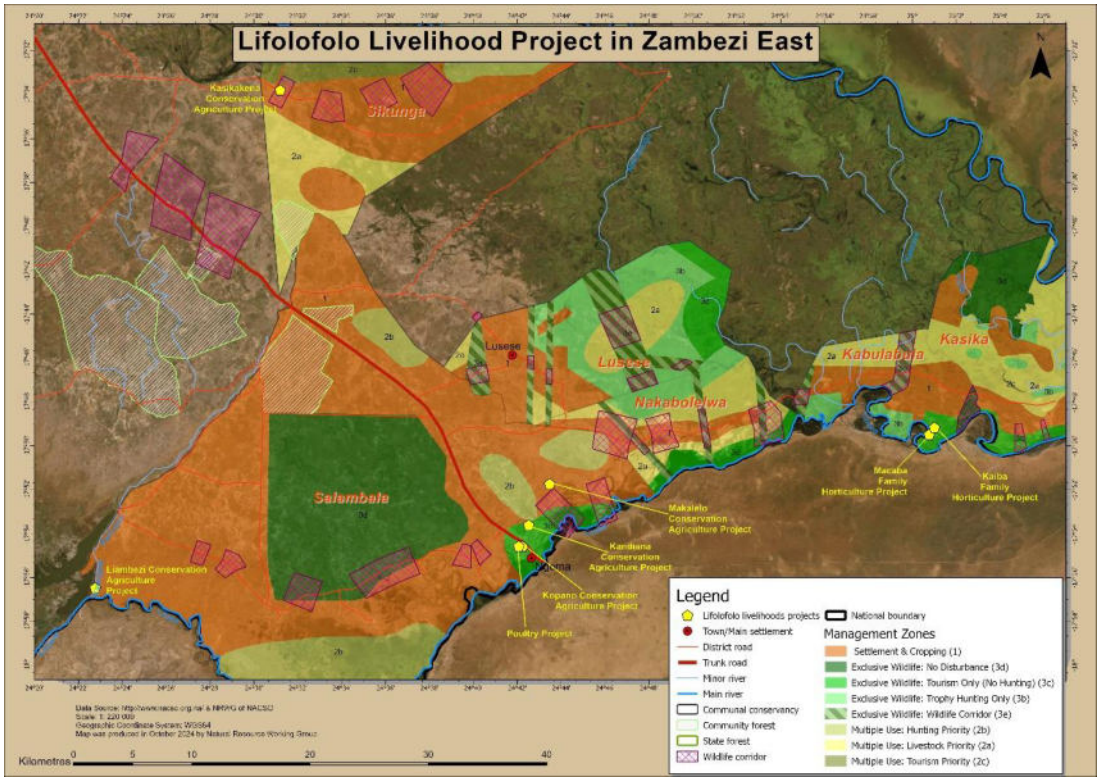

Figure 2, Map of all livelihood projects supported under the Lifolofolo ki Bupilo Project under the Zambezi East

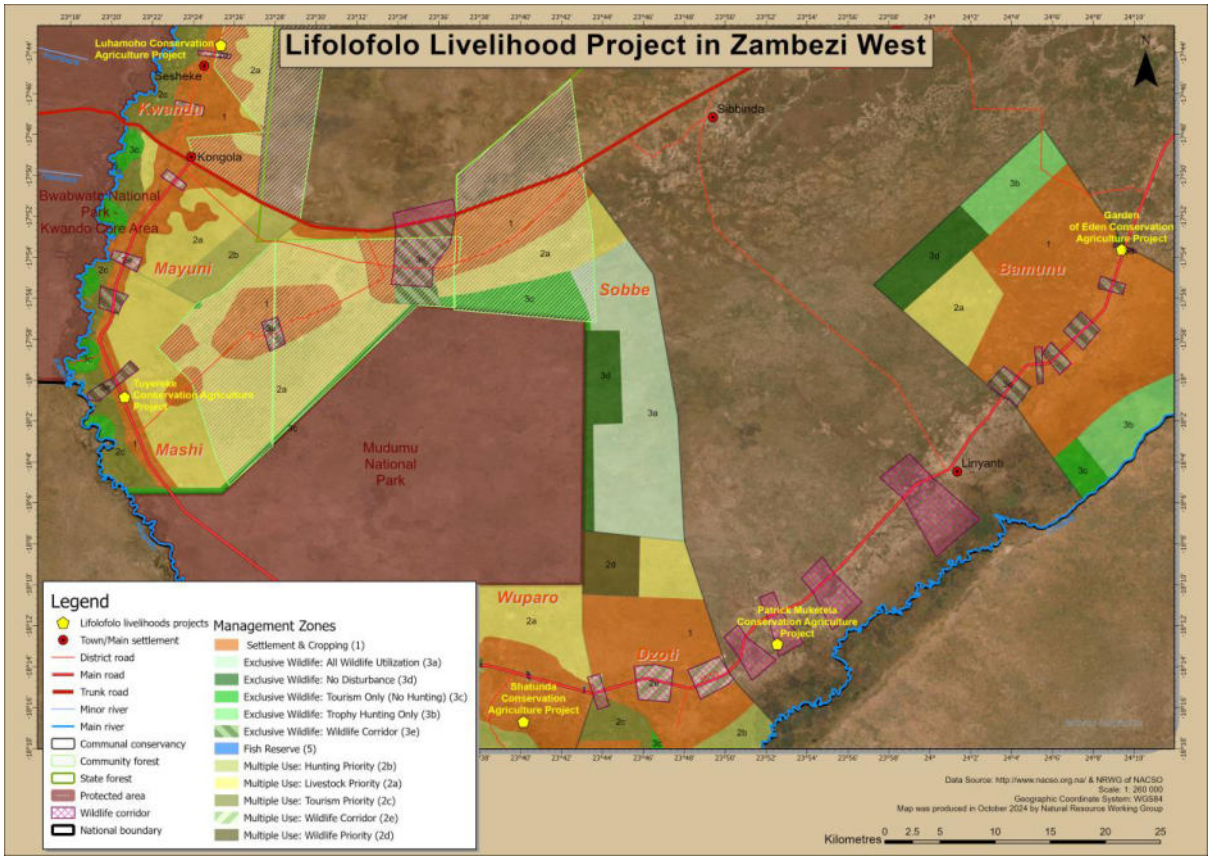

Figure 3, Map of all livelihood projects supported under the Lifolofolo ki Bupilo Project under the Zambezi West

Annex 2: Summary description of the project sites

Site	Location	Proposed Activity	Site Status
Kopano	Ngoma Area/ Salambala Conservancy	Water for human and livestock consumption, and irrigation for 1-hectare garden	Site is already under a village setup and will not require any clearing of trees
Kandiano	Ngoma Area/ Salambala Conservancy	Water for human and livestock consumption, and irrigation for 1-hectare garden	Site is already under a village setup and will not require any clearing of trees
Tuyereke	Morero Area/ Mashi Conservancy	Water for human and livestock consumption, and irrigation for 1-hectare garden	Site is already under a village setup and will not require any clearing of trees
Liambezi	Muyako/ Salambala Conservancy	Water for human consumption and irrigation for a 1-hectare garden	Site is having an existing 1-hectare garden already and will not require any clearing of trees
Garden of Eden	Malundu Area/Bamunu Conservancy	Water for human consumption and irrigation for a 1-hectare garden	Site is having an existing 1-hectare garden already and will not require any clearing of trees
Shatunda	Samudono Area/ Wuparo Conservancy	Water for human consumption and irrigation for a 1-hectare garden	Site is having an existing 1-hectare garden already and will not require any clearing of trees
Luhamoho	Mwanzi Area/ Kwandu Conservancy	Water for human consumption and irrigation for a 1-hectare garden	Site is having an existing 1-hectare garden already and will not require any clearing of trees