ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MINING ACTIVITIES ON MINING CLAIMS; 75647, 76489, 76490, 76491 & 76492, OMAO VILLAGE, OPUWO RURAL CONSTITUENCY, KUNENE REGION, NAMIBIA

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Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)	Project Proponent
Author: Mr. Gideon Kalumbu	**Representative: Unomavi Kapetja**
Company: EnvironClim Consulting Services	**Proponent: Omao River Investment (Pty) Ltd**
Telephone: +264 81 270 5001	**Private Bag 12017, Windhoek**
Post: P O Box 40506, Ausspannplatz, Windhoek	**Telephone: +264 813464225**
Email: environclim@gmail.com	**Email: chris@regerfinley.com**

EAP Signature

Proponent

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Overview

Omao River Investments (Pty) Ltd proposes to undertake small scale mining operation on mining claims; 75647, 76489, 76490, 76491 and 76492 at Omao Village within Opuwo rural constituency in Kunene Region, Namibia.

The project will involve extraction of base and rare metals mineral group, through conventional open pit mining method in order to access the underneath ore body by optimising the cutting-edge technology to extract the available resources. The mining approach will comprise of controlled blasting operations to fragment rock and access copper ore body. This will be conducted in accordance with approved blasting plans and safety protocols. On-site, short-term storage of extracted copper ore in designated areas pending transport. Stockpiles will be managed to minimize environmental impact (e.g., dust suppression, erosion control). Haulage of copper ore and associated commodities to an onsite processing facility using a mobile crusher in order to produce copper ore for export purposes.

The proposed activity is a listed activity under the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and the EIA Regulations (GN 30 of 2012), requiring an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) prior to commencement.

Receiving Environment

The project is located on communal land within a semi-arid savanna landscape characterised by:

- Dispersed rural settlements and livestock-based livelihoods
- Strong reliance on borehole-based groundwater
- Ephemeral drainage lines
- Shallow soils vulnerable to erosion
- Moderate biodiversity typical of north-western Namibia

Socio-economic sensitivity is assessed as Low to Moderate, reflecting low population density but high dependence on land, water and communal grazing.

Biophysical sensitivity is also assessed as Moderate, driven primarily by groundwater dependence, erosion-prone soils, and drainage features.

Key Potential Impacts

The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment identified potential impacts associated with:

- Vegetation clearing and land disturbance
- Blasting, noise and vibration
- Dust generation from excavation and hauling
- Groundwater abstraction and contamination risk
- Traffic and road safety
- Waste handling and fuel storage
- Community and livestock safety

Given the limited scale and temporary nature of the small-scale mining operation most impacts are assessed as:

- Site-specific or local in extent
- Short-term in duration
- Reversible with mitigation

Without mitigation, several impacts would be rated Medium to High in significance. With implementation of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), residual impacts are generally reduced to Low significance.

No impacts of High significance were identified that would constitute a fatal flaw during the mining phase.

Public Consultation

A public participation process was undertaken in accordance with the EMA and EIA Regulations. Consultation methods included:

- Distribution of a Background Information Document (BID)
- Newspaper advertisements
- Site notices
- Engagement with Traditional Authority structures.
- A public meeting at Omao Community Meeting Place.

Community members expressed general support for the project, particularly regarding anticipated employment and local economic benefits. No objections were recorded. Issues

raised related primarily to water protection, traffic safety, waste management, and ongoing communication. These issues have been incorporated into the EMP.

Overall Conclusion

This Environmental and Social Impact Assessment concludes that the proposed small-scale mining project at Omao village is environmentally and socially feasible provided that the mitigation and management measures set out in the Environmental Management Plan are fully implemented.

The copper mining project is limited in scale, temporary in nature, and designed to generate viability data to support a full-scale mining operation. Impacts are largely site-specific and reversible, and no fatal environmental or social constraints have been identified.

Approval of the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC), subject to conditions and strict adherence to the EMP, is therefore considered appropriate for this small-scale mining project.

Should the project demonstrate economic viability prospect for scaling up is anticipated in future, and any alteration to the project will requires amendment to the Environmental Assessment.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Proposed Project

The Omao River Investments (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as the Proponent) has proposed to establishment a small-scale mining activity for base metals, rare metals on Mining Claims; 75647, 76489, 76490, 76491, and 76492 at Omao Village within the Opuwo rural constituency, Kunene Region, Namibia.

The proposed mining development comprises an open pit mining operation of copper-bearing material, supported by associated mining activities and delineating area with high deposit for copper mineral resource, that will be determine using geophysical surveys and targeted drilling. The extracted material will undergo interim on-site processing using a mobile crushing unit to produce crushed copper ore suitable for transport and direct export.

The proposed small-scale copper project is anticipated to be operational for a period of up to ten (10) years, subject to resource availability and regulatory compliance.

The proposed project is situated on communal land characterised by rural settlement patterns and livestock-based livelihoods typical of the Kunene Region. Access to the project area is provided through existing regional and local road networks connecting the area to Opuwo and surrounding villages. The receiving environment is semi-arid, ecologically sensitive, and subject to high climatic variability, with shallow soils, ephemeral drainage systems, and rangeland ecosystems that are sensitive to disturbance.

The establishment of mining activities triggers listed activities in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 2012), thereby requiring an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) prior to project implementation

1.2 Proponent and Environmental Assessment Practitioner

The Proponent for the proposed project is Omao River Investments (Pty) Ltd. The Proponent has appointed EnvironClim Consulting Services cc as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and to facilitate the application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate with the Office of the Environmental Commissioner.

The EAP is responsible for conducting the environmental assessment in an objective, transparent, and independent manner, and for ensuring compliance with applicable Namibian environmental legislation and internationally recognised good practice.

1.3 Rationale for the Project

The proposed project seeks to enable the responsible utilisation of mineral resources within the area of Omao village, while contributing to local economic development, employment creation, and skills development in the Opuwo rural constituency and the wider Kunene Region. The project is aligned with national development objectives related to economic growth, mineral beneficiation, and sustainable resource use.

Given the environmental sensitivity of semi-arid communal rangelands and the reliance of local communities on land and natural resources, the proposed activities require careful assessment to ensure that potential environmental and social risks are identified, avoided where possible, minimised where unavoidable, and appropriately managed.

1.4 Purpose of the Scoping Report

The purpose of this Scoping Report is to:

- Provide a clear description of the proposed project and its activities;
- Identify the key environmental, social, health, safety, and labour-related risks and impacts that may arise from the proposed mining activities;
- Describe the baseline environmental and socio-economic conditions of the project area;
- Document the stakeholder engagement and public consultation process undertaken to date;
- Identify issues requiring further assessment and management in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP);

- Provide the basis for informed decision-making by the Environmental Commissioner.

This Scoping Report forms part of the Environmental Assessment process prescribed under the Environmental Management Act and associated Regulations.

1.5 Overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process in Namibia

The Environmental Impact Assessment process in Namibia is governed by the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 2012). The process includes:

- Screening of proposed activities against listed activities;
- Preparation and distribution of a Background Information Document (BID);
- Public notification and stakeholder consultation;
- Preparation of a Draft Scoping Environmental Report and Environmental Management Plan;
- Public review and comment on the draft reports;
- Finalisation and submission of the reports to the Office of the Environmental Commissioner;
- Review and decision-making by the Environmental Commissioner;
- Communication of the decision to registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).

These steps have been initiated for the proposed project through the distribution of BIDs, placement of public notices, and convening of a public consultation meeting at Omao village.

2. METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE OF THE SCOPING STUDY

2.1 Purpose of the Scoping Methodology

The scoping methodology is designed to identify and prioritise the key environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the proposed mining activities, and to determine the scope of issues that require detailed management through the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

The methodology follows a risk-based approach, consistent with both Namibian EIA requirements and international best practice.

2.2 Desktop Studies and Review of Existing Information

The scoping process included a review of available desktop information, including:

- Relevant Namibian environmental legislation and policies;
- Existing environmental and socio-economic information for the Kunene Region;
- Project information provided by the Proponent;
- Background Information Documents and consultation materials prepared for the project;
- Applicable international standards and guidelines, including the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework.

Desktop studies informed the preliminary identification of sensitive receptors, environmental constraints, and potential risk pathways.

2.3 Field Observations

Site visits (**Figure 1**) and field observations were undertaken to gain an understanding of:

- The physical characteristics of the project area;
- Land use patterns and settlement distribution;
- Vegetation types and habitat conditions;
- Ephemeral watercourses, and erosion-prone areas;
- Existing access routes and infrastructure.

Field observations were used to ground-truth desktop findings and to support the identification of potential impacts.

Figure 1: Site reconnaissance at the mining claims situated at Omao Village, Opuwo District, Kunene Region

2.4 Stakeholder Engagement Inputs

Stakeholder engagement formed an integral part of the scoping process. Inputs were obtained through:

- Distribution of Background Information Documents (BIDs);
- Placement of site notices in the project area;
- Engagement with local authorities and community representatives;
- A public consultation meeting held in the Omao village (**Figure 2**);
- Written submissions and comments received from Interested and Affected Parties.

Issues raised by stakeholders were recorded, responded to, and incorporated into the identification of key environmental and social issues, in accordance with ESS10 principles of transparency and inclusivity.

Figure 2: A public participation meeting conducted at Omao Village, Opuwo District, Kunene Region

2.5 Impact Identification and Significance Screening

Potential impacts were identified for all phases of the project, including planning, construction, operation, and closure. The assessment considers:

- **Direct impacts**, resulting directly from project activities;
- **Indirect impacts**, arising from secondary or induced effects;
- **Cumulative impacts**, where project impacts may interact with existing or reasonably foreseeable activities in the area.

Impacts were screened based on their nature, extent, duration, reversibility, and potential significance, taking into account the sensitivity of the receiving environment.

2.6 Consideration of Associated Facilities

In line with World Bank ESS1, the scoping process also considered risks and impacts associated with facilities and activities that are not part of the core mining operation but are necessary for the project to function, including:

- Access roads and transport routes;
- Temporary worker camps or laydown areas (if applicable);

- Borrow pits and material sourcing areas;
- Waste handling and storage areas.

Where relevant, these associated facilities are included within the scope of impact identification and management.

2.7 Limitations and Assumptions

The scoping process is based on currently available information and preliminary project descriptions. Certain project details, such as the exact operational footprint and duration, may be refined as the Environmental Assessment progresses. Any limitations or data gaps identified during scoping will be addressed through adaptive management measures and incorporated into the EMP where appropriate.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Project Overview and Purpose

The proposed project involves the development and operation of small-scale copper ore mining project at mining claims; 75647, 76489, 76490, 76491, and 76492 located at Omao village, within the Opuwo rural constituency in the Kunene region. The project is designed as a formal small-scale mining operation, focusing on the extraction of copper-bearing ore using conventional open pit mining methods. Activities will include drilling (where required), excavation, hauling, temporary stockpiling, on-site processing, and transport of material to off-site markets. The project is expected to be operational for a period of (10) years, depending on the availability of the mineral resources and continuous discovery of copper deposit in the area.

To support efficient operations, the project will include interim on-site processing using a mobile crushing unit. This will enable the production of crushed copper ore suitable for direct transport and export. This approach provides a practical short-to medium-term solution while the feasibility of establishing a permanent local processing facility is assessed. In parallel with mining operations, the project will include ongoing drilling and resource delineation activities to improve the understanding of the mineral resource within the mining claims. The outcomes of these activities will inform mine planning and optimisation over the life of the project. The project is expected to contribute to local socio-economic development through employment opportunities, local procurement, and increased economic activity in the area.

All project activities will be undertaken in compliance with the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007), applicable sector legislation, and the conditions of the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC), supported by the implementation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

3.2 Project Location and Site Layout

The mining claims are located at Omao Village area, within the Opuwo rural constituency in Kunene Region. Access to the site is via C43 road (Opuwo and Sesfontein) and the mining claims are situated few kilometres from the road and can be accessed using existing local track. The claims are situated within a sparsely populated rural landscape characterised by communal land use, grazing activities, and scattered settlements.

The project footprint comprises multiple individual mining claims, each approximately 17–18 hectares in extent. The spatial extent and arrangement of the claims, access routes, nearby settlements, and drainage features are illustrated in **Figure 3**.

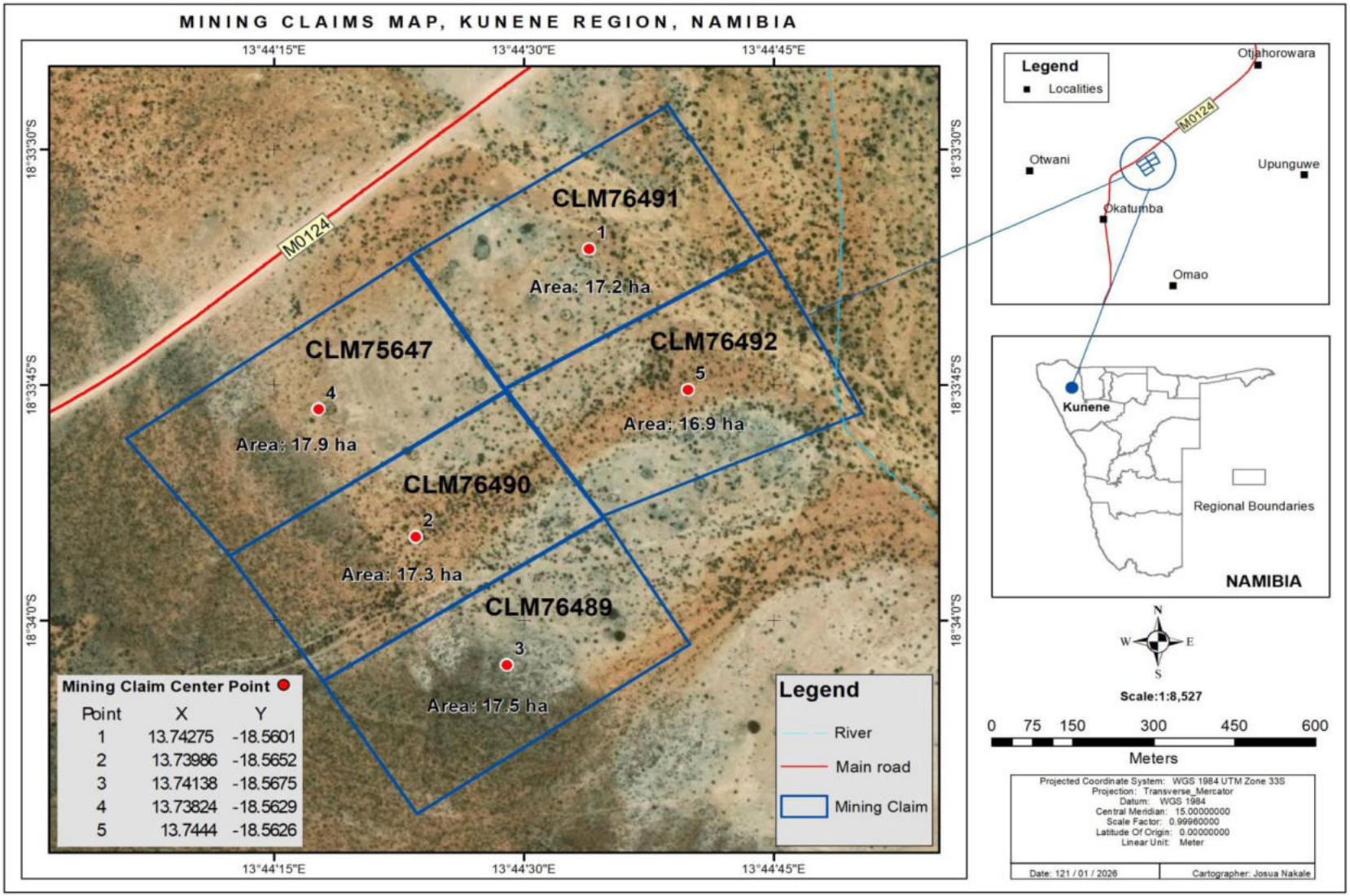

Figure 3: The layout map of the mining claims; 75647, 76489, 76490, 76491, and 76492 at Omao Village, Opuwo rural constituency, Kunene Region

3.3 Project Phases and Indicative Schedule

The proposed project will be implemented in different phases as shown in figure 4 below.

Figure 4: Project Phases

Each phase presents distinct environmental and social risk profiles, which are considered separately in the impact assessment and management.

3.4 Project Components and Activities

The proposed project comprises the following key components and activities:

- Open pit mining of near-surface and underneath mineralised material;
- Drilling and rock breaking to facilitate excavation;
- Excavation and hauling of copper ore using excavators and tipper trucks;
- Temporary on-site mobile crushing, stockpiling and packaging of ore in one-ton bags;
- Loading of copper ore onto flatbed trucks for off-site transport via existing road networks;
- Establishment and operation of temporary support infrastructure; and
- Progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas where feasible.

A simplified process flow diagram illustrating the sequence from extraction to transport is provided in Figure 5.

Figure 5: A Simplified Process Flow Diagram

3.5 Mining Method and Technology

The project will employ a conventional open pit (open cast) mining method, which is appropriate for shallow mineral deposits and is widely used due to its relatively high productivity and operational flexibility. The conceptual mining layout includes benched pit walls, safety berms, haul roads, and drainage controls, as illustrated in Figure 6. The conceptual mine design incorporates closure-oriented principles, including benching and slope configurations intended to support long-term stability and post-closure land rehabilitation.

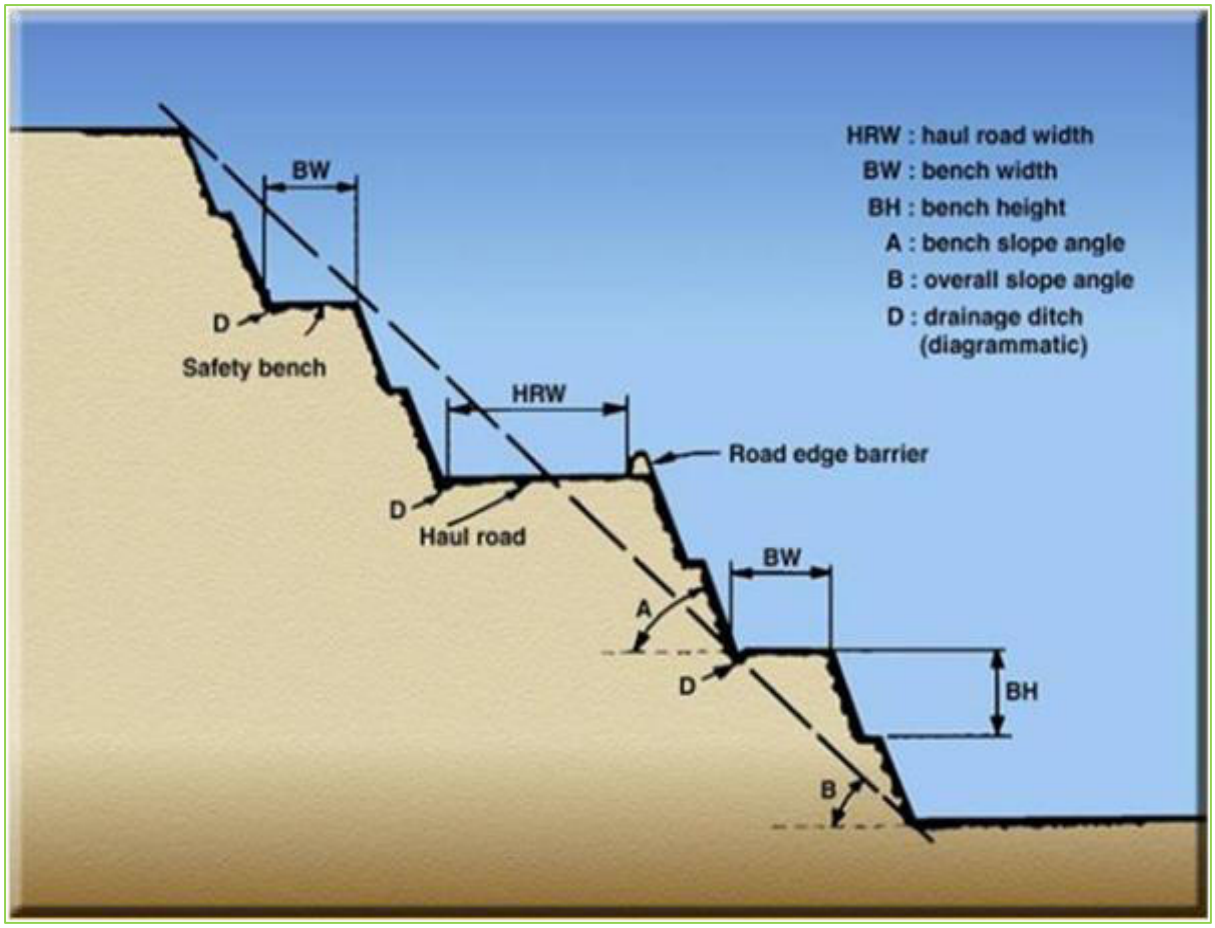

Figure 6: Open pit schematic diagram that will be adopted by the project

Drilling will be undertaken to fracture rock material and facilitate excavation. Where feasible, non-explosive cracking agents will be used to minimise vibration and noise. The use of explosives is not anticipated as a routine activity but may be considered if required, subject to additional permitting and safety controls.

Mining equipment will primarily include excavators and tipper trucks. Extracted material will be stockpiled and crushed with the mobile crusher, at designated areas on site before packaging and transport.

3.6 Summary of Project Inputs and Outputs

This section summarises the key resource inputs and outputs associated with the proposed project, including labour, energy, water, materials, products, waste streams, and emissions.

Table 1: Summary of project inputs and outputs

Category	Component	Description	Management Approach (Summary – details in EMP)
Inputs	Labour and workforce	Approximately 80 workers (direct and contracted). Preference for local recruitment (Omao/surrounding settlements). Contractors for security, waste, sanitation, specialised services.	Labour compliance and worker management procedures aligned with national law; contractor management requirements to be set out in EMP.
	Energy	Limited grid access; energy supplied via solar-powered containerised systems, supplemented by diesel generation where required.	Energy efficiency and renewable-first approach; fuel handling controls in EMP.
	Water	Water from existing boreholes; additional boreholes subject to authorisation. Water mainly for domestic use and equipment cleaning.	Water conservation and abstraction controls; borehole protection measures and monitoring approach in EMP.
	Materials, fuels, consumables	Diesel, lubricants and consumables for equipment/vehicles; limited on-site storage.	Fuel and chemical handling managed through controlled storage and spill prevention/response measures defined in EMP.
Outputs	Product	Mineral ore stockpiled temporarily, crushed and bagged (1-ton bags), transported by road to export facilities (Walvis Bay).	Crushing, Stockpiling and transport managed through standard operational controls, including traffic and dust controls as set out in EMP.

Category	Component	Description	Management Approach (Summary – details in EMP)
	General waste	Domestic waste from site activities.	Waste segregation, secure on-site collection point (transfer area) and scheduled transport to authorised disposal facility; limited on-site treatment only where safe/appropriate.
	Sewage / sanitation	Sanitation required for workforce in a rural setting.	Sanitation solution to be selected based on site feasibility (soils/groundwater/proximity to drainage): e.g., serviced mobile toilets or engineered septic/soakaway systems; management procedures in EMP.
	Hazardous waste	Minor quantities of used oils, oily rags, filters, etc.	Secure storage in designated area and disposal via licensed service providers; manifests/recordkeeping and spill response in EMP.
	Emissions and nuisance	Dust (excavation/hauling/stockpiling) and noise (equipment/vehicles).	Dust/noise controls and monitoring requirements set out in EMP and assessed in impact assessment.

The potential environmental and social impacts associated with these inputs and outputs are assessed in Chapter 8, and the corresponding management measures are detailed in the Environmental Management Plan (Annexure H).

3.7 Infrastructure and Services

The proposed project will require temporary and operational infrastructure to support mining activities. Infrastructure has been conceptually defined at this stage to enable impact identification, with final siting to be confirmed through detailed planning and consultation with the relevant Traditional Authority.

Category	Infrastructure / Service	Description	Siting / Management Principles
Mining infrastructure	Open pit mining areas	Excavation areas associated with open pit mining activities.	Sited to avoid environmentally sensitive areas where practicable; final layout informed by detailed design and EMP.
	Temporary ore stockpiling and crushing areas	Designated areas for short-term storage of extracted material prior to packaging and transport.	Located away from drainage lines and sensitive receptors; managed in accordance with EMP.
Support infrastructure	Site offices and guardhouse	Temporary offices and access control point for site administration and security.	Positioned near site access routes to minimise disturbance footprint.
	Equipment parking and laydown areas	Areas for parking, maintenance, and temporary storage of equipment and materials.	Located on previously disturbed or low-sensitivity areas where possible.
	Fuel and consumables storage	Designated storage areas for diesel,	Controlled storage areas with spill prevention measures defined in EMP.

Category	Infrastructure / Service	Description	Siting / Management Principles
		lubricants, and consumables.	
	Temporary base-camp	Accommodation facilities for non-local workers.	Sited in consultation with the Traditional Authority; sanitation and waste systems defined in EMP.
Services	Access routes	Existing tracks used where possible; limited new access routes if required.	New routes established only where necessary and in consultation with relevant authorities.
	Telecommunications	Mobile network coverage available; two-way radios used for operational safety.	Communication systems managed as part of site operational procedures.
	Security	Contracted security services; controlled access and signage.	Access control and community interface measures detailed in EMP.

3.8 Summary of Key Project Risk Drivers

Based on the project description the proposed mining activities interact with the environment and surrounding communities through a limited number of key risk pathways. These pathways represent the principal drivers of potential environmental and social impacts associated with the project.

As illustrated in Figure 7, project activities give rise to environmental and social interactions primarily through land and vegetation disturbance, water resource use, operational activities and logistics, pollution and waste generation, and community and livestock interaction.

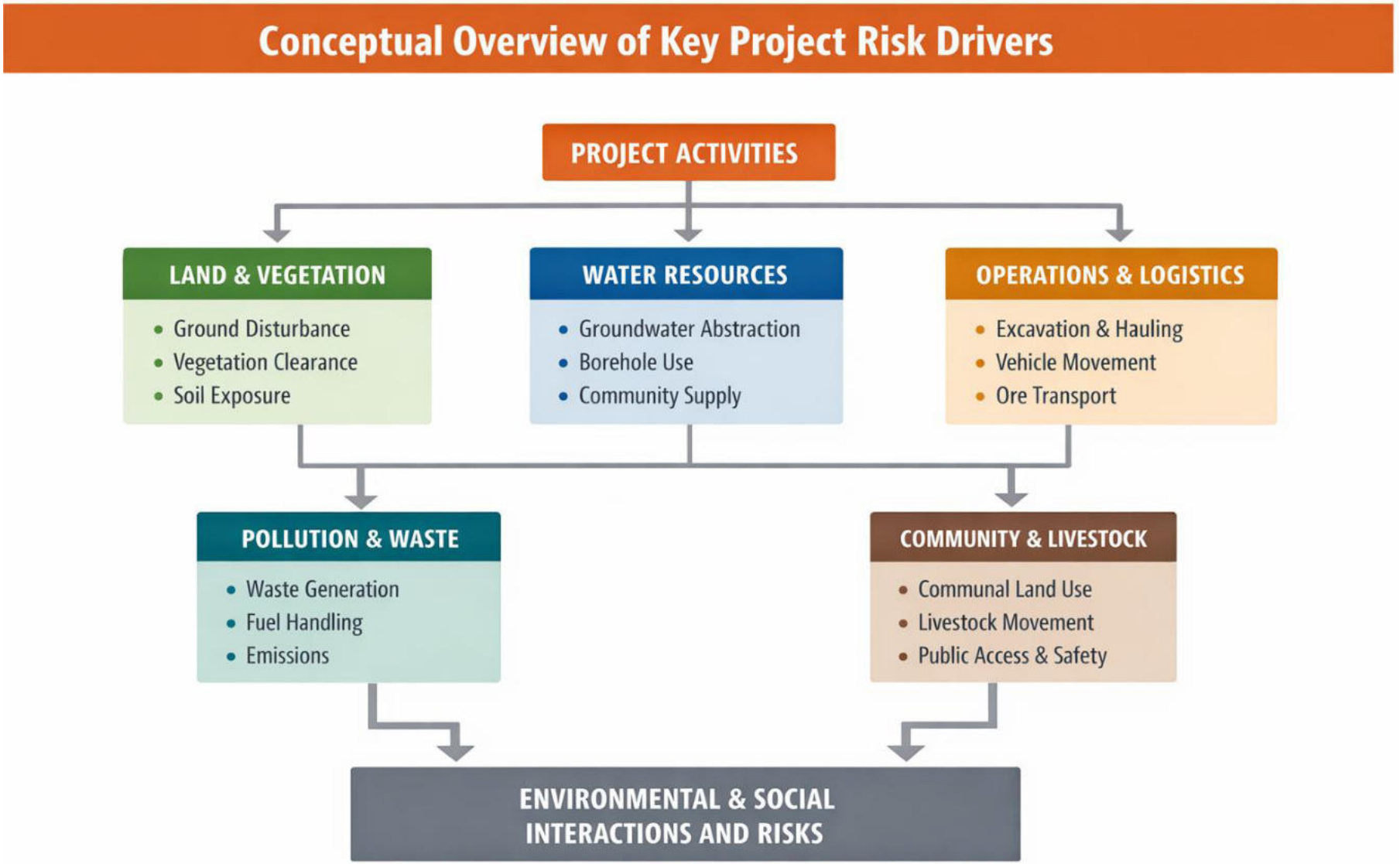

Figure 7: Conceptual Overview of key project risk drivers

These risk pathways are further unpacked in Table 2. The risk drivers provide the basis for identifying project aspects and potential impacts and inform the scope and structure of the impact assessment presented in subsequent sections of this Scoping Report. The assessment and management of impacts arising from these drivers are addressed further in the impact assessment and the Environmental Management Plan.

Table 2: Summary of the associated project aspects and potential impacts

Key Project Risk Driver	**Associated Project Aspects**	**Potential Impacts**
Land disturbance and vegetation clearance within communal mining claims	• Vegetation clearance for open pits, haul roads, and laydown areas • Topsoil stripping and ground disturbance • Creation of open pits, benches, and access routes • Stockpiling of excavated material • Progressive and final rehabilitation activities	• Loss of vegetation and habitat • Disturbance or displacement of fauna • Soil erosion and sediment mobilisation • Alteration of natural drainage patterns • Reduced soil fertility and stability • Visual scarring of the landscape • Loss or reduction of grazing areas for livestock • Increased vulnerability of disturbed land to extreme rainfall events
Groundwater abstraction in a semi-arid communal landscape relied upon by local communities and livestock	• Abstraction of groundwater from existing boreholes • Potential drilling of additional boreholes • Storage and distribution of abstracted water • Domestic and operational water use on site	• Lowering of groundwater levels • Reduced availability of water for communities and livestock • Interference with shallow alluvial aquifers associated with ephemeral drainage lines • Localised depletion of borehole yields during dry periods • Increased competition for scarce water resources • Risk of groundwater contamination from surface activities

Key Project Risk Driver	Associated Project Aspects	Potential Impacts
Dust, noise, and traffic associated with mining operations and ore transport	• Excavation, drilling, on site crushing and material handling activities • Operation of excavators and tipper trucks • Haulage of ore along existing public and communal roads • Increased frequency of heavy vehicle movements	• Deterioration of local air quality due to dust • Dust deposition on vegetation and grazing areas • Noise disturbance to nearby settlements and livestock • Increased risk of traffic accidents • Increased risk of collisions with pedestrians and livestock • Temporary disruption of daily activities and livelihoods • Road safety concerns on shared access routes
Waste generation and fuel handling in a rural environment	• Generation of domestic waste from workforce activities • Generation of hazardous waste (used oils, oily rags, filters) • Storage of diesel, lubricants, and consumables • Refuelling of mining equipment and vehicles	• Soil contamination from spills or leaks • Groundwater contamination from improper storage or disposal • Attraction of wildlife or livestock to waste areas • Fire and explosion risks associated with fuel handling • Human health risks from exposure to hazardous substances • Visual impacts from poorly managed waste storage
Community (including traditional communities) and livestock safety, access control,	• Mining activities occurring on communal land	• Risk of injury to community members entering active mining areas • Risk of livestock injury or mortality

Key Project Risk Driver	Associated Project Aspects	Potential Impacts
and interaction with mining activities	• Movement of people and livestock near active mining areas • Use of shared access routes and tracks • Establishment of controlled access points and security measures • Interaction between mine workers, communities, and traditional authorities	• Disruption of traditional grazing routes and land use patterns • Restricted access to land or resources traditionally used by communities • Potential conflict between project activities and community expectations • Cultural sensitivities related to land access and use • Reputational and social risks if safety and access are poorly managed

3.9 Need and Desirability of the Project

3.9.1 Socio-economic Need and Regional Development Context

The proposed project is located in a rural, communal-land setting in the Kunene Region, where livelihoods are strongly linked to livestock production and access to land and water resources. Nationally, Namibia continues to face high labour market pressures, with unemployment remaining high and particularly acute among youth. The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) reported an overall unemployment rate of 36.9% and a youth unemployment rate of 44.4% in 2023.

As illustrated in Figure 8, these national labour market challenges intersect with localized vulnerability in the Kunene Region, which is characterised by predominantly rural livelihoods, dependence on natural resources, and comparatively high levels of multidimensional poverty. National vulnerability assessment results indicate that Kunene ranks among the regions with the highest socio-economic vulnerability.

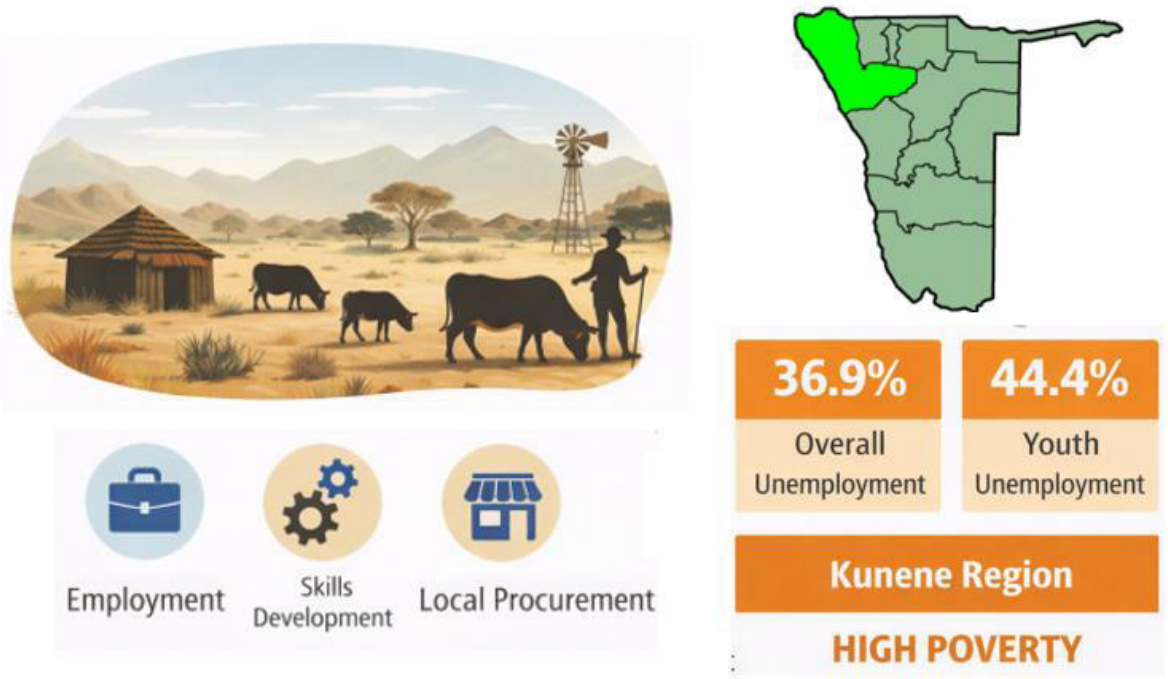

Figure 8: Socio-economic context of the Kunene Region and national labour market pressures in Namibia

Together, the conditions depicted in Figure 8 and described above strengthen the case for responsibly designed economic activities that can contribute to employment creation, skills development, and local procurement opportunities, provided that environmental and social risks are appropriately identified and managed in accordance with applicable standards.

3.9.2 Contribution of Mining to Namibia's Economy

Mining remains a central pillar of Namibia's economy, contributing significantly to gross domestic product (GDP), employment, and government revenues. Data reported by the Chamber of Mines of Namibia show a marked increase in the sector's contribution to GDP between 2021 and 2023, rising from 9.0% in 2021 to 11.9% in 2022, and peaking at 14.4% in 2023. In 2024, the mining sector's GDP contribution declined modestly to 13.3%, reflecting sectoral contractions, particularly in diamond mining before stabilising at an estimated 13.5% in 2025. These trends are illustrated in Figure 3-7.

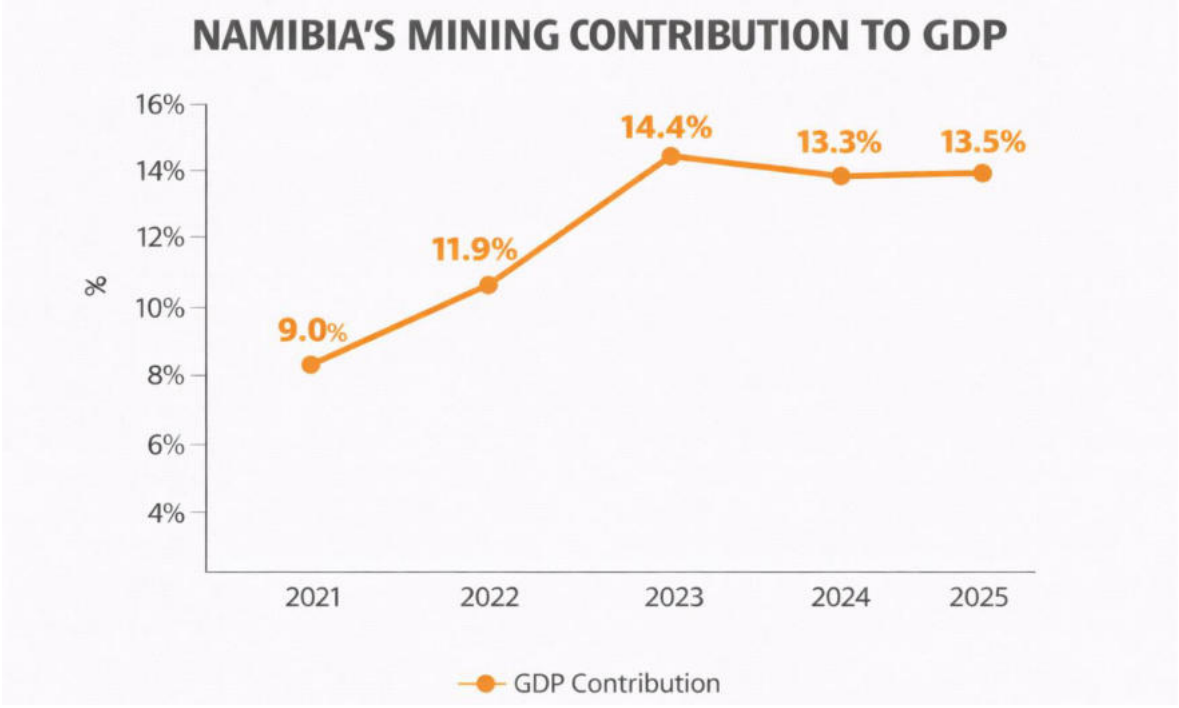

Figure 9: Namibia's Mining Contribution to GDP (2021 to 2025)

Despite short-term fluctuations in GDP contribution, the mining sector has continued to demonstrate resilience in terms of employment generation. Direct employment in Namibia's mining industry increased from 18,189 jobs in 2023 to 20,834 jobs in 2025, indicating sustained labour demand across several mineral sub-sectors. This employment growth underscores the sector's ongoing role in supporting livelihoods, particularly in a national context characterised by high unemployment rates.

Beyond direct employment, the mining industry makes a substantial contribution to national income distribution and fiscal revenues. As shown in Figure 9, the sector remains a leader in local empowerment, with approximately 97% of the permanent workforce comprising Namibian citizens, reflecting strong localisation of employment benefits.

In economic terms, mining companies collectively paid an estimated N$7.976 billion in wages and salaries in 2025, representing a significant injection into the national and regional economy. In addition, mining sector employees contributed approximately N$1.695 billion in Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) taxes to the national treasury in the same year, highlighting the sector's importance as a source of public revenue through employment-related taxation as reflected in Figure 10.

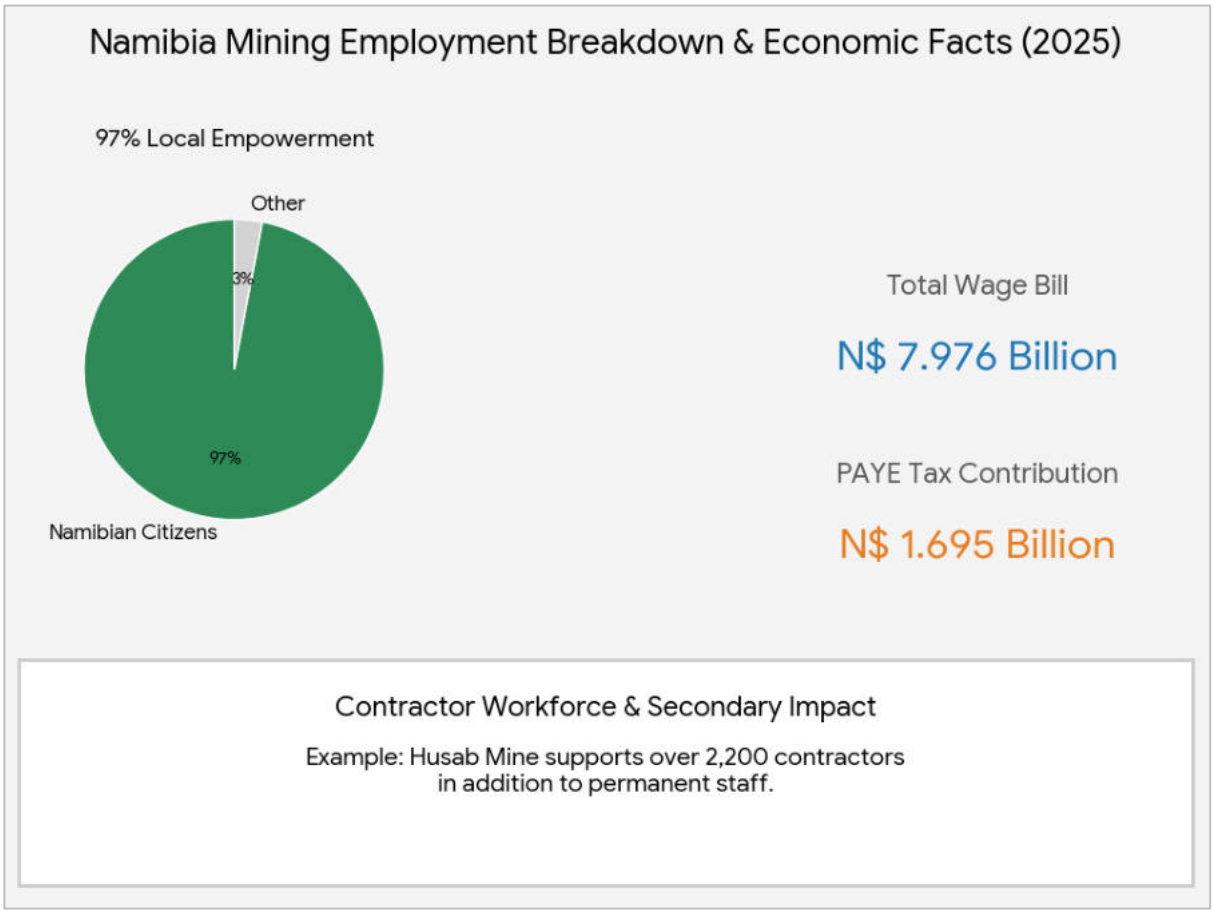

Figure 10: Namibia Mining Employment Breakdown and Economic Facts 2025

In this context, small- to medium-scale mining projects, when well-regulated and responsibly managed, can contribute to national development priorities through job creation, value chain activity (transport, services), and fiscal contributions, while requiring strong safeguards due to the risk profile of mining activities.

3.9.3 Policy and Strategic Alignment (National Objectives)

The desirability of the project is also linked to national policy direction focused on sustainable resource use, industrialisation, and beneficiation. Namibia's NDP6 explicitly references the

Mineral Beneficiation Strategy and related initiatives aimed at strengthening the mining value chain and supporting inclusive prosperity. The Mineral Beneficiation Strategy for Namibia (2021) further sets out the rationale for increasing local value-addition and achieving broader socio-economic benefits from mineral endowments.

Accordingly, the project's desirability is strongest where it demonstrably supports:

- local employment and enterprise opportunities, and
- responsible operations that protect communal livelihoods and ecosystem integrity (particularly in semi-arid settings).

3.9.4 Local Development Benefits (Illustrative Figures for Scoping)

As detailed project design and operational parameters are still under development, the figures presented below are indicative and intended solely to support scoping-level assessment. These estimates do not constitute commitments and will be subject to confirmation and refinement should the project proceed and economic viability be established.

Illustrative potential local benefit profile (scoping-level):

- Direct employment: ~80 jobs (as currently indicated in the project description) with preference for local recruitment where feasible (skills permitting). *(Project estimate; to be confirmed in final design.)*
- Indirect/induced jobs (illustrative): 0.5–1.5 indirect jobs per direct job is commonly used as a conservative planning range for local services/logistics multipliers in resource projects (transport, catering, maintenance, security). Illustrative range: 40–120 indirect/induced jobs linked to 80 direct jobs (subject to procurement strategy and duration). *(Illustrative only.)*
- Local procurement (illustrative): if local procurement is structured intentionally (e.g., security, catering, basic supplies, local transport), an indicative target could be 20–40% of routine operational spend on Namibian suppliers during operations (actual share depends on supply availability and compliance requirements). *(Illustrative only.)*

3.9.5 Overall Need and Desirability Conclusion

The proposed small- to medium-scale mining project at Omao Village in the Opuwo District, Kunene Region, responds to an identified need for locally appropriate economic opportunities

in a rural communal-land setting characterised by high unemployment, limited formal economic activity, and strong dependence on natural resources and livestock-based livelihoods.

From a desirability perspective, the project has the potential to contribute positively where it:

1. Addresses local and regional development needs through the creation of direct employment opportunities, support for local service providers, and limited local procurement, in a context where alternative income-generating activities are constrained;
2. Is designed and operated in a manner compatible with the semi-arid and environmentally sensitive communal landscape, recognising the importance of rangelands, groundwater resources, and shared land use in the Omao area;
3. Complies with Namibian environmental legislation and applies good international practice, including relevant World Bank Environmental and Social Standards, to ensure that environmental and social risks related to land disturbance, water use, waste handling, and community and livestock safety are effectively managed.

Overall, the need for the project arises from local socio-economic conditions, while its desirability is contingent on responsible implementation and the effective application of the mitigation and management measures identified through the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan.

4. PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

4.1 Purpose of Considering Alternatives

The consideration of reasonable project alternatives forms a core component of the Environmental Impact Assessment process and supports informed decision-making. In line with international good practice, alternatives have been considered at a scoping level to identify options that could avoid or minimise environmental and social risks while still meeting the objectives of the proposed development.

At this stage, the assessment focuses on identifying reasonable and practicable alternatives across key decision areas, including site, design, technology, operational approach, and the No-Go option, with more detailed refinement to be informed by the findings of the impact assessment and detailed project planning.

An overview of the main categories of alternatives considered at this scoping stage, and their relationship to the overall project decision-making process, is presented in Figure 11.

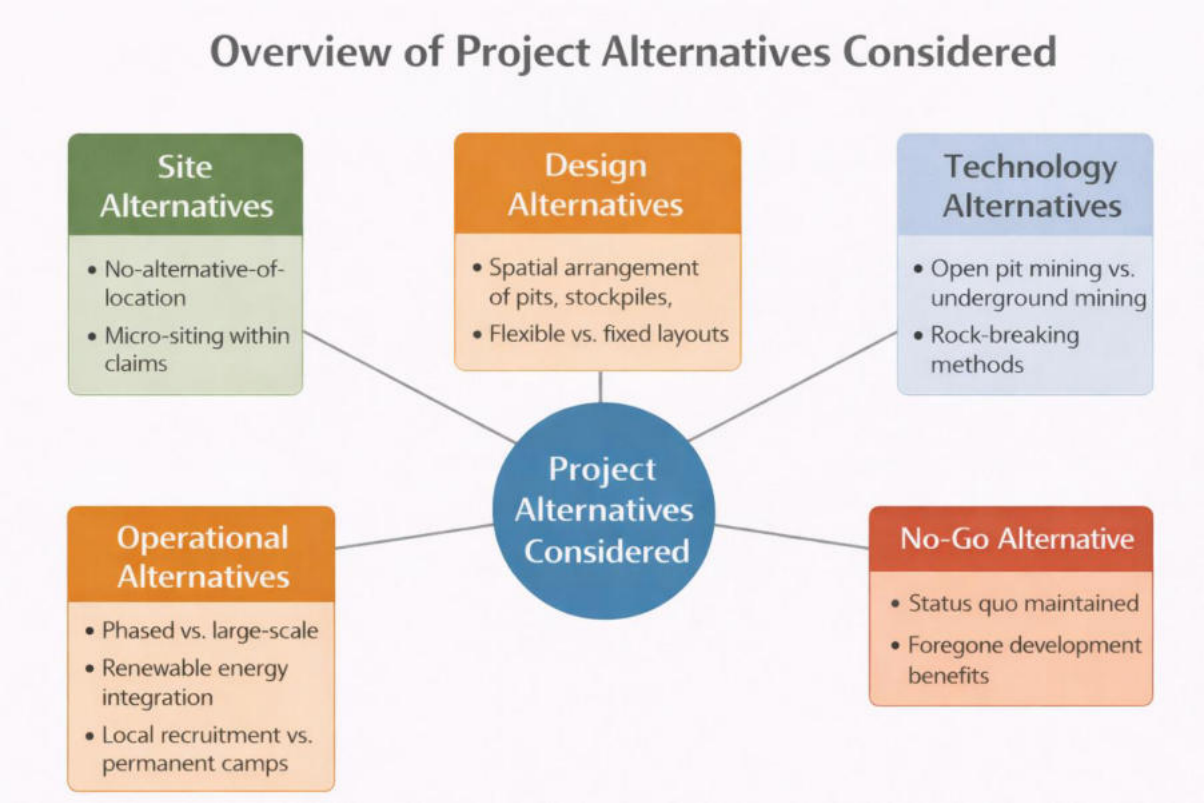

Figure 11: Overview of Project Alternatives Considered

4.2 Site Alternatives

Alternative sites outside the identified mining claims were not considered feasible, as the location of the proposed project is resource-driven and constrained by the geographic

occurrence of the mineral deposit. The mining claims have been legally granted, and mining activities must, by nature, occur where the mineral resource is present.

The alternative of relocating the project to a different area was therefore not considered reasonable, as it would not meet the fundamental objective of resource extraction.

However, micro-siting alternatives within the approved claims will be considered during detailed planning to:

- Avoid environmentally sensitive features where practicable;
- Minimise disturbance to vegetation, drainage lines, and community access routes; and
- Reduce potential impacts on nearby receptors.

4.3 Design Alternatives

Design alternatives considered include variations in:

- The spatial arrangement of pits and stockpiles;
- Placement of site infrastructure such as offices, fuel storage, and camps; and
- Alignment of internal access routes.

More rigid or spatially extensive layouts were considered less preferable, as they would increase the overall project footprint and potential disturbance. Design flexibility will therefore be applied to minimise land disturbance, particularly in environmentally sensitive or high-use communal areas.

4.4 Technology Alternatives

Alternative mining technologies were considered in relation to the depth, geometry, and near-surface nature of the mineral resource. Underground mining methods were considered but were not preferred, as they would introduce higher operational complexity, increased safety risks, and potentially greater environmental uncertainty relative to the scale of the resource.

The open pit mining method was selected as the most appropriate option for the proposed project, offering:

- Lower operational risk;
- Greater control over environmental impacts; and
- Improved occupational and community safety for shallow deposits.

Where feasible, non-explosive rock-breaking methods will be prioritised to further reduce vibration, noise, and safety risks.

4.5 Operational Alternatives

Operational alternatives considered include:

- Large-scale, rapid development versus a phased development approach;
- Diesel-only power generation versus integration of renewable energy solutions such as solar;
- Permanent on-site accommodation versus local recruitment with daily transport where feasible; and
- Construction of new access roads versus use of existing tracks.

Operational approaches involving larger footprints, higher resource use, or permanent infrastructure were considered less desirable due to their increased environmental and social risk profile. The selected operational approach prioritises flexibility, reduced disturbance, and compatibility with the rural communal setting. This will include

- Phased development, commencing with limited-scale operations to confirm technical and economic viability before any expansion;
- Hybrid energy supply, combining diesel-powered equipment with solar-powered systems;
- Local recruitment as the primary workforce model;
- Use of existing access tracks to the extent practicable, with new access routes developed only where unavoidable and subject to site-specific planning.

4.6 No-Go Alternative

The No-Go alternative entails not proceeding with the proposed mining project. Under this scenario:

- No additional project-related environmental disturbance would occur; and
- Existing land uses would remain unchanged.

However, the No-Go alternative would also result in the loss of potential socio-economic benefits, including employment opportunities and local economic activity in an area with limited

alternative development options. Given that potential impacts can be identified and managed through appropriate mitigation and environmental management measures, the No-Go alternative is not preferred at this stage.

4.7 Preferred Alternative

Based on the scoping-level consideration of alternatives, the preferred option is to proceed with a phased, small- to medium-scale mining approach within the approved mining claims, utilising open pit methods and applying flexible design and operational controls to minimise environmental and social risks.

This alternative is considered preferable as it meets the project objectives while offering the greatest opportunity to manage impacts in a sensitive semi-arid communal landscape. It therefore forms the basis for the impact assessment and management measures presented in subsequent sections of this report.

5. POLICY, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

5.1 Introduction

This Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the proposed small-scale mining project at Omao village, has been prepared in accordance with Namibia's applicable environmental, mineral, water, land and socio-economic legislation.

Namibia's policy and legal framework provides a structured system to ensure that mining and mineral-related activities:

- Prevent pollution and manage waste responsibly;
- Protect soils, vegetation, biodiversity and water resources;
- Safeguard communal land-use rights and rural livelihoods;
- Ensure occupational health and public safety;
- Promote sustainable resource utilisation; and
- Define clear compliance responsibilities for the proponent and competent authorities.

This chapter outlines the key national legislation, regulations and relevant policy instruments applicable to the proposed small-scale mining activities at Omao village. These instruments guide the EIA process, inform impact identification and mitigation, and define the regulatory obligations that will apply should the project proceed.

5.2 Policy, Legal and Administrative Framework

This section identifies the key legal instruments applicable to the proposed mining of copper ore mining at Omao village, Opuwo rural constituency, Kunene Region, and explains how their provisions apply to the project.

Table 3: Legal Compliance

Aspect	Legislation / Policy	Relevant Provisions	Relevance to the Small-Scale Mining Project
Constitutional Obligations	Namibian Constitution (1990)	• Article 95(l): State obligation to safeguard ecosystems, biodiversity and natural resources. • Article 16: Protection of property and lawful economic activity.	• Small -scale mining must avoid environmental degradation and safeguard water, land and biodiversity. • The project constitutes lawful economic activity subject to compliance with environmental safeguards and ECC conditions.
National Development Planning	Vision 2030; National Development Plan (NDP6); Harambee Prosperity Plan II	• Promote sustainable mineral development. • Encourage rural employment and economic diversification. • Support environmental stewardship.	The small-scale mining project aligns with national objectives for responsible mineral development and rural economic participation in Kunene Region, subject to environmental compliance.
Environmental Management	Environmental Management Act (EMA) No. 7 of 2007	• Listed mining activities require an Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).	• Provides the legal basis for this EIA and the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Aspect	Legislation / Policy	Relevant Provisions	Relevance to the Small-Scale Mining Project
		• Establishes principles of pollution prevention, public participation and sustainable development.	• The Proponent must comply with all ECC conditions, monitoring and reporting requirements.
	Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 2012)	Prescribes procedures for public consultation, impact assessment, reporting and decision-making.	Governs stakeholder engagement at Omao village, report structure, and submission requirements to the Environmental Commissioner.
Mining Legislation	Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act No. 33 of 1992	• Regulates mining licences, operational duties, environmental obligations and reporting requirements. • Requires responsible conduct of mining operations.	• The copper ore extraction must comply with licence conditions issued by the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy. • Blasting, extraction and ore transport must adhere to approved work programmes and reporting obligations.
Explosives and Blasting	Explosives Act No. 26 of 1956	• Regulates manufacture, storage, transport and use of explosives. • Requires permits and safety controls.	• Blasting during small-scale mining project must comply with explosives licensing, storage, transport and safety requirements. • Appropriate blast management and safety protocols must be implemented.

Aspect	Legislation / Policy	Relevant Provisions	Relevance to the Small-Scale Mining Project
Water Resources Protection	Water Act No. 54 of 1956 (currently applicable)	Prohibits pollution of surface and groundwater resources.	• No discharge of contaminated water or waste to the environment is permitted. • Fuel, oils and drilling fluids must be properly contained.
	Water Resources Management Act No. 11 of 2013	• Requires permits for water abstraction and borehole drilling. • Protects groundwater from contamination.	• Any water abstraction for mining must be authorised. • Given groundwater dependence at Omao village, strict protection measures must apply.
Soil Conservation	Soil Conservation Act No. 76 of 1969	Prevents soil erosion and land degradation.	Excavation areas, access routes and stockpiles must be managed to minimise erosion and ensure rehabilitation after mining.
Biodiversity & Ecosystems	Forest Act No. 12 of 2001	• Protects listed and protected tree species. • Requires permits for removal of protected vegetation.	• Mopane and other protected species occur at Omao village and surrounding areas. • Vegetation clearing must be minimised; permits required if protected trees are affected.

Aspect	Legislation / Policy	Relevant Provisions	Relevance to the Small-Scale Mining Project
	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	Promotes conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	Drainage-line ecosystems and savanna habitats must be protected during site selection and operations.
Pollution & Waste Management	Draft Pollution and Waste Management Bill (Policy Guidance)	Establishes standards for waste handling and hazardous waste management.	• Domestic waste, hydrocarbons and hazardous materials must be stored, transported and disposed of at approved facilities. • Onsite tailings storage facility must be properly managed.
Air Quality	Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Ordinance No. 11 of 1976	Controls emissions and dust generation.	Dust from blasting, hauling and vehicle movement must be controlled through suppression and operational management.
Public Health & Safety	Public and Environmental Health Act No. 1 of 2015	Regulates sanitation, waste management and public nuisances.	• Temporary sanitation facilities must be properly managed. • Operations must not create nuisance dust, noise or pollution affecting the local community.
	Labour Act No. 11 of 2007	Provides for occupational health and safety, PPE and emergency preparedness.	Workers must receive appropriate safety training, PPE and emergency response planning, especially during blasting operations.

Aspect	Legislation / Policy	Relevant Provisions	Relevance to the Small-Scale Mining Project
Land Access & Communal Governance	Communal Land Reform Act No. 5 of 2002	Regulates land use on communal land and recognises Traditional Authority roles.	• Access agreements and consultation with Traditional Authorities and communal land users in Omao are required. • Activities must not unreasonably interfere with grazing or community access.
Fuel Storage & Handling	Petroleum Products and Energy Act, 1990	Regulates storage and handling of petroleum products.	Any onsite fuel storage must comply with bunding, safety and fire prevention standards.
Climate Policy	National Climate Change Policy (2011)	Promotes climate-resilient development and emissions reduction.	Although short-term, the project must promote efficient fuel use and minimise unnecessary emissions.

5.3 Regulatory Compliance and Required Authorisations

All identified legislation is legally binding on the proponent and must be complied with throughout the duration of the proposed copper ore mining activities at Omao village, Opuwo district, Kunene Region.

Compliance will be achieved through:

- Implementation of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP);
- Adherence to the conditions of the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC);
- Compliance with mining conditions issued by the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy (MIME); and
- Alignment with all applicable sectoral legislation and regulatory requirements.

Where specialist compliance is required - including blasting operations, vegetation clearance, water use, fuel storage, waste handling or heritage protection - appropriately qualified professionals and licensed service providers will be engaged.

Environmental compliance auditing and monitoring will form part of the environmental management framework for the project. Monitoring findings will be documented and submitted to the relevant competent authorities in accordance with ECC conditions and mining requirements.

All relevant permits and authorisations shall be obtained prior to commencement of any site-based copper ore extraction activities.

Table 4: Permits and Authorisations Required

Permit / Authorisation	Legislation	Issuing Authority	Applicability to the small-scale mining project
Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC)	Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)	Primary environmental authorisation required prior to commencement of copper ore extraction activities, including blasting and ore transport.
Mining Claims Registration Certificate/	Minerals (Prospecting	Ministry of Industries, Mines	Required for lawful copper ore extraction and mineral resources removal. Operations must

Permit / Authorisation	Legislation	Issuing Authority	Applicability to the small-scale mining project
Authorisation to Mine	and Mining) Act No. 33 of 1992	and Energy (MIME)	comply with approved work programme and reporting requirements.
Explosives Permit	Explosives Act No. 26 of 1956	Namibian Police / Relevant Authority	Required for purchase, storage, transport and use of explosives during blasting operations. Strict safety controls must be adhered to.
Permit for Removal of Protected Tree Species	Forest Act No. 12 of 2001	Directorate of Forestry (MEFT)	Required only if protected species occur within the footprint and removal cannot be avoided. Clearing will be minimised. However, any removal of plant species should be facilitated through the Directorate of Forestry in the MEFT.
Water Abstraction Permit (if applicable)	Water Resources Management Act No. 11 of 2013	Ministry responsible for Water Affairs	Required if groundwater abstraction occurs for operational use. No abstraction may occur without authorisation.
Fuel Storage Approval (if applicable)	Petroleum Products and Energy Act, 1990	Ministry responsible for Energy	Required if onsite fuel storage exceeds regulatory thresholds. Fuel must be stored in bunded containers with spill prevention measures.
Hazardous Waste Handling / Disposal Authorisation	Environmental Management Act & applicable waste regulations	MEFT / Approved Waste Facility	Required where hazardous waste (e.g., waste oils, contaminated materials) is transported to licensed disposal facilities.
Communal Land Access Agreement	Communal Land Reform Act No. 5 of 2002	Traditional Authority / Communal Land Board	Written consent required for access and use of communal land in Omao. Activities must not unreasonably interfere with grazing or community land use.

Permit / Authorisation	Legislation	Issuing Authority	Applicability to the small-scale mining project
Heritage Clearance (if required)	National Heritage Act No. 27 of 2004	National Heritage Council	Required if archaeological or heritage resources are identified or disturbed. Chance-find procedure will be implemented.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE BASELINE ENVIRONMENT

This section describes the existing socio-economic, biophysical, and cultural heritage conditions within the project's area of influence. It establishes the baseline against which potential environmental and social impacts associated with the proposed project are identified, assessed, and managed.

6.1 Socio-Economic Environment

The proposed project is located within the Kunene Region, north-western Namibia, in the vicinity of Omao village, a rural communal area characterised by dispersed homesteads, shared grazing lands, and strong reliance on borehole-based water supply. The receiving environment is predominantly rural and communal in character, with land use and livelihoods strongly linked to livestock production, mobility, and natural resource availability.

Omao area, is typically a village set-up and widely dispersed, with households typically clustered around water points, grazing camps, and access tracks rather than formal village layouts. This spatial pattern increases sensitivity to any activity that may affect water infrastructure, access routes, or livestock movement, as disruptions are not easily absorbed through alternative infrastructure or services.

The broader region is characterised by low population density, dispersed settlements, and limited formal economic activity outside of livestock farming, public services, tourism in selected areas, and small-scale mining. Distances between service centres are substantial, reinforcing household dependence on local land, water, and self-managed infrastructure.

Opuwo functions as the primary administrative and service hub for the district, providing government services, retail outlets, health facilities, fuel supply, and transport linkages. However, for residents of Omao and surrounding communal areas, access to these services involves long travel distances over gravel roads, often shared with livestock and farm traffic, which has implications for community safety and emergency response.

Maps are provided to illustrate the project's position within the Kunene Region and its relationship to Omao, Opuwo, and surrounding settlements.

Figure 11: Regional Map of Namibia and Kunene Region

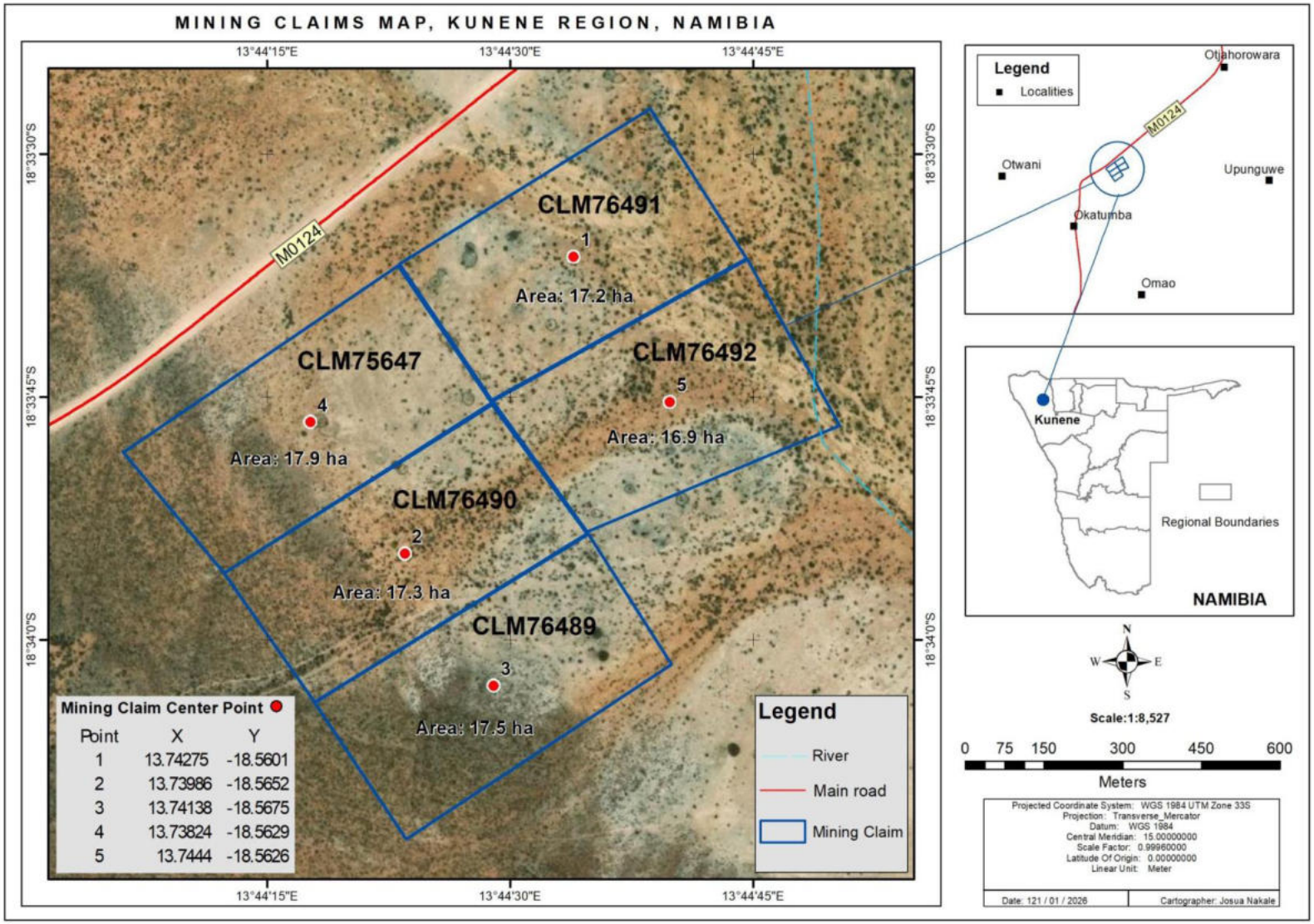

Figure 12: Regional context of the project site

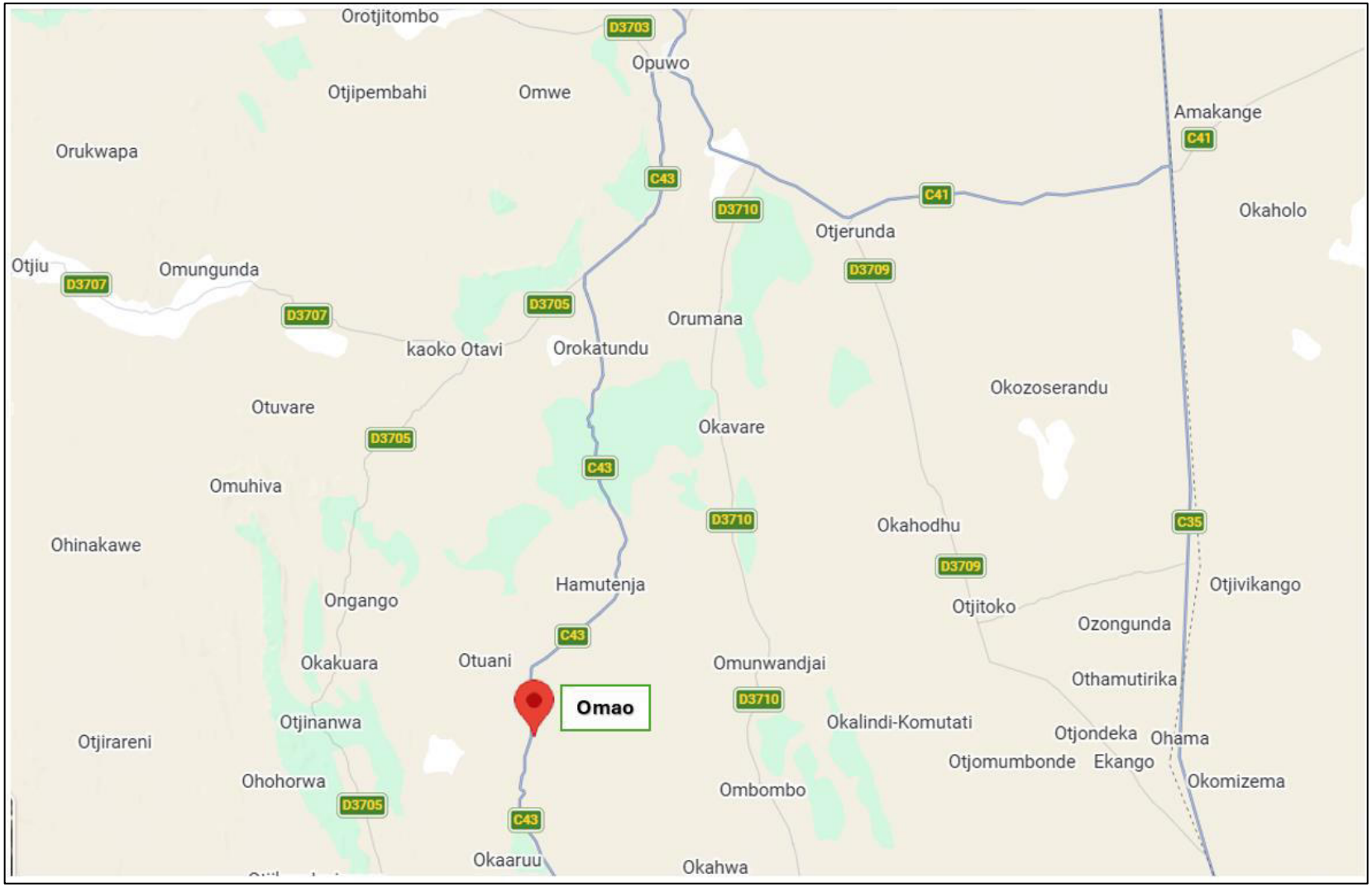

Figure 13: Location project site and other surrounding areas

6.1.1 Population and Settlement Patterns

Settlement patterns within the project area and its zone of influence are dispersed and predominantly rural. In the Omao area, settlement types include:

- clustered communal homesteads associated with extended family units;
- isolated livestock posts and seasonal grazing camps; and
- limited formal structures outside service centres.

Population density is low, but households are spatially dependent on specific boreholes, access tracks, and grazing areas, increasing sensitivity to localised disturbance.

Mobility patterns are strongly shaped by:

- daily livestock herding and water collection;
- periodic travel to Opuwo for health care, trade, administration, and schooling; and
- seasonal movement of livestock in response to grazing conditions.

6.1.2 Livelihoods and Economic Activities

Local community livelihoods in Omao and surrounding receiving environment are predominantly land-based and pastoral in nature. The primary livelihood activities include:

- communal livestock production (cattle, goats, and sheep), which remains the principal source of income, food security, and social capital;
- informal economic activities such as small-scale trading, transport services, and casual labour; and
- limited wage employment linked to public services, tourism in selected areas, and occasional short-term project work.

Livelihood sustainability is closely tied to continued access to grazing land, functional boreholes, and safe movement routes. Alternative income opportunities are limited, making households particularly sensitive to activities that may affect land usability, water availability, livestock health, or safety along access roads.

6.1.3 Land Tenure and Customary Land Use

Land within the project area is held under communal tenure and administered through customary systems overseen by the relevant Traditional Authority. In Omao village, land use is collective and multifunctional, with lawful occupiers relying on shared grazing areas, water points, and access tracks.

Key shared land uses include:

- communal grazing areas used seasonally and rotationally;
- boreholes, pipelines, troughs, and water storage infrastructure;
- internal access routes used by people, livestock, and service vehicles; and
- areas used for settlement, livestock handling, and cultural practices.

These overlapping uses require careful coordination to prevent disruption to established land-use patterns and to avoid social conflict, particularly where project activities intersect with daily livelihood practices.

6.1.4 Community Infrastructure and Services

Infrastructure and services in the receiving environment are limited but functional, consistent with remote rural settings in Namibia. Key features are shown in the **Table 4** as well as Figure 14,15 and 16 below.

Table 4: Community Infrastructure and Service Baseline

Service	Baseline description (Omao / area of influence)
Water supply	Predominantly borehole-dependent for people and livestock; at regional level, Kunene has the lowest safe drinking-water access (74.1%) nationally, reflecting high sensitivity to any disruption of borehole functionality or access.
Energy	Rural energy supply is largely off-grid; for the project, diesel powered systems are anticipated, supplemented by solar power where feasible; powerlines exist in the wider area but are far from the mine claims.
Roads and access	Access is via existing regional roads and local tracks from Opuwo/Okanguati; the main gravel road from Opuwo is generally maintained, but local access roads to the claims are reported as eroded in sections, with some routes crossing drainage areas; dust on gravel roads is significant.
Health services	Health services are concentrated in centres; locally, community members reportedly use Otuani Clinic and referral to Opuwo for higher-level services.

Service	Baseline description (Omao / area of influence)
Education	Schools are typically located in larger settlements/towns; rural homesteads depend on travel to service points for schooling
Emergency services	Emergency response capacity (police/health/disaster response) is generally centred in district hubs; communications coverage is available, and the project proposes two-way radios to improve site communications.

Figure 14: Typical livestock kraal and water pipelines (from boreholes) in areas that surround the site

Figure 15: Erosion and dust emission along access roads

Figure 16: Nearest health facility in the project area

The rural households around the project site are largely self-reliant, increasing sensitivity to any disruption of water supply, access routes, or basic infrastructure. However, with the application of appropriate design controls, operational planning, and mitigation measures, potential impacts are expected to remain localised, temporary, and manageable.

6.1.5 Vulnerable Groups and Sensitivities

Omao village and surrounding areas, certain groups may be more vulnerable to project-related disturbance due to socio-economic conditions and limited adaptive capacity. These include:

- communal pastoral households highly dependent on grazing and borehole access;
- women-headed households with limited income diversification;
- youth and informal workers reliant on seasonal or casual employment; and
- elderly persons with reduced mobility and access to services.

Key sensitivities relevant to consider include:

- protection of boreholes and water points to prevent overuse, contamination, or conflict;
- safety around mine excavations and along shared access routes, particularly where project traffic overlaps with livestock movement, pedestrians, and informal transport;
- exposure to dust, noise, and vibration from project vehicles and equipment;

- potential pressure on limited sanitation facilities and water points during peak activity periods; and
- social risks associated with temporary worker presence, including community-worker interaction and perceptions of inequitable recruitment.

6.1.6 Health Baseline

The health baseline reflects typical rural conditions at Omao village and the wider Opuwo District, where access to healthcare is limited and largely centralised in Opuwo. Key qualitative health considerations include:

- reliance on distant clinics and referral facilities for non-routine care;
- sensitivity to increased dust and traffic-related risks affecting respiratory health and road safety;
- limited emergency response capacity at the local level; and
- heightened vulnerability to communicable diseases where temporary worker influx is not well managed.

6.1.7 Socio-Economic Summary and Sensitivity Rating

Overall, the socio-economic sensitivity of the project receiving environment, including the Omao area, is assessed as Moderate. This rating reflects the predominantly rural and sparsely populated character of the area, combined with a high dependence on land, water, and livestock-based livelihoods, and limited alternative livelihood and service options.

While permanent settlement density within the area of influence is low, livelihoods are closely tied to communal and small-scale livestock production, shared grazing land, borehole-based water supply, and communal access routes. As a result, even temporary or localised disturbances if not appropriately managed have the potential to affect household livelihoods and community functioning.

The key factors contributing to the assessed sensitivity include:

- low settlement density but high dependence on specific local resources;
- strong reliance on communal grazing, borehole water, and shared access routes;
- limited income diversification and access to services; and

- heightened sensitivity to disruption of water availability, land use, mobility, and community safety.

Key socio-economic sensitivities identified through the baseline assessment are summarised in Table 5, which synthesises the relationship between baseline conditions, affected receptors, and the project's principal risk drivers. These sensitivities align closely with risks related to:

- land disturbance and access management;
- groundwater abstraction and protection of boreholes;
- traffic, dust, and safety along shared routes; and
- community health and social interaction associated with project activities.

Table 5: Summary of Socio-Economic Sensitivities and Relevance to the Project

Socio-Economic Sensitivity	**Key Receptors**	**Basis of Sensitivity**	**Link to Project Risk Drivers**
Dependence on communal grazing land	Communal pastoral households; livestock owners	Livelihoods in Omao village are predominantly livestock-based, relying on shared grazing areas with limited alternatives.	Land disturbance; vegetation clearance; restricted access.
Reliance on borehole-based water supply	Households; livestock; farm workers	Boreholes are the primary source of water for domestic and livestock use; limited redundancy exists.	Groundwater abstraction; accidental contamination; access disruption.
Shared access routes and mobility patterns	Community members; herders; learners; local traffic	Gravel roads and tracks are jointly used by people, livestock, and vehicles; access routes are critical for daily mobility to water points, schools, and services.	Traffic increase; dust generation; community and livestock safety
Low population density but high resource dependency	Dispersed homesteads and grazing camps	Although settlement density is low, households depend on specific local resources that are not easily substituted.	Localised impacts may have disproportionate effects.
Limited access to health and emergency services	All community members, particularly vulnerable groups	Health and emergency services are concentrated in Opuwo, requiring long-distance travel from Omao.	Traffic incidents; emergency response limitations.

Socio-Economic Sensitivity	Key Receptors	Basis of Sensitivity	Link to Project Risk Drivers
Vulnerable livelihood groups	Communal pastoralists; women-headed households; youth	Limited income diversification and reliance on natural resources increase sensitivity to disruption	Livelihood disruption; access limitations; perceived inequitable benefit sharing
Community–worker interaction risks	Local communities; temporary workers	Rural communal settings have limited experience with influxes of non-local workers	Community safety; social tension; communicable disease exposure
Cultural and customary land-use practices	Lawful occupiers; Traditional Authority	Land use is governed by customary systems, with shared rights and responsibilities	Access control; land-use conflict;

Overall, the receiving environment is not highly urbanised or densely populated, but it is functionally sensitive due to strong dependence on natural resources and shared infrastructure. With appropriate design, planning, and management measures, potential socio-economic and community health impacts are expected to be localised, temporary, and manageable.

6.2 Climate and Climate Variability

This subsection describes the existing climatic conditions and variability within the project area at Omao village of the Opuwo District, Kunene Region. It establishes the climatic baseline against which potential environmental and operational sensitivities are assessed, with particular emphasis on water availability, dust generation, and operational safety.

6.2.1 Climatic Setting (Regional Context)

The project area is located in north-western Namibia within the Kunene Region, which falls within an arid to semi-arid climatic zone. This part of the country is characterised by:

- very low and highly variable rainfall;
- high daytime temperatures for much of the year;
- cool to cold winter nights, particularly in exposed areas;
- very high evaporation rates; and
- generally low relative humidity.

These climatic characteristics are typical of the wider Opuwo district and directly explain the environmental sensitivities observed in the Omao area, including limited surface water

availability, sparse vegetation cover, and strong reliance on groundwater resources. The arid climatic setting therefore provides essential context for understanding why water management, dust control, and heat exposure are key considerations for the project.

6.2.2 Rainfall Patterns and Variability

Rainfall in the Omao which resembles the climatic condition of Opuwo area is low, erratic, and strongly seasonal, with the majority of precipitation occurring during the summer months between November and March. As illustrated in Figure 15, the project area lies within a zone receiving approximately 100-150 mm of rainfall per year, placing it among the drier areas of the country.

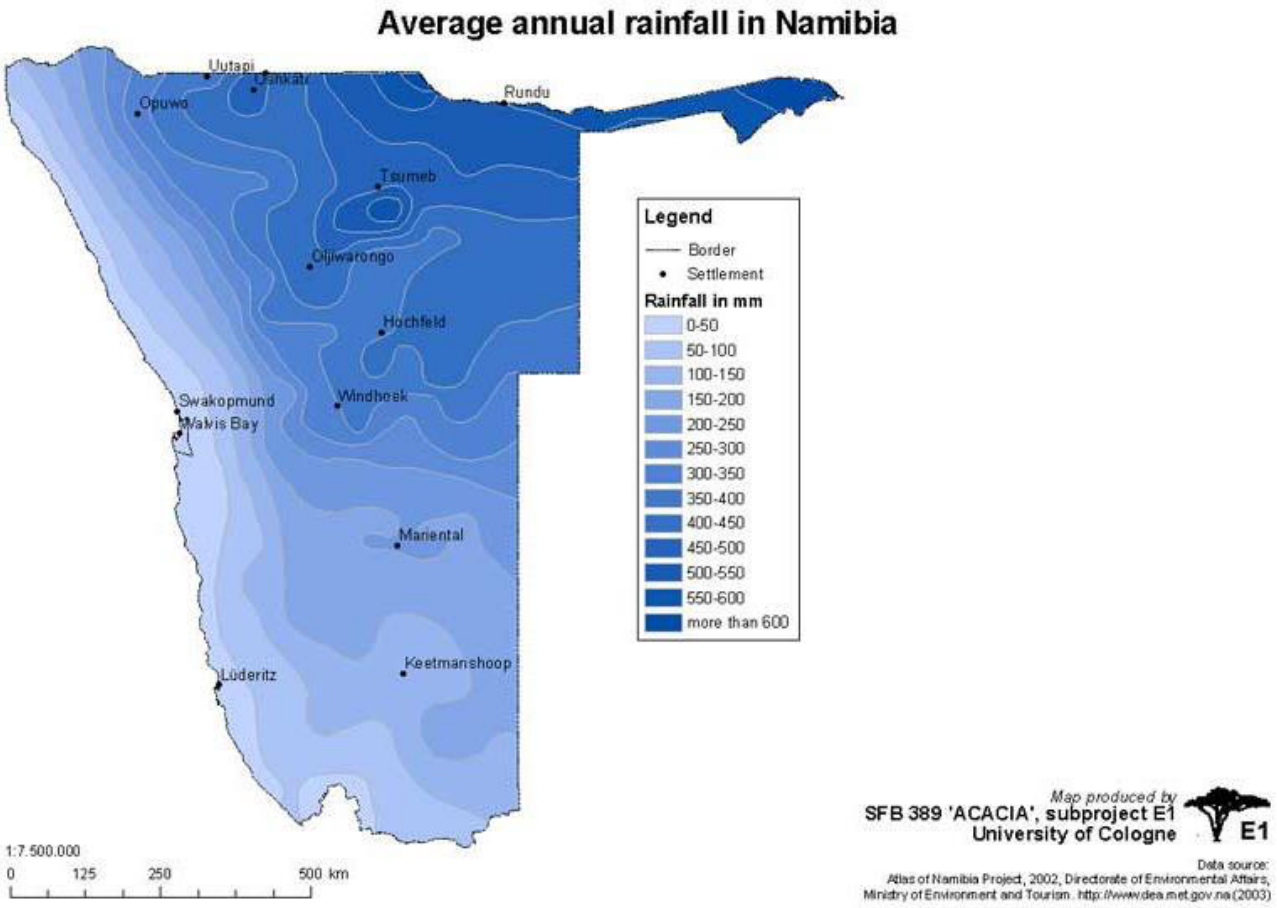

Figure 15: Average Annual Rainfall in Namibia

Rainfall is typically delivered through short-duration, convective storm events, which are often spatially uneven. The high degree of inter-annual variability is evident in Figure 15 which shows substantial year-to-year fluctuations across north-western Namibia. In practical terms, this means that:

- some seasons may receive little or no effective rainfall;
- isolated storms can generate temporary runoff in ephemeral drainage lines; and
- rainfall reliability for planning purposes is low.

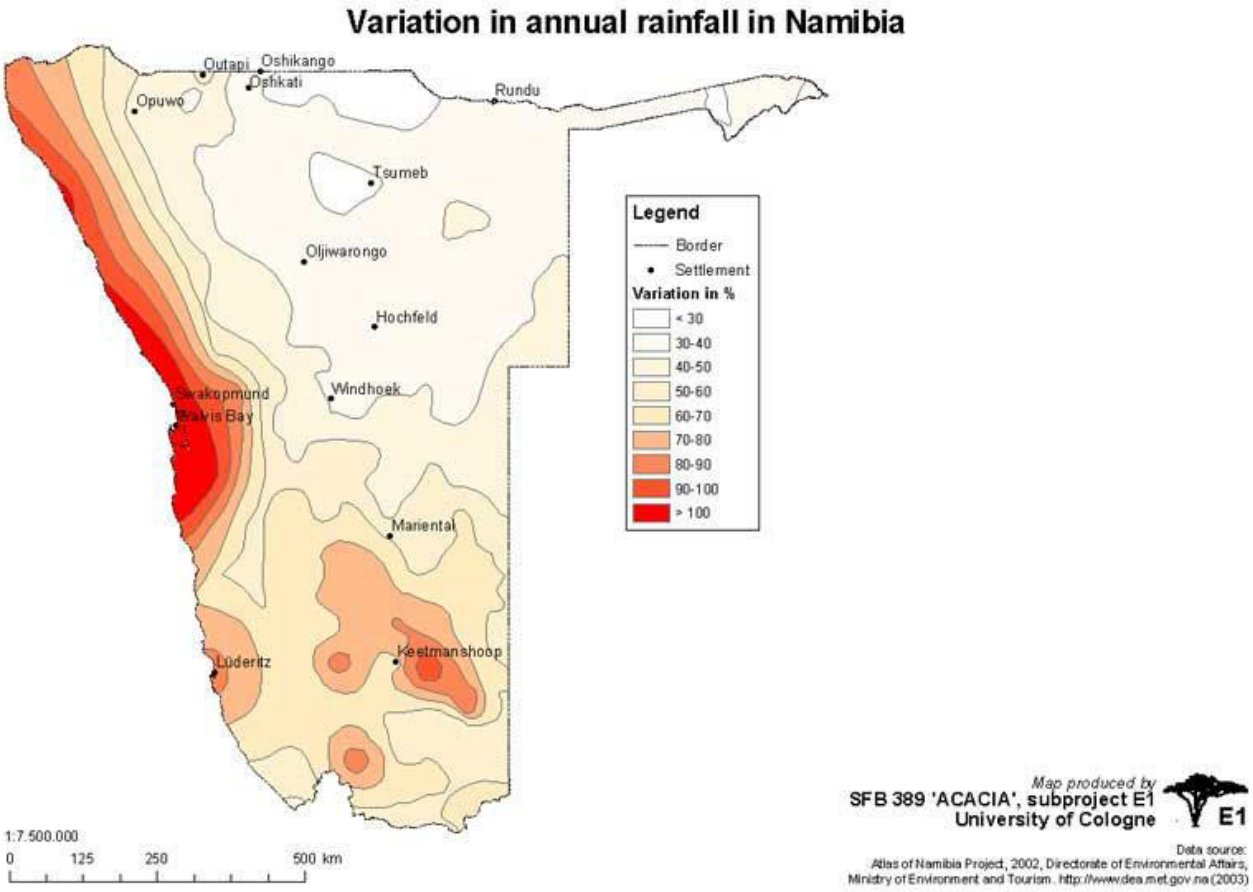

Figure 16: Variation in Annual Rainfall in Namibia

These rainfall characteristics directly influence water availability, temporary access constraints after storm events, and the potential for localised erosion and sediment mobilisation in drainage features intersecting access routes.

6.2.3 Temperature Regime

The area of Omao generally experiences warm to hot temperatures typical of arid and semi-arid north-western Namibia. As shown in Figure 17, mean annual temperatures in the region typically range between 21–23°C, with marked seasonal variation.

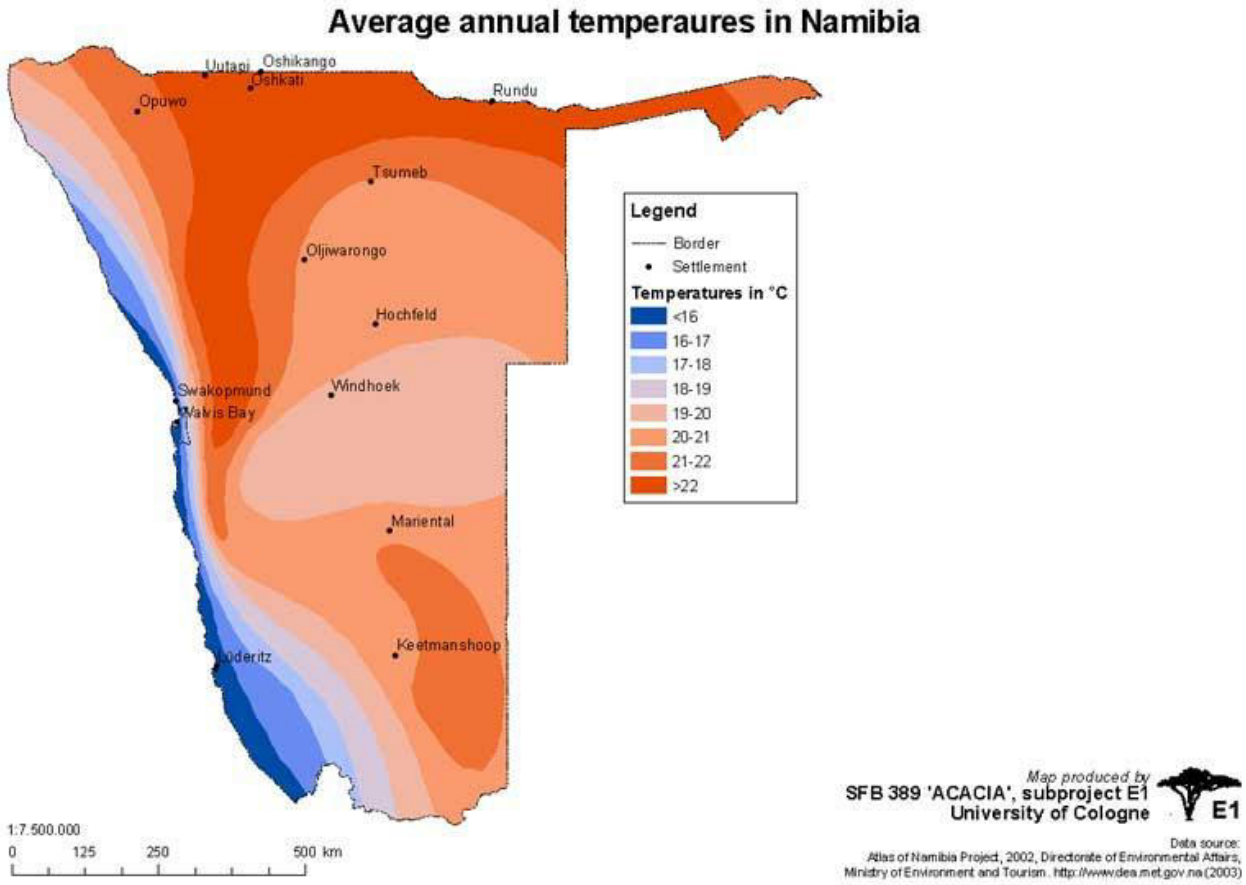

Figure 17: Average Annual Temperatures in Namibia

During the summer period (October–March), daytime temperatures frequently exceed 32–38°C, with occasional extreme heat events. These conditions increase the risk of heat stress for outdoor workers, elevate water consumption, and intensify dust generation from disturbed surfaces and access roads.

In contrast, winter months (June - August) are characterised by milder daytime temperatures but cold night-time conditions, particularly in exposed areas.

Temperature patterns therefore have a direct bearing on occupational health and safety, equipment performance, and dust management requirements.

6.2.4 Climate Variability and Extreme Events

The Kunene Region is among the most climatically variable areas in Namibia. The Omao area experiences:

- recurrent drought cycles, often occurring every few years;
- prolonged dry periods lasting multiple seasons; and

- occasional intense rainfall events that may result in short-lived surface runoff or flash flooding in ephemeral drainage lines.

This variability contributes to pronounced year- to-year changes in soil moisture and vegetation cover. As a result, environmental conditions in the project area can differ significantly between seasons, reinforcing the need for flexible and adaptive operational planning rather than reliance on average climatic conditions alone.

6.2.5 Evaporation and Water Balance

Evaporation rates in north-western Namibia are extremely high and substantially exceed annual rainfall. As illustrated in Figure 18, Omao village falls within a zone where evaporation typically ranges between 3,000 and 3,800 mm per year.

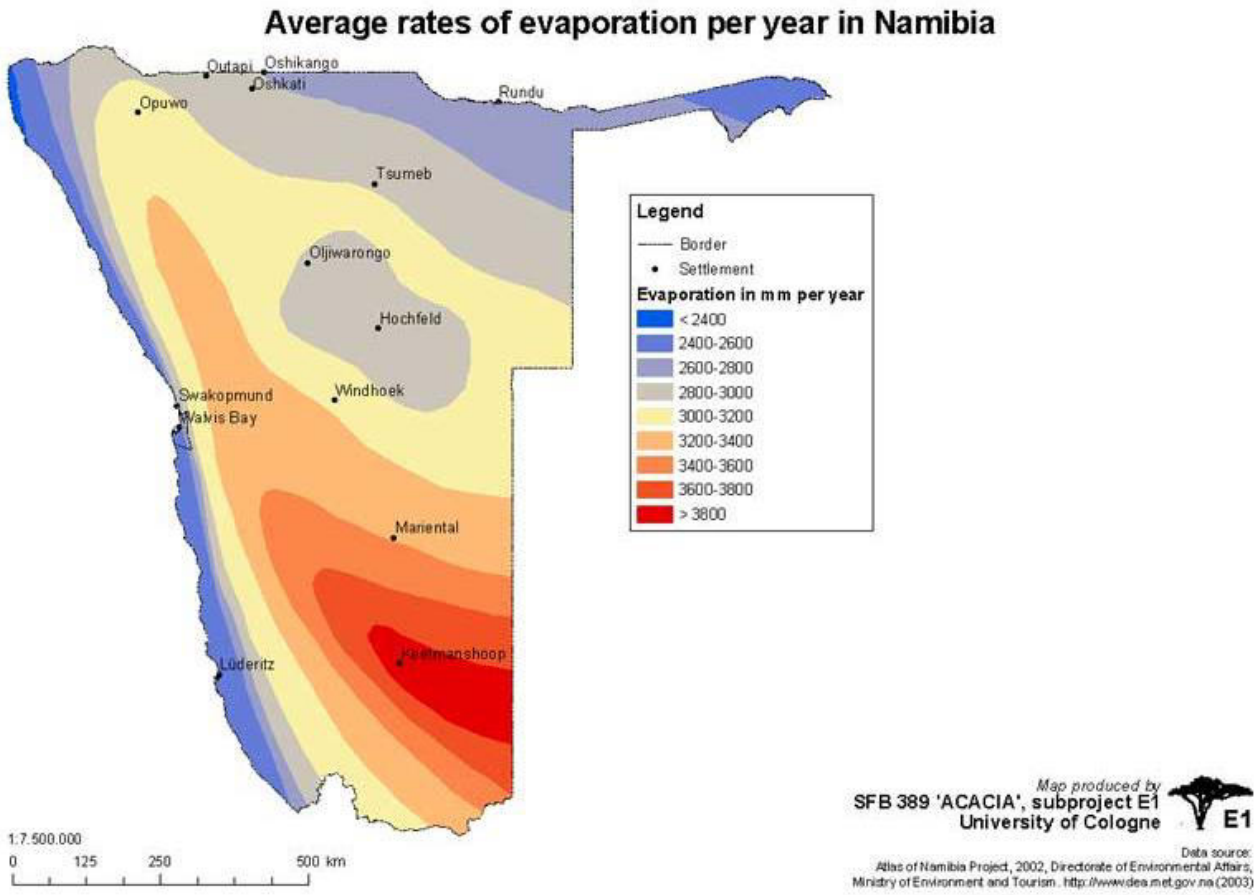

Figure18: Average Evaporation Rates in Namibia

This imbalance is further illustrated in Figure 19, which shows the project area within a strongly negative water balance zone, where evaporation exceeds precipitation by a wide margin. These conditions result in:

- rapid drying of soils and surface materials;

- negligible persistence of surface water;
- high dust-generation potential; and
- sustained pressure on borehole-based groundwater supplies.

The evaporation and water deficit context provide a clear justification for stringent water-use efficiency, dust suppression, and groundwater protection measures.

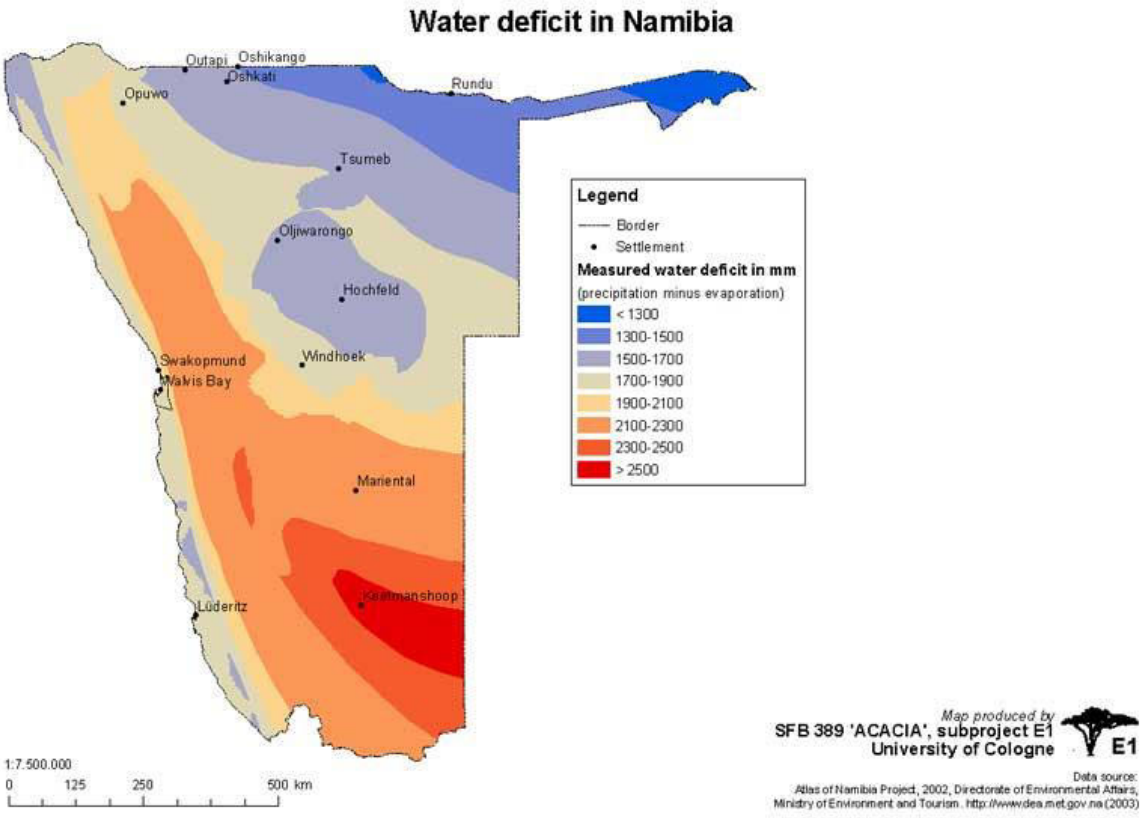

Figure 19: Water Deficit Map for Namibia

6.2.6 Wind and Atmospheric Conditions

Prevailing winds in the Kunene Region are generally from the east to south-east, with stronger winds commonly occurring during the late winter and spring months. While site-specific wind roses are not required at this stage, regional patterns indicate that wind conditions can periodically enhance dust dispersion, particularly during dry periods.

Wind-related effects are therefore relevant primarily in relation to dust movement from access roads and disturbed surfaces, rather than broader air quality degradation, given the absence of significant industrial background sources.

6.2.7 Humidity and Atmospheric Moisture

Relative humidity in the Omao- Opuwo area is generally very low, particularly during the dry season. As shown in Figure 20 (Relative Humidity During the Least Humid Months in Namibia), much of the Kunene Region, including the project area, experiences relative humidity levels frequently in the range of 10–30% during the least humid months, typically between July and September.

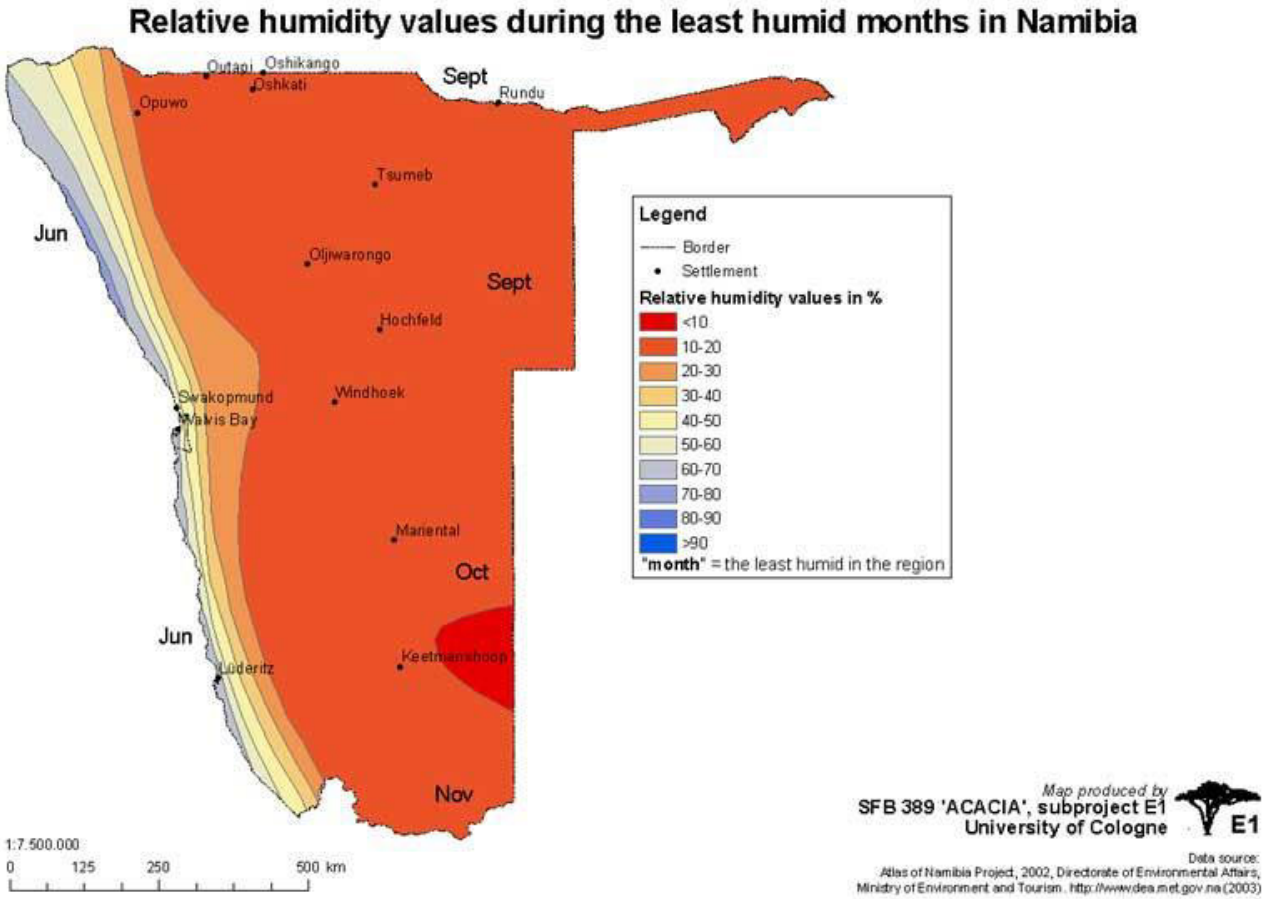

Figure 20: Relative Humidity Map for Namibia

These low humidity conditions are characteristic of north-western Namibia and have several direct environmental and operational implications for the project area, including:

- increased dust generation from vehicle movement, access roads, and disturbed surfaces;
- elevated dehydration risk for personnel working outdoors, particularly during hot and windy conditions;

- heightened fire risk when low humidity coincides with dry vegetation and seasonal winds; and
- rapid drying of soils and drill cuttings, which can exacerbate dust emissions.

The relative humidity regime therefore reinforces the importance of dust suppression measures, fire-prevention controls, and worker hydration and heat-stress management as integral components of project planning and environmental management in the Omao area.

6.2.8 Solar Radiation

The Omao area receives very high levels of solar radiation, consistent with national patterns shown in Figure 21. Average solar radiation values of approximately 5.8–6.5 kWh/m²/day are typical for the region.

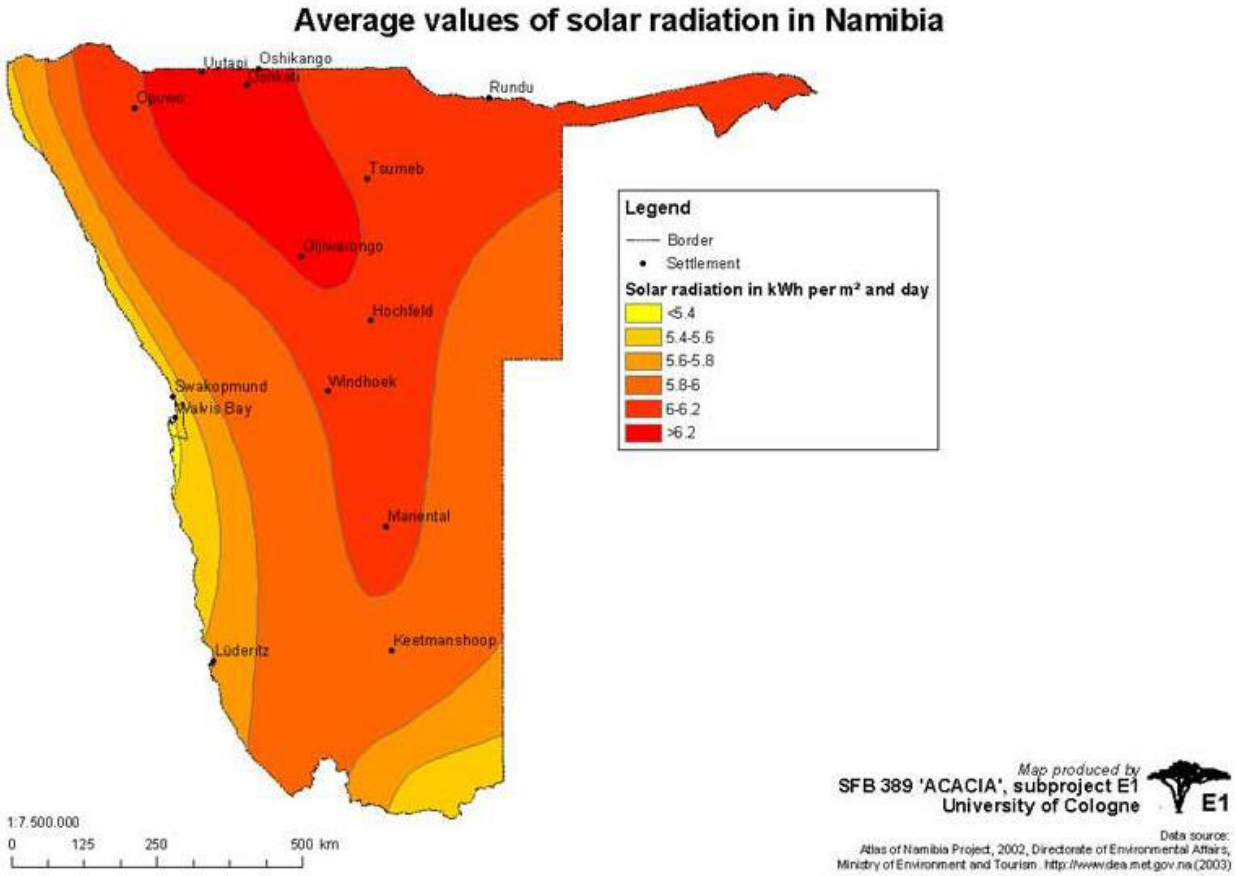

Figure 21: Average Solar Radiation in Namibia

This climatic characteristic presents both:

- an opportunity for the integration of solar-powered systems for site operations; and
- a constraint, as high solar exposure increases heat load on personnel and equipment.

High solar radiation therefore supports later consideration of renewable energy use, while reinforcing the importance of heat-stress management.

6.2.9 Implications of Climate for the Project

The climatic conditions described above have direct implications for the proposed project at Omao village, particularly with respect to:

- strong dependence on groundwater resources due to limited and unreliable rainfall;
- high dust-generation potential driven by dry soils, low humidity, and wind;
- heat stress and operational safety risks during hot periods;
- temporary access constraints following intense rainfall events; and
- the need for adaptive scheduling of activities in response to seasonal conditions.

These implications are carried forward into the impact assessment to inform the identification and evaluation of climate-related risks.

6.2.10 Climate Change and GHG Considerations

Climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are acknowledged as relevant considerations. However, given the scale, duration, and nature of the proposed project, a full IPCC-level GHG inventory and modelling exercise is not considered proportionate at this stage.

Project-related emissions are expected to be modest and predominantly operational, associated mainly with fuel use for vehicles and equipment. Accordingly, the project will focus on:

- efficient fuel use;
- avoidance of unnecessary land disturbance;
- use of renewable energy solutions where feasible; and
- qualitative consideration of climate-related risks in operational planning.

This approach aligns with good international practice while avoiding disproportionate analytical requirements for a small- to medium-scale project.

6.2.11 Overall Climate Sensitivity Summary

Overall, the climatic sensitivity of the Omao area is assessed as Moderate to High. This rating reflects the arid to semi-arid climatic conditions of the north-western Kunene Region, combined with high climatic variability and a strongly negative water balance.

Key drivers of climatic sensitivity include:

- low and highly variable rainfall, concentrated in short summer periods;
- frequent drought cycles and prolonged dry periods;
- very high evaporation rates, which far exceed annual rainfall; and
- strong reliance on groundwater resources in the absence of reliable surface water.

Although these climatic conditions impose clear environmental and operational constraints - particularly in relation to water availability, dust generation, and heat exposure - the associated risks are well understood and characteristic of rural arid environments in north-western Namibia. With appropriate planning, adaptive scheduling, and the application of standard environmental and operational controls, climate-related risks are considered manageable.

To support a clear linkage between baseline conditions and subsequent impact assessment, the principal climatic sensitivities relevant to the project and their relationship to key risk drivers are summarised in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Summary of Climatic Sensitivities and Relevance to the Project

Climatic Sensitivity	**Primary Receptors / Processes**	**Basis of Sensitivity (Baseline Condition)**	**Link to Project Risk Drivers**
Low and highly variable rainfall	Surface water availability; soils	Rainfall in the Omao area is low, summer-dominated, and highly variable, with frequent dry years	Water availability constraints; reliance on groundwater
High evaporation rates	Water storage; soils	Evaporation significantly exceeds rainfall, resulting in a strongly negative water balance	Increased water demand; rapid drying of surfaces
Recurrent drought cycles	Vegetation; grazing systems	The Kunene Region experiences frequent droughts and prolonged dry periods	Reduced vegetation cover; increased dust potential
Episodic intense rainfall events	Drainage lines; access routes	Short-duration storm events may generate localised runoff and flash flooding	Temporary access constraints; erosion and sediment mobilisation
High summer temperatures	Workers; equipment	Summer temperatures commonly exceed 35°C	Heat stress; increased water consumption; operational safety risks

Climatic Sensitivity	Primary Receptors / Processes	Basis of Sensitivity (Baseline Condition)	Link to Project Risk Drivers
Low relative humidity and wind	Air quality	Very low humidity during dry months increases dust entrainment	Dust generation; air quality and visibility management

6.3 Topography, Relief and Landscape

The Omao village is located in north-western Namibia within the Kunene Region. The area characterised by rugged and spatially variable topography shaped by long-term tectonic uplift, weathering, and erosion under arid to semi-arid climatic conditions. At a national scale, the Kunene Region forms part of Namibia's elevated interior plateau, transitioning westward toward the escarpment and coastal plains.

As illustrated in Figure 22, the project area lies within a moderate- to high-elevation zone relative to much of the country, distinctly higher than the coastal plain but lower than the central plateau highlands. This regional position contributes to uneven relief, shallow soils, and a landscape dissected by ephemeral drainage features.

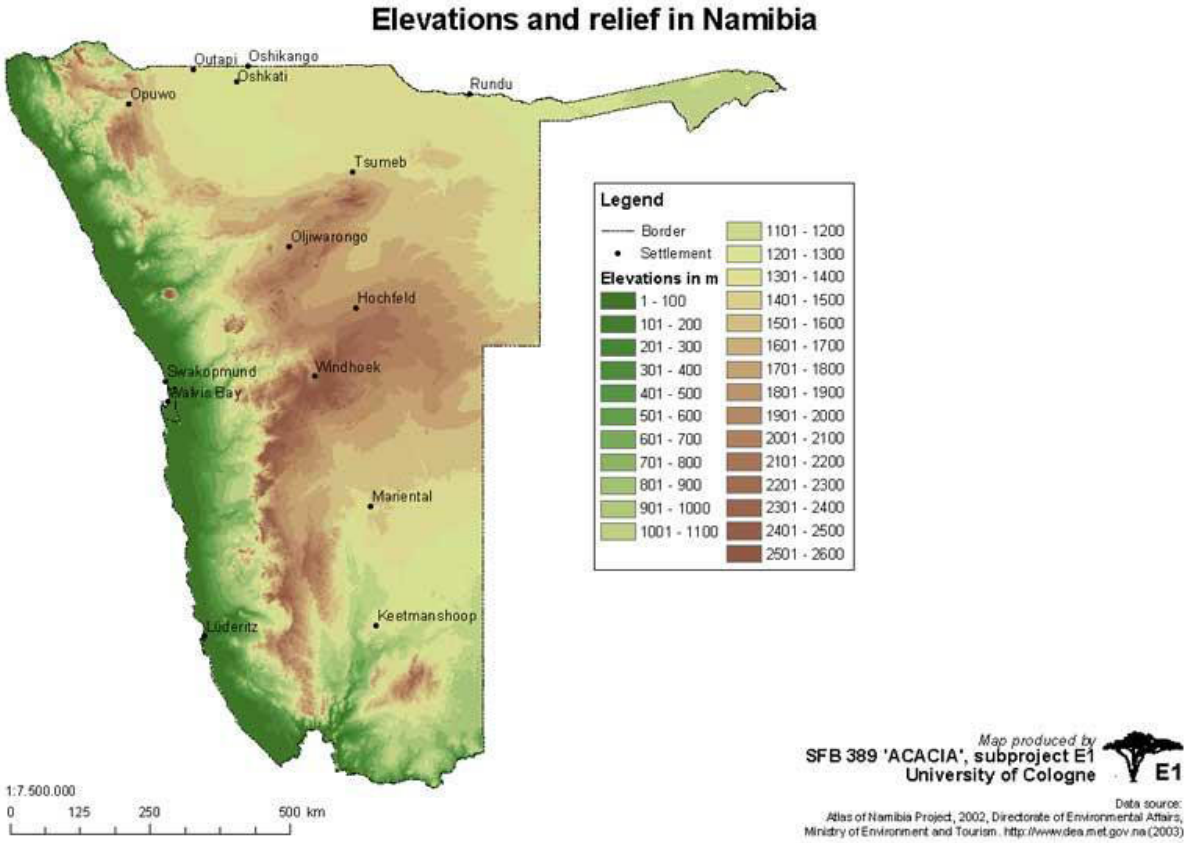

Figure 22: Elevations and Relief in Namibia

6.3.1 Local Relief and Landform Characteristics

At the local scale, Omao village and its surrounding is characterised by gently to moderately undulating terrain, interspersed with:

- low hills and ridges;
- rocky outcrops and shallow bedrock exposures;
- broad inter-hill plains used for communal grazing; and
- shallow valleys and ephemeral drainage lines.

Elevation within the immediate project area typically varies over short distances, resulting in pronounced local relief rather than flat plains. This variability is evident in the national altitudinal profiles shown in Figure 23, which highlight the dissected nature of the Kunene interior.

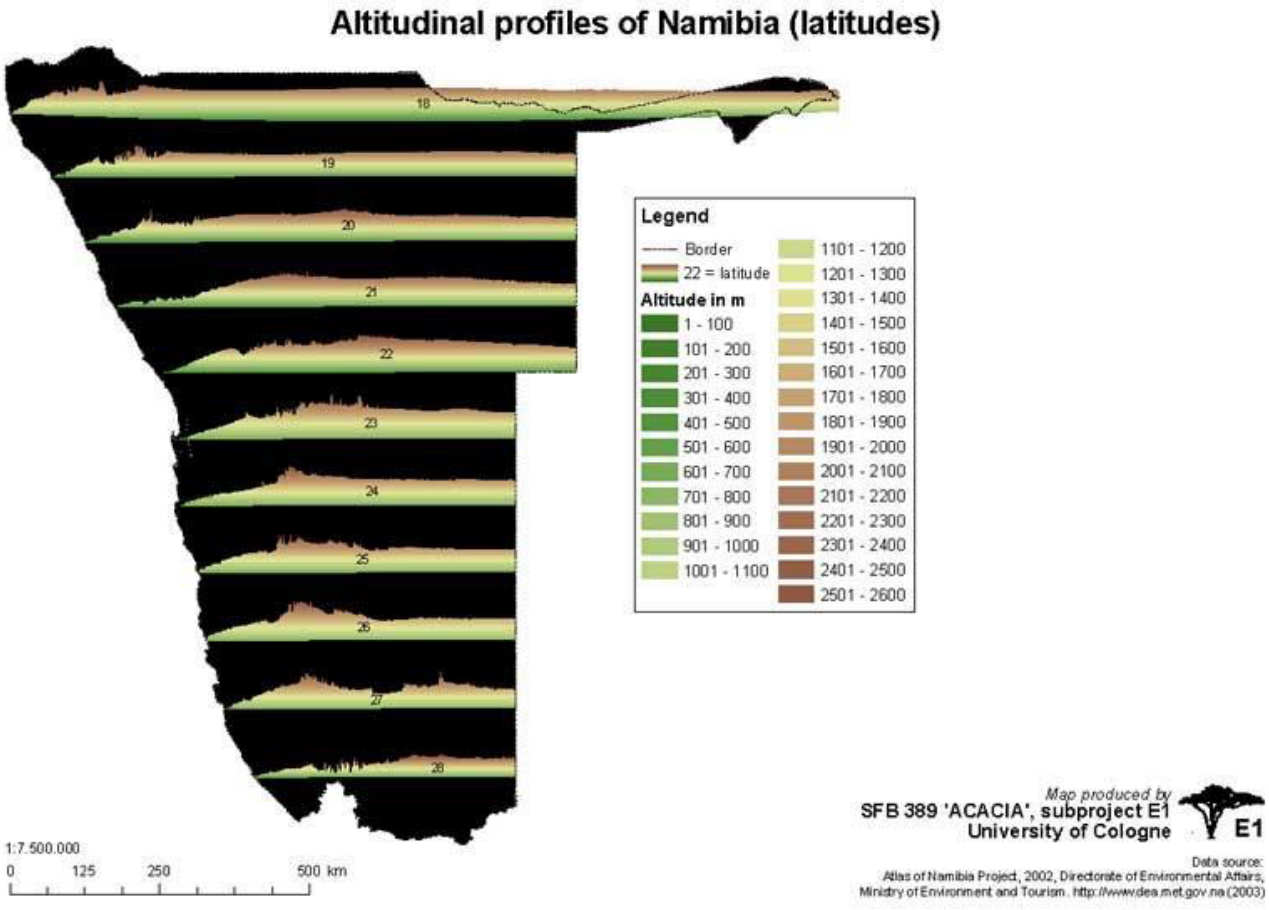

Figure 23: Altitudinal Profiles of Namibia

The terrain supports extensive livestock grazing but places natural constraints on infrastructure placement, vehicle movement, and drainage management.

6.3.2 Drainage Expression and Landscape Function

Although no permanent surface watercourses are present, the landscape is incised by ephemeral drainage lines that convey runoff during infrequent but intense rainfall events. These features:

- are normally dry for most of the year;
- become active only during storm events; and
- play an important role in local sediment transport and groundwater recharge.

The combination of relief and arid climatic conditions means that surface runoff can be rapid and locally erosive, particularly on exposed slopes and compacted tracks. Drainage lines therefore represent topographic sensitivities that require careful consideration during site access planning and activity layout.

6.3.3 Landscape Character and Visual Context

The Omao landscape has a natural, sparsely developed character, defined by open savannah vegetation, rocky hills, and wide viewsheds typical of the Kunene Region. Built structures are minimal and largely limited to homesteads, livestock infrastructure, and informal tracks.

The photographic reference provided (Figure 24) illustrates the gently rolling hills, scattered woody vegetation, and absence of intensive development. This landscape character contributes to:

- low ambient visual intrusion; and
- sensitivity to new disturbances that contrast with the natural setting.

Image 24: General topography of the area

6.3.4 Implications of Topography for the Project

The existing topography and relief of the project area have several implications for project planning and environmental sensitivity:

- Access and mobility - Uneven terrain and rocky sections constrain vehicle movement and favour the use of existing tracks.
- Erosion risk - Slopes and drainage lines are susceptible to erosion if disturbed.
- Drainage management - Activities near ephemeral channels require careful siting.
- Visual sensitivity - Open landscapes increase visibility of surface disturbance.
- Infrastructure siting - Flat, stable areas are limited and must be selected carefully.

6.3.5 Overall Topographic Sensitivity Summary

Overall, the topographic and landscape sensitivity of the project area at Omao village is assessed to be Moderate. This rating reflects the moderately elevated interior setting of the Kunene Region combined with uneven local relief and the presence of ephemeral drainage systems.

Key drivers of topographic sensitivity include:

- moderately undulating terrain with localised slope variability;
- shallow soils and exposed bedrock in parts of the area;

- presence of ephemeral drainage lines conveying episodic runoff; and
- open, sparsely developed landscapes with high visual exposure.

Although the area is not mountainous or physically inaccessible, the combination of uneven relief and drainage features means that poorly sited activities could result in localised erosion, access constraints, sediment mobilisation, or visual disturbance. These conditions are typical of the broader Opuwo interior landscape and are well understood within arid and semi-arid environments.

With appropriate site selection, use of existing access tracks, avoidance of drainage features, and application of standard erosion-control practices, topography-related risks are considered manageable.

To ensure clear linkage between baseline conditions and the subsequent impact assessment, the principal topographic sensitivities and their relationship to key project risk drivers are summarised in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Summary of Topographic Sensitivities and Relevance to the Project

Topographic Sensitivity	**Primary Receptors / Processes**	**Basis of Sensitivity (Baseline Condition)**	**Link to Project Risk Drivers**
Uneven relief and slope variability	Soils; access routes; infrastructure siting	Gently to moderately undulating terrain with localised slopes and rocky outcrops	Site clearing; track construction; infrastructure placement
Presence of ephemeral drainage lines	Drainage systems; soils	Seasonal runoff during intense rainfall events; normally dry channels	Erosion risk; sediment mobilisation; access disruption
Shallow soils and exposed bedrock	Soil stability; vegetation cover	Thin soils overlying bedrock in parts of the area	Surface disturbance; compaction; erosion potential
Open landscape and visual exposure	Landscape character; nearby receptors	Sparse development and wide viewsheds typical of Omao	Visual disturbance from infrastructure and surface works
Localised slope-driven runoff	Surface stability; access tracks	Rapid runoff during storm events due to relief and soil conditions	Track degradation; localised erosion

6.4 Geology, Soils, Surface Water, Groundwater and Drainage

6.4.1 Geological Setting

The Omao village is situated within the north-western Namibian geological province associated with the Kaoko Belt, part of the broader Pan-African tectonic domain. This geological setting is characterised by structurally complex basement rocks, including metamorphic assemblages and intrusive granitoid bodies formed during Pan-African orogenic events. The structural fabric comprising foliation, shearing, jointing and fracturing plays a fundamental role in both mineralisation patterns and groundwater occurrence.

At a national screening level, the Groundwater Basins and Rock Types map (Figure 25) indicates that the project area falls within the Kunene groundwater basin and is dominated by hard-rock lithologies such as gneisses, schists and granitoids. In contrast to porous sedimentary aquifers, groundwater in this setting typically occurs within:

- Secondary porosity zones (fractures, joints and faults);
- Weathered regolith horizons overlying competent bedrock; and
- Localised structural intersections where permeability is enhanced.

This fractured-rock hydrogeological regime is inherently heterogeneous. Borehole yields are commonly variable and spatially unpredictable, reflecting the discontinuous nature of fracture networks. Groundwater flow pathways are typically localised rather than regionally continuous, increasing sensitivity to abstraction pressure and contamination. Recharge is episodic and linked to rainfall intensity events rather than steady seasonal infiltration.

From a project risk perspective, this geological setting implies:

- The need for careful siting of abstraction boreholes;
- Protection of fracture-fed water points from contamination;
- Avoidance of fuel or chemical storage in areas where direct infiltration into fracture zones may occur; and
- Recognition that over-abstraction may lead to rapid local drawdown rather than gradual basin-wide decline.

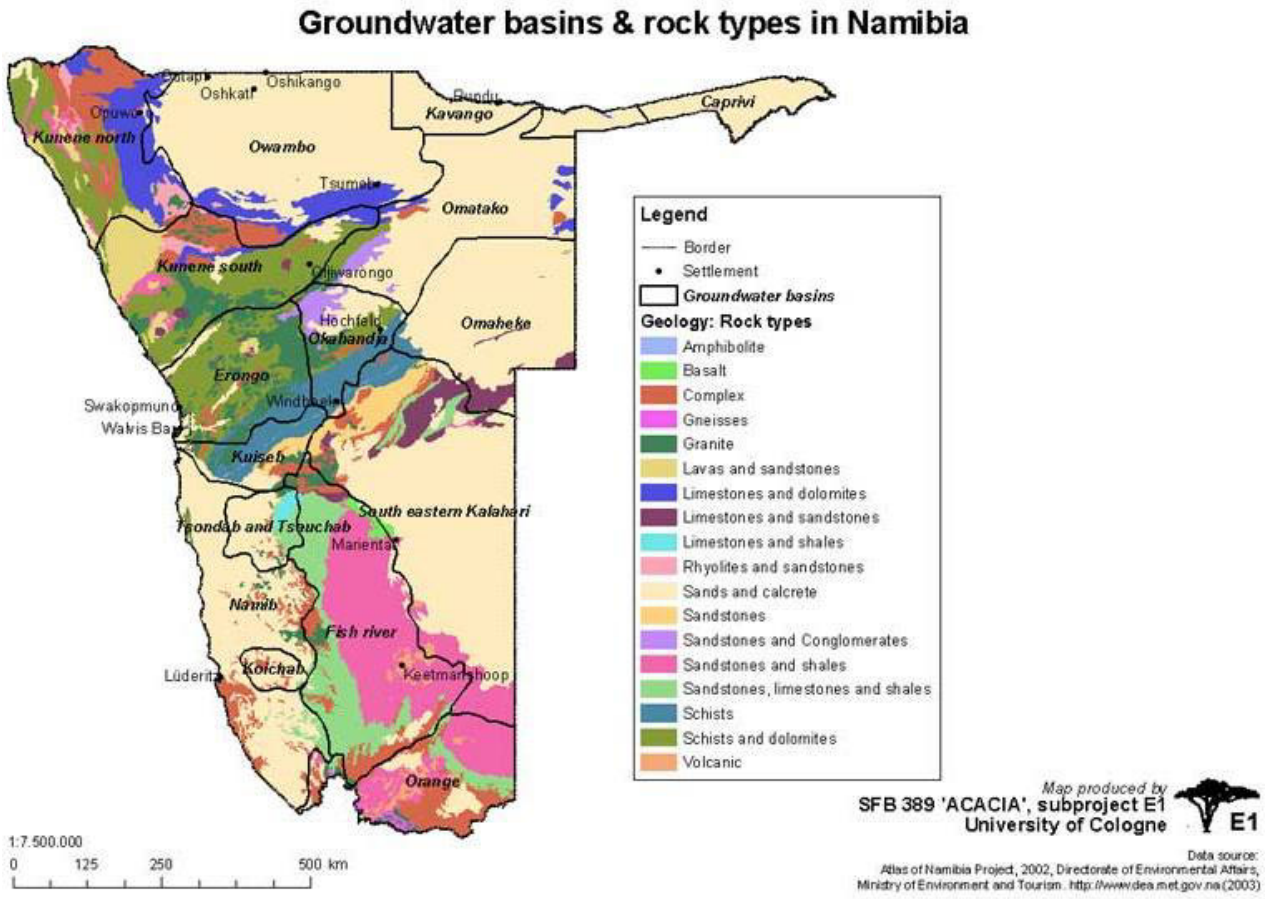

Figure 25: Groundwater basins and rock types in Namibia

6.4.2 Soils and Erosion Susceptibility

6.4.2.1 Regional Soil Context

The soils at Omao and surrounding areas are typical of arid to semi-arid Kunene landscapes and are generally shallow to moderately developed, with spatial variability controlled by:

- Topographic position (ridges, slopes, plains, drainage lines);
- Parent material derived from weathered basement rocks;
- Erosion history and surface stability; and
- Vegetation cover density.

The national dominant soils map (Figure 26) indicates that the broader Kunene region includes extensive occurrences of:

- Regosols – weakly developed, often sandy or loamy soils on plains and lower slopes;
- Leptosols – shallow soils over rock outcrops on ridges and broken terrain;
- Calcisols – calcrete-influenced soils with secondary carbonate accumulation;

- Arenosol-type sandy patches – loose-textured soils prone to surface disturbance.

These soil types are typically low in organic matter, weakly structured, and sensitive to mechanical disturbance. Biological soil crusts may occur in undisturbed areas and contribute significantly to surface stability.

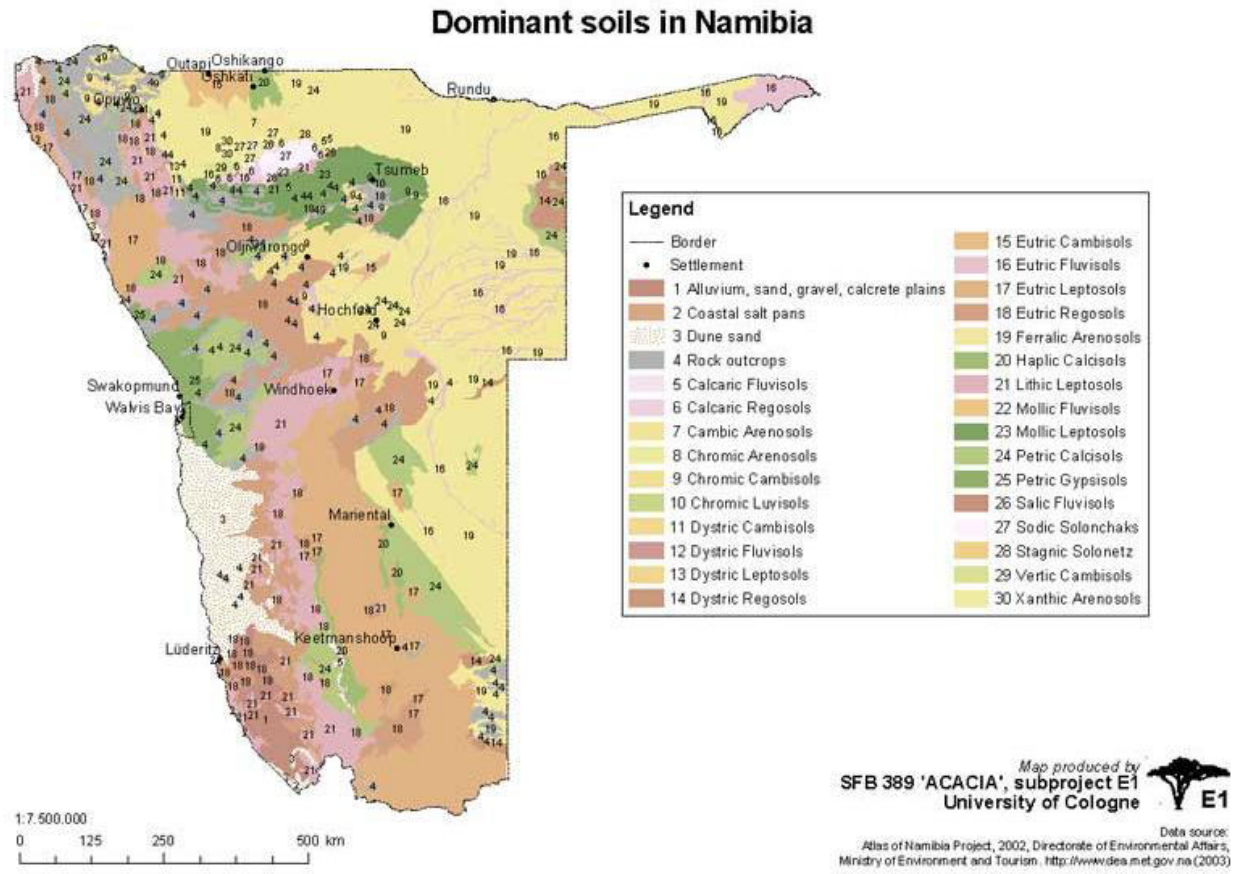

Figure 26: Dominant soils in Namibia

6.4.2.2 Site-Specific Soil Profile Observations

Photographic evidence from the project site (Figure 27) indicates the following characteristics:

1. Shallow to moderately deep soil horizons, with limited profile development.
2. A thin topsoil layer, typically sandy to sandy-loam in texture.
3. Subsoil layers exhibiting coarser fragments and weathered bedrock material, reflecting derivation from underlying metamorphic or granitoid parent rock.
4. In some areas, evidence of compacted surfaces and disrupted crusts, particularly in disturbed zones.

Figure 27: Soil profile and soils within the project site

The soil profile suggests limited moisture-holding capacity and moderate to low inherent fertility. The presence of weathered bedrock fragments indicates proximity to underlying basement rock, consistent with the regional geological setting.

In undisturbed areas, surface crusting and vegetation cover provide erosion resistance. However, once disturbed, the soil structure breaks down easily, increasing susceptibility to wind and water erosion.

6.4.2.3 Evidence of Existing Land Disturbance

Photographs of old excavations and disturbed areas show:

- Localised trenching and shallow excavation scars;
- Exposed subsoil and weathered rock material;
- Areas where natural vegetation has not fully re-established;
- Surface irregularities that may alter runoff concentration patterns.

These legacy disturbances demonstrate that the site has previously experienced mechanical soil disruption. In some cases, partial natural rehabilitation has occurred, but exposed patches remain vulnerable to erosion.

The presence of old excavations is important for the EIA baseline because it shows:

- The soil is recoverable under low-intensity disturbance if managed appropriately;
- However, poorly managed disturbance can leave long-term visible scars;

- Runoff concentration may increase around excavated depressions, leading to localised gullying.

6.4.2.4 Erosion and Operational Sensitivity

Given the arid climatic context (low rainfall but high-intensity events, high evaporation), the soils are particularly sensitive to:

- Wind erosion, especially on sandy or finely textured exposed surfaces;
- Sheet erosion, where vegetation cover is removed;
- Rill and gully formation, where runoff is concentrated along slopes or access tracks;
- Compaction, reducing infiltration and increasing runoff velocity.

Operational activities such as track development, vehicle movement, trenching, drilling pad preparation, and stockpiling can significantly increase erosion risk if not properly managed.

Once protective surface crusts are broken, soils may become:

- More prone to dust generation;
- Less able to support vegetation regrowth;
- More susceptible to surface sealing and runoff.

6.4.3 Surface Water and Drainage Characteristics (Ephemeral Systems)

The Omao project area occurs in an arid hydrological setting where permanent surface water is generally absent and drainage is ephemeral and event-driven. The national hydrography map (Figure 28) shows that Kunene contains major and minor ephemeral drainage networks and that regional river systems (including well-known ephemeral rivers in the Kaokoveld such as the Hoanib/Hoarusib systems) function as episodic flow paths that convey runoff only after storms.

At the project scale, this means:

- drainage lines may remain dry for long periods;
- intense convective storms can produce short-lived flows and localised flash flooding; and
- drainage features can become sediment transport pathways when disturbed.

Accordingly, even though surface water is not a dominant baseline resource, drainage lines and low-lying runoff pathways are sensitive receptors because they can be affected by track placement, vegetation clearance, and poorly managed runoff from disturbed areas.

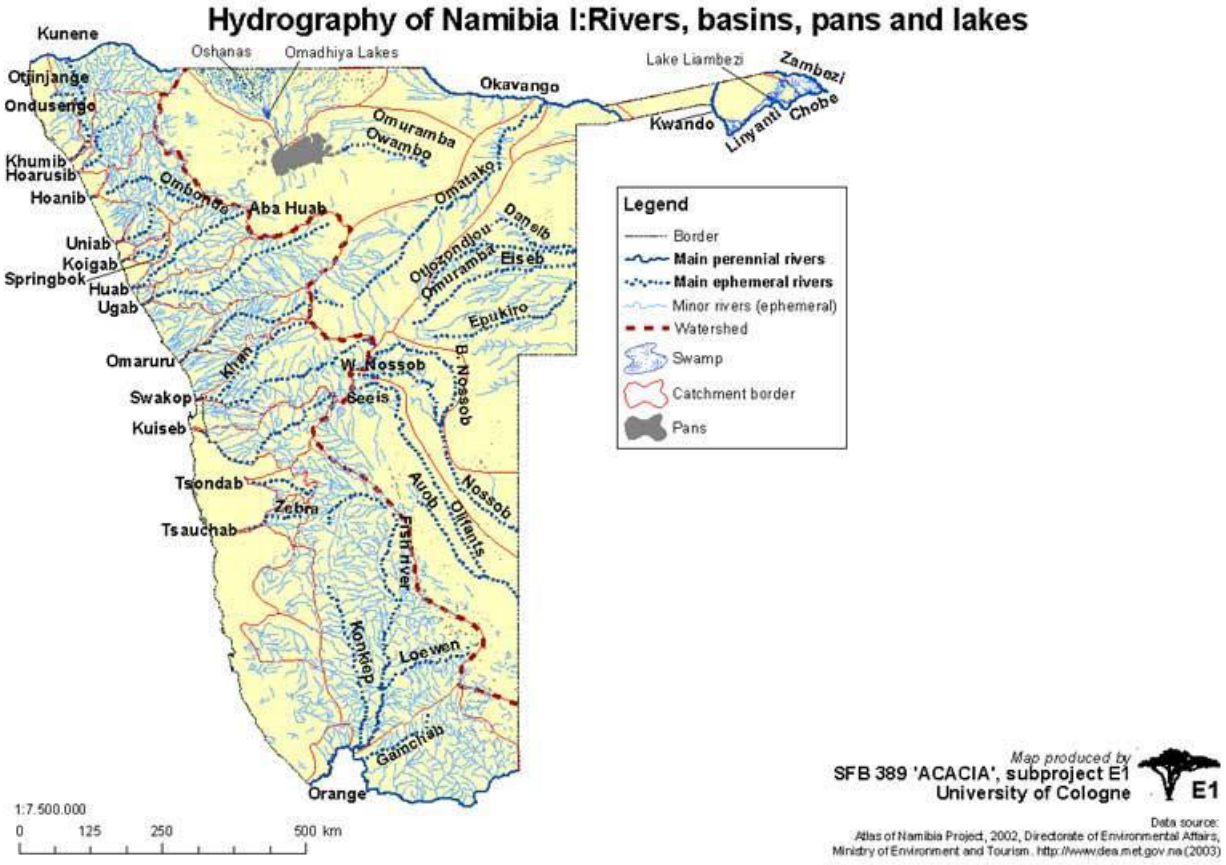

Figure 28: Hydrography of Namibia – Rivers, Basins, Pans and Lakes

6.4.3.1 Groundwater Occurrence, Use and Sensitivity

In Omao which is the receiving environment, groundwater is the primary water source for domestic use and livestock (via boreholes), reflecting the limited reliability of surface water under arid conditions. The hard-rock setting described above implies groundwater occurs mainly in weathered and fractured zones, making the resource:

- spatially variable (some boreholes productive; others marginal), and
- potentially vulnerable to localised contamination where preferential pathways exist.

From an environmental sensitivity perspective, groundwater protection is critical because contamination events (even if small) can persist in fractured systems and because rural users often have limited redundancy (few alternative supply points).

Groundwater sensitivity is therefore driven by:

- the high dependence on boreholes;
- the potential for localised, fracture-controlled flow; and
- the practical consequences of borehole downtime in remote communal settings.

6.4.4 Water-Related Constraints for Project Planning

The combined geology–soils–hydrology baseline creates a clear set of planning constraints for the proposed mining project at Omao:

- Avoidance of drainage lines for siting of camps, fuel storage, waste handling, and turning areas;
- Preference for existing tracks and stable surfaces to limit new disturbance and reduce erosion initiation;
- Strict control of potential contaminants (fuels, oils, drilling additives, waste) including bunding/secondary containment; and
- Progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas to restore surface stability and reduce erosion and dust potential.

These controls are standard good practice for arid environments and help ensure impacts remain localised and manageable.

6.4.5 Overall Geo-Hydro Sensitivity Summary

Overall, the geology, soils, water sensitivity at Omao project area is assessed as Moderate, driven primarily by:

(i) the high dependence on groundwater in an arid environment,
(ii) fractured hard-rock aquifer conditions that can be locally vulnerable to contamination, and
(iii) soil and drainage features that can be susceptible to erosion once disturbed.

While these conditions impose clear constraints on site selection, access routing, and water management, the risks are well understood and can be kept localised, temporary and non-significant through standard controls (careful siting, avoidance of drainage features, containment of fuels/chemicals, and progressive rehabilitation). This baseline provides a clear

foundation for the assessment of geology, soils, and water-related impacts in the subsequent sections of the report. The table below gives a summary of the geo-hydro sensitivity.

Table 8: Summary of Geology, Soils, Water Sensitivities and Relevance to the Project

Sensitivity	Key Receptors / Processes	Basis of Sensitivity	Link to Project Risk Drivers
Fractured hard-rock hydrogeology	Groundwater availability; borehole yields; aquifer integrity	Groundwater occurs mainly in fractures and weathered zones within crystalline basement → spatially variable yields and localised flow paths	Borehole siting; abstraction sustainability; vulnerability to localised contamination from spills or drilling fluids
High dependence on borehole water	Households; livestock; communal users; project supply	Absence of perennial surface water in arid environment → strong reliance on groundwater for domestic and livestock use	Water abstraction pressures; potential user conflict; emergency water planning
Shallow and weakly developed soils	Soil stability; rehabilitation potential	Thin, discontinuous soil cover in places; low organic matter; slow natural recovery rates	Track and drill pad clearing; compaction; slower rehabilitation and vegetation re-establishment
Erosion-prone surfaces once disturbed	Slopes; track margins; drainage inlets	Loss of crust and vegetation increases susceptibility to rilling, sheet erosion and gullying	Poor siting; unmanaged runoff; inadequate drainage control; maintenance failure
Ephemeral drainage lines	Drainage channels; downstream vegetation; access crossings	Normally dry channels that may convey short-lived, high-energy flows during storm events	Flash-flood exposure; sediment mobilisation; inappropriate crossing placement
Sediment mobilisation and dust generation	Air quality; visibility; nearby users	Fine surface materials combined with dry conditions increase entrainment potential when disturbed	Traffic on gravel roads; earthworks; stockpiles; equipment movement

6.5 Biodiversity and Ecosystems

6.5.1 Regional Biome and Ecological Context

The project site is located within tree and shrub savanna biome, specifically within the north-western mopane savanna system of the Kunene Region. As illustrated in the biomes map of

Namibia (Figure 28), the site falls entirely within the broad tree and shrub vegetation biome, which represents Namibia's largest biome and a key national rangeland resource.

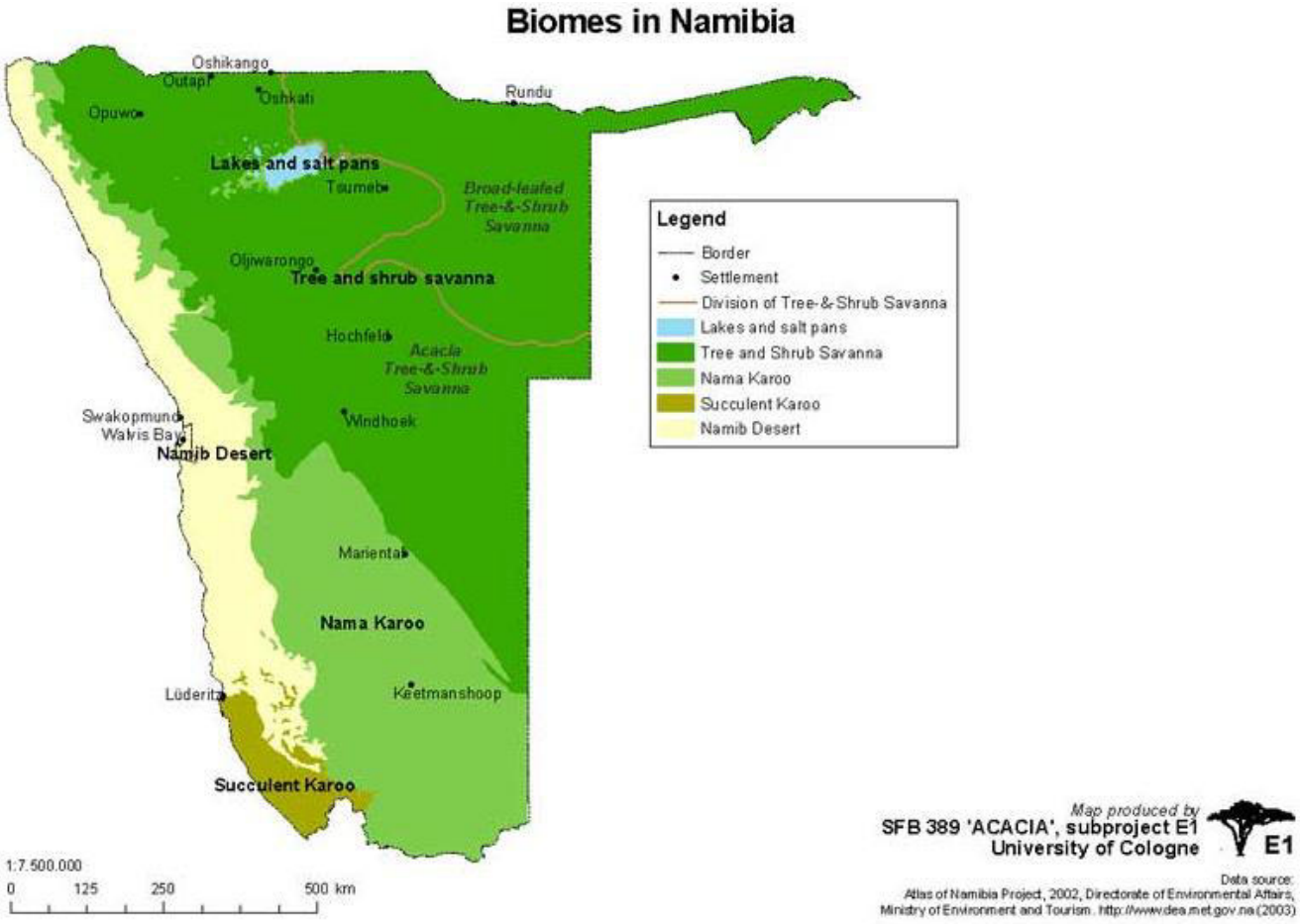

Figure 28: Biomes of Namibia

According to the vegetation structure in Namibia map (Figure 29), the Kunene region is characterised by a mosaic of:

- Woodland
- Shrubland–woodland mosaic
- Ephemeral riverine woodland

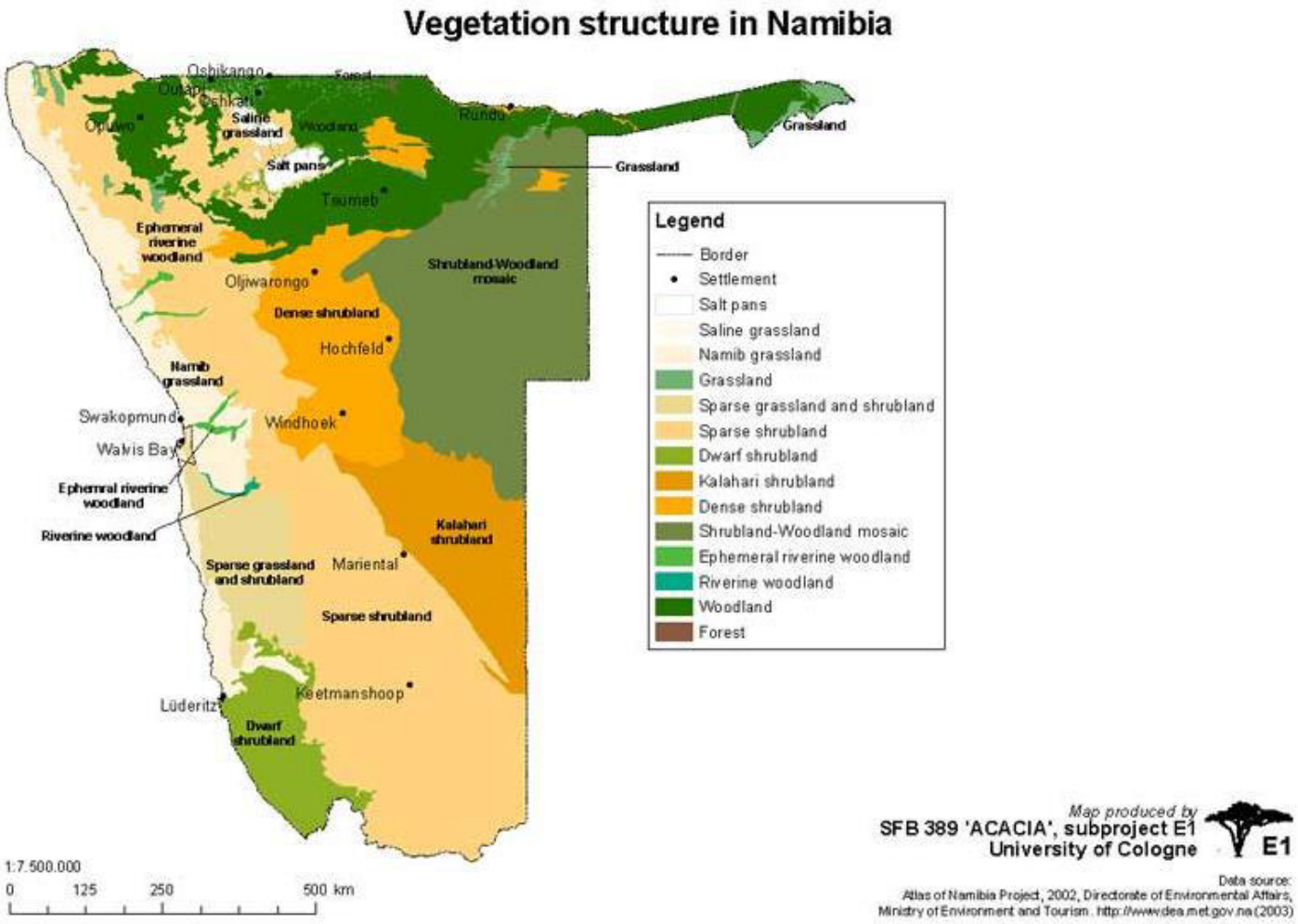

Figure 29: Vegetation Structure in Namibia

The project site corresponds most closely with the western *Colophospermum* mopane woodland system, transitioning locally into *Vachellia* (*Acacia*) species dominant drainage corridors.

The regional climate is semi-arid, with:

- Mean annual rainfall: ± 250–450 mm
- Strong rainfall seasonality
- High evapotranspiration rates
- Frequent drought cycles

Vegetation distribution is strongly controlled by:

- Topography (uplands vs drainage lines)
- Soil depth and texture
- Surface rock cover

- Moisture retention capacity
- Grazing pressure

The plant diversity in Namibia map indicates that the broader Kunene Region supports approximately 100–300 plant species per mapping unit, which aligns with semi-arid savanna systems of moderate floristic richness.

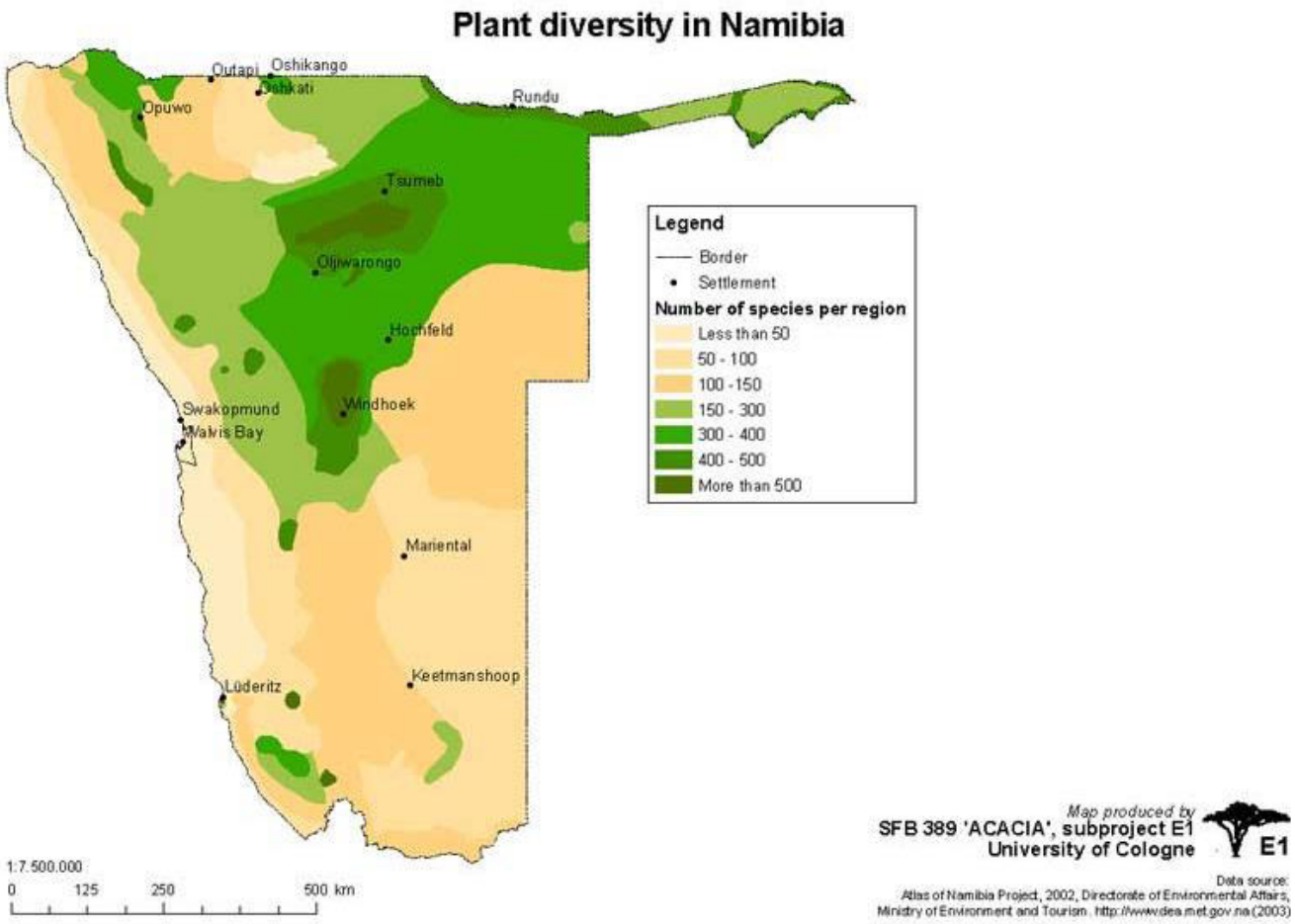

Figure 30: Plant Diversity in Namibia

The Grass Cover in Namibia map confirms that the area falls within a 10-25% average grass cover zone, consistent with field observations.

6.5.2 Landscape-Level Vegetation Structure

Field observations indicate that the project site comprises a heterogeneous semi-arid savanna mosaic structured primarily by elevation and substrate. Vegetation patterns differ clearly between rocky upland slopes and sandy drainage systems.

Rocky hills and slopes are characterised by open mopane woodland with moderate to high rock cover (approximately 40- 70%). *Colophospermum mopane* trees are generally evenly spaced,

forming an open canopy 4–8 m in height as reflected in Figure 31. Understorey development is limited due to shallow soils and surface stone cover.

Figure 31: Rocky mopane woodland on hillslope

Sandy drainage lines and lower-lying areas show slightly higher canopy density and shrub cover, reflecting improved soil depth and moisture availability. These zones form locally denser vegetation corridors within the broader savanna landscape.

Figure 32: Drainage corridor vegetation

Across the site, shrub thickets occur patchily, particularly in transitional areas. Grass cover is generally low to moderate and appears reduced in heavily grazed patches. Bare ground exposure is moderate in some interfluve areas.

Vegetation structure typically includes:

- Tree canopy layer (4–8 m)
- Mid-shrub layer (0.5–2 m)
- Sparse grass and ground layer

No alien invasive species were observed. Woody density appears typical for rocky mopane savanna systems of the Kunene Region.

Overall, the landscape reflects an open mopane-dominated savanna woodland with embedded drainage-line vegetation and moderate structural variability.

6.5.3 Vegetation Units Identified

Based on field observations and photographic interpretation, three primary vegetation units were identified within the project area. These units reflect typical semi-arid mopane savanna systems of the Kunene Region and are structured by topography, soil depth and moisture availability.

6.5.3.1 Unit 1: Drainage Line Woodland

This unit occurs along ephemeral sandy drainage channels and shallow alluvial depressions where soils are relatively deeper and moisture retention is higher than surrounding uplands. Canopy cover is estimated at 25- 40%, with increased shrub density and biomass compared to adjacent rocky slopes.

Dominant species observed include *Vachellia (Acacia) erioloba, Vachellia (Acacia) tortilis, Aerva javanica* and juvenile *Colophospermum mopane.* Drainage systems concentrate runoff, trap sediments and function as faunal movement corridors. They provide relatively higher browse value and habitat complexity.

The ecological sensitivity of this vegetation unit is assessed as Moderate to High, reflecting its moisture dependence, higher structural complexity, and slower recovery potential following disturbance.

These areas are moisture-dependent and recover more slowly from disturbance such as compaction or channel alteration.

6.5.3.2 Unit 2: Mopane-Dominated Rocky Upland Woodland

This unit occupies hills and slopes with shallow soils and moderate to high rock cover (40–70%). Vegetation is dominated by *Colophospermum mopane*, forming an open woodland with relatively even spacing. Associated species includes; *Terminalia prunioides, Vachellia (Acacia) tortilis* and *Senegalia (Acacia) mellifera* (localized).

Grass cover is generally low (5–15%) due to shallow soils and grazing. Vegetation condition appears largely intact, with visible mopane recruitment and no evidence of severe bush thickening or invasive species.

The ecological sensitivity of this vegetation unit is assessed as Moderate, reflecting its regional commonness and relative structural resilience. This vegetation type is regionally widespread and structurally resilient.

6.5.3.3 Unit 3: Transitional Shrub Savanna

This unit occurs on gently sloping interfluves between uplands and drainage systems. Vegetation is shrub-dominated with scattered mopane and juvenile *Vachellia (Acacia)*.

Dominant species include *Aerva javanica,* Juvenile *Vachellia (Acacia)* spp and scattered *Colophospermum mopane.*

The area shows grazing influence but no severe degradation or erosion. The ecological sensitivity of this unit is assessed as Moderate, as it represents a typical and relatively resilient transitional savanna community within the regional landscape.

6.5.4 Floristic Composition and Important Species

Species confirmed from field photographs include *Colophospermum mopane, Vachellia (Acacia) tortilis, Vachellia (Acacia) erioloba, Terminalia prunioides, Aerva javanica, Commiphora* spp. and *Grewia* spp. The site falls within the natural distribution range of mopane woodland systems in north-western Namibia. No Red Data plant species were observed during the field reconnaissance.

Overall floristic diversity is assessed as Moderate, consistent with semi-arid Kunene savanna systems.

6.5.5 Grass Layer and Ground Cover

Grass cover across the site is estimated at approximately 10-25%, varying with slope position and grazing pressure. Bare ground is moderate to high on rocky uplands due to shallow soils and natural rock exposure.

Likely dominant grass genera include *Stipagrostis* sp, *Anthephora* sp. and *Eragrostis* sp, typical of semi-arid savannas. Although grazing influence is evident in places, there is no indication of severe degradation, extensive erosion, or invasive dominance. Ground-layer condition is considered typical for a rocky mopane savanna landscape under communal grazing use.

6.5.6 Conservation Significance

Based on available national datasets, screening-level review, and field observations undertaken during the site visit, the project area:

- does not fall within a formally proclaimed protected area or designated protected forest;
- does not represent a nationally listed threatened vegetation type;
- does not exhibit characteristics associated with high levels of plant endemism; and
- did not show evidence of Red Data plant species during field reconnaissance.

However, drainage-line systems within the site are considered to have elevated local conservation value due to their higher structural complexity, moisture retention capacity, and ecological functionality relative to surrounding upland vegetation.

6.5.7 Overall Biodiversity Sensitivity Summary

Overall, the biodiversity sensitivity of the Omao project area is assessed as Moderate.

This rating reflects:

- Presence of multiple vegetation units;
- Keystone savanna tree species;
- Moderate structural complexity;
- Functionally intact woodland;
- No rare or threatened vegetation types;
- Localised elevated sensitivity within drainage lines.

Table 9: Summary of Biodiversity Sensitivities and Relevance to the Project

Sensitivity	Key Receptors	Basis of Sensitivity	Link to Project Risk Drivers
Drainage line systems	Moisture-dependent trees; fauna corridors	Higher biomass and hydrological function	Clearing; compaction; altered runoff
Keystone tree species (*Vachellia erioloba*, *Colophospermum mopane*)	Structural habitat providers	Slow growth and hydrological importance	Tree removal; access routing
Shallow rocky soils supporting woodland	Soil–vegetation coupling	Slow recovery after disturbance	Track construction; drill pad clearing
Moderate grazing pressure	Grass layer stability	Reduced grass increases erosion risk	Vehicle movement; dust generation
Semi-arid ecological resilience	Vegetation recovery capacity	Rainfall-dependent regeneration	Large-scale clearing; repeated disturbance

With appropriate micro-siting, avoidance of drainage lines, minimisation of vegetation clearing, and progressive rehabilitation, biodiversity impacts are expected to remain localised, low-intensity and reversible.

6.6 Fauna

6.6.1 Regional Faunal Context

The project area lies within the tree and shrub savanna of the Kunene Region. Species richness mapping (Figures 6-21 to 6-26) indicates moderate faunal diversity relative to Namibia's wetter north-east, but higher diversity than the hyper-arid western coastal zone.

Faunal distribution is influenced by rainfall variability, rocky terrain and ephemeral drainage systems. The site forms part of a broader communal rangeland landscape that supports typical savanna fauna but does not fall within a recognised biodiversity hotspot or protected area.

6.6.2 Mammals

The mammal richness map (Figure 33) places the area within a zone supporting approximately 61–90 species. Habitat features such as mopane woodland, shrub savanna and drainage corridors are suitable for common savanna herbivores and carnivores.

Species likely to occur within the project area include; Springbok (*Antidorcas marsupialis*), Oryx (*Oryx gazella*), Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*), and Warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*), as well as Black-backed Jackal (*Canis mesomelas*) and Caracal (*Caracal caracal*). Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) may traverse the broader landscape, consistent with regional distribution records for north-western Namibia. Local reports also confirm sightings of Ostrich, Cheetah and Springbok within and around the project area. However, there are no evidence of breeding sites, dens or restricted-range mammal species was recorded during field reconnaissance.

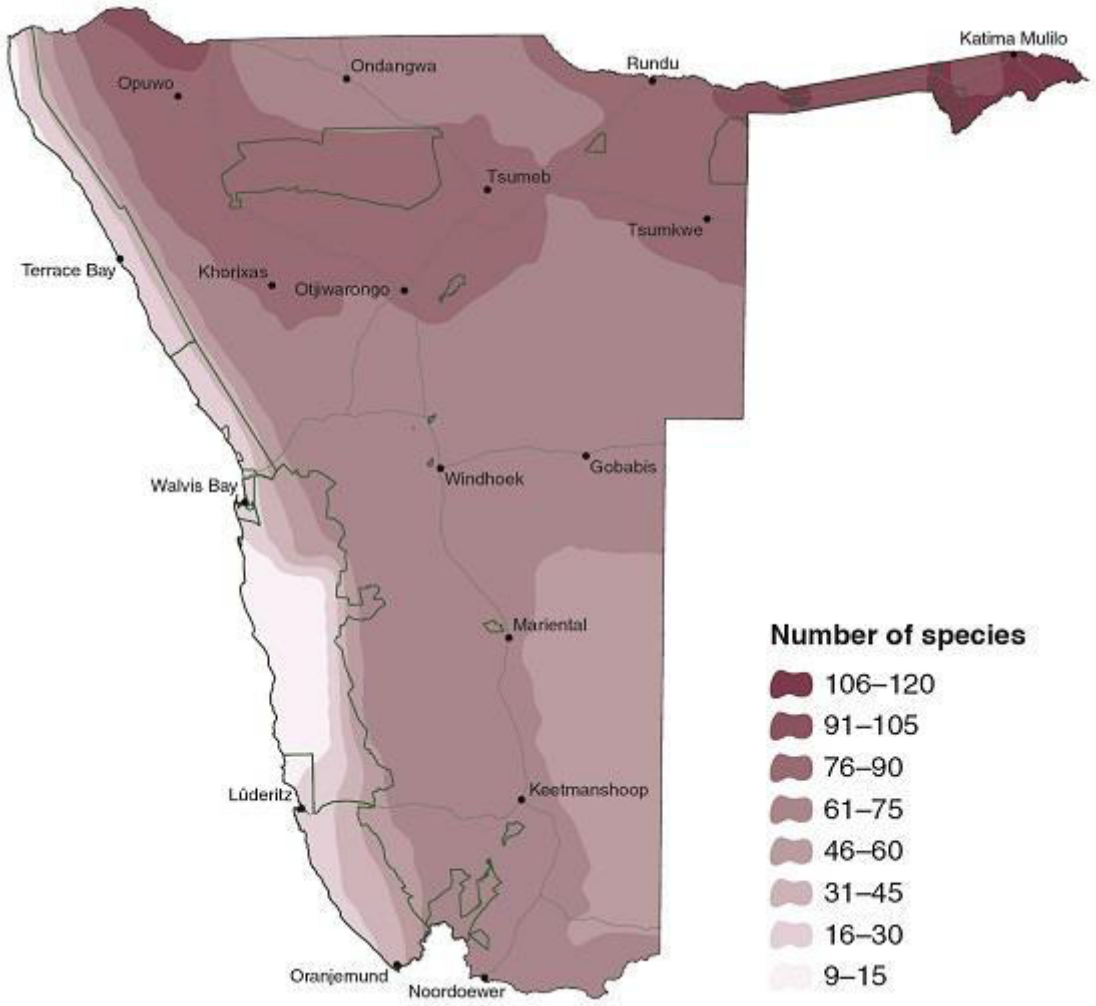

Figure 33: Mammal species richness map

6.6.3 Birds

The bird richness map (Figure 34) indicates approximately 140–170 species regionally. Habitat heterogeneity- particularly woodland and drainage features, supports a range of raptors, woodland birds and ground-dwelling species.

Species likely to occur within in the vicinity of the project area are typical of semi-arid savanna and rural rangeland systems of north-western Namibia. These include Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*), frequently observed in open savanna and grazing areas; ground-dwelling species such as Northern Black Korhaan (*Afrotis afraoides*) and other bustards; *Helmeted guineafowl* (*Numida meleagris*); and Red-billed francolin (*Pternistis adspersus*).

Woodland and shrub-associated species such as Lilac-breasted roller (*Coracias caudatus*), Southern yellow-billed hornbill (*Tockus leucomelas*), Fork-tailed drongo (*Dicrurus adsimilis*), and White-browed sparrow-weaver (*Plocepasser mahali*) are also likely to be present. Raptors

may forage over the site, including Pale chanting goshawk (*Melierax canorus*), Bateleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*), and Lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*), particularly given the open terrain and availability of thermals.

The site does not overlap with an important bird area (IBA). Wide-ranging species such as vultures and eagles may forage over the area, but no nesting colonies or sensitive avifaunal features were identified.

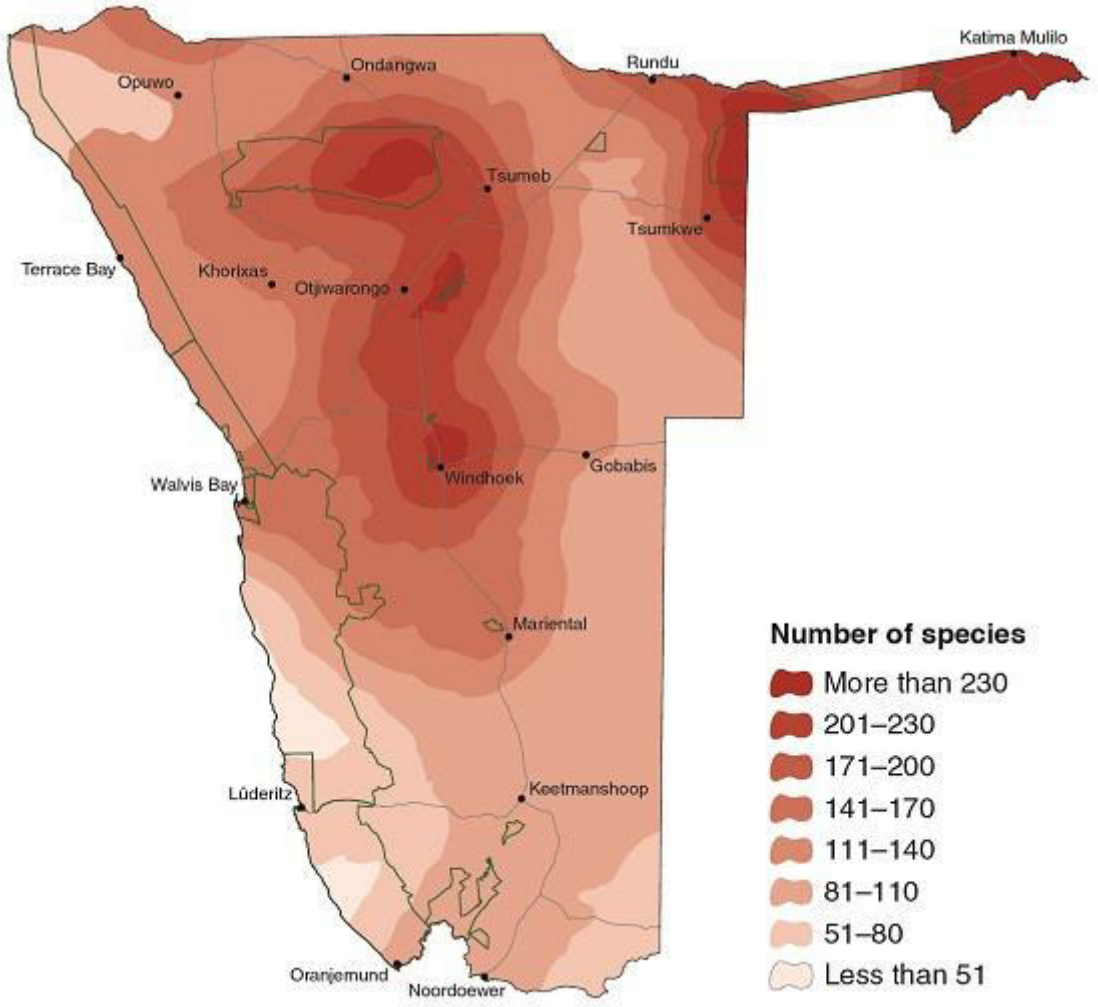

Figure 34: Bird Species Richness Map

6.6.4 Reptiles

The reptile richness map (Figure 35) indicates moderate reptile diversity (approximately 41–70 species) within the broader Kunene Region. The combination of rocky slopes, exposed bedrock, sandy substrates and shrub–savanna habitat in the area provides suitable microhabitats for a range of lizards, snakes and chelonians typical of rural landscapes in Kunene Region.

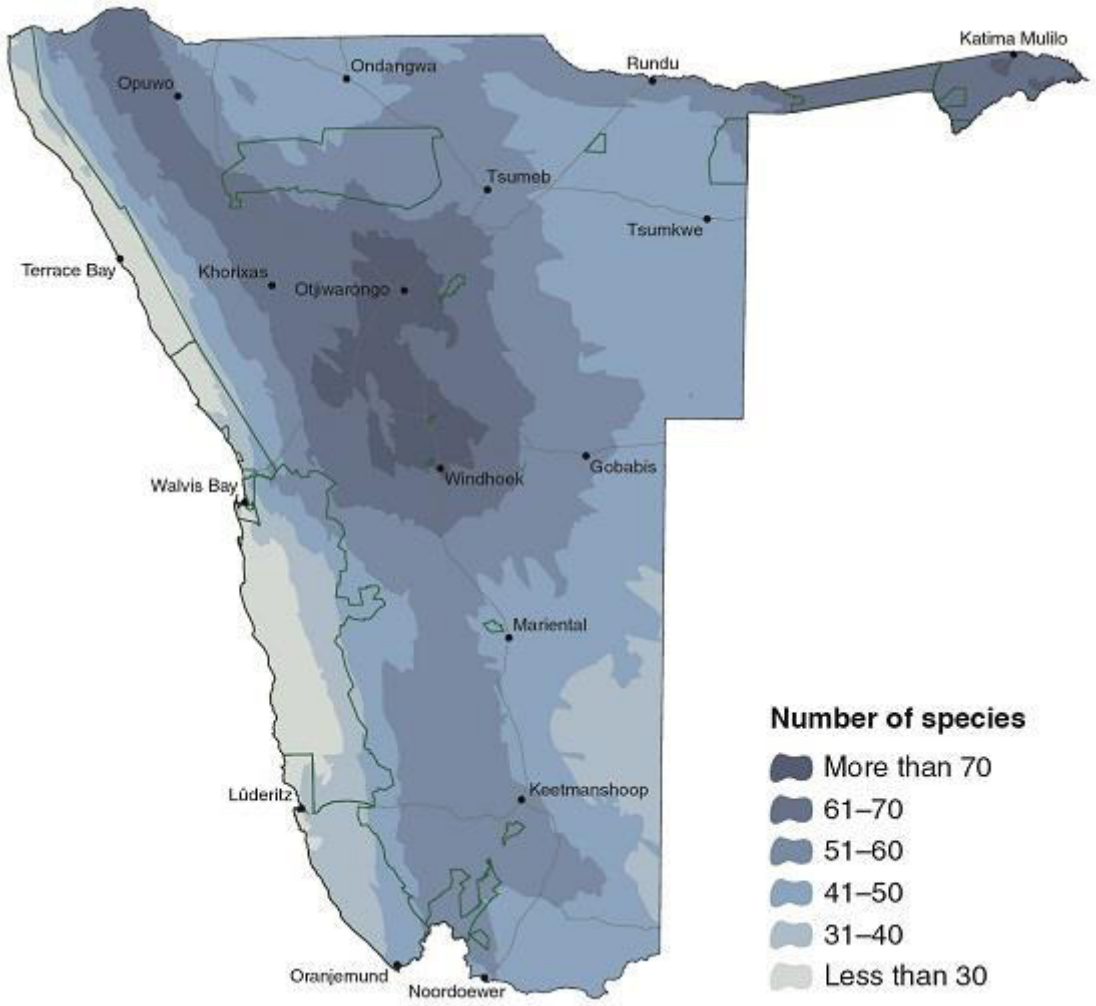

Figure 35: Reptile Species Richness Map

Species likely to occur include Puff adder (*Bitis arietans*), Horned adder (*Bitis caudalis*), Cape cobra (*Naja nivea*), and Mole snake (*Pseudaspis cana*), as well as non-venomous Colubrids such as the Brown-house snake (*Boaedon capensis*). Lizards typical of rocky and semi-arid savanna habitats include Agama lizards (*Agama planiceps*), Ground agamas (*Agama aculeata*), Kalahari-tree skinks (*Trachylepis spilogaster*), and various geckos (e.g., *Pachydactylus* spp.). The Leopard tortoise (*Stigmochelys pardalis*), which is protected but widespread species in Namibia, is also likely to occur in the area, particularly in open savanna and drainage margins.

No endemic or highly range-restricted reptile species were observed during the field reconnaissance, and most of the habitats are typically resembling the of widespread Kunene savanna systems.

Reptile sensitivity is therefore considered **Moderate** and primarily related to surface disturbance, vehicle movement, and habitat alteration rather than the presence of rare taxa.

6.6.5 Amphibians

Amphibian diversity is limited by arid conditions. The regional map (Figure 36) indicates approximately 9–15 species. Occurrence is expected to be seasonal and associated with ephemeral drainage lines following rainfall events.

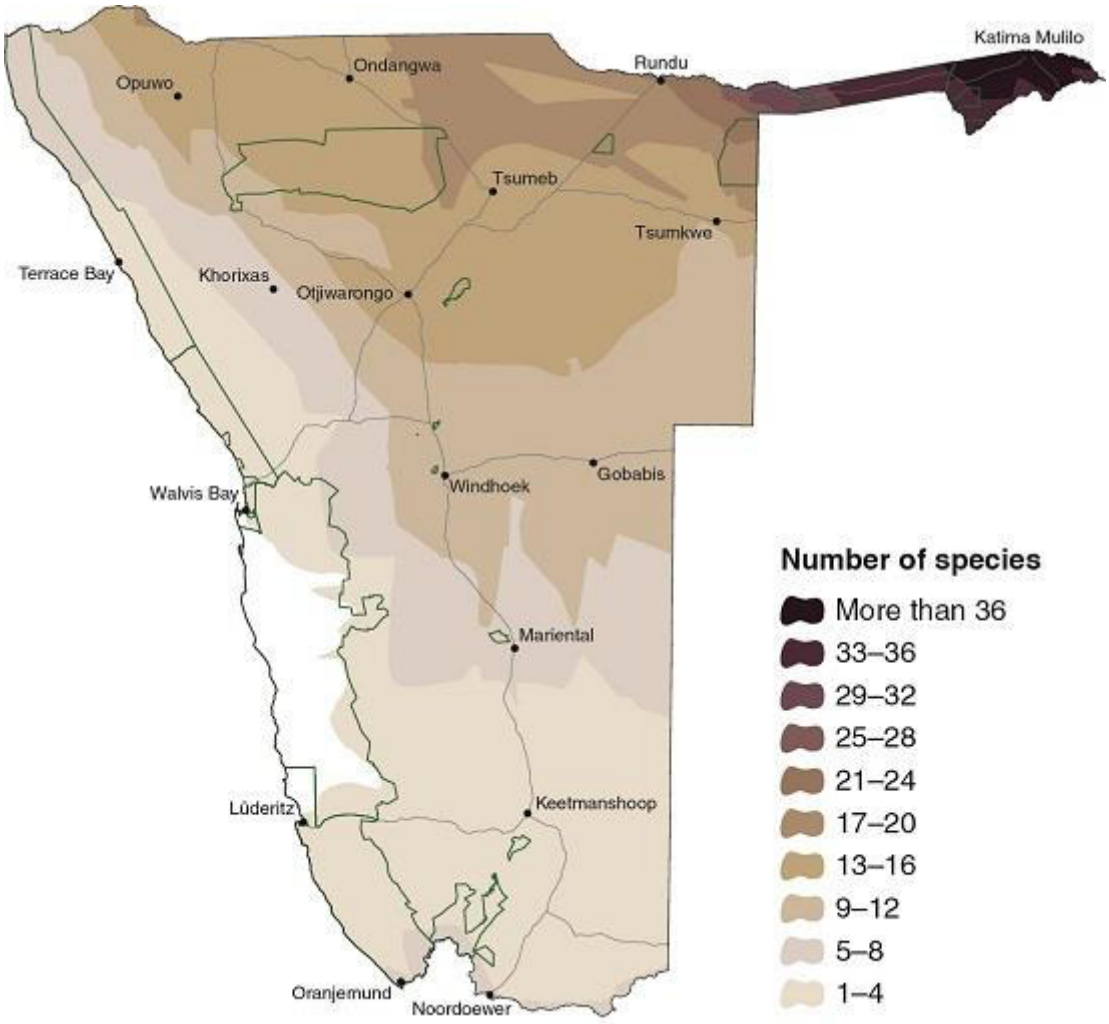

Figure 36: Amphibian Species Richness Map

6.6.6 Freshwater Fish

There are no perennial rivers or permanent water bodies within the project area. As shown in Figure 37, fish diversity in the broader Kunene catchment is associated with perennial systems, which are absent at the site. No freshwater fish populations are expected in the project area.

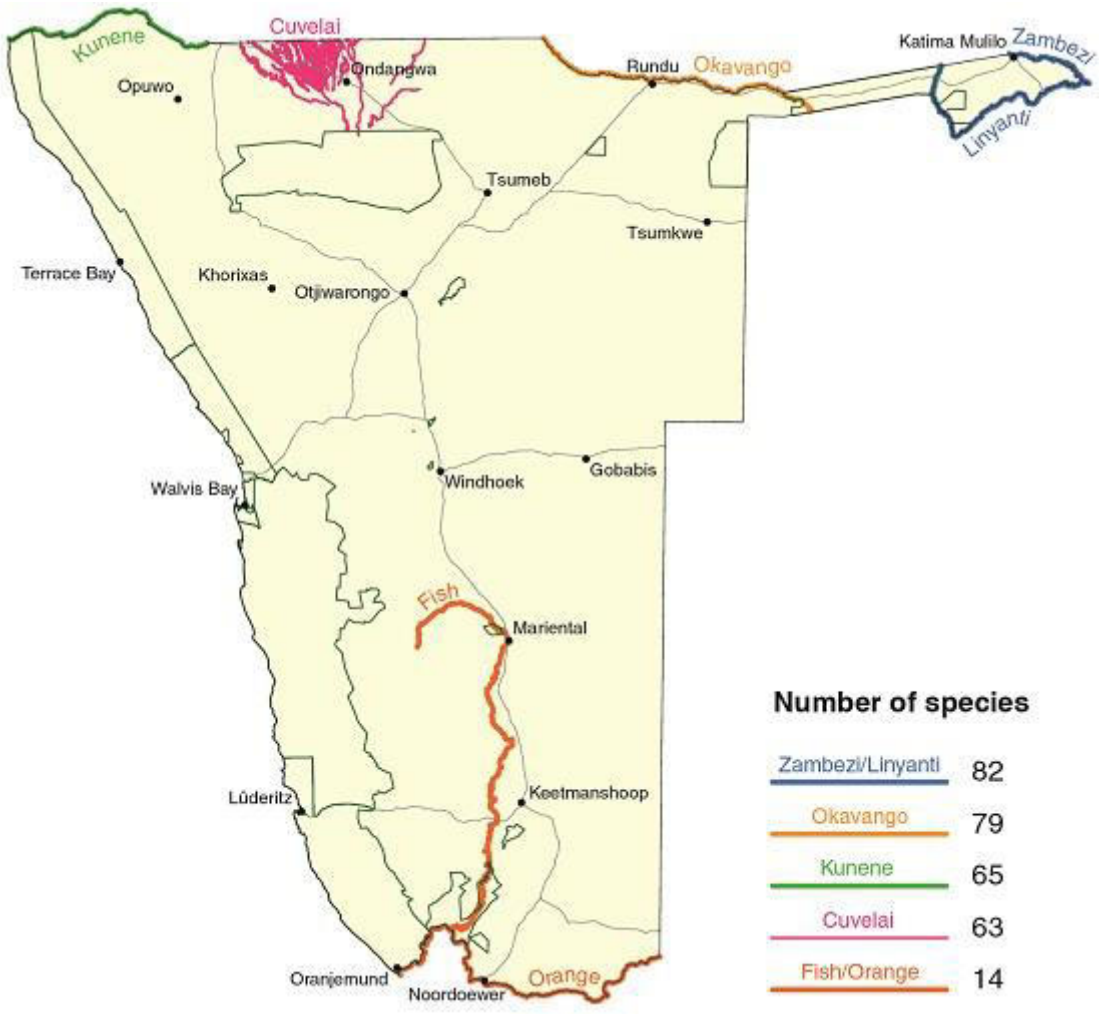

Figure 37: Fish Species Occurrence by Catchment

6.6.7 Invertebrates

The invertebrate richness gradient (Figure 38) indicates moderate invertebrate diversity across the Kunene Region, with diversity decreasing westwards toward the more arid Namib Desert. The project area falls within a transitional zone where moderate species richness is expected.

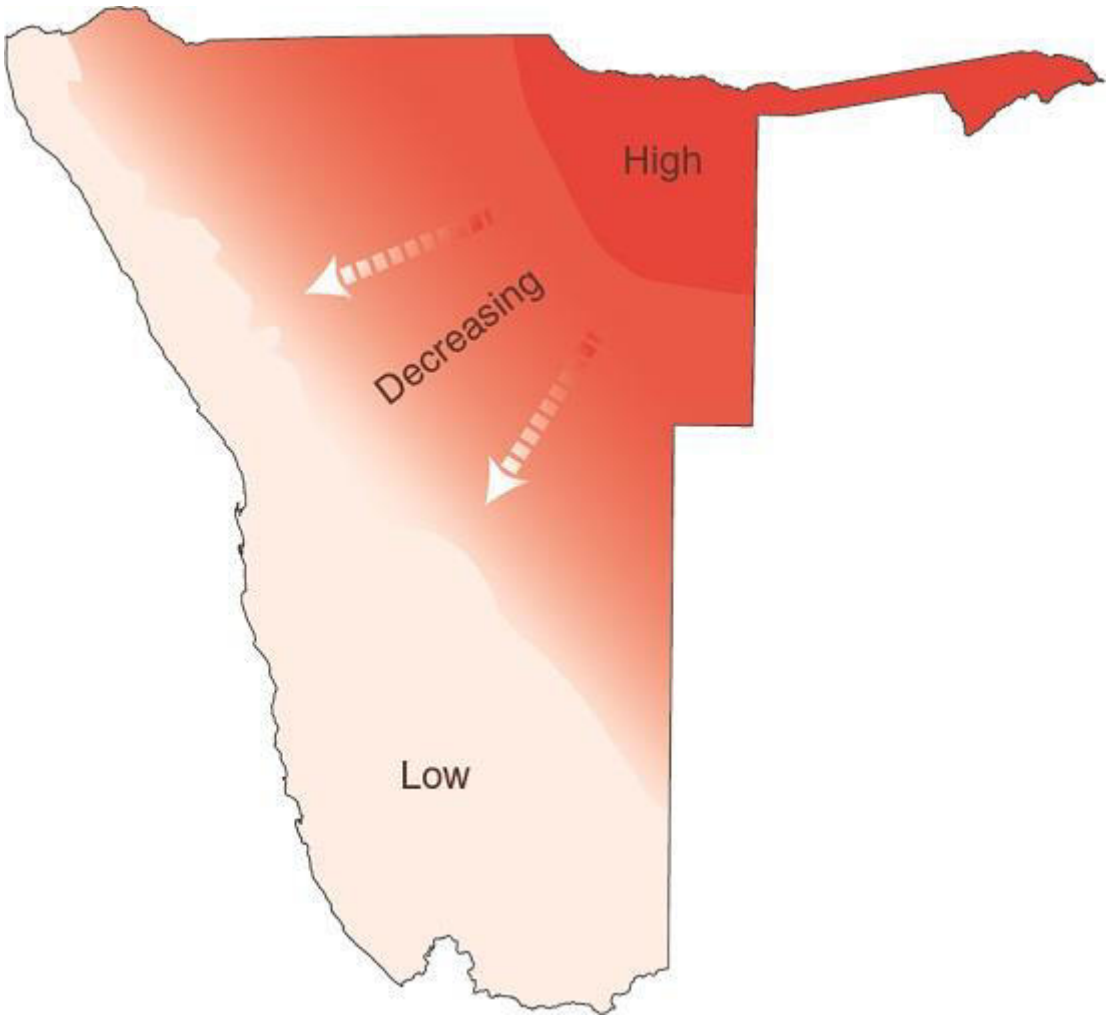

Figure 38: Invertebrate Richness Gradient Map

Figure 39 shows a prominent termite mound within vicinity of the project area. Termite mounds are characteristic landscape features of semi-arid savanna ecosystems and indicate active soil-engineering processes. Termites play a critical ecological role in nutrient cycling, soil aeration, organic matter decomposition and microhabitat creation. Their presence reflects functional ecosystem processes rather than ecological degradation.

The combination of rocky uplands, sandy soils, shrub cover and scattered woodland is expected to support typical savanna invertebrates, including tenebrionid beetles, ants, termites, spiders, solifuges and pollinating insects. Invertebrates contribute significantly to soil formation, decomposition and trophic dynamics. No invertebrate species of conservation concern were identified during the field reconnaissance.

Figure 39: Prominent termite mound

6.6.8 Reported Wildlife Observations

Local reports indicate sightings of ostrich, springbok and cheetah within the wider landscape. These observations are consistent with regional ecological patterns and do not indicate the presence of critical habitat within the project footprint.

6.6.9 Faunal Sensitivity Summary

Overall, the faunal sensitivity in the project area is assessed as Low to Moderate. The faunal sensitivity of the area is influenced primarily by habitat structure, seasonal wildlife movement patterns, and the ecological importance of drainage features. Although the site does not form part of a protected area or formally designated wildlife corridor, it supports a representative assemblage of north-western savanna fauna. Table 10, below summarises the key faunal sensitivities, ecological receptors and their linkage to potential project-related disturbance factors.

Table 10: Faunal Sensitivity Summary

Sensitivity	Key Receptors / Processes	Basis of Sensitivity (Baseline Condition)	Link to Project Risk Drivers
Wildlife movement across communal rangelands	Medium–large mammals (e.g., springbok, kudu, carnivores)	Open savanna landscape supporting seasonal and opportunistic movement	Vehicle traffic; access routing; night-time driving
Drainage-line habitat function	Birds, small mammals, reptiles	Higher structural complexity and moisture availability in drainage zones	Infrastructure placement; vegetation clearing
Reptile vulnerability to disturbance	Ground-dwelling reptiles and tortoises	Use of rocky slopes and sandy substrates for shelter and thermoregulation	Surface disturbance; vehicle movement
Seasonal amphibian emergence	Ephemeral drainage systems	Rainfall-dependent breeding and temporary pools	Altered runoff; compaction in drainage areas
Wide-ranging raptors and scavengers	Vultures and large birds	Foraging across extensive savanna landscapes	Waste management; disturbance; vehicle presence

With appropriate micro-siting of infrastructure, avoidance of drainage lines and wildlife paths, minimisation of vegetation clearing, control of vehicle speeds (particularly at night), and strict waste management, faunal impacts are expected to remain localised, low-intensity and reversible.

6.7 Natural Heritage

A specialist study for the heritage resources of the area and around the project site and this has been attached in Annexure F. The study indicates that there are no heritage resources of

significance within the project area and this was confirmed in the heritage resource assessment report.

7. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

7.1 Overview

Public consultation for the proposed small-scale copper mining project on Mining Claims; 75647, 76489, 76490, 76491 and 76492 at Omao Village, Opuwo rural constituency, Kunene Region, was undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Management Act (EMA), No. 7 of 2007, and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 2012). In particular, Regulation 7(1) and Regulation 21 require that Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) be provided with reasonable opportunity to obtain information, register their interest, and participate in the environmental assessment process. The consultation process was also aligned with international best practice principles for stakeholder engagement, which emphasise transparency, early engagement, inclusivity, and documentation.

The objectives of the consultation process were to:

- Inform stakeholders of the proposed mining activities and the EIA process;
- Provide accessible and understandable project information;
- Obtain local knowledge relevant to environmental and socio-economic conditions;
- Identify potential concerns at an early stage; and
- Ensure meaningful and accountable participation.

The consultation process was structured to ensure that rural community members, traditional leadership structures, and relevant authorities were adequately notified and afforded an opportunity to participate.

7.2 Identification of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)

Interested and Affected Parties were identified through:

- Public advertisements;
- Site notices;
- Distribution of the BID;
- Community-level engagement;
- Traditional leadership structures; and
- Direct engagement with local stakeholders.

Stakeholder categories included:

- Traditional Authorities;
- Local community members of Omao Village;
- Land users and communal farmers;
- Relevant government ministries and regulatory authorities; and
- Any individual or organisation expressing interest in the project.

The registration period remained open in accordance with regulatory requirements. All registered I&APs are recorded in the stakeholder database and will be informed of key stages of the EIA process.

7.3 Public Consultation Methods

Multiple consultation tools were used to ensure broad notification and accessibility within the Omao Village and surrounding areas.

7.3.1 Newspaper Advertisement

A statutory public notice was published in a nationally circulated newspaper announcing:

- The commencement of the EIA process;
- The location and nature of the proposed mining activities at Omao Village;
- Details of the public meeting (date, time and venue);
- The invitation to register as an Interested and Affected Party; and
- The closing date for written comments.

The notice provided a clear comment period and contact information for submission of inputs.

7.3.2 Site Notices

Site notices were erected at visible and accessible locations within the project area, including the town of Opuwo. The purpose of these notices was to ensure local awareness, particularly for community members who may not have access to newspapers or electronic communication platforms.

The notices included project details, EAP contact information, and the date and venue of the public meeting.

7.3.3 Background Information Document (BID)

A Background Information Document (BID) was prepared and distributed to provide an overview of:

- The proposed mining activities and location of the claims;
- The environmental assessment process;
- Applicable legislation;
- Potential environmental and socio-economic considerations; and
- Contact details for the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and procedures for registration as an I&AP.

7.3.4 Public Meeting

A public meeting was convened at the Omao Village community meeting place on 27 January 2026 at 10h00.

The meeting included:

- Introduction of the proponent and EAP team;
- Overview of the proposed mining activities;
- Explanation of the EIA process and legal framework;
- Discussion of potential environmental and socio-economic considerations; and
- An open question-and-answer session.

Figure 40, below show members of the Omao community in attendance at the public meeting, actively participating in discussions and engaging with the project team during the consultation process.

Figure 40: Public Consultation Meeting at Omao Village, Opuwo Rural Constituency, Kunene Region

Attendance registers are included in the Appendices to this report.

7.4 Issues Raised During Consultation

Issues raised during consultation were typical of early-stage mining developments in rural areas and included:

- Employment opportunities and prioritisation of local labour;
- Environmental protection, particularly soil and water resources;
- Waste management and prevention of pollution;
- Health and safety measures during operations; and
- Ongoing communication with the community.

No concerns were raised that would preclude continuation of the project, provided that appropriate mitigation measures are implemented. These matters have been incorporated into the environmental impact assessment and addressed through specific mitigation and management measures in the EMP.

7.4.1 Meeting Outcome and Stakeholder Response

The public meeting was attended by community members and local stakeholders from Omao and surrounding areas. Participants were provided with an opportunity to raise questions and express their views regarding the proposed project.

Community members expressed general support for the proposed development, particularly in relation to anticipated socio-economic benefits such as:

- Employment opportunities;
- Local procurement of goods and services;
- Improved economic activity within the area.

Stakeholders acknowledged and appreciated the opportunity to be informed and engaged at an early stage of project planning. Participants expressed gratitude for the consultation process and the transparency demonstrated by the proponent and the EIA team.

No objections to the continuation of the environmental assessment process were recorded during the meeting. Issues raised were constructive in nature and focused primarily on employment, environmental protection, and communication.

7.4.2 Adequacy of Public Consultation

The public consultation process for the proposed small-scale copper mining project at Omao Village was conducted in compliance with the Environmental Management Act (2007), the EIA Regulations (GN 30 of 2012), and aligned with the stakeholder engagement principles.

Stakeholders were notified through multiple communication channels and were afforded a reasonable opportunity to obtain information, register as I&APs, and provide input. A public meeting was successfully convened within the project area, and community members participated actively and constructively.

The process is therefore considered procedurally adequate, transparent and complete for purposes of regulatory review and decision-making. With continued engagement during subsequent project phases, stakeholder participation is expected to remain constructive and supportive.

8. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The environmental and socio-economic impact assessment for the proposed project activities at Omao Village, was undertaken using a structured and standardised methodology consistent with Namibian regulatory requirements and international EIA good practice.

The methodology is designed to:

- Systematically identify potential impacts;
- Evaluate their magnitude and likelihood;
- Consider the sensitivity of affected receptors;
- Determine overall significance; and
- Inform appropriate mitigation and management measures.

The assessment applies uniformly across all environmental and socio-economic components assessed in this report, including climate, biodiversity, water resources, soils, and community receptors.

8.1 Criteria for Determining Impact Significance

The significance of each identified impact is determined using the criteria set out in Table 11 below.

Table 11: Impact Significance Assessment Criteria

Criterion	Definition	Categories
Nature of Impact	Describes whether the impact is beneficial or adverse.	• **Positive** – Provides environmental, social or economic benefit. • **Neutral** – No measurable effect. • **Negative** – Results in adverse environmental or socio-economic change.
Extent	Spatial scale over which the impact will occur.	• **Site-specific** – Confined to the project footprint. • **Local** – Within approximately 1–5 km of the site. • **Regional** – Extending beyond 5 km.
Duration	Time period over which the impact is expected to occur.	• **Temporary** – Less than 1 year. • **Short-term** – 1–5 years. • **Medium-term** – 5–15 years. • **Long-term** – Duration of the project life.

Criterion	Definition	Categories
		• **Permanent** – Irreversible beyond project life.
Intensity (Magnitude)	Degree to which natural or social systems are altered.	• **Very Low** – Minimal alteration; system remains functionally intact. • **Low** – Slight, reversible alteration. • **Medium** – Notable alteration requiring mitigation. • **High** – Severe alteration; potential loss of function.
Probability of Occurrence	Likelihood of the impact occurring.	• **Improbable** – Unlikely to occur. • **Possible** – Could occur under certain conditions. • **Probable** – Likely to occur. • **Definite** – Expected to occur.
Receptor Sensitivity	Degree to which the affected environment or community is vulnerable to change.	• **Low** – Resilient or adaptable system. • **Moderate** – Some vulnerability. • **High** – Sensitive or difficult to recover.
Degree of Confidence	Level of certainty in the prediction based on data and professional judgement.	• **Low** – Limited information available. • **Moderate** – Reasonable baseline data available. • **High** – Strong data and specialist input available.

8.2 Determination of Significance

Impact significance is determined through a qualitative integration of:

- **Extent**
- **Duration**
- **Intensity**
- **Probability**
- **Receptor Sensitivity**

These factors collectively determine whether an impact is assessed as shown in the table below.

Table 12: Significance Rating

Significance Rating	Description
Neutral	No measurable impact identified.
Very Low	Minor, site-specific and temporary; no mitigation required beyond standard good practice.
Low	Minor impact; manageable through routine mitigation measures.
Medium	Noticeable impact at local scale; requires specific mitigation and monitoring measures.
High	Significant impact at regional scale or long-term duration; may require major mitigation, redesign, or reconsideration of activity.

The significance rating is assigned both before mitigation (inherent impact); and after mitigation (residual impact). This allows evaluation of the effectiveness of proposed management measures.

8.3 Application to the small-scale copper project at Omao Village

Given the scale and nature of the proposed copper mining activities at Omao:

- Impacts are expected to be largely site-specific and temporary.
- Sensitive receptors include:
    - Groundwater resources and drainage-line ecosystems,
    - Communal grazing land,
    - Wildlife movement areas.

The methodology ensures that impacts are evaluated proportionately, without overstating risk, while remaining precautionary in line with regulatory expectations.

8.4 Biophysical Impact Assessment

The biophysical impact assessment evaluates potential effects of the proposed small-scale copper extraction activities on soils, biodiversity, water resources, air quality, noise and visual character, identified in the baseline as key environmental receptors within the Omao area.

As no onsite processing, tailings storage or permanent infrastructure is proposed, impacts are primarily associated with vegetation clearing, blasting, excavation, vehicle movement and temporary site establishment. Tables 13 below present inherent (pre-mitigation) and residual (post-mitigation) significance ratings for each impact category, including the No-Go alternative.

Table 13: Impact Assessment – Biophysical Impacts

Impact Description	Project Alternative	Mitigation Scenario	Nature	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Receptor Sensitivity	Signifi-cance	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative Impact
Loss of vegetation and habitat -clearing, blasting, access tracks)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Medium	High	Reversible	Low–Medium
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Low	Probable	Moderate	Low	High	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Site-specific	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Noise impacts (blasting, drilling, vehicle movement)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Local	Temporary	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Medium	High	Reversible	Low
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation	Negative	Local	Temporary	Low	Probable	Moderate	Low	High	Reversible	Very Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Site-specific	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Dust generation (blasting,	Base and rare metals	No mitigation	Negative	Local	Short-term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Medium	High	Reversible	Medium

Impact Description	Project Alternative	Mitigation Scenario	Nature	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Receptor Sensitivity	Signifi-cance	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative Impact
hauling, exposed soils)	(copper-ore) extraction											
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation	Negative	Local	Short-term	Low	Probable	Moderate	Low	High	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Site-specific	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Surface and groundwater contamination risk (fuel, drilling fluids)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Medium	Possible	High (ground-water dependent setting)	Medium	Moderate–High	Reversible (if early intervention)	Medium
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Low	Possible	High	Low	Moderate–High	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Site-specific	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	High	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Erosion and sediment mobilisation (disturbed slopes, drainage crossings)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Local	Short-term	Medium	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Moderate	Reversible	Medium
	Base and rare metals	With mitigation	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Low	Possible	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Reversible	Low

Impact Description	Project Alternative	Mitigation Scenario	Nature	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Receptor Sensitivity	Signifi-cance	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative Impact
	(copper-ore) extraction											
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Site-specific	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Visual and sense-of-place impacts (temporary disturbance, equipment)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Local	Short-term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Medium	High	Reversible	Low
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation	Negative	Local	Short-term	Low	Probable	Moderate	Low	High	Reversible	Very Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Site-specific	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Archaeological / heritage disturbance (unknown subsurface features)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Site-specific	Permanent (if disturbed)	Low	Possible	Moderate	Low–Medium	Moderate	Irreversible	Low
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (chance-find procedure)	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Very Low	Possible	Moderate	Very Low	Moderate	Avoidable	Very Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Site-specific	Permanent	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Not applicable	Neutral

8.5 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

The socio-economic assessment considers potential effects on local communities, communal land users and regional infrastructure. Key receptors include employment, traffic safety, community health and safety, service infrastructure and local economic participation.

Located within a rural communal landscape dependent on grazing and access routes, the project may generate employment benefits but could also pose risks related to traffic, dust, safety and waste management if not properly controlled. Tables 14 below assess inherent and residual significance in line with the methodology outlined in Section 8.1.

Table 14: Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

Impact Description	Project Alternative	Mitigation Scenario	Nature	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Receptor Sensitivity	Signifi-cance	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative Impact
Employment and local economic stimulation	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation (no local hiring strategy)	Positive	Local	Short-term	Low–Medium	Probable	Moderate	Low–Medium (Positive)	Moderate	Reversible	Low–Medium (+ve)
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (local employment preference, local procurement)	Positive	Local	Short-term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Medium (Positive)	Moderate–High	Reversible	Medium (+ve)
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Local	Short-term	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Not applicable	Neutral

Impact Description	Project Alternative	Mitigation Scenario	Nature	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Receptor Sensitivity	Signifi-cance	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative Impact
Traffic increase (haul trucks, light vehicles)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Local	Short-term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Medium	High	Reversible	Medium
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (speed control, scheduling, signage)	Negative	Local	Short-term	Low	Probable	Moderate	Low	High	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Local	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Community health and safety (dust, noise, blasting vibrations)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Local	Short-term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Medium	Moderate–High	Reversible	Medium
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (dust suppression, blast notification, PPE, buffer distances)	Negative	Site-specific–Local	Short-term	Low	Probable	Moderate	Low	Moderate–High	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Local	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
	Base and rare metals	No mitigation	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Medium	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Moderate	Reversible	Low–Medium

Impact Description	Project Alternative	Mitigation Scenario	Nature	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Receptor Sensitivity	Signifi-cance	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative Impact
Disruption of grazing and access routes	(copper-ore) extraction											
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (micro-siting, maintaining access corridors)	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Low	Possible	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Site-specific	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Pressure on existing services (water, waste, emergency response)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Local	Short-term	Medium	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Moderate	Reversible	Low–Medium
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (self-contained water supply, waste management plan)	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Low	Possible	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Local	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Waste management	Base and rare metals	No mitigation	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Medium	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Moderate	Reversible	Medium

Impact Description	Project Alternative	Mitigation Scenario	Nature	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Receptor Sensitivity	Signifi-cance	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative Impact
risks (solid waste, hazardous materials)	(copper-ore) extraction											
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (segregation, licensed disposal, bunded storage)	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Low	Possible	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Site-specific	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Community–worker interaction risks (social tension, expectations)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Local	Short-term	Low–Medium	Possible	Moderate	Low–Medium	Moderate	Reversible	Low
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (clear communication, grievance mechanism)	Negative	Local	Short-term	Low	Possible	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Local	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Health, Safety and Security (site and	Base and rare metals	No mitigation	Negative	Site-specific–Local	Short-term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Medium	Moderate–High	Reversible	Medium

Impact Description	Project Alternative	Mitigation Scenario	Nature	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Receptor Sensitivity	Signifi-cance	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative Impact
community exposure)	(copper-ore) extraction											
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation -OHS plan, blast protocol, emergency preparedness	Negative	Site-specific–Local	Short-term	Low	Probable	Moderate	Low	Moderate–High	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Local	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Impact Description	Project Alternative	Mitigation Scenario	Nature	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Receptor Sensitivity	Significanc e	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative Impact
Employment and local economic stimulation	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation (no local hiring strategy)	Positive	Local	Short-term	Low–Medium	Probable	Moderate	Low–Medium (Positive)	Moderate	Reversible	Low–Medium (+ve)
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (local employment preference, local procurement)	Positive	Local	Short-term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Medium (Positive)	Moderate–High	Reversible	Medium (+ve)
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Local	Short-term	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Not applicable	Neutral

Impact Description	Project Alternative	Mitigation Scenario	Nature	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Receptor Sensitivity	Signifi-cance	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative Impact
Traffic increase (haul trucks, light vehicles)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Local	Short-term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Medium	High	Reversible	Medium
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (speed control, scheduling, signage)	Negative	Local	Short-term	Low	Probable	Moderate	Low	High	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Local	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Community health and safety (dust, noise, blasting vibrations)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Local	Short-term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Medium	Moderate–High	Reversible	Medium
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (dust suppression, blast notification, PPE, buffer distances)	Negative	Site-specific–Local	Short-term	Low	Probable	Moderate	Low	Moderate–High	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Local	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral

Impact Description	Project Alternative	Mitigation Scenario	Nature	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Receptor Sensitivity	Signifi-cance	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative Impact
Disruption of grazing and access routes	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Medium	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Moderate	Reversible	Low–Medium
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (micro-siting, maintaining access corridors)	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Low	Possible	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Site-specific	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Pressure on existing services (water, waste, emergency response)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Local	Short-term	Medium	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Moderate	Reversible	Low–Medium
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (self-contained water supply, waste management plan)	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Low	Possible	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Reversible	Low

Impact Description	Project Alternative	Mitigation Scenario	Nature	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Receptor Sensitivity	Signifi-cance	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative Impact
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Local	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Waste management risks (solid waste, hazardous materials)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Medium	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Moderate	Reversible	Medium
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (segregation, licensed disposal, bunded storage)	Negative	Site-specific	Short-term	Low	Possible	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Site-specific	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Community–worker interaction risks (social tension, expectations)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Local	Short-term	Low–Medium	Possible	Moderate	Low–Medium	Moderate	Reversible	Low

Impact Description	Project Alternative	Mitigation Scenario	Nature	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Receptor Sensitivity	Signifi-cance	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative Impact
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation (clear communicatio n, grievance mechanism)	Negative	Local	Short-term	Low	Possible	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Local	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral
Health, Safety and Security (site and community exposure)	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	No mitigation	Negative	Site-specific–Local	Short-term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Medium	Moderate–High	Reversible	Medium
	Base and rare metals (copper-ore) extraction	With mitigation -OHS plan, blast protocol, emergency preparedness	Negative	Site-specific–Local	Short-term	Low	Probable	Moderate	Low	Moderate–High	Reversible	Low
	No-Go	Not applicable	Neutral	Local	Temporary	Very Low	Improbable	Moderate	Neutral	High	Reversible	Neutral

8.5 Cumulative Impact Assessment

Cumulative impacts refer to the combined effect of the proposed small-scale copper extraction project, when considered together with existing land uses and reasonably foreseeable activities within the broader Omao Village and surrounding areas landscape.

The project area is characterised by:

- Communal grazing and livestock farming;
- Rural access roads used by community members;
- Natural climatic stressors (drought, episodic rainfall);
- Wildlife movement across open savanna systems.

No large-scale industrial or mining operations are currently present within the immediate vicinity of the site. The proposed activity is spatially limited and temporary, including minimal onsite processing using a mobile crusher, storage facilities, permanent infrastructure or long-term abstraction of water resources.

Cumulative effects were assessed by considering whether individual impacts (e.g., vegetation clearing, groundwater use, traffic, noise) could interact over time or combine with existing pressures (e.g., grazing, seasonal drought) to elevate overall risk beyond that identified in the individual impact tables.

The assessment indicates that cumulative impacts are unlikely to exceed Low significance, provided mitigation measures are implemented as described in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Table 15: Summary of Cumulative Impact Assessment

Receptor / Component	Existing Baseline Pressure	Potential Project Interaction	Overall Cumulative Significance	Confidence
Soils & Erosion	Moderate grazing pressure; episodic rainfall	Localised disturbance from excavation and vehicle movement	Low	High
Groundwater	High dependence in arid environment	Short-term abstraction and contamination risk	Low	Moderate–High

Receptor / Component	Existing Baseline Pressure	Potential Project Interaction	Overall Cumulative Significance	Confidence
Biodiversity	Seasonal variability; wildlife movement	Temporary habitat disturbance and noise	Low	High
Air Quality	Naturally dusty semi-arid conditions	Short-term dust from blasting and traffic	Low	High
Traffic & Safety	Shared rural access roads	Temporary increase in heavy vehicle movement	Low	High
Socio-economic Context	Limited local employment opportunities	Temporary job creation and procurement benefits	Positive (Low–Moderate benefit)	Moderate–High

The proposed small-scale copper ore extraction activities at Omao village are not expected to result in significant cumulative environmental effects at a local or regional scale. Impacts are anticipated to be site-specific, temporary and reversible, and no cumulative "tipping point" scenarios were identified.

With effective implementation of mitigation measures, overall cumulative significance remains Low.

8.6 Summary of Significance

This section consolidates the residual (post-mitigation) impacts identified in Sections 8.4 and 8.5, based on the structured methodology outlined in Section 8.2.

Prior to mitigation, several impacts—particularly those relating to biodiversity disturbance, soil erosion, groundwater protection, noise, dust and traffic—are assessed as **Medium to High** in significance, reflecting the site-specific nature of the proposed activities and the moderate sensitivity of certain receptors (e.g., drainage lines and fractured-rock aquifers).

With implementation of the mitigation measures contained in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) contained in Annexure F, the majority of impacts are reduced to **Low residual significance**.

Key findings are summarised below:

- *Biophysical Impacts* - Residual impacts on soils, biodiversity, surface and groundwater, air quality, and visual character are assessed as **Low**, provided that mitigation measures such as controlled blasting, micro-siting of infrastructure, avoidance of drainage lines, dust suppression, and proper hazardous substance management are implemented. No irreversible or regionally significant biophysical impacts are anticipated.
- *Socio-Economic Impacts* - Potential adverse impacts related to traffic, health and safety, waste management, and community disturbance are reduced to **Low residual significance** with implementation of traffic management, occupational health and safety controls, waste management protocols, and ongoing stakeholder communication. Positive socio-economic impacts associated with employment and local economic participation are expected to be **Low to Medium positive**, depending on the scale of engagement.
- *Heritage Resources* **-** No known heritage resources were identified within the project footprint. With implementation of a chance-find procedure, residual impact significance is assessed as **Low**.
- *Cumulative Impacts* **-** Given the absence of extensive facilities, large scale tailings storage, or permanent infrastructure, cumulative impacts are considered **Low**, limited primarily to incremental traffic and short-term habitat disturbance within the broader landscape context.

Importantly, **no high residual impacts were identified**, and no impacts were assessed as permanent or regionally significant after mitigation.

Overall, the impact assessment demonstrates that the proposed copper ore extraction activities at Omao village is associated with predominantly site-specific, temporary and manageable impacts. With adherence to the recommended mitigation and monitoring measures outlined in the EMP, the residual environmental and socio-economic risks are considered acceptable within the regulatory and ecological context of the project area.

8.7 Final Overall Impact Statement

Based on the findings of the environmental and socio-economic assessment presented in Chapter 8, the proposed extraction and off-site transportation activities at Omao village are associated predominantly with **site-specific, short-term and manageable impacts**.

The assessment confirms that:

- No processing, tailings storage or permanent infrastructure is proposed on site.
- Impacts are largely confined to the project footprint and immediate surroundings.
- Sensitive receptors include groundwater resources, drainage-line ecosystems, communal grazing land and wildlife movement areas.
- No impacts of High residual significance have been identified.

Prior to mitigation, certain impacts particularly those relating to biodiversity disturbance, soil erosion, groundwater protection, dust generation, noise and traffic may reach Low to Medium significance. However, with implementation of the mitigation and management measures outlined in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), all identified impacts are reduced to **Low residual significance**.

The project area does not fall within a formally proclaimed protected area, does not represent threatened species, and does not contain identified Red Data plant species or critical habitats. Faunal communities are representative of the broader north-western savanna systems and are not considered uniquely sensitive at a regional scale. Cumulative impacts are assessed as Low, given the limited footprint, absence of sophisticated mineral facilities, and temporary nature of operations.

On this basis, and subject to strict implementation of the EMP and compliance with applicable legislation, the proposed copper ore mining activities at Omao Village are considered **environmentally acceptable**, with impacts that are localised, reversible and capable of effective management within the regulatory framework governing mineral extraction activities in Namibia.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This Environmental and Social Impact Assessment has evaluated the proposed mining activities at Omao village, Opuwo rural constituency, Kunene Region. The proposed works constitute a small – scale extraction of base and rare mineral group (copper ore) and associated commodities. The operation further includes an onsite processing with a small scale storage. The extracted copper ore once processed will be transported to Walvis Bay port for export purposes.

The receiving environment is rural and semi-arid, with moderate sensitivity relating to groundwater reliance, drainage-line systems, communal grazing land and wildlife movement. No protected areas, nationally threatened vegetation types or critical habitats were identified within the project footprint.

Potential impacts relate primarily to vegetation clearing, soil disturbance, dust and noise from blasting and hauling, groundwater protection, erosion risk and traffic safety. The impact assessment determined that anticipated impacts are largely site-specific, short-term and reversible. No impacts of High significance were identified.

With full implementation of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) - including groundwater protection, drainage avoidance, erosion control, dust suppression, hazardous substance management, traffic controls and progressive rehabilitation - residual impacts are expected to be Low in significance.

Public consultation indicated general community supporting the establishment of the proposed small-scale copper ore mining project in the area, particularly in relation to potential economic benefits, subject to environmental safeguards.

On this basis, the proposed mining activities at Omao village are considered environmentally and socially acceptable in principle, subject to issuance of an Environmental Clearance Certificate and strict implementation of the EMP.

10. REFERENCE

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ANNEXURES

Annexure A: Proof of Newspaper Advert

19 December 2025 - 09 January 2026 CONFIDENTE | Lighting the Land Page: | 15

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NOTICE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Environclim Consulting Services cc hereby gives notice to all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application will be made to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012) for the following:

PROJECT NAMES:

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Construction and Operation of a New Fuel Facility at the Omuramba Mulonga Police Station in Katima Mulilo, Zambezi Region.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project will be located at Omuramba Mulonga Police Station, Katima Mulilo, Zambezi Region

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The project involves conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Construction and Operation of a New Fuel Facility at the Omuramba Mulonga Police Station in Katima Mulilo, Zambezi Region.

PROJECT INVOLVEMENT:

Proponent: Namibian Police (Nampol)

Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP): Environclim Consulting Services cc

REGISTRATION OF I&APs AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS: In line with Namibia's Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and EIA regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012), all I&APs are hereby invited to register and submit their comments, concerns or questions in writing via: Email: environclim@gmail.com on or before Monday, 2nd February 2026.

A public participation meeting will be held as follows:
Place: Katima Mulilo Sam Nujoma Drive, Katima Mulilo
Date: 27 January 2026
Time: 10h00
Contact: +264 815955643
Email: environclim@gmail.com

OCTOPUS

EnvironClim Consulting Services

NOTICE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Environclim Consulting Services cc hereby gives notice to all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application will be made to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012) for the following:

PROJECT NAMES:

(a) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the establishment of mining activities on Mining Claims no; (75627, 75489, 75490, 75491, 75492), Omao Village, Opuwo District, Kunene Region

(b) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the establishment of mining activities on Mining Claims no; (59948, 59949, 59950, 59951 , Otuani Village, Opuwo District, Kunene Region.

PROJECT LOCATION: The mining claims are situated approximately 80 km west of Opuwo, at Omao & Otuani Villages, respectively, in the Kunene Region.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The project involves conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the establishment of mining activities for base and rare metals, as well as industrial minerals, at the above mining claims.

PROJECT INVOLVEMENT:

Proponent (a) Omao River Investments (Pty) Ltd
(b) Ivangaruani Vivara

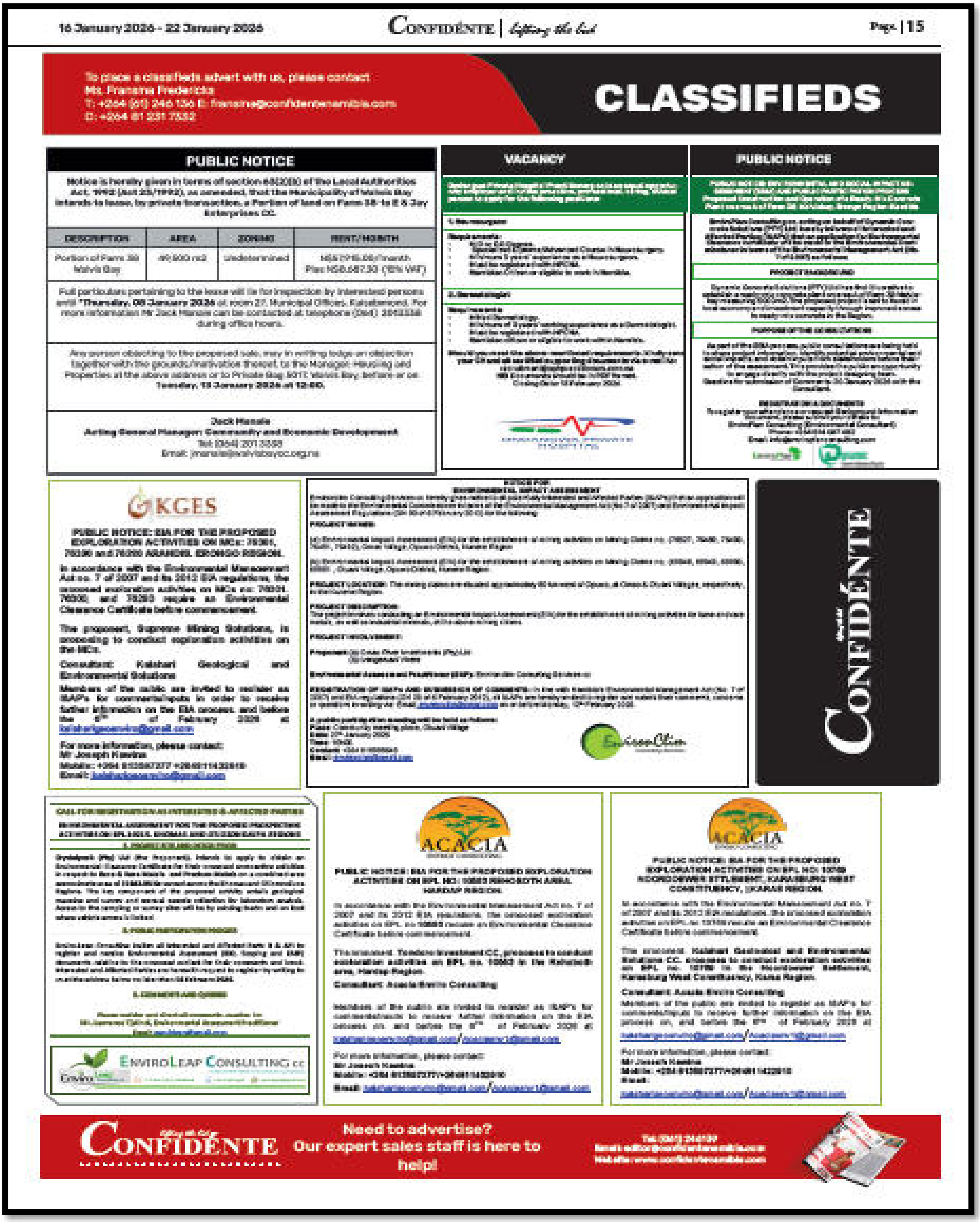
Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP): Environclim Consulting Services cc

REGISTRATION OF I&APs AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS: In line with Namibia's Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and EIA regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012), all I&APs are hereby invited to register and submit their comments, concerns or questions in writing via: Email: environclim@gmail.com on or before Monday, 12th February 2026.

A public participation meeting will be held as follows:
Place: Community meeting place, Otuani Village
Date: 27th January 2026
Time: 10h00
Contact: +264 815955643
Email: environclim@gmail.com

EnvironClim Consulting Services

CONFIDENTE



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 63(2)(b) of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act 23/1992), as amended, that the Municipality of Walvis Bay intends to lease, by private transaction, a Portion of land on Farm 38 to E & Jay Enterprises CC.

DESCRIPTION	AREA	ZONING	RENT/MONTH
Portion of Farm 38 Walvis Bay	49,900 m2	Undetermined	N$5,... /month Plus N$8,687.30 (15% VAT)

Full particulars pertaining to the lease will lie for inspection by interested persons until Thursday, 08 January 2026 at room 27, Municipal Offices, Kuisebmond. For more information Mr Jack Manale can be contacted at telephone (064) 2013338 during office hours.

Any person objecting to the proposed sale, may in writing lodge an objection together with the grounds/motivation thereof, to the Manager: Housing and Properties at the above address or to Private Bag 5017, Walvis Bay, before or on **Tuesday, 13 January 2026 at 12:00.**

Jack Manale
Acting General Manager: Community and Economic Development

VACANCY

PUBLIC NOTICE

KGES

PUBLIC NOTICE: EIA FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON MCs: 79301, 79306 and 79393 ARANDIS, ERONGO REGION.

In accordance with the Environmental Management Act no. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA regulations, the proposed exploration activities on MCs no: 79301, 79306, and 79393 require an Environmental Clearance Certificate before commencement.

The proponent, Supreme Mining Solutions, is proceeding to conduct exploration activities on the MCs.

Consultant: Kalahari Geological and Environmental Solutions

Members of the public are invited to register as I&APs for comments/inputs in order to receive further information on the EIA process, and before the 5th of February 2026 at

For more information, please contact:
Mr Joseph Kawina

NOTICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

CONFIDÉNTE

CALL FOR REGISTRATION AS INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES

EnviroLeap Consulting cc

ACACIA

PUBLIC NOTICE : EIA FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL NO: 10083 REHOBOTH AREA, HARDAP REGION.

Consultant: Acacia Enviro Consulting

For more information, please contact:
Mr Joseph Kawina

ACACIA

PUBLIC NOTICE: EIA FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL NO: 10759 NOORDOEWER SETTLEMENT, KARASBURG WEST CONSTITUENCY, //KARAS REGION.

Consultant: Acacia Enviro Consulting

For more information, please contact:
Mr Joseph Kawina

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PROPERTY

From sale to transfer: How buyers and sellers can avoid costly delays

In complex and lengthy transactions like property sales, delays of any sort are not only frustrating, they can also be extremely costly and may even scupper the deal entirely, however, while some delays cannot be anticipated, it is possible to exponentially reduce the risk.

This is according to Cobus Odendaal, CEO of Lew Geffen Sotheby's International Realty in Johannesburg and Randburg, who says: "Essentially there are two primary types of delay, the first relating to the confirmation of the sale and delays that occur once the sale has been confirmed and, in many instances, both can be avoided by doing one's homework and having all one's ducks in a row from the onset.

"Property transactions are known to be a protracted process with multiple steps and reams of documentation, and once the potential minefield of suspensive conditions and contractual obligations has been successfully navigated and the deal is finally done and signed on the dotted line, many people breathe a sigh of relief.

"However, the deal isn't done until the transfer has actually happened and the anticipated downhill cruise to transfer can still become an uphill battle if one isn't careful."

Odendaal explains how this can happen: "One of the main reasons for delayed transfers is that the timeline is out of sync, especially when two or more deals are linked and money from one sale is needed to purchase the next property and soon.

"It's also important that buyers budget for the transfer costs of the new property they are buying or have an access bond in place on their current home, otherwise when the attorney calls for bond cancellation that bond account will be frozen and they will not be able to access the funds."

He adds that not giving the required 90 days' notice of cancellation of the existing bond can also cause delays as well as avoidable late cancellation fees.

"If a home owner is seriously thinking about selling, they should give notice to the bank holding the bond. In doing so, they are not committing to selling, merely notifying the bank of the possibility and they can keep on renewing the cancellation if their decision to sell is postponed or they can revoke the notification if they change their minds."

One of the transferring attorney's key roles is to co-ordinate and control all the role players involved in a transfer, including SARS (transfer duty), the municipality (Rates Clearance Certificate) and the bank.

"In order to do this as seamlessly as possible, it is essential that both the buyer and seller submit all the necessary documentation in time, as per the legal requirements and without omissions. This is especially important if either party resides in another country or is in any way difficult to contact for information and signatures."

According to conveyancers and property Law attorneys at Abrahams & Gross, the RCC issued by the city council certifies that there are no outstanding funds due to the municipality at the time of the registration of transfer to the purchaser. This certificate is a requirement in terms of the Deeds Registries Act and must be lodged in the Deeds Office. The Registrar of Deeds will not register the transfer of a property unless the conveyancer lodges a valid RCC along with other required documents at the Deeds Office.

Rates Clearance Figures

The conveyancer will make application to the city council for the issuing of rates clearance figures. Rates clearance figures are comprised of all arrears amounts for rates, taxes, electricity, water, sewerage, and refuse, as well as an advance payment covering a period of 60 days being the period of validity of the rates clearance certificate.

Whose responsibility is it to obtain a rates clearance certificate?

It is the seller's responsibility to settle amounts due in order to obtain the RCC. Upon request, the seller must pay the conveyancer and not the city council directly. The conveyancer will then pay the city council to ensure that the payment is linked to the application number in respect of the transfer as well as for the purposes of expedition of the issuing of the rates clearance certificate.

Once the conveyancer has paid for and obtained the RCC, the seller's account at the city council will be in credit and the seller will no longer be required to make any further monthly payments to the city council prior to transfer.

Once registration of transfer has been completed, the conveyancer submits a refund form to the city council in respect of any credit that may be due to the seller. This usually occurs when the registration of transfer takes place prior to the expiration of the 60-day period. The city council takes approximately four to seven months to reconcile the seller's and purchaser's accounts and pay the refund.

Odendaal says that although snags and stumbling blocks can occur at any point of the transaction, they most commonly occur at the following stages:

- Bond approval;
- Bond cancellation;
- The signing of transfer documents;
- Obtaining valid compliance certificates;
- Issues encountered at lodgements requiring the removal of notes by the Registrar of deeds;
- Transfers which are unusual and more complex, such as estate transfers which require an endorsement of the Master of the High Court, which can cause a delay.

"Most of these delays can easily be avoided through prompt co-operation with the transferring attorney or, if they are outside of South Africa, by giving power of attorney to a person within South Africa who can sign the necessary documents and act on their behalf."

"It's also vital that the client is completely upfront with the agent regarding their financial situation," says Odendaal.

"Agents can facilitate and expedite the process by having a bond originator prequalify them and the thorough credit check will reveal any potential snags which can then be rectified before they cause any problems.

"This step is particularly important for buyers who are self-employed as banks are very strict about the documentation that they require for a bond application. At this stage I always advise all my clients to avoid making any expensive purchases that could negatively impact their affordability."

Odendaal concludes:

"Experienced estate agents will guide their clients every step of the way and as long as they are upfront with their realtors, there should not be too many problems to circumvent.

"I also recommend appointing an accomplished conveyancing attorney who is really on the ball. And, as the transferring attorney and agent work closely together behind the scenes to ensure a smooth transfer, it is always an advantage if they already have an established working relationship."

-PROPERTY 24

CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/COMMENTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE 20 MEGAWATTS (MW) SOLAR PLANT LOCATED IN OSIPITA VILLAGE AND SHANKARA VILLAGE IN THE OSHIKOTO COSTITUENCY, OSHIKOTO REGION AND KAVANGO EAST REGION RESPECTIVELY.

The public is hereby notified that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner as required under the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations. The proposed project is a listed activity in the EIA Regulations that cannot be undertaken without an ECC, which is issued upon approval of an EIA Study.

Name of proponent: Tulila Energy Pty Ltd

Name of the Environmental consultant: Savannah Environmental Consultants Services CC

Project location and description: The environmental Assessment will identify the potential impacts, that are likely to occur during the construction and operation of a 20 megawatts Solar plant in Osipita village in the Omyaanya constituency, Oshikoto region and Shankara Village in the Kavango East region.

Interested and affected parties are hereby invited to register in terms of the assessment process to give input, comments, and invited for the public consultation meeting at a later stage. Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to:

Ms. Alli Epinge , an Environmental Assessment Practitioner at Savannah Environmental Consultants Services CC on or before the 17 January 2026; Email: info@savannah.com.na / alli@savannah.com.na

SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT SERVICES

NOTICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EnvironClim Consulting Services cc hereby gives notice to all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application will be made to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012) for the following:

PROJECT NAMES:

(a) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the establishment of mining activities on Mining Claims no. [illegible], Omao Village, Opuwo District, Kunene Region

(b) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the establishment of mining activities on Mining Claims no. [illegible], Otjuani Village, Opuwo District, Kunene Region.

PROJECT LOCATION: The mining claims are situated approximately [illegible] of Opuwo, at Omao & Otjuani Villages, respectively, in the Kunene Region.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project involves conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the establishment of mining activities for base and rare metals, as well as industrial minerals, at the above mining claims.

PROJECT INVOLVEMENT:

Proponent: (a) [illegible] Investments (Pty) Ltd
(b) [illegible]

Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP): EnvironClim Consulting Services cc

REGISTRATION OF I&APs AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS: In line with Namibia's Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and EIA regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012), all I&APs are hereby invited to register and submit their comments, concerns or questions in writing via: Email: [illegible] on or before Monday, [illegible] February 2026.

A public participation meeting will be held as follows:
Place: Community meeting place, Otjuani Village
Date: 27th January 2026
Time: [illegible]
Contact: +264 [illegible]
Email: [illegible]

EnvironClim Consulting Services


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FAITH COURTS
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✓ DSTV POINT READY
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✓ Remote Operated Garage & Entrance Gate - 24-Hour Security on the Premises
Apartments for rent available from 1st May 2026
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Vacancy
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Annexure B: Proof of Public Participation Meeting (Attendance Registry)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING ATTENDANCE REGISTRY

VENUE: Community meeting place, Otuari Village, Opuwo Rural Constituency, Kunene Region

DATE: 27 January 2026

TIME: 14H00

NAME	ORGANISATION	EMAIL	CELLPHONE NUMBER	VILLAGE NAME
Unomavi Kapetjr			0813464225	Otwani
AYBES-IVAN VIRERC			0814912677	OTUANI
KAVARI KAVEZUVASANA			0814645577	OTUANI
MBAJA KUTUTA				OTUANI
Renny Tjilenge	Ombujokanguindi constency	rennytjilenge56@ com	0813495376	Otuani
Ipahena Mutenja	Kunene Nefant Work			Otuani
Tjiuronga Mutjise			0813936696	Otuani
Kaoe Uakapungela	Heu	Uakapuengale	0814758915	Kaimara
Kaee Mapurua	Community leader		0817667727	Otuakuara
[illegible]				
Karikene Tjilenge	✓		0812756642	Otuani
Uahang Kafiji	✓		0817712831	Omao

EnvironClim
Consulting Services

Johannes Tjirond			0814903048	Kakuanda
Mbambari Kotjitja			0816981325	Otjiani
Kaperue Muekaruna			0816759771	Otjiani
Mbeja Kuiria			0816761328	Otjiani
Ngavengene Kairira			0815527409	Otjiani
Kutamunot Nianjamba			—	Otjiani
Uavanda Virere			0814560641	Okazumba
Kakuama Mzuma			0812647036	Okazumba
Jackson P Kapee			0816944987	[illegible]
Chief Uyamani Musaso				Musaso 54
Kerivangere Mumbua			0814456505	Otjiani
Uakavaza Tjiumbi			—	Otjiani
Karezeinguti Katjira			0818528573	Otjiani
Kipira = mulunga			0814409548	Otjiani
Kanjamonjaa			0818607504	Otjiani
Hemoka			0818214423	Omao
Henikee Tjimbi			=	Omao
Magthina Viriere			0817582019	Otiriamurukundja
Vikomuapi Viriere			081266711 7	Otiriamukundje

Date :27th January 2026 - COMMENTS AND CONCERNS FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING – OMAO

No.	Name / Organisation	Questions / Comments / Inputs	Responses (Consultant / Proponent)
1	**Mahang Kaffiri** (Omao Community Member)	**Comment:** The community welcomes the proposed project and appreciates that such development is being brought to Omao. This project is seen as a positive step for the area.	The consultant thanked the participant for the positive remarks and noted that the project is intended to contribute to local socio-economic development while complying with environmental requirements.
2	**Hemoka** (Omao Community Member)	**Comment:** The project is welcomed as it may create employment opportunities for local people, particularly the youth of Omao and surrounding villages.	The proponent confirmed that local employment opportunities will be considered and that local labour will be prioritised where skills are available.
3	**Henitee Tjiimbi** (Omao Community Member)	**Comment:** The community is happy to see development coming to the area, as it may improve livelihoods and stimulate local economic activities.	The consultant acknowledged the comment and noted that socio-economic benefits are among the positive impacts assessed in the project.
4	(Omao Community Member)	**Comment:** The community requests that project activities should be coordinated properly to ensure there is no conflict or overlap with existing mining and exploration activities in the area.	The consultant confirmed that consultations with relevant authorities and existing operators will be undertaken to ensure that project activities do not clash with other mining or exploration operations.
5	(Omao Community Member)	**Comment:** The community requests regular communication and updates throughout the implementation of the project.	The consultant confirmed that stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the environmental assessment and project implementation phases.

6	(Omao Community Member)	**Comment:** The project is supported provided environmental protection measures are implemented and community interests are respected throughout the project lifecycle.	The consultant assured the community that mitigation measures and monitoring requirements will be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan.

Annexure C: Consent letter from the Traditional Authority

Enquires: Hiavihongo Uenjenguaije
Kavetuii Musaso
Cell: 081 403 6304

Kunene Regional Council
Ombombo Traditional Authority
Musaso: H
P O Box 32, Opuwo
Stamp no: 4 Omao
Cell: 0814036304
12 April 2025

The Ministry of Mines and Energy
Private Bag 13297
Windhoek

Dear Mining Commissioner

F: Cosent for Unomavi Kapetja (Application for Mining Claim)

Ombombno Traditional Authority approved the above mentioned with the following coordinates.

Arear 17.9684 Ha

	Latitude			Longitude					
1	18°	33'	S	013°	44'	06.25"	E		
2	18°	33'	S	013°	44'	23.23"	E		
3	18°	33'	S	013°	44'	29.00"	E		
4	18°	33'	S	013°	44'	12.47"	E		

We allowed Unomavi Kapetja to have claim area. We believe such endeavor is in with our national development plan, including much economic and employment, opportunity for Ombombo community.

I hope this letter is considered with utmost urgency and forward to you for further correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Stamp
KUNENE REGIONAL COUNCIL
OMBOMBO TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY
Musaso H
15 APR 2025
P.O. Box 32, OPUWO
Cell NO. +264 81 403 6304
STAMP NO. 4, OMAP

.....
Hiavihongo Uenjenguaije Kavetuii Musaso
Senior Councilor

Enquires: Hiavihongo Ueinjenguaije
Kavetuii Musaso
Cell: 081 403 6304

Kunene Reginal Council
Ombombo Traditional Authority
Musaso. H
P O Box 32, Opuwo
Stamp no: 4.Omao
Cell: 0814036304
12 April 2025

The Ministry of Mines and Energy
Private Bag 13297
Windhoek

Dear Mining Commissioner

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4	18°	33′	S	013°	44′	12.47″	E		

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I hope this letter is considered with utmost urgency and forward to you for further correspondence.

Yours sincerely

KUNENE REGIONAL COUNCIL
OMBOMBO TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY
Musaso H.
15 APR 2025
P.O. Box 32, OPUWO
Cell NO.: +264 81 403 5304
STAMP NO.: 4. OMAO

.....
Hiavihongo Uenjenguaije Kavetuii Musaso
Senior Councilor

Annexure D: Consent letter from the conservancy

Okangundumba Communal Conservancy

05 February 2026

To: Whom it May Concern

REF: Consent letter for the application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate for the exploration of base and rare metals (copper ore) at claim number: 75647..76489..76490..76491..76492 at Omao Village, Kunene Region.

The committee members of the Okangundumba Communal Conservancy and their community have no objection for the application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate for the exploration of base and rare metals (copper ore) within our jurisdiction. However their exploration activities must be limited to the part of the claim number mentioned above that does not encroach into the boundaries of the Okangundumba Communal Conservancy.

The proponent, OMAO RIVER INVEVESTMENT P..T.Y .L.T.D must however adhere to all mandatory requirements as per the agreed social responsibility with the Traditional Authority and the community of Omao village and should continue to engage with our office so that the community benefits from these exploration and mining activities through the community trust fund to allow for our developmental priorities to be undertaken.

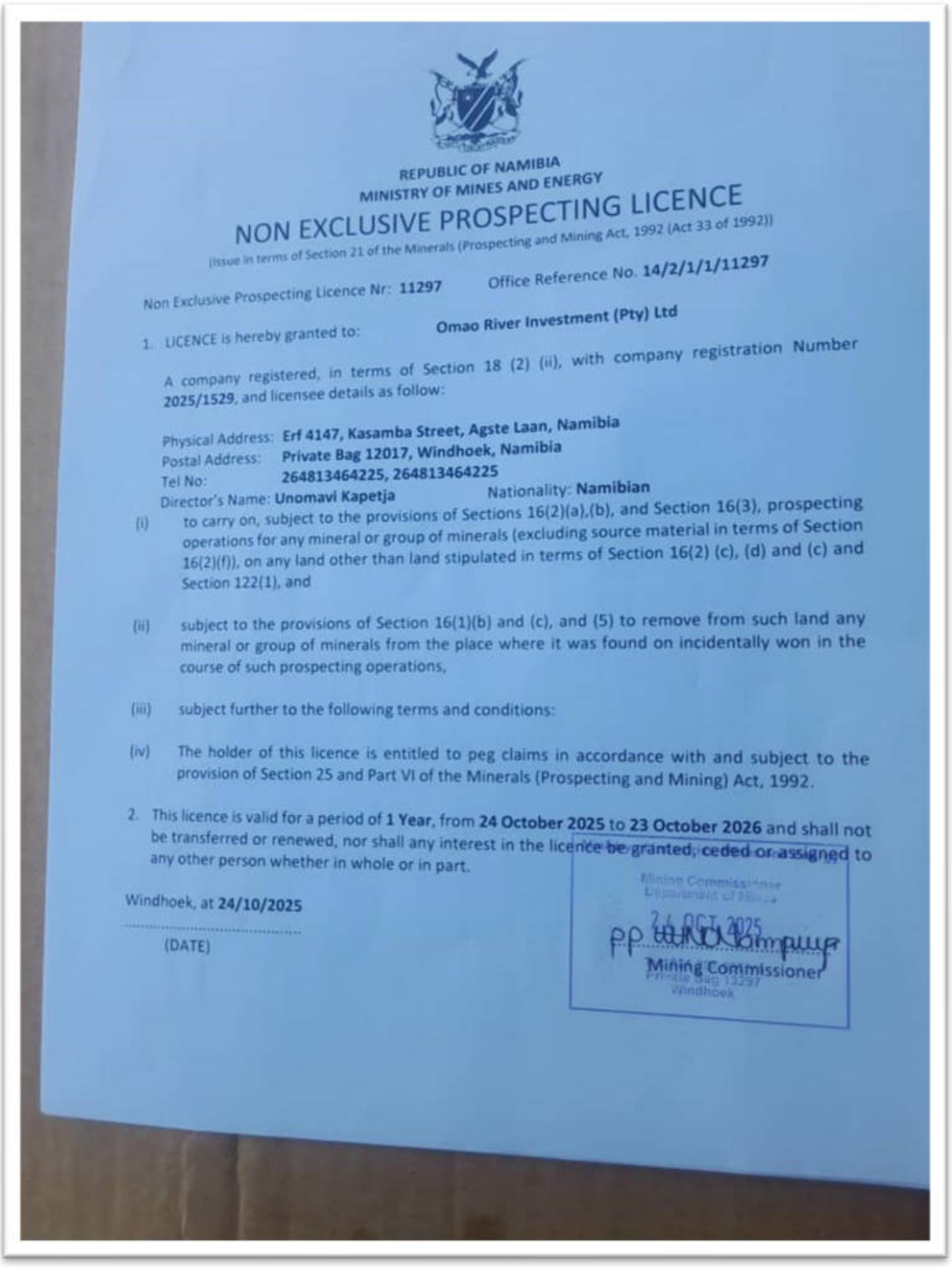
Yours truly,

E. Koruhama

MR. E Koruhama
Contact:0818259600
Chairperson

Witness 1: Game guards
MR. K Tjihoto
Contact:0818420531
Okangundumba Communal Conservancy

Annexure E: Proof of ownership of the Mining Claims



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY

NON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENCE

(Issue in terms of Section 21 of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act, 1992 (Act 33 of 1992))

Non Exclusive Prospecting Licence Nr: **11297** Office Reference No. **14/2/1/1/11297**

1. LICENCE is hereby granted to: **Omao River Investment (Pty) Ltd**

A company registered, in terms of Section 18 (2) (ii), with company registration Number **2025/1529**, and licensee details as follow:

Physical Address: **Erf 4147, Kasamba Street, Agste Laan, Namibia**
Postal Address: **Private Bag 12017, Windhoek, Namibia**
Tel No: **264813464225, 264813464225**
Director's Name: **Unomavi Kapetja** Nationality: **Namibian**

(i) to carry on, subject to the provisions of Sections 16(2)(a),(b), and Section 16(3), prospecting operations for any mineral or group of minerals (excluding source material in terms of Section 16(2)(f)), on any land other than land stipulated in terms of Section 16(2) (c), (d) and (c) and Section 122(1), and

(ii) subject to the provisions of Section 16(1)(b) and (c), and (5) to remove from such land any mineral or group of minerals from the place where it was found on incidentally won in the course of such prospecting operations,

(iii) subject further to the following terms and conditions:

(iv) The holder of this licence is entitled to peg claims in accordance with and subject to the provision of Section 25 and Part VI of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act, 1992.

2. This licence is valid for a period of **1 Year**, from **24 October 2025** to **23 October 2026** and shall not be transferred or renewed, nor shall any interest in the licence be granted, ceded or assigned to any other person whether in whole or in part.

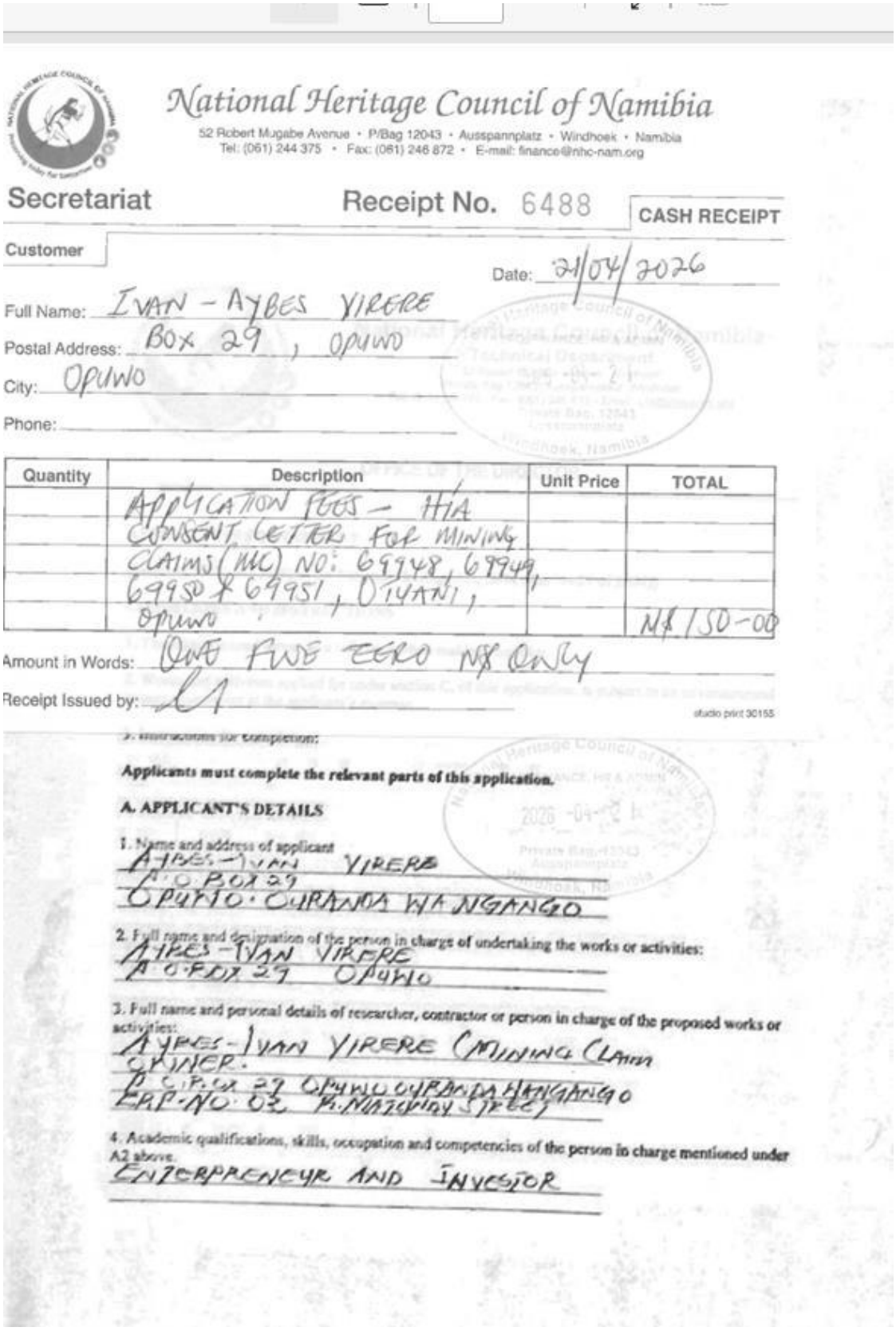
Windhoek, at **24/10/2025**

.....
(DATE)

Mining Commissioner
Department of Mines
26 OCT 2025
Private Bag 13297
Windhoek

pp
Mining Commissioner

Annexure F: Heritage Resource Assessment Report/Consent



National Heritage Council of Namibia

52 Robert Mugabe Avenue • P/Bag 12043 • Ausspannplatz • Windhoek • Namibia
Tel: (061) 244 375 • Fax: (061) 246 872 • E-mail: finance@nhc-nam.org

Secretariat Receipt No. 6488 CASH RECEIPT

Customer

Date: 21/04/2026

Full Name: IVAN - AYBES YIRERE

Postal Address: Box 29, OPUWO

City: OPUWO

Phone:

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	TOTAL
	APPLICATION FEES - HIA CONSENT LETTER FOR MINING CLAIMS (MC) NO: 69948, 69949, 69950 & 69951, OTJANI, OPUWO		N$ 150-00

Amount in Words: ONE FIVE ZERO N$ ONLY

Receipt Issued by:

studio print 30155

Applicants must complete the relevant parts of this application.

A. APPLICANT'S DETAILS

1. Name and address of applicant
AYBES-IVAN YIRERE
P.O. BOX 29
OPUWO. OMUNDA WA NGANGO

2. Full name and designation of the person in charge of undertaking the works or activities:
AYBES-IVAN YIRERE
P.O.BOX 29 OPUWO

3. Full name and personal details of researcher, contractor or person in charge of the proposed works or activities:
AYBES-IVAN YIRERE (MINING CLAIM OWNER.
P.O.BOX 29 OPUWO OMUNDA WANGANGO
ERF-NO: 03 (MAIN STREET)

4. Academic qualifications, skills, occupation and competencies of the person in charge mentioned under A2 above.
ENTERPRENEUR AND INVESTOR

5. Previous permits issued in Namibia:
N/A

6. Period for which permit is required: From 30 APRIL 2026
to 30 APRIL 2027

7. Date by which permit is required: 30 APRIL 2026

B: WORKS OR ACTIVITIES

15. Geographic location and address (farm, village, settlement, town, region, magisterial district, constituency, Global Positioning System coordinates) of the site, protected place or protected object where works or activities are proposed:
MINING OMAO OPUWO RURAL DISTRICT
CLAIM: 75647, 76489, 76490, 76491,
76492, 76490.

20 Government Gazette 1 September 2005 No. 3490

16. Detailed description of the nature of works or activities for which the permit is applied for: (e.g. excavation, construction, filming etc) *(Attach additional and supporting information if the space on the form is insufficient.)*
EXTRACTION OF MINING BASE AND RARE
METAL (COPPER ORE): 75647, 76489,
76491, 76492, 76490.

C: UNDERTAKING BY APPLICANT

17.1 Unomani Kapeya (the person in charge of undertaking the works or activities) and (where applicable) being head of the CLAIM LICENSE NO. 11797 institute, hereby undertake to strictly observe the terms and conditions under which the National Heritage Council may issue the permit.

Signature _____ dated 20.19.2026

Consent No.....
(Consecutive number & year of issue)

CONSENT

Annexure G: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

Annexure H: Curriculum Vitae for the project consultant