

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Dune Sand Collection Activities Within Tses Village Council Jurisdiction of the IlKharas Region - Application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC)

Proponent:

Tses Village Council



ECC Application Number:

APP-007179

Environmental Consultant:

**Serja Hydrogeo-Environmental
Consultants CC (Serja HGE
Consultants)**

April 2026

1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Due to the growing demand for suitable construction materials to support regional infrastructure development, including road and railway projects, the Tses Village Council proposes to extract (collect) and supply dune sand from its jurisdiction at the site located about 1.7km south of the Village Centre (approximate GPS coordinates: -25.897748, 18.118933 (please refer to the locality map in Figure 1)). The collected dune sand from the Tses Village site will be supplied to the construction industry and other industries (consumers) in the region.

1.1 Need for an environmental clearance certificate (ECC)

The sand mining (extraction) is listed as an activity in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2012) of the Environmental Management Act (EMA) No. 7 of 2007 that may not be undertaken without an ECC. The listed activities that are relevant to the proposed activities are as follows:

Listed Activity 3. Mining and Quarrying Activities:

-Listed Activity 3.1 - The construction of facilities for any process or activities that require a licence, right, or other form of authorisation, and the renewal of a licence, right, or other form of authorisation, in terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act), 1992.

-Listed Activity 3.2: Other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources, whether regulated by law or not, and Listed Activity 3.3: Resource extraction, manipulation, conservation, and related activities

Subsequently, to comply with the EMA and its EIA Regulations and ensure environmental sustainability, the Proponent has appointed Serja Hydrogeo-Environmental Consultants CC (*Serja HGE Consultants*), independent environmental consultants (environmental assessment practitioners), to apply for the project ECC on their behalf.

The ECC application was launched with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)'s Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) by the Proponent (APP-007179). Serja HGE Consultants will conduct the EIA process (including public consultation), prepare an EIA Scoping Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in an application for the ECC. These documents will be submitted to the MEFT for evaluation and consideration of the ECC for the project.

1.2 The Purpose of this document

It should be noted that this Background Information Document (BID) is not an Environmental Scoping Report nor an EMP, but a non-technical summary of the Project's environmental assessment.

The BID is aimed at sharing first-hand, summarized information about the proposed project activities. It also provides public guidance and a basis for their participation from the beginning of the environmental process, and registers as interested and affected parties (I&APs) that raise issues on the project. The information obtained from the I&APs will then form the basis of the EIA Scoping Report, and or EMP to help the MEFT in making an informed decision and consider the issuance of the ECC.

1.3 Project need and desirability

The dune sand is needed to support the development of infrastructures and other industries in the //Kharas Region. Obtaining dune sand from the local and regional sources will greatly reduce transportation costs, limit associated carbon emissions, and improve project efficiency. The proposed project will also present socio-economic benefits through job creation and opportunities for local contractors and suppliers. Thus, contributing to regional economic development. If properly managed and in line with environmental regulations and best practices, the operation can be undertaken sustainably with minimal long-term environmental impact.

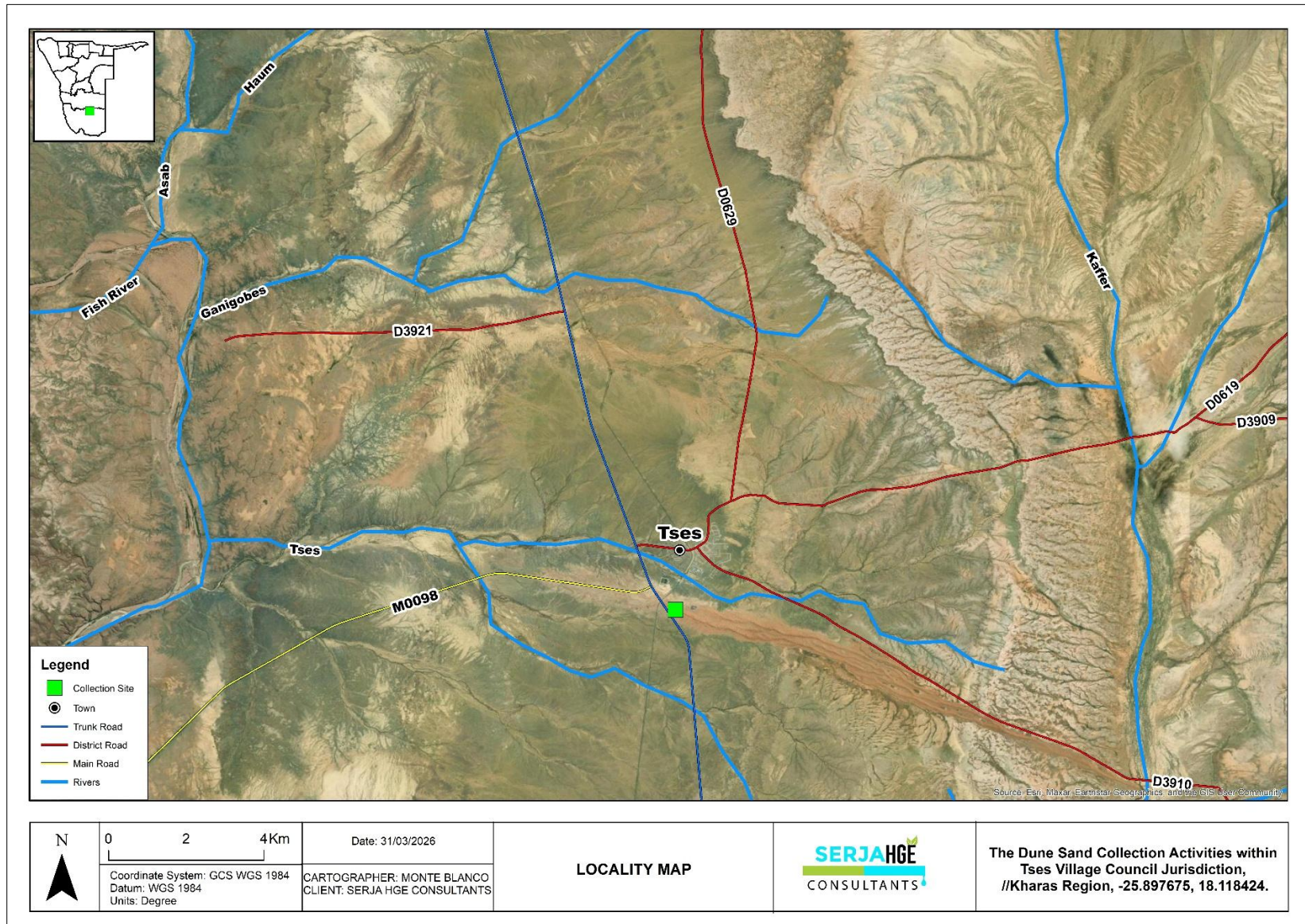


Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed dune sand collection in the //Kharas Region

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The main activities will entail the fencing of the sand collection (extraction) with a mesh fence around the project site to restrict unauthorized access to the site by the public and, for safety reasons, prevent community children from playing with mining equipment or in the sand pits.

Once the site is secured for regulated mining, the extraction of sand will commence by the Proponent and or their contracted operator. The mining/extraction will only be done by hauling and loading the dune sand into designated trucks for transporting to consumers.

There will also be a setup of temporary infrastructure, including equipment storage and vehicle parking areas on-site.

2.1 Sand Mining Process

The dune sand collection (mining) will entail the following:

- Sand removal using front-end loaders and excavators
- Extraction methods, such as surface scraping (removing top layers of loose sand) and bench excavation (controlled cutting of dune slopes).
- Avoiding over-steepening dunes to reduce collapse and erosion.

2.1.1 Loading and Transport

The mined sand will be loaded onto tipper trucks/haul trucks and transported to railway construction sites, other projects in the area/region, or stockpile areas. Haul routes will be well planned and used to minimise dust and disturbance.

2.1.2 Stockpiling

The collected dune sand will be temporarily stored in stockpile areas, either on-site close to the extraction site or near the final sand-required sites, such as railway works or other purposes in the region.

2.1.3 Progressive Rehabilitation & Site Closure

The disturbed dunes will be reshaped to a natural profile. Where feasible, the surfaces will be stabilized (where feasible) using brush packing and or natural regeneration.

Once the project activities are completed (owing to depleted desired dune sand material on-site), infrastructure and waste will be removed from the site.

If present, the vegetation on and around the site will be monitored for recovery.

The required resources and services that will be required for the dune sand mining activities will be provided by the Village Council throughout the project life cycle. These resources and service infrastructure are listed below.

2.2 Resources and Services Infrastructure

2.2.1 Human resources

The project will potentially employ about 7 to 15 local people (depending on the project's needs). Locals will be prioritised for employment (semi-skilled to unskilled labour).

2.2.2 Contractors' Accommodation

Workers will be commuting to the project site from their homes in Tses village to the work site. The skilled project workforce that is from outside the area will be accommodated in established accommodation facilities in Tses or in the nearby areas.

2.2.3 Access Road

The site is close to the B2 road; however, an access road/track will be established to ensure safe and convenient access to the dune sand collection site.

2.2.4 Water supply

The water supply for the project will be supplied from the Tses Village Council water supply system. The water will likely be stored in a water storage tank on-site, to be used for the project (drinking) and dust suppression. To preserve fresh water resources, semi-treated water (if available) will be used for dust suppression.

2.2.5 Fuel supply

Diesel will be used for machinery and equipment, and a fuel generator to ensure an uninterrupted fuel supply to the project. A 23,000-litre tank or less bunded fuel tank is anticipated for the site to ensure an uninterrupted supply during the project activities.

2.2.6 Occupational health and safety

All project workers will be supplied with appropriate and adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) while carrying out project activities on-site. The site will also be equipped with a fully furnished first aid kit.

2.2.7 Accidental fire outbreaks

The site vehicles and machinery will be equipped with fire extinguishers in case of accidental fire outbreaks. Therefore, a minimum of two fire extinguishers will be on-site.

2.2.8 Waste Management (Solid Waste)

All waste generated from the project activities will be sorted, stored on-site in designated waste containers, and transported to the approved solid waste dumping site in Tses (for solid/domestic waste only).

2.2.9 Hazardous waste (fuels and oils)

Hazardous waste will be contained in containers on-site for disposal at the approved hazardous waste facility in Windhoek.

2.2.10 Human waste/sanitation

Given the site distance from the Village centre (where proper toilets are and convenience purposes), the Tses Village Council will install at least two portable toilets for the workers and project-related visitors at the site.

The toilets will be emptied according to the manufacturer's instructions and as regularly as deemed necessary.

3 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The collection (mining) of dune sand is associated with some impacts, both positive and negative, and these are as follows:

3.1 Positive impacts (benefits)

-Socio-economic development through job (employment) creation in the area for 7 to 15 local people.

-Economic development through the provision of construction materials to local and regional projects.

-Job creation for the few people who will be working at the sand collection site. Thus, improving local socio-economic development through income generation for households.

-Natural resource management and sustainable land use through a regulated and managed mining practice using the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

-New revenue stream for the Tses Village through sales of the sand to customers in different industries.

3.2 Potential negative impacts of the dune sand mining

-Soil and water pollution: improper handling of waste may lead to pollution of surrounding soils and eventually water resources systems (through wastewater runoff and infiltration).

-Soil disturbance and erosion issues: The removal of large amounts of soil and vegetation from the site (if any) can increase the risk of soil erosion, especially during heavy rainfall events.

-Depletion of local groundwater table: excavation of sand mining sites may affect the local water table, leading to changes in groundwater levels.

-General environmental pollution through mishandling of project-related waste.

-Loss of biodiversity through the removal of vegetation that may be found within the target sites of the site.

-Vehicular traffic: potential increase in local traffic due to site activities.

-Potential habitat destruction due to excavations for material sourcing can lead to the destruction of natural habitats for local biodiversity, if a larger area is needed.

-Impact on air quality: dust and particulate matter generated during the sand excavation, hauling, and transportation can compromise air quality in the surrounding area.

-Noise associated with the movement of heavy machinery and trucks can disturb nearby locals and animals.

-Occupational and community health and safety: Improper handling of materials and equipment may cause health and safety risks to workers and locals.

-Archaeological or cultural heritage impact through the uncovering of unknown objects during excavation.

The potential impacts listed above were pre-identified and therefore should not be deemed as final or the only ones. Other potential impacts will be identified as the EIA process progresses, i.e., upon site visit and consultation with the public (I&APs). All impacts and public concerns/comments will be incorporated and addressed in the EIA Scoping Report and EMP.

4 EIA PROCESS STEPS

The following steps are followed for this EIA Study:

- **Step 1:** Project initiation - compilation of the BID, ECC application, and development of the stakeholders' list. The ECC application has been launched with the MEFT and assigned application number APP-007179.
- **Step 2:** Baseline assessment - Literature and legal review of applicable data sources.
- **Step 3:** Ongoing Public Consultation and facilitation (throughout the EIA process)

The EIA notifications are being placed in 2 newspapers for two consecutive weeks in the *Market Watch (Die Republikein, Namibian Sun & Allgemeine Zeitung)* on the 7th and 14th April 2026, and *Windhoek Observer* on the 9th & 14th of April 2026.

- **Step 4:** Information sharing - Circulation of the BID to pre-identified stakeholders/I&APs and the public who request EIA registration.
- **Step 5:** Public consultation meetings, site visits, and assessment. A community consultation meeting was held in Tses.
- **Step 6:** Compilation of the Draft EIA Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and finalization of the documents for submission to the Environmental Commissioner at MEFT for evaluation and consideration of the ECC.
- **Step 7:** Follow up with MEFT on the status of the evaluation of the submitted EIA documents and decision on the ECC.

4.1 Comments submission and deadline for comments

All concerns, issues, and/or comments should be put **in writing** (email, short messages (SMS), WhatsApp, or handwritten letters) to be considered in the EIA Scoping Report as well as in the EMP.

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The last date for registration as I&APs and or to submit comments, concerns, and issues is **Friday, 8 May 2026.**