

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)



(Source: Wana Engineering Consulting, 2024)

FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF DR 3604 (OSHAANGO – EPEMBE) ACCESS GRAVEL ROADS TO OKAMBUMBU SCHOOL, OKANAYIMBULA SCHOOL AND OMISHE SCHOOL, OHANGWENA REGION

Prepared for:



Ministry of Works and Transport



APRIL 2025



+264 61 225 776 / +264 811 220 114



info@tec.com.na / www.tec.com.na





P.O.Box 35473, Kleine Kuppe, Windhoek



Unit 17, No. 40, Berg Street, Klein Windhoek, Windhoek, Namibia



DOCUMENT INFORMATION		
Title	Background Information Document – Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) application for the Construction of DR3604 (Oshaango – Epembe) Access Gravel Roads to Okambumbu School, Okanayimbula School and Omishe School (20km)	
ECC Application Reference number	APP005723	
Listed Activity	<p>Activity 10: Infrastructure: 10.1 The Construction of (b) Public roads</p> <p>Activity 3: Mining and Quarrying Activities: 3.2 The Other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not</p> <p>Activity 8: Water Resource Development 8.1 The abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes</p>	
Location	DR3604 (Oshaango – Epembe), Ohangwena Region	
Proponent	Ministry of Works and Transport Private Bag 13341, Windhoek Fax: +264 61221004 Tel: +264 61 2088111	
Author:	Signature	Date
Ms. Laina Alexander		3 rd April 2025
Reviewer:		3 rd April 2025
Mr. Jonas Heita (EAP)		
Copy Right: <i>“This document is the intellectual property of TEC and may only be used for the intended purpose. Unauthorized use, duplication, plagiarism or copying without referencing is prohibited”</i>		

ACRONYMS

BID	Background Information Document
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DSR	Draft Scoping Report
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ECC	Environmental Clearance Certificate
ECO	Environmental Compliance Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMA	Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007)
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
SM	Site Manager
TEC	Tortoise Environmental Consultant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Upgrading and Construction of the DR3604 Road	1
1.2 Project rationale.....	1
1.3 Environment versus Infrastructure Development	1
1.4 Purpose of the BID	2
2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	3
2.1 Project location	3
2.2 Route description.....	3
3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK.....	6
3.1 Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007)	6
3.2 EMP Requirements.....	6
3.3 Listed Activities	6
4. THE EIA PROCESS.....	8
4.1 EIA Process	8
4.1.1 Public Participation Process (PPP).....	9
4.1.2 Stakeholders Consultation Process	10
4.1.3 Importance Of Registration as an I&APs	10
4.1.4 Registration of I&APs.....	10
5. STAKEHOLDER COMMENT FORM	11
5.1 I&AP Comment Form.....	11

FIGURES

Figure 2-1: D3604, Start point On MR121 (Source: Wana Engineering Consulting, 2025).....	3
Figure 2-2: MR121 Intersection Point D3604 (Source: Wana Engineering Consulting, 2025).....	4
Figure 2-3: Route from Okambumbu to Omishe (Source: Wana Engineering Consulting, 2025).....	4
Figure 2-4: Locality map showing the proposed road	5
Figure 3-1: EIA flow diagram	8

TABLES

Table 3-1: EMP Requirements as outlined in Section 8 of the EIA Regulations	6
Table 3-2: Listed Activities triggered by the proposed project.	7

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Upgrading and Construction of the DR3604 Road

The project entails the upgrading of the DR3604 to gravel standard. This will include the installation of appropriate drifts and small culvert structures to manage runoff during periods of heavy water flow. Additionally, sections of the road with sharp bends will be realigned to enhance the horizontal curve radii for improved safety and drivability.

1.2 Project rationale

The development of an access road from MR121 to Okambumbu Combined School in the Ohangwena Region is motivated by the need to address key challenges faced by the local community and to promote sustainable development. The main reasons for initiating this project include (Wana Engineering Consulting, 2025):

- Okambumbu village currently lacks adequate road infrastructure, which severely limits its connectivity to surrounding areas, including important economic centers, healthcare services, schools, and administrative facilities.
- Improved road access will also create new opportunities for economic growth, particularly in agriculture, livestock farming, and local entrepreneurship.
- The construction of this access road will establish a crucial link, allowing for the smooth movement of people, goods, and essential services.

1.3 Environment versus Infrastructure Development

Namibia's economy is highly dependent on a healthy environment and striking a balance in meeting demands for economic development (e.g. road upgrade) and maintaining biological diversity can be a challenge. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that the environment and development sectors should work together and identify synergies in order to ensure that natural resources are harvested in an acceptable and sustainable manner.

Development takes place on land (in the environment) and hence the quest for economic development requires a trade-off with certain parts of the environment in order for the development to be realized. Meaning, for development to take place, some part of the environment will be affected. However, it is of utmost importance that such impacts are mitigated through the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

The aim of environmental assessments is to guide the sustainable utilization of natural resources and to mitigate negative impacts that would otherwise compromise the environmental integrity and future ecosystem benefits.

1.4 Purpose of the BID

- a) To provide a comprehensive description of the proposed project and associated activities
- b) To quantify the existing footprint
- c) To quantify the affected environment and potential environmental and social impacts.
- d) To outline the proposed stakeholder consultation process in accordance with the EIA framework.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project location

The proposed road traverses the Epembe and Eenhana Constituencies in Ohangwena region. It is situated on the western side of gravel road MR121.

The GPS coordinates are shown below :

GPS coordinates: Latitude -17.749053 S and Longitude 16.364787 E

2.2 Route description

The proposed road is approximately 20 km long and it passes through a rural area frequently used by local farmers and residents from nearby villages. The area includes a school, clinic, church, and several cuca shops. As a result, the road experiences very low traffic volumes, with minimal heavy vehicle usage.

DR3604 begins at Oshaango, where it intersects with MR121, and extends to Epembe, covering a total distance of 25 km. This road will link Okambumbu, Okanaimbula, and Omishe Combined Schools to the existing road network. DR3604 is a proclaimed road. The Okambumbu settlement is located in the Ohangwena Region, approximately 30 km south of Eenhana and 30 km northeast of Ondangwa.



Figure 2-1: D3604, Start point On MR121 (Source: Wana Engineering Consulting, 2025)



Figure 2-2: MR121 Intersection Point D3604 (Source: Wana Engineering Consulting, 2025)



Figure 2-3: Route from Okambumbu to Omishe (Source: Wana Engineering Consulting, 2025)

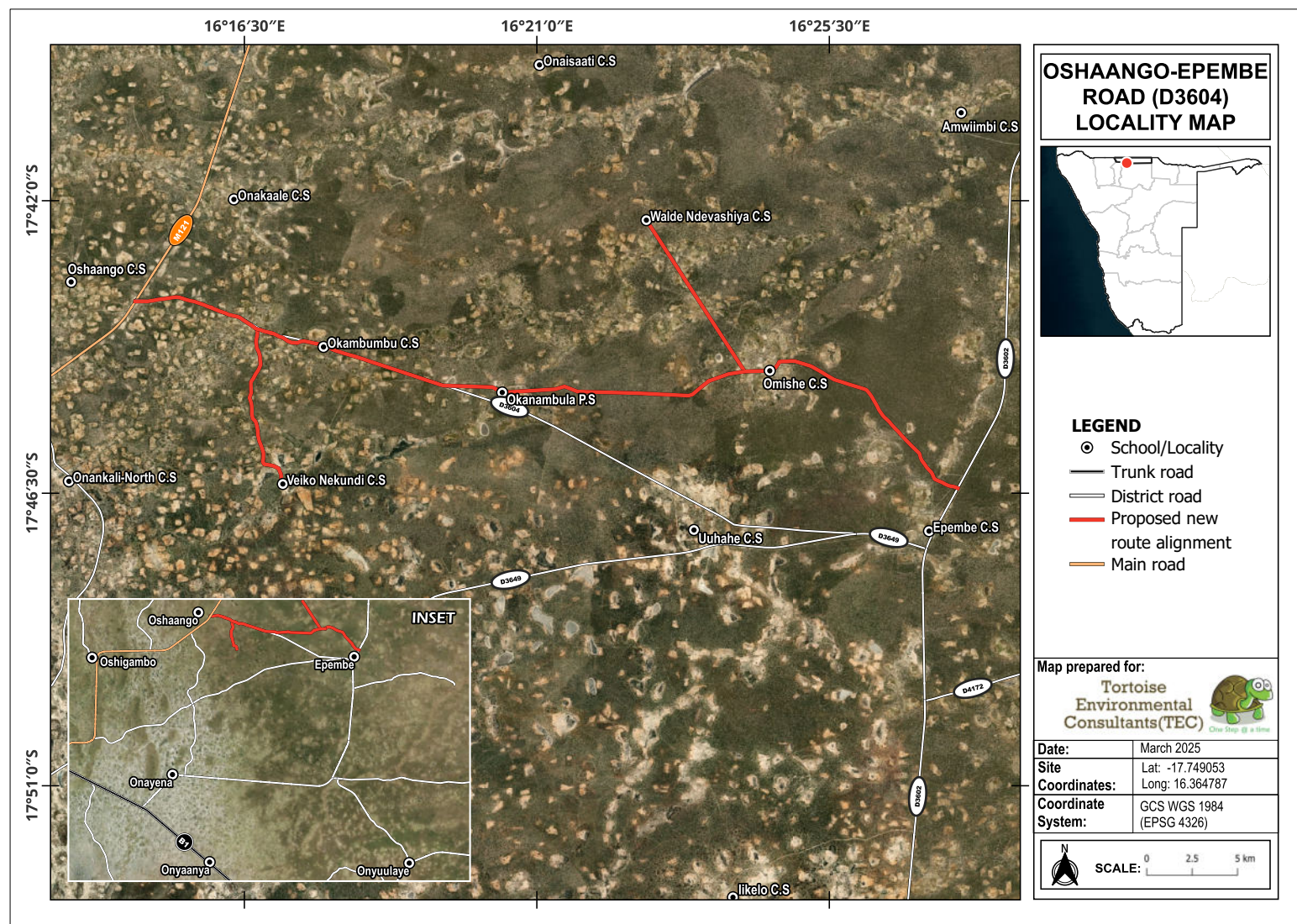


Figure 2-4: Locality map showing the proposed road

BID: Upgrading of the Onyati – Oshaango – Epembe Road

3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007)

Section 27 of the Environmental Management Act 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) (EMA) provides a list of activities that may not be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) (herein referred to as: listed activities). The proposed project triggers the following listed activities.

The EMP should conform to the provisions of the Environmental Management Act (EMA), Act No. 7 of 2007 and EIA regulations of 2012 (Government Notice: 30).

The EIA Regulations defines a '*Management Plan*' as:

"...a plan that describes how activities that may have significant impacts on the environment are to be mitigated controlled and monitored."

3.2 EMP Requirements

Table 3-1: EMP Requirements as outlined in Section 8 of the EIA Regulations

Requirement
<p><i>(j) a draft management plan, which includes –</i></p> <p><i>(aa) information on any proposed management, mitigation, protection or remedial measures to be undertaken to address the effects on the environment that have been identified including objectives in respect of the rehabilitation of the environment and closure;</i></p> <p><i>(bb) as far as is reasonably practicable, measures to rehabilitate the environment affected by the undertaking of the activity or specified activity to its natural or predetermined state or to a land use which conforms to the generally accepted principle of sustainable development; and</i></p> <p><i>(cc) a description of the manner in which the applicant intends to modify, remedy, control or stop any action, activity or process which causes pollution or environmental degradation remedy the cause of pollution or degradation and migration of pollutants.</i></p>

3.3 Listed Activities

The proposed project triggers several Listed Activities.

Listed Activities may not be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC), and hence an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is required.

Table 3-2: Listed Activities triggered by the proposed project.

Listed Activity	Activity Description	Relevance to the proposed project
Activity 3: Mining and Quarrying Activities:	3.2 The Other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not	Extraction of sand and gravel for road construction purposes.
Activity 8: Water Resource Development	8.1 The abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes	The construction activities will require water which will be collected from boreholes.
Activity 10: Infrastructure	10.1 The construction of: b) Public roads	The project involves the construction of the DR3604

4. THE EIA PROCESS

This section outlines the EIA process.

4.1 EIA Process

An EIA is a process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the effects (negative impacts) of a proposed project on the natural and human environment.

The EIA process aims to apply the principles of environmental management to the proposed activities, reduce negative impacts increase the positive effects arising from a proposed project, and provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed activity.

The EIA Process entails the assessment and description of the study area, recommended site or affected environment. The EIA further investigates and identifies potential impacts that may arise from the proposed activity. Figure 1 below describes the EIA process.

For every impact that is deemed significant, mitigation measures will be developed and will be outlined in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

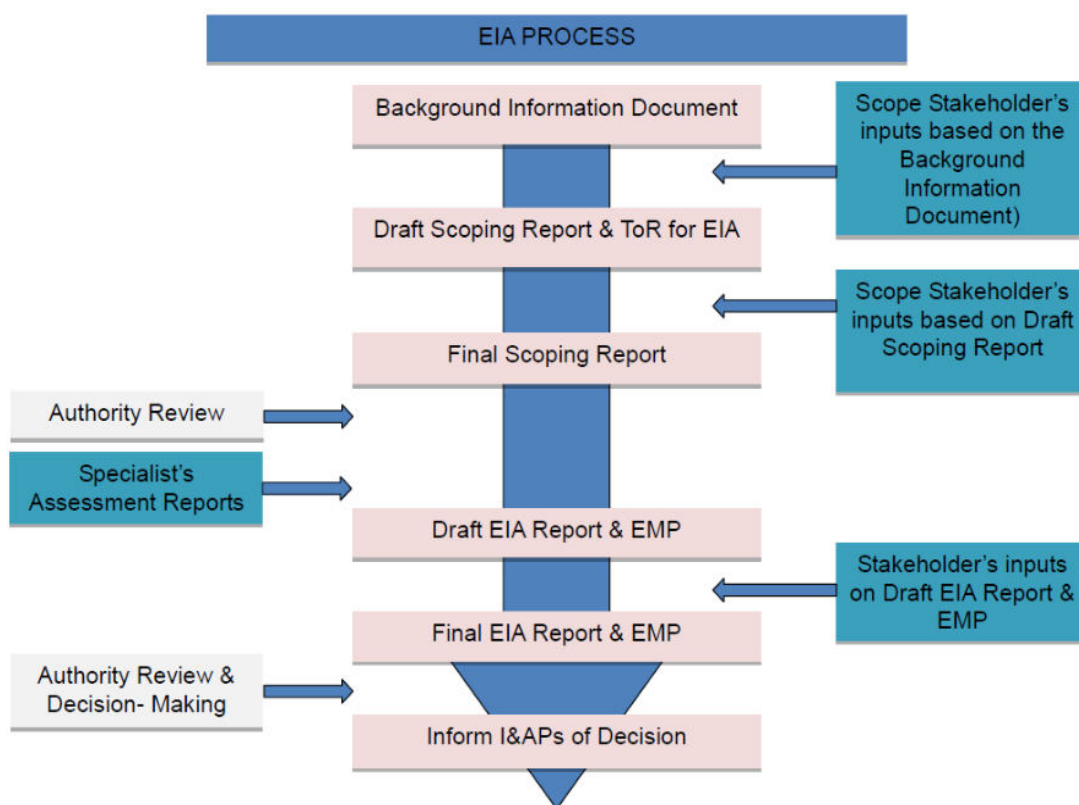


Figure 3-1: EIA flow diagram

The backbone of the EIA report entails identification of impacts (whether real or perceived) and recommendations on suitable mitigation measures to ensure compliance with the principles of environmental management and highlight risks and measures to ensure an environmentally friendly development.

4.1.1 Public Participation Process (PPP)

As stipulated in the EIA Regulations, the Public Participation Process (PPP) is a pre-requisite and forms an integral component of an ecological assessment process. The PPP is important to ensure that all stakeholders are informed of the project at hand and that potential environmental effects, and that squabbles/disagreements and potential delays to the project are avoided.

As guided by the EIA regulations, the Public Participation Process (PPP) entails notification of the proposed activity via Newspaper adverts, site notices and distribution of the BID, EIA Scoping Report (ESR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).

Comments made during public participation should be captured and addressed in the EIA Scoping report and EMP respectively. The public consultation process will be guided by the steps outlined in the table below:

Table 2: Tasks to be undertaken for the Public Participation Process (PPP)

Sub-tasks	Activities
Identification of Stakeholders	Identify key stakeholders and develop a database for Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP)
Authority consultation	Authority consultation entails discussions with representatives from the relevant authorities, at National, Regional and Local governance levels. These may include Ministries, Government agencies, Regional Council, traditional authorities', Police etc.
Public Participation Meetings (PPP)	<p>A stakeholder consultation is a key component of an environmental assessment process. Stakeholders will be invited to stakeholders' consultation meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firstly, to inform them about the project and secondly, to capture and incorporate their comments / concerns. • secondly, to provide information regarding compensation procedures to affected landowners can also be discussed. <p>It is expected that the public participation process (PPP) will yield valuable information and it is important to foster a good relationship with the community and other stakeholders from the onset.</p>
Public consultation (Draft Reports)	Issues raised during the public consultations process will be captured in the Comments and Responses Report (CRR)

4.1.2 Stakeholders Consultation Process

The public will be notified through the radio and Notice board at the conservancy office.

The Public Participation Process (PPP) meeting is scheduled as follows:

- The meeting provides a platform for the public to comment on the project. All registered I&APs shall be provided with the draft scoping and EMP reports.

4.1.3 Importance Of Registration as an I&APs

Registering as an Interested or Affected Party (I&AP) allows you to be updated about the project and to comment on the proposed activity, as necessary.

Your comments are important and will not just add value but may provide information that is perhaps not available to the consultant (e.g. local knowledge).

4.1.4 Registration of I&APs

Public participation is an important part of the EIA process, as it allows the public to obtain information about the proposed project, to view documentation, provide input and voice any concerns, through:

- Site notices
- Distributing the draft EMP to key stakeholders for review and comments.

5.1 I&AP Comment Form

Date		Time	
Particulars of I&APs			
Surname		Initials	
Name		Tel/Cell	
Organisation		Postal Address	
Email		Postal Code	
Town			

[illegible][illegible]



Thank you for your comments ☺