Tortoise Environmental Consultants(TEC)
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 1,000 CATTLE STANDING CAPACITY FEEDLOT AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT ETUNDA, OMUSATI REGION

Prepared for:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION		
Title	Background Information Document (BID) for the Construction of a 1000 cattle standing capacity feedlot and related infrastructure at Etunda, Omusati region	
ECC Application Reference number	APP:	
Listed Activity (EMA, Act No. 7 of 2007 and EIA regulations of 2012)	**Activity 2.** Waste Management, Treatment, Handling and Disposal **Activity 5.** Land Use and Development Activities **Activity 10.** Infrastructure	
Location	Etunda, Omusati Region	
Proponent	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform Private Bag. 13184, Windhoek 152 Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek Tel: 061 208 7111	
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1 EAP – Environmental Assessment Practitioner

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
MAWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
MET	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
NCA	Northern Communal Areas
SM	Site Manager
TEC	Tortoise Environmental Consultant

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Agricultural Development in Northern Communal Areas – Constraints

Low and variable rain has been identified as one of the major challenge in Northern Communal Areas (NSAs) that affects and hinders agricultural activities. Additionally, animal diseases such as the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) specifically negatively contribute to the marketing of livestock in the area (Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, 2020).

This is further worsened by the low rate of livestock off-take which contributes to overcrowding of animals and the deterioration of rangelands. Considering the current constraints in market access, it is therefore crucial for the government to strengthen the capacity of small and medium-scale agricultural producers and agri-processors to ensure fair access to local, regional and international markets (Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, 2020).

1.2 Proposed project

The proposed project involves the construction of a 1000 cattle capacity in Etunda. The feedlot has been designed to accommodate cattle in a controlled environment equipped with key infrastructure such as feeding systems, water supply, waste management and accessibility improvements.

1.3 Location of the feedlot

The proposed project site is located in the Etunda Green Scheme, south of the C46 road from Outapi en route to Ruacana.

Location: GPS coordinates: -17.419815 S and 14.515924 E

1.4 Project rationale

The primary objective of the proposed project is to support Namibia's national development goals as outlined in the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5), the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), and Vision 2030.

Cattle feedlots in the Northern Communal Areas (NCA) are expected to:

- **Ensure a more consistent supply of higher-grade cattle to local abattoirs.** This increased supply will drive up demand, enabling farmers to receive better prices for their cattle and injecting much-needed income directly into the local economy at the primary producer level.

- Improve access to formal markets, reduced cattle prices due to biosecurity restrictions north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF), inconsistent rainfall affecting feed availability and cattle quality, and exclusion from international export markets.

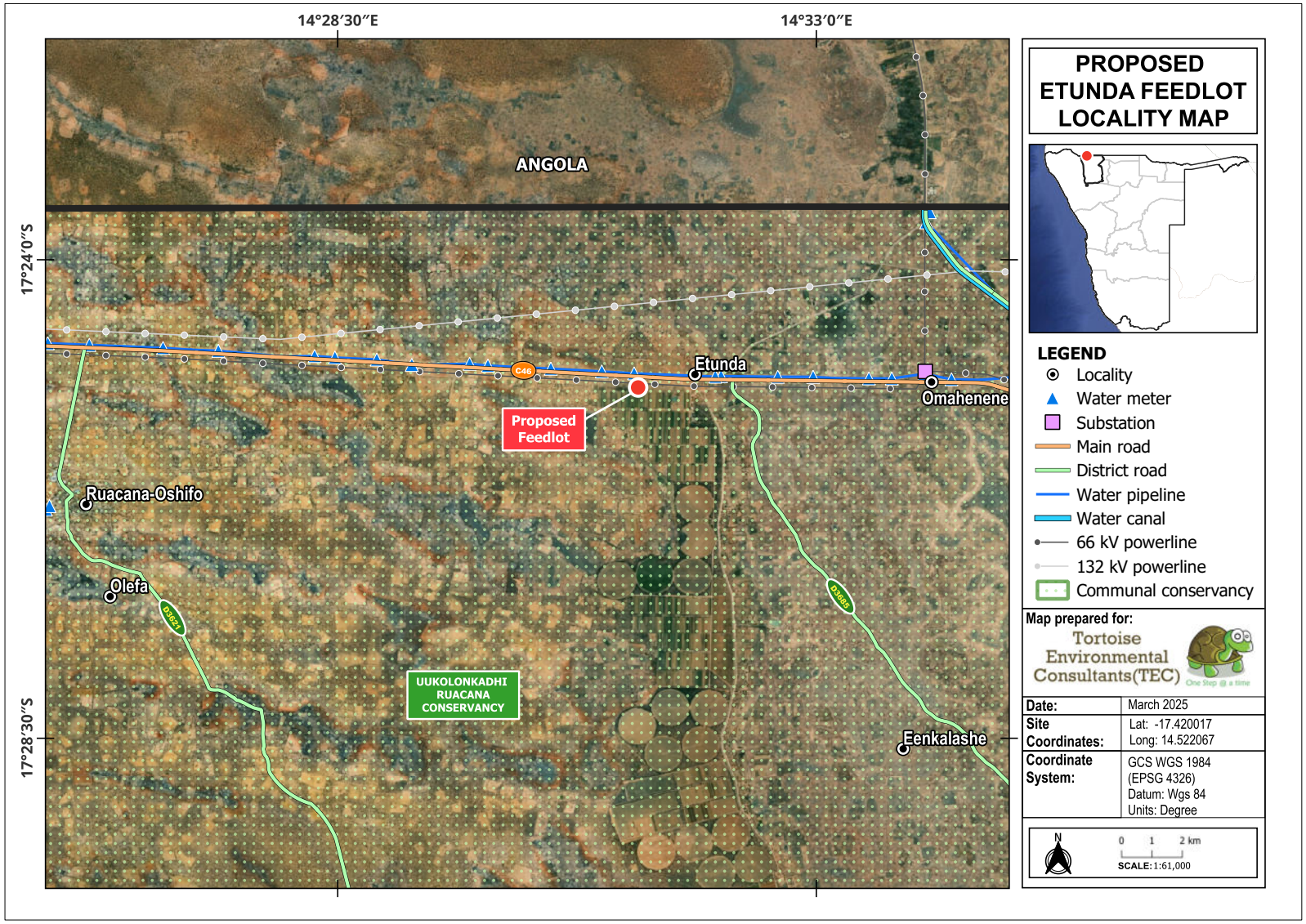

Figure 1-1: Locality map

1.5 Socio-Economic Development

The proposed feedlot development is anticipated to generate substantial socio-economic benefits for the local communities through job creation, increased demand for local goods and services, and the establishment of supporting supply chains. This initiative will also inject income at the grassroots level, particularly benefiting smallholder farmers. The project aligns with the objectives of national development frameworks such as the National Development Plan 5 (NDP5), the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), and Vision 2030.

1.6 Environment versus Economic Development

Namibia's economy is highly dependent on a healthy environment and striking a balance in meeting demands for economic development and maintaining biological diversity remains a priority. 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 utilized in an acceptable and sustainable manner.

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

1.7 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 Description of the project – Feedlot

2.1.1 The Feedlot process

The feedlot process is presented below:

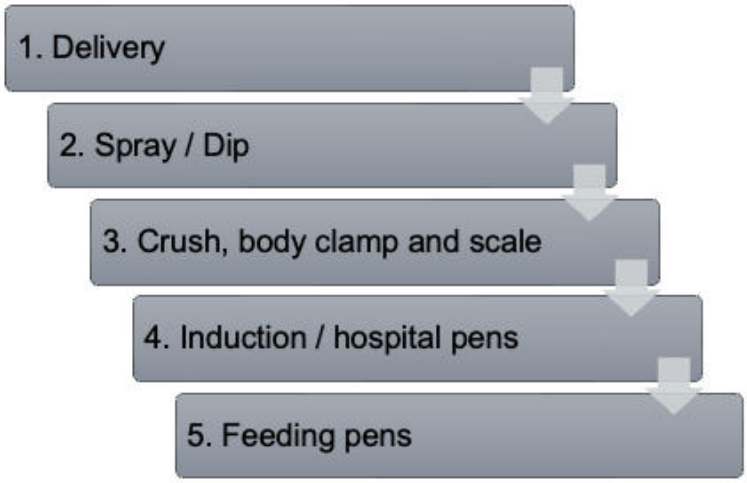

Figure 2-1: The feedlot process

- The three main cattle handling activities involved during the lot feeding of cattle are: i**nduction, performance, and dispatch *(see Table 2-1).***

Table 2-1: Three main cattle handling activities

Induction	Performance	Dispatch
• Unloading of cattle • Biosecurity inspections • Inserting and recording individual feedlot identifier ear tag • Dehorning or tipping • Recording visual details • Weighing • Mouth dentition for age classification • Vaccination, drenching and/or injections • Pregnancy testing • Health check • Classifying/segregating/ drafting by sex, weight, age, type, cattle class, market specification or health observation	• Scanning and weighing • Classifying/segregating/ drafting based on performance to date • Health treatment • Health check	• Classifying/segregation/ drafting by weight, market specification, market destination, or vendor • Washing muddy cattle • Scanning for loading out – withholding period checks, export slaughter interval checks, days on feed checks.

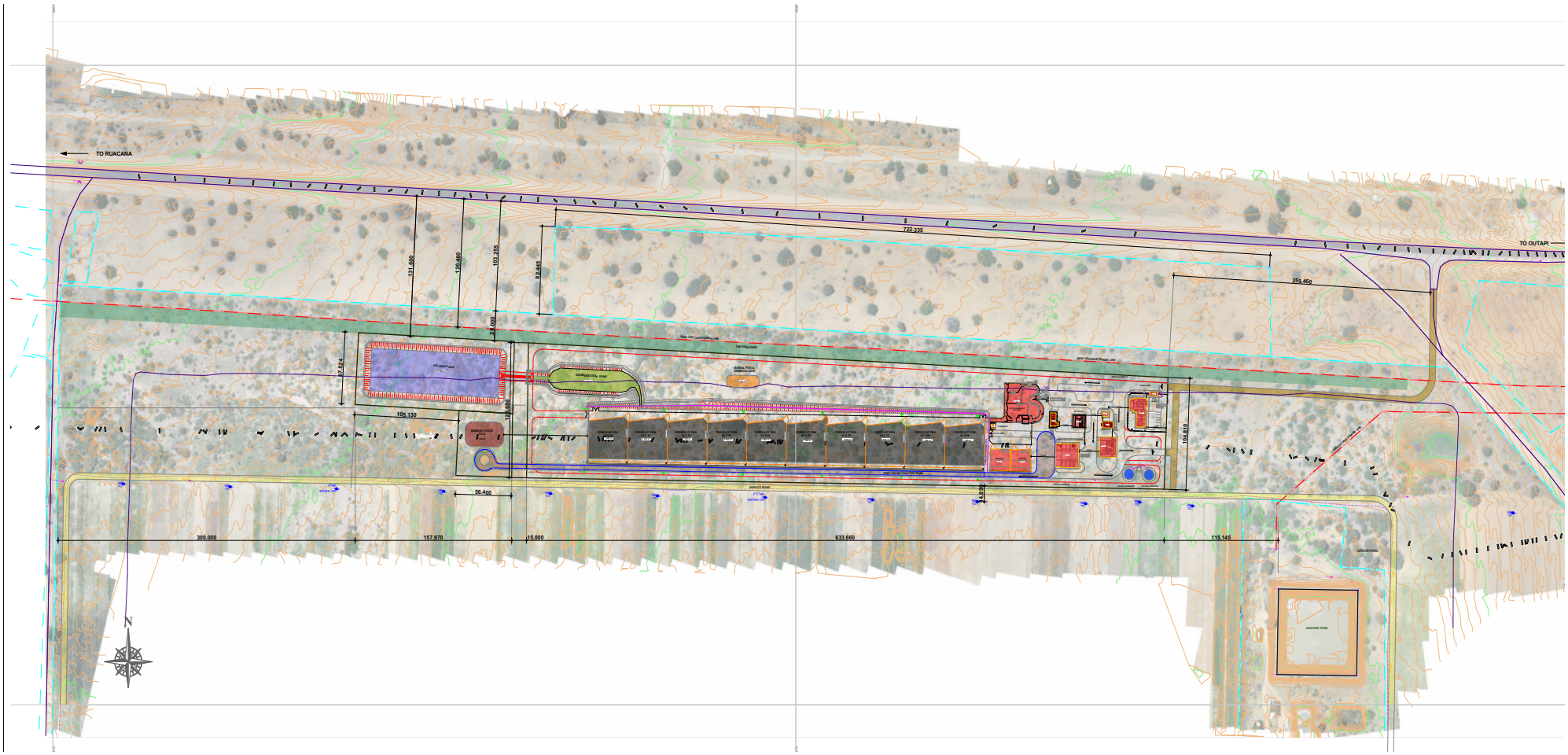

Figure 2-2: Feedlot layout plan (Source: Dunamis Consulting Engineers)

2.2 Proposed project infrastructure

The infrastructure planned for the facility will include cattle handling and feeding areas (pens), feed storage and mixing zones, administrative buildings, staff amenities, waste management systems, water and electricity supply infrastructure, office space for administration, staff accommodation for cattle herders, as well as storage facilities for tools and equipment (Mafuta Environmental Consultants, 2020).

The abovementioned infrastructure and facilities are further explained below as per the Engineering drawings and plans:

Feedlot pens

- Multiple pens will be arranged to optimize space while providing sufficient room for cattle movement.
- Fencing and partitions will be installed to enhance cattle safety and reduce the risk of injuries.
- Water troughs and feed bunks will be strategically positioned to ensure easy access and minimize feed and water waste.
- Efficient pathways will be designed to facilitate smooth and stress-free movement of cattle between feeding areas, veterinary zones, and loading points.

Feed storage and preparation facilities:

- **Silo and Feed Barn**: Will store bulk feed such as silage, hay, grains, and protein supplements to protect it from spoilage and contamination.
- **Feed Mixing Station**: Will be used to prepare balanced nutritional formulations tailored to different cattle growth stages.

Animal handling area

- **Weighing Stations:** Monitor cattle growth and weight gain progress.
- **Loading and Unloading Zones:** Allow efficient cattle movement into and out of the feedlot.
- **Veterinary Checkpoints:** Dedicated areas for health monitoring, vaccinations, and disease control.
- **Quarantine and Isolation Pens:** To prevent the spread of disease by isolating sick cattle

Water supply and drainage management

- **Reservoir:** Will provide a continuous water supply for both drinking and cleaning purposes.
- **Water Distribution Network:** Will be designed to ensure sufficient water access across all pens and operational areas.
- **Improved Wastewater Management:** Sewer ponds to improve drainage efficiency and promote environmental sustainability.

Animal handling area

- **Weighing Stations:** Monitor cattle growth and weight gain progress.
- **Loading and Unloading Zones:** Allow efficient cattle movement into and out of the feedlot.

- **Veterinary Checkpoints:** Dedicated areas for health monitoring, vaccinations, and disease control.
- **Quarantine and Isolation Pens:** To prevent the spread of disease by isolating sick cattle.

Waste management and environmental sustainability

- **Manure Stockpile Relocation:** The manure stockpile will be located away from the cattle pens to improve sanitation and control odors.
- **Effluent Treatment System:** Sewer ponds to enhance wastewater processing and reduce environmental impact.
- **Manure Utilization:** Collected manure will be processed into organic fertilizer for use in sustainable agriculture.

Administrative and support infrastructure:

- **Office and Staff Facilities:** Administrative buildings for record-keeping and management. Worker accommodation and welfare facilities.
- **Security Measures:** Perimeter fencing to prevent unauthorized access and cattle theft. Surveillance systems and lighting for safety and monitoring.

Transport and Accessibility:

- **Newly Introduced Gravel Road:** Improves transport access within the feedlot and for external logistics.

Utility Infrastructure:

- **Electricity Supply:** Powers feeding systems, lighting, and security equipment.
- **Backup Power Generation:** Ensures operations continue during power outages.
- **Communication Systems:** Facilitate coordination with suppliers, veterinary services, and market partners

2.3 Water supply

Water for the feedlot will be sourced from the existing Green Scheme canal abstraction station, located approximately 1.6 km from the site, and directed to on-site bulk storage reservoirs. A piped system is already in place to convey water from the canal to the facility.

On-site water treatment will be conducted to ensure quality, with pressure maintained through pumps housed in the designated pump house.

2.4 Markets and supply chains

- Approximately 4000 finished cattle per annum (assuming 1% mortality), from the feedlot can be supplied to abattoirs in the Northern Communal Areas (NCA).
- Main customers – Oshakati abattoir (~160km away from the feedlot).

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 construction of a feedlot 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
(j) a draft management plan, which includes – *(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;* *(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* *(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.*

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
Activity 2. Waste Management, Treatment, Handling and Disposal	2.1 The construction of facilities for waste sites, treatment of waste and disposal of waste
Activity 5. Land Use and Development Activities	5.1 the rezoning of land from - c) Agricultural use to industrial use
Activity 10. Infrastructure	10.1 the construction of – b) public roads h) administrative buildings and accommodation i) a feedlot and supporting infrastructure

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 3-1 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).

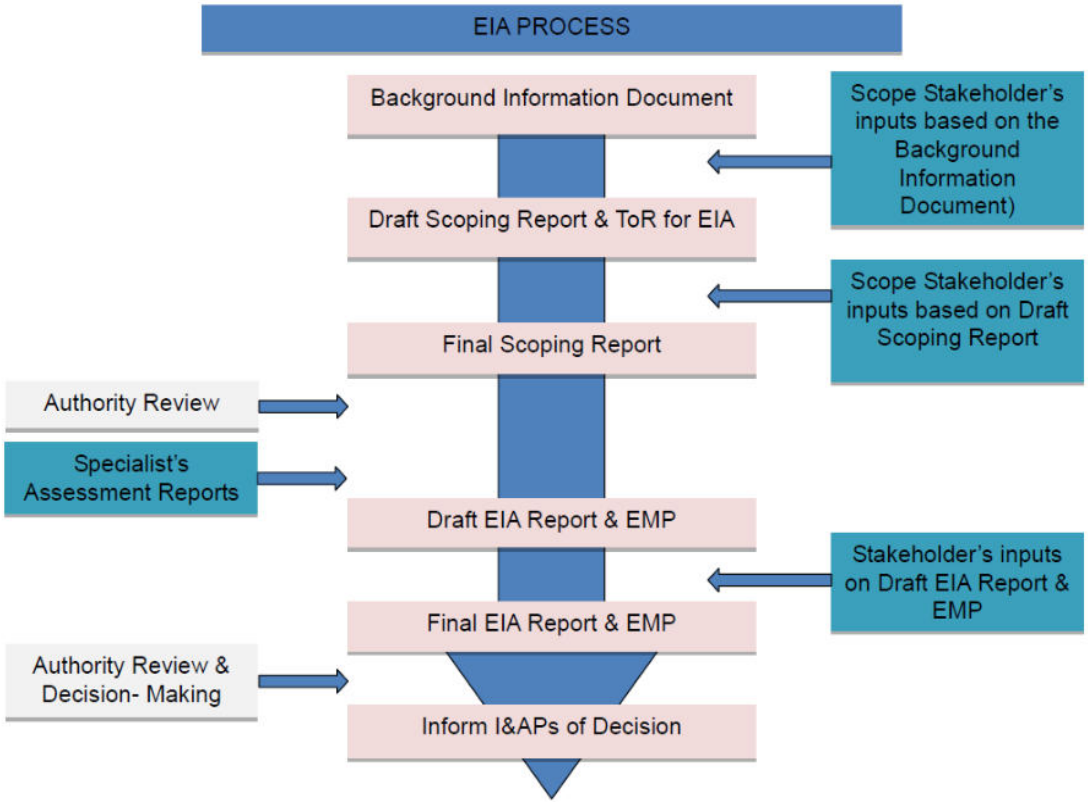

Figure 3-1: EIA flow diagram

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.
Newspaper adverts	Adverts will be placed in the local media to sensitize the public about the project and to invite interested parties to register as I&APs.
Public Participation Meetings (PPP)	A stakeholder consultation is a key component of an environmental assessment process. Stakeholders will be invited to stakeholders' consultation meetings. • 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. 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.
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 newspaper adverts (New Era and The Namibian).

The Public Participation Process (PPP):

- 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. STAKEHOLDER COMMENT FORM

5.1 I&AP Comment Form

Background Information Document – For the construction of a 1000 cattle standing capacity feedlot and related infrastructure at Etunda, Omusati Region.

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

What is your area of interest in the Project?

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Kindly write your Comments, Concerns, Recommendations and or Questions below

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Thank you for your comments ☺