
PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Prospecting Activities in
respect to Dimension Stone,
Base and Rare Metals,
Industrial Mineral, Precious
Metals on Exclusive
Prospecting Licence (EPL)
9079, Otjozondjupa Region



FEBRUARY 1

Compiled for: The Director
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DOCUMENT INFORMATION AND APPROVAL		
Title	Application for Environmental Clearance Certificate for the Proposed Prospecting Activities in respect to Dimension Stone, Base and Rare Metals, Industrial Mineral, Precious Metals	
ECC Application Reference number		
Location	On Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) 9079, Otjozondjupa Region	
Proponent	The Director Rhonium Namibia Investments cc P.O. Box 2014, Windhoek Namibia, 9000 Mobile: +264 81 403 6050	
Author:	Signature	Date
Mr. Vilho P. Mtuleni (EAP) 1		05 December 2024
Approval - Proponent		
SHUO YU YEUNG (COO, for the Proponent)		05 December 2024
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1. INTRODUCTION

Rhonium Namibia Investments cc (herein referred to as the proponent), is a fully Namibian registered entity that ventures in minerals exploration and mining. Their aim is to take advantage of the opportunity for self-employment and job creation that exist in the mining sector of Namibia.

Rhonium Namibia Investments cc to operate their business activities within their proposed Exclusive Prospecting Licenses (EPL No. 9079) in the Otjozondjupa Region, in in respect to Dimension Stone, Base and Rare Metals, Industrial Mineral, Precious Metals. Principally, Rhonium Namibia Investments cc proposes to explore (desktop geological study, collection of bulk and or geological samples and identification of previous activity in the area where similar mineral mining were conducted) and to obtain bulk-samples for further laboratory analysis by use of hand-held equipment and to small degree drilling.

The proposed prospecting activity triggers some listed activities in terms of the Environmental Management Act no. 7 of 2007 and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 6 February 2012 that may not be undertaken without an environmental clearance certificate (ECC). The need for the assessment is triggered by the activities of the proposed operations falling under the following category of listed activities (Table 1):

Table 1: List of activities identified in the EIA Regulations which apply to the proposed project

EMA 2007 Legislation	Description of activity	Relevance to Mineral Prospecting activities
Activity 3 (3.1 & 3.2) Quarrying and Quarrying Activities	3.1 The construction of facilities for any process or activities which requires a license, right or other form of authorization, and the renewal of a license, right or other form of authorization, in terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Quarrying Act), 1992.	And the construction of facilities for the purpose of carrying out a listed activities
	3.2 Other forms of quarrying or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not.	The quarrying or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not.
Activity 4	4. The clearance of forest areas, deforestation, afforestation, timber harvesting or any other related activity that requires authorization in term of the Forest Act, 2001 (Act No. 12 of 2001) or any other law.	The clearance of vegetation areas to allow the quarrying activity to take place

The EPL 9079 is situated in North-east Namibia, with its boundaries extending across the Otjozondjupa Region and approximately 16 km North-east of the Otavi Town and about 26 km north of Omakange Settlement. The EPL is accessible directly via the B1 Highway connecting Otavi to Tsumeb and then D3022 gravel road. Other section of the EPL will only be accessed by foot to ensure minimum impacts on the receiving environment.

To ensure that development activities are undertaken in an economic, social and environmental sound / sustainable manner, the Namibian Constitution and Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 provides for an environmental assessment process.

In line with the environmental assessment process, an environmental scoping and environmental management plan encompassing environmental obligations associated with the proposed operations shall be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs in order to apply for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).

2. PURPOSE OF THE BID

- To ensure that the project information provided by the client is correct
- Key aspects pertaining to the EIA are identified and raised early on by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), the Competent Authority as well as Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's)
- The BID provides the index for the EIA Scoping Exercise and EMP (similar to dichotomous keys). In other words, what is important, what should be assessed and how should it should be assessed.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The immediate focus of planned exploration focused on interpreting the pending rock and soil samples as well as the historical data. The company now proposes to undertake exploration bulk-sampling (as illustrated in Figure 2) on the broader MC 73896 - 99 by way of excavating previously hand-dug pits and extracting samples for further laboratory analysis, while also and if necessary the proponent may conduct drill sampling.

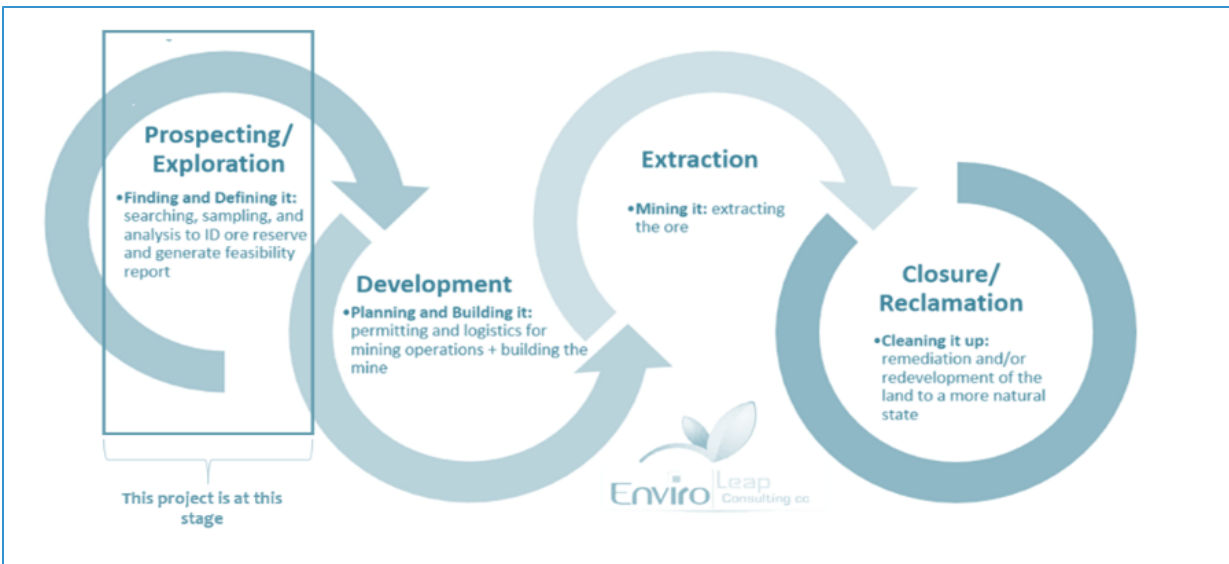


Figure 2: The life cycle of a mineral discovery development

The proposed exploration activities mainly consist of the following prospecting activities:

- Geological mapping: this mainly entails a desktop review of geological area maps and ground observations.
- Lithology geochemical surveys: rock samples shall be collected and taken for trace element analysis. Also, trenches or pits may be dug (in a controlled environment e.g. fencing off and labelling activity sites) adopting manual or excavator to investigate the mineral potential. At all times, the landowner and other relevant stakeholder will be engaged to obtain authorisation where necessary.
- Geophysical surveys: entails data collection of the substrata, by air or ground, through sensors such as radar, magnetic and electromagnetic to detect any mineralization in the area.
- Drilling: Should analyses by an analytical laboratory be positive, holes are drilled and drill samples collected for further analysis. This will determine the depth of the potential mineralization. If necessary new access tracks to the drill sites will be created and drill pads will be cleared in which to set the rig.

While their operations stimulate diversification in the national economic and development activities, consequently creating employment opportunities and trickling benefits to the larger Namibian population, it poses the risks of unprecedented negative environmental impacts.

Potential impacts may vary in terms of scale (locality), magnitude and duration e.g. minor negative impacts in the form of dust and noise pollution especially during the handling (loading and off-loading) will be experienced.

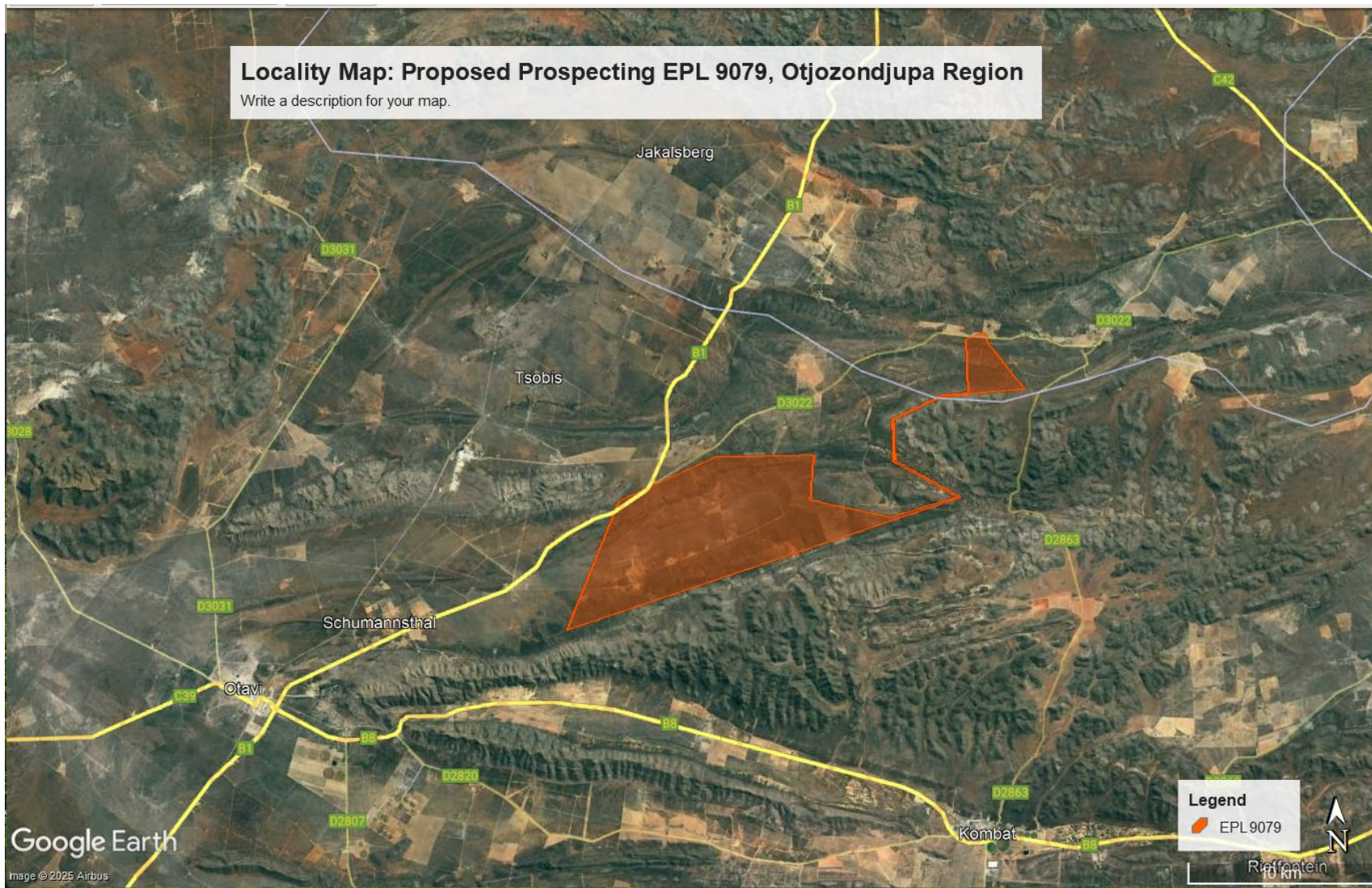


Figure 2: Shows the Site of the Proposed EPL 9079, Otjozondjupa Region

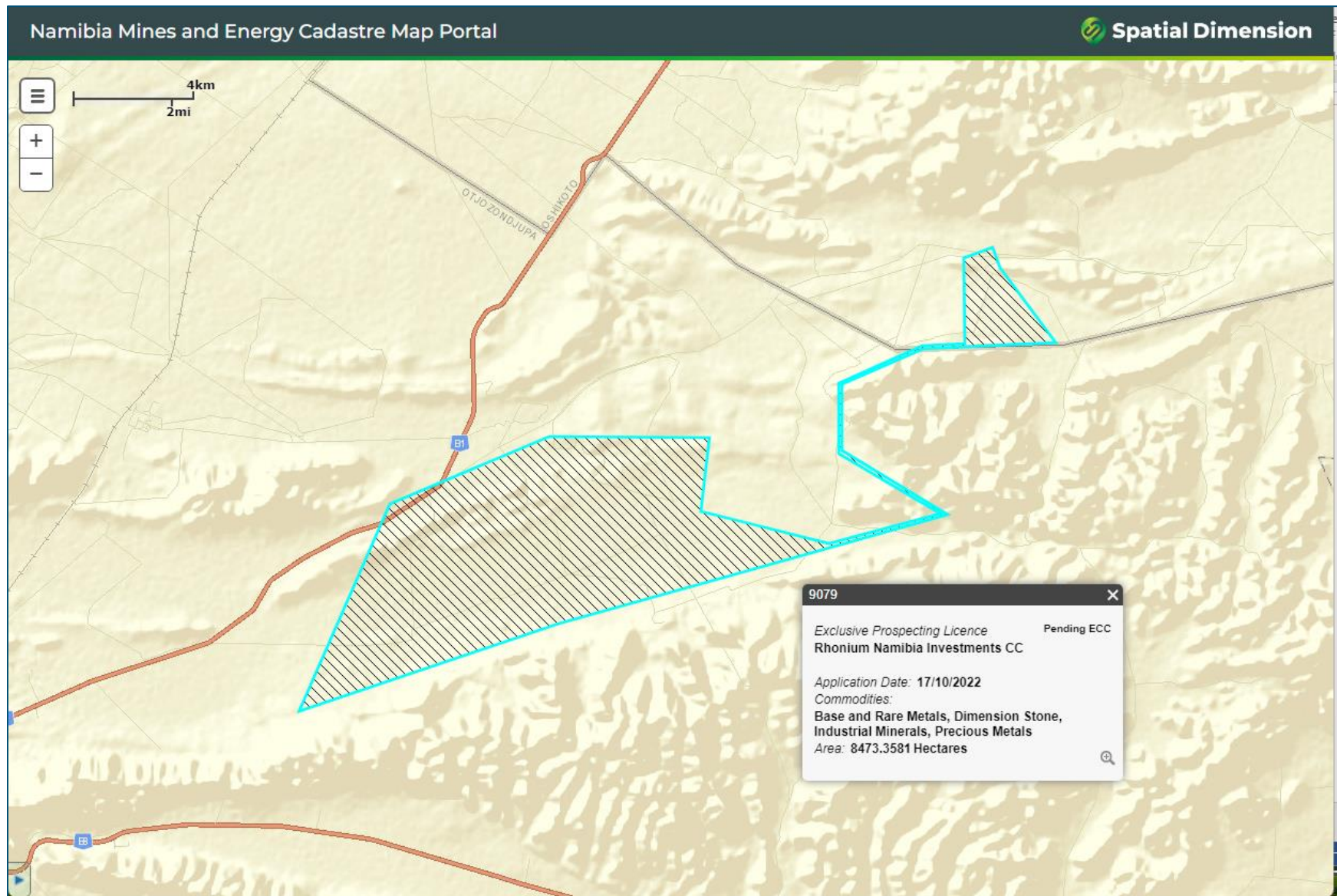


Figure 3: Evidence of the proposed mining claims application on the Ministry of Mine's cadastre (MME, 2025)

4. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

4.1. Environmental Requirements under the Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007)

The Environmental Management Act (also referred to as the EMA), stipulates that for each developmental project, which is listed under the EIA regulations, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be conducted. The aim of the assessment is to identify, assess and ascertain potential environmental impacts that may arise from the proposed activity. According to the EMA, an EIA is a process of identifying, predicting, interpreting and communicating potential impacts to interested and affected parties (I&APs).

4.2 The Environmental Impact Assessment Process

An EIA is a process that evaluates the likely environmental and social effects of a proposed project or development, which identifies suitable mitigation for to avoid or minimize the predicted impacts. The envisioned EIA process will be undertaken in a holistic approach encompassing different elements as shown in **Figure 4**.



Figure 4: Anticipated Environmental Assessment Timeline

5. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSOCIATED WITH THE STORAGE AND HANDLING OF DIESEL FUELS

While the proposed exploration activities stimulate economic development and diversification in order to further create employment opportunities and thus trickling benefits to the larger Namibian population, it also create opportunity for unprecedented negative impacts.

Potential impacts may vary in terms of scale (locality), magnitude and duration e.g. minor negative impacts in the form of visual intrusion, dust and noise pollution especially during the exploration phase and process. Below is a summary of the likely positive impacts that will assessed for the different phases of the proposed exploration activities.

The following is a summary of the likely negative impacts that have been assessed for the different phases of the proposed exploration activities:

- Land use (Likely impacts are negligible; the EPL area and sites are isolated from the distant settlements, and conservation zones).
- Noise (Likely impacts are low as the site is far from residential areas).
- Ecological and biodiversity loss (Likely impacts are localized and low).
- Health and safety (Overall likely impacts are low with correct PPE).
- Solid and hazardous waste management (Likely impacts are low with a solid waste management plan and minimal hydrocarbon fuel use).
- Socioeconomic (Likely negative impacts are low)

6. STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION

As stipulated in the EIA Regulations (paragraphs 7 and 21), public consultation is a pre-requisite and forms an integral component of the Scoping. Comments made during the consultation should be properly captured and addressed in both the Scoping Report and EMP respectively.

Engaging and consulting with the public (residents, authorities etc.) and organizations that may be affected by, or interested in the proposed development allows for all parties to be informed of the proposals and provides an opportunity for views, opinions and concerns to be registered.

This process benefits the Environmental Assessment and design development process as the public may provide information that may not be available otherwise, e.g. past experience and local knowledge, and local concerns and can be taken into consideration in the Scoping assessment. Engaging and consulting early on in the Environmental Assessment process minimizes potential complaints and objections, and assists the ECC application process.

7. REGISTRATION AS AN I&AP

Registering as an Interested or Affected Party (I&AP) affords you an opportunity to be updated about the project and comment on the project, throughout the EIA process. All registered I&AP's will be provided with the draft scoping and EMP reports.

Your comments and questions are important, will add value to the EIA and will ensure that information that may not be available to the consultant is considered (e.g. past experience, local knowledge etc.).

To register or provide comments about the proposed project, please send an e-mail to: eap.trigen@gmail.com . You can also use the attached I&AP registration/comment form, which can be emailed to the above address, sent to P. O. BOX 25874, Windhoek. The deadline for submission of comments is **21 February 2025**. All registered I&AP's will be provided with the draft scoping and EMP reports.

COMMENT FORM

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF A SURFACE BULK DIESEL FUEL STORAGE FACILITY ON THE CURRENT MINING LICENSE (ML 244) NEAR ARANDIS, ERONGO REGION

Please submit the comment form via e-mail or post by **21 February 2025**.

Attention: Enviro-Leap Consulting cc
Tel No: +264 81 708 7194 (WhatsApp)
Email: eap.trigen@gmail.com
Postal Address: P.O. Box 25874, Windhoek

TITLE		FIRST NAME	
INITIALS		SURNAME	
ORGANISATION		E-MAIL	
POSTAL ADDRESS		POSTAL CODE	
TEL NO.		FAX NO.	
CELL NO.			

Please list any colleagues/friends or organizations that you feel should also be registered as Interested or Affected Party for the proposed project (with contact details if available).

Name / Organisation	Postal Address	Tel No.	E-mail

1. Please provide your comments below 3, write a formal letter or simply send an e-mail to:
eap.trigen@gmail.com

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2. Your comment should not be limited by the space provided & you may submit as many pages, as necessary

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Thank you for the comments