

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Oranjemund Town Council hereinafter referred to as the proponent intends to undertake the following activities:

- **Permanent Closure of the Remainder of Erf 1173, Oranjemund Extension 3, as a "Public Open Space";**
- **Rezoning of the Remainder of Erf 1173, Oranjemund Extension 3, from "Public Open Space" to "Special" for a Dome development and support operations.**

The above development triggers listed activities in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012).

As such the proponent appointed Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) to undertake an independent Environmental Assessment (EA) in order to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the above activities. The competent authority is the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism: Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (MEFT: DEAF).

Project Description

The existing sports field on Erf Re/1173, Oranjemund Extension 3, is only occasionally used for athletics activities and does not function as the town's primary athletics venue. The Proponent therefore proposes to redevelop the site into a multifunctional Dome facility comprising indoor sports and recreational amenities, conference and media facilities, accommodation, and supporting commercial services.

The proposed development aims to optimise the use of an underutilised public open space by creating a sport, recreation, business, and hospitality hub that supports social development and economic growth. The facility will provide opportunities for sporting events, conferences, and tourism-related activities, while also accommodating health, fitness, retail, and office components.

The project is expected to contribute to economic diversification, reduce reliance on the mining sector, stimulate local tourism and hospitality industries, and enhance the quality of life of residents through the provision of improved recreational and community facilities.

Public Participation

Communication with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed development was facilitated through the following means and in this order:

- A Background Information Document (BID) containing descriptive information about the proposed activities was compiled and sent out to all identified and registered I&APs via email on **23 April 2026**;

- Notices were placed in the New Era and the Namibian newspapers dated **23 April 2026 and 30 April 2026** briefly explaining the activity and its locality, inviting members of the public to register as I&APs (**Appendix B**); and
- A notice was fixed at the project site (see **Appendix A**);

Public consultation was carried out according to the Environmental Management Act's EIA Regulations. After the initial notification, the I&APs were given two weeks to submit their comments on the project (until **07 July 2026**). The comment period will remain open until the final scoping report is submitted to MEFT.

The Draft Scoping Report will be circulated from the **17 July 2026 until the 31 July 2026** so that the public could review and comment on it. The overall commentary received from the public on the draft report will be documented in the comments and responses report document of this report.

Conclusions and Recommendations

With reference to **Table 11**, none of the negative construction phase impacts were deemed to have a high significant impact on the environment. The construction impacts were assessed to a **Medium to Low (negative)** significance, without mitigation measures. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures in Chapter 7 as well as in the EMP, the significance of the construction phase impacts is likely to be reduced to a **Low (negative)**.

With reference to **Table 11**, none of the negative operational phase impacts were deemed to have a high significance impact on the environment. The operational impacts were assessed to a **Medium (negative)** significance, without mitigation measures. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures in Chapter 7 as well as in the EMP, the significance of the construction phase impacts is likely to be reduced to a **Low (negative)**.

It is recommended that the proposed Dome development be authorised, as the site would otherwise remain underutilised and its development potential unrealised. The project is expected to generate employment opportunities during construction and operation, enhance recreational and sporting facilities for the community, and support economic diversification within Oranjemund. The development is also anticipated to stimulate tourism and business activities, thereby contributing positively to local economic growth and community wellbeing. The significance of the social impact is therefore considered to be **Medium (positive)**.

The “no go” alternative was thus deemed to have a High (negative) impact, as all the benefits resulting from the development would not be realised. The significance of negative impacts can be reduced with effective and appropriate mitigation provided in this report and the EMP. If authorised, the implementation of the EMP should be included as a condition of approval.