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ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY



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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY FOR

A CHARCOAL PRODUCTION AND STORAGE PLANT

IN OUTJO, KUNENE REGION, NAMIBIA

PREPARED FOR

ALFACHARCOAL NAMIBIA PTY LTD



NOVEMBER 2020

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

A CHARCOAL PRODUCTION AND STORAGE PLANT IN OUTJO, KUNENE REGION, NAMIBIA

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) background to the project.

The purpose of the project is to obtain an environmental clearance certificate for the operation of the biomass processing (using central-retort carbonisation technology) and storage plant in Outjo, Kunene Region.

By registering for the project, all I&APs will be kept informed throughout the environmental clearance certificate application process, and a platform for participation will be provided to submit comments and or recommendations pertaining to the project.

This NTS includes the following information on:

- The location of the existing plant;
- The necessity of the project, benefits or adverse impacts anticipated;
- The alternatives to the project have been considered and assessed;
- How the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process works;
- The public participation process and how to become involved; and
- Next steps and the way forward.

2 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

2.1 BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been engaged by the proponent Alfacharcoal Namibia (Pty) Ltd to undertake an ESIA and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. of 7 of

2007 and its regulations. An environmental clearance application will be submitted to the relevant competent authorities; and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT).

2.2 LOCATION

The project is located in the industrial are of Outjo in a north eastern direction, in the Kunene Region and can be accessed via the C39 main road. The site location is shown in Figure 1.

2.3 WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED

Sustainable charcoal production in Namibia presents strategies to combat bush encroachment, supplement farming income, and contribute to local employment creation. Alfacharcoal Namibia (Pty) Ltd operates an existing plant and will continue sourcing biomass from surrounding farmland and producing charcoal by means of carbonization before transporting the charcoal to a processing plant (Unifoods), approximately 7 kilometres outside Outjo. Alfacharcoal will continue to increase its current revenue stream and sustain its direct employment structure.

2.4 WHAT ARE THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Alfacharcoal (Pty) Ltd has constructed two retort kilns. Retort technology is known for expelling fewer emissions compared to standard kilns.

The following activities and infrastructure are associated with the project:

- Continued operation of the existing charcoal production and storage plant including the use of the onsite offices, as well as toilet facilities.

- Water is sourced via the NamWater pipeline system.
- Electricity is supplied by NamPower electricity network.
- Existing infrastructure includes:
 - o two retort kilns;
 - o two storage sheds; and
 - o an office block.
- The biomass from encroacher bush in the form of wood is sourced from the surrounding farms.
- The collected wood is sawn into pieces to fit in the retort kilns.
- Carbonization occurs inside the kilns producing charcoal.
- The charcoal is packaged into bulk bags.
- The product is transported 7km out of Outjo in bulk bags to a processor where it is product sieved and packaged.

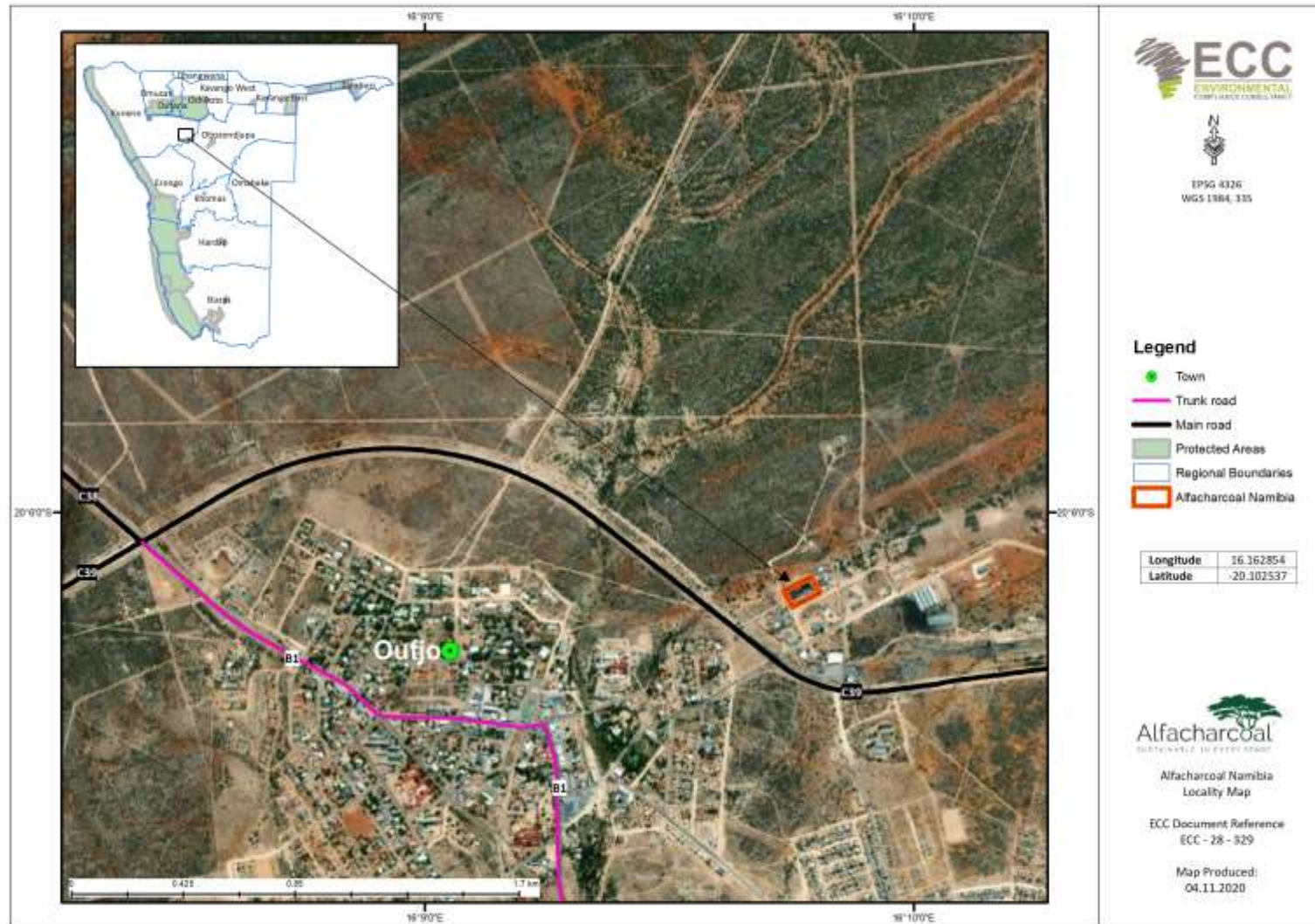


FIGURE 1 – LOCATION OF ALFACHARCOAL NAMIBIA PLANT

2.5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

2.5.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC

The potential social impacts are anticipated to be of low significance, and those that may transpire shall be confined within the local area: these potential impacts may include the following:

- Potential economic benefits due to increased foreign currency flow, and
- Approximately 34 jobs will be created as a result of the project.

2.5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL

The potential environmental impacts are anticipated to be of minor significance, and those that may occur shall be contained within the site, these potential impacts may include the following:

- Generation of noise due to the handling and processing of charcoal during operations, and
- Generation of dust due to the handling and processing of encroacher bush during charcoal production.
- Increase in sewage waste generated from the increase in employee numbers on site.

3 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Best practice environmental assessment methodology calls for consideration and assessment of alternatives to the project.

The project is operating in an industrial serviced area. The activities will be practiced on an already disturbed footprint on the site. Therefore, no other alternatives were considered.

4 THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

This EIA, conducted by ECC, is undertaken in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007, and its regulations. The process followed in this EIA is set out in the flowchart in figure 2.

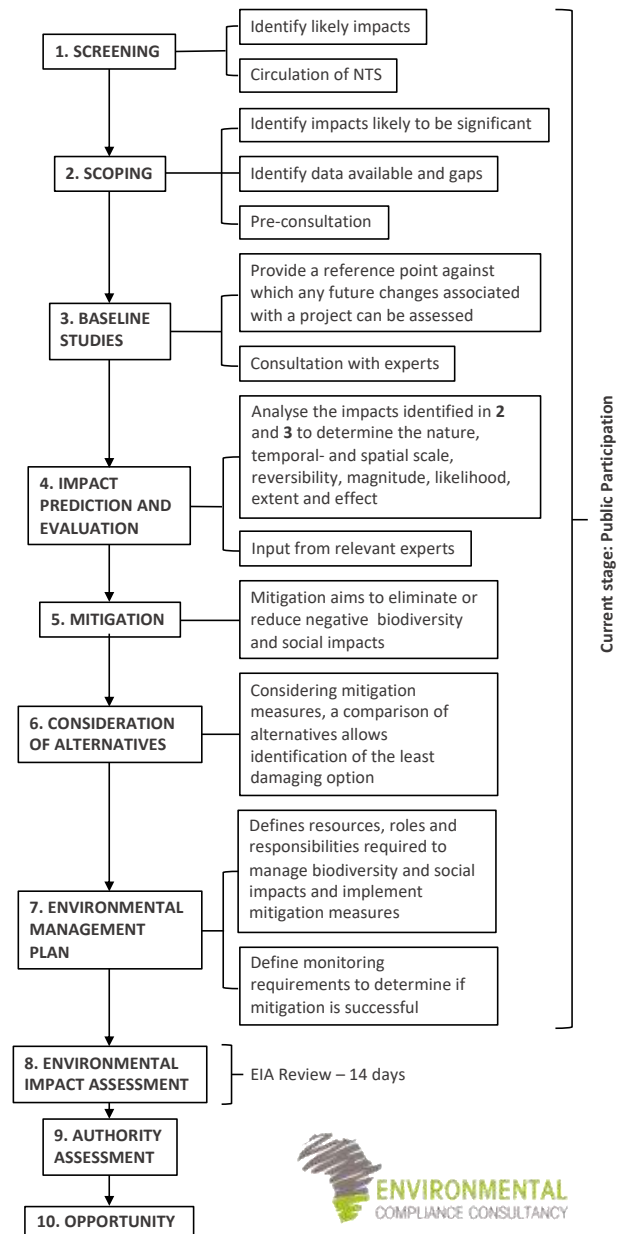


FIGURE 2 - FLOWCHART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

4.1 SCREENING

A review of the project's screening findings against the listed activities was conducted; the findings of which are summarised below:

ENERGY GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND STORAGE ACTIVITIES (EXISTING ACTIVITY)

1 The construction of facilities for –

- (b) The transmission and supply of electricity
 - NamPower supplies the project with electricity.

WASTE MANAGEMENT, TREATMENT, HANDLING AND DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES (EXISTING ACTIVITY)

2.2 Any activity entailing a scheduled process referred to in the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Ordinance, 1976.

- The project will generate dust due to the processing and handling of charcoal.

WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS (EXISTING ACTIVITY)

8.6 Construction of industrial and domestic wastewater treatment plants and related pipeline systems. (Possible activity)

- There is a septic tank present on site and may need to be upgraded as needed.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES TREATMENT, HANDLING, AND STORAGE

9.1 The manufacturing, storage, handling, or processing of a hazardous substance defined in the Hazardous Substance Ordinance, 1974.

- There is the potential to store approximately 140 liters of diesel fuel per week in 20-liter containers.
- The handling of potential noxious gases emitted from the plant.

The potential environmental and social effects are anticipated to be of minor significance, and those that may occur shall be contained on the project site.

4.2 BASELINE STUDIES

For the project, baseline information will be obtained through desk-based studies and a possible site verification process by focusing on the environmental receptors that could be affected by the project. ECC will also engage with stakeholders, I&APs and the proponent to seek input into the assessment.

4.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Impacts will be assessed using the ECC EIA methodology. The EIA will be conducted in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its regulations. ECC's methodology for impact assessments was developed using IFC standards in particular Performance Standard 1 'Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts' (IFC 2012, 2017) and Namibian Draft Procedures and Guidance for EIA and EMP (GRN, 2008) including international and national best practice with over 25 years of combined EIA experience.

4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

An EMP shall be developed for the project, setting out auditable management actions for the project to ensure careful and sustainable management measures are implemented for their activities in respect to the surrounding environment and community.

4.5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ADVERTISING

Public participation is an important part of the EIA process; it allows the public and other stakeholders to raise concerns or provide valuable local environmental knowledge that can benefit the assessment, in addition it can aid the design process. This project is currently at the scoping and the public participation phase.

At this phase ECC will perform the following functions:

- Identify key stakeholders: authorities, municipalities, environmental groups and

interested or affected members of the public, hereafter referred to as I&APs;

- Distribute the NTS for the project (this document);
- Advertise the environmental application in two national newspapers;
- Place notices on-site at or near the boundary,
- If required host a public meeting to encourage stakeholder participation and engagement, and provide details of issues identified by the environmental practitioner, stakeholders and I&APs;
- Record all comments of I&APs and present such comments, as well as responses provided by ECC, in the comments and responses report, which will be included in the scoping report that shall be submitted with the application; and
- Circulate I&AP comments to the project team for consideration of the project design.

Comments must be submitted in writing and can be emailed using the details in the contact us section below.

CONTACT US

We welcome any enquiries regarding this document and its content. Please contact:

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