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ECC DOCUMENT CONTROL: ECC-36-147-REP-06-A

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT

Exploration Activities on EPL 6627 and EPL 6628 for Base, Rare and Precious Metals, and Industrial Minerals in the Kunene and Otjozondjupa Regions

PREPARED FOR

B2GOLD
NAMIBIA

OCTOBER 2018

PO BOX 91193 Windhoek Namibia
Environmental Compliance Consultancy CC

TITLE AND APPROVAL PAGE

Project Name:	Exploration Activities on EPL 6627 and EPL 6628 for Base, Rare and Precious Metals, and Industrial Minerals, Kunene and Otjozondjupa
	ECC-36-147-REP-06-A
Client Name:	B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd
Ministry Reference:	NA
Status of Report:	Final for Government Record of Decision
Date of issue:	October 2018
Review Period	NA

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Confidentiality

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd propose to undertake exploration activities on Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) 6627 and EPL 6628 for base, rare and precious metals, and industrial minerals in the Kunene and Otjozondjupa Region (referred to as the proposed project from herein). EPL 6627 is located in the Otjozondjupa Region, south of Grootfontein, and EPL 6628 is located in the Kunene and Otjozondjupa Regions, west of Otavi.

The proposed project triggers Listed Activities in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007), therefore an Environmental Clearance Certificate is required. As part of the Environmental Clearance Certificate application, an environmental impact assessment has been undertaken to satisfy the requirements of the Environmental Management Act, 2007. This Environmental Scoping Report and Environmental Management Plan shall be submitted as part of the application for the Environmental Clearance.

The proposed project will entail exploration methods on each EPL site, which may involve drilling, aerial or remote sensing, geophysical surveys, and mineral sampling. Some vegetation may be cleared to allow access tracks and working areas to be created, and installation and development of exploration boreholes. The expended lifespan of the exploration activates on each EPL could take up to seven years, with works lasting between one to three months and breaks of up to 12 months. In the event that exploration is successful and a mineral resource can be defined with commercially viable concentrations, exploration operations can potentially transcend into mining operations that would be assessed at a detailed level.

The EPLs are in the Acacia Tree-and-Shrub Savanna biome. EPL 6627 has Karstveld and Thornbush Shrubland vegetation types, whilst EPL 6628 is Karstveld vegetation. The area supports a 'medium-high' terrestrial diversity of animal and plant life compared to the rest of Namibia. The plant diversity in the area has between 400 – 499 species due to the area receiving higher rainfall than other areas in Namibia and the hilly terrain of the surrounding area. EPL 6628 is in an area with a slightly higher diversity that EPL 6627 with between 201 – 230 and 171 – 200 bird species in the areas, respectively. This is mainly influenced by the habitat diversity and the broad-leaved woodlands on the Tsumeb-Grootfontein-Otavi hills to the north of the B8. The area of the EPLs also has between 61 – 75 different mammal species and between 61 – 70 species of reptiles.

EPL 6627 covers 45 farm boundaries and there are approximately 50 farmhouses or farm structures within the EPL. EPL 6628 covers 60 farms and there are approximately 69 farmhouses or farm structures. The land use for each EPLs is predominantly agriculture and tourism. As such, there are farm and area/field boundaries, numerous access tracks, artificial water holes for cattle, crawls and other farming infrastructure.

The environmental and social impact assessment was undertaken using a methodology developed by Environmental Compliance Consultancy which is based on the International Finance Corporation standard for impact assessments. Through the scoping process, a review of the site and surrounding environment was completed by undertaking a desktop review. Limited sensitive receptors were identified during this phase, the only potential environmental risks that may require further investigation was surrounding the increase in noise levels and effects on human receptors.

Through further investigation, it was determined that the effects from noise is considered to be of minor significance, however with additional mitigation, the significance is reduced to low. The additional mitigation measures include:

- No hammering of drill rods with steel hammers when in proximity of houses;
- Noise suppression measures shall be applied if drilling occurs in locations that may affect residents;
- Permission to be obtained from land owner prior to accessing the land;
- Residents shall be provided at least two weeks' notice of drilling operations within 1km of their property; and
- Continual engagement with residents shall be undertaken with the proponent to identify any concerns or issues, and appropriate mitigation and management measures shall be further agreed.

The potential effect therefore is not considered significant as it does not widely exceed recognised levels of acceptable change; does not threaten the integrity of the receptors; nor it is material to the decision making. The assessment is considered to be comprehensive and sufficient to identify impacts, and it is concluded that no further assessment is required. On this basis, it is of the opinion of ECC that an environmental clearance certificate could be issued, on conditions that the management and mitigation measures specified in the EMP are implemented and adhered to.

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DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

DEA	Directorate of Environmental Affairs
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPL	Exclusive Prospecting Licence
IFC	International Finance Cooperation
I&AP	Interested and affected parties
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
MPMRAC	Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Rights) Committee

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd was founded in 2012 and is the owner operator of the Otjikoto Gold Mine near Otjiwarongo, which employs more than 800 permanent employees. The Otjikoto Gold Mine has largely contributed to the socio-economic development in the Region with the primary focus of their Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy being on health, livelihood, education and environment.

To extend operations in Namibia, B2Gold propose to undertake exploration activities on Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) 6627 and EP L6628 for base, rare and precious metals, and industrial minerals in the Kunene and Otjozondjupa Region (referred to as the proposed project from herein). EPL 6627 is located in the Otjozondjupa Region, south of Grootfontein, and EPL 6628 is located in the Kunene and Otjozondjupa Regions, west of Otavi (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).

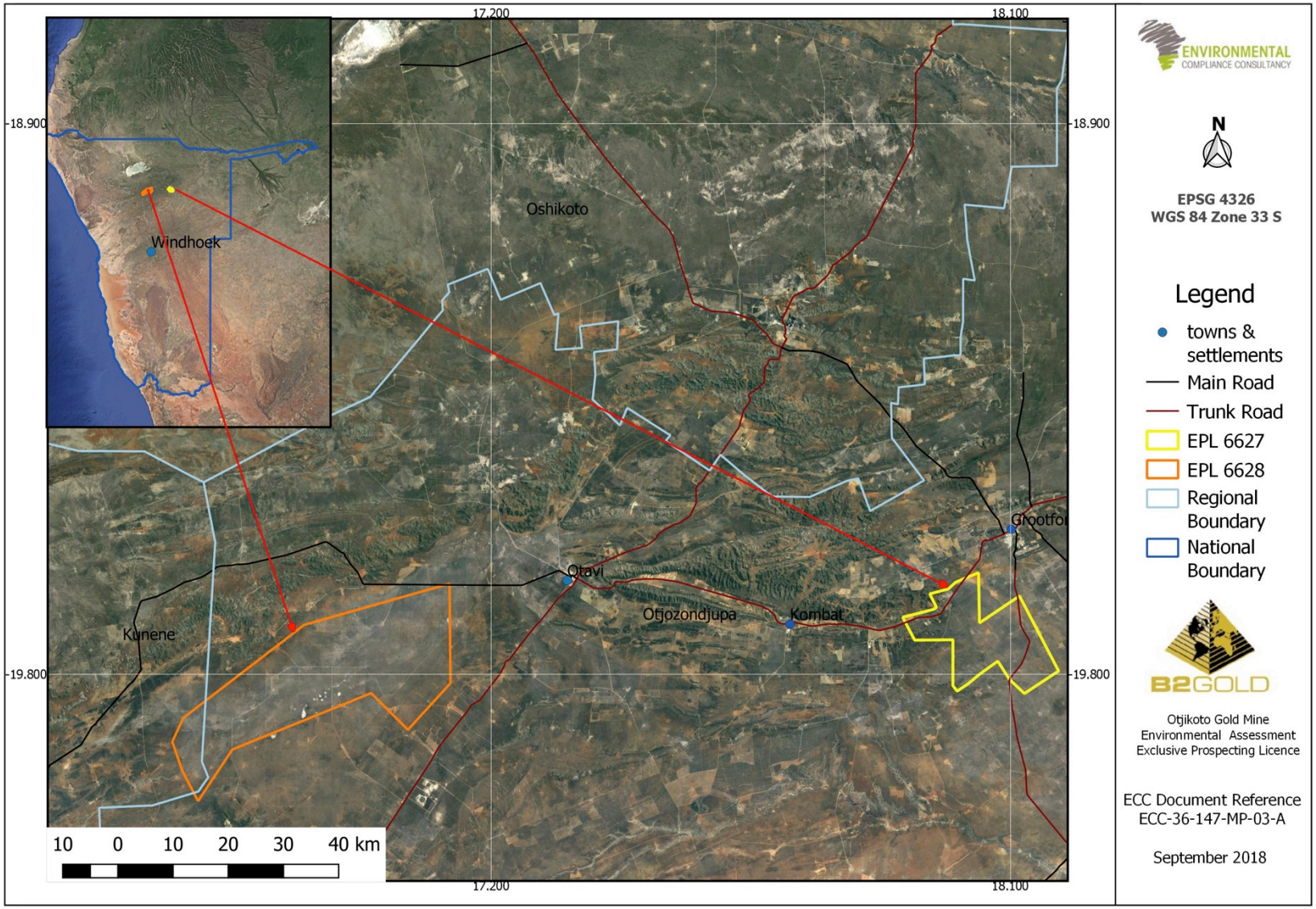

Figure 1 Location of ELPs 6627 and 6628

1.2. ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

The Environmental Management Act, 2007 stipulates that an Environmental Clearance Certificate is required to undertake Listed Activities under the Act and associated Regulations. Listed activities triggered by the proposed project in accordance with the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and supporting regulations are as follows.

MINING AND QUARRYING ACTIVITIES

(3.1) The construction of facilities for any process or activities which requires a licence, right or other form of authorisation, and the renewal of a licence, right or other form of authorisation, in terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act), 1992

(3.2) Other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not

(3.3) Resource extraction, manipulation, conservation and related activities

In accordance with the Environmental Management Act, 2007, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the proposed project is required, and subsequent report submitted as part of the application for Environmental Clearance.

1.3. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the EIA for the proposed project. The EIA has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, 2007 (No. 30 of 2011) gazetted under the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (referred to herein as the EIA Regulations). This Scoping Report and appendices will be submitted to the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) and the Directorate of Environmental Affairs (DEA) at the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) for review as part of the applications (one for each EPL) for Environmental Clearance Certificate.

This report has been prepared by Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC). ECC's terms of reference for the assessment is strictly to address potential effects, whether positive or negative, and their relative significance, explore alternatives for technical recommendations and identify appropriate mitigation measures.

This report provides information to Authorities, the public and stakeholders to aid in the decision-making process for the proposed project. The objectives are to:

- Provide a description of the proposed activity and the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, and the location of the activity on the site;
- Provide a description of the environment that may be affected by the activity;
- Identify the laws and guidelines that have been considered in the assessment and preparation of this report;
- Provide details of the public consultation process;
- Describe the need and desirability of the activity;
- Provide a high level environmental and social impact assessment on feasible alternatives that were considered; and
- Report the assessment findings, identifying the significance of effects, including cumulative effects.

In addition to the environmental assessment, an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (Appendix E) is also required under the Environmental Management Act, 2007. An EMP has been developed to provide a management framework for the planning and implementation of exploration activities. The EMP provides exploration standards and arrangements to ensure that the potential environmental and social impacts are mitigated, prevented and minimised as far as reasonably practical and that statutory requirements and other legal obligations are fulfilled.

1.4. The Proponent of the Proposed Project

The proponent of the proposed project is B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd

B2GOLD NAMIBIA (PTY) LTD
P O Box 80363 – Windhoek
Namibia
Managing Director, namibia.pr@b2gold.com

1.5. Environmental Consultancy

ECC, a Namibian consultancy registration number 2013/11401, has prepared this document on behalf of the proponent. ECC operates exclusively in the environmental, social, health and safety fields for clients across Southern Africa in the public and private sector. The CVs of the authors of this report is contained in Appendix A.

ECC is independent to the proponent and has no vested or financial interested in the proposed project.

All compliance and regulatory requirements regarding this document should be forwarded by email or post to the following address:

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1.6. Report Structure

Table 1 – Environmental Scoping Report Sections

SECTION	TITLE	CONTENT
-	Executive Summary	Executive summary of the EIA
-	Acronyms	A list of acronyms used during the report
1	Introduction	This section introduces the EIA and provides background information on the proposed project, proponent and purpose of the report
2	Regulatory Framework	This chapter describes the Namibian environmental regulatory framework applicable to the project and how it has been considered in the assessment and the Scoping Report and EMP.
3	Project Description	Presents a description of the proposed project and how the proposed project will be operated.
4	Impact Assessment and Mitigation	This chapter presents the predicted potential environmental and social effects arising from the proposed project, and the mitigation and management strategies to be applied to avoid or reduce the effects.
5	Conclusions	Concludes the findings of the EIA
6	References	A list of reference used for this report

This report has the following supporting appendices:

- Appendix A: ECC CV's
- Appendix B: Project Registered Post
- Appendix C: Evidence of Public Consultation – Background Information Document, site notice, Newspaper adverts
- Appendix D: Assessment Methodology
- Appendix E: Environmental Management Plan

2. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This chapter outlines the regulatory framework applicable to the proposed project. Table 2 provides a list of applicable legislation and the relevance to the project.

Table 2 – Legal Compliance

NATIONAL REGULATORY REGIME	SUMMARY	APPLICABILITY TO THE PROJECT
Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act No 33 of 1992	Provides for the reconnaissance, prospecting and mining for, and disposal of, and the exercise of control, minerals in Namibia. Section 50 (i) requires *"an environmental impact assessment indicating the extent of any pollution of the environment before any prospecting operations or mining operations are being carried out and an estimate of any pollution, if any, likely to be caused by such prospecting operations or mining operations"* Section 50 sets out that in addition to any term and condition contained in a mineral agreement and any term and condition contained in any mineral licence, it shall be a term and condition of any mineral licence that the holder of such mineral licence shall: Exercise any right granted to him or her in terms of the provisions of this Act reasonably and in such manner that the rights and interests of the owner of any land to which such licence relates are not adversely affected, except to the extent to which such owner is compensated. Section 52 sets out that the holder of a mineral licence shall not exercise any rights conferred upon such holder by this Act or under any terms and conditions of such mineral licence (a) In, on or under any private land until such time as such holder- (i) Has entered into an agreement in writing with the owner of such land containing terms and conditions relating to the payment of compensation, or the owner of such land has in writing waked any right to such compensation and has submitted a copy of such agreement or waiver to the	The proposed activity is prospecting for minerals; hence it requires an EIA to be carried out as it triggers listed activities in the Environmental Management Act regulations. This report presents the findings of the EIA. Works shall not commence until all conditions in the Act are met, which includes an agreement with the landowners and conditions of compensation have been agreed. The project shall be compliant with Section 76. With regards to records, maps, plans and financial statements, information, reports, and returns submitted. As the proponent will need to access privately owned land the proponent will ensure sections 50 and 52 are complied to.

NATIONAL REGULATORY REGIME	SUMMARY	APPLICABILITY TO THE PROJECT
	Commissioner.	
Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) and associated regulations, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, 2007 (No. 30 of 2011)	The Act aims to promote sustainable management of the environment and the use of natural resources by establishing principles for decision-making on matters affecting the environment. It sets the principles of environmental management as well as the functions and powers of the Minister. The Act requires certain activities to obtain an environmental clearance certificate prior to project development. The Act states an EIA may be undertaken and submitted as part of the environmental clearance certificate application. The MET is responsible for the protection and management of Namibia's natural environment. The Department of Environmental Affairs under the MET is responsible for the administration for the EIA process.	This Environmental Scoping Report (and EMP) documents the findings of the environmental assessment undertaken for the proposed project, which will form part of the environmental clearance application. The assessment and report have been undertaken in line with the requirements under the Act and associated regulations.
Water Act, 1956	This Act provides for "the control, conservation and use of water for domestic, agricultural, urban and industrial purposes; to make provision for the control, in certain respects… and for the control of certain activities on or in water in certain areas". The Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry Department of Water Affairs is responsible for the administration of the Water Act.	The Act stipulates obligations to prevent pollution of water. The EMP sets out measures to avoid polluting the water environment. Measures to minimise potential groundwater and surface water pollution are contained in the EMP.
Soil Conservation Act No.76 of 1969	Makes provision for the prevention and control of soil erosion and the protection, improvement and the conservation, improvement and manner of use of the soil and vegetation.	Taken into consideration during the design of the works to be undertaken on the EPL sites. Measures in the EMP set out methods to avoid soil erosion.
National Heritage Act, No. 27 of 2004.	The Act provides provision of the protection and conservation of places and objects with heritage significance. Section 55 compels exploration companies to report any archaeological findings to the National Heritage Council after which a heritage permit needs to be issued	There is potential for heritage objects to be found on the sites, therefore the stipulations in the Act have been taken into consideration and are incorporated into the EMP. Section 55 compels exploration companies to report any archaeological findings to the National Heritage Council after which a permit needs to be issued before the find

NATIONAL REGULATORY REGIME	SUMMARY	APPLICABILITY TO THE PROJECT
		can be disturbed.

2.1. POLICY

2.1.1. MINERALS POLICY

The Minerals Policy was adopted in 2002 and sets guiding principles and direction for the development of the Namibian mining sector while communicating the values of the Namibian people. It sets out to achieve several objectives in line with the sustainable development of Namibia's natural resources. The policy strives to create an enabling environment for local and foreign investments in the mining sector and seeks to maximise the benefits for the Namibian people from the mining sector while encouraging local participation, amongst others.

The objectives of the Minerals Policy are in line with the objectives of the Fifth National Development Plan that include reduction of poverty, employment creation and economic empowerment in Namibia. The proposed project conforms with the Policy, which has been considered through the EIA process and the production of this report.

2.2. LICENCES

2.2.1. EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENCE

The EPLs were issued on the 26th February 2018 and shall expire February 2021. In terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act, 1992, an EPL may be renewed, however may only be extended twice for two-year periods if demonstrable progress is shown. Renewals beyond seven years requires special approvals from the Minister (Ministry of Mines and Energy, 2018). Such renewals are subject to a reduction in size of the EPL. When a company applies for renewal of an EPL, the application must be lodged 90 days prior to the expiry date of the EPL or, with good reason, no later than the expiry date (Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Mines and Energy, 2018).

The proposed project is expected to be scheduled over a seven-year period, therefore two renewal applications are likely to be applied for. The MET must review the renewal application and make any comments and/or recommendations for consideration by the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Rights) Committee (MPMRC). Amendments and revisions may be required for the EIA and EMP. Due Consideration must be given when renewing the licence to ascertain whether there is justification to renew the licence. Once an EPL expires and a new EPL is issued, even if it is to the previous holder, the full screening process must be followed with a full EIA process before operations may commence (Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Mines and Energy, 2018).

2.2.2. MINING LICENCE

If either of the EPLs are successful, a Mining Licence shall be applied for. When considering the mining licence application, the MPMRAC and the MET must be convinced of the viability and national economic importance of the proposed mining activity. A full EIA shall be undertaken as part of the Environmental Clearance Application, which is compulsory for any prospecting or mining activities associated therewith in a protected area (Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Mines and Energy, 2018).

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1. NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Namibia is rich in a variety of minerals including copper, lead, gold, zinc, iron, limestone and fluorspar. The mining sector in Namibia significantly contributes to the country's GDP, government tax receipts and export revenues. For this reason, exploration activities are encouraged in Namibia and the vision of the Minerals Policy being to *"further attract investment and enable the private sector to take the lead in exploration, mining, mineral beneficiation and marketing"* supports the development. The proposed project is in line with this vision and has the potential to create employment in local communities of both the Kunene and Otjozondjupa Regions. In the event that exploration activities are fruitful, and a resource can be defined in commercially viable concentrations, exploration operations can potentially transcend into mining operations which can result in socio-economic development.

3.2. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The EPLs were granted by the MME on the 26th February 2018 specifically for the exploration of base, rare and precious metals, and industrial minerals.

Exploration activities range from extremely low impact exploration such as remote sensing from satellites to more invasive methods such as extensive close spaced drilling. The methods used shall be determined based on the exploration programme which is further designed once more information and data is obtained. At this stage of the project, the exploration activities are yet to be finalised and therefore a range of options remain. The environmental assessment has therefore taken a worst-case scenario (as per best practice guidance – see Appendix D), which includes a review of all likely exploration activities, thus no other technological alternatives are available for consideration at this stage.

Once the exploration programme is further defined, the best available option for methods shall be identified to ensure the impacts on the environment and society are minimised.

3.3. PROPOSED PROJECT AND SITE LOCATION

3.3.1. EPL SITES

EPL 6627 is located approximately 14km to the west of Grootfontein along the B8, and is approximately 29,000ha. EPL 6628 is located approximately 22km to the west of Otavi along the C39, and is approximately 83,000ha. EPL 6628 is approximately 11km north of the exiting Otjikoto Gold Mine (see Figure 1).

3.3.2. PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

The exploration methods on each EPL site may involve the following methods: drilling; aerial or remote sensing; geophysical surveys; and mineral sampling. Further detail of these methods are as follows.

- **Rotary Air Blast (RAB) drilling and diamond drilling** shall be undertaken to obtain samples. The collected samples will be temporarily stored in plastic bags on site and transported to Otjiwarongo and/or to the Lab in Swakopmund. Exploration shall be undertaken in programmed segments. Approximately 50-200 holes will be made per programme during the RAB drilling and approximately 10-20 holes made with diamond drilling, however the number of drill holes may vary depending on the exploration findings. Equipment used during drilling will include two diamond drill rigs and one RAB drill rig.
- **Remote sensing** during mineral exploration enables explorers to find and assess deposits without having to undertake massive exploration operations. Remote sensing may be used to map the geology and existing faults and fractures that localise the ore deposits or may be used to recognise rocks which have been hydrothermally altered. Remote sensing involves using an airborne platform to gather and record spectral data from the surface of the earth. Remote sensing includes a number of tools and techniques including

geographical information systems, radar, geographical information systems and sonar. Typically, a high-flying aircraft is used in the data collection process. It is a useful tool when searching for high value minerals such as gold and diamonds and gives a good indication of where deposits are situated and aids in narrowing down the field survey area.

- **Geophysical ground surveys** may potentially be undertaken to collect basic data and map the rock types, structures and minerals. Techniques may include electromagnetic surveys, induced polarisation surveys, magnetotelluric (MT) and magnetic surveys. The approach taken will be dependent on the target mineral.

Pitting and trenching are unlikely at this stage and therefore have not been included in this Scoping Report.

Existing roads will be used to access both sites and existing tracks across the EPLs will be utilized. Additional tracks may be created to access areas that have no tracks. New tracks shall be minimised and created using a chainsaw or a wheeled dozer. Whilst vegetation shall be cleared to allow access (rather than to convert the land), the area to be cleared shall not be more than 15ha, therefore would not trigger the Forest Act, 2001 (Section 23). In addition, any established or larges trees shall not be removed, and effects are likely to be low (see Section 4.4 and the EMP).

To facilitate exploration, additional equipment shall include four pick-up trucks and two support trucks. Fuel, oils and chemicals shall be also used during activities, including soft soap, Poly Plus, Rod Grease, Cap-21, Wonder-cut and diesel.

3.3.3. Exploration Schedule

Exploration is intended to commence in 2019 and may last for up to seven years. During this time, exploration activities shall be undertaken in programme segments that may last between one to three months, with breaks of up to 12 months. The Environmental Clearance Certificate along with all required permits will be renewed accordingly during this period.

3.3.4. Workers and Accommodation

Approximately 17 employees will be required for exploration, who will mainly be from Otjiwarongo. The roles of the employees include three geologists, two geo-technicians, eight semi-skilled workers and four drill crew members. Additional roles may be required which shall be determined by the programme and exploration methods.

The workers will be accommodated in Otjiwarongo for periods during the exploration phase, however during active exploration, workers may be required to stay closer to the exploration area on campsites or in existing properties which may be rented from the farmer. The proponent shall have solar showers and portable toilets during this period. The camping equipment shall include tents and a portable kitchen.

3.3.5. Resource Use and Waste Management

Water will be required for various uses including for human use and exploration activities. It will most likely be sourced from an existing source on site, after permission has been obtained from the farm owner. In the event that a suitable water source is not available (approximately $5m^3$/ hour), water will be brought to site by truck or a borehole will be drilled on site.

Energy will be required on the exploration sites and this shall be supplied by small generators.

Waste shall be produced on site, which shall include sewerage and solid waste such as packaging. All solid waste shall be collected, taken off site and disposed of at the nearest waste management sites in Grootfontein or Otavi. Mobile toilets may be brought on to site. Any sewerage generated shall be managed through by the supplier of the toilets. No waste shall be discharged to the environment.

3.4. Successful Exploration

If exploration is successful, exploration activities shall become more localised and intense so that the mineralised target can be further defined. Exploration activities include those described in the previous sections. If this stage of exploration is successful, the project shall move into the mining stage, which is not within the scope of this assessment. A detailed EIA shall be undertaken, as discussed in Section 2.2.2.

3.5. Rehabilitation

Once exploration activities are completed the areas shall be rehabilitated. Rehabilitation shall be determined during the exploration programme and shall be agreed with the landowner as discussed in Section 2.2 and the MET.

If exploration is successful, a Mining Licence shall be applied for – see Section 2.2.2. Areas that are excluded from the Mining Licence area and/or impacts on areas that are not going to be mined must be restored to the satisfaction of the MET prior to an ML being issued, or within one year from the issuance of the Mining Licence (Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Mines and Energy, 2018).

3.6. Limitations, uncertainties and Assumptions

A number of limitations and uncertainties were acknowledged during the EIA process, which is summarised in **Error! Reference source not found.**, along with the assumptions made to manage them. In line with EIA best practice, assumptions have been made based on realistic worst-case scenarios, thereby ensuring that the worst-case potential environmental impacts are identified and assessed.

Table 3 – Limitations, Uncertainties and Assumptions

LIMITATION / UNCERTAINTY	ASSUMPTION
– The program of exploration works is not confirmed	– It is assumed that exploration works shall take up to seven years and involve drilling; aerial or remote sensing; geophysical surveys; and mineral sampling. Pitting and trenching are unlikely.
– Water source is unconfirmed and needs to be able to supply at least 5m^3/ hour	– Water shall be acquired from existing sources on site. If this is not available, water shall be brought to sit by truck or a borehole shall be drilled.

3.7. Site and Surrounding Environment

Both EPLs are in the Acacia Tree-and-Shrub Savanna biome. EPL 6627 has Karstveld and Thornbush Shrubland vegetation types, whilst EPL 6628 is Karstveld vegetation. According to (Mendelsohn et al., 2003), the area of the EPLs has 'medium-high' terrestrial diversity of animal and plant life compared to the rest of Namibia; the Karstveld around the Tsumeb area is one of the notable zones of high diversity. The plant diversity in the area has between 400 – 499 species due to the area receiving higher rainfall than other areas in Namibia and the hilly terrain of the surrounding area. EPL 6628 is in an area with a slightly higher diversity that EPL 6627 with between 201 – 230 and 171 – 200 bird species in the areas, respectively. This is mainly influenced by the habitat diversity and the broad-leaved woodlands on the Tsumeb-Grootfontein-Otavi hills to the north of the B8. The area of the EPLs also has between 61 – 75 different mammal species and between 61 – 70 species of reptiles (Mendelsohn et al., 2003).

The annual temperature for the area is between 20 and 22^{o}C, with between one to five days of frost per year. The hottest month is December with temperatures ranging between 32 and 34^{o}C, and the coolest month tends to be July with temperatures ranging between 4 - 6^{o}C. The area receives between 500 – 550mm of rainfall per year on average and the prominent wind direction is from the east. There are no surface water features on or in proximity to the sites,

however a canal runs through EPL 6627 in a north-south direction. EPL 6627 is within the Omatako catchment area and EPL 6928 in Omatakako catchment. Both EPLs are sited above a moderate productive aquifer (Mendelsohn et al., 2003).

The area is located in the Kalahari and Namib Sands and Otavi Group rock type. The dominant soil type is Mollic Leptosols; soils with good surface structure, which are coarse-textured soils, characterises by limited depth caused by the presence of a continuous hard-rock, highly calcareous or cemented layer within 30cm of the surface. They are the shallowest soils in Namibia and often contain much gravel. As a result, their water-holding capacity is low and vegetation in these areas is often subject to drought (Mendelsohn et al., 2003).

Both EPLs are in rural areas with a lack of industrial activities and noisy receptors. The noise baseline for the majority of the EPL sites is most likely below the South African National Standards (SANS) 10103 for rural districts (45dBA), apart from areas that are in proximity to national and regional roads. The air quality of the area is expected to be good with only minor air pollution along the roads which would likely be dispersed quickly.

3.7.1. Environmental Context for EPL 6627

EPL 6627 extends over 45 farm boundaries and there are approximately 50 farm houses or farm structures within the EPL. Land use is predominately cattle farming. As such, there are farm and area/field boundaries, numerous access tracks, artificial water holes for cattle, crawls and other farming infrastructure. The site is heavily vegetated; however, some areas have been cleared of vegetation and used for crop production, e.g. Farm Rietfontein produces different crops such as white and yellow maize, vegetables and Blue Buffel hay.

The B8 tar road passes through the project site in an east-west direct in the northern section and the D2830 gravel road passes through the east section of the site in a north-south direction. Other infrastructure such as an overhead electrical transmission line and canal are also be present on site.

Just off the B8 is the National Youth Service Rietfontein Training Centre which is part of the Farm Rietfontein. The training centre forms part of a programme for the National Youth Service, which was set out to support the development of the youth in order to make them productive citizens that will contribute to the social and economic development of the country.

The site is relatively flat with the Tsumeb-Grootfontein-Otavi hills to the north of the site. The site lies approximately 1200m – 1400 metres above sea level. There is evidence of site surface water drainage and it is likely that natural drainage lines shall occur across the site.

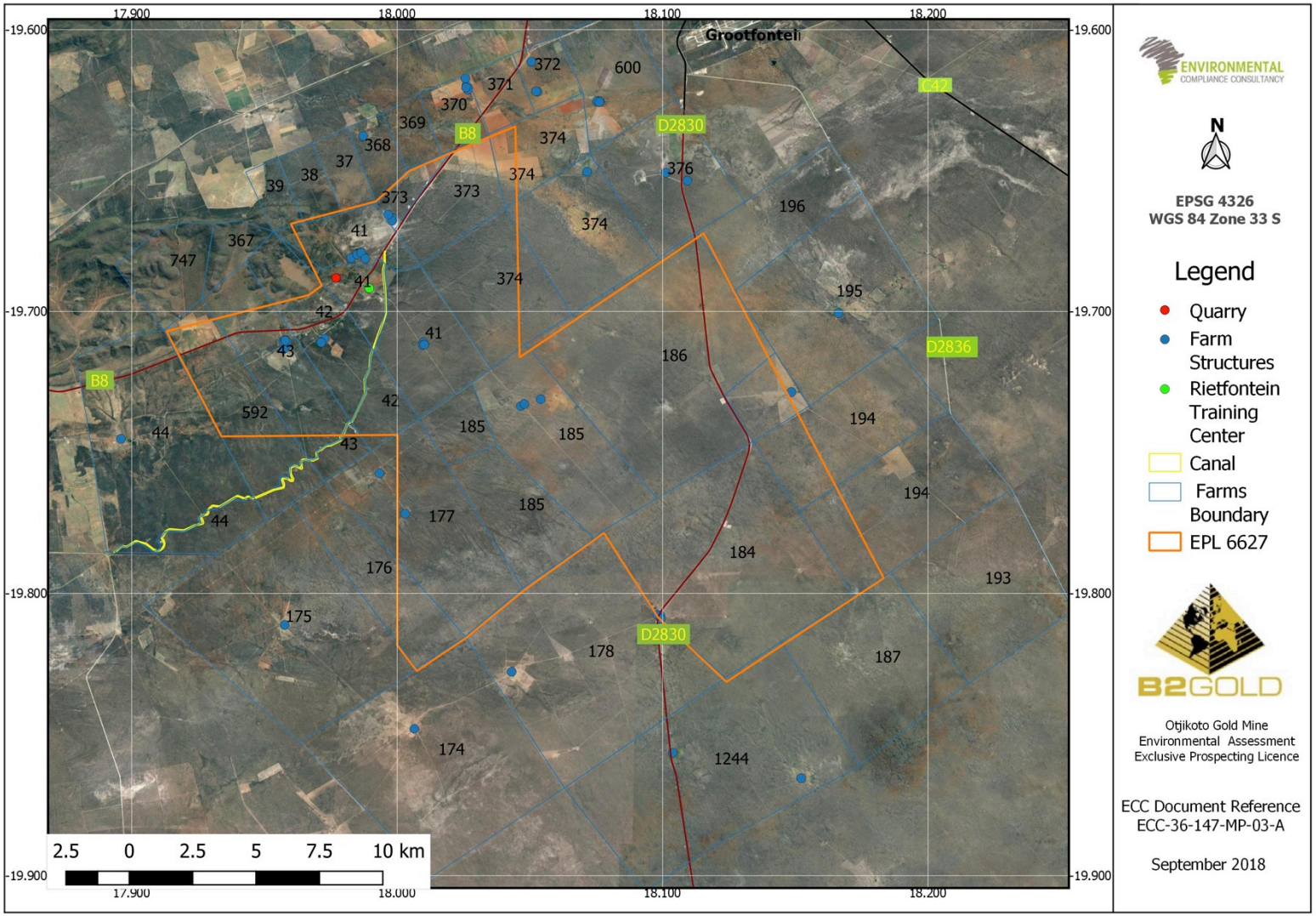

Figure 2 : Map showing locality of EPL 6627

3.7.2. Environmental Context For EPL 6628

EPL 6628 extends over 60 farms and there are approximately 69 farmhouses or farm structures within the EPL. Land use is cattle farming, with little evidence of other uses. Various tracks exist across the EPL as well as farm and area/field boundaries, artificial water holes for cattle, crawls and other farming infrastructure. In addition, an overhead line transects the site on the east side, routing in a north-east, south-west direction, parallel to the B1. The D2873, D2886 and D2869 are gravel roads and route through the site, and the C39 is to the north and B1 is to the south.

The site is relatively flat with hills between the northern boundary and the C39. The site lies approximately 1600m – 1800 metres above sea level. There is evidence of surface water drainage across the site, with some of these areas having more established vegetation. There is also evidence of some natural dams may fill during the rainy months, particularly in the centre of the site along the southern boundary.

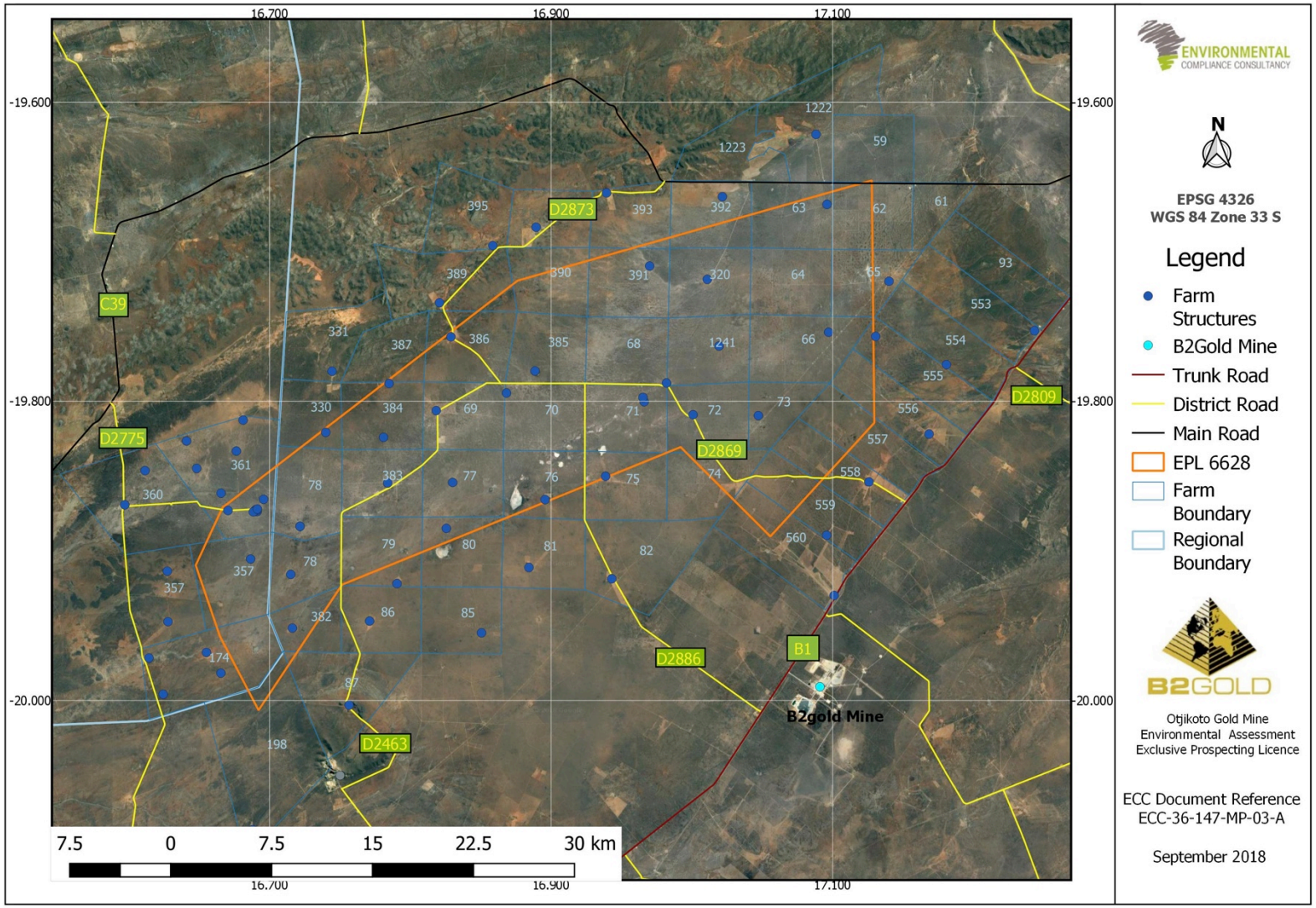

Figure 3: Map showing locality of EPL 6628

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1. PURPOSE OF AN EIA

The EIA process in Namibia is governed and controlled by the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and the EIA Regulations No. 30 of 2012, which is administered by the Office of the Environmental Commissioner through the DEA of the MET.

An EIA is a process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the potential effects of a proposed project on the natural and human environment. The aims of the EIA process and subsequent report are to apply the principles of environmental management to proposed activities; reduce the negative and increase the positive effects arising from a proposed project; provide an opportunity for the public to consider the environmental impacts of a proposed project through meaningful consultation; and to provide a vehicle to present the findings of the assessment process to Competent Authorities for decision making.

4.2. THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The EIA methodology applied to this EIA has been developed using the IFC standards and models, in particular Performance Standard 1, 'Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts' (International Finance Corporation, 2017) (International Finance Corporation, 2012); Namibian Draft Procedures and Guidance for EIA and EMP (Republic of Namibia, 2008); international and national best practice; and over 25 years of combined EIA experience.

The process followed through the basic assessment is illustrated in Figure 4 and detailed further in the following sections.

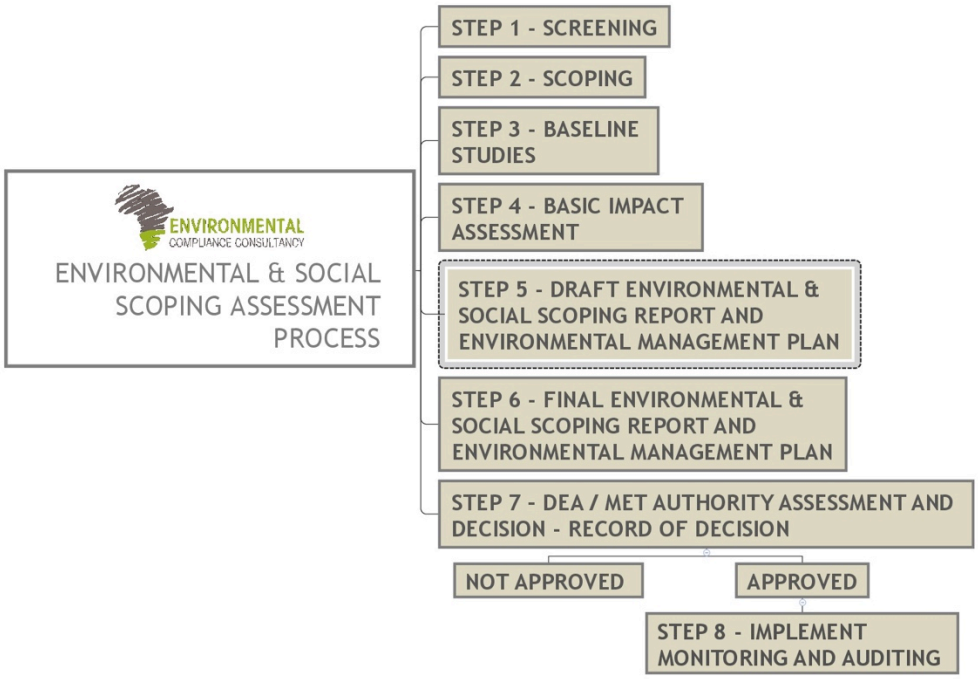

Figure 4 – EIA Scoping Process

4.2.1. SCREENING OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The first stages of the EIA process are to register the project with the Competent Authority and undertake a screening exercise. The screening exercise determines whether the proposed project is considered as a Listed Activity in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and associated Regulations and if significant impacts may arise. During this process, the location, scale and duration of project activities are considered against the receiving environment to determine the approach to the EIA.

Through screening, the proposed project was identified as a Listed Activity; however, significant effects will unlikely arise as a result of project activities. Therefore, it was concluded that an EIA Scoping Report was required and deemed sufficient, and no further work (detailed assessment) would be required, however this would be confirmed during the scoping assessment stage.

4.2.2. SCOPING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The purpose of the scoping stage in the EIA process is to identify the scope of assessment; undertake a high-level assessment to identify potential impacts; and confirm if further investigation is required to assign the severity of potential significant effects and appropriate mitigation.

This report presents the findings of the scoping phase and high-level assessment, and confirms that no further investigation is required. This conclusion is presented in Section 4.6.

4.2.2.1. BASELINE STUDIES

Baseline studies are undertaken as part of the scoping stage which involves collecting all pertinent information from the current status of the receiving environment. This provides a baseline where changes that occur as a result of the proposed project can be measured.

For the proposed project, baseline information was obtained through a desk-based study, focussing on environmental receptors that could be affected by the proposed project. The baseline is presented in Section 3.7.

4.2.2.2. IMPACT PREDICTION AND EVALUATION

Impact prediction and evaluation involves predicting the possible changes to the environment as a result of the development/project. The methodology presented in Appendix D was applied to determine the magnitude of impact and whether or not the impact was considered significant or if further investigation was required. The findings of the high-level assessment are presented in Section 4.4.

4.3. CONSULTATION

Public participation and consultation is a requirement stipulated in Section 21 of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and associated regulations for a project that requires an Environmental Clearance Certificate. Consultation is a compulsory and critical component in the EIA process in achieving transparent decision-making and can provide many benefits.

A key aim of the consultation process is to inform stakeholders and interested and affected parties (I&AP) about the proposed project. The methods undertaken for the proposed project are detailed as follows, which are in line with the requirements of the EIA Regulations.

4.3.1. NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Notices regarding the proposed project and associated activities were circulated in two newspapers namely the 'Namibian' on the 8th and 15th of August and in the 'Informante' on the 9th and 16th of August. The purpose of this was to commence the consultation process and enable I&APs to register an interest with the project.

4.3.2. Background Information Document

The Background Information Document (BID) presents a high-level description of the proposed project; sets out the EIA process and when and how consultation is undertaken, and contact details for further enquiries and is made available to all registered I&APs. The BID can be found in Appendix C.

4.3.3. Site notices

A site notice ensures neighbouring properties and stakeholders are made aware of the proposed project. The notice was set up at the boundary of the both EPLs as illustrated in Appendix C.

4.3.4. Consultation feedback

No issues or concerns were raised by the I&APs during the consultation period. In addition ECC sent registered post to all farm owners for which the EPL covers as set out in Appendix B.

4.4. Environmental assessment Findings

4.4.1. Scoping Assessment Findings

When undertaking the scoping exercise, the design of the proposed project and best practice measures were considered to ensure the likely significant effects and any required additional mitigation measures were identified. The following topics were considered during the scoping phase:

- Surface water and groundwater (including geomorphology)
- Soils and geology
- Landscape (visual impacts, change in landscape, sense of place)
- Socio-economics (employment, local businesses, community, demographics & tourism, land use)
- Noise
- Ecology (aquatic, fauna & flora)
- Human environment (infrastructural services, traffic and transport)
- Air Quality (including dust)
- Cultural Heritage and Palaeontology resources

The source-pathway-receptor model was used to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project and determine if further assessment is required.

- Source of potential impact - where does the impact come from, e.g. the activity, ground excavation, which emits dust.
- The potential pathway – how can the pollution / impact travel through the environment e.g. wind direction and speed.
- The receptor and effect – what can be affected and how e.g. water body, sedimentation, water quality affected.

Table 4 sets out the findings of the scoping assessment phase. Activities that could be the source of an impact have been listed, followed by receptors that could be affected. The pathway between the source and the receptor has been identified where both are present. Where an activity and/or receptor has not been identified, an impact is unlikely, thus no further assessment or justification provided. Where the activity, receptor and pathway have been identified, a justification has been provided documenting if further assessment is required or not required.

Table 4 – Scoping Assessment Findings

TOPICS	ACTIVITY	RECEPTOR	PATHWAY	EFFECT	FURTHER ASSESSMENT JUSTIFICATION
Surface & groundwater	– Exploration drilling	– Groundwater	– Drilling at depth and or near the water table – Groundwater extraction – Drill fluid interaction	– Drilling could penetrate the groundwater table and the drill fluid could enter the groundwater causing pollution – Pollution from loss of hydrocarbons, oil spills and drill fluids into the groundwater – Decrease in groundwater /changes to groundwater table due to ground water extraction.	– Extraction volumes of water shall be minimal during the program and where possible, water shall be used from existing sources. – No effects on the recharge or flow of groundwater. – With the mitigation and management measures listed in the EMP, these effects would be minimsied and no likely significant affect anticipated. **No further assessment required as there is a low probability of significant impacts to the surface and groundwater.**
Soils and geology	– Vegetation clearance – Minor earthworks – Creation of access tracks – Drilling – Use of equipment (vehicles)	– Soil (e.g. quality)	– Drill fluids entering environment and spilling on to ground – Loss of vegetation and use of vehicles leading soil erosion.	– Reduction in soil quality	– Soil quality not good in the area. – With the mitigation and management measures listed in the EMP, these effects would be minimsied and no likely significant affect anticipated. **No further investigation required.**
Landscape	– Presence of equipment	– Farm owners (residential properties) – People using the Rietfontein Training Centre – Views from the road (tourists and local community)	– Views	– Changes to views (people's perception) – Changes to the local landscape –	– Short-term duration for the presence of equipment, which shall move frequently and shall not result in long-term effects. – With the mitigation and management measures listed in the EMP, these effects would be minimsied and no likely significant affect anticipated. **No further investigation required.**
Land use	– Exploration activities	– Farmers and cattle – People using the Rietfontein Training	– Change or disturbance of land use	– Cattle restricted from areas where activities occur, affecting daily	– Short term temporary changes are unlikely to result in a significant effect. – With the mitigation and management

TOPICS	ACTIVITY	RECEPTOR	PATHWAY	EFFECT	FURTHER ASSESSMENT JUSTIFICATION
		Centre		operations of the farm and potential cost implications.	measures listed in the EMP, these effects would be minimsied and no likely significant affect anticipated. **No further investigation required.**
Socio-economics	– Exploration activities	– People (residents of farmhouses) – Farm access – Local economy	– Increased socio-economic development associated with exploration activities – Direct change to access	– Creation of local jobs – Direct impacts to the local community through increased income generation – Knowledge and technology transfer – Influx of people leading to social disruption / cohesion – Loss of access or access affected to the farm and farm areas	– Beneficial effects to the local community and economy, however not considered significant for exploration works. – With the mitigation and management measures listed in the EMP, these effects would be minimsied and no likely significant affect anticipated. **No further investigation required.**
Noise	– Drilling operations – Hauling equipment – Vehicle movements – Use of remote sensing aerial equipment (helicopter or drone)	– People (farmhouses) – People using the Rietfontein Training Centre – Cattle – Ecological receptors	– Noise carrying to receptors within 200m	– Short-term increase in noise levels heard by farmers (disruption)	– Sensitive animals, birds and insects etc. can move away from the area. – Short duration, isolated changes to the baseline, possible effect on receptors in particular residents in farmhouses and people using the training center. – With the mitigation and management measures (including robust stakeholder engagement throughout the exploration program) listed in the EMP, these effects would be minimsied and no likely significant affect anticipated. **A detailed assessment is not required, however, due to the uncertainty surrounding the risk of affecting sensitive receptors due to the increase in noise levels, further**

TOPICS	ACTIVITY	RECEPTOR	PATHWAY	EFFECT	FURTHER ASSESSMENT JUSTIFICATION
					investigation was deemed necessary and can be found in Section 4.4.2.
Ecology	– Drilling operations – Vegetation clearing – Hauling equipment – Vehicle movements	– Flora and fauna	– Direct and indirect disturbance	– Loss of vegetation – Injury or mortality of individual species	– No known protected species of flora and fauna – Sensitive animals, birds and insects etc. can move away from the area. – Localised vegetation removal, no loss of habitat connectivity – With the mitigation and management measures listed in the EMP, these effects would be minimsied and no likely significant affect anticipated. **No further investigation required**
Air Quality – Dust	– Drilling – Vehicles and machinery activity	– People (farmhouses) – People using the Rietfontein Training Centre – Ecological receptors – Cattle	– Dust limit to travel <100m	– Limited increase in dust deposition at farm houses	– Short-term localised effects that are unlikely to be significant. – With the mitigation and management measures listed in the EMP, these effects would be minimsied and no likely significant affect anticipated. **No further investigation required**
Cultural Heritage and Palaeontology resources	– Drilling	– No known artifacts or heritage remains.	– NA	– NA	– With the mitigation and management measures listed in the EMP, in particular the Chance Finds Procedure, potential effects would be avoided and minimsed and no likely significant affect anticipated. **No further investigation required**
Cumulative Effects	The combined environmental effects as a result of the activities of the proposed project are considered low and would not result in a significant adverse effect on any receptor identified above. The effects of the proposed project in combination with other projects on the EPL sites or projects outside of the EPL boundaries are considered to be low. This is due to the limited number of other projects in the area, the distance of the projects (namely B2Gold) and likely effects on the same sensitive receptors.				

Due to the nature and localised scale of the exploration activities, and the environmental context of both sites, the potential environmental and social effects are limited and unlikely to be significant. The only area where uncertainty remained during the scoping phase was the potential effects on human receptors from the increase in noise levels, namely residents in farm houses and people using the Rietfontein Training Centre. Further consideration of the potential effects on humans was therefore undertaken and are presented in the next section.

4.4.2. Further Consideration: Noise Levels

Due to the rural nature of the EPL sites and the lack of noisy activities in the area, the average noise levels across the EPLs is most likely below the South African National Standards (SANS) 10103 for rural districts (45dBA) with the exception of areas that are in proximity to national and regional roads.

69 farmhouses or farm structures are located within EPL 6628, and 50 farmhouses or farm structures and the Rietfontein Training Centre are located in EPL 6627. Drilling operations have the potential to increase the noise levels which could affect sensitive receptors. This nuisance could affect the lifestyle and daily tasks of residents and people using the training centre, and could also cause health issues, such as tinnitus and sleeping problems.

These human receptors are used to a quiet environment and therefore are considered as medium sensitive receptors to an increase in noise levels. Drilling operations have the potential to adversely increase the baseline, however this change would be for a temporary short-term duration. Through the application of the EIA methodology presented in Appendix D, the conclusion of the assessment is that without additional mitigation, the significance of effect is expected to be minor. With additional mitigation as listed below, the effects on human receptors from noise impacts would be reduced to low significance. No additional studies are considered necessary to further assess this risk of impact.

Table 5 – Summary of effects

Activity	Receptor	Impact	Nature of impact	Value & Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Significance of impact
Drilling	– Humans	Nuisance Health Impact	Short term Temporary Local / on-site Direct Adverse Likely	Medium	Minor	Minor Adverse

The following additional mitigation measures have been identified in addition to those presented in the EMP, and shall be communicated to the proponent to ensure environmental effects are minimised as reasonably practicable.

- No hammering of drill rods with steel hammers;
- Drill equipment shall be suitably positioned do that noisy equipment is away from human receptors;
- Noise suppression measures shall be applied if drilling occurs in locations that may affect residents;
- Residents shall be provided at least two weeks' notice of drilling operations within 1km of their property; and
- Continual engagement with residents shall be undertaken with the proponent.

The potential impact therefore is not considered significant as it does not widely exceed recognised levels of acceptable change; does not threaten the integrity of the receptors; nor it is material to the decision making.

4.5. Environmental Management Plan

The EMP for the proposed project is presented in Appendix E. It provides management options to ensure the impacts of the proposed project are minimised. An EMP is a tool used to take pro-active action by addressing potential

problems before they occur. This should limit the corrective measures needed, although additional mitigation measures might be included if necessary.

The management measures should be adhered to during all stages of the exploration activities. All persons involved and partaking in the proposed activities should be made aware of the measures outlined in the EMP to ensure activities are conducted in an environmentally sound manner.

The objectives of the EMP are:

- To include all components of the development and operations of the project;
- To prescribe the best practicable control methods to lessen the environmental impacts associated with the project;
- To monitor and audit the performance of operational personnel in applying such controls; and
- To ensure that appropriate environmental training is provided to responsible operational personnel.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The environmental assessment that was undertaken for the proposed project followed ECC's EIA Methodology to identify if there is potential for significant effects to occur as a result of the proposed project. Through the scoping process, the only risk to the environment was the potential for noise levels to increase and humans to be affected. All other social and environmental receptors were scoped out as requiring further assessment it was unlikely that there would be significant effects. Through further analysis and identification of mitigation and management methods, the assessment concludes that the likely significance of effects on humans from noise impacts is expected to be minor. Various best practice and mitigation measures have been identified to avoid and reduce effects as far as reasonably practicable, as well as ensure the environment is protected and unforeseen effects are avoided.

On this basis, it is of the opinion of ECC that an Environmental Clearance Certificate could be issued, on conditions that the management and mitigation measures specified in the EMP are implemented and adhered to.

6. REFERENCES

International Finance Corporation. (2012). *IFC Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability.* The World Bank.

International Finance Corporation. (2017). *A Guide to Biodiversity for the Private Sector. The Social and Environmental Impact Assessment Process.*

Mendelsohn et al., J. (2003). *Atlas of Namibia.* David Philip.

Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Mines and Energy. (2018). *National Policy on the Prospecting and Mining in Protected Areas .* Windhoek: Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Mines and Ener.

Ministry of Mines and Energy. (2018, August). *Mineral Rights and Resources Development* . Retrieved from Ministry of Mines and Energy: http://www.mme.gov.na/mines/mrrd/

APPENDIX A: ECC CVS

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

Charne' Eimann

JUNIOR "ENVIRONMENTAL AND MINING PRACTIOTIONER"

Hello! :)

ABOUT ME

Name
Charne' Eimann

Born
25 May 1993

Phone
+264 81 210 3970

Email
charne@eccenvironmental.com

Website
www.eccenvironmental.com

Contact me!

HOW TO REACH ME

+264 81 210 3970

+264 81 210 3970

REFERENCES

JESSICA MOONEY
Environmental and Safety Consultant

DUAN CAMPBELL
Long -term Planner
Rosh Pinah Zinc Corporation

Education & Qualifications

Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia 2017

Bachelor of Engineering (B-ENG) in Mining

- Major subjects include: Drilling and blasting, Surface mining, Underground mining and Environmental Engineering
- Carried out Research on the application of X-Ray Florescent Technology at the Rosh Pinah Zinc Mine

Experience & Work History

August 2018-Present

Junior "Environmental and Mining" Practitioner

Environmental Compliance Consultancy
Draft and develop the best practice mining guide for the Namibian mining sector
Additional work includes
- Drafting EIA adverts and BID documents
- Assisting in the development of scoping reports and Environmental Management Plans for exploration projects

Feb 2018 – August 2018

Graduate Mining and Environment

Environmental Compliance Consultancy

Draft and develop Namibia's first Environmental Best Practice Guide for the Mining sector.

Additional work includes:
- Adverts, Background Information Documents, Scoping Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan for Sand Mining Project;
- Drafting EIA Adverts for various projects;
- Engage with various stakeholders in the mining industry
- Attendance of stakeholder meetings and draft minutes

June 2017 – August 2017

Intern

Rosh Zinc Corporation

I carried out my final year research at the Rosh Pinah Zinc Mine whilst assisting with duties including
- Accompanying blasting and charging teams underground to assist in blasting and charging operation and assisting with geological mapping
- Working with the surveying department to estimate the mines low grade resources

Words I live by:

'The mind is everything, what you think is what you become'

ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

Jessica Mooney

Environment & Safety Specialist

Hello! :)

ABOUT ME

Name
Jessica Mooney

Born
24 October 1984

Phone
+264 81 653 1214

Email
Jessica@enviroconsultants.co.za

Website
www.enviroconsultants.co.za

Contact me!

How to reach me!

+264 81 653 1214

Jessica.mooney7

+264 81 653 1214

Jessica Mooney

Education & Qualifications

Federation University Australia 2003-2006
Bachelor of Applied Science -Environmental Management

Additional Qualifications

Management Systems Leadership
ICAM - Incident Cause Analysis Method
Certificate II in Metalliferous Mining core safety and risk management
Certificate III in Mine Emergency Response & Rescue
Level 3 – HLTFA402B Apply Advanced first Aid
Emergency Rope Rescue
Level 2 - 21593VIC First Aid level 2
Bonded Asbestos Removal >10m2
Leading and Managing People – Brisbane North Institute of TAFE

Experience & Work History

Current

Environment and Safety Specialist

Environmental Compliance Consultancy
Providing professional consulting services to clients in Namibia with particular focus on approvals, ECCs, reporting and compliance.

- ECC Approvals
- Mine Closure Plans
- Rehabilitation
- Pipeline projects
- Cultural Change programmes
- IMS (ISO14001 and 18001)

Nov 2013 - Feb 2016

Group HSE Manager

Weatherly Mining Namibia
An exciting role covering the breadth of two operational underground mines (Otjihase and Matchless) and the construction of a new open pit mine (Tschudi) working for Weatherly Mining in Namibia, Africa.

- Managed company's SHEQ portfolio
- Full scale construction of new greenfield mine into operational copper mine
- Reduced LTIFR by 90% from 23.1 to 2.4 in 22 months!
- Implemented integrated management system
- Approvals, ECC renewals and EMPs
- Established the first mining environmental forums in Namibia
- Implemented SAFE COPPER cultural change programme

ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

Jessica Mooney

Environment & Safety Specialist
+264 81 653 1214

References

Feel free to ask the boss :)

MR CRAIG THOMAS
Managing Director
Weatherly Mining

MR COLIN BULLEN
Managing Director
Imerys (client)

Group Manager Lihir Gold
MR NICK CURREY
Director at Sustainable Mining Strategies

Or ask those who have worked for me?

Ms Asteria Salmon
Worked as Control Room Operator
WMN

Mr. Hermanus Lamprecht
Paramedic Safety Officer

Professional Associations

- Chamber of Mines Namibia
- Women on Boards
- The Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia Industry Member – Mining, Minerals and Resources

Fun Facts:

- I can deadlift 135kg
- To keep fit I Olympic weight lift
- I run ultra Marathons & the longest run yet the fish river Canyon 65km
- I am one of 6 children - do you think that means 4 of us suffer middle child syndrome?

Words I live by:

'The journey will bring you happiest, not the destination'

Experience & Work History

Feb 2013 - Feb 2014 Environmental Consultant

Ensolve Pty Ltd - Australia

In February 2013 an opportunity came about to launch my own business, Blue Wren Environmental Services.

During this time I have worked alongside Ensolve Pty Ltd to deliver several environmental projects including:

- A mine closure project taking an operating mine site into the rehabilitation and closure phase. This project involved the full development of a mine closure plan, facilitation of the government approvals, stakeholder engagement and technical environmental studies to inform the mine closure plan
- Sustainability reporting in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative
- Rehabilitation of historic exploration sites and obtaining associated government approvals for relinquishment of bonds.

Jan 2010 - Feb 2013 Site Environmental Manager

Panoramic Resources – Australia

- Brought the site into full compliance with the Environmental Licence within 1 year.
- Managed projects relating to the expansions of the current mine tailings dams including obtaining approvals under the Mining Act 1978 and Environmental Protection Act 1986.
- Managed the environmental and community aspects of three operations; Savannah Nickel Mine, Copernicus Nickel Mine (currently in care and maintenance) and the operations at Wyndham Port
- Responsible for the environment, sustainability and social reporting portfolio
- Developed productive working relationships with local government environmental agencies and non-government agencies, which assisted with the approvals process.
- Developed strategies for the recruitment and retention of local Indigenous personnel

Jan 2007 - Jan 2010 Environmental Systems Coordinator

Lihir Gold Limited – Australia

Working on site to provide technical environmental and community advice to ensure all regulatory and licence obligations were met or exceeded

- Regulatory Approvals (State and Federal Government)
- Environment and social aspects of the international cyanide management code
- Operational budgeting and bond management for mine closure
- Compliance with the legislative framework
- Community engagement

APPENDIX C: EVIDENCE OF REGISTERED POST

info@eccenvironmental.com
www.eccenvironmental.com
+264812627872
+264816531214

ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

REFERENCE: ECC-36-147-LET-8-A
27th September 2018

Identified Stakeholder and or Potentially Interested Party for:
B2Gold Exploration Activities on EPL 6627

Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE FOR EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL6627 FOR BASE, RARE AND PRECIOUS METALS, AND INDUSTRIAL MINERALS, OTJOZONDJUPA REGION, NAMIBIA.

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been engaged by B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd the Proponent to act on their behalf for the Environmental Clearance Certificate application for the proposed exploration activities for base, rare and precious metals and industrial minerals on EPL 6627 Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia.

ECC is conducting the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in accordance with the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and the scope of work for the EIA received by the Competent Authority and Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

The proposed project is to conduct mineral exploration activities on EPL 6627. As part of the proposed low impact, non-intrusive exploration project, the following activities are envisaged, which shall be confirmed, as the exploration program is refined:

- Potential creation of access tracks, where existing tracks cannot be utilised;
- Limited vegetation clearing for the creation of tracks;
- Creation of exploration boreholes;
- Exploration methods may include aerial or remote sensing, electromagnetic surveys, drilling, mineral sampling; and
- Storage of exploration mineral samples.

This letter is intended to engage stakeholders and potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the project and provide a communication channel to ECC. You have been identified as either a stakeholder, interested or affected party, therefore ECC wishes to inform you how you can become involved in the project.

Public participation is an important part of the EIA process, as it allows public and stakeholders to obtain information about the proposed project. Public participation occurs at various stages throughout a project lifecycle including:

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

- Advertising in newspapers.
- Distributing a Background Information Document to identified stakeholders and I&APs.
- Registered I&APS will also be informed of the available draft scoping report for a 14 day comment and review period, during this period I&APs will have the opportunity to review the draft document and raise any issues or concerns
- Stakeholders and I&AP who wish to register as an I&AP must do so on the ECC website as per the link provided below: http://eccenvironmental.com/project/b2gold

If you are unable to complete the registration form online please email info@eccenvironmental.com and request an electronic copy of the form that you can complete, sign, scan and return via email to info@eccenvironmental.com to register as an I&AP for the project.

ECCs values community input and participation in our projects and we look forward to working with you as the project develops.

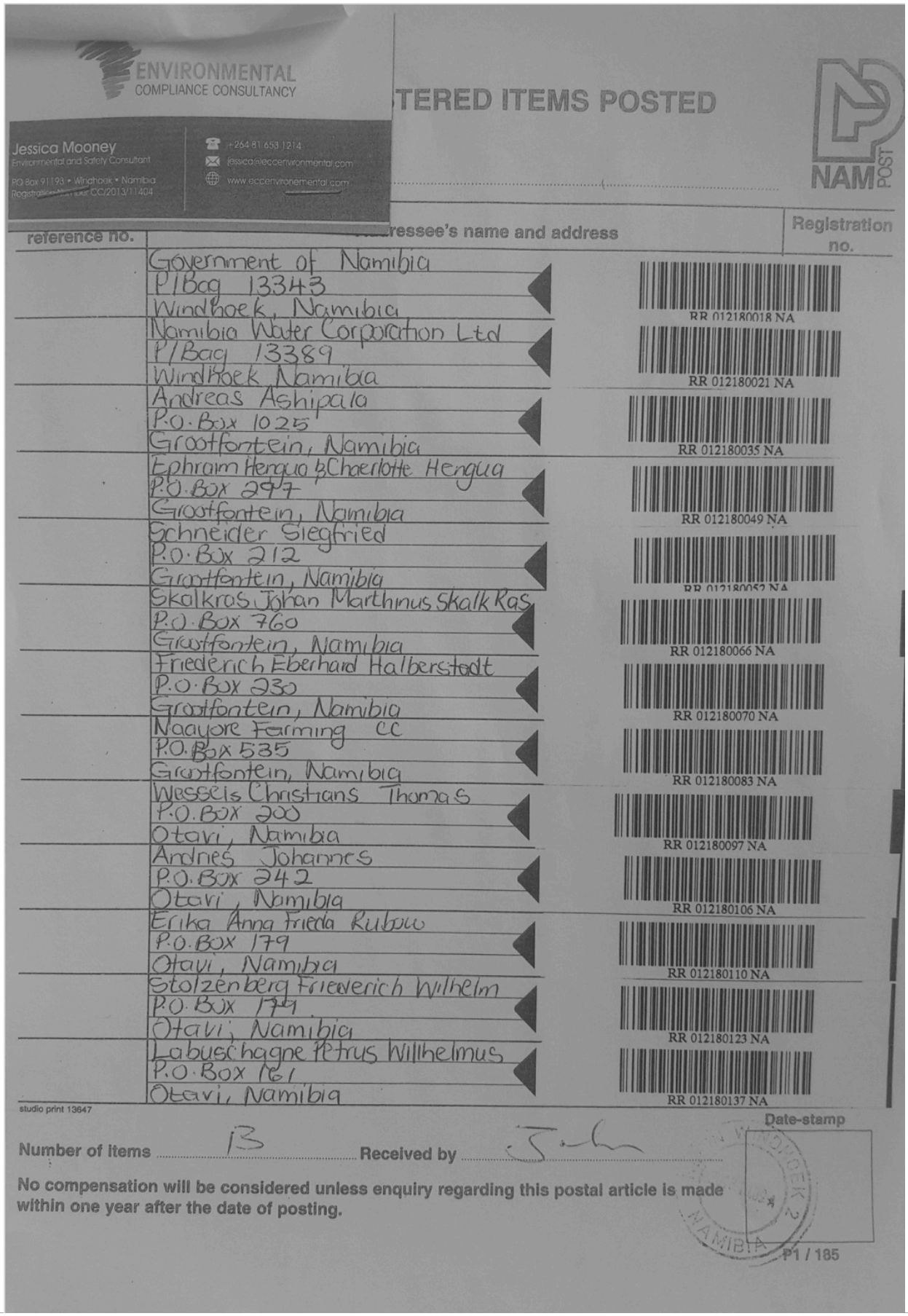
The Background Information Document (BID) is can also be obtained from our website and provides a give a brief overview of the proposed project.

Should you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact either Stephan or Jessica.

Yours sincerely,

Stephan Bezuidenhout
Environmental Compliance Consultancy
Phone: +264 81 262 7872
Email: stephan@eccenvironmental.com

Jessica Mooney
Environmental Compliance Consultancy
Phone: +264 81 653 1214
Email: jessica@eccenvironmental.com



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

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TERED ITEMS POSTED

NAM POST

reference no.	ressee's name and address	Registration no.
	Government of Namibia P/Bag 13343 Windhoek, Namibia	RR 012180018 NA
	Namibia Water Corporation Ltd P/Bag 13389 Windhoek Namibia	RR 012180021 NA
	Andreas Ashipala P.O. Box 1025 Grootfontein, Namibia	RR 012180035 NA
	Ephraim Hengua & Charlotte Hengua P.O. Box 297 Grootfontein, Namibia	RR 012180049 NA
	Schneider Siegfried P.O. Box 212 Grootfontein, Namibia	RR 012180052 NA
	Skalkras Johan Marthinus Skalk Ras P.O. Box 760 Grootfontein, Namibia	RR 012180066 NA
	Friederich Eberhard Halberstadt P.O. Box 230 Grootfontein, Namibia	RR 012180070 NA
	Naayore Farming CC P.O. Box 535 Grootfontein, Namibia	RR 012180083 NA
	Wessels Christians Thomas P.O. Box 200 Otavi, Namibia	RR 012180097 NA
	Andries Johannes P.O. Box 242 Otavi, Namibia	RR 012180106 NA
	Erika Anna Frieda Rubow P.O. Box 179 Otavi, Namibia	RR 012180110 NA
	Stolzenberg Friederich Wilhelm P.O. Box 179 Otavi, Namibia	RR 012180123 NA
	Labuschagne Petrus Willhelmus P.O. Box 161 Otavi, Namibia	RR 012180137 NA

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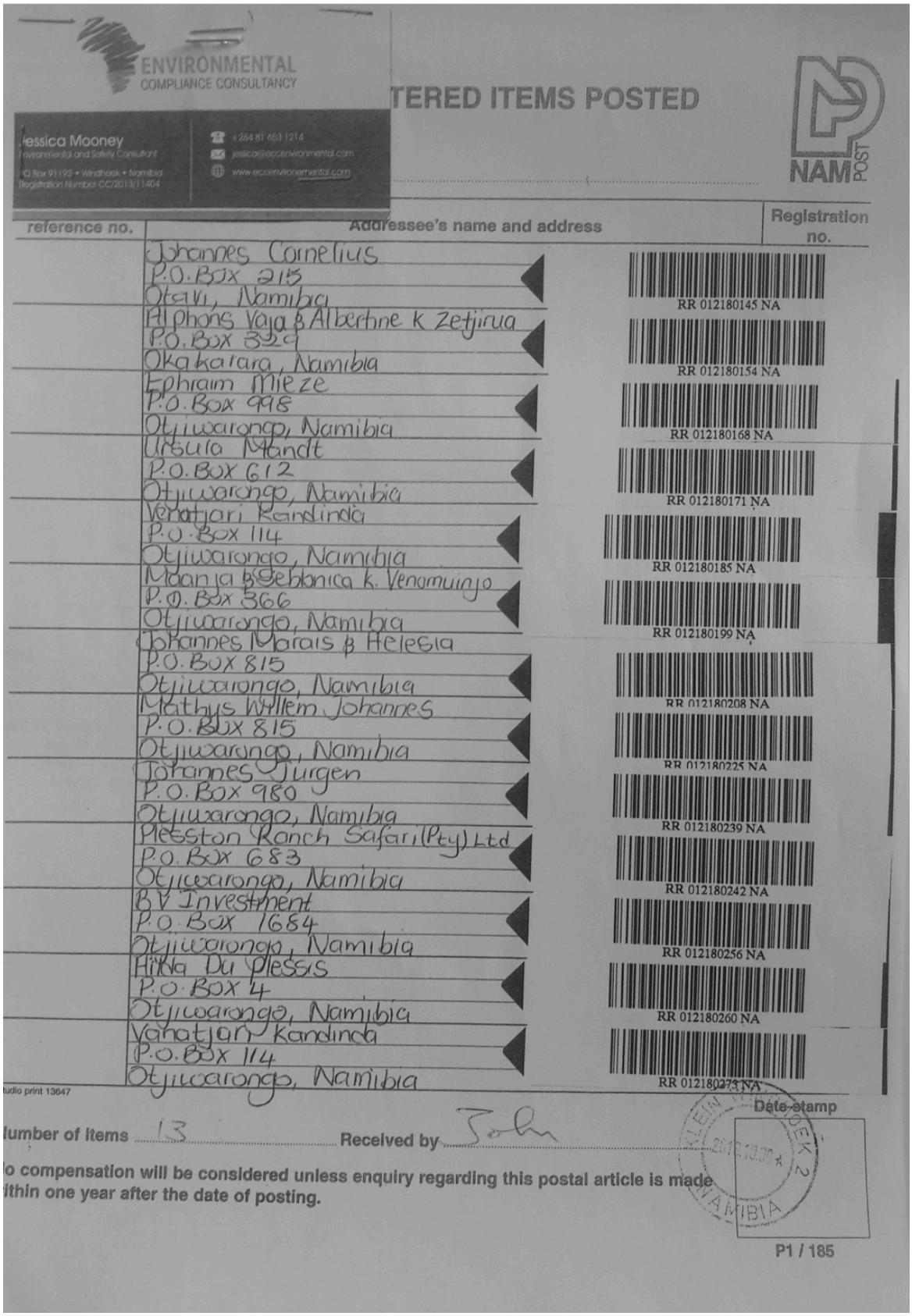

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

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	Alphons Vaja & Albertine K Zetjirua P.O.Box 329 Okakarara, Namibia	RR 012180154 NA
	Ephraim Mieze P.O.Box 998 Otjiwarongo, Namibia	RR 012180168 NA
	Ursula Mandt P.O.Box 612 Otjiwarongo, Namibia	RR 012180171 NA
	Venatjari Kandindia P.O.Box 114 Otjiwarongo, Namibia	RR 012180185 NA
	Maanja & Gebbnica K. Venomuinjo P.O.Box 366 Otjiwarongo, Namibia	RR 012180199 NA
	Johannes Marais & Helesia P.O.Box 815 Otjiwarongo, Namibia	RR 012180208 NA
	Mathys Willem Johannes P.O.Box 815 Otjiwarongo, Namibia	RR 012180225 NA
	Johannes Jurgen P.O.Box 980 Otjiwarongo, Namibia	RR 012180239 NA
	Plesston Ranch Safari(Pty) Ltd P.O.Box 683 Otjiwarongo, Namibia	RR 012180242 NA
	BV Investment P.O.Box 1684 Otjiwarongo, Namibia	RR 012180256 NA
	Hilka Du Plessis P.O.Box 4 Otjiwarongo, Namibia	RR 012180260 NA
	Venatjari Kandindia P.O.Box 114 Otjiwarongo, Namibia	RR 012180273 NA

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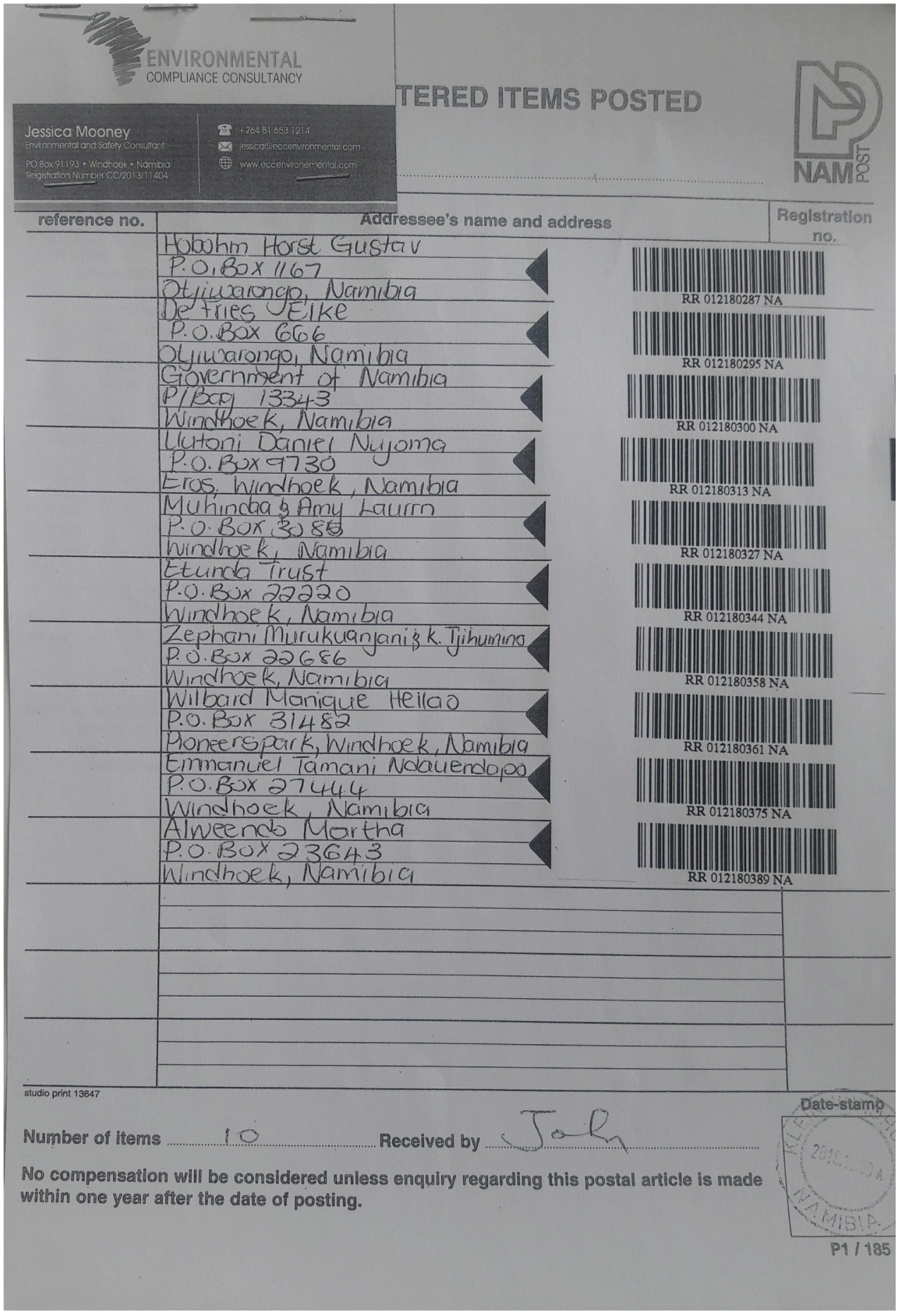

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	De Fries Elke P.O.Box 666 Otjiwarongo, Namibia	RR 012180295 NA
	Government of Namibia P/Bag 13343 Windhoek, Namibia	RR 012180300 NA
	Uutoni Daniel Nujoma P.O.Box 9730 Eros, Windhoek, Namibia	RR 012180313 NA
	Muhinda & Amy Laurn P.O.Box 3085 Windhoek, Namibia	RR 012180327 NA
	Etunda Trust P.O.Box 22220 Windhoek, Namibia	RR 012180344 NA
	Zephani Murukuanjani & k. Tjihumino P.O.Box 22686 Windhoek, Namibia	RR 012180358 NA
	Wilbard Manique Heilao P.O.Box 31482 Pioneerspark, Windhoek, Namibia	RR 012180361 NA
	Emmanuel Tamani Ndauendapo P.O.Box 27444 Windhoek, Namibia	RR 012180375 NA
	Alweendo Martha P.O.Box 23643 Windhoek, Namibia	RR 012180389 NA

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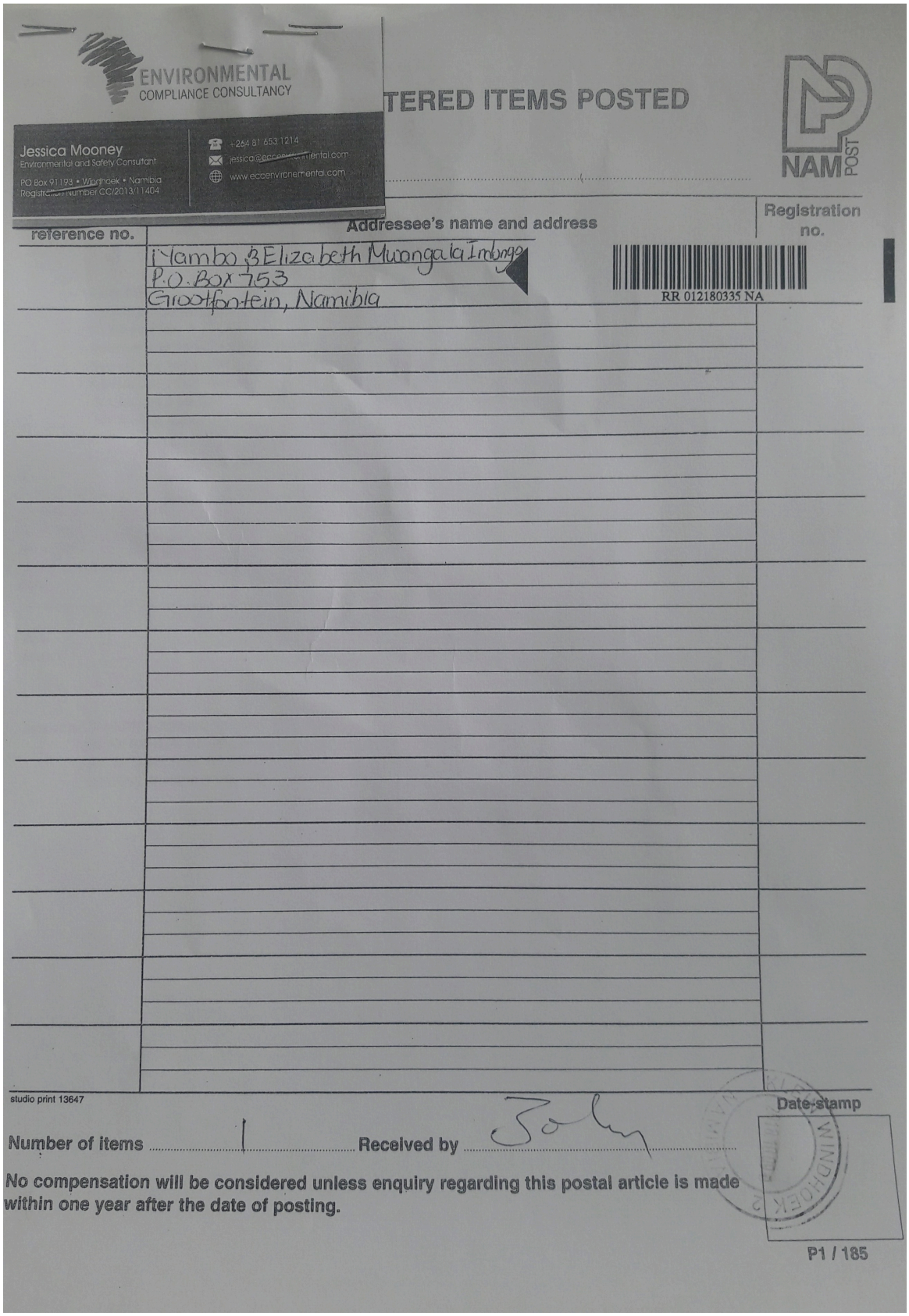
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Registration no.
I Yambo & Elizabeth Muangala Imbinga
P.O. Box 753
Grootfontein, Namibia
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APPENDIX C: EVIDENCE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL6627 AND EPL6628 FOR BASE, RARE AND PRECIOUS METALS, AND INDUSTRIAL MINERALS

CLIENT: B2GOLD ECC-36-147-BID-07-A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide interested and affected parties (I&APS) with a background of the proposed exploration works that are to be undertaken by B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd on EPL6627 and EPL6628.

Furthermore, it's aim is to invite I&APS to register in the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping process**. Through registering, I&APs will be kept informed about the proposed project and will be offered the opportunity to submit comments pertaining to the project, allowing for their input to be considered in the assessment and development processes.

This BID includes the following:

- Proposed Project: What is proposed and where
- Why the project is deemed necessary and what benefits or adverse impacts are anticipated
- What alternatives to the project have been considered
- How the EIA process works
- The public participation and how to become involved
- Next steps and way forward

PROPOSED PROJECT

B2Gold was founded in 2007 and is the owner and operator of Otjikoto Gold Mine near Otjiwarongo, which employs over 700 people. To extend operations in Namibia, B2Gold propose to undertake exploration activities on EPL6627 and EPL6628 for base, rare and precious metals, and industrial minerals in the Kunene and Otjozondjupa Region.

This proposed activity triggers the Environmental Management Act of 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) due to it meeting the thresholds of the following Listed Activity:

MINING AND QUARRYING ACTIVITIES:

(3.1) The construction of facilities for any process or activities which requires a licence, right or other form of authorisation, and the renewal of a licence, right or other form of authorisation, in terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act), 1992

(3.2) Other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not

(3.3) Resource extraction, manipulation, conservation and related activities

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been engaged by B2Gold to undertake an independent environmental assessment in compliance with Namibian law in terms of the Environmental Management Act of 2007 and associated Regulations.

Two applications for Environmental Clearance shall be submitted to the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) and Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET). An EIA Scoping Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be part of the submission to adequately assess the project and determine if environmental clearance should be issued.

SCOPING

A SCOPING PROCESS IS A SHORTER PROCESS THAN A 'FULL' EIA BUT APPLIES THE SAME PRINCIPALS AND ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY.

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

WHY IS AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS IMPORTANT?

NAMIBIAN LAW AND INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE CALL FOR THE PROFESSIONALS CARRYING OUT AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS TO BE INDEPENDENT (I.E. HAVE NO CONNECTION TO THE PROJECT PROPONENT OR INTEREST IN THE PROJECT'S OUTCOME) TO ENSURE PROCESS INTEGRITY.

APPLICANT: B2GOLD NAMIBIA (PTY) LTD

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER: ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

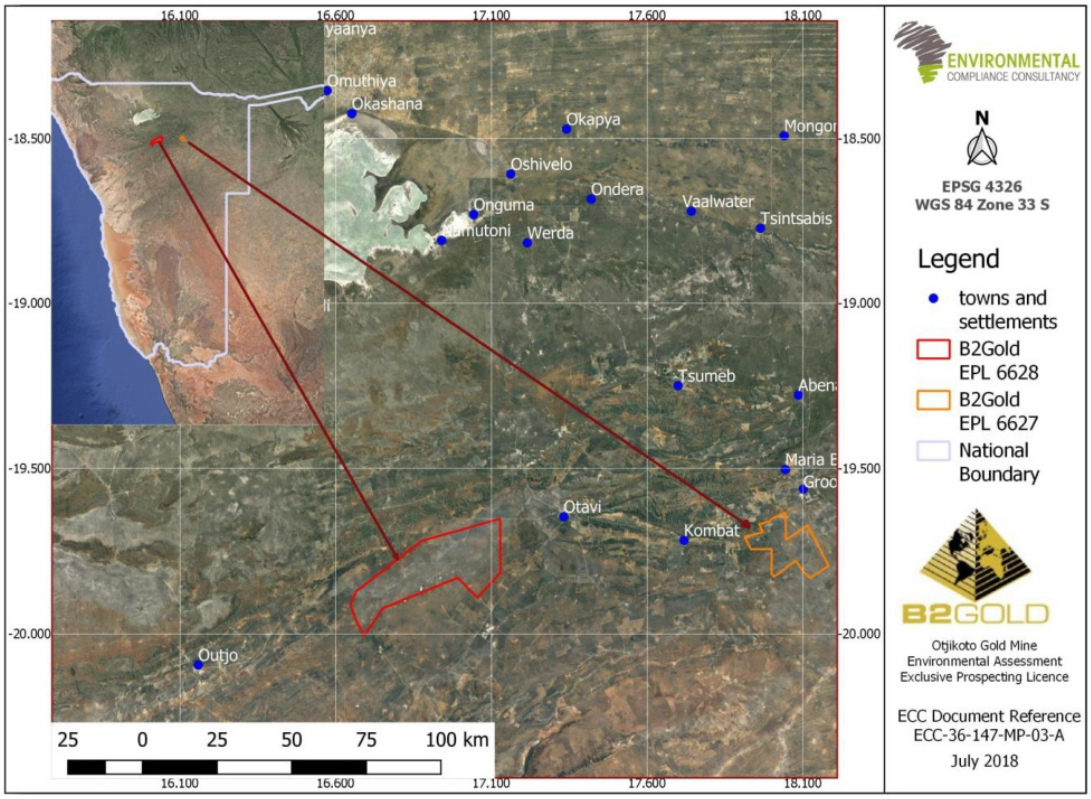
COMPETENT AUTHORITY:

MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY (MME)

B2GOLD PROPOSED EXPLORATION PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

SITE LOCATION



SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

The proposed exploration activities are low-impact and non-intrusive. The following are envisaged during the proposed project:

- Potential creation of access tracks, where existing tracks cannot be utilised;
- Limited vegetation clearing for the creation of tracks;
- Creation of exploration boreholes;
- Exploration methods may include aerial or remote sensing, electromagnetic surveys, drilling, mineral sampling; and
- Storage of exploration mineral samples.

The potential environmental and social effects are anticipated to be of minor significance, and those that may occur shall be contained on the EPL sites, these potential impacts may include the following:

- Minor disruption to the residents of the farms within the EPLs, including some increase in noise levels and dust arising from drilling and vehicle use;
- Some potential vegetation loss due to possible track creation;
- Potential to unearth, damage or destroy undiscovered heritage remains;
- Potential use of resources, including surface and groundwater; and
- Minor risk of loss of contaminant of hydrocarbon, chemical or drill fluids from exploration activities potentially leading to localised ground contamination.

ECC will prepare one scoping report that presents the assessment findings as well as stakeholder and I&AP concerns. An EMP shall also be developed for the proposed project setting out auditable management actions for B2Gold to ensure careful and sustainable management measures to their activities in respect of the surrounding environment and community.

NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

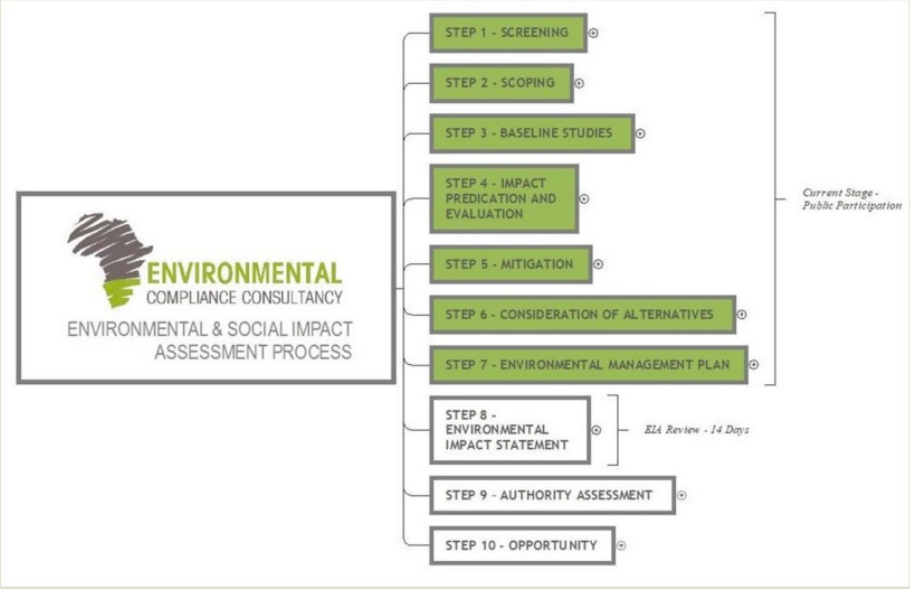
B2Gold intends to pursue exploration opportunities with the aim of identifying new mining prospects. Namibia is rich with natural resources and the mining industry is the largest income earner in Namibia. Exploration could lead to mining activities which would contribute to the national and local earnings of the country.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

Best practice environmental assessment methodology calls for consideration of different alternatives to a project being developed. In a project such as this one, it is difficult to identify alternatives to satisfy the need of the proposed project; the activities shall be specific to the EPL which were granted by the MME on the 26th February 2018. During the assessment, alternatives will take the form of a consideration of optimisation and efficiency interventions to reduce potential effects e.g. different types of technology or operations.

THE EIA PROCESS

The EIA process that shall be followed is in accordance with Environmental Management Act 2007. ECC shall conduct the environmental application process and manage the public participation process. Following the EIA process flowchart below, this project is currently at the Scoping phase and the public participation process is being conducted.



ECC will perform the following:

- Identify key stakeholders, authorities and municipalities, environmental groups and interested or affected members of the public, hereafter referred to as I&APs;
- Compile a BID for the proposed development (this document);
- Advertise the environmental application in two national newspapers;
- Place on-site notices at conspicuous places at/ near the proposed development 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 submitted to MME and the MET; and
- Circulate the I&AP comments to the project team.

B2GOLD PROPOSED EXPLORATION PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

MOVING FORWARD...

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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 evolution process.

The commenting period for the project for all I&APs will be 14 days from notification (newspaper adverts). The Draft Scoping Report will be made available to all relevant stakeholders and I&APs for further comment, before the final submission to the MME and the MET.

I&APs are encouraged to register in this Scoping Process using our website.

http://eccenvironmental.com/project/b2gold-environmental-clearance-certificate-for-exploration-activities-on-epl6627-and-epl6628/

Comments must be submitted in writing and can be emailed to the following address:

info@eccenvironmental.com

Tel: +264 81 626 7278

Please note the EIA review period will be 14 days from the date that I&AP have been notified.

CONTACT US

Environmental Compliance Consultancy Contact Details

We welcome any enquiries regarding this document and its content, please contact:

Stephan Bezuidenhout
Environmental Consultant & Practitioner
Tel: +264 81 262 7872
Email: stephan@eccenvironmental.com

Jessica Mooney
Environmental Consultant & Practitioner
Tel: +264 81 653 1214
Email: jessica@eccenvironmental.com

At ECC we make sure all information is easily accessible to the public, follow our social media pages to be kept up to date.

www.eccenvironmental.com

https://www.facebook.com/environmentalECC/?ref=br_rs

https://twitter.com/ECCEnvironment

http://eccenvironmental.com/projects/

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+264 81 653 1214

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL 6627, OTJOZONDJUPA REGION, NAMIBIA

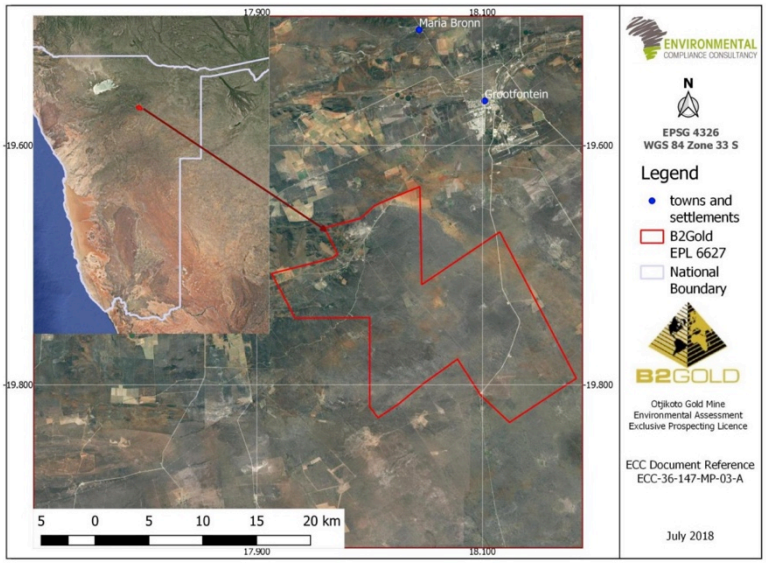
Environmental Compliance Consultancy cc (ECC) hereby gives notice to the public that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate in accordance with the Environmental Management Act, 2007 will be made as per the following:

Applicant: **B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd**
Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP): **Environmental Compliance Consultancy**

Project: Exploration activities on EPL 6627 for base, rare and precious metals and industrial minerals, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia.

Proposed Activity: The proponent proposes to carry out low impact, non-intrusive exploration activities for base, rare and precious metals and industrial minerals on EPL 6627 located in the Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia. Exploration methods envisaged may include aerial or remote sensing, electromagnetic surveys, drilling and minerals sampling.

Location: EPL 6627, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia.



Application for Environmental Clearance Certificate: In terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (No 7 of 2007), ECC on behalf of B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd is required to apply for Environmental Clearance to the Competent Authority and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for the above-mentioned project.

Review Period: The review and comment period is effective from **8th August 2018 – 29th August 2018**.

Purpose of the Review and Comment Period: As part of the public participation process, the purpose of the review and comment period is to present the proposed project and to afford interested and affected parties an opportunity to comment on the project to ensure that all issues and concerns are captured and considered in the assessment.

Contact: Mr JS Bezuidenhout or Mrs J Mooney
Environmental Compliance Consultancy
Registration Number CC/2013/11404
PO Box 91193, Klein Windhoek
Tel: +264 816 53 1214 or +264 81 653 1214
E-mail: info@eccenvironmental.com
Website: http://www.eccenvironmental.com
Project ID: ECC-36-147

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL 6628, KUNENE AND OTJOZONDJUPA REGIONS, NAMIBIA

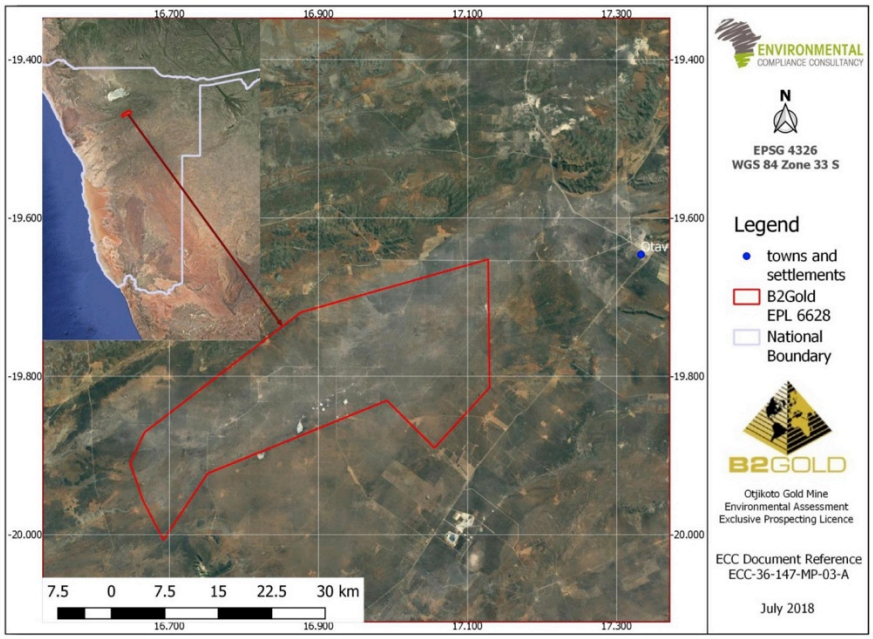
Environmental Compliance Consultancy cc (ECC) hereby gives notice to the public that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate in accordance with the Environmental Management Act, 2007 will be made as per the following:

Applicant: **B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd**
Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP): **Environmental Compliance Consultancy**

Project: Exploration activities on EPL 6628 for base, rare and precious metals and industrial minerals, Kunene and Otjozondjupa Regions, Namibia.

Proposed Activity: The proponent proposes to carry out low impact, non-intrusive exploration activities for base, rare and precious metals and industrial minerals on EPL 6628 located in the Otjozondjupa and Kunene Regions, Namibia. Exploration methods envisaged may include aerial or remote sensing, electromagnetic surveys, drilling and minerals sampling.

Location: EPL 6628, Otjozondjupa and Kunene Regions, Namibia



Application for Environmental Clearance Certificate: In terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (No 7 of 2007), ECC on behalf of B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd is required to apply for Environmental Clearance to the Competent Authority and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for the above-mentioned project.

Review Period: The review and comment period is effective as from **8th August 2018 – 29th August 2018**.

Purpose of the Review and Comment Period: As part of the public participation process, the purpose of the review and comment period is to present the proposed project and to afford interested and affected parties an opportunity to comment on the project to ensure that all issues and concerns are captured and considered in the assessment.

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E-mail: info@eccenvironmental.com
Website: http://www.eccenvironmental.com
Project ID: ECC-36-147

ON DISPLAY ... The motor expo displayed a variety of custom race and exhibition vehicles ranging from new school to old school.

Weekend Motoring Frenzy at Tony Rust

• Jonathan Solomons

With cars on display, bike smoke in the air and rubber on fire, this weekend was a hive of activity down at the Tony Rust Race Track.

Nothing short of entertaining, the Windhoek Motor Club (WMC) introduced a new dimension to motorsport activities that will certainly set a trend for future events.

For the first time, eighth-mile drags were introduced to the track accompanied by spinning on Friday, while Saturday saw some impressive drifting alongside skillful gymkhana.

The eighth-mile, or approximately 200-metre drags, saw some amazing times on the clock. Nadeem Husselmann led the bike category with 6,758 seconds followed closely by McAllen Husselmann with 6,769 seconds. Clifford Steyn came in third with 7,022 seconds.

In vehicles, Rene Bezuidenhoudt came in first in his Golf R7 with 7,793 seconds while Deon Diergaardt came in close second in his Toyota Corolla 1,6-litre Twincam with 7,984 seconds.

With 8,047 seconds in his Dragonfly Promod, Gerhardt Visage took third place.

"In my opinion, the eighth-mile drags might also be a lot safer due to fact vehicles don't reach high speeds on the 200 metre," WMC chairperson Richard Slamet said.

While the event aimed to provide four events on the day, a fifth one was squeezed in with MX motorcycle jumps, much to the amusement of the crowd. *Top Revs* caught some of the moments.

SMOKE IT UP ... Of all the events, the spins went over best with the audience. As tyres were screeching, smoke was flaring up and drivers went head-to-head, roars could be heard from the crowd.

Search warrant not properly executed

SERIOUS FLAWS EXPOSED IN COCAINE CASE

MORE charges might be levelled against Grant Noble and Azhar Dinath as a result of further investigation into the matter of the record haul of cocaine that was confiscated by officials from Customs and Excise and the Namibian Police on the premises of the port in Walvis Bay in June this year.

Niel Terblanche

CONTRABAND: Grant Noble and Dinath Azhar during their formal bail application. Photo Contributed

The pair, ages 36 and 62, respectively, accused of importing almost half a tonne of cocaine into Namibia, approached the Walvis Bay Magistrate's Court with a formal bail application this week. The matter was set down to start on Monday, but Dinath's legal counsel could only attend proceedings from Tuesday onwards, which meant that on Wednesday the application had to be postponed until 3 September to enable Advocate Salomon Kanyemba to call his second witness for the State.

Advocate Kanyemba from the outset of proceedings stated that the State will oppose bail for the accused persons on the grounds of the gravity of the matter, the strength of the State's case, the high risk of the accused persons absconding, the possibility that the accused persons might interfere with witnesses and investigation, and the propensity of the accused persons to get involved in similar crimes once freed on bail.

On Tuesday, both accused persons had a chance to testify on the reasons why they should be freed on bail. Noble and Dinath both denied any knowledge of the illicit drugs inside the container which was supposed to only contain boxes filled with reams of A4 printing paper. The accused persons also denied that they intentionally imported the huge amount of cocaine into Namibia.

Under cross examination from the legal representatives for the accused, the investigating officer, Detective Inspector Charles Goagoseb, had to admit that the search warrant used to search the container for illicit drugs was only issued after the search was completed and the cocaine discovered inside the shipping container. Besides that, the detective had to admit that the smartphones of both suspects were confiscated and content saved on it scrutinised without any warrant.

Jan Wessels and Sisa Namandje argued that without the proper warrants, all the various items confiscated and gathered cannot be allowed to be entered as evidence.

Namandje on several occasions had to warn Detective Inspector Goagoseb not to commit perjury while giving evidence in court. He further argued that the State does not have concrete evidence that the accused persons imported the cocaine.

Namandje asked the State's witness if the Brazilian company that sold the printing paper to the accused persons is also a suspect in the matter. He said that if the company admits that it made a mistake in loading the cocaine into that specific container the State's case falls apart. In his evidence in chief, Detective Inspector Goagoseb stated that more charges might be laid against the accused persons. He stated that charges relating to money laundering and racketeering might be added to those already levelled against the accused.

Magistrate Ilge Rheent said her judgement in the matter of the formal bail application will be delivered on 7 September.

The accused persons were remanded in custody until then.

Cement industry needs level playing field

Zorena Jantze

FAIR: HANS-Wilhelm Schütte. Photo Contributed

HANS-WILHELM Schütte, Managing Director of Ohorongo Mining, has lambasted the Namibian government over falling short on the efficient execution of the Infant Industry Protection (IIP) scheme that the government initiated in 2012 to protect local start-ups from stiff competition from multinational companies.

Schütte stated that the protection of infant industries outlined in Namibia's Growth at Home Strategy continues to be a drawn-out issue and stated that fair competition is imperative and a level playing field is needed in the already strained construction industry.

Schütte's statement follows Informanté's article that reported that the Otavi-based Ohorongo cement factory issued a memo to all its staff that the company is going through an organisational restructuring process that might include redundancy of certain posts and job losses due to the contraction of the building industry and increased competition in the local market, in particular from China's Cheetah Cement's entry on to the market. Meeting with President Hage Geingob, Minister of Finance Calle Schlettwein, and Minister of Trade, Tjekero Tweya, Schütte discussed the issues and other industry-related matters. Answering the mounting question of whether or not the axe will fall on roughly 600 employees at the mine, Schütte stated that it is not yet clear how many employees might be retrenched.

"We have an internal memo where we have announced restructuring. It is a normal process, we have restructured in the past. We have to see how the organisation will adapt to the future. We are not talking about people, but about positions. We will create new positions at the new Ondangwa depot, but some positions will become redundant," he said. Schütte further urged government to create solutions for healthy competition in the marketplace for the sake of the Namibian people, the Harambee Prosperity Plan and Namibia's Vision 2030 goals of an industrialised nation.

"Competition in any industry is important, however, it has to be healthy competition. It's not something new when Ohorongo started in 2011 that Namibia had huge cement imports into the country. We had competition then. The Infant Protection Industry is still being challenged in the courts. It is a process that has dragged on," Schütte stated.

Finally, he stated that there are certain things that can be improved in the future such as cement quality standards, regardless of brand names. "The NSI should be complimented for developing cement standards in Namibia. Now we need to make it a law," he said.

King Elifas too old for trial

Maria David

ONDONGA king, Immanuel Kauluma Elifas, will not be standing in the witness dock as ordered by the Oshakati High Court.

"King Elifas is chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders in Namibia and he does not deserve the treatment he is being given by the dismissed councillors and people that he has trusted and uplifted in the past," said Nama Amalwa, Ondonga spokesperson.

According to the spokesperson of the Ondonga Traditional Authority, who this week said the king is too frail and will not be brought to court to testify in the case involving the dismissed senior traditional leaders despite the recent ruling. The Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma, also expressed his disappointment in the group taking the King to court. Amalwa further insists that the King is ill and his heath is deteriorating.

"Our king does not even walk and needs someone to carry him all the time," he explained.

He added that they plan to plea for the review over the order made by Judge Maphios Cheda, who granted an order for Elifas to give oral testimony in the matter in which a group of councillors are challenging their dismissal.

Cheda last week ordered that the legal teams set a date within 14 days on which the king will be required to testify. In July last year, King Elifas dismissed the traditional councillors.

The headmen who have taken the king to court include Peter Kauluma, Joseph Asino, John Walenga and Vilho Kamanya. Former President Sam Nujoma had also visited the palace of King Elifas at Onamungundo near Ondangwa on Friday, and held a closed-door meeting with the king.

Nujoma's senior special assistant, John Nauta, told Informanté that the Founding President was at Onamungundo for a routine visit, as is his usual practice whenever he is in the area.

Nauta also noted that the former president was escorted by Swapo Secretary-General, Sophia Shaningwa, and other leaders.

Nauta also said that Nujoma was disturbed by the court case made against King Elifas.

Trustco supports informal pre-school

Trustco Group Holdings' subsidiary, Trustco Finance, sponsored boots valued at N$3 000 to the children of Dr Ngurare Kindergarten towards the school's trip to Swakopmund. The trip – which is organised by non-profit organisation, S.P.E.S. – is to expand the children's horizons by exposing them to experiences they would not otherwise have had a chance to. S.P.E.S., an acronym for Step out of Poverty through Education, Encouragement and Support, was founded in 2011 to provide holistic support to informal pre-schools in the less fortunate areas of Windhoek.

THE NAMIBIAN 8 August 2018 TR3

The Story of Bell Equipment
An African Legend

• Mark Musutu

I recently visited the beautiful coastal town of Richards Bay and neighbouring Empangeni in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa.

I found it to be a hive of economic activity servicing the country and the world at large. The northerly orientation makes it an export hub also home to global players such as the Bell Equipment head office. I was privileged to visit the plant and also experience a Bell B40E Articulated Dump truck.

Certainly Africa's best automotive story, it all began pre-World War II in Empangeni with Irvine Bell and his early fascination with tools and machines. Passion driven, he pursued a trade apprenticeship as a fitter and turner at a northern Natal colliery and later served five years as a military engineer during World War II.

After the war, Bell returned to Zululand and applied his skills when he manufactured a homemade water boring machine and began drilling bore holes for a living.

In 1954, he started an Agri-machine repair workshop on a sugar estate, quickly becoming renowned for repairing even the most dilapidated machinery, all while manufacturing his various inventions.

Four years later, Bell built a new workshop on his small holding where he was joined by his brother Robert and brother-in-law Malcolm.

The company's moment of grace came when Bell invented the unique self-loading sugar cane trailer and the tri-wheeler machine that could pick up and load harvested crop, revolutionising the labour intense cane industry. Patented in 1964, the Bell cane loader is still the most popular machine in the industry.

Under Bell's leadership and later his sons', the brand has developed into a world leader in heavy duty equipment. The Bell product portfolio has since grown to include: Articulated dump trucks (ATDs), articulated and rigid haulage tractors, dozers, compact rollers, graders, excavators, tri-wheelers and a range of customised equipment for the mining, construction and forestry industries, to name a few.

Bell B40E Articulated Dump Truck

Bell produced its first ADT in 1985, followed by the D-series in 2002 – breaking the record as the world's largest ADT. Our featured E-series was introduced in 2016 and is the latest from Bell. Classified by tonnage, 40 tonne in this case, the B40E competes against ADTs by Hyundai, Volvo, Terex, Caterpillar, Case and Komatsu.

At first sight, the B40E is massive, intimidating and bold yet exciting, and its bright yellow is ideal for high visibility and safety. At a certain level of application, function prevails over form as design is not a strong selling point. More relevant to a would-be buyer is performance and on-board features such as the sound-suppressed cab, fatigue-beating controls, a climate controlled cabin, high visibility, an air suspension seat, tilting steering and a high output CD player.

Starting at the press of a button, it became obvious that it's also a technology monster as dials lit up and this includes a 10-inch full colour screen monitor, automotive mouse interface, advanced diagnostics monitor with a sealed switch module – there is just so much power at your command.

This kind of vehicle is run by a hydraulic system serving steering, body tipping and brake functions; the B40E is as effortless as a VW Polo to drive.

A Mercedes Benz 12,8 litre custom engine moves the tonnage effortlessly and it's quite nippy for its size – it has to be so that as much tonnage is ferried between various points. A colossus of a machine moving at 52km/h is comely.

The engine has a gross output of 380kW, 510hp at 1 700rpm and a gross torque of 2380Nm at 1 300rpm. These vehicles have a monster thirst to go with them and so it has a fuel tank capacity of up to 352 litres. Bell claims industry-leading consumption thanks to 6x6 technology resulting in more output for less fuel.

Watching it run is even more amazing; it's extremely versatile and flexible as it is made for the likes of open pit mines. I saw it tackle extreme terrain with each tire suspended independently and it mimics a spineless many-legged creature stopping at nothing, thanks to an oscillating frame and high floatation tires. Bell also has the best-in-class rear suspension resulting in unparalleled off-road ability.

Other features of the B40E include: Hill assist, auto park application, an on-board weighing system, automatic traction control, an industry-leading seven-speed planetary transmission with a torque converter maximising efficiency and dual circuit wet disc brakes offering superior performance.

Photo: Bell USA


Photo: Mark Musutu

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL6627 AND EPL6628 KUNENE AND OTJOZONDJUPA REGION, NAMIBIA

Environmental Compliance Consultancy cc (ECC) hereby gives notice to the public that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate in accordance with the Environmental Management Act, 2007 will be made as per the following:

Applicant:	**B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd**
Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP):	**Environmental Compliance Consultancy**
Location:	**Kunene and Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia**

Project: Exploration activities on EPL6627 and EPL6628 for base, rare and precious metals and industrial minerals, Kunene and Otjozondjupa Regions, Namibia.

Proposed Activity: The proponent proposes to carry out low impact, non-intrusive exploration activities for base, rare and precious metals and industrial minerals on EPL6627 and EPL6628. EPL6627 is located in Otjozondjupa Region and EPL6628 is located in the Kunene and Otjozondjupa Regions. Exploration methods may include aerial or remote sensing, electromagnetic surveys, drilling and minerals sampling.

Application for Environmental Clearance Certificate: In terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (No 7 of 2007), ECC on behalf of B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd is required to apply for Environmental Clearance to the Competent Authority and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for the above-mentioned project.

How you can participate: ECC is undertaking the required environmental assessment and public participation process in accordance with the Act. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and Stakeholders are required to register for the project at: **http://eccenvironmental.com/project/b2gold-environmental-clearance-certificate-for-exploration-activities-on-epl6627-and-epl6628/**

Purpose of the Review and Comment Period: As part of the public participation process, the purpose of the review and comment period is to present the proposed project and to afford interested I&APs an opportunity to comment on the project to ensure that all issues and concerns are captured and considered in the assessment.

Review Period: The review and comment period is effective from **8th of August 2018 – 29th of August 2018.**

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

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SADC region seek to maintain peaceful atmosphere

38TH SADC SUMMIT COMMENCES

BIG GUNS: (left to right) Jacob Zuma (South Africa), Dr Hage Geingob (Namibia) and Tom Thabane (Lesotho). Photo contributed

BASED on the theme, "Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development", the 38TH SADC summit kicked off today in Windhoek, Namibia, bringing African Heads of States and various dignitaries together.

Marthina Mutanga

At the summit, President Hage Geingob will take over the SADC Chairpersonship from his South African counterpart Jacob Zuma.

The summit will also mark the first time that the newest member of SADC, the Union of Comoros, will participate at this high-level regional meeting. Comoros was formally admitted into the organisation at the 37th SADC Summit, held in August last year in Pretoria, South Africa, there by increasing the membership of the regional bloc to 16. Buoyed by the relative peace and political stability that has characterised the region over the past few years, as well as the smooth transition of power experienced in three member states last year, namely Angola, the Kingdom of Lesotho and Zimbabwe, the SADC region will seek to maintain the same peaceful and tolerant atmosphere in 2018, when at least four countries hold elections. The region is set to strengthen efforts to implement programmes and projects, aimed at meeting various key milestones, including those on infrastructure development and industrialisation.

In line with the theme of the 37th SADC Summit, member states are expected to pursue programmes and projects aimed at promoting industrial development in the focus areas of agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and pharmaceuticals.

The 2017 Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government was held under the theme, 'Partnering with the private sector in developing industry and regional value-chains'.

As per tradition, the theme will be the rallying point for most activities undertaken by the region until the 38th summit.

During the coming year, countries in the region are expected to create a mechanism for the involvement of the private sector in the rollout of the economic integration agenda.

Swakop suspends new parking system

Niel Terblanche

A SHARP decline in business and the strange phenomenon of streets devoid of parked cars in the central business district of Swakopmund barely a week after the implementation of a new payment system for public parking has resulted in the municipality of Swakopmund suspending the entire system provisionally.

Swakopmund announced the suspension of the new parking and payment system shortly before the close of business on Wednesday afternoon and apologised for any inconvenience caused.

The new system was implemented on 1 August and made use of special parking marshals armed with handheld machines and sensors on parking spaces to calculate parking times and payments made by car owners to the central business district of the popular holiday town on the Namibian coast.

There was public outcry after the once busy streets in the centre of town suddenly looked as if residents migrated overnight. The reason for the outcry was exorbitant prices charged for mere minutes on parking spaces.

The municipality approved the application of Namibia Parking Solutions which invested N$1,5 million in establishing the new parking system during a public council meeting earlier in the year. The aim of the new system, besides creating revenue from public parking, was to make more parking available during business hours.

Around 50 former car guards were recruited as employees of Namibia Parking Solutions to serve as parking marshals.

At the time of the approval of the new system, business owners welcomed the idea with open arms citing a higher turnover of potential customers in their shops. The opposite was, however, true because of a sharp decline of visitors to the central business district who rather opted to use shops in the new Platz Am Meer Shopping Mall and smaller shopping centres in the different neighbourhoods of Swakopmund where parking was still free.

The municipality in its announcement did not mention for how long the new parking system will be suspended. The council also did not mention what the future will hold for the 50 newly appointed parking marshals.

INEFFECTUAL: A parking marshal displays his handheld device with which public parking times were calculated and payments recorded. Photo: Gert Jacobie

Lumpy Skin Disease cases in Omusati

Maria David

FARMERS in the Omusati Regions are urged to vaccinate their cattle's in order to avoid the outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD).

Lumpy skin disease is a viral infection of cattle characterised by the appearance of nodules on the skin and other parts of the body. The disease is transmitted among animals by mosquitoes and biting flies. Symptoms of the disease become visible after four to 14 days after the animal has been infected.

According to statistics provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF), a total of 16 suspected isolated cases of LSD in cattle were reported during the period of February to June this year out of a population of not less than 279 284 cattle.

MAWFspokesperson, Margaret Kalo, confirmed that there is no outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) reported this year in the Omusati Region, but only isolated cases were reported.

"The cases reported during these rainy season months were amongst cattle that were not vaccinated by their owners before the onset of the rainy season. Normally, cattle have to be vaccinated for LSD during October or November each year," said Kalo, adding that the incidences of LSD normally go down during dry seasons.

Kalo added that unvaccinated herds remain at high risk of infection when exposed to insect bites during the rainy season. Unfortunately, the virus remains prevalent in the body fluids of previously exposed cattle and could be the source of infection in affected herds of cattle. Kalo noted that vaccination against LSD has to be carried out by the cattle owners and not by Veterinary Services. The affected cattle received a LSD supportive treatment but the healed lesions on the skin remain visible for many years.

Farmers are advised to vaccinate and use insect repellents at the same time before the onset of the rainy season and report any suspected animal sickness to the nearest State Veterinary Offices.

VACCINATE: Animal displaying LSD. Photo for illustrative purpose. Photo: Maria David

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

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Applicant: B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd
Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP): Environmental Compliance Consultancy
Location: Kunene and Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia

Project: Exploration activities on EPL6627 and EPL6628 for base, rare and precious metals and industrial minerals, Kunene and Otjozondjupa Regions, Namibia.

Proposed Activity: The proponent proposes to carry out low impact, non-intrusive exploration activities for base, rare and precious metals and industrial minerals on EPL6627 and EPL6628. EPL6627 is located in Otjozondjupa Region and EPL6628 is located in the Kunene and Otjozondjupa Regions. Exploration methods may include aerial or remote sensing, electromagnetic surveys, drilling and minerals sampling.

Application for Environmental Clearance Certificate: In terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (No 7 of 2007), ECC on behalf of B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd is required to apply for Environmental Clearance to the Competent Authority and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for the above-mentioned project.

How you can participate: ECC is undertaking the required environmental assessment and public participation process in accordance with the Act. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and Stakeholders are required to register for the project at: *http://eccenvironmental.com/project/b2gold-environmental-clearance-certificate-for-exploration-activities-on-epl6627-and-epl6628/*

Purpose of the Review and Comment Period: As part of the public participation process, the purpose of the review and comment period is to present the proposed project and to afford interested I&APs an opportunity to comment on the project to ensure that all issues and concerns are captured and considered in the assessment.

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

APPENDIX D: ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The evaluation and prediction of environmental and social impacts require the assessment of the project characteristics against the baseline of environmental and social characteristics and ensuring all potentially significant impacts are identified and assessed.

The significance of an impact was determined by taking into consideration the combination of the sensitivity and importance/value of environmental and social receptors that may be affected by the proposed project, the nature and characteristics of the impact, and the magnitude of potential change. The magnitude of change (the impact) is the identifiable changes to the existing environment which may be direct or indirect; temporary/short term, long term or permanent; and either beneficial or adverse. These are described as follows and thresholds provided in Tables 1 to 3.

- The **sensitivity and value of a receptor** are determined by identifying how sensitive and vulnerable a receptor is to change, and the importance of the receptor (internationally, nationally, regionally and locally).
- The **nature and characteristics of the impact** are determined through consideration of the frequency, duration, reversibility and probability and the impact occurring.
- The **magnitude of change** measures the scale or extent of the change from the baseline condition, irrespective of the value. The magnitude of change may alter over time, therefore temporal variation is considered (short-term, medium-term; long-term, reversible, reversible or permanent)

Table 1 - Sensitivity and Value of Receptor

SENSITIVITY AND VALUE	DESCRIPTION
High	Of value, importance or rarity on an international and national scale, and with very limited potential for substitution; and/or very sensitive to change or has little capacity to accommodate a change.
Medium	Of value, importance or rarity on a regional scale, and with limited potential for substitution; and/or moderate sensitivity to change, or moderate capacity to accommodate a change.
Low	Of value, importance or rarity on a local scale; and/or not particularly sensitive to change, or has considerable capacity to accommodate a change.

Table 2 - Nature of Impact

NATURE	DESCRIPTION
Positive	An impact that is considered to represent an improvement on the baseline or introduces a positive change.
Negative	An impact that is considered to represent an adverse change from the baseline, or introduces a new undesirable factor.
Direct	Impacts causing an impact through direct interaction between a planned project activity and the receiving environment/receptors.
Indirect	Impacts that result from other activities that are encouraged to happen as a result / consequence of the Project. Associated with the project and may occur at a later time or wider area
Extent / Geographic Scale	
On-site	Impacts that are limited to the boundaries of the proposed project site
Local	Impacts that occur in the local area of influence, including around the proposed site and within the wider community
Regional	Impacts that affect a receptor that is regionally important by virtue of scale, designation, quality or rarity.
National	Impacts that affect a receptor that is nationally important by virtue of scale, designation, quality or rarity.
International	Impacts that affect a receptor that is internationally important by virtue of scale, designation, quality or rarity.
Duration	
Short-term	Impacts that are likely to last for the duration of the activity causing the impact and are recoverable
Medium-term	Impacts that are likely to continue after the activity causing the impact and are recoverable
Long-term	Impacts that are likely to last far beyond the end of the activity causing the damage but are recoverable over time
Reversibility	
Permanent /Irreversible	Impacts which are not reversible and are permanent
Temporary / Reversible	Impacts are reversible and recoverable in the future
Likelihood	
Certain	The impact is likely to occur
Likely	The impact is likely to occur under most circumstances
Unlikely	The impact is unlikely to occur

Table 3 - Magnitude of Change

MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	DESCRIPTION
Major	Loss of resource, and quality and integrity of resource; severe damage to key characteristics, features or elements; or Large-scale or major improvement of resources quality; extensive restoration or enhancement; major improvement of attribute quality.
Moderate	Loss of resource, but not adversely affecting its integrity; partial loss of/damage to key characteristics, features or elements; or Benefit to, or addition of, key characteristics, features or elements; improvements of attribute quality.
Minor	Some measurable change in attributes, quality or vulnerability; minor loss of, or alteration to, one (or maybe more) key characteristic, feature or element; or Minor benefit to, or addition of, one (or maybe more) key characteristic, feature or element; some beneficial effect on attribute quality or a reduced risk of a negative effect occurring.
Negligible	Very minor loss or detrimental alteration to one (or maybe more) characteristic, feature or element; or Very minor benefit to, or positive addition of, one (or maybe more) characteristic, feature or element.

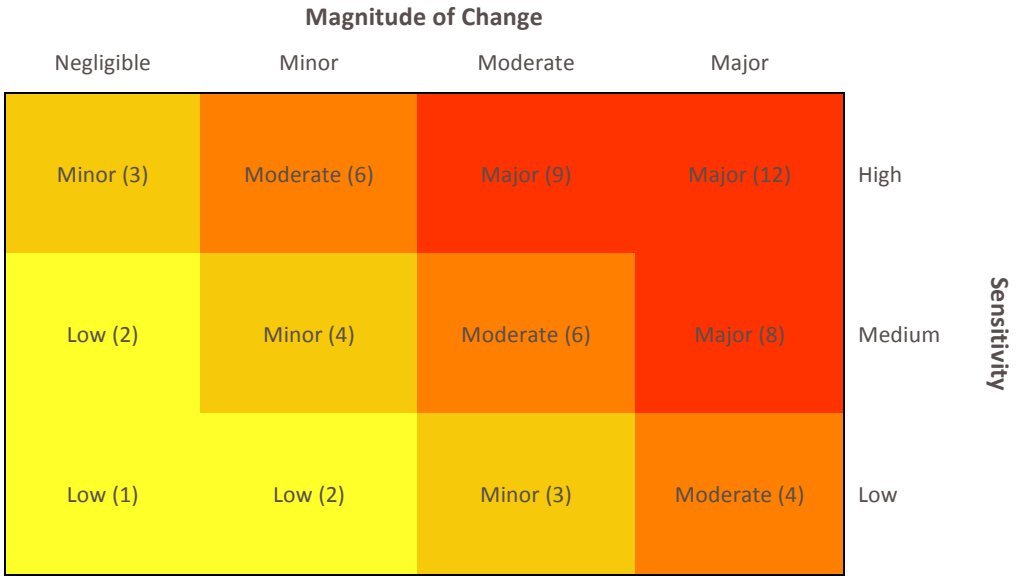
The level of certainty has also been applied to the assessment to demonstrate how certain the assessment conclusions are and where there is potential for misinterpretation or a requirement to identify further mitigation measures, thereby adopting a precautionary approach. Where there is a low degree of certainty, monitoring and management measures can be implemented to determine if the impacts are worse than predicted and support the identification of additional mitigation measures through the lifetime of the proposed project. Table 4 provides the levels of certainty applied to the assessment, as well as a description.

Table 4 – Level of certainty

LEVEL OF CERTAINTY	DESCRIPTION
High	Likely changes are well understood. Design/information/data used to determine impacts is very comprehensive. Interactions are well understood and documented. Predictions are modelled, and maps based on interpretations are supported by a large volume of data. Design/information/data has very comprehensive spatial coverage or resolution.
Medium	Likely changes are understood. Design/information/data used to determine impacts include a moderate level of detail. Interactions are understood with some documented evidence. Predictions are modelled but not yet validated and/or calibrated. Mapped outputs are supported by a moderate spatial coverage or resolution.
Low	Interactions are currently poorly understood and not documented. Predictions are not modelled, and the assessment is based on expert interpretation using little or no quantitative data. Design is not fully developed, or information has poor spatial coverage or resolution.

The significance of impacts has been derived using professional judgment and applying the identified thresholds for receptor sensitivity and magnitude of change (as discussed above), and guided by the matrix presented in Figure 1. The matrix is applicable for impacts that are either positive or negative. The distinction and description of significance and whether the impact is positive or negative is provided in Table 4.

Figure 1 – Guide to significance ratings



Significance is not defined in the Namibian EIA Regulations, however the Draft Procedure and Guidance for EIA and EMP states that the significance of a predicted impact depends upon its context and intensity. Accordingly, definitions for each level of significance has been provided in Table 4. These definitions were used to check the conclusions of the assessment of receptor sensitivity, nature of impact and magnitude of impact was appropriate.

Table 4 – Significance Description

SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT	DESCRIPTION
Major (negative)	Impacts are considered to be key factors in the decision-making process that may have an impact of major significance, or large magnitude impacts occur to highly valued/sensitive resource/receptors. Impacts are expected to be permanent and non- reversible on a national scale and/or have international significance or result in a legislative non- compliance.
Moderate (negative)	Impacts are considered within acceptable limits and standards. Impacts are long-term, but reversible and/or have regional significance. These are generally (but not exclusively) associated with sites and features of national importance and resources/features that are unique and which, if lost, cannot be replaced or relocated.
Minor (negative)	Impacts are considered to be important factors but are unlikely to be key decision-making factors. The impact will be experienced, but the impact magnitude is sufficiently small (with and without mitigation) and well within accepted standards, and/or the receptor is of low sensitivity/value. Impacts are considered to be short-term, reversible and/or localized in extent.
Low (negative)	Impacts are considered to be local factors that are unlikely to be critical to decision-making.
Low – Major (Beneficial)	Impacts are considered to be beneficial to the environment and society:

To ensure the beneficial impacts are brought out in the assessment, green has been applied to ensure the different type of impact is clear. The description for each level of significance presented in Table 4 was also followed when determining the level of significance for a beneficial impact.

The significance of impacts has been derived using professional judgment and applying the identified thresholds for receptor sensitivity and magnitude of change, as well as the definition for significance. It most instances, moderate and major adverse impacts are considered as significant, however there may be some instances where impacts are lower than this, but are considered to be significant. The following thresholds were therefore used to double check the assessment of significance had been applied appropriately; a significant impact would meet at least one of the following criteria:

- It exceeds widely recognized levels of acceptable change;
- It threatens or enhances the viability or integrity of a receptor or receptor group of concern; and

It is likely to be material to the ultimate decision about whether or not the environmental clearance certificate is granted.

APPENDIX E: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN