



ECC-45-247-NTS-03-C

## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

CONSTRUCTION OF PARATUS TELECOMMUNICATION (PTY) LTD BASE TRANSCIVER STATION AND  
ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON TOWNLANDS NO. 41, SWAKOPMUND.

*PREPARED FOR*



**PARATUS**  
Always Prepared

FEBRUARY 2020

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### CONSTRUCTION OF PARATUS TELECOMMUNICATION (PTY) LTD BASE TRANSCIVER STATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON TOWNLANDS NO. 41 IN SWAKOPMUND, ERONGO REGION, NAMIBIA

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## 1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) a background to the proposed project and to invite I&APs to register as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The project involves the construction of a Base Transceiver Station and associated infrastructure. Through registering, all I&APs will be kept informed throughout the EIA process, and a platform for participation will be provided to submit comments/recommendations pertaining to the project.

This NTS includes the following information:

- What is the proposed project and where is the project located?
- Why the project is deemed necessary, what benefits or adverse impacts are anticipated?
- What alternatives to the project have been considered and assessed?
- How does the EIA process work?
- The public participation process and how to become involved; and
- Next steps and the way forward.

## 2 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

### 2.1 BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been appointed by the proponent (Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd) to, on their behalf, undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in terms of the Environmental Management Act No.7 2007 and its Regulations. An environmental clearance certificate application will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET).

### 2.2 LOCATION

The proposed Base Transceiver Station and associated infrastructure will be located on Townlands No. 41, east of block 55, in the town of Swakopmund, Erongo Region (FIGURE 1).

### 2.3 WHAT IS PROPOSED

Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd is a multinational organisation and has established telecommunication services across Africa for many years. They have operational offices in Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia, and further provides connectivity services to more than 20 African countries through an extensive partner network.

Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd plans to strengthen and accelerate the use and development of information communication technology, including the network coverage in the proposed location. The preferred Base Transceiver Station height will be between 25 to 30 meters' and associated infrastructure.

### 2.4 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

The proposed construction phase will include low-impact and non-intrusive activities. The following are envisaged during the proposed project:

- Staging area development;
- Minor ground preparation (trenches and levelling) of the site;
- Storage and stockpiling of material for the construction of the tower;
- Construction of the tower; and
- Installation of cables and wiring.

### 2.5 OPERATIONAL PHASE

During normal operation, the telecommunication staging area will require very little intervention. Inspections will be frequently conducted by the site manager. The staging area will be maintained by Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd and the municipality of Swakopmund to ensure the longevity of

the material and secure current and potential future use.

## 2.6 DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

Should the proposed staging area and associated infrastructure no longer be required, the staging area and associated infrastructure would be decommissioned and removed. Alternatively, and with the agreement of stakeholders, the staging area and associated infrastructure could remain for beneficial use by others.

## 2.7 WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED

The proposed project is needed to serve as a staging and storage area for the materials for the development of the telecommunications infrastructure and to serve as the installed site for the BTS. In addition to this, the project will provide employment opportunities to the local people through the construction and continuous maintenance of the structures.





FIGURE 1 – LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

## 2.8 POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

### 2.8.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC

The potential social impacts are anticipated to be of low significance, and those that may transpire will be confined within the proposed site. These potential impacts may include the following:

- Minor risks of vehicular movement and traffic;
- Minimum generation of noise during the construction phase;
- Potential health risk associated with the proximity of people to the project; and
- Risk due to potential incidents from standard operation of the infrastructure.

### 2.8.2 ENVIRONMENTAL

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

- Potential health risk of radiation;

## 3 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Best practice environmental assessment methodology calls for consideration and assessment of alternatives to a proposed project. In a project such as this, it is difficult to identify alternatives to satisfy the need of the proposed project. The activities will be specific to the site.

During the assessment, alternatives will take the form of consideration of optimisation and efficiency to reduce potential effects e.g. different types of technology or operations, route access and construction methods.

## 4 THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

This EIA, conducted by ECC, is undertaken in terms of the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its regulations. The process followed in this EIA is set out in the flowchart in Figure 2.

### 4.1 SCREENING

A review of the proposed project screening findings against the listed activities was conducted; the findings of which are summarised below.

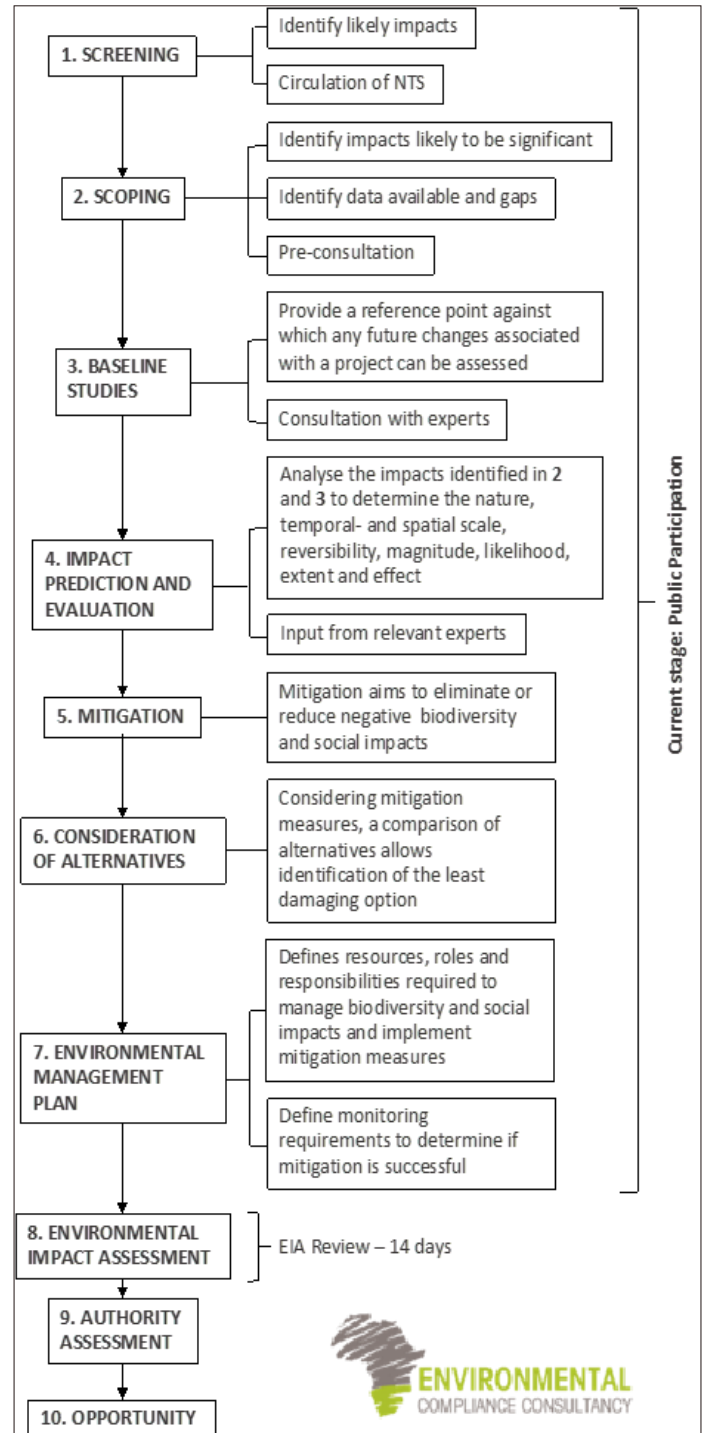


FIGURE 2 – FLOWCHART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

– **LAND AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

**5.1 The rezoning of land from-**

(a) residential use to industrial or commercial use

– **INFRASTRUCTURE**

10.1 The construction of

(g) Communication networks including towers, telecommunication and marine telecommunication lines and cables.

- With this proposed project there will be the creation of communication networks, which include staging areas, telecommunication lines and cables as well as installation of a Base Transceiver Station.

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

## 4.2 SCOPING

Due to the nature of the proposed project, and the implementation of the best practice mitigation measures during the construction, operational and decommissioning phase of the project, the effects on the environment and society are expected to be minimal and localised.

## 4.3 BASELINE STUDIES

For the proposed project, baseline information was obtained by a desk-based study and site verification processes by focusing on the environmental receptors that could be affected by the proposed project. ECC will also engage with stakeholders, I&APs and the proponents to seek input into the assessment.

## 4.4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Impacts will be assessed using the ECC EIA methodology. The EIA will be conducted in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and its regulations. ECC's methodology for impact assessments was developed using IFC standards, in particular, Performance Standard 1: 'Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts' (International Finance Corporation, 2017), and Namibian Draft Procedures and Guidance for EIA and EMP (Republic of Namibia, 2008), including international and national best practice with over 25 years of combined EIA experience.

## 4.5 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

An EMP will be developed for the proposed project setting out auditable management actions for Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd to ensure careful and sustainable management measures are implemented for their activities in respect to the surrounding environment and community.

## 4.6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ADVERTISING

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

At this phase ECC will perform the following:

- Identify key stakeholders, authorities, municipalities, environmental groups and interested or affected members of the public, hereafter referred to as I&APs;
- Distribute the NTS for the proposed project (this document);
- Advertise the environmental application in two national newspapers;
- Place notices on-site at or near the proposed property 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 will be submitted with the application; and
- Circulate I&AP comments to the project team for consideration of project design.

Comments must be submitted via our website or in writing and can be emailed using the details in the "contact us" section below.

## 4.7 PLEASE CONTACT US

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

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