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ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY



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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL 7744

FOR BASE AND RARE METALS, INDUSTRIAL MINERALS AND PRECIOUS METALS

PREPARED FOR

OTAVI EXPLORATION (PTY) LTD



FEBRUARY 2020

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL 7744 FOR BASE AND RARE METALS, INDUSTRIAL MINERALS AND PRECIOUS METALS

OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

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 proposed project involves exploration activities. By registering, all I&APs will be kept informed throughout the project. Through the EIA process a platform for participation will be provided to submit comments / recommendations pertaining to the project.

This NTS includes the following information on:

- The proposed project and location
- The necessity of the project, benefits or adverse impacts anticipated
- The alternatives to the project have been considered and assessed
- How the EIA process works
- The public participation process and how to become involved, and
- Next steps and the way forward.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

2.1 BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been engaged by the proponent, Otavi Exploration (Pty) Ltd, to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No.7 of 2007 and its regulations. An environmental clearance application will be submitted to the relevant competent authorities, the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) and Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET).

2.2 LOCATION

Otavi Exploration (Pty) Ltd proposes to explore in an area 20km northwest of Otjiwarongo, located in the Otjozondjupa Region. Refer to the location map provided in Figure 1.

2.3 WHAT IS PROPOSED

Otavi Exploration (Pty) Ltd is part of B2Gold and proposes to undertake low impact exploration activities on EPL 7744 for Base and Rare Metals, Industrial Minerals and Precious Metals. The EPL overlaps with a number of farms.

2.4 OPERATION PHASE

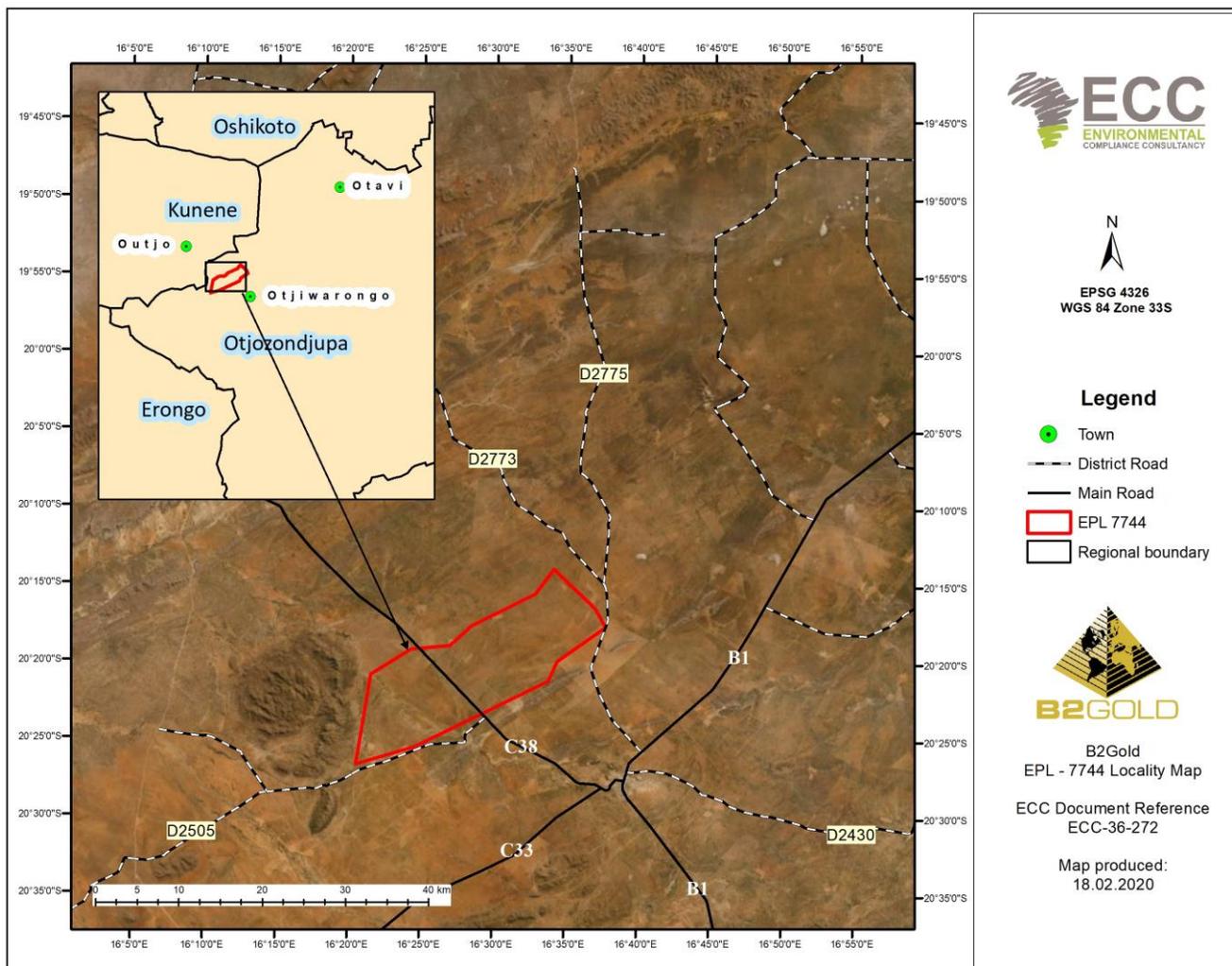
The proposed exploration activities are low-impact and non-intrusive. The following are envisaged during the proposed project:

- Potential creation of access tracks, where existing tracks are not available
- Limited vegetation clearing for the creation of cut lines, access routes and drill pads
- Drilling of exploration boreholes, and
- Exploration methods may include mapping, soil sampling, electromagnetic surveys and drilling.

2.5 WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED

Based on the host rock geology of the area, Otavi Exploration (Pty) Ltd intends to pursue exploration opportunities with the aim of identifying new mining prospects. Namibia is rich in natural resources and the minerals sector is a key contributor to GDP. Exploration could lead to mining activities, which would contribute to the national and local economy.

FIGURE 1 – LOCATION MAP OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT



2.6 POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

2.6.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC

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

- Potential to unearth, damage or destroy undiscovered heritage remains
- Minor disruption to the residents of the farms within the EPL, including some increase in noise levels and dust arising from drilling and vehicle use; and
- There will be economic benefits due to increased investment and investor confidence in the Namibian minerals sector.

2.6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL

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

- Some potential vegetation loss due to possible tracks creation, cut lines and drill pads;
- Potential use of resources, including groundwater; and
- Minor risk of loss of contaminant of hydrocarbon, chemical or drill fluids from exploration activities potentially leading to localised soil contamination.

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 one, it is difficult to identify alternatives to satisfy the need of the proposed project; the activities shall be specific to the EPL 7744, which was granted by the MME on the 29th of November 2019.

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

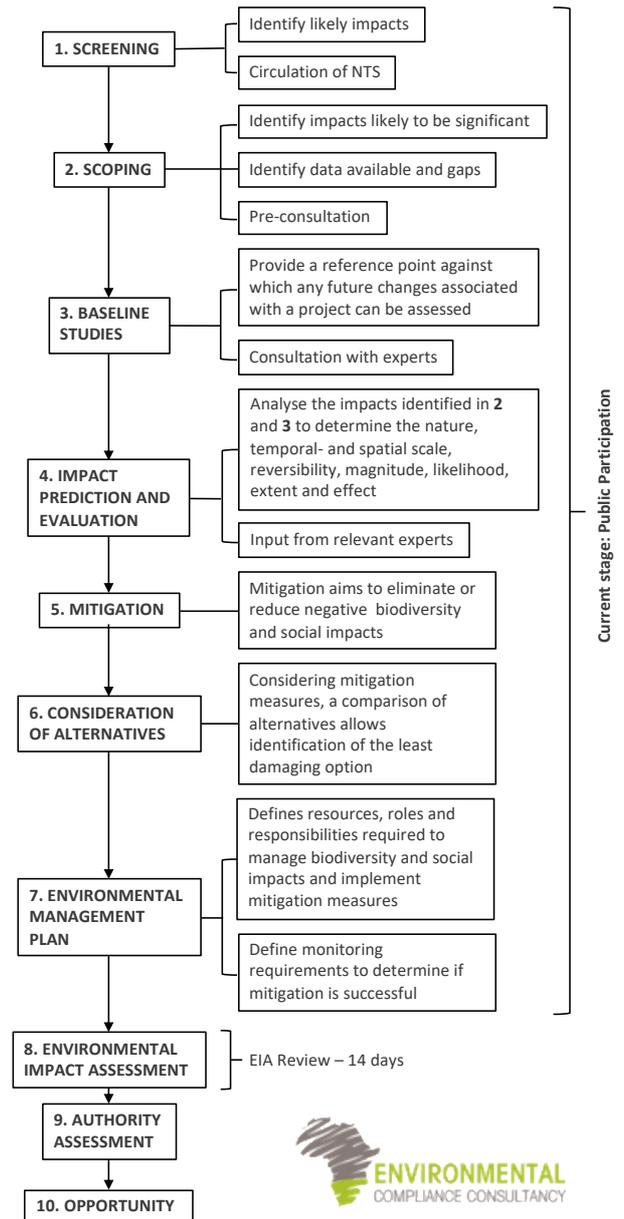


FIGURE 2 - FLOWCHART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

4.1 SCREENING

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

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, No. 33 of 1992

- The proposed project requires a licence for the construction of exploration camps, drill sites and access roads

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

- Minerals (soil and sand), will be sampled and extracted from within the EPL 7744

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

- The proposed project by its nature, involves resource extraction

WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(8.1) The abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes

- Due to the drilling of exploration boreholes, groundwater will be abstracted

The potential environmental and social effects are anticipated to be of minor significance, and those that may occur shall be contained on the EPL 7744 site.

4.2 SCOPING

Due to the nature of the proposed project, and the implementation of industry best practice mitigation measures during the mineral exploration 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 through a desk-based study and site verification processes through 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 ECC's EIA methodology. The EIA will be conducted in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No.7 of 2007 and its regulations. ECC's methodology for impact assessments was developed using standards of the International Finance Corporation, in particular Performance Standard 1 'Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts' (IFC 2012, 2017), the Namibian Draft Procedures and Guidance for EIA and EMP (GRN, 2008), international and national best practice and over 25 years of combined EIA experience.

4.5 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

An EMP shall be developed for the proposed project setting out auditable management actions for Otavi Exploration (Pty) Ltd to ensure careful and sustainable management measures are implemented for activities in respect of 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 aid the design process. This project is currently at the scoping phase and public participation phase.

At this phase ECC will perform the following:

- Identify key stakeholders, authorities, 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 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 as comments, as well as responses provided by ECC, in the comments and responses report, which will be included in the scoping report that shall be submitted with the application, and
- Circulate comments of I&APs to the project team for consideration of project design.

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

CONTACT US

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

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