



ECC
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY



ECC-113-309-NTS-18-B

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

**EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPLs 7528, 7529, 7530, 7531, 7532, 7533, 7534, 7535,
7536, 7537, 7538, 7539, 7540, 7541, 7542, 7543, 7730, 7731, and 7732**

FOR BASE AND RARE METALS, PRECIOUS METALS

PREPARED FOR

KUISEB COPPER COMPANY (PTY) LTD

SEPTEMBER 2020

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPLs 7528, 7529, 7530, 7531, 7532, 7533, 7534, 7535, 7536, 7537, 7538, 7539, 7540, 7541, 7542, 7543, 7730, 7731, 7732 FOR BASE AND RARE METALS AND PRECIOUS METALS IN THE OMAHEKE AND KHOMAS REGIONS

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 Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process.

The proposed project involves exploration activities for base and rare metals and precious metals on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPLs) 7528, 7529, 7530, 7531, 7532, 7533, 7534, 7535, 7536, 7537, 7538, 7539, 7540, 7541, 7542, 7543, 7730, 7731, 7732, operated by Kuseb Copper Company (Pty) Ltd.

Through registering for the project, all I&APs will be kept informed throughout the ESIA process, and a platform for participation will be provided to submit comments / recommendations pertaining to the project.

This NTS includes the following information:

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

2 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

2.1 BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been engaged by the proponent Kuseb Copper Company (Pty) (Ltd) to undertake an ESIA and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 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, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT).

2.2 LOCATION

Kuseb Copper Company (Pty) Ltd proposes to explore on EPLs 7528, 7529, 7530, 7531, 7532, 7533, 7534, 7535, 7536, 7537, 7538, 7539, 7540, 7541, 7542, 7543, 7730, 7731, 7732 in an area potentially prospective for copper in eastern Namibia, Khomas and Omaheke regions. The sites can be accessed via the B6 main road from Windhoek towards Gobabis or the B1 main road to Rehoboth and from Gobabis towards the C22 road. The location is shown in Figure 1.

2.3 WHAT IS PROPOSED

Kuseb Copper Company (Pty) Ltd (KCC) and Rio Tinto Mining and Exploration Ltd (RT), through a formal KCC-RT Joint Venture agreement whereby KCC will fully operate the exploration program, in search for mineral deposits of base and rare metals, and or precious metals. Various exploration techniques and methods will be used on the EPLs as set out in section 2.5.

Both Rio Tinto and Kuseb Copper Company adhere fully to the norms of Health, Safety, Environment and Community.

2.4 WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED

Kuiseb Copper Company intends to pursue exploration opportunities with the aim of identifying new mining prospects. Exploration could lead to mining activities, which would contribute to the national and local economies.

2.5 OPERATION PHASE

The proposed exploration activities are generally low-impact and non-intrusive. The exploration activities to be used may be 'scaled up' depending on exploration findings. The following are envisaged during the proposed project:

- Airborne geophysical surveys (non invasive);
- Potential creation of access tracks, where existing tracks cannot be utilised;
- Limited vegetation clearing for the creation of tracks, and survey access; and
- Ground exploration activities may include soil and rock sampling, geological mapping, geophysical surveys, temporary trenching, drilling and drill-core sampling

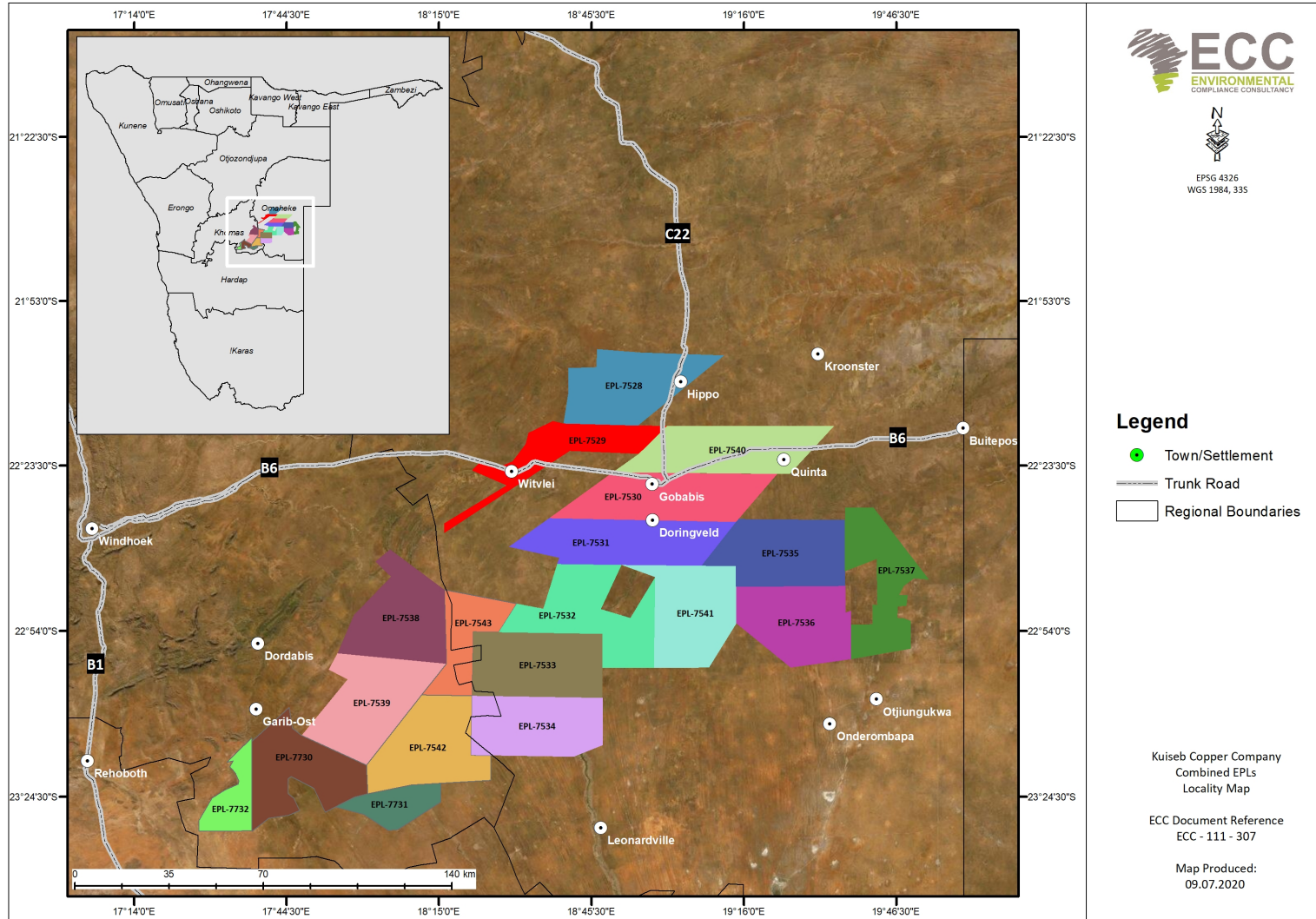


FIGURE 1 – LOCATION MAP OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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 EPLs 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 EPLs, including some increase in noise levels and dust arising from drilling and vehicle use;
- Some jobs will be created as a result of the project; 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 EPLs site, these potential impacts may include the following:

- Some potential vegetation loss due to possible tracks creation; the vegetation is expected to recover fully during ensuing rain seasons;
- 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; this aspect will be controlled at all times.

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 EPLs, which were granted by the MME.

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

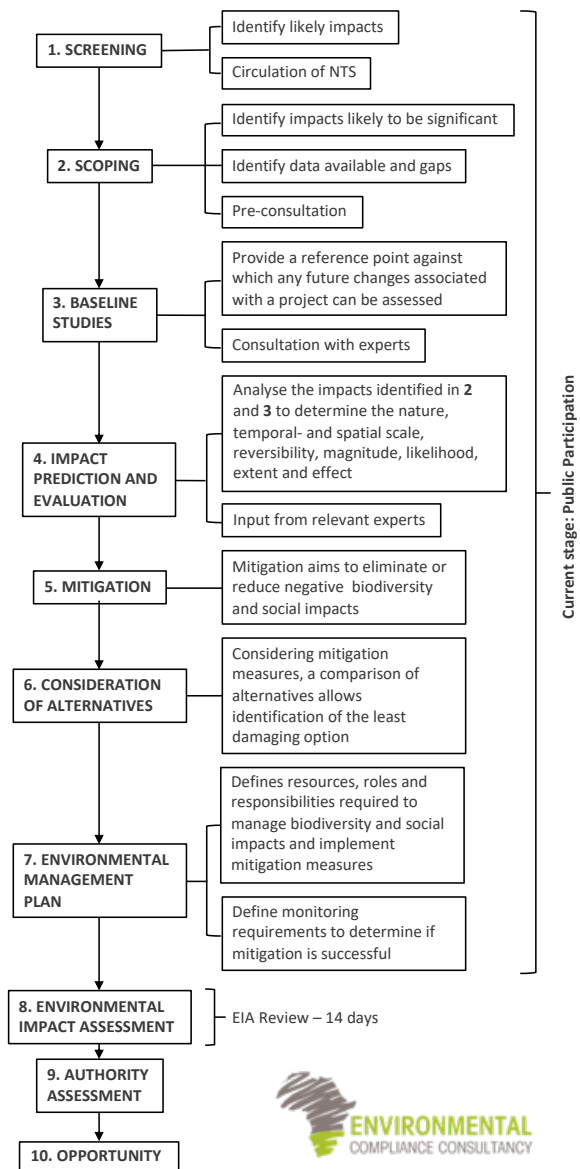


FIGURE 2 - FLOWCHART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

4.1 SCREENING

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

FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

(4) The clearance of forest areas, deforestation, afforestation, timber harvesting or any other related activity that requires authorisation in term of the Forest Act, 2001 (Act No. 12 of 2001) or any other law.

- Limited vegetation clearing may be required for tracks and survey access creation, and possibly for the set up for survey teams' field camps.

WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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

- Due to the drilling of exploration boreholes, ground and surface water will need to be abstracted, or sourced.

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

- This listed activity, infers the provisions of the Minerals Act (Prospecting and Mining) Act 33 of 1992, under different licenses as basis upon which certain activities qualify for an EIA. Part X of the Minerals Act (1992) defines prospecting/exploration activities under the lawful ownership of an exploration license (EPL). An exploration license excludes any mining activities, but includes activities strictly relating to exploration work. Hence the current project strictly focuses on exploration and not mining

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

- All extraction during exploration will be for geochemical and geological sampling purposes only.

4.2 BASELINE STUDIES

For the proposed project, baseline information will be obtained through desk-based studies and site verification.

The ESIA will focus 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.

4.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Impacts will be assessed using the ECC ESIA methodology. The ESIA 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' (IFC 2012, 2017) and Namibian Draft Procedures and Guidance for ESIA and EMP (GRN, 2008) including international and national best practice with over 25 years of combined ESIA experience.

4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

4.5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ADVERTISING

Public participation is an important part of the ESIA 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, 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 boundary
- If required host a public meeting to encourage stakeholder participation and engagement, and provide details of issues identified by the environmental practitioner, stakeholders and I&APs
- Record all comments of I&APs and present such comments, as well as responses provided by ECC, in the comments and responses report, which will be included in the scoping report that shall be submitted with the application, and
- Circulate I&AP comments to the project team for consideration of project design.

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

CONTACT US

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

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC)

info@eccenvironmental.com

Tel: +264 816 697 608

www.eccenvironmental.com

At ECC we make sure all information is easily accessible to the public.

Follow us online to be kept up to date:

