

# PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA, EXTENSION OF THE KATIMA CAMPUS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - AUGUST 2018

CLIENT: UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

ECC- 82-156-BID-04-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 extension to the University of Namibia (UNAM) campus in Katima.

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

There is currently a lack of skilled and experienced people to provide conservation management and wildlife protection in the SADC region. UNAM has therefore identified the need to create a new Department for Wildlife Management and Ecotourism at its campus in Katima Mulilo, which shall offer wildlife related education on BSc and MSc level for the SADC Region. In order to accommodate approximately 120 students and provide sufficient training facilities for the course, the existing campus at Katima Mulilo needs to be extended.

In consultation with the MET, the proposed project triggers the Environmental Management Act of 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) due to it meeting the thresholds of the following Listed Activities:

#### WASTE MANAGEMENT, TREATMENT, HANDLINE AND DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES

(2.1) The construction of facilities for waste sites, treatment of waste and disposal of waste.

#### WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS

(8.8) Construction and other activities in water courses within flood lines.

ECC has been engaged by UNAM to undertake an independent environmental assessment in compliance with Namibian law in terms of the Environmental Management Act of 2007 and associated Regulations. An application for Environmental Clearance shall be submitted to the MET.

An EIA Scoping Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be part of the submission to report the findings of the environmental assessment and provide sufficient information to inform the decision makers who shall 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.

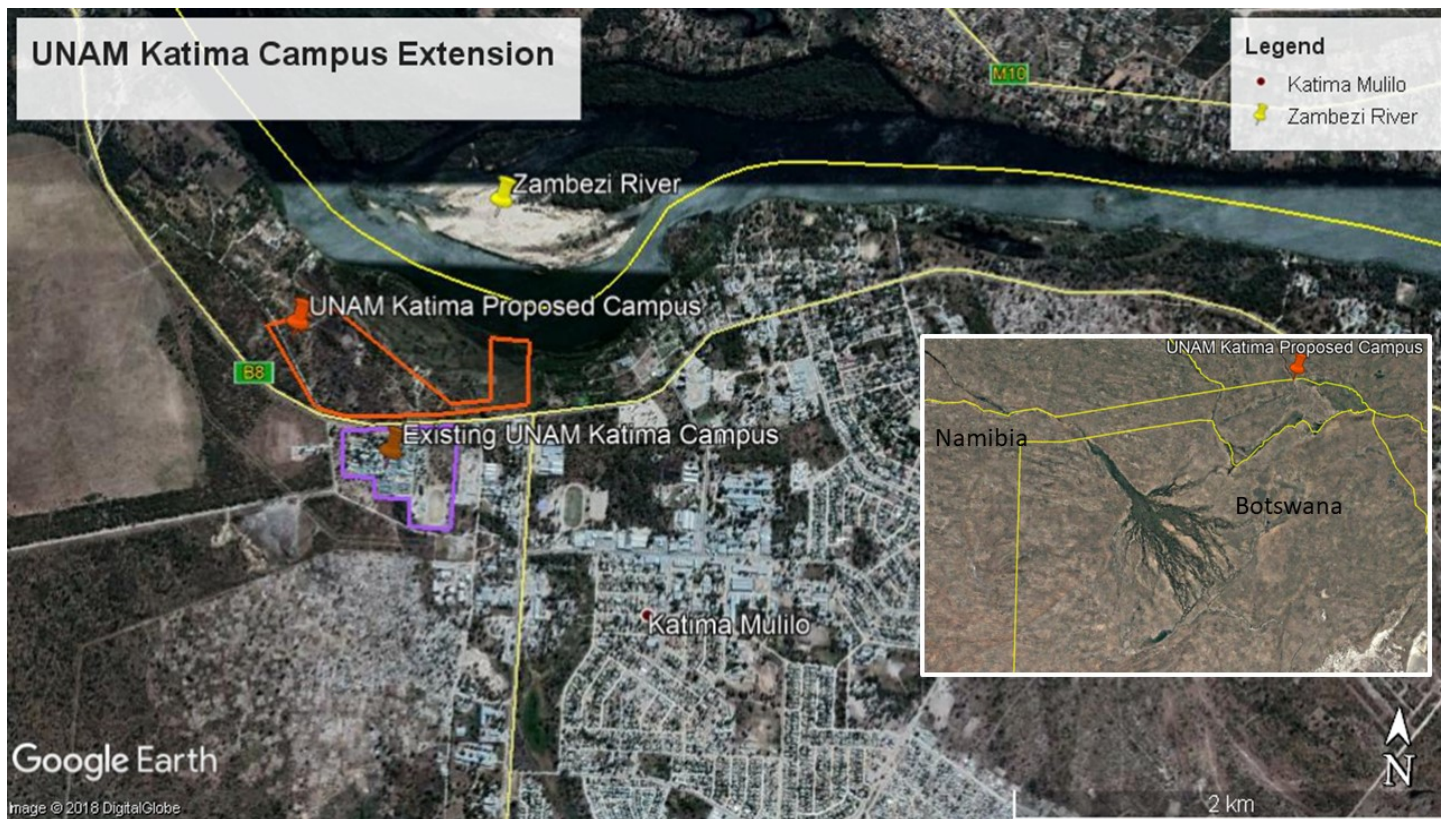
**APPLICANT:** UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER:** ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY (ECC)

**COMPETENT AUTHORITY:**

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM (MET)

## SITE LOCATION



## SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

The proposed new campus shall be constructed adjacent to the existing campus on the other side of the B8, south of the Zambezi River. The new facilities are likely to include lecture halls; office space; boardroom; offices; laboratories; administrative; store rooms; student accommodation for a minimum of 120 students, ablution facilities and common areas; staff accommodation; exhibition facility and jetty. The modules used to create these facilities shall be grouped into nodes designed to reflect tree branches. The modules shall be raised off the ground and connected through elevated boardwalks that weave around the existing natural vegetation on the site.

The following construction activities are envisaged, which shall be defined further as the project develops:

- Minimal vegetation clearance;
- Construction of access junction off the B8;
- Creation of access and internal roads and parking areas;
- Construction of drainage infrastructure, power and water supply infrastructure, sewerage treatment facility and network, and campus associated connections and pipework;
- Construction of foundations and installation of modules (administrative, academic and residence nodes);
- Construction of a small Jetty suitable for river boats;
- Construction of raised walk ways across the campus; and
- Creation of areas for agricultural study and plantations.

The activities on the campus when in full operations shall include lectures both inside and outdoors utilizing the natural environment, which includes the use of boats on the Zambezi River; activities associated with the residents of the campus (students and staff); campus maintenance and servicing operations; and use of vehicles for teaching purposes, both on site and off site.

Due to the nature of the proposed project, the design philosophy and vision of the development, and the implementation of industry best practice mitigation measures during the construction and operations of the development, the effects on the environment and society are expected to be minimal and localised. It is likely that there may be some short term, temporary localised disruption to ecological features (flora and fauna) on the site during the construction phase. During operations, it is likely that there may be some minor adverse as well as beneficial effects to the local society and economy.

## NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

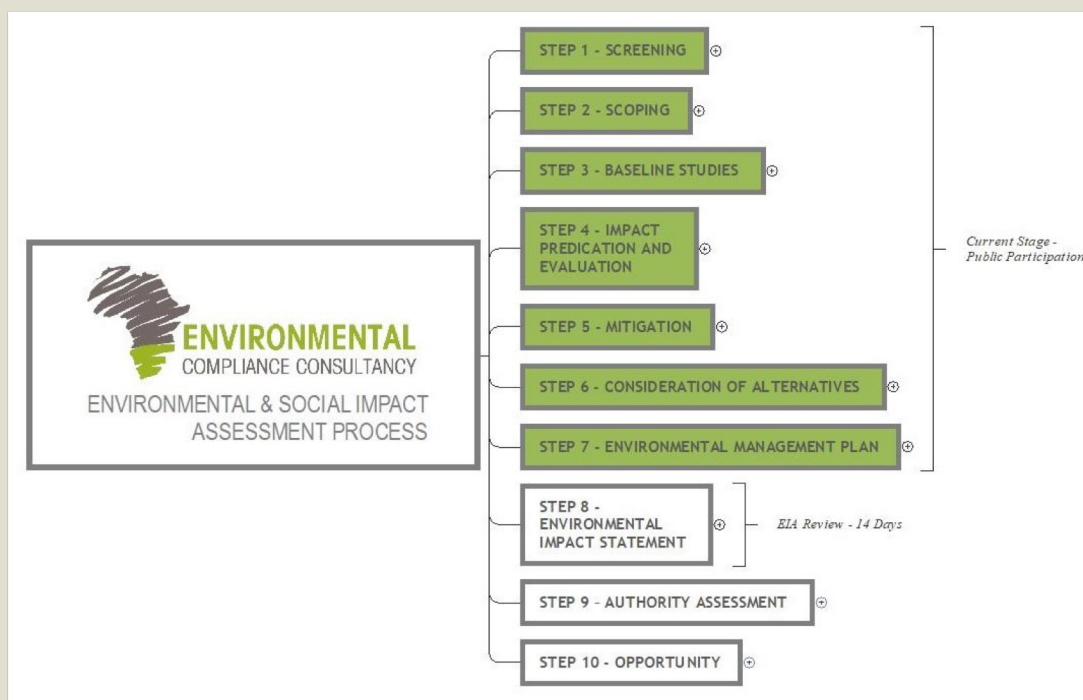
The UNAM has identified the need to create a new Department for Wildlife Management and Ecotourism at its campus in Katima Mulilo, which shall offer wildlife related education on BSc and MSc level for the SADC Region. Through providing this education, skills shall be developed which shall contribute to the conservation management and wildlife protection in the SADC region; thereby supporting the overall the management of transfrontier conservation areas as well the implementation of a landscape level conservation approach.

## WHAT ALTERNATIVES ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

Best practice environmental assessment methodology calls for consideration of different alternatives to a project being developed. Through design development, alternative sites have been considered and discounted due to environmental reasons. The design alternatives for the proposed project are currently being considered, which shall be influenced by the findings of the EIA. The Scoping Report shall present the findings of the assessment of all alternatives considered.

## 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.

# 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 MET.

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

<http://eccenvironmental.com/project/university-of-namibia-unam/>

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

[info@eccenvironmental.com](mailto: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:

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

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