

PROPOSED IRRIGATION SCHEME ON FARM URIS 481 USING EXCESS WATER PRODUCED FROM TSCHUDI COPPER MINE, OSHIKOTO REGION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - AUGUST 2018

CLIENT: FARM URIS 481

ECC-80-162-BID-06-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 irrigation project for Farm Uris 481.

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; and
- The next steps and way forward.

PROPOSED PROJECT

Farm Uris 481 neighbours the Tschudi Copper Mine, both located to the west of Tsumeb. A lodge is located on the farm which caters for tourists and mine visitors. The farm has cattle and game and is game fenced. The farm owners together with the owners of the Mine have identified an opportunity to utilise excess water from operations at Tschudi Mine for an irrigation project. Approximately 500 hectares of land shall be cleared, and plants and /or fresh produce shall be grown for commercial purposes.

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:

WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS (8.7) Irrigation schemes for agriculture excluding domestic irrigation

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

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been engaged by Three Musketeers Investments (Pty) Ltd the owners of Farm Uris 481 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 will be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) and the 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.

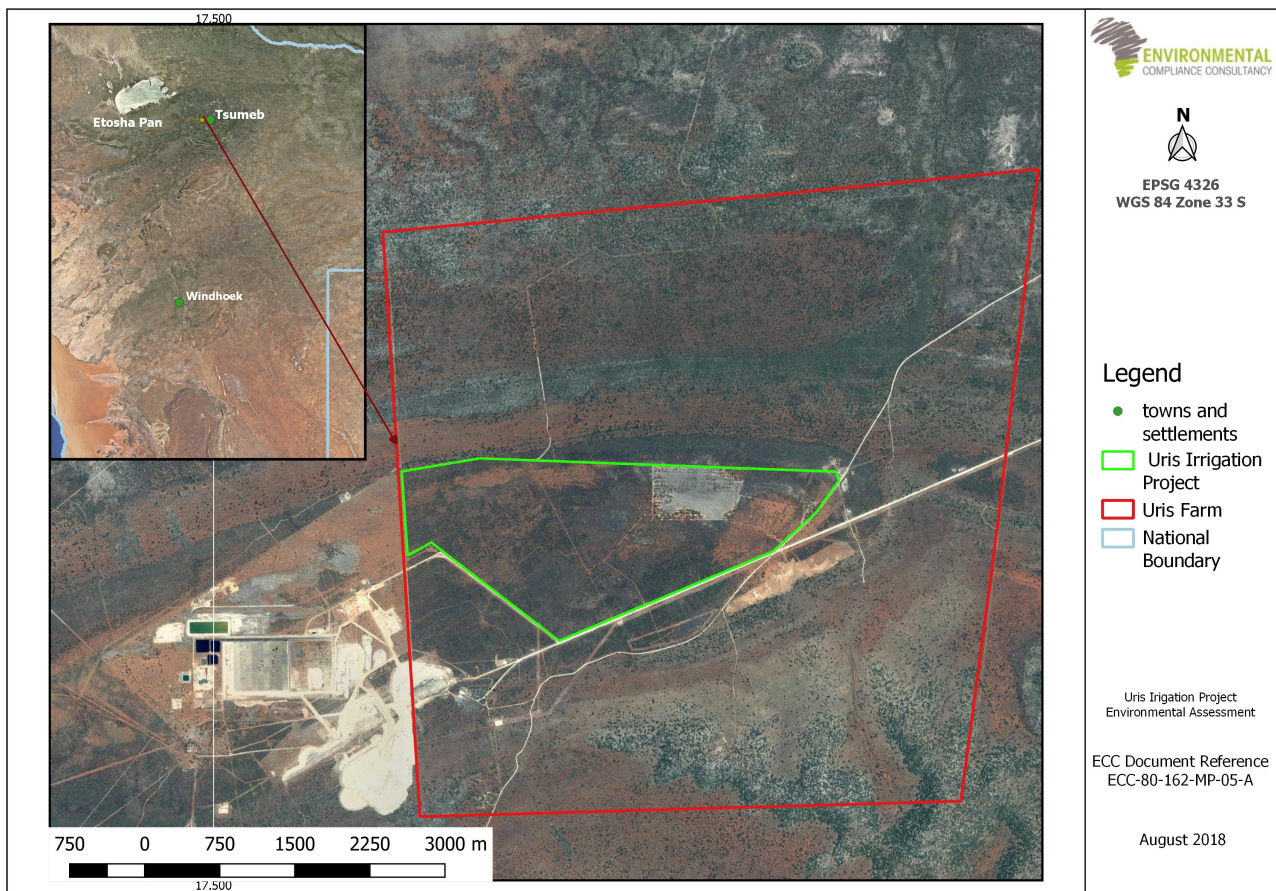
APPLICANT: FARM URIS 481

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER: ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

COMPETENT AUTHORITY:

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

SITE LOCATION



SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

To develop the proposed irrigation and agriculture scheme, the following activities are envisaged:

- Construction of a water pipeline connected to the Mine's dewatering pipeline;
- Vegetation clearing of the area that is to be used for the irrigation scheme – this shall be determined by the volumes of water available from the mine and type of agriculture to be grown. Agricultural area shall be restricted to within the boundaries of Farm Uris 481;
- Potential construction of small access tracks;
- Ground preparation including minor earthworks and levelling; and
- Construction of agriculture infrastructure e.g. fences, irrigation system, storage and preparation areas.

During operations, activities such as the use of farm machinery and equipment, the use of fertilisers and other chemicals, and generation and management of vegetation waste are likely to occur.

The potential environmental and social impacts are anticipated to be of minor significance, and adverse (what adverse impacts?) impacts that may occur shall be contained to the Farm site. Impacts may include:

- Generation of jobs, benefiting the local community;
- Sustainable alternative use of a waste water source;
- Contribute to local produce and support the local and regional economy;
- Some vegetation clearance and minor potential disruption to flora and fauna on the site;
- Potential to unearth, damage or destroy undiscovered heritage remains; and
- Increased waste on the Farm site from agriculture activities.

ECC will prepare a 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 Farm Uris to ensure careful and sustainable management measures are applied to their activities in respect of the surrounding environment and community.

NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

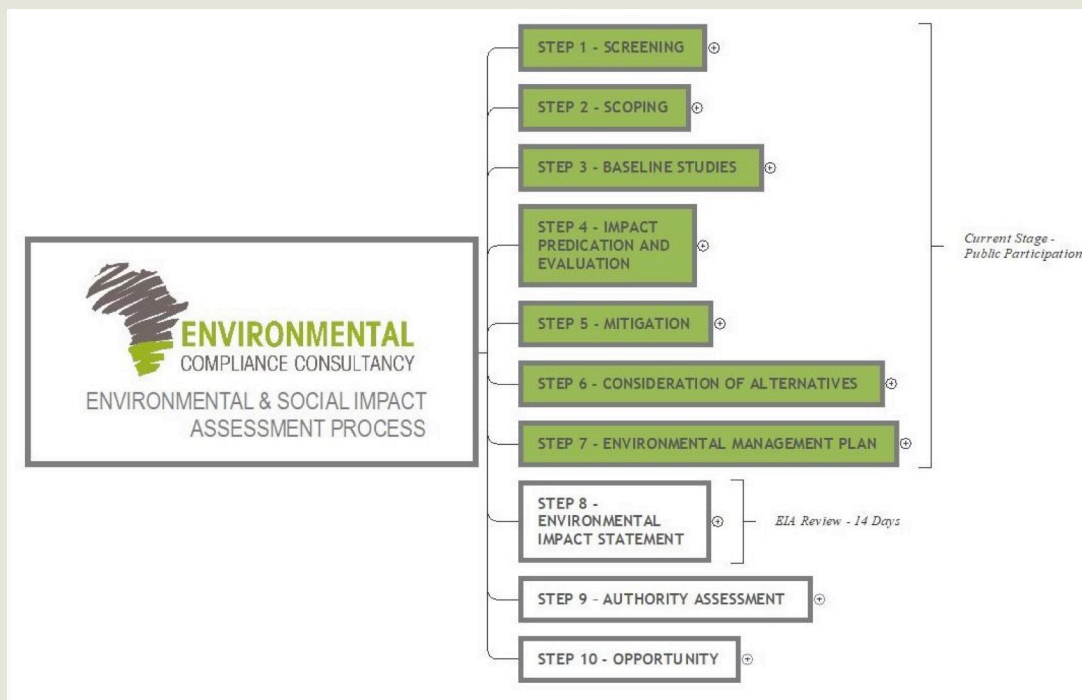
Farm Uris intends to utilise excess clean waste water generated from the Tschudi Mine operation for the irrigation of an agriculture purposes to grow plants and/or fresh produce. Through optimising this resource additional income can be injected into the local area, resulting in various benefits.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

Best practice environmental assessment methodology calls for consideration of different alternatives to a project being developed. Alternatives that are to be reviewed include the 'do nothing' scenario and the use of municipality water for the irrigation scheme. Technological and operational alternatives shall also be reviewed to ensure the creation and operation of the scheme is optimised and advise impacts avoided.

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 be submitted to the MAWF 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 documentation for all I&APs will be 14 days from notification (newspaper adverts). The Draft Scoping Report and EMP 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/uris-irrigation-scheme/>

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

info@eccenvironmental.com

Tel: +264 81 626 7278 or +264 81 653 1214

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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