

SAND REMOVAL ON FARM OKAKANGO NORD 58, OKAHANDJA DISTRICT, OTJOZONDJUPA REGION, NAMIBIA

CLIENT: LUDI VAN AARDT

ECC-76-145-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) a background to the proposed project: small scale sand removal from the Okahandja River on farm Okakango Nord 58, and hereby invite I&APS to register in the assessment process. Through registering, all I&APS will be kept informed throughout the Assessment process, and a platform for participation will be provided to submit comments/recommendations pertaining to the project.

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

The project site is the Okakango farm Nord 58, which is situated in the Okahandja District, central Namibia. The owner of the property is Ludi Van Aardt, who is proposing to undertake a small scale, low impact sand removal from the Okahandja River which runs through the farm property. The intent is to produce approximately 240m³ of river sand on a monthly basis for commercial use.

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 Activity:

MINING AND QUARRYING ACTIVITIES: (3.2) other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not.

Environmental Compliance Consultancy [ECC] has been commissioned by the Proponent to undertake an environmental assessment and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in compliance with Namibian law in respect of, specifically, the Environmental Management Act of 2007 and associated Regulations. An Environmental Clearance application will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and relevant competent authorities (Ministry of Agricultural Water and Forestry (MAWF)).

SCOPING

A SCOPING PROCESS IS A SHORTER PROCESS THAN A 'FULL' EIA BUT APPLIES THE SAME PRINCIPALS AND ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY.

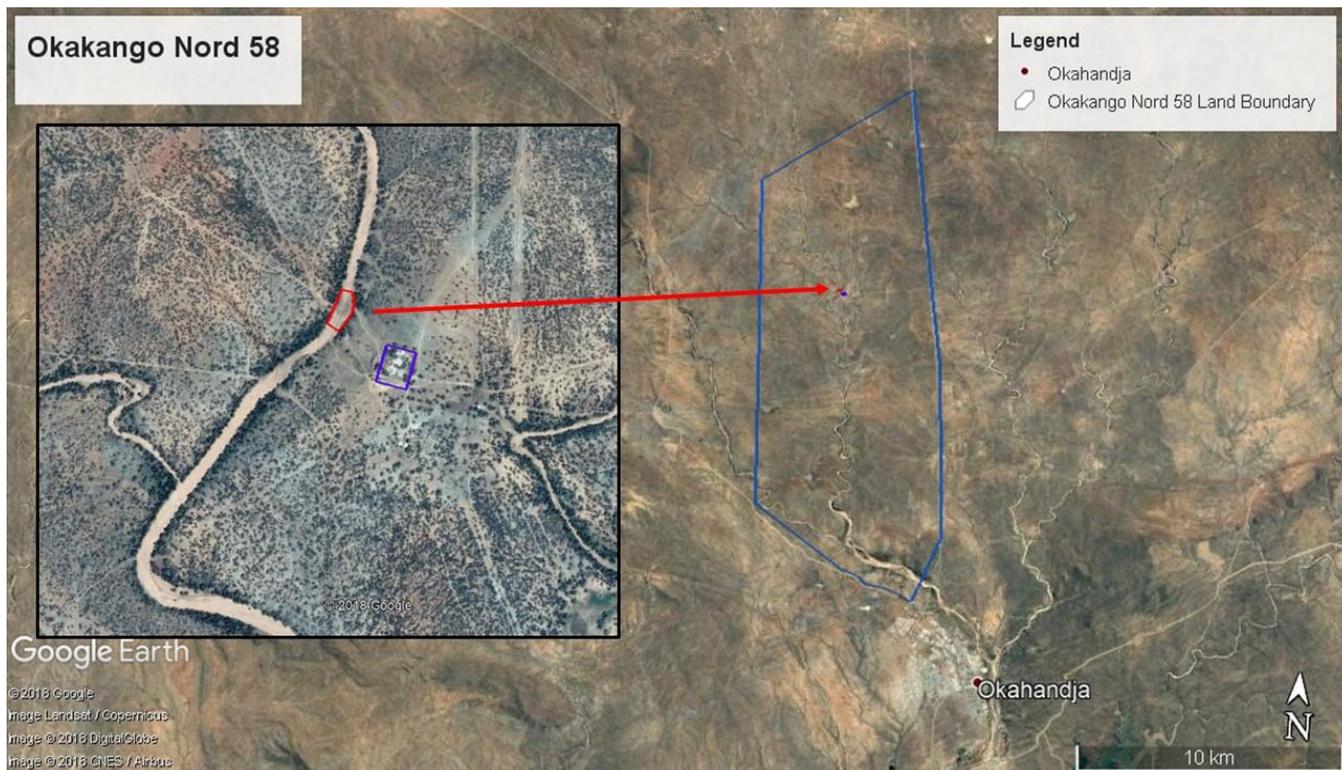
INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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.

IN THIS WAY - LIKE APPOINTED FINANCIAL AUDITORS - STAKEHOLDERS AND THE AUTHORITIES REVIEWING APPLICATIONS CAN BE ASSURED

SITE LOCATION



NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The small scale sand removal project will provide an alternative source of income to the farm. This project will also contribute in meeting the demand for sand in the surrounding area.

APPLICANT: LUDI VAN AARDT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER:
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

COMPETENT AUTHORITY:

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURAL WATER AND FORESTRY AND
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

SCOPE OF WORK

The Okakango Farm Nord 58 is situated in the Okahandja District. The Okahandja River runs through the farm and is a rich source of river sand which can be used for commercial purposes. The farm owner proposes to remove approximately 240m³ of river sand on a monthly basis for commercial use. The area where the sand removal is proposed can be seen in the figure above.

The proposed project could potentially result in environmental and social impacts, both beneficial and adverse. In particular, there is potential for the following impacts to occur:

- hydrology (ground water and surface water) and geomorphology (fluvial processes)
- soils and geology (loss of resource);
- ecological (flora and fauna of the river bed); and
- socio-economic impacts (positive economic impacts, adverse impacts from noise and dusts).

These receptors shall be reviewed and assessed, however due to the size, scope and nature of the proposed project, it is unlikely that these potential impacts will occur let alone significant environmental impacts arise. Minimal impacts will be appropriately avoided or reduced through appropriate mitigation and management measures.

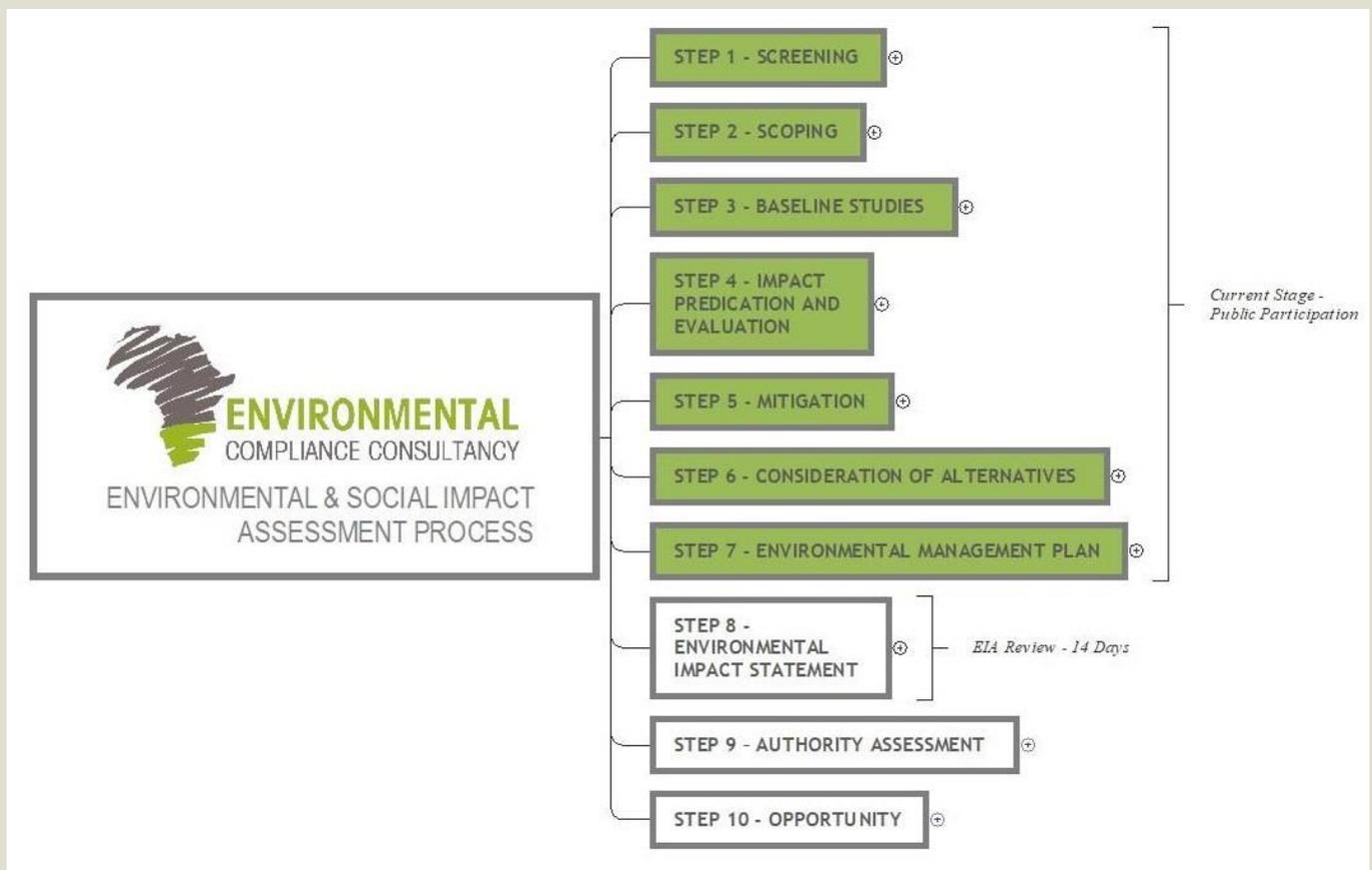
The proposed scope of works is to therefore prepare an EMP that includes a summary of the assessment undertaken.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

Best practice environmental assessment methodology calls for consideration of different alternatives to a project being developed. In a project such as this one, it is difficult to identify alternatives to satisfy the need of the proposed project. Therefore for this project no feasible alternatives have been identified.

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 project (this document);
- Advertise the environmental application in two national newspapers;
- Place on-site notices at conspicuous places at/ near the proposed development boundary;
- Record all comments of I&APs and present such comments, as well as responses provided by ECC, in a full Comments and Responses Report, which will be included in the Scoping Report that is submitted to MET; and
- Circulate all 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 and the Competent Authority.

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

<http://eccenvironmental.com/projects/>

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

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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