ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL 6949

FOR BASE AND RARE METALS, INDUSTRIAL MINERALS, PRECIOUS METALS

PREPARED FOR

B2GOLD NAMIBIA (PTY) Ltd

B2GOLD

MARCH 2019

PO BOX 91193 Windhoek Namibia
Environmental Compliance Consultancy CC
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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL 6949 FOR BASE AND RARE METALS, INDUSTRIAL MINERALS, AND PRECIOUS METALS

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 project involves exploration activities on EPL 6949 for Base and Rare Metals, Industrial Minerals, and Precious Metals. Through registering, all I&APs will be kept informed throughout the EIA process, and a platform for participation will be provided to submit comments/recommendations pertaining to the project.

This NTS includes the following information:

- What is the proposed project and where is the project located
- Why the project is deemed necessary, what benefits or adverse impacts are anticipated
- What 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 PROPOSED PROJECT

2.1 BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been engaged by the proponent (B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd) to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 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 authority Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) and Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET).

2.2 LOCATION

The project is located between the Khomas and Otjozondjupa Regions of Namibia. The site is located approximately 24.73 km from Okahandja and 23.52km from Windhoek. The proposed project is located within the boundary of EPL 6949 as indicated in FIGURE 1.

2.3 WHAT IS PROPOSED

B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd was founded in 2012. It is the operator of the Otjikoto Gold Mine near Otjiwarongo, which forms one of the largest mines in Namibia with approximately 800 permanent employees.
B2Gold undertakes mineral exploration in Namibia and propose to undertake low impact exploration activities on EPL 6949 Base and Rare Metals, Industrial Minerals, and Precious Metals between the Khomas and Otjozondjupa Regions of Namibia.

2.4 OPERATION PHASE

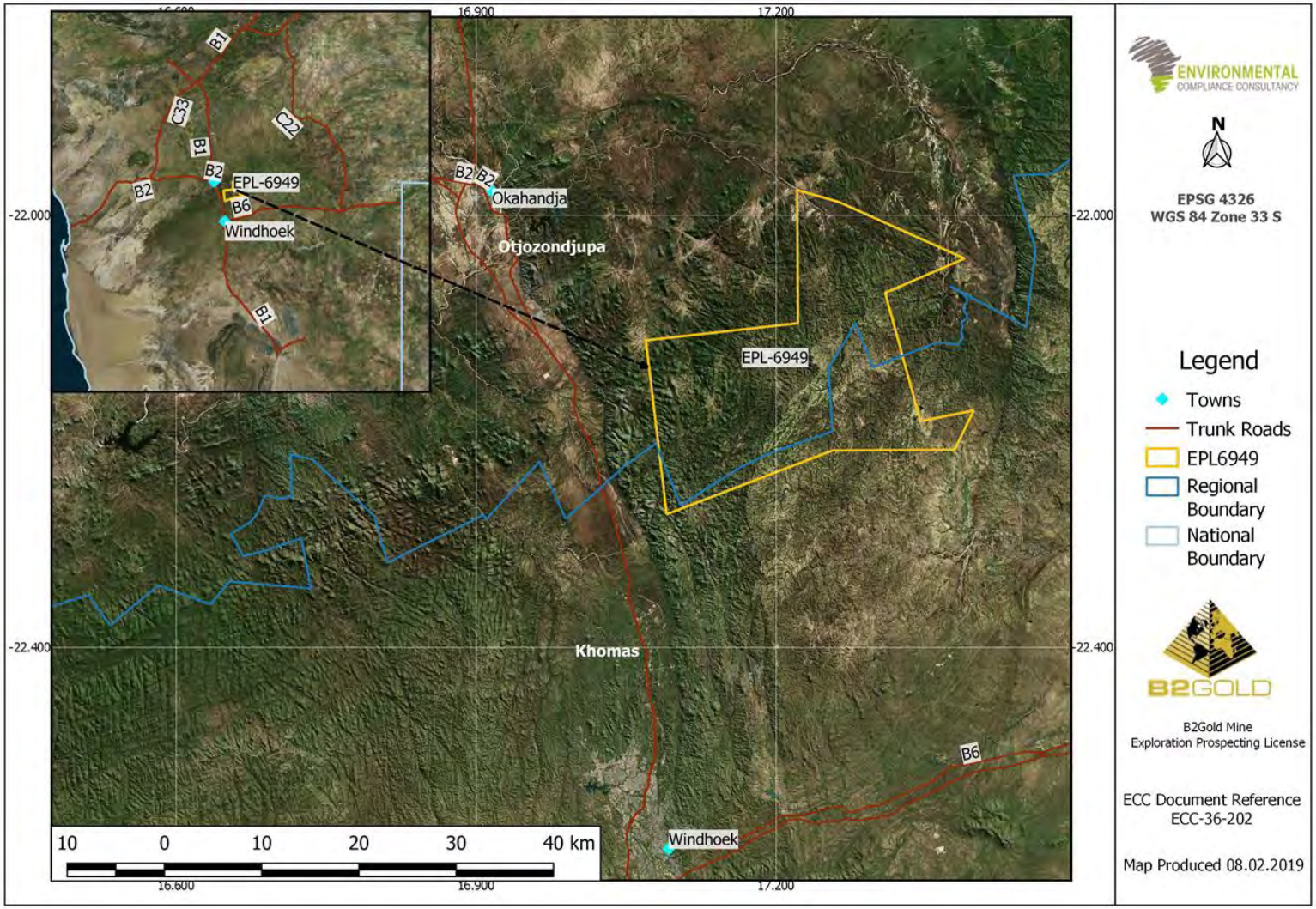
The proposed exploration activities are low-impact and non-intrusive. The following are envisaged during the proposed project:

- Potential creation of access tracks, where existing tracks cannot be utilised
- Limited vegetation clearing for the creation of tracks
- Drilling of exploration boreholes, and
- Exploration methods may include soil and rock sampling, geological mapping, electromagnetic surveys, drilling and drill-core sampling.

2.5 WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED

B2Gold intend to pursue exploration opportunities with the aim of identifying new mining prospects. Namibia is rich with natural resources and the minerals sector is a key contributor to the nations GDP.

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;
- 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 EPL site, these potential impacts may include the following:

- Some potential vegetation loss due to possible tracks creation,
- The 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.

3 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Best practice environmental assessment methodology calls for consideration and assessment of alternatives to a proposed project. The exploration activities shall be specific to the EPL.

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 granted by the MME on the 30th of May 2018.

During the assessment, alternatives will take the form of a consideration of optimisation and efficiency to reduce potential effects.

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 below.

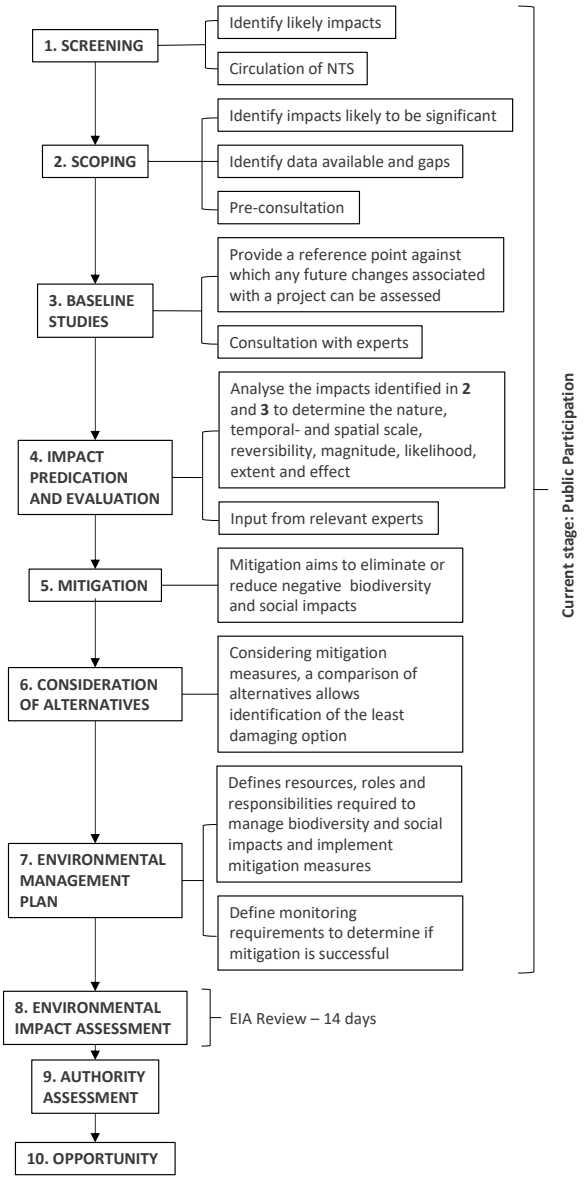


FIGURE 2 - FLOWCHART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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), 1992

- The proposed project requires a licence for extraction of metals and industrial minerals

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

- Minerals (soil and sand), metals will be sourced out within the projects footprint/ locally as far as possible

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

- The proposed project will extract industrial minerals

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 be abstracted

(8.5) Construction of dams, reservoirs, levees and weirs

- The proposed project is required to drill exploration boreholes within the project footprint

INFRASTRUCTURE

10.1 The construction of (b) Public roads

- With this proposed project there is a potential creation of access tracks where existing tracks cannot be utilised

The potential environmental and social effects are anticipated to be of minor significance, and those that may occur shall be contained on the EPL 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 will be obtained through a desk-based study and site verification processes by 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 the ECC EIA methodology. The EIA will be conducted in terms of the Environmental Management Act No.7 of 2007 and its regulations. ECCs methodology impact assessments was developed using (International Finance Corporation (IFC) standards in particular Performance Standard 1 'Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts' (International Finance Corporation, 2017), (International Finance Corporation, 2012) and Namibian Draft Procedures and Guidance for EIA and EMP (Republic of Namibia, 2008) including international and national best practice with 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 B2Gold Namibia to ensure careful and sustainable management measures are implemented for their activities with respect to 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 the 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

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