ECC

ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

ECC-110-305-REP-05-D

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT PLUS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

CHARCOAL AND BRIQUETTE STORAGE, PROCESSING AND PACKAGING FACILITY IN WITVLEI, OMAHEKE REGION

PREPARED FOR NAMCHAR NAMIBIA

NAM·CHAR namibia

SEPTEMBER 2020

PO BOX 91193 Windhoek Namibia
Environmental Compliance Consultancy CC
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TITLE AND APPROVAL PAGE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Namchar Namibia (herein referred to as Namchar) is an existing and operational charcoal facility, located approximately 1 km north of the Witvlei village, Omaheke Region. The brand Namchar was started in 1996 and has been growing exponentially in the years. Namchar has extended its manufacturing facility to Namibia, focusing on the manufacturing, processing, packaging, and storage of Namibian charcoal and briquettes. Namchar also has a range of other products such as fire lighters, firewood, disposable BBQ's and other consumables. The project activities at the Namchar facility includes the continuous operations of the facility and possible construction of a weighbridge in the future. Namchar sources charcoal from suppliers in the surrounding areas, then screen and segregate the charcoal, process charcoal fines into briquettes, then package and store charcoal and briquettes for distribution. Some raw materials are transported by road from Namibia over 2000km to the Namchar Factory, which is situated on a farm outside Durbanville, Cape Town in the Western Cape. The scope of this assessment is only for the Namchar facility in Namibia.

The project triggers listed activities in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007, therefore an environmental clearance certificate is required. As part of the environmental clearance certificate application, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to satisfy the requirements of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007. This environmental assessment report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) shall be submitted to the competent authority as part of the application for the environmental clearance certificate.

Namchar is located within the trees and shrubs savannah biome with a vegetation structure broadly classified as dense shrubland, dominated by Black thorn (*Acacia mellifera)* and Red umbrella thorn (*Acacia reficiens), and* shrubs, (Mendelsohn et al., 2002). These species are classified as encroacher bushes and should be removed when they grow densely in a specific area, as they pose a threat to the ecosystem. The regional area supports a high terrestrial diversity of animal and plant life.

This EIA has been undertaken in terms of the requirements of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, 2007 (No. 30 of 2012) gazetted under the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (referred to herein as the EIA Regulations). The EIA was undertaken using a methodology developed by Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC), which is based on the International Finance Corporation (IFC) standard for impact assessments. Through the assessment process, a review of the site and surrounding environment was completed by undertaking desktop reviews and verification of site data.

This study has assessed potential, likely and identified impacts which includes amongst others, impacts on air quality due to dust released during operational activities, impact of terrestrial ecology due to increased movements in the area, as well as positive opportunities for the local community i.e. employment. It was determined that the likely effects were not deemed significant, based on the magnitude of change from the baseline environment, the duration of potential impacts and the reversibility of effects. Measures to mitigate and manage potential impacts on the environment, both during the construction and the operational phases are outlined in the EMP.

On this basis, it is of the opinion of ECC that an environmental clearance certificate could be issued, on conditions that the management and mitigation measures specified in the EMP are implemented and adhered to.

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION 8

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT 8
1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT 8
1.3 SCOPE OF WORK 8
1.4 THE PROPONENT OF THE PROJECT 9
1.5 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY 9
1.6 ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS 10
1.7 REPORT STRUCTURE 11

2 APPROACH TO THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT 13

2.1 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT 13
2.2 THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS 13
2.3 METHODOLOGY FOR THE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS 15
2.4 SCREENING OF THE PROJECT 15
2.5 SCOPING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT 15
2.6 BASELINE STUDIES 15
2.7 EIA CONSULTATION 16
2.7.1 Interested and affected parties 16
2.7.2 Non-technical summary 16
2.7.3 Newspaper advertisements 16
2.7.4 Site notices 16
2.7.5 Consultation feedback 16
2.8 DRAFT EIA AND EMP 16
2.9 FINAL EIA AND EMP 17
2.10 AUTHORITY ASSESSMENT AND DECISION MAKING 17
2.11 MONITORING AND AUDITING 17

3 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK 18

3.1 NATIONAL LEGISLATION 18
3.2 PERMITS AND LICENCES 20
3.3 MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE 21

4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION 22

4.1 NEED FOR THE PROJECT 22
4.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED 22
4.3 PROJECT CHANGES/ACTIVITIES 22
4.3.1 Propose Project schedule 22
4.3.2 Equipment and materials 23
4.3.3 Workers and accommodation 23
4.3.4 Resource use and waste management 23
4.3.5 Solid waste management 23

5 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BASELINE 24

5.1 INTRODUCTION 24
5.2 PROJECT SITE AND LOCATION 24
5.3 SITE AND SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT 24
5.4 CLIMATE 26
5.5 GEOLOGY 28
5.6 TOPOGRAPHY AND SOIL 29
5.7 HYDROLOGY 31

5.8 VEGETATION 32
5.9 FAUNA SPECIES 32
5.10 SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASELINE 34
5.10.1 Demographic profile 34
5.10.2 Governance 34
5.10.3 Infectious diseases 35
5.10.4 Employment 35
5.10.5 Economic activities 36
5.10.6 Cultural heritage 36

6 IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF IMPACTS 37

6.1 INTRODUCTION 37
6.2 ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE 37
6.3 LIMITATIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES 37
6.4 DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE 38
6.5 MITIGATION 42

7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT FINDINGS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES 43

7.1 INTRODUCTION 43
7.2 IMPACTS NOT CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT 43
7.3 ASSESSMENT FINDINGS 45

8 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 47

9 CONCLUSION 48

REFERENCES 49

APPENDIX A- EMP 50

APPENDIX B - NON-TECHNICAL SU MMARY 51

APPENDIX C- EVIDENCE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION 57

APPENDIX D - ECC CVS 66

APPENDIX E - EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS 67

TABLES

TABLE 1 – PROPONENT DETAILS 9

TABLE 2 - LISTED ACTIVITIES TRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT 10

TABLE 3 - SECTIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT 11

TABLE 4 - LEGAL COMPLIANCE 18

TABLE 5 - NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK 19

TABLE 6 - PERMITS AND LICENCES REQUIREMENTS 20

TABLE 7- LIMITATIONS, UNCERTAINTIES AND ASSUMPTIONS 38

TABLE 8 - NATURE OF IMPACT 38

TABLE 9 - TYPE OF IMPACT 39

TABLE 10 - REVERSIBILITY OF IMPACT 39

TABLE 11 - MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE 39

TABLE 12 - DURATION OF IMPACT 39

TABLE 13 - SCALE OF CHANGE **40**
TABLE 14 - PROBABILITY OF CHANGE **40**
TABLE 15 - SIGNIFICANCE DESCRIPTION **40**
TABLE 16 - SENSITIVITY AND VALUE OF RECEPTOR **41**
TABLE 17 – SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT **41**
TABLE 18 - IMPACTS NOT CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT **44**
TABLE 19- SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES **46**

FIGURES

FIGURE 1 - LOCATION OF THE NAMCHAR FACILITY INDICATED WITH A RED DOT ON THE MAP 12
FIGURE 2 - ECC SCOPING PROCESS 14
FIGURE 3 - ACCESSIBILITY MAP OF THE NAMCHAR FACILITY 25
FIGURE 4 - PREVAILING WIND DIRECTION AND WIND SPEED AT THE GOBABIS AIRPORT– (IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, 2020) 27
FIGURE 5 - REGIONAL AND LOCAL GEOLOGY 28
FIGURE 6 - REGIONAL AND LOCAL SOIL MAP. 29
FIGURE 7 - ELEVATION PROFILE ALONG NAMCHAR NAMIBIA FACILITY 30
FIGURE 8 - HYDROLOGY MAP 31
FIGURE 9 - REGIONAL AND LOCAL VEGETATION COVER MAP 33
FIGURE 10 - DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE 38

DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ALARP	As Low As Reasonably Practicable
DEA	Directorate of Environmental Affairs
DoF	Directorate of Forestry
ECC	Environmental Compliance Consultancy
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
I&AP	Interested and affected parties
IFC	International Finance Cooperation
km	Kilometre
MAWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
MHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
NDP5	Fifth National Development Plan
NSA	Namibia Statistics Agency
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
TB	Tuberculosis
WHO	World Health Organization

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the scoping study for the project. The project entails continuous operations on an existing charcoal and briquette storage, processing and packaging facility in Witvlei, Namibia.

The EIA has been undertaken in terms of the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, No. 30 of 2012, gazetted under the Environmental Management Act, No.7 of 2007 (referred to herein as the EIA Regulations).

1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

Namchar Namibia is a subsidiary company of Namchar (Pty) Ltd, a South African company who owns 51% shares of Namchar Namibia. The brand Namchar was started in 1996 and has been growing exponentially. Namchar has extended its manufacturing facility to Namibia, focusing on the manufacturing, processing, packaging, and storage of Namibian charcoal and briquettes, but also have a range of other products such as fire lighters, firewood, disposable BBQ's and other consumables.

In Namibia, Namchar operates on an existing facility located approximately 1 km north of Witvlei on a portion of Farm Okatjirute No. 155, Omaheke Region (Figure 1). The facility's current operational activities include the sourcing of raw material (charcoal) exclusively from Namibian charcoal producers and from farms in the surrounding area. Charcoal is then processed by means of sifting, packaging, and producing briquettes that are then prepared for dispatch. The project will generate income for the local community as well as extended financial, social, and environmental benefits.

ECC has been appointed by Namchar (the proponent) to undertake an environmental impact assessment and environmental management plan for the Namchar charcoal facility in Namibia.

1.3 SCOPE OF WORK

This assessment report has been prepared by ECC. ECC's terms of reference for the assessment is strictly to address potential effects, whether positive or negative and their relative significance, explore alternatives for technical recommendations and identify appropriate mitigation measures.

This report provides information to the public and stakeholders to aid in the decision-making process for the project. The objectives are to:

- Provide a description of the activity and the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, and the location of the activity on the site;
- Provide a description of the environment that may be affected by the activity;
- Identify the laws and guidelines that have been considered in the assessment and preparation of this report;
- Provide details of the public consultation process;
- Describe the need and desirability of the activity;
- Provide a high level of environmental and social impact assessment on feasible alternatives that were considered; and

- Report the assessment findings, identifying the significance of effects, including cumulative effects.

In addition to the environmental assessment, an EMP (Appendix A) is also required in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007. The EMP provides standards and arrangements to ensure that the potential environmental and social impacts are mitigated, prevented and/or minimised as far as reasonably practicable, and that statutory requirements and other legal obligations are fulfilled.

The report, plus impact assessment and supporting appendices, will be submitted to the relevant competent authorities and the Directorate of Environmental Affairs (DEA) at the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for review as part of the applications for environmental clearance certificate.

1.4 The Proponent of The Project

The proponent details are indicated in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – PROPONENT DETAILS

NAME	ADDRESS	E-MAIL	TELEPHONE
Mr Francois Wiese	P O Box 64, Witvlei, Namibia	namibia@namchar.co.za	+264 81 377 8746

1.5 Environmental Consultancy

ECC, a Namibian consultancy (registration number Close Corporation 2013/11401), has prepared this scoping report and impact assessment on behalf of the proponent. ECC operates exclusively in the environmental, social, health and safety fields for clients across southern Africa, in both the public and private sectors. ECC is independent of the proponent and has no vested or financial interest in the project, except for fair remuneration for professional services rendered.

All compliance and regulatory requirements regarding this EIA report should be forwarded by email or posted to the following address:

Environmental Compliance Consultancy

PO BOX 91193
Klein Windhoek, Namibia
Tel: +264 81 6697608
Email: info@eccenvironmental.com

1.6 ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

The Environmental Management Act, No.7 of 2007 stipulates that an environmental clearance certificate is required to undertake listed activities in terms of the Act and its regulations. Listed activities triggered by the project in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its regulations are as follows:

TABLE 2 - LISTED ACTIVITIES TRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT

LISTED ACTIVITY	EIA SCREENING FINDING
WASTE MANAGEMENT, TREATMENT, HANDLING, AND DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES 2.2 Any activity entailing a scheduled process referred to in the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Ordinance, 1976.	Household waste will be generated during the life of the project, the waste shall be collected and removed from the site for re-use, recycling, or final disposal at the Witvlei dump site which is managed by the Witvlei village council. The project will generate dust due to the handling and processing of charcoal during operations.
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES 5.1 The rezoning of land from – agriculture use to industrial use.	The project is currently on an agricultural zoned area. There is a possibility to apply for rezoning from agriculture to industrial zoning in the near future.
WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS 8.6 Construction of industrial and domestic wastewater treatment plants and related pipeline systems.	There is a French drain system present on site. It is recommended that the client constructs a wastewater treatment plant and related pipeline system.
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES TREATMENT, HANDLING, AND STORAGE 9.2 Any process or activity which requires a permit, licence or other form of authorisation, or the modification of or changes to existing facilities for any process or activity which requires an amendment of an existing permit, licence or authorisation or which requires a new permit, licence or authorisation in terms of a law governing the generation or release of emissions, pollution, effluent or waste.	There is a French drain system presently on site which can potentially release effluent in the environment. The client is required to obtain relevant permits in this regard.

1.7 REPORT STRUCTURE

The scoping report plus impact assessment is structured as per the contents set out in Table 2.

TABLE 3 - SECTIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SECTION	TITLE	CONTENT
-	Executive summary	Executive summary of the EIA
-	Definitions and abbreviations	A list of definitions and abbreviations used throughout the report
1	Introduction	An introduction of the EIA, background information of the proponent, and the listed activities applicable to the project.
2	Approach to the Impact Assessment	Provides the assessment methodology applied to the EIA
3	Regulatory framework	Describing the Namibian, international and other relevant environmental regulatory frameworks applicable to the project
4	Project description	Technical description of the project
5	Environmental and Social Baseline	Describing the existing environment through the analysis of the baseline data regarding the existing natural and socio-economic environment
6	Identification and Evaluation of Impacts	Prediction of the potential environmental and social impacts arising from the project, the assessment of impacts including residual impact. The chapter also outlines the proposed management strategies for monitoring commitments to ensure the actual and potential impacts on the environment are minimised to "As Low As Reasonably Practicable" (ALARP), which informs the EMP
7	Impact Assessment Findings and proposed mitigation and management measures	The categorisation of identified significant and insignificant impacts and the proposed mitigation and management measures.
8	Environmental Management Plan	A short description of the EMP used to take pro-active action by addressing potential problems before they occur and outline mitigation measures for each impact
9	Conclusion	A synopsis of the main findings of the assessment and recommended action
10	References	A list of reference used for this report
10 - 13	Appendix A - D	– Appendix A: Environmental Management Plan – Appendix B: Non-Technical Summary – Appendix C: Evidence of Public Consultation – Appendix D: ECC CVs

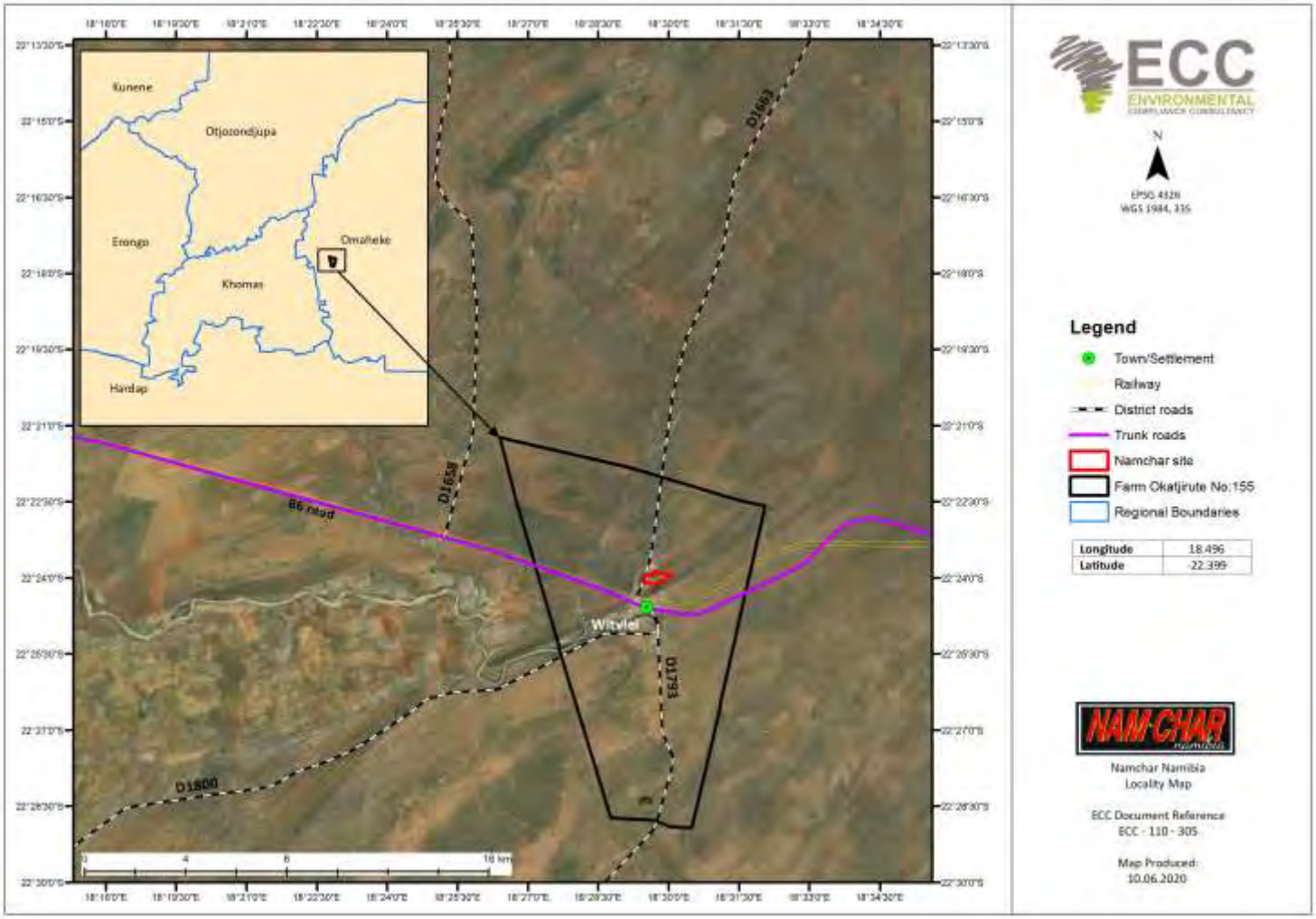

FIGURE 1 - LOCATION OF THE NAMCHAR FACILITY INDICATED WITH A RED DOT ON THE MAP

2 APPROACH TO THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2.1 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The EIA process in Namibia is governed and controlled by the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its regulations, No. 30 of 2012, which is administered by the Office of the Environmental Commissioner through the DEA of the MEFT.

The aim of this assessment is to identify, predict, evaluate, and mitigate the potential impacts of the project on the natural and human receiving environment, scope the available data and identify the gaps that need to be filled. The assessment process helps to determine the spatial and temporal scope and identify the assessment methodology, which is most applicable for use. In addition the assessment process and subsequent reports are to apply the principles of environmental management to the activities; reduce the negative and increase the positive impacts arising from the project; provide an opportunity for the public to consider the environmental impacts of the project through meaningful consultation; and to provide a vehicle to present the findings of the assessment process to competent authorities for decision making.

2.2 THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The EIA methodology applied to this assessment has been developed using the IFC standards and models (IFC, 2012; 2017), in particular Performance Standard 1: '*Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts'* which establishes the importance of:

- Integrated assessment to identify the environmental and social impacts, risks, and opportunities of projects;
- Effective community engagement through disclosure of project-related information and consultation with local communities on matters that directly affect them; and
- The client's management of environmental and social performance throughout the life of the project.

Furthermore, the Namibian Draft Procedures and Guidance for EIA and EMP (GRN, 2008) as well as the international and national best practice documents to our disposal and over 25 years of combined EIA experience, were also drawn upon in the assessment process.

An impact assessment is a formal process in which the effects of certain types of development on the biophysical, social and economic environments are identified, assessed and reported so that the effects can be taken into account when considering whether to grant development consent or to provide financial support. Final mitigation measures and recommendations are based on the cumulative experience of the consulting team and the client, taking into consideration the potential environmental and social impacts. The process followed through the basic assessment is illustrated in Figure 2 and detailed further in the following sections.

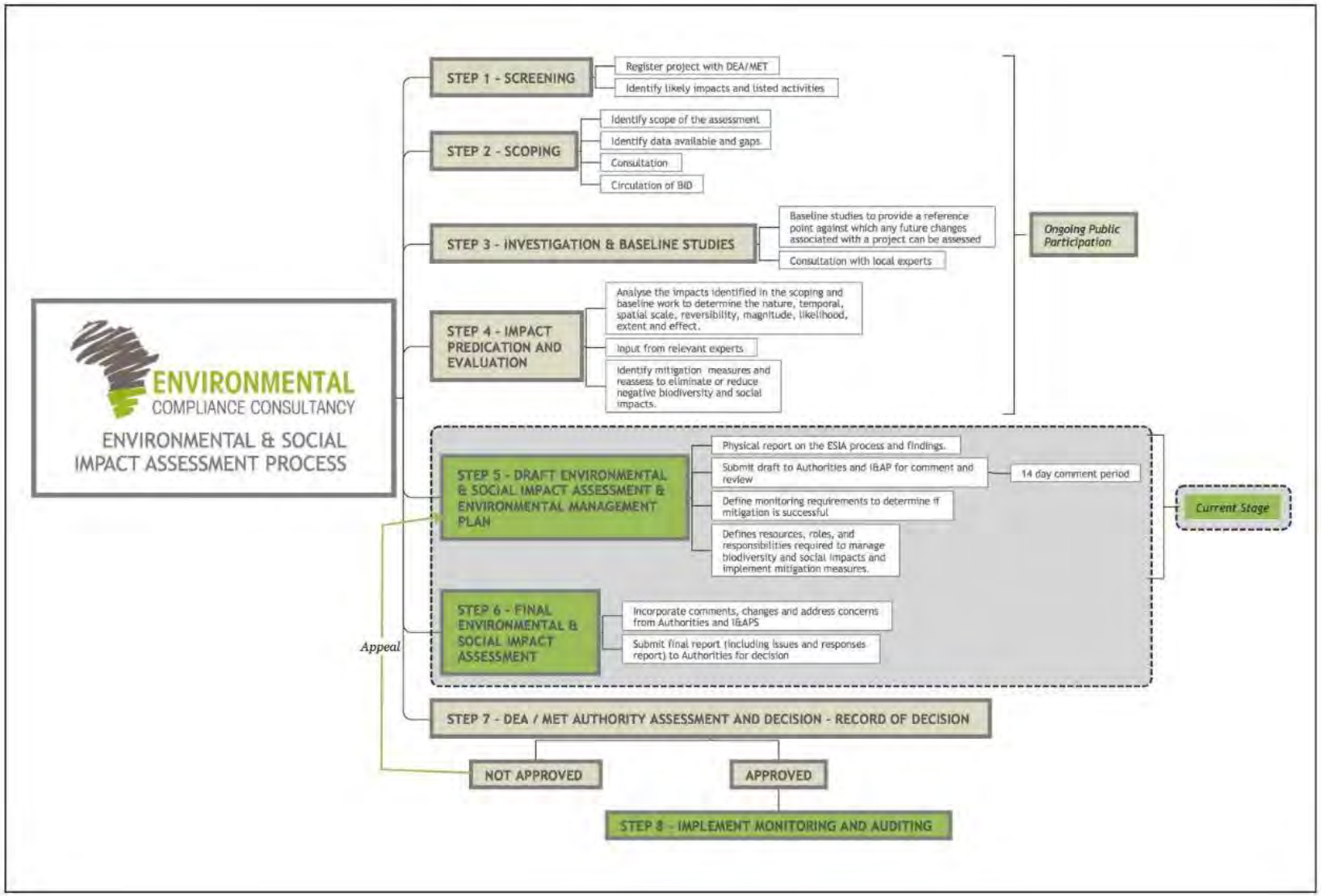

FIGURE 2 - ECC SCOPING PROCESS

2.3 METHODOLOGY FOR THE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Desktop studies on the national database are undertaken as part of the scoping stage to get information of the current status of the receiving environment, therefore, no site visit has been conducted at this stage. This provides a baseline where changes that occur as a result of the project can be measured. This is verified through site data collection.

The environmental and social topics that may be affected by the project are described in this section. The baseline focuses on receptors, which could be affected by the project.

2.4 SCREENING OF THE PROJECT

The first stages in the EIA process is to register the project with the DEA / MEFT. The project has been registered and it is referenced (APP-001534) and undertake a screening exercise to determine whether it is considered as a listed activity under the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its regulations and if significant impacts may arise from the project. The location, scale and duration of project activities will be considered against the receiving environment.

It was concluded that an EIA (e.g. scoping report and EMP) is required, as the proposed project is considered as a listed activity and there may be potential for significant impacts to occur.

2.5 SCOPING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The purpose of the scoping stage in the EIA process is to identify the scope of the assessment, undertake a high-level assessment to identify potential impacts, and confirm if further investigation is required to assign the severity of potential significant effects and allocate appropriate mitigation.

This report presents the findings of the scoping phase and high-level assessment and confirms that no further investigation is required. This conclusion is presented in section 6.

2.6 BASELINE STUDIES

Baseline studies are undertaken as part of the scoping stage, which involves collecting all pertinent information about the current status of the receiving environment. This provides a baseline against which changes that occur as a result of the project can be measured.

Baseline information for the project was obtained through a desktop study, focussing on environmental receptors that could be affected by the project, verified through site-specific information. The baseline information is covered in Section 5.

A robust baseline is required in order to provide a reference point against which any future changes associated with a project can be assessed, and it allows for suitable mitigation and monitoring actions to be identified.

The existing environment and social baseline for the project were collected through various methods:

- Desktop studies;
- Consultation with stakeholders; and
- Engagement with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). See Appendix C.

2.7 EIA CONSULTATION

Public participation and consultation is a requirement in terms of Section 21 of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its regulations for a project that requires an environmental clearance certificate. Consultation is a compulsory and critical component in the EIA process, aimed at achieving transparent decision-making, and can provide many benefits.

The objectives of the stakeholder engagement process are to:

- Provide information on the project to I&APs: introduce the overall concept and plan;
- Clarify responsibility and regulating authorities;
- Listen to and understand community issues, concerns and questions;
- Explain the process of the EIA and timeframes involved; and
- Establish a platform for ongoing consultation.

2.7.1 INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

All relevant authoritative bodies were identified and listed as I&APs, as well as organisations and individuals with an implied interest. Other I&APs were identified through invitations such as the newspaper advertisements and site notices. To all of these stakeholders a formal letter was sent. The letter for stakeholders for I&APs is provided in Appendix C.3.

2.7.2 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) presents a high-level description of the project; sets out the EIA process, when and how consultation is undertaken; and provides contact details for further project specific enquiries to all registered I&APS. The NTS was distributed to registered I&APs and is located in Appendix B.

2.7.3 NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Notices regarding the project and associated activities were circulated in four (4) newspapers namely the 'Namibian' the 27th of August 2020 and 03rd of September 2020, the 'Republikein', the 'SUN' and the 'Allgemeine Zeitung' on the 02nd of September and 09th of September 2020 (see Appendix C.1). The purpose of this was to commence the consultation process by informing the public about the project and enabling I&APs to register any comments and interest raised for the project.

2.7.4 SITE NOTICES

A site notice ensures neighbouring properties and stakeholders are made aware of the project. The notice was set up at the Multisave shop as illustrated in Appendix C.2.

2.7.5 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

The I&APs are encouraged to provide constructive input during the consultation period. Matters of concern (if any) will be summarized in Appendix C.3.

2.8 DRAFT EIA AND EMP

This report and EMP compiled for the project's environmental clearance application includes an assessment of the biophysical and social environment.

The EIA report documents the findings of the assessment process, provides stakeholders with an opportunity to comment and continued consultation and forms part of the environmental clearance application. The EMP provides measures to manage the environmental and social impacts of the project and outlines specific roles and responsibilities to fulfil the plan.

This EIA report focuses on the significant impacts that may arise from the project as discussed in Chapter 7.

This EIA report will be issued to stakeholders and I&APs for consultation for a period of 14 days, meeting the mandatory requirement of 7 days as set out in the Environmental Management Act, No. & of 2007 and its regulations, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, No. 30 of 2012. The aim of this stage was to ensure all stakeholders and I&APs have the opportunity to provide final comments on the assessment process and findings and register their concerns.

2.9 Final EIA and EMP

All comments received during the I&AP public review period will be collated in and integrated into this EIA report when submitted to the DEA. All comments will be responded to either through providing an explanation or further information in the response table, or sign posting where information exists, or new information has been included in the EIA report or appendices. Comments will be considered and where they are deemed to be material to the decision making or enhance the EIA and EIA report will be incorporated into this EIA report.

The final EIA report and associated appendices will be available to all stakeholders on the ECC website www.eccenvironmental.com. All I&APs will be informed via email.

The EIA report and appendices will be formally submitted to the Office of the Environmental Commissioner, DEA as part of the application to for an environmental clearance certificate.

2.10 Authority Assessment and Decision Making

The Environmental Commissioner in consultation with other relevant authorities will assess if the findings of the EIA presented in the EIA report is acceptable. If deemed acceptable, the Environmental Commissioner will revert to the proponent with a record of decision and any recommendations.

2.11 Monitoring and Auditing

In addition to the EMP being implemented by the proponent, a monitoring strategy and audit procedure will be determined by the proponent and competent authority. This will ensure key environmental receptors are monitored over time to establish any significant changes from the baseline environmental conditions caused by project activities.

3 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This chapter outlines the regulatory framework applicable to the project. Table 3 provides a list of applicable legislation and the relevance to the project.

3.1 NATIONAL LEGISLATION

TABLE 4 - LEGAL COMPLIANCE

NATIONAL REGULATORY REGIME	SUMMARY	APPLICABILITY TO THE PROJECT
Constitution of the Republic of Namibia of 1990	The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, 1990 clearly defines the country's position in relation to sustainable development and environmental management. The constitution refers that the state shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting policies aimed at the following: *"Maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present, and future; in particular, the government shall provide measures against the dumping or recycling of foreign nuclear and toxic waste on Namibian territory."*	The proponent is committed to engage the local community for the project by providing local employment and opportunities as well as, exploring ways of contributing to the agricultural sector and economy of Namibia.
Environmental Management Act, (No. 7 of 2007) and its regulations, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, 2007 (No. 30 of 2012)	The Act aims to promote sustainable management of the environment and the use of natural resources by establishing principles for decision-making on matters affecting the environment. It sets the principles of environmental management as well as the functions and powers of the minister. The Act requires certain activities to obtain an environmental clearance certificate prior to project development. The Act states an EIA may be undertaken and submitted as part of the environmental clearance certificate application. The MEFT is responsible for the protection and management of Namibia's natural environment. The Department of Environmental Affairs under the MEFT is responsible for the administration of the EIA process.	This environmental scoping report (and EMP) documents the findings of the environmental assessment undertaken for the project, which will form part of the environmental clearance application. The assessment and report have been undertaken in line with the requirements under the Act and associated regulations.
Water Act, No. 54 of 1956	Although the Water Resources Management Act, No 11 of 2013 has been billed, but not promulgated, it cannot be enacted as the regulations have not been passed – so the Water Act 54 of 1956 is still in effect. This act provides for *"the control, conservation and use of water for domestic, agricultural, urban and industrial purposes; to make provision for the control, in certain respect and for the control of certain activities on or in water in certain areas".*	The Act stipulates obligations to prevent pollution of water. Should wastewater be discharged, a permit is required. The EMP sets out measures to avoid polluting the water environment.

NATIONAL REGULATORY REGIME	SUMMARY	APPLICABILITY TO THE PROJECT
	The Department of Water Affairs within the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) is responsible for the administration of the act. The minister may issue a permit in terms of the regulations 5 and 9 of the government notice R1278 of 23 July 1971 as promulgated under section 30 (2) of the Water Act no. 54 of 1956, as amended.	Measures to minimise potential groundwater and surface water pollution are contained in the EMP.
National Heritage Act, No. 27 of 2004.	The Act provides for the protection and conservation of places and objects with heritage significance. Section 55 stipulates that the company's management must report any archaeological findings to the National Heritage Council after which a heritage permit needs to be issued	There might be a potential for heritage objects to be found on site, therefore the stipulations in the Act have been taken into consideration and are incorporated into the EMP. Section 55 compels the companies' management to report any archaeological findings to the National Heritage Council after which a permit needs to be issued before the find can be disturbed. In cases where heritage sites are discovered the 'chance find procedure' will be used.
Labour Act, No. 11 of 2007	The Labour Act, No. 11 of 2007 (Regulations relating to the Occupational Health & Safety provisions of Employees at Work promulgated in terms of Section 101 of the Labour Act, No. 6 of 1992 - GN156, GG 1617 of 1 August 1997)	The project will comply with stringent health and safety policies, including the compulsory use of specific PPE in designated areas to ensure adequate protection against health and safety risks. Proper storage and labelling of hazardous substances are required. The project will ensure employees in charge of and working with hazardous substances need to be aware of the specific hazardous substances in order not to compromise worker and environmental safety.

TABLE 5 - NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

NATIONAL REGULATORY REGIME	SUMMARY	APPLICABILITY TO THE PROJECT
Vision 2030	Vision 2030 sets out the nation's development programmes and strategies to achieve its national	The planned project shall meet the objectives of Vision 2030 and shall contribute to the overall development of the country through

	objectives. It sets out eight themes to realise the country's long-term vision. Vision 2030 states that the overall goal is to improve the quality of life of the Namibian people to a level in line with the developed world.	continued employment opportunities created.
The Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5)	NDP5 is the fifth in the series of seven five-year national development plans that outline the objectives and aspiration of Namibia's long-term vision as expressed in Vision 2030. NDP5 is structured on the pillars of economic progression, social transformation, environmental sustainability and good governance. Under the social transformation pillar is the goal of improved education.	The planned project supports meeting the objectives of NDP5 by creating opportunities for employment to the nearby community and the Namibian nation.
Bush utilization Policy	The economic spin-offs post harvesting is largely falling outside the scope of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and as such require policy directives that recognise the cross sectoral value that the encroacher bush holds. It has been advocated that a bush utilisation policy is established and alignment with existing regulations and policies is achieved such as Forestry Act 12 of 2001, the Environmental Management Act 7 of 2007, Labour Act 11 of 2007 and Electricity Act 4 of 2007 (De-bushing Advisory services, 2016).	The project utilises encroacher bushes for charcoal production.
National Rangeland Policy	In line with the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) and the National Rangeland Management Policy and Strategy of 2012. It identifies value chain opportunities to trigger large-scale de-bushing activities. Its focus is closely aligned to the National Industrial Policy of 2012 and the Growth at Home Strategy, which promote domestic value addition for local resources	The proposed project aims at supporting and restoration of productive rangeland in Namibia by promoting domestic value addition for local resources.

3.2 PERMITS AND LICENCES

Environmental permits, in addition to an environmental clearance certificate, may be needed in order to carry out the operation activities and possible construction of the Namchar facility to ensure full compliance with the Namibian law.

The permits and license that may be relevant to the projects are outlined in Table 6.

TABLE 6 - PERMITS AND LICENCES REQUIREMENTS

PERMIT	RELEVANT AUTHORITY	VALIDITY/DURATION
Wastewater Treatment Plant	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform	Permit dependent
Wastewater and Effluent Disposal Exemption Permit	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform	Five years

3.3 MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

The facility will export to international companies. To adhere to standards and requirements of such companies, the facility will be subject to numerous international as well as local audits. These audits include the following:

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Audit - The FSC audit is an internationally accredited audit platform. The company is audited by the FSC on a yearly basis to maintain a valid certificate. Without this audit the products cannot be sold to clients in Europe (Belgium, France, Netherlands, Germany and Poland).

Namibia Charcoal Association (NCA) Audit - The proponent is part of the Namibia Charcoal Association (NCA), whereby it must comply with social and environmental policies as set by the NCA.

4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4.1 NEED FOR THE PROJECT

Charcoal production in Namibia is considered to be more dynamic than in other contexts as it presents strategies to combat bush encroachment, supplement farming income, and contribute to employment creation.

Namchar, through its current facility, operates as a link between the charcoal producers and a segment of the international market. To manufacture briquettes, charcoal is crushed into a fine powder. Water and starch are then added as a binding component after which it is pressed into briquettes and dried in an oven. Charcoal is packaged and various products are refined and tailored according to international standards and codes of practice. This project is in line with the vision to potentially create employment in local communities in the Omaheke Region.

Namchar is an operating and existing facility; therefore, the operational activities are practiced on a previously disturbed environment. The future construction of a weighbridge will as well, be built on the existing land of the facility.

4.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The proposed project has been subject to a process of design evolution, informed by both consultation and an iterative environmental assessment. In terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its regulations, alternatives considered should be analysed and presented in the scoping assessment and EIA report. This requirement ensures that during the design evolution and decision-making process, potential environmental impacts, costs, and technical feasibility have been considered, which leads to the best option(s) being identified.

Namchar is operating an existing facility with existing footprint. No further alternatives have been considered.

4.3 PROJECT CHANGES/ACTIVITIES

The project activities will include:

- Possible construction of a weighbridge in the future.

Operational activities of the site will continue to include:

- Receipt of unprocessed charcoal (Loading and Offloading)
- Charcoal sieving and binning (Screening)
- Pelletizing
- Briquette plant

4.3.1 PROPOSE PROJECT SCHEDULE

The project has commenced in January 2020 and is currently ongoing. The environmental clearance certificate along with all required permits are underway.

4.3.2 EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Appendix E lists the type of equipment that will be on site to support the project activities. Equipment such as diesel fuel and consumables shall be brought to the site to support operation activities as and when needed.

4.3.3 WORKERS AND ACCOMMODATION

There are 60 possible job opportunities foreseen during operational phase. Employees will be locally sourced from the nearest settlements such as Witvlei.

It is envisaged that most of the workers will reside in Witvlei and will be commuting to and from the site. Should workers be required to stay on site and in campsites, the proponent shall provide suitable living facilities during this period.

4.3.4 RESOURCE USE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Water will be required for various uses including human consumption and for operational activities. The volume of water required during operation is 3.5 kl/day and is sourced from NamWater through the Witvvlei Village Council. In the case of water abstraction from boreholes to supplement the onsite water requirement, an abstraction permit shall be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR). Alternatively, the existing boreholes on site and in the surrounding area can be investigated to be utilized rather than drilling new boreholes.

A French drain system is presently on site, it is recommended that the client constructs a wastewater treatment plant and related pipeline system. Similarly, a discharge permit will be applied for from the MAWLR for the operations of the wastewater treatment system and the discharge of treated effluent. Regular water samples will be taken to ensure that the treated effluent complies with the prescribed general water standards. Where water quality does not meet prescribed standards, effluent will be contained and pumped into the existing wastewater treatment plant for further management. Wastewater that is discharged into the environment must comply with wastewater discharge specifications.

4.3.5 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

During operations, the solid waste for the facility will be managed and improved in line with the principles of the waste hierarchy of waste prevention, re-use, recycle or compost, energy recovery and disposal, where waste minimisation and recycling is preferred to waste treatment and disposal (National Solid Waste Management Strategy, MET 2019).

The solid waste produced shall be collected into separate categorized bins, no chemical or hazardous waste will be produced. Every two weeks the waste will be disposed of at the Witvlei waste management site which is managed by the village council. The proponent will ensure that waste transport certificates are in place. Refer to the EMP in Appendix A, for the waste mitigation measures and maintenances.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BASELINE

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section provides an overview of the existing biophysical environment through the analysis of the baseline data regarding the existing natural and socio-economic environment. Desktop studies on the national database are undertaken as part of the scoping stage to get information of the current status of the receiving environment and no site visit has been conducted. This provides a baseline where changes that occur as a result of the project can be measured. This section also incorporates consultation and public participation of the project.

5.2 PROJECT SITE AND LOCATION

Witvlei is situated in the central east of Namibia, in the Omaheke Region. Several district roads crisscross the region as well as a network of farm roads and tracks to provide access to most of the locations in the region. The Namchar facility is located 1 km north of Witvlei village on a portion of Farm Okatjirute No. 155, in the Omaheke Region. The farm has a well-kept boundary fence which is enclosed with game fencing. The site can be accessed via the D1663 district road, which branches out from the B6 trunk road that runs approximately 150 km from Windhoek and 53 km to Gobabis (Figure 3).

5.3 SITE AND SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

Witvlei village is located within the Okorukambe Constituency which is governed by a Village Council and has a total population of 1638 residents (Omaheke Region development profile, 2015). Moreover, most of the inhabitants of Witvlei are of Damara descent, but there are also Aawambo, Ovaherero, and a few Ovahimba, and many more inhabitants of mixed ethnicity. The original name of the village in Khoekhoegowab (Damara/Nama) is !Uri !Khubus which means “white fountain”. The three prominent economic activities that have comparative and competitive advantage in this region includes livestock production, transport and logistics, and natural resources.

The Omaheke region borders Botswana in the east and lends itself to vast open savannas, which is ideal for game viewing. For that reason, it has led to the establishment of many tourism safaris and the development of a multitude of game farms in the area, all of which greatly contribute to the country’s tourism industry. Furthermore, Omaheke serves as one of the hunting areas of the country, and every year between June and August hunters flock to the region (Omaheke Region development profile, 2015).

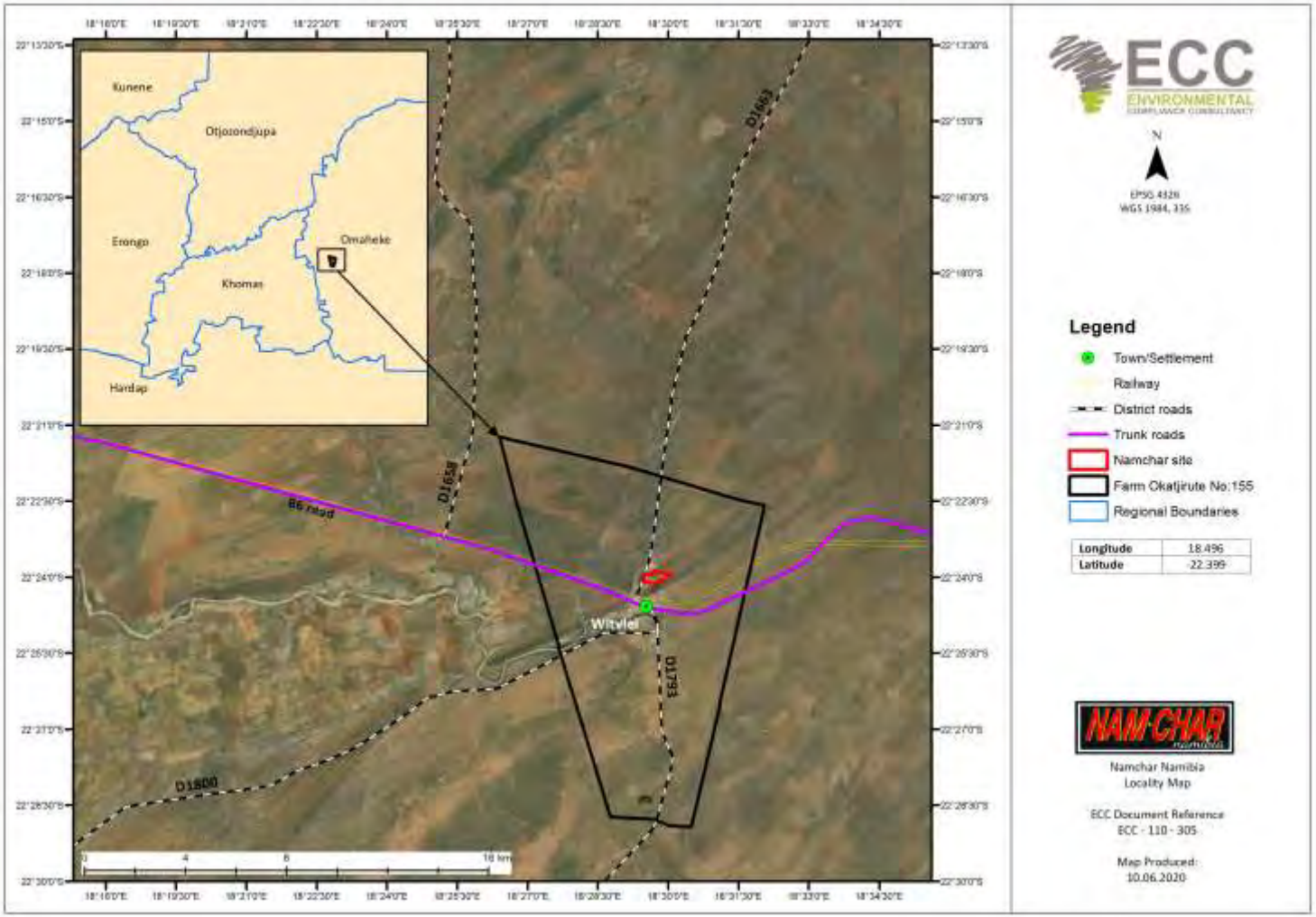

FIGURE 3 - ACCESSIBILITY MAP OF THE NAMCHAR FACILITY

5.4 CLIMATE

Namibia spans a zone roughly between 17° and 29° south of the equator, a belt on the globe which is dominated by subtropical high-pressure cells which influences the prevailing dry weather inland. Except for the narrow zone covered by the Namib Desert along the coast where the climate can be described as arid, and the northeast quarter of the country where the climate can be described as sub-humid, the greatest part of Namibia has a semi-arid climate. During summer the prominence of the high pressure cells weakens, and moist air from the inter-tropical convergence zone is allowed to bring a rainy period which is the longest in the northeast and the shortest in the extreme west and south (Mendelsohn et al., 2002).

The area where the Namchar Facility is located, present an average annual temperature that varies between 18°C and 20°C. The hottest month is December, with an average daily high temperature of 32 - 34°C. Average minimum temperatures range between 2 and 4°C with the coldest month being July (Mendelsohn et al., 2002).The study area has a semi-arid climate and receives between 300– 350 mm rainfall per annum with a variation coefficient of 40 - 50%. Rainfall events are limited to the summer months, mainly between November and April, in the form of sudden thunderstorms often associated with heavy downpours. Potential evaporation can reach 1,960 mm per year. Relative humidity is low, rarely exceeding 20% in winter but may reach 80% in summer. The number of rainy days per annum (>1mm) is 45 – 50 (Mendelsohn, et al., 2002). Predominant wind direction at the Gobabis airport, which is the nearest station from 02nd July 2011 to 06th April 2020, is from the north-east, with an average wind speed of 4.3 mph (6.9 kilometres per hour), and a calm of 20.1% (Figure 4) (Iowa State University, 2020).

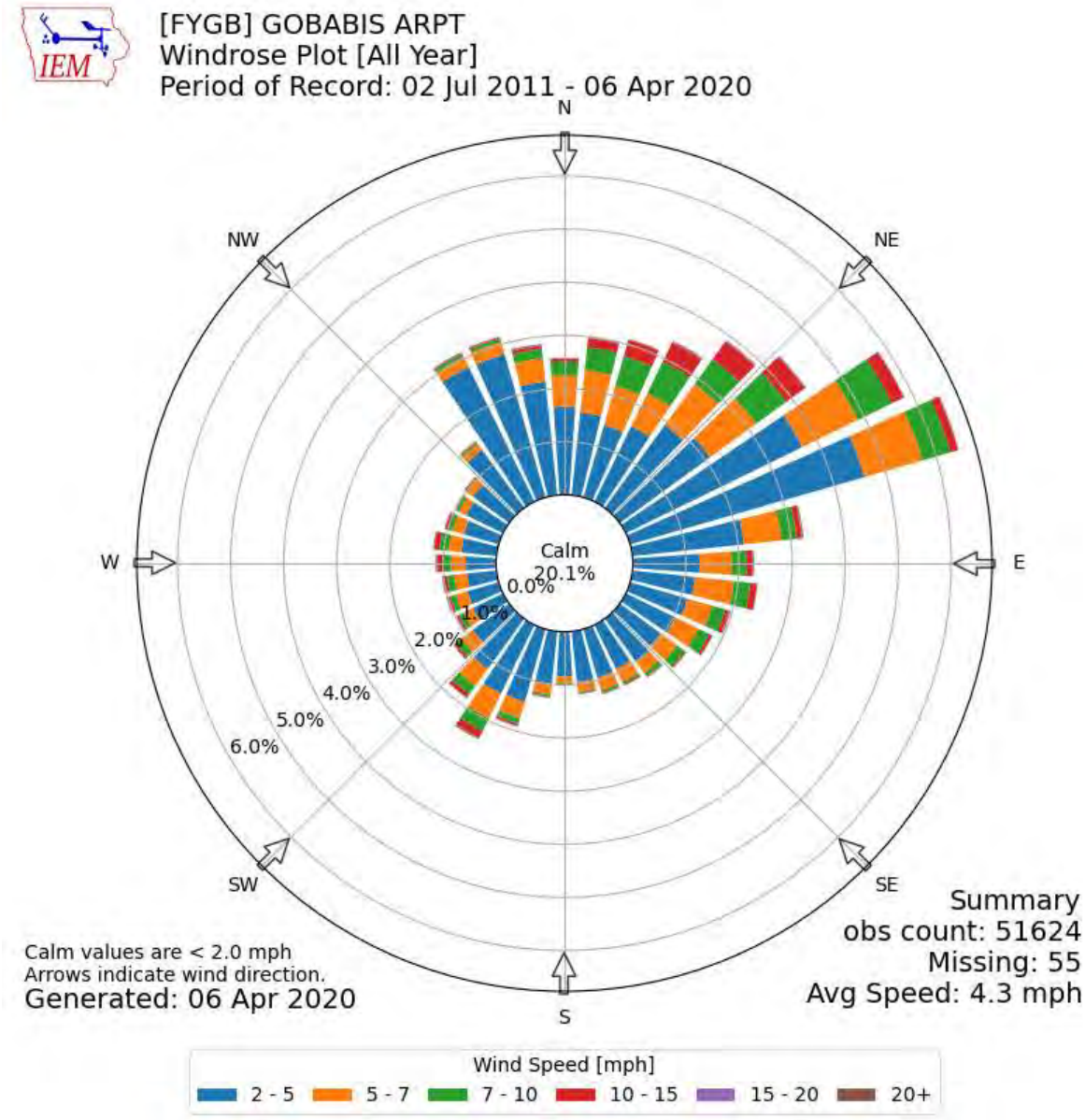

FIGURE 4 - PREVAILING WIND DIRECTION AND WIND SPEED AT THE GOBABIS AIRPORT– (IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, 2020)

5.5 GEOLOGY

The geology of Farm Okatjirute where the Namchar facility is, generally comprises units of the Witvlei group, Kuibis and Schwarzrand subgroups, and slightly of the Sinclair group and equivalents (Figure 5). The Witvlei Group consists of limestones and shales rock types of the Damara Supergroup and Gariep Complex Kalahari Group (Mendelsohn, et al., 2003).

The regional area is situated in the centre of the Damara trough. Classical geosyncline sedimentation produced a thick pile of ill-sorted sediments, which form the Ugab and Khomas sub-groups of the Damara Sequence. On the platform edges of the trough chiefly calcareous sediments were deposited. Both rock suites were subsequently folded and metamorphosed, and granitic intrusion took place. Bands of marble and quartzite in these otherwise phyllitic metamorphic rocks are of hydrogeological significance (Groundwater in Namibia, 2018).

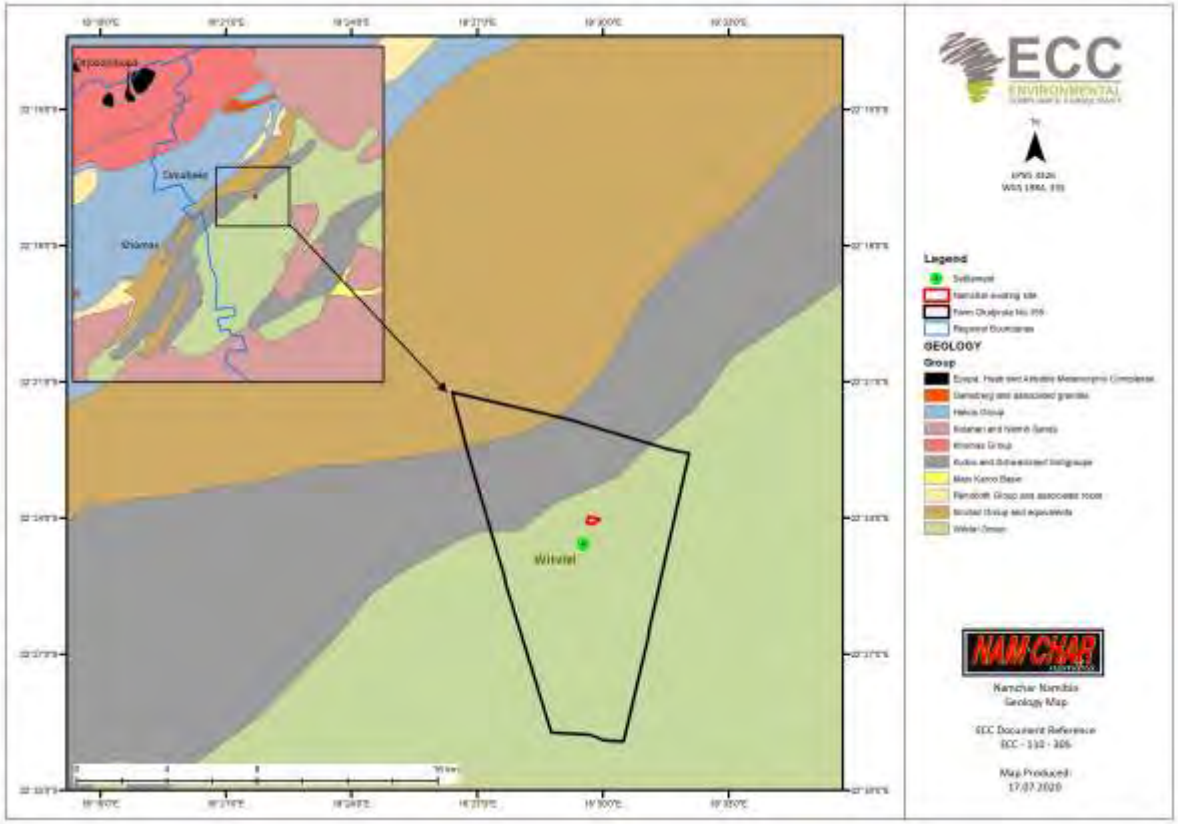

FIGURE 5 - REGIONAL AND LOCAL GEOLOGY

5.6 TOPOGRAPHY AND SOIL

Farm Okatjirute where the Namchar facility is located, is on an elevation varying between 1,526 and 1,433 m above mean sea level from the west to the east (Figure 7). The entire landscape is covered with regosols soil group (Figure 6). The soil is eutric, which is fertile with high base saturations. Regosols are medium or fine textured soils of actively eroding landscapes, the thin layers lying directly above rock surfaces from which they are formed. These soils never reach depths of 50 cm. The central regions of Namibia are dominated by regosols and are especially susceptible to erosion where there is any degree of slope. Vegetation cover on these thin soils is generally sparse because they cannot provide most plants with sufficient water or nutrients (Mendelsohn et al, 2002).

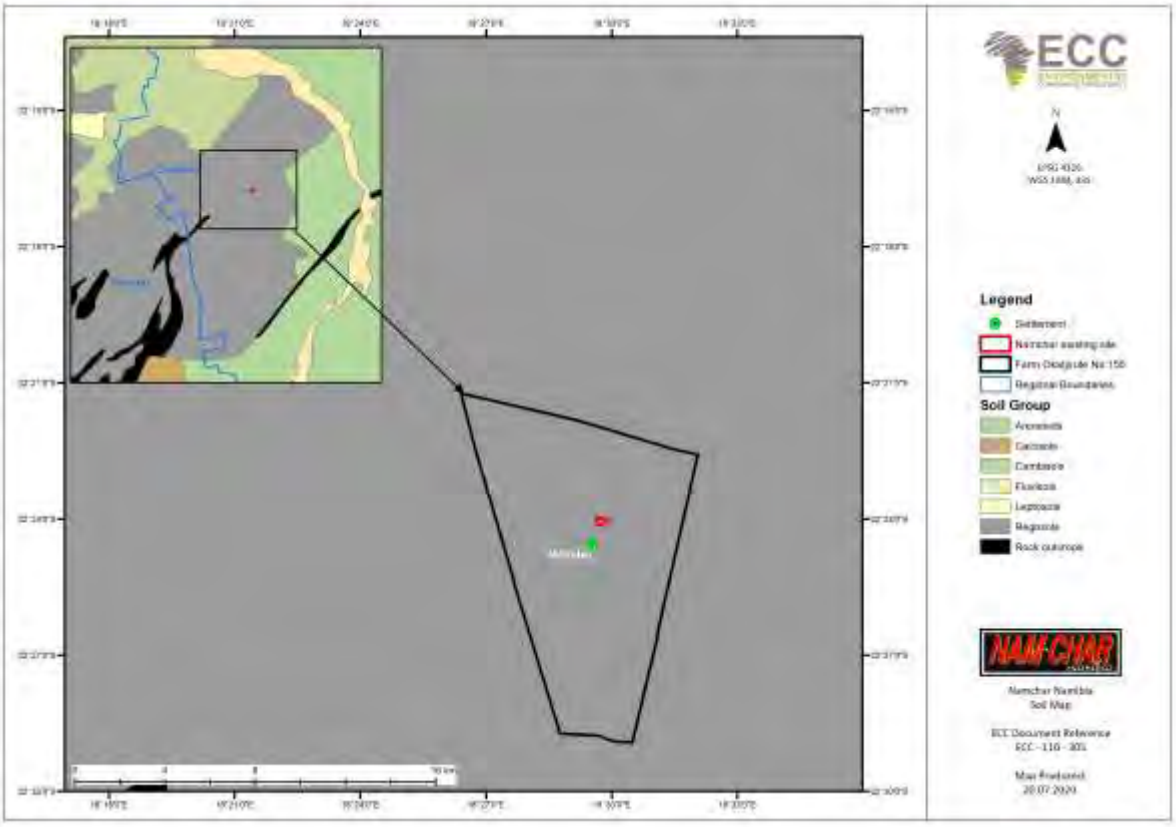

FIGURE 6 - REGIONAL AND LOCAL SOIL MAP.

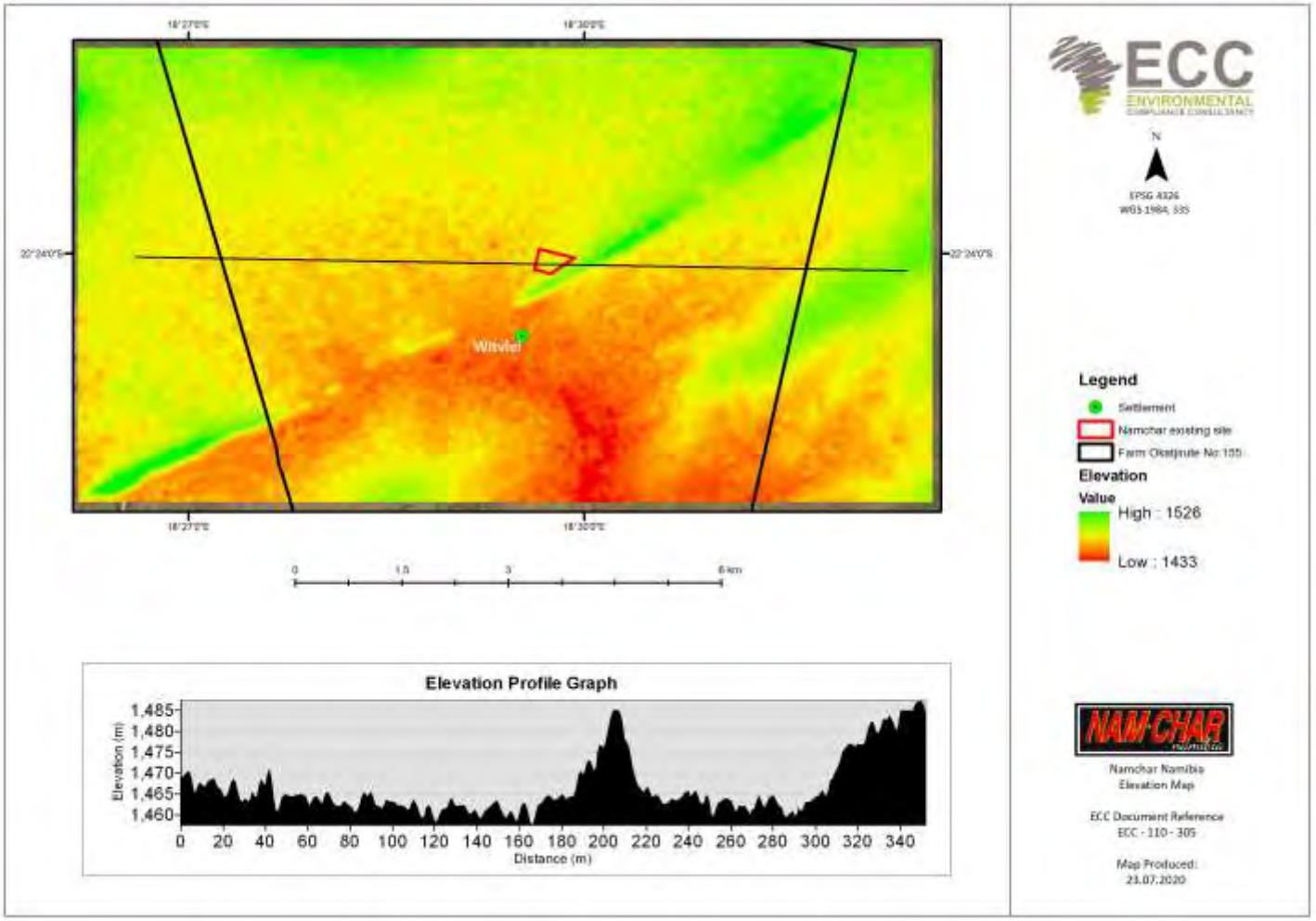

FIGURE 7 - ELEVATION PROFILE ALONG NAMCHAR NAMIBIA FACILITY

5.7 HYDROLOGY

Namchar is underlain by the South Eastern Kalahari Groundwater Basin (Figure 8). The groundwater potential of fractured aquifers in the Swakop Group of the Damara Sequence is generally low (Groundwater in Namibia, 2018). However, the carbonates (marbles and limestones) are of moderate potential and at properly selected targets like fracture zones and karstified contact zones, even high yields can be found. This depends on the amount of rainfall and associated weathering and recharge rates.

The project area lies within a karst landscape, which means that well-defined surface drainage systems are absent, or follow only short distances before surface water penetrates. Although a drainage pattern can be identified, the flow of surface water is more defined by topographical valleys than the presence of streambeds (Mendelsohn et al, 2002).

There are a number of boreholes within the farm boundaries of the Namchar facility. Water will be sourced from NamWater, through the Witvlei village council.

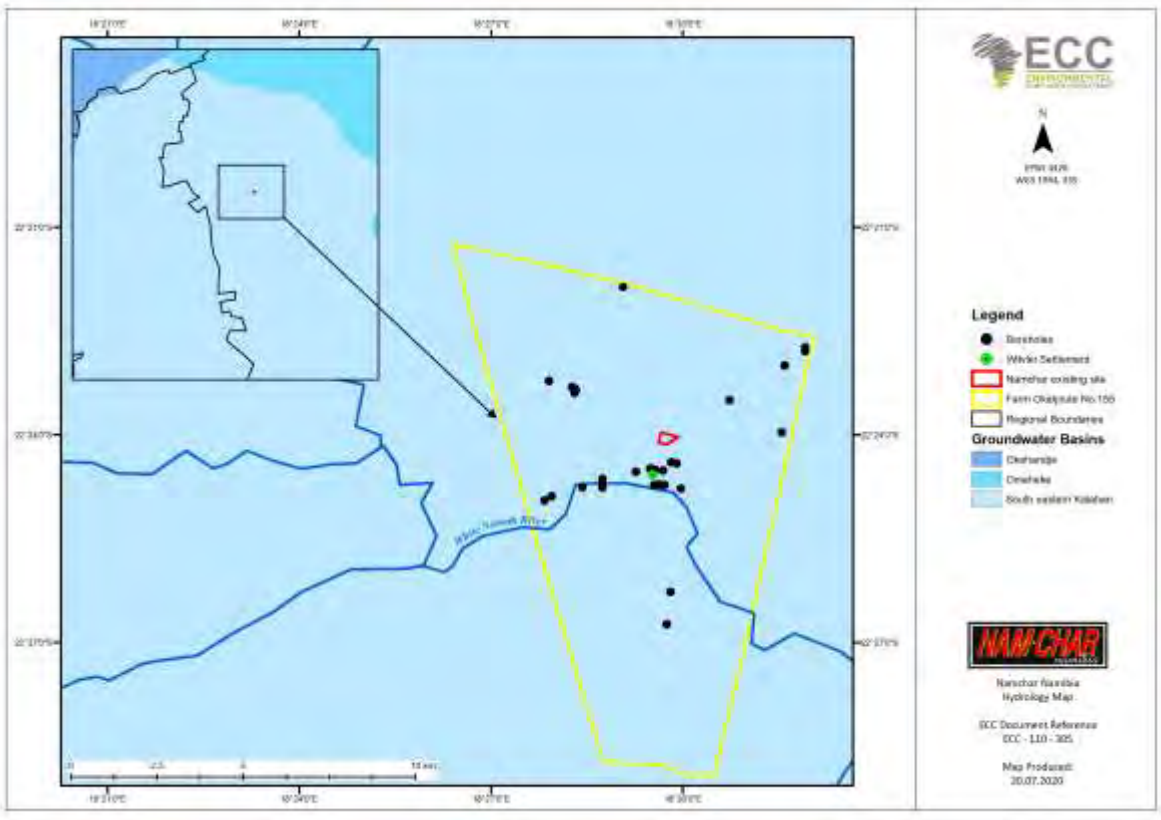

FIGURE 8 - HYDROLOGY MAP

5.8 VEGETATION

The Namchar facility area is covered by the Thornbush shrubland vegetation type of the Acacia Tree-and-shrub Savanna Biome (Figure 10). It is broadly classified by a dense shrubland vegetation structure, with relatively dense stands of woody shrubs and trees (Figure 9). In some places plant growth become progressively shrubby, especially where the soils are shallower, slopes are steeper and where it is hilly and rocky (Mendelsohn et al, 2002). Most of the woody vegetation vary between 1 and 3 meters in height. Plant diversity in the area is estimated to be 400 - 499 species (Mendelsohn et al, 2002), although there may be local differentiation as a result of topography and the availability of water is possible.

The area has a distinct habitat which includes the flat slopes on the northern and eastward, which is largely encroached with invader bushes, mainly as a result of long continuous periods of selective grazing by livestock. The encroachment has led to a decreased carrying capacity on many farms necessitating new ways of managing it, one of which is harvesting them for the production of charcoal for local resale and international export. The dominant species in the area, which are Black thorn (*Acacia mellifera*) and Red umbrella thorn *(Acacia reficiens*), are classified as encroacher bushes. The dominant perennial grasses in the biome are *stipagrostis uniplumis* and *Eragrostis rigidior* which can be found in areas where the soil is sandier. No protected trees species were observed in and around the facility.

5.9 FAUNA SPECIES

Overall terrestrial biodiversity of the Namchar facility area ranges from medium to high. The number of mammal species ranges between 46 and 60, the number of bird species is between 111 and 140, with 61 – 70 reptile species, 8 – 11 frog species and 10 – 11 scorpion species that could be expected (Mendelsohn et al, 2002). On a local scale it is expected that diversity increases with the increase in habitats, which is closely coupled to shelter, food, and water availability and migration routes. The micro-climate associated with an increase in elevation plays a prominent role in this regard and is directly related to the increase in terrestrial diversity. There are no known species of rare or endemic status observed at the Namchar facility.

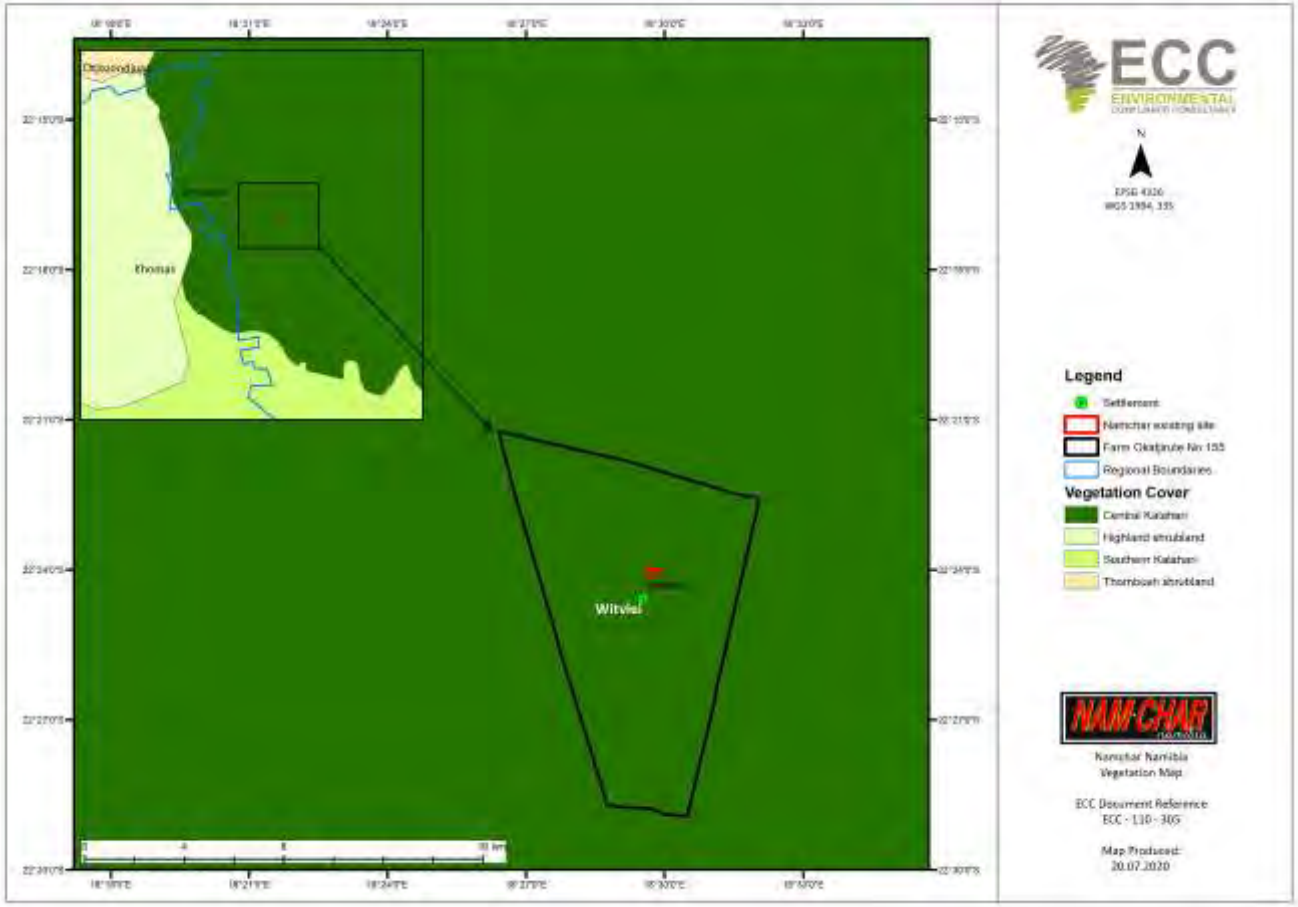

FIGURE 9 - REGIONAL AND LOCAL VEGETATION COVER MAP

5.10 Socio-economic Baseline

The Omaheke Region serves as the hunting capital of the country, and every year between June and August hunters flock to the region to collect their trophy kills. (Omaheke Region development profile, 2015).

Landuse in the Omaheke Region is dominated by agriculture (cattle, sheep and goats) farming. Other land use activities found in the general area include tourism and crop farming in strategic areas due to the limitation on water supply (Omaheke Region development profile, 2015). Bush encroachment, as well as water scarcity are two significant concerns for livestock farming in the area. Extensive livestock farming especially cattle farming forms the livelihood of many people (NSA, 2011). Guest farms and hunting farms are also common. On both commercial and communal land, bush encroachment decreased the carrying capacity of the farms markedly over the last four decades (Omaheke Region development profile, 2015). The invader bush is managed in several ways, one of which is the production of charcoal for export.

Namchar has the potential to contribute to the employment and skills development at a local and regional level, increasing job creation and economic growth in Witvlei, and in the Omaheke Region.

5.10.1 Demographic profile

Namibia is one of the least densely populated countries in the world (3.2/km^2), with an estimated population of 2.5 million people in 2020. The population growth rate is estimated at 2%, slightly lower than most African countries. It is estimated that 60% of the population falls within the age group 15 – 64, and 36% of the total population is younger than 15. Since 2005 there has been a steady improvement in life expectancy, currently estimated at 65 years. In 2018 it was estimated that 50% of all Namibians are urbanized, in other words living in an urban settlement (retrieved from www.worldpopulationreview.com). The last national census was conducted in 2011 and counted 2.1 million Namibians (Namibian Statistics Agency, 2011).

The population density of the Omaheke Region is much lower than the national average and the current total population of the region is projected at 71,233. The Omaheke Region is therefore among the most sparsely populated areas in Namibia. The annual population growth rate for the Omaheke Region was estimated at 0.5% for the period 2001 to 2011. In 2011 the population of Witvlei was 1,638. Otjiherero is the most widely spoken language in the region (NSA, 2011).

5.10.2 Governance

Namibia is divided into 14 regions, subdivided by 121 constituencies. Omaheke Region is divided into seven constituencies. Each region has a regional council, elected during regional elections per constituency. The district capital of Witvlei is situated within the Okurukambe constituency, which is governed through a Village Council which also contains the settlements of Omitara and Summerdown. Gobabis is the capital and the largest town in the Omaheke Region where many of the region's head offices are located

Of relevance to the Namchar facility, the closest town of Gobabis provides linked transportation by rail and the main trunk road (B2) running from West to the East. The infrastructure of the region allows for effective administration. The state of development in the area, and the facilities available, form a solid basis for future development.

5.10.3 INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Since independence in 1990, the health status of Namibia has increased steadily with a remarkable improvement in access to primary health facilities and medical infrastructure. Despite the progress, the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2015 recommended strategic priorities of the health system in Namibia which include improved governance, an improved health information system, emergency preparedness, risk reduction and response, preventative health care and the combating of HIV/AIDS and TB (WHO, 2016).

HIV/AIDS remains a major reason for low life expectancy and is one of the leading causes of death in Namibia. There is a high HIV prevalence among the whole population, but since the peak in 2002 (15,000 new cases of HIV per year, and 10,000 yearly deaths due to AIDS) the epidemic started to stabilise (UNICEF, 2011). Although new infections as well as fatalities halved during the next decade, life expectancy for females returned to pre-independence levels but for males it did not reach pre-independence levels yet. HIV/AIDS remains the leading cause of death and premature mortality for all ages, killing up to half of all males and females aged 40 - 44 years in 2013 (IHME, 2016).

Tuberculosis (TB) is a leading killer of people infected by HIV/AIDS, and Namibia has a high burden – in 2018, 35% of people notified with TB were infected with HIV. The country is included among the top 30 high-burden TB countries in the world, with an estimated incidence rate of 423 per 100,000 people and 60 fatalities per 100,000 people in 2018 (retrieved from www.mhss.gov.na).

Charcoal processing activities are associated with charcoal dust exposure, which may increase the risk of workers developing adverse respiratory outcomes. There are no documented studies on dose–response relationships between respiratory symptoms and dust levels exposure among charcoal workers.

Over the period 2000 – 2013 significant rises were observed for stroke, ischemic heart diseases, diabetes and depressive disorders, but HIV/AIDS remained the top cause of premature mortality. Over the same period significant decreases were observed for diarrheal diseases, neonatal conditions and malaria. Risk factors are key drivers of premature mortality, and social ills were identified as the leading factor for death – particularly unsafe sex and alcohol and drug abuse. TB and malaria are compounded by the AIDS epidemic, and the risk of contracting malaria and TB is 15% greater if a person is also infected with HIV, with a risk of 50% higher to die as a result (IHME, 2016).

As of the beginning of 2020 the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), a communicable respiratory disease, that causes illness in humans at a pandemic scale has resulted in an increasing number of deaths worldwide. The viral outbreak has adversely affected various socio-economic activities globally, and with reports of the increasing number of people testing positive, it is anticipated that this may have significant impacts on the operations of various economic sectors in Namibia too. The disease caused many countries to enter a state of emergency and lockdown mode, with dire economic consequences. In addition, these measures have a detrimental effect on imports and exports– and Namibia is in both cases no exception.

5.10.4 EMPLOYMENT

As of 2018, the overall unemployment rate in Namibia was estimated at 33.4%, which is a slight decrease of 0.6% compared to 34.0% in 2016. The main source of household income was stated as wages and salaries (48.8%), while farming accounted for 21.5% of household incomes (NSA, 2011). The region is

marked by low education levels, which affects employability and prevented many households to earn a decent income.

More than 60% of the population is over 15 years of age and about one-third of the total population can be regarded as part of the labour force. The unemployment rate in the Omaheke region is 36.1%, while the unemployment rate for people between 15 and 34 years of age was 47.4% in 2018, slightly higher than the national average of 46.1% (NSA, 2018).

5.10.5 Economic activities

The primary sectors, agriculture, fisheries and forestry employ most Namibians, 23% in total. Based on this figure and considering agriculture as the most important economic sector in the Omaheke Region, one out of every four persons are employed in agriculture (NSA, 2018). Witvlei community has previously relied on the Witvlei Meat Facility, an abattoir which was established in 2006 and closed in 2016. The abattoir was an economic mainstay of the village and many families benefited directly and indirectly from its existence. Later when the facility closed down, there has been no considerable economic activity at the village particularly for the semi-skilled cluster. For that reason, many people from the village had to travel to the bigger towns of Windhoek and Gobabis to seek employment.

Since 2016 Namibia recorded slow economic growth, registering an estimated growth of only 1.1% in 2016. The primary and secondary industries contracted by 2.0 and 7.8% respectively. During 2017 the economy contracted by 1.7, 0.7 and 1.9% in the first, second and third quarters respectively (NSA, 2018). Despite the more positive expectations, the economy retracted to an average growth of not more than 1% annually since 2017.

The Namchar Company delivers approximately 15,000 metric tonnes of charcoal per year and employs approximately 60 people. An integrated approach to charcoal and livestock feed production to optimise investment, production processes, and outputs/end-use products is proposed as an attractive viable approach to address market potential. This would be complemented by marketable by-products from charcoal production at no additional marginal cost of production (UNIDO, 2019).

5.10.6 Cultural heritage

A review of the National Heritage Council database was conducted, and no known heritage sites were identified in Namchar facility area. In cases where heritage sites are discovered the chance find procedure will be used.

If any historical importance or heritage sites on or around the project area is encountered during operational activities, it must be reported to the Monument's Council in Windhoek, and the site will be left untouched.

6 IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF IMPACTS

The key stage of the EIA process is the impact prediction and evaluation stage. This stage is the process of bringing together project characteristics with the baseline environmental characteristics and ensuring all potentially significant environmental and social impacts are identified and assessed. Impact prediction and evaluation involve envisaging the possible changes to the environment as a result of the project. The recognized methodology was applied to determine the magnitude of impact and whether or not the impact was considered significant and thus warrant further investigation. The assessment considers all stages of the project's life cycle that is scoped into the assessment and is presented in this report. It is an iterative process that commences at project inception and runs through to the final design and project implementation (construction and operations). The impact prediction and evaluation stage were undertaken in July and August 2020 and the findings of the assessment are presented in this document.

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter 2 provides an overview of the approach used in this EIA process and details each of the steps undertaken to date. Predication and evaluation of impacts is a key step in the EIA process. This chapter outlines the methods followed to identify and evaluate the impacts arising from the project. The findings of the assessment are presented in this chapter.

This chapter provides the following:

- Details on the assessment guidance used to assess impacts;
- Lists the limitations, uncertainties and assumptions with regards to the assessment methodology;
- Details how impacts were identified and evaluated, and how the level of significance was derived;
- Details how mitigation was applied in the assessment and how additional mitigation was identified, and
- Details the Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) method.

6.2 ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

The principal documents used to inform the assessment method are:

- International Finance Corporation standards and models, in particular Performance Standard 1, 'Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts' (International Finance Corporation, 2017) (International Finance Corporation, 2012);
- International Finance Corporation CIA and Management Good Practice Handbook (International Finance Corporation, 2013) and,
- Namibian Draft Procedures and Guidance for EIA and EMP (Republic of Namibia, 2008).

6.3 LIMITATIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES

Some limitations and uncertainties were acknowledged during the EIA process, which are summarised in Table 7, along with the assumptions made to manage them. In line with EIA best practice, assumptions have been made based on realistic worst-case scenarios, thereby ensuring that the worst-case potential environmental impacts are identified and assessed.

TABLE 7- LIMITATIONS, UNCERTAINTIES AND ASSUMPTIONS

LIMITATION / UNCERTAINTY	ASSUMPTION
The area or location where the workers will come from and their mean of accommodation is not confirmed.	Most of the employees will reside in Witvlei.
The size and technical details of the weighbridge which is planned to be constructed is not confirmed.	The weighbridge will be small to support project activities onsite

Where uncertainties exist, a cautious approach has been applied, allowing the worst-case scenario for potential impacts to be identified. Where limitation and uncertainties exist, assumptions have been made and applied during the assessment process. These have been clearly described in the baseline section.

6.4 Determination of Significance

The evaluation and identification of the environmental and social impacts require the assessment of the project characteristics against the baseline characteristics, ensuring all potentially significant impacts are identified and assessed. The significance of an impact is determined by taking into consideration the combination of the sensitivity and importance/value of environmental and social receptors that may be affected by the project, the nature and characteristics of the impact, and the magnitude of potential change. The magnitude of change (the impact) is the identifiable changes to the existing environment which may be negligible, low, minor, moderate, high, or very high; temporary/short term, long-term or permanent; and either beneficial or adverse.

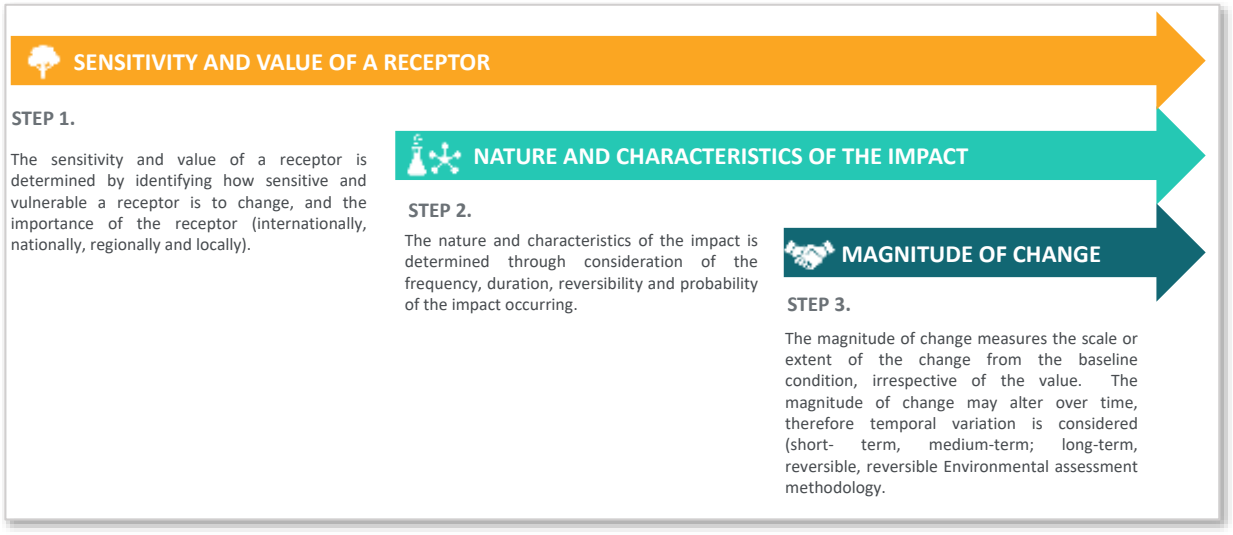

FIGURE 10 - DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

The tables below set the description and thresholds used in determining impact significance.

TABLE 8 - NATURE OF IMPACT

NATURE	
Term	**Description**

Beneficial (Positive)	An impact that is considered to represent an improvement on the baseline or introduces a positive change.
Adverse (Negative)	An impact that is considered to represent an adverse change from the baseline or introduces a new undesirable factor.

TABLE 9 - TYPE OF IMPACT

TYPE	
Term	**Description**
Direct	Impacts causing an impact through direct interaction between a planned project activity and the receiving environment/receptors.
Indirect	Impacts that result from other activities that are encouraged to happen as a result / consequence of the Project. Associated with the project and may occur at a later time or wider area
Cumulative	Impacts that arise as a result of an impact and effect from the project interacting with those from another activity to create an additional impact and effect

TABLE 10 - REVERSIBILITY OF IMPACT

REVERSIBILITY	
Term	**Description**
Reversible	Impacts are reversible and recoverable in the future
Partly Reversible	Some parts of the impact can be reversed while others remain
Irreversible	Impacts which are not reversible and are permanent

TABLE 11 - MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	
Term	**Description**
None / negligible	Very minor loss or detrimental alteration to one (or maybe more) characteristic, feature or element; or Very minor benefit to, or positive addition of, one (or maybe more) characteristic, feature or element.
Low / Minor	Some measurable change in attributes, quality or vulnerability; minor loss of, or alteration to, one (or maybe more) key characteristic, feature or element; or Minor benefit to, or addition of, one (or maybe more) key characteristic, feature or element; some beneficial effect on attribute quality or a reduced risk of a negative effect occurring.
Moderate	Loss of resource, but not adversely affecting its integrity; partial loss of/damage to key characteristics, features or elements; or Benefit to, or addition of, key characteristics, features or elements; improvements of attribute quality.
High / Major	Loss of resource, and quality and integrity of resource; severe damage to key characteristics, features or elements; or Large scale or major improvement of resources quality; extensive restoration or enhancement; major improvement of attribute quality.
Very high / unknown	Loss of resource, significantly affecting the long term quality and integrity of a resource; irreparable damage or loss of key characteristics, features or elements; or the magnitude is too great to quantify as it is unknown.

TABLE 12 - DURATION OF IMPACT

DURATION	
Term	**Description**

Temporary	Transient; a period of less than 1 year
Short term	Impacts that are likely to last for the duration of the activity causing the impact and are recoverable (1-5 years)
Medium term	Impacts that are likely to continue after the activity causing the impact and are recoverable (5-15 years)
Long term	Impacts that are likely to last far beyond the end of the activity causing the damage (greater than 15 years with impact ceasing after decommissioning of the project)
Permanent	Permanent

TABLE 13 - SCALE OF CHANGE

SCALE OF CHANGE - EXTENT / GEOGRAPHIC SCALE	
Term	**Description**
On-site	Impacts that are limited to the boundaries of the project site
Local	Impacts that occur in the local area of influence, including around the site and within the wider community
Regional	Impacts that affect a receptor that is regionally important by virtue of scale, designation, quality or rarity.
National	Impacts that affect a receptor that is nationally important by virtue of scale, designation, quality or rarity.
International	Impacts that affect a receptor that is internationally important by virtue of scale, designation, quality or rarity.

TABLE 14 - PROBABILITY OF CHANGE

PROBABILITY	
Term	**Description**
Improbably (Rare)	The event may occur in exceptional circumstances yet, rarely occurs in the industry. The event could occur once every 100 years
Low probability (Unlikely)	The event has happened elsewhere yet, is unlikely to occur. The event could occur once every 10 years
Medium Probability (Possible)	The event could occur under some circumstances. The event could occur once every 5 years.
High Probability (Likely)	The event is expected to occur. The event could occur twice per year
Definite (Almost certain)	The event will occur. The event could occur once per month

TABLE 15 - SIGNIFICANCE DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT	DESCRIPTION
Low – Major (Beneficial) All scores	Impacts are considered to be beneficial to the environment and society:
Low (negative) 0 - 25	Impacts are considered to be local factors that are unlikely to be critical to decision-making.
Minor (negative) 25 - 50	Impacts are considered to be important factors but are unlikely to be key decision-making factors. The impact will be experienced, but the impact magnitude is sufficiently small (with and without mitigation) and well within accepted standards, and/or the receptor is of low sensitivity/value. Impacts are considered to be short-term, reversible and/or localized in extent.

Moderate (negative) 50 - 75	Impacts are considered within acceptable limits and standards. Impacts are long-term, but reversible and/or have regional significance. These are generally (but not exclusively) associated with sites and features of national importance and resources/features that are unique and which, if lost, cannot be replaced or relocated.
Major (negative) 75 - 100	Impacts are considered to be key factors in the decision-making process that may have an impact of major significance, or large magnitude impacts occur to highly valued/sensitive resource/receptors. Impacts are expected to be permanent and non- reversible on a national scale and/or have international significance or result in a legislative non- compliance.

TABLE 16 - SENSITIVITY AND VALUE OF RECEPTOR

SENSITIVITY AND VALUE	DESCRIPTION
Low	Of value, importance or rarity on a local scale; and/or not particularly sensitive to change or has considerable capacity to accommodate a change.
Medium	Of value, importance or rarity on a regional scale, and with limited potential for substitution; and/or moderate sensitivity to change, or moderate capacity to accommodate a change.
High	Of value, importance or rarity on an international and national scale, and with very limited potential for substitution; and/or very sensitive to change or has little capacity to accommodate a change.

TABLE 17 – SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT

				Signifance of Impact			
			Signifance of Impact	Impacts are considered to be local factors that are unlikely to be critical to decision-making.	Impacts are considered to be important factors but are unlikely to be key decision-making factors. The impact will be experienced, but the impact magnitude is sufficiently small (with and without mitigation) and well within accepted standards, and/or the receptor is of low sensitivity/value. Impacts are considered to be short-term, reversible and/or localized in extent.	Impacts are considered within acceptable limits and standards. Impacts are long-term, but reversible and/or have regional significance. These are generally (but not exclusively) associated with sites and features of national importance and resources/features that are unique and which, if lost, cannot be replaced or relocated.	Impacts are considered to be key factors in the decision-making process that may have an impact of major significance, or large magnitude impacts occur to highly valued/sensitive resource/receptors. Impacts are expected to be permanent and non- reversible on a national scale and/or have international significance or result in a legislative non- compliance.
	Biophysical	**Social**		**Low**	**Minor (2)**	**Moderate (3)**	**Major (4)**
Sensitivity	A biophysical recepeotr that is protected under legislation or internaiton conventions (CITES) listed as rare, threatened or endangered IUCN specidices. Highly valued/sensitive resource/receptors	Those affected people/communities will not be able to adapt to changes or continue to maintain-pre impact livelihoods.	**High (3)**	**Minor (3)**	**Moderate (6)**	**Major (9)**	**Major (12)**
	Of value, importance or rarity on a regional scale, and with limited potential for substitution; and/or Not protected or listed (gloabbally) but may be a rare or threatened species in coutnry; with little reslisence to ecosystem changes, imporant to ecosystem functions, or one under threat or popultion declinet.	Able to adapt with some difficulity and maintain preimpact status but only with a degree of support	**Medium (2)**	**Low (2)**	**Minor (4)**	**Moderate (6)**	**Major (8)**
	Not protected or listed as common / abundant; or not crtical to other ecosystems functions	Those affected are able to adapt with relative ease and maintain preimpacrt status. There is no perceptible change to people's livelihood.	**Low (1)**	**Low (1)**	**Low (2)**	**Minor (3)**	**Moderate (4)**

To ensure the beneficial impacts are brought out in the assessment, green has been applied to ensure the different type of impact is clear. The description for each level of significance presented in Table 15 was also followed when determining the level of significance of a beneficial impact.

The significance of impacts has been derived by applying the identified thresholds for receptor sensitivity and magnitude of change, as well as the definition of significance. **Moderate and major adverse impacts are considered as significant**. The following thresholds were therefore used to double check the assessment of significance had been applied appropriately; a significant impact would meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

- It exceeds widely recognized levels of acceptable change;
- It threatens or enhances the viability or integrity of a receptor or receptor group of concern; and
- It is likely to be material to the ultimate decision about whether or not the environmental clearance certificate is granted.

6.5 MITIGATION

Mitigation comprises a hierarchy of measures ranging from preventative environmental impacts by avoidance, to measures that provide opportunities for environmental enhancement. The mitigation hierarchy is avoidance; reduction at source; reduction at receptor level; repairing and correcting; compensation; remediation; and enhancement.

Mitigation measures can be split into three distinct categories, broadly defined as:

1. Actions undertaken by the EIA process that influence the design process, through implementing design measures that would entirely avoid or eliminate an impact or modifying the design through the inclusion of environmental features to reduce the magnitude of change. These are considered as embedded mitigation.
2. Standard practices and other best practice measures for avoiding and minimizing environmental impacts. These are considered as good practice measures.
3. Specified additional measures or follow-up action to be implemented to further reduce adverse impacts that remain after the incorporation of embedded mitigation. These are considered as additional mitigation.

The EIA is an iterative process whereby the outcomes of the environmental assessments inform the project. Considerable mitigation has been built into the project as potentially significant adverse environmental impacts have been identified and design changes have been identified to overcome or reduce them. The EMP (Appendix A) provides the good practice measures and specified additional measures or follow-up action.

Embedded mitigation and good practice mitigation have been taken into account in the assessment. Additional mitigation measures have been identified when the significance of impact requires it and causes the impact to be further reduced. Where additional mitigation has been identified, a final assessment of the significance of impacts (residual impacts) was carried out taking into consideration the additional mitigation.

7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT FINDINGS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES

7.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the findings of the EIA for the project as per the EIA process, scope and methodology set out in Chapter 2 and Chapter 6. A range of potential impacts have been identified that may arise as a result of the project. The aim of this EIA report is to focus on the significant impacts that may arise as a result of the project. This chapter therefore only considers the significant impacts and or those that may have specific interest to the community and stakeholders. However, a summary of impacts that are not considered significant is discussed in Section 7.2.

Impacts that were considered for assessment or those of interest to the community and stakeholders are as follows:

- Socio-economics (employment, demographics, and land-use);
- Ecology (fauna and flora);
- Air quality (including dust); and
- Cultural heritage.

For each potential significant or sensitive impact, a summary is provided which includes the activity that would cause an impact; the potential impacts; embedded or best practice mitigation (stated where required / available); the sensitivity of receptor that would be impacted; the severity, duration and probability of impacts; the significance of impacts before mitigation and after mitigation measures are applied.

7.2 IMPACTS NOT CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT

As a result of an iterative development process, mitigation has been incorporated and embedded into the project, thereby designing out potential environmental and social impacts or reducing the potential impact so that it is not significant. Best practice has also played a role in avoiding or reducing potential impacts. The EMP provides best practice measures, management and monitoring for all impacts.

Impacts that have been assessed as not being significant are summarised in Table 18 below and not discussed further.

TABLE 18 - IMPACTS NOT CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT

The listed impacts below are of a non-significant nature and do not render any threat to the environment in a way that adversely challenges the resilience of it to continue in its modified form.

ENVIRONMENT OR SOCIAL TOPIC	POTENTIAL IMPACT	SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
Cultural heritage	Potential to uncover heritage remains during project activities.	Findings are unlikely, as no known heritage sites are mapped and protected in the project area. The site also has a tried and tested chance find procedure in place in the very unlikely event a heritage item is discovered.
Noise impacts in the community	Ambient noise as a result of operation activities, machinery use and movement in the area.	For operation activities to generate noise that will impact neighbours adversely (nuisance impact) is unlikely given the distance of the operations to the nearest sensitive receptor (Approximately 1.5km).
Visual impacts	Operational activities will emit fumes and dust emissions on site.	Mitigation measures through the installation of dust extractors at industrial sieving, bagging, and conveying operations are outlined in the EMP. Dust suppression shall be applied where possible. Specific activities that may generate dust and impact residents shall be minimized during high wind periods. Mitigation measures are contained in the EMP.
Health impacts to personnel	Adverse personnel health impacts due to ambient air quality and dust pollution.	All employees are to be provided with Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE), which should be adhered to at all times. Induction will be conducted with the workers before duties commence.
Fire risks and occurrences	Operational activities may increase the risk of fire occurrences. Fire risks may result in property damage, possible injury and impacts caused by explosions or uncontrolled fires.	With the mitigation measures such as a fire protection and a prevention plan, with inclusion of an emergency response and firefighting, fire risk can be managed. The occurrence of fire is unlikely and rare at the Namchar facility.
Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity	Increased movement of vehicles for operation activities may results into residing, nesting and slow-moving organisms to be disturbed, injured or killed.	As outlined in the EMP they shall be use of existing tracks and routes only and movements are to be restricted to daytime operating hours. No driving off designated access routes (into the bush).

7.3 ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

When undertaking the scoping exercise, the design of the project and best practice measures were considered to ensure the likely significant effects and any required additional mitigation measures were identified. A summary of the potential impacts and mitigation and / or control measures were discussed. The following topics were considered during the scoping phase:

- Socio-economics (employment, demographics, and land-use);
- Ecology (fauna and flora);
- Air quality (including dust); and
- Cultural heritage.

Table 19 sets out the findings of the assessment. Activities that could be the source of an impact have been listed, followed by receptors that could be affected. The pathway between the source and the receptor has been identified where both are present. Where an activity and / or receptor has not been identified, an impact is unlikely, thus no further assessment or justification is provided. Where the activity, receptor and pathway have been identified, a justification has been provided documenting if further assessment is required or not required.

Due to the nature and localised scale of the project activities, and the environmental context of the site, the potential environmental and social effects are limited and unlikely to be significant. The only area where uncertainty remained during the scoping phase was the potential impact on air quality from the operational activities. The impact of dust emissions towards the biophysical environment i.e. plants, is unknown at this stage. Further consideration of the potential beneficial effects on the community was therefore undertaken and results are presented in the next section.

TABLE 19- SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	RECEPTOR	DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	EFFECT/DESCRIPTION OF MAGNITUDE	VALUE OF SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT	IMPACT MANAGEMENT/CONTROL MEASURES	RESIDUAL IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION
Operation activities i.e. handling and offloading of charcoal products	**Air quality**	Adverse effect on the ambient air quality of the environment. Dust emissions from the facility	Adverse Direct Reversible Moderate short term On-site Almost certain	Low	Moderate	Minor (3)	- A dust extractor unit containing a wet scrubber should be installed at the industrial sieving, bagging and conveying operations - Any dust related issues and complaints shall be registered and mitigation steps taken to address complaints where necessary e.g. dust suppression - Monitor air quality to detect areas of concern by implementing dust monitoring stations around the factory.	**Low (2)**
Operation activities	**Community**	Triggers job creation, skills development and opportunities for the local economy	Beneficial Direct Reversible Minor Short term Local Certain	Low	Minor	Low (2)	- Maximize local employment - As far as possible promote local procurement - Enhance development of local skills where possible	Low beneficial

8 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The EMP for the project is presented in Appendix A. It provides management options to ensure the impacts of the project are minimised. An EMP is a tool used to take pro-active action by addressing potential problems before they occur. This should limit the corrective measures needed, although additional mitigation measures might be included if necessary. The management measures should be adhered to during all stages of the construction and operation activities. All persons involved and partaking in the activities should be made aware of the measures outlined in the EMP to ensure activities are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

The objectives of the EMP are:

- To include all components of the development and operations of the project;
- To prescribe the best practicable control methods to lessen the environmental impacts associated with the project;
- To monitor and audit the performance of operational personnel in applying such controls; and
- To ensure that appropriate environmental training is provided to responsible operational personnel.

9 CONCLUSION

ECC's EIA methodology was used to undertake the environmental assessment for the project to identify if there is potential for significant effects to occur as a result of the project activities. Through the scoping process, the only risk to the environment was the potential for dust impacts due to the planned modifications to the Namchar facility. All other social and environmental receptors were scoped out as significant effects were unlikely and therefore no further assessment was deemed necessary. Through further analysis and identification of mitigation and management methods, the assessment concludes that the likely significance of effects on air quality from dust pollution impacts is expected to be minor and prior awareness and mitigation measures shall be encouraged. Various best practice and mitigation measures have been identified to avoid and reduce effects as far as reasonably practical, as well as ensure the environment is protected and unforeseen effect and environmental disturbances are avoided.

On this basis, it is of the opinion of ECC that an environmental clearance certificate could be issued, on conditions that the management and mitigation measures specified in the EMP are implemented and adhered to.

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APPENDIX A- EMP

APPENDIX B - NON-TECHNICAL SU MMARY

ECC
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

ECC-110-305-NTS-01-B

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY FOR

A CHARCOAL & BRIQUETTE STORAGE, PROCESSING AND PACKAGING FACILITY IN WITVLEI, OMAHEKE REGION, NAMIBIA

PREPARED FOR

NAM-CHAR namibia

JUNE 2020

PO BOX 91193 Windhoek Namibia
Environmental Compliance Consultancy CC
CC/2013/11404

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

CHARCOAL & BRIQUETTE STORAGE, PROCESSING AND PACKAGING FACILITY IN WITVLEI, OMAHEKE REGION, NAMIBIA

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) background to the project.

The purpose of the project is to obtain an environmental clearance certificate for the existing activities and additional developments that will be included at the existing project site in Witvlei, Omaheke Region.

By registering for the project, all I&APs will be kept informed throughout the environmental clearance certificate application process. and a platform for participation will be provided to submit comments/recommendations pertaining to the project.

This NTS includes the following information on:

- The location of the existing facility;
- The necessity of the project, benefits or adverse impacts anticipated)
- The alternatives to the project 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 Namchar Namibia to undertake an ESIA and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. of 7 of 2007 and its regulations. An environmental clearance application will be submitted to the relevant competent authorities; and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT).

2.2 LOCATION

The project is located approximately 1 kilometre north of Witvlei settlement in the Omaheke Region, Namibia. The site location is shown in Figure 1.

2.3 WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED

Charcoal production in Namibia presents strategies to combat bush encroachment, supplement farming income, and contribute to employment creation. Namchar Namibia, through its current facility, will continue storing, processing and packaging charcoal for exporting internationally and local market distribution. Namchar will continue to increase its current revenue and sustain its direct employment.

2.4 WHAT ARE THE PROJECT ACTVITIES

It should be noted that the Namchar is operating at an existing facility. The following activities and infrastructure are associated with the project:

- Continued operation of existing charcoal and briquette storage, processing, and packaging facility, offices, as well as toilet facilities.
- Water is sourced via the NamWater pipeline system.
- Electricity is supplied by a three (3) phase NamPower electricity network.
- New infrastructure to be built includes: a weighbridge to be built in the future.

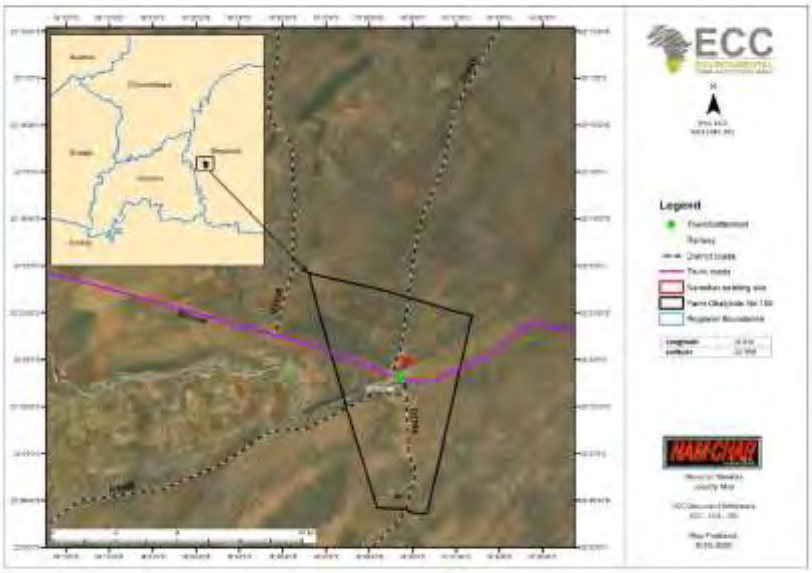

FIGURE 1 – LOCATION OF NAMCHAR NAMIBIA FACILITIES

2.5 Potential Impacts of the Project

2.5.1 Socio-economic

The potential social impacts are anticipated to be of low significance, and those that may transpire shall be confined within the project site; these potential impacts may include the following:

- Potential economic benefits due to increased foreign currency flow, and
- Approximately 60 new jobs will be created as a result of the project.

2.5.2 Environmental

The potential environmental impacts are anticipated to be of minor significance, and those that may occur shall be contained within the site, these potential impacts may include the following:

- Generation of noise due to the handling and processing of charcoal during operations, and
- Generation of dust due to the handling and processing of charcoal during operations.

3 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Best practice environmental assessment methodology calls for consideration and assessment of alternatives to the project.

The project is operating at an existing facility with existing activities. The additional developments (weighbridge) will be constructed on already disturbed footprint at the existing site. Therefore, no other alternatives were considered.

During the assessment, alternatives will take the form of 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, 2007, and its regulations. The process followed in this EIA is set out in the flowchart in figure 2.

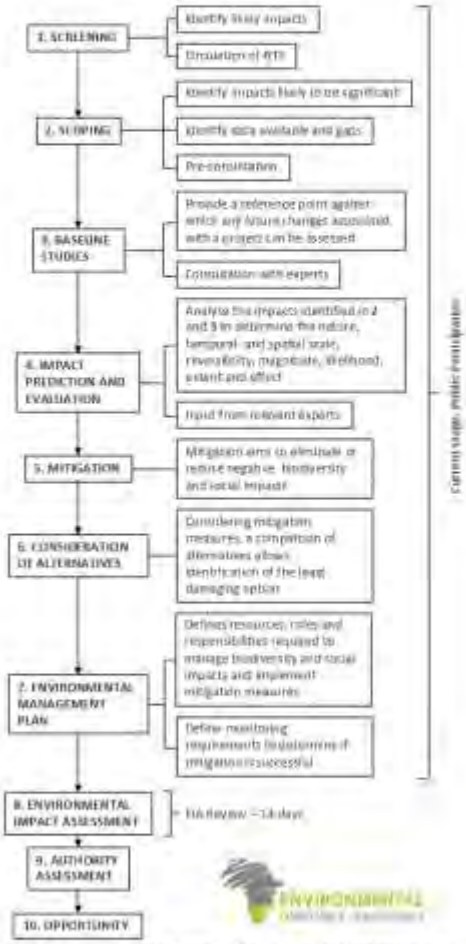

FIGURE 2 - FLOWCHART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

4.1 SCREENING

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

ENERGY GENERATION, TRASMISSION AND STORAGE ACTIVITIES (EXISTING ACTIVITY)

1 The construction of facilities for –

(b) The transmission and supply of electricity

- The project is supplied with electricity by NamPower with a three (3) phase electricity network at 155kW per day.

WASTE MANAGEMENT, TREATMENT, HANDLING AND DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES (EXISTING ACTIVITY)

2.2 Any activity entailing a scheduled process referred to in the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Ordinance, 1976.

- The project will generate dust due to the handling and processing of charcoal during operations.

LANDUSE AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (POSSIBLE ACTIVITY)

5.1 The rezoning of land from – agriculture use to industrial use

- The project is currently on an agricultural zoned area. There is the possibility of rezoning from agriculture to industrial zoning.

WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS (EXISTING ACTIVITY)

8.6 Construction of industrial and domestic wastewater treatment plants and related pipeline systems. (Possible activity)

- There is a French drain system presently on site. It is recommended that the client constructs a wastewater treatment plant and related pipeline system.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES TREATMENT, HANDLING, AND STORAGE

9.2 Any process or activity which requires a permit, licence or other form of authorisation, or the modification of or changes to existing facilities for any process or activity which requires an amendment of an existing permit, licence or authorisation or which requires a new permit, licence or authorisation in terms of a law governing the generation or release of emissions, pollution, effluent or waste. (Existing activity)

- There is a French drain system presently on site.

The potential environmental and social effects are anticipated to be of minor significance, and those that may occur shall be contained on the project site.

4.2 BASELINE STUDIES

For the project, baseline information will be obtained through a desk-based studies and site verification process by focusing on the environmental receptors that could be affected by the 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 EIA methodology. The EIA will be conducted in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 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 EIA and EMP (GRN, 2008) including international and national best practice with over 25 years of combined EIA experience.

4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

4.5 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 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

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APPENDIX C- EVIDENCE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

C.1 NEWSPAPER ADVERTS

The following was advertised in the Namibian newspaper on the 27th August and 03rd September 2020,

THE NAMIBIAN 17

namibian

mOshiwambo

Tunna etumwalaka lyoye elupi nenge "sms" konomola ndji 99502, nenenga inwi okanga etumwalaka lyoye, tameka noshitya Oshi opo the ile londuifithwilo "sms" yoye. Onwa kufe una yi gai N$1.

EHONDOPEKO LYAAKWITA YOLUTU

... Mehano ndika oshimu monika Cheney Neto, gumwe gomoosyeme yehangano lyashona Kainas Investment, ta landitha omalemuno mokwaamba lwondila mo-Susiethof mOvendoka mEtiyali. Omaalemuno oge li yimwe yomiyimati mboyoka yi na ilungithaalu yoVilakohe C mboyoka hayi ekondopeka aakwiitila yolutu. Pethimbo nelika tyombalo yaCovid-19, nenenganono nya otatela kutya aasha aimuna okunkondopeka aakwiita yolutu monwaalihoka oyo haya dhana onkandhungalo molugodhi lwovukanghitha oCovid-19 usha omanhu a kwahisa komvaalo ndjoka.

Fotoo: Wilma Nafibo

Oshipangelo shomOmbaye shi ilongekidhila oCovid-19

Omupolisi gokegumbo lyepangelo a taalela oshipotha shedhengo

ECC

NAMCHAR

ERONGO red
power to the people
NO TARIFF INCREASE
FROM 1 JULY 2020 – 30 JUNE 2021
Dear Valued Customers,
We are pleased to announce that, for the second consecutive year, our electricity tariffs will not increase. The current tariffs will thus continue to apply until 30 June 2021. During these trying economic times, save electricity with the help of our load simulator at https://loadsimulator.erongored.com/

ECC
NAMCHAR

A BRIGHTER OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR TOMORROW
TENDERS
TENDER ENQUIRY NO. E101-ND-2020
INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF STRIPPING, LOADING, HAULING AND SEAWALL MAINTENANCE SERVICES AT SOUTHERN COASTAL MINES
1. OVERVIEW
2. SPECIFICATION OF THE SERVICES
3. TENDER ENQUIRY DOCUMENT
4. COMPULSORY VIRTUAL SITE INSPECTION
5. CLOSING DATE
NAMDEB
www.namdeb.com

Vacancy
PLANT BAKERY MANAGER
RESPONSIBILITIES
EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS
SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.
Closing date for applications: 15 September 2020
namibmills

The following was advertised in the Republikein newspaper, SUN newspaper, and Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper on the 02nd and 09th September 2020

Market Watch

Economic Indicators

Exchange Rates

Forward Cover

NAMIBIAN UNIT TRUST 07/09/2020

MONEY MARKET FUNDS

ROLL-UP MONEY MARKET FUND

BOND FUNDS

INCOME FUNDS

INCOME SPECIALIST FUNDS

ECC

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS
A CHARCOAL AND BRIQUETTE STORAGE, PROCESSING AND PACKAGING FACILITY IN WITVLEI, OMAHEKE REGION, NAMIBIA

NAM-CHAR

Business

Closing prices 31 October 2017

Commodities

Selected NSX stock

JSE Top 40

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

SHOPRITE ENDS KENYA EXPANSION

South Africa's Shoprite Holdings said yesterday it expected to close or dispose of its remaining two stores in Kenya in the year ahead, leaving the East African country after opening its first store there more than two years ago.

The supermarket chain has been reviewing its long-term options in Africa as currency devaluations, supply issues and low consumer spending in Angola, Nigeria and Zambia have weighed on earnings. The decision to leave comes a month after Shoprite said it was considering reducing or selling all of its stake in its Nigerian subsidiary. Shoprite, with more than 2 300 stores across Africa, reported a 6.4% rise in sales for the year ended June 28, with like-for-like sales up by 4.4% as customers spent more on groceries at its discount Usave and mid-to-upper end Checkers stores. Diluted headline earnings per share (HEPS), the main profit measure used in South Africa, from continuing operations rose to 765.8 cents against a restated figure of 746.9 cents a year earlier.

– Nampa/Reuters

PHOTO: NAMPA/AFP/FILE

ASPEN SELLS THROMBOSIS DRUG BUSINESS

South African drugmaker Aspen Pharmacare has agreed to sell the rights to its European thrombosis business to US pharmaceutical company Mylan for almost 642 million euro (US$759 million), sending its shares up 7% yesterday.

"The transaction supports Aspen's strategy of continuing to reshape the group towards a greater concentration of revenue in emerging markets," Aspen said in a statement.

The company said it would retain the thrombosis business almost exclusively in emerging markets. The sale will also allow Aspen to streamline its business in Europe, strengthen its balance sheet and provide "financial headroom" for future investments, the company said.

Proceeds from the deal will be used to reduce the group's debt, Aspen said, adding Mylan would pay 263.2 million euro on completion of the deal and the balance in June 2021.

Investors have been concerned about Aspen's debt in the last two years after levels moved close to breaching debt covenants.

– Nampa/Reuter

PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

BID NUMBER: NCB/ONSHORE/01/2020

DESCRIPTION: MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR CONTRACT FOR THE NATIONAL OIL STORAGE FACILITY & JETTY FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS (RE-ADVERTISEMENT)

PRE-BID MEETING (NON-COMPULSORY): TUESDAY, 01 SEPTEMBER 2020 @ 10:00 AM AT THE NATIONAL OIL STORAGE FACILITY CONTRACTOR SITE BOARDROOM, JOHN OVERSTONE STREET, WALVIS BAY, NAMIBIA

TUESDAY, 01 SEPTEMBER 2020 @ 12:00 PM VIRTUAL MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING (LINK TO BE SEND ON REQUEST)

BID NUMBER: NCB/ONSHORE/PTT/2020

DESCRIPTION: THE PROVISIONING OF TRAINING SERVICES FOR SITE STAFF AT VARIOUS NAMCOR RETAIL SERVICE STATIONS

The information for the bids listed above is defined in the bid document, which are obtainable at NAMCOR Petroleum House, 1 Aviation Road, Windhoek, Namibia. It duly ensure to request for the relevant bid documents

BID DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FROM: Friday, 14 August 2020

BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, 18 September 2020 @ 12:00 PM Namibian Time

BID DOCUMENT COST: N$106.00 (non-refundable) NCB/ONSHORE/01/2020
N$106.00 (non-refundable) NCB/ONSHORE/PTT/2020

SUBMISSION ADDRESS: Tender Box at Reception
NAMCOR Head Office
Petroleum House
1 Aviation Road
Windhoek
Namibia

ENQUIRIES/CLARIFICATIONS: Procurement Management Unit
Email: procurement@namcor.com.na
Tel: 061- 204 5008 / 284 5111 / 284 5054 / 204 5073 / 284 5221

C.2 SITE NOTICE

C.3 STAKEHOLDER LETTER

+264 81 669 7608
info@eccenvironmental.com
www.eccenvironmental.com

REFERENCE: ECC-110-305-LET-06-A
08 September 2020

Identified Stakeholder and or Potentially Interested Party for:
Namchar Namibia charcoal and briquette storage, processing, and packaging facility in Witvlei, Omaheke Region.

Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE NAMCHAR NAMIBIA CHARCOAL AND BRIQUETTE STORAGE, PROCESSING, AND PACKAGING FACILITY IN WITVLEI, OMAHEKE REGION

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been engaged by Namchar Namibia, the Proponent, to act on their behalf for the application of an environmental clearance certificate for the charcoal and briquette storage, processing, and packaging facility in Witvlei, Omaheke Region. The exact location of the project is visible on the map hereto attached.

ECC is conducting the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and will be submitted to the competent authority, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism for a record of decision.

Namchar operates on an existing facility located approximately 1 km north of Witvlei on a portion of Farm Okatjirute No. 155 which is zoned as a light industrial area, Omaheke Region. The facility's current operational activities include the sourcing of raw material (charcoal) exclusively from Namibian charcoal producers and from farms in the surrounding area. Charcoal is then processed by means of sifting, packaging, and producing briquettes that are then prepared for dispatch. Namchar have a range of other products such as fire lighters, firewood, disposable BBQ's and other consumables. The project generates income for the local community as well as extended financial, social, and environmental benefits.

This letter is intended to engage stakeholders and potentially interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the project and provide a communication channel to ECC for the project. You have been identified as a stakeholder; therefore, ECC wishes to inform you of how you can become involved in the project.

Public participation is an important part of the EIA process, as it allows the public and stakeholders to obtain information about the proposed project. Public participation occurs at various stages throughout a project's lifecycle including:

- Advertising in newspapers;

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY CC
PO BOX 91150 WINDHOEK NAMIBIA
MEMBERS: J L MOONEY & JS BEZUIDENHOUT
REGISTRATION NUMBER: CC/2013/11406

- Distributing a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) to identified stakeholders and I&APs;
- Registered I&APs will also be informed of the available draft scoping report for a 7-day comment and review period, during this period I&APs will have the opportunity to review the draft document and raise any issues or concerns, and
- Stakeholders and I&APs who wish to register as an I&AP must do so on the ECC website as per the link provided: https://eccenvironmental.com/project/a-charcoal-briquette-storage-processing-and-packaging-facility-in-witvlei-omaheke-region-namibia/

If you are unable to complete the registration form online please email info@eccenvironmental.com and request an electronic copy of the form that you can complete, sign, scan and return via email to info@eccenvironmental.com to register as an I&AP for the project.

ECC values community input and participation in our projects and we look forward to working with you as the project develops.

The NTS can also be obtained from our website and provides a brief overview of the proposed project https://eccenvironmental.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/ECC-110-305-NTS-01-8.pdf

Should you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Yours sincerely,

Stephan Bezuidenhout
Environmental Compliance Consultancy
Office: +264 81 669 7608
Email: stephan@eccenvironmental.com

Jessica Bezuidenhout Mooney
Environmental Compliance Consultancy
Office: +264 81 669 7608
Email: jessica@eccenvironmental.com

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY CC
PO BOX 91193 WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA
MEMBERS: J L MOONEY & JS BEZUIDENHOUT
REGISTRATION NUMBER: CC/2013/11404

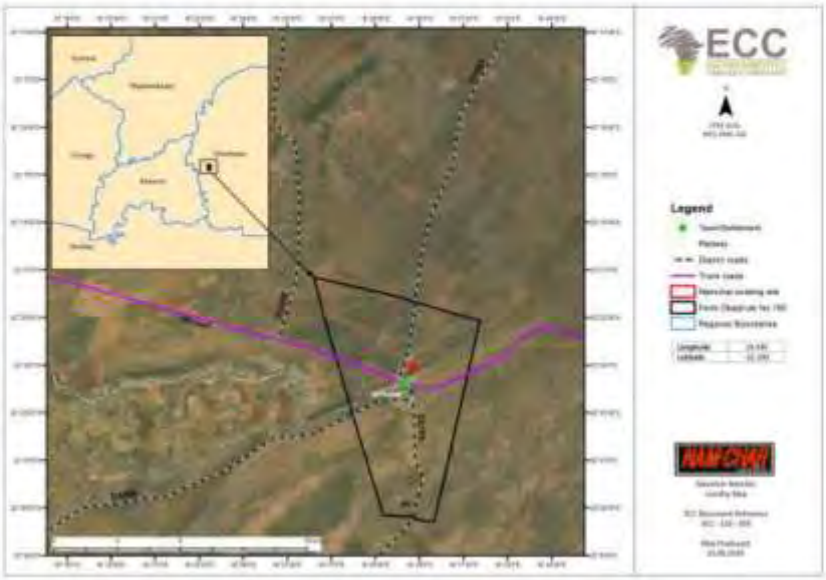

FIGURE 1 - LOCALITY MAP OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY CC
PO BOX 91193 WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA
MEMBERS: J L MOONEY & JS BEZUIDENHOUT
REGISTRATION NUMBER: CC/2013/11404

APPENDIX D - ECC CVS

APPENDIX E - EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Kalpie Investments Twenty One (Pty) Ltd t/a
Namchar Namibia
PO BOX 64, WITVLEI, NAMIBIA, 9000
NAMCON WEST +264 81 277 8746
FRUIT FER +27 83 555 1005
OFFICE +264 61 269 1705
namibia@namchar.co.za

EQUIPMENT

Item	Quantity
Vibrating screen 2YK1235	1
Coal Crusher PFL-600	1
Roller Mixer LN-1500	2
Briquette Machine YQ-360	1
Belt Conveyor PD500x10000	6
Packing and Sealing Machine D-50	1
Electric Control Cabinet	1
Hopper GL2000	1
Refurbished Toyota forklift Model 62-8FD25	1
African Packaging – Sewing Machine	1
Toyota forklift Model 62-8FD25	2
Mahindra Farmers Edition S6 4x4 - 2019 Model 11 000km (Book Value N$285 000.00)	1
Scale (300kg)	3
Scale(150kg)	1
Scale(Platform)	2
Packing Box	4
Shaker	1
Packaging Table	2
Ramp	1
Grinder Big	1
Grinder Small	1
Drill	1
Welding Machine	1
Motors – 11kw	1
5.5kw	1
3kw	1
Wheelbarrow	9
Chairs (Plastic)	27
Grading Machine	1
Tractor & Trailer	1