




ECC-99-313-NTS-06-C

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

TRANSPORTATION OF INDUSTRIAL SULPHURIC ACID FROM THE NAMZINC REFINERY, WITHIN NAMIBIA TO LOCAL CONSUMERS, AND TO THE SKORPION ZINC WAREHOUSE AT THE PORT OF LÜDERITZ, IN THE !KARAS REGION, NAMIBIA

PREPARED FOR

SKORPION ZINC (NAMZINC) (PTY) LTD

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Environmental Compliance Consultancy CC
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1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) a background to the proposed project and to invite I&APs to register as part of the Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process.

The proposed project involves the transportation of industrial sulphuric acid from the Namzinc refinery within Namibia to local consumers, and to the Skorpion Zinc warehouse operated by Skorpion Zinc (Namzinc) (Pty) Ltd.

Through registering for the project, all I&APs will be kept informed throughout the ESIA process, and a platform for participation will be provided to submit comments / recommendations pertaining to the project.

This NTS includes the following information:

- The proposed project and location;
- The necessity of the project, benefits or adverse impacts anticipated;
- The alternatives to the project that 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 Skorpion Zinc (Namzinc) (Pty) (Ltd) to undertake an ESIA and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and its regulations. An environmental clearance application will be submitted to the relevant competent authorities; the Ministry of Works and Transport (MWT) and Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT).

2.2 LOCATION

Skorpion Zinc (Namzinc) (Pty) Ltd proposes to transport a total of 75 000 tonnes per annum of industrial sulphuric acid the Namzinc refinery within Namibia to local consumers, and to the Skorpion Zinc warehouse at the Port of Lüderitz, on a route distance of 293 kilometres. The location is shown in Figure 1.

2.3 WHAT IS PROPOSED

Sulphuric acid is a clear colourless material that may emit choking fumes when hot. The material is non-flammable but when in contact with other flammable materials may result in fires.

The major use of sulfuric acid is in the production of fertilizers, manufacture of chemicals, it is as well used in petroleum refining. Sulfuric acid is used in processing metals. Sulphur has a very high reactivity potential with a broad range of chemical compounds and should therefore be handled very cautiously. Sulphuric acid is hazardous in contact, inhalation or ingestion.

An environmental clearance was approved for the Skorpion Zinc refinery conversion facility. The proposed modifications to the Skorpion Zinc refinery will enable the treatment of zinc sulphide (ZnS) concentrate, which Namzinc intends to transport from their Vedanta's sister

company Black Mountain Mining's Gamsberg Mine (operating zinc/lead mine & concentrator) in the Northern Cape, South Africa.

Namzinc proposes to transport industrial sulphuric acid. As such they will operate the program, manage the contractors and ensure that norms of Health, Safety and Environment are met.

2.4 WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED

Skorpion Zinc (Namzinc) intends to transport industrial sulphuric acid, which would promote and increase the operations and lifespan of the Skorpion Zinc, contributing to the national and local economies as well as for skill transfer to locals.

2.5 OPERATION PHASE

The proposed project involves the transportation of industrial sulphuric acid. The following are envisaged during the proposed project:

- The treated zinc sulphide concentrate will produce industrial sulphuric acid, which is proposed to be exported to the Port of Lüderitz for bulk storage. A total of 205.5 tonnes will be trucked per day (or approximately 6 truck loads per day) will be transported for this project.

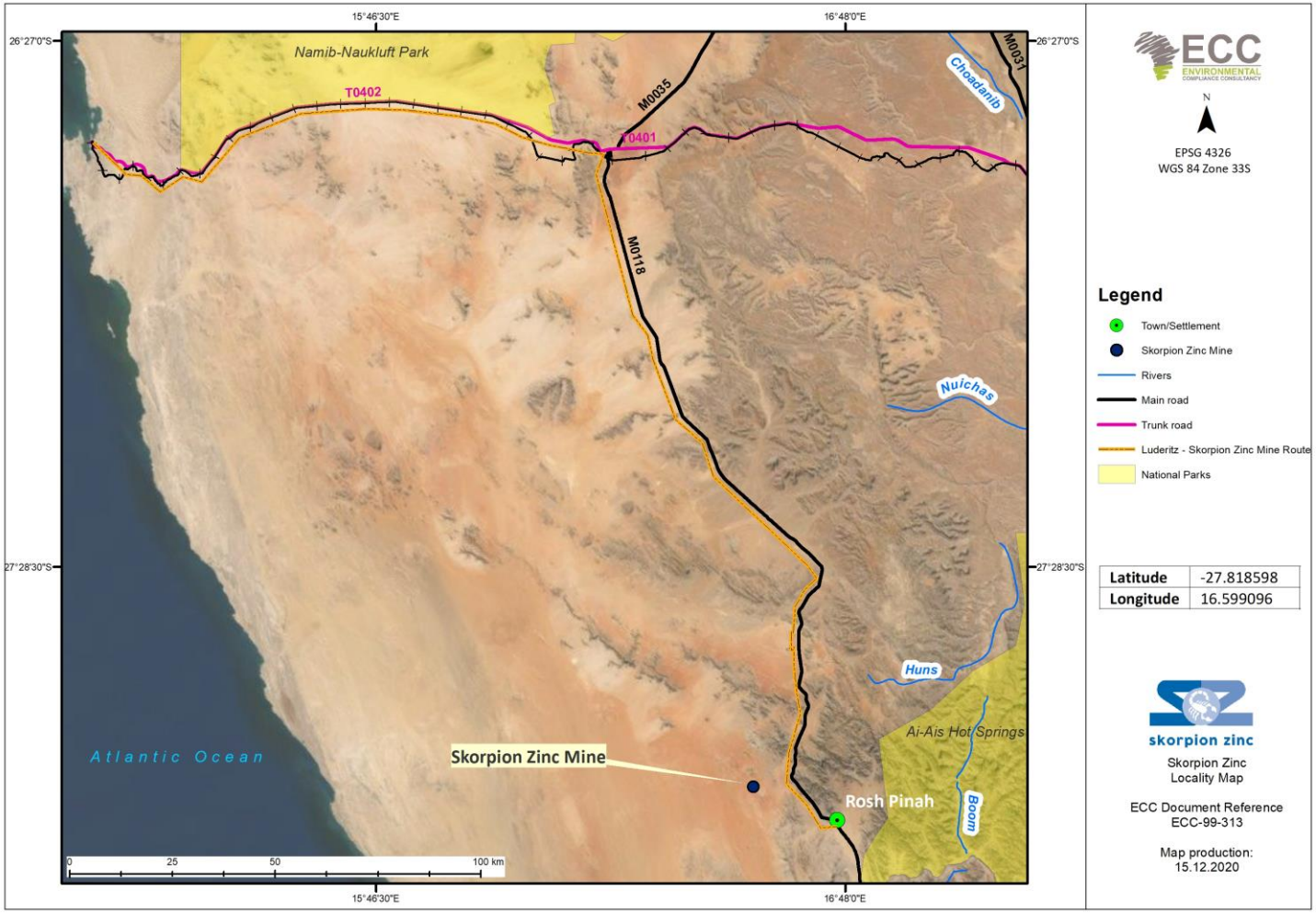

FIGURE 1 – LOCATION MAP OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

2.6 Potential Impacts of the Project

2.6.1 Socio-economic

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

Minor disruption to the residents along the Namzinc refinery, within Namibia to local consumers, and to the to Port of Lüderitz routes, including some increase in noise levels arising from vehicle use;

- Some jobs will be created as a result of the project; and
- There will be economic benefits due to increased investment and investor confidence in the Namibian mining and processing sector.

2.6.2 Environmental

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

- Potential contamination of soil, surface and groundwater, a spill containment plan shall be utilised and be in place at all times; and
- Minor risk of loss of contaminant of hydrocarbon or chemicals from maintenance activities potentially leading to localised ground contamination; this aspect will be controlled at all times.

3 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

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

In a project such as this one, it is difficult to identify alternatives to satisfy the need of the proposed project; the activities shall be specific to the proposed project.

During the assessment, alternatives will take the form of a consideration of optimisation and efficiency to reduce potential effects e.g. different types of technology or operations, route access and exploration methods.

4 THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

This ESIA, conducted by ECC, is undertaken in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and its regulations. The process followed in this ESIA is set out in the flowchart in Figure 2.

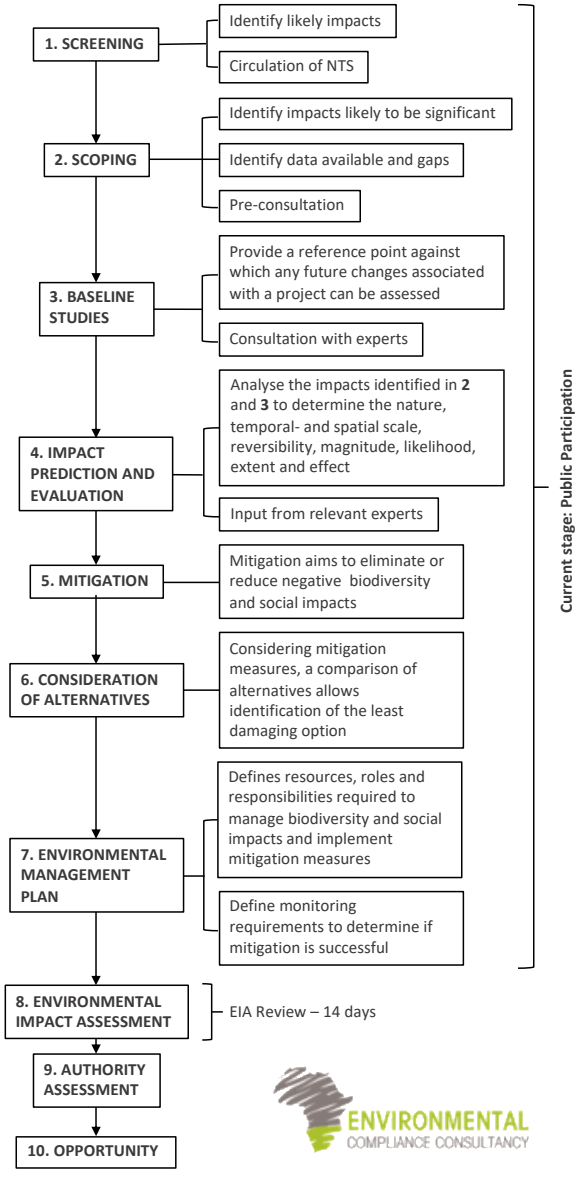

FIGURE 2 - FLOWCHART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

4.1 SCREENING

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

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE TREATMENT, HANDLING AND STORAGE

(9.1) The manufacturing, storage, handling or processing of a hazardous substance defined in the Hazardous Substances Ordinance, 1974.

(9.4) The storage and handling of a dangerous goods, including petrol, diesel, liquid petroleum gas or paraffin, in containers with a combined capacity of more than 30 cubic meters at any one location.

- The proposed project envisions the handling and transportation of industrial sulphuric acid from the Namzinc refinery, within Namibia to local consumers, and to the Skorpion Zinc warehouse at the Port of Lüderitz, for bulk storage and export.

4.2 BASELINE STUDIES

For the proposed project, baseline information will be obtained through desk-based studies and site verification.

The ESIA will focus on the environmental receptors that could be affected by the proposed project. ECC will also engage with stakeholders, I&APs and the proponents to seek input into the assessment.

4.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Impacts will be assessed using the ECC ESIA methodology. The ESIA will be conducted in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 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 ESIA and EMP (GRN, 2008) including international and national best practice with over 25 years of combined ESIA experience.

4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

4.5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ADVERTISING

Public participation is an important part of the ESIA 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 public participation phase.

At this phase ECC will perform the following:

- Identify key stakeholders, authorities, municipalities, environmental groups and interested or affected members of the public, hereafter referred to as I&APs
- Distribute the NTS for the proposed project (this document)
- Advertise the environmental application in two national newspapers
- Place notices on-site at or near the boundary
- If required host a public meeting to encourage stakeholder participation and engagement, and provide details of issues identified by the environmental practitioner, stakeholders and I&APs
- Record all comments of I&APs and present such comments, as well as responses provided by ECC, in the comments and responses report, which will be included in the scoping report that shall submitted with the application, and
- Circulate I&AP comments to the project team for consideration of project design.

Comments must be submitted in writing and can be emailed using the details in the contact us section below.

CONTACT US

We welcome any enquiries regarding this document and its content. Please contact:

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