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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF A CHARCOAL AND BRIQUETTE PROCESSING, PACKAGING, AND STORAGE FACILITY IN OUTJO, KUNENE REGION, NAMIBIA

PREPARED FOR

NEXUS CHARCOAL (PTY) LTD

APRIL 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY CC/2013/11404
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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 operation of the charcoal processing (sorting and packaging) and charcoal briquette making facility in Outjo, Kunene 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 and or recommendations about the project.

This NTS includes the following information:

- The location of the existing facility;
- The necessity of the project, benefits or adverse impacts anticipated;
- The alternatives to the project that have been considered and assessed;
- How the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process works;
- The public participation process and how to become involved; and
- Next steps and the way forward.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been engaged by the proponent Nexus Charcoal (Pty) Ltd to undertake an ESIA and develop 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).

LOCATION

The project site is located in the heavy industrial area to the west of the town of Outjo, in the Kunene Region and can be accessed via the C39 main road on route to Khorixas. The site location is shown in Figure 1.

WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED

Charcoal production in Namibia presents strategies to combat bush encroachment, supplement farming income, and contribute to local employment creation. There are several bush thinning operations in this area, thus this project could contribute to the charcoal export market of Namibia. This project is also expected to create approximately 126 jobs during its operational phase.

WHAT ARE THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Nexus Charcoal (Pty) Ltd intends to set up a charcoal processing and briquette facility, that will include sorting and packaging facilities.

The following activities and infrastructure are associated with the project:

- At the start of the assessment process, construction of the warehouse, ablution block, water reticulation and a sewer reticulation system has started.
- Bulk charcoal will be received from farms within a 150 km radius from the site.

- The charcoal will be sieved, sorted and packed in bags on site.
- Product planned to be shipped internationally, with containers being loaded on-site.
- A briquette producing facility will be constructed where fines (1mm-20mm in size) will be crushed, mixed and pressed into briquettes.
- Briquettes will then be dried in greenhouse tunnels and packed on-site once dried.
- Water will be sourced from an existing borehole on site.
- Cenored powerlines will be extended onto the site and a 315kVA generator will be installed on the site as well.
- Fuel storage (2000L Diesel tank).
- The infrastructure will include:
    - Administration office;
    - Packaging and storage area;
    - Charcoal processing area;
    - Raw material bulk storage area;
    - Waste storage and management area;
    - Water storage tanks
    - Warehouse;
    - Ablution block; and
    - A septic tank.

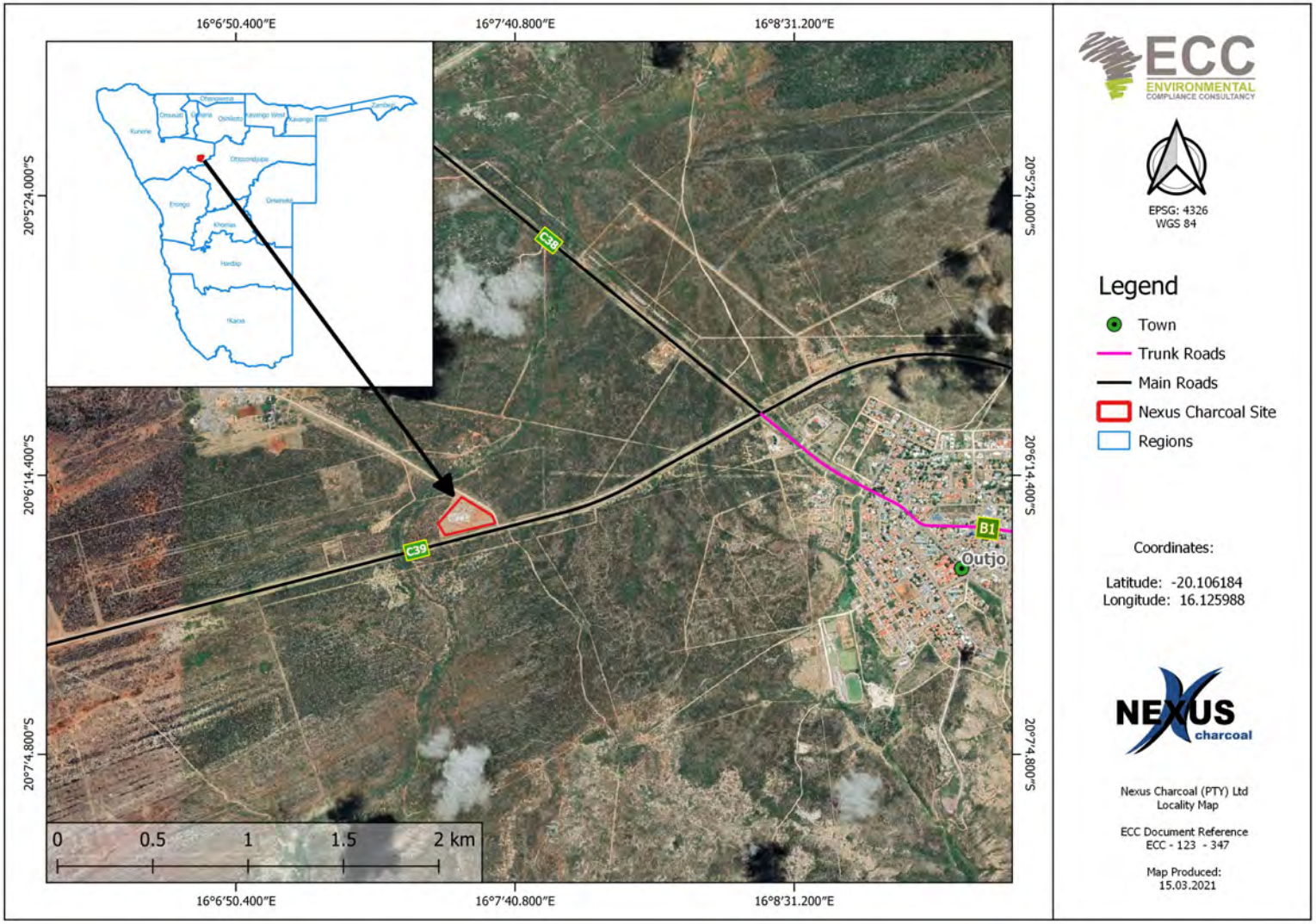

FIGURE 1 – LOCATION OF NEXUS CHARCOAL FACILITY

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

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

- Potential economic benefits due to increased foreign currency inflow, and
- Approximately 126 jobs will be created during the operational phase as a result of the project.

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 fines (dust control system will be installed).
- Increase in sewage waste generated from the increase in employee numbers on-site (Nexus Charcoal will be installing a sewerage tank with a capacity of $12m^3$. The Outjo Municipality will be responsible for the cleaning of the sewerage tanks every week, or more frequently if needed).
- Land clearing of the area for site infrastructure

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

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

The project is located in a heavy industrial area. Alternative site layouts and processes will be assessed as part of this assessment process.

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.

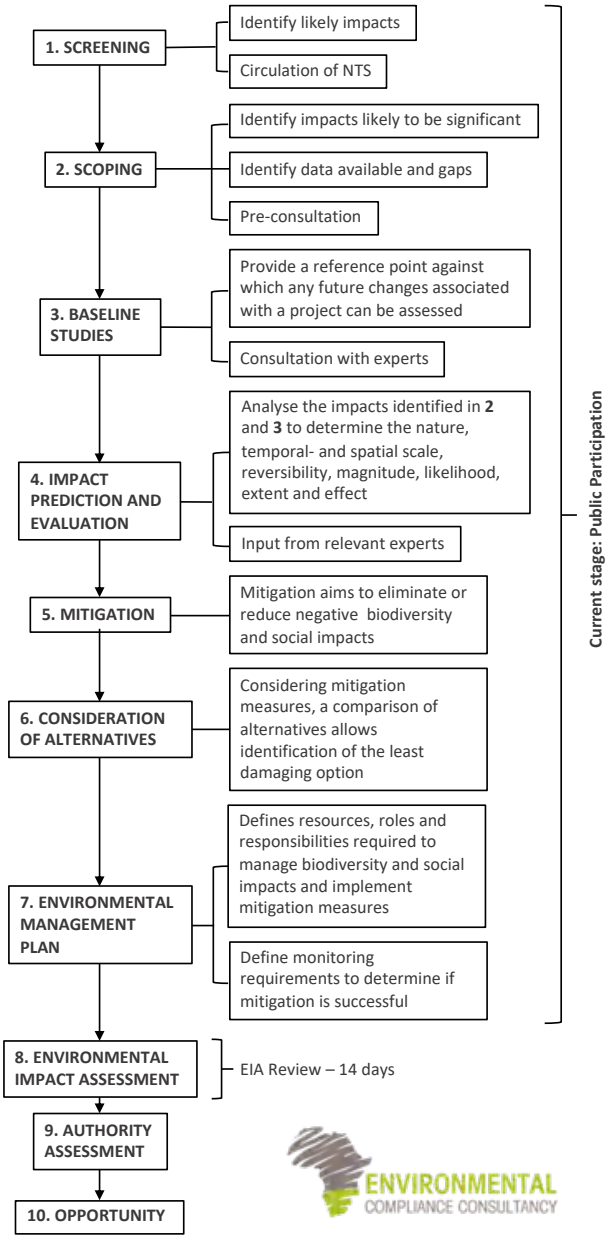

FIGURE 2 - FLOWCHART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

SCREENING

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

ENERGY GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND STORAGE ACTIVITIES

1. The construction of facilities for –
(b). The transmission and supply of electricity.

- Cenored powerlines are extended to the site and will provide the project with electricity.
- A 315kVA generator will be installed on-site.

WASTE MANAGEMENT, TREATMENT, HANDLING AND DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES

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 processing and handling of charcoal.

FORESTRY ACTIVITIES (Already a disturbed Area)

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

- The vegetation on site has already been cleared.

WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS

8.6 Construction of industrial and domestic wastewater treatment plants and related pipeline systems.

- A Septic tank will be installed on-site.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES TREATMENT, HANDLING, AND STORAGE

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

- A 2000l diesel tank can potentially be installed on-site.
- The handling of potential noxious gases emitted from the charcoal processing facility.

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.

BASELINE STUDIES

For the project, baseline information will be obtained through desk-based studies and a possible 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 proponent to seek input into the assessment.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Impacts will be assessed using the ECC ESIA methodology. The ESIA 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.

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 concerning the surrounding environment and community.

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.

At this stage ECC will perform the following functions:

- 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 clearance application in two national newspapers;
- Place notices on-site, at or near the boundary,
- If necessary, 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 the 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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