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REPORT:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE 132 KV OVERHEAD POWER SUPPLY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROPOSED KOKOSEB GOLD MINE PROJECT ON ML 274, ERONGO REGION

PROJECT NUMBER: ECC-143-719-BID-01-A

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**Background information document for the proposed construction and operation
of the 132 kV overhead power supply and associated infrastructure for the
proposed Kokoseb Gold Mine Project on ML 274, Erongo Region**

Mandarin Investments (Pty) Ltd.

TITLE AND APPROVAL PAGE

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
ACSR	aluminium conductor steel reinforced
BID	background information document
DEAF	Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry
EAP	environmental assessment practitioner
ECB	Electricity Control Board
EC	Environmental Commissioner
ECC	Environmental Compliance Consultancy (Pty) Ltd
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EMA	Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007
ESMP	environmental and social management plan
ESIA	environmental and social impact assessment
ha	hectares
HFO	heavy fuel oil
i.e	that is
JV	joint venture
km	kilometre
kV	kilovolts
Ltd	limited
LoM	life of mine
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
ML	mining licence
MIME	Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy
MVA	megavolt-amperes
NamPower	Namibia Power Corporation (Pty) Ltd
Pty	proprietary
PV	photovoltaic
OPGW	optical ground wire
Erongo RED	Erongo Regional Electrical Distributor
RoD	record of decision
SHEW	safety, health, environment and waste
ToR	terms of reference

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (Pty) Ltd (ECC) has been engaged by Mandarin Investments (Pty) Ltd (hereto referred to as “the Proponent”) as the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to conduct an environmental scoping with impact assessment and develop an environmental and social management plan (ESMP) on behalf of Namibia Power Corporation (Pty) Ltd (NamPower), for the proposed construction and operation of the 132 kilovolt (kV) overhead power supply and associated infrastructure (switchyard modifications, metering yard and high voltage (HV) switchyard and distribution cables and powerlines) from the NamPower Omburu substation to the Kokoseb Gold Mine Project, located within mining licence (ML) 274, Erongo Region, Namibia. An environmental clearance certificate application is being compiled in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 (EMA) and its associated 2012 Regulations and will be submitted to the competent authority, being the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy (MIME) and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for a record of decision (RoD) with regards to the proposed Project.

Mandarin Investments (Pty) Ltd is a joint venture (JV) company between Damaran Exploration (Pty) Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Wia Gold (Pty) Ltd, an Australian Stock Exchange listed company) and Epangelo Mining Namibia (Pty) Ltd (State-owned Mining Company).

This background information document (BID) has been compiled to provide interested and affected parties (I&APs) with an introduction to the proposed Project’s scope of work and invite I&APs to register as part of the environmental scoping with impact assessment process. A platform for I&APs to submit comments, concerns and inputs will be established and all registered I&APs will be notified about the proposed Project, the review periods of the draft scoping with impact assessment report, the draft ESMP and the RoD on the environmental clearance certificate application.

This BID includes the following information:

- The proposed Project and location;
- The necessity of the Project, benefits or adverse impacts anticipated;
- The alternatives that were considered;
- How the scoping with impact assessment process works;
- The public participation process and how to become involved; and
- Next steps and the way forward.

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Proponent, on behalf of NamPower, proposes to construct a 132 kV overhead power supply, and associated infrastructure which will include transformers, distribution powerlines, metering switchyard and high voltage (HV) substation from the NamPower Omburu substation to the proposed Kokoseb Gold Mine Project on ML 274. Operations from the NamPower Omburu substation to the 132 kV metering station will be handed over to NamPower while the Proponent will manage the operations from the 132 kV metering station to the proposed Project. The overhead powerline will supply electricity required for various mine operational activities throughout the life of mine (LoM).

The proposed scope of work includes the expansion of the NamPower Omburu substation footprint to accommodate the proposed 132 kV grid connection, the establishment of the powerline servitude and the installation/connection of the 132 kV transmission line to the 132 kV metering station (covering approximately 20 hectares (ha)), which will be located approximately 10 km from the proposed Kokoseb Gold Mine site. In addition, a 132/11 kV substation (step-down substation) equipped with two (2) 40 megavolt-amperes (MVA) transformers will be constructed close to the processing plant and will be connected to the 132 kV metering station via a 10 km mono pole transmission line. The proposed 132 kV overhead powerline will be approximately 90 km in length and will be routed parallel to the existing 66 kV transmission line to Uis. NamPower will retain ownership and management of the 90 km long 132 kV transmission line from the NamPower Omburu substation and the 132 kV metering station while the Proponent will own and manage the 10 km transmission line from the 132 kV metering station and the 132/11 kV substation.

The proposed 132 kV overhead powerline route and 132 kV metering station and substation is shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2, respectively.

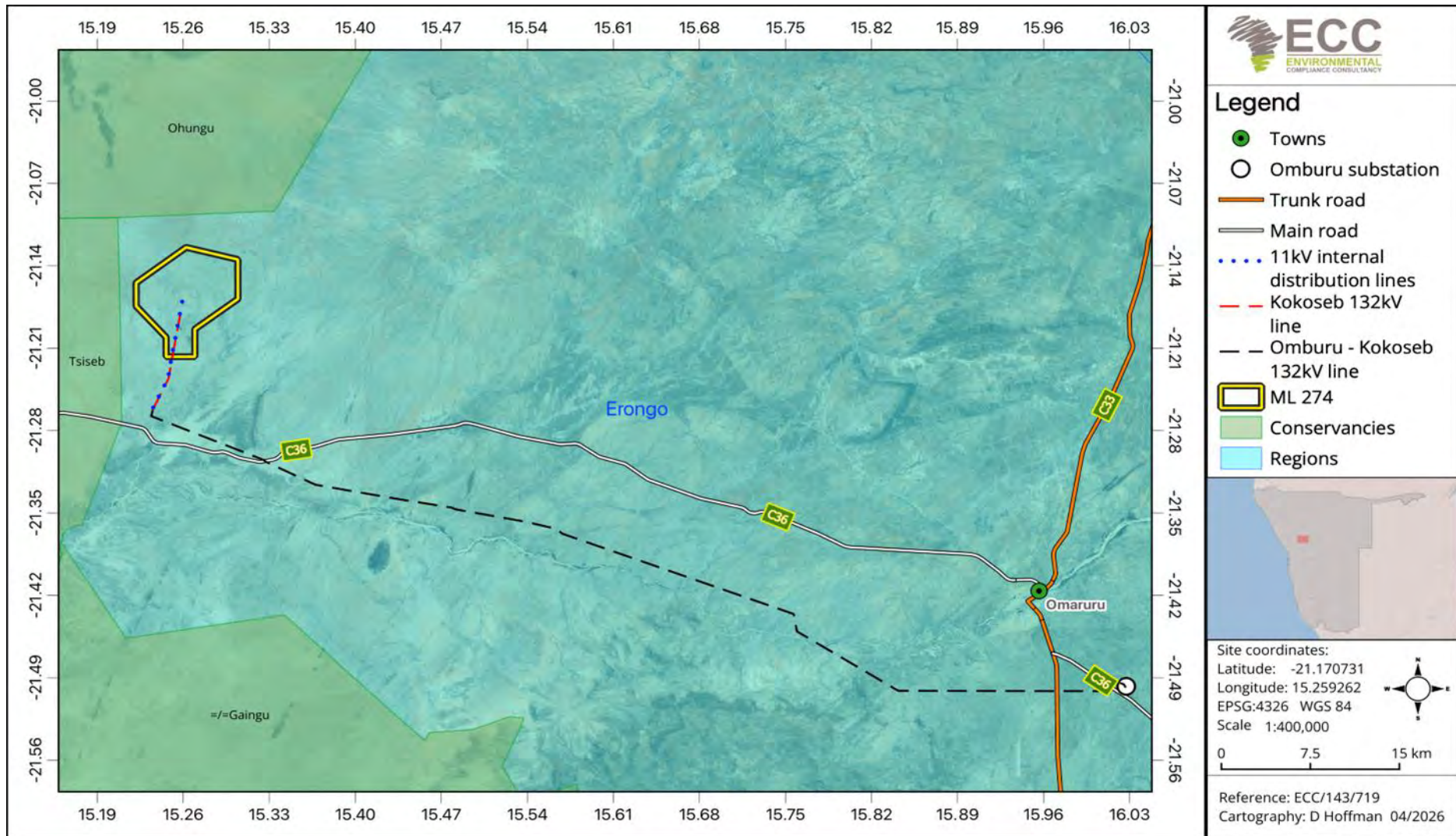


Figure 1 - Proposed location of 132 kV overhead power supply route

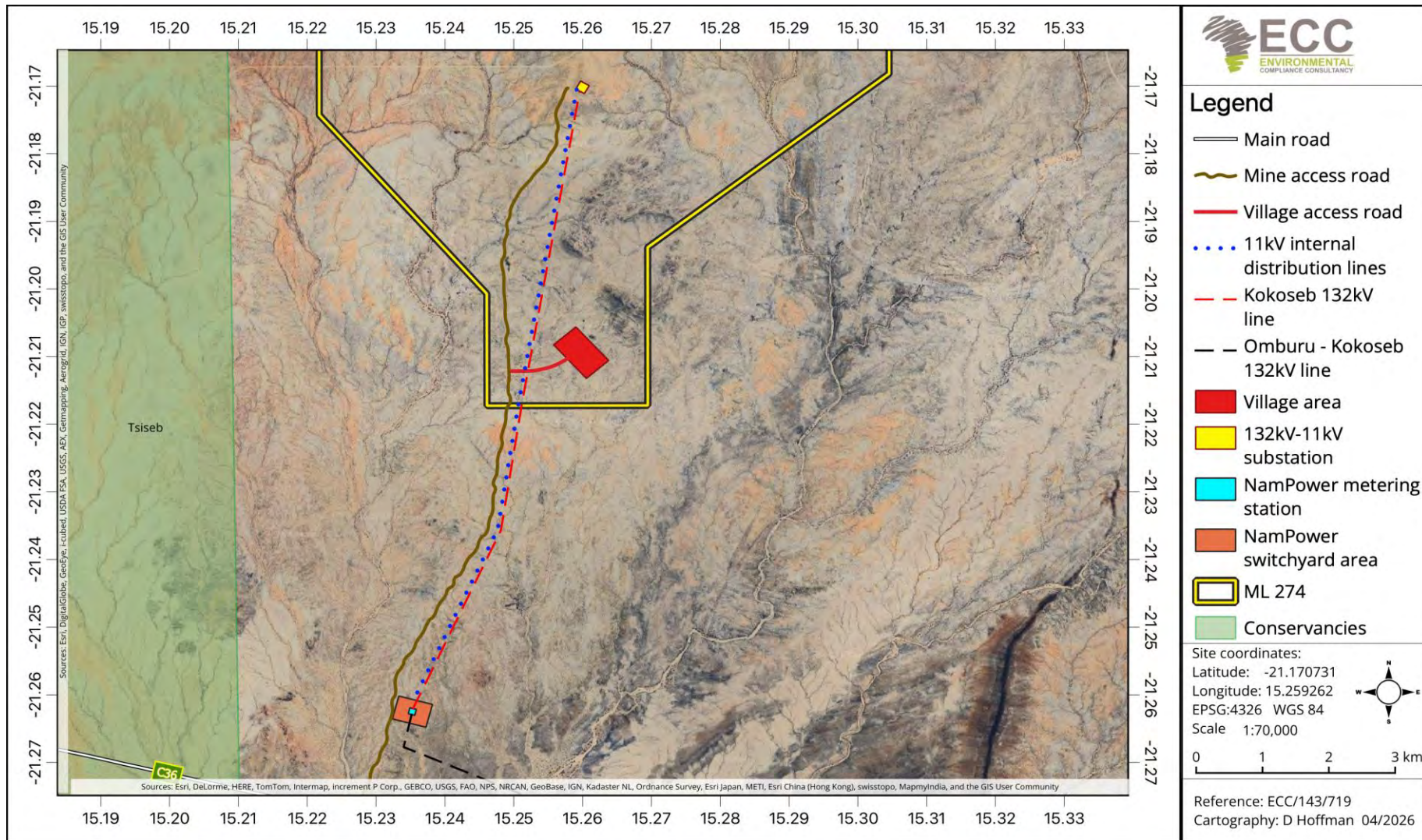


Figure 2 - Zoomed in location of 132/11 kV Kokoseb metering station and 132/11 kV substation

1.3 NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The final environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) for mining activities on ML 274 was submitted to the competent authority and MEFT on 19 March 2026 for a RoD. However, the assessment excluded the power supply component, as environmental authorisation for power infrastructure must be approved under NamPower, as the national utility supplier through a separate environmental clearance certificate application process.

A standalone environmental clearance certificate for power supply is required to ensure adequate and reliable energy is available to support mining operations as the Project transition into the operational phase.

1.4 PROJECT DETAILS – CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL PHASES

1.4.1 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

The following activities are envisioned during the construction phase:

- Land clearing (de-bushing) and levelling for the expansion of the NamPower Omburu substation footprint to accommodate the proposed 132 kV grid connection. Additionally, approximately 20 ha of land will also be cleared and levelled to establish a suitable platform for the 132 kV metering station;
- Relocation of various 22 kV Erongo Regional Electrical Distributor (RED) distribution lines and the Omburu – Marble (Erongo) 66 kV transmission line to align a routing outside of the planned NamPower Omburu substation expansion footprint;
- Establishment of the overhead powerline servitude and construction of service roads (where no service roads exist) along the 90 km stretch of the powerline;
- Erection of powerline poles through excavation foundation, positioning using lifting equipment and securing them in place through backfilling and compaction;
- Installation/connection of an approximately 90 km long 132 kV transmission line NamPower standard steel monopole line with delta configuration conductors using twin pelican aluminum conductor steel reinforced (ACSR) conductor and 48 core optical ground wire (OPGW) earth wire;
- Development of the 132 kV metering station, approximately 10 km from the mine, which will be connected via a 10 km monopole transmission line to the 132/11 kV substation located close to the mine processing plant. The 132/11 kV substation will be equipped with an outdoor 132 kV switchyard, indoor 11 kV switch room and two (2) 40 MVA transformers;
- Installation of power distribution cables (both underground and overhead 11 kV lines), including the 11 kV powerline to the accommodation village; and
- Perimeter fences will be constructed around the expanded NamPower Omburu substation footprint, the 132 kV metering station and the 132/11 kV substation for security purposes.

All work will conform to NamPower standards design requirements and standards and all NamPower's safety, health, environment and waste (SHEW) requirements will be adhered to.

1.4.2 OPERATIONAL PHASE

NamPower will retain ownership and management of the, Omburu substation, 90 km long 132 kV transmission line from the NamPower Omburu substation and the 132 kV metering station. The Proponent will own and manage the 10 km transmission line from the 132 kV metering station and the 132/11 kV substation and the 11 kV powerline to the accommodation village.

During operations, the overhead powerline will transmit and distribute electricity to various operational areas of the mine throughout the LoM. Routine inspections and maintenance of powerline, substation and metering station infrastructure will be conducted to ensure safe, efficient and reliable operations.

1.5 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. During the assessment, alternatives will consider optimisation and using eco-friendly solutions to reduce potential impacts.

Off grid alternative power supply options were considered during the scoping study of the proposed Project. This included the option of an onsite heavy fuel oil (HFO), diesel baseload power station/generator or renewable solar photovoltaic (PV) supplementary energy systems. However, a grid connection to NamPower via an overhead powerline is regarded as the most cost-effective and the most environmentally favourable in terms of reduced carbon emissions. Although supplementary large-scale solar PV and battery storage systems are feasible, these technologies may not sufficiently meet the continuous power requirements for commercial mining operations. These options are being investigated as the Project advances.

A below ground (underground) powerline over approximately 90 km is generally not feasible due to the significantly higher installation cost and maintenance costs compared to overhead powerline. Additionally, below ground cables require extensive trenching, specialised installation and costly repairs in the event of a fault.

As part of the assessment, the following grid power supply options were considered:

- Connection to the existing 66 kV power supply to Uis. This was found not to be technically feasible as the line is already operating close to its thermal capacity.

- A 66 kV connection from Omburu substation to ML 274 (proposed Kokoseb Gold Mine). This was determined marginal, with a high likelihood of significant voltage drop along the line.
- A 132 kV connection to Trekkopje substation where a 132 kV connection already exists.
- A 220 kV connection from Omburu substation. Not preferred as it involves significantly higher costs and complexity relative to the Project's required load.

The trade-off assessment between the Trekkopje connection and Omburu connection options showed comparable costs. However, the Trekkopje connection would result in higher transmission losses, a larger disturbance footprint due to the additional 20 km powerline required and a less robust power supply. Connection to the NamPower Omburu substation maintains flexibility for further future expansion (the proposed 20 ha easement of the NamPower switchyard) to provide power to other potential future users.

The final powerline route will be subject to detailed design requirements and approval by NamPower. Accordingly, the proposed 132 kV line routing may be revised during the design phase of the Project and alignment with existing powerline corridors may also be adjusted.

2 THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The scoping with impact assessment process for the proposed Project is being conducted by ECC and will be undertaken in terms of the EMA and its 2012 Regulations. The process followed for this assessment is set out in the flowchart in Figure 3.

ECC has been engaged by the Proponent as the independent (EAP to facilitate the screening, scoping with impact assessment process for the proposed Project. The proposed Project is a listed activity in terms of the EMA and the 2012 Regulations; therefore, an environmental clearance certificate is required prior to Project development.

A final decision relating to the above-mentioned application will be made by the MIME (the competent authority) in consultation with the MEFT: Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF).

The environmental scoping with impact assessment process will include:

1. Screening phase, which includes determining whether the proposed Project is a listed activity and whether an environmental clearance certificate is required (completed);
2. Scoping phase, which includes baseline review and the development of the terms of reference (ToR), identifying specialist studies and consultation with key stakeholders and I&APs (in progress); and
3. Assessment phase, which includes the following:
 - Impact prediction utilising ECC's methodology and evaluation of alternatives;
 - Determining and assigning mitigation measures;
 - Developing monitoring and conceptual rehabilitation plans;
 - This phase culminates in the drafting of the scoping with impact assessment report and the draft ESMP;
 - Public review of the draft scoping with impact assessment report and draft ESMP; and
 - Submission of the final scoping with impact assessment report and final ESMP to the competent authority (MIME) and MEFT for review and RoD (future phase).

The main objectives of the assessment are to:

- a) Provide information describing the proposed construction and operational activities;
- b) Provide an independent environmental and social assessment of the activities associated with the proposed Project; and
- c) Develop management and mitigation measures associated with any identified potential impacts, where necessary.

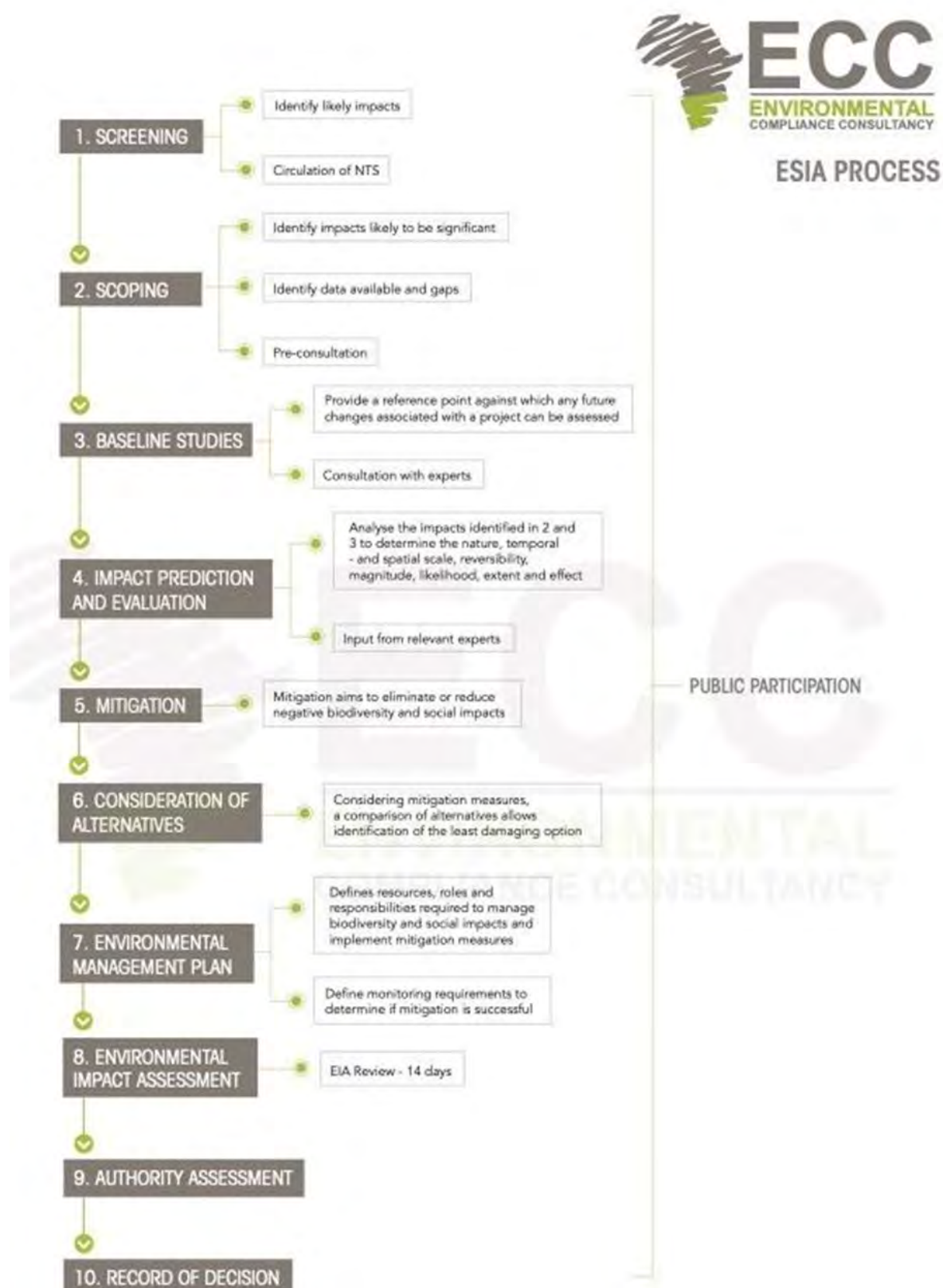


Figure 3 - Flowchart of the environmental and social assessment process

2.1 SCREENING

A review of the proposed Project was undertaken and the screening findings against the listed activities was conducted. The findings are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 - Listed activities triggered by the proposed Project

Listed activity	EIA screening finding
ENERGY GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND STORAGE ACTIVITIES The construction of facilities for: (1.b) The transmission and supply of electricity	- The proposed overhead power supply and associated substation infrastructure will supply electricity required for the proposed Kokoseb Gold Mine operations throughout the life of mine (LoM). - A 132 kV overhead powerline, approximately 90 km in length, will be constructed from the NamPower Omburu substation to the proposed Kokoseb Gold Mine site on mining licence (ML) 274. The proposed scope of work includes expansion of the existing Omburu substation footprint to accommodate the proposed powerline connection, establishment of the powerline servitude, installation and connection of the 132 kV transmission line, development of a 132 kV metering station approximately 10 km from ML 274, construction of a 132/11 kV substation within ML 274, equipped with two (2) 40 megavolt amperes (MVA) transformers and installation of power distribution cables (both underground and overhead 11 kV powerlines), including the 11 kV powerline to the accommodation village.
FORESTRY ACTIVITIES (4.) The clearance of forest areas, deforestation, afforestation, timber harvesting, or any other related activity that requires authorisation in terms of the Forest Act, 2001 (No. 12 of 2001) or any other law.	- Vegetation will be cleared to expand the NamPower Omburu substation footprint to accommodate the proposed grid connection, establish the overhead powerline servitude. An area of up to 20 hectares (ha) will be reserved for future expansion at the 132 kV metering station site. Additionally, vegetation will likely be cleared along the 90 km

Listed activity	EIA screening finding
	powerline route to establish the powerline servitude.
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (5.3) Construction of veterinary protected area or game proof and international boundary fences.	- Perimeter fences will be constructed around the expanded NamPower Omburu substation footprint, the 132 kV metering station and the 132/11 kV substation for security purposes.
WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS (8.1.) The abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes. (8.8) Construction and other activities in water courses within flood lines. (8.9) Construction and other activities within a catchment area.	- Water required during the construction phase will be sourced from the mine water supply schemes. - The proposed 90 km long 132 kV overhead transmission line is expected to cross over the ephemeral Omaruru River.
WASTE MANAGEMENT, TREATMENT, HANDLING AND DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES (2.3) The import, processing, use and recycling, temporary storage, transit or export of waste.	- Waste generated during the construction phase will be mainly general solid waste (e.g. domestic, clearing and grubbing waste) and will be temporary stored in the mine waste handling facilities and disposed of at the nearest registered waste disposal site. - Portable toilets will be used during the construction phase. Effluent will be removed and disposed offsite at a registered effluent treatment site.

2.2 POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

The potential biophysical and social impacts should be considered with due regard to the nature and scale of the proposed Project. The potential environmental and social impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed overhead power supply and associated infrastructure have been anticipated and may include the following:

- Potential for the social economic benefits such as job creation, skills development and local economic development;
- Potential to unearth, damage or destroy undiscovered heritage objects/artifacts;
- Occupational health and safety impacts;
- Potential alteration of the baseline visual environment;
- Potential impacts on community severance due to potential increase in dust and noise levels during the construction phase;

- Potential disturbance of the soil profile, structure through the land clearing, leveling and compaction processes;
- Potential for soil erosion within cleared areas;
- Potential avifauna collision risk and electrocutions with the overhead powerlines (this will be assessed through a specialist avifauna study);
- Potential disturbance of faunal habitats resulting in displacement of vulnerable species; and
- Potential failure of waste management systems resulting in reduced aesthetic appeal and visual character of the environment.

2.3 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (ESMP)

An ESMP 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. The ESMP becomes the legally binding document upon approval of the ESMP and issuing of the environmental clearance certificate. Generally, environmental clearance certificates are issued for a period of three (3) years, and renewal is subject to compliance with the provisions and conditions of the environmental clearance certificate.

3 THE WAY FORWARD – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is an important part of the ESIA process. It allows you, the public and stakeholders to raise concerns or provide valuable local environmental knowledge that can benefit the assessment process as well as aid the planning process for the scoping phase of the defined assessment process. At this phase, ECC will perform the following:

- Prepare and submit the application for the environmental clearance certificate in the prescribed manner;
- Identify relevant key stakeholders, authorities, municipalities, environmental groups and I&APs;
- Conduct a public consultation process in accordance with Regulation 21 of the EMA including:
 - o Distribute the BID for the proposed Project (this document).
 - o Advertise the environmental clearance certificate application and call for registration of I&APs in three (3) national newspapers for two (2) consecutive weeks.
 - o Conduct a focus group meeting with the !Oe#Gan Traditional Authority and a public meeting with I&APs in Okombahe.
 - o Maintain the I&AP register and record all comments from I&APs and present such comments and responses (addendum report), which will be included in the scoping with impact assessment report, that shall be submitted with the application for a RoD.
- Prepare a draft scoping with impact assessment report and draft ESMP and provide same to registered I&APs for review and commentary; and
- Submit the final scoping with impact assessment report and final ESMP to the competent authority (MIME) and Environmental Commissioner (EC) for a RoD.

Your request for registration as an I&AP, as well as any comments on the BID or Project must be submitted in writing and can be emailed using the details in the contact us section below. Registration as an I&AP for the project can be completed online on ECCs website on the projects page, or by using this link:

<https://eccenvironmental.com/download/the-proposed-construction-and-operation-of-a-132-kv-powerline-from-the-nampower-omburu-substation-to-the-proposed-kokoseb-gold-mine-project-on-mining-licence-ml-274-erongo-region-namibia/>

Registration as an I&AP should be submitted on or before: 07 May 2026.

We welcome any enquiries regarding this document and its content. Please contact:
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the proposed Kokoseb Gold Mine Project on ML 274, Erongo Region**

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