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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT:

PROJECT PEPPERMINT - HYDRO FLUORINATION AND FLUORINATION PILOT-SCALED FACILITY

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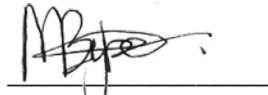
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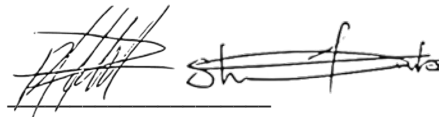
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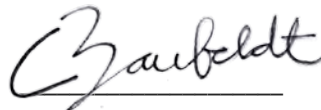
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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
ASP	Aerodynamic Separation Process
BID	background information document
CAS	Chemical Abstracts Service
DEAF	Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry
EAP	environmental assessment practitioner
ECC	Environmental Compliance Consultancy (Pty) Ltd
EIA	environmental impact assessment
Erongo RED	Erongo Regional Electricity Distributor
ESMP	environmental and social management plan
ESIA	environmental and social impact assessment
ha	hectare
I&APs	interested and affected parties
km	kilometre
kg	kilogram
Ltd.	limited
m	metre
m ²	square metre
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MIME	Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy
MoHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
MW	megawatt
Pty	proprietary
QE	Quantum Enrichment
QLE	Quantum Leap Energy (Pty) Ltd
RoD	record of decision
SMR/s	small modular reactors
ToR	terms of reference
tpa	tonnes per annum
MoF ₆	molybdenum hexafluoride
MoO ₂	molybdenum dioxide
WBM	Walvis Bay Municipality

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (Pty) Ltd (ECC) has been engaged by Quantum Leap Energy (Pty) Ltd (hereto referred to as QLE or “the Proponent”) as the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to submit an environmental clearance certificate application, conduct an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA), and develop an environmental and social management plan (ESMP) for the construction and operation of a pilot-scale facility for the hydro-fluorination and fluorination of metals, proposed to be located on Farm 58, Walvis Bay, Erongo Region (hereto referred to as the “Project” or Project Peppermint).

An environmental clearance certificate application is being compiled in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 2007 (EMA) and its associated 2012 Regulations and will be submitted to the competent authorities, being the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy (MIME), Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) and the approving authority, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for a record of decision (RoD) with regards to the proposed Project.

The 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 and social impact assessment (ESIA) process. A structured stakeholder engagement process will be followed, including the establishment of a stakeholder register, disclosure of Project information, defined public review periods for draft documentation and implementation of a grievance mechanism through which stakeholders may provide input, comments or raise concerns. All registered I&APs will be notified of key milestones, including the availability of the draft ESIA report, 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 ESIA process works;
- The public participation process and how to become involved; and
- Next steps and the way forward.

1.2 COMPANY BACKGROUND

QLE is a development-stage nuclear fuels company focused on advancing technologies across critical segments of the nuclear fuel cycle. The company was established as a subsidiary of Aerodynamic Separation Process (ASP) Isotopes Inc.

QLE's corporate mission is to provide a secure and reliable source of materials required in the nuclear fuel cycle.

1.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed activity entails the construction and operation of a pilot-scale facility (Project Peppermint) for the hydro-fluorination and fluorination of metals, located on Farm 58, near Walvis Bay, Erongo Region, Namibia. The facility forms part of QLE's phased development strategy and will be used for process development, testing and demonstration activities associated with advanced fluorination technologies. The pilot facility will initially utilise the following maximum chemical inventories at any one time:

- Anhydrous hydrogen fluoride (CAS 7664-39-3): up to 750 kg;
- Fluorine (CAS 7782-41-4): up to 12 kg;
- Molybdenum dioxide (CAS 18868-43-4): up to 5 000 kg;
- Potassium hydroxide, potassium carbonate, potassium fluoride; and

Construction activities will include site preparation, perimeter fencing, earthworks, establishment of foundations, construction of security offices and process buildings, installation of process equipment, chemical and hazardous storage facilities, utilities, workshops, laboratories, offices, internal access roads, stormwater infrastructure, temporary hazardous waste storage facilities and associated supporting infrastructure.

Operational activities will include the security and access control offices, receipt, storage, handling and processing of hazardous chemicals, hydro-fluorination and fluorination testing activities, processing of molybdenum dioxide to molybdenum hexafluoride which includes: hydro-fluorination and fluorination, particle size reduction, off-gas cleaning and desublimation; cylinder storage, product handling, laboratory testing, waste management, equipment maintenance, utility management and routine health, safety and environmental monitoring. The pilot facility will also have a dedicated scrubbing system and utilities.

Molybdenum dioxide will be transported as solids in containers via trucks. Hydrogen fluoride will be transported as a liquid in an isotainer via truck. Fluorine will be transported in cylinders via truck, as the facility progresses a fluorine cell will be installed to produce fluorine from hydrogen fluoride on site. Potassium hydroxide and potassium carbonate will be transported in solid form via truck. Potassium fluoride will be transported as a liquid in a container via truck away from the site. All transport will be conducted via appropriate and available logistics routes, which may

include the Port of Walvis Bay, as well as alternative supply points such as suppliers within Namibia or neighbouring countries (e.g. South Africa), depending on procurement and logistical considerations.

The Project will be implemented in a phased approach, with the current ESIA focusing exclusively on the pilot-scale phase, which involves the processing of molybdenum dioxide to molybdenum hexafluoride. Subsequent phases will include a second pilot phase, demonstration phase and ultimately followed by a full commercial phase. It is anticipated that uranium dioxide may be introduced and processed on-site during these later stages; however, these phases are not included in the present assessment. Each future phase will be subject to its own dedicated ESIA to evaluate potential impacts and ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements. Additional competent authorities will be identified, as necessary, for each of these phases to ensure regulatory compliance.

The location of the proposed Project in relation to towns and communal conservancies and protected areas is shown with in Figure 1.

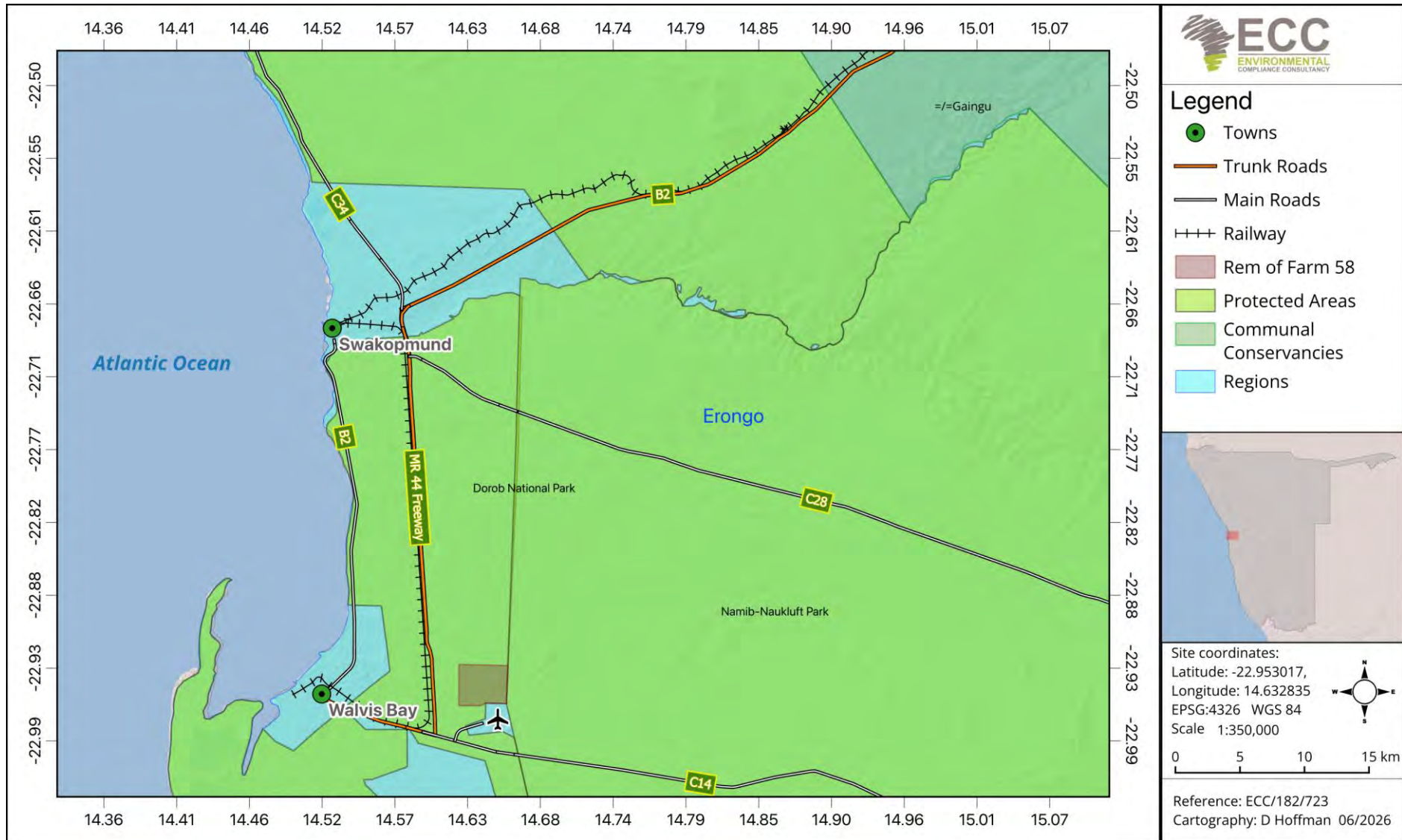


Figure 1 - Location of the proposed Project

1.4 NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed pilot facility supports Namibia's strategic objectives of industrialisation, value addition and economic diversification through the development of specialised chemical processing capabilities associated with advanced energy and industrial technologies. The proposed Project will contribute to national development priorities by promoting technology transfer, skills development, research and innovation and the generation of technical data required to support future industrial-scale developments. Furthermore, the Project aligns with Namibia's vision of expanding its industrial base and attracting investment into high-value manufacturing and processing sectors (National Planning Commission, 2025; UNCTAD, 2026).

The proposed Project is also aligned with growing global demand for advanced energy technologies and specialised fluorochemical products. Through the development and testing of fluorination and hydro fluorination processes, the facility will support technological advancement, process optimisation and the development of local technical expertise in specialised chemical processing (Quantum Leap Energy, n.d.; Government of the Republic of Namibia, 2022).

1.5 PROJECT DETAILS – CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL PHASES

1.5.1 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

The following activities are envisioned during the construction phase:

- Minimal vegetation clearing within the designated work areas;
- Establishment of internal access roads;
- Project site levelling, grading and excavation works to establish foundation for the Project infrastructure;
- Civil and structural construction;
- Construction and installation of utility infrastructure: including power, water and wastewater systems;
- Installation of stormwater infrastructure;
- Water infrastructure development via connection to NamWater municipal water supply;
- Temporary sewage facilities (e.g. chemical ablutions);
- Construction and installation of electrical power supply infrastructure via connection to ErongoRED substation;
- Installation of process, mechanical, electrical and control equipment; and
- Installation of the following facilities and infrastructure:
 - Perimeter fencing
 - Office and control room
 - Security and access control office
 - Ablution facilities
 - Parking area
 - Laboratories
 - Waste (general and hazardous) storage and handling facilities

- Chemical and hazardous storage area which will include:
 - Molybdenum dioxide storage
 - Molybdenum hexafluoride storage
 - Security and control office.

1.5.2 OPERATIONAL PHASE

Operation of the proposed Project will include the following aspects:

- Hydro-fluorination and fluorination testing activities;
- Processing of molybdenum dioxide to molybdenum hexafluoride which will include:
 - Particle size reduction;
 - Hydro-fluorination and fluorination;
 - Off-gas cleaning and desublimation; and
 - Cylinder storage.
- The processing facility will also have a dedicated scrubbing system and utilities;
- Management and maintenance of equipment and utility facilities; and
- Management of hazardous and non-hazardous waste generated during testing; and
- Laboratory and maintenance activities, including:
 - The temporary storage, handling and disposal of waste through licenced waste management contractors (service providers);
 - Disposed at the registered hazardous waste landfill site in Walvis Bay; and

1.6 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. Therefore, Project parameters, such as location, technology and associated infrastructure, are largely informed by the overarching initiative's requirements and prior strategic planning decisions. As such, assessment of alternatives is limited.

Farm 58 has been assessed as the most suitable location for the development due to its established heavy industrial character and the presence of existing hazardous chemical processing facilities with operational requirements similar to those of the proposed activity. The site's existing industrial zoning and compatibility with chemical processing operations make it a favourable location for the Project from both a technical and land-use planning perspective.

A key advantage of Farm 58 is the availability of established supporting infrastructure. The area will be connected to the municipal electrical grid and water supply network, which can readily accommodate the utility requirements of the proposed facility. The presence of these services significantly reduces the need for additional infrastructure development and facilitates the efficient integration of the Project into the existing industrial environment. Furthermore, the

established road network and access to industrial services within Farm 58 support the construction, commissioning, and operational phases of the proposed development.

The pilot facility footprint is expected to cover approximately 5 000 square metres (m²). The final extent of the overall site footprint required within Farm 58 is 14 to 18 hectares (ha). The land allocation process and consultation with the Walvis Bay Municipality (WBM) is underway. If the application process is not successful with the WBM, alternative site locations will be considered within the Arandis Townlands Boundaries or within the Arandis Constituency.

2 THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE PROCESS

The environmental clearance certificate application for the proposed Project, which is a listed activity, is being conducted by ECC and will be undertaken in terms of the EMA and its associated 2012 Regulations. The process followed for this application is set out in the flowchart in Figure 2.

The environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) 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 the review of baseline environmental and social conditions, identification of potential impacts and sensitivities, development of the terms of reference (ToR) for specialist studies (where required), identification and assessment of alternative and consultation with key stakeholders and I&APs (in progress); and
3. Assessment phase, which includes the following:
 - Impact identification, prediction and evaluation utilising ECC's methodology;
 - Assessment of feasible Project alternatives;
 - Identification and assignment of mitigation and management measures;
 - Developing monitoring and conceptual rehabilitation plans;
 - This phase culminates in the drafting of the ESIA and the draft ESMP;
 - Public review of the draft ESIA and draft ESMP; and
 - Submission of the final ESIA and ESMP to MEFT, as the approving authority, with MIME as the competent authority, for review and issuance of the RoD (to be undertaken in a subsequent phase) (future phase).

The main objectives of the assessment are to:

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

A final decision relating to the above-mentioned application will be made by MEFT as the approving authority, with MIME serving as the competent authorities.

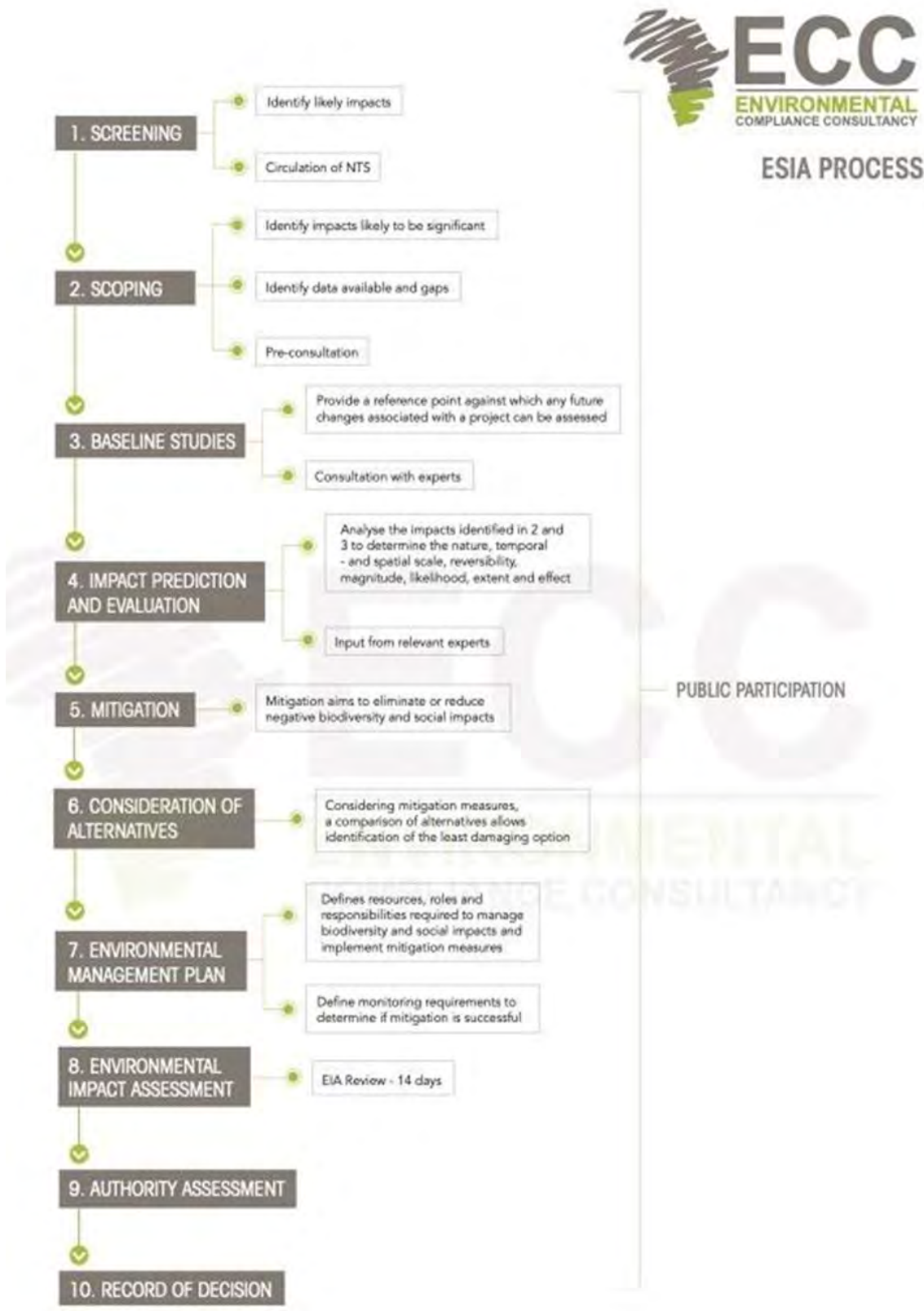


Figure 2 – Flowchart of the environmental and social impact assessment process

2.1 SCREENING

A review and screening assessment of the proposed Project was undertaken to identify the triggered listed activities in terms of the EMA and the Regulations of 2012. The findings of the screening process were used to determine the environmental assessment requirements and the need for an environmental clearance certificate for the proposed Project. The findings are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 - Listed activities triggered by the Proposed Project

LISTED ACTIVITY	ESIA SCREENING FINDING
Waste management, treatment, handling and disposal activities (2.1) The construction of facilities for waste sites, treatment of waste and disposal of waste. (2.2) Any activity entailing a scheduled process referred to in the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Ordinance, 1976. (2.3) The import, processing, use and recycling, temporary storage, transit or export of waste.	- The Project will generate i) general waste, hazardous and hydrocarbon waste streams during the construction phase and ii) general, hazardous and process-related waste streams during operations. Appropriate waste management infrastructure, including temporary waste storage areas, hazardous waste storage facilities and wastewater collection systems will be established to ensure safe handling, storage and disposal of all waste streams. - Operational activities will involve temporary storage and handling of hazardous waste and process residues generated from pilot testing activities. Hazardous waste will be managed through licenced waste management contractors (service providers) and disposed at the registered hazardous waste landfill site in Walvis Bay or as determined at the NamWaste facility outside of Arandis. - Temporary waste storage areas will be established to ensure proper collection, separation and management of general waste such as food waste, packaging materials, office consumable waste and housekeeping waste. - Sewage management will likely rely on septic tanks or on-site systems due to the current absence of municipal services at Farm 58.

LISTED ACTIVITY	ESIA SCREENING FINDING
	- A wastewater treatment, effluent discharge and disposal licence, issued in terms of the Water Resources Management Act, No. 11 of 2013 will be required. Additionally hazardous effluent waste will form part of this licence application to the Department of Water Affairs.
Mining and quarrying activities (3.1) The construction of facilities for any process or activities which requires a licence, right or other form of authorisation, and the renewal of a licence, right or other form of authorisation, in terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act), 1992.	- A processing facility is to be established for the processing of molybdenum dioxide to molybdenum hexafluoride. This includes particle size reduction, hydrofluorination, fluorination, off-gas cleaning and desublimation and cylinder storage. The facility will also have a dedicated scrubbing system and utilities.
Forestry activities (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) or any other law.	- Minimal to no vegetation clearing will be required on the proposed site to demarcate the Project footprint and work areas during the construction phase.
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. (9.2) Any process of activity which requires a permit, license or other form of authorisation, or the modification of or	- The facility will involve the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances including anhydrous hydrogen fluoride (up to 750 kg), fluorine gas (up to 12 kg) and molybdenum dioxide (up to 5 000 kg). The hazardous substances will be stored and handled in dedicated process areas and storage facilities designed in accordance with applicable safety and engineering standards.

LISTED ACTIVITY	ESIA SCREENING FINDING
changes to existing facilities for any process or activity which requires an amendment of an existing permit, license or authorisation or which requires a new permit, license or authorisation in terms of a law governing the generation or release of emissions, pollution, effluent or waste. (9.4) The storage and handling of 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 Project anticipates storing up to 50 tonnes per annum (tpa) of molybdenum dioxide on site, representing a worst-case cumulative total after approximately 12–24 months of operation. - All required permits and approvals for the transportation, storage, handling and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous waste will be obtained and maintained in accordance with the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007), the Hazardous Substances Ordinance, 1974 (Ordinance No. 14 of 1974), and any other applicable Namibian legislation. - A scrubber system will be installed in the processing plant. - A conservative worst-case assessment indicates that total on-site storage of molybdenum and associated materials would likely remain below 30 m³; however, installed tank capacity may be designed to be around or slightly above this volume.

2.2 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A formal notice must be provided to the public and key stakeholders to inform them about the Project and to invite them to register as I&APs. ECC's stakeholder engagement process follows the outlined procedure as per Section 21 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 2012), which is summarised as follows:

- Written notice must be given to all identified stakeholders, I&APs, the landowners and adjacent communities (where applicable) to the site where the activity is being undertaken or to any alternative site. For the proposed Project, this includes the following stakeholders:
 - o The general public with an interest in the Project;
 - o Companies currently operating and those planning on operating on Farm 58;
 - o Relevant ministries (i.e. MEFT, MIME and MoHSS);
 - o Neighbouring landowners (i.e. Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Dorob National Park, Namib Naukluft National Park), National Defence Force);
 - o Erongo Regional Electricity Distributors (Erongo RED);

- Municipality of Walvis Bay (WBM);
 - Walvis Bay International Airport; and
- Sites notices will be erected on the boundary of the Project site.
- Adverts will be published in the newspapers for two (2) consecutive weeks:
 - The Republikein;
 - The Namibian Sun; and
 - The Allgemeine Zeitung.
- An I&AP register will be maintained for the duration of the assessment and I&APs will be allowed to register and submit comments throughout the ESIA phase until the final ESIA and ESMP are submitted to MIME and MEFT for RoD.
- The registered I&APs, local authorities and government offices will be given seven (7) days to review the draft scoping report, draft ESIA and draft ESMP before they are finalised and submitted to the competent authority and MEFT for RoD. All comments provided throughout the process will be incorporated into an addendum report and submitted with the final documentation for a RoD.

2.3 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 Project Peppermint may include the following (additional potential impacts may be incorporated post stakeholder consultation and public participation):

- Positive social economic benefits such as job creation, skills development and local economic development during the construction and operational phases;
- Positive socio-economic impacts through Project procurement activities, payment of water and electricity tariffs, utilisation of local contractors and service providers;
- Soil and land use impacts associated with construction activities and potential contamination impacts such as hazardous materials and hydrocarbon spills, leakages, improper handling of waste and contaminants;
- Potential to unearth, damage or destroy undiscovered heritage objects/artifacts;
- Potential alteration of the baseline visual environment and changes to the visual character and sense of place of the surrounding environment;
- Potential environmental and health risks associated with the various waste streams that will be generated during construction and operational activities;
- Potential occupational health and safety impacts during construction activities;
- Potential occupational health and safety impacts to the workforce and the public regarding exposure to hazardous chemicals substances from transport, handling, storage and molybdenum processing associated with operational activities;
- Potential disturbance of faunal habitats resulting in displacement of species;
- Potential failure of waste management systems resulting in potential environmental contamination, reduced aesthetic appeal and visual character of the environment;

-
- Potential discharge of domestic/contaminated waste or wastewater during construction and operational phases potentially impacting nearby washes / drainage lines (surface water), groundwater and soil;
 - Noise impacts to sensitive receptors associated with the construction and operational phases;
 - Air quality impacts associated with the construction and operational phases;
 - Cumulative biophysical impacts associated with the proposed Project in combination with existing or planned development within the surrounding areas and shared municipal services; and
 - Cumulative socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed Project in combination with existing and planned developments within the surrounding area.

2.4 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

An ESMP will be developed for the proposed Project setting out auditable management, mitigation and control measures aimed at ensuring that Project activities are undertaken in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. The ESMP will provide the framework for the implementation of mitigation measures, environmental monitoring requirements, roles and responsibilities, reporting obligations and compliance management throughout the Project lifecycle.

The ESMP becomes the legally binding document upon issuance of the environmental clearance certificate by MEFT. 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 process further as well as aid the planning process for the scoping phase of the defined assessment process. At this phase, ECC will perform the following:

- Identify relevant key stakeholders, authorities, municipalities, environmental groups and I&APs;
- Conduct a public consultation process in accordance with Regulation 21 of the EMA 2007 as outlined in Section 2.2; and
- Prepare the draft scoping report, draft ESIA report and draft ESMP for public and stakeholder review for seven (7) days.
- Submit the final ESIA report and final ESMP to the competent authority (MIME) and MEFT 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/project-peppermint-hydro-fluorination-and-fluorination-pilot-scaled-facility/>

Registration as an I&AP should be submitted on or before: 04 September 2026.

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

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