

Environmental Assessment Scoping Report for

January 2026

*Subdivision & Street Creation over the
Remainder of Portion B of the Farm
Usakos Sud No. 93, Erongo Region.*

APP- 006958

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PROJECT DETAILS

Title	Environmental Scoping Report for the: Subdivision & Street Creation over the Remainder of Portion B of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 93, Erongo Region		
Report Status	Final		
SPC Reference	W/23059		
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Mr Ronald Michael Thom hereinafter referred to as the proponent intends to undertake the following activities:

- **Subdivision of Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 into “Portion A” and the Remainder;**
- **Registration of a 15m wide Right of Way Servitude over the Remainder of Portion B of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 93 in favor of “Portion A”.**

The above development triggers listed activities in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012).

As such the proponent appointed Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) to undertake an independent Environmental Assessment (EA) in order to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the above activities. The competent authority is the Ministry of Environment and Tourism: Department of Environmental Affairs (MET: DEA).

Project Description

The Proponent intends to subdivide Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 into Portion A/65 and the Remainder. The proposed subdivision will enable the sale of the Remainder to a prospective buyer interested in establishing a nature residential estate, while Portion A/65 will be retained and utilised by the registered owner, Mr. Thom, and his family as a family farm and a recreational retreat away from urban life.

Currently, Portion 65 is undeveloped and not used for economic or agricultural purposes, representing untapped potential for productive land use. Subdivision will ensure more effective and sustainable utilisation of the land. Both resulting portions, with their existing “Agriculture” zoning, are suitable for a variety of agricultural and related activities, including small-scale farming to promote food security, eco-tourism, tourism facilities, and lodging.

The proposed subdivision aims to formalise land use, improve land management, and support both residential and agricultural development opportunities while retaining the natural and recreational character of the area.

Public Participation

Communication with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed development was facilitated through the following means and in this order:

- A Background Information Document (BID) containing descriptive information about the proposed activities was compiled and sent out to all identified and registered I&APs via email on **10 October 2025**;
- Notices were placed in Namibian and the New Era newspapers dated **10 October 2025 and 17 October 2025**, briefly explaining the activity and its locality, inviting members of the public to register as I&APs (**Appendix B**); and
- A notice was fixed at the project site (see **Appendix A**);

Public consultation was carried out according to the Environmental Management Act's EIA Regulations. After the initial notification, the I&APs were given two weeks to submit their comments on the project (until **31 October 2025**). An objection letter was received indicating that neighbouring property owners were not provided with the notification letters in a timely manner. In response to this concern, the comment period has been extended to **14 November 2025** to ensure that all stakeholders have adequate opportunity to submit their inputs. The comment period will remain open until the final scoping report is submitted to MEFT.

The Draft Scoping Report was circulated from the **03 December 2025 until 31 December 2025** so that the public could review and comment on it. The overall commentary received from the public on the draft report will be documented in a comments and responses report to be included in the final report.

Conclusions and Recommendations

With reference to **Table 7**, none of the negative construction phase impacts were deemed to have a high significant impact on the environment. The construction impacts were assessed to a **Medium to Low (negative)** significance, without mitigation measures. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures in Chapter 7 as well as in the EMP, the significance of the construction phase impacts is likely to be reduced to a **Low (negative)**.

With reference to **Table 7**, none of the negative operational phase impacts were deemed to have a high significance impact on the environment. The operational impacts were assessed to a **Medium (negative)** significance, without mitigation measures. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures in Chapter 7 as well as in the EMP, the significance of the construction phase impacts is likely to be reduced to a **Low (negative)**.

It is recommended that this project be authorised because, if the proposed subdivision does not proceed, Portion 65 will remain undeveloped and underutilised. Authorising the subdivision will allow the Remainder to be developed as a nature residential estate, while Portion A/65 will continue to be managed as a family farm and recreational space.

The development is expected to generate socio-economic benefits, including small-scale employment opportunities during subdivision, land development, and potential agricultural or tourism activities. Failure to proceed would mean that the land's economic and recreational

potential remains untapped, and opportunities to enhance local livelihoods, promote sustainable land use, and contribute to the rural economy would be lost. The significance of the social impact was therefore deemed to be Medium (positive).

The “no go” alternative was thus deemed to have a High (negative) impact, as all the benefits resulting from the development would not be realised.

The significance of negative impacts can be reduced with effective and appropriate mitigation provided in this report and the EMP. If authorised, the implementation of the EMP should be included as a condition of approval.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CRR	Comments and response report
dB	Decibels
DESR	Draft Environmental Scoping Report
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EAR	Environmental Assessment Report
ECC	Environmental Clearance Certificate
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMA	Environmental Management Act
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
FESR	Final Environmental Scoping Report
GTZ	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
MET: DEA	Ministry of Environment Tourism: Department of Environmental Affairs
MURD	Ministry of Urban and Rural Development
MWTC	Ministry of Works Transport and Communication
NAMPAB	Namibia Planning Advisory Board
NPC	Namibia Planning Commission
POS	Public Open Space
PPP	Public Participation Process
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SME	Small Medium Enterprise
SPC	Stubenrauch Planning Consultants
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VMMC	Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Mr. Ronald Michael Thom hereinafter referred to as the proponent intends to undertake the following activities:

- **Subdivision of Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 into “Portion A” and the Remainder;**
- **Registration of a 15m wide Right of Way Servitude over the Remainder of Portion B of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 93 in favor of “Portion A”.**

The above are listed activities in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012).

In terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012), the following listed activities in **Table 1** were triggered by the proposed project:

Table 1: List of triggered activities identified in the EIA Regulations which apply to the proposed project

Activity description and No(s):	Description of relevant Activity	The portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity
10.1 (b) Infrastructure	The construction of Public roads.	The proposed project includes the construction of roads
10.2 (a) Infrastructure	The route determination of roads and design of associated physical infrastructure where – it is a public road.	The proposed project includes the route determination of road

The above activities will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 4. The proponent appointed Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) to undertake an independent Environmental Assessment (EA) in order to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the above activities. The competent authority is the Ministry of Environment and Tourism: Department of Environmental Affairs (MET: DEA).

The process will be undertaken in terms of the gazetted Namibian Government Notice No. 30 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (herein referred to as EIA Regulations) and the Environmental Management Act (No 7 of 2007) (herein referred to as the EMA). The EIA process will investigate if there are any potential significant bio-physical and socio-economic impacts associated with the intended activities. The EIA process would also serve to provide an opportunity for the public and key stakeholders to provide comments and participate in the process.

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION

Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 is located in the southern side of the Usakos Townlands. The portion is situated between the TransNamib railway line and the D1914 District Road connecting the southern “Agricultural” plots of Usakos with the urban area of Usakos. The portion is partially situated within the flood line of the Khan River. Please refer to below locality map (**Figure 1**).

1.3 ZONING

Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 is zoned for “Agricultural” purposes.

1.4 OWNERSHIP

According to the Deeds of Transfer No. 4759/2005, ownership of Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 vests with Ronald Michael Thom.

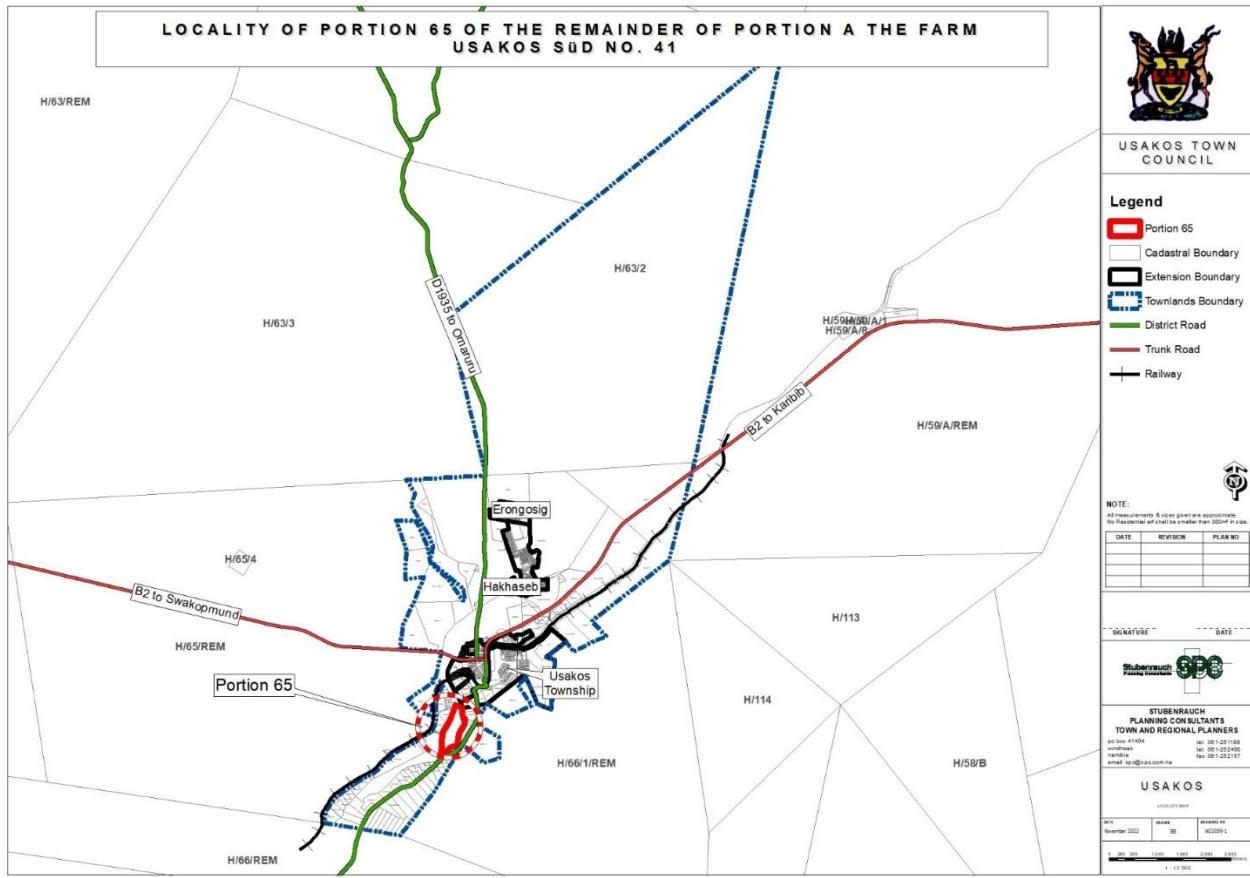


Figure 1: Locality of Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41

1.5 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SCOPE OF PROJECT

The scope of this project is limited to conducting an environmental impact assessment and applying for an Environmental Clearance Certificate for the following as indicated in section 1.1 above:

- **Subdivision of Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 into “Portion A” and the Remainder;**
- **Registration of a 15m wide Right of Way Servitude over the Remainder of Portion B of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 93 in favor of “Portion A”.**

1.6 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

In undertaking this investigation and compiling the Environmental Scoping Report, the following assumptions and limitations apply:

- Assumes the information provided by the proponent is accurate and discloses all information available.

- The limitation that no alternative except for the preferred layout plans and the ‘no-go’ option was considered during this assessment. The unique character and appeal of Usakos were however taken into consideration with the design perspective. Various layout alternatives were initially considered by the proponent, also taking terrain and environmental constraints into account, thus the current design plans being the most feasible result.

1.7 CONTENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Section 8 of the gazetted EIA Regulations requires specific content to be addressed in a Scoping / Environmental Assessment Report. **Table 2** below is an extract from the EMA and highlights the required contents of a Scoping / Environmental Assessment Report whilst assisting the reader to find the relevant section in the report.

Table 2: Contents of the Scoping / Environmental Assessment Report

Section	Description	Section of FESR/ Annexure
8 (a)	The curriculum vitae of the EAPs who prepared the report;	Refer to Annexure D
8 (b)	A description of the proposed activity;	Refer to Chapter 4
8 (c)	A description of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken and the location of the activity on the site;	Refer to Chapter 3
8 (d)	A description of the environment that may be affected by the proposed activity and the manner in which the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects of the environment may be affected by the proposed listed activity;	Refer to Chapter 3
8 (e)	An identification of laws and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the scoping report;	Refer to Chapter 2
8 (f)	Details of the public consultation process conducted in terms of regulation 7(1) in connection with the application, including	Refer to Chapter 5
	(i) the steps that were taken to notify potentially interested and affected parties of the proposed application	Refer to Chapter 5

Section	Description	Section of FESR/ Annexure
	(ii) proof that notice boards, advertisements and notices notifying potentially interested and affected parties of the proposed application have been displayed, placed or given;	Refer to Annexures A and B for site notices and advertisements respectively.
	(iii) a list of all persons, organisations and organs of state that were registered in terms of regulation 22 as interested and affected parties in relation to the application;	Refer to Annexure C
	(iv) a summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, the date of receipt of and the response of the EAP to those issues;	Refer to Annexure C
8 (g)	A description of the need and desirability of the proposed listed activity and any identified alternatives to the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity;	Refer to Chapter 4
8 (h)	A description and assessment of the significance of any significant effects, including cumulative effects, that may occur as a result of the undertaking of the activity or identified alternatives or as a result of any construction, erection or decommissioning associated with the undertaking of the proposed listed activity;	Refer to Chapter 7
8 (i)	terms of reference for the detailed assessment;	NB – Assessment of impacts are included in this EA Report
8 (j)	An environmental management plan	Refer to Annexure F

2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

There are multiple legal instruments that regulate and have a bearing on good environmental management in Namibia. **Table 3** below provides a summary of the legal instruments considered to be relevant to this development and the environmental assessment process.

Table 3: Legislation applicable to the proposed development

LEGISLATION/POLICIES	RELEVANT PROVISIONS	RELEVANCE TO PROJECT
The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia as Amended	Article 91 (c) provides for duty to guard against “the degradation and destruction of ecosystems and failure to protect the beauty and character of Namibia.” Article 95(l) deals with the “maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity” and sustainable use of the country’s natural resources.	Sustainable development should be at the forefront of this development.
Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 (EMA)	Section 2 outlines the objective of the Act and the means to achieve that. Section 3 details the principle of Environmental Management	The development should be informed by the EMA.
EIA Regulations GN 28, 29, and 30 of EMA (2012)	GN 29 Identifies and lists certain activities that cannot be undertaken without an environmental clearance certificate. GN 30 provides the regulations governing the environmental assessment (EA) process.	10.1 (b) Infrastructure 10.2 (a) Infrastructure
Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Article 1 lists the conservation of biological diversity amongst the objectives of the convention.	The project should consider the impact it will have on the biodiversity of the area.
Draft Procedures and Guidelines for conducting EIAs and compiling EMPs (2008)	Part 1, Stage 8 of the guidelines states that if a proposal is likely to affect people, certain guidelines should be considered by the proponent in the scoping process.	The EA process should incorporate the aspects outlined in the guidelines.

LEGISLATION/POLICIES	RELEVANT PROVISIONS	RELEVANCE TO PROJECT
Namibia Vision 2030	Vision 2030 states that the solitude, silence and natural beauty that many areas in Namibia provide are becoming sought after commodities and must be regarded as valuable natural assets.	Care should be taken that the development does not lead to the degradation of the natural beauty of the area.
Water Act No. 54 of 1956	Section 23(1) deals with the prohibition of pollution of underground and surface water bodies.	The pollution of water resources should be avoided during construction and operation of the development.
The Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) Policy on HIV & AIDS	MET has recently developed a policy on HIV and AIDS. In addition, it has also initiated a programme aimed at mainstreaming HIV and gender issues into environmental impact assessments.	The proponent and its contractor have to adhere to the guidelines provided to manage the aspects of HIV/AIDS. Experience with construction projects has shown that a significant risk is created when migrant construction workers interact with local communities.
Urban and Regional Planning Act 5 of 2018	The Act provides to consolidate the laws relating to urban and regional planning; to provide for a legal framework for spatial planning in Namibia; to provide for principles and standards of spatial planning; to establish the urban and regional planning board; to decentralise certain matters relating to spatial planning; to provide for the preparation, approval and review of the national spatial development framework, regional structure plans and urban structure plans; to provide for the preparation, approval, review and amendment of zoning schemes; to provide for the establishment of townships; to provide for the alteration of boundaries of approved townships, to provide for the disestablishment of approved townships; to provide for the change of name of approved townships; to provide for the subdivision and consolidation of land; to provide for the alteration,	The subdivision and consolidation of land as well as the establishment of townships is to be done in accordance with the act.

LEGISLATION/POLICIES	RELEVANT PROVISIONS	RELEVANCE TO PROJECT
	suspension and deletion of conditions relating to land; and to provide for incidental matters.	
Local Authorities Act No. 23 of 1992	The Local Authorities Act prescribes the manner in which a town or municipality should be managed by the Town or Municipal Council.	The development must comply with provisions of the Local Authorities Act.
Labour Act no. 11 of 2007	Chapter 2 details the fundamental rights and protections. Chapter 3 deals with the basic conditions of employment.	Given the employment opportunities presented by the development, compliance with the labour law is essential.
National Heritage Act No. 27 of 2004	The Act is aimed at protecting, conserving and registering places and objects of heritage significance.	All protected heritage resources (e.g. human remains etc.) discovered, need to be reported immediately to the National Heritage Council (NHC) and require a permit from the NHC before they may be relocated.
Roads Ordinance 17 of 1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3.1 deals with width of proclaimed roads and road reserve boundaries Section 27.1 is concerned with the control of traffic on urban trunk and main roads Section 36.1 regulates rails, tracks, bridges, wires, cables, subways or culverts across or under proclaimed roads Section 37.1 deals with Infringements and obstructions on and interference with proclaimed roads. 	Adhere to all applicable provisions of the Roads Ordinance.
Public and Environmental Health Act of 2015	This Act (GG 5740) provides a framework for a structured uniform public and environmental health system in Namibia. It covers notification, prevention and control of diseases and sexually transmitted	Contractors and users of the proposed development are to comply with these legal requirements.

LEGISLATION/POLICIES	RELEVANT PROVISIONS	RELEVANCE TO PROJECT
	infections; maternal, ante-natal and neo-natal care; water and food supplies; infant nutrition; waste management; health nuisances; public and environmental health planning and reporting. It repeals the Public Health Act 36 of 1919 (SA GG 979).	
Nature Conservation Ordinance no. 4 of 1975	Chapter 6 provides for legislation regarding the protection of indigenous plants	Indigenous and protected plants must be managed within the legal confines.
Water Quality Guidelines for Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment	Details specific quantities in terms of water quality determinants, which wastewater should be treated to before being discharged into the environment (see Appendix B).	These guidelines are to be applied when dealing with water and waste treatment
Environmental Assessment Policy of Namibia (1995)	The Policy seeks to ensure that the environmental consequences of development projects and policies are considered, understood and incorporated into the planning process, and that the term ENVIRONMENT is broadly interpreted to include biophysical, social, economic, cultural, historical and political components.	This EIA considers this term of Environment.
Water Resources Management Act No. 11 of 2013	Part 12 deals with the control and protection of groundwater Part 13 deals with water pollution control	The pollution of water resources should be avoided during construction and operation of the development. Should water need to be abstracted, a water abstraction permit will be required from the Ministry of Water, Agriculture and Forestry.
Forest Act 12 of 2001 and Forest Regulations of 2015	To provide for the establishment of a Forestry Council and the appointment of certain officials; to	Protected tree and plant species as per the Forest Act No 12 of 2001 and Forest Regulations of 2015 may

LEGISLATION/POLICIES	RELEVANT PROVISIONS	RELEVANCE TO PROJECT
	<p>consolidate the laws relating to the management and use of forests and forest produce; to provide for the protection of the environment and the control and management of forest fires; to repeal the Preservation of Bees and Honey Proclamation, 1923 (Proclamation No. 1 of 1923), Preservation of Trees and Forests Ordinance, 1952 (Ordinance No. 37 of 1952) and the Forest Act, 1968 (Act No. 72 of 1968); and to deal with incidental matters.</p>	<p>not be removed without a permit from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.</p>
<p>Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Ordinance No 45 of 1965</p>	<p>Part II - control of noxious or offensive gases,</p> <p>Part III - atmospheric pollution by smoke,</p> <p>Part IV - dust control, and</p> <p>Part V - air pollution by fumes emitted by vehicles.</p>	<p>The development should consider the provisions outlined in the act. The proponent should apply for an Air Emissions permit from the Ministry of Health and Social Services (if needed).</p>

LEGISLATION/POLICIES	RELEVANT PROVISIONS	RELEVANCE TO PROJECT
Hazardous Substance Ordinance 14 of 1974	<p>To provide for the control of substances which may cause injury or ill-health to or death of human beings by reason of their toxic, corrosive, irritant, strongly sensitizing or flammable nature or the generation of pressure thereby in certain circumstances; to provide for the division of such substances into groups in relation to the degree of danger; to provide for the prohibition and control of the importation, manufacture, sale, use, operation, application, modification, disposal or dumping of such substances; and to provide for matters connected therewith.</p>	<p>The handling, usage and storage of hazardous substances on site should be carefully controlled according to this Ordinance.</p>
Soil Conservation Act No 76 of 1969	<p>Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the combating and prevention of soil erosion, the conservation, improvement and manner of use of the soil and vegetation and the protection of the water sources</p>	<p>The proposed activity should ensure that soil erosion and soil pollution is avoided during construction and operation.</p>

This EIA process will be undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations. A Flow Diagram (refer to **Figure 2** below) provides an outline of the EIA process to be followed.

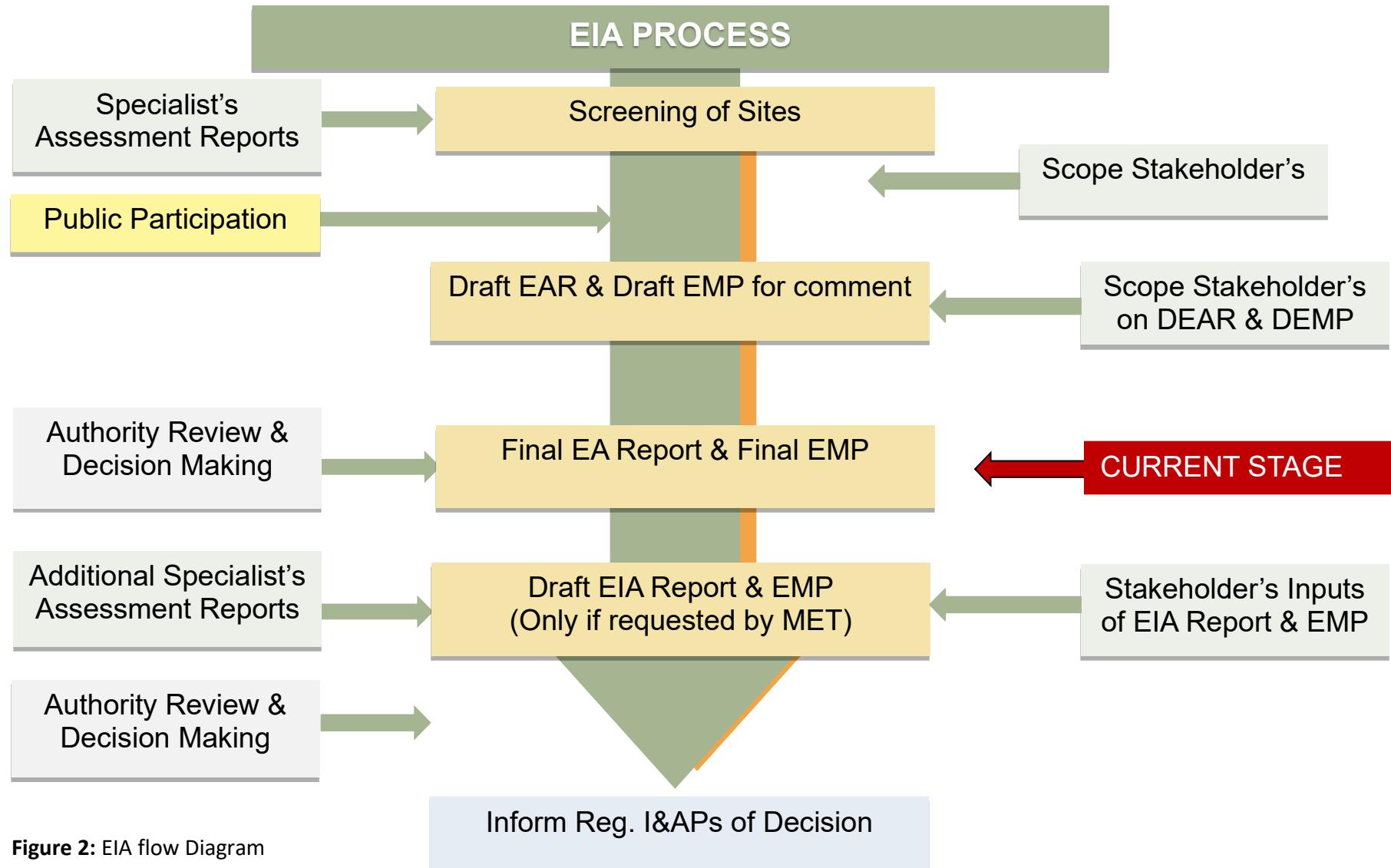


Figure 2: EIA flow Diagram

3 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE DESCRIPTION

3.1 SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

3.1.1 Socio-Economic Context

The statistics shown in **Table 4** below are derived from the 2023 Namibia Population and Housing Census (Namibia Statistics Agency, 2023), and presented from a local and regional perspective.

Table 4: Statistics of Usakos and Erongo Region (Namibia Statistics Agency, 2023)

ERONGO REGION	
ATTRIBUTE	INDICATOR
Population	240 206
Females	117 884
Males	122 322
Population under 5 years	11.0%
Population aged 5 to 14 years	18.6%
Population aged 15 to 34 years	36.4%
Population aged 35 to 59 years	28.3%
Population aged 60 years and above	5.8%
Female: male ratio	100:104
Literacy rate of 15 years old and above	95.4%
People above 15 years who have never attended school	4.4%
People above 15 years who are currently attending school	15.6%
People above 15 years who have left school	78.1%
Income from pension	7.7%
Income from business and non-farming activities	7.5%
Income from farming	0.7%
Wages and salaries	68.7%
USAKOS	
ATTRIBUTE	INDICATOR
Population	5 094
Males	2 446
Females	2 648

3.1.2 Archaeological and Heritage Context

The subject site is not known to be of any historical significance. No significant archaeological and heritage sites are known to be located within the proposed development area.

3.2 BIO-PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3.2.1 Climate

The average annual temperature in the Usakos area ranges between 20°C and 21°C, as shown in **Figure 3** below. The average maximum temperature for Usakos varies between less than 32°C and 34°C, while the average minimum temperature is typically between 6°C and 8°C..

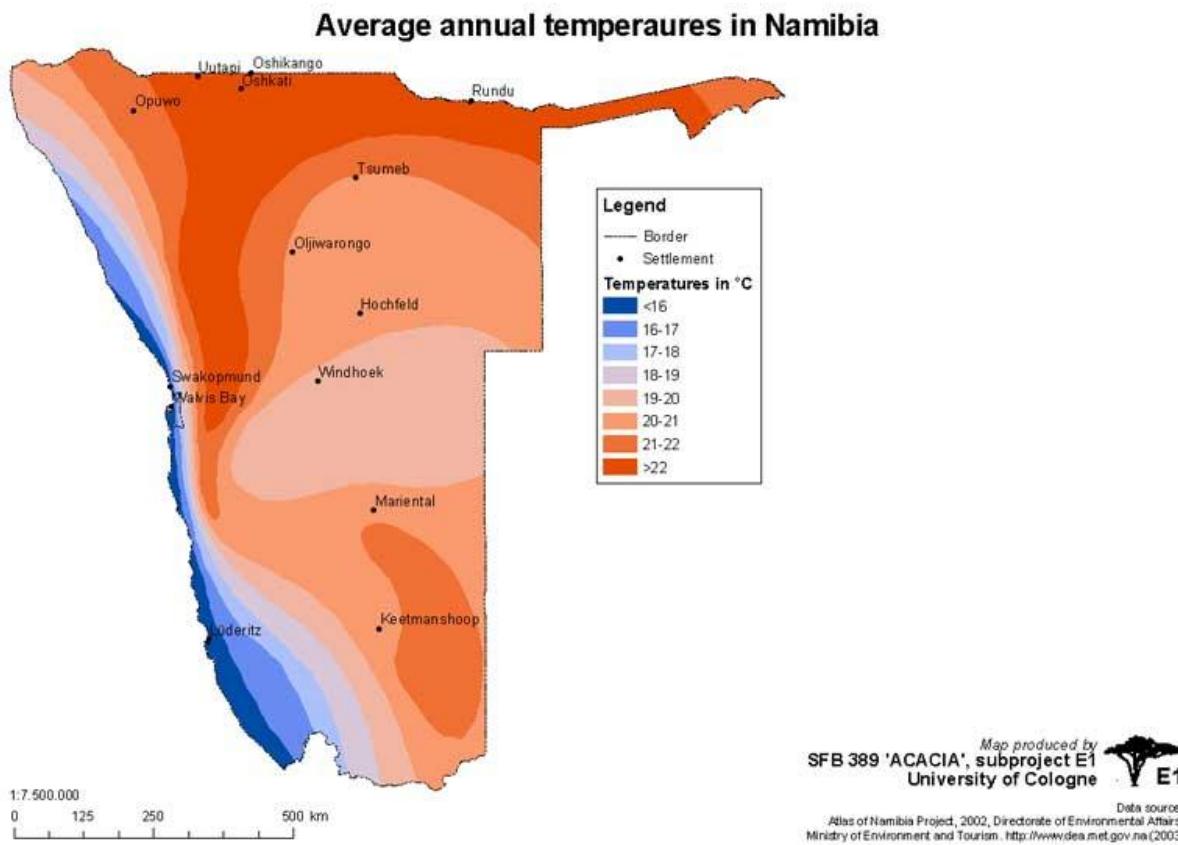


Figure 3: Annual average temperature (http://www.uni-koeln.de/sfb389/e/e1/download/atlas_namibia/e1_download_climate_e.htm#temperature_annual)

The average annual rainfall for the Usakos area ranges between 200 mm and 250 mm per year, as depicted in **Figure 4** below

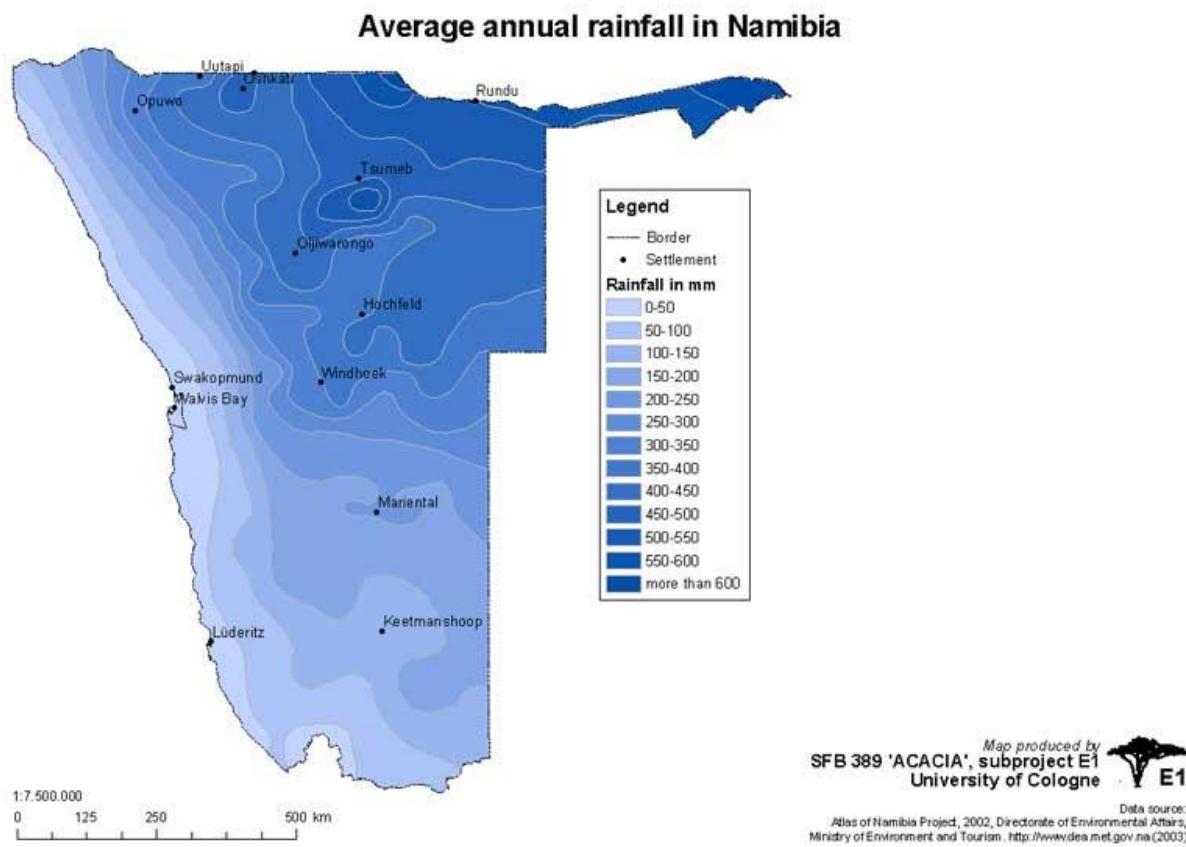


Figure 4: Average annual Rainfall (http://www.uni-koeln.de/sfb389/e/e1/download/atlas_namibia/pics/climate/rainfall-annual.jpg)

3.2.2 Topography, Geology and Soils

The Usakos area is characterised predominantly by the Damara Supergroup and Gariep Complex, which date back approximately 850 to 600 million years, as shown in **Figure 5** below. The prevailing soil types in the area are schists, reflecting the geological origin and composition.

Geology of Namibia I: major geological divisions

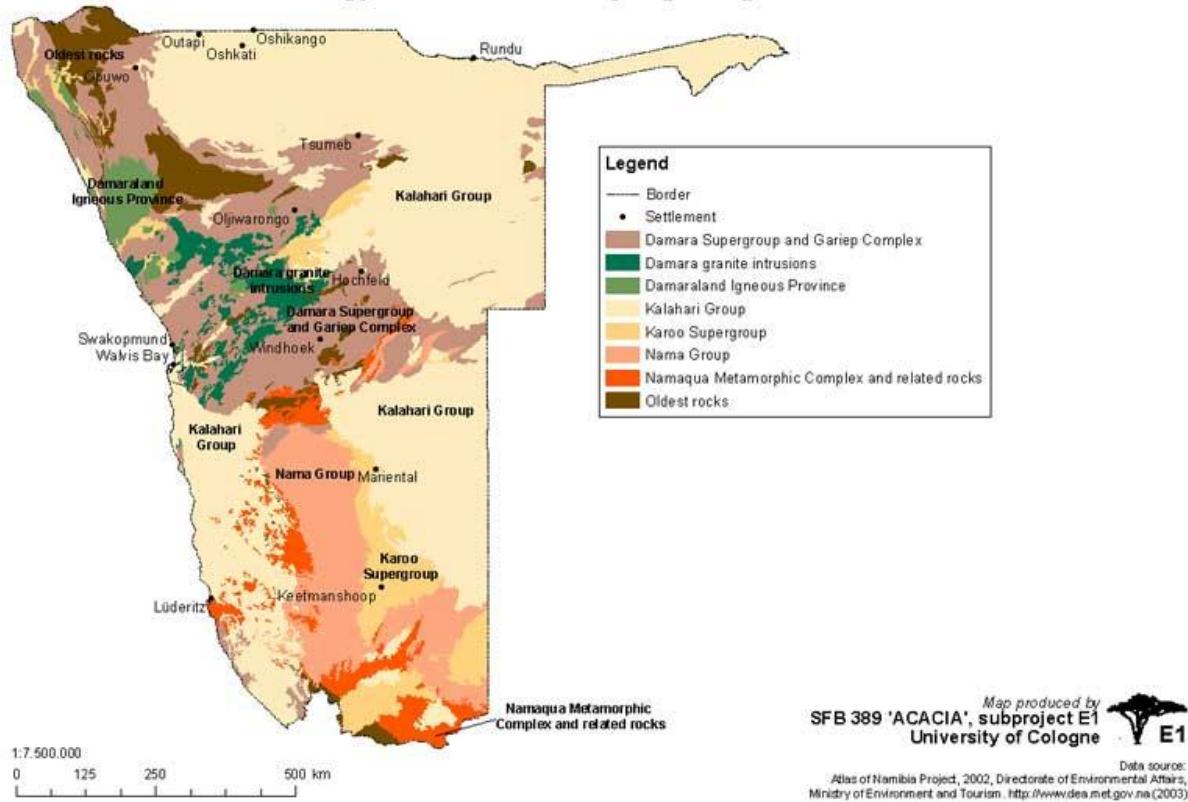


Figure 5: Geology of Namibia (http://www.uni-koeln.de/sfb389/e/e1/download/atlas_namibia/pics/physical/geology.jpg)

3.2.3 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The Usakos area is influenced by the Swakop River, a major ephemeral river system in the Erongo Region (Figure 6). The Swakop River originates in the central highlands and flows westwards through Usakos and Karibib before eventually discharging into the Atlantic Ocean near Swakopmund. Although the river flows only during episodic rainfall events, its extensive alluvial deposits form an important groundwater recharge zone.

Usakos falls within the Central Namib hydrogeological region, where groundwater is the primary water source for domestic use, small-scale agriculture, and commercial activities. Boreholes in and around the town abstract groundwater from the Swakop River's alluvial aquifer, which provides a reliable—though limited—water supply. Water abstraction and management within this catchment fall under the oversight of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, which regulates borehole use and ensures sustainable groundwater extraction in the area.

The hydrological significance of the Swakop River system makes it a key environmental feature for Usakos, supporting local livelihoods, ecosystems, and long-term water security.

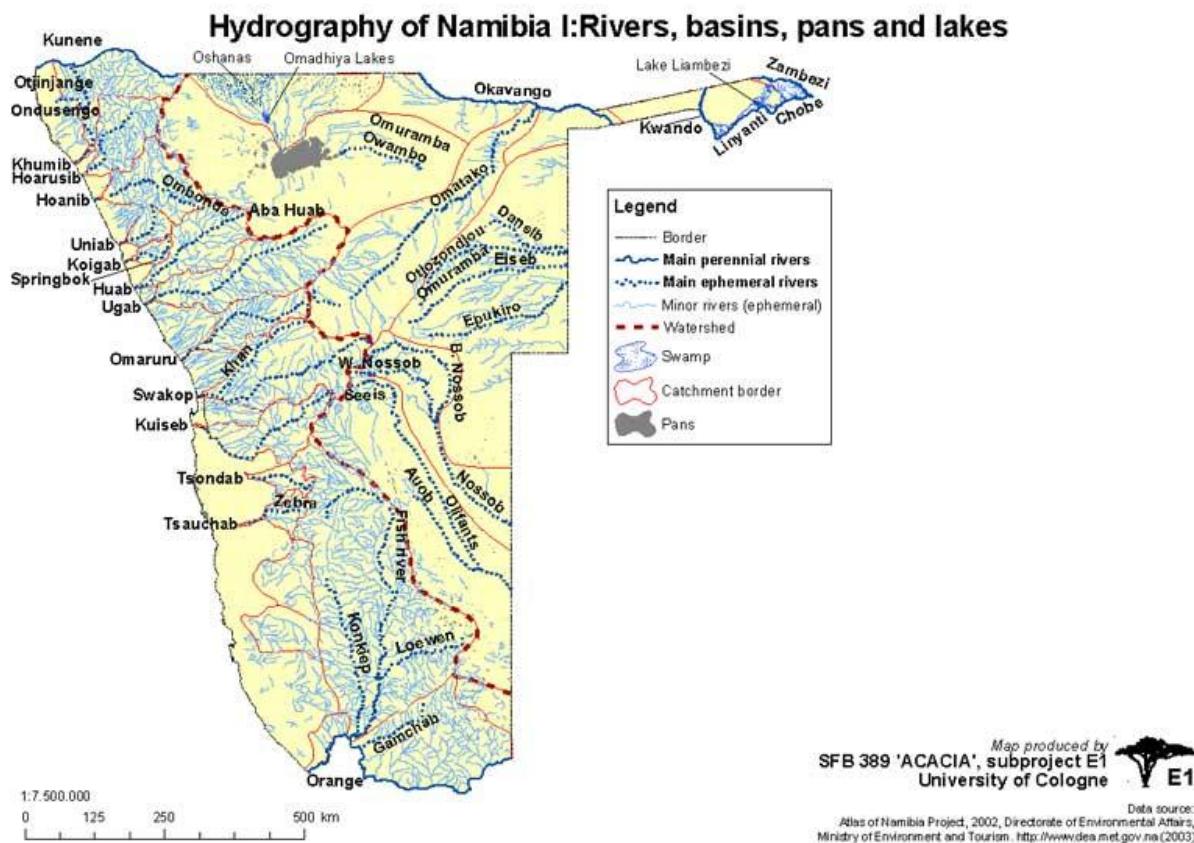


Figure 6: Hydrography of Namibia: Rivers, basins, pans and lakes (http://www.uni-koeln.de/sfb389/e/e1/download/atlas_namibia/pics/physical/hydrography_1.jpg)

3.3 TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY

3.3.1 Flora and Fauna

Usakos falls within the Nama Karoo Biome (Mendelsohn, Jarvis, Roberts, *et al.*, 2002). This biome is typically characterised by dwarf shrublands and hardy, drought-tolerant vegetation adapted to the region's low and variable rainfall. The vegetation on the subject site is generally sparse but present, consisting mainly of shrubs and grasses suited to the semi-arid conditions of the central Namib transitional zone.

Although vegetation density is lower compared to the savanna regions, it remains important to ensure that no protected plant species occur within the proposed development footprint. Should any protected species be identified on site, they must be integrated into the proposed layout or otherwise may not be removed without a valid permit issued by the local Department of Forestry.

Biomes in Namibia

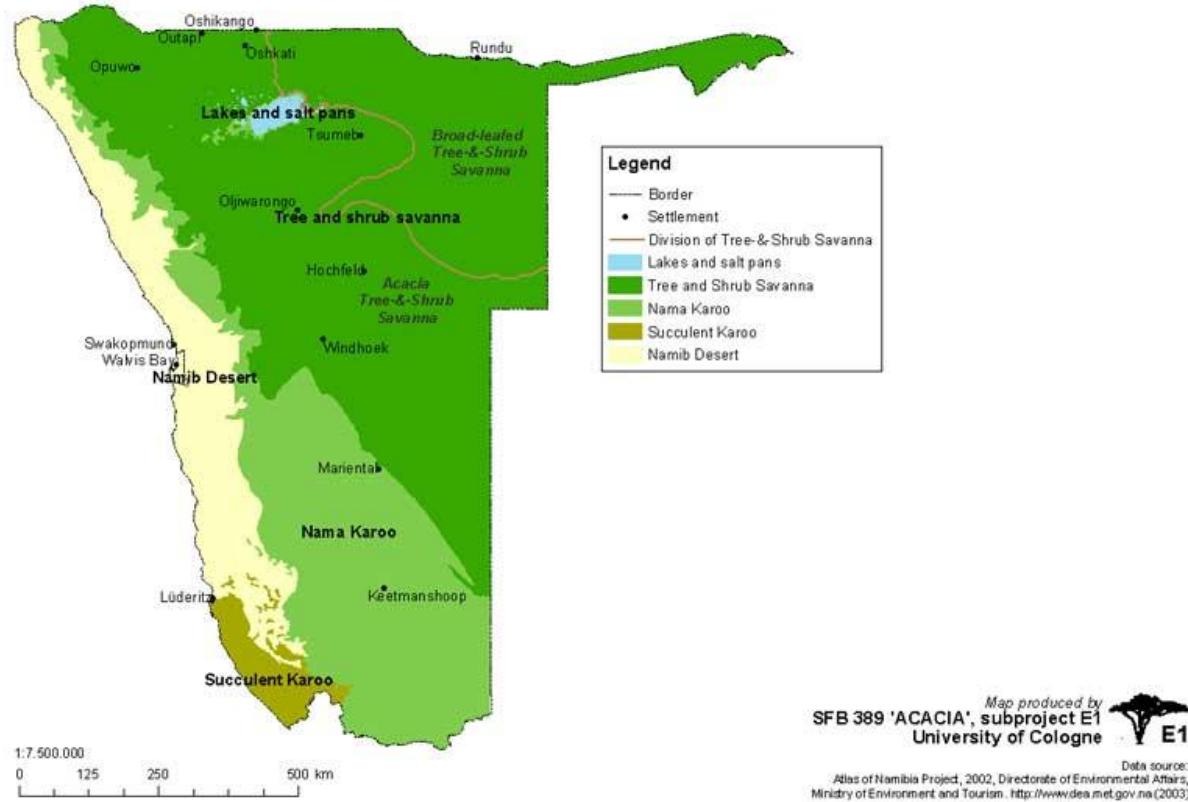


Figure 7: Biomes of Namibia (http://www.uni-koeln.de/sfb389/e/e1/download/atlas_namibia/pics/living_resources/biomes.jpg)

4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4.1 PROJECT COMPONENTS

As previously outlined in Section 1.1, the proposed project involves the following activities:

- **Subdivision of Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 into “Portion A” and the Remainder;**
- **Registration of a 15m wide Right of Way Servitude over the Remainder of Portion B of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 93 in favor of “Portion A”.**

These components will be described in further detail below, in terms of their design, layout and footprint.

4.2 ALTERNATIVES

As pointed out in Section 1.4 above various layout alternatives were initially considered by the proponent, ultimately resulting in the final layouts. As such only the no-go alternative will be discussed below.

4.2.1 No – Go Alternative

The no-go alternative represents the baseline for assessing all development options. Under this scenario, Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 would remain vacant and undeveloped, as it currently contributes neither economic nor agricultural value to the owner or surrounding community. The proposed subdivision would therefore not proceed, preventing the prospective buyer from developing a nature-based residential estate and limiting the Thom family from utilising Portion A/65 as a family farm and retreat.

Retaining the status quo would also mean that land zoned for “Agriculture” remains underutilised, with potential opportunities for food production, tourism facilities, and rural economic activity unrealised. As such, the no-go alternative would result in continued stagnation and is not considered the preferred option.

4.3 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

It is the intention of our client to subdivide Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 into Portion A/65 and the Remainder. The proposed subdivision will enable our client to sell the remainder of the subdivided portion to a prospective buyer who wish to venture into a nature residential estate. While the subdivided Portion A/65 will be utilised and maintained by the registered owner and his family (Mr. Thom) as a family farm and a breakaway space from the busy urban life.

Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 is currently undeveloped and as such not used for economic gain to the owners, or agricultural gain to the residents of the surrounding area. The owner thus wishes to subdivide Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 to ensure the effective use of the land.

The two smaller agricultural portions with the current zoning of “Agriculture” can cater for a variety of agricultural activities, such as promoting food security, tourism facilities, lodging, etc.

4.3.1 The Subdivision of Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the farm Usakos Sud No. 41

The Proponent intends to subdivide Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 into Portion A and the Remainder. To enable the sale of the Remainder.

Figure 8: Subdivision of Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the farm Usakos Sud No. 41

Ptn No	±Area (Ha)	Zoning
Ptn A/65	9.25	Agriculture
Ptn RE/65	18.98	Agriculture
TOTAL (Portion 65)	28.24	Agriculture

The Khan River that runs through Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the farm Usakos Sud No. 41 is an ephemeral river, that flows very occasionally, hence majority of the year it can be seen as a dry river.

The newly created “Portion A/65” falls within the floodline of the Khan River, thus creating limited land to build permanent structures. Due to the fact that the river is dry most of the year, it is recommended that majority of the portion be used for hunting, hiking and passive recreational activities such as picnics and braai spots that will not cause damages to the natural environment. This portion will also remain in the family whereby limited permanent structure will be constructed.

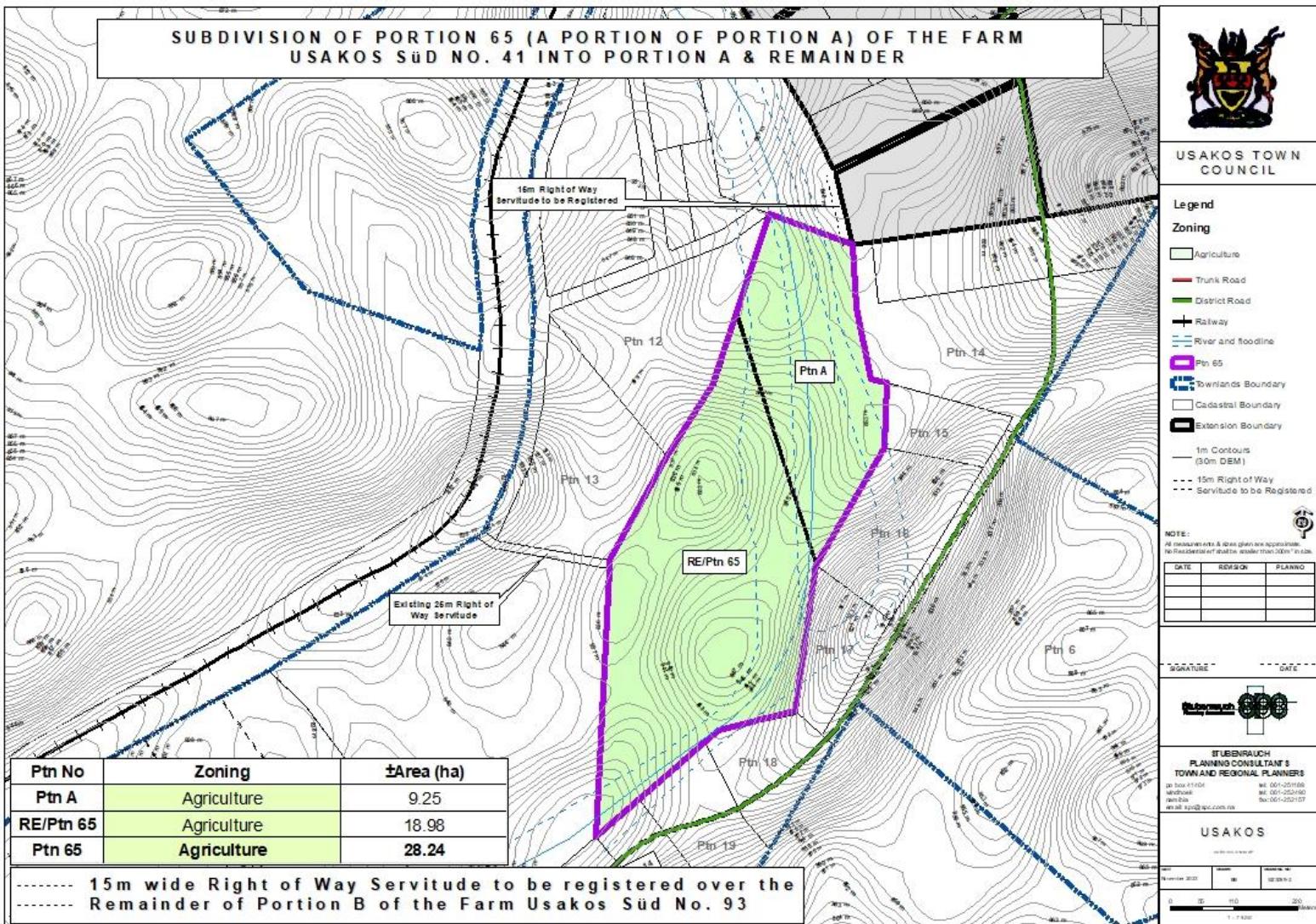


Figure 9: The subdivision of Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 into “Portion A” and the Remainder

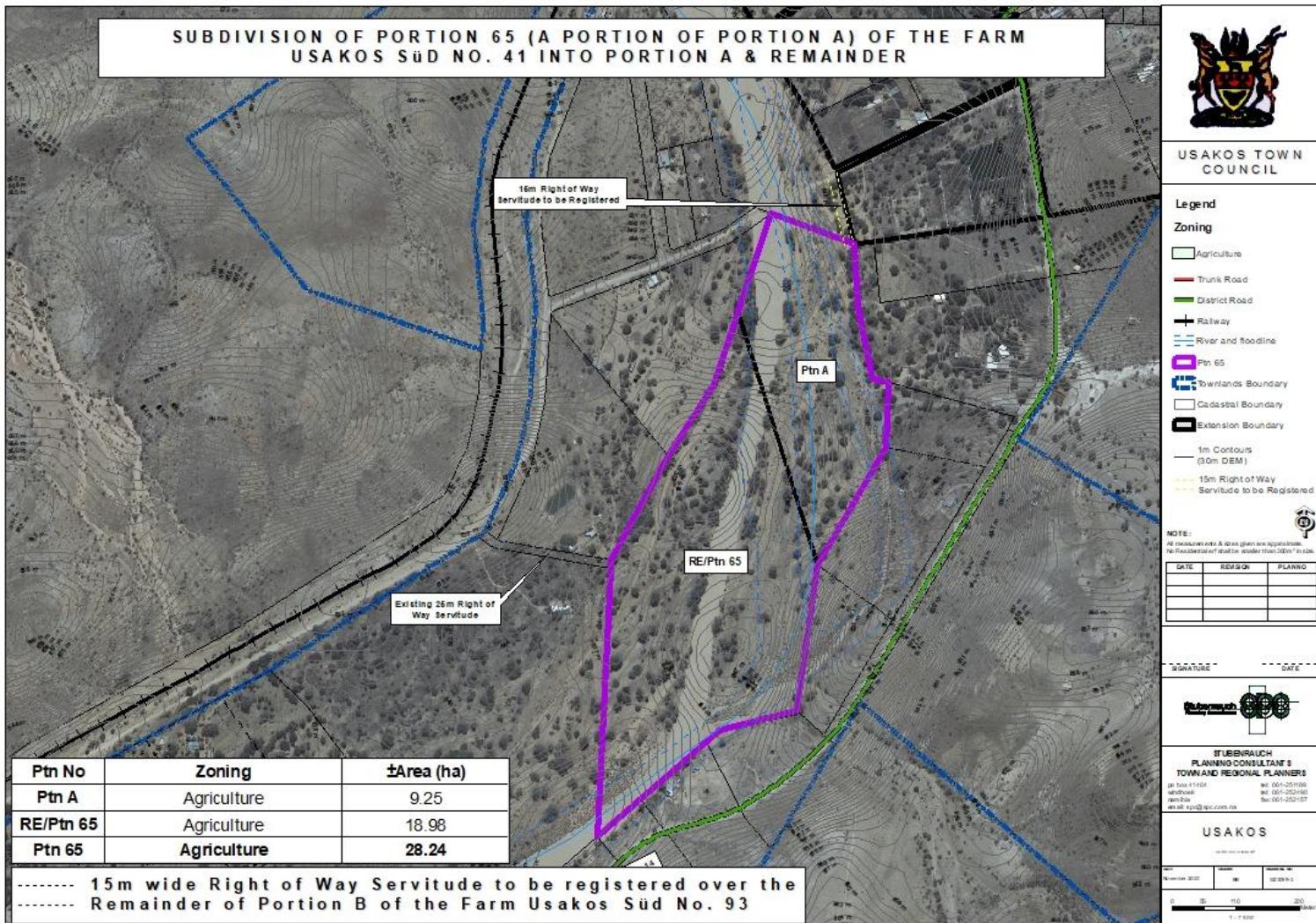


Figure 10: The Aerial image for the subdivision of Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 into "Portion A" and the Remainder

4.3.2 Registration of a 15m wide Right of Way Servitude over the Remainder of Portion B of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 93 in favor of “Portion A”.

A 15m Right of Way Servitude is to be registered over the Remainder of Portion B of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 93 in favor of subdivided Portion A which connects to Portion 93/B/33 (Khan Street) leading into the urban area of Usakos.

4.3.3 Engineering Services and Access Provision

➤ *Water, Sewerage and Electricity*

It is the responsibility of the new owners of the newly created portions (Portions A/65 and Remainder) to connect to the municipal reticulation systems, manage sewerage through septic tanks in accordance with the Engineering Department of the Usakos Town Council and outside the 50m buffer zone to prevent groundwater pollution, and to self-supply electricity by means of solar panels or alternatively connect to the existing ErongoRed electricity network at their own cost..

➤ *Roads and access*

Currently Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 gains access from an existing 25 meter Right of Way Servitude that is connected to the existing road that falls within the 60m railway reserve of TransNamib on the northern side of the portion. The Remainder of the Portion 65 (a portion of Portion A) of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 41 will continue to gain access from this existing Right of Way Servitude.

A 15m Right of Way Servitude is to be registered over the Remainder of Portion B of the Farm Usakos Sud No. 93 in favor of subdivided Portion A which connects to Portion 93/B/33 (Khan Street) leading into the urban area of Usakos.

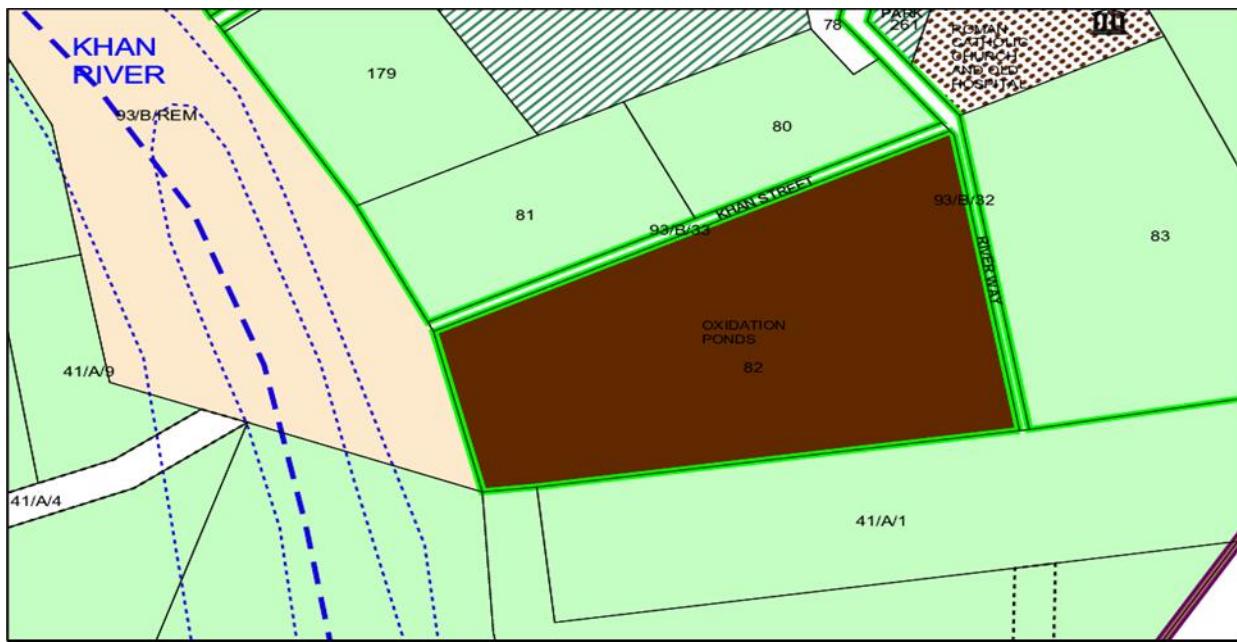


Figure 11: Access Map

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

5.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

In terms of Section 21 of the EIA Regulations a call for open consultation with all I&APs at defined stages of the EIA process is required. This entails participatory consultation with members of the public by providing an opportunity to comment on the proposed project. Public Participation has thus incorporated the requirements of Namibia's legislation, but also takes account of international guidelines, including Southern African Development Community (SADC) guidelines and the Namibian EIA Regulations. Public participation in this project has been undertaken to meet the specific requirements in accordance with the international best practice. Please see **Table 5** below for the activities undertaken as part of the public participation process. The I&APs were given time to comment from **10 October 2025 to 14 November 2025**.

Table 5: Table of Public Participation Activities

ACTIVITY	REMARKS
Placement of site notice/poster in Usakos	See Annexure A
Placing advertisements in two newspapers namely the Namibian and the New Era (10 October 2025 and 17 October 2025)	See Annexure B
Written notice to surrounding property owners and Interested and Affected Parties via Email (10 October 2025)	See Annexure C

5.1.1 Summary of Public Comments

Concerns regarding the proposed township establishments were raised by the owner of Portion 14 Usakos, Mr McDonald a formal submission via email. The objection highlights risks of flooding, erosion, and environmental harm due to inadequate assessments and short consultation periods. It calls for a halt to approval until thorough hydrological studies are completed, proper legal authorization is obtained, and affected parties are adequately consulted, advocating for postponement or denial to ensure safety and environmental protection.

The comments were lodged through a written email correspondence addressed to Stubenrauch Planning Consultants. A copy of the full letter and the formal response to this letter is attached as **Annexure C**.

5.1.2 Environmental Assessment Phase 2

The second phase of the PPP involved the lodging of the Draft Environmental Scoping Report (DESR) to all registered I&APs for comment. Registered and potential I&APs was informed of the availability of the DESR for public comment *via* a letter/email dated **03 December 2025**. An Executive Summary of the DESR was also included in the letters to the registered I&APs. I&APs had until **31 December 2025** to submit comments or raise any issues or concerns they may have with regard to the proposed project.

6 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the assessment methodology utilized in determining the significance of the construction and operational impacts of the proposed project, and where applicable the possible alternatives, on the biophysical and socio-economic environment.

Assessment of predicted significance of impacts for a proposed development is by its nature, inherently uncertain – environmental assessment is thus an imprecise science. To deal with such uncertainty in a comparable manner, a standardised and internationally recognised methodology has been developed. Such accepted methodology is applied in this study to assess the significance of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development, outlined as follows in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Impact Assessment Criteria

CRITERIA	CATEGORY
	Impact
Nature Describe type of effect	Positive: The activity will have a social / economical / environmental benefit. Neutral: The activity will have no effect Negative: The activity will have a social / economical / environmental harmful effect
Extent Describe the scale of the impact	Site Specific: Expanding only as far as the activity itself (onsite) Small: restricted to the site's immediate environment within 1 km of the site (limited) Medium: Within 5 km of the site (local) Large: Beyond 5 km of the site (regional)
Duration Predicts the lifetime of the impact.	Temporary: < 1 year (not including construction) Short-term: 1 – 5 years Medium term: 5 – 15 years Long-term: >15 years (Impact will stop after the operational or running life of the activity, either due to natural course or by human interference) Permanent: Impact will be where mitigation or moderation by natural course or by human interference will not occur in a particular means or in a particular time period that the impact can be considered temporary
Intensity Describe the magnitude (scale/size) of the Impact	Zero: Social and/or natural functions and/ or processes remain unaltered Very low: Affects the environment in such a way that natural and/or social functions/processes are not affected Low: Natural and/or social functions/processes are slightly altered

CRITERIA	CATEGORY
	<p>Medium: Natural and/or social functions/processes are notably altered in a modified way</p> <p>High: Natural and/or social functions/processes are severely altered and may temporarily or permanently cease</p>
<p>Probability of occurrence Describe the probability of the Impact <u>actually</u> occurring</p>	<p>Improbable: Not at all likely</p> <p>Probable: Distinctive possibility</p> <p>Highly probable: Most likely to happen</p> <p>Definite: Impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures</p>
<p>Degree of Confidence in predictions State the degree of confidence in predictions based on availability of information and specialist knowledge</p>	<p>Unsure/Low: Little confidence regarding information available (<40%)</p> <p>Probable/Med: Moderate confidence regarding information available (40-80%)</p> <p>Definite/High: Great confidence regarding information available (>80%)</p>
<p>Significance Rating The impact on each component is determined by a combination of the above criteria.</p>	<p>Neutral: A potential concern which was found to have no impact when evaluated</p> <p>Very low: Impacts will be site specific and temporary with no mitigation necessary.</p> <p>Low: The impacts will have a minor influence on the proposed development and/or environment. These impacts require some thought to adjustment of the project design where achievable, or alternative mitigation measures</p> <p>Medium: Impacts will be experienced in the local and surrounding areas for the life span of the development and may result in long term changes. The impact can be lessened or improved by an amendment in the project design or implementation of effective mitigation measures.</p> <p>High: Impacts have a high magnitude and will be experienced regionally for at least the life span of the development, or will be irreversible. The impacts could have the no-go proposition on portions of the development in spite of any mitigation measures that could be implemented.</p>

*NOTE: Where applicable, the magnitude of the impact has to be related to the relevant standard (threshold value specified and source referenced). The magnitude of impact is based on specialist knowledge of that particular field.

For each impact, the EXTENT (spatial scale), MAGNITUDE (size or degree scale) and DURATION (time scale) are described. These criteria are used to ascertain the SIGNIFICANCE of the impact, firstly in the case of no mitigation and then with the most effective mitigation measure(s) in place. The decision as to which combination of alternatives and mitigation measures to apply lies with the proponent, and their acceptance and approval ultimately with the relevant environmental authority.

The SIGNIFICANCE of an impact is derived by taking into account the temporal and spatial scales and magnitude. Such significance is also informed by the context of the impact, i.e. the character and identity of the receptor of the impact.

6.1 MITIGATION MEASURES

There is a mitigation hierarchy of actions which can be undertaken to respond to any proposed project or activity (See **Figure 11** below). These cover avoidance, minimization, restoration and compensation. It is possible and considered sought after to enhance the environment by ensuring that positive gains are included in the proposed activity or project. If negative impacts occur, then the hierarchy indicates the following steps.



Impact avoidance: This step is most effective when applied at an early stage of project planning. It can be achieved by:

- not undertaking certain projects or elements that could result in adverse impacts;
- avoiding areas that are environmentally sensitive; and
- putting in place preventative measures to stop adverse impacts from occurring.

Impact minimization: This step is usually taken during impact identification and prediction to limit or reduce the degree, extent, magnitude, or duration of adverse impacts. It can be achieved by:

- scaling down or relocating the proposal;
- redesigning elements of the project; and
- taking supplementary measures to manage the impacts.

Restoration: This step is taken to improve degraded or removed ecosystems following exposure to impacts that cannot be completely avoided or minimised. Restoration tries to return an area to the original ecosystem that occurred before impacts. Restoration is frequently needed towards the end of a project's life cycle but may be possible in some areas during operation.

Figure 12: Mitigation Hierarchy

Impact compensation: This step is usually applied to remedy unavoidable residual adverse impacts. It can be achieved by:

- rehabilitation of the affected site or environment, for example, by habitat enhancement;
- restoration of the affected site or environment to its previous state or better; and
- replacement of the same resource values at another location (offset), for example, by wetland engineering to provide an equivalent area to that lost to drainage or infill.

7 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND POSSIBLE MITIGATION MEASURES

7.1 INTRODUCTION

This Chapter describes the potential impacts on the biophysical and socio-economic environments, which may occur due to the proposed activities described in Chapter 4. These include potential impacts, which may arise during the operation of the proposed development (i.e. long-term impacts) as well as the potential construction related impacts (i.e. short to medium term). The assessment of potential impacts will help to inform and confirm the selection of the preferred layouts to be submitted to MET: DEAF for consideration. In turn, MET: DEA's decision on the environmental acceptability of the proposed project and the setting of conditions of authorisation (should the project be authorised) will be informed by this chapter, amongst other information, contained in this EA Report.

The baseline and potential impacts that could result from the proposed development are described and assessed with potential mitigation measures recommended. Finally, comment is provided on the potential cumulative impacts which could result should this development, and others like it in the area, be approved.

7.2 PLANNING AND DESIGN PHASE IMPACTS

During the planning and design phase consideration should be given on aspects such as impacts of traffic and existing municipal infrastructure.

7.2.1 Traffic Impacts

The intended development may have an impact on traffic in the subject area as the site is currently undeveloped. Once the proposed site is developed traffic in the area is expected to increase.

7.2.2 Existing Service Infrastructure Impacts

The proposed development is to be provided with the necessary engineering services inclusive of water, sewage and electricity. The bulk municipal services as required for the development must be developed in accordance with the requirements of the local authority. Once the site becomes developed the increasing demand on the existing services would have to be determined and additional services would have to be provided for if needed.

7.3 CONSTRUCTION PHASE IMPACTS ON THE BIOPHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The construction phase impacts are those impacts on the biophysical and socio-economic environment that would occur during the construction phase. These impacts are inherently temporary in duration but may have longer lasting effects.

Flora and Fauna Impacts (Biodiversity)

The naturally occurring vegetation present on site should be incorporated within the layout of the proposed development as far as possible. The unnecessary removal of protected species as per the Forest Act (No. 12 of 2001) should be avoided, these may not be removed without a valid permit from the local Department of Forestry. Construction activities should avoid any sensitive habitats occurring on site.

Habitat Fragmentation and Destruction

Disturbance to local habitats may be experienced during site clearance for the proposed development. The construction activities associated with the proposed development will permanently change the present landscape and result in the displacement of existing vegetation and faunal populations occurring at the site, including invertebrates and other living organisms. The impact is expected to have localised negative impacts on the environment and associated flora and fauna.

Surface and Ground Water Impacts

Surface and groundwater impacts may be encountered during the construction and operation phase, especially if development takes place within the rainy season. The risk of contaminating such water sources can be increased by accidental spillage of oils and fuels and any other equipment used during construction. This risk is minimised by the fact that the construction phase will be a short-term activity.

Soil Erosion Impacts

Given the characteristics of the proposed site, soil erosion is likely to be encountered especially if construction will take place during the rainy season, the removal of the sparse vegetation will render the soil vulnerable to erosion as they also serve the purpose of keeping the soils compacted.

7.4 CONSTRUCTION PHASE IMPACTS ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Heritage impacts

No archaeological and heritage resources are expected to be found on the site. The project management should however be made aware of the provisions of the National Heritage Act regarding

the prompt reporting of archaeological finds. Section 3.1.2 provides an overview of the archaeological and heritage context of the town and region.

Health, Safety and Security Impacts

Due to the demand for construction workers during the construction of the proposed project an influx of migrant workforce who will require temporary accommodation in Usakos might be experienced. Experience with other construction projects in a developing-world context has shown that, where migrant construction workers have the opportunity to interact with the local community, a significant risk is created for the development of social conditions and sexual behaviors that contribute to the spread of HIV and AIDS.

In response to the threat the pandemic poses, MET has developed a policy on HIV and AIDS. This policy, which was developed with support from USAID, GTZ and the German Development Fund, provides for a non-discriminatory work environment and for workplace programs managed by a Ministry-wide committee. The MET has also recently initiated a programme aimed at mainstreaming HIV and gender issues into environmental impact assessments.

Traffic Impacts

Traffic is expected to increase during the construction phase of the project in areas where construction will take place. A number of trucks and other heavy machinery will be required to deliver, handle and position construction materials as well as to remove spoil material. Not only will the increase in traffic result in associated noise impacts, it will also impact on the roads in the area.

Noise Impacts

Construction may result in associated noise impacts. These noise impacts will mainly be associated with construction machinery and construction vehicles. The impact is however limited mainly to the construction period only.

Dust and Emission Impacts

Excavation and stockpiles during the construction phase could result in dust impacts, if not managed correctly. Dust could impact negatively on the health of the nearby community if mitigation measures are not implemented. Dust impacts are primarily associated with the construction phase.

Municipal Services

The construction phase will result in additional people on-site, who will require provision of the following services:

- Potable water for domestic (ablution and drinking) and construction purposes.
- Temporary toilets during the construction phase.
- Solid waste management (domestic and construction waste).

These services if not managed well are likely to create an opportunity for water wastage; litter; solid and human waste pollution.

Storage and Utilisation of Hazardous Substances

Hazardous substances are regarded by the Hazardous Substance Ordinance (No. 14 of 1974) as those substances which may cause injury or ill-health to or death of human beings by reason of their toxic, corrosive, irritant, strongly sensitizing or flammable nature or the generation of pressure thereby in certain circumstances. During the construction period, the use and storage of these types of hazardous substances, such as shutter oil, curing compounds, types of solvents, primers and adhesives and diesel, on-site could have negative impacts on the surrounding environment if these substances spill and enter the environment.

7.5 OPERATIONAL PHASE IMPACTS

The operational phase impacts are those impacts on the biophysical and socio-economic environment that would occur during the operational phase of the proposed project and are inherently long-term in duration.

7.5.1 Visual and Sense of Place Impacts

There may be a change in visual characteristics of the site particularly as the areas are currently undeveloped. The extent of this disturbance will depend on how highly the interested and affected parties valued the initial aesthetic quality of the site. The intended activities for the proposed site may alter the sense of place for the existing community and property owners situated in close proximity to the site, as well as the residents of Usakos who frequent the site.

Noise Impacts

The operational activities may result in associated noise impacts, depending on the exact type of activities taking place on the properties. However due to the nature of the land uses proposed for the subject erf it is not expected that the noise levels will be significant if managed well.

Emission Impacts

The air quality in the area is considered to be fairly good. Additional emissions are not expected due to the land uses that are intended for the site.

Waste Impacts

Increase waste may be generated as a result of the operational activities at the sites. Effective waste management on site should be practiced as per the recommendations in the EMP.

Social Impacts

The proposed subdivision will have a positive impact on the socio-economy, as it will allow more people to peruse agricultural related activities that will provide food security as well as boost the economy if the said persons wish to produce in bulk.

It will also provide our client the opportunity to sell or lease out the portion which will allow him to generate an additional income while having the opportunity to utilise and maintain a farm with his family.

Surface and Groundwater Impacts

The proposed development is located in proximity to the Omaruru River and within a sensitive groundwater area. Pollution may result from the use of hazardous liquids (i.e. oil, diesel etc.), fertilizers or pesticides, leakages from wastewater works, improper disposal of waste during operation. For pollution of these resources large quantities of pollutants would need to be released in the natural environment which is not likely to be associated with the development intended for the proposed site.

7.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The cumulative impact of the proposed developments regarding the degradation of the project area is very difficult to rate. If all proposed mitigation measures are however in place to minimise the overall impacts then the cumulative impact can be expected to be rated as **Medium-Low (negative)** for the proposed developments.

7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is contained in **Annexure E** of this report. The purpose of the EMP is to outline the type and range of mitigation measures that should be implemented during the construction and decommissioning phases of the project to ensure that negative impacts associated with the development are avoided or mitigated.

7.2 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

A summary of all the potential impacts from the proposed project assessed above is included in **Table 7**. The **Tables 8 – 10** provide a summary of the mitigation measures proposed for the impacts. While

some difference in magnitude of the potential impacts would result from the proposed alternatives this difference was not considered to be significant for any of the potential impacts. As such, the table below applies to all proposed alternatives.

Table 7: Summary of the significance of the potential impacts

Description of potential impact	Project alternative	No mitigation / mitigation	Extent	Magnitude	Duration	Significance	Probability	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative impact
PLANNING AND DESIGN PHASE										
1. Traffic Impacts	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium	Medium term	Medium	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium (-ve)
		Mitigation	Local	Low	Medium term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Medium term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Medium term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
2. Proposed services	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium	Medium term	Medium	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium (-ve)
		Mitigation	Local	Low	Medium term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Medium term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Medium term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
CONSTRUCTION PHASE										
3. Biodiversity (Fauna and Flora)	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium	Short term	Medium	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium (-ve)
		Mitigation	Local	Low	Short term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium	Short term	Medium	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium (-ve)

Description of potential impact	Project alternative	No mitigation / mitigation	Extent	Magnitude	Duration	Significance	Probability	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative impact
4. Habitat Fragmentation and Destruction	No go					Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)
		Mitigation	Local	Low	Short term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)
		No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
4. Surface & ground water	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium	Short term	Medium	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium (-ve)
		Mitigation	Local	Medium - Low	Short term	Medium - low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium - Low (-ve)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
5. Soil erosion	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium - low	Short term	Medium - low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium - low (-ve)
		Mitigation	Local	Low	Short term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
6. Heritage	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Very low	Short term	Very low	Probable	Certain	Irreversible	Very low(-ve)
		Mitigation	Local	Negligible	Short term	Negligible	Probable	Certain	Irreversible	Negligible (-ve)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
7. Health, safety and security	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium- Low	Short term	Medium- Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium- Low (-ve)
		Mitigation	Local	Low	Short term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)

Description of potential impact		Project alternative	No mitigation / mitigation	Extent	Magnitude	Duration	Significance	Probability	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative impact
8. Traffic impacts	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral	
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral	
	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Low	Short term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)	
		Mitigation	Local	Very low	Short term	Very low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Very low	
9. Noise impacts	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral	
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral	
	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium-low	Short term	Medium - low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium - Low (-ve)	
		Mitigation	Local	Low	Short term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Very low (-ve)	
10. Emissions impacts	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral	
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral	
	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Low	Short term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)	
		Mitigation	Local	Very-Low	Short term	Very Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Very Low (-ve)	
11. Municipal services	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral	
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral	
	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Low	Short term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)	
		Mitigation	Local	Very low	Short term	Very low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Very low (-ve)	

Description of potential impact	Project alternative	No mitigation / mitigation	Extent	Magnitude	Duration	Significance	Probability	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative impact
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
12. Waste	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium	Short term	Medium	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium (-ve)
		Mitigation	Local	Low	Short term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
13. Hazardous Substances	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium	Short term	Medium	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium (-ve)
		Mitigation	Local	Low	Short term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Very low (-ve)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
OPERATIONAL PHASE										
1. Visual & sense of place	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium	Medium term	Medium	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium (-ve)
		Mitigation	Local	Medium-Low	Medium term	Medium-Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium-Low (-ve)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Medium term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Medium term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
2. Noise	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium-Low	Medium term	Medium-Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium-Low (-ve)

Description of potential impact	Project alternative	No mitigation / mitigation	Extent	Magnitude	Duration	Significance	Probability	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative impact
		Mitigation	Local	Low	Medium term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Medium term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Medium term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
3. Emissions	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Low	Medium term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)
		Mitigation	Local	Very - Low	Medium term	Very Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Very Low (-ve)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Medium term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Medium term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
4. Waste	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium	Long term	Medium	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium (-ve)
		Mitigation	Local	Low	Long term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
5. Social impact	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium	Long term	Medium (+)	Probable	Probable	Reversible	Medium (+)
		Mitigation	Local	Medium	Long term	Medium (+)	Probable	Probable	Reversible	Medium (+)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Long term	Neutral	Probable	Probable	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Long term	Neutral	Probable	Probable	Reversible	Neutral
	Usakos	No mitigation	Local	Medium	Long term	Medium	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Medium (-ve)

Description of potential impact	Project alternative	No mitigation / mitigation	Extent	Magnitude	Duration	Significance	Probability	Confidence	Reversibility	Cumulative impact
6. Surface and Groundwater impact		Mitigation	Local	Low	Long term	Low	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Low (-ve)
	No go	No mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral
		Mitigation	Local	Neutral	Short term	Neutral	Probable	Certain	Reversible	Neutral

Table 8: Proposed mitigation measures for the planning and design phase

PLANNING AND DESIGN PHASE IMPACTS	
Impact	Mitigation Measures
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that road junctions have good sightlines. • Provide formal road crossings at relevant areas. • Provide for speed reducing interventions such as speed bumps at relevant road sections.
Existing Service Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that alternative and renewable sources of energy be explored and introduced into the proposed development to reduce dependency on the grid. • Solar geysers and panels should be considered to provide for general lighting and heating of water and buildings. • Water saving mechanisms should be considered for incorporation within the developments in order to further reduce water demands. • Re-use of treated wastewater should be considered wherever possible to reduce the consumption of potable water.

Table 9: Proposed mitigation measures for the construction phase

CONSTRUCTION PHASE IMPACTS	
Impact	Mitigation Measures
Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapt the proposed developments to the local environment – e.g. small adjustments to the site layout could avoid potential features such as water bodies and vegetation. • Prevent the destruction of protected and endemic plant species. • Prevent contractors from collecting wood, veld food, etc. during the construction phase. • Do not clear cut the entire development site, but rather keep the few individual trees/shrubs not directly affecting the developments as part of the landscaping. • The plants that are to be kept should be clearly marked with “danger tape” to prevent accidental removal. • Regular inspection of the marking tool should be carried out. • The very important plants should be “camped off” to prevent the unintended removal or damage to these trees. • Recommend the planting of local indigenous species of flora as part of the landscaping as these species would require less maintenance than exotic species. • Transplant removed plants where possible, or plant new plants in lieu of those that have been removed. • Prevent the introduction of potentially invasive alien ornamental plant species such as; <i>Lantana</i>, <i>Opuntia</i>, <i>Prosopis</i>, <i>Tecoma</i>, etc.; as part of the landscaping as these species could infest the area further over time.
Surface and Ground Water Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that construction takes place outside of the rainy season in order to limit flooding on site and surface water pollution. • No dumping of waste products of any kind in or in close proximity to surface water bodies. • Heavy construction vehicles should be kept out of any surface water bodies and the movement of construction vehicles should be limited where possible to the existing roads and tracks.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE IMPACTS	
Impact	Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that oil/ fuel spillages from construction vehicles and machinery are minimised and that where these occur, that they are appropriately dealt with. • Drip trays must be placed underneath construction vehicles when not in use to contain all oil that might be leaking from these vehicles. • Contaminated runoff from the construction sites should be prevented from entering the surface and ground water bodies. • All materials on the construction site should be properly stored. • Disposal of waste from the sites should be properly managed and taken to the designated landfill site. • Construction workers should be given ablution facilities at the construction sites that are located at least 30 m away from any surface water and regularly serviced. • Washing of personnel or any equipment should not be allowed on site. Should it be necessary to wash construction equipment these should be done at an area properly suited and prepared to receive and contain polluted waters.
Soil Erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that construction takes place outside of the rainy season in order to limit potential flooding and the runoff of loose soil causing further erosion. • Appropriate erosion control structures must be put in place where soil may be prone to erosion. • Checks must be carried out at regular intervals to identify areas where erosion is occurring. • Appropriate remedial actions are to be undertaken wherever erosion is evident.
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project management should be made aware of the provisions of the National Heritage Act regarding the prompt reporting of archaeological finds. • In the event of such finds, construction must stop, and the project management or contractors should notify the National Heritage Council of Namibia immediately.
Health, Safety and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction personnel should not overnight at the site, except the security personnel. • Ensure that all construction personnel are properly trained depending on the nature of their work.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE IMPACTS	
Impact	Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for a first aid kit and a properly trained person to apply first aid when necessary. • Restrict unauthorised access to the site and implement access control measures. • Clearly demarcate the construction site boundaries along with signage of “no unauthorised access”. • Clearly demarcate dangerous areas and no-go areas on site. • Staff and visitors to the site must be fully aware of all health and safety measures and emergency procedures on site. • The contractor must comply with all applicable occupational health and safety requirements. • The workforce should be provided with all necessary Personal Protective Equipment where appropriate.
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit and control the number of access points to the site. • Ensure that road junctions have good sightlines. • Construction vehicles need to be in a road worthy condition and maintained throughout the construction phase. • Transport the materials in the least number of trips possible. • Adhere to the speed limit. • Implement traffic control measures where necessary.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No amplified music should be allowed on site. • Inform immediate neighbours of construction activities to commence and provide for continuous communication between the neighbours and contractor. • Limit construction times to acceptable daylight hours. • Install technology such as silencers on construction machinery if noise levels are significantly high. • Do not allow the use of horns as a general communication tool but use it only where necessary as a safety measure.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE IMPACTS	
Impact	Mitigation Measures
Dust and Emission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that dust suppressants such as Dustex be applied to all the construction clearing activities to ensure at least 50% control efficiency on all the unpaved roads and reduce water usage. Construction vehicles to only use designated roads. During high wind conditions the contractor must make the decision to cease works until the wind has calmed down. Cover any stockpiles with plastic to minimise windblown dust. Provide workers with dust masks.
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that waste from the temporary toilets be disposed of at an approved Wastewater Treatment Works. A sufficient number of waste bins should be placed around the site for the general waste. A sufficient number of skip containers for the heavy waste and rubble should be provided for around the site. Solid waste will be collected and disposed of at an appropriate local land fill or an alternative approved site, in consultation with the local authority.
Hazardous Substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storage of the hazardous substances in a bunded area, with a volume of 120 % of the largest single storage container or 25 % of the total storage containers whichever is greater. Refuel vehicles in designated areas that have a protective surface covering and utilise drip trays for stationary plant.

Table 10: Proposed mitigation measures for the operational phase

OPERATIONAL PHASE IMPACTS	
Impact	Mitigation Measures
Visual and Sense of Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that more 'green' technologies be implemented within the architectural designs and building materials of the development where possible in order to minimise the visual prominence of such a development within the more natural surrounding landscape. Natural colours and building materials such as wood and stone should be incorporated as well as the use of indigenous vegetation in order to help beautify the development. Visual pollutants can further be prevented through mitigations (i.e. keep existing trees, introduce tall indigenous trees; keep structures unpainted and minimise large advertising billboards).
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not allow commercial activities that generate excessive noise levels. Continuous monitoring of noise levels should be conducted to make sure the noise levels does not exceed acceptable limits. No activity having a potential noise impact should be allowed after 18:00 hours if possible.
Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider tarring of the internal road network. Manage activities that generate emissions.
Social Impacts	No specific mitigation measures are required, only that the local community be consulted in terms of possible job creation opportunities and must be given first priority if unspecialised job vacancies are available.
Surface and groundwater impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The release of pesticides and herbicides in harmful quantities should be prevented. The use of eco-friendly and/or biodegradable pesticides and herbicides should be promoted. Ensure that surface water is channelled and captured through a proper storm water system to be treated in an appropriate manner before disposal into the environment.

8 CONCLUSION

The purpose of this Chapter is to briefly summarise and conclude the FESR and describe the way forward.

8.1 CONSTRUCTION PHASE IMPACTS

With reference to **Table 7**, none of the negative construction phase impacts were deemed to have a high significance impact on the environment. The construction impacts were assessed to a **Medium to Low (negative)** significance, without mitigation measures. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures in Chapter 7 as well as in the EMP, the significance of the construction phase impacts is likely to be reduced to a **Low (negative)**.

8.2 OPERATIONAL PHASE

The most significant operational phase impact **Medium (positive)** is the social impact. This is as a result of the potential job opportunities during construction as well the increased development within the area. Furthermore, the community of Usakos are further expected to benefit from the new development made available in the town.

8.3 LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE IN ASSESSMENT

With reference to the information available at the project planning cycle, the confidence in the environmental assessment undertaken is regarded as being acceptable for the decision-making, specifically in terms of the environmental impacts and risks. The Environmental Assessment Practitioner believes that the information contained within this FESR is adequate to allow MET: DEA to be able to determine the environmental acceptability of the proposed project.

It is acknowledged that the project details will evolve during the detailed design and construction phases. However, these are unlikely to change the overall environmental acceptability of the proposed project and any significant deviation from what was assessed in this FESR should be subject to further assessment. If this was to occur, an amendment to the Environmental Authorisation may be required in which case the prescribed process would be followed.

8.4 MITIGATION MEASURES

With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures in Chapter 7 as well as in the EMP, the significance of the construction and operational phase impacts is likely to be reduced to a **Low (negative)**. **It is further extremely important to include an Environmental Control Officer (ECO) on site during the construction phase of the proposed project to ensure that all the mitigation measures discussed in this report and the EMP are enforced.**

It is noted that where appropriate, these mitigation measures and any others identified by MET: DEA could be enforced as Conditions of Approval in the Environmental Authorisation, should MET: DEA issue a positive Environmental Authorisation.

8.5 OPINION WITH RESPECT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Regulation 15(j) of the EMA, requires *that the EAP include an opinion as to whether the listed activity must be authorised and if the opinion is that it must be authorised, any condition that must be made in respect of that authorisation.*

It is recommended that the proposed subdivision be approved, as failure to proceed will result in the land remaining vacant and underutilised. Advancing the development will create opportunities for economic activity, including potential employment during establishment and future operations associated with agricultural or tourism-related uses. If the project does not move forward, the site's current lack of development will persist, offering little contribution to the local economy or broader rural landscape. This would represent a missed opportunity to support agricultural productivity, stimulate investment, and promote sustainable land use within the area. The significance of the social impact was therefore deemed to be **Medium (positive)**.

The "no go" alternative on the other hand was deemed to have a **High (negative)** impact, as all the social benefits resulting from the development would not be realised.

The significance of negative impacts can be reduced with effective and appropriate mitigation provided in this report and the EMP. If authorised, the implementation of an EMP should be included as a condition of approval.

8.6 WAY FORWARD

The FESR is herewith submitted to MEFT: DEA for consideration and decision making. If MEFT: DEA approves, or requests additional information / studies all registered I&APs and stakeholders will be kept informed of progress throughout the assessment process.

9 REFERENCES

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