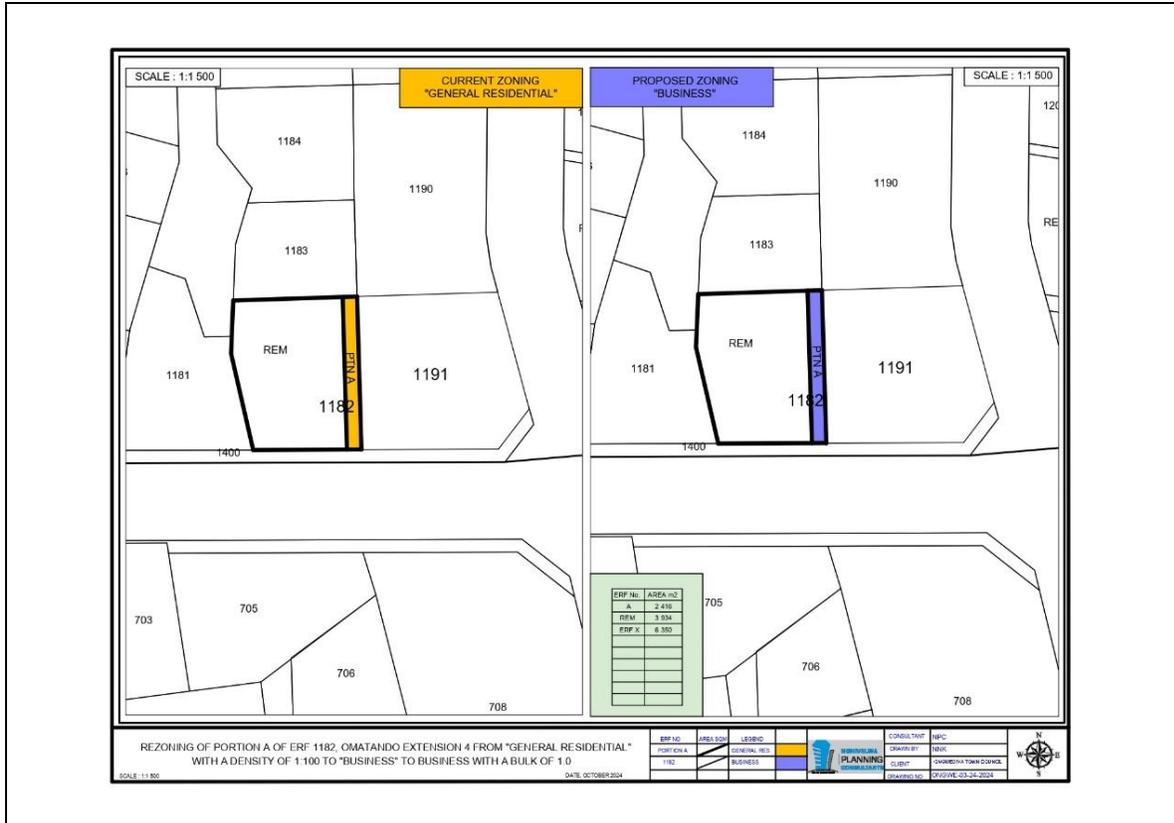


ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCOPING REPORT

REZONING OF PORTION A OF ERF 1182, OMATANDO EXTENSION 4 FROM “GENERAL RESIDENTIAL” WITH A DENSITY OF 1:100 TO “BUSINESS” WITH A BULK OF 1.0.



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Prepared by:	Prepared for:
NGHIVELWA PLANNING CONSULTANTS	ONGWEDIVA TOWN COUNCIL
P. O. Box 40900, Ausspannplatz	Private Bag 5549, Ongwediva
CEL: +264 81 4127 359 +264 85 323 2230	Tel: +264 65 233 700
E-MAIL: planning@nghivelwa.com.na	Email: mnamambo@otc.com.na



Environmental Management Practitioners:

Name of representative of the EAP	Education qualifications	Professional affiliations
Nghivelwashisho Natangwe Ndakunda	MBA-Entrepreneurship, B-Tech Town and Regional Planning	Namibia Council of Town and Regional Planners, Namibia Institute of Town and Regional Planners

Proponet:

Name	Position/ Role	Address
Ongwediva Town Council	Proponent	Private Bag 5549, Ongwediva

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

TERMS	DEFINITION
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
PPPPs	Projects, Plans, Programmes and Policies
NDC	Namibia Development Consultants
SANS	South African National Standards
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
PM	Particulate Matter
NPC	Nghivelwa Planning Consultants
GRN	Government of the Republic of Namibia

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview

The Ongwediva Town Council wishes to subdivide Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 into Portion A and Remainder, rezone the proposed Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension from “General Residential” with a density of 1:100 to “Business” with a bulk of 1.0 and subsequently consolidate the rezoned Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 with Erf 1191, Omatando Extension 4 to form Consolidated Erf X. The statutory town planning exercise is necessary to allow for the formalization of a business building situated on Erf 1191 and encroaching onto Erf 1182’s boundaries.

Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 is currently zoned as for “General Residential” with a density of 1:100 while Erf 1191, Omatando Extension 4 is currently zoned for “Business” with a bulk of 1.0. For the rezoning of the proposed Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 from “General Residential” to “Business” to take place, the statutory town planning and environmental management procedure for the rezoning of land from residential to commercial purposes must be carried out.

Nghivelwa Planning Consultants, a Town and Regional Planning and Environmental Management Consultancy firm has been appointed to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Rezoning of Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 from “General Residential” with a density of 1:100 to “Business” with a bulk of 1.0. The Environmental Impact Assessment has been conducted to meet the requirements of the Namibia’s Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007).

An EIA may be defined as: a formal process to predict the environmental consequences of human development activities and to plan appropriate measures to eliminate or reduce adverse effects and to augment positive effects.

Thus, an EIA has three main functions:

- To predict environmental problems,
- To find ways to avoid environmental problems, and
- To enhance positive effects.

1.2 Terms of Reference

The Rezoning of Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 from “General Residential” with a density of 1:100 to “Business” with a bulk of 1.0 is a listed activity that cannot be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate. Therefore, as part of the commissioning process

an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required. Thus, it was necessary for Ongwediva Town Council to appoint Nghivelwa Planning Consultants to provide environmental management consultancy services to undertake an environmental impact assessment to comply with the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act no. 7 of 2007).

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the consultants were, but not limited to the following:

- The collection of all possible data on the environmental, social and natural resource components and necessary parameters.
- A description of the location of the proposed project including the physical area that may be affected by the project activities.
- Description of the design of the proposed project.
- Description of the activities that will be undertaken during the project construction, operation and decommissioning phases.
- Listing of the materials to be used, products and by products, including waste to be generated by the project and the methods of disposal.
- Identification of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and
- The mitigation measures to be taken during and after implementation of the project.
- Accidents during the project cycle.
- Establishment of a plan to ensure the health and safety of the workers and neighboring communities.
- Identification of the economic and socio-cultural impacts of the proposed project.
- Economic and social analysis of the project including project risk and measures to mitigate them.
- Establishment of an action plan for the prevention and management of possible impacts (EMP).
- The consultant will prepare recommendation on the project for its future use.

1.3 Acknowledgement

Nghivelwa Planning Consultant has prepared this EIA Report on behalf of the proponent, Ongwediva Town Council. The proponent has provided the necessary information and documents and the necessary guidance during the project undertaking and during the preparation of this report. The Consultant (Nghivelwa Planning Consultant) acknowledges the contribution provided by the proponent and support and interest shown by all the identified stakeholders.

1.4 DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

This EIA Report was prepared by the following Environmental Practitioners:

Name of representative of the EAP	Education qualifications	Professional affiliations
Nghivelwashisho Natangwe Ndakunda	MBA-Entrepreneurship, B-Tech Town and Regional Planning	Namibia Council of Town and Regional Planners, Namibia Institute of Town and Regional Planners

Table 1: EAP's

2. EIA METHODOLOGY

The objective of the assessment of impacts is to identify and assess all the significant impacts that may arise from the undertaking of an activity and the findings used to inform the competent authority's decision whether the activity should be approved, approved subject to conditions that will reduce the impacts to within acceptable levels or should be rejected. In this sense impacts are defined as the changes in an environmental or social parameter that result from undertaking the proposed activity. The following general methodology was used in this EIA for the proposed rezoning from residential to commercial activities and to investigate its potential impacts on the social and natural environment.

The key activities undertaken during the assessment included the following:

2.1 Establishment of the environmental baseline

The study and description of the receiving environment on which the proposed project is to be implemented. Thus, it involved a site visit, physical inspection of the study area's soil, biology, topography, animal species, water resources, climate and the local socio-economic environment.

2.2 Impact analysis

This involves the identification of impacts that are usually associated with the construction, operation or maintenance and decommissioning of the proposed activity and are generally obvious and quantifiable. These impacts were analyzed and evaluated.

2.3 Impacts mitigation

This involves the identification of the impacts and once impacts have been identified and predicted for a particular activity, then appropriate mitigation measures need to be established. Mitigation

measures are the modification of certain activity in such a way as to reduce the impacts on the physical- and socio-economic environment. The objectives of mitigation are to:

- Find more environmentally sound ways of doing things.
- Enhance the environmental benefits of a proposed activity.
- Avoid, minimize or remedy negative impacts; and ensure that residual negative impacts are within acceptable levels.

Furthermore, impacts associated with all the stages of the proposed project were identified and mitigated. An Environmental Management Plan has been prepared as framework for mitigation of impacts and environmental monitoring of the project.

2.4 Review of alternatives

This entailed a review of the alternatives to the proposed project. This is aimed at determining better ways of avoiding or minimizing environmental impacts while still realizing the project goals. The review of alternatives provides opportunities for environmental enhancement. There were no alternatives identified for this project as this project is a formalization of existing business buildings that are already constructed on site.

2.5 Public Participation Process (PPP)

This process for the public participation was done by informing the relevant stakeholders and interested and affected parties. Advertisements for the public to participate and raise their concerns on the proposed project were placed in two (2) local newspapers of the New Era and Confidante of the 1st and 8th November 2024. The public and interested and affected parties were invited to provide comments to the EIA and no interested or affected party registered any comments. Due to the small-scale nature of the project and lack of interest, a public meeting about the proposed development and its potential impact on the environment was deemed not necessary.

3. POLICY AND OTHER RELEVANT LEGISLATION

SUBJECT	INSTRUMENTS AND CONTENT	APPLICATION TO THE PROJECT
The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia	General human rights – eliminates discrimination of any kind The right to a safe and healthy environment Affords protection to biodiversity	Ensure these principles are enshrined in the documentation of the project

Environmental Management Act EMA (No 7 of 2007)	Requires that projects with significant environmental impact are subject to an environmental assessment process (Section 27). Details principles which are to guide all EAs.	Ensure that the rezoning is carried out within the parameters of the Act.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations GN 28-30 (GG 487	Details requirements for public consultation within a given environmental assessment process (GN 30 S21). Details the requirements for what should be included in a Scoping Report (GN 30 S8) and an Assessment Report (GN 30 S15).	Ensure that the rezoning of land aligns with the EIA regulations.
Forestry Act No 27 of 2004	Provision for the protection of various plant species	Some species that occur in the area are protected under the Forestry Act and a permit is therefore required to remove the species
Hazardous Substances Ordinance 14 of 1974:	Control of substances which may cause injury or ill-health or death of human beings because their toxic, corrosive, irritant, strongly sensitizing or flammable nature	The waste generated on site and at the campsite should be suitably categorised/classified and disposed of properly and in accordance with the Measures outlined in the Ordinance.
The Nature Conservation Ordinance (No. 4 of 1975)	Prohibits disturbance or destruction of protected birds without a permit. Requires a permit for picking (the definition of “picking” includes damage or destroy) protected plants without a permit	Protected plants will have to be identified during the planning phase of the project. In case there is an intention to remove protected species, then permits will be required.
Forestry Act 12 of 2001 Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975	Prohibits the removal of any vegetation within 100 m from a watercourse (Forestry Act S22(1)). Prohibits the removal of and transport of various protected plant species.	Even though the Directorate of Forestry has no jurisdiction within townlands, these provisions will be used as a guideline for conservation of vegetation.
Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992	Protection of biodiversity of Namibia	Conservation-worthy species not to be removed if not necessary.

Water Resources Management Act 11 of 2013	The Act provides for the management, protection, development, use and conservation of water Resources; to provide for the regulation and monitoring of water services.	Obligation not to pollute surface water bodies
National Heritage Act 27 of 2004	Section 48(1) states that “A person may apply to the [National Heritage] Council [NHC] for a permit to carry out works or activities in relation to a protected place or protected object	Any heritage resources (e.g. human remains etc.) discovered during construction requires a permit from the National Heritage Council for relocation
Labour Act 11 of 2007	Details requirements regarding minimum wage and working conditions (S39-47).	Employment and work relations
Health and Safety Regulations GN 156/1997 (GG 1617	Details various requirements regarding health and safety of labourers.	Protection of human health, avoid township establishment at areas that can impact on human health.
Public Health Act 36 of 1919	Section 119 states that “no person shall cause a nuisance or shall suffer to exist on any land or premises owned or occupied by him or of which he is in charge any nuisance or other condition liable to be injurious or dangerous to health.”	Ensure that all contractors involved during the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed project comply with the provisions of these legal instrument
Water Resources Management Act 11 of 2013	Prohibits the pollution of underground and surface water bodies (S23(1)). Liability of clean-up costs after closure/ abandonment of an activity (S23(2)).	The protection of ground and surface water resources should be a priority. The main threats will most likely be concrete and hydrocarbon spills during construction and hydrocarbon spills during operation and maintenance.
Urban and Regional Planning Act no 5 of 2018	Details the functions of the Urban and Regional Planning Board including their consideration when assessing an application for the permanent closure of public open spaces and subsequent rezoning (S3)	The proposed change in land uses should be informed by environmental factors such as water supply, soil etc. as laid out in Section 3 of the act.

Local Authorities Act no 23 of 1992	Details the procedures to be followed for the provision of municipal services in Local Authority Areas.	The provision of municipal services should be in line with the use of land.
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Table 2: Relevant legislation

4. NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Ongwediva Town Council derives its mandate from the Local Authorities Act, 23 of 1992 as amended. Amongst its many duties towards the provision of services to its residents is the maintenance of harmonious and orderly development of the town. The northern town's peri urban environment has been the subject of illegal construction of buildings that are not in line with the planning design of the town.

Omatando has been established before independence and has been a thriving local node that attracted small business and social activities. After the declaration of Ongwediva as a town, the area fell under the jurisdiction of the Ongwediva Town Council. The Council resolved to develop Omatando into a modern township capable of accommodating hundreds of families. The formalization process was, however, complicated by residents who started construction of their houses and businesses before the statutory town planning process was completed.

The construction of these houses and businesses before the completion of the planning process led to the encroachment of buildings on neighboring properties boundaries. Thus, the Ongwediva Town Council has launched an erven and existing building formalization campaign in Omatando to solve the problem of encroachment. Therefore, the rezoning of the proposed Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 is part of the larger project aimed at rectifying the informal building problem in Omatando.

5. SCOPE OF THE EIA

The objectives of the scope of the EIA were to ascertain key issues of the environmental impacts that are likely to be important during all the phases of the Project. Relevant environmental data has been compiled by making use of primary data which was collected during the site assessment done on the 5th of November 2024 and by using secondary data already available. Potential environmental impacts and associated social impacts were identified and addressed in this report.

The rezoning project will not have a construction phase as the business buildings are already constructed.

The operational phases of the proposed rezoning will involve.

- The supply of bulk services such as water, electricity, waste disposal plan and waste management
- The Maintenance of the Erven by Ongwediva Town Council.

The Environmental Impact Assessment study report includes an impact assessment and mitigation measures for the two phases of the proposed project following:

- The field investigations (site assessment).
- Identifying and involving all stakeholders in the Environmental Impact Assessment process by expressing their views and concerns on the proposed project.
- Identify all potential significant adverse environmental and social impacts of the project and recommend mitigation measures to be well described in the Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMP).
- Coordination with the proponent, regarding the requirements of law of Namibia's Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and other relevant policies and administrative framework.
- To define the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Assessment study.
- A review of the policy, and relevant legislation.
- To provide overall assessment information of the social and biophysical environments of the affected areas by the proposed development.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The proposed activity is for the Subdivision of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 into Portion A and Remainder, rezoning of proposed Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 from "General Residential" with a density of 1:100 to "Business" with a bulk of 1.0 and subsequent Consolidation of the rezoned Portion A of Erf 1182 with Erf 1191, Omatando Extension 4 to form Consolidated Erf X. The activity involves the change of land use of the subject properties from residential to commercial activities.

It also includes the maintenance of the site during the operational phase such as waste disposal and noise pollution as well as maintenance of the afore-mentioned municipal services. The Erven are already connected to the municipal services of Omatando Extension 4, and they will obtain access from the adjacent street that is already constructed. Thus, there will be no construction of bulk municipal services for this development.

The existing erven are already connected to the existing bulk services, and the water-borne sewage is connected to the sewerage reticulation system of Ongwediva, the harmful affluent that will be created will be channeled to the Ongwediva sewer water storage and treatment plant provided by Ongwediva Town Council. The business building is already constructed and there is no fauna or

flora that is found on the properties. Thus, the proposed commercial development will not have any negative impacts on the natural environment.

6.1 Location and land ownership

Erven 1182 and 1191, Omatando Extension 4 are currently owned by the Ongwediva Town Council and collectively measure $\pm 6\,357\text{m}^2$ in extent. They are situated in Omatando Extension 4, Ongwediva Town, Ongwediva Constituency, Oshana Region as shown in Figure 1 below. There is a business building currently constructed on the property. The proposed site is located on the northerly direction of Ongwediva Town. The GPS coordinates of the project site are Latitude: -17.750439°, Longitude: 15.750030°.

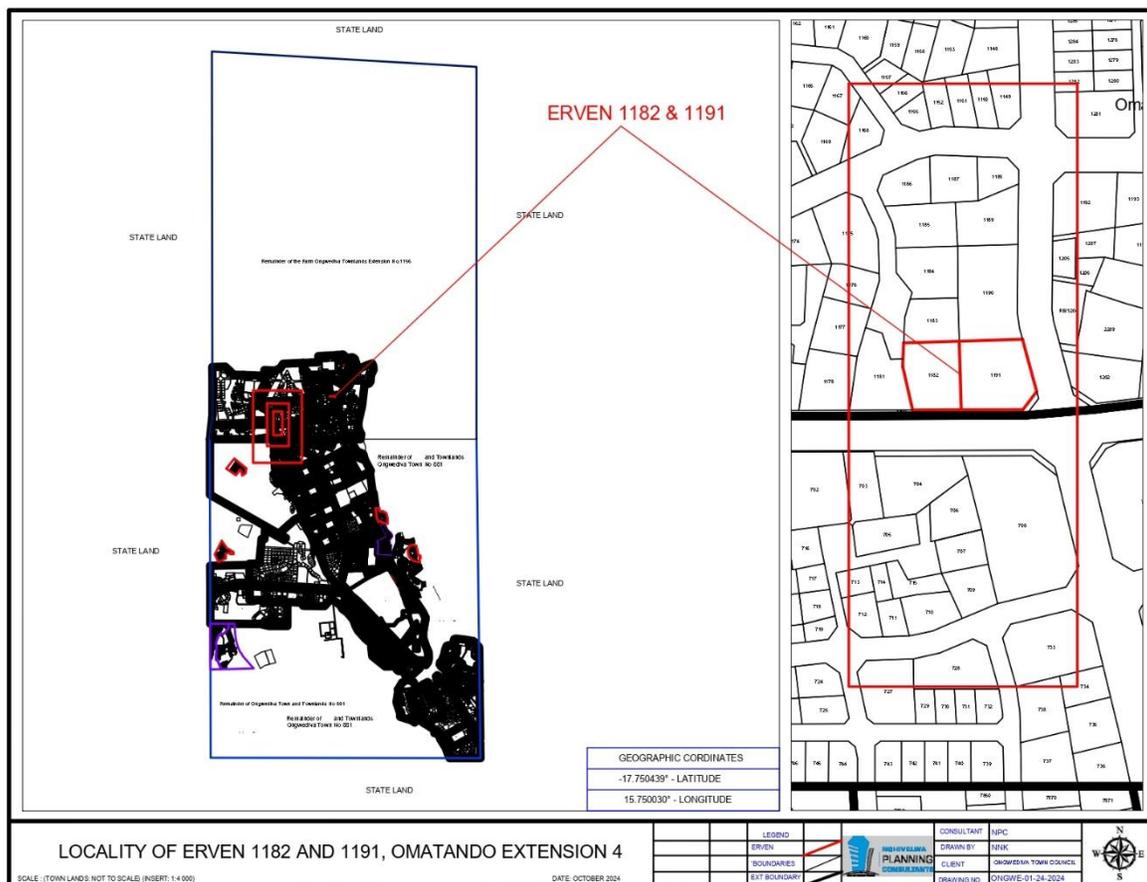


Figure 1: Locality plan of Erven 1182 and 1191, Omatando Extension 4

6.2 Ownership

Erven 1182 and 1191, Omatando Extension 4 are currently owned by the Ongwediva Town Council. Ongwediva Town Council will be managing the project during both phases. The rezoned erven will then be transferred to the owner of the business building already constructed on the property.

6.3 Description of the site

- The slope of the site is relatively flat.
- There were no characteristics of ground slope instability observed on site.
- There was no ground surface water during the site investigation.
- There is minimal erosion in some areas that is caused by seasonal flooding.
- No excavations can be expected for this project.

6.5 Description of the proposed project

The Ongwediva Town Council has resolved to formalize existing buildings in Omatando to facilitate orderly development in the town. The formalization thus sometimes requires the change of land use from residential to commercial purposes and that is a listed activities as per the Environmental Management Act, 7 of 2007 and its regulations. Thus, the rezoning of Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 from “General Residential” with a density of 1:100 to “Business” with a bulk of 1.0 is a listed activities and cannot be carried out without and Environmental Clearance Certification.

6.6 Proposed Project Activities

The proposed development entails the Rezoning of Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 from “General Residential” with a density of 1:100 to “Business” with a bulk of 1.0. The rezoning plan is shown in figure 2 below.

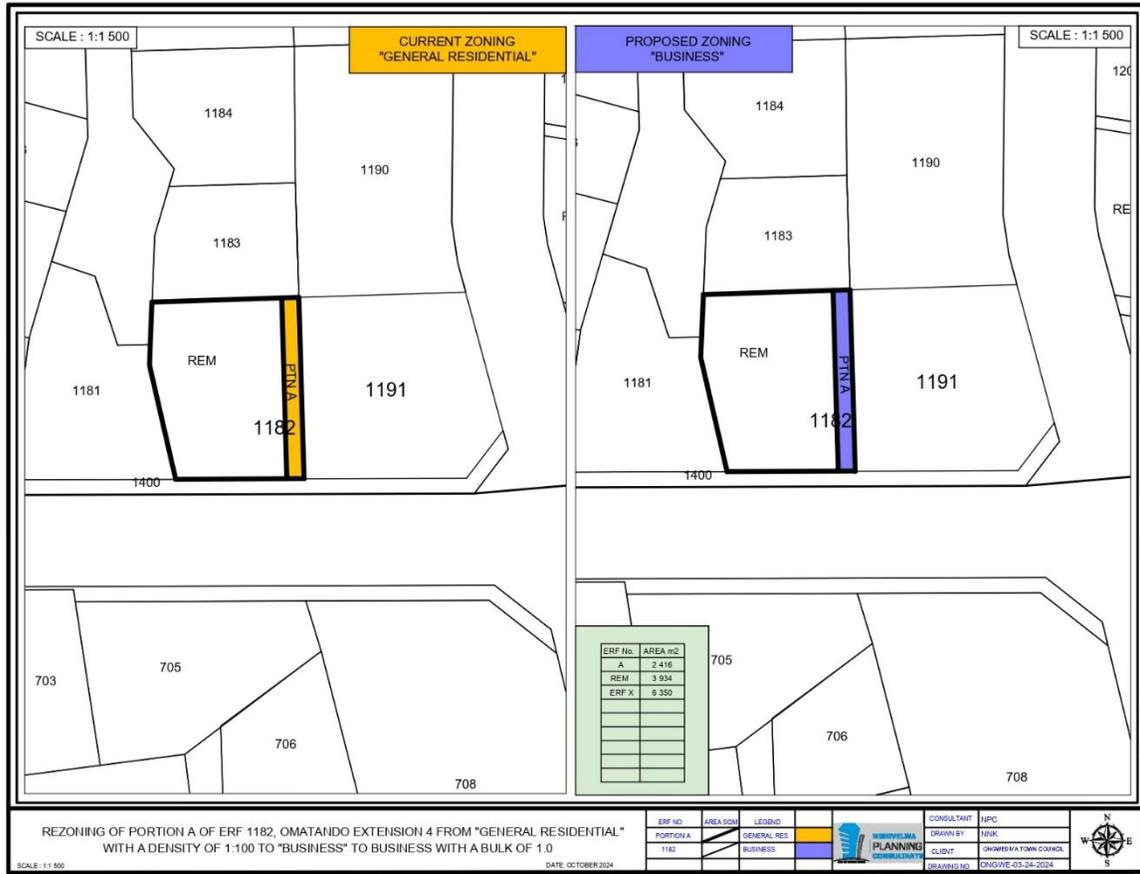


Figure 2: Rezoning of Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4

6.7 Engineering Services

The proponent is proposing changing the land use of a proposed Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 from residential to commercial uses to formalize and existing business building. Upon the completion of the town planning and environmental management exercise there will be no further construction of buildings and municipal services. The proposed erven are already connected to the bulk engineering services as per the standard engineering requirements that are used in Namibia.

6.7.1 Bulk Infrastructure

The bulk services are already available for this development, and no additional construction of bulk services is expected.

a) Water

The existing bulk water infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate the proposed development.

b) Sewerage

The existing sewer reticulation system of Omatando Extension 4 is sufficient for the proposed development, and no additional construction of bulk sewer water reticulation is expected.

c) Electricity

The proposed erven will get electricity from the already constructed electrical network of Omatando Extension 4 that is running adjacent the properties.

d) Storm water

A storm water drainage system has already been constructed and will be channeled along the streets of Omatando Extension 4, additional water drainage can be constructed to channel water towards the back of the erven if it is necessary.

e) Waste Produced

The waste to be produced from the properties will be disposed of by the proponent and waste generated by the operation of the businesses will be handled by the Ongwediva Town Council and disposed of at an approved waste disposal site.

f) Roads

No additional road construction will take place because of this development.

6.7.2 Blasting

No blasting is to be carried out during this project as the business building is already constructed.

6.8 Phases of the project

The project will consist of three (2) phases, namely the operational and possible decommissioning phase.

6.8.1 Activities during the operation and maintenance phase

During this phase, Ongwediva Town Council will be responsible for the following:

- Maintenance of the site, such as waste disposal.
- Controlling the noise pollution in the area.
- Maintenance of the bulk municipal services.
- Maintenance of public parks.
- Maintenance of roads, sewerage and electricity infrastructure.
- Collection of rates and taxes.

6.8.2 Activities at the decommissioning phase

At this stage of the project, it is deemed unnecessary to decommission the project because the businesses are already operating and the erf will be transferred to private ownership once the town planning process is completed. Therefore, there will be no need for decommissioning the project soon.

7. BASELINE DATA

7.1 Climate and Temperatures

The table 2 below briefly describe the general climatic conditions experienced within the Oshana Region including the Ongwediva area, as deduced from the Atlas of Namibia, by Mendelsohn et al 2003. The rainy season is limited between the months of November and April whereby an average of 350-400 mm of rainfall is estimated per annum. In addition, the Cuvelai has inconsistencies in rainfall timings which lead to great variation in the annual rainfall between 30-40 percent. Furthermore, Temperatures vary little across the Basin where the average is greater than 19°C in most areas, especially during the summer months. The annual evaporation of the Basin is known to depend on the temperature, humidity, cloud cover, wind and solar radiation. The predominant wind in the area is expected to be in the easterly direction.

Average rainfall:	Rainfall in the area is averaged to be less than 350 mm-400 mm	per year.
Variation in rainfall:	Variation in rainfall is averaged to be 30-40 % per year.	
Average evaporation:	Evaporation in the area is averaged to be between 2800-3000 mm per year.	
Precipitation:	The highest summer rains are experienced from October to April.	
Water Deficit:	Water deficit in the area is averaged to be between 1501-1700mm per year.	

Temperatures:	Temperatures in the area are averaged to be more than 19-20 °C per year.
Wind direction:	Wind directions in the area are predominantly easterly winds.

Table 3: Summary of general data

7.2 Geology, Topography and drainage

The Kalahari sand plateau in the north-east was originally deposited as longitudinal dunes in an east-westerly direction. These longitudinal dunes, with associated omuramba's, form the agro-ecological zone KAL 8 (de Pauw et al. 1998/99). The drainage to the north of the Mangetti (north-east of Oshivello) is still in an east-westerly direction (the “Akadhulu” or “Akazulu”). These fossil dunes do not show a great difference in relief (compared to southern Kavango and north-eastern Grootfontein districts), probably because of erosion and thus a general flattening of the topography.

As these remnant dunes flatten out completely, the rivers “Akadhulu” and “Niipele” turn south towards the Etosha pan. Roughly 80 % of the study area, to the east of Onankali - Okankolo, falls within these fairly flat sand plains, as part of the KAL 3-3 (de Pauw et al. 1998/99). It consists of a sand drift plain with a general slope range of 0-2 % (i.e. flat), very low relative relief (< 10 m), with no preferred drainage orientation.

Drainage in the sand plateau is mainly vertical (downwards). This has resulted in the formation of numerous pans in the north-western parts of the country, spreading out up to Eenhana in the north (the KAL4 according to de Pauw et al. 1998/99). The vertical movement of water leads to increased mineralisation of the sands, thus forming finer textured, more fertile soils in these pans. Both the more fertile soils and the shallow ground water in these pans has resulted in the settling of people along these pans in the Oshana Region.

The literature review shows the results of the soil profile done at one of the above-mentioned pans, that a mini soil profile pit was dug at relevé 87138. The soil profile looked as follows:

Top: 1-2 cm bleached white sand (could be the deposit of erosion from further up).

A-Horizon: 30 cm deep, dark grey loamy sand. B-Horizon: below 30 cm, yellow grey sandy loam, very sticky to the touch. (Strohbach 1999). The broad-leafed savannah falls within growing period zone 3 (de Pauw et al.1998/99).

7.3 Vegetation

This vegetation type is typical of the “Forest savanna and woodland (northern Kalahari)” (Giess 1971). This is described as a species-rich vegetation dominated by deciduous trees like *Burkea africana*, *Terminalia sericea*, *Lonchocarpus nelsii*, *Baikiaea plurijuga*, *Pterocarpus angolensis*, *Ochna pulchra*, *Combretum* species and *Grewia* species.

Typical trees are *Terminalia sericea*, *Combretum collinum*, *Lonchocarpus nelsii*, *Burkea africana* and *Acacia fleckii* and the shrubs *Combretum engleri*, *Acacia ataxacantha*, *Bauhinia petersiana*, *Ozoroa schinzii*, *Grewia flava*, *G. flavescens* and *G. bicolor* as well as *Commiphora angolensis*, *C. africana* and *C. glandulosa*. In KAL 8 (Omuramba-Dune association) north of King Kauluma school some *Baikiaea plurijuga* were encountered on a dune. Although this popular timber species had only a DBH of 20 cm (thus far from exploitable), some of these trees were found chopped down in this remote area.

The vegetation in this area is described as woodland dominated mainly by camelthorn shrubs. The vegetation on site consists of short grass moderately scattered around the site. The project site is currently undeveloped but clearly shows; disturbances by animals and human activities, no much clearing of vegetation will occur. There are no protected species onsite that needs to be preserved and be made part of the development. No endangered species were observed on site; therefore, no threat to vegetation was identified. No wildlife was observed in the vicinity of the study area, only domestic animals mainly cattle, goats and donkey are present in the vicinity of the proposed project site.

7.4 Soils

The dominant soils in the Oshana Region are haplic Arenosols associated with ferralic Arenosols (sandy soils with a very poor nutrient-retaining capability). Strohbach (1999) describes a mini soil profile pit at relevé 87126 as follows: Top 5 cm: Humus enriched, bleached yellow-grey sand Below 5 cm: Undifferentiated pure red sand.

8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

8.1 Demographics

According to the 2023 National Population and Housing Census. Oshana Region had a population of 230 801 in 2023, of which the vast majority 53.2% live in urban areas and the remaining 46.8% live in rural areas. The Census also estimated that there are 124 243 females and 106 558 males. The population density is 26,7 persons per km² and the Human Poverty index (HPI) is 21% compared to National HPI of 21.8. Life expectancy is 53.9 years for both females and males. Most eighty-six (86%) of the households residing within the Oshana Region speak Oshiwambo.

8.2 Economic activities

There has been immense commercial and industrial growth in Oshana Region. Various shopping malls, schools and other businesses have opened in the area and have improved both the economic

and social stance of the Region. However, much of the economy of the Oshana region is still based on farming.

8.3 Education Profile

The Oshana Region is well placed with regards to academic rates in the whole of Namibia. According to (EMIS, 2012) there are 137 schools. The literacy rates for persons older than 15 years of the Region is 92% compared with that of Namibia which is 92,25%.

8.4 Employment Opportunities

By the year 2011, sixty-one percent (58.4%) of the population older than 15 years, were employed and thirty-nine percent (41.6%) unemployed. The population outside the labour force is comprised of students, homemakers and retired or old-aged people.

8.5 Incomes

Subsistence farming (33%) and labour migration are considered the primary livelihood sources of many households. Much of the employed population are employed in the formal sector making Wages and Salaries 30% the second main source of income in the region. Pensions 19%, non-farming business 10%, Cash Remittance 5% is the means of survival for the rest of the population.

8.6 Health Profile

In Namibia, the HIV prevalence rate in pregnant women age group 15 to 49 is estimated at 16% (UNAIDS, 2015). While the HIV prevalence rate in the Oshana Region stands at 16.1%. Ninety-four percent of the population in the region have access to safe drinking water, while 15% have poor or no access to toilet facilities.

9. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

In terms of environmental impact assessment best practice, assessment of potential impacts from a proposed activity must include the assessment of alternatives. Assessment of alternatives is undertaken to identify the option that will minimise harm to the environment and may include site, technology and other alternatives, but must always include the option of not implementing the activity, known as the “no-go” alternative.

9.1 Alternative Site

The proponent has no other option of undertaking the proposed development in a different location other than the chosen site. This is because there is already an existing business building constructed

on the site and it will be costly for the Ongwediva Town Council to compensate the building owner and relocated them elsewhere. It will also not be practical as the business building owner has been residing on the property for many years.

Since the proposed portion of land is already earmarked for the development and has offered more advantages than disadvantage for the proposed development, there are no alternatives to this site, Thus, the proposed site is the only site that can be formalized for this project. Therefore, no alternative site has been identified or considered during this study.

The following reasons justify the use of the proposed site for the development:

- The owner of the existing building has been operating from the property for many years.
- It will be costly to compensate the existing building owner and relocate him somewhere.
- The property is already connected to municipal services.
- The property has access to the streets and main roads of Ongwediva.
- The development will create employment and opportunities for local people.
- The development will formalize the business building and maintain economic activities in the area.
- The development will maintain the employment of people employed in the business.
- The development will promote orderly and sustainable development in the town.

9.2 The “No Project” Alternative

The No-Go Option is the option not to proceed with the activity, implying a continuation of the current status quo. Therefore, the No-go Alternative would mean that the proposed rezoning of Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 from residential to commercial purposes and the establishment formalization of the existing business building will not go ahead.

Should the proposed development not take place, the existing business will not be formalized, and the business owner will not enjoy the security of tenure and will not benefit from land ownership. This can have long term negative effects on the economic and social stability of the town and the surrounding areas. From the environmental-socio-economic point of view, no project option is the least preferred option due to the following factors:

- The business owner will not have security of land tenure.
- The business owner will not benefit from resources that are associated with owning land.
- The Ongwediva Town Council will not be able to levy the correct taxes.
- Employment will not be guaranteed for current and future employees.
- Harmonious and orderly development of Ongwediva Town will not be realized.
- The quality of living for Ongwediva residents will not be enhanced.

This is therefore not a desirable alternative.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP)

This section of the report provides details of Public Participation Process (PPP) undertaken in the compilation of the EIA scoping report. In terms of Section 26(1)(h) of the Namibian Environmental Assessment Regulations (2012), it is a requirement to provide details of the public participation process conducted in accordance with Section 32 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations.

Furthermore, the Public Participation forms an important component of this EIA. It has been defined by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism that an Environmental Assessment Regulations (2012) of the Environmental Management Act (2007), as a process in which potential interested and affected parties such as service providers, traditional leaders, local authorities, environmental groups, village councils and communities, to comment on the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project are given an opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to the proposed project and its benefits to the nation and its economy.

Apart from these legal requirements, Consultations with the public and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that their inputs are considered during the decision-making process was carried out as per the EIA regulations.

10.1 Aims of the Public Participation Process (PPP)

The aims of the Public Participation Process are but not limited to:

- Informing Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed project.
- Identifying issues, comments and concerns as raised by I&APs.
- Promoting transparency and an understanding of the project and its consequences.
- Serving as a structure for liaison and communication with I&APs; and
- Providing local knowledge and input in identifying potential environmental (biophysical and social) impacts and “hotspots” associated with the proposed development.

10.2 Compilation of stakeholder database

The first step in the Public Participation Process (PPP) is to identify key stakeholders. A stakeholder database was compiled and the target groups for this project were invited to comment on the proposed development, the following were invited to Comment:

- Ongwediva Town Council (as the approving authority for town planning projects and service provider for bulk services).
- General public

Please note that some of the interested and Affected Parties are also consulted during the town planning process of the consolidation, subdivision and rezoning of the proposed erven.

10.3 Background Information Document

This document provides a short summary of the project and the EIA process. Therefore, a background information document (BID) was prepared and was ready to be distributed to Interested & Affected Parties. After all stakeholder and I&Ap's were informed only one of them requested for the Background Information Document (BID). See a copy of the BID attached.

10.4 Notification of I&Aps

The requirements for the notification of potentially interested and affected parties of this application are set out in detail in section 32(2)(b) of the EA regulation. These requirements have been addressed and include:

- Forwarding letters to government authorities and other identified relevant stakeholders.
- Fixing a notice at a place conspicuous to the public in English.
- Placing advertisements twice in at least two local newspapers.

10.5 Advertisement

The advertisement of the public participation and submission of comments for the proposed project were placed in two national newspapers circulating in the Ongwediva, the New Era and Confidante Newspapers dated: 1st and 8th November 2024. Proof of advertisements are attached.

10.6 Notice Board

An A3 size notice detailing information about the project and the EIA process was at the town planning notice Board of Ongwediva Town Council on the from the 1st of November 2024 until the comments period lapsed on the 22nd of November 2024.

10.7 Public Meeting

In compliance with the EIA Regulations (2012), public (I&AP) and all stakeholders were notified as a requirement for EIA process. However, due to a lack of interest from the public, the small-scale nature of the project and the minimal impacts the project is expected to have on the public, a public meeting was not held for this development.

10.8 Issues raised by interested and affected parties

The identified key stakeholder in this project is the Ongwediva Town Council. They are also the initiator and one of the competent authorities in the town planning process of this project. Thus, consultations with the town council goes beyond the EIA process and are in favour of the project.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

An appraisal of the type of effects the proposed Subdivision of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 into Portion A and Remainder, Rezoning of proposed Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 from “General Residential” with a density of 1:100 to “Business” with a bulk of 1.0 and subsequent consolidation of the rezoned Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 with Erf 1191, Omatando Extension 4 to form Consolidated Erf X would have on the affected environment; rate as either positive (beneficial on the environment), neutral (no impact on the environment), or negative (adverse impact on at a cost to the environment).

Rating	Description
1	Negligible / non-harmful / minimal deterioration (0 – 20%)
2	Minor / potentially harmful / measurable deterioration (20 – 40%)
3	Moderate / harmful / moderate deterioration (40 – 60%)
4	Significant / very harmful / substantial deterioration (60 – 80%)
5	Irreversible / permanent / death (80 – 100%)

Table 4: Assessment and rating severity

Rating	Description
1	Less than 1 month / quickly reversible
2	Less than 1 year / quickly reversible
3	More than 1 year / reversible over time
4	More than 10 years/ reversible over time/ life of project or facility
5	Beyond life of project or facility/ permanent

Table 5: Assessment and rating duration

Rating	Description
1	Within immediate area of the activity
2	Surrounding area within project boundary
3	Beyond project boundary
4	Regional/ Provincial
5	National/ International

Table 6: Assessment and rating extent

Consequence is calculated as the average of the sum of the ratings of severity, duration and extent of the environmental impact.

Determination of Consequence (C)	$(\text{Severity} + \text{Duration} + \text{Extent}) / 3$
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Table 7: Determination of consequence

Rating	Description
1	Less than once a year
2	Once in a year
3	Quarterly
4	Weekly
5	Daily

Table 8: Assessment and rating of frequency

Rating	Description
1	Almost impossible
2	Unlikely
3	Probable
4	Highly likely
5	Definite

Table 9: Assessment and rating of probability

Likelihood

Likelihood considers the frequency of the activity together with the probability of the environmental impact associated with that activity occurring.

Determination of Likelihood (L) =	$(\text{Frequency} + \text{Probability}) / 2$
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Table 10: Determination of likelihood

Environmental Significance

Environmental significance is the product of the consequence and likelihood values.

Rating	Description
L (1 - 4.9)	Low environmental significance
LM (5 - 9.9)	Low to medium environmental significance
M (10 - 14.99)	Medium environmental significance
MH (15 - 19.9)	Medium to high environmental significance
H (20 - 25)	High environmental significance. Likely to be a fatal flaw

Table 11: Determination of environmental significance

11.1 Impacts Associated with Operational Phase

Storm water usually runs off the area and flow into the water bodies without any kind of treatment. This can pollute the water bodies like creeks, lakes and rivers and have adverse effects on their chemical as well as biological nature. From this, the building plans must include storm water drainage to accommodate the storm water during the rainy season.

	Severity	Duration	Extent	Consequence	Frequency	Probability	Likelihood	Status	Confidence/ Significance
Unmitigated	4	5	3	4	2	5	3.5	Negative	7.5 (LM)
<p>Mitigation measures:</p> <p>Storm water drains to be constructed along the Erf boundaries and be channelled through the street storm water networks, natural water courses, excess storm water to be collected for consumption and recreational use.</p> <p>Storm water will be collected through network of storm drains from gardens, parking areas, paved and unpaved areas, and roadways. The storm water drainage system should have the capacity to prevent flooding of the site and surrounding areas.</p> <p>All buildings to be constructed above the 50-year flood line to avoid flooding of properties.</p>									
Mitigated	1	1	2	1.33	1	2	1.5	Negative	2.83 (L)

Contribution to the economy - The project will contribute to the economy of Ongwediva Town.

	Severity	Duration	Extent	Consequence	Frequency	Probability	Likelihood	Status	Confidence/ Significance
Unmitigated	1	1	1	2	5	5	5	Positive	7 (LM)
Mitigation measures:									
No mitigation required as this is a positive impact.									
This project will contribute to the economy of Ongwediva town through small business development.									
The project will improve job creation opportunities for the locals as the small businesses hire employees for their operations.									
Residents to be provided with services that will improve their quality of living.									
Mitigated	1	2	1	1.33	5	3	4	Positive	5.33 (LM)

Improved aesthetic look of the area- The development is essential to improve the aesthetics of the area while turning it into an environmentally friendly settlement with improved infrastructure services. This potential impact of the infrastructure on the economic structure is of a positive nature.

	Severity	Duration	Extent	Consequence	Frequency	Probability	Likelihood	Status	Confidence/ Significance
Unmitigated	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	Positive	3 (L)
Mitigation measures:									
No mitigation required because it's a positive impact. However, the developer should create awareness among the residents about energy conservation and other resources as well as to implement measures to prevent or minimize any adverse effects on the environment.									
This project should provide a quality of life that can be expected in an urban area in relation to the utilities, convenience, amenities and security.									
This project will provide economic opportunities to the previously disadvantaged youths from the middle to low-income segments of the town's population.									
Mitigated	1	5	4	3.33	3	5	4	Positive	7.33 (LM)

Maintenance of employment - the formalization of the business building can help maintain the current jobs

	Severity	Duration	Extent	Consequence	Frequency	Probability	Likelihood	Status	Confidence/ Significance
Unmitigated	2	3	5	3.33	3	3	3	Positive	6.33 (LM)
Mitigation measures: The formalization of the business properties will guarantee the continuity of business and thus guarantee that the people currently employed will remain employed. Priority should be given to local people when recruiting new employees. Jobs for security personnel to look after the business properties will be maintained. Equity, transparency, should be considered when hiring and recruiting and that the public be included in the recruitment process.									
Mitigated	1	4	4	3	2	5	4	Positive	6.5 (LM)

Traffic - Potential impact due to the increase in traffic due to the increases in business activities.

	Severity	Duration	Extent	Consequence	Frequency	Probability	Likelihood	Status	Confidence/ Significance
Unmitigated	5	5	3	4.33	5	3	4	Positive	8.33 (LM)
Mitigation measures: Sidewalks for pedestrians should be provided along the properties. Appropriate road signs and markings should be provided in the adjacent streets. Signs should be provided at intersections particularly at higher order intersections. Speed humps should be installed to control the speed of traffic. Traffic turning circles to be utilized at high intensity intersections.									
Mitigated	2	1	1	1.33	1	2	1.5	Positive	2.83 (L)

Waste management- the businesses will require a more formalized form of waste management and Ongwediva Town Council should be responsible for this.

	Severity	Duration	Extent	Consequence	Frequency	Probability	Likelihood	Status	Confidence/ Significance
Unmitigated	5	3	3	3.66	5	5	5	Negative	8.66 (LM)
Mitigation measures: During the operations phase, the Ongwediva Town Council be responsible for waste management. Ongwediva Town Council to incorporate the new development into their formal waste collection strategy and that the waste is to be collected regularly and to be disposed of at an authorized waste disposal site. Illegal dumping of waste in any form is prohibited.									
Mitigated	1	1	1	1	1	2	1.5	Negative	2.5 (L)

Land use -The proposed development will result in a change in land use from residential to commercial purposes.

	Severity	Duration	Extent	Consequence	Frequency	Probability	Likelihood	Status	Confidence/ Significance
Unmitigated	1	5	4	3.33	1	5	3	Positive	6.33 (LM)
Mitigation measures: The change in land use will contribute to the efficient use of land in Ongwediva by converting unutilized, non-functional residential land into a highly productive business area.									
Mitigated	1	2	1	1.33	5	3	4	Positive	5.32 (LM)

11.5 Impacts Associated with Decommissioning Phase

At this point, it is difficult to visualise and assess the decommissioning phase, although the procedures for decommissioning phase should be the same as for the construction phase. However, there will be possible pollution during the decommissioning phase of the project. Furthermore, during the decommissioning phase, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be required, and the disposal of decommissioned equipment and hazardous contaminated materials should be disposed following the disposal of hazardous material legislation.

12. CONCLUSIONS

The Ongwediva Town Council wishes to subdivide Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 into Portion A and Remainder, rezone the proposed Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension from “General Residential” with a density of 1:100 to “Business” with a bulk of 1.0 and subsequently consolidate the rezoned Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 with Erf 1191, Omatando Extension 4 to form Consolidated Erf X. The statutory town planning exercise is necessary to allow for the formalization of a business building situated on Erf 1191 and encroaching onto Erf 1182’s boundaries.

Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 is currently zoned as for “General Residential” with a density of 1:100 while Erf 1191, Omatando Extension 4 is currently zoned for “Business” with a bulk of 1.0. For the rezoning of the proposed Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 from “General Residential” to “Business” to take place, the statutory town planning and environmental management procedure for the rezoning of land from residential to commercial purposes must be carried out.

Nghivelwa Planning Consultants, a Town and Regional Planning and Environmental Management Consultancy firm has been appointed to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Rezoning of Portion A of Erf 1182, Omatando Extension 4 from “General Residential” with a density of 1:100 to “Business” with a bulk of 1.0. The Environmental Impact Assessment has been conducted to meet the requirements of the Namibia’s Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007).

We further conclude that the proposed development has more positive than negative impacts to the natural environment and will provide much needed economic development through MSME empowerment and employment creation for Ongwediva residents. The development will complement the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and help with the job creation strategies.

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