

UNDERSTANDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS



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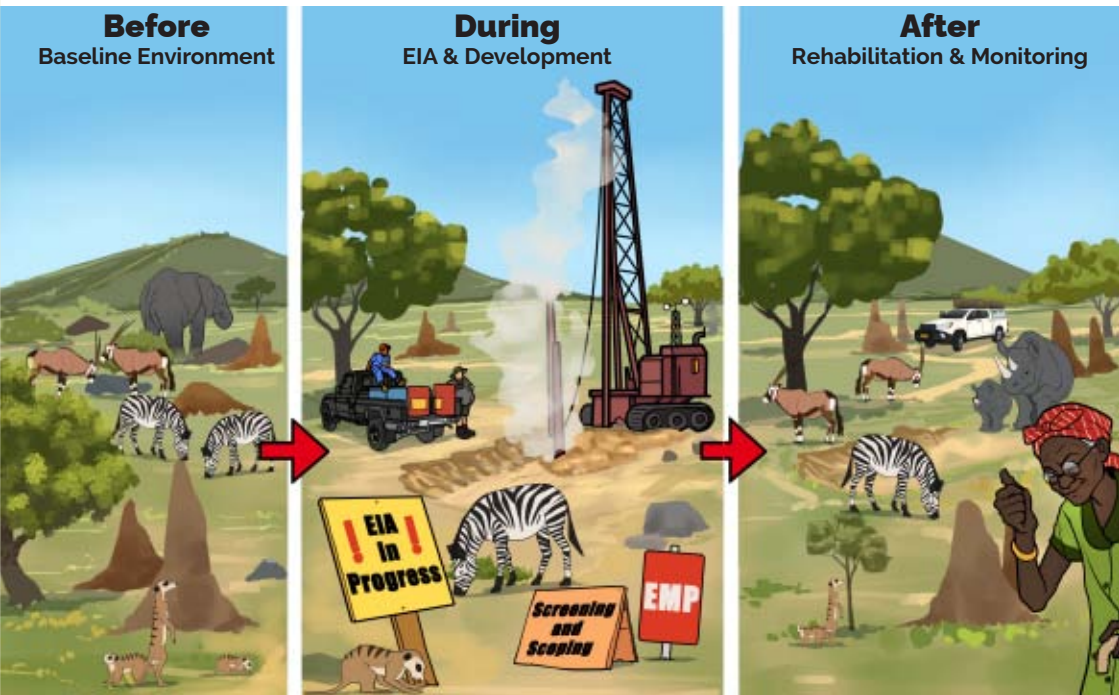


What is an Environmental Impact Assessment?

Environmental Impact Assessment is a process that helps identify the potential environmental and social impacts of proposed development projects before they happen. It ensures that decisions are made with **community input** and with respect for the environment.

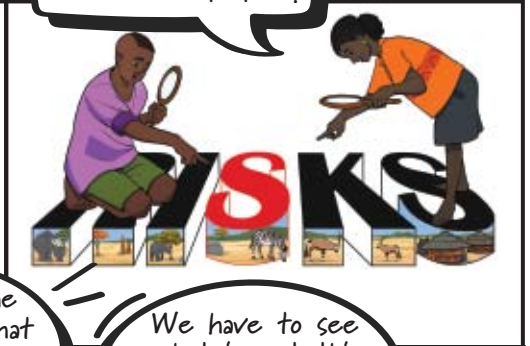
What are the roles of EIA in protecting the Environment and community interests?

- Prevents environmental damage.
- To ensure project follow the Environmental Management Act no.7 of 2007.
- Safeguards community health and rights.
- Ensures projects are sustainable and lawful.
- Ensuring natural resources are used responsibly.
- Safeguarding livelihoods from harmful projects.
- Giving communities a voice in development decisions.



 Has your project conducted an EIA to obtain the Environmental Clearance Certificate?

STEPS OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS IN NAMIBIA



These are the risks and they must be prevented!

We need to document them and share with MEFT.

Yes! Let's make sure all input is included before submission!

Here are the comments from the community.

Thank you! I will add this to the final EIA document.

The community members have been consulted and they have given their input.

After long meetings to check everything, MEFT has granted the ECC.

The ECC has been granted! We can now start with the mining activities.

RESPECT

Community rights

Land use plan

Conservancy rules

How communities can participate in the EIA process



Know when your voice counts most - during public consultations.



Work together through Conservancies or Community Forests and Regional Associations for a stronger voice.



Stay informed about projects in your area through notices, community meetings.



Attend public meetings and consultations, workshops and information sharing sessions.



Share your concerns and community knowledge on how the project may affect land, water wildlife or disruption of livelihoods.



Review EIA reports or summaries and ask questions



Submit comments or feedback **IN WRITING** to the EIA practitioners or MEFT if possible.



Monitor project activities

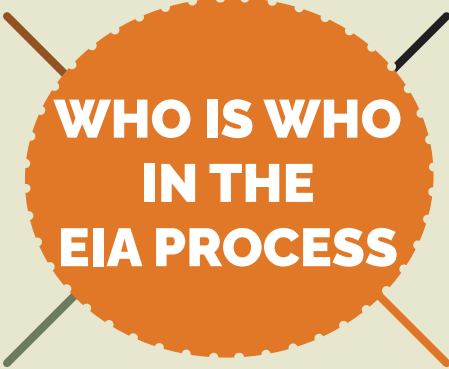
Monitor Compliance to EIA Management Plan through Environmental Officer/ DEA.

Roles of the Proponent/ Developer in the EIA process:

- Plan the project and provide accurate information.
- Appoint a qualified EIA practitioner.
- Engage communities and stakeholders throughout the process.
- Implement mitigation measures and comply with the ECC.
- Monitor and report on environmental performance.

Roles of the Communities and IAPs

- Participate in meetings and consultations to voice concerns.
- Provide local knowledge about natural resources, wildlife, and community needs.
- Ensure that projects respect community rights, land use plans, and conservancy rules.
- Identify potential risks to forests, wildlife, and livelihoods.



WHO IS WHO IN THE EIA PROCESS

Roles of EIA Practitioners/ Consultants in the EIA process:

- Guide developers and conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).
- Engage communities and stakeholders for input.
- Recommend mitigation measures for potential impacts.
- Prepare and submit EIA reports to MEFT.
- Ensure compliance with the Environmental Management Act.

Role of MEFT in the EIA process

- Develops and enforces EIA regulations.
- Reviews EIAs and issues ECCs.
- Monitors compliance during project implementation.
- Protects biodiversity and community interests.

Roles of the Community Members and Interested and Affected Parties



Participate in meetings and consultations to voice concerns.



Provide local knowledge about natural resources, wildlife, and community needs.



Ensure that projects respect community rights, land use plans, and conservancy rules (GMUP, FMP, Zonation Plans etc).



Identify potential risks to forests, wildlife, and livelihoods.



Review and comment on EIA reports before approval.



Obtain the Environmental Management Plan and monitor project implementation to ensure compliance with conditions of approval of the Environmental Clearance Certificate.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Environmental Clearance Certificate?

An ECC is a legal authorisation that confirms a project has undergone the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. It is issued by the Environmental Commissioner once the EIA process shows that the project's impacts can be managed. The ECC ensures that the project will follow the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and all mitigation measures.

List of activities that may not be undertaken without an environmental clearance certificate

1. Energy Generation, Transmission, and Storage Activities
2. Waste Management, Treatment, Handling, and Disposal Activities
3. Mining and Quarrying Activities
4. Forestry Activities
5. Land Use and Development Activities
6. Tourism Development Activities
7. Agriculture and Aquaculture Activities
8. Water Resource Developments
9. Hazardous Substance Treatment, Handling, and Storage
10. Infrastructure

What is an IAP, and what benefits do IAPs get in the EIA process?

An Interested and Affected Party (IAP) is anyone who has an interest in, or may be affected by, a proposed project.

- IAPs benefit from the EIA process by gaining access to information.
- They have the opportunity to raise concerns about potential impacts.
- IAPs can influence project decisions through their input.
- They are able to protect their rights, resources, and livelihoods.
- The process ensures environmental and social safeguards are included in the project.

Can we access the EIA report?

Yes. The community members can read the Draft EIA Report and the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), it's important to see if their inputs have been captured in the final document.

Can we stop a project if we do not want it?

You cannot stop it directly, but your objections and comments can influence the decision. You can also appeal the approval.

Who decides if the project is approved?

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism, under the office of the Environmental Commissioner, decides whether to issue the Environmental Clearance Certificate or if further specialised study is required.

Does the EIA guarantee jobs for the community?

The EIA does not promise jobs, but you can raise employment expectations during meetings.

Acknowledgements

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The project implementation period is from December 2024 to November 2027 in the Kavango, Kunene South, and Erongo regions, and aims to strengthen the technical, legal, and institutional capacity of Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) towards inclusive environmental governance and strengthened community participation in decision-making processes.

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Understand your role at each stage



Get Involved, Your Environment, Your Future!

Contact your MEFT Environmental Officer or EIA Focal Point Person for more information on project that requires EIAs, how to participate and to report noncompliance project activities.

Contact Information

Regional Association EIA Focal Point person

Name _____ Cell No: _____

Email address _____

MEFT Environmental Officer

Name _____ Cell No: _____

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