# **EIA Tracker**

# Making the EIA process more accessible to stakeholders

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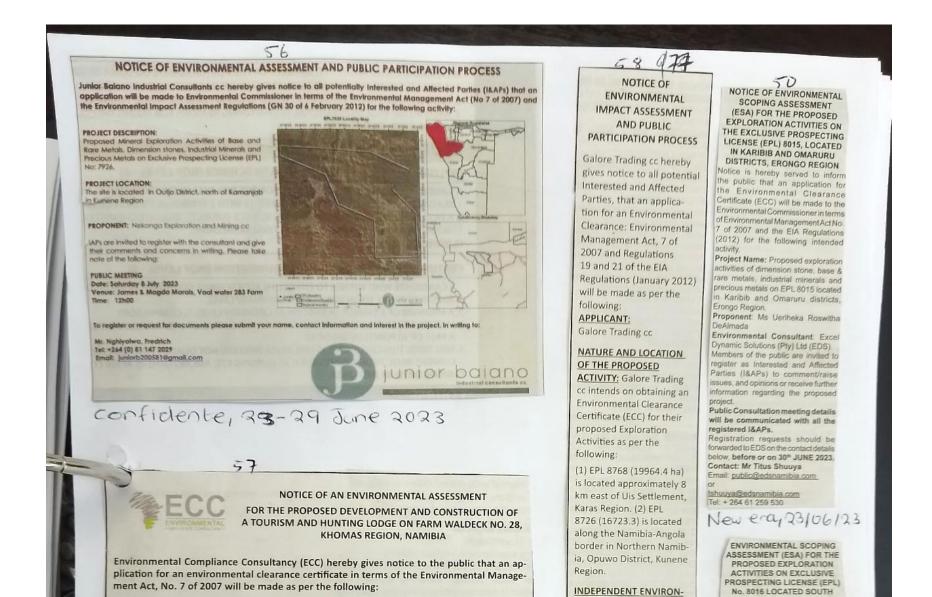




# Background

Various initiatives have been made by NCE to make EIA information and tools available to stakeholders so that individuals, groups, communities and sectors can engage constructively in the EIA process.

### 1. Distribution of EIA notices



# 2. Guidelines to help farmers engage in EIAs, and control access to their land by prospectors

Guidelines for landowners and custodians (e.g. communal conservancies) to better engage in the Environmental Impact Assessment process and to manage and control access to their land as may be requested by prospectors and other

Document compiled by the Namibian Chamber of Environment and EnviroScience

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment process The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process is designed to help government and all stakeholders / Interested and/or Affected Parties understand the potential impacts of proposed developments (positive and negative), give stakeholders opportunities to raise concerns and provide input during several stages of the process, thereby strengthening the process to result in best decisions for Namibia's sustainable development. Information on ESIAs, guidelines and legislation, as well as frequently asked questions, are available on this website:

Power of projects usually contract a company or individual(s) with the appropriate The manage and run an ESIA. Depending on the size of the project www.eia.meft.gov.na. istints may also be contracted, e.g. social scientist,

# 3. EIA documents made permanently available on the EIS.

http://www.the-eis.com/

### **Environmental Information Service Namibia: eLibrary**

Namibia's one-stop shop for environmental information







ABOUT the eLibrary



CONTACT Get in touch

#### The EIS eLibrary is a free, online information resource on Namibia

The Environmental Information Service is Namibia's 'one-stop shop' for public environmental information. The eLibrary component includes a large volume and variety of information and new information is added on an ongoing basis.

There are currently **27,019** records in the eLibrary of the following types of resources:

Report: 11,650

Map Data: 2,062

Book or Magazine: 543

Thesis: 426

Journal Article: 9,354

Book or Magazine Section: 1,717

Website: 444

Conference Paper: 383



### http://www.the-eis.com/

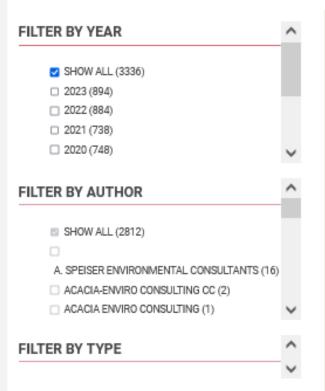
#### EIA reports for public comment

These reports are listed currently or were previously listed on the Department of Environmental Affairs ECC Portal http://eia.met.gov.na.

The dates indicate the last date that it was/will be possible to comment on the project on the portal.

Use the checkboxes below to refine this search, amend your search or start a new search. Explore your search results using the filter checkboxes, or amend your search or start a new search.

Displaying results 1 - 50 of 3404



Displaying results 1 - 50 of 5404			
Wednesday, 30 August 2023 Plan Africa Consulting 2023. 230807001836: Proposed subdivision of Portions 185 to 190 and 192 (portions of Portion 116) of the Farm Osona Commonage No.65.  Creation of a 10m wide street.			
☐ 1836_ESR_Proposed subdivision of Portions 185 to 190 and 192 of the Farm Osona Commonage No 65.pdf	633.08 KB		
1836_EMP_Proposed subdivision of Portions 185 to 190 and 192 of the Farm Osona Commonage No 65.pdf	346.65 KB		
1836_Municipal Letter_Proposed subdivision of Portions 185 to 190 and 192 of the Farm Osona Commonage No 65.pdf	390.81 KB		
1836_Proof of Consultation_Proposed subdivision of Portions 185 to 190 and 192 of the Farm Osona Commonage No 65.pdf	2.52 MB		
☐ 1836_Map_Proposed subdivision of Portions 185 to 190 and 192 of the Farm Osona Commonage No 65.pdf	319.13 KB		
1836_Screening Notice_Proposed subdivision of Portions 185 to 190 and 192 of the Farm Osona Commonage No 65.pdf	140.77 KB		
» See full details of this Report			

### 4. Web-based EIA Tracker

https://eia-tracker.org.na

# **EIA Tracker**Why is it necessary?



Pic. https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca

There are valid concerns about the effectiveness of the EIA process and consequent decisions

Public trust in the EIA process is low, with many complaints and protests occurring after development projects have been given the green light

# SAUMA OBJECTS TO MINING IN STAMPRIET AQUIFER

Ellanie Smit

3 MONTH AGO - 2023-11-27 16:45:00

Chinese firm accused of illegal mining

# By Tileni Mongudhi | 3 April 2022 ReconAfrica accused of drilling in wildlife reserve, offering jobs for silence News | Published: 15 December 2021 | Last Updated: 15 December 2021 | Written by The Namibian

CHINESE COMPANY, XINFENG, IN HOT SOUP OVER "ILLEGAL LITHIUM MINING" ...MINISTRY CONSIDERS

San communities petition against Kavango drilling

News | Published: 16 February 2021 | Northern by Arlana Shikongo HOME | NODE | UIS COMMUNITY ALLEGES THAT XINFENG AND OTHERS MINIES, TOWIE I NOVE THEIR MINING LICENSE CONTRAVENES THEIR MINING LICENSE

**Environmentalists rebuff Okavango oil exploration** 

# It is against this backdrop that NEWS and NCE created the EIA Tracker.



Pic New Era (2024)

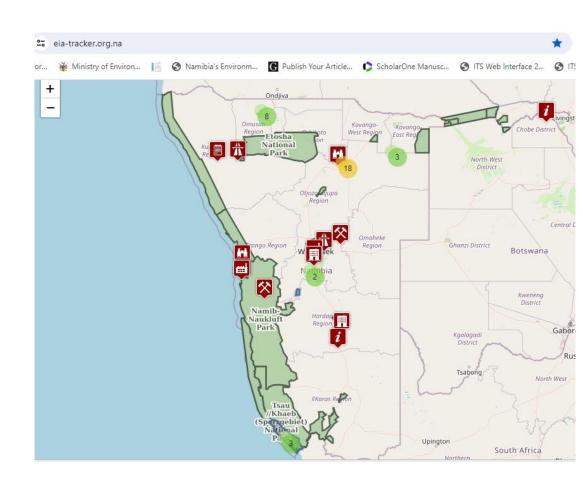
### Aims of the EIA Tracker

- Promote transparency
- Enable public participation
- Build understanding of the EIA process in Namibia

The Tracker provides a public platform for EIA information, enabling interested parties to shine a light on controversial or high-impact projects.

### **Features**

- Simple to access and navigate
- Information clearly displayed on a map of Namibia
- EIA info is up-to-date, gathered from newspaper adverts and the DEA website
- All relevant EIA info is permanently accessible
- The database is searchable, and gives a good spatial overview



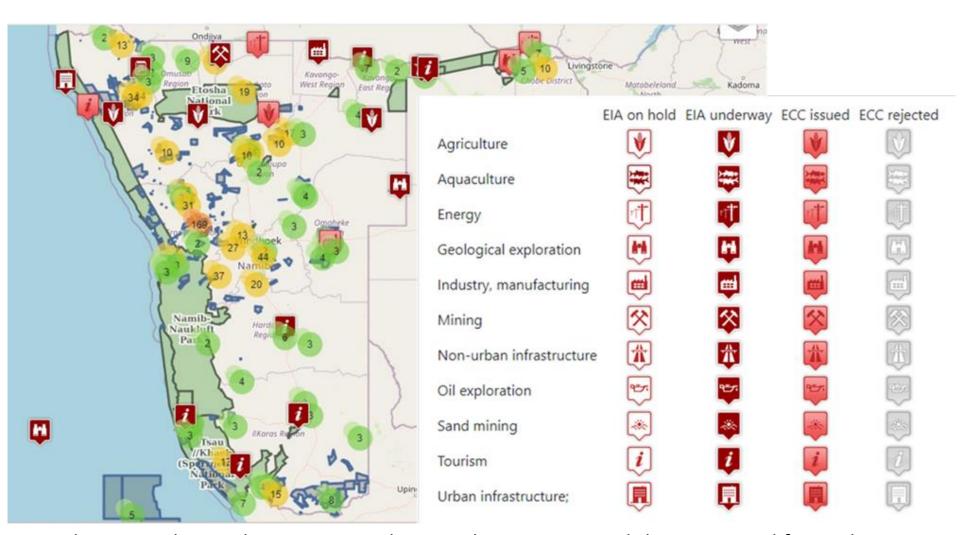
### **Features**

- The data are presented in the **map** and a **table** that provide an overview of the EIA information for each project.
- The map can also show **different land uses** in Namibia, e.g. protected areas, biodiversity hotspots, heritage sites
- Users can choose which layers to display on the map, and thus determine which protected areas or farms could be impacted by proposed development projects.
- The Tracker is in line with the Access to Information Bill, which will compel public and private entities to make information available proactively and promptly.

### Live EIA tracker demo

https://eia-tracker.org.na

# **Categories**



Cluster markers indicate areas with more than one EIA and the icons used for each category

# **Risk ratings**

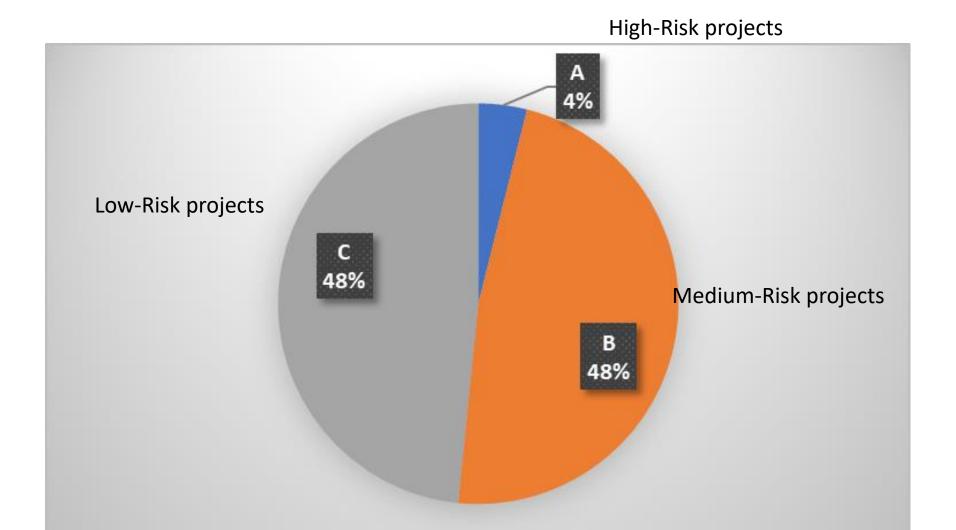
Risk rating	Criteria	Examples
A	<ul> <li>Significant impact on biodiversity, especially high priority species</li> <li>High pollution risk</li> <li>High risk to water resources</li> </ul>	Large mines Oil and gas exploration Storage of hazardous chemicals e.g. for mining
В	<ul> <li>Medium impact on biodiversity</li> <li>Medium pollution risk</li> <li>Medium risk to water resources</li> </ul>	Mining Claims EPLs Storage of petroleum products Fuel stations Transmission powerlines
С	<ul><li>Low risk to biodiversity</li><li>Low pollution risk</li><li>Low risk to water resources</li></ul>	Urban infrastructures, rezoning Sand mining Water supply

# Findings from tracking EIAs

- Many EAPs ignore stakeholder requests to register, and fail to send the Background Info Document to IAPs.
- In some cases, BIDs are not prepared at all.
- Advertisements in inconspicuous places (eg Classifieds), intending to hide from public view.
- Inputs from stakeholders are not included in EIA Reports, or are misrepresented

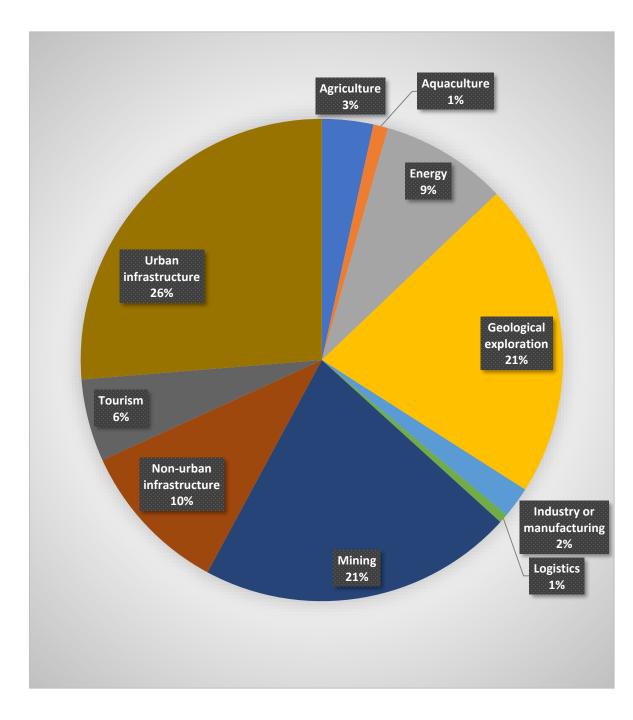
Much EIA effort (by both proponents and by the DEA) is wasted on low-risk projects.

Out of 814 EIAs recorded, only 4% were for high-risk projects



#### Most projects relate to

- urban development,
- mining (including sand mining),
- geological exploration



# These problems have been discussed with the Environmental Commissioner and the DEA

#### **Professional body for EAPs**

- Many of these EIA problems could be resolved by formalisation of a Professional Council for EAPs.
- Also, there is a role for the SDAC to assist the Environmental Commissioner with difficult issues and controversial projects.

### Conclusion

The EIA Tracker provides a **public platform** for EIA information, to enhance **public participation** in EIAs

and improve overall environmental management

by promoting a

democratic and transparent process

for EIAs.

https://eia-tracker.org.na

# Thank you



NAMIBIAN ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE SOCIETY