

PROJECT IMPACT ASSESSMENT, SIGNIFICANCE AND MITIGATION MEASURES SUMMARY

The following impact rating approach used by EnviroAfrica CC is a basic exponential rating system to assess actual and potential negative and positive environmental impacts.

Environmental activities or aspects are identified, based on:

- the phases of the project,
- the nature (or description) of the actual and potential impacts of the activities.

For every project activity or aspect, various environmental impacts are listed. Every negative impact is allocated a -value as per each of the following criteria:

- Probability (Likelihood)
- Extent
- Duration (Frequency)
- Consequence (Receiving Environment)
- Magnitude (Intensity/severity)

Every positive impact is allocated a +value as per each of the following criteria:

- Probability (Likelihood)
- Extent
- Duration (Frequency)
- Magnitude (Intensity/severity)

Once a value is allocated for each of the criterion, the scores are averaged to determine the final impact rating see Table 1 below.

EnviroAfrica then further assesses environmental significance, based on the nature of the impact, as per the score and colour key which forms part of Table 1 below. This results in impacts having either a low (indicated in green), medium (indicated in yellow) or high (indicated in orange and red) negative significance, and a low (light blue), medium (blue) or a high (dark blue) positive significance

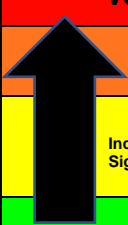
Note: i. As a baseline, impact rating values/scores are allocated taking the **worst-case** scenario into account i.e. with no mitigation. The baseline rating is compared with those after mitigation has been taken into account i.e. the post-mitigation rating. Post mitigation rating is used for the actual impact assessment.

| SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA | Very High | High | Medium | Low | Negligible (very-low) |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| Value | 16 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Probability (likelihood) (P) | Definite. Impact will definitely occur (impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures) | Highly probable. Very likely for impact to occur. | Probable. Impact may likely occur. | Improbable. Impact may occur. Distinct Possibility | Improbable. Low likelihood/unlikely for impact to occur. |
| Extent (E) | Impact potentially reaches beyond national boundaries | Impact has definite provincial/potential national consequences | Impact confined to regional area/ town | Impact confined to local region and impact on neighbouring properties | Impact confined to project property / site |
| Duration (D) | Permanent The impact is expected to have a permanent impact, with very little to no rehabilitation possible | Long-Term The impact is expected to last for a long time after construction with rehabilitation expected to be 15-50 years. Impact is reversible but only with long-term mitigation | Medium-term The impact is expected to last for some time after construction with rehabilitation expected to be 5 - 15 years. Impact is reversible but only with on-going mitigation | Short-term The impact is expected to last for a relatively short time with rehabilitation expected to be 2-5 years. The impact is reversible through natural process and/or some mitigation. | Very short/ temporary The impact is expected to be temporary and last for a very short time with rehabilitation expected to be less than 2 years. The impact is easily reversible through natural process and/or some mitigation. |
| Magnitude (Intensity/ Severity) (M) | It is expected that the activity will have a very severe to permanent impact on the surrounding environment. Functioning irreversibly impaired. Rehabilitation often impossible or unfeasible | It is expected that the activity will have a severe impact on the surrounding environment. Functioning may be severely impaired and may be temporarily cease. Rehabilitation will be needed to restore system integrity | It is expected that the activity will have an impact on the surrounding environment, but it will maintain its function, even if moderately modified (overall integrity not compromised). Rehabilitation easily achieved | It is expected that the activity will have a perceptible impact on the surrounding environment, but it will maintain its function, even if slightly modified (overall integrity not compromised). Rehabilitation easily achieved | It is expected that the impact will have little or no effect on the integrity of the surrounding environment |
| Receiving environment (Consequence): (RE) | Very sensitive, pristine area – protected site or species permanently or seasonally present | Unused area containing only indigenous fauna / flora species | Unused area containing indigenous and alien fauna / flora species | Semi-disturbed area already rehabilitated / recovered from prior impact, or with moderate alien vegetation | Disturbed area/ transformed/ heavy alien vegetation |

ENVIRONMENTAL RATING SIGNIFICANCE KEY:

Negative Impacts


| SIGNIFICANCE | RATING | Final rating score / value range |
|------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Very Significant | Very High | -11 to -16 |
| Significant | High | -7 to <-11 |
| Insignificant | Medium | -4 to <-7 |
| | Low | -2 to <-4 |
| | Very Low | -1 to <-2 |



Increasing Significance

Positive Impacts

| SIGNIFICANCE | RATING | Final rating score / value range |
|---------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Significant | High | 10 to 16 |
| Insignificant | Medium | 4 to <10 |
| | Low | 1 to <4 |



Increasing Significance

Table 1: Environmental Significance Rating Methodology (rating criteria and significance key)

**PLEASE SEE RATING SCORING MATRIX*

| Nature of Impact | | | Impact Assessment Ranking and Proposed Mitigation | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|--|---|---|---|
| No. | Aspect | Impact | Environmental Significance (without Mitigation) | Proposed Mitigation (i.e. Proposed mitigation to reverse/ avoid, manage or mitigate identified impacts associated with construction, operation, and decommissioning/ closure phases) | Environmental Significance (After Mitigation) |
| CONSTRUCTION PHASE | | | | | |
| 1 | Botanical | Geology & soils: Potential impact on special habitats | -3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All construction must be done in accordance with an approved construction and operational phase Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which must include the recommendations made in this report. A suitably qualified Environmental Control Officer must be appointed to monitor the construction phase in terms of the EMP and any other conditions pertaining to specialist studies. Before any work is done protected tree species must be marked and demarcated. If any of these species are to be removed, the appropriate permits approvals must first be obtained. Lay-down areas or construction sites must be located within the construction footprint. No clearing of any area outside of the construction footprint may be allowed. All waste that had been illegally dumped within the footprint must be removed to a Municipal approved waste disposal site. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented during construction. Construction related general and hazardous waste may only be disposed of at Municipal approved waste disposal sites. Alien invasive Prosopis plants within the footprint (and immediate surroundings) must be removed in a responsible way (to ensure against regrowth). The Municipality must ensure that adequate waste and sewerage facilities and or services are established to service this community. | -2 |
| 2 | | Land-use and cover: Potential impact on socio-economic activities. | -4 | | -3 |
| 3 | | Vegetation status: Loss of Least Threatened vegetation and associated habitat. | -6 | | -3 |
| 4 | | Conservation priority: Potential impact on protected areas, CBA's, ESA's or Centre's of Endemism. | -8 | | -3 |
| 5 | | Connectivity: Potential loss of ecological migration corridors. | -5 | | -2 |
| 6 | | Watercourses and wetlands: potential impact on natural watercourses and its ecological support areas. | -6 | | -3 |
| 7 | | Protected & endangered plant species: Potential impact on threatened | -6 | | -2 |

APPENDIX 7 – IMPACT ASSESSMENT

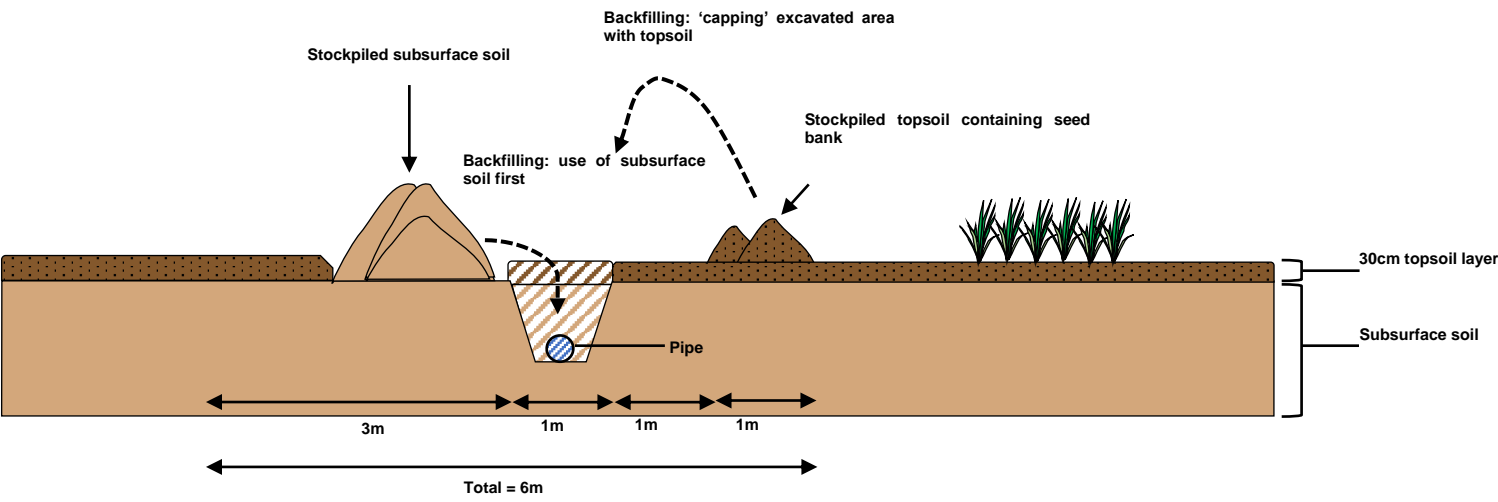


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| | | or protected plant species. | | | |
| 8 | | Invasive alien plant species: Potential invasive plant infestation as a result of the activities. | 0 | | 0 |
| 9 | | Veld fire risk: Potential risk of veld fires as a result of the activities. | -2 | | -2 |
| 10 | | Cumulative impacts: Cumulative impact associated with proposed activity. | -8 | | -3 |
| 11 | | The "No-Go" option: Potential impact associated with the No-Go alternative. | -5 | | 0 |
| 12 | | Lithic occurrences across the development footprint. | -3 | With regards to heritage resources, no mitigation is required. Therefore, the Heritage Specialists recommend that the proposed development can continue. | -2 |
| 13 | Heritage | The cemetery situated outside of the development footprint. | -2 | With regards to the Opwag cemetery (located outside the development footprint), no mitigation is required with regards to these resources. No graves were identified within the development footprint. Although all possible care has been taken to identify sites of cultural importance during the investigation of study areas, it is always possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the assessment. If during construction, any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM | -2 |

| Nature of Impact | | | Impact Assessment Ranking and Proposed Mitigation | | |
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| | | | | Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 50(6) of the NHRA. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA. | |
| 14 | Palaeontology | Due to the zero palaeontological significance of the area, no further palaeontological heritage studies, ground-truthing and/or specialist mitigation are required. | -2 | It is considered that the development of the proposed development is deemed appropriate and feasible and will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area as the igneous rocks underlying the site are not fossiliferous. It is therefore recommended that the project be exempt from a full Paleontological Impact Assessment (Butler 2020). If fossil remains or trace fossils are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by excavations the Chance Find Protocol (Appendix A/11) must be implemented by the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) in charge of these developments. These discoveries ought to be protected, and the ECO must report to SAHRA (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za) so that mitigation can be carried out by a palaeontologist (Butler 2020). | -2 |
| 15 | Freshwater | Household waste ending up in the drainage line and Orange River | -6 | Measures should be taken to prevent the accumulation of household waste and other trash in the drainage line through proper urban solid waste management. It is going to be hard, if not impossible, to keep children from playing in the drainage line. It would only be a small section of the drainage line that would be impacted. Likewise, it is going to be hard to limit the number of farm animals in the growing township, but it should be attempted if the drainage lines are going to be saved. Opwag is still small, which leaves the opportunity to establish proper municipal service right from the start. It should not be allowed to deteriorate, as is the case in some of the other townships along the Lower Orange River. | -3 |
| 16 | | Trampling and over grazing | -5 | | -3 |

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| 17 | Soil | <p>On site erosion due to improper management of stormwater during construction.</p> <p>Exposed platforms and trenches excavated for any pipeline are susceptible will be susceptible to erosion during the construction phase.</p> | -6 | <p>All construction activities must be carried out with caution. The following mitigation measures must be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Erosion mitigation measures must be implemented¹; - No storage of materials, including stockpiling of any material, is permitted within 32m of the drainage line; - Any soil which has been exposed due to construction activities must be rehabilitated to prevent erosion; - Vegetation must be cleared in phases (i.e. where construction activities are to be conducted) to reduce the extent of soil susceptible to erosion at any point in time; - Temporary stormwater measures, such as the use of temporary berms, with silt traps (e.g. shade netting) to prevent stormwater runoff flowing into the drainage line, should be implemented to ensure that material does not wash into the drainage line during construction; - Once areas of exposed soil have been adequately shaped, these areas must be rehabilitated with vegetation characteristic of the Bushmanland Arid Grassland (LT) vegetation type. Implemented erosion mitigation measures can only be removed once vegetation has established; | -3 |

¹ Erosion control methods include, but are not limited to, silt fences, gabion baskets (where applicable), retention basins, detention ponds, interceptor ditches, seeding and sodding, riprap of exposed embankments, erosion mats and mulching. Exposed areas, susceptible to erosion, must be rehabilitated. This includes planting vegetation, characteristic of the Bushmanland Arid Grassland vegetation type (where the ecosystem type was impacted), to stabilize the soil.

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| 18 | | Erosion and safety hazards associated with excavated pipelines which are not backfilled. | -6 | <p>The following mitigation measures must be implemented for any excavated trenches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excavated material must be separated into topsoil (generally upper 30cm) and subsoil (remaining) and stockpiled accordingly. Stockpiles must be located at least 32m away from any drainage line or other sensitive area (see figure below); - Trenches must be excavated in sections and backfilled once the pipeline has been laid. The excavated trench must not remain open indefinitely; - Any pooled water in open trenches must be pumped out. - Trenches must be demarcated; - Material must be backfilled in the order it was excavated (i.e. backfilled first with subsoil followed by topsoil). Backfilled trenches must be rehabilitated. | -3 |
| | |  <p>The diagram illustrates the backfilling process for an excavated trench. It shows a cross-section of the ground with a trench containing a pipe. The trench is divided into sections of 1m each, with a 3m section for stockpiling subsurface soil. The backfilling process involves using subsurface soil first, followed by capping the area with topsoil. A stockpile of topsoil containing a seed bank is also shown. The total width of the backfilled area is 6m. The diagram also indicates a 30cm topsoil layer and subsurface soil layers.</p> | | | |

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| 19 | Watercourse | Sedimentation of drainage line due to the uncontrolled stormwater runoff naturally flowing towards the drainage line. | -7 | <p>The following mitigation measures must be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All construction activities, within close proximity to the drainage line, must be carried out with extreme caution; - Erosion mitigation measures must be implemented¹; - The proposed access road must be strictly adhered to. No ad hoc roads are permitted; - Excluding the proposed access road, the drainage line must be demarcated as a “no-go” zone; - No storage of materials, including stockpiling of any material, is permitted within 32m of the drainage line; - Any soil which has been exposed due to construction activities must be rehabilitated to prevent erosion; - Vegetation must be cleared in phases (i.e. where construction activities are to be conducted) to reduce the extent of soil susceptible to erosion at any point in time; - Temporary stormwater measures, such as the use of temporary berms, with silt traps (e.g. shade netting) to prevent stormwater runoff flowing into the drainage line, should be implemented to ensure that material does not wash into the drainage line during construction; - Once areas of exposed soil have been adequately shaped, these areas must be rehabilitated with vegetation characteristic of the Bushmanland Arid Grassland vegetation type. Implemented erosion mitigation measures can only be removed once vegetation has established; - Stormwater runoff from any platforms must be diverted away from the drainage line. If no formalized stormwater network exists, water should be directed to a temporary detention pond to reduce the sedimentation of stormwater networks on site; - The contractor must check the site for erosion after each rainfall event and rectify any areas eroded/ susceptible to erosion. | -3 |
| 20 | Waste | Insufficient number of toilets and / or inappropriate disposal | -6 | The increase in construction personnel during the construction phase will require an appropriate number of toilet facilities for the site. This impact can be fully mitigated. | -3 |

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| | | of sewage generated during the construction phase. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate and sufficient toilet facilities (1 toilet per 15 employees) must be provided by the contractor; - All toilet facilities must be checked on a daily basis; - All toilet facilities must be emptied and cleaned on a weekly basis or as agreed (in writing) with the ECO and DENC. - A registered waste removal company must remove sewage waste from the site or be disposed of at a permitted disposal facility; and - Toilet waste receipts must be obtained, and kept on site, for proof of safe disposal. | |
| 21 | | Temporary increase in waste and litter contaminating the receiving environment | -5 | <p>The construction phase of the project will see an increase in construction staff on site and therefore an increase in waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Littering will not be permitted on site; - A designated waste storage area must be established at the construction site camp. Appropriate waste receptacles must be set up at intervals along any pipeline routes and emptied into the main waste storage area at the end of each day; - Waste must be removed from site and disposed of at a registered waste disposal site; - Safe disposal slips for the disposal of all waste must be obtained and kept on site as proof of safe disposal. | -3 |
| 22 | Socio-economic | Creation of short-term employment opportunities during the construction phase. | 4 | The construction of the Opwag Housing Project will create employment and skills development opportunities during the construction phase. This will upskill local community members and lowering the high unemployment rate within the !Kheis Local Municipality and more specifically, the existing Opwag Settlement. | 4 |
| 23 | Dust | Dust will be generated during the construction of the proposed development which may impact drivers and commuters. | -4 | <p>The proposed site for development is located approximately 4.5km north of the N10 and adjacent to the existing Opwag Settlement. Although the generation of dust will be temporary, the following mitigation measures must be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vehicle speed must be limited to 20km/h to reduce the amount of dust generated along the gravel roads (and especially in 20m of the | -2 |

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|------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
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| | | | | drainage line which must be treated as an environmental sensitive area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All material, being transported in the back of trucks, must be covered. - Should the mitigation measures be inadequate, water carts must be used on site along the access roads. - The applicant must comply with the National Dust Regulations (Government Notice R827, 2013) with regards to dust levels produced on site. | |
| 24 | Visual | Site may be not aesthetic amid natural background. | -4 | The proposed development will not be (limited) visible from the N10. Moreover, the proposed nature of the development will be in line with surrounding land use, namely the existing Opwag Settlement. | -3 |
| 25 | Noise | Noise will be generated during the construction phase. | -4 | Any noise generated by construction activities will be a temporary impact however, the following mitigation measures will be implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A complaints register must be maintained on-site. Any complaints received must be responded to and rectified accordingly. - The ECO must be notified of any complaints; - All construction vehicles must be fitted with standard silencers. All silencers must be maintained. All machinery used on site must have suppressors. - Working hours must be limited to and strictly adhered to standard daylight working hours (08h00-17h00). | -3 |
| 26 | Unsustainable sourcing of raw materials | Illegal sourcing of raw materials, such as gravel, sand, water etc. promoting illegal mining operations causing significant damage to the environment. | -8 | This impact can be fully mitigated. The following mitigation measures must be implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contractors must obtain and provide proof of sustainable sourcing of materials brought to, and used on, site. These receipts must be retained on site. - The volume of material (e.g. gravel, sand, etc.) must be recorded. These records must be kept on site. | -4 |

| Nature of Impact | | | Impact Assessment Ranking and Proposed Mitigation | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--|---|--|---|
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| OPERATION PHASE | | | | | |
| 27 | Water supply | Increased pressure on water source for water supply | -6 | <p>Refer to Engineer's Services Report (Appendix 4B) for more information of proposed services.</p> <p>The following mitigation measures must be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All water pipelines, pumps, and associated equipment must be routinely checked and monitored for leakages/ malfunction. Any leakages or malfunctioning equipment must be immediately fixed/ rectified; - No hazardous substances/ dangerous goods are to be used/ stored in close proximity to water storage areas. Any contaminated water must be disposed of as hazardous waste at a registered hazardous waste disposal facility. A waste receipt is required as proof of safe disposal; and - Any equipment utilized must be placed on a hardened surface (e.g. concrete surface or batching board) to prevent the contamination of exposed soil. | -4 |
| 28 | Sewage management | Increased production of sewage which requires effective management | -10 | <p>As per the Engineer's Services Report (Appendix 4B), recommended construction / upgrades required to service the proposed Opwag Development (expected sewer flow = 365 000l / day) include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a new 25l/s canal pump station with a duty and standby pump. • New 160mm diameter Class 9 PVC pipeline between the canal pump station and the water treatment works. • Water Treatment Works to be re-allocated to proposed site and upgraded to deliver 24m³/h potable water to the potable storage reservoirs. • New 848m³ sectional steel reservoir in the proposed site. • One (1) new 355 m³ sectional steel pressure tower on the highest point in the village. • New 52l/s lifting pump station at the treatment works. • New 250mm pipeline between the lifting pump station and the pressure tower. | -4 |
| 29 | Solid waste management | Increased pressure on municipal waste removal services and | -10 | All waste generated during the operational phase must be collected, consolidated, stored, removed, and disposed of at a registered disposal | -4 |

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| | | illegal dumping of waste | | facility. Provisions must be made for these solid waste management activities. | |
| DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASE | | | | | |
| 30 | Waste | Demolition of infrastructure resulting in waste accumulation on-site and surrounding area. | -7 | The following mitigation measures must be implemented: - All infrastructure which has been demolished must be consolidated, removed, and disposed of at a registered disposal facility. Waste receipts are required as proof of safe disposal; - The burying and/or burning of waste is strictly prohibited. | -3 |
| 31 | Soil and water sources | Exposed soil becoming prone to erosion resulting in the sedimentation of the drainage line. | -6 | The following mitigation measures must be implemented: - Previously transformed areas must be ripped and subsequently rehabilitated with indigenous vegetation characteristic of the Bushmanland Arid Grassland (LT). Previously implemented erosion mitigation measures must remain in place. | -3 |