SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR NAMPARKS V UGABMUND

FOR SLR CONSULTING

FROM ASHBY ASSOCIATES CC

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS - AURIOL

Acronym / Abbreviation	Definition
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral Treatment
ARV	Antiretroviral
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LCE	Lund Consulting Engineers
MET	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MOHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
NACSO	Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations
NAMPOL	Namibian Police
NPC	National Planning Commission
PDN	Previously Disadvantaged Namibian
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
SADC	Southern African Development Community
TB	Tuberculosis
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

1 INTRODUCTION

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6.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC

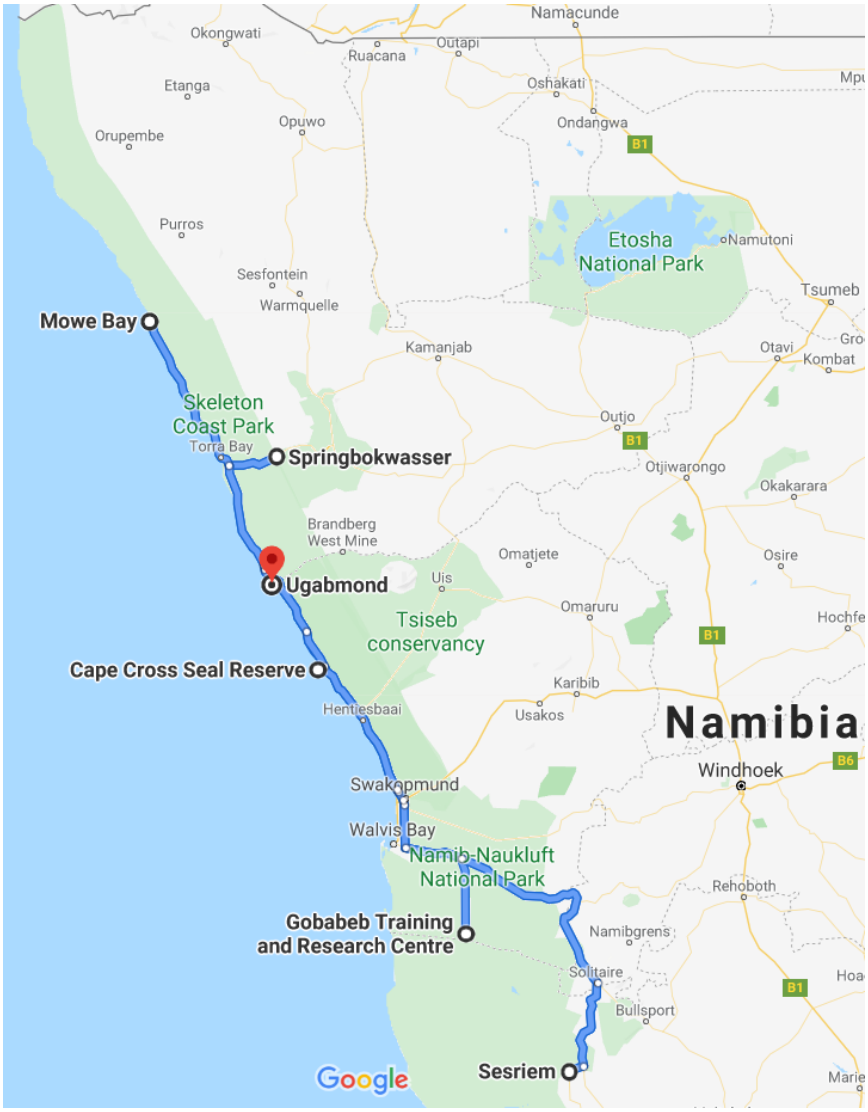
6.1.1 Introduction

The objective of the Integrated National Park Management II Project (also '**NamParks V**') is that "Coastal Parks and their support zones are sustainably managed and fair access to their natural resources is ensured thus contributing to biodiversity conservation and *improved living conditions of the neighbouring communities*". This section gives a socio-economic baseline of Ugabmund's environs while Section 7 assesses potential impacts and recommends enhancement measures which can improve the living conditions of the neighbouring communities and mitigation measures to protect them.

The new concept, proposed in 2019, is that Ugabmund would be the new Main Station as it is the gate into two parks and can serve the northern section of the Dorob National Park (DNP) and the southern section of the Skeleton Coast National Park (SCNP). The southern part of the SCNP stretches from the Ugab River up to Torra Bay and is freely accessible. However as from the entrance gates at Ugabmund and Springbokwasser a permit is needed, which can be purchased in Windhoek, Swakopmund or directly at the gates.

The Dorob National Park was proclaimed in December 2010 and stretches from the Ugab River southwards to the Kuiseb Delta (south of Walvis Bay); and from the low water mark of the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the border of the previous National West Coast Tourist Recreation Area in the east. The eastern border of the DNP adjoins communal land comprised of two conservancies where land is managed for wildlife and tourism. The DNP area is freely accessible.

FIGURE 6-1 MAP SHOWING UGABMUND AND OTHER NAMPARKS V SITES



The existing infrastructure at Ugabmund consists of an entrance gate, visitor reception and ablutions, museum, staff houses (6), garages, stores, generator room, borehole, septic tank with soak-away (LCE, 2019). All the buildings, with most of them of prefabricated nature, are very old, in bad condition and should be demolished; some of the roof sheets are believed to be from asbestos-cement and must be removed as soon as possible.

The first feasibility study assessments were conducted in 2015 and were followed by a scope definition/needs assessment carried out by Lund Consulting Engineers (LCE) in 2019. The predicted staff contingent to be based at Ugabmund was increased from 11 in 2015 to 16 in 2019. The number of bedrooms per house to be built for Parks staff is related to their level in staff hierarchy rather than their personal need. Thus a chief warden, chief conservation scientist, veterinarian and chief artisan foreman, will be allocated a 3 bedroom house; the senior warden, warden, ranger and artisan foreman will be allocated a two bedroom house and the assistant ranger, operator/driver, watchman, admin officer and workhands will be offered one-bedroom houses. LCE was informed that the Chief Warden and a Warden will be stationed at Ugabmund (LCE, 2019).

Given the allocated staff ranks and needs, SLR was informed to conduct the EIA on the following infrastructure at Ugabmund:

- New office/tourist reception, recreation building, garages, workshop, washbay, service building, staff houses (10 x 1-bed, 4 x 2-bed and 1 x 3-bed), camp site and solar PV (on roof).
- Small containerised Reverse Osmosis plant supplied from existing borehole.
- Install wastewater collection and treatment facility (SLR Background Information document).

6.1.2 Current Users, Interested and Affected Parties of the Ugabmund facilities

"The interested and affected communities are made up of:

- Government employees living at the base: MEFT staff and Namibian Police officers
- Tour operators and tourists who wish to pass between the two National Parks
- The Doro !nawas and Tsiseb Conservancies which may enter into concession agreements with MEFT and concessionaires operating in the National Parks.

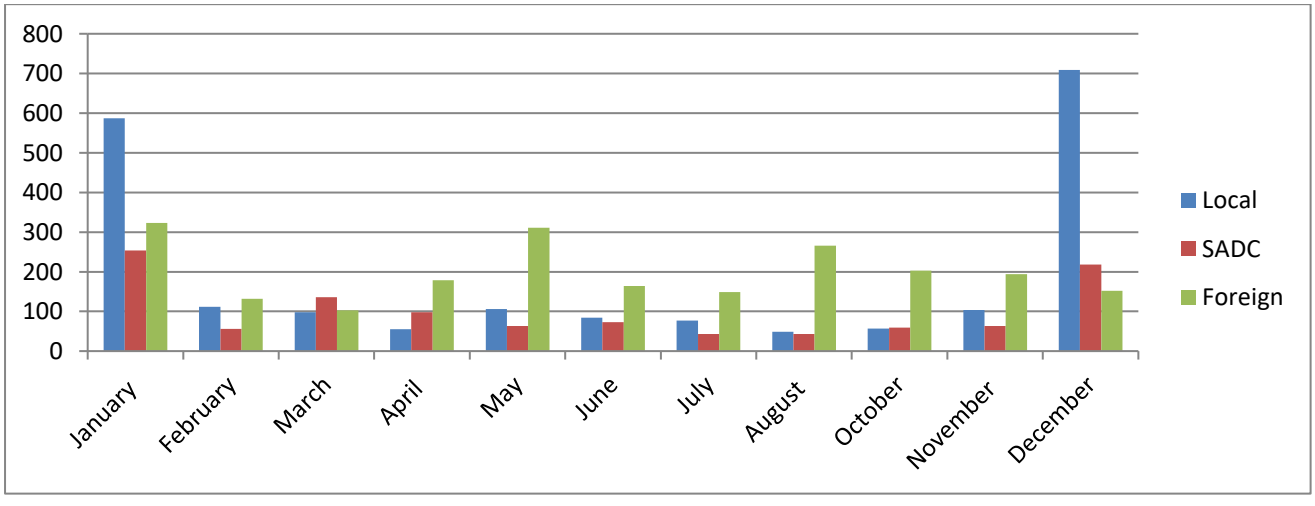
The nearest police station is at Henties Bay, 128km south of Ugabmund.

In August 2020 during the site visit, SLR was informed that a maximum of 11 MEFT staff were living at Ugabmund, and two additional family members.

6.1.3 Tourism

In 2019, 5,320 people were given permits to enter the Skeleton Coast National Park at the MEFT offices in Windhoek, Swakopmund or directly at the Ugabmund or Springbokwasser gates. Most Namibian and Southern African Development Community (SADC) tourists visited the Park during January 2019 and December 2019 while the peak months for foreign tourists, who made up 40% of the visitors, were May and August 2019 **(Figure 6-2).**

FIGURE 6-2 SKELETON COAST NATIONAL PARK ANNUAL TOURIST STATISTICS 2019



Source: MEFT, 2020

The peak season for all groups of tourists was January 2019; These tourists generated N$1,404,103 of income in park fees to the MEFT in 2019.

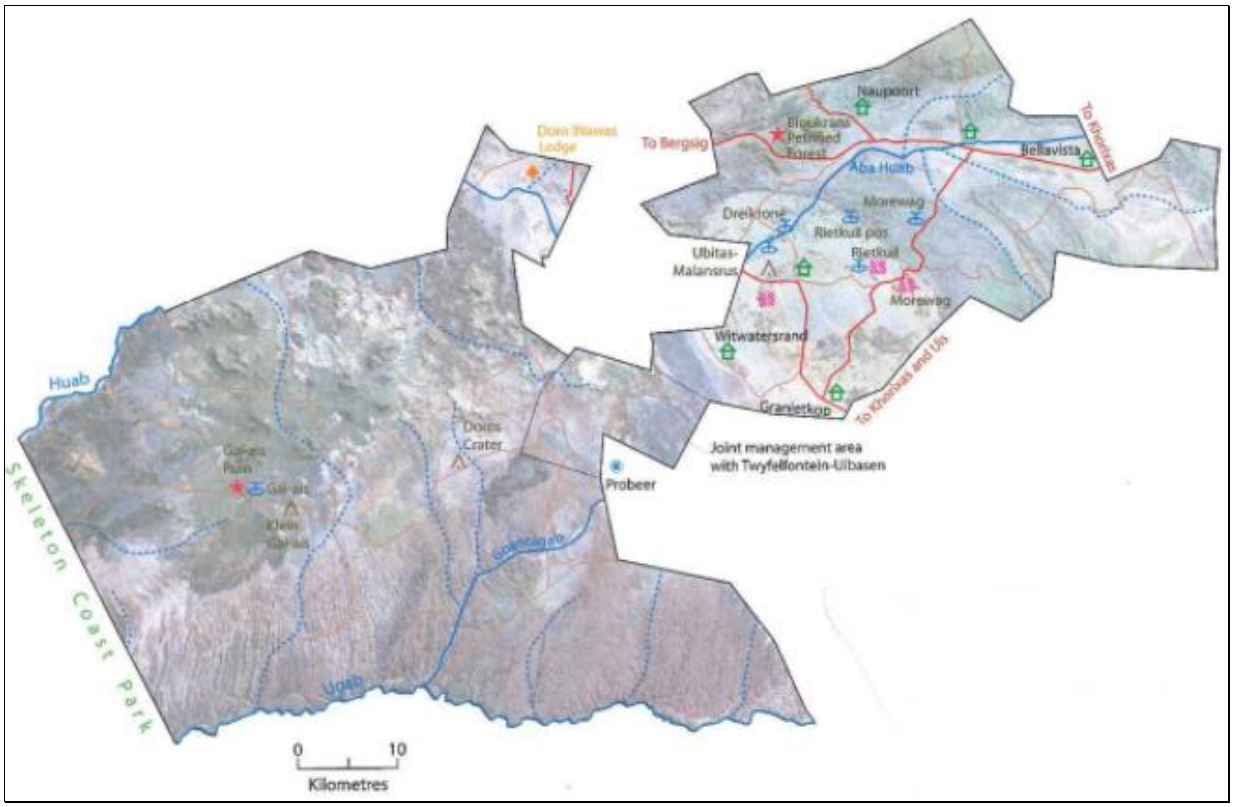
A free transit permit to pass between Ugabmund and Springbokwasser can be obtained at the gates but the transit permits are not valid for camping at Torra Bay or at the Terrace Bay self-catering houses and rooms. These are the two Namibia Wildlife Resort sites within the Southern section of the SCNP, which are favourite holiday destinations for keen anglers. The Park is famous in angling circles for beach angling while other visitors use Terrace Bay as a base to explore the Uniab River Delta which is a wonderful destination for hiking, bird watching, game viewing and desert dune scenery.

Many tourists drive a circuitous route which takes them from Etosha through one or more of the western conservancies to Swakopmund and south to the Sossusvlei dunes, or in reverse order.

6.1.4 Neighbouring Conservancies

The southern border of the Doro !nawas Conservancy is the Ugab River which also forms the northern border of the Tsiseb Conservancy. The Doro !nawas Conservancy has a border of about 60km with the SCNP while the rest of 4,000km^2 stretches inland towards Khorixas. The conservancy had a population of 1,100 people in 2011, mainly Damara people who speak Khoekhoegowab. In 2014, it reported an income of N$2.4 million which included payment to 50 private sector staff in joint ventures and 17 conservancy staff. It has a joint venture with Wilderness Safaris Doro Nawas Camp located on the Aba-Huab River which gives easy access to the popular Twyfelfontein rock engravings.

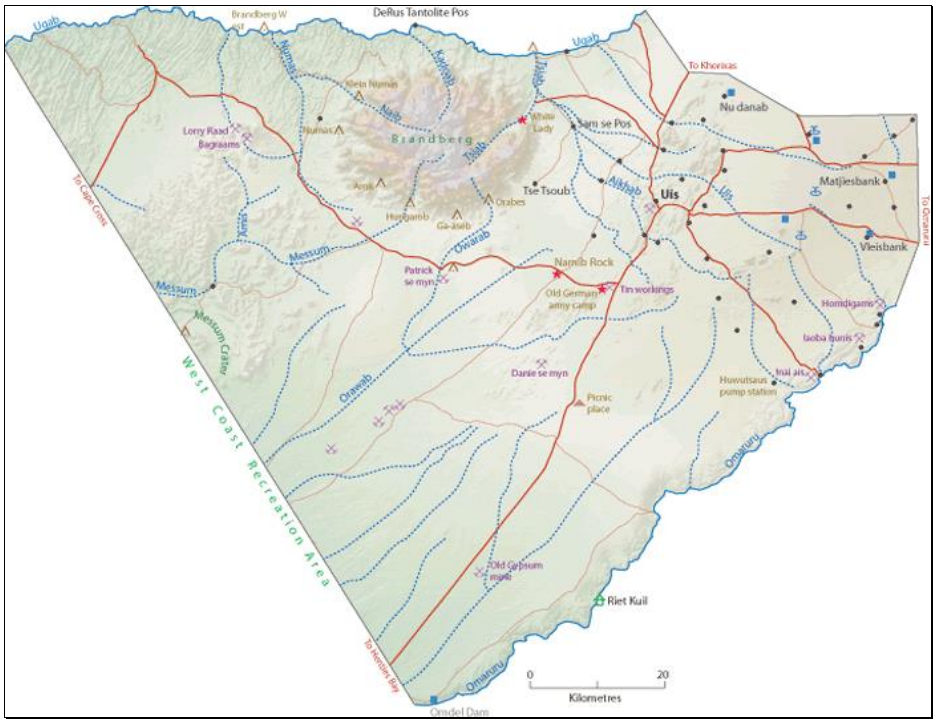
FIGURE 6-3 DORO !NAWAS CONSERVANCY



Source: http://www.nacso.org.na/sites/default/files/Doro%20Nawas.jpg

The Tsiseb Conservancy borders the Dorob National Park / West Coast Recreation Area from the Ugab River to the Omaruru River to the south. It covers nearly 8,000km^2 and includes features such as the Messum Crater, the Brandberg Mountain, rock art and old mines.

FIGURE 6-4 THE TSISEB CONSERVANCY



Source: http://www.nacso.org.na/sites/default/files/Tsiseb.gif

The Tsiseb Conservancy serves a population of about 2,200 in 2011 and it has enterprise agreements with the Brandberg White Lady Lodge, the Ugab Campsite (community campsite), the Daureb Mountain Guides, the Daureb Information Centre with Daureb Crafts, Vicky's Coffee Shop and internet café, the semi-precious stone market and through trophy hunting[1]. 91% of its income was through combined tourism returns of over N$2.1 million with about N$200,000 being derived from hunting revenue.

6.1.5 Health

The majority of the population rely on the government health services for primary and secondary health care. The hierarchy of care starts at the primary health care clinic level, such as the Henties Bay clinic (128km away) which is run by two registered nurses and two enrolled nurses; the government doctor rarely visited in 2015. Very sick patients are referred to the hospital in Swakopmund but there was no government ambulance available so people have to arrange their own private transport; Lifelink Emergency Rescue Services offers a private sector paramedic service.

[1] http://www.nacso.org.na/conservancies/tsiseb

Private health care serves the richest 15% of the population[2] and those who have access to medical aid through their employment schemes. Henties Bay has a number of private doctors, a medical centre, a clinic and pharmacies (Urban Dynamics, 2013).

The most common diseases recorded at the Henties Bay government clinic were acute respiratory infections, muscular skeletal & diseases, skin diseases and diarrhoea which is likely to be poor hygiene related[3]. In 2018 nationally, the top ten causes of death were HIV/AIDS, ischemic heart disease, lower respiratory infections, stroke, TB, neonatal disorders, diarrhoea, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and road injuries. Life expectancy at birth for women was 65 and for men 62 years. Infant mortality is relatively high at 36/1000 live births[4].

At the national level, HIV prevalence among pregnant women age 25-49 reached a peak of 26.4% in 2010 and steadily declined to 24% by 2016. Among women younger than 25 years, HIV prevalence decreased slightly from 2008 to 2012 and remained stable from 2012 to 2016 at 8.5%. HIV prevalence recorded at the Swakopmund hospital in 2016, in the 15-24 age group, was below the national average at 6.3%. In the older age group of 25-49 years in the same year, Swakopmund hospital recorded a significant increase to 27% prevalence while in Walvis Bay the prevalence rates were stable at 22% (MoHSS, 2016). More women have HIV than men as there is a disproportionate distribution of prevalence between women (16.9%) and men (10.9%) aged 15-49.

A major factor contributing to the drop in prevalence is the high, universal antiretroviral treatment (ART) coverage. The drop in youth infections also means less new infections are joining the pool of the older HIV infected cohort and there has been a drop in HIV related deaths among people living with HIV. Comprehensive prevention of mother to child transmission has nearly eradicated infant HIV infection at birth.

UNAIDS, and affected countries such as Namibia, have set “90-90-90” targets by 2020: 90% of all people living with HIV (PLHIV) will know their HIV status; 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained ART; and 90% of all people receiving ART will have viral suppression. By 2017, 86.0% of PLHIV aged 15-64 years were aware of their HIV status, 96.4% were on ART and among PLHIV aged 15-64 years, who self-reported current use of ART and/or had a detectable ARV in their blood, 91.3% were virally suppressed (MOHSS, 2018). Namibia is expected to exceed these targets and set higher ones.

6.1.6 Human Rights-based approach to development

The aim of this section is to appraise the relevant human rights risks and impacts of the proposed infrastructure upgrading, in accordance with the BMZ guidelines[5] by incorporating human rights standards

[2] http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/sectors-namibia/business/health_and_medical/ accessed on 9/9/2020

[3] Pers. Comm. Henties Bay clinic registered nurse, October 2015.

[4] https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/namibia/pdf/Namibia_FactSheet.pdf accessed on 9/9/2020

[5] BMZ Guidelines on Incorporating Human Rights Standards and Principles, Including Gender, in Programme Proposals for Bilateral German Technical and Financial Cooperation.

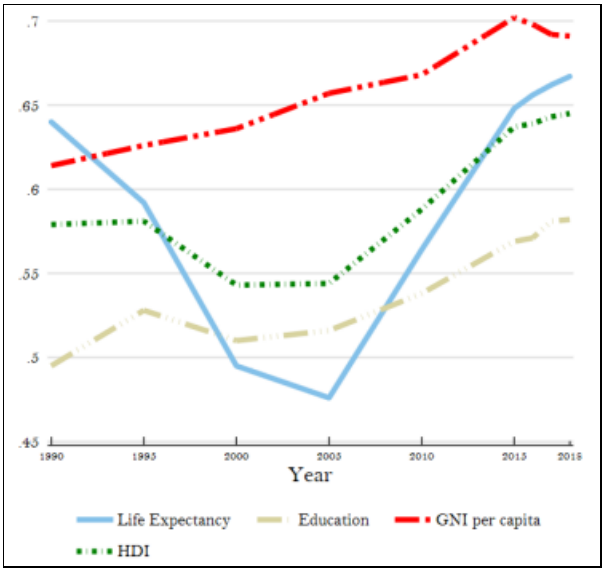
and principles, including gender aspects. Human rights standards comprise the human rights themselves (e.g. the right to adequate housing and livelihoods) and what is referred to as human rights core elements. The most important core elements of economic, social and cultural rights are availability, accessibility (i.e. physical accessibility, non-discriminatory accessibility and affordability), quality and cultural acceptability. Human rights principles – participation and empowerment, non-discrimination and equality of opportunity, transparency and accountability – are part of all international human rights conventions.

The Constitution of Namibia emphasises equality and freedom from discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed or social or economic status (Article 10). The Constitution does not make specific reference to marginalised or indigenous groups, but Article 23 allows Parliament to enact legislation to provide affirmative actions to redress social, economic and educational imbalances.

As no people are allowed to permanently live in the Skeleton Coast National Park (apart from NAMPOL and MEFT staff at the designated stations), the human rights of people in the neighbouring conservancies are very unlikely to be compromised by the project.

Another measurement of human rights standards is reflected in the Human Development Index which measures long-term progress in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. Namibia's HDI has increased from 0.579 to 0.645 between 1990 and 2018, an increase of 11.3%.

FIGURE 6-5 TRENDS IN NAMIBIA'S HDI COMPONENT INDICES 1990 - 2018



Source: (UNDP, 2019)

Although this is good progress, it masks the inequalities in the distribution of this human development. When the HDI is discounted for inequalities, it falls from 0.645 to 0.417, a loss of 35% due to inequality in the distribution of the HDI indices (UNDP, 2019). The National Planning Commission recognises that income

inequality, measured using the Gini coefficient, has dropped from 0.7 in 1993/4[6] to 0.56 in 2015 (NPC, 2020) yet Namibia remains one of the most inequal countries in the world.

Participatory development is an important component of human rights. The MEFT staff at Ugabmund recommended various amendments to the facilities upgrade at Ugabmund. In particular, they strongly recommended that as the site is so remote, building more 2-bedroom houses and less 1-bedroom houses would be more appropriate for young families. Splitting families brings an added risk of unfaithfulness and higher risk of HIV infections.

7 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

7.1 ASSESSMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

7.1.1 Impact: Addressing inequality through job creation and skills development

7.1.1.1 Description of Impact

Jobs will be created for the construction of the new infrastructure and the demolition of some of the existing prefabricated structures. Lund gave no detail on the number of construction workers which are likely to be needed. These construction workers are likely to be already formally employed by the winning tenderer with additional workers being contracted from the local skills base in Swakopmund or other coastal towns. It is highly unlikely that the communities in the neighbouring conservancies will benefit from construction activities as Ugabmund is so remote. The contractor(s) will enter the area from the South along the C34.

The construction activities will support indirect jobs in the building supplies and transport sectors. With the Namibian economy being at an all-time low, any work in the construction industry will bring benefits. Lund gave a preliminary cost estimate for the development at Ugabmund of N$42,645,106 which at September 2020 exchange rate of 19.93:1 is €2,117,332; this is a sizeable business opportunity.

During the operations phase, there should be limited permanent direct or indirect jobs created and/or service contracts to maintain the new infrastructure.

It is unlikely that the improved facilities will have much impact on increasing tourism numbers passing through Ugabmund and therefore will have little economic impact on increasing revenue to the neighbouring conservancies.

7.1.1.2 Assessment of Impact

Severity

[6] Recorded in NDP3

The project will have limited but positive impacts on job creation in the construction industry and in the building maintenance sector and is ranked as MEDIUM POSITIVE; in addition, some transfer of skills may take place.

Duration

The duration of the impact is MEDIUM as most of the work will end when the construction is completed. During operations, a maintenance plan should include regular visits to ensure the infrastructure is well maintained which will create one job or several short-term contracts, possibly shared over several sites.

Spatial scale

The spatial scale is ranked MEDIUM as construction employees are likely be sourced from the coastal towns, rather than nationally.

Consequence

The consequence of the impacts is MEDIUM as the Severity, Duration and Spatial Scale are ranked MEDIUM.

Probability

The probability of the impacts occurring is HIGH as the project cannot operate without creating construction jobs.

Significance

The significance of a small number of short-term jobs being created is MEDIUM because the consequence is MEDIUM even though the probability of the impacts occurring is HIGH.

7.1.1.3 **Conceptual description of proposed enhancement measures**

Objective

To maximise local job creation and promote broader participation and economic empowerment among Previously Disadvantaged Namibians (PDNs) during construction, operations and through the supply chain.

As Ugabmund is so remote, “local” can realistically be defined as from the nearest towns to the project, such as Khorixas (345km), Henties Bay (127km), Swakopmund (200km), Walvis Bay (232km). A human rights-based approach aims to promote businesses owned by and employing previously disadvantaged Namibians at management level downwards.

Actions

i. MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to construction companies owned by previously disadvantaged Namibians, which demonstrate they make maximise use of the local labour force and specifically encourage women to apply for any jobs available.

ii. Further, MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to women-owned and managed companies over male-led companies.

iii. MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to prime contractors who include and support PDN suppliers in the procurement chain. The measurement used by NamPower is the % procurement spending allocated to businesses owned by PDNs (e.g. mentorship programmes, joint ventures, sub-contracting) (NamPower, 2014).

iv. MEFT will give tender weighting to construction companies that will detail how and what skills they will transfer to local workers during construction or the % of gross wages they spend on training.

TABLE 7-1 TABULATED SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSED IMPACT: JOB CREATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Mitigation	Severity	Duration	Spatial Scale	Consequence	Probability of Occurrence	Significance
Unmitigated impacts	M+	M	M	M+	H	M+
Enhanced positive impacts	H+	H	M	H+	H	H+

7.1.2 Impact: Effects of migrant labour on health and safety

7.1.2.1 **Description of Impact**

The construction team will have to set up a construction camp at Ugabmund, as it is so remote. This could bring the team in close contact with the MEFT staff based at Ugabmund, tourists and other short-term visitors at the base, including themselves. The construction team could add a risk of social ills such as alcohol-related behaviour, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and AIDS and crime.

7.1.2.2 **Assessment of Impact**

Severity

The risk to community health and security is ranked as MEDIUM. During operations, maintenance teams are likely to be small in size and would bring negligible risk.

Duration

The duration of petty crime is short but the impacts of rape and HIV last a lifetime so the impact could be of HIGH duration.

Spatial scale

The spatial scale is ranked LOW as the risk only occurs at the project site.

Consequence

The consequence of the impacts is HIGH as the Severity is MEDIUM and the Duration is HIGH.

Probability

The probability of the impacts occurring is LOW.

Significance

The significance is MEDIUM because the probability of the impacts occurring is LOW.

7.1.2.3 **Conceptual description of proposed mitigation measures**

Objective

To set out measures to regulate contractor/labour interaction with Park staff and others at Ugabmund.

Actions

i. The contractor must have zero tolerance to alcohol while on duty, and any transgressions, or police-reported serious crimes such as grievous bodily harm or rape, will carry the severest consequences of infringement (e.g. immediate loss of job).
ii. All contractors on the project must have undergone a health and safety workplace programme which includes HIV and AIDS prevention.

TABLE 7-2 TABULATED SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSED IMPACT: EFFECTS OF MIGRANT LABOUR ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mitigation	Severity	Duration	Spatial Scale	Consequence	Probability of Occurrence	Significance
Unmitigated impacts	M	H	L	H	L	M
Mitigated impacts	L	L	L	L	L	L

8 CONCLUSIONS

The MEFT base at Ugabmund clearly needs to provide sufficient infrastructure for its staff and visitors / tourists up to international standards. The upgrade of facilities will provide a modest boost to the Namibian construction industry and will create some short-term jobs. The proposed enhancement measures should contribute to improving livelihoods of previously disadvantaged Namibians. The mitigation measures should help safeguard the health and wellbeing of the construction workers and the residents of the site.

In terms of participatory development, the relevant stakeholders who should be engaged are the staff who will be living in and using the upgraded facilities. They were consulted during the EIA process and their inputs have been documented and incorporated into the EIA, in the appropriate sections. Their participatory engagement should continue during the construction and operations phase.

These stakeholder meetings emphasised the importance of developing and implementing a solid maintenance plan which is likely to lead to additional work in the building maintenance service industry.

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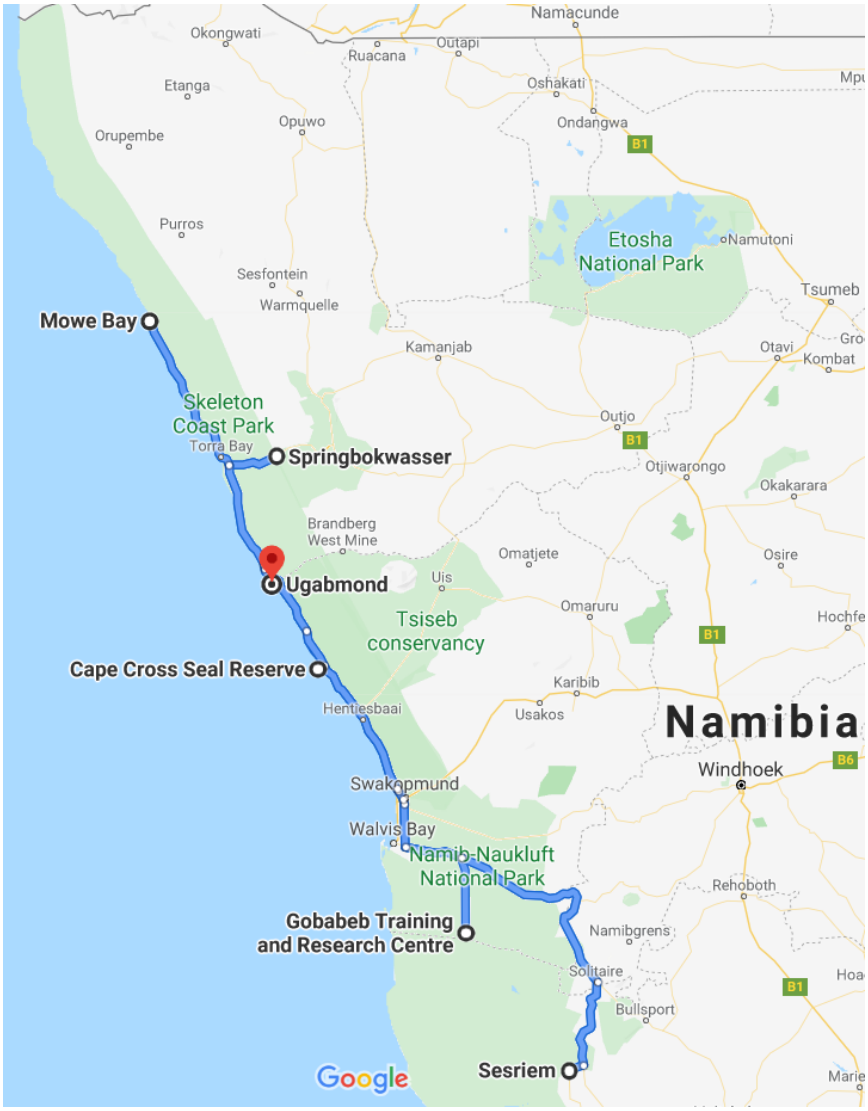
The objective of the Integrated National Park Management II Project (also '**NamParks V**') is that "Coastal Parks and their support zones are sustainably managed and fair access to their natural resources is ensured thus contributing to biodiversity conservation and *improved living conditions of the neighbouring communities*". This section gives a socio-economic baseline of the Möwe Bay area while Section 7 assesses potential impacts and recommends enhancement measures which can improve the living conditions of the neighbouring communities and mitigation measures to protect them.

Möwe Bay is the most Northern, permanently inhabited, site of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) on the Namibian coast. The northern part of the Skeleton Coast National Park stretches from Möwe Bay up to the Kunene River at the Angolan border. The area is extremely arid and inhospitable and there are no local indigenous communities living in the Park or on its boundaries.

FIGURE 6-1 MAP SHOWING MÖWE BAY AND OTHER NAMPARKS V SITES



The existing infrastructure at Möwe Bay consists of an office, museum, staff houses, visitor house, garage, workshop and generator building. Except for the junior quarters all buildings consisting of prefabricated structures, are old and in a dilapidated state and need to be replaced. There is a police station with barracks and various services (LCE, 2019).

The first feasibility study assessments were conducted in 2015 and were followed by a scope definition/needs assessment carried out by Lund Consulting Engineers (LCE) in 2019. The predicted staff contingent to be based at Möwe Bay was reduced to 7 in 2019. The number of bedrooms per house to be built for Parks staff is related to their level in staff hierarchy rather than their personal need. Thus a chief warden, chief conservation scientist, veterinarian and chief artisan foreman, will be allocated a 3 bedroom house; the senior warden, warden, ranger and artisan foreman will be allocated a two bedroom house and the assistant ranger, operator/driver, watchman, admin officer and workhands will be offered one-bedroom houses. Given the allocated staff ranks, the 2019 feasibility study recommended building 3 x 2-bedroom houses and 4 x 1-

bedroom houses and to convert one existing office to one guest accommodation. This has since been increased to 4 x 2-bedroomed and reduced 3 x 1-bedroomed houses (SLR Background Information document).

6.1.2 Current Users, Interested and Affected Parties of the Möwe Bay facilities

"The interested and affected communities are made up of:

- Government employees living at the base: MEFT staff and Namibian Police officers
- Researchers who spend considerable time in the field but use it as a base station
- Staff at the Shipwreck Lodge, situated 45km north of Möwe Bay
- Tour operators who visit the area
- Tourists who visit the area for short stays.
- The Puros, Sesfontein, Orupembe, Sanitatas, Etanga and Okondjombo Conservancies which may enter into concession agreements with MEFT and concessionaires operating in the national park.

In August 2020, a maximum of six MEFT staff were living at Möwe Bay, with four family members. In addition, the Namibian Police (NAMPOL) have a police station there, which is staffed by XX officers.

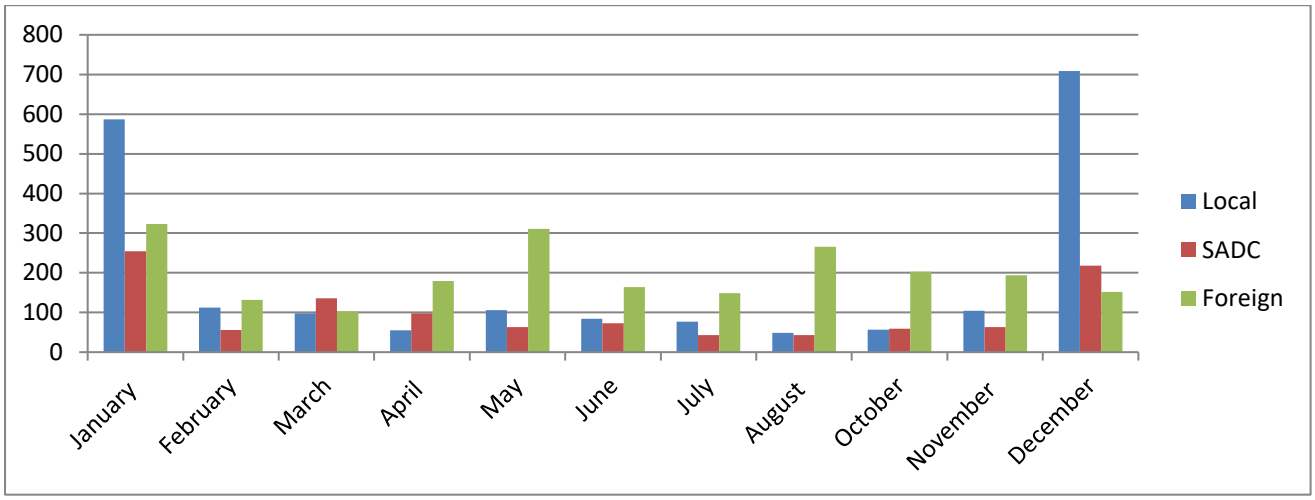
6.1.3 Research

This MEFT station is used as a base for Namibian-based and overseas scientific researchers working in the northern section of the Skeleton Coast National Park. The Park has unique terrestrial ecological support systems including jackals, seals, brown hyenas, lions on the beach and whales. All these thrive in harmony with nature. Most current research is in environmental conservation such as the ongoing research on brown hyenas and desert lions. However, over the last 20 years, research has been conducted in botany, avifauna, marine ecosystems, geophysics, geomorphology, geology, ephemeral river systems, archaeology, archaeobotany and the history of the many shipwrecks on the coast.

6.1.4 Tourism

Many tourists arrive by vehicle and camp at Möwe Bay. Some of the self-drive guests to the Shipwreck Lodge park their vehicles at the Möwe Bay base before being picked up by the lodge driver. Other tourists fly in using the Möwe Bay Airstrip. There are no dedicated facilities for these tourists and MEFT staff have to share their ablution facilities with them. It is not recorded how many tourists passed through Möwe Bay but 5,320 people were given permits to enter the Skeleton Coast National Park in 2019. In 2019, foreign tourists made up 40% of those visitors and the peak season for foreign tourists was May and August 2019 **(Figure 6-2).**

FIGURE 6-2 SKELETON COAST NATIONAL PARK ANNUAL TOURIST STATISTICS 2019



The peak season for all groups of tourists was January 2019; most Namibian and Southern African Development Community (SADC) tourists visited the Park during January 2019 and December 2019. These tourists generated N$1,404,103 of income in park fees to the MEFT in 2019.

Access to the northern part of the Park should be strictly restricted and only possible with a permit from MEFT and accompanied by a recognised tour operator who holds a concession to work in the area. Tourists can purchase a permit at the MEFT office in Windhoek, Swakopmund or directly at the Ugabmund or Springbokwasser gates.

Tourism attractions from Möwe Bay include excursions to various shipwrecks and seal colonies along the coast, magnificent dunes plains and beach scenery, the abandoned Westies diamond mine, 4 x 4 trips up the Huarusib River with its clay castles and occasional sightings of desert elephant, brown hyena, giraffe and desert lions. It also offers fishing and quad-biking.

6.1.5 Neighbouring Conservancies

The Puros Conservancy borders to the East of the Skeleton Coast National Park **(Figure 6-3)**. It spans a huge area of 3,562 square kilometres and its population is only about 500 people. Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) enterprises include two joint-venture tourism agreements, a community lodge, a community campsite, a traditional village and craft market, trophy hunting and the harvesting of *Commiphora* resin. According to NACSO, the approximate total benefits derived from natural resources in 2017 amounted to N$699,60 of which 89% was derived from tourism. In 2017, the conservancy generated 45 jobs.

The Sesfontein Conservancy borders on the park south of the Puros Conservancy and has an estimated population of 1,800 people. Approximately 36% of the conservancy speaks Khoekhoegowab while 42% speak

Otjiherero.[1] It recorded an annual income of N$2.5 million in 2017 of which 94% was derived from combine tourism returns. 39 Staff were employed by the conservancy and its joint venture at the Palmweg Lodge and campsite in 2017.[2]

FIGURE 6-3 LOCATION OF SHIPWRECK LODGE AND CENTRAL CONCESSION AREA

Source: (Potgieter, 2020)

In 2017, the Puros and Sesfontein Conservancies, on the eastern borders of the park, together with MET, granted Trip Travel (PTY) Ltd a concession to build and operate the Shipwreck Lodge in the Central Concession Area of the Park. The Shipwreck Lodge is located 45km north of Möwe Bay, on the southern bank of the Huarusib River Mouth, nestled between dunes on the Atlantic Ocean. The size of the concession area is approximately 146,600 hectares. Although most guests use the Möwe Bay entrance or airstrip, the Concessionaire and its guests and staff have the right to enter and leave the Concession Area and Park via points other than the official Park entry gates. The terms and conditions of the concession contract

[1] Sesfontein Conservancy brochure 2012 accessed on 22/9/2020 on http://www.nacso.org.na/sites/default/files/Brochure%20Sesfontein%20FPis.pdf

[2] 2017 Sesfontein Annual Conservancy Report accessed on 6/9/2020 from: http://www.nacso.org.na/sites/default/files/2017%20Sesfontein%20Audit%20Report.pdf

demonstrates that MEFT is committed to bringing benefits to the neighbouring conservancies whenever possible.

Not only do the lodge's visitors generate income for the MEFT, the lodge employed 20 staff in 2019 and provided work for its management contractor and those servicing the lodge – aircraft, pilots, food and beverage industry. A share of profits should also go to the two joint venture conservancies through the concession.

6.1.6 Mining

A wide range of minerals have been found at varying levels of commercial viability along the coast, and, despite being a protected park, the entire area has been licensed for exploration. The Sarusas amethyst mine is north of Möwe Bay and there is rumour that it will be reactivated; most other mining activities have not lasted or have proved to be not economically viable. Many of these abandoned mines have left scars as their operators had no environmental safeguards or consideration of the sensitive desert landscapes (RAISON, 2012). Trustco is operating diamond exploration near the mouth of the Kunene River but their personnel are usually flown in and out and do not go through Möwe Bay.

6.1.7 Health

The majority of the population rely on the government health services for primary and secondary health care. The hierarchy of care starts at the primary health care clinic level, such as the Henties Bay clinic (368km away) which is run by two registered nurses and two enrolled nurses; the government doctor rarely visited in 2015. Very sick patients are referred to the hospital in Swakopmund but there was no government ambulance available so people have to arrange their own private transport; Lifelink Emergency Rescue Services offers a private sector paramedic service.

Private health care serves the richest 15% of the population[3] and those who have access to medical aid through their employment schemes. Henties Bay has a number of private doctors, a medical centre, a clinic and pharmacies (Urban Dynamics, 2013).

The most common diseases recorded at the Henties Bay government clinic were acute respiratory infections, muscular skeletal & diseases, skin diseases and diarrhoea which is likely to be poor hygiene related[4]. In 2018 nationally, the top ten causes of death were HIV/AIDS, ischemic heart disease, lower respiratory infections, stroke, TB, neonatal disorders, diarrhoea, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and road injuries. Life expectancy at birth for women was 65 and for men 62 years. Infant mortality is relatively high at 36/1000 live births[5].

At the national level, HIV prevalence among pregnant women age 25-49 reached a peak of 26.4% in 2010 and steadily declined to 24% by 2016. Among women younger than 25 years, HIV prevalence decreased slightly from 2008 to 2012 and remained stable from 2012 to 2016 at 8.5%. HIV prevalence recorded at the

[3] http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/sectors-namibia/business/health_and_medical/ accessed on 9/9/2020

[4] Pers. Comm. Henties Bay clinic registered nurse, October 2015.

[5] https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/namibia/pdf/Namibia_FactSheet.pdf accessed on 9/9/2020

Swakopmund hospital in 2016, in the 15-24 age group, was below the national average at 6.3%. In the older age group of 25-49 years in the same year, Swakopmund hospital recorded a significant increase to 27% prevalence while in Walvis Bay the prevalence rates were stable at 22% (MoHSS, 2016). More women have HIV than men as there is a disproportionate distribution of prevalence between women (16.9%) and men (10.9%) aged 15-49.

A major factor contributing to the drop in prevalence is the high, universal antiretroviral treatment (ART) coverage. The drop in youth infections also means less new infections are joining the pool of the older HIV infected cohort and there has been a drop in HIV related deaths among people living with HIV. Comprehensive prevention of mother to child transmission has nearly eradicated infant HIV infection at birth.

UNAIDS, and affected countries such as Namibia, have set "90-90-90" targets by 2020: 90% of all people living with HIV (PLHIV) will know their HIV status; 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained ART; and 90% of all people receiving ART will have viral suppression. By 2017, 86.0% of PLHIV aged 15-64 years were aware of their HIV status, 96.4% were on ART and among PLHIV aged 15-64 years, who self-reported current use of ART and/or had a detectable ARV in their blood, 91.3% were virally suppressed (MOHSS, 2018). Namibia is expected to exceed these targets and set higher ones.

6.1.8 Human Rights-based approach to development

The aim of this section is to appraise the relevant human rights risks and impacts of the proposed infrastructure upgrading, in accordance to the BMZ guidelines[6] by incorporating human rights standards and principles, including gender aspects. Human rights standards comprise the human rights themselves (e.g. the right to adequate housing and livelihoods) and what is referred to as human rights core elements. The most important core elements of economic, social and cultural rights are availability, accessibility (i.e. physical accessibility, non-discriminatory accessibility and affordability), quality and cultural acceptability. Human rights principles – participation and empowerment, non-discrimination and equality of opportunity, transparency and accountability – are part of all international human rights conventions.

The Constitution of Namibia emphasises equality and freedom from discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed or social or economic status (Article 10). The Constitution does not make specific reference to marginalised or indigenous groups, but Article 23 allows Parliament to enact legislation to provide affirmative actions to redress social, economic and educational imbalances.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples in Namibia recognised the San, Himba (Ovahimba), Ovazemba, Ovatjimba and Ovatue people as indigenous and being disadvantaged relative to other groups in the country (Anaya, 2013). The Ovahimba numbered about 25,000 (in approximately 4,000 households) and mainly live in north-west Kunene and live in close proximity to the Ovazemba, Ovatjimba and Ovatue communities. They continue to practice a semi-nomadic way of life and have strong cultural practices and identities. They have close ties to the Herero, speaking predominantly Otjiherero, and rely on the raising

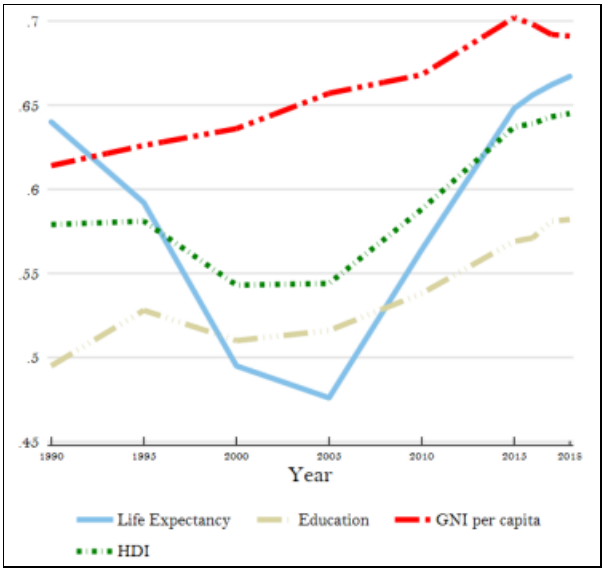
[6] BMZ Guidelines on Incorporating Human Rights Standards and Principles, Including Gender, in Programme Proposals for Bilateral German Technical and Financial Cooperation.

of cattle, sheep, goats, and some agriculture for sustenance (Ombudsman, 2014). Some of these households will be living in the Sesfontein and Puros conservancies that border on the Skeleton Coast National Park. San speaking households in Kunene Region numbered 80 in the 2011 census (NSA, 2014) but it is not known if any are in the conservancies bordering the Skeleton Coast National Park. It is more likely that they live closer to the Hai‖om traditional area closer to the Etosha National Park.

As no people are allowed to permanently live in the Skeleton Coast National Park (apart from NAMPOL and MEFT staff at the designated stations), the human rights of people in the neighbouring conservancies are very unlikely to be compromised by the project.

Another measurement of human rights standards is reflected in the Human Development Index which measures long-term progress in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. Namibia's HDI has increased from 0.579 to 0.645 between 1990 and 2018, an increase of 11.3%.

FIGURE 6-4 TRENDS IN NAMIBIA'S HDI COMPONENT INDICES 1990 - 2018



Source: (UNDP, 2019)

Although this is good progress, it masks the inequalities in the distribution of this human development. When the HDI is discounted for inequalities, it falls from 0.645 to 0.417, a loss of 35% due to inequality in the distribution of the HDI indices (UNDP, 2019). The National Planning Commission recognises that income inequality, measured using the Gini coefficient, has dropped from 0.7 in 1993/4[7] to 0.56 in 2015 (NPC, 2020) yet Namibia remains one of the most inequal countries in the world.

[7] Recorded in NDP3

7 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

7.1 ASSESSMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

7.1.1 Impact: Addressing inequality through job creation and skills development

7.1.1.1 **Description of Impact**

Jobs will be created for the construction of the new infrastructure and the demolition of some of the existing prefabricated structures. Lund gave no detail on the number of construction workers which are likely to be needed. These construction workers are likely to be already formally employed by the winning tenderer with additional workers being contracted from the local skills base in Swakopmund or other coastal towns. It is highly unlikely that the communities in the neighbouring conservancies will benefit from construction activities as Möwe Bay is 380km from Sesfontein via Torra Bay. The contractor(s) will enter the area from the South along the C34.

The construction activities will support indirect jobs in the building supplies and transport sectors. With the Namibian economy being at an all-time low, any work in the construction industry will bring benefits. Lund gave a preliminary cost estimate for the development at Möwe Bay of N$23,614,000 (€1,523,467 at an exchange rate of 15.5:1).

During the operations phase, there should be limited permanent direct or indirect jobs created and/or service contracts to maintain the new infrastructure.

It is unlikely that the improved facilities will have much impact on increasing tourism numbers to Möwe Bay and therefore will have little economic impact on increasing revenue to the neighbouring conservancies.

7.1.1.2 **Assessment of Impact**

Severity

The project will have limited but positive impacts on job creation in the construction industry and in the building maintenance sector and is ranked as MEDIUM POSITIVE; in addition, some transfer of skills may take place.

Duration

The duration of the impact is MEDIUM as most of the work will end when the construction is completed. During operations, a maintenance plan should include regular visits to ensure the infrastructure is well maintained which will create one job or several short-term contracts, possibly shared over several sites.

Spatial scale

The spatial scale is ranked MEDIUM as construction employees are likely be sourced from the coastal towns, rather than nationally.

Consequence

The consequence of the impacts is MEDIUM as the Severity, Duration and Spatial Scale are ranked MEDIUM.

Probability

The probability of the impacts occurring is HIGH as the project cannot operate without creating construction jobs.

Significance

The significance of a small number of short-term jobs being created is MEDIUM because the consequence is MEDIUM even though the probability of the impacts occurring is HIGH.

7.1.1.3 **Conceptual description of proposed enhancement measures**

Objective

To maximise local job creation and promote broader participation and economic empowerment among Previously Disadvantaged Namibians (PDNs) during construction, operations and through the supply chain.

As Möwe Bay is so remote, "local" can realistically be defined as from the nearest towns to the project, such as Khorixas (345km), Henties Bay (367km), Swakopmund (439km), Walvis Bay (473km). A human rights-based approach aims to promote businesses owned by and employing previously disadvantaged Namibians at management level downwards.

Actions

i. MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to construction companies owned by previously disadvantaged Namibians, which demonstrate they make maximise use of the local labour force and specifically encourage women to apply for any jobs available.

ii. Further, MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to women-owned and managed companies over male-led companies.

iii. MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to prime contractors who include and support PDN suppliers in the procurement chain. The measurement used by NamPower is the % procurement spending allocated to businesses owned by PDNs (e.g. mentorship programmes, joint ventures, sub-contracting) (NamPower, 2014).

iv. MEFT will give tender weighting to construction companies that will detail how and what skills they will transfer to local workers during construction or the % of gross wages they spend on training.

TABLE 7-1 TABULATED SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSED IMPACT: JOB CREATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Mitigation	Severity	Duration	Spatial Scale	Consequence	Probability of Occurrence	Significance
Unmitigated impacts	M+	M	M	M+	H	M+

Enhanced positive impacts	H+	H	M	H+	H	H+

7.1.2 Impact: Effects of migrant labour on health and safety of Möwe Bay residents

7.1.2.1 **Description of Impact**

The construction team will have to set up a construction camp at Möwe Bay, as it is so remote. This could bring the team in close contact with the MEFT and NamPol staff based at Möwe Bay, researchers, tourists and other short-term visitors at the base, including themselves. The construction team could add a risk of social ills such as alcohol-related behaviour, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and AIDS and crime.

7.1.2.2 **Assessment of Impact**

Severity

The risk to community health and security is ranked as MEDIUM. During operations, maintenance teams are likely to be small in size and would bring negligible risk.

Duration

The duration of petty crime is short but the impacts of rape and HIV last a lifetime so the impact could be of HIGH duration.

Spatial scale

The spatial scale is ranked LOW as the risk only occurs at the project site.

Consequence

The consequence of the impacts is HIGH as the Severity is MEDIUM and the Duration is HIGH.

Probability

The probability of the impacts occurring is LOW.

Significance

The significance is MEDIUM because the probability of the impacts occurring is LOW.

7.1.2.3 **Conceptual description of proposed mitigation measures**

Objective

To set out measures to regulate contractor/labour interaction with Park staff and others at Möwe Bay.

Actions

i. The contractor must have zero tolerance to alcohol while on duty, and any transgressions, or police-reported serious crimes such as grievous bodily harm or rape, will carry the severest consequences of infringement (e.g. immediate loss of job).
ii. All contractors on the project must have undergone a health and safety workplace programme which includes HIV and AIDS prevention.

8 CONCLUSIONS

The MEFT base at Möwe Bay, as the last permanently occupied MEFT-base, clearly needs to provide sufficient infrastructure for its staff and visitors / tourists up to international standards. The biggest challenge for MEFT is to manage the park in such a way as to conserve its fragile environment whilst increasing its economic value to the region and country through encouraging more eco-tourism.

The upgrade of facilities at Möwe Bay will provide a modest boost to the Namibian construction industry and will create some short-term jobs. The proposed enhancement measures should contribute to improving livelihoods of previously disadvantaged Namibians. The mitigation measures should help safeguard the health and wellbeing of the construction workers and the residents of Möwe Bay.

In terms of participatory development, the relevant stakeholders who should be engaged are the staff who will be living in and using the upgraded facilities. They were consulted during the EIA process and their inputs have been documented and incorporated into the EIA, in the appropriate sections. Their participatory engagement should continue during the construction and operations phase.

These stakeholder meetings emphasised the importance of developing and implementing a solid maintenance plan which is likely to lead to additional work in the building maintenance service industry. In addition, it is important for separate campsite and ablution facilities to be built for tourists who pass through or overnight at the base station.

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR NAMPARKS V SPRINGBOKWASSER

FOR SLR CONSULTING

FROM

ASHBY ASSOCIATES CC

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS - AURIOL

Acronym / Abbreviation	Definition
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral Treatment
ARV	Antiretroviral
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LCE	Lund Consulting Engineers
MET	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MOHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
NACSO	Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations
NAMPOL	Namibian Police
NPC	National Planning Commission
PDN	Previously Disadvantaged Namibian
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
SADC	Southern African Development Community
TB	Tuberculosis
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

1.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC

1.1.1 Introduction

Springbokwasser is the eastern entrance to the Skeleton Coast National Park and is a secondary station. The main function is access control, law enforcement, and maintenance. It is also ideally located for the road maintenance unit as the climatic conditions are more favourable for machinery compared to the coastal stations. MEFT therefore intends to locate heavy equipment and plant, such as trucks and graders in stations in the interior of the parks, such as at Springbokwasser (LCE, 2019).

Existing Infrastructure comprise of the entrance gate, reception, office, visitor camp sites with ablution block, staff houses, garages, workshop and generator building. Except for the reception, office and visitor ablution all other buildings whether of prefabricated nature or from cement bricks, are old and in a dilapidated state.

FIGURE 2-1 MAP SHOWING SPRINGBOKWASSER LINKING TO POPULAR TOURIST ROUTES

The first feasibility study assessments were conducted in 2015 and were followed by a scope definition/needs assessment carried out by Lund Consulting Engineers (LCE) in 2019. The predicted staff contingent to be based at Springbokwasser was increased from 9 in 2015 to 15 in 2019. Currently, there are 7 staff and 3 additional

family members. The 2019 scope recommended that Springbokwasser would be managed by a ranger (LCE, 2019).

The number of bedrooms per house to be built for Parks staff is related to their level in staff hierarchy rather than their personal need. Thus a chief warden, chief conservation scientist, veterinarian and chief artisan foreman, will be allocated a 3 bedroom house; the senior warden, warden, ranger and artisan foreman will be allocated a two bedroom house and the assistant ranger, operator/driver, watchman, admin officer and workhands will be offered one-bedroom houses.

Given the allocated staff ranks and needs, SLR was informed to conduct the EIA on the following infrastructure at Springbokwasser:

- New station location including gate, office/tourist reception, recreation building, garages, workshop, washbay, service building, staff houses (12 x 1-bed, 2 x 2-bed and 2 x 3-bed + staff guest house) and solar PV (on roof).
- Small containerised Reverse Osmosis plant supplied from existing borehole.
- Install wastewater collection and treatment facility. (SLR Background Information document).

The cost of this infrastructure was estimated at N$40,355,946 in March 2019 (LCE, 2019), which would now cost EUR 2,005,800 at the current exchange rate of N$1: €0.05 on 29/9/2020.

1.1.2 Current Users, Interested and Affected Parties of the Springbokwasser facilities

“The interested and affected communities are made up of:

- Government employees living at the base: MEFT staff
- Tourists, tour operators and travellers which use the C39 route to access the coast and inland
- The Torra Bay Conservancy which may enter into concession agreements with MEFT and concessionaires operating in the National Parks.

The nearest police station is at Khorixas 169km to the east or 269km south to Henties Bay.

1.1.3 Torra Conservancy

The Torra Conservancy lies to the East and South of Springbokwasser. It borders the Skeleton Coast National Park to the West and the C39 runs along its northern border for a stretch (**Figure 2-2**). There were approximately 1,300 people living in the conservancy and the main languages spoken are Khoekhoegowab, Otjiherero and Afrikaans. It gains its income from joint-venture tourism agreements with Damaraland Camp and Kuidas Camp; Palmwag Tourism Concession; live sale of springbok; trophy hunting; shoot-and-sell hunting; own-use hunting. In 2017, its combined tourism revenue was N$4,478,680 with a further N%590,830 from hunting. In that year, the conservancy employed 21 staff while a further 34 were employed in the private

tourism sector. In addition to employment, the conservancy distributes cash benefits, meat, runs community projects, funeral assistance and other social benefits to its members[1].

FIGURE 2-2 MAP OF TORRA CONSERVANCY

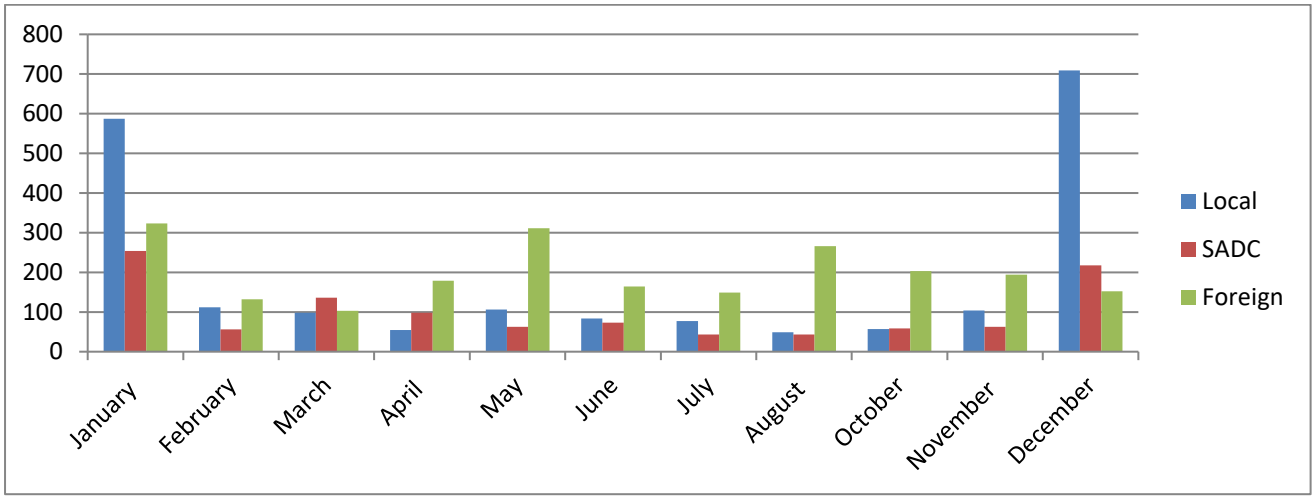
Source: http://www.nacso.org.na/sites/default/files/Torra_0.jpg

[1] http://www.nacso.org.na/sites/default/files/2017%20Torra%20Audit%20Report.pdf accessed 28/9/2020

1.1.4 Tourism

As the 2017 income to the neighbouring Torra Conservancy shows, tourism is an important source of livelihoods to approximately a thousand residents. Many tourists drive a circuitous route along the C39 which takes them from Etosha through one or more of the western conservancies to Swakopmund and south to the Sossusvlei dunes, or in reverse order. In 2019, 5,320 tourists were given permits to enter the Skeleton Coast National Park directly at the Springbokwasser or Ugabmund gates or at the MEFT offices in Windhoek, Swakopmund. Most Namibian and Southern African Development Community (SADC) tourists visited the Park during January 2019 and December 2019 while the peak months for foreign tourists, who made up 40% of the visitors, were May and August 2019 **(Figure 2-3).**

FIGURE 2-3 SKELETON COAST NATIONAL PARK ANNUAL TOURIST STATISTICS 2019



Source: MEFT, 2020

The peak season for all groups of tourists was January 2019; These tourists generated N$1,404,103 of income in park fees to the MEFT in 2019.

1.1.5 Health

The majority of the population rely on the government health services for primary and secondary health care. The hierarchy of care starts at the primary health care clinic or outreach posts, which tend to be poorly staffed and haphazard due largely to transport constraints faced by the regional health directorate. The nearest operational public health facility to Springbokwasser is Khorixas District Hospital, 169km.

HIV prevalence recorded at the Khorixas hospital in 2016, in the 15-24 age group, was more than 2% below the national average at 6.4%. In the older age group of 25-49 years in the same year, Khorixas hospital the prevalence rate has remained stable at around 17% since 2010; the national average in 2016 was 24% (MoHSS, 2016). More women have HIV than men as there is a disproportionate distribution of prevalence between women (16.9%) and men (10.9%) aged 15-49.

Information on common diseases, including HIV and AIDS, is detailed in the baseline section of Ugabmund.

1.1.6 Human Rights-based approach to development

Human rights standards and elements are also discussed at a general level in the Ugabmund baseline.

Participatory development is an important component of human rights. The MEFT staff at Springbokwasser recommended various amendments to their facilities upgrade. In particular, they proposed building 2-bedroom houses rather than 1-bedroom houses would be more appropriate for families. Splitting families brings added risks of unfaithfulness and higher risk of HIV infections.

2 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

2.1 ASSESSMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

2.1.1 Economic Impact: Addressing inequality through job creation and skills development

2.1.1.1 Description of Impact

Jobs will be created for the construction of the new infrastructure and the demolition of some of the existing prefabricated structures. LCE gave no detail on the number of construction workers which are likely to be needed but they recommended that the contract for the northern MEFT sites of Möwe Bay, Ugabmund, Springbokwasser and Cape Cross be combined into one tender. These construction workers are likely to be already formally employed by the winning tenderer with additional workers being contracted from the local skills base in Swakopmund or other coastal towns. It is highly unlikely that the scattered communities in the Torra Conservancy or a contractor based in Khorixas will be able to participate in the construction activities. The contractor(s) is likely to reach Springbokwasser from the coastal road, along the C34.

The construction activities will support indirect jobs in the building supplies and transport sectors. With the Namibian economy being at an all-time low, any work in the construction industry will bring benefits. The cost of the Springbokwasser infrastructure upgrade was estimated at N$40,355,946 in March 2019 (LCE, 2019), which would now cost EUR 2,005,800 at the current exchange rate of N$1: €0.05 on 29/9/2020.

During the operations phase, there should be limited permanent direct or indirect jobs created and/or service contracts to maintain the new infrastructure.

It is unlikely that the improved facilities will have much impact on increasing tourism numbers passing through Springbokwasser and therefore will not increase tourism revenue to Torra conservancy. However, a stronger MEFT presence may support the management of the conservancy which could bring better financial returns overall.

2.1.1.2 Assessment of Impact

Rating of impacts - Economic

Severity/ nature:	The project is a valuable construction project (N$40 million) and will have positive impacts on job creation in the construction industry and in the building maintenance

	sector and is ranked as medium positive; in addition, some transfer of skills may take place. Enhancement through mitigation measures renders the severity high positive.
Duration:	The duration of the impact is medium as most of the work will end when the construction is completed. during operations, a maintenance plan should include regular visits to ensure the infrastructure is well maintained which will create one job or several short-term contracts, possibly shared over several sites. Enhancement through mitigation measures results in a long terms duration, therefore high.
Spatial scale/ extent:	The spatial scale is ranked medium as construction employees are likely be sourced from the coastal towns, rather than nationally. The spatial scale with mitigation remains at medium.
Consequence:	The consequence of the impacts is medium as the severity, duration and spatial scale are ranked medium. The consequence with mitigation measures results in high positive rating.
Probability:	The probability of the impacts occurring is high as the project cannot operate without creating construction jobs. The probability remains high in the mitigated scenario.
Significance:	The significance of a small number of short-term jobs being created is medium because the consequence is medium even though the probability of the impacts occurring is high. With mitigation measures, the significance of the impact is rated as high positive.

2.1.1.3 **Conceptual description of proposed enhancement measures**

Objective

To maximise local job creation and promote broader participation and economic empowerment among Previously Disadvantaged Namibians (PDNs) during construction, operations and through the supply chain.

As Springbokwasser is remote, “local” can realistically be defined as from the nearest towns to the project, such as Khorixas (169km) and Swakopmund (340km). A human rights-based approach aims to promote businesses owned by and employing previously disadvantaged Namibians at management level downwards.

Actions

i. MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to construction companies owned by previously disadvantaged Namibians, which demonstrate they make maximise use of the local labour force and specifically encourage women to apply for any jobs available.

ii. Further, MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to women-owned and managed companies over male-led companies.

iii. MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to prime contractors who include and support PDN suppliers in the procurement chain. The measurement used by NamPower is the % procurement spending allocated to businesses owned by PDNs (e.g. mentorship programmes, joint ventures, sub-contracting) (NamPower, 2014).

iv. MEFT will give tender weighting to construction companies that will detail how and what skills they will transfer to local workers during construction or the % of gross wages they spend on training.

TABLE 2-1 TABULATED SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSED IMPACT: JOB CREATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Phases: Construction		
Criteria	**Without Mitigation**	**With Mitigation**
Severity	Medium+	High +
Duration	Medium	High
Extent	Medium	Medium
Consequence	Medium +	High +
Probability	High	High
Significance	Medium +	High +
Nature of cumulative impacts	High contribution to cumulative impacts.	
Degree to which impact can be reversed	Impact can be enhanced to a high degree with mitigation.	
Degree to which impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources	None.	
Degree to which impact can be mitigated	Impact can be enhanced.	

2.1.2 Social Impact: Effects of migrant labour on health and safety

2.1.2.1 **Description of Impact**

The construction team will have to set up a construction camp at Springbokwasser, as it is so remote. This could bring the team in close contact with the MEFT staff based at Springbokwasser, tourists and other short-term visitors at the base, including themselves. The construction team could add a risk of social ills such as alcohol-related behaviour, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and AIDS and crime.

2.1.2.2 **Assessment of Impact**

Severity/ nature:	The risk to community health and security is ranked as medium. During operations, maintenance teams are likely to be small in size and would bring negligible risk. Mitigation measures renders the severity low.
Duration:	The duration of petty crime is short but the impacts of rape and HIV last a lifetime so the impact could be of high duration. Mitigation measures should reduce this to medium.
Spatial scale/ extent:	The spatial scale is ranked low as the risk only occurs at the project site. The spatial scale with mitigation remains at low.
Consequence:	The consequence of the impacts is medium as the severity is medium, the duration is high but the spatial scale is low. The consequence with mitigation measures results in a low rating.
Probability:	The probability of the impacts occurring is medium. With mitigation measures in place, the probability reduces to low.
Significance:	The significance is medium because the probability of the impacts occurring is medium. With mitigation measures, the significance of the impact is reduced to low.

2.1.2.3 **Conceptual description of proposed mitigation measures**

Objective

To set out measures to regulate contractor/labour interaction with Park staff and others at the site.

Actions

i. The contractor must have zero tolerance to alcohol while on duty, and any transgressions, or police-reported serious crimes such as grievous bodily harm or rape, will carry the severest consequences of infringement (e.g. immediate loss of job).
ii. All contractors on the project must have undergone a health and safety workplace programme which includes HIV and AIDS prevention.
iii. It will be important for all construction workers to be able to have their regular supplies of medication, such as antiretroviral treatment.
iv. All female staff and workers on site must be enabled to access Post Exposure Prophylaxis PEP immediately after possible exposure to HIV.

TABLE 2-2 TABULATED SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSED IMPACT: EFFECTS OF MIGRANT LABOUR ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

Phases: Construction		
Criteria	**Without Mitigation**	**With Mitigation**
Severity	Medium	Low
Duration	High	Medium
Extent	Low	Low
Consequence	Medium	Low
Probability	Medium	Low
Significance	Medium	Low
Nature of cumulative impacts	Low contribution to cumulative impacts.	
Degree to which impact can be reversed	Impact can be reduced with mitigation.	
Degree to which impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources	None.	
Degree to which impact can be mitigated	Considerable.	

3 CONCLUSIONS

The MEFT base at Springbokwasser clearly needs to provide sufficient infrastructure for its staff and visitors / tourists up to international standards. The upgrade of facilities will provide a modest boost to the Namibian construction industry and will create some short-term jobs. The proposed enhancement measures should contribute to improving livelihoods of previously disadvantaged Namibians. The mitigation measures should help safeguard the health and wellbeing of the construction workers and the residents of the site.

In terms of participatory development, the relevant stakeholders who should be engaged are the staff who will be living in and using the upgraded facilities. They were consulted during the EIA process and their inputs have been documented and incorporated into the EIA, in the appropriate sections. Their participatory engagement should continue during the construction and operations phase.

These stakeholder meetings emphasised the importance of developing and implementing a solid maintenance plan which is likely to lead to additional work in the building maintenance service industry.

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR NAMPARKS V CAPE CROSS SEAL RESERVE

FOR SLR CONSULTING

FROM

ASHBY ASSOCIATES CC

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS – FOR THIS SITE

Acronym / Abbreviation	Definition
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LCE	Lund Consulting Engineers
MET	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
NACSO	Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations
NAMPOL	Namibian Police
PDN	Previously Disadvantaged Namibian
UNAM	University of Namibia

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6.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC

6.1.1 Introduction

This section gives a socio-economic baseline of the area around the MEFT secondary level station base at the Cape Cross Seal Reserve while Section 7 assesses potential impacts and recommends enhancement measures which can improve the living conditions of the neighbouring communities and mitigation measures to protect them.

The Cape Cross Seal Reserve, on the coast of the Dorob National Park (DNP), is thought to be the largest breeding colony for Cape Fur Seals in the world and receives many visitors. The DNP area is freely accessible, but visitors pay MEFT to view the seal reserve and it is one of the most revenue earning sites in Namibia.

It is a multi-stakeholder site: The Namibian Police (NAMPOL) has an office and staff accommodation adjacent to the current MEFT set-up, however these houses are in a bad condition and need to be replaced. There are also several tourism establishments in the vicinity, a guano mining company and several salt mining companies.

FIGURE 6-1 MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF CAPE CROSS IN RELATION TO ITS NEAREST TOWNS

The existing MEFT infrastructure at Cape Cross consists of an entrance gate, office/reception, staff houses (2), garages, stores, generator room, borehole, septic tank with soak-away, PV system, wind turbine and random services. (LCE, 2019). The predicted staff contingent to be based at Cape Cross was increased from 5 in 2015 to 7 in 2019. Given the allocated staff ranks and needs, SLR was informed to conduct the EIA on the following infrastructure:

- New gate office/tourist reception, garages, service buildings and staff houses (6 x 1-bed).
- Renovate two existing houses, convert office to a guest flat and upgrade Solar PV.
- Construction of a containerised Reverse Osmosis Desalination plant (7.5 m^3/day drinking water capacity) and brine discharge to sea.
- Install wastewater collection and treatment facility. (SLR Background Information document).

6.1.2 Current Users, Interested and Affected Parties of the Cape Cross MEFT facilities

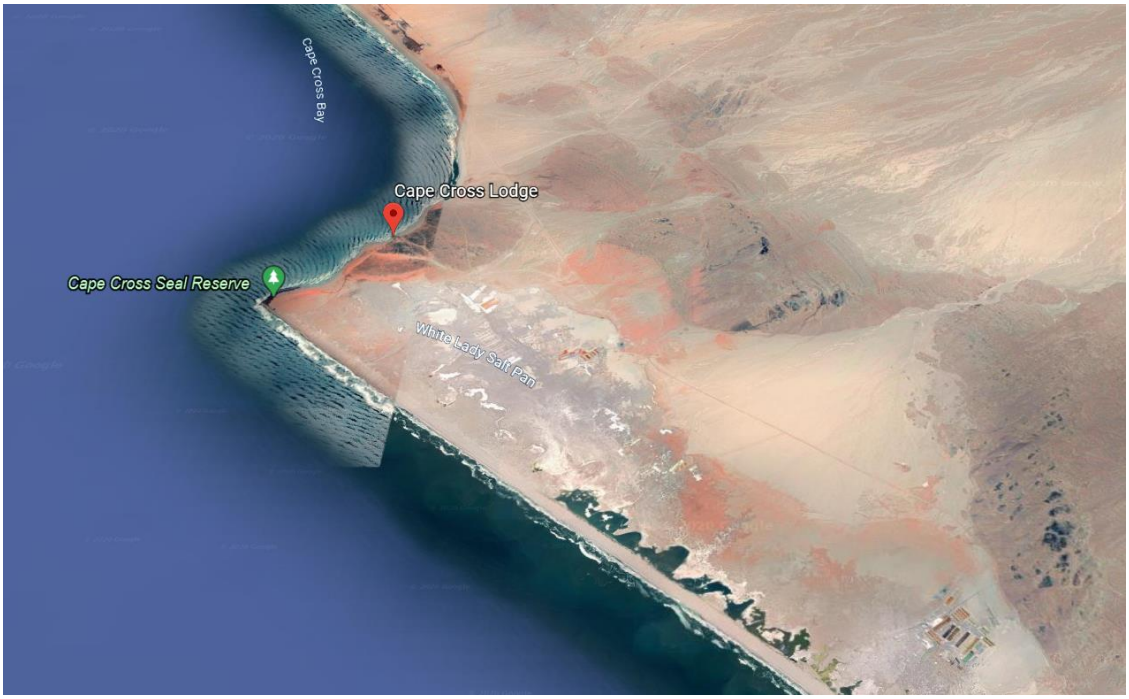
The interested and affected communities are made up of:

- Government employees living at the base: MEFT staff and NAMPOL officers
- Cape Cross Lodge, tour operators and tourists

6.1.3 Tourism

Cape Cross is a popular tourist destination for day visitors from Swakopmund and Henties Bay and visitors can overnight at the Cape Cross Lodge and Campsite nearby. The main attractions are the Seal Colony and Diaz Cross, but also lesser known historic attractions exist and include early guano mining, salt mining with the first railway line in Namibia.

FIGURE 6-2 GOOGLE EARTH IMAGE OF AREA AROUND CAPE CROSS SEAL RESERVE



The reserve offers the world's largest breeding colony of Cape Fur Seals with up to 210,000 seals present during the breeding season in November and December (MEFT, 2020). The seasonal harvesting of pups and adult males is set by an annual quota system issued by the Namibian Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and provides employment at the factory in Henties Bay.

In 2013, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism recorded 44,397 visitors at their Cape Cross office of whom 73% were from outside the Southern Africa Development Community and only 13% were Namibian. They travelled in over 16,000 vehicles and paid over N$3 million in park entrance fees to government[1].

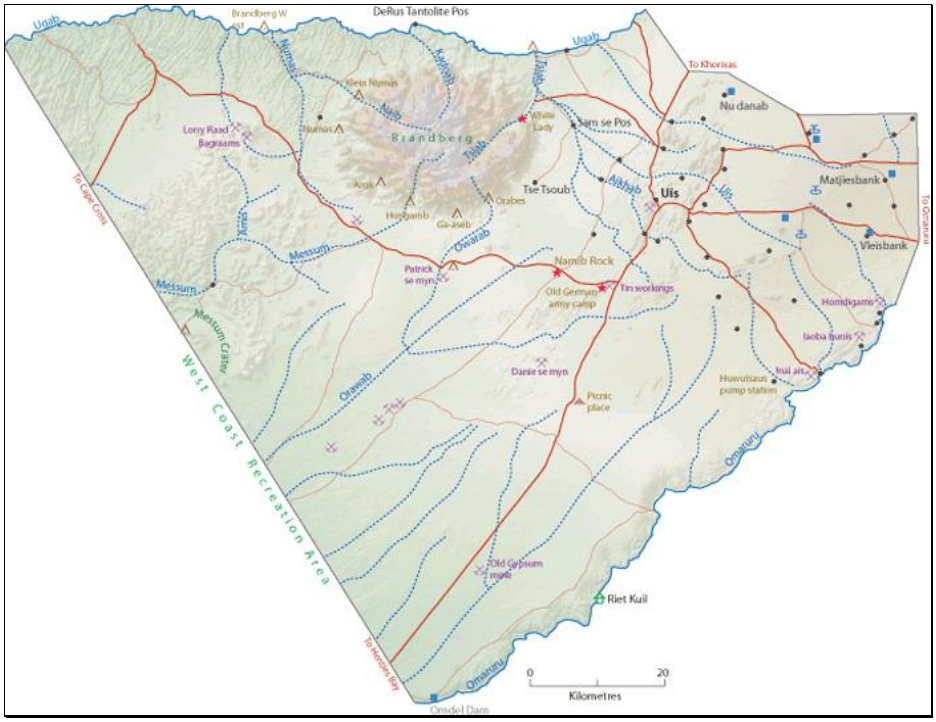
There are many mining claims and exploration licenses license holders in the Cape Cross salt pan. Mining Licenses are mainly for salt and guano; one is for base and rare metals. Guano production rates have fallen in recent years and this is associated, largely to the reduction in pelagic shoaling fish species along the coastline, which served as a primary food source for marine birds.

[1] Pers comm. MET Cape Cross Office, 2015

6.1.4 The Tsiseb Conservancy

The Tsiseb Conservancy borders the Dorob National Park / West Coast Recreation Area from the Ugab River to the Omaruru River to the south. It covers nearly 8,000km^2 and includes features such as the Messum Crater, the Brandberg Mountain, rock art and old mines.

FIGURE 6-3 THE TSISEB CONSERVANCY



Source: http://www.nacso.org.na/sites/default/files/Tsiseb.gif

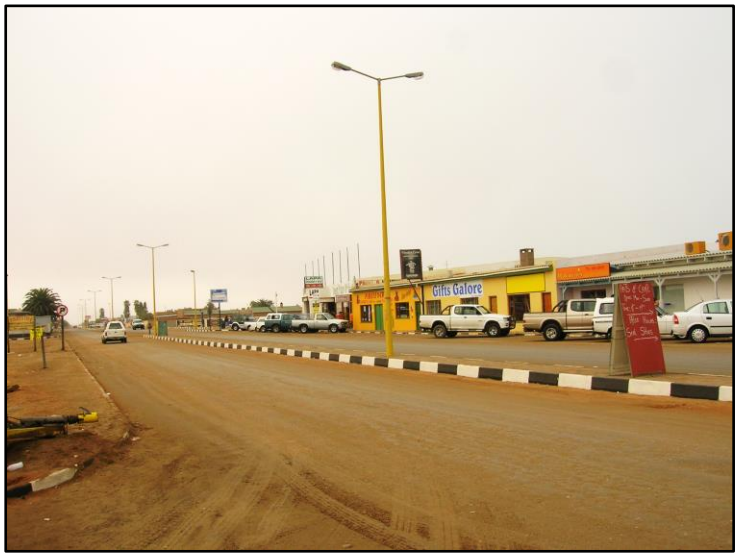
The Tsiseb Conservancy serves a population of about 2,200 in 2011 and it has enterprise agreements with the Brandberg White Lady Lodge, the Ugab Campsite (community campsite), the Daureb Mountain Guides, the Daureb Information Centre with Daureb Crafts, Vicky's Coffee Shop and internet café, the semi-precious stone market and through trophy hunting[2]. 91% of its income was through combined tourism returns of over N$2.1 million with about N$200,000 being derived from hunting revenue.

6.1.5 Henties Bay

Henties Bay is the nearest town to the Cape Cross Seal Reserve and lies 59kmth south of the MEFT station. Apart from a few retails shops, it has a number of Government offices including the municipality, clinic, police station, and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources' permit office.

[2] http://www.nacso.org.na/conservancies/tsiseb

FIGURE 6-4 A VIEW OF HENTIES BAY CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT



Source: (Urban Dynamics, 2013).

It has three distinct areas – Henties Bay town (formal low density housing areas of middle-high income), the high density extensions of Omdel and its informal settlement area called !Oas. The town's Municipality estimates a permanent population of approximately 12,000 of which approximately 2,100 households live permanently in the formal town area (excluding holiday makers) while about 5,100 households live in Omdel where the Municipality provides them with basic services[3]. Many houses in the formal area are owned by non-permanent residents who come to the town during holiday periods when the population can swell to an estimated 21,000 people. Many residents were pulled to the town by employment opportunities in the middle-high income housing construction sector and the percentage of people in the working age group of 15-59 years was 60%. Afrikaans is spoken by about 85% of the population, followed by Damara/Nama then Oshiwambo (Urban Dynamics, 2013).

The University of Namibia (UNAM) Sam Nujoma Campus engages between 400-500 students and lecturers on its 100ha site to the north of the town. The Sam Nujoma Marine and Coastal Resources Research Centre is a full-fledged multidisciplinary research centre with the mandate to promote research and development activities in the field of Marine Science and Coastal Resources[4]. The National Youth Service, a government youth programme, offers "civic training" at their Henties Bay facility for approximately 500 youth between the ages of 16 – 35 years[5].

[3] Pers. comm. Henties Bay Strategic Executive: Finance & Information Technology, Oct 2015

[4] http://www.unam.edu.na/sam-nujoma-campus/

[5] http://www.nys.com.na/

6.1.6 Health

The nearest clinic is at Henties Bay (59km away) which is run by two registered nurses and two enrolled nurses; the government doctor rarely visited in 2015. Very sick patients are referred to the hospital in Swakopmund (130km) but there was no government ambulance available so people have to arrange their own private transport; Lifelink Emergency Rescue Services offers a private sector paramedic service. Henties Bay has a number of private doctors, a medical centre, a clinic and pharmacies which can be accessed by MEFT staff and visitors (Ashby, 2017). Information on common diseases, including HIV and AIDS, is detailed in the baseline section of Ugabmund.

6.1.7 Human Rights-based approach to development

Human rights standards and elements are also discussed at a general level in the Ugabmund baseline.

Participatory development is an important component of human rights. The MEFT staff at Cape Cross Seal Reserve recommended that building 2-bedroom houses rather than 1-bedroom houses would be more appropriate so families can stay or visit them while they are on duty. Splitting families brings an added risk of unfaithfulness and higher risk of HIV infections and should be avoided. The staff made other sensible suggestions relating to providing some NAMPOL houses as they currently assist MEFT but have to live in tents, and maintenance of the infrastructure.

7 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

7.1 ASSESSMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

7.1.1 Impact: Addressing inequality through job creation and skills development

7.1.1.1 **Description of Impact**

The construction activities will support direct jobs and indirect jobs in the building supplies and transport sectors. With the Namibian economy being at an all-time low, any contract in the construction industry will bring benefits. LCE gave a preliminary cost estimate for the development at Cape Cross of N$26,573,575 - a sizeable business opportunity, which is €1,319,380 at September 2020 exchange rates of N$1:€0.05.

During the operations phase, there should be limited permanent direct or indirect jobs created and/or service contracts to maintain the new infrastructure.

The improved facilities may bring positive comments and an increase in the number of visitors to Cape Cross, impacting on revenue to MEFT. The enhanced experience may encourage further joint ventures with the Tsiseb Conservancy, which will bring further indirect benefits to the community.

The Assessment of impact is the same as for the Ugabmund site:

TABLE 7-1 TABULATED SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSED IMPACT: JOB CREATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Mitigation	Severity	Duration	Spatial Scale	Consequence	Probability of Occurrence	Significance

Unmitigated impacts	M+	M	M	M+	H	M+
Enhanced positive impacts	H+	H	M	H+	H	H+

7.1.2 Impact: Effects of migrant labour on health and safety

7.1.2.1 **Description of Impact**

The construction team is likely to be accommodated on site as the nearest town is Henties Bay which is 120km round trip away. A construction camp could bring the team in close contact with the MEFT and NAMPOL staff based at the station, including themselves. The construction team could add a risk of social ills such as alcohol-related behaviour, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and AIDS and crime.

It will be important for all construction workers to be able to have their regular supplies of medication, such as antiretroviral treatment.

The assessment of the impact and proposed mitigation measures are the same as for Ugabmund.

TABLE 7-2 TABULATED SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSED IMPACT: EFFECTS OF MIGRANT LABOUR ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mitigation	Severity	Duration	Spatial Scale	Consequence	Probability of Occurrence	Significance
Unmitigated impacts	M	H	L	H	L	M
Mitigated impacts	L	L	L	L	L	L

8 CONCLUSIONS

The MEFT base at Cape Cross clearly needs to provide sufficient infrastructure for its staff and visitors / tourists up to international standards. The upgrade of facilities will provide a modest boost to the Namibian construction industry and will create some short-term jobs. If the company selection process is managed well, the proposed enhancement measures should contribute to improving livelihoods of previously disadvantaged Namibians. The mitigation measures should help safeguard the health and wellbeing of the construction workers and the residents of the site.

In terms of participatory development, the relevant stakeholders who should be engaged are the staff who will be living in and using the upgraded facilities. They were consulted during the EIA process and their inputs have been documented and incorporated into the EIA, in the appropriate sections. Their participatory engagement should continue during the construction and operations phase.

These stakeholder meetings emphasised the importance of developing and implementing a solid maintenance plan which is likely to lead to additional work in the building maintenance service industry.

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR NAMPARKS V GOBABEB RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE

FOR SLR CONSULTING

FROM

ASHBY ASSOCIATES CC

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FIGURE 6-3 DORO !NAWAS CONSERVANCY.....**ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.**

FIGURE 6-4 THE TSISEB CONSERVANCY .....**ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.**

FIGURE 6-5 TRENDS IN NAMIBIA'S HDI COMPONENT INDICES 1990 - 2018**ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.**

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS - AURIOL

Acronym / Abbreviation	Definition
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral Treatment
ARV	Antiretroviral
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EMP	Environmental Management Plan
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NACSO	Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations
NAMPOL	Namibian Police
NPC	National Planning Commission
PDN	Previously Disadvantaged Namibian
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
SADC	Southern African Development Community
TB	Tuberculosis
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

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6.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC

6.1.1 Introduction to Gobabeb

This section gives a socio-economic baseline for the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre (Gobabeb) while Section 7 assesses potential impacts and recommends enhancement measures which can improve the living conditions of those living at the GRTC, and in the neighbouring Topnaar and other nearby coastal communities.

Gobabeb is located about 100km from Walvis Bay, in the Namib Naukluft National Park, on the banks of the ephemeral Kuiseb River, in the heart of the hyperarid Namib Desert (**Figure 6-1**). It's focus of research is on the three distinct ecosystems of the Namib: the Sand Sea to the south, the Gravel Plains to the north, and the riparian woodlands of the ephemeral Kuiseb River. Gobabeb is also embedded in the indigenous cultural landscape of the ≠Aonin (Topnaar) Nama pastoralists that have inhabited the Kuiseb River for centuries.

It was founded in 1962 and since 1998 it has been a joint venture between the Desert Research Foundation and the MEFT. At present, there are no MEFT staff permanently living in Gobabeb; only the Gobabeb Research Training support team live there.

The extensive existing infrastructure includes a main building with offices, laboratories, tea room, boardroom, courtyard with information display, viewing tower, toilets, etc., an adjacent large yard with water tower, garages and service building for batteries and generators. There are four staff houses, three so called villas and six caravans, a common kitchen / social building which are available for students and outside researchers. Furthermore, camping facilities, tennis and volleyball court and a swimming pool is available. Water is abstracted from boreholes in the Kuiseb River, treated and stored in an elevated concrete water tower. Power is generated using a Photo-voltaic system charging liquid-acid batteries and a diesel stand-by generator. Solid waste is collected, separated and transported to Walvis Bay. Waste water is collected via a gravity system and treated by a trickling filter waste water treatment plant (LCE, 2019). It has hosted scientific conferences and symposiums of up to 130 people; a limited number of visitors and tourists can pre-book accommodation and catering and obtain a park permit from MEFT.

Given the allocated staff ranks and needs, SLR was informed to conduct the EIA on the following infrastructure at Gobabeb:

- New staff flats (up to 4 duets).
- Connect waste water, fresh water and power to existing services of research station (SLR Background Information document).

FIGURE 6-1 LOCATION OF THE GOBABEB RESEARCH CENTRE

6.1.2 Current Users, Interested and Affected Parties of the Gobabeb

"The interested and affected communities are made up of:

- Gobabeb staff, of which 12 attended SLR's information sharing meeting about the proposed upgrade
- The MEFT staff who run the Namib-Naukluft Park
- The neighbouring Topnaar communities
- The visiting researchers, students and visitors who make use of the facilities on a short-term basis.

6.1.3 Neighbouring Topnaar Communities

The ≠Aonin Topnaar are a pastoral Nama-speaking people who lived along the coast of south-western Africa and were pushed into the lower stretches of the Kuiseb River in the 1820s. Over the last two centuries, their numbers and wealth have been severely reduced by raiding, cattle disease and colonial trade but they have maintained their strong cultural traditions and independence. There are about 400 Topnaar people who live along the Kuiseb River in 14 communities at Utuseb, Rooibank, Homeb, Amstraat and other places. As the water table in the Kuiseb River has dropped from the heavy offtake upstream and for the growing town of Walvis Bay, the communities rely on boreholes rather than wells, for water.

The communities mainly depend on small-scale livestock production of goats, cattle and donkeys, and government pensions as they are no longer allowed wildlife offtake from their former hunting grounds in the Namib-Naukluft Park. One of their dietary staples is the !nara melon (*Acanthosicyos horrida*), which grows along the river and obtains moisture from the water table through a long taproot. The riparian vegetation, particularly the Anaboom (*Faidherbia albida*) and Camelthorn (*Acacia erioloba*) trees, are valuable fodder resources for the livestock but the falling water table and overgrazing by goats are preventing regrowth.

In other parts of Namibia, the recognised traditional authorities are given powers and budget lines through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. The Topnaar traditional authority is in a unique position in Namibia as they live within the Namib-Naukluft Park, where the major policies aim to support wildlife and conservation, so they are leaders of the people but not of the area in which they live. This has been a bone of contention and they feel it has caused lengthy delays in bringing them any development.

The Topnaar leadership has a 30 year concession with the Namib Naukluft Park. They are members of Gobabeb and they feel they have contributed to the research and mobilised Namibians to use the research station[1]. MEFT has awarded the traditional authority two tourism concessions in the NNP with tour operators from which they are eligible for benefits; they derive no direct funding from MEFT or the Park. The traditional authority have also gained income through fishing quotas in their tribal area and they secured funds through the NamPort Trust and the Ministry of Health and Social Services to build a health centre at Utuseb. However, they feel that this has not been enough to uplift and develop the community which lives without access to sewerage and electricity.

Below is a montage of photos of the Topnaar communities taken from the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology Erongo Office tribute to the late Chief Kooitjie, the 39th leader of the ≠Aonin clan. The photos demonstrate the poverty and subsistence livelihoods on which the people depend.

[1] Source: YouTube tribute to the late Chief Gaob Seth Koiitjie of the ≠Aonin Topnaar Community, Feb 2019, accessed on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uH0_rTsfy2w

FIGURE 6-2 PHOTO MONTAGE REFLECTING THE LIVELIHOODS OF THE TOPNAAR ALONG THE KUISEB RIVER

Utuseb Settlement, showing mixed brick and metal housing

Topnaar settlement in a harsh, windswept, sandy environment

Generally poor housing reflects the poverty levels of these communities; wood is preferred as it is more insulating than zinc

Most houses rely on outside cooking using local firewood

Donkeys are important for transport people, goods, firewood and water

Ambrose Swartbooi, Topnaar representative, in a community meeting

!Nara melon

!Nara melon grow on spiny bushes and provide the stable food.

Goats, cattle and some gardening projects are important contributers to subsistence farming

The new Health Centre at Utuseb.

Performance by a Topnaar youth cultural dance group

6.1.4 Walvis Bay

Walvis Bay and its townlands extend north to the Swakop River and south to the Kuiseb River. It has the biggest population of the coastal towns at 62,000 (NSA, 2013) as it has a long established fishing industry and Namibia's major port. The Port of Walvis Bay forms a logistics hub for Namibia, its neighbouring countries and others in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and employed nearly 900 people in 2017. The Namibian fishing industry employed 16,800 direct jobs in 2018 which are mainly associated with value addition in the hake industry[2]; many of these factories are based in Walvis Bay.

A number of tourism activity operators are based in Walvis Bay providing harbour tours, kayaking, quad-biking, dune boarding, fishing, desert trips and tours to Sandwich Harbour. They have been badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic stopping tourists from entering the country for 6 months and the town being under the severest lockdown preventing even local tourism.

The Walvis Bay is expanding and the construction industry is busy as the industrial areas are expanding eastwards along the C14 road towards the International Airport.

6.1.5 Swakopmund

Swakopmund is the second largest coastal town and was home to nearly 45,000 people in 2011, when it had a growth rate of 6.5% since the previous decade. Swakopmund's spatial growth is northwards along the coast for the middle to upper income residential suburbs, while the lower income suburbs of Mondesa and the DRC are expanding to the east of the town centre. The industrial areas are also expanding eastwards of the town centre, with good road access to the B2 main road which links Swakopmund to Walvis Bay and the Trans-Caprivi and Trans Kalahari Highways.

Swakopmund is a popular local and international tourism centre, attractive because of the cooler temperatures, colonial German architecture, easy shopping and proximity to outdoor activities focusing on

[2] http://www.mfmr.gov.na/documents/120354/763837/Ministerial+address+to+Fishing+Industry+2019.pdf/dfd0b1a6-ee1b-4eaa-84b6-426caeffdacd

the dunes, beach and sea. The loss of tourists due to COVID-19 has destroyed many livelihoods and forced many businesses to close.

Swakopmund is also a highly skilled, light industry hub which services the large Rössing and Husab uranium mines closer to Arandis, other small-scale industries and the tourism sector.

6.1.6 Health

The Gobabeb staff, visitors and contractors on medical aid can access a range of private health care which is available in Walvis Bay, 100km away. The nearest government health facility is the newly built one at Utuseb, or the government clinic and hospital in Walvis Bay.

National information on common diseases is reported under the Ugabmund health section. Walvis Bay, being a major port and transport hub, had relatively high levels of HIV but it has managed to bring down its rates among the under 24 age group to 5.5% of pregnant women tested in 2016. Rates among the older women between 25-49 year age group was 22.5% compared to the national average of 24% in that sentinel survey (MoHSS, 2016).

6.1.7 Human Rights-based approach to development

Some background to human rights in Namibia can be found in the Ugabmund human rights section. Participatory development is an important component of human rights. The staff at Gobabeb raised many issues which are not socio-economic related. SLR held an information sharing meeting with the Topnaar leadership who raised their need for a centralized administrative office managed by MEFT park ranger and shared with the Topnaar representative; the current MEFT/Topnaar office is at Ganab which is over 90km away. The Topnaar leadership want to see that their community benefits from the construction process such as through a joint venture with the construction company and/or jobs.

7 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

7.1 ASSESSMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

7.1.1 Impact: Addressing inequality through job creation and skills development

7.1.1.1 **Description of Impact**

The Gobabeb improvements is the smallest of the station upgrades, with a preliminary cost estimate of N$7,526,844, which on 2 October 2020 exchange rate of 19.38:1 is approximately €385,450. It will create only a few months of construction jobs, however, any employment given to members of the Topnaar community would have a positive impact on their impoverished communities. The construction activities will support indirect jobs in the building supplies and transport sectors. With the Namibian economy being at an all-time low, any work in the construction industry will bring economic and therefore social benefits.

7.1.1.2 **Assessment of Impact**

Rating of impacts

Severity/ nature:	The project will have limited but positive impacts on job creation in the construction industry and in the building maintenance sector and is ranked as medium positive; in addition, some transfer of skills may take place. Enhancement through mitigation measures renders the severity high positive.
Duration:	The duration of the impact is medium as most of the work will end when the construction is completed. Enhancement through any skills development mitigation measures results in a long term duration, therefore high.
Spatial scale/ extent:	The spatial scale is ranked medium as construction employees are likely be sourced locally and from the coastal towns, rather than nationally. The spatial scale with mitigation remains at medium.
Consequence:	The consequence of the impacts is medium as the severity, duration and spatial scale are ranked medium. The consequence with mitigation measures results in high positive rating.
Probability:	The probability of the impacts occurring is high as the project cannot operate without creating construction jobs. The probability remains high in the mitigated scenario.
Significance:	The significance of a small number of short-term jobs being created is medium because the consequence is medium even though the probability of the impacts occurring is high. With mitigation measures, the significance of the impact is rated as high positive.

7.1.1.3 **Conceptual description of proposed enhancement measures**

Objective

To maximise local job creation and promote broader participation and economic empowerment among Previously Disadvantaged Namibians (PDNs) during construction, operations and through the supply chain.

A human rights-based approach aims to promote businesses owned by and employing previously disadvantaged Namibians at management level downwards. In addition, there should be three priorities in terms of benefits to local businesses and people: Highest priority and points must go to jobs for members of the Topnaar communities; second to businesses owned by companies operating in the Erongo Region and thirdly, to any Namibian company involved in the winning tender.

Actions

i. MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to construction companies owned by previously disadvantaged Namibians, which demonstrate they make maximise use of the local labour force and specifically encourage women to apply for any jobs available.

ii. Further, MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to women-owned and managed companies over male-led companies.

iii. MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to prime contractors who include and support PDN suppliers in the procurement chain. The measurement used by NamPower is the % procurement spending allocated to businesses owned by PDNs (e.g. mentorship programmes, joint ventures, sub-contracting) (NamPower, 2014).

iv. MEFT will give tender weighting to construction companies that will detail how and what skills they will transfer to local workers during construction or the % of gross wages they spend on training.

Impact summary

Phases: Construction		
Criteria	**Without Mitigation**	**With Mitigation**
Severity	Medium+	High +
Duration	Medium	High
Extent	Medium	Medium
Consequence	Medium +	High+
Probability	High	High
Significance	Medium +	High +
Nature of cumulative impacts	Medium contribution to cumulative impacts.	

7.1.2 Impact: Effects of migrant labour on health and safety

7.1.2.1 Description of Impact

The construction team is likely to set up a construction camp at Gobabeb as Walvis bay is 100km away. Gobabeb provides accommodation and catering facilities, if required by the contractor. A construction team living on site will bring the team in close contact with the Gobabeb staff, visiting researchers and other short-term visitors including themselves. The construction team could add a risk of social ills such as alcohol-related behaviour, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and AIDS and crime.

7.1.2.2 Impact Assessment

Severity/ nature:	The risk to community health and security is ranked as medium. During operations, maintenance teams are likely to be small in size and would bring negligible risk. Mitigation measures renders the severity low.

Duration:	The duration of petty crime is short but the impacts of rape and HIV last a lifetime so the impact could be of high duration. Mitigation measures results in a short-term duration, therefore a low rating.
Spatial scale/ extent:	The spatial scale is ranked low as the risk only occurs at the project site. The spatial scale with mitigation remains low.
Consequence:	The consequence of the impacts is high as the severity is medium, but the duration is high. The consequence with mitigation measures will become low.
Probability:	The probability of the impacts occurring is medium, but it becomes low in the mitigated scenario.
Significance:	The significance is high because the consequence is high and the probability is medium. With mitigation measures, the significance of the impact is reduced to low.

7.1.2.3 Conceptual description of proposed mitigation measures

Objective

To set out measures to regulate contractor/labour interaction with Park staff and others at Ugabmund.

Actions

i. The contractor must have zero tolerance to alcohol while on duty, and any transgressions, or police-reported serious crimes such as grievous bodily harm or rape, will carry the severest consequences of infringement (e.g. immediate loss of job).

ii. All contractors on the project must have undergone a health and safety workplace programme which includes HIV and AIDS prevention.

7.1.2.4 Impact Summary

Phases: Construction		
Criteria	**Without Mitigation**	**With Mitigation**
Severity	Medium	Low
Duration	High	Low
Extent	Low	Low
Consequence	High	Low
Probability	Medium	Low
Significance	High	Low
Nature of cumulative impacts	Low contribution to cumulative impacts.	

Phases: Construction	
Degree to which impact can be reversed	Impact can not be reversed if people are harmed.
Degree to which impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources	None.
Degree to which impact can be mitigated	To a high degree.

8 CONCLUSIONS

The upgrade of Gobabeb's staff housing will provide a small boost to the Namibian construction industry and will create some short-term jobs. The proposed enhancement measures should contribute to a short-term but still valuable improvement to the livelihoods of some neighbouring Topnaar and other previously disadvantaged Namibians. The mitigation measures should help safeguard the health and wellbeing of the construction workers and the residents of the site.

In terms of participatory development, the relevant stakeholders who should be engaged are the Gobabeb staff. They were consulted during the EIA process and their inputs have been documented and incorporated into the EIA, in the appropriate sections. Their participatory engagement should continue during the construction phase.

These stakeholder meetings emphasised the importance of developing and implementing a solid maintenance plan which is likely to lead to additional work in the building maintenance service industry.

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR NAMPARKS V SESRIEM

FOR SLR CONSULTING

FROM

ASHBY ASSOCIATES CC

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS - AURIOL

Acronym / Abbreviation	Definition
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral Treatment
ARV	Antiretroviral
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CIF	Construction Industries Federation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LCE	Lund Consulting Engineers
LFPR	Labour Force Participation Rate
MET	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MOHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
NACSO	Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations
NAMPOL	Namibian Police
NEET	Not in education, or employment or training
NNP	Namib-Naukluft Park
NPC	National Planning Commission
NWR	Namibia Wildlife Resorts
PDN	Previously Disadvantaged Namibian
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
SADC	Southern African Development Community
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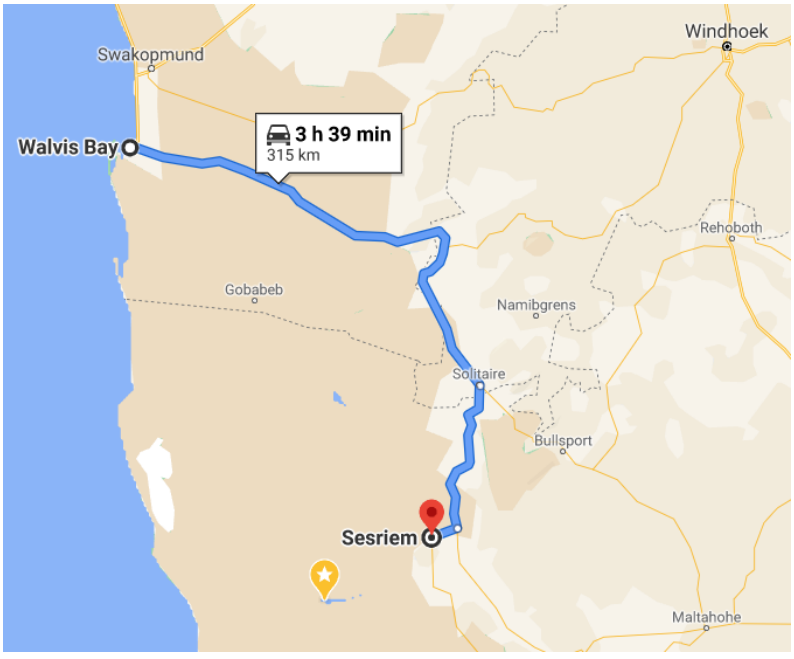
6.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC

6.1.1 Introduction to Sesriem MEFT Station

Sesriem is located within the Namib-Naukluft Park (NNP) and is the entrance gate to the highest dunes in the world at Sossusvlei, one of the most popular Namibian tourist destinations. Many private tourist establishments have been established along the periphery of the Park to accommodate the 200,000 visitors who visited each year between 2018-2020 (April - March). The nearest towns are Walvis Bay at 315km (Figure 6-1) and Windhoek, via Rehoboth is 337km away, making it a popular circular route for tourists.

FIGURE 6-1 LOCATION OF SESRIEM IN RELATION TO WALVIS BAY AND WINDHOEK



Sesriem is ranked as a secondary MEFT station and the existing infrastructure includes the main gate, office/reception, staff houses (3), caravan housing, borehole (1), random services. Other infrastructure includes caravans for NWR staff, thatched/canvas housing for NWR lodge staff, old service area, service

station, kiosk, landfill site with adjacent workshop, police station (office & houses), clinic and associated housing and a new private sector lodge.

With the last major renovation of the station done in 1994, there is an urgent need for the upgrading of infrastructure. Furthermore, the lack of adequate and appropriate accommodation prevents the appointment of staff and in combination with the lack of appropriate facilities and equipment affects effective park management (LCE, 2019). Currently, there are 8 MEFT staff members living on site, with 10 additional family members.

The planned upgrade outlined in the Lund scope (LCE, 2019) was costed at over N$19 million in 2019 and includes:

- New office/tourist reception with integrated gate, visitors' ablution block, service building and garages, staff houses (5 x 1-bed, 2 x 2-bed and 1 x 3-bed).
- Renovation of existing three staff houses and eastern gate.
- Install wastewater collection and treatment facility.
- Connect to existing NWR water supply network and power supply system (short-term).
- New solar PV (medium-term) (SLR Background Information Document).

6.1.2 Current Users, Interested and Affected Parties of the Sesriem

"The interested and affected communities are made up of:

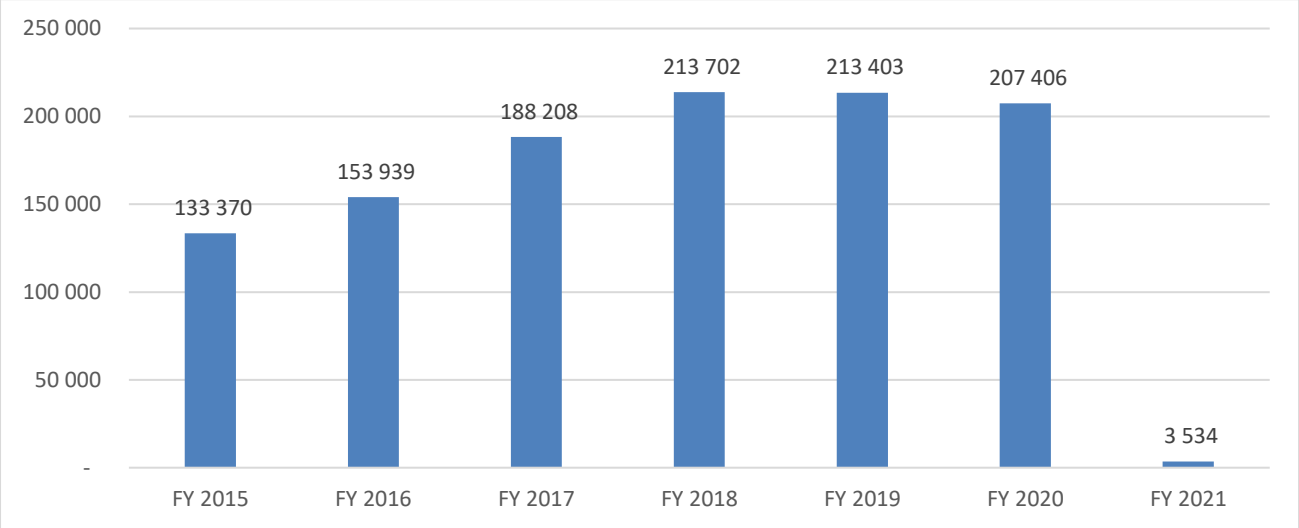
- the MEFT staff who live and work there
- other government staff include the Namibian Police (NAMPOL) and Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) who run the police station and clinic, respectively
- Namibia Wildlife Resorts (NWR) staff who run the lodge and campsite
- Sun Karros staff who run the Dead Valley Lodge and Sesriem Oshana campsites inside the Sesriem gates.
- The owners, management and employees of the neighbouring farms and tourism facilities which perhaps can also represent the tourists as they hear the good and bad stories.

There are no other nearby settlements.

6.1.3 Tourism

For the 3 years before COVID-19 struck the world, more than 200,000 people visited Sesriem annually. Since the end of March 2020 when Namibia and governments around the world closed their borders, the tourism industry has suffered a collapse as tourist numbers plummeted. Once the partial lockdown was lifted, only 3,534 Namibia-based tourists took advantage of the substantial discounts offered by tourism establishments which were desperately trying to survive (Figure 6-2).

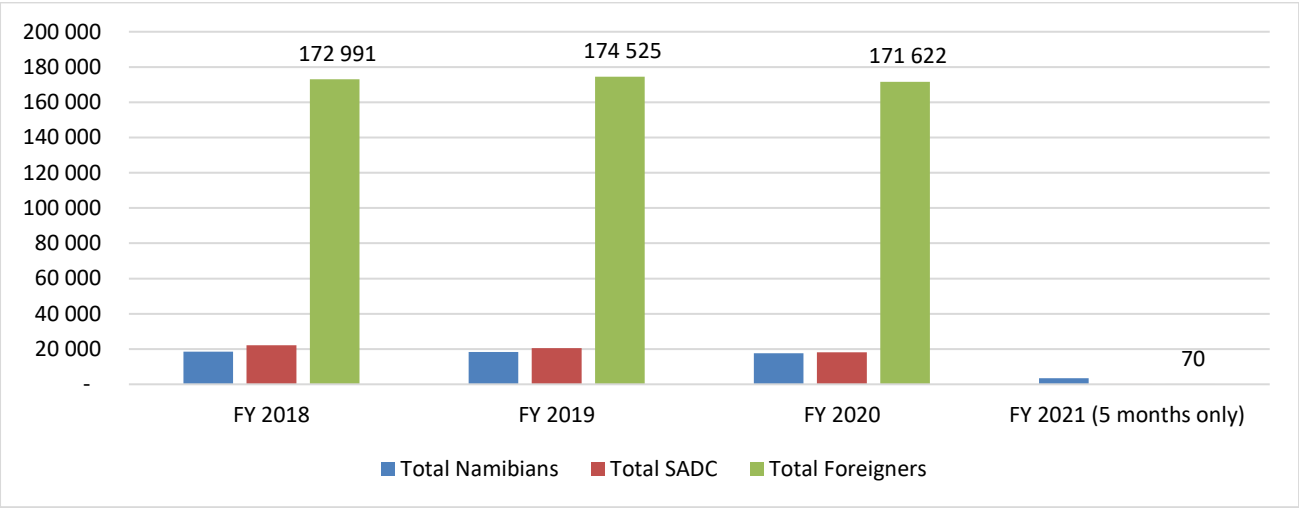
FIGURE 6-2 TOTAL VISITOR NUMBERS TO SESRIEM 2015- 2021



Source: MEFT Oct 2020

Figure 6-3 compares the number of Namibian, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) nationals and overseas tourists who visited Sesriem from April to March for the years 2018 to 2020; the vast majority of visitors are from overseas.

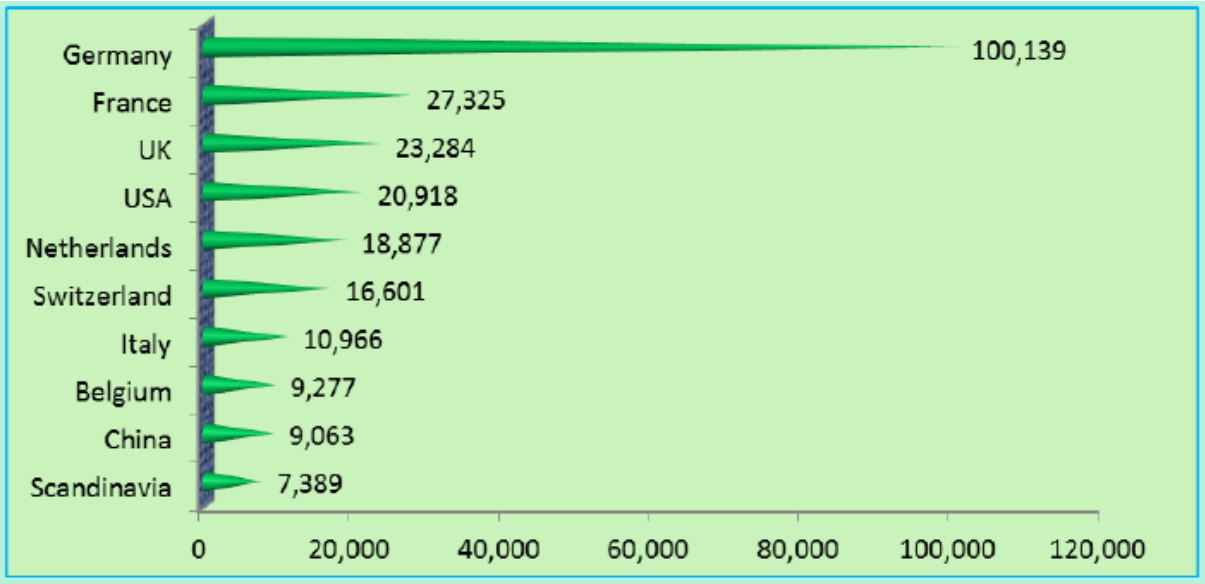
FIGURE 6-3 ORIGIN OF VISITORS TO SESRIEM 2018 TO 2021



Source: (MEFT, October 2020)

Of the 356,590 overseas tourists who arrived in Namibia in 2018, nearly half (48.5%) visited Sesriem. German tourists significantly out-numbered tourists from other countries, (Figure 6-4).

FIGURE 6-4 TOP TEN OVERSEAS HOLIDAY TOURISTS, 2018



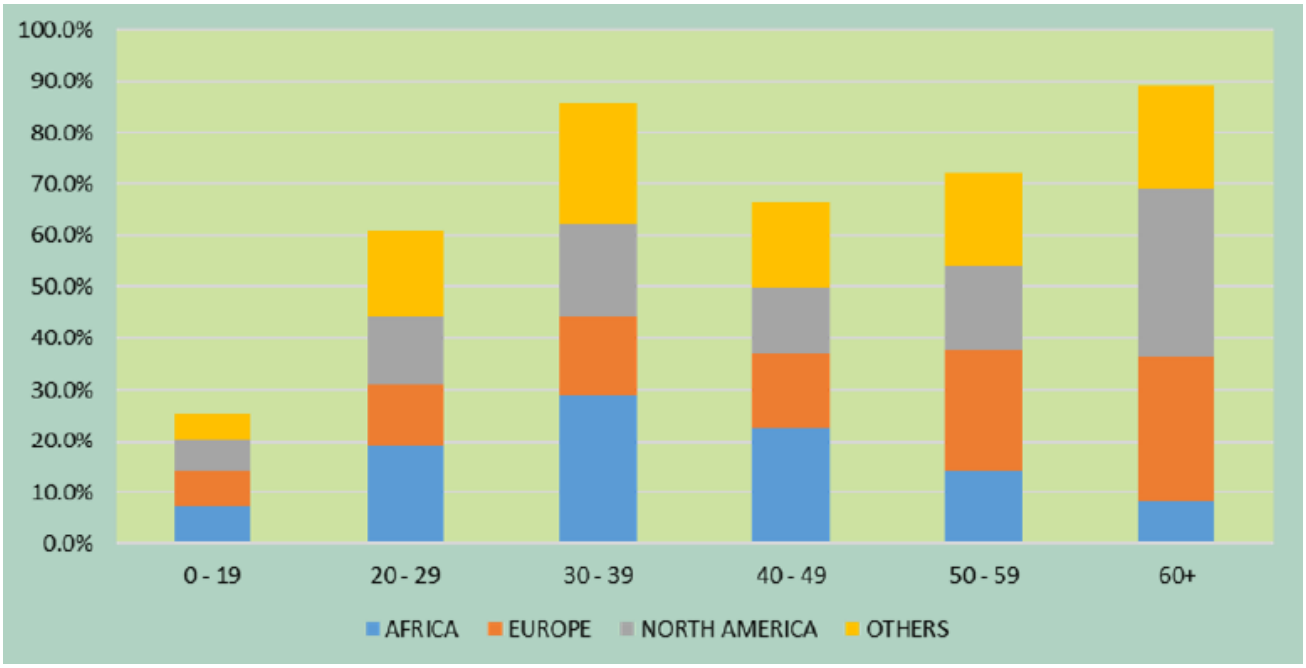
Source: (MET, 2019)

The most popular month to visit Sesriem is in August. 29,788 tourists, averaging 960 people per night required beds or camping sites, in August 2019. With such a high demand, many tourists are forced to stay many kilometres away and there is a wide variety of establishments and price ranges from which to choose.

Many people predict that it will take several years for tourism numbers to recover to former levels, even when vaccines against COVID-19 become available. Of potential significance is the available data on the age of tourists and the continents from which they have come. The majority of tourists who came from Europe and North America are over 60 years old, and the fear of catching COVID-19, or similar, may put many of them off long-distance travel for the foreseeable future.

The majority of tourists from Africa (mainly Angola and South Africa) are in the 20 – 50 year age group, as shown in Figure 6-5, but only 22,185 visited Sesriem in the 2018 financial year, which is less than 2% of all African tourist arrivals to the country.

FIGURE 6-5 TOURISTS' AGE DISTRIBUTION BY CONTINENTS, 2018



Source: (MET, 2019)

The revenue generated by the visitors to Sesriem, to the MEFT alone, amounted to over N$16 million a year from 2018 – 2020, inclusive (MEFT, October 2020). These visitors would have spent many more millions of Namibian dollars on accommodation, travel and food, which provided direct and indirect employment and income into the economy through the supply chain.

In 2018, over 80,000 Namibians, 11.4% of all those employed, worked in the accommodation and food service activities and more than three quarters of them were women. The mean monthly wage for employees in this sector was N$2,819 per month. This hides a huge gender disparity as the average male monthly wage was N$4,810 compared to N$2,143 for females.

6.1.4 The Construction Sector and labour availability

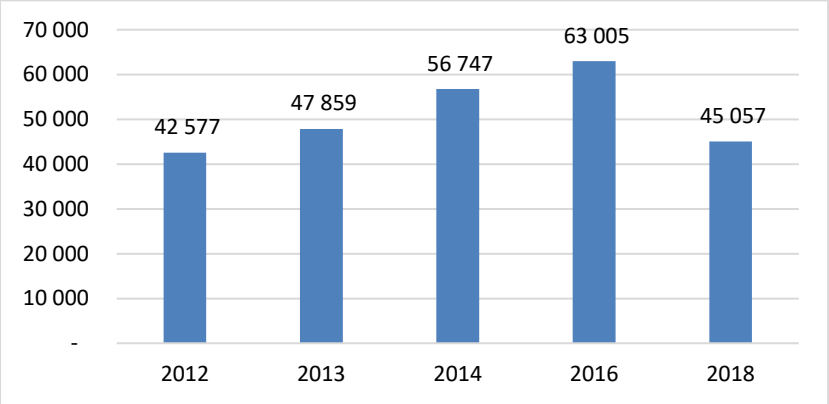
In 2018, the construction industry in Namibia employed over 45,000 people, which was 6.2% of all those employed. Of those construction workers, 65% (29,400) were informally employed and less than 6% were unionised. It is a very male dominated sector with average monthly wages in 2018 of N$5,441. Over 50% of those employed were under 34 years of age, so it is a valuable contributor to youth unemployment (NSA, 2019). The 2014 Labour Force Survey details that the Erongo Region had the second highest number of people employed in the construction sector after the Khomas Region, 7,400 and 15,500 respectively.

In 2018 nationally, over 300,000 youth (35%) between 15-34 years of age were “not in education, or employment or training” (NEET). Amongst the 20-24 year age group, 45% of all youth were NEET and 48% of female youth were NEET. At regional level, the Erongo Region was slightly below the national average at 32% of youth being NEET whereas 34% of youth in Khomas Region were NEET; the Kunene Region recorded the highest NEET at 48%. The proportion of youth in NEET decreases with increasing education and the trend is similar for male and female youth (NSA, 2019).

The labour force participation rate (LFPR) is the proportion of the economically active population in a given working age population and Erongo Region recorded the highest LFPR at 81% of people aged between 15 – 65+ years, compared to the national average of 71%. It also recorded the lowest regional unemployment rate at 30%, compared to Khomas, 32%, and Kunene Region which had the second highest at 42%. As with the youth, females in every region suffer higher unemployment rates than males (NSA, 2019).

After the splurge in government spending aimed at countering the 2009 global downturn, levels of public borrowing reached their limits which resulted in government freezing all building and construction projects in late 2016. The construction industry has been badly hit as shown in Figure 6-6.

FIGURE 6-6 TREND OF TOTAL EMPLOYED PEOPLE IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR FROM 2012 - 2018



Sources: Successive Namibia Labour Force Surveys

The Construction Industries Federation (CIF) surveyed its members in April 2017 and results of the survey showed that 63% of responding businesses either had closed down, were dormant or have "scaled down drastically". Between 1 September 2016 and 31 March 2017, a minimum of 30% of the workforce had been retrenched. Since then, only a few capital projects have restarted and more businesses and jobs have been lost. The impact on the broader construction industry was summed up by the CIF: Retrenchments are being experienced across the entire supply chain. Not only the building and civil contractors and sub-contractors such as electricians, plumbers, flooring specialists, roofers, painters, air-condition technicians are affected. Architects, engineers, quantity surveyors as well as suppliers of building materials also needed to scale down operations and make large scale retrenchments. Similarly, manufacturers and suppliers of building material are also experiencing a serious down-turn[1].

[1]https://economist.com.na/24875/speak-your-mind/construction-industries-federation-extends-a-desperate-plea/ sourced on 5 Oct 2020.

6.1.5 Health

The government has a clinic at Sesriem, staffed by a registered nurse, or at times only an enrolled nurse. The nearest hospitals are far away: Mariental is 273km, Walvis Bay is 315km and Windhoek, via Rehoboth is 337km away for more serious cases requiring medical treatment.

National information on common diseases is reported under the Ugabmund health section.

6.1.6 Human Rights-based approach to development

Some background to human rights in Namibia can also be found in the Ugabmund human rights section.

Participatory development is an important component of human rights. The feedback from SLR's stakeholder consultations in Sesriem recommend that the proposed 1-bedroom housing should be turned into 2-bedroom housing units to accommodate staff with families, as the site is so remote. This would improve the morale of the staff. It would also prevent families living apart which has negative impacts on relationships and can add to the risk of sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV.

The staff also pointed out that the security guard at the existing tourist reception gate stands in the sun for longer hours and has to succumb to the heavy winds and dust. They ask for the new designs to incorporate wind and sun shield and or appropriate security housing.

7 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

7.1 ASSESSMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

7.1.1 Impact: Addressing inequality through job creation and skills development

7.1.1.1 Description of Impact

The improvements planned at Sesriem and costed by LCE in March 2019 were for N$19,892,346, which on 4 October 2020 exchange rate of 1 N$:€ 0.051 is approximately €1,019,630. It will create much needed construction jobs and it will support indirect jobs in the building supplies and transport sectors. With the Namibian economy being at an all-time low, any work in the construction industry will bring economic and therefore social benefits. The nearest town is Walvis Bay at 315km and Windhoek, via Rehoboth is 337km away. It is likely that the NNP station upgrades will be sourced from construction companies operating in either of these two towns.

7.1.1.2 Assessment of Impact

Rating of impacts

Severity/ nature:	The project will have limited but positive impacts on job creation in the construction industry and in the building maintenance sector and is ranked as medium positive; in

	addition, some transfer of skills may take place. Enhancement through mitigation measures renders the severity high positive.
Duration:	The duration of the impact is medium as most of the work will end when the construction is completed. Enhancement through any skills development mitigation measures results in a long term duration, therefore high.
Spatial scale/ extent:	The spatial scale is ranked medium as construction employees are likely be sourced regionally from the coastal towns, rather than nationally. The spatial scale with mitigation remains at medium.
Consequence:	The consequence of the impacts is medium as the severity, duration and spatial scale are ranked medium. The consequence with mitigation measures results in high positive rating.
Probability:	The probability of the impacts occurring is high as the project cannot operate without creating construction jobs. The probability remains high in the mitigated scenario.
Significance:	The significance of a these short-term jobs being created is medium because the consequence is medium even though the probability of the impacts occurring is high. With mitigation measures, the significance of the impact is rated as high positive.

7.1.1.3 **Conceptual description of proposed enhancement measures**

Objective

To maximise local job creation and promote broader participation and economic empowerment among Previously Disadvantaged Namibians (PDNs) during construction, operations and through the supply chain.

A human rights-based approach aims to promote businesses owned by and employing previously disadvantaged Namibians at management level downwards. In addition, there should be two priorities in terms of benefits to local businesses and people: The highest priority is for businesses owned by companies operating in the Erongo Region and secondly, to any Namibian company involved in the winning tender.

Actions

i. MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to construction companies owned by previously disadvantaged Namibians, which demonstrate they make maximise use of the local labour force and specifically encourage women to apply for any jobs available.

ii. Further, MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to women-owned and managed companies over male-led companies.

iii. MEFT will give tender preferential weighting to prime contractors who include and support PDN suppliers in the procurement chain. The measurement used by NamPower is the % procurement

spending allocated to businesses owned by PDNs (e.g. mentorship programmes, joint ventures, sub-contracting) (NamPower, 2014).

iv. MEFT will give tender weighting to construction companies that will detail how and what skills they will transfer to local workers during construction or the % of gross wages they spend on training.

Impact summary

Phases: Construction		
Criteria	**Without Mitigation**	**With Mitigation**
Severity	Medium +	High +
Duration	Medium	High
Extent	Medium	Medium
Consequence	Medium +	High +
Probability	High	High
Significance	Medium +	High +
Nature of cumulative impacts	Medium contribution to cumulative impacts.	
Degree to which impact can be reversed	Impact can be reversed	
Degree to which impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources	None	
Degree to which impact can be mitigated	It can be enhanced by some degree.	

7.1.2 Impact: Effects of migrant labour on health and safety

7.1.2.1 Description of Impact

The construction team is likely to set up a construction camp at Sesriem as it is far from any urban centre. A construction team living on site for several months will bring the team in close contact with the MEFT, NWR, Sun Karros, tourists and tour operators, and of course themselves. The construction team could add a risk of social ills such as alcohol-related behaviour, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and AIDS and crime.

7.1.2.2 Impact Assessment

Severity/ nature:	The risk to community health and security is ranked as medium. During operations, maintenance teams are likely to be small in size and would bring negligible risk. Mitigation measures renders the severity low.

Duration:	The duration of petty crime is short but the impacts of rape and HIV last a lifetime so the impact could be of high duration. Mitigation measures results in a short-term duration, therefore a low rating.
Spatial scale/ extent:	The spatial scale is ranked low as the risk only occurs at the project site. The spatial scale with mitigation remains low.
Consequence:	The consequence of the impacts is high as the severity is medium, but the duration is high. The consequence with mitigation measures will become low.
Probability:	The probability of the impacts occurring is medium, but it becomes low in the mitigated scenario.
Significance:	The significance is high because the consequence is high, and the probability is medium. With mitigation measures, the significance of the impact is reduced to low.

7.1.2.3 Conceptual description of proposed mitigation measures

Objective

To set out measures to regulate contractor/labour interaction with Park staff and others.

Actions

i. The contractor must have zero tolerance to alcohol while on duty, and any transgressions, or police-reported serious crimes such as grievous bodily harm or rape, will carry the severest consequences of infringement (e.g. immediate loss of job).
ii. All contractors on the project must have undergone a health and safety workplace programme which includes HIV and AIDS prevention.
iii. All construction workers must be able to access their regular supplies of medication, such as antiretroviral treatment through the clinic at Sesriem.
iv. All female staff and workers on site must be enabled to access Post Exposure Prophylaxis PEP immediately after possible exposure to HIV.

7.1.2.4 Impact Summary

Phases: Construction		
Criteria	**Without Mitigation**	**With Mitigation**
Severity	Medium	Low
Duration	High	Low
Extent	Low	Low
Consequence	High	Low

Phases: Construction		
Probability	Medium	Low
Significance	High	Low
Nature of cumulative impacts	Low contribution to cumulative impacts.	
Degree to which impact can be reversed	Impact cannot be reversed if people are harmed.	
Degree to which impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources	None.	
Degree to which impact can be mitigated	To a high degree.	

8 CONCLUSIONS

The upgrade of Sesriem's facilities will provide a boost to the Namibian construction industry and will create a significant number of short-term jobs. The mitigation measures should help safeguard the health and wellbeing of the construction workers, the residents and visitors to the site.

In terms of participatory development, the relevant stakeholders who should be engaged on an on-going basis are primarily the MEFT staff at the site, but also the other stakeholders living in close proximity to the construction. They were consulted during the EIA process and their inputs have been documented and incorporated into the EIA, in the appropriate sections. Their participatory engagement should continue during the construction phase.

These stakeholder meetings emphasised the importance of developing and implementing a solid maintenance plan which is likely to lead to additional work in the building maintenance service industry.

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