

ABOUT THESE GUIDELINES

The Namibian Constitution guarantees current and future generations of Namibians the right to an environment conducive to health, well being and security as well as to equitable access to the nation's resources including genetic resources. All individuals, as well as private and government institutions have a duty to protect and conserve Namibia's environment. As concern grows for maintaining and improving the quality of the environment and protecting human health, particularly project proponents need to attend to the potential environmental impacts of their activities.

The purpose of an Environmental Impact Assessment is to ensure that development projects which might have significant environmental consequences, receive both meaningful environmental planning by their proponents and thorough review by Government before they are allowed to proceed.

(a) THEIR PURPOSE

These guidelines are intended for a proponent or potential proponent who wishes to obtain an Environmental Clearance for a project which involves water infrastructure in Namibia.

The purpose of the guidelines is to-

- Serve as an introduction to the environmental assessment requirements of Namibian policy and procedure, and
- Provide assistance in meeting those requirements.

The guidelines are intended to complement, and not to replace, Namibia's Environmental Assessment Policy, and Namibia's draft Environmental Management Act

(b) THEIR STRUCTURE

The guidelines comprise this introduction and then five broad sections:

A: Brief overview of environmental assessment in Namibia

B: Water in Namibia

C: Checklist for an initial project application

D: Checklists for an environmental assessment report pertaining to water infrastructure [procurement, storage and transfer] projects

E: Useful baseline information sources

K More detail on each section is provided in the Table of Contents

(c) HOW TO USE THESE GUIDELINES

A flowchart on how to use these guidelines follows:

