



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR

**Shortlisting of consultant for the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)
for Green Energy Production, Industrialisation and Common User Infrastructure in the
Central Green Hydrogen Valley**

PROCUREMENT REFERENCE NO: **SC/EOI/EIF- 1/2024**

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**Shortlisting of consultant for the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)
for Green Energy Production, Industrialisation and Common User Infrastructure in the
Central Green Hydrogen Valley**

1. Purpose

The Expression of Interest (EOI) is to shortlist consultants from entities interested in performing a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for Green Energy Production, Industrialisation and Common User Infrastructure in the Central Green Hydrogen Valley. The funding agent is the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), as represented in Namibia by GIZ. The grant is implemented by the Namibian Green Hydrogen Programme as administered by the Fund.

2. Introduction and Background

Namibia has a proud conservation record, which is recognised internationally. This reputation rests partly on conservation outside parks and reserves on freehold and communal land through the CBNRM movement and the establishment and management of Protected Areas (PAs), and a robust regulatory framework. The country's commitment to biodiversity conservation is enshrined in the Constitution. Article 95 (I) provides the foundation for the formulation of policies, legislation and programmes aimed at safeguarding the country's biodiversity and ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations.

GRN has put in place a robust regulatory framework for conservation in Namibia through Vision 2030, the Harambee Prosperity Plan I and II, and national development plans, policies and national legislation and commitment to international conventions. At implementation level the proclamation of National Parks, the requirement of environmental clearance certificates as guided by ESIA's and EMP's for economic activity, the registration of conservancies and ongoing support to the CBNRM movement providing environmental stewardship in tourism, livestock, and crop production are all contributing to safeguard the environment. Namibia has established the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) which is accredited by the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Currently Namibia has twenty (20) state run PAs covering about 17% of the country's land surface. The PAs conserve biodiversity and ecosystem by protecting some of the country's most important habitats and species of national and global significance. Overall, 44% of Namibia is under some form of conservation management. Various plans and programmes – both GRN and donor-funded – to enhance the preservation of the natural environment are implemented continuously. Namibia is also committed to delivering on its commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Namibia is committed to leveraging its natural resources and implementing its green industrial vision in the most sustainable way for the benefit of Namibians. The country has experience in the successful development of projects in environmentally sensitive areas (e.g. uranium developments in the Erongo region are guided by a Strategic Environmental Assessment).

The developments in the green hydrogen and derivatives sector in the Central Green Hydrogen Valley are multiple and warrant a thorough analysis to support positive socio-economic development in the valley while protecting the environment, ecological systems and biodiversity. The Central Green Hydrogen Valley comprises the Erongo, Khomas and Otjozondjupa Regions. Protected areas in this valley are the Namib Naukluft Park and the Dorob National Park which hosts the Cape Cross Seal Reserve. Some 20km west of Windhoek is located the Daan Viljoen National Park, much smaller in size than all other Protected Areas.

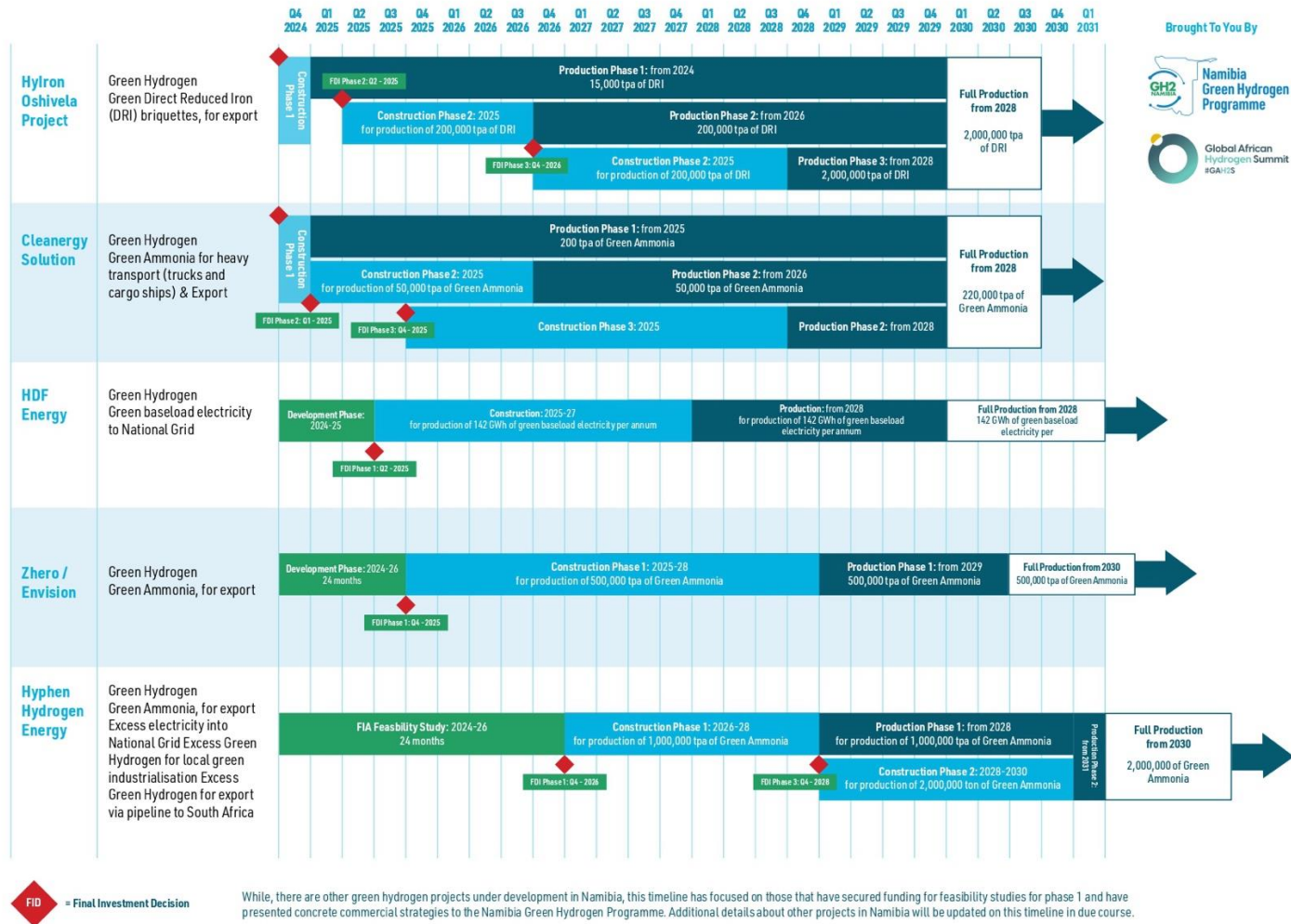
While technically not located in the Erongo Region or the Central Hydrogen Valley, just South of Walvis Bay, Sandwich Harbour where towering sand dunes meet the Atlantic Ocean is designated as a Ramsar Site, which is a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It hosts a large variety of bird species, including flamingos, pelicans, and other migratory birds, making it a crucial site for bird conservation.

3. Present Setup

GreenH2 is a strong emerging sector in the Erongo Region. Figure 1 provides good insight into the status of GreenH2 projects in the Central Green Hydrogen Valley.

Given the multitude of GreenH2 projects in the Central Green Hydrogen Valley, there is good scope for optimising the infrastructure for (sea)water, electricity, hydrogen and ammonia and road, rail and port infrastructure as well as one or more desalination plants. The Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme (NGH2P) is seeking to facilitate what is termed “common user infrastructure” (CUI) to avoid costly duplication of infrastructure, both from a financial and environmental perspective. It is noted that the Hylron/Oshivela may require a dedicated railway siding for the iron ore inputs and export of the Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) pellets. How to minimize the environmental footprint of this CUI in the Central Green Hydrogen Valley is part of the scope for this SESA.

Figure: 1



Note that Hyphen is located in the Southern Development Corridor Initiative or Southern Green Hydrogen Valley.

4. Scope of work

The lens for this SESA is the emerging Green Hydrogen production and green industrialisation sector in the Central Green Hydrogen Valley. The strategies that guide development are the 2022 Namibia Green Hydrogen and Derivatives Strategy, the 2024 Blueprint for Namibia's Industrialisation and 2024 Localizing Green Industries report. There is political will to use the SESA findings to inform, guide and harmonise further implementation and policymaking in the Central Region. The SESA Mitigation, Management and Monitoring Plan (MMMP) will be a welcome tool to guide Government in policy development, land use planning, investment promotion, national infrastructure projects, local economic development initiatives, etc.

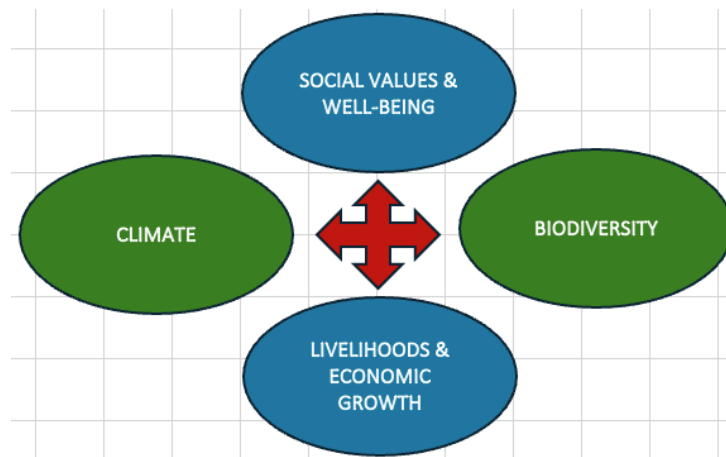
As a point of departure, the SESA is expected to – in consultation with a broad audience identified through well-targeted stakeholder mapping – identify priority biodiversity attributes and priority socio-economic attributes. These priority attributes could be broadly defined as the most important environmental and social features that could potentially be sensitive to the various types of developments of the SESA study area. They are based on both the intrinsic sensitivity of each value (e.g., the threatened status of species or high risk for socio-economic cohesion) as well as the risk of potential impact by a certain sector (e.g., while vultures will be a priority biodiversity value for the wind energy sector, they will not likely be for solar energy and the oil & gas sector, while cultural heritage and identity may be a priority attributes across all sectors).

Key sectors where economic and other activity is progressing at emerging or more established levels in the Central Region are:

- Green Hydrogen production (emerging).
- Green industrialisation (emerging).
- Renewable energy production (existing and emerging).
- Oil & Gas (emerging).
- Mining and prospecting (existing and onshore).
- Infrastructure such as port expansion, road infrastructure, power transmission lines, seawater, hydrogen and ammonia pipelines, desalination plant(s), etc.. (existing and emerging).

The SESA will seek to identify the immediate impacts and cumulative impacts of the various GH production and industry activities, emerging and planned, and advice on optimal land utilization. The key challenge is to avoid or minimize negative impacts, while all opportunities are maximized. Of importance is to identify factors of competition, tension, support, and complementarity in search of optimized relations and at minimum balance between climate, biodiversity, social values and well-being, and livelihoods and economic growth, as per Figure 2.

Fig 2: The Balancing Act



The SESA will assess and recommend mitigation measures for potential cumulative impacts associated with the combination of different development activities across the Central Green Hydrogen Valley, while maximising opportunities for sustainable economic development. The SESA is expected to provide well-informed guidance for decision-making to achieve important impact ambitions in the project area, such as:

- Poverty reduction.
- Reduced income inequalities.
- Increased employment.
- Enhanced social values (e.g. equality, justice, freedom, compassion, respect, honesty, tolerance, responsibility, solidarity, environmental stewardship).
- Enhanced equality, justice, freedom.
- More economic opportunities, cross sectoral (e.g. in tourism, fisheries, mariculture, green hydrogen production and green industry, oil and gas)
- Improved access to services (e.g. safe water, housing, education, health care, sanitation, electricity).
- National security.

The following specific tasks are envisaged:

1) Establish the context of the SESA:

- Agree on objectives.
- Preliminary stakeholder identification.
- Confirm SESA sectoral focus.
- Confirm SESA geographical scope ("SESA area").
- Decide on process and methodology.
- Confirm SESA implementation timeframe.
- Develop preliminary communication strategy.
- Develop detailed work plan and assignment of consultants.

2) Scoping:

- Identify priority biodiversity and socio-economic attributes per sector.
- Initiate collection of spatial and non-spatial data for priority attributes to inform sensitivity mapping and threshold-setting.

- Collate existing economic development planning documents for the relevant sectors (including spatial plans) through engagement with governmental entities and private sector, as feasible.
- Preliminarily identify impacts on each attribute per sector.
- Preliminarily identify literature or other data that could inform climate-related impacts on priority attributes.
- Conduct a stakeholder identification and mapping exercise relevant to the various attributes and sectors and develop Stakeholder Advisory Groups.
- Develop a template for Stakeholder Consultations Record and Feedback Register.
- Hold meetings with Stakeholder Advisory Groups on the SESA scope, identification of the attributes, available data, spatial mapping, etc.
- Conduct public scoping workshop(s).

3) Baseline Analysis:

- For each identified priority biodiversity and socio-economic attribute for each sector identify an approach for sensitivity scoring and geospatial mapping.
- Present baseline data in preliminary geospatial sensitivity maps.
- Identify methodology to integrate and visualize how potential climate-related impacts could affect priority attributes over the long-term.
- Identify information gaps and how best to bridge these.

4) Assessment:

Part I:

- Develop preliminary biodiversity and socio-economic sensitivity maps per sector, identifying no-go, high value/risk, medium value/risk areas and low value/risk areas.
- As feasible, develop geospatial maps showing a “business-as-usual” growth scenario for each of the various sectors with no spatial planning/mitigation in place.
- Identify thresholds how much of the biodiversity priority values could be impacted before it is permanently compromised.
- Highlight socio-economic adverse impacts based on a “business-as-usual” scenario.
- As feasible, develop geospatial data layer on project climate-related impacts.
- Ongoing engagement with Stakeholder Advisory Groups to review and confirm these outputs.

Part II:

- Further identify biodiversity and socio-economic impacts with respect to the various attributes and sectors.
- Identify priority sectors to advance further as there might be some sectors that have more urgent needs.
- For each sector and each priority attribute, identify avoidance and minimization measures for each of the risk areas identified in the sensitivity maps. These are the mitigation, management, and monitoring measures that all developers would need to maintain if working in such areas. The requirements would be higher for areas of higher sensitivity/risk.

- Present updated geospatial map overlays that show: (i) finalized sensitivity maps for the priority attributes; (ii) updated growth scenarios for selected sectors with avoidance and mitigation in place.
- For biodiversity, identify “aggregated” offset areas or activities – these are areas (or activities) where multiple companies might pool resources to compensate residual risks. By identifying these areas/activities in advance (and that potentially correspond to the biodiversity values), economies of scale could be achieved, rather than each company pursuing its own offset in isolation.
- Identify socio-economic opportunities and positive impacts to further economic development, promote social values and well-being.
- Develop SESA Mitigation, Management and Monitoring Plan (MMMP) around the following four (4) pillars: climate, biodiversity, social values and well-being, and livelihoods and economic growth.

5) Dissemination and Capacity Building:

- A succinct and publishable SESA document that is visually appealing (making use of annexes for most technical information).
- The SESA MMMP as a standalone document, to include recommendations for implementation requirements, capacity building needs for successful implementation, and other needs for subsequent action.
- The SESA geospatial sensitivity mapping outputs as a .kmz files.
- Stakeholder Consultations Record and Feedback Register.

5. Prequalification mandatory documents and evaluation criteria

5.1 Mandatory documents

For **Namibian entities**, the following mandatory documentary evidence is required to accompany the Expression of Interest. **International entities** are required to submit *company registration documents* only:

- (i) have a valid Certified copies of either:
 - a) certificate of business registration for an entity incorporated or registered under the company or close corporation laws of Namibia;
 - b) certificate of registration of a co-operative registered under the laws regulating co-operatives in Namibia;
 - c) document serving as evidence of registration as a trust and the trust deed for a trust registered under the laws regulating trusts in Namibia; or
 - d) partnership agreement in the case of a partnership, a valid joint venture agreement in the case of a joint venture or a valid agreement in case of other similar arrangements.
- (ii) have a valid original or certified copy of an original good Standing Tax Certificate, certified by a Commissioner of Oath appointed in terms of the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Oaths Act Oaths Act No.16 of 1963).

- (iii) have a valid original or certified copy of an original good Standing Social Security Certificate (certified by a Commissioner of Oath appointed in terms of the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Oaths Act No.16 of 1963).
- (iv) have a valid original or certified copy of Affirmative Action Compliance Certificate, proof from Employment Equity Commissioner that bidder is not a relevant employer, or exemption issued in terms of Section 42 of the Affirmative Action Act, 1998 (certified by a Commissioner of Oath appointed in terms of the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Oaths Act No.16 of 1963).
- (v) Written undertaking in terms of section 138 of the Labour Act, 2015 and section 50(2)(D) of the Public Procurement Act, 2015.
- (vi) A profile of the company, its organisation and staff.

Further noting that:

- 1) The Bidders' submission will either be responsive or non-responsive. Bidders who do not comply with any of the above Mandatory Documents/Requirements will be disqualified from the entire evaluation process and will not be considered further.
- 2) Only original or valid certified copies will be accepted. Certification of documents must be done by the Namibian Police or by a Commissioner of Oath appointed in terms of the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Oaths Act No.16 of 1963.
- 3) For skills transfer, joint ventures between local and international firms and/or inclusion of Namibian professionals in the project team are encouraged.

5.2 Evaluation Criteria

- (i) The consultant must have a track record in successful coordination and implementation of a SESA or similar assignment, assessing the cumulative impact of economic activity in a sizable area, using a multi-sectoral approach, geospatial data analysis and sensitivity mapping, as demonstrated by three (3) reference letters stating project scope and monetary value (minimum of N\$3 million for each project).

Details of experience or similar assignments undertaken in the previous five years, including their locations.

Further noting that:

For skills transfer, joint ventures between local and international firms and/or inclusion of Namibian professionals in the project team are encouraged.

- (ii) The required key professional staff are:
 - Project Team Leader
 - Social Scientist
 - Development Economist

- Biodiversity/Environmental Management Expert
- Geo-spatial Mapping Expert

Demonstrated by:

- a) Curriculum Vitae/resume clearly demonstrating minimum of 10 years relevant work experience (list projects relevant and adequate for the assignment) for all key professional staff except for the Geo-spatial Mapping Expert for whom 5 years relevant work experience is required.
- b) Certified copies of qualifications confirming a relevant Master's degree for all key professional staff except for the Geo-spatial Mapping Expert for whom a technical degree is required.

Further noting that:

For skills transfer, joint ventures between local and international firms and/or inclusion of Namibian professionals in the project team are encouraged.

(iii) Audited Financial Statements of 2021/22 and 2022/23.

6. Submission Requirements

6.1 Submission method and address

The EOI documentation may be placed in an envelope, marked with the Procurement Name and Reference Number and submitted in the tender box at the 1st Floor, 8933 Heinitzburg Heights, c/o Heinitzburg & Dr. Theo Ben-Gurirab Streets, Klein Windhoek or may be submitted electronically via email to procurement@eif.org.na.

6.2 Closing Date of Submissions

The closing date and time for this submission: **21 February 2025 (Friday) at 12h00 (Namibian time)**.

Late submissions will be rejected and returned unopened.

6.3 Expenses incurred by the participant

EIF will not be responsible for or pay for any expenses or losses that any tenderer may incur in preparing and submitting this Expression of Interest.

6.4 Financial Proposal

No financial offers are requested at this stage.

6.5 Contract Commencement Date

The proposed contract commencement date is 1 May 2025 (subject to change).

Any enquiries may be directed in writing to:

Procurement Management Unit

Ms. Tjirimejo Mbaha

Email: Procurement@eif.org.na