



EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF EIA SYSTEM IN NAMIBIA.

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ABSTRACT

Environmental Impact Assessment developed and become part of the most important project requirements in many countries including Namibia since its introduction in the United State of America in 1969. It played a significant role by contributing to sustainable development and reducing poverty in the lives of people affected by the projects in both developed and developing countries, unlike in the previous years when it was only accessible in the developed countries. So, the objectives of this study were to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the EIA system in Namibia using two effectiveness criteria namely; procedural effectiveness and substantive effectiveness as well as to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the EIA system from the ReconAfrica case study. This study used the impact assessment and project appraisal framework (Chanchitpricha, Morris & Bond, 2019) as tools to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the EIA system in Namibia. The study evaluated the EIA system of Namibia using ReconAfrica case study reports as its sample and sampling procedures. The Data were collected based on online research through Google scholar along with the Google website, ReconAfrica case study reports, Newspapers, Social media sites such as ReconAfrica Facebook page, NBC news-8 Facebook page and Newspaper's Facebook pages, and other websites as well as academic databases available to the researcher, which include Science Direct (documentary analysis and content analysis). Thematic and documentary analysis methods were used to analyze the data for this study. The performance and effectiveness of the EIA system in Namibia are considered to be effective and efficient as the practitioners and proponents often took the framework into account and adhered to laws and regulations. This led to the EIA system fitting the framework and meeting the performance of EIA by describing how the EIA system should be adapted to the adopted framework. The EIA process of Namibia achieved objective sets, supports well-informed decision-making which results in environmental protection, and is being carried out according to established expectations, complying with procedures, following best practice principles, and adhering to regulations. EIA system of Namibia has strengths and weaknesses and it can be fully evaluated even with bias and shortcomings within the system as these can be mitigated with the right procedures.

Keywords: Environmental Impact Assessment system, Procedural, Substantive, strengths, weaknesses, effectiveness, evaluation, performance, Namibia, ReconAfrica.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BID – Background Information Document CV – Curriculum Vitae

DEA – Directorate of Environmental Assessment DFAS – Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences EAP – Environmental Assessment Practitioner

EC – Environmental Commissioner/ European Commission ECC – Environmental Clearance Certificate

EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment EIS – Environmental Impact Statement EMA – Environmental Management Act EMP – Environmental Management Plan JOA – Joint Operating Agreement

MEFT – Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism

MTC – Mobile Telecommunications Company/ Make the Connection NAMCOR – National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act NGOs – Non-Governmental Organizations

OECD – Organization for Economic Corporation and Development OKACOM – Okavango River Basin Water Commission

PEL – Petroleum Exploration License ReconAfrica – Reconnaissance Energy Africa Ltd RoDs – Record of Decision makings

SEA - Strategic of Environmental Assessment UK – United Kingdom

UNAM – University of Namibia

UNEP – United Nation Environmental Programme USA – United State of America

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

EIA is a planning mechanism and systematic procedure established to examine the environmental impacts of a proposed project at an early stage to identify the significant impacts and mitigation measures, to avoid irreversible damage to the environment, and ensure sustainable use of natural resources (Aung, 2017). This process is recognized internationally as a standard environmental management tool for the decision-making process. The EIA system was introduced first time in the United State of America in 1969 (Abdul-sattar, 2007), and the system is practiced in more than 100 countries (Sadler et al, 2012). In Namibia, EIA was introduced in the early 1990s (Tarr & Figueira, 1999), and the system is in line with the international formal laws, regulations, and procedures (Husselmann, 2016).

Namibia is a small, middle income and developing country in Africa known as –Land of the Bravell. It is situated along the Atlantic Ocean coast, southwest of Africa, home to diverse wildlife, vegetation, and rich in natural resources including oil. It is a stable democratic country, with strong rules of laws, good institutional structures, and an attractive fiscal regime, making it one of the easiest places in Africa to do business and an attractive environment for foreign capital (Xenos, 2021). The legislative framework governing the oil and gas industry in Namibia is modern and well developed. The framework was established to promote hydrocarbon exploration and development in the country. Onshore oil and gas resources would also set Namibia on a path towards achieving energy freedom, which is the focal point of the country's Vision 2030. Furthermore, Namibia awarded the Canadian oil and gas company (ReconAfrica) a license and an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) to drill the nation's first onshore conventional exploratory wells for more than 50 years in the Kavango regions. In agreement with the Ministry of Mines and Energy, ReconAfrica achieved total depth on the 6-2 well, the first well of a three wells drilling program in the deep Okavango basin. The wells were drilled safely and in an environmentally responsible manner. ReconAfrica also permitted and drilled four community water wells which are fully operational and permitted an additional six locations in both East and West Kavango. Access to freshwater was a major daily challenge for many residents in the Kavango regions. So, drilling and completing wells is a significant element of ReconAfrica's community outreach program in these disadvantaged regions. The main objective of this paper was to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the EIA system in Namibia using the ReconAfrica case study. Furthermore, the portion of this exploration process requires a two-dimensional (2D) low-impact seismic survey program, which will take place in government-approved license areas.

The research used assessment frameworks by Chanchitpricha et al. (2019), and ReconAfrica oil and gas drilling company case study reports focused on the oil exploitation in the Kavango basin located in the two Kavango regions namely Kavango East and Kavango West. Reconnaissance Energy Namibia (Pty) Ltd (Proponent) holds a petroleum exploration right under the Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) No.73 covering degree square blocks 1719, 1720, 1819, 1820 and 1821 over the newly discovered Kavango sedimentary basin, Kavango West and East regions in Northern Namibia (Mwiya, 2021). On top of this, ReconAfrica a daring Canadian junior oil and gas explorer put Namibia which never produced a single barrel of oil on the world map in a wildcat drill campaign that took many by surprise. ReconAfrica also signed a Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) with the National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR) to develop the resources potential of the Kavango Sedimentary Basin, Northeast Namibia. The two companies will mutually pursue an ongoing petroleum exploration program in the Kavango West and Kavango East regions of Namibia with ReconAfrica covering the full costs to commerciality.

The ReconAfrica's EIA report (2021) by Dr. Sindila Mwiya (EIA practitioner) was prepared under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Clause 11 of the Model Petroleum Agreement, Petroleum Exploitation and Production Act No.2 of 1991, and Petroleum Laws Amendment Act 24 of 1998, the Environmental Management Act No.7 of 2007. This was done to find out if ReconAfrica operations were adhering to the national laws and regulations. Therefore, this case study was analyzed to evaluate the implementation of the EIA system of Namibia, focusing on its performance as well as its effectiveness, and answer the objectives of this study. Finally, Namibia's political, economic transformation and drastic expansion of foreign direct investment in the natural resources sector require systematic safeguards to mitigate impacts from its development activities, thus the need for EIA at the commencement of any project to minimize the accumulation of adverse impacts associated with the proposed project. The evaluation of EIA effectiveness was based on the review of the literature of EIA performance in Namibia and the selected aforementioned case study.

1.2 Problem Statement

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was formally introduced in 2007 in Namibia and little research on it was undertaken and the system had not been formally reviewed Nakwaya-Jacobus et al. (2021). Nakwaya-Jacobus et al. (2021) further narrated that the Namibia EIA system is based on fairly good legislation and institutional arrangements; however, the system is characterized by several implementation problems. Provided that the EIA policy in Namibia was adopted in the late 1990s, its effectiveness is still not yet fully understood even though the EIA legislations are readily available to the general public. This caused the process to be viewed as anti-development by some due to the apparent time delays and costs associated with it.

This study was based on the two EIA effectiveness methods adopted by Chanchitpricha et al. (2019). The next two listed criteria were used to assess the effectiveness of the EIA system in Namibia using the ReconAfrica case study, EMA No.7 of 2007, and the Government notice of 2012 for listed Activities and Regulations:

1. The Procedural system is the EIA process that conforms some objectives to publish provisions and principles to ensure that EIA is carried out according to established expectations; e.g. complies with procedures, follows best practice principles and adheres to regulations, and
2. The Substantive system is the EIA process that achieves the objectives set, e.g support well-informed decision making and result in environmental protection as well as ensuring that EIA is achieving its purpose by mitigating negative impacts associated with the proposed activity.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The study was prepared to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the EIA system in Namibia using an aforementioned case study. The objectives of this study were;

1. To evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the EIA system in Namibia by determining the extent to which EIA is effective and efficient.
2. To identify the strengths and weaknesses of the EIA system in Namibia from the ReconAfrica case study.

1.4 Literature review

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was adopted worldwide by different authorities, and everywhere it was expected to have had an impact on development and decision-making. After decades of development and debate, the gap between high expectations and poor practical performance was still significant and the EIA was sometimes perceived as a bureaucratic add-on and functions as one of the many unavoidable barriers for a project to be approved (Cashmore, 2004). The positive morals that EIA brought to the decision-making process were not well recognized, accepted, or even agreed upon because numerous factors influenced how EIA achieved its objectives of making an impact on decision-making. There were remarkable and refreshing interests in environmental issues over the past few years. A major impetus of the EIA was provided by the 1987 Report of the World Commission on the Environment and impetus (the Brundtland Report); the Rio Summit in 1992 which sought to accelerate the impetus and political will and the willingness of the public to influence the agenda (Christensen and Kørnø, 2011). However, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) represented the first formal integration of the impact assessment process in a legislative form and the Act established an environmental policy to guide the activities of those Federal agencies whose actions had the power to affect people, communities, and the natural environment in some significant ways, and this was a response to a rise in scientific as well as popular concern about contemporary environmental changes (Morgan, 2012).

An environmental impact assessment was first formally established in the USA in 1969 and it spread worldwide and received a significant boost in Europe with the introduction of an EC Directive on EIA in 1985 (Glasson et al, 2019). This was implemented in the UK in 1988, and afterward, there had been a rapid growth in EIA activity, and over three hundred environmental impact statements (EISs) were now produced in the UK each year. From the 1980s, EIA was introduced to developing countries (particularly Asia and Latin America) under pressure from development aid agencies' to emulate the practice of Western counterparts. For instance, to access loans or development aid the World Bank and other bilateral development agencies require the use of EIA, and during the late 1980s and early 1990s, several international agencies including those financially aiding the development process helped to expand and influence the practice of EIA in developing countries including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (Clarke, 2021).

In contrast with the Western world, EIA policies in southern African countries were not created in response to local public pressure but were largely initiated by governments in response to international pressure regarding global environmental issues. Although this was indicative that the harmful consequences of development on the environment had not reached the levels of those in the developed world, it did mean that early attempts to introduce (EIA) in southern Africa were not very successful and that change in this regard had been relatively slow (Tarr, 2003). Countries in Southern Africa were at different stages of putting in place legal formalities for carrying out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) while some have enacted comprehensive or partial legislation and others have broadcasted EIA policies or done almost nothing (Kalima, 2005). Furthermore, Kalima (2005) stated that in general there appeared to have had been some consciousness in the 1970s about the need to incorporate EIA requirements into legislation in Southern Africa.

However, little was done as EIAs undertaken and promoted locally in the 1970s in some parts of the region especially in South Africa were purely voluntary. It was only in the 1980s that the EIA cause made significant headway, with the introduction of legislative measures. In Mozambique, the EIA process was introduced in 1994 due to pressure from an increased foreign investment after the end of the civil war and Law Number 3/93 as well as its regulations of 24 June 1993 which required that an EIA be conducted during the design, implementation and operational phases of any investment projects (Kalima, 2005). In addition, Law Number 97 of 1997 of Mozambique introduced the environmental licensing, minimum contents of an EIA report, and environmental auditing. In Namibia, EIA focus had often been on the "quality" of the EIA system, primarily addressing procedures for performance and quality of environmental impact statements (EIS) and ignoring the relation between EIA procedures and quality, as well as the contribution to the effectiveness of the EIA (Petts, 2009). The EIA of today operates within incredibly complex environments, rife with messiness, uncertainty, and recent research specifies dynamic contexts characterized by changing demographics and urbanization, intensive project delivery, rapidly developing technologies, increasingly interconnected geographies as well as political uncertainties (Bice & Fischer, 2020).

Therefore this study seeks to understand whether the EIA of Namibia is efficient and effective and if there are strengths and weaknesses within the system.

1.4.1 The objectives of the EIA system

Below listed are some of the short-term objectives of EIA:

1. To ensure that environmental considerations are addressed openly and incorporated into the development decision-making process;
2. To study the expected environmental, health, social, and economic impacts for alternatives for affected groups of people;
3. Ensure that there are opportunities for timeous participation of interested and affected parties throughout the assessment process; and
4. A structured search for alternatives to avoid negative impacts and mitigating measures to minimize or compensate those impacts (Kolhoff et al, 2009).

The long-term objectives of EIA are as follow;

1. To anticipate, avoid and minimize or offset the adverse significant biophysical, social, and other relevant effects of development proposals;
2. To protect the productivity, capacity of natural systems and the ecological processes which maintain their functions; and
3. To promote sustainable development optimizes resources to use and management opportunities (Joseph, 2018)
4. To identify possible environmental effects before the project commerce, propose measurements to mitigate adverse effects of the proposed project, predict whether there will be significant adverse environmental effects even after the mitigation is implemented, to better compliance with environmental standards, reduce time and costs of approvals of development applications as well to increase project acceptance by the public CSIR (1996b:12).

1.4.2 The General process of EIA

EIA process involves many phases and activities. To understand a proposed activity to why it is being proposed and what is being proposed, first screen the activity on its nature to see what environmental review is indicated by such an activity. If an activity is of moderate or unknown risk, conduct a preliminary assessment, a rapid simplified EIA. Next, if there are significant adverse impacts possible, begin a full EIA study, and if there are no significant adverse impacts, stop the EIA process. After that, the screenings process the activity again. If the activity is of low risk of its nature, very unlikely to have significant adverse impacts on the environment then stop the EIA process. Finally, if the activity is of high risk, likely to have significant adverse impacts on the project, start a full EIA study (Sallis et al, 1998). EIA is a well-established instrument in Namibia and before independence, it was minimal, not mandatory, and was mainly voluntary or driven by donor funding to meet their obligations.

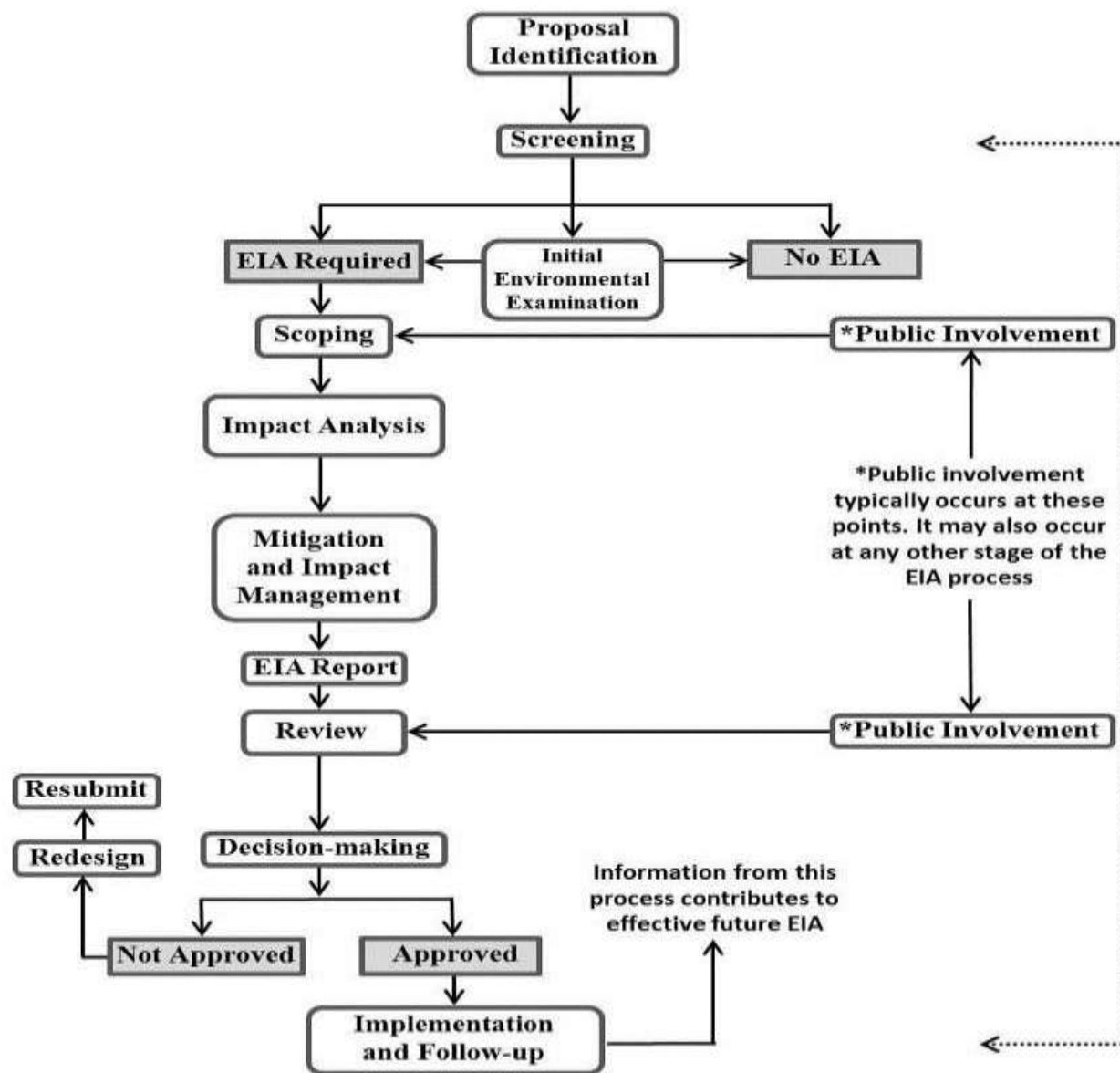


Fig.1: The generalized EIA process flow chart (Source: downloaded from Google image search (Page et al., 1997).

In the Namibia context, the first step of the EIA process of the proposed activity is the proponent project identification, screening, and registration, whereby the projects are registered with the office of the Environmental Commissioner in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT). The proponents complete the online Environmental clearance certificate (ECC) application form, Background Information Document (BID), a CV and upload them on the ministry of environment forestry and tourism digital platform at www.eia.met.gov.na. After that, follows the environmental commissioner project screening; here the Environmental Commissioner (EC) screens the application forms submitted by the proponents and advises in terms of section 33 of Environmental Management Act No.7 of 2007. Thirdly, the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) and environmental assessment are required; prepare draft reports as may be applicable (BID), Draft scoping, EIA, and EMP report including specialist studies. Additionally, where ECC is not required the proposed activities may go-ahead, however subject to other permits/authorizations/consents may be applicable. The public and stakeholder consultations should be undertaken and these include the publication of notes in newspapers for three consecutive weeks and public meetings as may be applicable. Furthermore, stakeholder consultations, engagement, assessment process, and reporting may be undertaken considering their inputs and what the proposed project/ activities will have on the receiving environment, these inputs usually include the physical, biological, socioeconomic, cultural/archaeological, and ecosystem at large. At this stage, the BID, EIA, EMP Reports include the outcomes of the public and stakeholder consultation process for further review. The next step is the government lodgment where hard copies of BID, EIA, Scoping, and EMP Reports are finalized based on the outcome of the public and stakeholder consultation process and submitted to EC in MEFT through the competent Authority. Again, here is where the ECC application forms with Revenue Stamps are being completed. The Competent Authority forwards the applications to the EC in terms of Section 32 of Environmental Management Act No.7 of 2007. Finally, the record of decision making (RoDs), at this stage the decision is taken and the proponents are being informed regarding the status of their application forms in terms of Section 37 of the Environmental Management Act No.7 of 2007. If the ECC is not granted, the proponents may appeal to the Minister of Environment Forestry and Tourism or the Court for legal process or submit any outstanding documentation if any and make a public and stakeholder consultation again, and if the ECC is granted the condition of approval and Environmental Monitoring should be implemented by the proponent to support the ECC removal once it expires, and the proposed activities may go-ahead upon the approval of ECC (Mwiya, 2021).

1.4.3 The challenges of the EIA process

The EIA process has many challenges and shortcomings. One of the challenges is that the EIA process is viewed as being anti- development and time-consuming as the majority of stakeholders and the public do not understand its importance. It is also considered to rely on technical inputs, is costly, and requires preparation and follow-up/public consultation. On the other hand, many project proponents do not view EIA as useful. Rather, project proponents often view EIA as a requirement to be completed, an obstacle to be jumped along the way to project implementation and this particular obstacle impose risks on project proponents due to that EIA often forces a public disclosure of impacts, and the information on impacts can strengthen the hand of a project's opponents (Sitas et al., 2014).

Sitas et al. (2014) further stated that the shortcomings of the EIA process in practice are of two different kinds. One set of shortcomings is stems from a systemic problem which is typically conducted as a one-time exercise, whereas the process of project design is iterative and cyclical. During this shortcomings type; the EIA exercise is often conducted late in planning, often long after project proponents become attached to a particular design concept. Under these conditions, it is difficult to expect an EIA to affect fundamental decisions regarding the types of alternative projects given serious consideration or project scale/location. The second set of shortcomings is less fundamental and thus more amenable to solution. These shortcomings concern beneficial analyses and activities that could be more frequently conducted. Among these are strategic/programmatic EIAs, risk assessments, cumulative impact analyses, public involvement that is timely and meaningful, post-project monitoring, follow-ups, and social impact studies to ensure that proposed mitigations are implemented.

1.4.4 The categories of effectiveness

Effectiveness frameworks for evaluating impacts assessment were developed by researchers over some time (Chanchitpricha et al., 2019). The effectiveness framework has different criteria for evaluating the EIA impact assessment. These criteria are namely; the Procedural, Substantive Normative, and Transactive elements.

Therefore, Procedural effectiveness was the common criterion to assess the procedural effectiveness which focused on the EIA process and compare the regulatory frameworks, identify weaknesses, and innovations. This category often includes one or more qualitative cases, review documents, policies, legislations, and or historical contexts (Loomis and Dziedzic, 2017:32). In this category of effectiveness, the assessment conforms to acceptable guiding principles, whereby the process should be open, fair, and objective includes good consultation techniques to facilitate participation and feedback provision (Chanchitpricha and Bond, 2013:67). However, this criterion is influenced by factors such as political context and availability of resources, policy framework, active public participation, knowledge, and experiences of the impact assessment professionals. The second category is Substantive effectiveness, this is based on the extent to which the set aims can be achieved when applying the impact assessment tools or policies (Chanchitpricha & Bond, 2013:68). In practice, substantive effectiveness shows how well a procedure can be identified and applied in practice, so this can be measured by rating the performance with the achievement of the objectives of the assessment (Baker and McLelland, 2003:595). This category is also related to the outcomes of EIA in terms of the objectives for which it was developed and evaluates whether the EIA helps to include environmental aspects in decision-making and contributes to environmental protection (Baker & McLelland, 2003).

Furthermore, in Normative; decision-making is generally conceptualized in terms of the distinction between personal and social with personal norms being based on the moral viewpoints of the individual, and social norms being the perceived expectations of others (i.e. society) (Bond et al., 2013). Therefore, normative principles are commonly at play in all forms of assessment and are likely to affect the evaluation of the EIA system and are considered not appropriate for this study. However, the transactive criterion is the practicality of any assessment process which dictates that there must be a cost-effective exercise, and evaluation on this basis was unnecessary.

This study only focused on the two criteria (procedural and substantive effectiveness dimensions) because with the two there is an achievement of outcomes, when investing minimum cost and time, or when the outcomes are efficient, achievement of objectives set when implementing the impact assessment tools in the decision-making and the performance obtained when the practice is completed concerning the objectives set. Provided there are many categories of effectiveness; this study looked at procedural and substantive effectiveness only.

CHAPTER 2

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Study Area

The Okavango river basin was the primary study area for this research as the case study was drawn from studying the sites where the oil extraction could take place. It is considered unique in terms of size in the given area. The basin is home to vegetation and wildlife. This basin is an attraction site to many tourists and foreign investors due to its newly established oil plant, water wells as well as river and game parks to mention a few. Therefore, the oil extraction case study by ReconAfrica Company was carried out in this basin which is located in the Okavango regions, northeastern Namibia, and northwest Botswana. ReconAfrica is operating in an area that falls under the Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) mandate (Mwanyengwa, 2021).

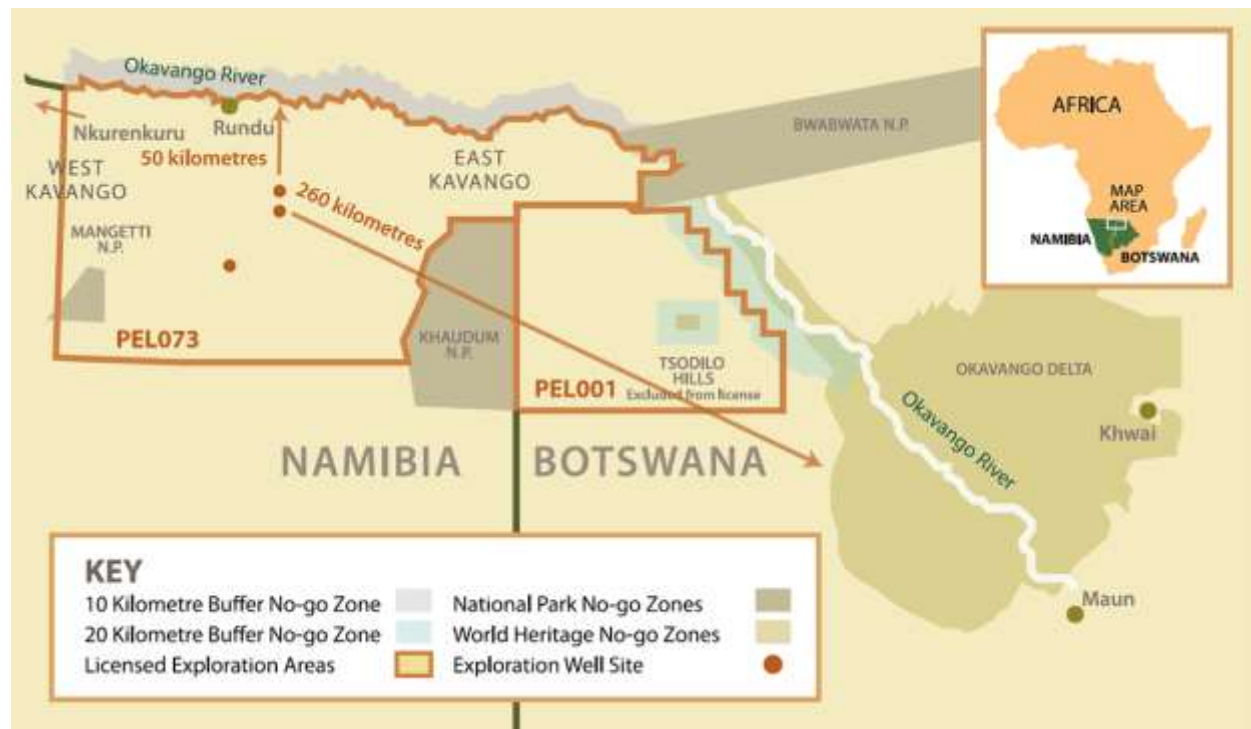


Fig.2: Map of the study area, Okavango Basin

The exploration license covers an area of approximately 25,341.33 sq. km (6.3 million acres) and is based on commercial success. The Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) 73 is situated in Kavango West and East Regions of northern Namibia, and it covered blocks 1719, 1720, 1721, 1819, 1820, and 1821 which fall within the Kavango Basin forming part of the greater Etosha Basin of northern Namibia and Kalahari Basin of Southern Africa. According to Consulting et al. (2019), a total of eight (8) potential well drilling locations have been identified in Blocks 1819 and 1820 but only two (2) locations (Wells locations 5-6 and 6-2) were drilled first, and additional drillings were to follow if the initial results prove positive. The proposed well drilling locations 5-6 and 6-2 fell in the Ncamangoro and Mashare Constituencies of the Kavango West and East Regions within the boundaries of the Mbunza and Sambyu Traditional Authorities (Consulting et al., 2019).

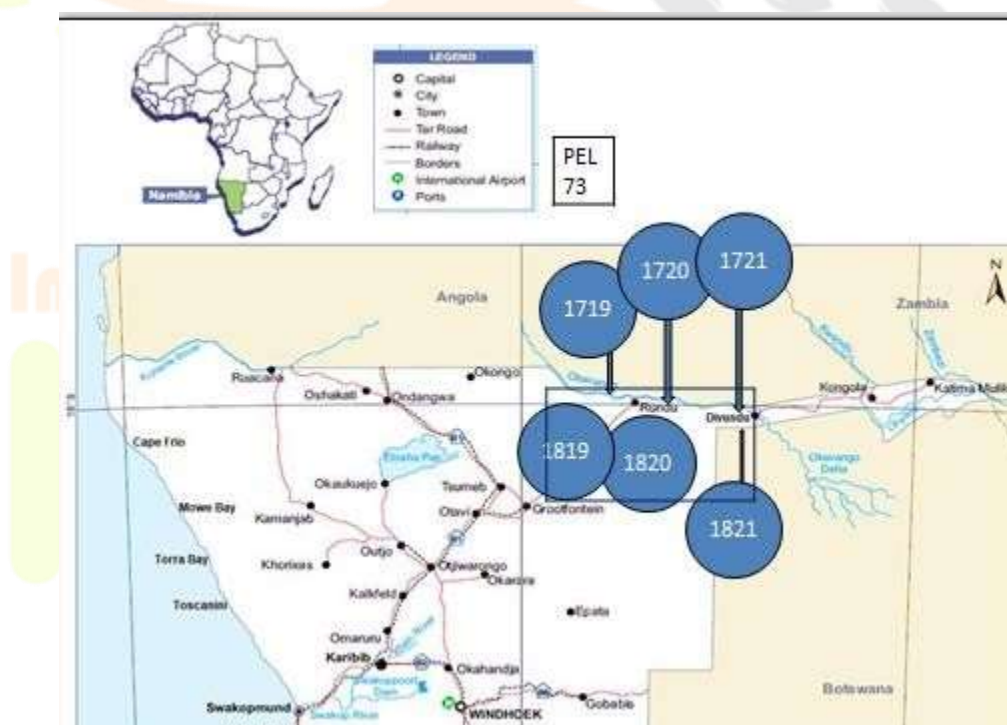


Fig. 3: Regional location of PEL No. 73 covering Blocks 1719, 1720, 1721, 1819, 1820, and 1821 (Source: Consulting et.al,2019).

2.2 Study design, Study instruments, Target population, Sample procedures, and Data collection

This research was designed in a way to answer the aforementioned research objectives using qualitative phenomena. Descriptive designs were used for this research to provide an answer to the research objectives; however, these could not thoroughly determine answers to the objectives. In addition to descriptive design, the exploratory research design was also used whereby only a few studies for reference were available to the researcher, and these were segmented into small sample sizes in which the findings were not a representation of the entire population because the case study was used. So findings from this design did not give the conclusions. An intensive qualitative research approach by Sayer (2010) was therefore deemed most appropriate for this research. In carrying out this study, the researcher used impact assessment and project appraisal framework (Chanchitpricha, Morrison & Bond, 2019) and ReconAfrica EIA reports. The procedural and substantive effectiveness criteria were used for this study whereby criteria were tabled and rated/ranked as fully met (F), partially met (P), Not met (N), and unclear whether met or the question did not exist (N/A). The comments describe what determines criteria rank; Fully met meant that the EIA effectiveness criterion were all successfully met, Partially met meant that not all the criterion's effectiveness were met, and Not met meant neither of the effectiveness criteria was met while (N/A) meant that the criteria were not clear whether met/ not met or the criteria questions not existed.

Since this study used a case study method, there was no targeted population. However, the study evaluated the EIA system of Namibia using the ReconAfrica case study report as its sample and sampling procedures. The instrument for this research was the impact assessment and project appraisal framework (Chanchitpricha, Morris & Bond, 2019). The Data were collected based on online research through Google scholar along with the Google website, ReconAfrica case study report, Newspapers, Social media sites such as ReconAfrica Facebook page, NBC news-8 Facebook page and Newspaper's Facebook pages, and other websites as well as academic databases available to the researcher, which include Science Direct (documentary analysis and content analysis).

2.3 Data Analysis

The data for this research were analyzed using qualitative approach methods of analysis known as thematic analysis invented by Gerard Houlton in the 1970s and Documentary analysis (Chanchitpricha et al., 2019). These were appropriate methods for this research as they identify patterns or themes within qualitative data and are unsupervised as one need not set up categories in advance nor the procedure, therefore one can easily capture the unknowns even though they are phrase-based.

CHAPTER 3

3. RESULTS

The main objective of EIA is to ensure environmentally sound and sustainable development by anticipating significant environmental impacts of development proposals in advance of a decision or commitment to proceed. The two effectiveness dimensions completed the sub-criteria for the legality dimension of effectiveness (Table 1). On the average of twenty authorized effectiveness criteria that were identified from the report; eleven met the procedural criteria and nine met the substantive effectiveness criteria (Table 1). These criteria were identified from the case study reports based on the effectiveness dimension's questions to evaluate the state of the EIA system in Namibia.

Table 1: Effectiveness criteria framework for EIA evaluation in Namibia

Procedural effectiveness criterion:	Substantive effectiveness criterion:
Was EIA carried out according to established expectations, complying with procedures, followed best practice principles, and adhered to regulations?	Did EIA achieve an objective set, support a well-informed decision-making process that results in environmental protection and achieve its purpose by mitigating negative impacts associated with the proposed activity?
P1. Relevant policy frameworks and procedures for the EIA process had been followed.	S1. Early start of the EIA process.
P1.1. Exist of regulations with standard or guidelines performance for EIA process, and licensing had been followed.	S2. Informed decision-making of the EIA process.
P1.2. Presence of governmental policy framework and national plan concerning EIA in the EIA report?	S3. The proponent achieved its objective set and purpose?
P2. Supplying information and findings of EIA to participating stakeholders?	S4. Mitigation of negative impacts associated with the proposed project was indicated in the report.
P3. Time enforcement for the EIA process?	S5. Close cooperation with interested parties.
P4. Participation of stakeholders in the EIA Process?	S6. Incorporation of proposed changes – EIA was taken into account in the final version of the policy/plan.
P5. Participation of the public in the EIA?	S7. Regulatory framework for implementing EIA in decision-making existed.
P6. Community participation in the EIA?	S8. Poverty eradication and employment creation by the proponent as indicated in the case study reports.
P7. Openness in the EIA process?	S9. Close collaboration between interested parties, shareholders, and the practitioner.
P8. Traditional authority participation in the EIA?	
P9. Proper consultations with Is, As, public and stakeholders?	

The study used the impact assessment and project appraisal framework (Chanchitpricha, Morris & Bond, 2019) and the ReconAfrica case study report (Mwiya, 2021). The finding indicated that five procedural criteria were fully met; these include: P1, P1.1, P1.2, P3, P8, and six procedural effectiveness criteria were partially met as shown in (Table 2). The procedural criteria which are partially met were: P2, P4, P5, P6, P7, and P9. However, from the analysis of the EIA report, all nine substantive criteria were fully met. According to the report, public involvement in the EIA process is the last stage of the EIA process any proposed project can undergo and a legal requirement of Namibia's EIA system since

the establishment of EIA in the early 1990s fell underneath expectations. The photos and the list of participants in the report showed that public participation was not taken seriously. In (Table 1), it is presented that there was a great public involvement in the EIA process. However, according to (Table 2) and (Table 3), there was a lack of public involvement mostly especially in meetings that were held. By analyzing the report, all criteria including the one in form of the question kinds were then rated as fully met, partially met, not met, or unclear whether met or the question does not exist.

Table 2: The overview of EIA effectiveness in Namibia context based on thematic analysis

Effectiveness categories and criteria	Criteria met	Comments/ Discussion
Procedural: Was EIA carried out according to established expectations, complied with procedures & followed best practice principles, and adhere to regulations?		
P1. Relevant policy framework and procedures for the EIA process had been followed;	Fully met	Adhered to EIA procedures and frameworks; for instance, the presence of ministry (MEFT) and relevant authority at stakeholder's consultation meeting.
P1.1. Exist of regulations with standard or guidelines performance for EIA process, and licensing had been followed.	Fully met	The company was granted a license by the government and EIA laws and regulations were properly followed.
P1.2. Presence of governmental policy framework and national plan concerning EIA in the EIA report?	Fully met	Governmental policy and the national plan were used to conduct the EIA from an early stage.
P2. Supplying information and findings of EIA to participating stakeholders?	Partially met	The outcomes of EIA are supplied mostly via the internet and newspapers, so these platforms are not assessable to all stakeholders.
P3. Time enforcement for the EIA process?	Fully met	Public consultation meetings and EIA reports were conducted on time.
P4. Participation of stakeholders in the EIA Process?	Partially met	The majority of stakeholders' did not participate in the meetings.
P5. Participation of the public in the EIA?	Partially met	Meetings were not held in public like on the internet, the majority in towns other than Windhoek did not participate.
P6. Community participation in EIA?	Partially met	Few Community members attended the meetings.
P7. Openness in the EIA process?	Partially met	Networked with stakeholders/ public in terms of project presentation and information sharing via different social platforms/ in the presence of media.
P8. Traditional authority participation in the EIA?	Fully met	They were involved in the clearance for activities by ReconAfrica and fully attended meetings.

P9. Proper consultations with Is, As, public and stakeholders?	Partially met	The consultation was aired in several media, but communities were not properly told what the project was all about. They thought it was for agricultural purposes.
Substantive: Did EIA achieve the objective set, support a well-informed decision-making process that results in environmental protection and achieve its purpose by mitigating negative impacts associated with the proposed activity?	<u>Criterion met</u>	<u>Comments/Discussion</u>
S1. Early start of the project.	Fully met	Project identification was conducted at the beginning of the EIA process and oil exploration was done within a proposed year.
S2. Informed decision-making of the EIA process.	Fully met	The report is successfully compiled and well-articulated.
S3. The proponent achieved its objective set and purpose?	Fully met	Awarded an exploration License and drilled 6-2 of its wells.
S4. Mitigation of negative impacts associated with the proposed project was indicated in the report.	Fully met	The already existing routes are used as roads and an environmentally responsible 2D Seismic survey is used and will not operate at night.
S5. Close cooperation with interested parties.	Fully met	Partnered well with the government, community, stakeholders, and NGOs.
S6. Incorporation of proposed changes – EIA was taken into account in the final version of the policy/plan.	Fully met	EIA was taken into account at the early stage of the proposed project; at the beginning of 2021 as stated in the final EIA report.
S7. Regulatory framework for implementing EIA in decision-making existed.	Fully met	EIA regulatory frameworks were implemented in the decision-making per EMP and EMA No.7 of 2007.
S8. Poverty eradication and employment creation by the proponent as indicated in the case study.	Fully met	Recruited locals to work on the project/site and drilled waterwells for the community.

S9. Close collaboration between interested parties, shareholders, and the practitioner.	Fully met	The communication between the EIA practitioner and project developer was legit and ReconAfrica formed a strong partnership with NAMCOR, regional councils, community leaders, and the government.
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According to comments media report on NBC News – 8 & ReconAfrica Facebook page statuses, not all Namibian are pleased by an ongoing project. Some see it as destruction to the environment as they believed there is no oil/gas in the Kavango basin. Other feel left out, especially the locals. They felt nothing much done to them especially when come to employment opportunities and rural development (NBC News – 8 Facebook Page & ReconAfrica Facebook page, 2021). Following community engagements in the Kavango East and West regions the local inhabitants have now given their support for ReconAfrica oil and Gas exploration. Tjekero Tweya, the chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources said all traditional authorities in the two Kavango regions including community members in recently visited areas support ReconAfrica's oil exploration activities in the regions (Maihapa, 2021). However, communities provided their support on the condition that should commercial quantities of oil be discovered, the entire value chain from extraction to refinery should be done in Namibia (Maihapa, 2021)

The case study report comprised of strengths and weaknesses. These weaknesses were just a human error that needed to be rectified through public consultation via different media platforms because all the meetings held were face to face and EIA regarding oil exploration in the Kavango basin outcome was published via the internet such as ReconAfrica Facebook page as well as newspapers, and few people had access to these. Therefore, this left many people with unattended and unanswered questions about whether the EIA was transparent. The fifteen strengths in (Table 3) are the signs that practitioners and proponents consider the EIA process in Namibia before the commencement of any proposed activity to ensure that significant negative impacts to the receiving environment are well addressed.

Table 3: The strengths and weaknesses of EIA system based on ReconAfrica case study

The strengths	The weaknesses
<p>Involvement of Environmental Assessment Practitioner(EAP) in the EIA process as per Government Gazette Republic of Namibia 6 Feb 2012 – No.30.2011.</p> <p>The EIA process took into consideration all applicable national regulations, corporate requirements of the proponents, oil and gas exploration, and environmental assessment international best practices.</p> <p>The inputs of the public, stakeholders, and sensitivity of the receiving environment (physical, biological, socioeconomic, ecosystem services, and functions) were reconsidered and well described.</p> <p>Involvement of highly qualified EIA experts and independent consultants in the EIA process as per EMA and regulation.</p> <p>The environmental assessment process considered the provision of environmental impact assessment (EIA)</p>	<p>The office of the Ombudsman did not participate in the EIA process as well as in issues concerning the EIA and even though it is a government agency responsible for Public complaints regarding the proposed Activities as stated in the Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia booklet.</p> <p>Lack of stakeholders, community and public involvement, and participation in the EIA consultation meetings as only a few attended the consultation meetings although they were invited.</p> <p>EIA focused on the upstream project-level activities such as the ongoing exploration, drilling, and extraction activities that ReconAfrica as a proponent is undertaking at moment rather than both with the downstream project-level activities instance sales of the products and processes involved in converting oil and gas into finished products.</p> <p>The activity of ReconAfrica did not fall at the high level of policies, plans, or programs run by organs of states which subjected to SEA, but at lower project</p>

<p>regulation 2012 and Environmental Management Act(EMA), 2007, (Act No.7 of 2007).</p> <p>All EIA steps were followed appropriately.</p> <p>Public, community, and stakeholders consultation meetings took place on time.</p> <p>SEA was implemented in the EIA process to better reflect the environmental aspect in formulating and deciding on policy, plans and programs of organs of state and thereby contributed to sustainability and coexistence opportunities of different government developmental strategies that translated into the project.</p> <p>EIA identified and evaluated the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project on the receiving environment.</p> <p>EIA assessed and analyzed environmental costs and benefits associated with the proposed 2D seismic survey operations project.</p> <p>EIA ensured that concerns and aspirations of the local community were addressed in all stages of the 2D seismic survey operations by taking meeting minutes during consultation meetings and putting them into consideration throughout operations.</p> <p>EIA evaluated coexistence opportunities of proposed 2D seismic survey, existing and future land uses and this was still in the process of being completed as the project is in the exploratory stage still.</p> <p>The EIA proposed clear mitigation and monitoring measures to reduce negative impacts and enhance the positive ones.</p> <p>The President, Minister of Mine & energy, and Petroleum Commissioner held a meeting to discuss an ongoing oil exploration activity in the two Kavango regions and the meeting was held in the presence of media for transparency.</p> <p>Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources partakes in the EIA process and drills into NAMCOR by asking it to explain how it got a 10% share in the ReconAfrica oil and gas drilling project which he believes is peanut.</p> <p>A good policy and environmental legislation exist; there is</p>	<p>activity level ran by proponents and subjected to EIA and EMP.</p> <p>Case study report compiled by a single proponent's EIA practitioner with the help of consultants rather than two/more practitioners and consultants to minimize favoritism within the report.</p> <p>Huge difference in interest rates/share price between Proponents and Shareholders, proponents own a bigger portion than the stakeholders.</p> <p>There was no proper community consultation regarding the project as according to a community interviewee in one of the local newspapers. They were not told what the land was being cleared for, thus they thought it was an agricultural project.</p>
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<p>a reasonably good relationship between NGOs, private sectors, the traditional authority, and the government.</p> <p>There is reliable communication in both rural and urban areas (e.g internet and network) to facilitate a quick and easy exchange of information.</p>	
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CHAPTER 4

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Evaluating the performance and effectiveness of the EIA system in Namibia

The Impact assessment practice around the world is dominated by its use at the project level, with particular importance on major projects (Morgan, 2012). Unfortunately, based on the above comment, not all countries have introduced planning or development control legislation to require the routine use of EIA for proposed projects that might have significant environmental impacts. The effectiveness of Namibia's EIA system for this study was explored by reviewing one case (Table 2) based on the criteria framework in (Table 1). Meanwhile, it appeared that the EIAs fully and partially met most of the effectiveness criteria (Table 2) there were shortcomings as discussed in (Table 3), the weaknesses. The overview of the effectiveness of EIA practice in Namibia is presented based on procedural and substantive effectiveness. So this overview demonstrated that the Namibia EIA had far less impact than its original supporters had hoped they would in influencing the project, plan, and decision-making and identifying several broad areas of concern. Additionally, the nature and purpose of EIA especially its relationship to decision-making processes, problems associated with the practice, limited substantive effect of EIA as a process, and institutional implementation issues including limited or no public participation in the process is a big concern. Furthermore, the final report of ReconAfrica displayed that while EA had made its mark from the time it was introduced, it would be necessary to maintain the efforts to improve its performance if it was to make a substantive contribution to the goal of sustainable development. According to Mwiya (2021), public participation was given some prominence under practice issues as a topic that has developed substantially in the previous years. It was critical to all forms of impact assessment; however, it is still the source of many problems in practical impact assessments. In the Namibia context, public participation is a huge problem as proponents, practitioners, interested and affected parties do not fully partake in EIA consultation meetings. This is due to poor public knowledge of EIA as well as poor provision of information by practitioners regarding the proposed activity and EIA at large, and the lack of access to modern technology. This had the researcher doubt whether the public contributed to Namibia's EIA decision-making process as the majority who participated in the EIA consultation meetings were the relevant authorities such as traditional leaders and regional councils. Moreover, many stakeholders, as well as community members and the public at large, did not show up at the meetings. So this was an indication that public participation in EIA is not being taken seriously. Public participation is having an enormous consequence on the performance and effectiveness of the Namibia EIA system. However, even though the EIA lacked public participation, the system is still effective and efficient as shown in (Table 1; Table 2) and it can be fully evaluated (Table 2) even with shortcomings within the system (Table 3).

4.2 Procedural Effectiveness

The procedural effectiveness of impact assessment is related to the extent to which the assessment was conducted in line with implemented policies or procedures with the results unmistakably delivered to decision-makers (Chanchitpricha and Bond, 2015). A set of criteria for measuring procedural effectiveness which comprised nine keys as shown in (Table 1) were identified from the reports. This set of criteria was applied in examining the effectiveness of oil exploration in the Kavango basin by ReconAfrica oil and Gas Company to successfully evaluate the effectiveness and performance of the EIA system in Namibia. In addition, four procedural criteria were partially met, five fully met and there were no criteria that were neither met nor unclear whether met or not as denoted by N/A. For this case study project, this is a brilliant indication that the EIA system of Namibia is operative, carried out according to established expectations, complying with procedures, followed best practice principles, and adhered to regulations.

4.3 Substantive Effectiveness

Evaluating the EIA system using substantive effectiveness was vital to know to what extent the tool fulfills its purposes and produces expected results (Van Doren et al., 2013). However, this research used the substantive effectiveness to evaluate the EIA practice and produced varying outcomes to determine whether the EIA achieved its objective set, supported a well-informed decision-making process that results in environmental protection, and achieved its purpose by mitigated negative impacts associated with the proposed activity. According to Walking & Review (2012), the thinking around the substantive purpose of assessment has shifted from merely informing decision making and mitigating negative impacts to changing decision-making cultures themselves. In (Table 1), it is shown that eight substantive criterion frameworks were

identified from the report, and all the substantive criteria for the proposed project were fully met as indicated in (Table 2). So, the findings for this study specified that the EIA process achieved an objective set, supported a well-informed decision-making process that results in environmental protection, and achieved its purpose by mitigating negative impacts associated with the proposed activity and being very efficient and effective. These findings are very important as they help upgrade the EIA system by eliminating the potholes and weaknesses in the system.

4.4 Strengths and weaknesses in the EIA process

The use of EIA at different levels of decision-making is growing significantly so as is the range of decision-types for which it is now used. Table 3 and the Literature review pointed out that Namibia's EIA maintained its inherent rationalist purpose and character, but that is not mismatched with recognizing how other actors in the process may value different aspects of the process. The EIA process followed the EMA and regulations. This is strength because in many countries the EIA process is not adhered to. Instance; Involvement of Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) in the EIA process (Table 3) is a strength in its own as for any activity to take place, there should be a report compiled by an environmental practitioner stating all activities to be undertaken, the methods how those activities would be undertaken and whether there should be threats from such activities and how the threats would be mitigated. Next, the involvement of highly qualified EIA expert and independent consultants in the EIA process as per EMA and regulation is also a strength as it avoids the report being one-sided and help the EIA identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts of the proposed project on the receiving environment. On the other hand, the meetings being held in the presence of the media is an indication that there is transparency in the EIA process. Additionally, a good policy and environmental legislation exist; there is a reasonably good relationship between NGOs, private sectors, the traditional authority, and the government (Table 1, Table 2). Again, there is reliable communication in both rural and urban areas (e.g internet and network) to facilitate a quick and easy exchange of information (Joseph, 2018). To date, there is still fixed communication in both rural and urban areas as there are accessible internet and network fields enhancing communication and sharing of information between the public, communities, and stakeholders. However, there is a contradiction regarding the EIA endorsement in Namibia as Nakwaya-Jacobus et al. (2021) view it as slowly being accepted as an environmental governance tool in Namibia which is not always the case as for every activity taking place in Namibia which require an environmental assessment, there is always an EIA being conducted except in the mining sector whereby some people mine sand without ECCs especially in Northern Namibia due to poor understanding of an EIA regulation, although this is happening; the quality of EIAs done in Namibia is still regarded as high by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) as for instance; the Environment minister gave an assurance to Namibians that -whatever amount of money is there, whatever economic activity, however huge it is, and it contributes to economy, we cannot sacrifice the future of our country; there should be a concern about the potential environmental effect of future extractive exploits — (Pohamba, 2021). This statement was referred to an ongoing oil/gas exploration by ReconAfrica in Kavango regions and other activities taking place in the country, and in short, this means; the government of the Republic of Namibia will not allow any activities in the country that have significant negative impacts on the environment, therefore EIA should be conducted and followed accordingly regardless of the gain from the activity. There is a slight gap in the EIA's strengths findings conducted by the previous researcher to date. Therefore, the performance and effectiveness of the EIA process in Namibia are operative and well-organized.

Regardless of EIA strength as outlined above, the degree to which EIA as a concept has been accepted by governments, the national and international legal community, the funding agencies, and other key players should be taken as comfort in Namibia. Including Namibia; EIA should be taken seriously to lessen the flaws and speed up decision-making that may weaken the provisions for environmental protection such as impact assessment. The office of the Ombudsman did not participate in the EIA process as well as in the issues concerning the EIA and even though it is a government agency responsible for Public complaints including those of the proposed Activities as stated in the Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia booklet. This is a weakness as the agency did not fulfill its obligations as entrusted by the government Republic of Namibia to do so. Lack of stakeholders, community and public involvement, and participation in the EIA consultation meetings as only a few attended the consultation meetings although they were invited is also a weakness as this degrades the quality of EIA being conducted in the country. From the report analysis; EIA focused on the upstream project-level activities such as the ongoing exploration, drilling, and extraction activities that ReconAfrica as a proponent is undertaking at moment rather than both with the downstream project-level activities instance sales of the products and processes involved in converting oil and gas into finished products. So, this is also a weakness as the EIA is supposed to focus on both project levels to find out which level generates more income neither which one will cost the company more in mitigating the adverse impact on the receiving environment in case there is any. The activity of ReconAfrica did not fall at the high level of policies, plans, or programs run by organs of states which subjected to SEA, but at lower project activity level ran by proponents and subjected to EIA and EMP. This means that the activity being conducted by the proponent followed the EIA which was conducted by the proponent and the EMP instead of guidelines related to SEA. Again, this is a weakness as the activity was supposed to fall at all levels because both SEA and EIA are needed when conducting an assessment for activity as they are almost the same. Next, the case study report was compiled by a single proponent's EIA practitioner with the help of consultants rather than two/more practitioners and consultant experts to minimize favoritism within the report. This is a flaw as a report compiled by a single practitioner and consultants can have many errors and can be biased, as in most cases they might choose to favor the proponent or be against it as there is no additional practitioner as a witness. Another weakness is that there was no proper community consultation regarding the project as according to the community interviewee in one of the local newspapers. They were not told what the land was being cleared for, thus they thought it was an agricultural project, only later to hear it is an oil field where the oil extraction will be taking place. Again according to the literature review and Table 3, there are a few weaknesses in the Namibia EIA process

conducted to date and these can be mitigated. The current study showed that there is a minimum or no involvement of the office of the Ombudsman in issues concerning EIA in Namibia as it failed and did not show any interest in participating in ReconAfrica exploration activity while it is a government agency appointed by the president to be responsible for any public complaints including complaints regarding any proposed activities as stated in the Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia booklet. In many countries worldwide, there is a concern over the poor quality of impact assessment information and that depends on circumstance; this might reflect problems with institutional arrangements, low levels of commitment by proponents, or issues with the nature, extent, and quality of training and capacity building in the impact assessment, or elements of all of these (Morgan, 2012). Lastly, there is too much authority connection and sectorial rivalry in the EIA process although these are gradually diminishing, and due to insufficient post-implementation monitoring, EIA is largely a paper exercise (Joseph, 2018). As seen in (Table 3), the EIA system of Namibia has strengths and weaknesses. Provided there are a handful of weaknesses in the system, these shortcomings can be mitigated with the right procedures and the EIA process can be fully evaluated at the same time.

CHAPTER 5

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The aims to impose EIA for any particular activity to be conducted in Namibia are to ensure that the results of the assessment are taken into account before any decision is made concerning activities. To ensure that the significant effects of the activities on the environment are considered on time and carefully as to ensure that there are opportunities for timeous participation of both public, community, stakeholders, and interested and affected parties. The case study displayed that the EIA process in Namibia has an overall rating of very high compliance on institutional control, high quality of practice in administrative activities with the inclusion of legal framework compliance and community consultation, but very low public participation. Namibia's EIA pointed out that any activity has an impact on the environment; however with the adequate implementation of proposed controls should prevent the activity of the proposed project from causing permanent damage to the environment and social systems in the locality of implementation. Next, for future researches the following recommendations should be adhered to mitigate the EIA's weaknesses and enhance the strengths:

- Evaluate the methodology of EIA with different experts and use at least more than one case study to overcome possible unfairness from the researcher.
- On the other hand, the renewal of the exploration license for any activity to take place in Namibia should only be done once the proponent fulfilled its obligations regarding the project.
- Furthermore, the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) report and with the Environmental Management Act (EMA) No. 7 of 2007 and its regulations as well as ECC should be used as on-site reference documents at all phases of a proposed activity.
- Any parties responsible for violating the EMP, aforementioned Act, and not in possession of ECC should be held accountable for any rehabilitation that may need to be undertaken.
- In addition to EMP and EMA, any company willing to undertake an activity should comply as indicated in their project plans and obtain an ECC; this should be enforced through the respective ministries and authorities, and in case the council agrees that an approved EIA report should precede any subsequent stages of exploration work and found at any stage that there are threats to the integrity of the environment or basin and the local community, the process should be put on hold.
- Reviewing should take place to determine compliance with the EMP for the proposed site.
- Consultation should be made available to all affected and interested parties; these consultations should be aired via numerous platforms especially radios, school, and church announcements which are accessible in rural areas for transparency and fairness.
- The office of ombudsman should also be involved in issues concerning the EIA of a proposed project as it is a cornerstone of Namibia's constitution that overlooks public complaints regarding any proposed activity within their vicinity.
- Likewise, MEFT should solicit views of local experts in the field of Sustainable development and Environmental Management on the issue concerning the development of any proposed activity during the infant stage of such an activity to find out if the proposed project posed hazards on the habitat.
- The high court of Namibia and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources should introduce a law on how much both the proponent and shareholders benefit from the project regardless of who conducted the EIA nor who would be responsible for the drilling to output.
- However, the proponent should not be overlooked if it does much of the work compared to the shareholders; it should be allowed to at least own much of the shares, in that case, to strengthen the partnerships, and minimize conflict of interest in order to attract more of the investors in the future.

Based on the results, the performance and effectiveness of the EIA system are very effective and efficient as it is carried out according to established expectations, complies with procedures, followed best practice principles, adhere to regulations, achieve objective set, support a well-informed decision-making process which results in environmental protection, achieve its purpose by mitigating negative impacts associated with the proposed activity. There are strengths and weaknesses in the EIA system of Namibia and the system can be fully evaluated even with bias and weaknesses within it as these can be mitigated with time and with appropriate procedures. Last but not least, this research

was the best method of evaluating the performance and effectiveness of the EIA system in Namibia even though it was based on a single case study report which did not contribute much to the findings, as a result, the researcher had to explore other sources for further information.

CHAPTER 6

6. REFERENCES

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