

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





1. WHAT IS PLANNED?

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF), together with the Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme (NGH2P) and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), has initiated a **Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)** for the development of green hydrogen (GH₂) and related industries in Namibia's proposed **Central Green Hydrogen Valley**.

The SESA will assess the potential **environmental, social, and economic impacts** associated with large-scale development of, amongst others:

- Renewable energy (solar and wind) infrastructure
- Hydrogen production and processing facilities
- Desalination plants
- Transport infrastructure (pipelines, rail, roads, powerlines)
- Industrial zones and export infrastructure (e.g., ports)



2. WHERE IS IT PLANNED?

The SESA focuses on the **Central Green Hydrogen Valley**, which includes parts of the:

Erongo Region

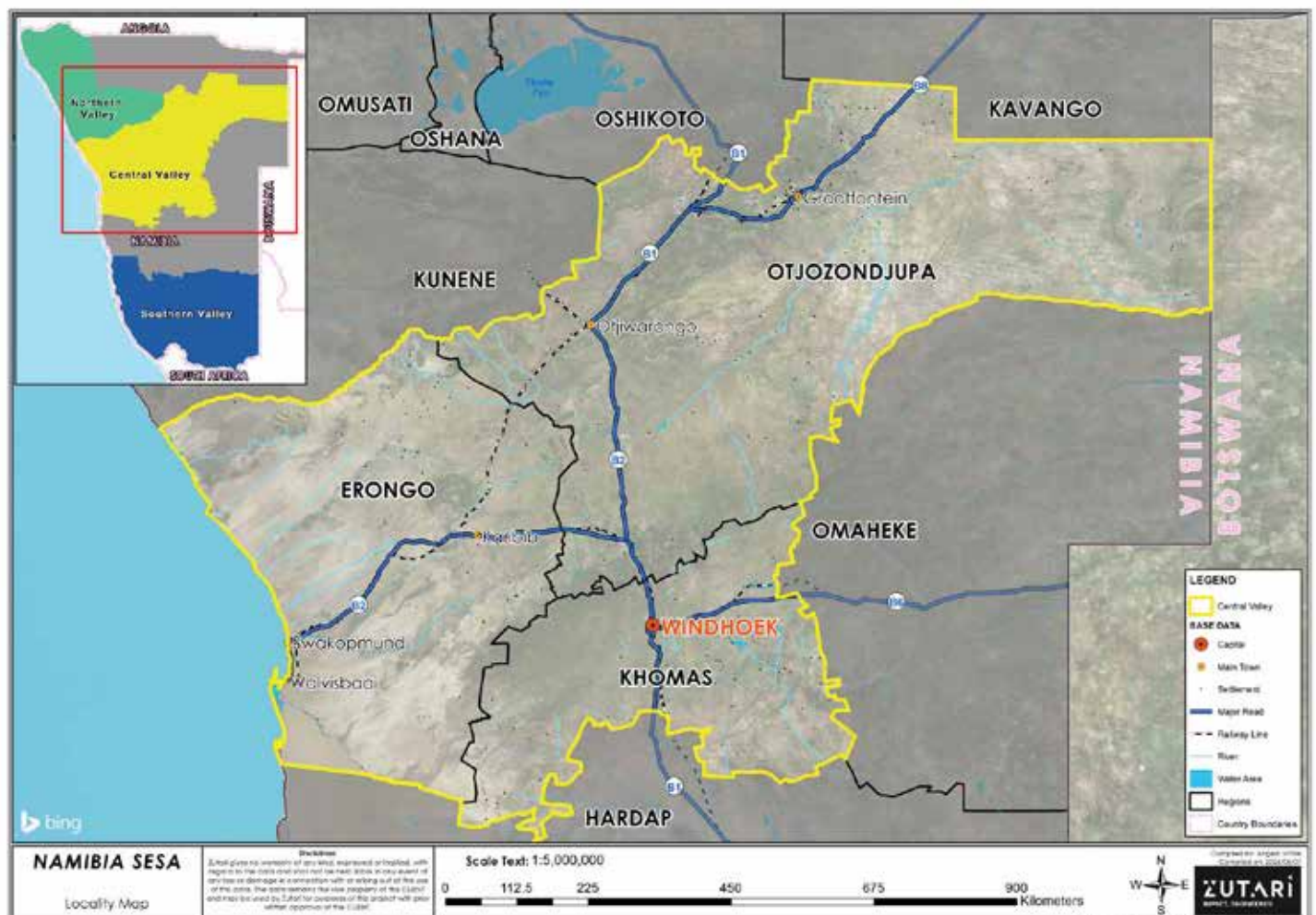
Khomas Region

Otjozondjupa Region

This area covers more than **200,000 km² (approximately 25% of Namibia's land area)** and includes key development zones such as Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.

The region is characterised by:

- High renewable energy potential
- Existing and planned industrial development
- Sensitive ecological and social environments





3. PURPOSE OF THE SESA

A Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) is an internationally recognised tool used to guide sustainable development at a **regional and strategic level** through the involvement of a broad and diverse group of stakeholders to codesign the processes and outputs of the SESA.

The purpose of this SESA is to:

- Identify potential **environmental, social, and economic risks and opportunities**
- Inform **policy, planning, and investment decisions**
- Support **sustainable and responsible development** of the GH₂ sector
- Provide **shared evidence** that all stakeholders have access to.

Unlike project-level Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), the SESA considers:

- Long-term development scenarios (up to 2050)
- Cumulative impacts across large geographic areas
- Interactions between different sectors and infrastructure



4. WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?

Namibia aims to develop a **green hydrogen economy** as part of its long-term development strategy, with potential production of up to **10–12 million tonnes per annum by 2050**.

This could:

- Create jobs and new industries
- Support economic growth
- Position Namibia as a global supplier of green fuels

However, the required infrastructure and development could also:

- Affect biodiversity and ecosystems
- Place pressure on water resources
- Impact communities and existing land uses

The SESA helps ensure that development is **planned responsibly and sustainably**, balancing benefits and risks.

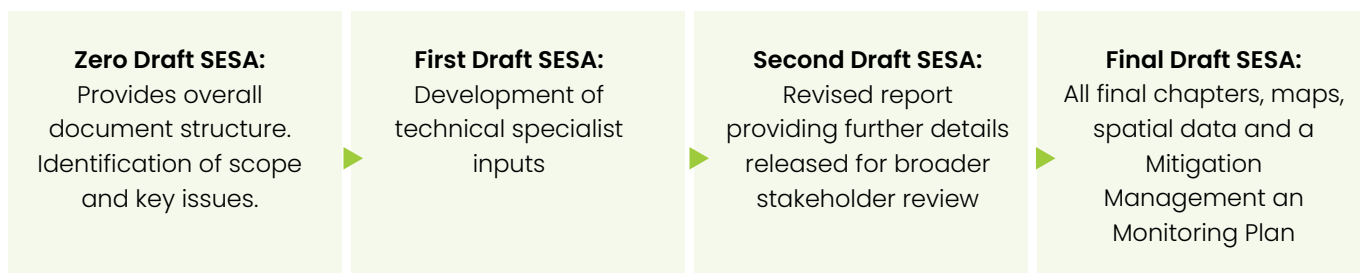




5. APPROACH AND PROCESS

The SESA will take approximately 14 months and will follow a structured, participatory process.

Knowledge production phases:



A Summary for Policymakers will be included in the SESA report to deliver key messages succinctly.

Technical approaches and methods to be used for the SESA process:

- Scenario analysis to explore cumulative impacts and different development futures
- Sensitivity mapping of environmental and social systems in a Geographic Information System (GIS)
- Risk and opportunity assessment to evaluate impacts

The process relies on **existing data and expert analysis**, supported by stakeholder input.



6. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND THE WORKING GROUP

Stakeholder participation is central to the SESA process.

A **Working Group (WG)** of stakeholders will be established to support the co-production of knowledge and ensure that a wide range of perspectives are considered.

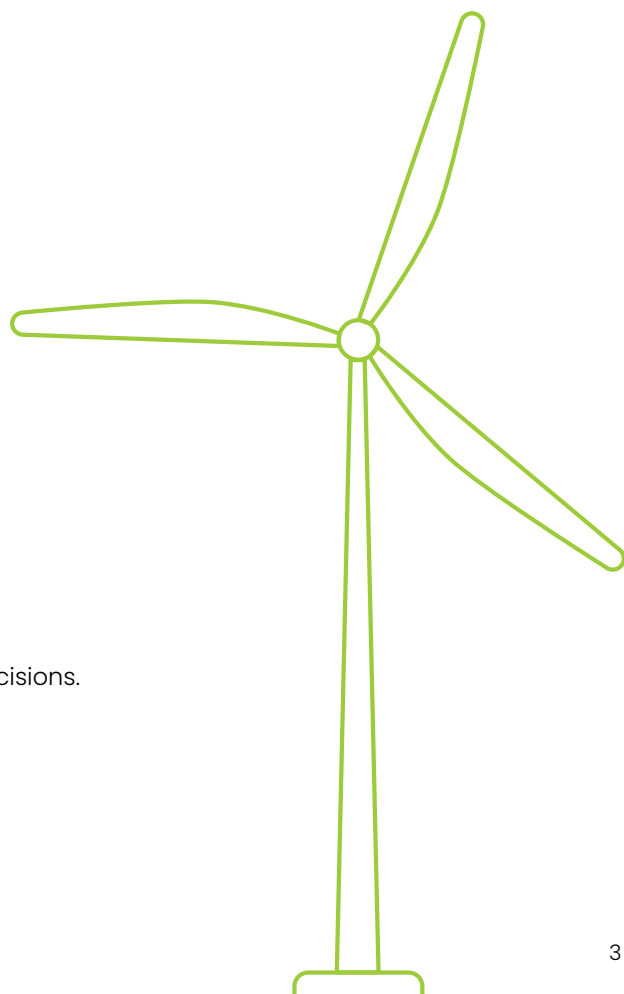
Role of the Working Group:

- Attend virtual workshops
- Provide technical expertise and local knowledge
- Scope important issues and concerns
- Disseminate SESA information
- Refer the Project Team to important data

The Working Group will include representatives from:

- Government and state institutions
- Private sector and industry
- NGOs and civil society
- Academia and research institutions
- Community and traditional authorities

The Working Group is **advisory in nature** and does not make decisions.





7. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

In addition to the Working Group, broader stakeholder engagement will take place throughout the SESA.

Engagement activities include:

- Working Group meetings and workshops
- Public meetings at key stages of the process
- Online access to information and opportunities to comment

Public meetings are planned at key milestones:

- During the scoping phase
- During the review of the Second Draft report

These engagements will take place in locations such as **Uis, Arandis, and Walvis Bay** to ensure access to urban and rural stakeholders.

A dedicated project website will provide access to documents and allow stakeholders to submit comments.



8. HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If you would like to participate or require more information:

- Confirm your participation in the Working Group
- Attend scheduled meetings and workshops
- Review and comment on project documents

Further details, including meeting dates and access to documents, will be shared with registered participants.

The contact email address for the SESA is SESA@zutari.com

