

CLIENT: EDELTRAUD NDINELAGO TSHIGUO

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide interested and affected parties (I&APS) with a background of the proposed expansion of the existing irrigation scheme on Farm Tsumore 761 Unit B, Portion 48. The project is called the Oshikoto Lake Greens and is situated in Oshikoto Region, Namibia.

Furthermore, the BIDs aim is to invite I&APS to register in the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping process**. Through registering, I&APs will be kept informed about the proposed project and will be offered the opportunity to submit comments pertaining to the project, allowing for their input to be considered in the assessment and development processes.

This BID includes the following:

- Proposed Project: what is proposed and where
- Why the project is deemed necessary and what benefits or adverse impacts are anticipated
- What alternatives to the project have been considered
- How the EIA process works

PROPOSED PROJECT

Farm Tsumore 761 Unit B, Portion 48 is situated in the Oshikoto Region, Namibia. The Farm is in close proximity to the Otjikoto lake and the primary land use is crop farming. The Farm currently obtains approximately 200 000 cubic meters of water from the Otjikoto lake to support irrigation activities. The proposed project involves increasing the quantity of water extracted from the lake from 200 000 cubic meters to 370 000 cubic meters to expand the irrigation scheme, thereby allowing the farm to supply plant crops to local markets. The nearest community to the Oshikoto Lake Greens is Tsumeb.

In consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), the proposed project triggers the Environmental Management Act of 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) due to it meeting the thresholds of the following Listed Activities:

WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS

- (8.1) The abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes
- (8.7) Irrigation schemes for agriculture excluding domestic irrigation

ECC has been engaged by Hangala Foods (Pty) Ltd to undertake an independent environmental assessment in compliance with Namibian law in terms of the Environmental Management Act of 2007 and associated Regulations. An application for Environmental Clearance shall be submitted to the MET.

An EIA Scoping Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be part of the submission to report the findings of the environmental assessment and provide sufficient information to inform the decision makers who shall determine if environmental clearance should be issued.

SCOPING

A SCOPING PROCESS IS A SHORTER PROCESS THAN A 'FULL' EIA BUT APPLIES THE SAME PRINCIPALS AND ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY.

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

WHY IS AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS IMPORTANT?

NAMIBIAN LAW AND INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE CALL FOR THE PROFESSIONALS CARRYING OUT AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS TO BE INDEPENDENT (I.E. HAVE NO CONNECTION TO THE PROJECT PROPONENT OR INTEREST IN THE PROJECT'S OUTCOME) TO ENSURE PROCESS INTEGRITY.

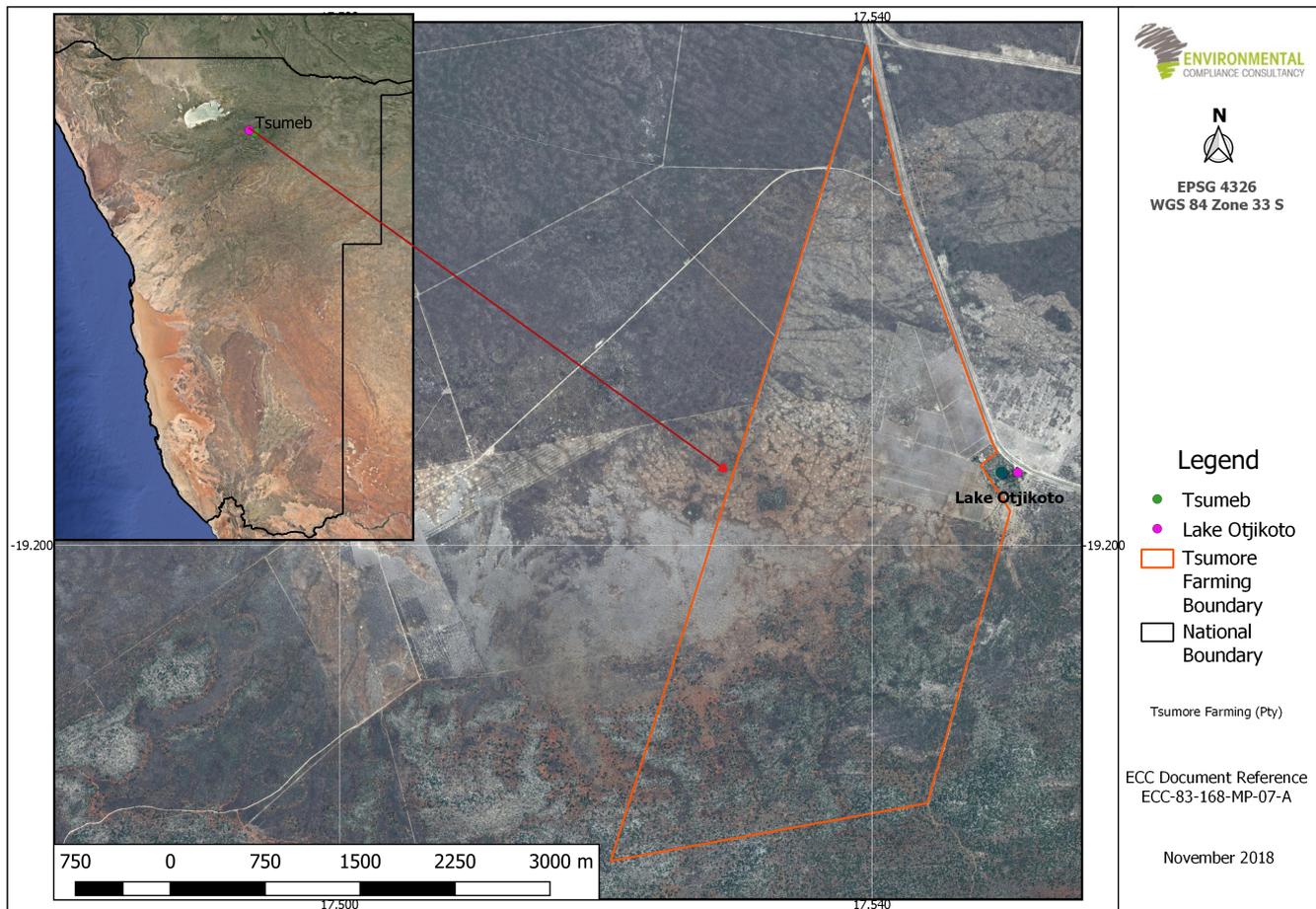
APPLICANT: HANGALA FOODS (PTY)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER: ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY (ECC)

COMPETENT AUTHORITY:

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WATER AND FORESTRY

SITE LOCATION



SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

The proposed expansion of the irrigation scheme involves using abstracted water for 25 hectares of drip irrigation and 28 hectares of centre pivot irrigation. The infrastructure required for increasing the volume of water abstracted from the Otjikoto lake is already in place and all activities are envisaged to occur on previously disturbed land.

The following construction activities are foreseen, which shall be defined further as the project develops:

- Minimal vegetation clearance
- Potential construction of small access tracks, and
- Construction of agricultural infrastructure e.g. irrigation system, fences etc.

The potential social and environmental impacts are anticipated to be of minor significance due to the scale and nature of the project and all possible impacts shall be contained to the farm site. Impacts may include:

- Job creation, benefiting the local community
- Contributing to local produce and support the local and regional economy, and
- Some vegetation clearance and minor potential disruption to flora and fauna on site

ECC will prepare a scoping report that presents the assessment findings as well as stakeholder and I&AP concerns. An EMP shall also be developed for the proposed project setting out auditable management actions for Farm Tsumore 761 to ensure careful and sustainable management measures are applied to their activities in respect of the surrounding environment and community.

NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

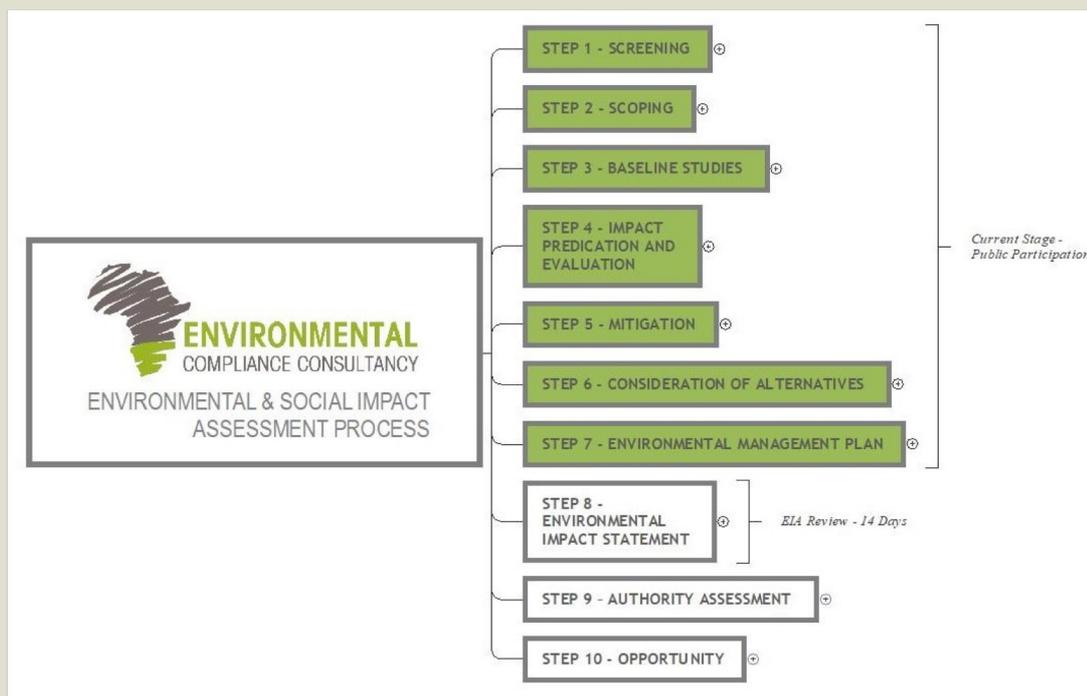
The expansion of the irrigation scheme presents an opportunity for economic development in the area along with creating employment for approximately 15 people. Fresh produce can be produced locally as a result of the proposed project resulting in additional income being injected into the local area.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

Best practice environmental assessment methodology calls for consideration of different alternatives to a project being developed. Through design development, alternative sites have been considered and discounted due to environmental reasons. The design alternatives for the proposed project are currently being considered, which shall be influenced by the findings of the EIA. The Scoping Report shall present the findings of the assessment of all alternatives considered.

THE EIA PROCESS

The EIA process that shall be followed is in accordance with Environmental Management Act 2007. ECC shall conduct the environmental application process and manage the public participation process. Following the EIA process flowchart below, this project is currently at the Scoping phase and the public participation process is being conducted.



ECC will perform the following:

- Identify key stakeholders, authorities and municipalities, environmental groups and interested or affected members of the public, hereafter referred to as I&APs;
- Compile a BID for the proposed development (this document);
- Advertise the environmental application in two national newspapers;
- Place on-site notices at conspicuous places at/ near the proposed development boundary;
- If required host a public meeting to encourage stakeholder participation and engagement, and provide details of issues identified by the environmental practitioner, stakeholders and I&APs;
- Record all comments of I&APs and present such comments, as well as responses provided by ECC, in the Comments and Responses Report, which will be included in the Scoping Report that shall submitted to MME and the MET; and
- Circulate the I&AP comments to the project team.

MOVING FORWARD...

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Public Participation is an important part of the EIA process; it allows the public and other stakeholders to raise concerns or provide valuable local environmental knowledge that can benefit the assessment, in addition it can aid the design evolution process.

The commenting period for the project for all I&APs will be 14 days from notification (newspaper adverts). The Draft Scoping Report will be made available to all relevant stakeholders and I&APs for further comment, before the final submission to the MET.

I&APs are encouraged to register in this Scoping Process using our website.

<http://eccenvironmental.com/project>

Comments must be submitted in writing and can be emailed to the following address:

info@eccenvironmental.com

Tel: +264 81 626 7278

Please note the EIA review period will be 14 days from the date that I&AP have been notified.

CONTACT US

Environmental Compliance Consultancy Contact Details

We welcome any enquiries regarding this document and its content, please contact:

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