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## ***Lüderitz Speed Sailing Competition***

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### **Ministry of Environment and Tourism**

Private Bag 13306  
Windhoek  
Namibia

17 July 2023

Dear Sirs,

### **Re: Assessment Report for the Lüderitz Speed Sailing Competition**

#### **Current Status**

Lüderitz has become a popular and world renown place for world class windsurfers and kite surfers due to the strong and constant wind conditions with little wind disturbance, making it one of the best sailing locations for speed contests worldwide. Every year, since 2007 a wind speed sailing contest event was held for athletes attempting to break the world speed sailing record. This annual speed sailing event is observed by the World Sailing Speed Record Council (WSSRC) and the International Sailing Federation (ISAF).

In 2012 a channel was excavated in the sandy lagoon area to optimise speed by preventing water chop build-up and promote a smoother water surface. This channel proved to work better as can be seen by the achieved speed sailing records.



Windsurfer sailing the excavated channel



Kitesurfer sailing the excavated channel

Unfortunately for the kite surfers the existing dug-out channel turned out to be dangerous because it is too narrow and unsafe at these high speeds. With their 27m long attachment lines the kiter requires a lot more space downwind to be safe. Accidents occurred in the first year, cancelling the Kitesurfer division and participation in this event since then. This still remains a great loss of an event offering ideal conditions to the sailing fraternity. Kitesurfing is the fastest growing wind sport and is a very popular world-wide and many athletes partaking in similar events like this world-wide. There is a demand to cater for a speed challenge event for the kitesurfing division.

**As a result of the existing channel design been too restrictive the kite surfing athletes could not continue with this event, and therefore subsequently reduced to a “windsurfer only” speed record event.**

Looking at the speed record comparisons, the kite surfer Frenchman Alex Caizergues is the fastest with 57.97knots (107.36km) whereby the fastest windsurfer, Frenchman Antonie Albeau currently hold a record speed of 53.27knot (98.65km) stands behind.

Our first and foremost plan is to revive this speed spirit and maximise the speed challenge **facilities for the Lüderitz Speed Event suitable and safe** as to accommodate both the windsurfers and kitesurfers. By utilizing and slightly **remodelling the existing excavated speed channel for the windsurfers and adding a wider and longer area with a water-based water chop barrier** called a “wave attenuators”, anchored in the shallow part of the upper lagoon, this will be ideal and make the **speed strip area safe for highspeed kite surfing** as well. Although

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this will have a cost implication, it will have absolutely no environmental impact on this area and it will only be to **improve the overall safety** of the event for both sport codes.

This will **fully optimise the speed challenge event** and attract far more athletes as it will now include both the kite surfers and windsurfer to Lüderitz with the aim to acquire the best wind conditions to achieve and break the world wind speed sailing records.

The location of the Lüderitz lagoon where the speed channel is located offers optimal wind direction together with the perfect element of natural constant unobstructed wind conditions, so when the weather fetches high wind speeds it presents perfect conditions for these two sport codes.

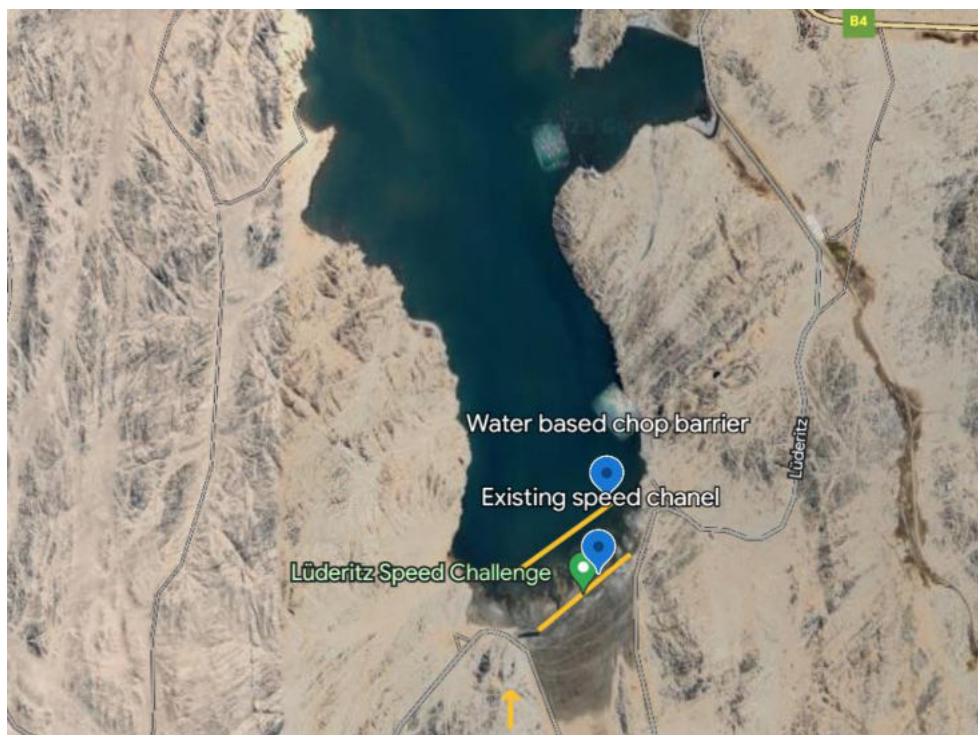
**Wind Direction + Constant Unobstructed Wind + Wind Speed = OPTIMAL CONDITIONS FOR RECORD SPEED BREAKING SUCCESS**

As the current Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) is up for renewal, we hereby present our **application and proposal to be awarded the certificate for the Lüderitz Challenge Event as of 2024.**

**As per our application APP-006184 hereto with the complete application, documentation and site maps. We trust you will consider and see our application as favourable. We wish to see the event be held by experienced Namibians to benefit Namibia and the sport.**

### **Location of the Event**

- The map of Lüderitz, the lagoon and the surrounding peninsular, with no buildings awarding the areas of the lagoon with undisturbed wind conditions.



- Detailed map of the upper lagoon area with the existing excavated speed channel which is dominantly utilized by the windsurfing athletes. Additionally, the proposed new water-based speed facility in the shallows of the lagoon for the kite surfing athletes. The yellow arrow indicates prevailing wind direction.



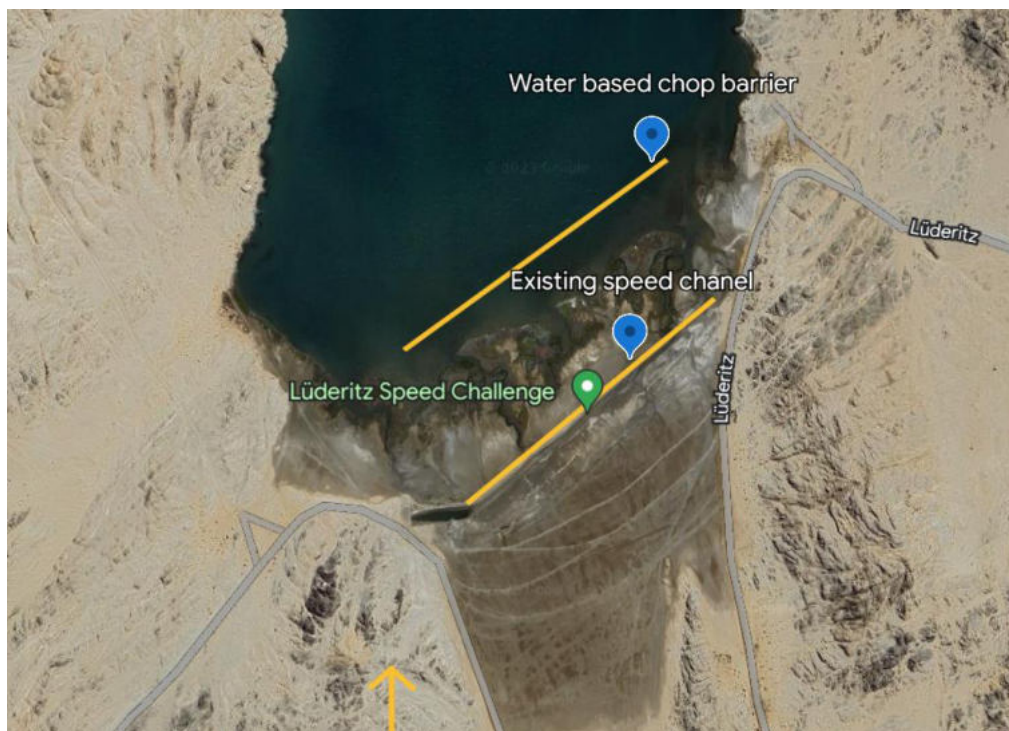
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- **Scale of Operation for the Project Management:**

The windy season in Lüderitz prevails from October through to January, currently only one annual speed sailing event is held during November at the existing excavated speed channel (see map attached) which is only catering for the windsurfing athletes.

Our vision is to upkeep and **uplift the current windsurfing event** hosted at the excavated channel and with the development of the new proposed floating water-based speed sailing facility (see map attached), we aim to **enlarge the event tremendously and accommodate the kitesurfing athletes** again to partake in this event. There is a sort after location for such a speed event and there is dire need for the kite surfing fraternity to be accommodated.

We additionally plan to **host a minimum of two events per annum**, whereby increasing the use of the most ideal location and the prevailing windy season. During the events the improvement of the event base station with **much improved and more suitable facilities** for the participants, media and spectators is not only needed but is essential, whereby making it comfortable for everyone under these harsh high wind conditions.

- **Improve the Facilities for these Events**

Events like these require decent facilities, as it is normal that the weather conditions are predominately cold and extremely windy. We need to uplift the comfort level of the participating athletes and also to potentially increase the media exposure and spectators. With the use of a **temporary and removable container-based station with clean toilet and changing facilities will have no environmental impact** on the area or the lagoon. These containers will be placed as in previous years on the western side of the lagoon next to the road. Once the events are completed the containers will be removed leaving the area in its original and natural state.



The current station during the event is very limited and insufficient

For the **safety of the contestants an ambulance with paramedics** will be permanently on duty. A **security company** will be employed to monitor and keep surveillance of the highly expensive sport equipment and the event.

The water-based speed sailing facility optimally requires a smooth water surface for less friction and disturbance. To reduce the wind choppiness on the water surface a self-manufactured floating barrier will be used. This floating barrier is called a “wave attenuators” which will be a netting tube filled with plastic waste containers that will be pressed into the strong netting tube. These **floating barrier tubes will be temporarily installed by anchoring them** in straight line along the length of the race speed strip **in the shallow water** of the lagoon **thus breaking the wind generated wind swell** choppiness on the surface on the water providing **optimal smooth water surface** area.

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The **existing speed channel** will be used, but will have to be **excavated every year** before the events, as tides and wave movements deposit sand and the channel silts up over time. This existing shallow channel will be the only permanent visible remains after the event.

- **New and Improved Benefits Added**

The **demand is high**, so the new attraction and benefit of offering a **safe and improved facility** for these world renown water sport athletes with their sport coaches, support teams, families, press, sponsors and spectators will increase the benefit to the town of Lüderitz and many Namibian businesses even more than before. The advantage of running and organising more than one event per year, the **popularity and attendance of participants to these events is destined to grow**. This **surge in growth will support a diversity of Namibian businesses** like accommodation places; including hotels, guesthouses, backpackers, with restaurants, event organizers, car rental companies, tourist industry, airlines and also road transportation and courier services for the equipment. It will **create employment** for local people residing in Lüderitz and award business opportunities in Namibia as a whole.

Our event management team and consortium will include and be complemented of many specialized Namibians in the wind and engineering field, experienced wind and sailing Namibian sportsman/women, the tourism and hospitality industry, some employment of individuals or the services for labour, security, medical etc. Administrators, Event Management and Marketing Media professionals. We will use **local Namibians to add value and strengthen our working and event organisational team**.

Currently this event attracts approximately 20 – 30 world class windsurfing athletes every year for a period of a few weeks to a month. The introduction of the kitesurfing athletes will at least **double the number of participants, sponsors, international media, spectators** etc plus **increase the period of time** for the duration of the entire wind season. We envisage to potentially increase and accommodate in excess of 60 athletes over a period of 3 months, making it a **high viability opportunity for Namibia**.

- **Our Vision and Mission**

1. Our vision is to plan and add strategies to enable us to **host more international sailing events** during the coastal windy season in Lüderitz Namibia.
2. The added value of the participation of a **substantial sponsors** with great worldwide exposure for these events have been approached and are willing to come on board.
3. A long-term vision could be to later plan the erection of a more **semi-permanent wooden restroom/kitchen/toilets and viewing lounges with sliding glass fronts** for the athletes, reporters, and spectators. These areas will be even better sheltered from the strong wind and harsh conditions of flying sand, so everyone can enjoy the events comfortably. The **catering warm food and drinks** can be offered on site all day.
4. After the event we will present these **speed world record breaking athletes** with an award celebration inviting all involved, VIP's and the media. The dedication and effort of these athletes deserves to be recognized with a **grand finale and prize giving ceremony** that is televised and live streamed to receive **worldwide media coverage and exposure** for our country that it deserves. For this a prestigious and suitable local hotel venue will be used.