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## **Background Information Document (BID)**

**Project:** Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) for the Proposed Charcoal Sorting and Packaging Facility in Otjiwarongo, Otjozondjupa Region

**Environmental Consultant :** Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd

**Proponent:** KRAR Agriculture Namibia Pty Ltd

**July 2023**

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## KRAR AGRICULTURE NAMIBIA PTY LTD

Krar Agriculture Namibia Pty Ltd (*The Proponent*) intends to establish and operate a charcoal sorting and packaging facility in the town of Otjiwarongo, Otjozondjupa Region. The project entails purchasing charcoal from farms nearby, sorting of charcoal by size, and packaging of charcoal. The packed bags are to be transported to Walvis Bay port for export.

The proposed project site is located at PTN 39; Faraday Street in Otjiwarongo (General industrial zone). The area is zoned as General Industrial as shown on the locality map in **Figure 1** below.

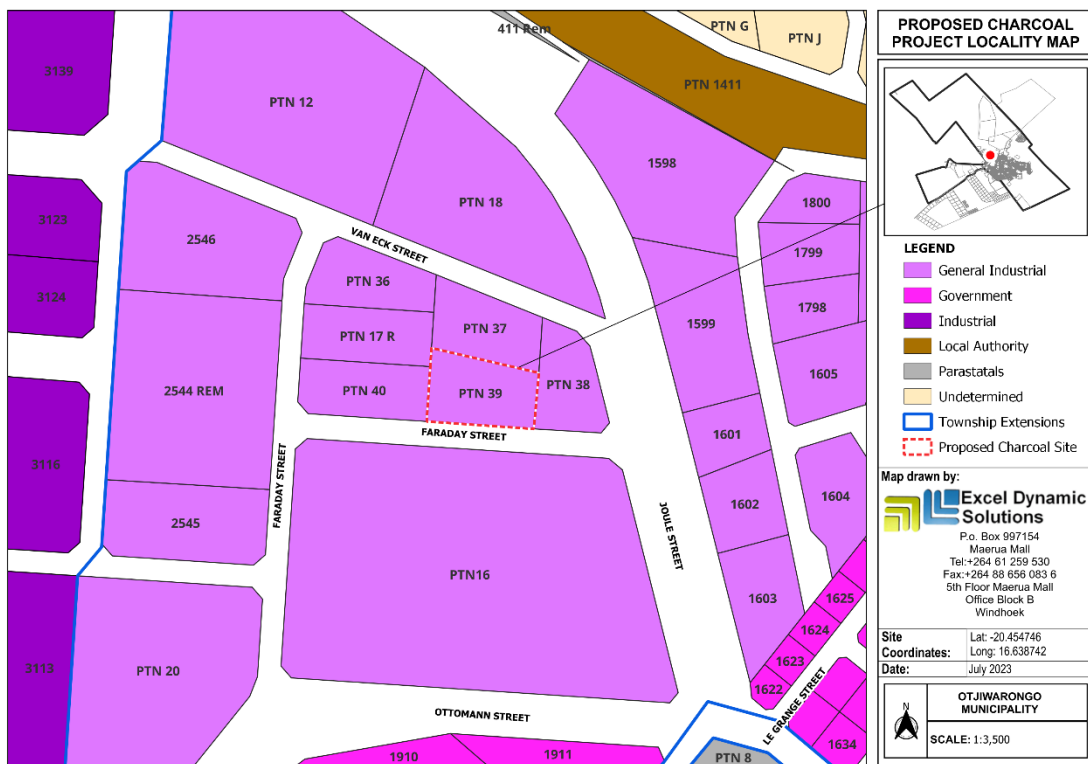


Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed charcoal sorting and packaging site

## 2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) is a non-technical document of the Environmental Assessment, which serve the purpose of sharing information with stakeholders and interested and

affected parties (I&APs), providing them with the platform to engage, raise issues and submit comments about the proposed activities. The BID is for informing the project stakeholders as well as interested and affected parties (I&APs) of the following:

- Project Location
- Proposed activities of the project
- Environmental Assessment process to be followed.
- How I&APs can be involved

All stakeholders/I&APs are encouraged to submit their comments/inputs/concerns on the proposed project. The comments and concerns/issues raised will be incorporated into the Environmental Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for submission to the Environmental Commissioner at the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for decision-making on the environmental clearance certificate (ECC).

### **3 ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION**

In terms of the Environmental Management Act (EMA) No.7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations, the proposed project triggers listed activities that cannot be undertaken without an ECC.

The relevant listed activities as per EIA regulations are as follows:

#### *2.3 The import, processing, use and recycling, temporary storage, transit or export of waste.*

- The project will make use of, and process charcoal, which is a forest product.

As such, an environmental clearance application will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at MEFT for decision-making before the implementation of the anticipated project. The Proponent is, therefore, required to obtain an ECC prior to the commencement (implementation) of operations on the site. To fulfill the legal requirements, the Proponent has appointed Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (Environmental Consultants), to conduct the required Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) process and submit the ECC application to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) at the MEFT for evaluation and consideration of the ECC.

### **4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

#### 4.1 Project Plan, Activities, and Resources

Once an ECC is issued and all administrative and technical requirements are completed, the Proponent may begin with the operation on site. There will be some light preparatory works on site (existing warehouse) for the establishment and installation of (grading/screening machinery) and other necessary infrastructure and structures required for the project activities.

The following service and infrastructure as provided below will be required for the project activities:

- **Human resources:** Around 20- 50 people will be employed for the operation.
- **Health and Safety:** Adequate and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided to all project personnel. A minimum of four standard first aid kits will be readily available onsite.
- **Potential Accidental Fire Outbreaks:** Fire extinguishers will be readily available in the set-up of the warehouse.
- **Solid waste:** Sufficient marked waste containers will be made available on-site for domestic waste and charcoal waste, and store waste until such a time that it is ready for disposal at the nearest approved municipal solid waste facility.
- **Ablution facilities:** A flush toilet will be available on-site.
- **Machinery and equipment:** An electrical charcoal shaking machine will be used.

### 5 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The ESA and EMP methodology applied for this project takes into account the provisions of the EIA Regulations, 2012, and the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007. The overall objective of the ESA is to identify potential negative impacts associated with the proposed project that shall be assessed and provide potential effective mitigation measures for implementation.

The main objectives of this ESA are but are not limited to:

- Identification of potential impacts associated with the proposed project.
- Consultation with I&APs and relevant authorities and provide them with an opportunity to participate throughout the ESA process.
- Assess the significance of issues and concerns raised.
- Compile the ESA report addressing all potential identified issues and impacts.
- Draft an EMP that includes impact management and mitigation measures.

## 5.1 Potential impacts

The following potential impacts have been identified:

### Positive:

- Creation of Employment
- Enhances revenue generation for local farmers
- Boosting the local economic and regional development

### Negative:

The following potential negative impacts may be anticipated:

- Potential air and noise pollution
- Environmental pollution (waste generation)
- Occupational Health and Safety risks/hazards

The potential impacts listed above were pre-identified and therefore should not be deemed as final or the only ones. Other potential impacts will be identified as the ESA process progresses i.e., upon site visit and consultation with the public (I&APs). All impacts and public concerns/comments will be incorporated and addressed in the Environmental Assessment Scoping (ESA) Report and EMP.

## 5.2 Public Consultation

Public consultation is an important part of the EA process. During the consultation process, I&APs are allowed to raise any issues or concerns about the project's activities.

To comment or receive further information on the project, please register with Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (contact details herein) as an I&AP before or on **Friday, 18 August 2023**.

A Public Consultation meeting will be communicated with all the registered interested and affected parties.

For comments and or further information requests, please contact the EDS Consultant at the contact details provided below:

**Aili lipinge / Rose Mtuleni**

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