Turnix
Environmental Consulting

SEPTEMBER 2023

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT MARULA CONSERVATION PARK, KHOMAS REGION, NAMIBIA

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

Turnix Environmental Consulting has been engaged by Marula Conservation Park (Proponent) to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed development of a community school and associated infrastructure at Marula Conservation Park. The community school will serve the children of the workers of Marula Conservation Park.

The proposed school will be a state of the art school that will cater for about 200 learners. The school will host learners from grade one (1) to grade twelve (12) and will have boarding facilities for the learners.

The proposed development of this school will include activities such as site clearance, provision of service infrastructure for water and wastewater management (septic tanks) and the development of a solar plant to provide electricity amongst other activities. These activities are listed in accordance with Government Notice No. 29 of 6 February 2012, which requires that an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) be obtained from the Office of the Environmental Commissioner, hence requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be conducted.

The project will be undertaken at Marula Conservation Park located about 60 km southeast of Windhoek. The park can be accessed via the B6 road and then turn into the C23 road to Dordabis as show on figure 1 below. The park is located about 15 km before Dordabis. The park is located in the Khomas Region of Namibia. The proposed community school will be developed at the following coordinates: -22.884964, 17.576747.

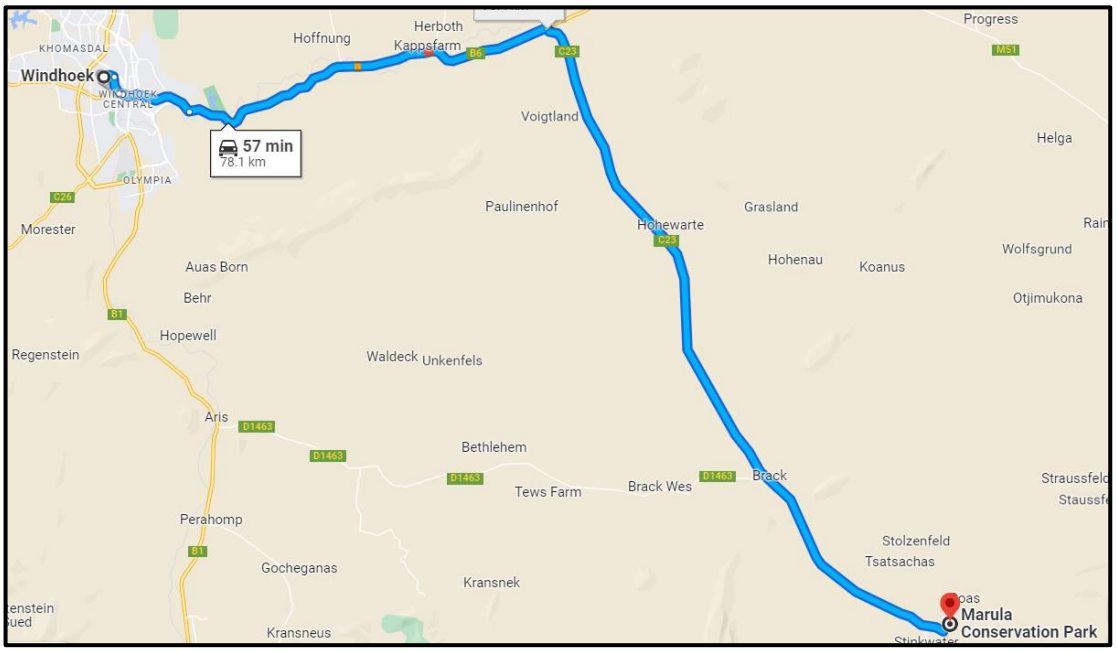

Figure 1: Location of Marula Conservation Park.

The layout plan of the proposed community school is displayed on figure two below.

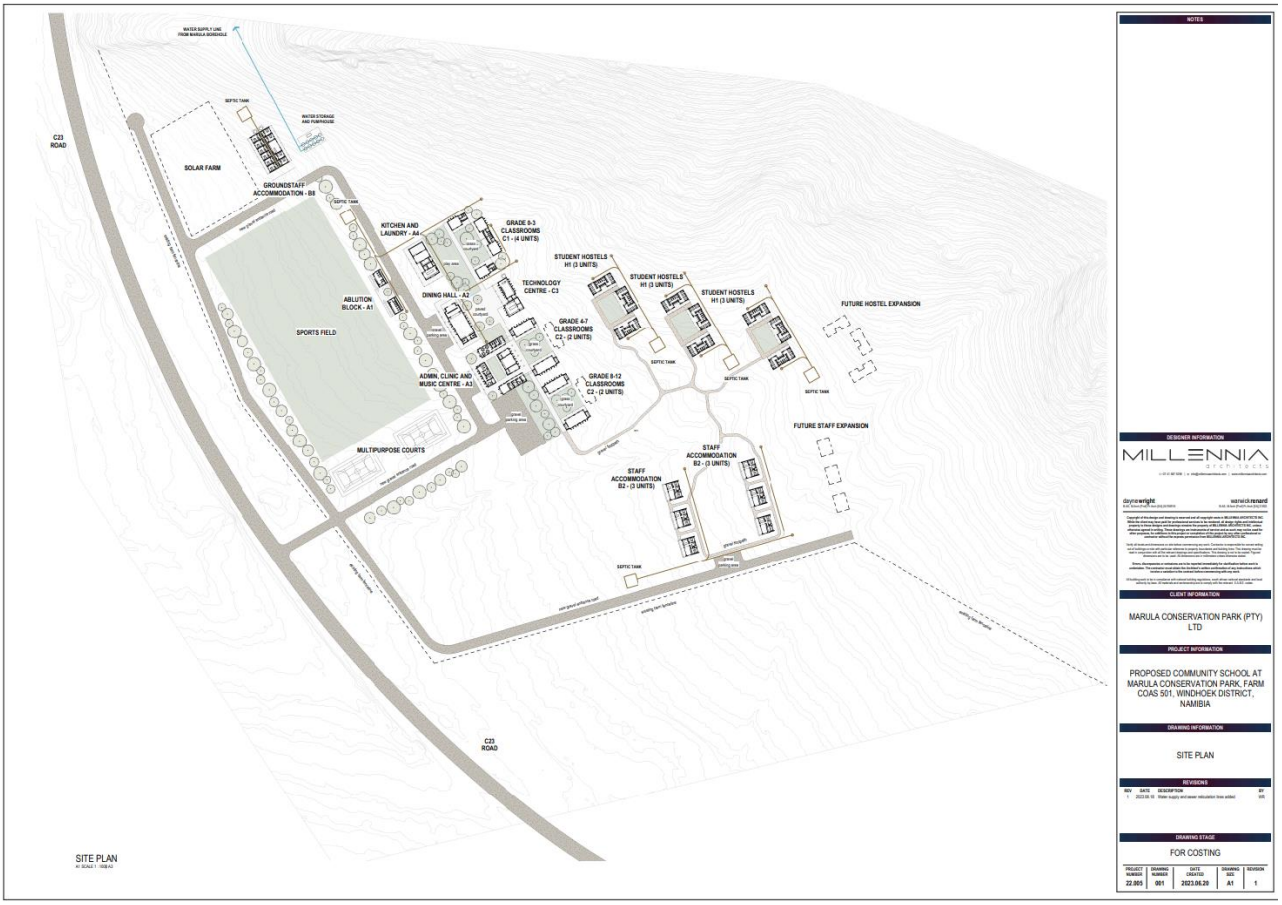

Figure 2: Layout of the proposed Community School

The proposed community school as shown on figure 2 above will comprise of the following facilities:

- **Sports Fields**

The sports field will comprise of a soccer/rugby field and multipurpose courts that will be used for various sports codes such as netball, basketball, volleyball and others. The sports field will have a dedicated ablution block. This facility will play an important role in promoting sports at the school.

- **Administration, Clinic and Music Centre**

This is where the administration of the school will be run from. This block will also house the clinic that will provide primary health care for the learners and staff members of the school. In addition, a music centre will also be housed here where learners will be taught how to use various musical instruments.

- **Classrooms**

Various classrooms will be constructed at the school. The classrooms will be divided into blocks and each block will have a courtyard. The blocks will divided as follow:

- G*rade 0-3 Classrooms* – this will comprise of four (4) units with a central courtyard and a play area.
- Grade 4-7 Classrooms – this block will comprise of two (2) units with grass courtyard.
- Grade 8-12 Classrooms – this block will comprise of two (2) units with grass courtyard.

- **Dining Hall**

This hall will provide fully-fledged dining facilities where meals of the learners will be served.

- **Kitchen and Laundry**

This is the area were meals will be prepared to cater for learners and other catering needs. It will have state of the art equipment for cooking and refrigeration. In addition, a laundry will also be housed here.

- **Student hostels**

This is where the learners will be accommodated. The hostel will comprise of thee (3) blocks and each block will have thee (3) units. There will also be a central courtyard for each block.

- **Technology Centre**

This centre will be equipped with various gadgets to facilitate the integration of technology in the learning environment. The overarching goal of this centre will be to:

- Promote access to information and resources.
- Connect the classroom experience to the real world.
- Prepares the learners for the modern world.
- Promote global awareness and cultural exchange.
- Support different types of learning styles.
- Add a fun factor to learning.

- **Staff accommodation**

To facilitate a conducive learning environment, the staff members who will work at the school will be accommodated on site. This will reduce the commuting time from the nearest urban centre which is about 60 km away. The staff accommodation will comprise of two block with three units in each block.

A block of accommodation will also be constructed to cater for the ground staff who will mainly be involved in the day to maintenance work at the school.

Services to the proposed school will be provided as follows:

- **Water** - Water for the school will be sourced from an existing borehole at Marula Conservation Park. Pumping station will be installed at the school to pump water from the borehole and a pipelined will be laid to transport the water to the school. The water will be stored in elevated tanks from where it will be reticulated to the various facilities at the school.

- **Electricity** - The school will be powered by solar. A solar plant will be constructed at the school. The use of solar power will contribute to environmental sustainability and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity production.

- **Sewage Management** - Sewage at the school will be managed through septic tanks. Six (6) septic tanks will be constructed at the school. All sewer lines will be sub soil uPVC pipes reticulated to fall at a minimum of 1:60 gradient with a cover of no less than 300mm below ground level into a constructed masonry septic tank system. All necessary Inspection Eyes and Rodding Eyes will be placed at regulated intervals along the drainage lines. No drainage lines shall intersect with the foundation of a building. The septic tanks will discharge into French Drains located no less than 3 meters away from any boundary line or building and sufficiently distanced from any natural or artificial water source. Exact positions of the sewer treatment facilities and indicative drainage pipe runs are indicated on the layout drawings attached an appendix to this report.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document, Background Information Document (BID), is intended to provide information about the EIA being undertaken for the construction of a community school at Marula Conservation Park, Khomas Region and provides:

- An overview of the project;
- A description of the manner in which the EIA will be undertaken;
- An indication of how Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) may become involved in the EIA process; and
- Contact details of the consultancy firm to where I&APs may submit their comments.

3. EIA PROCESS

The EIA will be carried out in the following phases as provided for in Namibia's Environmental Management Act No.7 of 2007 and its Regulations.

PHASE I: PROJECT INITIATION & INTERNAL SCREENING

- Formulation of background information note
- Notification to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) of the proposed project through submission of EIA application form and online registration
- Undertake site visits to identify environmental issues
- Identify key stakeholders, regulatory authorities and Interested and Affected Parties (IAP)

PHASE II – EIA AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Notify other regulatory authorities as well as IAP (advertisement through newspaper, site notices, email etc)
- Assess the potential environmental impacts of the project activities
- Compile the EIA report and EMP
- Circulate the EIA report and EMP to regulatory authorities and IAP for reviewing and comments
- Incorporate input and comments from the regulatory authorities and IAP
- Submit the final report to MEFT for their review and decision making

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Your role as a stakeholder

The EIA process gives you an opportunity to:

- Review background information of the proposed project and provide comments;
- Find out more about the proposed project and the EIA process;
- Raise your issues and comments regarding the proposed project;
- Provide the Environmental Assessment Practitioner with additional information to be considered in the decision making process;
- Review and comment on the reports to be produced during the EIA process; and
- Appeal the Environmental Clearance that may be issued if you have serious objections.

How can you be involved?

- By responding to the invitation for you to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP);
- By mailing your comments to the EIA contact person (Contact details provided below);
- By contacting the EIA contact person telephonically; and
- By reviewing, the draft reports and provides comments.

Whom should you contact to register as an Interested &Affected Party?

Please complete the attached registration and comments form and send it to EIA consultants.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT MARULA CONSERVATION PARK, KHOMAS REGION, NAMIBIA

REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS FORM

I request to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party for the proposed project. Please provide me all relevant information regarding the project throughout the EIA process and invite me to all meetings. My particulars are as follow:

Name: **Telephone:**

Organization: **Designation:**

E-mail:

My interest in this project:

Comments and matters of concern:

Signature: **Date:**

Please return this completed form to:

Turnix Environmental Consulting
Cell: +264 81 1405033
E-mail: samasore2018@gmail.com

The form should reach the consultants on or before 19 October 2023.