

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN LÜDERITZ

Township Establishment of Benguela Extension 6

List of triggered activities identified in the EIA Regulations which apply to the proposed project

Activity 10.1 (a) Infrastructure

The construction of oil, water, gas and petrochemical and other bulk supply pipelines

Activity 10.1 (b) Infrastructure

The construction of Public roads

Activity 10.2 (a) Infrastructure

The route determination of roads and design of associated physical infrastructure where –it is a public road; (The proposed project includes the route determination of roads)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to brief Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP's) about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) being undertaken for the proposed development activities in Lüderitz.

The BID also provides an opportunity for I&APs to register for the EIA process and to submit any initial comments or issues regarding the proposed project.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Lüderitz Town Council, hereinafter referred to as the proponent, intends to undertake the following activities:

- **Layout approval and Township Establishment on Portion B (a Portion of the Remainder of Portion 41) of the Lüderitz Town and Townlands No. 11 to be known as Benguela Extension 6;**
- **Inclusion of Benguela Extension 6 in the next Zoning Scheme to be prepared for Lüderitz.**

In terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012), the listed activities indicated above were triggered by the proposed project.

The proponent commissioned this EIA and appointed Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) to undertake the necessary activities to enable an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) with the Environmental Commissioner as prescribed by the Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012). In line with Regulation 21(2) of the mentioned EIA Regulations, this BID is

distributed to potential I&APs as part of the public consultation process for this EIA.

This Environmental Assessment will therefore be undertaken to determine the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed development activity.

3 DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Locality

Portion B of the Remainder of Portion 41 of the Lüderitz Town and Townlands No. 11 on which Benguela Extension 6 is to be established is located to the east side of the urban area of Benguela Lüderitz.

Amilema (now Benguela Extension 6) is bordering Benguela Extension 1, Lüderitz, in the south and on the eastern side of Benguela Extension 6 and Benguela Extension 2, Lüderitz, are located. Benguela Extension 6 is situated on the Remainder of Portion 41 of Lüderitz Town and Townlands No. 41 as depicted in **Figure 1** below.

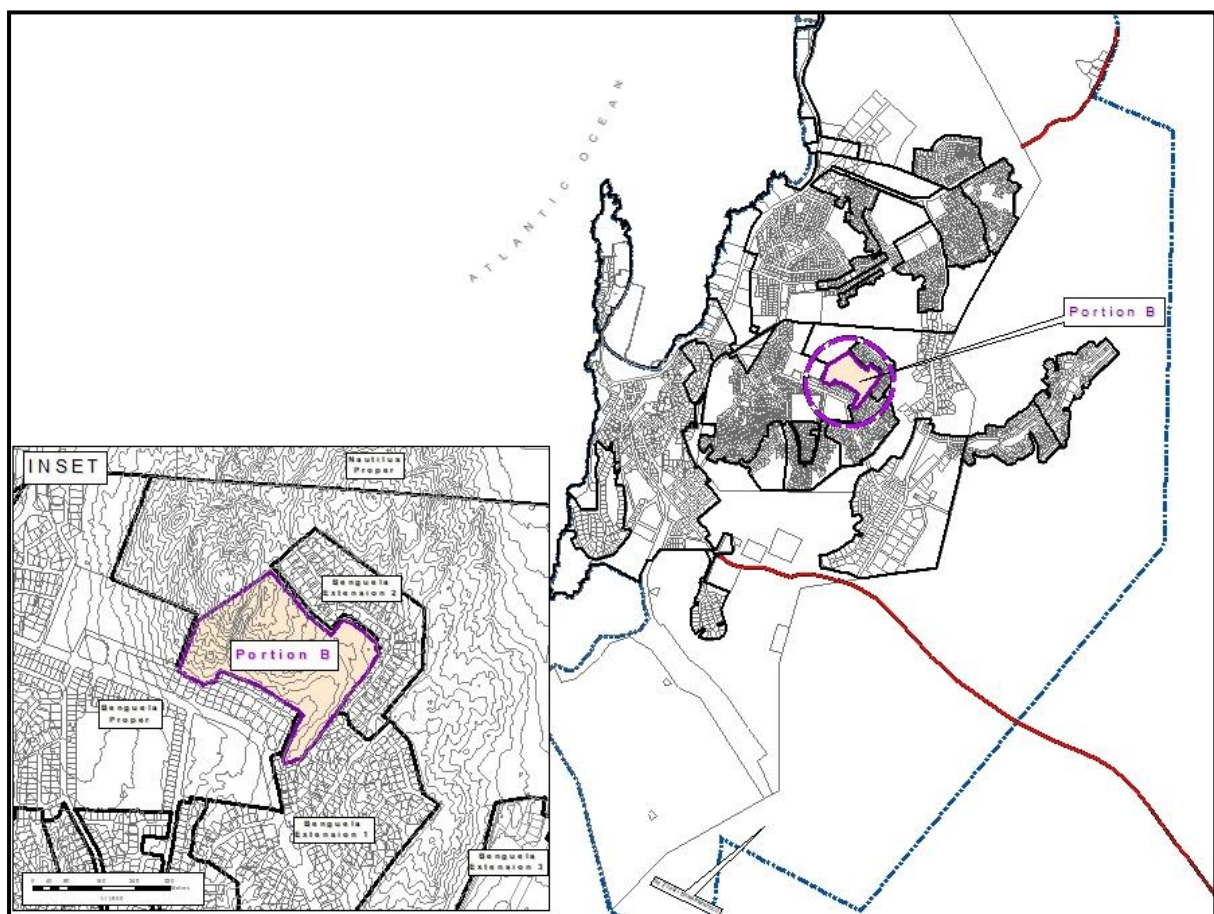


FIGURE 1: LOCALITY OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 41 OF LÜDERITZ TOWN AND TOWNLANDS NO. 11

Ownership of the Remainder of Portion 41 of the Farm Lüderitz Town and Townlands No. 11 vest with the Lüderitz Town Council.

3.2 Status Quo

The area envisioned for the establishment of Benguela Extension 6 is to be formalized is built up with a mixture of both permanent and temporary structures that are utilized for mainly residential activities, for local business activities or for both.

3.3 Proposed Development

Due to the rapid development of informal structures within Amilema, the number of households within the area mushroomed and is continuing to increase. As such the Lüderitz Town Council desires to replan and formulate the existing informal settlement which is locally known as Amilema to be formalized as Benguela Extension 6 in order to reduce the growth of informal structures within this area.

The following statutory steps need to be undertaken as part of the intended development:

- (a) Layout approval and Township Establishment on Portion B (a Portion of the Remainder of Portion 41) of the Lüderitz Town and Townlands No. 11 to be known as Benguela Extension 6;**
- (b) Inclusion of Benguela Extension 6 in the next Zoning Scheme to be prepared for Lüderitz.**

The Lüderitz Town Council intends to formalize the existing informal settlement locally known as Amilema to be Known as Benguela Extension 6. The proposed formalization will enable the Lüderitz Town Council to provide freehold titles to the households currently residing in the subject area.

The primary motivation behind this proposal is to improve the living conditions of the residents in the informal settlement. By formalizing the settlement into an established township, Council can ensure access to proper infrastructure, sanitation facilities, clean water and electricity. This will significantly enhance the quality of life of the inhabitants and promote a healthier and safer environment.

By converting the informal settlement of Amilema into a planned and registered township (Benguela Extension 6) the community and its residents will be empowered. They will have legal ownership (freehold titles) and properties, fostering a sense of belonging and pride. It will also enable them to access formal credit and financial services, fostering economic growth and self-reliance.

Formalizing Amilema into Benguela Extension 6 will also provide security of tenure for the residents. With formal recognition of their housing rights, residents will have increased confidence in investing in their homes and improving their living conditions. This, in turn, contributes to the long-term sustainability of the township and reduces the likelihood of future informal settlements emerging.

Layout plan for Benguela Extension 6

The layout plan for the proposed township of Benguela Extension 6 which is to be established on the proposed Portion B of the Remainder of Portion 41 of the Lüderitz Town and Townlands No. 11 is largely informed by the engineering survey and the services. The layout for proposed Benguela Extension 6 has the aim to accommodate the existing household structures as much as possible, avoid casualties and limiting the need for compensations which tend to be costly. The area envisioned for the establishment Amilema comprises of residential dwellings.

The main informants for the layout plan for Benguela Extension 6 are:

- a) The existing land use activities;
- b) The type of structures (permanent or temporary);
- c) The topography and the natural storm water drainage courses and ponds;
- d) The existing movement networks and household accesses;
- e) The existing powerlines for Lüderitz Town Council.

The layout plan for Benguela Extension 6 comprises of 227 erven and the Remainder that vary in sizes as they follow the existing informal property boundaries to ensure that all the structures belonging to a particular individual are accommodated within one erf.

Two hundred and twenty-five (225) “Single Residential” erven have been provided for in the layout plan for Benguela Extension 6 to accommodate the current residential dwellings.

The two (2) “Public Open Space” erven provided for in the layout plan for Benguela Extension 6 accommodate the rugged and steep topography of the area that cannot be developed.

3.4 Engineering Services

Electricity

Most of the households in the area of Amilema, which is to be formalized as Benguela Extension 6, have access to electricity which is provided by the Lüderitz Town Council. These properties are to maintain their current electricity connections and any new or additional connections will be done by the Lüderitz Town Council in accordance with their standards and requirements.

Water and sewer

The residents of Amilema which is to be formalized as Benguela Extension 6 make use of communal taps which are supplied by the Lüderitz Town Council. The residents do not have access to individual metered water.

There are neither sewer connections in the neighbourhood of Benguela Extension 6 which is to be formalized as Benguela Extension 6. However, the residents make use of communal toilets that are provided by the Lüderitz Town Council.

The water and sewer connections in the neighbourhood of Benguela Extension 6 are to be provided in accordance with the engineering standards and requirements of Lüderitz Town Council.

Storm Water

The area of Amilema which is to be formalised to become Benguela Extension 6 is prone to stormwater ponding which have been fairly accommodated in the layout plan for Benguela Extension 6 on erven zoned “Public Open Space”. Further measure necessary to manage the storm water within the area are to be employed in accordance with the Lüderitz Town Council’s storm water drainage system.

3.5 Access Provision

The layout plan for Benguela Extension 6 makes provision for an efficient road network for ease of movement within the neighbourhood and for efficient connectivity to the surrounding areas. The major existing movement networks have been fairly respected and incorporated in the proposed layout plan for Benguela Extension 6.

The width of the roads in the proposed township ranges between 10m to 11m.

4 THE ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

4.1 Overview

Lüderitz is a town in the !Karas Region in the north of Namibia. The town falls within the !Nami=nus constituency, formerly known as Lüderitz Constituency in !Kharas Region. As of 2021, the town's population was estimated at about 23,772 people of which about 14,000 resides in formal areas while 9,772 resides in informal areas.

4.2 Biophysical Environment

4.2.1 Fauna and Flora

The succulent Karoo Ecosystem is the most diverse desert system in the world. There is high plant, particularly succulent, diversity. According to MET (2014), some 1050 species are known to occur in the Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park near Lüderitz

4.2.2 Geology and soils

The Naukluft Mountain area dominantly consists of fractured and karstified dolomites and limestones of the Damara Sequence representing a so-called nappe complex. The soil in this area is weakly developed and shallow. Vegetation cover will generally be sparse because the soil will not be able to provide plants with sufficient water or nutrients. The Sperrgebiet environment is fragile and characterized with aridity. (Mendelsohn et al., 2002)

4.2.3 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The town of Lüderitz and the western part of the //Karas Region falls within the Southern Namib and Naukluft hydrogeological region. The only permanent water in this region is the Orange River, which supplies water to towns and mines (Oranjemund, Rosh Pinah) as well as agricultural and tourism projects. The water supply to Lüderitz is based on fossil water reserves in the Koichab paleo-channel.

5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The following potential impacts have been identified so far:

- **Flooding:** Provision needs to be made within the layouts in terms of managing and mitigating stormwater during flood events.
- **Traffic Impacts:** during construction the movement of construction material to and from site may cause additional traffic.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Establishing environmental risks of the intended project
- Establishing mitigation protocol
- Preparing the draft Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public reviewing of Draft EAR and EMP
- Preparing the final EAR & EMP and submitting to MEFT
- Awaiting decision from Authorities
- Communicating decision to Interested & Affected Parties
- Availing opportunities to Appeal.

- **Disturbance:** during construction the surrounding property owners and community members (where present) may be disturbed by the construction activities.
- **Waste:** during construction, waste may be generated on site which would have to be disposed of at an approved landfill site.
- **Ground and surface water contamination:** may be experienced during construction due to the use of machinery and chemicals.
- **Employment Creation:** during construction temporary jobs may be created for the construction of the intended development.
- **Socio-economic impacts:** the proposed township establishment will make residential erven available to the residents of the ever-growing town of Lüderitz.

More potential impacts of the proposed activity will be identified upon consultations with the public and further research on the area.

6 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Environmental Impact Assessment process involves interaction with people who are interested in, or who could be affected by the proposed development and/or operational activities of the proposed Lüderitz development. As part of this process a public meeting will be held as follows:

Date of meeting: 31 August 2023

Meeting to start: 17h30

Venue of meeting: Diaz Primary School

To further obtain inputs into the developments to take place. Communication will be sent out to various potential I&APs and Line Ministries in addition to the public notices to be placed in the newspapers, on the sites and around the subject area to obtain comments on the proposed developments.

7 ALL STAKEHOLDER/INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES (I&AP)

Public participation process gives you the opportunity to:

- Obtain information about the proposed project
- Raise any environmental issues relating to the project

How can you be involved?

- By responding to the invitation advertised in the newspapers
- By registering as an I&AP, for your name to be added to our register list
- Submitting your comments or requests in writing.

We are inviting the public to participate by contributing issues and suggestions regarding the proposed projects on or before **22 September 2023**. For further information, or concerns, I&APs can complete the register below:

8 REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS

Participant Name:	Organization/Affiliations:
Position:	Telephone:
Fax:	E-Mail:

Postal Address:
Comments/Suggestions and Questions:

Please fill in particulars and return completed document to be registered as an Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP) to:

Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) TEL: 061 25 11 89 E-Mail: bronwynn@spc.com.na
--