

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT AND INVITATION TO COMMENT.

**DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE
WARMQUELLE IRRIGATION SCHEME PROJECT.**

FOR

ALOE AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGIES (PTY) LTD



Prepared by



P. O. Box 70822, Khomasdal, Windhoek, Namibia.

+264 812 683 578

outruninvest@hotmail.com

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1. PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT AND CONTENTS

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the scoping exercise for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the design, build, operate and transfer (DBOT) of the Warmquelle green scheme irrigation project. We will share with you the process being followed and also obtain your initial comments on project. The document also gives you information on the benefits of the proposed project, potential impacts of the project and proposed environmental studies needed. Further to that we advise you on how you can become involved in the project, raise concerns which you may have or receive information which may be of interest to you. This is the core of public participation during the EIA process. Information sharing is the cornerstone of successful Public Participation and your input will help ensure that all potential issues are taken into consideration before critical decisions are made.

1.1. Project Description

The Proponent, **ALOE AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGIES (PTY) LTD** is the applicant for the Environmental Clearance Certificate.

1.1.1. Water source

Ongongo fountain is the main water source supplying water to the Warmquelle Irrigation Scheme. The abstraction point at weir is heavily silted and need desiltation.

1.1.2. Conveyance channel and water storage

Water is conveyed using steel piping for at least 6 km by gravity into a silted earth dam. The pipeline needs rehabilitation in the form of replacing of conduits, clearing sand from the pipes, building of concrete footings supporting the conduits. The earth dam is heavily silted and needs rehabilitation as well.



Figure 1: Image 1 - Silted water abstraction weir at the source, Image 2 - Water leakages along the pipeline, Image 3 - Heavily silted water storage earth dam at Warmquelle. Source: Own images taken during field visit.

1.1.3. Crop production area

The existing crop production area is free of bushes except the proposed extension of 5Ha. This area is bounded by a dilapidated mesh fence which cannot keep intruders, livestock and wildlife outside.

1.1.4. Warehouse, logistic block and equipment

The existing building is broken down as evidenced by extensive cracks on the walls, cracked floors, broken doors and charred walls. The existing building will be renovated and extended to cater for a logistics center to contain cool rooms.

- Employment creation and thus improve the well-being of the local people. Employment preference will be afforded to previously disadvantaged Namibians originating from Warmquelle area.
- Skills and knowledge transfer in fresh vegetable production.

2.4. Proposed Studies

The study will focus on the potential impact emanating from the designs of new infrastructure, construction activities and the operation of the irrigation schemes. The identified potential impacts will be used to guide the crafting of the Environmental Management Plan which will be used to support the application for an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

3. THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

An EIA is the process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social, health and other relevant effects of development projects prior to major decisions being taken and commitments made.

The objectives of the EIA will be to:

- Provide you with adequate information to understand the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of the proposed project and opportunities to comment on the project and the process.
- Provide information that will assist the consultants to incorporate effective mitigation measures into the design and implementation of the project.
- Provide the regulatory authorities with sufficient information to serve as a basis for sound decision making.

3.1. Project elements to be covered by the EMP.

The EIA will cover the following elements:

- Design of water supply system, design and construction of accommodation facilities, logistic center, greenhouses & net houses and open – field drip irrigation system covering 10Ha.

- The operation and maintenance of the aforementioned facilities above.

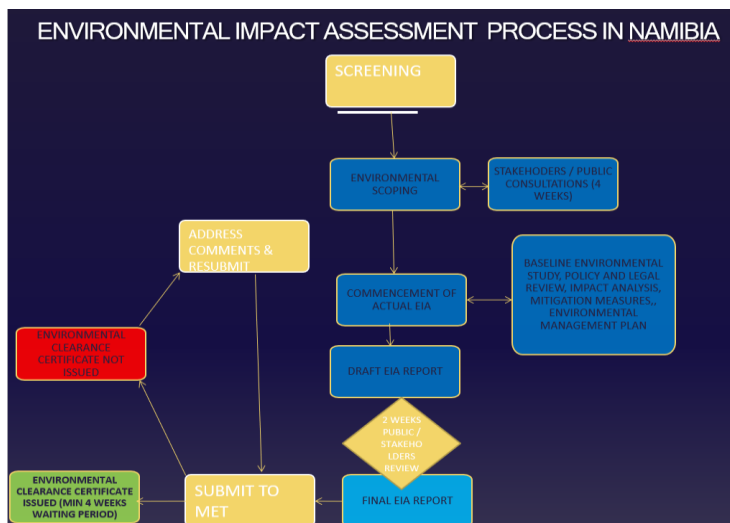


Figure 3: Environmental Impact Assessment Process in Namibia.

3.2. Scope Of The Work

3.2.1. Scoping

It is a formal requirement during the EIA process to carry out a scoping study and this is in-line with the Namibian Environmental Management Act (2007). The purpose of this study is to direct the assessment on the key issues for assessment and at the same time eliminate those that do not require detailed intensive studies. This is not required for this project since the project already exists.

3.2.2. Draft EIA Report

The draft EMP report will reflect all the identified issues, mitigation measures and the proposed environmental management plan. The draft EMP document will be made available to the key stakeholders for input.

3.2.3. Legal Framework

The Namibian Government gazetted the Environmental Management Act in 2007 and is supported by a set of guidelines and regulations for 2012. The EIA process will follow the EIA Policy and the Environmental Management Act & its regulations. The EIA will also take cognizance of applicable international standards and guidelines, conventions and treaties.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND DISCLOSURE PLAN

According to the Environmental Management Act (2007), public participation forms an integral part of the EIA process. Adequate public consultation is important to identify issues relevant to the project, evaluating their significance and deciding measures to mitigate these impacts. A public consultation plan has been developed in line with the Environmental Management Act (2007) and seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- To ensure all stakeholders are included in the consultation and disclosure process;
- To ensure initial information disclosure about the project is appropriate and understandable to the non-technical stakeholders and the local population;
- To ensure that adequate and timely information is provided to the public;
- To ensure that all stakeholders are given sufficient opportunity to express their issues, concerns and opinions;
- To ensure that stakeholders' opinions and concerns influence project decisions;
- To ensure regular feedback is given to the public;
- To ensure that effective communication will continue during the construction and operational phases of the project;

Aloe Agriculture Technologies and the Outrun Team are committed to active and ongoing communication and consultation of all stakeholders with regards to the proposed project.

4.1. How you can be involved?

- Contact the EIA consultants for further information.
- Review the draft reports when you are invited to do so within the timeframes provided.

Please ensure that you are registered on the project database by providing your contact details to the EIA Consultants. Registration will ensure that you receive ongoing communication about the EIA process, meeting invitations, project updates and invitations to review the draft reports.

