



# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

## Quagga Camp and Leisure

November 2023

### 1. Introduction to the project

Trinity Environmental Solutions (TES) was appointed by Quagga Camp and Leisure (Mrs. S. Ndjharine) (Proponent) to conduct an independent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development of a semi-permanent tourist tented camp and leisure facility, to be known as Quagga Camp and leisure.

This venture in Ozondati (Ohungu Conservancy, **Erongo Region**) is envisaged to operate for at least 20 years. The planned eco-friendly facility will cater for local and international tourists and visitors who wish to experience the pristine landscapes in Ohungu Conservancy. The location of the facility will also allow tourist to visit nearby important cultural and natural heritage sites in the Erongo and Kunene Regions (Figure 1).

Prior to Namibia's independence in 1990, communal area residents had few rights to use wildlife. Wild animals were often seen as little more than a threat to crops, livestock and infrastructure, as well as community safety. Ground-breaking legislation passed in the mid-1990s laid the foundation for a new approach that allowed the sustainable use of natural resources. By forming a conservancy, people in communal areas could now actively manage and generate benefits from wildlife and other resources

in their area, encouraging wildlife recoveries and environmental restoration.

Due to these changes in the legislative framework, many Conservancies and residents have been investing in the tourism sector with the support from NGO's and Private Sector. While some community members have been investing their own capital into the ecotourism industry.

Please note that, this proposed project has received consent from the Zeraeua Traditional Authority and from Ohungu Conservancy and community.

In terms of Namibia's Environmental Assessment Policy of 1995, the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 (Section 27(2)(j)), Government Notice No. 29 of 2012 (Listed Activities, No. 6) and the Government Notice No. 30 of 2012 (EIA Regulations), the proposed development constitutes a number of listed activities which require Environmental Clearance prior to commencement of the project.

As such, Trinity Environmental Solutions (TES) was appointed to conduct an independent environmental assessment, to facilitate the application for Environmental Clearance.

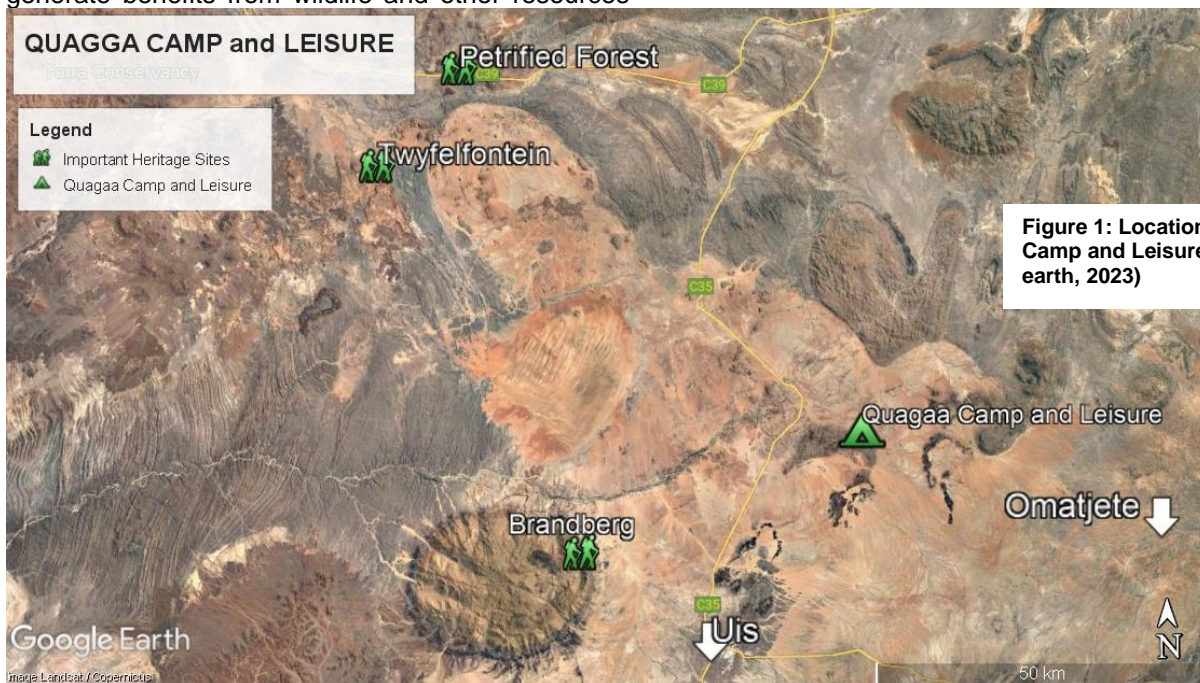


Figure 1: Location of Quagga Camp and Leisure (Google earth, 2023)

## 2. Purpose of this document

This document, the Background Information Document (BID), is intended to provide background information about the EIA process being undertaken for the proposed development and provides:

- An overview of the project
- An overview of the legislative context and an outline of the manner in which the EIA is undertaken
- An indication of how Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) may become involved in the project
- Contact details to which I&APs may submit their issues and concerns associated with the project

## 3. Project description

Application for the Environmental Clearance from the Directorate of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) is being made for the development of Quagga Camp and Leisure. The physical footprint of the facility will be about 15ha consisting of 10 tented sites, 15 camping sites, administration area, entertainment area and staff accommodation area (See Figure 2).

Products and services planned to be offered at the proposed safari and leisure facility will include the following:

- Restaurant and leisure area to provide meals and a place of refreshment (See Figure 3)
- Curio shop with locally sourced handicrafts and products
- Administration area
- Accommodation for visitors (See Figure 4) and staff (most staff will be from the local community)
- Support to anti-poaching and wildlife monitoring activities
- Support to human-wildlife mitigation activities
- Guided Game Drives
- Guided Cultural and Natural Heritage tours

This tourism and leisure facility will be constructed to ensure that it is environmentally friendly, promote eco-tourism and provide a sense of appreciation towards pristine experiences, abundance wildlife and rugged landscapes.

The site is perfectly situated since it is in route to the Brandberg and its famous "White Lady", Dorob National Park, Skeleton Coast, Kaokoland, Twyfelfontein Heritage Site, Organ Pipes Stones, Burnt Mountain, Petrified Forest, Palmwag, etc.

The proposed site GPS point is: Latitude: -20.947747°S      Longitude: 15.234267°E



Figure 2: Site Layout - 15ha (Google earth, 2023)





Figure 3: Luxury Tent for the Restaurant Area

Figure 4: Luxury Tent for Accommodation

#### 4. Potential issues associated with the project

Outlined below is a preliminary list of the potential social and biophysical feature which potentially will be affected:

- Limited loss of vegetation
- Limited air pollution
- Noise pollution and vibrations
- Soil pollution
- Soil erosion
- Health and safety of workers at the project site
- Land use change
- Increased water use

**Please Note:**

Additional issues will be identified during the course of the EIA process and associated Public Participation events.

#### 5. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process

A Basic Assessment is being undertaken in terms Namibia's Environmental Assessment Policy of 1995, the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 (Section 27), Government Notice No. 29 of 2012 (Listed Activities) and the Government Notice No. 30 of 2012 (EIA Regulations).

The objectives of the Basic Assessment are to:

- Develop an understanding of the project area.
- Develop an understanding of the proposed development and how its related activities may potentially impact on the surrounding environment.
- Identify relevant authorities and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to engage in the Public Participation Process (PPP).
- Facilitate the dissemination of information to the relevant authorities and I&APs and provide them with an opportunity to raise issues or concerns related to the project.
- Identify potential issues and environmental impacts.
- Assess the significance of the potential environmental impacts identified.
- Describe and investigate alternatives that have been and/or could be considered.
- Provide feasible mitigation measures to address any significant impacts identified through an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

The above objectives are achieved through the technical evaluation of the proposed activity, the undertaking of the PPP and the submission of the relevant information and documentation to Environmental Commissioner.

## 5.1 Technical evaluation

The technical evaluation component aims to identify the environmental issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. More specifically it will involve, but will not be limited to, the following tasks:

- Site assessments.
- Survey of potential technical issues
- Identification of issues related to the biophysical environment, fauna and flora.
- Identification of potential social and economic issues.
- Consideration and assessment of feasible alternatives.
- Identification of mitigation measures to be implemented.

## 5.2 Public Participation Process

Public involvement is an integral part of the EIA and aims to include I&APs in the process by notifying them of the proposed project and encouraging them to raise their issues and concerns. It is important that I&APs are afforded ample opportunity to understand the technical issues associated with the project so they can meaningfully participate in and contribute to the EIA Process.

Feedback will be provided to I&APs via letters or direct communication, if requested. The PPP for undertaking the Basic Assessment has been designed to ensure that interaction with I&APs is focused yet comprehensive. The need for a public meeting or one-on-one meetings will be confirmed during the Basic Assessment process. All I&AP contributions will be reflected in the Scoping Report.

I&APs' comments and feedback may be provided in different ways. These include:

- During public meetings, by direct written (email) and no telephonic submission.
- Discussion from one-on-one meeting, through organised institutions such as the local and regional authorities.

## 5.3 Submission to the Environmental Commissioner

Following receipt of I&APs comments on the proposed development, an application for Environmental Clearance, along with an EMP will be submitted to the Commissioner for a decision on the project.

**Please contact:**

**Don Muroua**

**Mobile: 081 170 7737**

**Email: [trinityenvir@iway.na](mailto:trinityenvir@iway.na)**