



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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23 October 2018

OFFICE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER

The Managing Director
Gecko Salt (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 81307
Windhoek
Namibia

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE FOR THE EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) 4426 SITUATED IN THE DOROB NATIONAL PARK, SWAKOPMUND DISTRICT, ERONGO REGION

The Environmental Management Plan submitted is sufficient as it made provisions of the environmental management concerning the proposed activities. From this perspective, regular environmental monitoring and evaluations on environmental performance should be conducted. Targets for improvements should be established and monitored throughout this process.

This Ministry reserves the right to attach further legislative and regulatory conditions during the operational phase of the project. From this perspective, I issue the environmental clearance certificate with the following condition; (a) that the size of the EPL be reduced from 9149 to 4300 hectares; (b) and that the EPL is granted only for the northern point being S 21° 52' 27.66"; E 14° 7' 26.94" as indicated in the EIA report and the Southern point being S 21° 55' 56.6"; E 14° 8' 27.9" and strictly for salt production only. Attached are conditions as per **Annex 1**.

On the basis of the above, this letter serves as an environmental clearance certificate for the project to continue. However, this clearance letter does not in any way hold the Ministry of Environment and Tourism accountable for any misleading information, nor any adverse effects that may arise from this project's activities. Instead, full accountability rests with Gecko Salt (Pty) Ltd.

This environmental clearance is valid for a period of 3 (three) years, from the date of issue unless withdrawn by this office.

Yours sincerely,


Teofilus Nghitila

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER



“Stop the poaching of our rhinos”

All official correspondence must be addressed to the Permanent Secretary

Annex 1: Conditions applicable to Environmental Clearances in Proclaimed Protected Areas

1. Conditions of the Park entry permits should be adhered to at all time.
2. Rehabilitation/Mitigation work, especially, the removal and replanting of vegetation to be conducted in consultation with the National Botanical Institute in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, and the progress to be reported to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism regional office and to the Deputy Director of Wildlife Monitoring and Research.
3. All provisions of applicable legislation and regulations concerning protected areas apply.
4. This Environmental Clearance shall serve as a contract of agreement between the holder and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, but it does not in any way make the Ministry of Environment and Tourism responsible for any wrong or insufficient information provided, nor any adverse effects that may arise from this project's activities. Instead, full responsibility and accountability rest with the developer and his/her consultants.
5. The Holder of this Environmental Clearance (hereafter referred to as the Holder) assumes full responsibility and liability for the safety and conduct of employees, contractors and/or visitors.
6. The Holder agrees to fully indemnify the Government of the Republic of Namibia in the event that the Government is held liable in respect of any loss, damage or injury sustained to an employee, contractor and/or visitor whilst such employee, contractor and/or visitor is in the Park under the auspices, direction or invitation of the holder.
7. Entry and exit points to the Park as well as the driving routes to be followed in the Park shall be determined by this Ministry in its sole discretion and shall be communicated to the Holder in writing. The Holder shall strictly adhere to the designated entry points, exit points and driving routes.
8. Only existing tracks or roads may be used unless prior approval is obtained from the Ministry.
9. All tracks or roads must be established, constructed and rehabilitated under the supervision of officials designated by the Ministry for this purpose.
10. The Holder shall erect a signboard not smaller than 70 cm in height and 100cm in width, at the major entrance/s to each of its license areas, specifying the number of the license, the duration of its validity and the name of the license holder, and a contact name and number for enquiries.
11. The Holder acknowledges that designated staff of this Ministry may monitor the Park and the activities of the Holder within the park in order to verify adherence to the conditions imposed in this authorization. The Holder undertakes to give its full cooperation to the designated staff in this regard.
12. In the event that an application to renew the clearance is received, the renewal of this clearance is entirely within the discretion of the Ministry and the Holder should entertain no expectation of whatsoever nature in that regard. In this regard, this Ministry accepts no responsibility of whatsoever nature, for any expenditure which the Holder incurs in order to exercise its rights and obligations in terms of this clearance, and which expenditure is rendered redundant or futile in the event that this clearance is not extended.
13. In the event that the Ministry extends the clearance for an additional period, the Ministry reserves the right to impose additional conditions or amend existing conditions of this

authorization, and the Holder agrees to be bound by such additional and/or amended conditions.

14. In the case of non-compliance with any of these conditions, the clearance can be terminated by the Ministry at any time by written notice to the holder, including the reasons for such termination. Notice of termination in terms hereof will not detract from any of the Holder's obligations pertaining to the clearance, including the implementation of the environmental management plan and the rehabilitation of disturbed areas or other impacts caused by the Holder.
15. A six monthly report on project progress and environmental management profile, starting from date of commencement of operations, must be submitted by the Holder to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, particularly, the directorates of Environmental Affairs, and Parks and Wildlife Management.
16. Boating, biking, swimming, fishing, hunting, wood gathering or the collection of soil, insects, birds, animals and plants, including the introduction of pets and weapons of all types, are strictly prohibited within the jurisdiction of a protected area.
17. Unless permitted by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the operation of an aircraft and the construction of a runway, including any other attempt to harvest natural resources for any form of construction purposes, shall not be allowed in all protected areas. Where the construction of structures is allowed, the design of such structures must be of a temporary nature.
18. There shall be no voluntary disposal of any form of waste in all protected areas of the Republic of Namibia. A suitable waste storage facility must be constructed to serve as a waste retention device prior to transportation out of the protected area.
19. Using the best and affordable methodology, the Holder must ensure that all mining or quarrying and exploratory operations are thoroughly rehabilitated prior to closure of the operation. Wherever possible, the Holder must proceed with the rehabilitation process concurrently with the progression of the project rather than wait until the damage is far beyond the available means of management.
20. The general standard for all rehabilitation processes must at all costs aim at restoring the natural character of the environment to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Such rehabilitation processes shall be inspected and certified satisfactory or unsatisfactory by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Where a certificate of unsatisfactory is issued, the Holder shall be advised to carry-out certain tasks to meet the requirements. Failure to meet the basic rehabilitation requirements shall be regarded by this Ministry as a breach of this contract and of which serious consequences shall follow.
21. If the EIA/EMP report for a given exploration or mining or quarrying require the services of an external reviewer, the Holder shall bear the full cost of the review of that particular report. Under such circumstances, this Ministry shall only pronounce its decision on the issue once the full cost of the review is paid-out to the reviewer.
22. Finally, the Holder is advised that these conditions shall be reviewed and refined on a regular basis to ensure compliance and sound management of our protected areas. From this perspective, and depending on site specifics and the technical nature of a given project, further conditions shall be attached to guide the operations of such projects.

