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Background Information Document (BID)

Project: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Establishment and Operation of the Landfill Located Southeast Of Grootfontein, Otjozondjupa Region; Namibia

Environmental Consultant: Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd

Proponent: Grootfontein Municipality

1 INTRODUCTION

Waste management is one of the important aspects of environmental management in Namibia. Waste on its own is a threat to the integrity of the environment, as it can have negative environmental impacts that result from environmental threats such as air pollution, illegal dumping of waste, littering, poor sanitation, and emission of greenhouse gases, urbanization, and poverty. The Grootfontein Municipality (The Proponent) has appointed Excel Dynamic Solution Pty Ltd (Environmental Consultant) to apply on their behalf, for an Environmental Clearance Certificate for the proposed establishment and operation of the landfill site in Grootfontein in the Otjozondjupa Region. The proposed site is located about 10 km southeast of the town (Figure 1) within PTN1/A/754 farm as shown in Figure 2.

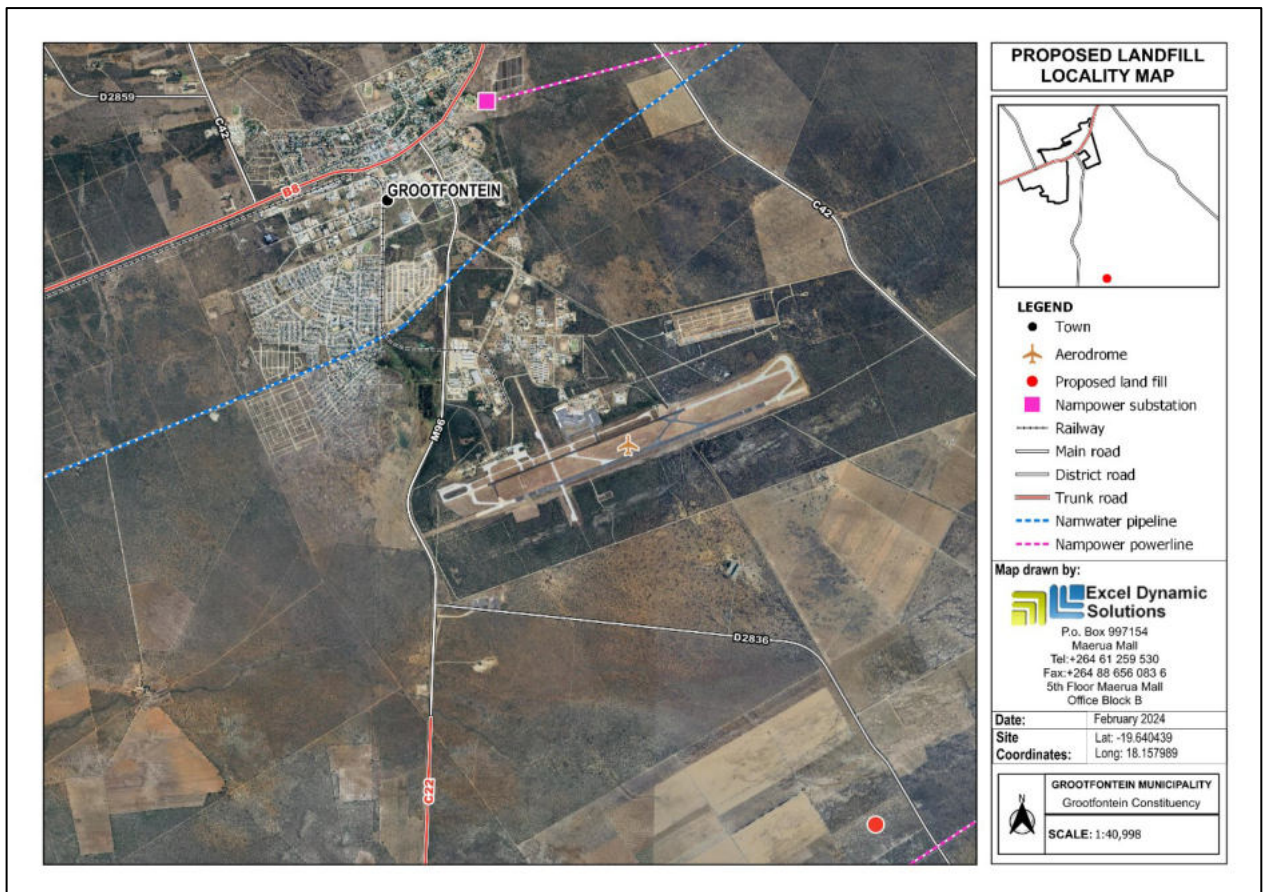


Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed landfill site

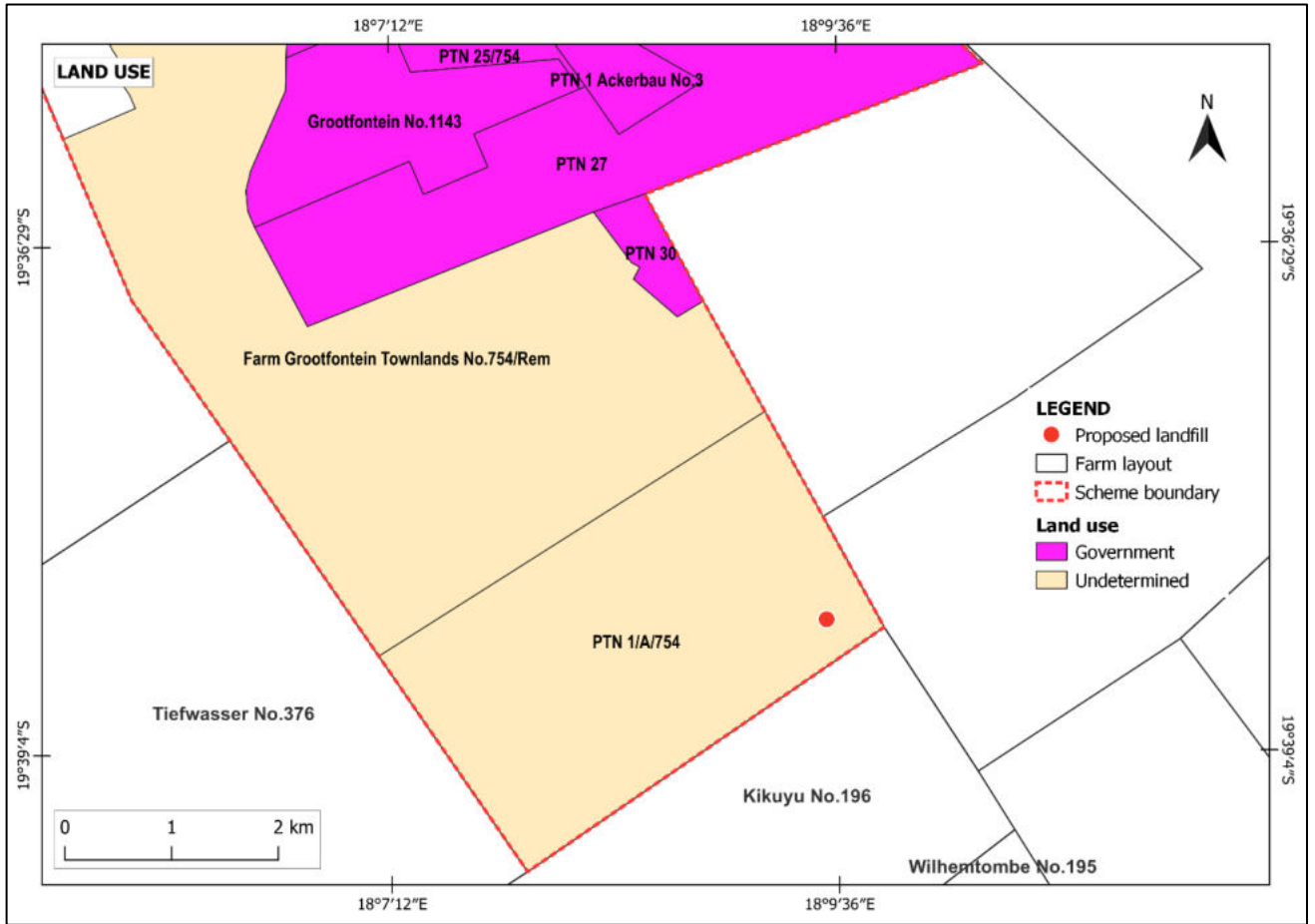


Figure 2 Land use map

2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) is a non-technical document of the Environmental Assessment, which serve the purpose of sharing information with stakeholders and interested and affected parties (I&APs), providing them with the platform to engage, raise issues and submit comments about the proposed activities. The BID is for informing the project stakeholders as well as interested and affected parties (I&APs) of the following:

- Project Location
- Proposed activities of the project
- Environmental Assessment process to be followed.
- How I&APs can be involved

All stakeholders/I&APs are encouraged to submit their comments/inputs/concerns on the proposed project. The comments and concerns/issues raised will be incorporated into the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for submission to the Environmental Commissioner at the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for decision-making on the environmental clearance certificate (ECC).

3 ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

In terms of the Environmental Management Act (EMA) No.7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations, Waste management facilities are listed as one of the activities that cannot be undertaken without an ECC. Thus an EIA study needs to be conducted and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) developed as per the EMA and EIA Regulations.

2.1 The construction of facilities for waste sites, treatment of waste, and disposal of waste.

As such, an environmental clearance application will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at MEFT for decision-making before the implementation of the anticipated project. The Proponent is, therefore, required to obtain an ECC prior to the commencement (implementation) of operations on the site.

4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4.1 Project Plan, Activities, and Resources

Once an ECC is issued, administrative and technical tasks are completed, and the Municipality is ready, works related to preparing the site for waste management use, and all associated activities

will commence. There will be some earthworks to prepare the site for construction and installation of necessary structures required for the operation of the landfill.

During the construction phase, earthworks will be carried out in certain areas of the project site to install the necessary services infrastructure. The general site works will include site establishment, including soil excavation. There will be some movement of heavy construction vehicles and equipment on and around the site area.

The Proponent, through the appointed contractor, will construct a security boundary wall (most probably using corrugated iron sheets for the construction period and metal fencing for longevity and safety the operational phase.

During the operational phase, the landfill will be operated and maintained by the Municipality or their appointed contractor.

The required resources and services that will not require contractors will be provided by the municipality Council throughout the facility's lifecycle.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The ESA and EMP methodology applied for this project takes into account the provisions of the EIA Regulations, 2012, and the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007. The overall objective of the ESA is to identify potential negative impacts associated with the proposed project that shall be assessed and provide potential effective mitigation measures for implementation.

The main objectives of this ESA are but are not limited to:

- Identification of potential impacts associated with the proposed project.
- Consultation with I&APs and relevant authorities and provide them with an opportunity to participate throughout the ESA process.
- Assess the significance of issues and concerns raised.
- Compile the ESA report addressing all potential identified issues and impacts.
- Draft an EMP that includes impact management and mitigation measures.

5.1 Potential impacts

The following potential impacts have been identified:

Positive:

- Improved town planning regarding future solid waste management in the Town
- Employment creation
- Improved local public and environment health through a better and sustainably managed landfill.

Negative:

The following potential negative impacts may be anticipated:

- Soil disturbance from earthworks
- Groundwater pollution from infiltration of dissolved waste into surrounding soils and eventually water resources systems.
- Surface water pollution: During heavy rains, rainwater may carry wastes from the landfill to nearby places.
- General environmental pollution through mishandling of project-related waste during construction and operational phases.
- Loss of biodiversity through the removal of vegetation that may be found within the site footprints.
- Air pollution by potential dust on untarred roads and gas emissions from construction activities (excavations, heavy vehicles, and machinery).
- Visual impact due to the presence of the piling waste heaps over time when the town expands towards the landfill or is located close to roads.
- Health and safety: improper handling of site materials and equipment may cause health and safety risks.
- Archaeological or cultural heritage impact through uncovering of unknown objects on-site (when carrying out earthworks).

The potential impacts listed above were pre-identified and therefore should not be deemed as final or the only ones. Other potential impacts will be identified as the ESA process progresses i.e., upon site visit and consultation with the public (I&APs). All impacts and public concerns/comments will be incorporated and addressed in the Environmental Assessment Scoping (ESA) Report and EMP.

5.2 Public Consultation

Public consultation is an important part of the EA process. During the consultation process, I&APs are allowed to raise any issues or concerns about the project's activities.

To comment or receive further information on the project, please register with Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (contact details herein) as an I&AP before or on **Friday, 22 March 2024**.

A Public Consultation meeting will be communicated with all the registered interested and affected parties.

For comments and or further information requests, please contact the EDS Consultant at the contact details provided below:

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