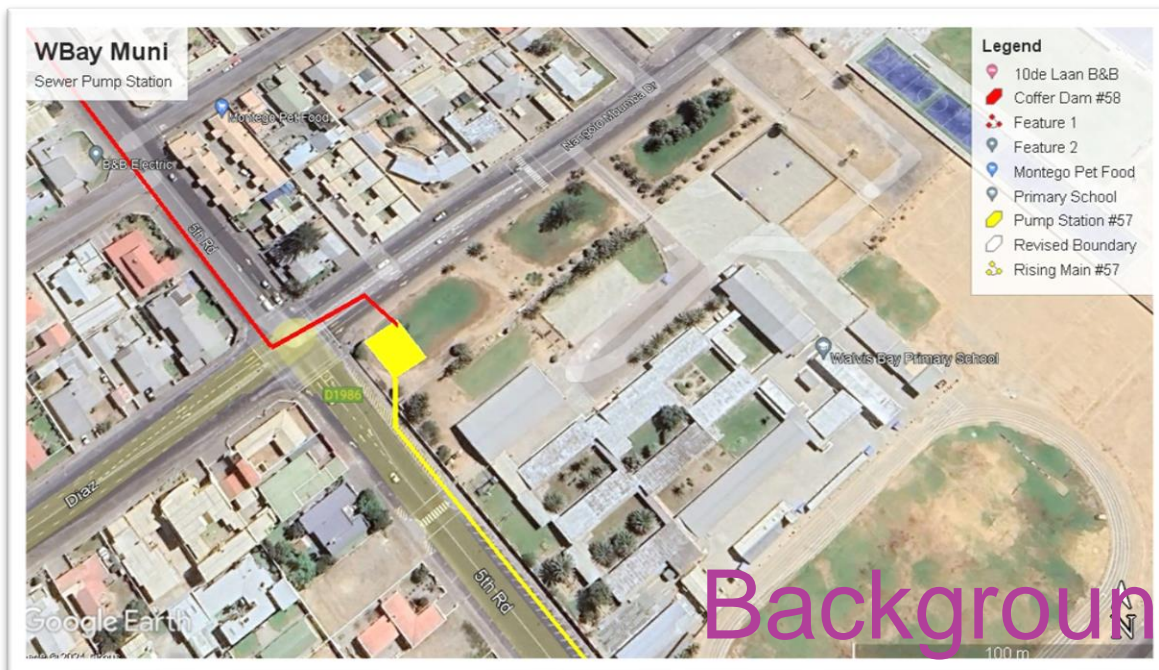


Environmental Impact Assessment and compilation of an Environmental Management Plan for the Construction of a New Sewer Pump Station, Gravity Line and Rising Main at Lagoon Area, Walvis Bay, Erongo Region



Background Information Document

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1|PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to brief Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP's) and Stakeholders about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) being undertaken for the Construction of a New Sewer Pump Station, Gravity Line and Rising Main at Lagoon Area, Walvis Bay, Erongo Region. The BID explains the environmental assessment process, it 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 from a social, economic and environmental perspective.

2|BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Well-functioning Infrastructure supports the functioning of communities and their local economies. It unlocks an area's potential, enable residents to access services and potentially create work opportunities. The forecasted, accelerated growth of Walvis Bay place unprecedented stress on the infrastructure. The sewerage network that takes sewage away from properties in the Lagoon suburb is connected to the Jan Wilken Sewer pump station located at the Jan Wilken Sport stadium. From the recent revised Integrated, Urban Spatial Development Framework (IUDSF) for Walvis Bay town, it reveals a significant growth within the CBD that would require an upgrade of the infrastructure. Therefore, the development of the infrastructure is aligned with not only to the IUDSF, but it is mandated by the Local Authority Act, 1992 (Act 23 of 1992) as amended. A new sewage pump station is required to provide service resilience for a number of reasons, which may include but not limited to:

- **Capacity:** The existing sewer infrastructure might not have enough capacity to handle the wastewater generated by a neighbourhood. By investing in a new pump station and rising main, the municipality can improve the system's capacity and prevent issues like overflows or backups.
- **Population Growth:** As the population in the neighbourhood increases, the demand on the sewer system also grows. Investing in new infrastructure ensures that the system can adequately serve the needs of a growing community.
- **Compliance:** Municipalities are often required to meet certain environmental regulations and standards related to wastewater treatment and disposal. Upgrading infrastructure can help ensure compliance with these regulations.
- **Preventing Pollution:** A properly functioning sewer system is essential for protecting the environment and public health. By investing in new infrastructure, the municipality can reduce the risk of pollution from sewage leaks or overflows.

The Municipality of Walvis Bay (the Proponent) triggered by the above factors has commissioned the construction of a New Sewer Pump Station, Gravity Line and Rising Main at Lagoon Area, Walvis Bay. This is crucial for maintaining a functional and efficient wastewater management system in the area. These activities require an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) as per the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 (EMA) and its regulations. The proponent appointed Environam Consultants Trading (ECT) to undertake the necessary activities to enable an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate with the Environmental Commissioner as prescribed by the EMA and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012). In line with Regulation 21(2) of the above-mentioned EIA Regulations, this BID is distributed to potential I&APs as part of the public consultation process for this EIA.

Environmental Assessments are used by planning and decision-making authorities to obtain an objective view of the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the planning, construction and operation of the proposed development activities. This information must provide the relevant authorities with a sound basis for decision-making. The deliverables of this Environmental Assessment process are an Environmental Scoping Report, and an Environmental Management Plan which will, amongst other things:

- Identify the potential impacts of the proposed activities;
- Outline the public participation process undertaken, illustrate the issues, concerns and suggestions raised by Interested and Affected Parties;
- Outline the environmental management and mitigation measures that must be taken to avoid or reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts.

The above documents together with the application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Office of the Environmental Commissioner in Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for approval.

3|LOCALITY

The pump station will be situated on the corner of 5th Road and Nangolo Mbumba drive on coordinates lat: -22.965911, lon: 14.495119. The rising main will run along 5th Road in a south-east direction, while the gravity line will be in the opposite north-western direction along the same road. See **Figures 1 and 2** below for the locality maps of Walvis Bay and the development sites.



Figure 1: Locality map of Walvis Bay



Figure 2: Locality and layout map of the proposed development

4| TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY:

The Erongo Region, stretches from the Central Plateau westwards across the Central-Western Plains and Escarpment to the Central Namibian coast roughly over a distance between 200 and 350 km, and Northwards from the Ugab River in the north to the Kuiseb river in the south over a distance of up to 300 km, and covers an area of 63,586 km², which is 7.7 per cent of Namibia's total area of about 823,680 km². On the Western side it is flanked by the Atlantic Ocean. Erosion cutting eastwards into the higher ground led to the formation of the Central-Western Plains, leading to the formation of the catchment area of several major ephemeral rivers such as the Khan, Omaruru, Swakop and Ugab, the water of these rivers reach the sea when in full flood during a good rainy season (ERC, 2019).

The Southern boundary of the Kuiseb River distinctively divides the gravel plains to the North and the large sea of dunes to the South, however this river does not reach the sea during times of flood but the water instead disappears into the sand at the Kuiseb Delta, from which the town of Walvis Bay extracts underground water for its supplies.

In the Erongo Region, the land rises steadily from sea level to about 1,000 m across the breadth of the Namib. The Namib land surface is mostly flat to undulating gravel plains, punctuated with occasional ridges and isolated 'inselberg' hills and mountains. The eastern edge of the Namib is marked by the base of the escarpment in the southern part of the region. In the northern part, the escarpment is mostly absent and there is a gradual rise in altitude to over 1,500 m (SAIEA, 2011). The proposed site on which the development will be undertaken can be described as relatively flat.

The desert geology consists of sand seas near the coast, while further inland there is an occurrence of gravel plains and scattered mountain outcrops. Some of the highest sand dunes, up to around 300 m high, can be found here (ERC, 2016). Water for domestic and industrial use in Walvis Bay comes mainly from the Kuiseb aquifer in the lower Kuiseb River. These aquifers are recharged by runoff from the central highlands in central Namibia where rainfall is more reliable and more significant than at the coast (Nacoma, 2010).

5|PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project will consist of the following components:

- A New Sewage Pump Station including sewage pumps, electrical switch gear, etc.
- The installation of a medium pressure rising main to an existing pipeline from Fairway pump station, which discharges to the Sewage Treatment Plant
- Short Gravity Line from a New Manhole to the inlet of the New Pump Station
- The fencing

The project includes all the building structural, mechanical, and electrical elements associated with the new pump station, rising main, and gravity line.

6|SURROUNDING LAND USE:

The land use in the vicinity is predominantly residential, while the pump station will be located adjacent to a private school, some accommodation facilities are also found in the surroundings.

7|INFRASTRUCTURE:

Water and electricity facilities are available within close proximity of the site, the contractor will be responsible for connecting to these services as well as for the distribution of water and electricity required for construction and domestic use. The distribution of water and electricity shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

8|ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS:

- Establishing environmental risks of the intended project
- Establishing mitigation protocol
- Public and Stakeholder Consultation
- Preparing the draft Environmental Scoping Report (DESR) and draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public reviewing of DESR and draft EMP

- Preparing the final ESR & EMP and submitting to MEFT
- Awaiting decision from Authorities
- Communicating decision to Interested & Affected Parties
- Availing opportunities to appeal.

9|ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Preliminary predictions of possible impacts that may occur and need to be managed as part of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) include:

- Disruption of marine ecosystems;
- Energy consumption;
- Dust generation due to earth works, excavation and construction (construction vehicle movement etc);
- Noise generation during the construction phase (workers, vehicles, machinery, equipment);
- Improper waste and wastewater management during the construction and operational phase;
- Increased traffic flows during the construction phase of the project.

10|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 its construction and operational activities. Site notices, newspaper notices, municipal platforms, and direct communication to Interested and Affected Parties will be among the media used to raise awareness of the project. Communication will also be sent out to various key ministries, agencies and organisations to obtain comments on the proposed developments.

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 and other media
- By registering as an I&AP, for your name to be added to our register list
- Submitting your comments or requests in writing

A Public consultation meeting will be held on **04 April 2024** at the following venue and time:

- 18:00 at Walvis Bay Municipality Side Hall, Walvis Bay.

We are inviting the public to participate by contributing issues and suggestions regarding the proposed project on or before **11 April 2024**. For further information, or concerns, I&APs can complete the register below:

11|REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS

Participant Name:	Organization/Affiliations:
Position:	Telephone:
Fax:	E-Mail:
Postal Address:	
Comments/Suggestions and Questions:	

Please complete the form and return document to be registered as an Interested & Affected Party (I&AP) to:

Environam Consultants Trading Tel: +264 81 458 4297 Fax: +264 61 - 258 470 E-Mail: colin@environam.com
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