

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED PHOTOVOLTAIC (SOLAR) ENERGY FACILITIES IN MARIENTAL, OMARURU AND OKAHANDJA.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT 1 ON BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

This Comments and Response Report reflects the comments submitted on the Background Information Document public comment period (from 4 to 23 April 2014). Note that only comments (and not requests for registration on the project database) have been included below.

LIST OF I&AP SUBMISSIONS:

No	Name	Organisation	Date Received	Method
1	Mr Frank Lohnert	Namib Botanical Gardens (NBG)	8/04/2014	E-mail
2	Mr Alexander Maritz	Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC)	4/04/2014	E-mail
3	Ms Marlaine Andersen	Lead 2 Business	16/04/14	E-mail
4	Mrs Freya Lund	Kamombonde West (Neighboring Farmer)	24/04/14	E-mail
5	Mr Victor Slinger	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF)	23/04/14	E-mail
6	Mr Joseph Wakalenda	Okahandja Resident	23/04/14	E-mail
7	Mr Gunther Ahrens	Student; Universitat Tubingen	12/05/14	E-mail

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS			
<i>Comments and Responses</i>			
No	Name	Issue	Response
1	Mr Lohnert	<p>The motivation and objectives of the NBG project were included in an attached fact sheet. In short:</p> <p><u>Objectives of the NBG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a botanical garden (on its site approx. 10 km outside Swakopmund); • To preserve and publicly display indigenous plant species of the Namib desert; • To create “xeri-scapes” (dry-gardens) and other themed horticultural exhibits; • To propagate Namib desert & other indigenous species, for display and sale to the public; <p>NBG would be interested to source indigenous, protected plant material requiring relocation from the EIA site before or</p>	<p>Thank you for your keen interest, your details has been added onto the project database. Aurecon will keep you informed as the project progresses.</p> <p>The developer has been requested to contact NBG with regards to Search and Rescue efforts, with the aim of donating material to NBG to meet their objectives.</p>

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		<p>during construction, for purpose of display within the NBG project, and as stock for propagation. The area in question (Omaruru) for the proposed project is typically rich in indigenous trees and succulents (aloe?) and other flora suitable for rescue, relocation and public display in the Namib Botanical Garden project.</p> <p>The NBG would have a particular interest in sourcing a variety of young, indigenous trees that would have to be relocated under the EMP. With support from the developers of the solar facilities, such specimens could then be relocated to the NBG site near Swakopmund, to become part of an arboretum.</p> <p>NBG has recently participated in a number of plant relocation exercises at Husab mine near Swakopmund. We would be willing to physically assist in relocations. Please register NBG as an I&AP as well as a prospective partner and destination site in the relocation of relevant flora from sites to be cleared of vegetation.</p>	
2	Mr Maritz	<p>Stubenrauch Planning Consultants cc (SPC) has been appointed by the Mariental Municipality to prepare a Structure Plan for the town. The Structure Plan is a long-term plan that seeks to coordinate and guide future urban expansion through the guidance and control of land uses and urban growth. As such, we would be interested in the location of the proposed sights with particular interest in Mariental, to determine how such location will fit in with the proposed Structure Plan.</p> <p>If possible, could you forward the proposed location for the sights, but keeping in mind that we are aware that such site are preliminary for the time and subject to change with the EIA.</p>	<p>Thank you for your keen interest, your details have been added onto the project database. Aurecon will keep you informed of the EIA process as the project progresses.</p>
3	Ms	<p>There was a tender issued by NamPower last year, Contract</p>	<p>The Tender you are referring to is for this project</p>

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	Andersen	No. NP/RFP/2013/05 for EIA consultants for the above mentioned project was Aurecon awarded this tender?	(NP/RFP/2013/05) and Aurecon was indeed awarded the tender.
4	Mrs Lund	What is happening to fauna and flora underneath the panels? Is there enough height above ground of the panels for fauna and flora to flourish?	A Biodiversity Specialist has been appointed to assess the potential impacts on fauna and flora. The results and recommendations are included in Section 6.2 of the Scoping Report. The panel would be far enough above ground for the fauna and flora to move under the panels. Some shading of flora will occur however this will not be significant enough to prevent plant regrowth after construction.
5	Mr Slinger	The Ministry (MAWF) believes it will benefit from the proposed project with the supply of electricity to the pump stations that are used for pumping water and other water supply infrastructure. MAWF is satisfied with the BID and has no comments at this stage.	The proposed facilities would feed into the national grid and would not affect local distribution networks. Should MAWF wish to apply for the supply of electricity to the pumps an application in this regard should be submitted to NamPower for due consideration.
6	Mr Wakalenda	I am doing business in this area side of Oshetu No. 3 location for three years now but no electricity. I use a generator day and night. I accept this and very very interest in this project to proceed.	Thank you for your interest. The proposed facilities would feed into the national grid and would not affect local distribution networks. Please contact your local municipality with regards to distribution issues.
7	Mr Ahrens	I am studying Ecological Conservation at the University of Tübingen and am currently busy with my thesis on the raptors of Namibia, and in specific raptors within or close to urban developments. I would appreciate if you can send me your information and keep me posted as your study progresses.	Thank you for your keen interest, your details have been added onto the project database. Aurecon will keep you informed of the EIA process as the project progresses. Avifaunal impacts are considered in the Scoping report under the ecological impacts in Section 6.2.