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To: Chief Regional Officer  
Otjozondjupa Regional Council  
Otjiwarongo  
Namibia

28 February 2024

Re: Environmental Scoping Assessment and Environmental Management Plan for Agricultural Activities and the Environmental Release of Genetically Modified Maize on Farms Karuchas and Starnberg, Otjozondjupa Region

Dear Sir/Madam

Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd was appointed by F Blume to undertake an environmental assessment for agricultural activities and the environmental release of genetically modified (GM) maize on farms Karuchas FMB/00542 and Starnberg FMB/01147 in the Otjozondjupa Region (see location map on page 2). The assessment will be conducted according to the Environmental Management Act of 2007 and its regulations as published in 2012.

**Project:** Environmental Scoping Assessment and Environmental Management Plan for Agricultural Activities and the Environmental Release of Genetically Modified Maize on Farms Karuchas and Starnberg, Otjozondjupa Region

**Proponent:** F Blume

**Environmental Assessment Practitioner:** Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd

The Proponent has a total area of 102.2 ha under cultivation, while an additional 55 ha is planned to be cultivated. Of the current area cultivated, 32.2 ha is irrigated by means of centre pivot, drip and micro sprayer irrigation and 70 ha is used for dry land cropping. The main crops cultivated are tomatoes, cabbage, maize, wheat, sorghum and lablab legume. In order to improve productivity, the Proponent wishes to replace the traditional maize cultivars with insect and/or roundup resistant GM strains. The Proponent is also in the process of clearing additional land for dry land cropping.

The environmental scoping assessment will include all pertaining to the transport, storage and planting of GM maize seeds, the management of the crops during the growing period, the application of pesticides to the crops, harvesting of the crops, and the handling and transport of the harvested maize to the markets. Fuel for farm vehicles is stored in aboveground diesel tanks. Bush clearing of approximately 10 ha per year is conducted to create additional dry land cropping areas. General operations also include activities such as water abstraction, electricity supply, waste handling and sewage disposal.

The Regional Council is invited to register with the environmental consultant to receive further documentation and communication regarding the project. By registering, a communication channel will be established between the Regional Council and the environmental practitioner. The Regional Council will further be provided with an opportunity to provide input that will be considered in the drafting of the environmental assessment report and management plan. Please register either by:

**Fax:** 088-62-6368 or **E-Mail:** karuchas@thenamib.com

Should you require any additional information please contact Geo Pollution Technologies at telephone 061-257411.

Sincerely,  
**Geo Pollution Technologies**

**Quzette Bosman**  
Social and Environmental Assessment Practitioner