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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Environmental Scoping Assessment and Environmental Management Plan for Mariculture and Kelp Collection, Lüderitz

1. Introduction

Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd (GPT) was appointed by Benguella Wealth Farming CC (the Proponent) to undertake an environmental assessment for **proposed** mariculture activities and kelp collection in Lüderitz (Figure 1). The Proponent intends to ranch abalone and to culture black mussels on long lines installed in the ocean. It is further proposed that kelp which washes ashore be collected by the proponent.

No additional onshore construction activities are required for the planned activities. All processing and packaging will take place in existing buildings within Lüderitz.

An environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the mariculture of mussels is required due to the proposed offshore installation of long lines, as per the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 (EMA). Both ranching of abalone and collection of kelp are not listed activities in the EMA, but will be included in the ECC application as a proactive / inclusive approach by the proponent. A scoping environmental assessment report (SR) and an environmental management plan (EMP) are proposed to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in support of an application for an ECC.

2. The purpose of this document

With this background information document (BID) GPT aims to provide MET and interested and affected parties (IAPs) with information about the project and interact with them regarding it. IAPs are therefore invited to register with GPT for the project in order to:

- ♦ Provide GPT with additional information which should be taken into account in the assessment of impacts;
- ♦ Share any comments, issues or concerns related to the project; and
- ♦ Review and comment on the reports (SR and an EMP).

3. Project Description

Proposed activities for which an ECC application will be made have been divided into the following phases: planning, maintenance/construction, operational and the decommissioning phase. A brief outline of expected activities for each phase is detailed below.

3.1 Planning Phase

While planning for operations, construction/maintenance activities and decommissioning of the project, it is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure they are and remain compliant with all legal requirements. The proponent must also ensure that all required management measures are in place prior to and during all phases, to ensure potential impacts and risks are minimised. Typical planning activities include:

- ♦ Obtain permits and approvals from local and national authorities including Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.
- ♦ Make provisions to have a Health, Safety and Environmental Coordinator to implement the EMP.
- ♦ Ensure provision for a fund to cater for environmental incidents, pollution and ecological restoration, if required.
- ♦ Ensure all appointed contractors and employees enter into an agreement which includes the EMP.
- ♦ Establish and / or maintain a reporting system to report on aspects of construction activities, operations and decommissioning as outlined in the EMP.

3.2 Maintenance / Construction Phase

Construction will be limited to the installation of typical offshore long lines used in the mariculture industry. Maintenance will include minor repairs and general upkeep of long lines. No additional infrastructure construction will take place.

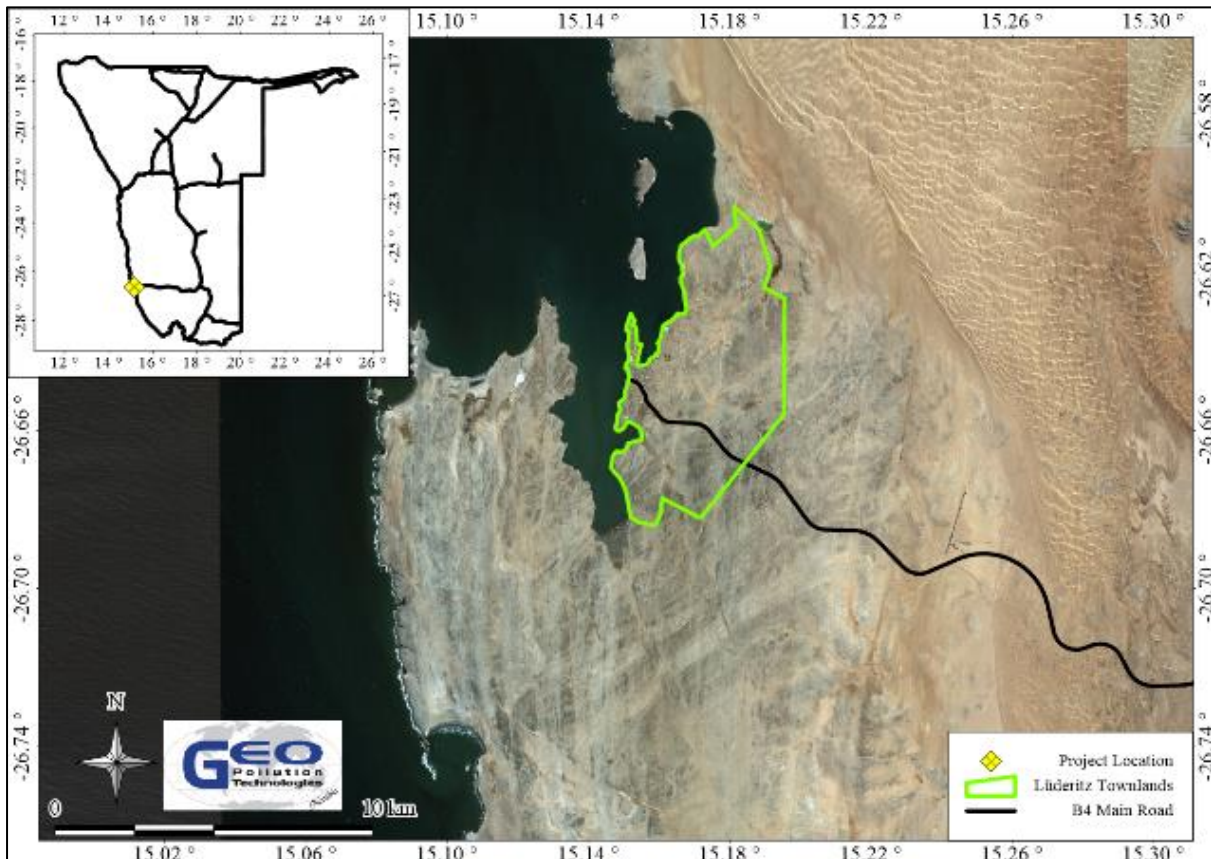


Figure 1. General project location

3.3 Operational Phase

Operational activities can be divided between abalone ranching, mussel farming and kelp collection. Juvenile abalone will be released into the ranching area where they will settle and grow. Abalone will be monitored during periodic diving activities and once mature will be harvested by divers. It will be transported to shore for processing. For mussel farming, ropes will be attached to the long line in such a way that they hang downwards in the water. Mussels naturally attach to the rope where they will grow until ready for harvesting. Undersized mussels will be returned to the long lines in baskets. Both abalone and mussels will be processed in a third-party factory, under agreement with one of the fish processing companies.

Kelp will be collected by hand at various locations along the coastline surrounding Lüderitz. It will be carried to the nearest road where it will be loaded on a vehicle and transported to a processing plant in the industrial area of Lüderitz. Here it will be dried and milled to produce kelp powder that is bagged and packed in containers ready for shipping from the Port of Lüderitz.

3.4 Decommissioning Phase

Decommissioning is not foreseen during the validity of the ECC. The only decommissioning to occur is the removal of long lines should mussel farming stop.

4. Preliminary Identified Impacts

During the environmental assessment, all components of the environment will be considered. However, only those components with potential significant impacts or which are deemed to be sensitive will be assessed. These include the following:

- ◆ Health and safety risks
- ◆ Waste and effluent generation and disposal
- ◆ Pollution
- ◆ Fire risks
- ◆ Traffic
- ◆ Noise
- ◆ Visual impact
- ◆ Ecosystem and biodiversity impacts
- ◆ Socio-economic contributions

6. Getting Involved

GPT invites all IAPs, to provide in writing, any issues and suggestions regarding the development. This correspondence must include:

- ◆ Name and surname
- ◆ Organization represented or private interest
- ◆ Position in the organization
- ◆ Contact details
- ◆ Any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

All contributions become public knowledge and will be circulated along with the reports as per the EMA requirements.

The comments, inputs and suggestions will also be submitted to the DEA, along with how any issues have been addressed in the SR.

The public participation process will remain ongoing during the environmental assessment. However, all comments and concerns should be provided to GPT by 18 February 2020 to ensure incorporation into the final report.

The project team may be contacted on the contact details below.



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Your rights as an IAP according to the Environmental Management Act, No7 of 2007, Government Notice No 30 (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations)

Section 23.

(1) A registered interested or affected party is entitled to comment in writing, on all written submissions made to the Environmental Commissioner by the applicant responsible for the application, and to bring to the attention of the Environmental Commissioner any issues which that party, believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application, as long as -

(a) comments are submitted within 7 days of notification of an application or receiving access to a scoping report or an assessment report;

(b) the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

(2) Before the applicant submits a report compiled in terms of these regulations to the Environmental Commissioner, the applicant must give registered interested and affected parties access to, and an opportunity to comment in writing on the report.

(3) Reports referred to in sub regulation (2) include-

(a) scoping reports;

(b) scoping reports amended and resubmitted;

(c) assessment reports; and

(d) assessment reports amended and resubmitted.

(4) Any written comments received by the applicant from a registered interested or affected party must accompany the report when the report is submitted to the Environmental Commissioner.

(5) A registered interested or affected party may comment on any final report that is submitted by a specialist reviewer for the purposes of these regulations where the report contains substantive information which has not previously been made available to a registered interested or affected party.

Section 24:

The applicant responsible for an application must ensure that the comments of interested and affected parties are recorded in reports submitted to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of these regulations, and comments by interested and affected parties on a report which is to be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner may be attached to the report without recording those comments in the report itself.

