

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE
OPERATIONS OF NAMIBIA BREWERIES IN WINDHOEK**

NAMIBIA BREWERIES LIMITED



October 2021



1 INTRODUCTION

Namibia Breweries Limited (NBL) was established in 1920 and is one of the leading beverage manufacturers in Namibia and one of the last few independently owned commercial-scale breweries in Southern Africa. Their existing facility in Iscor Street in the Northern Industrial Area of Windhoek (Figure 1), manufactures non-alcoholic, low alcohol and alcoholic beverages for the Namibian and international markets. NBL requested Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd (GPT), as independent environmental consultant, to conduct a scoping environmental impact assessment (EIA) and prepare an environmental management plan (EMP) for the operations of their Windhoek facility. The ultimate goal of the assessment is to apply for an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) that encompass all their activities that requires environmental clearance, as per the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 (EMA) and its regulations as published in 2012. Activities that will form part of the assessment include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Generation of electricity (photovoltaic plant)
- ◆ Temporary storage of waste
- ◆ Abstraction of groundwater for industrial / commercial purposes
- ◆ Operation of a wastewater treatment plant
- ◆ Storage and handling of dangerous goods (fuel)

As a holistic approach to the assessment, not only the listed activities will be addressed, but the entire operations of NBL at the Windhoek manufacturing plant will be included. The environmental assessment will be conducted according to the regulations of the EMA.

2 PURPOSE OF THE BID

With this background information document (BID), GPT aims to provide information to, and interact with, authorities and interested and affected parties (IAPs) regarding the project and the environmental assessment process. IAPs are therefore invited to register with GPT to:

- ◆ Be officially included in the list of registered IAPs for the project.
- ◆ Request additional information and clarifications.
- ◆ Provide information relevant to the proposed project which should be taken into account in the assessment of impacts.
- ◆ Share any comments, issues or concerns related to the project.
- ◆ Review and comment on the EIA, EMP and any other related submissions made to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for purposes of applying for an ECC.

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The primary activity conducted by NBL, is the brewing of various types of beer (alcoholic and non-alcoholic/low alcohol), production of beverages, and the canning and bottling of these products. For purposes of the environmental assessment, the project is divided into four phases: planning, construction and maintenance, operations, and decommissioning.

3.1 PLANNING PHASE

Planning is an ongoing process and includes planning for construction, operations, and decommissioning of the proposed facility. As part of the planning phase, it is the responsibility of NBL to ensure they are, and remain, compliant with all legal requirements that governs their activities. All required management measures must be in place prior to and during all phases, to ensure potential environmental impacts and risks are minimised. Typical planning activities include:

- ◆ Obtain permits and approvals from local and national authorities. Examples include consumer fuel installation certificate, water abstraction permit, effluent discharge permit, etc.)
- ◆ Ensure continued compliance to land use rights.
- ◆ Appoint a health, safety and environmental coordinator to implement the EMP and prepare and update various emergency response plans, waste management plans, etc.

- ◆ Provide for a fund to cater for environmental incidents such as pollution clean-up and ecological restoration if ever required.
- ◆ Ensure all appointed contractors and employees enters into an agreement which includes the EMP.
- ◆ Establish and / or maintain a reporting system to report on aspects of construction and maintenance, operations and decommissioning as outlined in the EMP and as required by the DEA.

3.2 CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

The facility has existing infrastructure that have been in operation for many years. Minor construction activities are required from time to time to upgrade or expand existing infrastructure. Maintenance is an ongoing process which mostly involve minor repairs, cleaning, painting, etc. of infrastructure, but may also require the periodic replacement or removal of obsolete infrastructure. Such construction and maintenance activities are included in the environmental assessment. Where, in future, significant infrastructure changes are planned, and specifically on items listed in the EMA, an update of the environmental assessment and / or EMP may be required.

3.3 OPERATIONAL PHASE

Operational activities are diverse and include office and human resources administration; receipt and storage of raw materials for beverage production; receipt and storage of packaging material; brewing and beverage production; bottling, canning, packaging and storage of manufactured products; dispatching of products to clients; site security; cleaning of the premises; and waste handling and disposal. Specific operational activities that will be addressed in the environmental assessment and EMP include the operations of the photovoltaic plant; management of and water abstraction from boreholes; operations of the effluent treatment plant; fuel receipt and storage; and waste storage and disposal. Environmental compliance monitoring and public liaison also continue throughout operations.

3.4 DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

Decommissioning of the entire facility is not foreseen during the validity of the ECC. Decommissioning will however be assessed, since activities like the removal of old infrastructure during maintenance activities or upgrades, form part of decommissioning. Where decommissioning occur, rehabilitation of the area may be required. Decommissioning will entail partial or complete removal of all infrastructure, including buildings and underground infrastructure. After decommissioning, any pollution present on the site must be removed or remediated.

3.5 PRELIMINARY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS

During the environmental assessment and specifically the preparation of the EMP, all components of the environment will be considered. However, only those components which are, or may be, significantly impacted, or are deemed to be sensitive, will be assessed in detail. These include the following:

- ◆ Human component (employee and visitor health and safety)
- ◆ Infrastructure (aesthetics, fire, integrity, etc.)
- ◆ Neighbours (noise, aesthetics, waste, traffic, air quality)
- ◆ Groundwater, surface water and soil (hydrocarbon spills, effluent generation and disposal, waste, pollutants)
- ◆ Ecosystem and biodiversity (pollutants, nesting by birds and creation of habitats for animals)
- ◆ Social and cultural aspects (demographic processes, social ills, community services, etc.)
- ◆ Economic characteristics (revenue generation, employment, training, skills, revenue)

4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public consultation is an important part of an environmental assessment. Therefore, GPT invites all IAPs to provide in writing, any issues and suggestions regarding the project. 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 by IAPs 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 EIA. The public participation process will remain ongoing during the environmental assessment. However, all comments and concerns should be provided timeously to ensure incorporation into the final report.

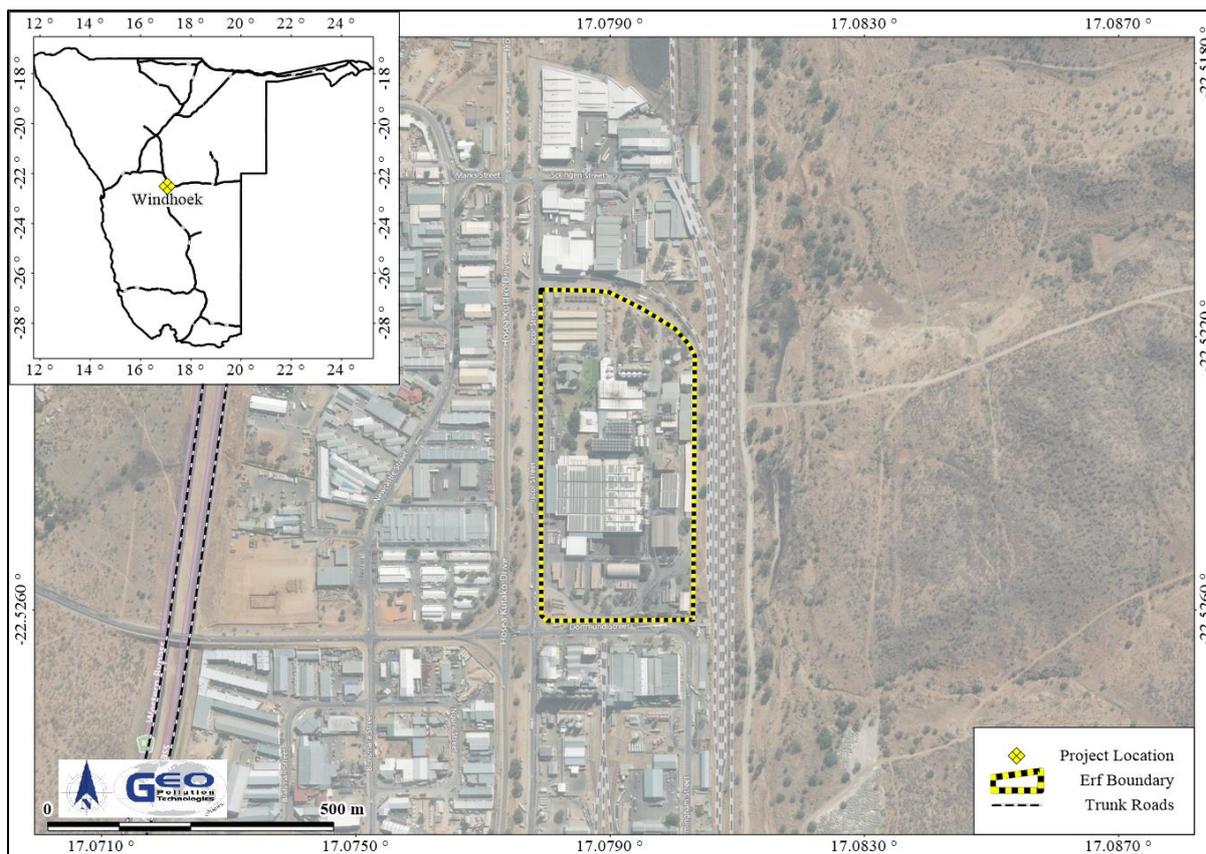


Figure 1. Project location

For any additional information the project team may be contacted at:



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.