

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE UPGRADING AND OPERATIONS OF THE
MUNICIPAL WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY IN SWAKOPMUND, ERONGO
REGION**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



Prepared by:



Prepared for:



Swakopmund Municipality

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Swakopmund Municipality (the Proponent) plans to upgrade the existing municipal waste disposal facility (landfill), located within the boundaries of Swakopmund, Erongo Region (Figure 1). The project consists of adjusting and upgrading the existing waste disposal facility to allow for the continued disposal of solid waste at the current site. The upgrade will include the development of a more formalised landfill facility, with supporting infrastructure such as internal roads, access control, a weighbridge area, office and storage areas, recycling and composting areas, stormwater management infrastructure and provision for future landfill extension.

The facility will continue to receive solid waste generated within the Swakopmund Municipality jurisdiction. Waste disposed of at the facility includes domestic waste, commercial waste, demolition waste, garden waste and non-toxic industrial waste. Hazardous and toxic wastes are not permitted to be disposed of at the Swakopmund Municipality waste disposal facility and must be transported to an approved hazardous waste disposal facility.

Swakopmund Municipality appointed Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd (GPT), as part of the project team, to undertake an environmental assessment for the proposed upgrade and continued operation of the waste disposal facility. The environmental assessment is required in order to apply for an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the upgrade and operations of the facility. The ECC application will be made in terms of the Environmental Management Act, Act No. 7 of 2007 (EMA). A scoping environmental impact assessment (EIA) report and an environmental management plan (EMP) are proposed to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism's Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in support of an application for an ECC. The environmental assessment will include all construction (including upgrades and maintenance) and operational activities associated with the project.

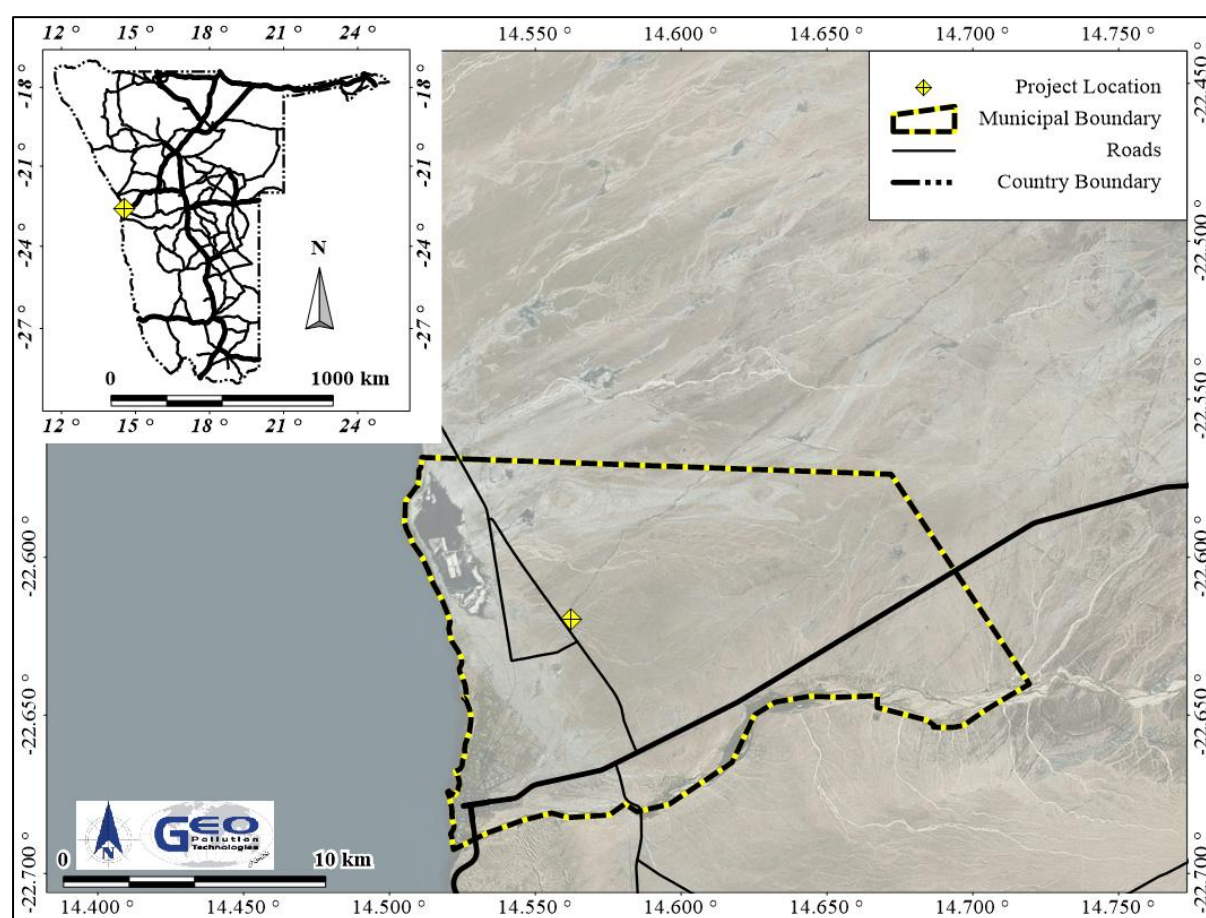


Figure 1 Project location

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 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 DEA.

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Activities which are considered for the environmental assessment are divided into the following phases: planning, construction, operational and decommissioning phases. A brief outline of expected activities for each phase is detailed below.

3.1 PLANNING PHASE

While planning for construction, operations, and decommissioning of the facility, 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 risk are minimised. Typical planning activities include:

- ◆ Obtain permits and approvals from local and national authorities.
- ◆ Ensure compliance to land use rights.
- ◆ Appoint a health, safety and environmental coordinator or similar to implement the EMP.
- ◆ 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 enter into agreements which includes the EMP.
- ◆ Establish and / or maintain a reporting system to report on aspects of construction, operations and decommissioning as outlined in the EMP and as required by the DEA.

3.2 INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION

The Proponent intends to upgrade the existing facility in order to improve the management and disposal of municipal solid waste generated within the Swakopmund municipal jurisdiction. The upgrade will include the development of a formalised landfill facility with supporting infrastructure such as internal access roads, a weighbridge area, office and storage buildings, stormwater management infrastructure, recycling and composting areas, and provision for a future landfill extension area. The landfill will be designed as a more formalised waste disposal facility, with the current waste profile shaped and prepared as part of the development of the upgraded landfill area. Key aspects that will be incorporated into the facility include controlled access, waste disposal areas, stormwater control, leachate collection and containment infrastructure, access roads, fencing, security features, offices, ablutions, storage areas and areas for waste separation, recycling and composting. The final layout and design specifications will be determined as part of the feasibility, engineering design and environmental assessment process.

Construction activities will include earthworks, shaping and preparation of the existing waste body, development of landfill cells and associated infrastructure, construction of access roads and service areas, installation of stormwater and leachate management infrastructure, fencing, and construction of buildings and support facilities. During operations, all infrastructure will require periodic maintenance and upgrades, which may entail some construction activities to be performed. This will include grading of roads, maintenance of stormwater infrastructure, repairs to fencing and buildings,

replacement of old or broken infrastructure, and general upkeep of the facility. For any major alterations or additions to the facility, the necessary approvals from the relevant authorities will be obtained.

3.3 OPERATIONAL PHASE

Solid waste will continue to be received at the Swakopmund Municipality waste disposal facility from within the Swakopmund Municipality jurisdiction. Waste accepted at the facility will include domestic waste, commercial waste, demolition and building rubble, garden waste, animal waste, tyres and non-toxic industrial waste. Hazardous and toxic wastes will not be permitted to be disposed of at the facility and must be transported to an approved hazardous waste disposal facility.

Waste will mainly be received by municipal waste collection vehicles, private waste contractors and members of the public. Vehicles entering the facility will be controlled at the entrance, where waste loads will be recorded and users directed to the appropriate disposal, recycling, composting or stockpiling areas. Waste will be handled on site by means of landfill plant and equipment and will be placed, compacted and covered in accordance with the operational requirements of the facility. Suitable building rubble, construction material or other approved material may be used as cover material where required.

The upgraded facility will include areas for waste separation, recycling and composting. Recyclable material will be separated and temporarily stored before being transported off site to recycling end-users, while garden waste and other suitable organic material may be directed to the composting area. The final operational layout and management procedures will be determined as part of the feasibility, engineering design and environmental assessment process.

Firefighting and health and safety equipment and procedures will be in place according to accepted standards. Administrative tasks, site security, access control, cleaning and general maintenance of the premises will continue on a daily basis to ensure the effective and clean operation of the facility. Environmental compliance monitoring and public liaison will 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 construction and 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 preparation of the EIA and 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. These include the following:

- ◆ Human component (employee, contractor, visitor and public health and safety)
- ◆ Infrastructure (landfill stability, access roads, fencing, buildings, fire prevention, etc.)
- ◆ Surrounding land uses and sensitive receptors (dust, odour, noise, windblown litter, smoke, aesthetics, traffic and general nuisance impacts)
- ◆ Groundwater, surface water and soil (leachate generation, hydrocarbon spills, contaminated waste, effluent generation and disposal, general waste, etc.)
- ◆ Air quality (dust, odours, landfill gas, smoke from fires and vehicle emissions)
- ◆ Ecosystem and biodiversity (disturbance of surrounding desert habitat, windblown waste, pollutants, dust and potential impacts on fauna and flora)
- ◆ Social and cultural aspects (visual impacts, public health, waste services, community expectations and possible heritage aspects)
- ◆ Economic characteristics (employment, waste management services, recycling opportunities, operational costs, revenue and long-term municipal service delivery)

4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Geo Pollution Technologies invites all IAPs to provide in writing, any issues and suggestions regarding the project. This correspondence must include:

- ◆ Name and surname
- ◆ Organisation 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. The deadline for submission of comments will be communicated to all registered IAPs.

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.