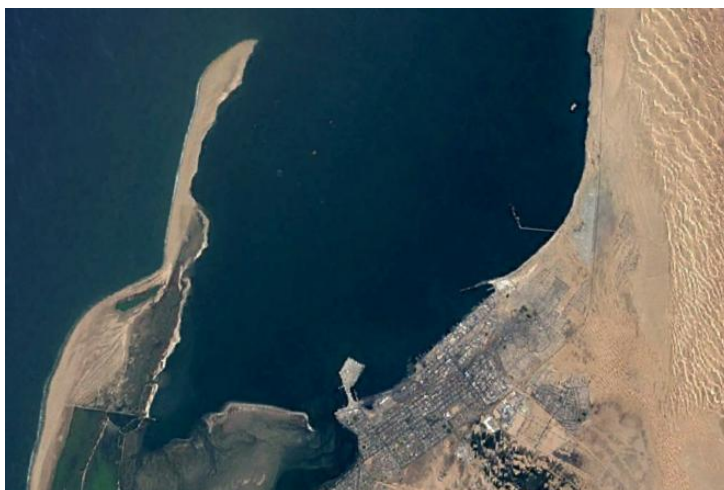


ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF THE FISHING HARBOUR IN THE PORT OF WALVIS BAY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



Prepared by:



Prepared for:

**Garere Marine
Engineering CC**

August 2026

1 INTRODUCTION

Garere Marine Engineering CC (the Proponent) plans to undertake maintenance dredging within the Fishing Harbour in the Port of Walvis Bay, Erongo Region (Figure 1). The proposed dredging will extend from the Small Craft Jetty to the Navy area and will include the quay walls, areas around the jetties and the Fishing Harbour entrance channel. The project will aim to maintain adequate water depths for the safe navigation, manoeuvring and berthing of vessels. Dredging will be undertaken using either a trailing suction hopper dredger or a grab dredger, in accordance with applicable Namibian legislation and port and maritime requirements.

The Proponent appointed Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd (GPT) to undertake an environmental assessment for the proposed maintenance-dredging activities. The environmental assessment is required to apply for an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the dredging and associated dredged-material management activities. 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 dredging activities as well as the transport, disposal and potential beneficial-use activities associated with the dredged material.

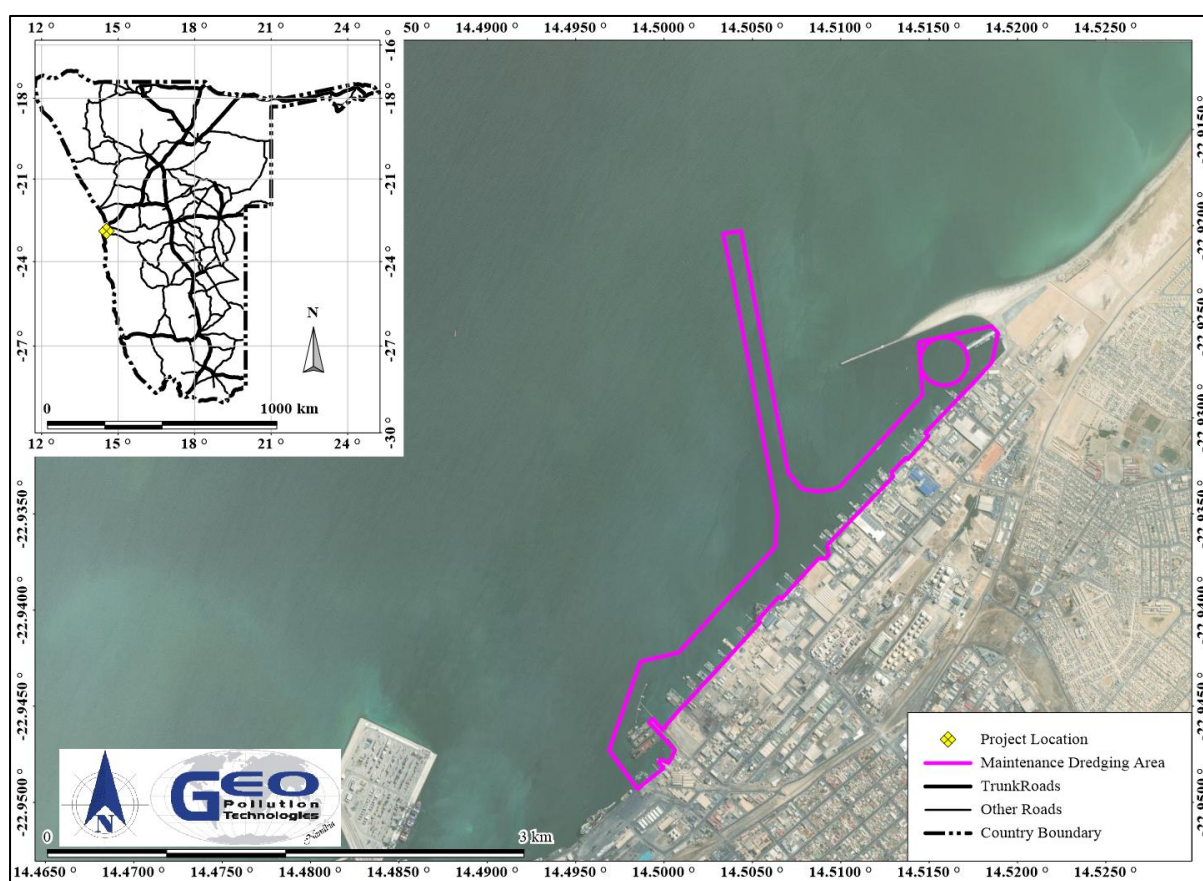


Figure 1 Project location

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

Various operators within the Walvis Bay Fishing Harbour require periodic maintenance dredging to maintain operational depths. The Proponent intends to secure the required environmental authorizations to execute these dredging campaigns on behalf of future clients. This proactive approach will offer harbour operators an efficient, ready-to-use service, ultimately saving them significant time and capital.

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 the mobilisation, operation and decommissioning of the dredging equipment, it is the responsibility of the Proponent to ensure continued compliance 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 that potential impacts and risks are minimised. Typical planning activities include:

- ◆ Obtain permits and approvals from local and national authorities.
- ◆ Ensure compliance to user rights and Port Authority requirements.
- ◆ 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 MOBILISATION AND DREDGING PREPARATION

The proposed maintenance dredging will be undertaken within the Fishing Harbour at the Port of Walvis Bay, extending from the Small Craft Jetty to the Navy area. A trailing suction hopper dredger or grab dredger will be mobilised to the project area, together with any required support vessels, barges and equipment.

Before dredging commences, the work areas and required dredging depths will be confirmed through bathymetric surveys. The dredging method and dredged-material management option will be selected based on factors such as access, sediment characteristics, dredging accuracy, environmental considerations and the suitability of the dredged material for the proposed method of disposal (or beneficial use).

3.3 OPERATIONAL PHASE

Normal operations will include the removal of accumulated sediment from the Fishing Harbour. Dredging will be undertaken along the quay walls, around the jetties and within the entrance channel to maintain adequate water depths for the safe navigation, manoeuvring and berthing of vessels.

Dredged material may be transported to Namport's official offshore disposal site, disposed of at an approved waste-disposal facility, or used for land reclamation, backfilling or another beneficial purpose, if it is considered suitable. The selected management option will be subject to the necessary sediment-quality assessment and approvals. Routine activities will also include coordination with port traffic, environmental monitoring, equipment maintenance and record-keeping.

3.4 DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

Decommissioning will occur once the maintenance-dredging campaign has been completed. It will entail the removal of the dredger, support vessels, barges and any temporary equipment or infrastructure used during the project. Any pollution resulting from the dredging activities must be removed or remediated. A final bathymetric survey may be conducted to confirm that the required dredging depths have been achieved.

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, port user and visitor health and safety).
- ◆ Port infrastructure and marine traffic (quay walls, jetties, submerged infrastructure, navigation and vessel movements).
- ◆ Nearby port users and industries (noise, access, vessel traffic, seawater intakes and waste).
- ◆ Marine water, sediment, groundwater and soil (turbidity, suspended sediment, contaminated dredged material, chemical and hydrocarbon spills, waste and onshore disposal).
- ◆ Marine ecosystems and biodiversity (benthic habitat disturbance, suspended sediment, pollutants, marine fauna and sensitive receptors).
- ◆ Social and cultural aspects (port activities, tourism, heritage resources and other users of the marine environment).
- ◆ Economic characteristics (employment, training, skills development and the safe and efficient operation of the Fishing Harbour).

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 organisation
- ◆ 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.