

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SWAKOPMUND MUNICIPALITY'S PROPOSED NORTHERN BEACH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, LOCATED IN SWAKOPMUND, ERONGO REGION, NAMIBIA.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Swakopmund Municipality intends to develop the northern beach into a recreational (parks and recreational facilities) area for the purpose of improving the social, economic and environmental situation of the community and to enhance the quality of life for all Swakopmund residents and visitors. This can be achieved by providing a comprehensive program of recreational opportunities for all ages, ability levels, and provides safe, attractive, well maintained, well managed parks and recreation facilities.

The proposed project is located adjacent to the Platz Am Meer Shopping Mall, in the Vineta residential area, Swakopmund, Namibia.

The following activities were identified for the development of the Northern beach (Please refer to figure 1):

- Parking bays;
- Beach Sports facility (volleyball, rugby, soccer, netball);
- Water park;
- Picnic park;
- Beach walkway;
- Ablution facilities;
- Community braai area;
- Fitness park; and
- Play park.

The above-mentioned activities are discussed further below in section 6.

### 2. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document has been prepared to inform you:

- about the proposed activities;
- about the EIA process to be followed;
- of possible environmental impacts;
- how you can have input into the EIA process

### 3. YOUR ROLE

Public involvement is an essential part of the EIA process.

You have been identified as an interested and affected party (IAP) who may want to know about the proposed activities and have input into the EIA process.

All comments (see attached comment sheet) will be recorded and addressed in the EIA process.

### 4. ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL

Prior to the commencement of the proposed operation activities, an application for environmental clearance will be submitted in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 7 of 2007 and Regulations 19 and 21 of the EIA Regulations (January 2012) to the MET - Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). MET - DEA will review the application and relevant reports for a final decision. An EIA process will be conducted in terms of the above-mentioned Act and Regulations.

I.N.K Enviro Consultants cc (I.N.K), is an independent firm of environmental consultants and has been appointed to manage the EIA process for the above-mentioned activities.

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Figure 1: Site Map





## 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

### 5.1 Introduction

As mentioned above in section 1, the Swakopmund Municipality intends to develop the northern beach into a recreational (parks and recreational facilities) area for the purpose of improving the social, economic and environmental situation of the community and to enhance the quality of life for all Swakopmund residents and visitors.

### 5.2 Proposed Activities of the Northern Beach Development

#### Beach Sports Facility

The development of a sports activity node will be promoted beach sports. This includes developing fields for activities such as beach soccer, rugby, volleyball and netball.

#### Vehicle Access Parking

Paved parking bays will be provided for people to get access to the beach. The first parking bay will be next to Erf 838 and the second bay will stretch from ok parking towards the proposed braai area.

#### Proposed Public Braai Facility

The temporary braai facility will be removed and a bigger permanent public braai facility will be developmental. The braai area will accommodate concrete stands, sitting areas and tables.

#### Proposed Play and Picnic Park

A kiddies and Picnic Park will be developed close to Paddocks garden. Play equipment that can withstand the coastal weather conditions will be purchased for the play Park.

#### Proposed Fitness Park

The fitness park will encourage and promote outdoor physical activity for Swakopmund residents and visitors. Outdoor exercising equipment will be purchase that will withstand Swakopmund weather conditions

#### Water Park

The construction of a Water park is proposed for the Northern Beach recreational area. The water park is proposed to be constructed close to the proposed braai facility. However, the EIA study will determine the most appropriate place for the water park.

#### Waste Management

Relatively small quantities of waste is anticipated to be generated during the construction phase. Waste shall be transported to the nearest waste disposal site in Swakopmund.

#### Employment and Housing

Permanent jobs will be created during the operational phase of the project.

#### Timing

The construction of the recreational facility is

## 6. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Potential environmental issues associated with the construction of the recreational facility include:

- Noise from the construction activities could disturb people and animals in the immediate surroundings of the activities.
- Machinery and equipment used on site, i.e refuelling of generators poses an environmental risk due to potential hydrocarbon spills. Hydrocarbon spillages could potentially contaminate the soil and groundwater.
- Waste generated on site has the potential to pollute the environment and cause environmental degradation, if not properly managed.
- Some dust will be generated from the activities which can pose an environmental impact and health impact on the surrounding community.

- The regular movement of vehicles on the main road could be disrupted during the construction posing a traffic flow impact.
- A chance find procedure will be followed in the case any archaeological remains are found on site during construction.

## 7. EIA PROCESS

The EIA process provides information on the proposed project and the environment in which it may be situated; it identifies, in consultation with IAPs, the potential negative and positive environmental aspects and associated impacts of the proposed project; and reports on management measures required to mitigate such impacts to acceptable levels. The likely process steps and timeframes are provided below.

A draft Scoping Report (including an assessment of impacts) and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed project will be made available for a 10-day public comment period. Registered IAPs will be notified via e-mail of the review period and the availability of the draft Scoping (Combined Assessment) Report.

## 8. STEPS IN THE EIA PROCESS

### PHASE I – Internal Screening (January)

- EIA project initiation.
- Notify MEFT: DEA..
- Site visit and identify environmental issues.
- Identify key stakeholders.

### PHASE II – Combined Scoping & Assessment Phase and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (February – March)

- Submit Application form to MEFT
- Notify other regulatory authorities and IAPs of the proposed project (via newspaper advertisements, this document, emails, site notices).
- Conduct public meeting (see details provided) and key stakeholder (focus group) meetings.
- Assess impacts of proposed projects and compile Scoping (including assessment) report and EMP.
- Comment period: Reports will be made available for review and comment by regulatory authorities and registered IAPs.
- Compile final reports (including Issues and Response Report).
- Submit the final reports to MEFT for their review and decision-making.

## 9. I&AP REGISTRATION

Please register as an I&AP and submit any questions or comments by means of the enclosed registration / comment sheet or through communication with I.N.K Enviro Consultants cc.

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