

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LOT 2371 KAKAMAS SOUTH SETTLEMENT, KAI !GARIP MUNICIPALITY, SECTION KENHARDT, PROVINCE NORTHERN CAPE

BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) - AUGUST 2017

CLIENT: FRUITS DU SUD (PTY) LTD

ECC-51-81-BID-6-A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) serves to provide interested and affected parties (I&APS) with a background to the proposed Fruits du Sud agricultural development project and hereby invite I&APS to register in the Basic Assessment (BA) process. Through registering, all I&APS will be kept informed throughout the BA process, and a platform for participation will be provided to submit comments/recommendations pertaining to the project.

This BID includes the following Sections:

- Introduction
- How the EIA process works
- Public participation process and how to become involved
- What is proposed and where
- Why the project is needed and what benefits or impacts are anticipated
- Alternatives being considered
- Potential environmental impacts associated with the project
- Next steps and way forward

Project Introduction

Fruits du Sud intends to develop 12 hectares of agricultural land for the production of table grapes.

The project site (illustrated on Fig 1) is located within the immediate vicinity of the town Kakamas in the Kai !Garib Municipality, situated between the N14 and Augrabies Weg towards Kakamas and approximately 5km from the town area.

The owner of the property is Fruits du Sud, which is one of the major dried fruit distributors in the region.

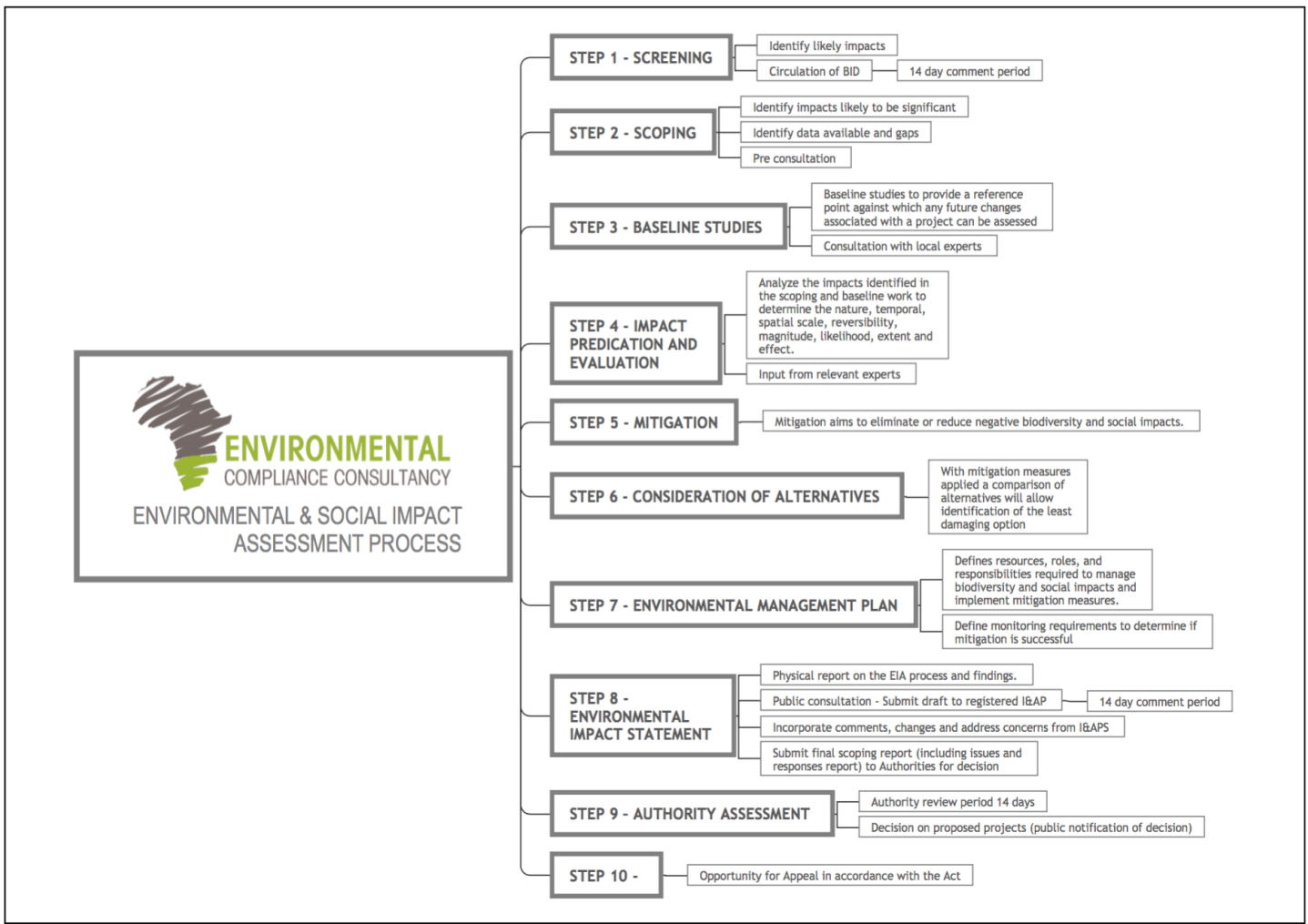
The project site comprises of four properties that were consolidated in 2012. During the initial screening process it is evident the large portions of the land has been previously disturbed primarily for agricultural purposes.



Figure 1 - LOT 2371 KAKAMAS SOUTH SETTLEMENT, KAI !GARIP MUNICIPALITY, Consolidated properties of Fruits de Sud Property



EIA Process



Public Participation

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

Public participation is an integral part of the EIA process, as it allows interested and affected parties to access information about the proposed project and give a platform for dialogue and commenting.

Public participation occurs at various stages throughout a project lifecycle including:

- Advertising in newspapers
- Distributing this BID to identified stakeholders
- Providing access to draft scoping reports
- Registered I&APS will also be informed of the availability of the draft scoping report for a 14 day comment period, during the period which the public will have the opportunity to review the draft document and raise any issues of concerns
- Advertising the decision received from MET and affording an opportunity to I&APS to appeal the decision

At ECC we make sure all information is easily accessible to the public, follow our social media pages to be kept up to date.



https://www.facebook.com/environmentalECC/?ref=br_rs



<https://twitter.com/ECCEnvironment>



<http://eccenvironmental.com/projects/>



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What are the anticipated benefits?

Anticipated benefits of the development:

- ✓ Creation of employment in the regions agricultural sector
- ✓ Financial growth to the local economy and regional community
- ✓ Growth to South African Economy due to an increase exportable goods
- ✓ Fruits du Sud supplies products to the international markets and implement Good Agricultural Practices and standards like Global GAP

Figure 2 - Proposed development of agricultural land

What is proposed and where?

Fruits du Sud is an international supplier of dried fruit products; the company was established during 2002 and has been a procurer of local produce in the region for more than 15 years. The proposed development site has been used as depot for local produce as well as a drying area during the production process of raisins. The property was consolidated in 2012 with the aim to develop site for the development of arable land to supply the market demand for the production of dried fruits.

Figure 2 indicates the proposed areas for the development of the agricultural land. The aim is to develop 12 hectares, within the yellow areas. The layout of the table grape blocks will be finalized during assessment process.

The initial screening process indicated that the majority of the soil has been previously disturbed. A specialist will conduct a study to determine the extent of the previous activities and indicate areas containing virgin soil as well as a list of identified flora species.



The property is located between N14 and Augrabies weg. The Kakamas southern canal flows north of the property.

The site is surrounded by agricultural developments. The natural drainage lines that flow through the property has been disturbed and diverted by the agricultural developments to the south.

Figure 4 - Proposed site

What alternatives are being considered?

One key component for consideration in the undertaking of this environmental impact assessment is the process of conducting a project alternatives assessment. The alternative assessment will look at options in project siting, technologies and land uses.

Possible scenarios have been derived in relation to the development and they are as outlined below:

Option 1 - Proceed with the agricultural development and relocate flora species offsite

Option 2 - Proceed with the agricultural development and relocate flora species onsite to a designated rehabilitation area

Option 3 - Reduce agricultural development size

Option 4 - Do not develop area



Figure 3 - Potential rehabilitation landscape

Potential Environmental Impacts associated with the project

The proposed development project could result in a range of biophysical and socioeconomic impacts. ECC have identified very little impacts associated with the project. Should DENC identify the need to conduct a scoping study, ECC will commence with the study. The potential impacts that could be expected for the implementation of the project (negative and positive) as highlighted below:

Potential Impacts	Specialist assessment to be undertaken
Negative	
-Landuse Change (Aesthetic value, change in scenery)	-Assessment by ECC EIA team
-Disturbance of fauna and flora on and around the site	-Assessment by registered ecologist
-Waste Generation (solid&liquid)	-Assessment by ECC EIA team
-Environmental Safety hazards (hazardous substances storage on site and fire risk)	-Assessment by ECC EIA team
-Construction Nuisance (noise and dust)	-Assessment by ECC EIA team
-Cumulative Impacts of the project (operation)	- Assessment by ECC EIA team
-Development impacts on listed flora	- Assessment by registered ecologist
Positive	
-Employment creation	
-Creation of business synergies	-Socio-economic assessment by ECC EIA team
-Generation of revenue and improved disposable income	-Socio-economic assessment by ECC EIA team

Moving Forward...

ECC Next Steps

- ✓ Continue distributing the BID document as requested by (stakeholders)
- ✓ Commission a SACNASP registered ecologist to survey the proposed project site
- ✓ If necessary call for a public meeting through Advertising in newspapers
- ✓ Should the environmental management act be applicable to the project then ECC will conduct a scoping study for the proposed developments and provide access to the draft scoping reports

NB: Registered I&APS will be informed of the availability of the draft scoping report for a 14 day comment period, during which the public will have the opportunity to review the draft document and raise any issues of concerns

I&APS Next Steps

1. Register as I&AP on our website: <http://eccenvironmental.com/projects/>
2. Follow ECC on Facebook and twitter to keep up to date.
3. Send Comments in writing or email to the following address:

info@eccenvironmental.com

ECC at PO Box 91193, Klein Windhoek, Windhoek, Namibia

Contact Us:

Environmental Compliance Consultancy Contact Details

We welcome any enquiries regarding this document and its content, please contact:

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