

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE OMEGA 3 FISHERIES AQUACULTURE FARM

IDS REFERENCE NUMBER: IDS 340_034

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PROCESS APRIL 2021

Applicant: Divine Inspiration Trading 783 (Pty) Ltd t/a Omega 3 Fisheries
Environmental Assessment Practitioner: Information Decision Systems (Pty) Ltd

INTRODUCTION

This Background Information Document (BID) serves to notify the public of the intention of the Divine Inspiration Trading 783 (Pty) Ltd t/a Omega 3 Fisheries to apply for environmental authorisation, under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) for the proposed establishment of an agri-business through the development of aquaponics on Plot 105 in Randfontein within the jurisdiction of West Rand District Municipality.

Information Decision Systems (Pty) Ltd (IDS) has been appointed by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) to manage the Special Needs and Skills Development Programme which is aimed at providing pro-bono environmental services to qualifying businesses. Under this programme, IDS undertakes Basic Assessments (BAs) for applicants who can demonstrate that they have "special needs", in particular, where applicants cannot afford to undertake the necessary BA process. This led to the IDS undertaking this BA for the proposed Nile tilapia aquaponics farm project on Plot 105 Portion 0 on the Farm Wheatlands AH, located in Randfontein in the West Rand District Municipality.

Information Decision Systems (Pty) Ltd on behalf of Divine Inspiration Trading 783 (Pty) Ltd t/a Omega 3 Fisheries as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the process required to apply for Environmental Authorisation from the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD).

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide members of the public with information about the proposed project. This information will allow readers to:

- Determine whether they are an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP).
- Understand the project in order to provide informed comments.
- Understand the applicable environmental authorisation process in order to participate meaningfully.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Omega 3 Fisheries aims to establish an agri-business through the development of aquaponics (a combination of aquaculture and hydroponics). Production will be based on Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) (**Figure 1**). Further supplements will be done such as aeration to ensure oxygen levels in the water. The facility will grow 49tons of Nile Tilapia (**Figure 2**) and estimated 57tons of vegetables. The facility will have 20 plant growing beds, and 2500 gravel barrel holes for vegetable production, 4000 gravel barrels for fruit bearing plants, grow-out greenhouse (600 square meters), office, ablution facilities, a geothermal heat pump, solar system, cold room, oxygenation system, backup generator, workshop and storage facilities.



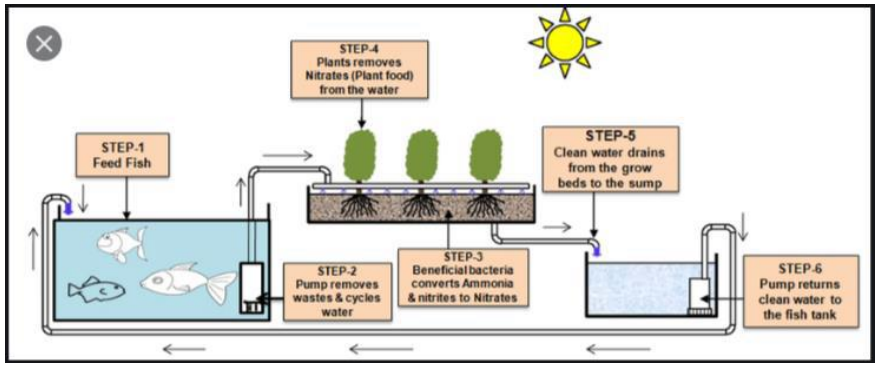


Figure 1: An illustration of the reticulating aquaculture system aquaponics



Figure 2: Image of a Nile Tilapia



Figure 3: Site Plan



GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES

The proposed development is situated approximately 10km west from the CBD of Randfontein. **Table 1** below indicates the geographic coordinates of the study area.

Table 1: Geographic coordinates of the proposed road upgrade

Site name	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Omega 3 Fisheries	26°11'24.16"S	27°37'42.08"E

ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY

The study area is situated within Critical Biodiversity Area and Ecological Support Area. The study area does not fall within any wetland and watercourse perimeters. However, an aquatic Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) is noted within the site.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

Environmental authorisation is being applied for from the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD). in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) (Act No. 108 of 1998) and the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations as amended in April 2017.

Basic Assessment Process

The proposed aquaponics farm triggers listed activities in Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 327) and Listing Notice 3 (GN R. 327) of the EIA Regulations 2014 as amended in April 2017. Consequently, these activities require the undertaking of a Basic Assessment inclusive of technical studies and public participation.

Listed activities triggered by the aquaponics farm activities are indicated below;

Number and date of relevant notice	Activity Number Triggered
Government Notice, No. R. 327, April 2017 (LN1)	3, 6, 8, 27
Government Notice, No. R. 324, April 2017 (LN3)	12,13

POTENTIAL ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

There are various issues and associated potential positive and/or negative impacts associated with the proposed project. I&APs are invited to raise issues of concern and to submit comments. These issues will be investigated during the Basic Assessment process; and relevant associated impacts identified and assessed, and mitigation measures proposed.

INVITATION TO COMMENT

Public participation enables people who are interested in or affected by the proposed project to highlight issues or concerns that need to be addressed during the planning and assessment processes. If you would like to participate in this Environmental Authorisation application process and receive all relevant correspondence, you are requested to register as an I&AP with IDS. Written comment may be submitted via mail, fax or e-mail (details below).

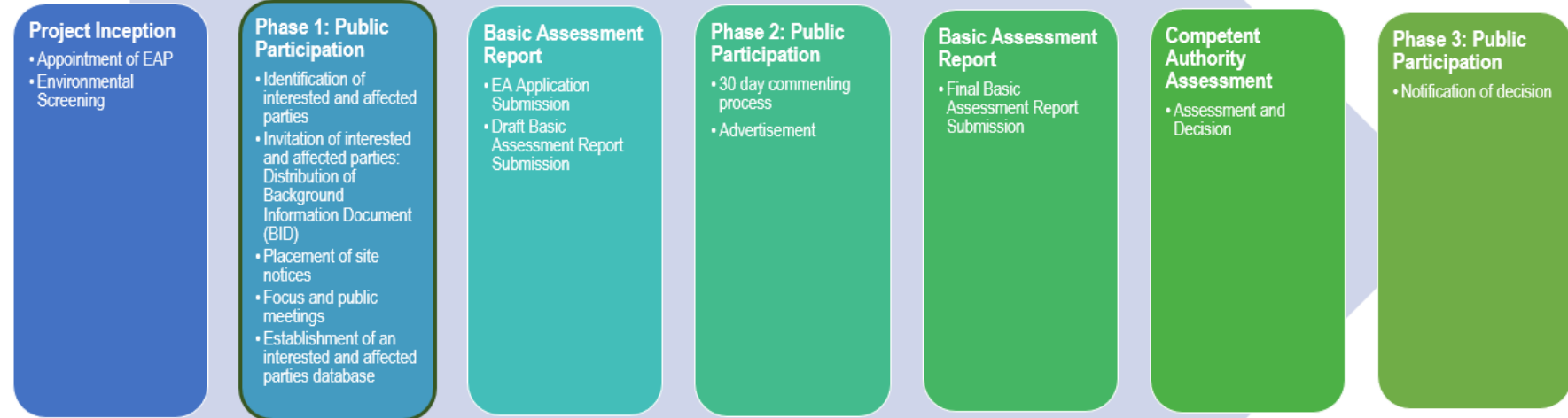
The deadline for comment in this first round of public consultation is **26th April 2021**. Thereafter, all registered I&APs will be notified of the availability of the draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and will be afforded thirty (30) days to review and submit further comment. In addition, the report link will be made available on social media platforms i.e. Facebook, LinkedIn, Google Drive and Dropbox.

FOR REGISTRATION, COMMENT AND ENQUIRIES:

Information Decision Systems (Pty) Ltd
Ms. Vanessa Nkosi
PO Box 689, Rivonia, 2128
Tel: 087 353 2576 Fax: 086 685 7767
Email: Vanessa@ids-cc.co.za



BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS



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You are Here



COMMENT/RESPONSE FORM

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE OMEGA 3 FISHERIES AQUACULTURE FARM

IDS REFERENCE NUMBER: IDS 340_034

Please complete and return

TO: Ms Vanessa Nkosi	
COMPANY: Information Decision System (Pty) Ltd	
POSTAL: P. O. Box 689, Rivonia, 2128	
PHONE: 087 353 2576	FAX: 086 685 7767
EMAIL: vanessa@ids-cc.co.za	
FROM (Your Name):	
ORGANISATION / COMPANY:	
PHONE:	FAX:
EMAIL:	
Your particular area of interest in the project:	
Organisation Represent:	
Capacity (e.g. Chairperson, member, etc.):	

1. Do you have any concerns about the proposed development (i.e. construction and / or operational phase of the proposed project) that you feel should be addressed within the Basic Assessment process?
_____ YES _____ NO

If "yes", please list your main areas of concern in point form.

- i) _____
ii) _____

2. What concerns do you have about the construction phase in particular?

3. What concerns do you have about the operational phase of the process?

4. Is there any other information you feel should be included/considered in the assessment of the project?

5. Do you have any other comment?

6. Do you want to be kept informed of the process/ provided with documentations produced?

Date: _____

Signature: _____

