

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)



### PROPOSED OMEGA 3 FISHERIES AQUACULTURE FARM

IDS REFERENCE NUMBER: IDS 340\_034

## ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PROCESS May 2023

**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 (hereby referred to as IDS) has been appointed by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) to manage the Special Needs and Skills Development Programme. This programme is aimed at providing pro-bono environmental services to qualifying businesses. Under this programme, IDS undertakes Basic Assessments (BAs) on behalf of qualifying applicants who have demonstrated that they are unable to afford the undertaking of the BA process.

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 49 tons of Nile Tilapia (Figure 2) and estimated 57 tons 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.



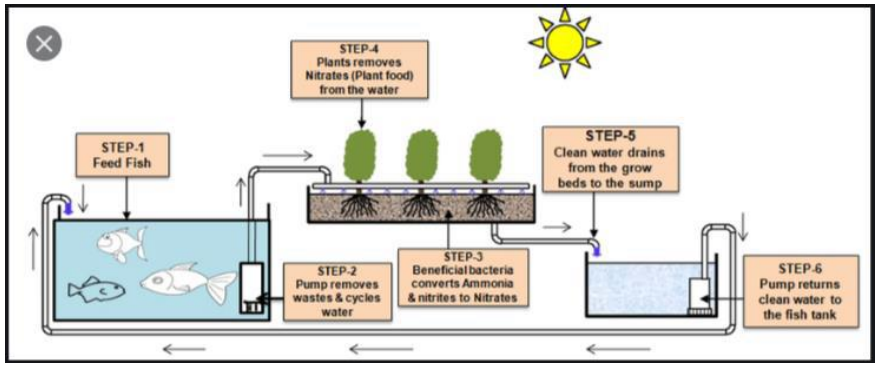


Figure 1: An illustration of the recirculating aquaculture system aquaponics



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 farm does not fall within any wetland and watercourse perimeters; however, an aquatic Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) is noted within the site as well as an Ecological Support Area. This refers to the presence or proximity to critical aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, or wetlands. Ecological support areas are supporting areas which must be safeguarded as they are needed to prevent degradation of Critical Biodiversity Areas as well as Protected Areas.

## 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. 517, 11th June 2021 (LN1)	6, 8, 27
Government Notice, No. R. 517, 11th June 2021 (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.

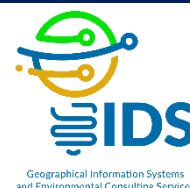
### INVITATION TO COMMENT

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).

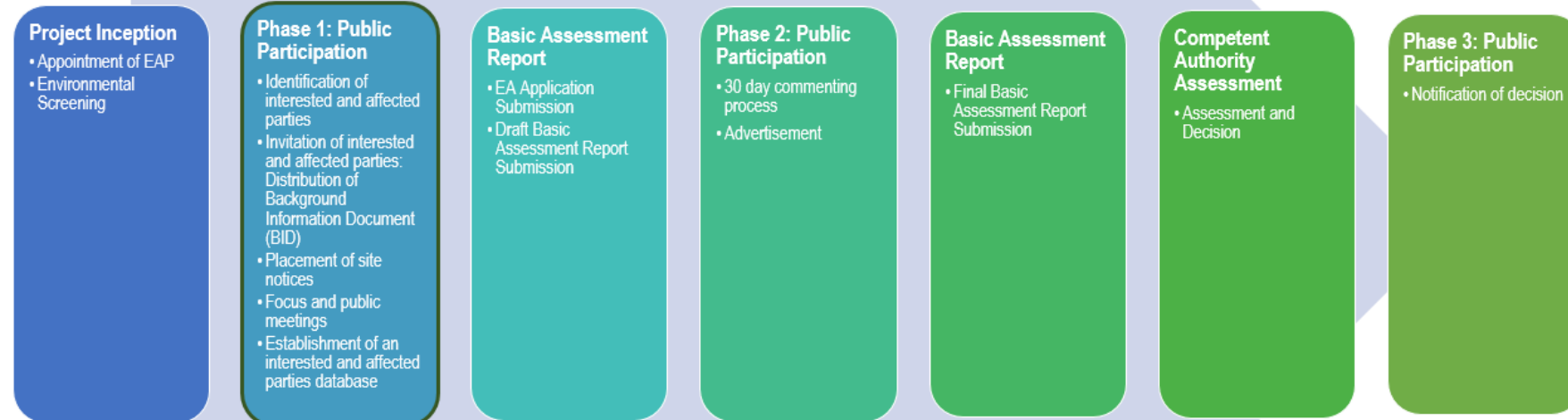
All registered I&APs will be notified of the availability of the draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and will be afforded thirty (30) days to review and submit further comment. In addition, the report link will be made available on social media platforms i.e., Google drive, drop box etc.

#### FOR REGISTRATION, COMMENT AND ENQUIRIES:

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## BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS



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You are Here

