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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Environmental Impact Scoping Assessment and Environmental Management Plan for the Provision of Temporary Accommodation, Catering and Related Services in Namibia

1. Introduction

Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd (GPT) was appointed by I Dream Africa Tours & Safaris CC to undertake an environmental assessment for the provision of temporary accommodation (pop-up camps), catering and related services in various locations in Namibia. Temporary accommodation services are provided in locations where no fixed accommodation or related services are present. This includes exclusive luxury camping sites in wilderness areas, functions and overnight facilities for race villages at different sport events, music festivals and film production crews. I Dream Africa has the capacity to provide temporary, tented accommodation for up to 2,000 people and cater for up to 8,000 people at different locations throughout Namibia and other southern African countries. The assessment will include activities related to the above mentioned operations of I Dream Africa.

An environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the operations is required as per the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 (EMA). A scoping environmental assessment report (SR) and an environmental management plan (EMP) are proposed to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in support of an application for an ECC.

2. The purpose of this document

With this background information document (BID) GPT aims to provide interested and affected parties (IAPs) with information about the project and interact with them regarding it. IAPs are therefore invited to register with GPT for the project in order to:

- ♦ Provide GPT with additional information which should be taken into account in the assessment of impacts;
- ♦ Share any comments, issues or concerns related to the project; and
- ♦ Review and comment SR and EMP.

3. Project Description

Activities associated with the project have been divided the following phases: Planning, maintenance/construction, operational and the

decommissioning phase. A brief outline of expected activities for each phase is detailed below.

3.1 Planning Phase

While planning for construction, operation and decommissioning of the sites, it is the responsibility of proponent to ensure they are and remain compliant 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 potential impacts and risk are minimised. Typical planning activities include:

- ♦ Obtain permits and approvals from local and national authorities including Ministry of Environment and Tourism and various land owners.
- ♦ Make provisions to have a Health, Safety and Environmental Coordinator to implement the EMP.
- ♦ Ensure provisions for a fund to cater for environmental incidents risks/ pollution and ecological restoration.
- ♦ Ensure all appointed contractors and employees enter into an agreement which includes the EMP.
- ♦ Establish and / or maintain a reporting system to report on aspects of construction activities, operations and decommissioning as outlined in the EMP.

3.2 Construction Phase

Construction activities include the preparation and setup of temporary accommodation sites and related infrastructure on any given location in Namibia. This may include the clearing of vegetation (limited to grasses and shrubs), pitching of tents as well as the setup of ablution facilities, generators, water storage and catering services. I Dream Africa has the capacity to provide temporary, tented accommodation for up to 2,000 people at different locations throughout Namibia and other southern African countries. Furthermore, I Dream Africa can cater for an additional 8,000 people bringing their own tents and camping equipment. All setups are temporary.

3.3 Operational Phase

After setup is complete, accommodation sites are managed and operated by I Dream Africa personnel. Tents provided by I Dream Africa are fitted, at minimum, with stretchers, mattresses, bedding and chairs, but may include additional luxuries where requested. Ablution facilities, in the form of temporary hot water showers and portable chemical toilets, are provided to all campers. Operational activities entails the provision of electricity, water, catering and general services. Waste bins are placed throughout camping areas. All waste is collected by a contractor and taken to the nearest official waste disposal facility for disposal.

3.4 Decommissioning Phase

Once the setup has served its purpose, all equipment and infrastructure are removed from sight and sight rehabilitation is performed to leave it in a condition as close to the natural environment as possible.

4. Preliminary Identified Impacts

During the environmental assessment all components of the environment will be considered, however only those components which are being impacted on significantly or are deemed to be sensitive will be assessed. These include the following:

- Health and safety risks,
- Fire risk,
- Effluent generation and disposal,
- Traffic,
- Noise,
- Visual impact,
- Ecosystem and Biodiversity impacts,
- Socio economic contributions.

5. Getting Involved

GPT invite all IAPs to provide in writing, any issues and suggestions regarding the mining. This correspondence must include:

- Name and surname,
- Organization represented or private interest,
- Position in the organization,
- Contact details, and
- Any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

All contributions 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 SR.

The public participation process will remain ongoing during the environmental assessment. However, all comments and concerns should be provided to GPT to ensure incorporation into the final report.

Your rights as an IAP according to the EMA 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.

The project team may be contacted at:

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