



**Terms of Reference (ToR) for Consulting Services to Undertake Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and develop Environmental Management Plan (EMP)**

**for**

**Harvesting and management of *Prosopis* for pilot areas: /Ai -/Ais National Park, Dreihuk, Gibeon and Mariental in the Orange-Fish River Basin, Namibia**

**October 2022**



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

## **1. The Orange Senqu River**

The Orange-Senqu River originates in the Lesotho Highlands, from where it flows westwards to its mouth at Alexander Bay/Oranjemund on the Atlantic West Coast. The river basin is the third largest in Southern Africa, after the Zambezi and the Congo, covering a total area of 1,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> of which almost 600,000 km<sup>2</sup> is inside the Republic of South Africa. Four countries – Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa - share the Basin, and the river forms the border between South Africa and Namibia at its lower reaches.

Lesotho, the upstream country falls entirely within the basin and contributes over 40% of the stream flow from only 3.4% of the total basin area but is one of the smallest users of water from the basin. South Africa is by far the biggest user of water from the Orange-Senqu River Basin, and this use drives the economic heartland of South Africa. The Botswana part of the Basin is entirely covered by the Kalahari Desert with very little surface runoff, but groundwater contributes to the water demands in this portion of the basin.

The water requirements in the lower reaches of the river are driven primarily by irrigation demands from both Namibia and South Africa, and the need to maintain environmental flows to the estuary. As the most downstream portion of a heavily developed basin, water resources quality in this stretch is a concern. Similarly, the middle and lower reaches of the river are subject to periodic and often devastating floods. The Orange River estuary is ranked as one of the most important wetland systems in Southern Africa but has experienced environmental degradation. This wetland system was re-designated as a Ramsar Site, but because of its threatened status it was placed on Montreux Record in 1995.

The effective management of the Orange-Senqu River Basin is, therefore, particularly complex, but is also vital to the regional economy. As a result, the riparian States prioritized this basin for the establishment of a Shared Watercourse Institution under the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses.

## **2. The ORASECOM Agreement**

The Orange- Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) was one of the first of the Shared Watercourses Institutions to be established in SADC. It is an advisory body, issuing recommendations to its Member States (The Parties) aimed at optimizing the development and management of the water resources of the Orange-Senqu River Basin for the benefit of all the people in the Parties.

The Agreement establishes Council as a technical advisor to the Parties on matters relating to the development, utilization, and conservation of the water resources in the River System. The Parties may also assign other functions pertaining to the development and utilization of water resources to the Commission. Article 5 of the Agreement empowers Council to take all measures to make recommendations on *inter alia*; water availability in the basin, equitable and reasonable sharing of water, studies on the development of the River System, the extent to which stakeholders should be involved in management of the system, the prevention of pollution and the control of aquatic weeds and plans for emergency situations.

All recommendations provided by Council to Parties must be contained in a report, signed by the leader of each delegation. These reports must also include estimates of the cost of implementing the recommendation and may suggest how these costs may be apportioned between the Parties. Recommendations to Parties must therefore not only indicate what must be done, but also how it must be done.

### **3. The ORASECOM UNDP-GEF Project to support the Strategic Action Programme Implementation**

ORASECOM, with support from United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), managed to secure further financial support from Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to implement selected priority activities of Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The UNDP-GEF project titled, Support to the Orange-Senqu River Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Implementation, the project will be implemented by UNDP and executed by ORASECOM over a 5-year period.

The overall objective of the SAP Implementation project is the strengthening of joint management capacity for implementation of the basin-wide IWRM Plan and demonstrating environmental and socioeconomic benefits of ecosystem-based approach to water resources management through the implementation of SAP priority actions in the Orange-Senqu River basin.

ORASECOM supports the Government of Namibia to tackle issues around land degradation through the sustainable management of alien invasive species, *Prosopis*. This assistance is based on and is meant to learn from the lessons and experiences of the Working for Water Programme (South Africa) which was established in 1995 with the main objective of addressing the threat of invasive alien species.

The support to Namibia is targeting to clearing *Prosopis* and revegetating with indigenous species. The clearing will be carried out in the four areas of Ai-Ais National Park, Gibeon, Mariental and Driehoek in the Orange -Fish River Basin.

### **4. Key national stakeholders in the implementation of the *Prosopis* pilot project**

The project is implemented by two national ministries: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) and the Ministry of Environmental, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT). MAWLR is the focal point for the Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM) in Namibia. Meanwhile Directorate of Forestry in MEFT, is the proponent of the *Prosopis* project

## 5. Background Information on the Project

### 5.1 Prosopis as an alien invasive species

*Prosopis* species were introduced to Namibia and South Africa around the 1880s for fodder, shade, and fuel. These alien species have now invaded large parts of southern and central Namibia and north-western South Africa. *Prosopis* infestation is mainly along watercourses, they extremely outcast indigenous plants for water since its over-shades the shorter plants. Invasive *Prosopis* directly impacts on agricultural land production and is believed to pull severely on scarce groundwater resources.

### 5.2 Project area

The Orange-Fish River Basin is in the central southern part of Namibia and is defined mainly by the surface catchments of the (Orange and Fish) rivers. It is one of twelve defined basin management areas in Namibia and covers an area of 120,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The OFB incorporates the areas that drain into the Fish River and her tributaries, as well as those areas that drain directly into the Orange River from Namibia, and the Orange River in Namibia too. (See Figure 1.)



Figure 1: Namibia's Orange-Fish River Basin within the greater Orange-Senqu River Basin

The Fish River has its headwaters on the Rehoboth Plateau and flows several hundred kilometres in a mostly southerly direction towards the perennial Orange River. The Fish is an ephemeral river, only flowing with any intensity during good rain seasons but having isolated pools of water that remain through the dry season. The Orange River rises in Lesotho, where it is known as the Senqu, and the South African highlands and forms the southern border of Namibia with South Africa before flowing into the Atlantic Ocean at Oranjemund. The confluence of the Fish and the Orange rivers is about 30 km south-west of /Ai-/Ais National Park between Aussenkehr and Sendelingsdrift.

The sites within the OFRB that were selected for investigating the economic opportunities of *Prosopis* harvesting are within the Hardap region being Mariental, and Gibeon. The other sites are within the //Kharas region being /Ai-/Ais National Park and Dreihuk (Figure 2). These sites

were classified as heavily infested with *Prosopis* in the Baseline Study on the Distribution and Abundance of alien Invasive Species (*Prosopis*) in the Orange and Fish rivers in Namibia (ORASECOM, 2020). Based on a 10km radius, the target sites, Mariental, Gibeon, /Ai-/Ais National Park and Dreihuk, are respectively in the Mariental Urban, Gibeon, Karasburg West, and Karasburg East constituencies. These areas include various forms and densities of *Prosopis* growth.

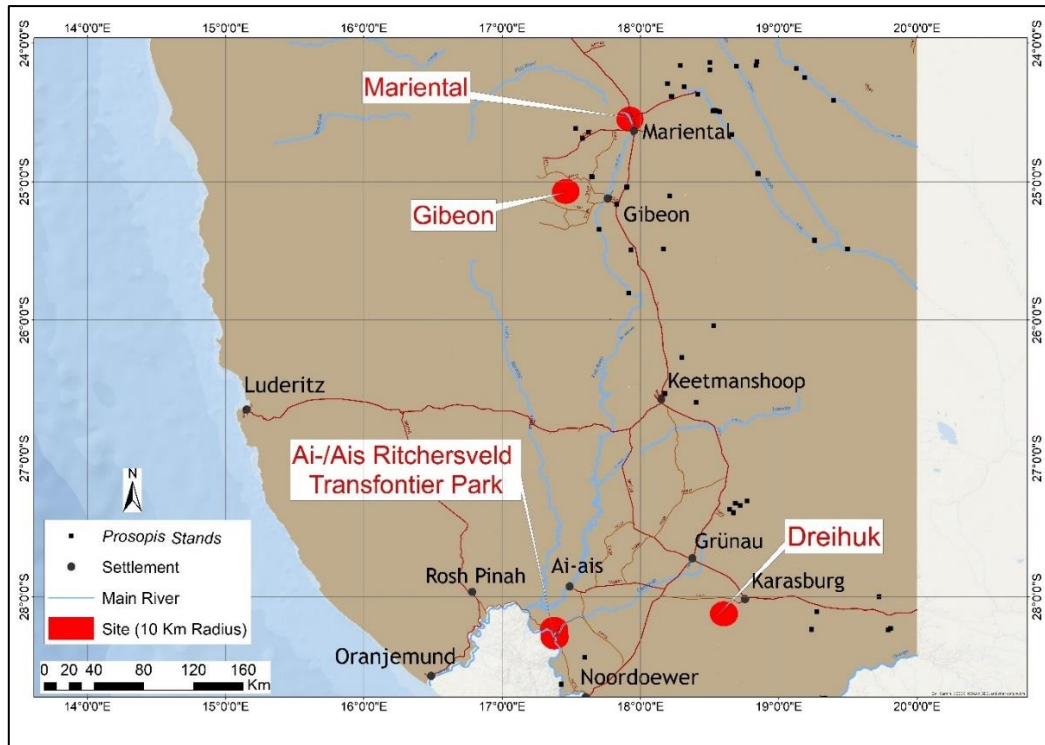


Figure 2: Targeted Sites for *Prosopis* Management in the ORB (Source: RFM Consulting, (2020))

## 6. Objectives

The Proponent (Directorate of Forestry) within the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism intends to apply for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for harvesting and management of *Prosopis* at the pilot areas: /Ai -/Ais National Park, Dreihuk, Gibeon and Mariental.

The objective of this Terms of Reference (ToR) is to procure the services of a consultant or team of consultants to develop comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports and Environmental Management Plans for the pilot sites, which would conform with the Namibia Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice 30 of 6 February 2012).

**Two different consultants/consulting team will be engaged to undertake the work in:**

**Lot A:** //Kharas Region: (EIA and EMP) for /Ai -/Ais National Park and Dreihuk sites.

**Lot B:** Hardap Region: (EIA and EMP) for Gibeon and Mariental sites.

**Thus, a bidder can apply for both Lots but cannot be awarded both Lots.**

## 7. Scope of the Consultancy

The EIA should be conducted as per **Environmental** Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice 30 of 6 February 2012) and Forestry and Environmental Authorisations Process for Bush Harvesting Projects 2017 guidelines produced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and Ministry of Environment and Tourism. ([GIZ-deBushing-Bush-Harvesting-Guidelines-2017.pdf \(dasnamibia.org\)](#))

### 7.1 PHASE I: Project initiation & Internal Screening

- i. Formulate background information note
- ii. Notify MEFT of the proposed project through submission of EIA application form and online registration)
- iii. Undertake site visits to identify environmental issues
- iv. Identify key stakeholders, regulatory authorities and Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs)

### 7.2 PHASE II – EIA and Environmental Management Plan

- i. Notify other regulatory authorities as relevant as well as IAPs (advertisement through newspaper, site notices, email etc.)
- ii. Conduct stakeholder consultation meetings with other regulatory authorities and Interest and Affected Parties (IAPs)
- iii. Review technical reports produced for the Prosopis project
- iv. Review Vegetation Management Plans for the sites
- v. Assess the potential environmental impacts of the project activities
- vi. Compile the EIA report and EMP
- vii. Circulate the EIA report and EMP to regulatory authorities and IAPs for reviewing and comments
- viii. Incorporate input and comments from the regulatory authorities and IAPs
- ix. Submit the final report to MEFT for their review and decision making

## 8. Deliverables

It is envisaged that this Consultancy will produce the following deliverables:

- i. **Phase I:** Background information note and list of stakeholders
- ii. **Phase 2:** Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports and Environmental Management Plans (EMPs):
  - Lot A ://Kharas Region (/Ai -/Ais National Park and Dreihuk sites)
  - Lot B: Hardap Region (Gibeon and Mariental sites)

iii. **Phase 2:** Final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports and Environmental Management Plans (EMPs):

- Lot A ://Kharas Region (/Ai -/Ais National Park and Dreihuk sites)
- Lot B: Hardap Region (Gibeon and Mariental sites)

All deliverables shall be subject to review and acceptance by ORASECOM and the national Project Steering Committee. All Outputs must be produced in English and presented as an electronic copy in MS Word/Excel format.

## **9. Time Schedule**

The Consultancy is expected to start on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and be completed by no later than 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

## **10. Requirements**

The Consultant or Consultancy Team must have at least the following:

- i. The Consultant should have at least a Master's degree in fields related to Environmental Management.
- ii. The Consultant must have at least 5 years' experience in undertaking similar projects especially on development of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports in Namibia.
- iii. Must be accredited to the relevant bodies in Namibia to undertake the consultancy.

## **11. Project and Contract Management**

The Consulting Team is expected to commence work as soon as possible after concluding all necessary contractual arrangements with ORASECOM.

The Consultant/ Consulting Team will work under direct supervision of the ORASECOM Environment/Water Quality Expert.

## **12. Other Provisions**

### **12.1 Taxes**

The statutory levels of taxes – if relevant – shall be invoiced by the Consultant and reimbursed by ORASECOM in addition to the remuneration. ORASECOM shall not be liable for any taxes due to Tax Authority/ies in the country of origin of the Consultant. The onus is on the Consultant to submit the tax returns and declare all income/monies received from ORASECOM to the tax Authority/ies in her own country.

## **12.2 Travel**

The Consultant will be expected to conduct consultations with key role players in the subject matter of the assignment in the Orange-Senqu River Basin. The list of stakeholders will be agreed with MAWLR and MEFT.

## **13.SUBMISSION OF THE TENDER**

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Consultants are invited to submit their **Technical and Financials Proposals** through email to [mike.ramaano@orasecom.org](mailto:mike.ramaano@orasecom.org) with a copy to; [mike.ramaano@gmail.com](mailto:mike.ramaano@gmail.com) no later than 12h00hrs on Friday 04 November 2022.