

# **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A REGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT TO FACILITATE A FULL EIA APPLICATION (SCOPING AND EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED LAND CLEARING AT THE ARC LOSKOP FARM, LIMPOPO**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Agricultural Research Council is a science institution that conducts research, develops human capital and fosters innovation to support and develop the agricultural sector in South Africa and across the globe. The Agricultural Research Council is a schedule 3A public entity in terms of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999.

## **INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL**

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) invites suitably qualified, registered and experienced service providers to assist with providing environmental consulting services for the authorization of a proposed land clearing activity, to take place at the ARC's Loskop Farm, Limpopo.

## **BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT**

The Agricultural Research Council intends to undertake clearance of indigenous vegetation for agricultural activities on an area measuring 50 hectares, which will be done in phases, starting with 10 hectares.

The proposed project will involve de-bushing of land (about 10ha) in order to allow for the research trials to take place. The de-bushing will be either 5ha or 10ha per phase, ultimately in the end, the plan is to clear a total area of about 50 ha (for research trial activities)

After land clearing, the land will be used to create seed systems and sustainably supplying improved cultivars through the breeding programmes, thereby enabling the state to effectively contribute to and empower local seed enterprises. This will be an effective public asset whereby farmers can access improved planting material.

## **LOCATION OF THE FARM**

The proposed land clearing is located on the farm Loskop Suid 53 JS within the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality of Sekhukhune District. The geographical co-ordinates for the site are as follows: 25° 10' 39.69" S and 29° 23' 35.27 "E.

## AREA TO BE CLEARED



## SCOPE OF WORK

The proposed development site falls within the Other Natural Area in terms of Sekhukhune Bioregional Plan of 2019. Based on the confirmation received from Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), the land clearing activity requires an environmental authorization.

The identified trigger activity is Listing Notice 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) - Activity 15 *"The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for- the undertaking of a linear activity or maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance plan"*.

The registered independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) is required to manage and co-ordinate the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process on behalf of

the ARC as per provisions of the National Environmental Management Act, 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended) and any other applicable legislation.

The registered EAP will also be required to:

- Appoint and manage the relevant specialist (s)
- Identify additional trigger activities (if any) and including them as part of the authorization application
- Plan, manage and coordinate the EIA process and associated supporting documentation
- Ensure that applicable Scoping and EIA provisions are fully met
- Plan and manage the public participation process
- Provide project progress reports
- Consider potential impacts of the proposed activity and assess them as required
- Liaise with the relevant authorities and stakeholders throughout the process
- Compile the required mapping
- Circulate the draft and final reports to stakeholders and I&APs
- Provide notification of the decision once issued
- Facilitate the appeal process (should it be required)

#### **DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED**

- Detailed description of the methodology to be applied for both phases (Scoping and EIA)
- Project timeframe/key delivery dates of each phase (inclusive of legislative authority timeframes)
- Hierarchical structure of the proposed project team
- Curriculum Vitae, qualifications, and valid EAPASA professional registration certificate of the project team lead
- Three (3) stamped and signed, with client letterhead reference letters, confirming similar services were performed successfully by the bidder.
- Schedule with the names of the proposed specialists, area of specialization and their submitted proposals/pricing

#### **PRICING SCHEDULE FORMAT**

- Detailed breakdown for the activities to be undertaken (costs must be separated per phase) i.e. Scoping Phase Costing and EIA Phase Costing
- Where the bidder deems fit that there are additional activities required but not specified under the scope of work, those should be added under the “additional” section in the pricing schedule and detailed accordingly.
- The pricing schedule must indicate the professional fees as well as applicable disbursements (travel, advertisements etc.)
- The number of hours, relevant rate and total per line activity must be included.
- Where specific activities will be undertaken simultaneously, this must be accordingly highlighted in the budget breakdown.

- Where applicable, each specialist assessment must be accordingly listed, and such costs must be included under the relevant phase to which they apply to.
- Costs for handling an appeal process must included