

Environmental Scoping Report for the
Proposed Exploration and Small Scale
Mining Activities on Mining Claims
Number **74373, 74374, 74375, 74376,**
74377 and 74378 located at Uis District,
Erongo Region

Prepared by

Augite Environmental Investments CC

For

Natangwe Indileni Junior Nghipondoka

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Document Information	
Title	Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Proposed Exploration and Small Scale Mining Activities on Mining Claims Number 74373, 74374, 74375, 74376, 74377 and 74378 located at Uis District, Erongo Region
Report Reference Number	230425001361
Activity	Activity 3: Mining and Quarrying Activity 8: Water Resource Developments
Location	The license area is located 15 kilometers to the East of Uis on Exclusive and Prospecting License (EPL) 7615 , accessible along the C36, south of the road.
Proponent	Natangwe Indileni Junior Nghipondoka
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Executive Summary

Natangwe Indileni Junior Nghipondoka (The Proponent) has applied for seven mining claims (**MC 74373, 74374, 74443, 74375, 74376, 74377 and MC74378**) by the Ministry of Mines and energy (MME). The seven MCs are situated in Erongo Region and between Uis and Okombahe. The Mining Claims are situated approximately 15 kilometers east of Uis and 42 kilometers west of Okombahe. All are situated in the Uis District and are accessible via gravel roads. The mining claims are aimed at extracting for **industrial minerals, with special focus on lithium.**

Prospecting, and exploration related activities are among listed activities that may not be undertaken without an ECC under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, Subsequently, to ensure that the proposed activity is compliant with the national environmental legislation, the project Proponent, appointed an independent environmental consultant Augite Environmental Consultants cc to undertake the required Environmental Assessment (EA) process and apply for the ECC on their behalf.

The application for the ECC was compiled and submitted to the competent authority (Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)) as the environmental custodian for project registration purposes. Upon submission of an Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) Report and Draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP), an ECC for the proposed project will be considered by the Environmental Commissioner at the MEFT's Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF).

Brief Project Description

Planned Activities: Proposed small scale mining.

The Proponent intends to adopt a small-scale operation with only a temporary structure to be erected at the site. This temporary structure will be used by the employees as sleeping quarters. The proponent aims to conduct a small open pit mining operation with five-meter diameter. The operations aims to mine ten tonnes of ore per day. The ore that will be mined sits on outcrop and visible from surface. At spots, where it is covered, the ore starts from a depth of two meters deep. The project will approximately mine about 200 tons per month which can be

translated to 18 700 tons per year. The annual tonnage can vary depending on the delineation of the orebody and the necessary machinery that might be required to mine the ore.

The deposit has largely been determined through the extensiveness of the outcrop, and no invasive drilling has taken place in the area. The main orebody will be mined from pegmatites that are enriched with mica minerals. The proponent aims to exploit the mica minerals as the main mineral to be mined from the area.

The small-scaled mining operation will be conducted for eight hours during week days. This operation will only operate on a daily shift basis. Two generators will be used to provide electricity during the operating hours. Initially, the project will employ eight employees on a permanent basis. All employees will be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), in addition a safety officer will be employed on site to ensure the safety of the whole operation during working hours. The proponent also aims to create indirect employment by contracting a security company to safeguard the site when the small scale is not taking place. In addition, employment will also be created by contracting a waste management company to weekly remove all industrial waste from the site.

There will be no new construction of roads, the old existing tracks will be used. All domestic waste from the site will be disposed at Arandis landfill. The mining operation is planned for the next four years and will be extended depending on the extension of the outcropping orebody underground.

Non-invasive Technique:

- **Desktop Study: Geological mapping:** This mainly entails a desktop review of geological maps and ground observations. This includes the review of geological maps of the area and on-site ground traverses and observations and an update where relevant, of the information obtained during previous geological studies of the area and aero-geophysics survey.
- **Lithology geochemical surveys:** Rock and soil samples shall be collected and taken for trace element analysis to be conducted by analytical chemistry laboratories to determine if enough target commodities are present. Also, trenches or pits may be dug depending on the commodity (in a controlled environment e.g., fencing off and labelling activity sites) adopting a manual or excavator to further investigate the mineral potential. Soil sampling consists of small pits being dug where 1kg samples can be extracted and sieved to collect 50g of material. As necessary, and to ensure adequate risk mitigations, all major excavations will both be opened and closed

immediately after obtaining the needed samples or the sites will be secured until the trenches or pits are closed. At all times, the farm owners and other relevant stakeholders will be engaged to obtain authorization where necessary.

Invasive Technique

Trenching and small-scale mining. A small five-meter-wide open pit will be created to mine out the outcropping mica mineralization from surface.

Public Consultation

Public Consultation Activities

Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations details steps to be taken during a public consultation process and these have been used in guiding this process. The public consultation process assisted the Environmental Consultant in identifying all potential impacts and aided in the process of identifying possible mitigation measures and alternatives to certain project activities. The communication with I&APs about the proposed prospecting and exploration activities was done through the following means and in this order to ensure that the public is notified and afforded an opportunity to comment on the proposed project:

- A Background Information Document (BID) containing brief information about the proposed facility was compiled and email to relevant Authoritative Ministries, and upon request to all new registered Interested and Affected parties (I&APs).
- Project Environmental Assessment notices were published in The Namibian Sun and New Era Newspapers (14 April 2023 and 21 April 2023), briefly explaining the activity and its locality, inviting members of the public to register as I&APs and submit their comments/concerns.
- The issues and concerns raised received together with the site visit assessment observation formed the basis for the ESA Report and EMP.

Potential Impacts Identified.

The following potential negative impacts are anticipated:

- **Positive impacts:** Socio-economic development through employment creation (primary, secondary, and tertiary employment) and skills transfer; Opens up other investment opportunities and infrastructure-related development benefits; Produces a trained workforce and small businesses that can service communities and may initiate related businesses; Boosts the local economic growth and regional economic development and; Increased support for local

businesses through the procurement of consumable items such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), machinery spare parts, lubricants, etc.

- **Negative impacts:** Physical land/soil disturbance; Impact on local biodiversity (fauna and flora); Potential impact on water resources and soils particularly due to pollution; Air quality issue: potential dust generated from the project; Potential occupational health and safety risks, Vehicular traffic safety and impact on services infrastructure such as local roads, Vibrations and noise associated with drilling activities may be a nuisance to locals; Environmental pollution (solid waste and wastewater), Archaeological and heritage impact and Potential social nuisance and conflicts (theft, damage to properties, etc.).

The potential negative impacts were assessed, and mitigation measures provided accordingly.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

The potential impacts that are anticipated from the proposed project activities were identified, described, and assessed. For the significant adverse (negative) impacts with medium rating, appropriate management and mitigation measures were recommended for implementation by the Proponent, their contractors and project related employees.

The public was consulted as required by the EMA and its 2012 EIA Regulations (Section 21 to 24). This was done via the two newspapers (The Namibian Sun and New Era) used for this environmental assessment.

The issues and concerns raised by the registered I&APs formed the basis for this report and the Draft EMP. The issues raised were addressed and incorporated into this Report whereby mitigation measures have been provided thereof to avoid and/or minimize their significance on the environmental and social components. Most of the potential impacts were found to be of medium rating significance. With the effective implementation the recommended management and mitigation measures, this will particularly see the reduction in the significance of adverse impacts that cannot be avoided completely (from medium rating to low). To maintain the desirable rating, the implementation of management and mitigation measures should be monitored by the Proponent directly, or their Environmental Control Officer (ECO) is highly recommended. The monitoring of this implementation will not only be done to maintain the reduce impacts' rating or maintain low rating but to also ensure that all potential impacts identified in this study and other impacts that might arise during implementation are properly identified in time and addressed right away too.

It is crucial for the Proponent and their contractors to effectively implement the recommended management and mitigation measures to protect both the biophysical and social environment throughout the project duration. All these would be done with the aim of promoting environmental sustainability while ensuring a smooth and harmonious existence and purpose of the project activities in the community and environment at large.

Recommendations

The Environmental Consultant is confident that the potential negative impacts associated with the proposed project activities can be managed and mitigated by the effective implementation of the recommended management and mitigation measures and with more effort and commitment put on monitoring the implementation of these measures.

It is therefore, recommended that the proposed prospecting and exploration activities be granted an ECC provided that:

- All the management and mitigation measures provided herein are effectively and progressively implemented.

All required permits, licenses and approvals for the proposed activities should be obtained as required. These include permits and licenses for land use access agreements to explore and ensuring compliance with these specific legal requirements.

- The Proponent and all their project workers or contractors comply with the legal requirements governing their project and its associated activities and ensure that project permits and or approvals required to undertake specific site activities are obtained and renewed as stipulated by the issuing authorities.
- Site areas where exploration activities have ceased are rehabilitated, as far as practicable, to their pre-exploration state.
- Environmental Compliance monitoring reports should be compiled and submitted to the DEAF Portal as per provision made on the MEFT/DEAF's portal.