

Date: 10 October 2023

Minutes from the Briefing Consultation Meeting with the Chairperson of Omatendeka Conservancy - Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) Study for the Proposed Prospecting and Exploration Activities on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) No. 8904 Located East of Sesfontein Settlement in the Kunene Region, Namibia

Date: Tuesday, 10 October 2023

Time: 17h30 to 18h30

Venue: Grill's Addict Meeting Area, Shop No. 341, Kutz House, Independence Avenue, Windhoek

Project Proponent: Gemco Investments CC

Meeting Attendance

The attendance comprised of one Environmental consultant from Serja Hydrogeo-Environmental Consultants CC (Serja HGE Consultants), two Proponent representatives for EPL-8904, and the Chairperson of the Omatendeka Conservancy- as shown in Figure 1 and the signed attendance register attached hereto.



Figure 1: Briefing Consultation meeting with the Conservancy Chairperson on the 10th of October 2023 in Windhoek

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING

Ms. Fredrika Shagama (Environmental Assessment Practitioner / Consultant) from Serja HGE Consultants opened the meeting, thanked the meeting attendees for making time for the meeting, she then introduced herself, and the Gemco Investments' representatives. She further presented the meeting agenda to the Chairperson of the Omatendeka Conservancy (Mr. Gustav Tjiundukamba), which is based on the requirements of the 2012 EIA Regulations: Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 on Public Consultation's Section 21 to 24. She also explained that the meeting supposed to take place in Omatendeka area but only the community meeting was held on 05 October due to the unavailability of the Conservancy Management in the area on that day.

A copies of the Background Information Document (BID) was provided to Mr. Tjiudukamba for self-reading and follow throughout the meeting proceedings. A copy of the Draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was also provided to Mr. Tjiudukamba to take along to his office. She further indicated to the Chairperson that the EPL is still in its application status and the meetings are conducted as part of the ESA process towards the issuing of the ECC which will then be used by Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) MME to consider the granting of the environmental clearance certificate (ECC). Ms. Shagama also informed the Chairperson that, once Gemco Investments have obtained the ECC and EPL rights, they will be returning to the area for official meeting with the whole management of the Conservancy on the way forward and set up agreements and conditions of land use before any work is conducted in the area.

Ms. Shagama circulated the register to the attendees to sign.

2. MEETING AGENDA AND PRESENTATION

Ms. Shagama presented the agenda of the meeting which included the following main points:

2.1 Explanation of what an ESA is, its Process and the Public Role in the Process

Ms. Shagama explained that the ESA process is done in compliance with the EMA, as the proposed prospecting and exploration works are one of the listed activities that cannot be undertaken without applying and obtaining an ECC from the Environmental Commissioner, which is subject to an ESA process and ESA Report as well as EMP. The ESA process requires that the consultation meeting is held with the affected and or interested community members where the project activities would be undertaken.

Furthermore, the EPL is in an application stage with the MME and before the rights or the certificate of the EPL can be issued to Gemco Investments, the ECC needs to be obtained first and submitted to the Mining Commissioner to consider the EPL application.

2.2 Brief Description of the Project

A brief description of the planned project activities was presented as per the provided BID copy, and Ms. Shagama emphasized the importance of understanding that the conducted ESA Study and subsequent ECC are for prospecting and exploration only and not mining. She further explained that mining activities can only be undertaken on mining license and not on an EPL as an EPL is exclusively for exploration. In other words, mining can only be done once the exploration activities yield positive (economic feasible) results, which would mean the Proponent will need to convert the EPL into mining license by apply for it. The mining license would be also subject to another detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study with specialists and apply for an ECC for mining activities.

2.3 Presentation of Potential Project Impacts

To ensure transparency and that the attendees understand both sides of the proposed project activities, Ms. Shagama also presented the potential pre-identified potential positive and negative environmental impacts anticipated from the proposed prospecting and exploration activities.

2.4 Public Open Discussion (Interactive Session)

The meeting attendees were provided with an opportunity to ask questions and/or raise concerns with regards to the proposed project activities so that these can be incorporated into the meeting minutes and used as basis for the compilation of the ESA Report and Draft EMP. The key comments and issues made in the meeting were recorded and noted for consideration and inclusion in the ESA Report. These issues and comments are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Issues, suggestions and comments received during the Briefing Consultation Meeting on the 11th of October 2023 in Windhoek

No.	Name of the speaker/commenter & mode of communication	Comment/Issue/Suggestion	Response provided by:
1.	Mr. G. Tjiudukamba (10 October 2023, in the face to face meeting)	It is a commendable thing that local companies are trying to invest in projects that can uplift communities. Therefore, it is important the local communities benefits from the project through fair labour and services that are available in the area.	<p>Ms. Fredrika Shagama: Yes, the Proponent are required to consider locals for available job opportunities that they can do instead of employing someone from other areas to do things like cooking for the exploration crew or even site clearing, where necessary. Gemco Investments is also taking note for implementation when the time comes.</p> <p>Mr. Joshua Kalumbu (Gemco Investments): Yes, we have also taken note of this for consideration because we also received the same comments in the community meeting in Okavare Village.</p> <p>Mr. Alpheus Nanyemba (Gemco Investments): Some community members also indicated that they have interested in small mining claims that are likely to fall within the EPL. Therefore, we will find a way to work together and not to disregard them or take away their rights to also benefit. We are the visitors in the area too. Therefore, we can only work in harmony if we work together. We will try our best to help where we can.</p>
2.	Mr. G. Tjiudukamba (10 October 2023, in the face to face meeting)	Furthermore, it is important for Gemco to note that Omatendeka is a Conservancy and I am sure you did see some wildlife in the area when you were in Okavare. So, wildlife will need to be protected and not be significantly affected negatively by the exploration activities.	Ms. Fredrika Shagama: This is well noted and mitigation measures are also provided in the EMP for implementation by the Proponent and their contractors at site. The Conservancy will also have the rights to set further conditions regarding land use and movements in the Conservancy during exploration to protect wildlife.
3.	Ms. Fredrika Shagama (10 October 2023, in the face to face meeting)	Mr. Tjiudukamba, it is important for the Conservancy to issue the land of consent and or proof that we have consulted you. Therefore, you can take the printed EMP and BID to your office for review and consider the issuance of the letter or proof because we need to submit this to the Ministry of	Mr. G. Tjiudukamba: This is noted. We will sit on the documents you provided us once I am back in the office and send you the letter so that you can submit the Environmental documents for now.

No.	Name of the speaker/commenter & mode of communication	Comment/Issue/Suggestion	Response provided by:
		Environment, Forestry & Tourism (MEFT) for consideration of the ECC so that it can be submitted to MME for the EPL to be granted to Gemco. It should also be noted that the EPL is not yet granted to Gemco. Therefore, Gemco would first like to obtain the ECC and EPL certificate and then come back to the area with all paperwork and when you are all available to sign memorandum of understand before any works are conducted on the area.	
<p>There were no further questions or comments/concerns.</p> <p>Ms. Shagama thanked the Chairperson for making time to meet in Windhoek community and comments provided. She informed the Chairperson that she would send an email as a follow up on the meeting and reminder for the Letter required to submit the ESA Report to the MEFT for evaluation and consideration of the ECC.</p> <p>The meeting was closed and was adjourned at 18h30.</p> <p>Ms. Shagama sent numerous follow up emails, SMSes, and attempted phone calls to Mr. Tjiudukamba between 12 October 2023 and 11 January 2024 on the letter required for the submission of the ESA Report, but to no avail. However, Mr. Tjiudukamba eventually responded to the SMS sent to him on 12 January 2024 and the response was as below.</p>			
4.	Mr. Tjiudukamba (12 January 2024, via SMS)	It is important to also have a joint meeting with the Traditional Authority leaders in the Conservancy, Conservancy Committee to jointly sign the letter of land use during the course of this month (January 2024). Therefore, this should be arranged by your team.	<p>Ms. Fredrika Shagama: This is well noted. I will convey the message to the EPL applicants and if they will able to return to the area within the specified time.</p> <p>Upon consulting with the Proponent, they were not able to return to the area given the amount of time that passed 10 October 2023 and 12 January 2024 with no timey response. It is also very expensive for a small company as Gemco to undertake another trip to the area on such short notice (due to financial constraints) given the distance from Windhoek to Omatendeka Conservancy.</p>


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CONSULTATION MEETING ATTENDANCE REGISTER

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT / SCOPING ASSESSMENT (ESA) STUDY: THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) NO. 8904 LOCATED EAST OF SEFONTEIN SETTLEMENT IN THE KUNENE REGION, NAMIBIA

Project Proponent: *Gemco Investments cc*

Date & Time: *Tuesday, 10 October 2023 @ 17h30 - 18h20*

Venue: *Gnoli Addicts Restaurant, Windhoek*

Ongava TA (Dm qkndeka)
Chief from ~~Tjaurra~~ Tjaurra

No.	Name & Surname	Name of Institution or Village	Contact number	Email address	Signature
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