

Communication with I&APs, and Means of Consultation Employed

Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations details the steps to be taken during a public consultation process and these have been used in guiding this process. Communication with I&APs with regards to the proposed development was facilitated through the following means and in this order:

- A Background Information Document (BID) containing brief information about the proposed project was compiled and hand delivered to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) accompanying the ECC application, and uploaded on the MEFT (ECC) Portal for project registration and shared with registered Interested and Affected parties (I&APs).
- A Stakeholders' (I&AP) List was developed and updated as new I&APs register for the ESA. The BID shared with the pre-identified key stakeholders such as the Kunene regional Council (Head Office as well as Sesfontein Constituency and Settlement Office), Nami Daman Traditional Authority and the Omatendeka Conservancy Management).
- Project Environmental Assessment notices were published in the *New Era* and *Windhoek Observer* newspapers on the 05th and 12th of September 2023 (attached hereto). The consultation period ran from the 05th of September 2023 to the 06th of October 2023, and extended to 09 October 2023.
- A3 size posters were pasted at the Kunene Regional Council' Sesfontein Settlement Office (in Sesfontein), Warmquelle Settlement (at a local market near the turn off to Okavare) and Okavare Village at the local small market (cuca shop). The photos of the site where posters were pasted are shown below.



Public notice poster at the Sesfontein Settlement Office in Sesfontein



A3 ESA Study Poster in Warmquelle Settlement



Public notice poster in Okavare Village

- A consultation meeting was scheduled and held with the community and local stakeholders (in Okavare Village, inside the EPL) on the 05th of October 2023 as shown below. The meeting was attended by eighteen (18) people as per the attendance register. The consultation meeting minutes were taken and are attached hereto.



Consultation meeting in progress at the Okavare Village on the 05th of October 2023

- Another consultation meeting was held between the Proponent representatives, Environmental Assessment Practitioner, and Chairperson of the Omatendeka Conservancy in Windhoek on the 10th of October 2023. The meeting supposed to take place in Omatendeka area on the 05th of October 2023, but due to the unavailability of the Chairperson and Conservancy Management in the area on that day, it was not possible. Therefore, a briefing consultation meeting was

instead held with the Chairperson as he was in Windhoek attending to other Conservancy related workshop in Windhoek at the time (see photos below). A second meeting in the Omatendeka will be held with the Conservancy Management later in 2024.



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

For the purpose of the environmental assessment, a Consent letter for the EPL application and subsequent exploration activities was issued in November 2022 by the land custodian (Nami Daman Traditional Authority) and appended hereto.

Feedback and Issues raised by the Stakeholders (I&APs)

Issues were raised by I&APs during the consultation period and these issues have been recorded and incorporated in the ESA Report and EMP. The summary these few key issues are presented below.

Summary of main issues and comments received throughout the consultation period (meeting)

Aspect	Summary of impact or concern
Comments and Issues received or noted during the consultation meeting	
Assistance of community members by the Proponent during exploration	-The community members requested Gemco to assist them while in the area, especially the small-scale miners that may be found on the EPL.
Employment of local	-Employment of opportunities that can be given to locals should be reserved for them to help them make a living.
Conflicts between the Proponent and small-scale miners (mining claims owners)	-EPL holders are known to have a tradition of chasing out small-scale miners from their EPLs. This should be addressed amicably and work together in harmony.
Un-rehabilitated trenches in the area	-There are some existing open (un-rehabilitated) trenches in the area from 4 years ago that have been left by some explorers.

The consultation period ran from the 05th of September 2023 to the 06th of October 2023, and further extended to the 31st of October to allow some days of comments after the consultation meeting. Comments received during the consultation meeting are as summarized above, and indicated in the meeting minutes.

Shaningwa shoots down Swapo extraordinary congress calls

KEETMANSHOOP – Swapo secretary general Sophia Shaningwa says there will be no extraordinary congress, confirming that party vice president Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah is their sole and authentic presidential candidate for the 2024 election. Nandi-Ndaitwah secured her position during the seventh congress held in November last year.

Namibians are set to return to the polls next year for the Presidential and National Assembly (NA) elections. Speaking at a Swapo rally in Keetmanshoop over the weekend, Shaningwa urged party members to mobilise and prepare for the 2024 presidential and NA elections, emphasising that Nandi-Ndaitwah is the sole Swapo party presidential candidate. “Let us go out and vote for Namibia’s first female president.

We have a responsibility to ensure that she receives our support. I will not hesitate to endorse her as the candidate for the Swapo party, and there will be no alternative candidate and no extraordinary-congress,” Shaningwa said.

Shaningwa noted Nandi-Ndaitwah’s qualifications in both domestic and international matters, while also showering her with praises, describing her as a compassionate leader who listens not only with her ears, but with her heart as well.

She urged party members to rally behind Nandi-Ndaitwah as they had done for the first, second, and third presidents of the party and the country. Matheus Mumbala, Swapo’s regional coordinator for the //Karas region, echoed the sentiment of party unity and support for



Unity... Swapo leaders during a recent rally in Keetmanshoop. Photo: NawaZone

Nandi-Ndaitwah as the 2024 presidential candidate.

“We are hearing people talking about extra-ordinary congress. That will not happen. It happened once in 2004 but it will not repeat itself, our rules and procedures are clear. We will have an electoral college to elect candidates for members of parliament but as far as presidential candidate goes, congress has pronounced itself, even if you were in support [of Nandi-Ndaitwah] or not,” the outspoken Mumbala said. On

her part Nandi-Ndaitwah, or NNN as she is known in the Swapo circles, said the party’s aim should be to reclaim its glory day.

The most powerful political weapon available to reclaim the lost ground is uniting the masses towards a shared socio-economic prosperity. “I urge you to work harder to ensure that come 2024, Swapo party and its presidential candidate are given unreserved support in order to ensure a landslide victory,” she said.

-Nampa

Ohangwena bemoans police exclusion

■ Festus Hamalwa

ONGWEDIVA - Ohangwena regional council chairperson Erickson Ndawanifa has expressed disappointment in the safety ministry’s purported lack of consultation with the regional leadership.

Ndawanifa is also the councillor for Omulonga constituency.

In an exclusive interview with New Era last week, Ndawanifa complained about the absence of police stations at Omulonga and Oshikunde constituencies.

Ndawanifa said this year alone, two police stations were constructed in the Ohangwena region, at Epembe and Omundaungilo constituencies, without the regional leadership being consulted.

“I just heard that two police stations have already been completed. They did not consult my office to discuss the challenges of the police stations. I am not happy with how they handled things,” Ndawanifa lamented.

He said it is unfair for police stations to be constructed in constituencies that already have police stations.

“How can you build two police stations in those constituencies while there are

constituencies without any single police station? They made their decision without engaging the regional chairperson,” he said. What is worse, he said, Omulonga is one of the biggest and densely populated constituencies in the region.

“People travel long distances seeking police services. People pay transport fare to reach the police station. Every time, people are crying in my constituency,” said the politician.

Ndawanifa said since 2015, he has been writing letters to the relevant authorities requesting for the construction of a police station in his constituency but to no avail.

“Now people in my constituency are planning to go on a peaceful demonstration against lack of police stations,” he said. The lack of police stations, he hastened to say,

contributes to high crime rate and also delays the reporting of criminal activities. A resident of Omulonga constituency who spoke to this publication blamed government for not coming to their rescue.

“We have been voting for the same government but it failed to provide police services in our constituency. Our Prime Minister [Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila] should hear our cry and act,” said David Shaanika.

For Selma Hangula from Oshatotwa village, the lack of police stations is contributing to high gender-based violence as they are far from the police where they can report incidences of crime.

Approached for comment, police inspector general (IG) Joseph Shikongo said his office is aware of the unavailability of police stations in the Omulonga

constituency.

“We are busy planning to build more police stations in the Ohangwena region and the two Kavango regions,” he said.

Meanwhile, deputy safety minister Daniel Kashikola said it was not a must for each constituency to have a police station. He said the new police station was built in the Omundaungilo constituency in order to improve the living conditions of the police officers who used to sleep in a tent at the borders.

“Police at the borders are suffering. Therefore, it is necessary that we first improve their living conditions,” headed. Kashikola also emphasised that the other police station was built in the Epembe constituency because the first police station was old and small.

- fhamalwa@nepc.com.na



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BRINGING FISH TO THE NATION

Daughter attacks mother with machete

■ Max Henrich

ONGWEDIVA - A 28-year-old Namibian female was arrested last Friday after allegedly attacking her biological mother with a panga, a weekend crime report shows.

The suspect is from Ongudi village in Omungwelumbe.

It is alleged that at around 14h00, the suspect attacked the 63-year-old victim with a machete, leaving her with open cut wounds to the lips, chest and hands.

She is being treated at Oshakati State hospital, and police investigations continue.

In another unrelated incident, on Friday at around 20h00 on the B1 road between Oshivelo and Omuthiya, near Omutsegonime village, an unlicensed driver of a Toyota Corolla lost control and bumped into an oncoming truck.

The vehicle, which was travelling from Ondangwa with three occupants, was avoiding some cattle, which were on the road.

Two male passengers died, while one is receiving treatment at Onandjokwe hospital.

Meanwhile, at Uupopo location in Ondangwa, at around 11h00, it is alleged that a body of a 25-year-old Angolan male was found hanging from the roof of his sleeping room.

No suicide note was left behind and no foul play is suspected. Police investigations continue.

On Saturday, at around 03h40 at Omusaati Gwopooa in Omaalala area, a 33-year-old man was bumped by a vehicle and died instantly in what is suspected to be an attempted hit-and-run.

According to Oshana police spokesperson Thomas Aiyambo, the driver fled the scene.

“After investigations, we found the vehicle [Polo] parked in the garage of a house in Ohakweenynga village. We arrested the 18-year-old and he had no driver’s licence,” said Aiyambo.

On Sunday at around 04h40 at Club Ace in Ongwediva, a 27-year-old who was allegedly causing havoc was shot in the stomach and knee by a security guard. He later died at the Oshakati State hospital.

“It is alleged the deceased was disturbing customers and tried to steal items from them in the club. The deceased was taken out of the club by the employees and security guard,” said Aiyambo.

It is alleged while outside, the deceased allegedly attacked the security guard with an Okapi knife. Retaliating, the security guard fired a warning shot on the ground, while the deceased proceeded to walk towards the guard with his knife.

“The security guard shot him in the stomach and knee. The guard went to hand himself over to the Ongwediva police station,” said Aiyambo.

PUBLIC NOTICE: PARTICIPATION & COMMENTS SUBMISSION

Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) Study for the Proposed Prospecting & Exploration Activities on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) No. 8904 located east of Sesfontein in the Kunene Region, Namibia

The public is hereby notified that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner as required under the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations. The proposed prospecting and exploration on EPL-8904 are listed activities in the EIA Regulations that cannot be undertaken without an ECC, which is issued upon approval of an EIA/ESA Study.

The Proponent of the proposed Activities: Gemco Investments cc

Project Nature and Location: Upon issuance of the ECC and EPL approval, Proponent will plan for and commence with the proposed prospecting and exploration of mineral commodities on the EPL. The 19,993.5888Ha- EPL is located about 40km east of Sesfontein Settlement in the Kunene Region.

Appointed Environmental Consultant: Serja Hydrogeo-Environmental Consultants CC

The public is therefore invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and submit comments and or receive further information on the ESA process. The deadline for registration as I&APs and submission of comments, issues or concerns is **Friday, 06 October 2023**. A consultation meeting will be held in the area and will be communicated via the local key stakeholders and registered I&APs.

Contact Person: Ms. Fredrika Shagama
Mobile No.: +264 (0) 81 749 9223
Email: eias.public@serjaconsultants.com



ADVERTS

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THE APPLICATION OF NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC) – MINERAL PROSPECTING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) NO. 8955 IN THE KUNENE REGION – NAMIBIA

In accordance with the Environmental Management Act, 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) & the EIA Regulations 30 of 2012, mineral prospecting activities are a listed activity which may not be undertaken without a valid Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). **OMAVI Geotechnical & Environmental Services** has been appointed to undertake an Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and prepare an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to support the application for this project's ECC.

Proponent: Max Kefas Nuseb

Site Locality: EPL-8955 is located about 50km north of Opuwo in the Kunene Region. The EPL covers an area of 19,768.0277 hectares (Ha).

The Public is hereby invited to register as Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) and submit written comments, concerns or suggestions and request for the Background Information Document (BID) for the ESIA process by close of business on **Thursday, 28 September 2023** to the contact information provided below.

A Public Consultation Meeting is anticipated in the week of **18 September 2023** at **11h00**. Once confirmed, the final meeting details (exact date, time and venue) will be communicated to all stakeholders and registered I&APs.



Tel: **+264 81 478 6303** (SMSes or WhatsApp
Texts preferred for record keeping purpose)
Email: info@omavi.com.na

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Proponent: Max Kefas Nuseb

Site Locality: EPL-8967 is located about 70km northwest of Sesfontein in the Kunene Region. The EPL covers an area of 19,996.3883 hectares (Ha).

The Public is hereby invited to register as Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) and submit written comments, concerns or suggestions and request for the Background Information Document (BID) for the ESIA process by close of business on **Thursday, 28 September 2023** to the contact information provided below.

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Donatus: Urban starvation a reality

■ Eveline de Klerk

SWAKOPMUND – Urban families are increasingly finding themselves between rocks and hard places, grappling with a dire shortage of food supplies.

This situation has been exacerbated by the soaring unemployment levels and the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This dire picture was painted by Walvis Bay rural constituency councillor Florian Donatus.

So bad are things that Donatus' office deals daily with desperate and vulnerable families in dire need of food.

Donatus said this during a consultation with Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and the regional political leadership in Swakopmund.

It was Donatus' clarion call to the Premier that to combat urban starvation, drought relief should be extended to those residing in informal settlements within urban areas as well.

"Our office is frequented by people who are very hungry to the extent that we are giving up our own salaries to these people to feed them. The situation is sometimes so severe that one doesn't even want to go to the office, as we do not want to disappoint our people. However, the reality is that if we don't give them at least a bag of maize, they won't have anything to eat," Donatus said.

Urban hunger, he said, was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, as many residents found themselves destitute after losing their jobs and businesses.

He implored the Prime Minister to re-evaluate the situation and seek comprehensive solutions to support vulnerable urban populations.

"Please re-evaluate the situation on how we are going to accommodate those vulnerable people. Rural areas are sorted, and I am happy that they are catered for, but the real concern now is those struggling in the urban setup," the energetic politician said.

Responding, Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said Cabinet has already resolved to assist those in urban areas through various programmes, apart from drought relief.

"The drought relief gets a budget that only covers a period between two harvests, after which we get a budget only if the harvest was poor. We also look at other types of interventions for towns such as Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, which also face food shortages," Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said.

She further emphasised the necessity for additional interventions like backyard gardening to alleviate food shortages in urban areas, along with the need for local authorities and regional councils to drive local economic growth and job creation.

"Our strategies must also be homegrown, spearheaded by our people because that is the only way we are going to ensure that growth translates into improved welfare conditions. Besides that, if we cannot promote the development of local entrepreneurs; if we cannot promote job creation, and if we cannot ensure that there is a living wage, then it means you have to resort to donations for basic shelter and job creation. It is not only important that they earn their own income; it is also important for their dignity," the former finance minister said.

Kuugongelwa-Amadhila added the food bank programme can be used to provide a short-term solution, but food security can also be promoted by creating backyard gardens in urban areas.

- edeklerk@nepc.com.na



Dark clouds... Health minister Dr Kalumbi Shangula lighting a candle of hope in remembrance of the precious lives lost to suicide. Photo: Paheja Siririka

Break the silence, seek help - Shangula

■ Paheja Siririka

HEALTH minister Dr Kalumbi Shangula has pleaded with Namibians to break the culture of silence and seek help, as suicide is a major public health problem, with far-reaching social, emotional and economic consequences.

Programme data from August 2022 to June 2023 indicate that Namibia lost 623 lives to suicide, of which 511 are males and 92 are females.

"Most worrying is the fact that among this number, 20 or 3.2% are from the youth demographic. This illustrates that the death rate by suicide is 21 per 100 000 population, with the highest incidence being experienced in Omusati, Oshikoto and Hardap regions," said Shangula during the commemoration of World Suicide Day yesterday.

He stated that these numbers confirm that suicide is a major public health concern in Namibia and must serve as a call to action to prevent further incidences of suicide.

He said: "Some mental health conditions are associated with an increased risk of suicide. Persons with depression, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia especially have a high propensity to suicide. Apart from mental health conditions, contributing factors to suicide include substance abuse, chronic health issues, persistent pain or physical disability, feelings of isolation or helplessness and negative life events".

Shangula highlighted that although suicides are preventable, efforts require coordination and collaboration among multiple sectors of society, including the health sector and other sectors, such as education, labour, agriculture, business, justice, law, defence, politics and the media.

He said the efforts must be comprehensive and integrated, as no single approach alone can make an impact on an issue as complex as suicide.

"A crucial part of suicide prevention is addressing the stigma associated with mental disorders that in turn trigger suicide. Any person with suicide ideations, any

person thinking of or talking about taking his or her own life or any person who has attempted suicide deserve to get the help they need," said Shangula.

The World Health Organisation acting country representative Dr Mary Bruntao said, globally, an estimated 703 000 people die by suicide each year, among which 77% of the deaths occur in low-middle-income countries.

"These global suicide rates are a serious public health concern. Every life lost to suicide creates a devastating impact on families, communities and nations. Namibia's suicide rate for the past three years is estimated between 19-21 per 100 000 population.

The majority are male, and the method mostly used was by hanging," explained the medical doctor.

Bruntao stated that preventing suicide requires collective action from all of us if we are to achieve the sustainable development goal target of reducing global suicide mortality by one-third by 2030.

- psiririka@nepc.com.na

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Serja Hydrogeo-Environmental
Consultants CC

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) NO. 8904 LOCATED EAST OF SESFONTEIN SETTLEMENT IN THE KUNENE REGION, NAMIBIA: AN APPLICATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC) FOR PROSPECTING AND EXPLORATION ONLY

The public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at the Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Tourism (MEFT) as required under the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations. The proposed activities (prospecting and exploration on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL)-8904) is a listed activity that cannot be undertaken without an ECC from the MEFT. The application for the EPL was made to the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) on the 07th of June 2022, and have not been granted yet, pending an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) as shown on the Namibia Mines and Energy Cadastre Map Portal ('Pending ECC') - <https://maps.landfolio.com/Namibia/>. The ECC is subject to an EIA or Scoping Assessment Study which is currently carried out. Once the EIA/Scoping Assessment Study is approved, ECC issued and obtained from the MEFT, the ECC will be submitted to the MME for consideration of granting the EPL.

Project Proponent: Gemco Investments CC

Environmental Assessment Practitioner (Environmental Consultant): Serja Hydrogeo-Environmental Consultants CC

Type of proposed Activity: Prospecting and Exploration for Mineral Commodities potentially occurring on the EPL, and these are Base & Rare Metals, Industrial Minerals, and Precious Metals.

The EPL Location and Size: The EPL is located about 40km east of Sesfontein in the Kunene Region and falls within the Omatendeka Conservancy - please refer to the locality and land use insert maps below. The EPL covers an area of 19,993.5888 hectares (Ha).

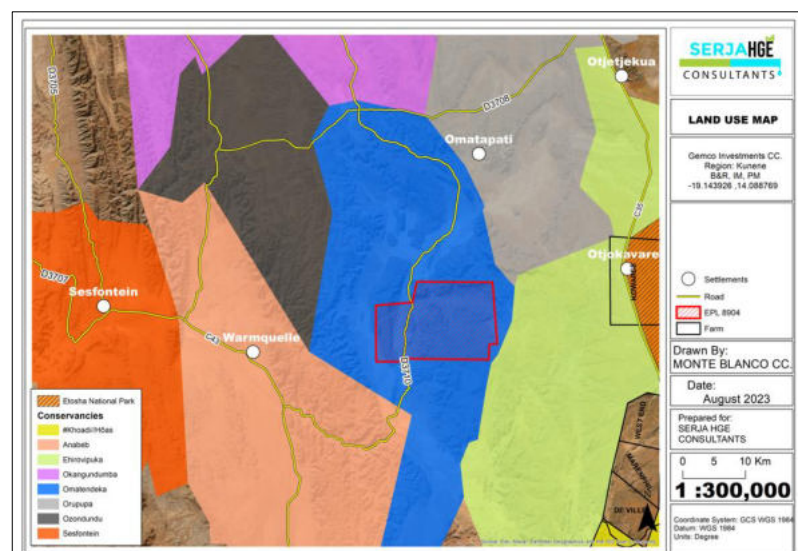
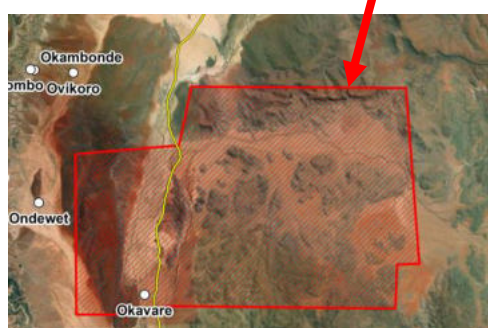
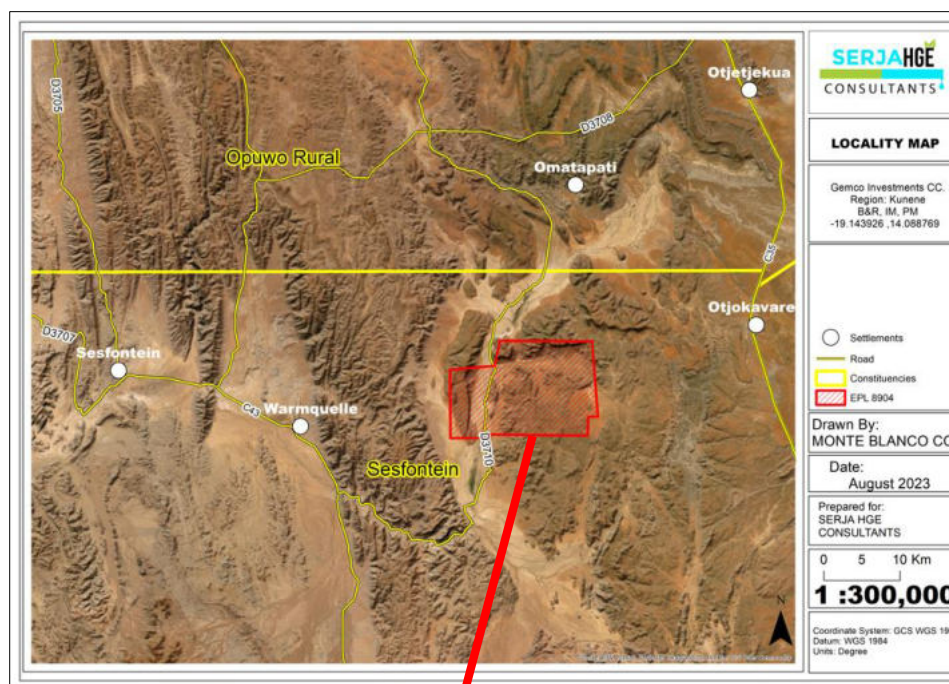
Members of the public are therefore invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to comment/raise concerns or receive further information on the Environmental Scoping/Impact Assessment (ESA/EIA). Registration or comments' **submission should be done in writing** to the contact details below.

Please note that the deadline for registration as I&APs and comments/concerns/issues requests is **Monday, 09 October 2023**.

Contact Person: Ms. Fredrika Shagama (Environmental Assessment Practitioner)

Mobile No.: +264 81 749 9223 (SMS or WhatsApp)

E-mail: eias.public@serjaconsultants.com, **Post:** P. O. Box 27318 Windhoek, Namibia



The proposed prospecting and exploration methods on the EPL will include:

- **Soil and rock sampling** – samples collected and taken for trace element analysis to be conducted by analytical chemistry laboratories to determine if enough minerals of interest are present.
- **Trenching** – exploration trenches will be dugged until bedrock to further investigate the mineral potential.
- **Exploration drilling (Reverse Circulation (RC) and diamond drilling)** - This is done following the positive analyses of soil samples and trenching samples by the laboratory led to the holes drilled, and drill samples collected for further analysis. This aids in determining the depth of the potential mineralization.



Date: 05 October 2023

CONSULTATION MEETING MINUTES

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: Thursday, 05 October 2023

Time: 11h00 to 12h40

Venue: Okavare Gathering Tree, Okavare Village

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, fourteen (14) community members and one representative from the Nami Daman Traditional Authority & Kunene Regional Council' Sesfontein Settlement Office) - as shown in the pictures below (Figure 1) and the signed attendance register attached hereto.



Figure 1: Community Consultation meeting in progress at Okavare Village on the 05th of October 2023

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, 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.

Copies of the Background Information Document (BID) were distributed among the attendees for self-reading and follow throughout the meeting proceedings. She circulated the attendance register for the attendees to sign the meeting attendance as proof of consultation to be appended to the ESA Report. Since some elders could not write or read, they requested one of the community youth to write down their names (and contact details, if available).

To ensure that the meeting contents are understood by the community elders who do not speak or understand English, the translations from English to Otjiherero, and vice versa was done by Mr. Mutenga Japuhua from the community.

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 environmental clearance certificate (ECC) from the Environmental Commissioner, which is subject to an ESA process and ESA Report as well as an Environmental Management Plan (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 Ministry of Mines and Energy (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 Consultation Meeting on the 05th of October 2023 in Okavare

No.	Name of the speaker/commenter & Capacity	Comment/Issue/Suggestion	Response provided by:
1.	Mr. Uaumba Nguezeeto	Some community members are currently having areas where they are mining small stones to make a living for their families. Some of these area might be inside the EPL. Would Gemco Investments help community members?	<p>Ms. Fredrika Shagama (Serja HGE Consultants): I believe Gemco Investments can assist the community when and where they can, while they are in the area during exploration.</p> <p>Mr. Joshua Kalumbu (Gemco Investments): Although we will just be exploring (putting money into the project for exploration with no guarantee of return on investments), we will try to assist where we can and put something back into the community, as part of social responsibilities.</p>
2.		In terms of labourers, will Gemco Investments employ our local people for semi- and unskilled?	<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>
3.	Okavare Village Headman	In some areas, the EPL holders chase out small-scale miners who even owns mining claims inside these EPLs and do not want community members there. Will this not be the case with Gemco Investments?	<p>Ms. Fredrika Shagama: The small-scale miners (mining claims owners) do have the rights to work on their mining claims as long as they are within their boundaries and not step out into the EPL zone. However, it is important to keep a healthy and peaceful relationship between the EPL holder and claim owners, so that they can work together. EPL holders should also remember that they will need the communities in the long run. Therefore, working together without in harmony is the only way forward for the benefit of everyone. It should also be noted that the EPL holder only has the right to explore (search for minerals but does not have the rights to explore), compared to a mining claim owner who can mine directly.</p> <p>Mr. Alpheus Nanyemba (Gemco Investments): It is really a matter of understanding and working together with the community as well as helping each other. Therefore, we will not be chasing you out of the EPL. However, we are also advising the community members to make sure that their mining claims are registered with MME so that they can have papers to work freely and legally on the claims.</p>

No.	Name of the speaker/commenter & Capacity	Comment/Issue/Suggestion	Response provided by:
4.		How does the community fit into the EPL application now? Does the Proponent require our approval?	Ms. Fredrika Shagama: as I indicated earlier in the beginning, the EMA and its EIA Regulations require that community consultations are done as part of the EIA/ESA Study for all listed activities. The aim is to inform you about the intention to obtain the EPL from MME, engage and hear from you and express your concerns or provide suggestions to the proposed activities. The comments, concerns and suggestions we are receiving from you will be incorporated in the ESA Report to be evaluated by the Environmental Commissioner. If the Commissioner is happy with the way we (Environmental Consultant) addressed your comments, the ECC would be issued which will be submitted by Gemco Investments to MME for consideration of the EPL certificate/rights before the can explore. In other words, since you are part of the social environment, you have the rights to be notified and consulted for proposed activities in the area, whereby you can raise your comments and concerns at the early stage of the project intentions so that the concerns, issues and or comments can be addressed and incorporated into the ESA Report and EMP as part of the planning phase for the proposed activities.

There were no further questions or comments/concerns.

Ms. Shagama thanked the community for attending the meeting. She informed them that their comments will be included in the Report and EMP and submitted to the Environmental Commissioner for evaluation and consideration of the ECC.

Way forward: The meeting attendees were informed that the ESA Report and EMP will be compiled by Serja Consultants and will be shared with Mr. Japuhua who can further share the information with the communities. The community will also be notified through the local traditional authority heads when the documentations have been obtained from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME). Prior to mobilizing to site for exploration activities, Gemco Investments will notify the leadership (Traditional Authority) who would then prepare the communities.

The meeting was closed and was adjourned at 12h40.

SERJAHGE CONSULTANTS

CC/2020/0010007

+264 81 407 5536

info@serjaconsultants.com

P.O. Box 27318, Windhoek
Namibia

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: THURSDAY, 05 OCTOBER 2023, 10H00(AM) FOR 1H30^{MIN} - 12H40PM

Venue: OKAVARE VILLAGE GATHERING AREA (INSIDE THE EPL)

No.	Name & Surname	Name of Institution or Village	Contact number	Email address	Signature
1.	ALTHEUS NYUYEMBA	GEMCO	0816509614	mkafeng@gmail.com	
2	Freddie Harach	KRC-Sesfontein	0878026285	notsoharach@gmail.com	
3	Joshua Kalumbya	Gemco Investments	08100033445	joshkalumbya@gmail.com	
	Firimbue Tjigameba	Okavare			

SERJAHGE

CONSULTANTS

Southbridge & Thompson's Group Accountants

CC/2020/0010007

+264 81 407 5536

info@serjaconsultants.com

P.O. Box 27318, Windhoek
Namibia

No.	Name & Surname	Name of Institution or Village	Contact number	Email address	Signature
4.	Yatlamlan, Tija	Okanare			
5	Abud Mbetiha	Okanare			
6.	Dikard Tjizembaka	Okanare			
7.	Hiazandoto Ngakwazi	Okanare			
8.	Uuanga Tjamazwa	Okanare			
9.	Ukumba Nguzeza	Okanare			
10.	Kaupfere Tjamazwa	Okanare			
11.	Gerson Mukwaza	Okanare	081 490 7338		

SERJAHGE

CONSULTANTS

Waterleiding en Infrastructuur Landge-Adviseurs
CC/2020/0010007

+264 81 407 5536

info@serjaconsultants.com

P.O. Box 27318, Windhoek
Namibia

No.	Name & Surname	Name of Institution or Village	Contact number	Email address	Signature
12.	Difred Hungua	Okanare			
13.	Latokura Nyuzeta	Okanare			
14.	Gersen U. Nkwanusi	Omaludaka	081 4907338		
15.	Yaneyi Nyakuzeri	Omaludaka	0812313295		
16.	Mutenga JAMPUNA	Ollavare	0614277051	Mutengajopuhua 87 @malcom	
17.	Fredhika Shagama	Serija HAE Consultants	081 7499223	eias_public @ serja consultants.com	
18.					
19.					

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>


SERJAHGE CONSULTANTS

CC/2020/0010007

+264 81 407 5536

info@serjaconsultants.com

P.O. Box 27318, Windhoek
Namibia

No.	Name & Surname	Name of Institution or Village	Contact number	Email address	Signature
4.	Frederika Shergama	Serja Consultants - DTP	+264 81 7499223	ciasspublic@serjainamibia.com	
5.					
6.					
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11.					

SERJAHGE

CONSULTANTS

CC/2020/0010007

+264 81 407 5536

info@serjaconsultants.com

P.O. Box 27318, Windhoek
Namibia

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 ~~Tjaurira~~ Tjaurira

No.	Name & Surname	Name of Institution or Village	Contact number	Email address	Signature
1.	<u>Luistoph CI</u>	<u>Dm qkndeka Co</u>	<u>0812992614</u>	<u>gustavtjinn.dukamba@gmail.com</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
2	<u>AIP Heus Nanyanda</u>	<u>GEMCO CC</u>	<u>0814509614</u>	<u>whaofay@gmail.com</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
3	<u>Joshua Kalumba</u>	<u>Gemco Investments cc</u>	<u>0810003445</u>	<u>josh.kalumba@gmail.com</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>