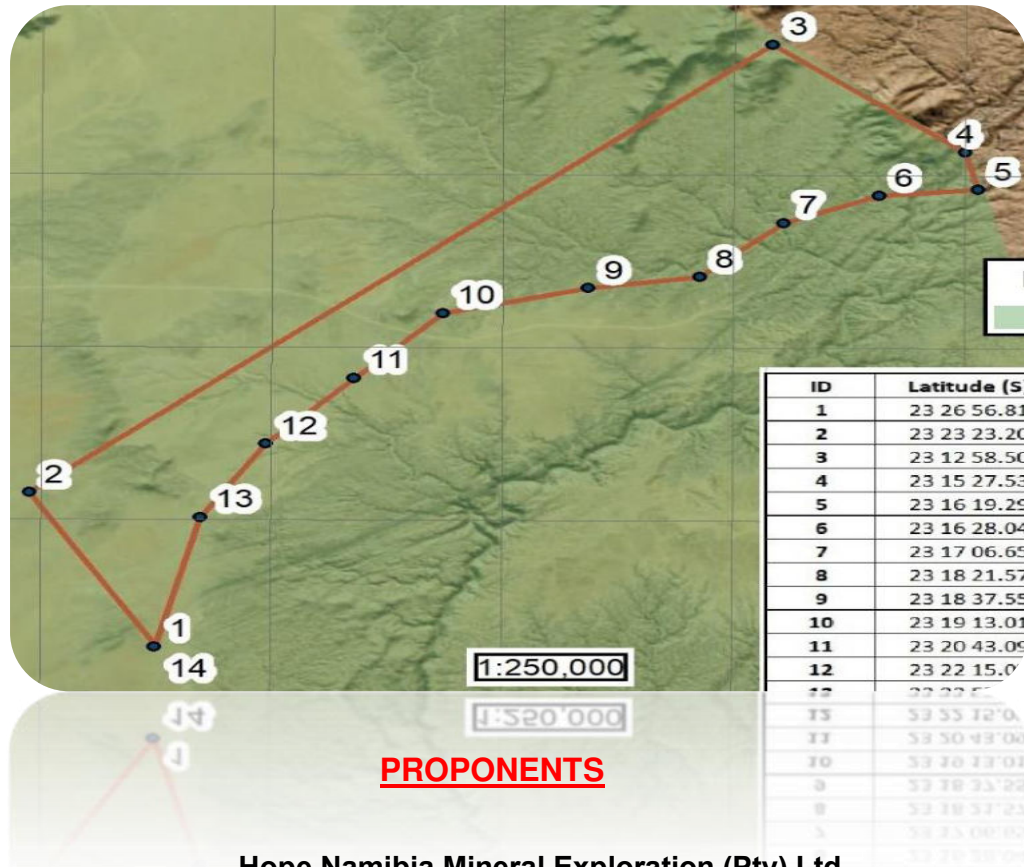


# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL 7170, LOCATED 140 KM EAST OF WALVIS BAY, ERONGO REGION



### PROPOSERS

Hope Namibia Mineral Exploration (Pty) Ltd

Reg No. 2018/2870

(subs. of Bezant Resources PLC)

Private Bag 12012, Ausspanplatz

Windhoek



### Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)



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Mr. Joseph Kondja Amushila (Lead EAP)

Mr. Titus Shuuya

Mr. Roland Mushi

**September - October 2023**

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

### 1.1 Introduction

Hope Namibia Mineral Exploration (Pty) Ltd, hereinafter referred to as the proponent, has acquired mineral rights under the Exclusive Prospective Licence (EPL) 7170 since 23 October 2020, with the expiry date of 22 October 2023. Bezant Resources Plc, an AIM-listed company, through its subsidiary Hepburn Resources Pty Ltd, holds a 70% interest in the licence and acts as an exploration operator.

The EPL is located about 140 km east of Walvis Bay, Erongo region, and covers approximately 13,996.2557 hectares. The EPL is situated within the Namib Naukluft National Park and is sandwiched by EPL 6605 also owned by Hope Namibia Mineral Exploration (Pty) Ltd and EPL 5796 and ML 246 owned by another Bezant Subsidiary Hope and Gorob Mining (Pty) Ltd. (Figure 1)

The EPL 7170 is registered for the following commodity groups: *base and rare metals, dimension stones, industrial minerals, and precious metals*. The Proponent has interests in prospecting, exploration, mapping, mining, surveying, and exploration drilling, and has identified an opportunity and/or intends to commence with slightly intrusive exploration activities along the Matchless Amphibolite Belt and more specifically the Kuiseb Formation.

Bezant is applying for a two-year renewal of its' Exclusive Exploration Licence to allow ongoing exploration. The proposed prospecting and exploration activities will enable the proponent to delineate mineral deposits of the targeted commodities, as part of the resource development for mining purposes.

### 1.2 Purpose of the EIA?

In terms of the Environmental Management Act No. 07 of 2007 and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of February 2012, an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) is required for any activities which requires a license, right or other form of authorization, and the renewal of a license, right or other form of authorization, in terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining act), 1992 as well as any other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not.

The purpose of the EIA study is as follows:

- i. Identify, investigate, and evaluate the potential impacts of the exploration activities on the physical environment, social, cultural, and economic environment.
- ii. Review relevant and applicable legislation.
- iii. Consult relevant stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs).
- iv. Prepare Environmental Scoping report.
- v. Compile Environmental Management Plan
- vi. Submit the Environmental Scoping Reports and Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) to MEFT in a prescribed manner as per EMA Regulations of 2012.



## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 Locality

The EPL7170 is located about 140 km east of Walvis Bay, Erongo region and is accessible via the C14 road to Windhoek.

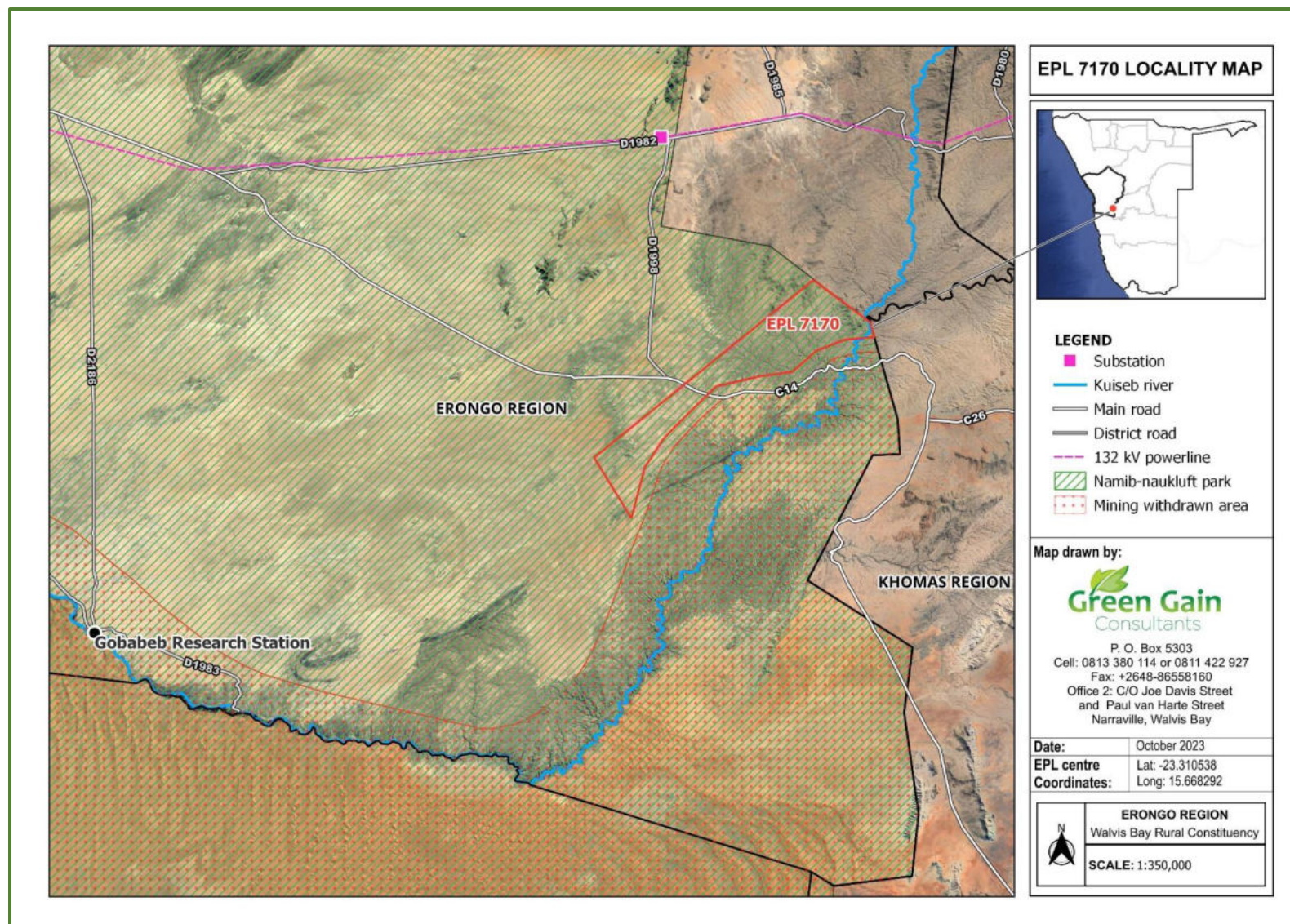


Figure 1: Locality map of EPL 7170



## 2.2 Historic exploration

The EPL 7170 is located within the vicinity of the historical Hope and Gorob copper mines which were the first copper deposit to be mined on a large scale in Namibia (1840's) and terminated around 1922 (Figure 3). Over the years, there have been various exploration campaigns targeting mineralization associated with the Matchless Amphibolite, in the area under review. Of relevance is work conducted after 1957 by Rand Mines (1957 to 1958), a joint venture between Nord Mining and SA Vendome (1970 to 1973), B&O Minerals (a Southwest African arm of JCI, Ltd – 1973 to 1986) and Goldfields Namibia (1995 to 1997) all conducted work in the vicinity of the proposed project. However, no data is known for the specific area underlying EPL7170. Nevertheless, it is understood that geophysical surveying by Nord Mining and SA Vendome did cover part or all of the area underlying EPL7170.



Figure 2: Overview of historic exploration activities in the neighboring EPLs

In April/May 2021 an airborne electromagnetic and magnetic survey was conducted across a part of EPL7170 as part of a wider EM/magnetic survey. Approximately 1,500-line kilometres of helicopter-borne surveying was carried out using the SkyTEM312M system over an area of 209.5km<sup>2</sup>, covering some of the strike length of the prospective Hope Matchless belt stratigraphy within the property, with a flight line spacing of 200m.

### 2.3 The target areas

The deposits belong to the so-called " matchless belt Cu-Zn- sulfide deposits" and had been explored by drilling and by geophysical methods in 2008. Apart from primary sulfides at the Hope mine stope, malachite and other secondary copper minerals were also found in the old open cut works of the Gorob mine. Minerals mentioned from the above deposits are: Atacamite, Azurite, Bornite, Chalcopyrite, Chalcocite, Cuprite, Limonite, Malachite, Pyrite, Staurolite, Vésignéite and Volborthite.

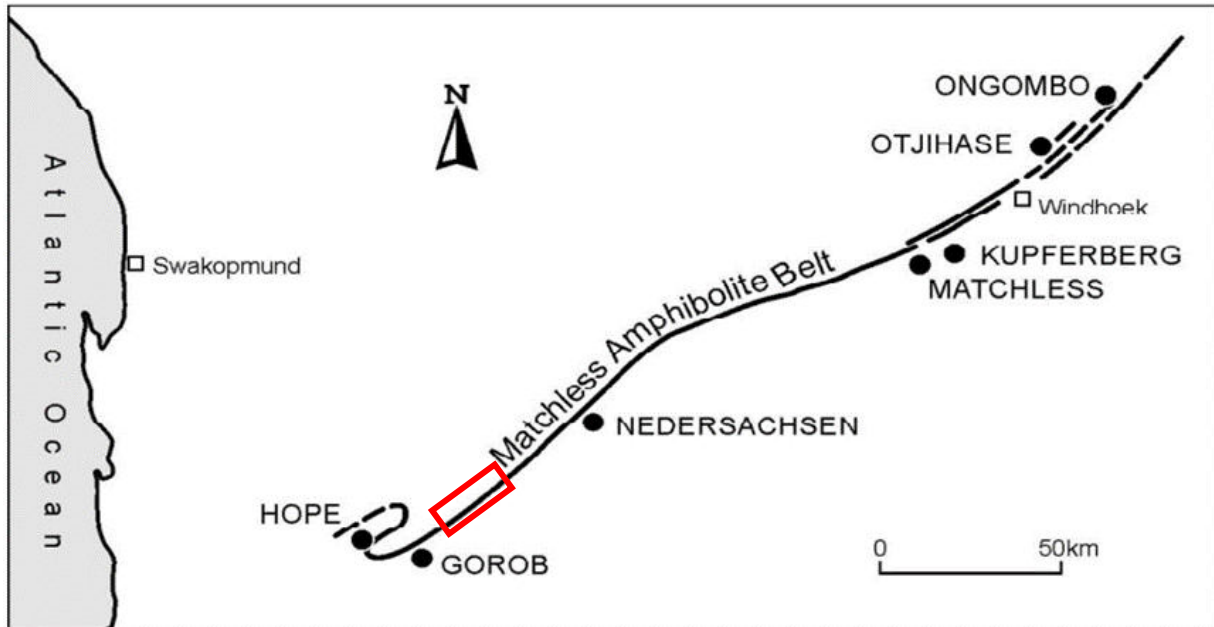


Figure 3: Target area

### 2.4 Proposed activities

The proposed prospecting and exploration activities methods are divided into two (2) categories:

- Phase 1: Non-invasive techniques e.g., desktop study, including satellite data and imagery investigation.
- Phase 2: Invasive techniques e.g., soil sampling, trenching and exploration drilling.

The following exploration activities are anticipated: Desktop study of existing data to identify potential prospecting and exploration targets. subject to review at each stage of the programme:

- Geological mapping.

- Electromagnetic and geophysical surveys (including airborne geophysical survey);
- Soil, rock sampling.
- Reverse Circulation (RC) and diamond drilling
- If required, some vegetation may be cleared or thinned to create dirt/bush roads to allow access to the targeted locations, however, existing tracks will be used as far as reasonably practical.
- Decommissioning, final rehabilitation.

### 3. THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT (THE STUDY AREA)

The Namib Naukluft National Park (NNP) is the country's largest conservation area and covers almost 50 000 km<sup>2</sup> and protects some of the most varied and extraordinary ecosystems in Namibia. It is home to the flat plains of Ganab, the spectacular Naukluft mountains and the largest dunes in the world.

The Namib-Naukluft Park offers a diversity of habitats (mountain slopes, gorges, plateaus, and dry riverbeds), which differ in vegetation and fauna. The area provides a sanctuary to a variety of wildlife, avifauna, which includes endangered on near threatened species, hence making the location and setting of the property an environmentally sensitive area.

Most of the Namib-Naukluft Park is currently uninhabited, thus there are no dwellings around the area. However, some studies have noted a human presence in the area since Early Stone Age man (*Homo erectus*) leaving behind stone hand axes as evidence of occupation. It is believed that supported small clans of strandlopers, who lived off fish, birds, and other marine life, while the interior served as occasional hunting grounds for San and seasonal grazing land for nomadic pastoralists. Moreover, the Naukluft has also been inhabited in the more recent past, for example by resistance fighter Hendrik Witbooi, who sought protection here with his Oorlam troops after a battle against the German colonial power.

The geology of the EPL area is dominated by massive mica schists of the Kuiseb Formation of the Pan-African Damara Orogen. No mineralization or mineral occurrences are known within EPL7170. However, the EPL is underlain by the Matchless Amphibole belt, which hosts copper (Cu) and gold (Au) mineralization at places along the belt.



Figure 4: Scenic view of the EPL area

## 4. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The study will be conducted in a multidisciplinary approach as outlined in the EIA Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012). The methods used in the collection of information and assessment are explained below.

### 4.1 Baseline study

Baseline information will be collected through site inspection, spatial analysis, use of existing information and consultation with relevant stakeholders and I&APs. The baseline information will be used as a basis for the assessment of potential impacts.

### 4.2 Scoping

The scoping study will provide detailed information about the proposed exploration activities as well as a full description of the receiving environment. The Scoping report will also assess how each environmental component is affected by the proposed activities. The significance of each potential impact will be assessed using different matrices based on the *nature, probability, intensity, and extent*. The scoping report will identify the gap of information and the need for any additional specialist study. The Scoping report will be shared with all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).

### 4.3 Specialist studies

#### **Ecological specialist study**

Given the fact that the proposed activities are taking place within a pristine environment where conservation is a priority, an ecological specialist study will be carried out. The objectives of the ecological specialist study are as follows:

- Undertake a desktop assessment to identify potential priority species, habitats, ecological corridors, and protected areas, including international, national, regional and local datasets and plans.
- Undertake a field survey and identify all species observed in the study area fauna (including avifauna) and flora.
- Provide a description of each habitat type including dominant, indicator, threatened, protected and rare (including regional and local endemic) species, vegetation communities and or habitats.
- Compile a list of invasive species, Red List, protected and/or endemic species for each flora and fauna (including avifauna) community.
- Document the status of all relevant species (e.g., IUCN Red List, national or local protection status, regional and local endemism etc.).
- Identify and assess all ecological impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) of the construction and operational activities of the proposed development on flora, fauna (including avifauna).
- An impact summary table must be provided, discussing expected impacts before and after mitigation.
- Propose mitigation measures considering ecological impacts identified including monitoring indicators. Ensure that mitigation measures are practical and measurable.
- List specific legislation and permit requirements that are relevant during the construction/development, operation, and decommissioning phase.

#### **Archeological study**

Due to the archeological and geological peculiarity of the area, archeological specialist study will be undertaken as part of the EIA study to fully establish the archaeological settings of the EPL area, more especially of the exploration target area.



## 4.5 Public Consultation

Consultations form an integral part of the EIA process; hence, relevant stakeholders are identified and invited to submit comments for consideration in the study.

### a) Stakeholder consultation

Relevant stakeholders were identified and invited to submit comments toward the study. The identified stakeholders are as follows:

- MEFT/NNNP-Ganab Office
- Kuiseb Delta Development Trust
- Gobabeb Research Station
- Topnaar Traditional Authority
- Kuiseb River Basin
- NamPower
- National Heritage Council (NHC)

The consultation process is an ongoing process, thus more stakeholders will be identified throughout the process.

The Scoping report and EMP will be shared with all identified stakeholders for input before submitted to the Environmental Commissioner.

### b) Notifications of I&APs

Public notices providing information about the proposed activities and the EIA study were published in two local newspapers (Confidante and New Era for 29 September and 06 October 2023).


**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
(EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION  
ACTIVITIES ON EPL 7170, ERONGO REGION**

Notice is hereby given to all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for the following activities.

**Project title:** Proposed exploration activities on EPL 7170  
**Project location:** Walvis Bay District, Erongo region  
**Proponent:** Hope Namibia Mineral Exploration (Pty) Ltd.  
**Description:** The proponent intends to commence with slightly intrusive exploration activities on EPL 7170 for base metal and precious metal deposits hosted within the Matchless Amphibolite Belt and more specifically the Kuiseb Formation. The EPL is located about 100km southeast of Walvis Bay in the Namib-Naukluft Park, Erongo region. It covers approximately 13996.3ha, however, certain sensitive areas have been identified and will be avoided.

I&APs are hereby invited to register, request the Background Information Document (BID) and submit comments/input to [eia@greengain.com.na](mailto:eia@greengain.com.na) or [jkondja@gmail.com](mailto:jkondja@gmail.com).

**The last day to submit input is 19 October 2023.**  
**The need for a public meeting will be communicated to all registered I&APs**

**For more information contact:**  **+264 81 142 2927**

**Figure 5: Public Notice**



## 5. ASESMENT OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following pre-identified potential socioeconomic and environmental impacts are anticipated. Other potential impacts shall be identified as the ESA study progresses and will be incorporated and addressed in the EMP, including concerns/comments raised by the I&APs.

### **Positive impact:**

- Employment creation and skills transfer;
- Investment opportunities/infrastructure related development benefits;
- Increase in local, regional and economic development;
- Improved support for local businesses through the procurement of locally available goods and services;
- Contribution to the state revenue.

### **Potential negative impacts to be assessed.**

- Disturbance to fauna (habitant fragmentation, poaching etc)
- Disturbance to flora (trampling, clearance,)
- Minor air, noise, soil and visual pollution associated with drilling and by the low flying airplanes (airborne geophysical survey);
- Possible occupational community health and safety risks/hazards;
- Waste management
- Possible groundwater and surface water pollution;
- Possible impact on archaeological or cultural heritage;
- Potential social nuisance.
- Traffic impacts, including off-road driving

**How to be involved?**

- Registering your inputs (comments or questions) to the project with the EAP
- Attending the scheduled Public Meeting
- Receive the BID, completing and submitting the registration form (here attached)

Contact email: [eia@greengain.com.na](mailto:eia@greengain.com.na)

**RESPONSE SECTION: INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES**

**1. PERSONAL DETAILS**

Name	
Organization	
Physical Address;	
Cellphone	
Telephone	
Fax	
Email:	

**2. Comments:**

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KINDLY PROVIDE YOUR INPUT AND COMMENTS TO [eia@greengain.com.na](mailto:eia@greengain.com.na) or [info@greengain.com.na](mailto:info@greengain.com.na) Enquiries: Mr. Joseph Kondja Amushila at Cell: 0811422927 or [jkondja@gmail.com](mailto:jkondja@gmail.com)