

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED
EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES OF GIB MINING (PTY) LTD**

MINUTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING – NNNP

MEETING DETAILS		
DATE	Friday 5 July 2024	
TIME:	10:00	
VENUE:	Two Beards Coffee, Swakopmund	
PROJECT:	EIA FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES OF GIB MINING ON EPL 9924 AND EPL 10131	
PURPOSE:	<p>The objectives of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To share information about the proposed project and its location. • Provide a description of the EIA process. • Provide information about the key potential environmental issues • Provide stakeholders with an opportunity to be involved in the EIA. • Describe the way forward, highlighting further opportunities to be involved in the EIA process. 	
ATTENDANCE:	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Organisation:</u>
	Nico Scholtz	Gib Mining (Pty) Ltd
	David Masen	MEFT
	Riaan Solomon	MEFT
	Werner Petrick	Namisun
	Pierré Smit	Namisun

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Pierré Smit opened the meeting and set the context and reasoning of the Focus Group Meeting.

2. INFORMATION SHARING

Pierré Smit provided an overview of the project, including its location. The EIA process was also explained, highlighting the following:

- General background and location.
- Detailed context about the project.
- The EIA process that will be followed.
- Key potential environmental issues associated with the proposed activities.
- The way forward.

3. DISCUSSION (QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

A few questions / comments / issues were raised during the meeting. These have been recorded in the attached table (see Appendix 1). The responses to all questions / comments are provided in the Issues and Responses Report (IRR) attached as an appendix to the EIA Scoping (including Impact Assessment) Report.

4. THE WAY FORWARD

Pierré Smit outlined the way forward as follows:

- Similar Focus Group Meetings were held with other stakeholders.
- The assessment outcomes of the project will be documented in a report as a draft version, together with a drafted EMP, and made available for a public review period.
- Namisun will finalize the EIA documents after the review period, incorporating comments received and submitting the documents to the MME and MEFT for their final review and decision.

5. CLOSE

The meeting was closed by 11:30

APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONS / COMMENTS / CONCERNS RAISED

(Refer to the IRR for responses to all questions / comments / concerns raised)

NO.	QUESTIONS / COMMENTS / ISSUES RAISED
1	What is the scope of work for the EIA? Does it also include the potential of future mining activities (if the exploration activities indicate positive results). Is provision made for a kind of “worst scenario” during the assessment?
2	Hotsas is a natural spring where water from the subsurface is seasonally forced upwards. The actual spring is however covered, and a permanent borehole was drilled instead to ensure that the water supply is continuous. A windmill abstracts the water from the borehole.
3	Poaching is a massive problem in the NNNP, especially in its northern parts. This tendency has worsened since the first mining activities (at Langer Heinrich) started and exploration activities increased thereafter.
4	The waterhole at Gemsbokwater is currently dysfunctional because the borehole is blocked by tree roots. The only solution is to drill another borehole, which is not considered immediately due to the lack of funds. The mining companies can be approached to find a solution for the lack of water at Gemsbokwater.
5	Management requirements and mechanisms reflected in the “National Policy on Prospecting and Mining in Protected Areas” must guide the EMP for the project and be formalized as commitments where relevant.
6	The permanent population of vultures at Hotsas prefer this location because of the shelter which provides them a good breeding ground, the availability of water and food supply and the absence of aircraft.
7	Exploration activities (and in the worst case, mining activities) at Hotsas will be a direct cause of habitat fragmentation and loss – especially for the vultures. More discussions with avifauna specialists and Vultures Namibia will follow.
8	Since the national government encourages mining investments, this sometimes led to negative impacts to the cost of the environment and the effectiveness of nature conservation.
9	Additional engagement of Manie le Roux, Bennett Kahuure and Kenneth Uiseb is proposed and discussions with them – or their representatives are planned.