

### **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 exploration 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 MME during the submission of the ECC application, uploaded on the MEFT (ECC) Portal for project registration and shared with registered I&APs.
- Project Environmental Assessment notices were published in The Namibia Media Holdings' *Market Watch newspapers (Allgemeine Zeitung, Die Republikein, and Namibian Sun)* -13 & 18 January 2023, briefly explaining the activity and its locality, inviting members of the public to register as I&APs and submit their comments/concerns.
- The BID was circulated to the I&APs, particularly the farm owners as well as other interested members of the public as requested.
- Some comments were submitted to Serja Consultants, and addressed under the Issues & Response Trail. These two appendices are attached hereto

### **Feedback and Issues from Interested and Affected Parties**

Issues were raised by I&APs throughout the consultation period and these issues have been recorded (as received from I&APs), addressed under *Issues & Response Trail* and incorporated in the ESA Report and Draft EMP. The summary these key issues are listed below.

- Impact on farming and tourism activities by exploration activities
- Damage of sensitive ecosystem
- Destruction of cultural heritage (archaeology and heritage),
- Hindering efforts to conserve the natural and cultural environment,
- Increase in poaching and disturbance of wildlife,
- Impact on eco-tourism through disturbance of nature on horseback (main income to farms such as Gross Okandjou),
- Disturbance to wildlife during mating seasons resulting in less wildlife
- Disturbance to grazing areas on farms, i.e., less grazing for cattle and game/wildlife,
- Impact on pursuing sustainable hunting (second income to the farm)
- Noise pollution
- Impact on groundwater aquifers (abstraction of limited water resources).
- Pollution of groundwater reservoirs through wastewater and or oil/fuel spills
- Environmental pollution (littering), and Physical soil disturbance
- Uncontrollable movement of people on the farm during exploration, farm safety issues and theft.

The period for public comments and registration as I&APs ran from 13 January 2023 to 13 February 2023, i.e., thirty-two (32) days.



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NSX Overall (closed) • 1 730.59 ▲0.64%



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JSE All Share (closed) • 78 522.10 ▲0.67%



Gold (closed) • US\$1 872.35/oz ▼0.34%



Copper (closed) • US\$9 124.50/t ▲2.38%



## Company News

**Telkom surges 11% as it calls off merger talks.**

3



PRINCIPLE OFFICER: NBWPF **ENWICH KAZONDU**

*Putting money aside for when we are older and more fragile and vulnerable, we are far better off if we can at least be financially independent.*



2

**6.9%**  
*Annual inflation rate recorded in December 2022.*

NAMIBIA STATISTICS AGENCY



To visit the Market Watch Flipper website please scan the QR code with a QR reader

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Vegetables annual inflation stood at 12% in December 2022.

PHOTO DAN-GOLD/UNSPASH

*Highest rate recorded in August (7.3%)*

# Domestic inflation averaged 6.1% in 2022

**Annual inflation in December 2022 came in at 6.9%, compared to 4.5% recorded in December 2021.**

Annual inflation in Namibia averaged 6.1% in 2022, compared to an average of 3.6% recorded in 2021, according to data released by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

The month of August recorded the highest inflation rate of 7.3%, while February and March recorded the lowest

inflation rates of 4.5%.

According to the data, December 2022 recorded an annual inflation rate of 6.9%, an increase of 2.4 percentage points when compared to 4.5% registered in December 2021. In November 2022, annual inflation stood at 7%.

On a monthly basis, price levels in Namibia increased by 0.3% in December 2022, compared to 0.5% recorded during the previous month. The main contributor to the monthly inflation rate recorded in December 2022 was food and non-alcoholic beverages.

*Fin24* recently reported that

world food prices hit a record high in 2022. In Namibia, the month of December recorded the highest annual food inflation rate of 12.1%, while March recorded the lowest rate of 4.7% in 2022. Local annual food inflation averaged 7.8% last year.

Selected food items that recorded high inflation rates are oil and fats (20.8%), fruits (20.5%), bread and cereals (18.2%), and vegetables, including potatoes and other tubers (12%).

**Windhoek**

*Namibian Sun* on Wednesday

reported that Windhoek was ranked by the Numbeo Cost of Living Index as the 13th most expensive city in Africa last year. The city was ranked tenth and fourth in 2021 and 2020, respectively.

The data released by the agency clearly indicates that Zone 2 (Windhoek) has been recording the highest inflation rates for the whole of 2022 compared to other zones.

Inflation in Windhoek averaged 6.8% in 2022, compared to an average of 3.4% recorded in 2021. August and November recorded the highest inflation rates of 7.9% last year.

The zone recorded an annual inflation rate of 7.6% in December 2022.

Furthermore, inflation in Zone 3 (//Kharas, Erongo, Hardap and Omaheke) averaged 5.8% in 2022, compared to 4.4% in 2021. Similarly, the month of August recorded the highest inflation rate 7.2%.

Lastly, Zone 1 (Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, and Zambezi) recorded an average inflation rate of 5.5% last year, compared to an average inflation rate of 3.3% in 2021.

[phillep@nmh.com.na](mailto:phillep@nmh.com.na)

## A CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED MINERAL PROSPECTING & EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) NO. 7640 LOCATED NORTHWEST OF OMARURU AND NORTHEAST OF OKOMBAHE IN THE ERONGO 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 exploration and associated works are listed activities in the EIA Regulations that cannot be undertaken without an EIA done and ECC issued.

**Project Nature and Location:** The proposed mineral prospecting and exploration activities on EPL7640 which has a potential for commodities such as Base & Rare Metals, Dimension Stone, Industrial Minerals, and Precious Metals. The EPL is located about 20km northwest of Omaruru and 30km northeast of Okombahe in the Erongo Region and covers an area of 7,857,8946 hectares (Ha).

**The Project Proponent:** Kennedy Daniel Shifotoka

**Appointed Environmental Consultant:** Serja Hydrogeo Environmental Consultants CC

The public is therefore invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to submit comments and or receive further information on the EIA process. The requests for registration as an I&APs and comments submission should be done **before or on Monday, 13 February 2023.**

Public Consultation Meetings will be communicated to the registered I&APs.

Contact Person: Ms. Fredrika Shagama

Mobile No.: +264 (0) 81 749 9223

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# VACANCY

IntraHealth Namibia is seeking suitable qualified candidates for the following position:

## Senior Advisor for Community Engagement - Windhoek

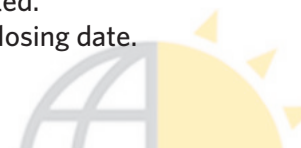
For more detailed job requirements of the positions, please visit our website at [www.intrahealthnamibia.org](http://www.intrahealthnamibia.org) by clicking on Work With Us, then Career Opportunities, and then Jobs.

Closing date for applications is **31st January 2023**

Online applications only, no emails or hard copies will be accepted. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted within 4 weeks after the closing date.

IntraHealth Namibia is an equal opportunity employer.

KP candidates are encouraged to apply.





**Opinion**

# Sustainable mining important for future growth in Namibia

**DR ANDREAS SALOM**

Global forecasts indicate that the demand for minerals will grow exponentially with minerals such as graphite, lithium, copper, and cobalt, which could increase by 500% by 2050, to meet the growing demand for clean energy technologies and to maintain global warming by 2100 to below 2 °C. The World Bank Group has estimated that this increased demand for minerals will necessitate a global mining investment of \$1.7 trillion. Attracting a portion of this investment to low- and middle-income nations could promote economic growth, job creation, and local development.

While this is a tremendous opportunity for countries rich in mineral resources such as Namibia, it must be addressed effectively and sustainably as the increase will be influenced by a variety of factors, including population growth, the need for new technologies and shifting stakeholder expectations. The global shift to clean energy production in response to environmental regulations, lifestyle demands, and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions remains imminent. All of that required decision-makers to use holistic approaches to evaluate the opportunities that arise.

Mining is a major source of Namibia's gross domestic product (GDP) and foreign exchange revenue and supplies basic elements to most econom-

ic sectors but has also a negative legacy social-environmental impact. However, for the Namibian mining sector to mine sustainably, a number of areas need to be addressed and improved as discussed here.

**Government Responsibility**

To begin, increase exploration investment into critical minerals and project pipelines to increase access to mineral resources and reserves. This investment could be made through local companies' partnerships and by increasing collaborations with manufacturers of electric vehicles. It could also be achieved through the government incentivising the companies involved in the exploration stage to attract more capital.

Second, establish adequate government assistance through the development of friendly legislation and an effective monitoring system for mining operations to ensure that enterprises comply with mining and environmental laws.

Next, develop mineral road maps and action plans; for example, identify a list of critical minerals that are either essential to global energy transition or deemed necessary to the domestic economy and note who needs them. Then pay close attention to critical minerals through various Namibia Critical Minerals Exploitation Plan initiatives. The road maps and action plans should be supported by scenario planning that pro-

vides a solid foundation to underpin medium- and long-term plans for the mining sector and map out and prepare for possible alternative futures and interactions with other sectors.

In addition, invest in technology, innovation, education, and human development. New technology and innovations can provide an opportunity to enhance mineral and metal recovery from low-grade ores and waste streams, offering the potential for a step change in future supply volumes. The future of the Namibian mining sector also depends on the quality of education that we provide to the engineers, geologists, metallurgists, and all others associated with mining. Therefore, for the mining sector to be sustainable and competitive, the government and private sector need to double their current investment in education and human development to produce a dependable and capable workforce. Decision-makers need to understand that the problem of attracting investment capital is complex and involves multi-conflicting criteria; therefore, holistic approaches such as the Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) method could assist.

**Corporate Citizenry**

The second arm is the private sector, including the mining companies and society. For example, the Namibia Chamber of Mines and Namibia Chamber of Environment motivate, advocate, and monitor the mining sector and must be responsible in their operation to ensure mine sus-

tainability for the present and future.

The Namibian mining sector has matured over the years as most of the mining companies that have been operating in Namibia for a decade or more have come to understand that their role as corporate citizens is to contribute to the sustainable development of the mining industry. As such, we have observed for years that mining companies play active roles by investing in areas such as education and human development, agriculture, employees' and communities' health and management of natural resources. Therefore, the success and sustainability of the mining sector depend on the partnership and collaboration between the government and private sector in order to manage the minerals.

**Methodology to enable better decision making**

The social-environmental impact of mining operations in Namibia is localised and historical, resulting from 260 closed and abandoned mines without any closure plan (Andreas et al. 2020) before the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act, No. 33 of 1992 was promulgated. The responsibility for rehabilitating and reclaiming these historically abandoned mines now lies with the State. In 2020 Andreas et al. assessed available awareness of the threats that disused mines present to natural and human environments in Namibia. They established that there are limitations to mine rehabilitation and that the 260 abandoned



**Nedbank Corporate Investment Banking (CIB) Relationship Manager, Dr. Andreas Salom.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

mines are a "significant hazard throughout the country". The problem of abandoned mines rehabilitation evaluation and classification is complex. It involves multi-conflicting criteria that are not always precise, such as imprecision information, uncertain environmental impacts, and multiple decision processes.

To make better decision tools such as the Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis method, can be applied to the Namibia mining industry. It is important to understand that this is an advanced method that can assist decision-makers in analysing a complex problem in which the decision-maker has to evaluate a finite alternative to either describe rank, select or classify projects of the issue, often using uncertain criteria due to different assumptions and conflicting perspectives.

Due to the complex and unique nature of problems of investment decisions in the mining sector, the MCDA is considered a suitable tool. The unique features of mining that make it right include non-renewable resources, a long lead time to production, slow outcomes, a heavily regulated industry, massive capital requirements, irreversible investment, uncertain estimation of geological resources, complex stakeholder interactions and relationships, ambiguity, uncertain economic trends, and concerns about environmental impact. The logic is that better tools to support decision-making must be implemented to minimise mining investment's negative impact and maximise the value for stakeholders.

Decision-makers in the public and private sectors such as investors and bankers can use this methodology to evaluate and classify mineral projects in Namibia to know how best to allocate capital. MCDA assist to synthesise and utilise efficiently the existing information about the mineral project ecological, social, and economic impacts.

**Local approach**

The Nedbank Namibia CIB team and Nedbank Group have been involved in the Namibia mining industry for many years. Nedbank and other commercial banks have partnered in the N\$7bn (US\$468m) financing transaction for approximately 80% of the Debmarmine Benguela Gem vessel construction costs. In total, Nedbank Group has contributed about 40% of the financing.

Nedbank requires that the project meets the minimum standard in other factors, namely the environment, social impacts, corporate governance, and legal aspects. This is done to ensure that with our project we leave the earth in a positive state for the next generations, while the current generation still benefits. As a bank, we are led to finance several mining projects some of which pose major environmental, social and governance (ESG) challenges. Therefore, a balance has to be found to generate revenue, employment, and infrastructure development from mining projects. That is why we have adopted sector policies laying down strict ESG and financial factors meant to govern our financing and investments in mining.

Nedbank Group expects mining companies that come to seek finance or service to follow these, as Nedbank wants the mining projects to be developed and operated in accordance with existing national legislation and international laws.

In addition to compliance with these regulations and standards, there are sets of specific factors that the bank expects to be respected by mining projects and mining companies. Such factors fall into two categories: mandatory requirements and evaluation factors. Mandatory requirements must be understood as absolutely essential: they have to be met without exception before Nedbank considers providing financial products and services to any mining projects or companies. Those factors include the mining project's required licenses and permit to mine and use the land.

Besides these mandatory requirements, evaluation factors have been identified to develop the analysis performed by Nedbank on mining projects and companies. To determine the mining project's credit feasibility, Nedbank requests mining companies to provide us with a project financial (cash flow) model drawn up to reflect the technical and economic inputs as well as the debt capacity. That means that from the project promoter's side, we expect them to understand their project's geological and technical factors compared to their peer. In addition, they must present their management and staffing plan to implement the company's strategic roadmap, whilst managing the operation to achieve the plans without any adverse concern.

**Sustainable Futures**

Nedbank's approach is at the heart of the Climate-Smart Mining Initiative, which was launched jointly in 2019 by the World Bank and IFC. The initiative aims to help resource-rich developing countries mine, process, and recycle minerals needed for low-carbon technologies and other important sectors in a way that does not hurt the environment or the economy. Consumers are evolving as well as the planet. Future [renewable] technology users prioritise products that are ethically produced. This implies that all inputs—whether they be mineral, plant, or service inputs—must be delivered sustainably. Therefore, promising growth prospects in the local mining industry, supported by a sustainable finance strategy, will be essential in ensuring that Namibians have an inclusive and secure future.

**Fritze & Quelle cc**

Registration No. CC/97/1504

**Fritze & Quelle – Construction foreman**

We are looking for an ambitious construction foreman that handles the overall management and co ordination of construction projects.

**Qualifications**

- High school graduate. Code B drivers' licence. Proficient using Microsoft Office applications.
- Five (5) years recent experience as a construction foreman.
- Excellent communication skills including an excellent command of English and Afrikaans (speaking, reading, writing).
- Possesses strong leadership skills, effectively manages a diverse team, and achieves results.
- Email CV to: [cv@fritzequelle.com](mailto:cv@fritzequelle.com)

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**The Project Proponent:** Kennedy Daniel Shifotoka

**Appointed Environmental Consultant:** Serja Hydrogeo Environmental Consultants CC

The public is therefore invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to submit comments and or receive further information on the EIA process. The requests for registration as an I&APs and comments submission should be done **before or on Monday, 13 February 2023.**

**Public Consultation Meetings will be communicated to the registered I&APs.**

**Contact Person:** Ms. Fredrika Shagama

**Mobile No.:** +264 (0) 81 749 9223

**Email:** [elias.public@serjaconsultants.com](mailto:elias.public@serjaconsultants.com)





**FARM GROSS OKANDJOU**  
P.O. Box 61 - Omaruru  
NAMIBIA  
Tel: +264 64 570 925  
Email: immo.vogel@gross-okandjou.com

**ATT: Ms Fredrika Shagama**

SERJA HGE Consultans

P.O. Box 27318

Windhoek, Namibia

Omaruru, 12th February 2023

With reference to the **Environmental Scoping Assessment Study for EPL No. 7640** dated January 2023, we herewith would like to raise our concerns as the main affected party, namely Farm Gross Okandjou No. 187, Omaruru.

The following points are our main concerns towards any form of mining activity taking place on Farm Gross Okandjou:

- mining will have an effect over the entire farm
- it will disturb farming and tourism activities, long - term negative effect
- irreversible damage of sensitive ecosystem
- destruction of cultural heritage
- hindering our efforts to conserve the natural and cultural environment
- increase in poaching and disturbance of wildlife
- disturbance during mating seasons, less wildlife
- will stop us to show undisturb nature on horse back (main income to the farm)
- will stop us in pursuing sustainable hunting (second income to the farm)
- less grazing for cattle and game
- noise pollution
- extraction of limited water resources



**FARM GROSS OKANDJOU**

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pollution of underground water reservoirs

littering

oil spill pollution

soil disturbance

uncontrollable movement of people

safety issues

theft.

As a result the farm can not longer be used as a tourism business

most important income will be lost

all conservation efforts over the past 35 years will be ruined.

Therefore, we will oppose any form of mining activity taking place on farm Gross Okandjou and we will use all legal means to protect our rights and the survival of this farm.

For further correspondence please refer to Mr Immo Vogel, farm owner, via Email:

[immo.vogel@gross-okandjou.com](mailto:immo.vogel@gross-okandjou.com), or Ms Alina Vogel, farm manager, via Email:

[alina.vogel@gross-okandjou.com](mailto:alina.vogel@gross-okandjou.com).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Alina Vogel', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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(pp Ms Alina Vogel)



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**APPENDIX F: Issues and Response Trail Received on the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on EPL-7640 (from the owners of Farm Gross Okandjou which is mainly covered by the EPL)**

The significant issues and concerns raised during the public consultation period (after advertising in the newspapers) are noted/summarized below and responses provided thereof. These comments, issues and suggestions are presented as received under the letter appended to the Report as Appendix E.

No.	Commentor / Name of I&AP, Date & Mode of Communication	Comment/issue	Response by Serja HGE Consultants
<b>Comments, Issues, and concerns received via email prior the consultation meeting</b>			
1.	Ms. Alina Vogel (Gross Okandjou Farm manager), 12 February 2023 via Email	Mining will have an effect over the entire farm	Please note that this EIA/Scoping Assessment Study is for exploration activities only and not mining activities. This is because one is not allowed or cannot mine on an EPL. Mining can only be done or considered once the exploration activities yield positive (economic feasible) results, which would mean EPL holders with successful EPLs would need to apply for Mining Licenses (MLs), i.e., apply for the conversion of an EPL into a ML. The ML would then be subject to another detailed EIA Study with specialists which would follow this same process but on a detailed level, and apply for an ECC for mining activities. Therefore, the EIA for EPL-7640 is for prospecting and exploration only (as required by the Environmental Management Act and Ministry of Mines & Energy (MME) to grant the EPL). However, whether or not the EPL will be converted into a Mining License, the landowners and stakeholders will be notified of every progress before the EPL Holder advances to apply for a Mining License and subsequent an EIA for mining, if exploration is successful.
2.		It will disturb farming and tourism activities, long - term negative effect	Considering the small-scale level of exploration activities and duration (short-term) and phased, the impact will be contained as well as through the

No.	Commentor / Name of I&AP, Date & Mode of Communication	Comment/issue	Response by Serja HGE Consultants	
3.		Irreversible damage of sensitive ecosystem	implementation of the EMP – please refer to the EMP tables for mitigation measures under respective columns from page 14 to page 28.	
4.		Destruction of cultural heritage		
5.		hindering our efforts to conserve the natural and cultural environment		
6.		increase in poaching and disturbance of wildlife		
7.		disturbance during mating seasons, less wildlife		
8.		will stop us to show undisturbed nature on horseback (main income to the farm)		
9.		will stop us in pursuing sustainable hunting (second income to the farm)		
10.		less grazing for cattle and game		
11.		noise pollution		
12.		extraction of limited water resources		Based on our groundwater expertise and knowledge the EPL area is underlain by rock bodies with little groundwater potential – Figure 5-10 of the Report. Thus, there will be no abstraction of groundwater from the farm boreholes or within the EPL.
13.		pollution of underground water reservoirs		Considering the small-scale level of exploration activities and duration (short-term) and phased, the impact will be contained as well as through the
14.				
15.	oil spill pollution			



No.	Commentor / Name of I&AP, Date & Mode of Communication	Comment/issue	Response by Serja HGE Consultants
16.		soil disturbance	implementation of the EMP – please refer to the EMP tables for mitigation measures under respective columns from page 14 to page 28.
17.		uncontrollable movement of people	The number of people onsite will be controlled in every stages of exploration as per the farm access agreements to be signed between the Proponent and respective landowner. Please refer to Table 2-1 (page 14) of the Report for the anticipated number of people per stage of exploration.
18.		Safety issues	These impacts will be managed and mitigated the implementation of the EMP (followed by monitoring) – please refer to the EMP tables for mitigation measures under respective columns from page 14 to page 28.
19.		Theft	
20.		As a result the farm cannot longer be used as a tourism business. Most important income will be lost and all conservation efforts over the past 35 years will be ruined.	This is well noted. However, we believe that due to the small-scale level of exploration activities and duration (short-term) and phased, the impact will be minimal and the implementation of the EMP accompanied by bi-annual environmental monitoring will aid in managing the impacts.
21.		Therefore, we will oppose any form of mining activity taking place on farm Gross Okandjou and we will use all legal means to protect our rights and the survival of this farm.	Furthermore, Prior to mobilizing to site and undertaking any groundwork for the proposed activities on the EPL, the Proponent will be required to meet and sign land access agreements with individual the affected landowners (farmers) according to Section 52 (1a) of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act No. 33 of 1992 which governs exploration and other mining related activities. Therefore, this can be amicably addressed during this stage and conditions can be set forth before any land access is granted by the landowner (owner).