



3rd Floor Maerua Mall Office Towers, Jan Jonker Road, Windhoek, Namibia
PO Box 81808, Windhoek, Namibia
Tel: (+264) 61 435 8228 **Fax:** (+264) 61 435 8201 **Web:** www.gcs-na.biz

Our Reference GCS Ref- 19-0759

EPL 6669 - Community Meeting Minutes

Subject: Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Drilling Activities on Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) 6669 in the Kunene Region

Venue: Omuhonga Village

Date: 2019/10/24

Time: 12h00

Attendance: See attached attendance list (approximately 35 attendants)

1 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING

The meeting was opened by the Honourable Councillor of the Epupa Constituency. Lloyd McFarlane from GCS proceeded to introduce himself as part of the consulting team. Lloyd further proceeded with the background of the intended project.

2 OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED PROJECT

The meeting provided an introduction and background to the proposed Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) 6669 in the Kunene Region. An explanation for the environmental and the social elements of the project was provided. The EA process was described, and the purpose of the meeting identified which forms part of the public participation for the EA. The ways in which the Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) can become involved in the process was explained. Any comments, questions or concerns were invited from the attendants. After a discussion with regards to the project, the meeting was adjourned.

3 COMMUNITY MEETING: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The following comments/questions were provided during the discussions:

| Question/Comment by | Question/Comment | Respondent | Response |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Community leader | Is it possible to have a contract between the developer and the community? | Lloyd McFarlane (GCS) | We will have to consult the project developer to find out if they are willing to have a contract with the communities. |
| Regional authority | <p>There were two aspects I am concerned about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How will the gravesites be affected? 2. How will the wildlife be affected? | Lloyd McFarlane (GCS) | <p>We need to establish if there are graves and wildlife present in the area.</p> <p>Should it be found that there are graves within the project footprint, specialists would need to be engaged in order to determine their impact. The specialists will then determine how the graves are to be respected and not encroached on.</p> <p>Specialists can additionally determine what animals there are and how they can reduce the impact on them as much as possible or at all.</p> |
| Regional Authority | The explanation does not provide enough clarity. Additionally, how will the environment be affected by the various activities? | Lloyd McFarlane (GCS) | <p>The environmental impacts are not all known at this stage, that is why we are undertaking an Environmental Assessment so that we can find the solutions. We are currently in the first phase of the assessment. A more detailed explanation of the impacts and their mitigation measures will be outlined in the scoping report.</p> <p>It is also possible that through our consultations that the solutions are suggested by the local communities.</p> |
| Community member | <p>Is this meeting the first or second consultation for the project?</p> <p>Is the community consultation just a stopover on the way to the project site? Or is this consultation aimed at engaging the</p> | Lloyd McFarlane (GCS) | This is the first public meeting. Stakeholder engagement is a critical part of the project, if the community does not give consent to a project it can prevent the project from going ahead. GCS's intention is to establish a relationship with the community so we can ensure that all stakeholders can benefit from the project. |

| Question/Comment by | Question/Comment | Respondent | Response |
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| | community before you begin with the explorations? | | |
| Otjimborombonga community member | Thank you, I am satisfied with your answer. As a community representative I hope that my leadership will be considered in the stakeholder process and that our input will be considered. | Lloyd McFarlane (GCS) | Thank you, we ensure that your input is important to the project. |
| Community representative | Stating that all meeting attendants are being respected. The people sitting here are taking in the points, but this is not a simple thing to understand. They may sit here and deliberate for some time. | Lloyd McFarlane (GCS) | No big decisions need to be taken immediately, the consultation is an ongoing process and the community will have time to think about it and talk amongst themselves and future community engagement meetings can be set up at a later stage if needed. |
| Community representative | Is this a foreign company or a local company? | Lloyd McFarlane (GCS) | This is a local company with investment from outside Namibia. |
| Community member | We appreciate this and stress we need much deliberation with each other, community leader's family members, counsellors etc. Furthermore, please be aware that no graves may be damaged. Our tradition determines that graves must not be touched or stood on. These are to be respected and conserved. | Lloyd McFarlane (GCS) | My experience is that we have this as a common occurrence in Africa and we know it is extremely sensitive and therefore we must make the correct arrangements to ensure that these are protected. Thank you for the information and this is precisely why we need to engage in this stakeholder engagement exercise. |
| Community member | One of the attendants know the developer but it is not clear why he has not engaged with them in the past. | Lloyd McFarlane (GCS) | It is unfortunate that the client is not attending the meeting. We will ensure that the client is at any future community engagements so they can answer any questions you may have. |

| Question/Comment by | Question/Comment | Respondent | Response |
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| Chairman of Epupa conservancy and 2 chiefs and councillor | We have no further issues, but we hope the client can be in attendance. | Lloyd McFarlane (GCS) | Thank you he will be in attendance in future. |
| Epupa representative | Is GCS going straight to Epupa or back to Opuwo? | Lloyd McFarlane (GCS) | <p>I am travelling to Epupa. The meeting today is for consultation with the affected communities in the area. Another meeting is arranged for tomorrow morning with the Epupa community and then we are visiting the site.</p> <p><i>It should be noted that the Epupa Community attended the meeting on the 24th of October and thus the meeting scheduled for the 25th was cancelled.</i></p> |
| Epupa representative | It should be noted that the client is to inform the community representative that he knows prior to visiting the site. The client should particularly arrange this in advance if other consultants will be accompanying to the site. | Lloyd McFarlane (GCS) | <p>It should be noted that there is no exploration happening at this stage, the site visit aims to visually assess the site and take some photographs.</p> <p>We are in the first process for screening, we are just going to look at the area in order to get a better understanding. This forms the first step in the project.</p> |
| All Community representatives | <i>After much deliberation it was concluded that GCS should not be allowed access to the site because they have not been consulted and informed that the consultants are traveling to the site. They are concerned by the presence of sacred sites in and around the project area and are worried that if an outsider travels there unaccompanied, they will disturb the graves and sacred sites.</i> | Lloyd McFarlane (GCS) | <i>GCS agreed to honour this request and therefore did not travel to the project site as originally planned.</i> |

4 WAY FORWARD

The documented questions and comments from the meeting will be incorporated and fully addressed in the Environmental Scoping Report. This report will be circulated to all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for review before it can be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for evaluation. The Final Scoping Report would be submitted to DEA and if approval is granted the DEA would issue an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed project to commence.