

Appendix F: EIA Notification in the newspapers (New Era and the Namibian)

Appendix G: Consultation Meeting Minutes



Excel Dynamic Solutions
— Consultants.DataExperts.ProjectManagers —

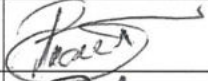







Public Meeting Attendance Register

PROJECT: Environmental Assessment (EA) For Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) No. 8499 near Karanas, in the Hardap Region, Namibia.

Project Meeting

Venue: J.W Mouton Primary School (Karanas)
Date: 11 February 2023
Time: 10:00

No	Name	Organization	E-mail Address	Telephone Contact	Signature
1.	S. David	EDS Namibia	sdavid@ namibia.com	061 259 530	
2.	B. Mabumbe	EDS Namibia	bomabumbe@ edsnamibia.com	061 259 530	
3.	H.M. Brandt	EDS Namibia Karanas	N.H.	081 260 1841	

No	Name	Organization	E-mail Address	Telephone Contact	Signature
4.	Andie Brandt	KARANAS	N.A	0812601841	
5.	NELL W.J.	KARANAS	nellw@telecom.na	0811222445	
6.	Mike KRÖITWE	Karanas	mjk@afof.com.na	0811276692	
7.	DON DYERS	GREENSBANK	sdw@tomsenweb.com.na	0812134481	
8.	Heinz Malt	Karanas	hmalton3@gmail	0811420402	
9.	BASIC & GREENSBANK	Greensbank	abedier@inwi.ma	0811293661	
10.	CREDULA BARROS	Proponent	credula@gmail	0811249465	
11.	Anna Kaandu	Proponent	vilenji@gmail.com	0811415651	
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11 February 2023

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING MINUTES:

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT (ESA) FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING & EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENCE (EPL) No.8499, LOCATED NEAR KARANAS, HARDAP REGION.

Date: Saturday, 11 February 2023

Time: 10:00 –10:40

Venue: J.W Mouton Primary School (Karanas)

The public consultation meeting was attended by 11 people, including one (1) Environmental Consultant and one (1) Archaeologist from Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (EDS) .- **Please refer to the attached attendance register.**

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS

The meeting was opened by the Mr. Silas David, (Environmental Consultant) with an introduction of the team, who they are, and why they are consulting affected parties of the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on EPL 8499. The meeting attendance register was then circulated for the attendees to write down their names, and contact details so that they could be added to the list of interested and affected parties (I&APs) and receive further information on the ESA process.

2. MEETING AGENDA AND PRESENTATION

The agenda of the meeting included the following main points:

2.1 Brief Description of the Project

The Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) and the reason that the Proponent appointed Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (EDS), an independent Environmental Consultant to carry out the ESA and apply for the Environmental Clearance certificate (ECC).

2.2 Explanation of what an ESA is, its Process, and the Public Role in the Process

Mr. Silas David explained to the attendees the purpose of the meeting and why they were invited (with reference to the Environmental Management Act (EMA) No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations on Public Consultation). Mr. David further explained what an ESA is and that the proposed exploration activities are one of the listed activities in the 2012 EIA Regulations of the EMA that cannot be undertaken without an ECC from the Environmental Commissioner.

2.3 Presentation of Potential Project Impacts

To ensure transparency and that the attendees understand both sides of the proposed project activities, the Environmental Consultants also presented the potential pre-identified potential positive & negative environmental and social impacts.

2.4 Public Open Discussion (Interactive Session)

Mr. David allowed the meeting attendees to raise their concerns/issues and/or comments on the proposed project activities. The concerns/issues and comments recorded are presented in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Comments and issues raised during the public consultation meeting, the 11th of February 2023

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue/comment / question	Response and name of responder:
1.	<p>Commenter 1: Why did you not communicate with all farmers about this meeting?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David (SD): Unfortunately we could only contact farmers through farmers' representatives. We do not have the contact details of individual farmers except the ones that were provided to us by the deeds office.</p> <p>We usually deal with the Namibian Agricultural Union (NAU), that contact the farmers' representatives and individual farmers accordingly, This is because they are not allowed to share farmers' contact details, and hence why they do it themselves. We communicated with a farm representative in the Klein Aub area who contacted some of the farmers.</p>
2.	<p>Commenter 2: Is there compensation for using my farm as part of this project?</p> <p>(Follow up): If the activity destroys 80% of my farmland, will I be compensated for destroying my land, i.e. grazing land? How big is the EPL area to be explored?</p>	<p>Mr. SD: Yes. That would be part of the farm access agreement between you and the project proponent. It is up to the agreement terms & conditions for the use of your farm by the Proponent.</p> <p>-That is the purpose of the access agreement which stipulates the issue of destroying the land and the associated terms & condition attached to such.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue/comment / question	Response and name of responder:
		<p>- The actual size will depend on the prospecting phase. It is during the prospecting phase that due diligence is done, either by geographical surveys, geological mapping, or topographical data.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Comment 2: Since it is my land, how can I be compensated?</p> <p>(Follow up) Since the process involves the government; how much percentage will I get, as a landowner and how much will the government get?</p> <p>(Follow up): I only want to hear the specific percentage, nothing more.</p> <p>What about the owners, any loyalty fees going to his side?</p>	<p>Mr. SD: If viable minerals are found on one or two farms; for the project to be transformed from Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) to a Mining License (ML), an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be conducted, looking into socio-economic impacts in the area and also environmental impacts such as groundwater and vegetation loss. It is up to the farmer, after being approached by the Proponent, to set terms & conditions including compensation for farm access.</p> <p>- There is what is called a loyalty fee.</p> <p>The exploration phase involves taking samples that are not for sale. These samples, even if exported, are only for analysis to determine if they are viable for mining operations or not. If a mine, does open; that is when we can talk about loyalty fees; a certain percentage which needs to be paid to the government and the affected landowner goes into agreement with the proponent.</p> <p>-Right now we are at the starting phase of the project. Only after a mine opens can there be discursions on loyalties fees. Furthermore, the government sets its own loyalty percentage fee per annum.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Comment 3: Does this meeting constitutes steps to explore on my farm? If so, how can I stop exploration activities on my farm? What</p>	<p>Mr. SD: You can contact the MME directly to explain your reasons why you object on the exploration phase taking place on your farm. The reality is, the ministry can declare your farm a no-go zone area if there are environmentally sensitive areas or</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue/comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<p>steps can a farmer take to stop exploration from taking place?</p> <p>(Follow up): During what stage do (all these) negotiations start?</p> <p>(Follow up): So the farm owner still has the right to protect flora and fauna, yet at the end of the day the landowner has no choice but to let the exploration activities go ahead unless there are environmental concerns with the farm, right? So there is no foot to stand on? And if it is feasible; you start mining. What if I say I do not want you guys on my farm, no specific reason, this is my land that is it.</p>	<p>features. If not, given the fact that the Namibian Constitution states that the landowner owns only what is on the surface of the land, while whatever is under the ground belongs to the state; the MARC may opt to send officials to come cut down the farm gates to allow the proponent to enter the farm premises in which he has applied for once an ECC is granted.</p> <p>- Once the ECC is granted, the Proponent will come to the affected farmers to ask for permission and draft agreements (access), upon which if the Proponent breaches the agreement, the farmer can approach the MME to report the case and the ministry will make their decision and take actions accordingly.</p> <p>- It is true that the exploration activities can go ahead.</p> <p>Just to clarify, you are the farm owner and I am an environmental consulting company, I'm not the owner of the EPL. Just like I said at the beginning of the meeting that we have proponents here in our midst. You as a farmer have the right to object to the project, it is your human right (constitutional) to do so. We are here to help you, understand the proposed project and to hear from you why and if you want to object to the project. The ministry will look into the reason why a person is objecting to the project, whether it is because of the environmental sensitivity on flora and fauna, or because of the past activities and no rehabilitation was done.</p> <p>You are welcome to send us your written concerns via email, the current discussions will be taken note of as well.</p>

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5.	Commenter 2: Can I (as a landowner) get 10% of the money?	Mr. SD: Yes, possibly even 15% whatever the case may be, but the farm has to be evaluated, i.e. based on its value, because farms differ in value and size. Additionally, an archaeologist assess if there are heritage features on farms, i.e. graves, and rock engravings like paintings so that he can also report on the findings.
6.	Commenter 2 (Follow up): My concern is the rehabilitation and recovery of the land after exploration and mining. The impacts exploration has on land are long-term, and can to affect the next generations. What can be done in this regard to ensure land recovery? How will you restore the land? The bottom line is that I am worried about mining.	Mr. SD: In terms of exploration and rehabilitation, the topsoil used to dig the hole is to ensure that the hole is filled up to the nearest initial state. Rehabilitation is done by following specific processes of soil types and rock layers, in an orderly sequence. With regards to the current ongoing mineral activities in the area, it depends on when the operations started and when the Environmental Management Act was put in place. The current implications of those operations could be the result of the absence of the current Environmental Management Act. This license application is being guided by the current Environmental Management Act which stipulates that before exploration activities move to the mining phase, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be conducted. This is done by bringing in independent specialists to do a comprehensive environmental assessment of the proposed project. Impacts for assessment include groundwater contamination, loss of vegetation and if it happens that the proponent has not adhered to the EMP mitigation measures, appropriate steps are taken against the Proponent to remedy the situation, i.e. legal routes.
7.	Commenter 3: Who is policing the license holders? There must be a body that ensures that these proponents abide by the rules.	Mr. SD: We as environmental consultants do audits every six months, there is also an Environmental Management Plan for every project that the proponent needs to

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		<p>adhere to. The audits are submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for them to take action.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Commenter 4: After this meeting, what is the way forward? What are your next steps and the timeline?</p>	<p>Mr. SD: After the consultation meeting where you raise your concerns and issues concerning the proposed project, the next step is that we draft meeting minutes and communicate back to you by sending you the minutes through your emails to review and give us feedback before the due date. After that period lapses, we will move to the scoping assessment phase whereby we incorporate your comments into the scoping report and EMP and again share with you the drafts for you to review and give us feedback, if any. Lastly, we finalize the reports and submit to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and Ministry of Mines & Energy (MME) with all the appendices, minutes, and all the comments that were received through emails. They will evaluate the whole project and issue an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). The process will now come to agreements and prospecting.</p> <p>Before prospecting, the Proponent will come to the farmer(s) to have a meeting with them and set the terms & conditions. If an economic viable content is found from exploration, a new process of conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will begin. We will come back here, call the meeting with the affected parties to hear concerns and issues as part of the environmental impact assessment process. The specialists will come and look at ecological aspects, flora and fauna aspects, and groundwater. Submit their findings to the ministries were they make a decision on mining.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue/comment / question	Response and name of responder:
9.	<p>Commenter 5: How many people will be employed by the project?</p> <p>(Follow up) So the project camp (site) will be on the farm land?</p>	<p>Mr. SD: Five to eight people, this includes skilled, unskilled, and semi-skilled workers. There are different phases whereby prospecting itself will require qualified geologists and assistants. At exploration phase; will entail skilled laborers, unskilled and also semi-skilled laborers.</p> <p>-Alternatives can be given to the Proponent by the Karanas settlement Office/Informal settlement office in the region in terms of approving temporal camp sites in the area. It is also a matter of agreement between the Proponent and landowner and relevant authorities on erecting camp site on the farms or near settlements.</p>
10.	<p>Commenter 3: Is there going to be a meeting with the project proponent and landowners and can our lawyers be invited?</p>	<p>Mr. SD: As soon as an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) is issued, the respective legal representatives can be present to finalize the agreement process.</p>

FINAL REMARKS AND CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Mr. David thanked the attendees for their crucial input through comments and raising their concerns. He indicated to the attendees that all their comments, concerns, and inputs had been noted down for consideration and addressing in the Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) Report as well as incorporating their recommendations into the draft EMP.

Furthermore, Mr. David informed the attendees that the draft meeting minutes, Environmental Assessment Report, and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be shared with them for review and further comments. These documents will be made available through emails provided on the attendance register.

Once the review of the draft ESA Report and EMP is done, the documents will be finalized and submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) for evaluation and consideration of an ECC.

The meeting adjourned at 10h40.

