

**APPENDIX D: SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED BY AUTHORITIES AND IAPS**

## ISSUES RAISED BY IAPS AND REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

Issues/Comments/Questions	Raised by (who? how? when?)	Response given by project team (updated where relevant for the EIA report)
<b>Procedural</b>		
LHU's original EIA/EMP report appeared on their website for review two days after the Ministry of Environment and Tourism had issued their record of decision. That process was not transparent and we do not want to see that happen again.	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	Full copies of the reports are available at the following places: MET library and the national library in Windhoek; LHU's town office and public library in Swakopmund; Walvis Bay public library. Full copies of the report (on CD) will be sent to IAPs on request. A 30 day review period will be provided from 31 August to 30 September 2009.
Will the EIA and EMP be placed for public review? We had such a bad experience with the original EIA and were not permitted to review the EMP document.		
Recent newspaper reports suggest that the environmental impact assessments that are being conducted in Namibia are substandard.	M Jacobsohn Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	The EIA team involved in the project has significant local and international experience. The approach of the team will not be different in the Namibian context. In addition, comparative international standards have been referenced where relevant in the EIA report.
As Paladin is an Australian based company international standards are applied.	L Pretorius Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	Comment noted.
Have any environmental incidents been reported since the mining operations started?	M Thomas Walvis Bay Scoping meeting 11 March 2009	Animal mortalities have been reported to Parks and Wildlife. One reportable oil spill incident has occurred during drilling. This incident was mitigated and reported to the relevant authority. All incidents, are reported to the relevant authorities on a 6 monthly basis in the bi-annual report as required in the EMP.
Have any independent studies recently been conducted to assess the environmental impact of the current mine? If so, have estimates been made of the environmental impact in case the mine-production is tripled?	George Ellis Email received 07 June 2009	The potential environmental impacts are discussed Section 7 of the EIA report and they cover the cumulative impacts of current and proposed mining activities.
<b>Technical project-related</b>		
How long has Paladin been in uranium mining?	W Schenck Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	LHU is Paladin's first uranium operation.
What do you mean by 'name-plate' capacity?		The name-plate capacity is the design capacity of the plant.
What do you mean by 80% recovery in the mining operation?	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	Of the uranium ore that is taken out of the ground 80% is finally sold. Some uranium is lost during the processing of the ore, for example in the stockpile heaps and tailings facility.
What is the current life of mine (LOM) and how will the expansion project affect this?	M Thomas Walvis Bay Scoping meeting 11 March 2009	The original LOM was 16 years. The expansion project will not change this. However, due to the fact that the uranium resource within the ML is greater than initially anticipated, the LOM is approximately 25 years.
How will the life of mine (LOM) be affected by the expansion?	G Lempert Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	

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What material was used to construct the tailings dam?	M Thomas Walvis Bay Scoping meeting 11 March 2009	The tailings dam is made from waste rock from the mining operation.
How much additional uranium would be recovered from the heap leach pad? What would the percentage be compared to current operations?	M Thomas Walvis Bay Scoping meeting 11 March 2009	It is expected that an additional 10 % of uranium would be recovered if the low grade stockpiles would be leached.
What is the pH of the tailings?	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	The tailings is alkaline with a pH of approximately 10 (BIWAC 2009).
Is the temporary tailings facility lined?	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	No lining is in place for the temporary facility. LHU has a system in place to identify and capture any pollution plumes from the tailings facility. Refer to Section 3.11 of the EIA report for further detail. A liner system is planned as part of the permanent tailings facilities. See Section 7.6 and Appendix P of the EIA report for further detail.
If you are planning to reprocess the tailings, where will the final tailings be stored?	R Leonard Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	LHU has approval to place tailings material in the mined out pits and in an aboveground permanent facility. This issue has been discussed in further detail in Section 4.1, 7.6 and Appendix P of the EIA report.
Where will the infrastructure components of the expansion be located? Will additional roads and areas be closed as was done near Bloedkoppie?	T Sinclair Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	The position of the proposed infrastructure components are shown in Figures 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 of the EIA report. No additional areas outside the ML will be closed off to the public.
Can the mine not use nuclear power for the operations?	T Sinclair Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	No. The approval process to build a nuclear power plant would take years. In addition, the cost to build such a facility is prohibitive.
What about wind power or solar power?	W Schenck Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	LHU has sufficient power for the current on-site activities and the proposed expansion. The issue of alternative power has been investigated and assessed for the additional abstraction boreholes in the Swakop River. The preferred option is diesel generators and/or a low voltage power line. Refer to Section 5.2 of the EIA report for further detail. LHU is also investigating possibilities to make use of solar power at the offices and change rooms (i.e. for the lights and geysers)
I would suggest that you look into solar thermal power. The smallest power plant available generates 7MW of power and the footprint of the collectors is approximately 50m <sup>2</sup> . This is a best-practise approach and would provide an opportunity for LHU to become the leaders in this field.	W Schenck Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	
What options have been considered for the on-site generation of power?	B Hulme Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	
The BID mentions upgrades to pumping, pipeline, road and power line infrastructure from the Swakop River to the mine. This is a sensitive area with numerous historical sites and I don't see a reason to disturb this area. I don't want additional power lines in this area.	O Krogh Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	Further discussions between LHU and Mr Krogh have resulted in Mr Krogh revising his initial comment. Given that the power line is a low voltage wooden pole structure, Mr Krogh supports the establishment of the power line instead of the diesel powered generators that otherwise would be established at the boreholes in the Swakop River.

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Is LHU working together with Rossing? For example do you share water monitoring results?	K Schaefer-Stieger Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	LHU and Rossing do not work together or share monitoring results. However Metago's reports are available for public review and the information contained in the reports will be available to feed into the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) that has been undertaken by the Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA). One of the mandates of the SEA is to try and understand the cumulative impacts of the mining operations in Namibia by pooling and sharing such information.
<b>Decommissioning and closure</b>		
Are there any requirements from the State to put money aside for rehabilitation?	G Lempert Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	LHU currently provides for closure through internal accounting practices.
I am concerned about the closure and decommissioning phase of the mine - the Government has allowed Rossing to spend the money that was put aside for closure to keep the mine operational during the economic crisis. This must not be allowed to happen.	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	
The money that is put aside for closure should be managed by a third party. It is important that Government enforce this practice.	W Schenck Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	
Will the EIA/EMP report include closure plans?	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	The EIA report incorporates limited information on the plans for closure. In concept, the logical post closure land use will be related to conservation/eco-tourism given that the ML is within the Namib Naukluft Park.  A detailed closure planning process has been started by LHU and will involve key stakeholders including interested and affected parties.
<b>Soil</b>		
Does the mine remove the topsoil before an area is mined?	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	The mine currently stockpiles topsoil which will be used as part of progressive rehabilitation. Further discussion is provided in Section 7.2 and Appendix Q of the EIA report).
<b>Biodiversity</b>		
What will happen if a rare or endemic species are found in the mine lease area?	M Thomas Walvis Bay Scoping meeting 11 March 2009	This issue will be handled in accordance with the biodiversity management plan which provides for an approach involving avoidance first, if this is not possible then limit disturbance and plan for restoration of disturbed areas, and if this is not possible investigate offsets. Section 7.3 and Appendix Q of the EIA report provide additional detail.

<b>Issues/Comments/Questions</b>	<b>Raised by (who? how? when?)</b>	<b>Response given by project team (updated where relevant for the EIA report)</b>
Who will be doing the biodiversity studies for this EIA?	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	The biodiversity studies for this EIA were conducted by Michelle Yates and Marianne Strohbach (vegetation), Joh Henschel (vertebrates) and John Irish (invertebrates).
<b>Heritage/visual</b>		
Where is Bloedkoppie in relation to the mine?	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	Bloedkoppie is located approximately 7 km east of the current LHU infrastructure and approximately 1 km from the eastern boundary of the mining licence area.
Tourists who climb Bloedkoppie now view a mine site instead of the valley along the Swakop River. This visual impact is likely to intensify with the Phase 3 Mine Expansion.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	The visual impacts associated with the expansion project are limited in comparison to those associated with the approved activities and infrastructure. Further detail is provided in Section 7.10 of the EIA report.
We are concerned about the cultural and visual impacts that the proposed expansion will have on archaeological sites such as the battlefield located close to Langer Heinrich.	Valeris Geldenhuys & Otto Gunter Informal meeting 03 June 2009	These issues have been assessed and management measures have been included to limit the impacts to acceptable levels. Refer to Sections 7.9 and 7.10 of the EIA report.
<b>Water related issues</b>		
With regards to Figure 3.1 of the scoping/baseline report, what is the function of the channel draining into the Swakop River? What will be drained through this channel?	George Ellis Email received 07 June 2009	Figure 3.1 of the scoping/baseline report indicates the location of existing water courses and mountains in proximity to LHU. The channel draining into the Swakop River is a natural watercourse called the Gawib River. In rainfall events, surface water drains down this channel.
Was the mine's water allotment from the Swakop River given for the life of the mine?	I Henschel Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	No. The mine received a five year permit to abstract water from the Swakop River. At the end of this period the permit is reviewed and either extended or retracted.
LHU currently abstracts from one borehole. Will there be more boreholes as part of the expansion project or will you pump more water from the one borehole?	O Korgh Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	Two additional boreholes (already in place) will be used. Further detail is provided in Section 6.2.9 of the EIA report.
Does the programme for your expansion operation coincide with the NAMWATER desalination plant programme?	W Schenck Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	Part of the required water supply will be obtained by utilising the full Swakop River permit allocation (see Section 6.2.9 of the EIA report). The other part will have to be sourced off site and desalination is the most likely source.
How much water is currently used at the mine?	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	The mine currently uses approximately 1 million m <sup>3</sup> of external water per year.
Is LHU planning to develop its own desalination plant? This will require a procedural step with the Department of Water Affairs.	M Amakali Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	No. The mine is currently holding discussions with NamWater in this regard.
What is currently happening at the mine with regards to waste water and how will it be adapted for the expansion project?	C Ortmann Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	Waste water at the mine is currently recycled and reused. The same principle will apply to the expansion project. Further detail is provided in Section 6.2.9 of the EIA report.

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The heap leach pad will increase water consumption substantially.	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	The heap leach pad will require approximately 875 000 m <sup>3</sup> of water per annum. Further detail is provided in Sections 6.2.4 and 6.2.9 of the EIA report.
Does the heap leach pad require a lot of additional water?	G Christelis Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	
Are the Trekkopie and Valencia mines located on the Swakop River?	T Sinclair Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	No.
I am concerned about seepage and pollution from the unlined tailings facility.	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	All current seepage from the temporary tailings facility is captured in a cut off trench, pumped out and reused in the process water circuit. The permanent tailings facilities (above ground and in-pit) will be lined. Further detail is provided in Section 4.1, 7.6 and Appendix P of the EIA report.
What is the geological structure at LHU – is it permeable? I am concerned about seepage.	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	This geological structure is presented in Section 3.1 and 3.11 of the EIA report. The natural geology presents some permeable and some impermeable layers. Seepage is an issue in relation to potential groundwater impacts. The related assessment and management measures are provided in Section 7.6 of the EIA report.
I am concerned about the sustainable use of water from the Swakop River. Ecosystems rely on the baseflow water to survive. I have noticed a lot of dead trees in the river bed lately.	I Henschel Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	The potential impacts on vegetation from the Swakop River abstraction is assessed as a low impact because of limited drawdown of water levels. Further detail is provided in Section 7.6 of the EIA report.
I am concerned about the elevated pH of the tailings and the impact that it will have on the environment (water).	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	The potential for impacts from the tailings facility have been assessed in Section 7.6 of the EIA report. Management measures are required to mitigate the potential negative impacts.
Does the mine monitor the borehole water?	G Lempert Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	Yes. Details on the monitoring programme and results are provided in Sections 3.11 and Appendices J and Q of the EIA report.
We are concerned about the loss of water supply as a result of the expansion project and the Swakop River abstraction.	V Geldenhuys & Otto Gunter Informal meeting 03 June 2009	The specialist groundwater study (BIWAC 2009) predicts that the Swakop River abstraction will not impact on third party water supply. Further detail is provided in Section 7.6 and Appendix J of the EIA report.
<b>Air Quality</b>		
Could the tailings seepage water be used for dust suppression?	G Christelis Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	No. This water is reused in the process water circuit.

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Certain chemicals can be used as an alternative for dust suppression.	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	The option of using chemical suppressants is being considered by LHU, particularly for dust suppression on internal roads. Further detail is provided in Section 7.7 and Appendix Q of the EIA report.
Dust carries great distances in desert conditions, especially with the easterly winds.	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	The potential dust impacts have been assessed in Section 7.7 of the EIA report.
You haven't mentioned weather in your presentation. We have specific weather conditions that are unique to the desert such as the east winds.	K Schaefer-Stieger Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	Relevant climatic conditions have been described in Section 3.2 of the EIA report. The east winds have been included in this description.
<b>Radiological</b>		
Earth Life carried out an independent investigation into the radiological assessment that was done as part of LHU's original EIA. Serious flaws were found in the radiological assessment for example: daughter radiological products were not taken into consideration and breathing rates for workers were incorrect. I am concerned about the radiation element and do not want to see these mistakes repeated.	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	The recent radiological specialist study (NECSA 2009) has taken the previous Earth Life comments into account where relevant to the scope of this EIA. Specific responses to some of the previous comments are included at the end of Appendix O to the EIA report.
I am concerned about the radiological element as dust carries far with the easterly winds in this area.	W Schenck Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	Various pathways have been assessed to understand the potential radiological related health impacts of the existing and proposed LHU activities. These pathways include external radiation, the aquatic pathway, the air pathway and secondary pathways through soil and foodstuff. In the managed scenario, the assessed impacts are generally low and do not present health risks to members of the public. Further detail is provided in Sections 7.4 to 7.7 and Appendix O of the EIA report.
Uranium is dangerous if people receive high doses of radiation. We need independent investigations into this issue to ensure transparency.	W Swiegers Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	
I would like to know about the health effects that uranium mining (and LHU) has on the public – why has this not been addressed? I am concerned about our health and it seems that you are not open about this topic.	K Schaefer-Stieger Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	

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<p>I would like to know what chemicals are used to extract uranium and the potential health risks that these chemicals pose on people living in towns relatively close to the mine, e.g. Swakopmund. In addition, what lifestyle changes can be suggested to reduce the potential impacts of these chemicals on people's health?</p>	<p>K Schaefer-Stieger Telephone conversation 17 July 2009</p>	<p>The process input chemicals include: sodium carbonate; sodium bicarbonate; sodium chloride; flocculent; hydrogen peroxide; sodium hydroxide; sulphuric Acid; and ferrous sulphate.</p> <p>In the managed scenario, These chemicals are transported, stored and handled in a manner that they do not directly impact on the environment and will have no direct impact on people residing in towns like Swakopmund.</p> <p>As a side product from processing, some of the chemicals will end up in the process water and the tailings facility. Related potential environmental impacts have been assessed in Section 7.5 and 7.6 of the EIA report. No related impacts on towns like Swakopmund have been identified.</p>
<p>Contact Jon Irish at Gobabeb for information from a long term study on dispersion.</p>	<p>I Henschel Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>Does LHU use dosage badges?</p>	<p>T Sinclair Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009</p>	<p>Yes. LHU employees wear dosage badges every day and random urine samples are taken.</p>
<p>Dosage badges only measure the radiation that hits workers – what about radiation that is ingested by breathing and eating? How often are they tested?</p>	<p>B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009</p>	<p>Employees that work in high-risk areas are screened monthly by taking urine tests to determine the levels of radiation that have been ingested. The data is analysed by NECSA.</p>
<p><b>Noise</b></p>		
<p>Have you considered the noise pollution from your operations? Noise carries great distances in the desert, especially at night. Numerous people visit the desert to get away from the city bustle and are faced with the noise from generators etc.</p>	<p>B Hulme Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009</p>	<p>Noise related impacts have been considered and assessed in the EIA report. Most of the noise impacts relate to existing approved activities and not to the expansion project. Further detail is provided in Section 7.8 of the EIA report.</p>
<p>The noise also affects the wildlife.</p>	<p>O Krogh Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009</p>	
<p>There is noise pollution at Bloedkoppie and Tinkas, which disturbs the previous peace of the campsites. Noise is also heard at Ganap, particularly in summer when the wind blows mainly in a north/north-west direction. Currently this is described as "remote noise", but concerns have been expressed that noise may become more intrusive with the increase in mining activities.</p>	<p>Issues raised during the social impact assessment (SIA), 2009</p>	



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<b>Transport</b>		
Are there any plans to construct a road through the Khan valley to Valentia mine?	G Lempert Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	There are no plans to change the LHU access road.
Road conditions on the C28 are particularly dangerous for drivers who are not familiar with the nature of Namibian gravel roads.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	These issues have been considered and assessed in Section 7.11 of the EIA report. It must be noted that since the comments were raised, a significant stretch of the C28 has been tarred which may change the nature of some of the comments.
Concern was expressed that hazardous material, fuel and sewage was being transported on poor roads.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	
Speeding is dangerous on C28's road surface. No problems were expressed with the commuter buses, but smaller vehicles travelling to Langer Heinrich mine site are reportedly travelling at excessive speeds. No information was available on measures to ensure safe driving by small and individual service providers.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	
Dust affects visibility and makes it difficult to overtake and to see obstacles, such as game, on the road. No road spraying is undertaken to mitigate the dust generated by construction on the C28. Comments were also received about excessive dust caused by buses travelling too close to each other, which nullifies the benefits of the dust-free strips.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	
Loose gravel damages vehicles, and two IAPs commented that they regularly had to replace windscreens as a result of flying gravel caused by other vehicles.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	
With no return loads, vehicles are exposed to severe vibration and require more service attention.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	
Vehicles collect dust and corrosive material. They require daily high pressure washing which aggravates maintenance and devaluation.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	
Three road kills involving LHU vehicles have been reported. Road-kills are ascribed to dust, night driving and speeding.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	
The Roads Authority commented that it could not keep up with the normal maintenance on the C28. It takes three days for the ladders to grade the road, and on the third day the road has already started deteriorating at the start.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	
The Roads Authority undertakes normal grading, not maintenance, on the C34. Maintenance is sub-contracted, and the last contract expired in January 2009. This had not been renewed at the time of the SIA.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	

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The circular route round Bloedkoppie had been a favourite route of tourists, and this is now closed to them. It is expected that the road would stay closed after closure.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	Comment noted.
The C28 is a favoured route between Swakopmund and Sossusvlei for both large tour groups and self-drive tourists. The road-use environment is also operative in this impact, particularly for tourists who are not used to Namibian road conditions. The way people experience the road environment is part of their enjoyment of a particular place. Expectations are of a relaxed drive which encourages appreciation of the wildlife and the landscapes. This is not possible currently, as the section of the C28 between the turn-off from the B2 and the access road to the mine is fraught with by-passes, dust, loose gravel and heavy traffic. Infrastructure, borrow pits and heavy equipment transform a wilderness experience into a drive through a construction site and the desert sense of place is lost.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	Road related impacts and impacts on tourism have been assessed in Sections 7.11 of the EIA report.
The Roads Authority and their sub-contractors do not clean up when they have been working on the road. Poor environmental control leads to damage to flora.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	Comment noted.
<b>Communication with IAPs</b>		
Stakeholders commented that a lack of information from the mine made their own planning difficult.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	Measures to improve stakeholder engagement have been included in Section 7.11 and Appendix Q of the EIA report.
A lack of information and communication from the mine increased stakeholder's concern about unaddressed issues.	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	
Stakeholders indicated that the lack of information left them feeling helpless in the face of developments which seemed to ignore their concerns and about which they were not consulted	Issues raised during the SIA, 2009	
<b>Socio-economic</b>		
There is the potential for numerous mines to start up in this area. This would put increased pressure on services and facilities such as schools and hospitals. When the mines close there is large scale unemployment and the facilities that could have been built would stand empty.	B Kohrs Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	It is understood that the Southern African Institute of Environmental Assessment (SAIEA) has undertaken a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) to investigate the cumulative impacts of the establishments of new mines in the region. Comment on these issues is also provided in Section 7.11 of the EIA report.
How many additional jobs will be created as a result of the expansion project?	A Haidula Windhoek scoping meeting 10 March 2009	Approximately 90 permanent jobs (this figure includes both employees and long term contractors).
What is the scope of the project from a financial perspective e.g. staff numbers, affordable housing plans, skills transfer etc?	B Hulme Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	The financial and socio-economic aspects of both the current approved activities and the expansion project are assessed in Section 7.11 of the EIA report.

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Previous experience has shown that providing houses for mine workers is not the answer. A better option would be to enable people to afford their own houses with the assistance of the mine.	W Swiegers Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	Comments noted. Additional information is provided in Section 7.11 of the EIA report.
The uranium produced in this country is a Namibian product and it is in the best interests of all concerned to keep the Namibian brand untarnished.  Namibian legislation needs to be improved to enforce best-practice in the mining industry. Acts that are currently in place to enforce best-practice include the Atomic Energy Act, Labour Act and the Regulations associated with the Minerals Act.	W Swiegers Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	
Uranium is not Namibia's only brand. People visit our country to see our wildlife.	K Schaefer-Stieger Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	
Tourism currently contributes 14% to the national GDP, and mining (excluding diamonds) contributes 12%. We are aware that the uranium resource is not infinite and are therefore investigating the possibility of investing part of the dividends from uranium mining into tourism.	W Swiegers Swakopmund scoping meeting 12 March 2009	
Is there an option for the mine to share electricity with the surrounding landowners?	Valeris Geldenhuys & Otto Gunter Informal meeting 03 June 2009	