

# **DIMENSION STONE IN NAMIBIA**

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# AN UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

THE DIMENSION STONE INDUSTRY IN NAMIBIA HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE THE EARLY YEARS OF THIS CENTURY, HOWEVER ITS POTENTIAL HAS NOT YET BEEN FULLY DEVELOPED. NAMIBIA SHOULD USE ITS VARIED GEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTS TO CONTINUE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY. NAMIBIA'S COMPLEX GEOLOGICAL HISTORY, ESPECIALLY IN THE CENTRAL PORTIONS OF THE COUNTRY, HAVE GIVEN RISE TO A VARIETY OF METAMORPHIC AND TECTONIC ENVIRONMENTS THAT HAVE FORMED ROCK TYPES SUCH AS MARBLES, CALC-SILICATES, CARBONATITES, GRANITIODS AND MAFIC INTRUSIVES THAT HAVE UNIQUE COLOURS AND TEXTURES (E.G. BANDING, FOLDING, BRECCIATION) THAT HAVE ENORMOUS POTENTIAL AS DIMENSION STONE.



ALTHOUGH ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF MARBLE AND GRANITE HAS ONLY SHOWN A SLIGHT INCREASE IN TONNAGE PRODUCED SINCE 1993, AVERAGING 13 750 TONS OF MARBLE AND 6 200 TONS OF GRANITE PER YEAR, THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE RANGE NOW AVAILABLE. THIS IS MAINLY DUE TO THE UPSWING IN DIMENSION STONE EXPLORATION IN NAMIBIA, WITH 32 NEW EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENCE (EPL) APPLICATIONS HAVING BEEN RECEIVED SINCE 1994 (16 IN LAST YEAR ALONE), BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EPLS TO 48. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, TWO NEW MINING LICENCES FOR DIMENSION STONE HAVE BEEN GRANTED AND THREE APPLICATIONS ARE PENDING.

MODERN QUARRYING AND PROCESSING MACHINERY AND TECHNIQUES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED OVER THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS. MODERN QUARRYING TECHNIQUES NOW EMPLOYED IN NAMIBIA INCLUDE DIAMOND WIRE AND CHAIN SAW CUTTING FOR MARBLE AND FLAME CUTTING FOR GRANITE. MARMORWERKE KARIBIB HAS INSTALLED A FULLY AUTOMATED AND COMPUTERISED TILE CUTTING AND POLISHING PLANT.



GOOD INFRAStructure SUCH AS ROADS, RAIL LINKS AND HAbOUR FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE. ELECTRICITy AND WATER CAN BE OBTAINED, EVEN IN THE REMOTEST PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.



CURRENTLY THE MAJORITY OF NAMIBIA'S DIMENSION STONE PRODUCTION IS EXPORTED AS BLOCKS AND THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AS THE PREMIUM PRICES PAID FOR FIRST GRADE BLOCKS WILL ENSURE THAT THESE WILL ALWAYS BE EXPORTED. SECOND GRADE BLOCKS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE USED AS FEED MATERIAL FOR FURTHER LOCAL PROCESSING PLANTS PRODUCING HIGH QUALITY POLISHED SLABS AND TILES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET. THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF SUCH A PROCESSING PLANT THAT IS NOT LINKED TO A QUARRYING OPERATION WOULD BE ENHANCED BY ACQUIRING ECONOMIC PROCESSING ZONE STATUS, DUE TO THE TAX INCENTIVE AND OTHER ADVANTAGES.

ANY WASTE MATERIAL CAN BE USED BY LABOUR INTENSIVE, LOW TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS MANUFACTURING PAVING STONES, CURBING AND GATE POSTS OR AS FEED FOR SMALL, MOBILE STONE CRUSHING PLANTS. THESE POSSIBILITIES COULD PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED EMPLOYMENT WHILE HELPING REHABILITATION BY CLEARING THE WASTE.

NAMIBIA'S INTERNAL MARKET FOR DIMENSION STONE IS SMALL BEING LIMITED MAINLY TO TOMB STONE MANUFACTURE WITH THE OCCASIONAL BUILDING CLADDING/FLOORING APPLICATION. REGIONALLY, NAMIBIA EXPORTED 11.6% (1603T) AND 18.4% (1228T) OF ITS 1997 MARBLE AND GRANITE PRODUCTION RESPECTIVELY TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES, MAINLY SOUTH AFRICA. WITH THE OPENING OF THE TRANS-KALAHARI (THROUGH BOTSWANA) AND TRANS-CAPRIVI (TO ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE) HIGHWAYS, THE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING MARKETS FOR PROCESSED SLABS AND TILES TO OTHER SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAS BECOME A REALITY.



THE ORNAMENTAL USE OF DIMENSION STONE IS LARGELY IGNORED IN NAMIBIA AND THIS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED. THE PRODUCTION OF COLUMNS, TABLE TOPS, GARDEN FOUNTAINS AND SUCHLIKE WOULD ADD VALUE. LIKewise, THE USE OF MARBLE AND PYROPHYLLITE, AS EXAMPLES, FOR STATUES AND CARVINGS WOULD BE A HIT WITH NAMIBIA'S BURGEONING TOURISM INDUSTRY.

# NAMIBIAN VARIETIES

## MARBLE

MARMORWERKE KARIBIB HISTORICALLY HAS PRODUCES A DARK GREY TIGHTLY FOLDED MARBLE WITH ALTERNATING WHITE AND GREY TO DARK GREY LAYERS (ZEBRA, CAPRA BLACK) FROM CAPRA HILL, 3-KM NORTHWEST OF KARIBIB, A WHITE MARBLE (KARIBIB WHITE) FROM TOWN QUARRY, 5 KM SOUTHEAST OF KARIBIB AND ESSERANDO, A PINK YELLOWISH MARBLE FROM DERNBERG HILL SITUATED 10 KM WEST OF KARIBIB. RECENTLY A CALC-SILICATE MARBLE THAT CONTAINS DARK GREEN SERPENTINITE GRAINS WITHIN WHITE TO CREAM COLOURED CARBONATE MATRIX (NAMIBIAN GREEN, NAMIB HARLEQUIN, DESERT GREEN) IS EXPLOITED JUST NORTH OF NONIDAS, 10-KM EAST OF SWAKOPMUND WHILE WHITE RHINO, A WHITE MARBLE IS QUARRIED 20-KM SOUTH OF KARIBIB.



THE PALISSANDRO MARBLE (PTY) LTD IS SITUATED SOME 45 KM SOUTHWEST OF KARIBIB ON THE FARM GAMIKAUB WEST. FIVE DIFFERENT MARBLES ARE PRODUCED. A GREYISH-WHITE (AFRICAN WHITE) UNI-COLOURED FINE-GRAINED MARBLE, A WHITE MARBLE WITH LIGHT GREEN SCHLIEREN (AFRICAN GREEN), A GREYISH-GREEN MARBLE WITH OCCASIONAL LIGHT BROWN STREAKS (NAMIB DESERT), A LIGHT YELLOWISH-BROWNISH BANDED DOLOMITIC MARBLE (LIGHT PALISSANDRO) WHICH GRADES INTO A GREYISH-BROWN INTENSELY FOLDED VARIETY (DARK PALISSANDRO).

AUS MARBLE (PTY) LTD QUARRIES THE POTORO LEONARDO VARIETY, A BRECCIATED BLACK MARBLE WITH A GOLDEN YELLOW MATRIX, 100-KM SOUTH OF AUS.

TWO NEW COMERS INTO THE MARKET ARE OKATJI MARBLE (PTY) LTD AND ETUSIS MARBLE (PTY) LTD. OKATJI MARBLE (PTY) LTD HAS DEVELOPED A QUARRY SOME 10-KM EAST OF KARIBIB TO PRODUCE NAMIBIAN ROSE AND OKATJI ROSE FROM AN OFF WHITE MARBLE CONTAINING VARIOUS AMOUNTS OF PINK TREMOLITE. SEVERAL WHITE, NEAR WHITE AND BANDED WHITE MARBLES ARE BEING TESTED FOR EXPLOITATION BY ETUSIS MARBLE (PTY) LTD ON THE FARMS ETUSIS AND KUBAS, 30-KM SOUTH-WEST OF KARIBIB.





## GRANITE

MARMORWERKE KARIBIB QUARRIES A MEDIUM TO COARSE GRAINED, EQUIGRANULAR GRANITE NEAR SPITZKOPPE. THE WHITE VARIETY IS KNOWN AS NAMIBIAN PEARL, THE YELLOW AS TROPICAL SUN AND THE LIGHT BROWN AS KALAHARI SAND. THIER PORTFOLIO ALSO INCLUDES GULDENROT, A DEEP REDDISH BROWN, MEDIUM TO FINE GRAINED, EQUIGRANULAR ALKALI-GRANITE IN THE OKAHANJA DISTRICT; UBIB, A COARSE GRAINED RED PEGMATITIC GRANITE WITH A SLIGHTLY PORPHYRITIC TEXTURE; AND GOAS WHITE, A UNIFORM TEXTURED WHITISH-GREY COARSE-GRAINED SLIGHTLY PORPHYRITIC GRANITE, BOTH OCCURRING SOUTH-WEST OF KARIBIB. OMENJE BLACK, A FINE TO MEDIUM GRAINED DOLERITE WITH A GREENISH-BLACK COLOUR AND OPHITIC TEXTURE IS QUARRIED SOUTH-EAST OF OMARURU.

DAMARA GRANITE (PTY) LTD MARKETS A YELLOWISH-BROWN GRANITE QUARRIED NEAR ROOIKOP, 15-KM EAST OF WALVIS BAY.

MARLIN GRANITE NAMIBIA (PTY) LTD HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING A LIGHT GREEN GRANITE GNEISS WITH RED GARNET PORPHYROBLASTS OCCURRING 12-KM SOUTHEAST OF WALVIS BAY AND A PINKISH-YELLOW PORPHYRITIC GRANITE AT OKOMBAHE, 16-KM EAST OF UIS.



NAMSTONE (PTY) LTD IS EXPLORING A COURSE-GRAINED RED GRANITE ON THE FARM RIETKUIL, OPUWO DISTRICT, A LIGHT GREY TO WHITE GRANITE ON ETENDERO 95 AND A PINK PORPHYRITIC GRANITE ON MOREWAG 480, BOTH IN THE OMARURU DISTRICT.



## OTHER

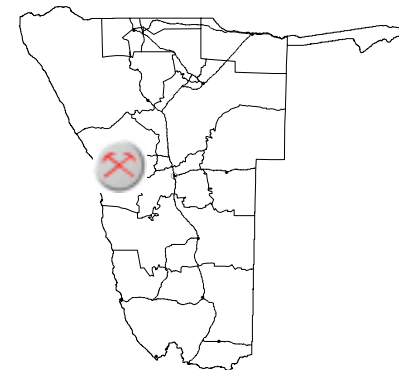
AFRICAN BLUE IS QUARRIED FROM SODALITE AND ANKERITE BEARING CARBONATITE DYKES OCCURRING SOME 10-KM WEST OF SWARTBOOISDRIF, 4-KM SOUTH OF THE KUNENE RIVER BY NAMIBIA BLUE SODALITE (PTY) LTD.

NAMIB ARAGONITE WHICH OCCURS AS WHITE, YELLOW AND LIGHT BROWN BANDED VARIETIES IS FOUND IN THE DESERT NEAR NAMIB LEAD MINE, 40-KM NORTHEAST OF SWAKOPMUND IS EXPLOITED BY MARMORWERKE KARIBIB.

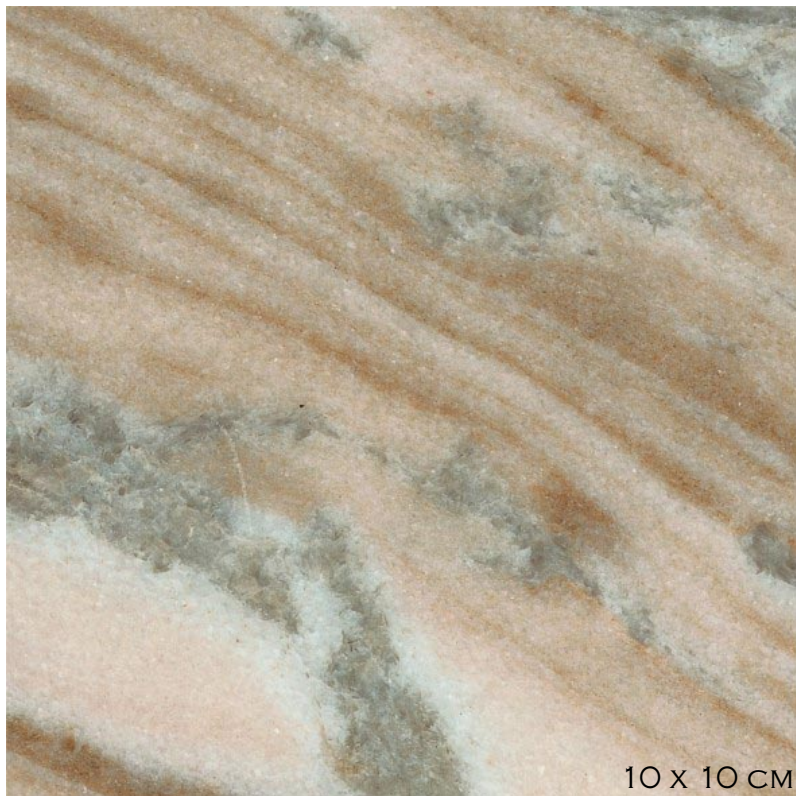
# DARK PALISANDRO MARBLE



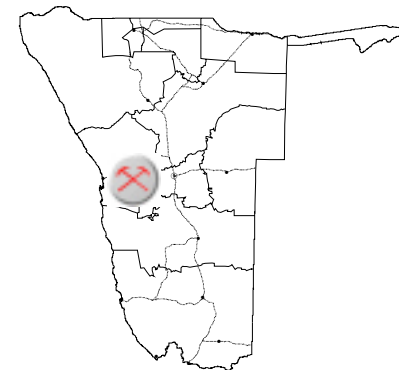
NAME	DARK PALISANDRO
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	DARK GREYISH-BROWN BANDED
LOCALITY	GAMIKAUB WEST 115 45KM SW OF KARIBIB
TONALITY VARIATION	MEDIUM
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS / EXTERIORS
CONTACT	PALISANDRO MARBLE NAMIBIA



# LIGHT PALISANDRO MARBLE

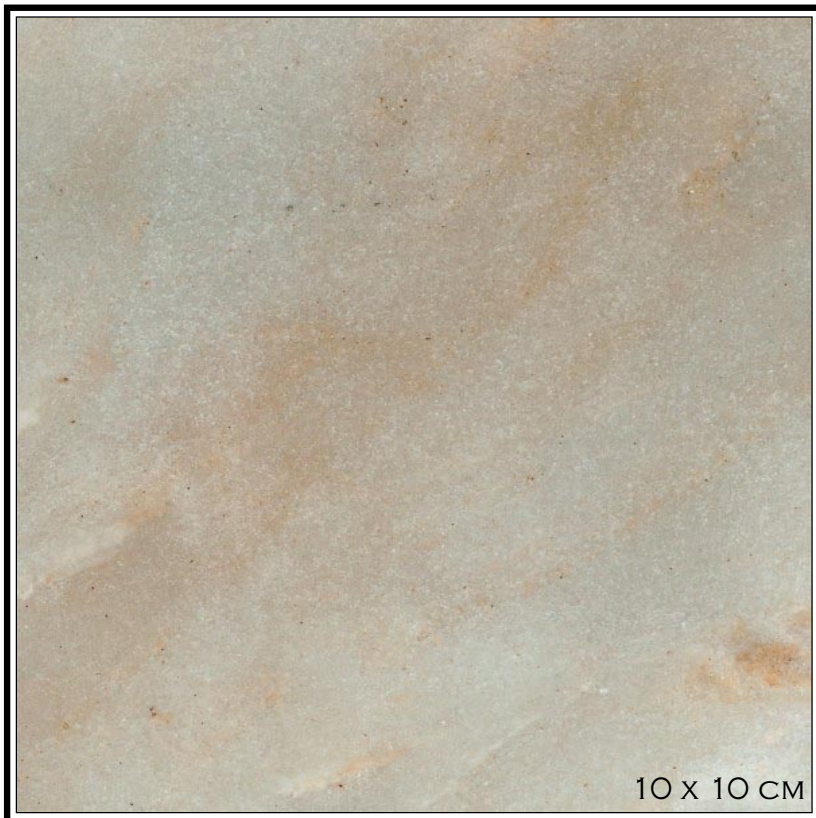


NAME	LIGHT PALISANDRO
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	LIGHT YELLOW/BROWN BANDED
LOCALITY	GAMIKAUB WEST 115
TONALITY VARIATION	45KM SW OF KARIBIB
AVAILABILITY	MEDIUM
GENERAL USES	GOOD
CONTACT	INTERIORS
	PALISANDRO MARBLE NAMIBIA

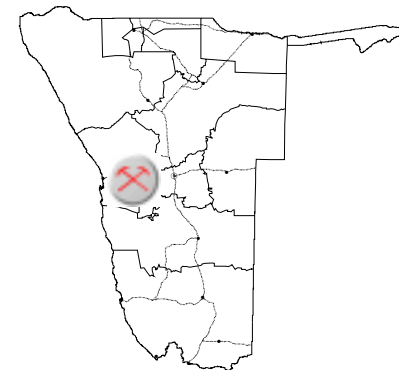




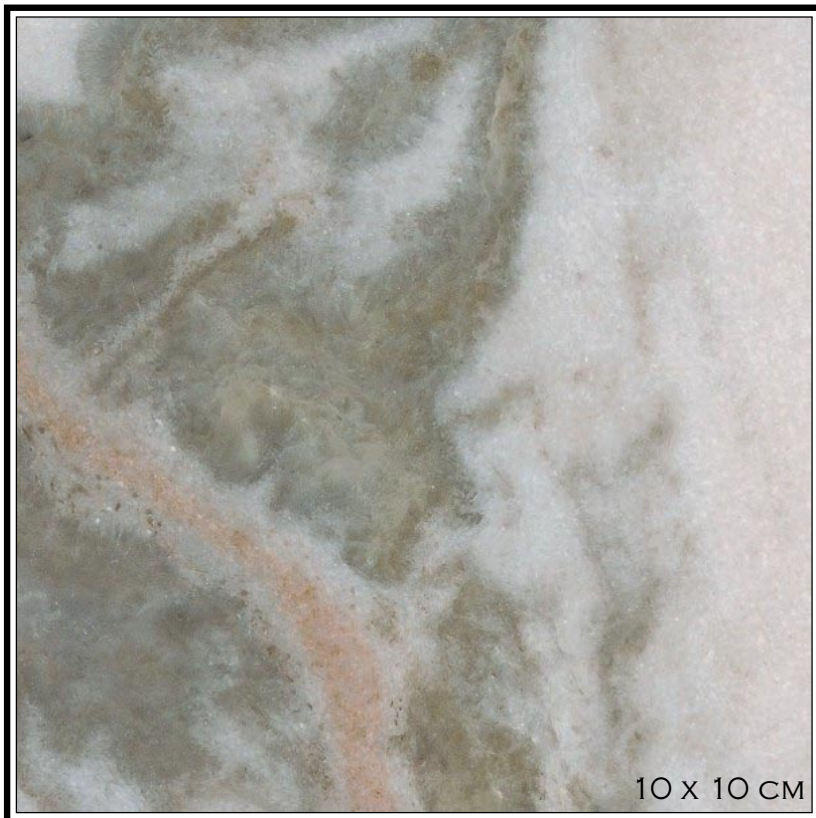
# AFRICAN WHITE MARBLE



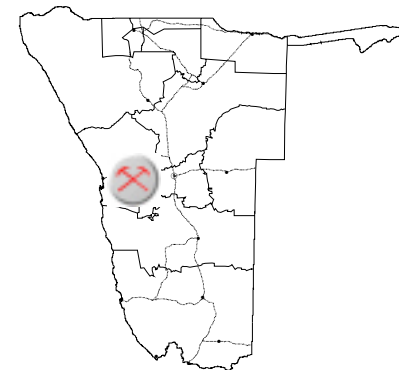
NAME	AFRICAN WHITE
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	GREYISH-WHITE
LOCALITY	GAMIKAUB WEST 115 45KM SW OF KARIBIB
TONALITY VARIATION	HIGH
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS / EXTERIORS
CONTACT	PALISANDRO MARBLE NAMIBIA



# AFRICAN GREEN MARBLE



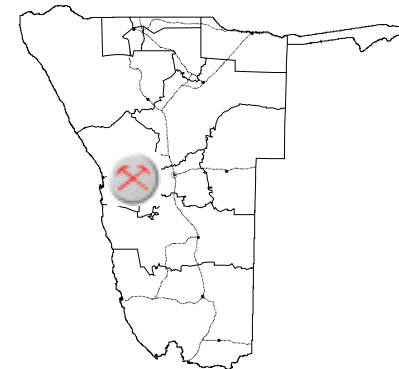
NAME	AFRICAN GREEN
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	WHITE, LIGHT GREEN SCHLIEREN
LOCALITY	GAMIKAUB WEST 115 45KM SW OF KARIBIB
TONALITY VARIATION	HIGH
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS / EXTERIORS
CONTACT	PALISANDRO MARBLE NAMIBIA



# NAMIBIAN DESERT MARBLE



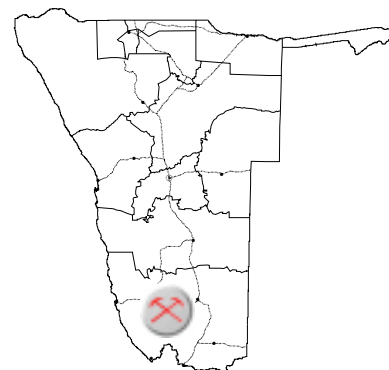
NAME	NAMIBIAN DESERT
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	WHITE WITH BROWN
LOCALITY	GAMIKAUB WEST 115 45KM SW OF KARIBIB
TONALITY VARIATION	HIGH
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	EXTERIORS / INTERIORS
CONTACT	PALISANDRO MARBLE NAMIBIA



# POTORO LEONARDO MARBLE



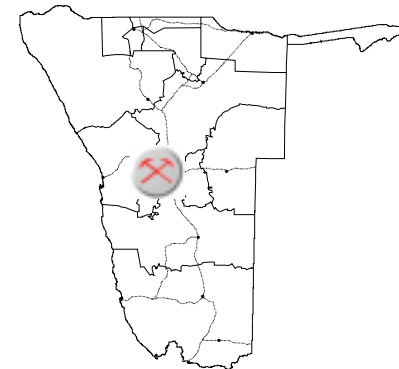
NAME	POTORO LEONARDO / GOLDEN BLACK
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	BLACK BRECCIA GOLDEN INFILL
LOCALITY	SWAARTKLOOFBERG 95 90KM SOUTH OF AUS
TONALITY VARIATION	LOW
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS
CONTACT	AUS MARBLE



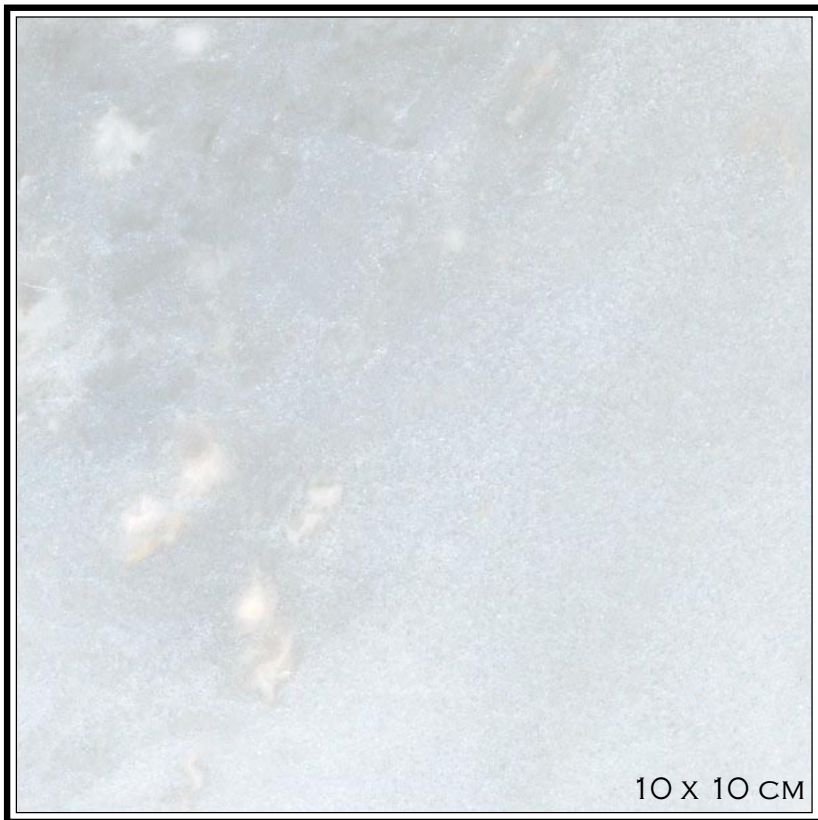
# KARIBIB WHITE MARBLE



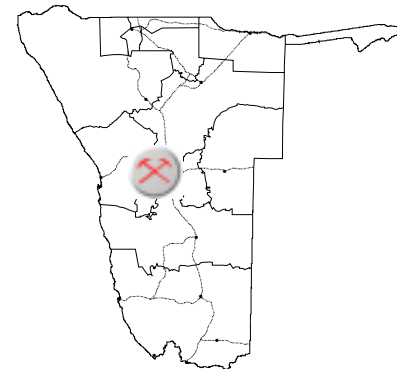
NAME	KARIBIB WHITE
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	WHITE
LOCALITY	TOWN QUARRY, KARIBIB 54 5KM SE OF KARIBIB
TONALITY VARIATION	LOW/MEDIUM
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB



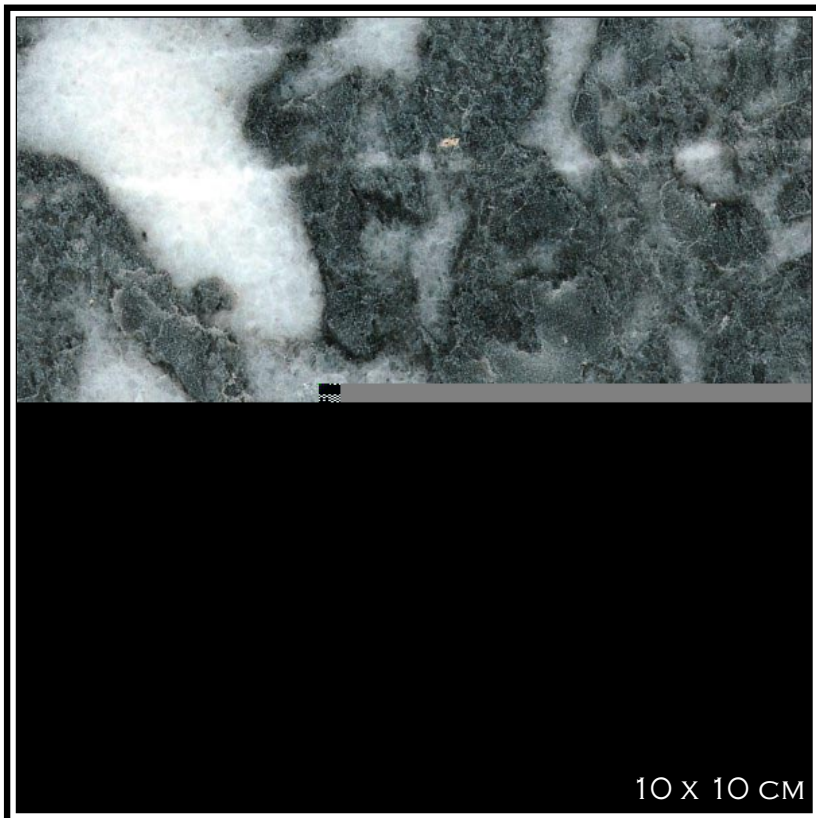
# WHITE RHINO MARBLE



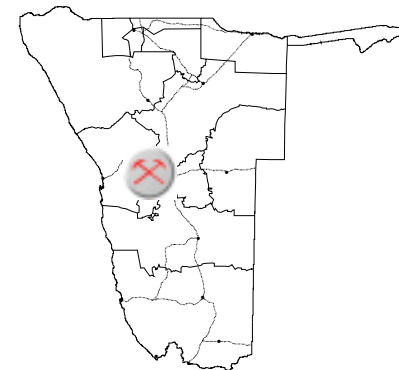
NAME	WHITE RHINO
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	WHITE
LOCALITY	HABIS 71 25KM SOUTH OF KARIBIB
TONALITY VARIATION	LOW
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB



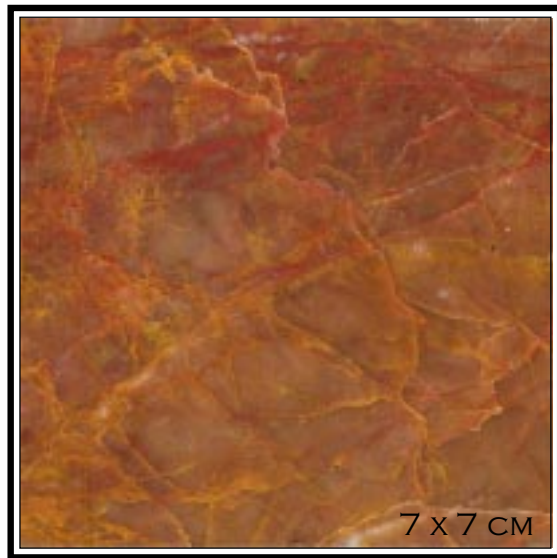
# COPRA BLACK MARBLE



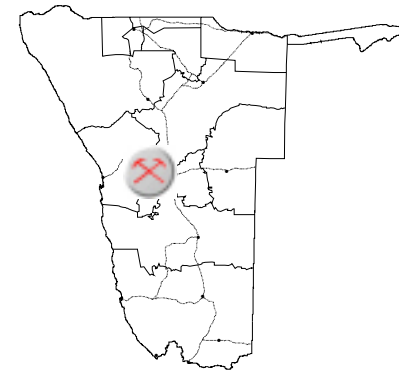
NAME	COPRA BLACK / ZEBRA
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	WHITE/BLACK BANDED
LOCALITY	KARIBIB 54 - CAPRA HILL 3KM NW OF KARIBIB
TONALITY VARIATION	HIGH
AVAILABILITY	MEDIUM / LOW
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB



# ESSERANDO MARBLE

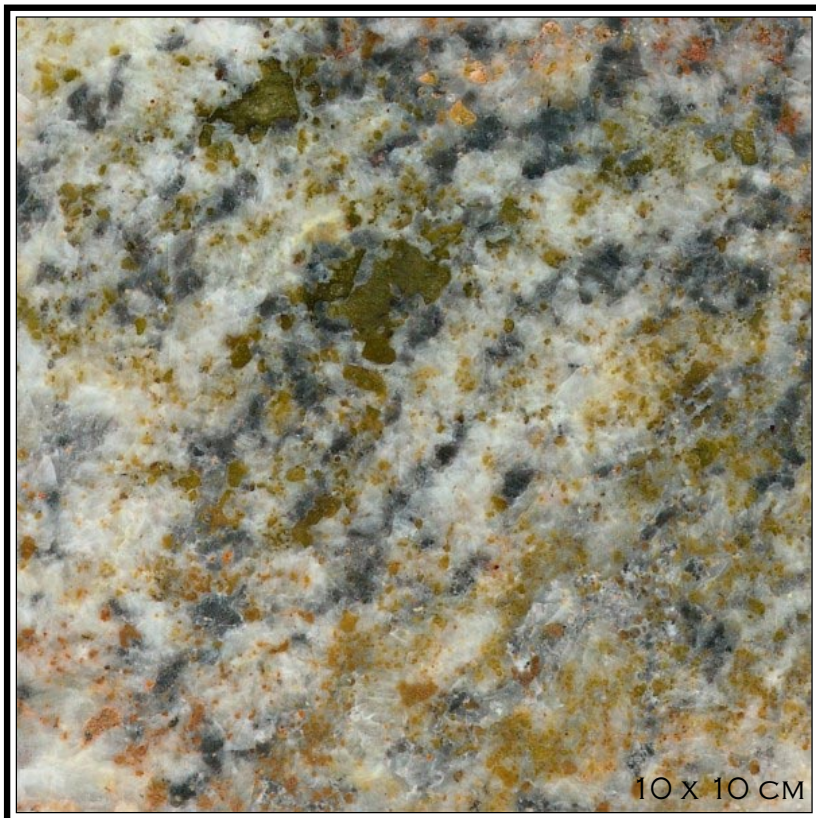


NAME	ESSERANDO
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	YELLOWISH-PINK
LOCALITY	KARIBIB 54 - DERNBURG HILL 4KM WEST OF KARIBIB
TONALITY VARIATION	MEDIUM
AVAILABILITY	BAD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS / EXTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB

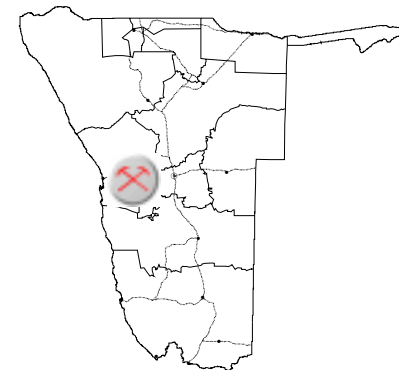




# NAMIBIAN GREEN MARBLE



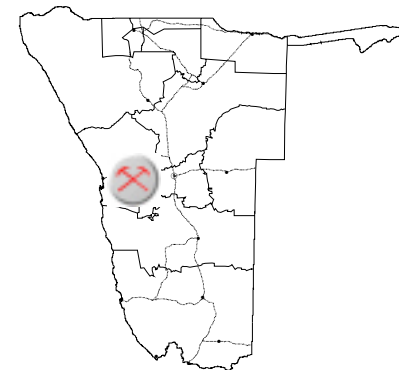
NAME	NAMIBIAN / NONIDAS GREEN
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	GREEN
LOCALITY	NONIDAS 15KM EAST OF SWAKOPMUND
TONALITY VARIATION	MEDIUM
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS / EXTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB



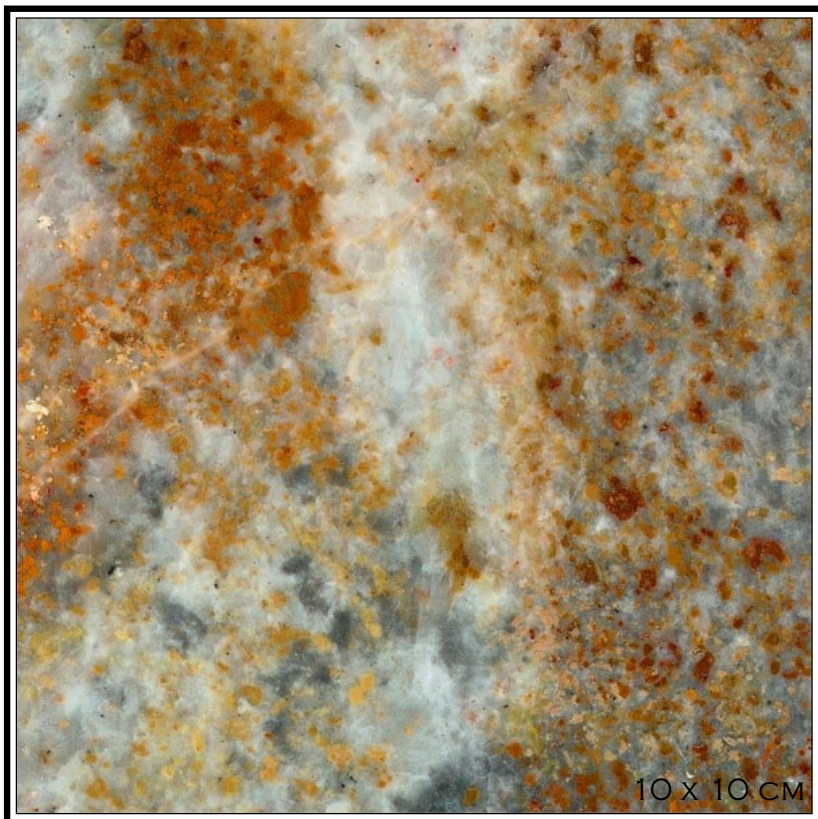
# DESERT GREEN MARBLE



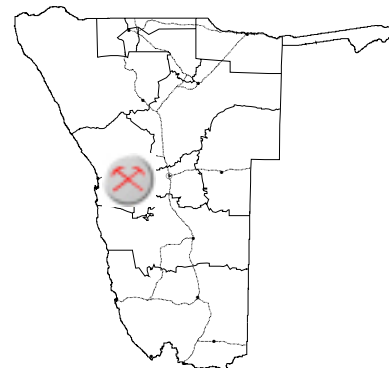
NAME	DESERT GREEN
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	WHITE WITH GREEN
LOCALITY	NONIDAS 15KM EAST OF SWAKOPMUND
TONALITY VARIATION	MEDIUM
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS / EXTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB



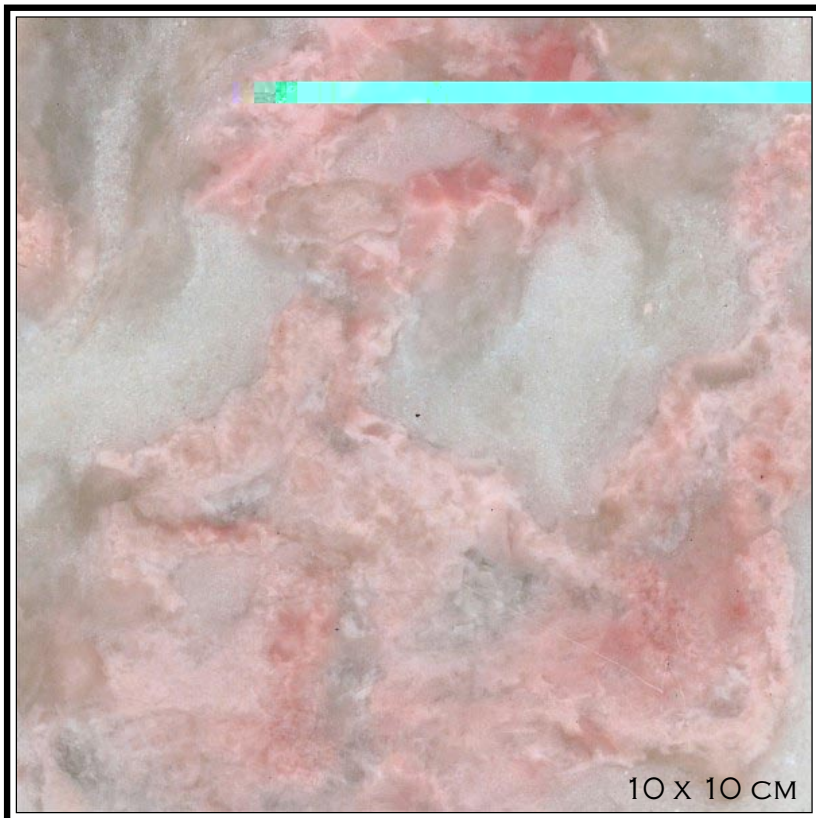
# NAMIB HARLEQUIN MARBLE



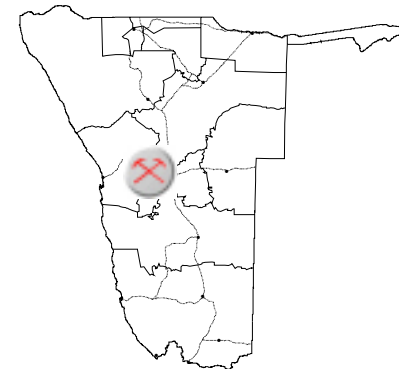
NAME	NAMIB / NONIDAS HARLEQUIN
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	GREEN/BROWN
LOCALITY	NONIDAS 15KM EAST OF SWAKOPMUND
TONALITY VARIATION	HIGH
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS / EXTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB



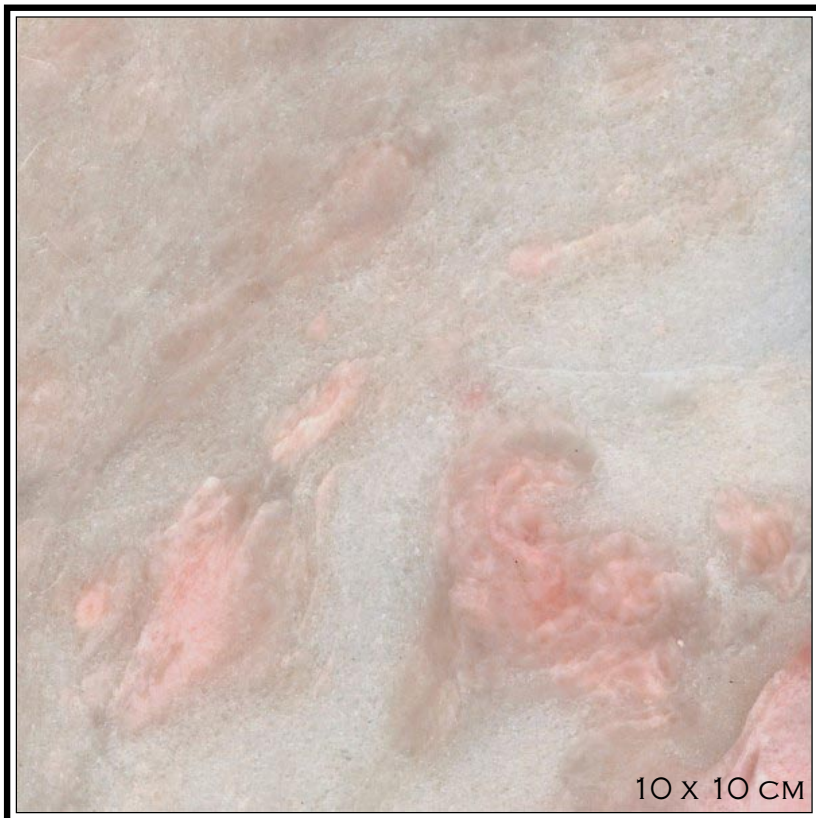
# NAMIBIAN ROSE MARBLE



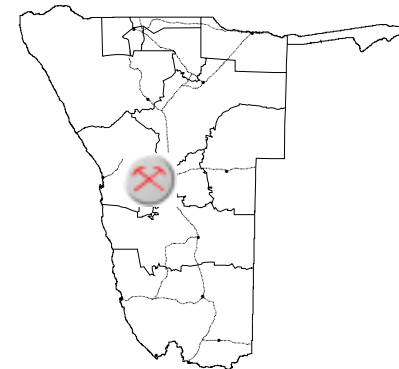
NAME	NAMIBIAN ROSE
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	WHITE WITH PINK
LOCALITY	OKATJIMUKUJU 55 14KM EAST OF KARIBIB
TONALITY VARIATION	HIGH
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS / EXTERIORS
CONTACT	OKATJI MARBLE



# OKATJI ROSE MARBLE



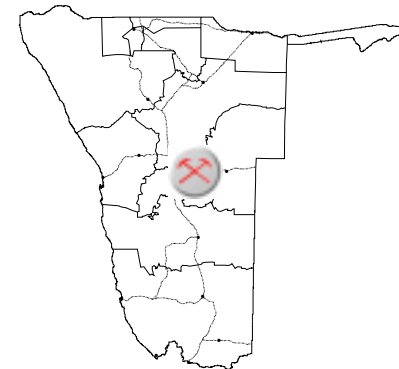
NAME	OKATJI ROSE
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	WHITE WITH PINK
LOCALITY	OKATJIMUKUJU 55 14KM EAST OF KARIBIB
TONALITY VARIATION	HIGH
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS / EXTERIORS
CONTACT	OKATJI MARBLE



# ALSATO MARBLE



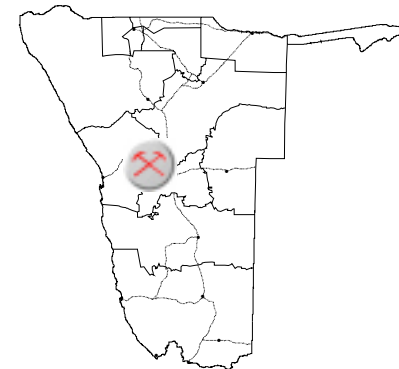
NAME	ALSATO WITVLEI
ROCK TYPE	MARBLE
COLOUR	PINKISH-GREY
LOCALITY	KEHORO 183 54KM NW OF GOBABIS
TONALITY VARIATION	MEDIUM
AVAILABILITY	BAD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS / EXTERIORS
CONTACT	-



# KALAHARI SAND GRANITE



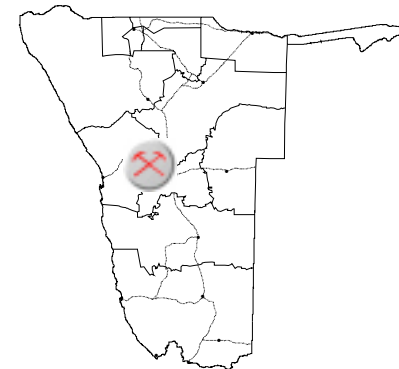
NAME	KALAHARI SAND
ROCK TYPE	GRANITE
COLOUR	YELLOWISH-BROWN
LOCALITY	SPITZKOPPE 60KM WEST OF USAKOS
TONALITY VARIATION	LOW
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	EXTERIORS / INTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB



# TROPICAL SUN GRANITE



NAME	TROPICAL SUN / NAMIB GELB
ROCK TYPE	GRANITE
COLOUR	BROWNISH- YELLOW
LOCALITY	SPITSKOPPE 60KM WEST OF USAKOS
TONALITY VARIATION	LOW
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	EXTERIORS / INTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB

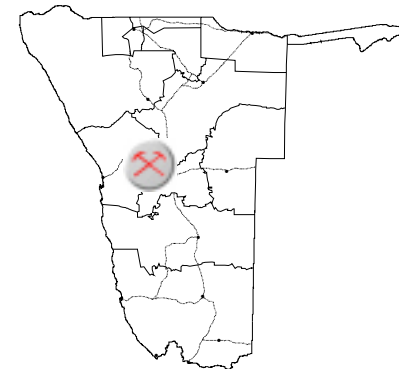




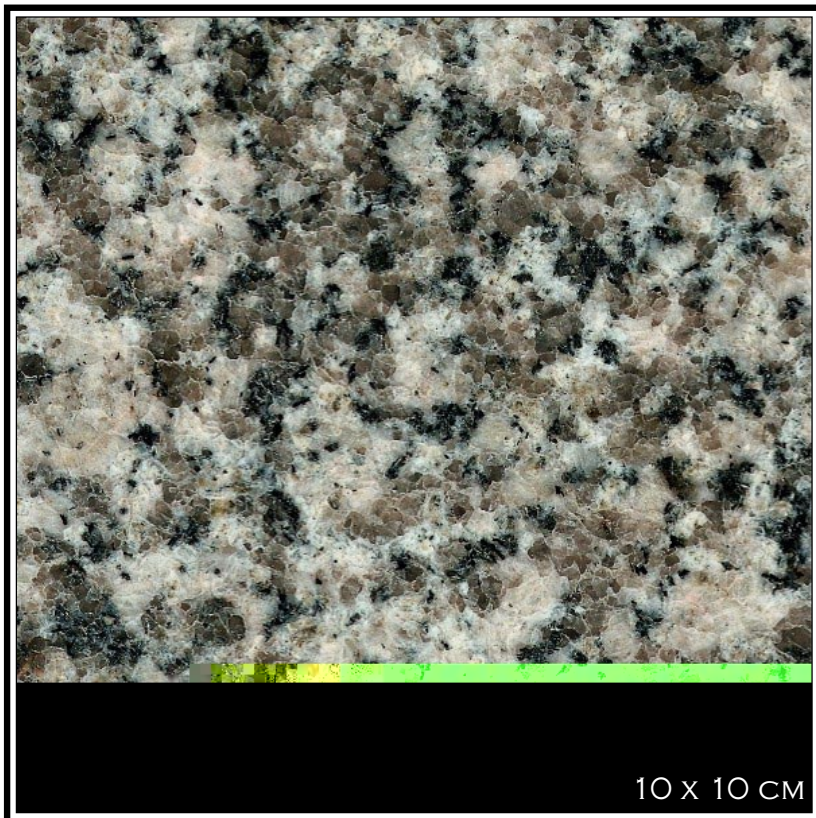
# NAMIBIAN PEARL GRANITE



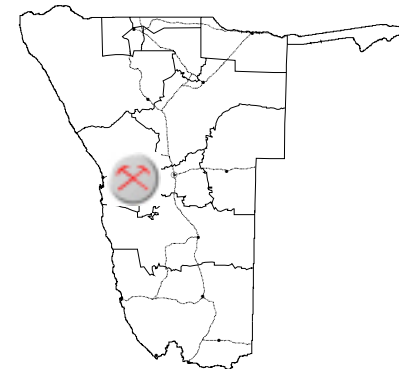
NAME	NAMIBIAN PEARL / AFRICAN PEARL
ROCK TYPE	GRANITE
COLOUR	IRREDECENT WHITE
LOCALITY	SPITZKOPPE 60KM WEST OF USAKOS
TONALITY VARIATION	LOW
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	EXTERIORS / INTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB



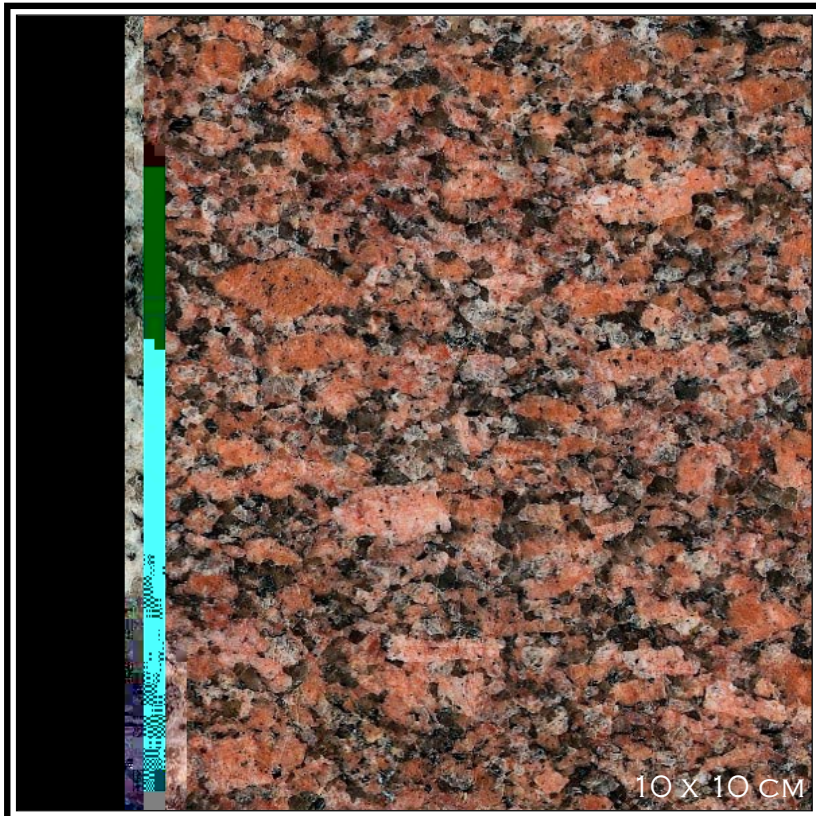
# GOAS WHITE GRANITE



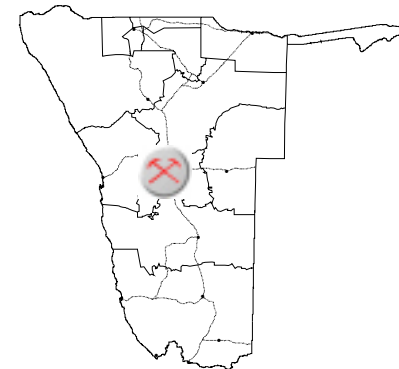
NAME	GOAS WHITE
ROCK TYPE	GRANODIORITE
COLOUR	WHITISH-GREY
LOCALITY	HABIS 71 25KM SOUTH OF KARIBIB
TONALITY VARIATION	LOW/MEDIUM
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	EXTERIORS / INTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB



# GÜLDENROT GRANITE



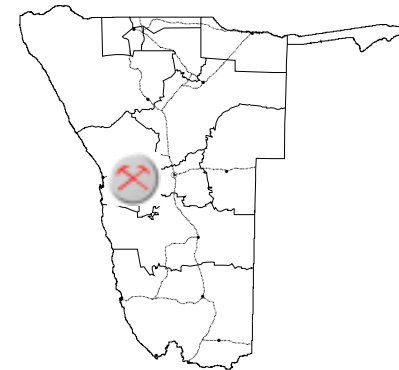
NAME	GÜLDENROT / NAMIB RED
ROCK TYPE	GRANITE
COLOUR	REDDISH-BROWN
LOCALITY	GULDENBODEN 280 43KM NNE OF OKAHANDJA
TONALITY VARIATION	LOW
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	EXTERIORS / INTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB



# UBIB GRANITE



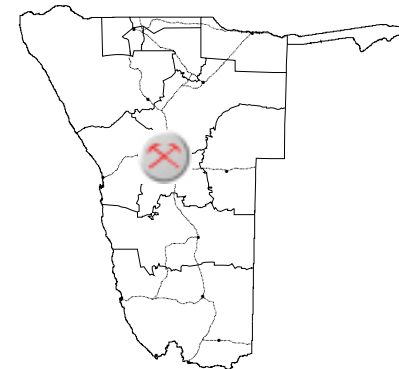
NAME	UBIB / KHAN
ROCK TYPE	GRANITE
COLOUR	RED
LOCALITY	UBIB 76 35KM SW OF KARIBIB
TONALITY VARIATION	LOW/MEDIUM
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	EXTERIORS /INTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB



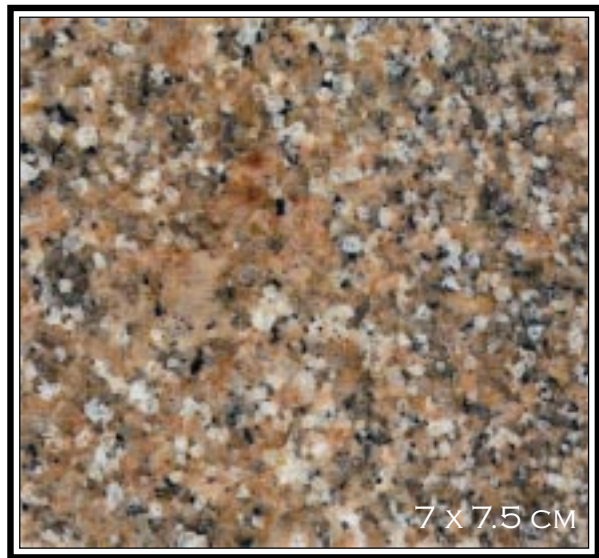
# OMENJE BLACK DOLERITE



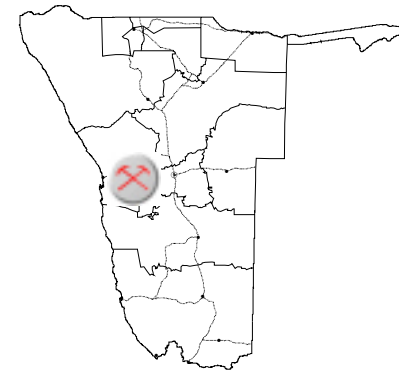
NAME	OMENJE
ROCK TYPE	DOLERITE
COLOUR	GREENISH-BLACK
LOCALITY	OMENJE 119 45KM SE OF OMARURU
TONALITY VARIATION	LOW
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	EXTERIORS / INTERIORS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB



# ROOIKOP GRANITE



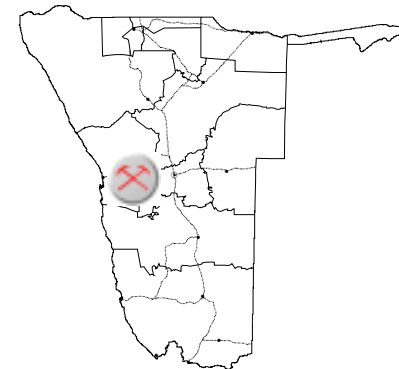
NAME	GIALLO DUNA / JUPARANA
ROCK TYPE	GRANITE
COLOUR	YELLOWISH-GREY
LOCALITY	ROOIKOP 15KM EAST OF WALVIS BAY
TONALITY VARIATION	LOW
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	EXTERIORS / INTERIORS
CONTACT	DAMARA GRANITE



# NAMIB ARAGONITE



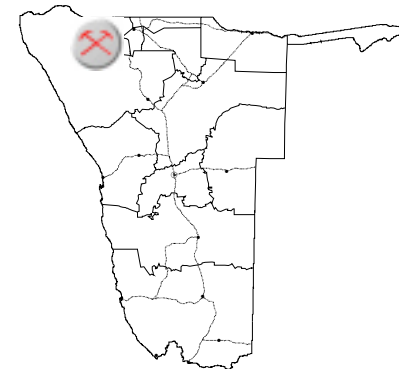
NAME	NAMIB ARAGONITE
ROCK TYPE	ARAGONITE
COLOUR	BANDED WHITE, CREAM, TAN
LOCALITY	NAMIB LEAD MINE 30KM EAST OF SWAKOPMUND
TONALITY VARIATION	HIGH
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS / ORNAMENTS
CONTACT	MARMORWERKE KARIBIB



# AFRICAN BLUE SODALITE



NAME	AFRICAN BLUE
ROCK TYPE	SODALITE
COLOUR	BLUE WITH WHITE AND LIGHT BROWN
LOCALITY	10KM SW OF SWARTBOOISDRIFT
TONALITY VARIATION	HIGH
AVAILABILITY	GOOD
GENERAL USES	INTERIORS / ORNAMENTS
CONTACT	NAMIBIA BLUE SODALITE





# CONTACTS

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