

## SEMP Report for 2012 published

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The annual report on the Strategic Environmental Management Plan for the Uranium Province – the so-called SEM – has been released. This report, which deals with the 2012 period, details the performance of the mining industry in managing the sector's cumulative impacts on twelve aspects of the central Namib environment. The activities of Gobabeb's NERMU project is closely related to this report and we therefore also take part in data collection, writing and preparation of the report for publication.

The 2012 SEA scenario for the uranium mining sector resembles Scenario 1 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of 2010 (below expectations), as Rio Tinto's Rössing and Paladin's Langer Heinrich were the only two uranium mines in operation, even though Husab (Swakop Uranium's new project) was being constructed.

With this being only the second such report and with some instability in the definition of indicators still being catered for, it is difficult to compare the results of this report directly with the previous one. Nevertheless, the overall results show that mining is associated with positive synergies such as employment, infrastructure and various socio-economic benefits, but that the potentially negative effects (e.g. air quality and radiation, effect on tourism) remain amongst the major public concerns.

In spite of that, the central Namib still remains a top destination for tourism and development. The 2012 assessment proves that

land users within the region are working hard at a collaborative and caring approach to the management of the social, economic, and natural environment

Most importantly, with widespread acceptance by the mining sector, government and the public, the SEM is well-placed to develop into a benchmark management tool. Overall, the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual SEM report is expected to have a positive influence on the future performance of the uranium industry, government, other developers and wellbeing of the public. Its results and recommendations will hopefully create awareness and address the shortcomings that were identified.

The aims of the SEM to safeguard the environment of the Erongo Region while gaining maximum benefit from our natural resources can only be achieved by making every effort towards continued improvement.

A complete copy of the report can be downloaded from [http://www.mme.gov.na/gsn/pdf/Annual\\_SEM\\_Report\\_2011\\_released.pdf](http://www.mme.gov.na/gsn/pdf/Annual_SEM_Report_2011_released.pdf). A link to this is also available from our website [www.gobabebtrc.org](http://www.gobabebtrc.org).

