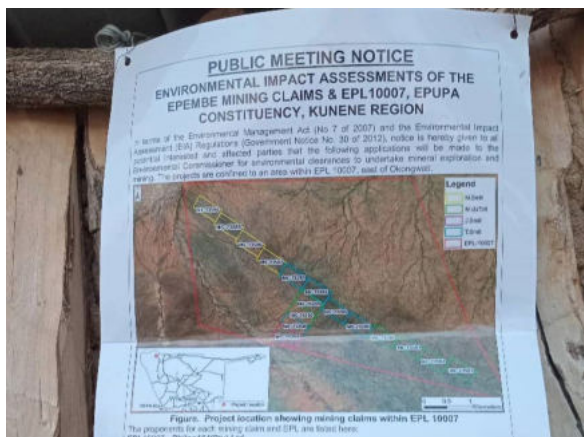
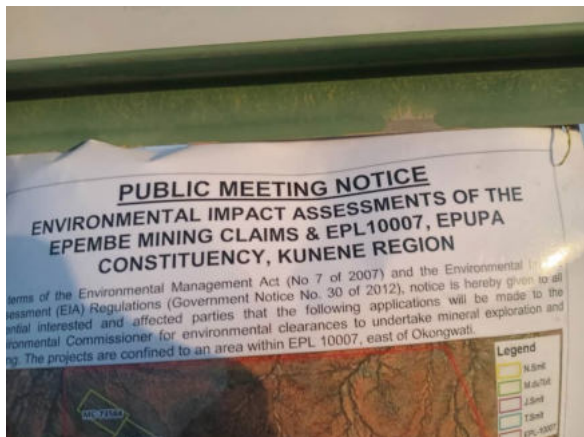


**Appendix B: Site notice photographs (opposite site and at nearby village)**





## Investment grade status distant South Africa's ratings seen stuck in 'junk' despite investor optimism

Sentiment boosted by coalition and end to power cuts.  
**TANNUR ANDERS**

South Africa will be unable to shed its 'junk' credit rating for years to come, credit analysts said, despite investor optimism over the economic trajectory since the formation of a coalition government this year.

S&P Global is scheduled to review the sovereign rating of Africa's most industrialised economy on Friday, though the agency has its long-term foreign currency rating three notches into sub-investment grade at 'BB-', with a stable outlook.

Eight months of uninterrupted power supply after years of blackouts and the promise of faster economic reform under the coalition has boosted business confidence. But fiscal risks remain and it will be a while before economists can gauge the new government's success at accelerating growth.

"That discussion around investment grade is still a very distant



S&P does not think South Africa is investment grade as yet.

one. We're still very far from that," Takonga Rusike, Sub-Saharan Africa economist at Bank of America Securities, said in an interview.

For S&P or the other two big agencies, Moody's and Fitch, to move to a positive outlook - a sign that an upgrade may follow soon - would require evidence of much faster growth and progress stabilising public debt, analysts said.

Fitch also has South Africa's long-term foreign rating three notches into sub-investment grade at 'BB-', with a stable outlook. It has completed its 2024 reviews and last week raised doubts over the government's

ability to meet some of the targets it set in October's mid-term budget.

Moody's has South Africa two notches into sub-investment grade at 'Ba2', with a stable outlook.

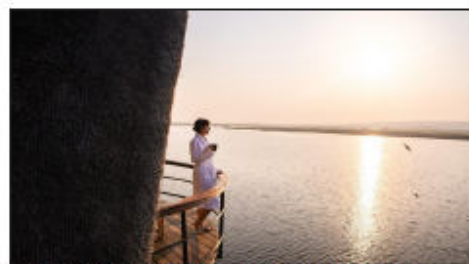
"There are still big risks, at the same time, to the outlook for public finances," said Miyelani Maluleke, head of South Africa macroeconomics research at local bank Absa.

South Africa's growth forecasts still lag behind those for many emerging market peers, with the government expecting growth of just 1.1% this year.

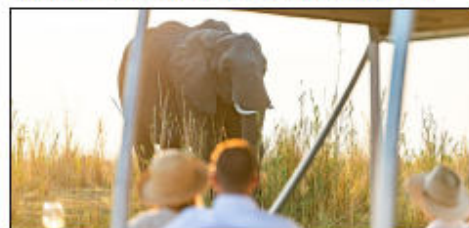
Analysts said sustained economic growth of around 2% and evidence that debt was stabilising could prompt a move to a positive outlook in the first half of 2025.

Debt as a share of gross domestic product jumped from 23.6% in 2009 to 74.1% this year, and the government said last month that it aimed for it to peak at 75.5% in 2026.

"They [ratings agencies] want to see evidence that the changes are actually delivered in terms of improved economic performance," Absa's Maluleke said.



Tourists and visitors can expect to see a re-branded Chobe Water Villas.



O&L Leisure recently re-branded Chobe Water Villas.

## O&L Leisure unveils Chobe Water Villas re-brand

**STAFF REPORTER**

O&L Leisure - a subsidiary of the O&L Group - announced the relaunch of Chobe Water Villas, its exclusive riverside retreat, with a revitalised brand identity that brings guests closer to "Namibia Through Our Eyes". Situated on the banks of the Chobe River, this luxurious oasis invites travellers to experience Namibia's rich landscape and vibrant wildlife like never before. Underpinning the rebrand of Chobe Water Villas is O&L's dedication to showcasing Namibia's unparalleled beauty, both through its pristine landscapes and its warm hospitality. The new branding echoes the O&L persona of being "Authentic, Caring and Passionate", transforming the property into more than a destination but a sanctuary where guests find Namibia's soul.

Reflecting on the newly launched O&L Leisure Masterbrand, this rebrand stands as a commitment to a unified guest experience across all O&L Leisure properties, embodying one brand and one promise while preserving each location's unique essence.

Whether visiting Midgard, Strand Hotel Swakopmund, Mokuli Etosha, Chobe Water Villas - where heaven meets earth - or any future property, guests can expect a consistent standard of excellence.

This transformation aligns with O&L Leisure's "Namibia Through

Our Eyes" campaign launched in September, which celebrates the natural splendour and cultural richness brought to life across the company.

The Chobe Water Villas rebrand is the first step in this journey, with the Leisure Masterbrand set to be fully rolled out across all properties by 2025.

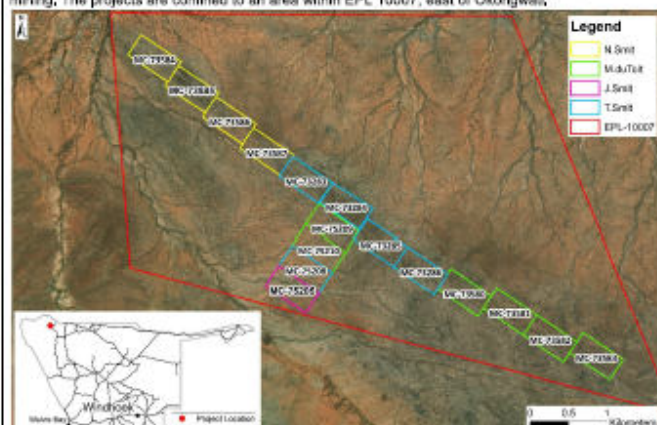
From breathtaking sunsets over the Chobe River to elevated sky walks that immerse guests in the sights and sounds of the wilderness, Chobe Water Villas is the ultimate luxury retreat for those seeking an extraordinary connection with nature, the company said. Imagine the scene: elephants bathing leisurely in the river's cool waters, hippos bellowing nearby and birds swooping gracefully overhead.

Every experience is carefully crafted to showcase Namibia's raw, untamed beauty, inviting guests to be a part of the landscape, not just a spectator. "The essence of Chobe Water Villas lies in its ability to offer visitors a rare blend of tranquillity and adventure, capturing Namibia's soul in every detail. This is a place where 'heaven meets earth' and where guests can truly experience the serene, majestic rhythm of nature," said Sven Thiesme, Managing Director of O&L Leisure and Executive Chairman of the O&L Group. For O&L Leisure, Chobe Water Villas represents more than just another luxurious property in its portfolio. It's a vital part of the company's mission to bring out the best of Namibia's tourism offering.

The property caters to international travellers seeking one-of-a-kind experiences and Namibians who wish to rediscover their own landscapes. By investing in Chobe's transformation, O&L Leisure aims to create a destination that resonates with every guest, a place that truly feels like Namibia's best-kept secret.

## PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS OF THE EPEMBA MINING CLAIMS & EPL10007, EUPA CONSTITUENCY, KUNENE REGION

In terms of the Environmental Management Act (No 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012), notice is hereby given to all potential interested and affected parties that the following applications will be made to the Environmental Commissioner for environmental clearances to undertake mineral exploration and mining. The projects are confined to an area within EPL 10007, east of Okongwati.





[Register a new company](#)  
[Legal Notices](#)

**SINGAPORE**

**UNIVERSITY OF WALVISBAY**  
NY Notice is hereby given in terms  
section 6(2)(c) of the Local Au-  
tomatic Auction Act No.  
92(ACT 70 of 1992), that the Manis-  
ticity of Walvis Bay intends to sell  
private transaction; Remainder of  
#1866

Walvis Bay, Extension 14 and Erwer-  
Wald 2-6428 Walvis Bay, Extension  
Erwerwald 2-6428 Walvis Bay,  
Description: Remainder of Er-  
Wald 2-6428 Walvis Bay, Extension 14 and  
Erveld 6420-6438 Walvis Bay, Exten-  
sion 14.

EWA: A 3048 m2  
LIVING LUG Industrial  
PROCESS - AMOUNT EXCLUDED  
IN VAT-NH:R 774 350.00 plus  
VAT

If particulars pertaining to the sale  
are open for inspection by intere-  
d persons until Tuesday 26 No-  
vember at room #5, Municipal Office  
Municipal Office. For more information  
for Minside/Wals can be contacted

any person objecting to the proposed sale, may in writing lodge an objection together with the grounds/ evidence

directed to the Manager, Housing of Properties at the above, state address or to Private Bag 5077 Delta Bay,

before or on Friday 29 November 2002 at 12:00

clock hours.


Manager: Housing and Properties

tel: (0644) 201 3338

email: j.parnell@whitbycc.org.nz

064529.2604@xtra

Registration and written submissions for the scoping phase will be received up to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

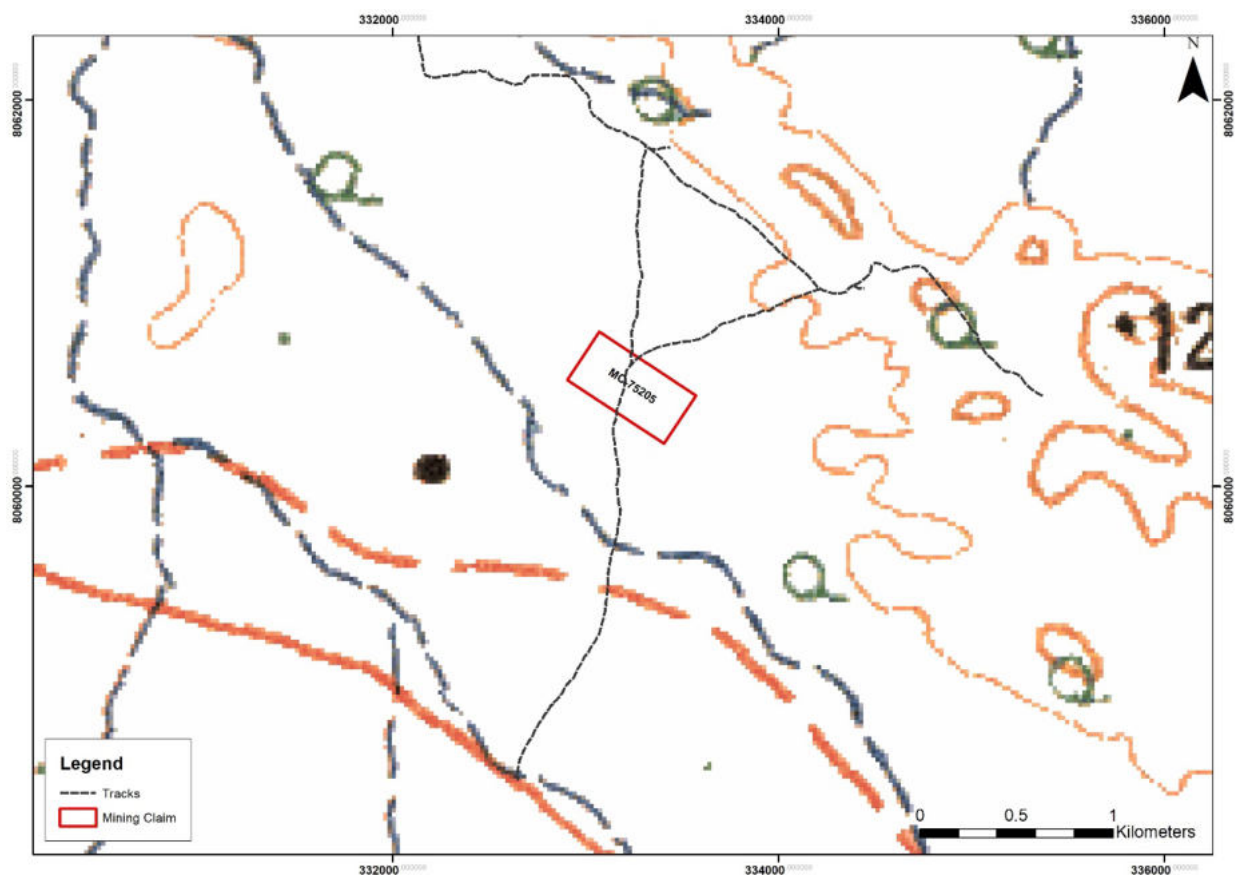
 *THEY PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR  
PEOPLE WHO LIVE WITH ALCOHOLICS.*

**HELP FOR RELATIVES OF ALCOHOLICS**

**AL-ANON Family groups offer help for  
friends & relatives of alcoholics**

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

## ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE APPLICATION MINING PROJECT (MINING CLAIM 75205) EPEMBE, KUNENE REGION



Prepared by Philip Hooks

June 2024



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## INTRODUCTION

Mr. Jacobus Petrus Smit (hereafter referred to as the proponent), has pegged mining claim 75205 over communal land near Epembe in the Kunene Region. The local community leaders have given written consent for the mining. The proponent intends to apply for an environmental clearance certificate. The following specific activities/aspects apply constitute the amendment:

- Continued exploration within the mining claim;
- Mineral ore extraction by open cast mining;
- Mineral processing;
- Construction of accessory works areas and roads.

The proponent has commissioned an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process based on the requirements of the Environmental Management Act (Act. No. 7 of 2007) and associated EIA regulations Government Notice (GN) No. 29 and 30. An Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the construction and operation of the proposed mining and processing activities is required and thus an EIA application with associated support documents need to be developed for submission to the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) and to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for review.

An EIA and amended Environmental Management Plan (EMP), will enable MME and MEFT to make an informed decision regarding the proposed amendments to the EMP. The environmental commissioner will assess whether this is sufficient to issue the new clearance certificate. The EIA will take the form of a scoping report with impact assessment.

The aim of this background information document (BID) is to:

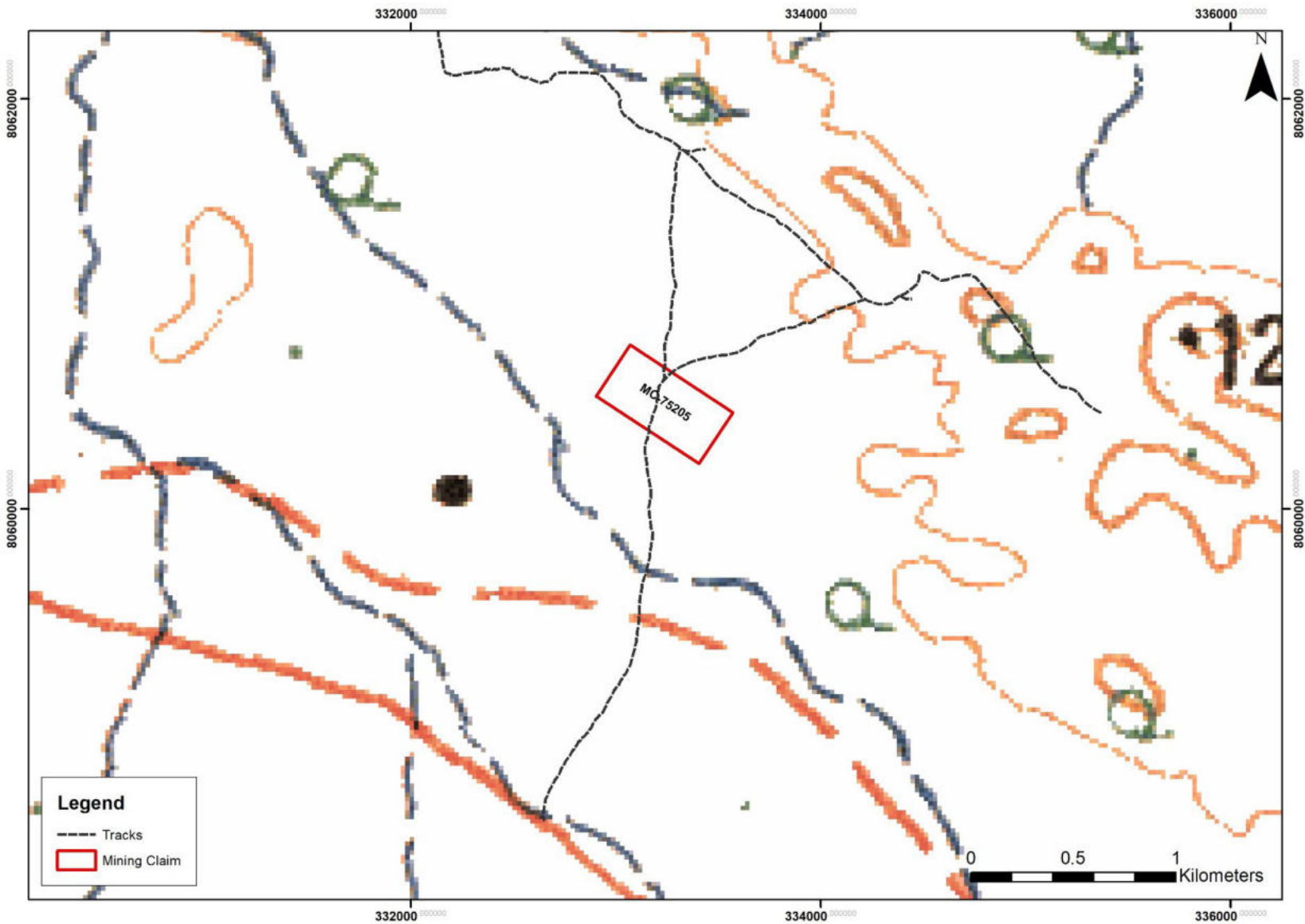
- Inform I&APs about the activities within the mining claim;
- Provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) the opportunity to register for the public participation process;
- Explain the EIA process being followed;
- Explain how I&APs can share any comments, issues or concerns related to the proposed development. This will provide the consultant with additional information which should be taken into account in the identification of environmental aspects and the assessment of potential impacts.

## LOCATION

Figure 1 renders a map of the location of the mining claim.



Figure 1. Location of the Mining Claim 75205.





## COMPANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mr. Jacobus Petrus Smit, the holder of the mining claim is a Namibian citizen.

## PROJECT MOTIVATION

The proposed small-scale mining and processing will initially consist of opencast mining and the construction of a pilot processing plant. Through the construction and operational phases the project will contribute to the Kunene region's socio-economic development through local job creation.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following is a summary of the project components

### CONSTRUCTION PHASE ACTIVITIES

The pilot processing plant will be constructed in one of the mining claim. The EIA process will direct the decision-making process with regards to site selection for the pilot plant. Construction will begin soon after the approval of the environmental clearance application. Conceptual design layouts are under development.

### OPERATIONAL PHASE ACTIVITIES

The operational activities include the following:

- Continued exploration within the mining claim;
- Mineral ore extraction by open cast mining;
- Mineral processing.

### DECOMMISSIONING PHASE ACTIVITIES

The EMP will stipulate the activities under this phase. A conceptual closure plan will be developed for the mine.

## EIA PROCESS

The EIA will be carried out as follows:

Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) have been notified regarding the project through the national and local press and by site and public notices. Focus group meetings will be arranged to provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to give their input into the amended activities. Registered IAPs will receive information about the project (including this BID) and requested to give input into the EIA process. The public participation at the focus group meetings and via written correspondence is required under the laws that govern environmental protection.

Specialists, where necessary will provide assessment studies or statements for integration into the EIA. These documents together with other environmental baseline information will be used to assess the potential impacts of the new accessory activities. Measures to offset, mitigate or prevent any potential impacts will be recommended.

Monitoring of activities throughout the phases of the project will be recommended so that the compliance to the recommended measures can be assessed. A Scoping Report with Assessment and Draft EMP will be submitted to the public for review. Thereafter, the documents will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner, who will weigh up the impact assessment, recommended measures and monitoring suggestions and approve or reject the environmental clearance. If approved, the EMP (supported by the Scoping Report with Assessment and specialist studies/statements) becomes the legally binding plan to which the company must comply.

## ◆ POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

Impacts that could potentially arise from the proposed project include but are not limited to:

- Biodiversity impacts
  - Alteration of habitat
  - Physical destruction and general disturbance of biodiversity
- Alteration of landscape
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Surface water and groundwater bodies
- Increased traffic volumes on public roads and road safety
- Employment opportunities (permanent / temporary)
- Growth of both local and regional economy

Where the environmental impact assessment practitioner deems it necessary, specialist studies or statements will be provided for as part of the Scoping Report and Assessment.

## ◆ PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Environmental Impact Assessment process involves interaction with individuals and organisations who are interested in, or who could be affected by, the proposed development. The notification of the project invited IAPs to register for the project. The public meeting, focus group meetings and email correspondence provides you with an opportunity to comment and make further inquiries.

We invite all IAPs to provide in writing, any issues, and suggestions regarding the proposed development. This correspondence must include:

1. Name & Surname;
2. Organization represented;
3. Position in the organization;
4. Contact details and;
5. Any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

All initial contributions, comments and concerns will be considered in the Scoping Report with Assessment. After the issuing of the Scoping Report with Assessment for public review, all stakeholders and registered IAPs will be requested to provide comments. A 21 working day review period will be granted for this aspect

of the public participation. After the review period, the Scoping Report with Assessment will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner to apply for an ECC.

For further information, or to register as an Interested or Affected Party, please contact:

Mr. Philip Hooks (Environmental Assessment Practitioner/Consultant)

E-Mail: [philip.nigel.hooks@gmail.com](mailto:philip.nigel.hooks@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: +44 7340 238 047





## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR EXPLORATION AND MINING ACTIVITIES NEAR EPEMBE, KUNENE REGION

### ONE-ON-ONE AND FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

#### INFORMATION SHARING FOR EPEMBE AND MALACHITE PROJECTS

<b>Date</b>	05 and 06 December 2024
<b>Purpose</b>	Present the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process being followed. Provide the description and overview of the proposed Project. Allow interested & affected parties (IAPs) to provide input into the EIA process and EMP.
<b>Number of Attendees</b>	5 Public Enterprise Staff
<b>Meeting Facilitator</b>	Immanuel Katali (IK)

#### PRESENTATION (FOR ALL 5 KEY STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED)

IK the independent Environmental Practitioner, introduced himself to the relevant staff at the meeting.

IK explained the aims and objectives of the meeting.

IK presented the project background/motivation as well as the description and location of the proposed project and various project components.

IK also presented the EIA process being followed and explained the potential key social and environmental issues that were identified as part of the initial stages of the EIA process. He ended the presentation by discussing the way forward regarding the EIA process.

#### DISCUSSION

Comments raised during the meetings have been recorded.

## DEADLINE

IK explained that the deadline for initial comments is 18 December 2024.

## KEY STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED (BASED ON AVAILABILITY)

Name	Position	Organization	Date and Time Consulted	Comment
<b>Leonard Nghilululwa</b>	Admin Control Officer	Ministry of Health and Social Services	05 Dec 2024. 10h30 – 11h00	Thank you for sharing the information. Some of our staff members are not in the office, however, we will also share the information with colleagues.
<b>Mburura K.N &amp; Gary G. Nekongo</b>	Senior Water and Sanitation officer  Deputy Director	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform	05 Dec 2024 11h30 – 12h00	We will share with our colleagues and get back to you.
<b>Moses Areseb</b>	Warden	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism	05 Dec 2024 12h30 – 13h00	It is better to get input from the rest of the Ministry. We will sit collectively and discuss.
<b>J. Jantze</b>	Director	Kunene Regional Council	06 Dec 2024 10h00 – 10h30	Development is needed for our Region as it will contribute to the socio-economic of the Region. We welcome the project.
<b>U. Makono</b>	Council Support Officer	Opuwo Town Council	06 Dec 2024 10h30 – 11h00	The CEO is currently unavailable, but we will make sure to share the information with him for any commenting.

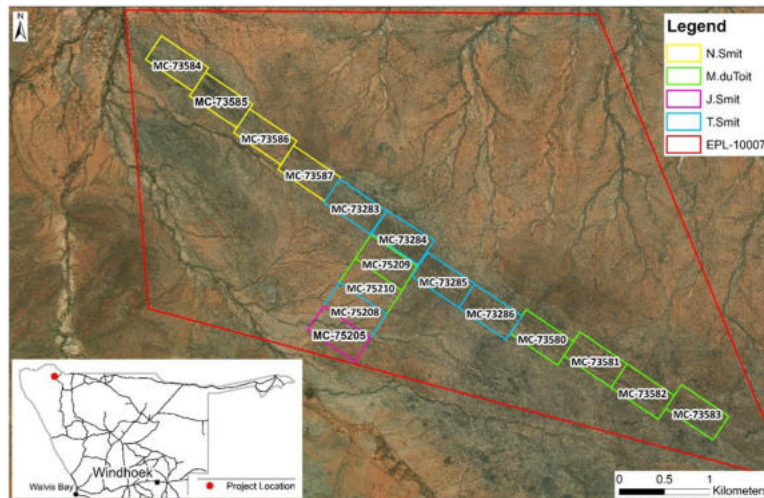
(One attendance register was used for all 5 meetings.)

NAME & SURNAME	POSITION	EMAIL & PHONE	SIGNATURE
Leonard Nghingicika	Control Officer Admin	nglleonard@gmail.com	
Mburuwa K N	SRWSO	ngazee1964@gmail.com	
Nosee Ineiz	Warden	ngazee1964@gmail.com	
GARY G. NERONGU	DEPUTY DIRECTOR	ngazee1964@gmail.com	
J.R. Jantzi	Director, FA	ngazee1964@gmail.com	
Y. Makono	General Support Officer	ngazee1964@gmail.com	



## Appendix F: PowerPoint presentation document used at the meetings

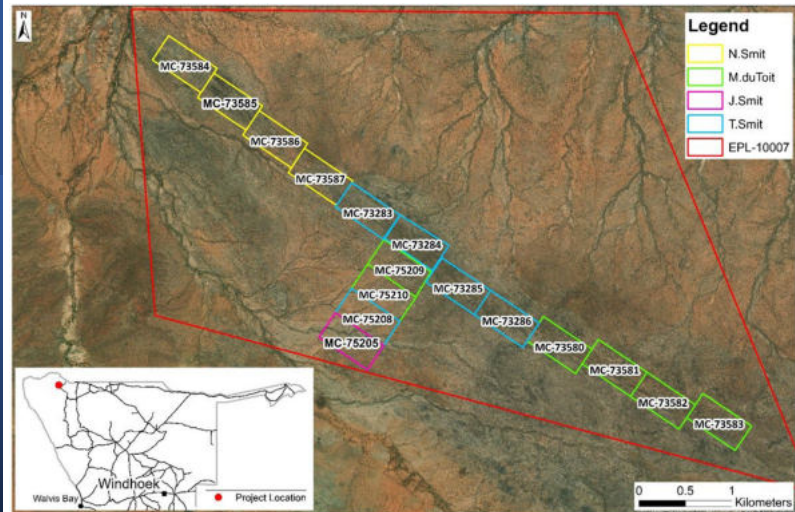
### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR EXPLORATION & MINING ACTIVITIES WITHIN MULTIPLE MINING CLAIMS & AN EPL 10007 EPEMBE, EPUPA CONSTITUENCY, KUNENE REGION



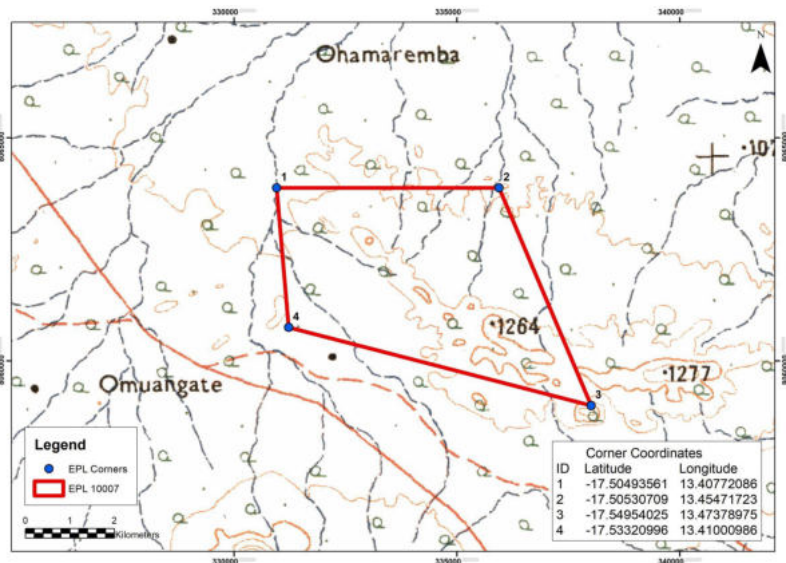
Enquiries about the process and timeline for giving inputs, the proponent, and the need for transparency.

- The public participation process requires that the public are informed about the project. From the notification of the project the public must have the opportunity to give input into the process.
- All registered interested and affected parties must have an opportunity to review these documents and provide input before the final submission to MEFT.

## Project Location



## Project Location

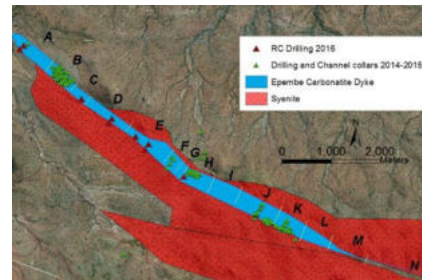


## Project Location & Owner

- The Epembe Projects constitute an exploration licence and mining claims within the same area, located east of Okongwati in Kaokoveld, north-western Namibia.
- The carbonatite-syenite dyke deposit occurs within communal land.
- The separate projects and owners (Proponents) are as follows:
  - EPL10007 - Philco164(Pty) Ltd
  - Mining Claims 75205 – Mr. J.P.Smit
  - Mining Claims 73283,73284, 73285, 73286 & 75208 – Mr. T.Smit
  - Mining Claims 73580, 73581, 73582, 73583, 75209 & 75210 – Mr. J.M. du Toit
  - Mining Claims 73584, 73585, 73586 & 73587 – Ms N. Smit

## Geology & Mineral Deposits

- The Epembe deposit is an at least 10 km long carbonatite-syenite dyke at the south-western margin of the Kunene Alkaline Complex in Northern Namibia.
- The dyke is between 90 - 130 m wide in the central part and widens to up to 270 m in its northern portion.
- Further northward, the dyke system is almost entirely covered by scree and fluvial sediments and calcrete with rare outcrops.
- Carbonatite also fills dykes and voids in the country rocks parallel to the dyke.
- Accessory minerals such as apatite, feldspar, aegirine, phlogopite as well as pyrochlore and zircon occur too.





Exploration:

## Project Description

The mineral groups that have been considered over a broader area and now again over a smaller area for the current Exclusive Prospecting Licence 10007 are Base and Rare Metals, Industrial Minerals, Precious Metals, Dimension Stones and Nuclear Fuels.

## Exploration

- Exploration follows three phases
- After the initial prospecting phase, there will be a drilling phase and lastly a pitting, trenching, bulk sampling and trial mining phase.



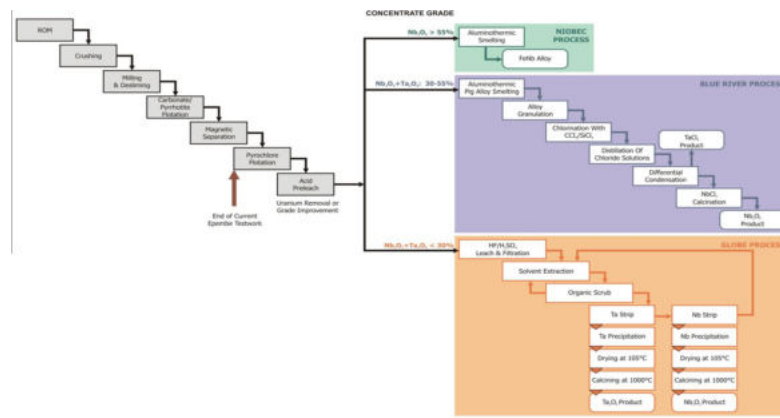
# Mining - Project Description

Target Elements for Mining:

Tantalum

Niobium

Uranium



## Mining - Construction

- Clearing of vegetation at the planned mining sites and the processing area.
- Stockpiling of topsoil for rehabilitation at a later stage.
- Landscaping of the pilot processing area with its construction of foundations, crusher and screening facilities, pilot processing plant for copper concentrate production, photovoltaics and diesel generators for energy provision, waste rock stockpiles, tailings facility, chemical storage, water reticulation system, water abstraction and conveyance infrastructure.
- Construction of a small Tailings Storage Facility (TSF).
- Erection of site offices near the mine site and at the processing area.

## Mining – Operational Phase

- The mining EIA applications are for phase 1 which constitute pilot mining and processing.
- The life of the small-scale mines may vary but could be approximately 10 years should the 2nd phase of mining rate and size of operations be implemented.
- The phase 1 pilot mining and processing will confirm the viability and the estimated life of mine
- Should phase 2 operations be viable then amendment EIAs will be undertaken at that time.

## Mining – Decommissioning

Decommissioning activities will include:

- The removal of infrastructure,
- Preparation of final landforms for closure to encourage vegetation growth thereby reducing the effects of soil erosion and re-establish normal ecosystem functionality thereby rehabilitating the environment.
- Should the phase 1 prove successful for each mining project, and phase 2 proves to be a viable option then the decommissioning would be postponed until the end of phase 2. Phase 2 cannot proceed without an amendment to the clearance certificates.

## Project Commencement

- It is anticipated that the proposed construction and mining would commence within six months of receiving the Environmental Clearance of each project.
- Forest tree clearance permits and water abstraction licences will need to be obtained too prior to commencement of activities.

## Impact Assessment

- The impact assessments will provide the recommended mitigation measures to be implemented.
- The mitigations will be described in the Draft Environmental Management Plans.





**Water use sustainability will be achieved if the following mitigations are employed:**

- Limit the use of the groundwater to initial stages of the project until water studies provide for sustainable usage.
- If there are signs of overexploitation (drop in groundwater level and increasing salinity) and groundwater levels are not replenished within a year of use by the mine, then use of the resource should be stopped, and alternative sources found.
- Develop an alternative source of water for sustainable long -term use.

**Water Study Mitigation Measures for the soils, surface water and groundwater are as follows:**

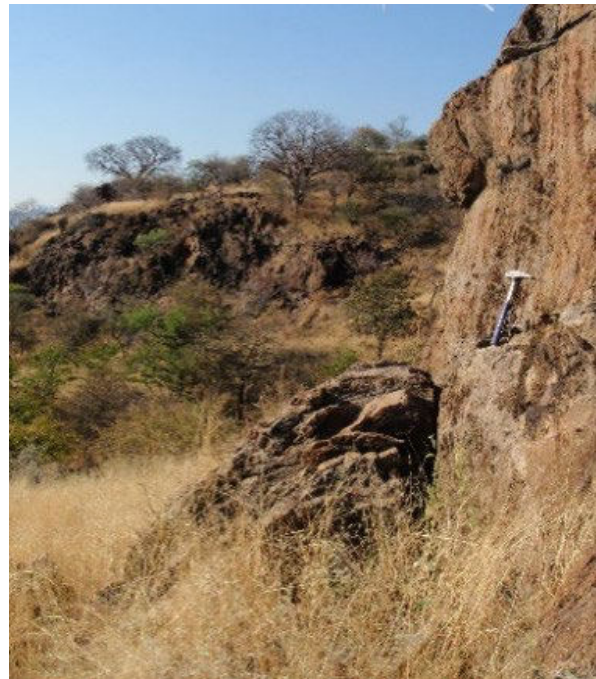
- Construction of a containment dam downstream of the processing plant, TSF, waste rock dump and other stockpiles. Thereby capture all water that is potentially contaminated.
- Evaporation of contained water that is not reused.
- Maintain water balance as a check on any significant water leakage from the operation.
- Regular inspection of TSF and WRDs.
- During the operation of the mine, the sediment material accumulated in the containment dam should be moved to the tailings at regular intervals so that the maximum capacity of the containment dam is retained and the risk of mobilising the material downstream is reduced.

**For the management and mitigation of possible impacts from the mining pits the following measures are recommended:**

- The pits excavated to a maximum depth of 50 m bgl may below the groundwater level and groundwater inflow could be expected when mining to this depth.
- Surface flow to the pits is also possible and the pits should be protected against inflow of surface runoff water and discharge from the pits should be avoided. Therefore, the pits should be cordoned off with berms (1 m high) to avoid surface inflow to the pit

## Biodiversity & Habitats:

The area is made of rocky outcrops, drainage lies and mopane plain habitats



Requests from various authorities for compliance with eg Forestry permits, land and fencing authorisations, road developments, internationally shared water requirements.

- A biodiversity specialist and water specialist would be necessary for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the projects and studies in these aspects would be needed for any amendment to the environmental clearances.
- Fencing will be confined to small areas for security and public safety purposes.

Requests for thoroughness, including liaison between the biodiversity specialists and local MEFT officials

- Separate fauna and flora specialist studies would be needed for any 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the mining developments to assess the impact on the environment.
- NBRI should be included in the flora survey work that would be part of the EMPs' requirements.



Enquiries on the plans to rehabilitate, and on the permanence of the proposed quarries.

- A summary of the flora and fauna will provide background information on the need to provide for rehabilitation of disturbed areas.
- The drafting of a rehabilitation and mine closure plan will be necessary.
- Some quarries will leave permanent scars in the landscape.
- Some smaller excavations like trenches will be re-filled with waste rock but this cannot be done in all cases.
- Action will be necessary thereby ensuring larger quarries are made safe.

**Flora:**

- The following recommended mitigation measures will be incorporated into the Draft EMP:
- Keep the overall development footprint as small as possible.
- The extent and location of any construction site should be clearly marked out and signage used to restrict movement of vehicles and personnel outside the accessory works areas.
- Roads, pipelines and power lines must be planned in order to minimise fragmentation or disturbance of the habitats.
- Anti-erosion measures must be taken where roads and tracks cross a wash or drainage line.
- Carefully plan the placement of stockpiling construction material, i.e. lay-down areas to avoid sensitive areas.
- Limit construction activities to daytime hours to reduce noise.



**Flora:**

- Educate construction and permanent staff as to their environmental obligations. All contractors should be held responsible for transgressions and significant penalties should be enforced in order to ensure compliance.
- Position temporary construction infrastructure (e.g. accommodation) in areas that will be disturbed during operations in any case.
- Erect linear structures (power lines, water pipelines) as close as possible to existing roads and tracks.
- Do not put water tanks, power pylons or any other large infrastructure in the river or washes.
- No sewerage overflow or French drain may be placed within 100 m of a drainage line.
- No illegal collection of plants should be allowed.
- No illegal collection of wood for fires (cooking or heating) should be allowed.

**Flora:**

- A comprehensive restoration plan should be finalised during the first three years of initial clearance period. The Draft EMP includes a conceptual framework for habitat restoration or rehabilitation. Provision for monitoring and adaptive management as the project develops is imperative. Some rehabilitation actions should be implemented during operations in order to be effective, e.g. removal and location of topsoil; location of waste rock dumps to ensure efficient restoration later.
- Monitor groundwater levels to ensure sustained growth of trees.
- Monitor plant diversity downriver from the abstraction site at a minimum once a year.
- TSF containment measures should be strictly enforced to the highest existing standards.
- Regularly inspect structures related to the Tailings Storage Facility.
- Treatment of the final discharge of water should be in such a way as to eliminate any possibility of active chemicals entering the soil or groundwater. No impact on the vegetation is permissible, especially downstream along the drainage lines.

Fauna:

- The following recommended mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Draft EMP to minimise the potential impacts on fauna expected from the project:
- Keep the overall development footprint as small as possible.
- The extent and location of the construction site and operational areas should be clearly marked out and signage used to restrict movement of vehicles and personnel outside this area.
- Fencing is recommended for the processing plant and TSF where both fauna and public could be at risk.
- The location of roads, pipelines and power lines must be planned in order to minimise fragmentation or disturbance of habitats.
- Anti-erosion measures must be taken where roads and tracks cross a wash or drainage.
- Carefully plan the placement of stockpiling construction material, i.e. lay-down areas to avoid sensitive ground.
- Limit construction activities to daytime hours to reduce noise.
- Educate construction and permanent staff as to their environmental obligations. All contractors should be held responsible for transgressions and significant penalties should be levied in order to ensure compliance.
- Position temporary construction infrastructure (e.g. accommodation) in areas that will be disturbed during operations in any case.

Fauna:

- Areas surrounding the mine, processing plant and exploration sites that are not part of the demarcated development should be considered no-go zones for employees, visitors, vehicles or machinery.
- No off-road driving or driving next to established roads/tracks should be allowed.
- Limit activities to day-time hours to reduce noise.
- No fires outside a controlled area (eg. drum, braai area etc) should be allowed so that the natural vegetation does not burn in an uncontrolled way.
- Staff and contractors should be trained in sensitive human-wildlife interactions.
- Erect linear structures (power lines, water pipelines) as close as possible to existing roads and tracks. Maintenance roads/tracks for linear structures should be built as close as possible to these structures and access should be limited to essential maintenance.
- Do not put water tanks, power pylons or any other large infrastructure within or in the vicinity of drainage lines.
- No sewerage overflow or French drain may be placed within 100 m of drainage lines.
- A vertebrate specialist is recommended for identifying nests, dens and other breeding locations and demarcate them before construction so that these sites can be avoided as part of the EMP.
- Reptiles and amphibians that are exposed during ground clearing should be captured for translocation by a qualified expert.

#### Fauna:

- A comprehensive restoration plan should be finalised during the first three years of initial clearance period. The Draft EMP includes a conceptual framework for habitat restoration or rehabilitation. Provision for monitoring and adaptive management as the project develops is imperative. Some rehabilitation actions should be implemented during operations in order to be effective, e.g. removal and location of topsoil; location of waste rock dumps to ensure efficient restoration later.
- Not much is known about the effect of artificial light on populations and ecosystems and the precautionary principle is applied here.
- Install motion detectors to limit light use to the minimum possible.
- Outdoor lights should be directed downwards and not up into the sky.
- Use yellow or amber outdoor lights because invertebrates don't detect yellow light as well as white.
- Install insect screens in doors and windows located in buildings that are used after sunset.
- Landscaping of waste rock dumps can become new rocky habitats for recolonisation of flora and fauna, and they should be made according to the provisions of the restoration plan and EMP.
- Monitor groundwater levels.
- Monitor plant and vertebrate diversity downriver from the abstraction site at a minimum of once a year.
- Using an alternative source of water like the Kunene River is expected to mitigate the impact on groundwater levels.

#### Fauna:

- Animals should not be able to enter the TSF area.
- Regularly inspect structures related to the Tailings Storage Facility.
- Containment of the discharge of TSF water will eliminate any possibility of dangerous chemicals entering the soil or groundwater.
- All inhabitants and visitors in the staff compound should receive environmental awareness training, including training on indiscriminate defecation.
- The staff accommodation area should be fenced in and the only access allowed outside the fence is along the entrance road.
- All cleaning and washing should take place inside a designated area (e.g. kitchen, laundry) and fat traps should be installed at the drain outlet from these areas.
- Gas cooking facilities should be provided instead of allowing wood or charcoal fires for cooking.
- Firefighting equipment should be placed in the compound. It should always be tested regularly and in working condition. All inhabitants of the compound should be trained in the use of this equipment and know where it is.
- Water saving measures should be put in place, e.g. low-pressure shower heads and taps; daily checks of pipes and tanks; immediate repair of leaks.
- Sewerage should be of sufficient capacity for the expected number of people.

Land use:

Conservancy

- Conservancy registration by local communities is pending.

Concern about conflicting land uses with eg the conservancy and livestock operations.

- The proponent is committed to support conservation efforts and will endeavour not to interrupt the livelihoods of the communities that might use the area for grazing.





Requests and suggestions from the local community for ongoing feedback and liaison

- The proponent will continue to interact with the local community using the channels it has already developed.

Concerns about the negative impacts on local people and traditions, caused by work-seekers and entrepreneurs attracted to the area.

- There will be pressures on traditional ways of life, understandably but it will not be the intention of the mine to change the ways of the community.
- It will be necessary for the leaders of the community to resist the affects of the outside world on their traditions.
- Any secondary services that would want to start local businesses in Swartboois Drift , Okongwati or Opuwo would need to get permission from the local authorities to operate such businesses. It will be beyond the authority of the proponent to control these aspects.



## Concern about impacts on local livestock farming

- It is the proponent's intention to allow livestock farming to continue as before.
- The only time the shepherds need to stay away from the mining area's 500m radius will be during blasting periods. Ample warning will be given.

## Nearby dwellings

- There are no nearby dwellings



Concerns about the deterioration of the roads that will be used by heavy vehicles

- The roads and bridges will maintain their integrity under the payloads planned; and
- the minimum frequency of trips.

Request for proper avoidance of sacred sites when planning the various infrastructure components of the mine.

- No sites of importance have been found



Heritage:  
no sites of  
significance

➤ No significance is attributed to this area





## Appendix G: Public Meeting Reporting

### INFORMATION SHARING MEETING

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR EXPLORATION AND MINING ACTIVITIES NEAR EPEMBE, KUNENE REGION

<b>Date</b>	03 December 2024
<b>Venue</b>	Omuangete Primary School, Omuangete
<b>Time</b>	10h30 - 14h00
<b>Purpose</b>	Present the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process being followed. Provide the description and overview of the proposed Project. Allow interested & affected parties (IAPs) to provide input into the EIA process and EMP.
<b>Number of Attendees</b>	86 Public and Omuangete Community Members
<b>Facilitator</b>	Immanuel Katali (IK)
<b>Translator</b>	Charon Katjuongua (CK)
<b>Client Representative</b>	Gideon Kalumbu (GK) and Morne Du Toit (MDT).

#### PRESENTATION

The community elders opened the meeting with welcoming remarks and prayer.

IK the independent Environmental Practitioner, introduced himself and welcomed the community to the meeting, followed by an introduction by GK and MDT, stating their roles at Gecko.

IK outlined the meeting procedures and agenda and explained the aims and objectives of the meeting.

IK presented the project background/motivation as well as the description and location of the proposed project and various project components.

IK also presented the EIA process being followed and explained the potential key social and environmental issues that were identified as part of the initial stages of the EIA process. He ended the presentation by discussing the way forward regarding the EIA process.

## DISCUSSION

Any issues and concerns raised during the meeting have been recorded in Table 1. Where an issue/comment was given, the relevant response was also included in the table.

No.	Issue raised/ comment	Respondent	Response
1.	Is this the meeting that you previously informed us that before you start with the mining, you are going to sit with the community and agree in principle on some issues?	GK	As Immanuel explained, this is an Environmental Impact Assessment that is a process conducted by Law before licenses are granted by the Mines and Energy. In simple, this is not a gecko meeting, this is an EIA meeting. Should we be granted the licenses, we will come back.
2.	Who are the people going to carry out the work for dust, waste management, noise pollution and tree clearing? Is it the community members?	IK	The project lead is Philip Hooks who will be undertaking the assessment of the environmental aspects. That is why we are having this meeting, to find out from the community on any significant environmental aspects in the area that may require a focused and detailed assessment.
3.	I know the other two gentlemen are from Gecko, however can you explain your	IK	I am an independent environmental assessment

	role exactly? And in which capacity you are, so that you can distinguish yourself from Gecko.		practitioner, facilitating the public meeting on behalf of Philip Hooks, who is the EIA project lead for the EPL and mining claims. Both Philip and I are independent, with the purpose of assessing the potential environmental impacts in a fair and objective manner. Therefore, neither myself nor Philip are from Gecko who manages the projects on behalf of the proponents (project owners)
4.	Not all of us, are acquainted with the concept of environment. Our community has youth and people that require upliftment. Is there a platform to uplift and support the community?	IK	The EMP document will contain various measures that the proponents will have to adhere to once they commence with operations. One of the sections in the document is the social responsibility aspect, aimed at the upliftment of the community.
5.	We did not see any official documents or letters from you regarding your eligibility to conduct this type of meetings.	IK	I am an environmental assessment practitioner by profession. I have completed projects in the past, acceptable to the level required by the Ministry of Environment. Therefore, that confirms my eligibility.
6.	Are you going to be present as well when it's time to go to site for the assessment or is it only Mr. Philip?	IK	As I have mentioned before, I am only conducting the public meeting on behalf of Philip and gathering inputs/comments from the community members and share them with Philip. The overall assessment of the project will be conducted by Philip. However, use this

			platform to provide comments, issues or concerns you may have regarding the project.
7.	What will happen if you find other resources beyond the boundaries of the Mining License?	IK	Should the proponents find other resources beyond the site, then an application to MME for either an EPL or Mining claim will have to be submitted. If approved, then an EIA process will have to be conducted. The same as this.
8.	Why is the heading on the document written "Epembe", while we are in Omuangeti?	GK	Epembe is just a project name. The initial prospectors in the area that came in the early 2000s found the same rocks, which are traced from Epembe.
9.	I am still confused; you are saying you are not part of Gecko, but you are mentioning Gecko in your presentation. Can you clarify that?	IK	For the proponents to obtain the ECC, they need an EIA to be conducted by an independent party such as Philip and myself.
10.	Looking at the document you handed to us, only Philip's contact details are on, can we get yours as well?	IK	Yes. I will write my details on a piece of paper for you.
11.	Can Gecko take us to the Mining Claims because there are graves that we know of in that area.	IK	A Heritage/Archaeological assessment will be conducted and if there are any graves in the area, they will be assessed, and relevant mitigation measures will be developed.
12.	There are trees, grazing areas, wild animals, homesteads in the vicinity, graveyards. Those are the things that are there and need to be considered.	IK	Well noted.

13.	What will happen to our grazing land that will no longer be there?	GK	There is a compensation procedure we follow for that.
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## DEADLINE

IK explained that the deadline for initial comments is 18 December 2024.

## CLOSE

The community elders closed the meeting with a prayer.

### Annexure 1 Meeting Photos







Appendix H: Attendance registers for public meeting.

## Attendance Register

*Total 86*

### ATTENDANCE REGISTER - PUBLIC MEETING

Projects: Environmental Impact Assessment for Exploration and Mining Activities near Epembe, Kunene Region.

Exclusive Prospecting License 10007  
Mining Claim 75205  
Mining Claims 73580, 73581, 73582, 73583, 75209 & 75210  
Mining Claims 73283, 73284, 73285, 73286 & 75208  
Mining Claims 73584, 73585, 73586 & 73587

Date: 03 DECEMBER 2024, 10H30AM

Venue: OMUANGETE PRIMARY SCHOOL, OMUANGETE

	NAME & SURNAME	POSITION	EMAIL & PHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Maefjua Kapika	community member	N/A	Kapika
2	Mesekilepi Kaze	community member	N/A	
3	Karipangura Jiposa	senior gain guard	0813553075	Kaze
4	Mahindi Jipuka	community member	081077409829	M J
5	Rijirumba kahuxi	community member	N/A	
6	Nemwera Ngombe	verse person (chief)	<del>444</del> 0816477038	










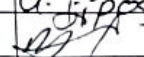



	NAME & SURNAME	POSITION	EMAIL & PHONE	SIGNATURE
7	Kamunjiandi Ndiambe	Community Conservator Community of Forest	0813560955	[Signature]
8	Katupei Tjipasa	Community police	N/A	[Signature]
9	Upataiza Hembinda	Community member	0813177259	[Signature]
10	Verikotidoraka Hembinda	Community member	0815558564	Hembinda
11	Verikutura Hembinda	Community member	N/A	
12	Upatasaneua Kapika	Community	0817921462	B2 cap!
13	Rukume Tjipuliko	Community member	N/A	MU
14	Tjiputu Muzere	Community police	N/A	[Signature]
15	Tjizee Tjipasa	Community member	N/A	[Signature]
16	Ukaxemua Tjindunda	Community member	0817051748	[Signature]
17	Yenao Ngombeo	Community member	N/A	[Signature]
18	Uatondouka Kanyari	Community member	N/A	[Signature]
19	Tjituotuo Hunga	Community member	0814112008	Hunga
20	Uaretomunjo Tjipasa	chairperson	0814395913	Tjipasa
21	Tjijigata Tjipuliko	Community police	N/A	[Signature]
22	Gideon Katuruwa	CHIEF	gideon.katuruwa@gmail.com 0812938068	[Signature]
23	Moine du TOIT	CEO	Moine.dubit@gecko.m 0811291779	

	NAME & SURNAME	POSITION	EMAIL & PHONE	SIGNATURE
24	<del>K</del> Mawehore Jipuko	Community member	N/A	<del>mtt</del>
25	Kare mbinge	chairperson	N/A	<del>mtt</del>
26	Ngirasa Jipuko	verse chief	<del>mtt</del> N/A	<del>mtt</del>
27	Munkoji Mupia	Community member	0818292559	mtt
28	Maura Jiposa	verse chief	N/A	mtt
29	Naliriana pukura	community member	0818241707	<del>mtt</del>
30	Topi Jiposa	Community member	0818748419	T. Posa
31	Veringa Kakhondo	field officer	0812393806	<del>mtt</del>
32	Ukhamunika Jiposa	Chair person	0857983982	T. Posa
33	<del>Naliriana</del> Naliriana murumbwa	Community member	<del>mtt</del> N/A	Salea
34	<del>Jipuka</del> A.A. Kambambi	Community member	0812143797	Alfonso
35	Alfonso Kambambi	Senior under chief	N/A	<del>Alfonso</del>
36	Alfonso Djuona	Committee	0814164651	Alfonso
37	<del>Musengua</del> Musengua Jiposa	senior under chief	<del>0812567646</del> 0816936714	Jiposa
38	Jiposa Jiposa	Community member	0815560444	
39	Karumbere Hembinda	Community member	N/A	



	NAME & SURNAME	POSITION	EMAIL & PHONE	SIGNATURE
40	Piona Tjasa	community member	N/A	Tjasa
41	Maulitua Kapika	community	0814324840	Kapika
42	Matsndeho Tipulko	community member	0817287519	Tipulko
43	Kuzeeke Jip Kulari	youth adviser community member	0857740226	Kulari
44	Kapenda Tipulko	community member	N/A	Tipulko
45	Naondjuani Jirambi	community member	0812021266	Jirambi
46	Matias Jirambi	mini guard	0812667462	Jirambi
47	Natidike Jirambi	chair person	082308007	Jirambi
48	Jozongombe Tipulko	community member	0816566608	Tipulko
49	Kaliwanga Tipulko	community member	N/A	Tipulko
50	Veriatere Ngombe	community member	N/A	Ngombe
51	Maria Aloulu	community member	N/A	Aloulu
52	Karambi Tutayi	community member	085328941	Tutayi
53	Jikan V. Kombe	community member	N/A	Kombe
54	Napumisa Tjasa	community member	N/A	Tjasa
55	Ndamona Shalyelenga	community member	0816128217	Shalyelenga

	NAME & SURNAME	POSITION	EMAIL & PHONE	SIGNATURE
56	Ulishae Jiposa	Community member	0816745572 Gmail 5245	Ulishae
57	Ugundjilua Jiposa	Community member	0814548367 0	Jiposa
58	Uhopora Jiposa	Community member	0876718373	Uhopora
59	Jakurana Jiposa	Community member	N/A	Jakurana
60	Mariarukua Jirambi	Community member	N/A	Mariarukua
61	Mukambambo Jirambi	Community member	N/A	Mukambambo
62	Kahupahua mukarukua	Community member	N/A	Kahupahua
63	Kuhatomua Jirambi	Community member	N/A	Kuhatomua
64	Hiangumba Jipikite	Community member	N/A	Hiangumba
65	Ndjambeu Jiposa	Community member	0813228082	Ndjambeu
66	Kauri Jipiko	Community member	0857832322	Jipiko
67	Soma Ndambe	Community member	N/A	Soma
68	Katunjanua Jiposa	Community member	N/A	Katunjanua
69	Uetjze mbinge	Community member	N/A	Uetjze
70	Kamaganda Muvanda	Community member	N/A	Kamaganda
71	Mbarikheru Ruhozu	Community member	N/A	Ruhozu
72	Kamendu Muvandja	Community member	N/A	Kamendu

	NAME & SURNAME	POSITION	EMAIL & PHONE	SIGNATURE
73	Karitarua Tjuna	community member	N/A	
74	<del>Jiposa</del> Meirae Thomas	community member	0815862352	
75	Ukapuke Jiposa	community member	0814773555	
76	Ngumeja Jipujia	community member	0858029581	
77	Yepahako Jipuko	community member	N/A	
78	Kazemabang Ngombe	community member	0813619508	
79	Tinjama Abia Abiaombe	community member	N/A	
80	Muhamutjata Abiaombe	community member	N/A	
81	puvaka Tambira	community member	N/A	
82	Ukapukerda Ngombe	community member	N/A	
83	Kaamenua Jiposa	community member	0813068880	U. Jiposa
84	Karandamabe Kapika	community member	N/A	
85	Tjholizo Jipuko	community member	0815913936 0813194165	
86	Kivare Ngombe	community member	0815913936	



Name	Title / Office / Role	Organisation / Ministry
Heinz Maundu Hariki	Representative	Traditional Authority: Otjikaoko Royal House
Ndjooma Tjindunda	Junior Headman	Traditional Authority: Vita Royal House
Pahaparue, Muhenje	Relative	Traditional Authority: Vita Royal House
Karungooyo Ruiter	Junior Headman	Traditional Authority: Vita Royal House
Heinz Maundu Hariki	Conservancy Representative	Conservancy: Otjivero (application pending)
Uakarenda Mbinge	Chairperson	Conservancy: Ombazu (registered)
Jaumba Tjisemo	Chairperson	Conservancy: Ombombu Matheti (registered)
Muharakua	Vice Chairperson	Conservancy: Ombombu Matheti (registered)
Petrus Mbahono	Member	Conservancy: Ombombu Matheti (registered)
Ripundua Tjiposa	Secretary	Conservancy: Ombombu Matheti (registered)
Alphons Tjhombo	CEO	Opuwo Town Council
Geoff Munterfering	Director	Save the Rhino Fund
Basilila Shivute	Coordinator	IRDNC (Integrated Rural Development & Nature Conservation)
Eben Tjiho	Manager RDM Program	IRDNC (Integrated Rural Development & Nature Conservation) - NRM Program (National Resource Management)
Lina Kaisuma	Ombazu Conservancy Overseer	IRDNC (Integrated Rural Development & Nature Conservation)
Alexandrine	Personal Assistant - Governor	Regional Government
Hilaria Joree Uaisua	Acting Secretary	Kunene Regional Council
Lucas N. Tjoola	Ex Secretary	Kunene Regional Council
Ms. Doeses	ACRO (Acting Chief Regional Councillor)	Kunene Regional Council
Mr. Jantse	ACRO	Kunene Regional Council
Kazeongere Zeriapi Tjeundo	Opuwo Rural Constituency Councillor	Kunene Regional Council
Nguzu Johannes Muharukua	Epupa Rural Constituency Councillor	Kunene Regional Council
Julius Kaujova	Council Chairperson, Sesfontein Constituency Office	Kunene Regional Council
Innocent U. Tjipepa	CDP	Ministry of Land & Resettlement
Naftali Eliaser	Chief Warden	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
Joseph	Warden	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
Rauna	Officer	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
Lascoh	Ranger	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
Charlie Matango	Public Relations Officer	CENORED
	Environmental Officer / Manager	NamPower
Andrew Ndishishi	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Health & Social Services
Mrs. Hileni Fillemon	Public Relations Office	Roads Authority
Mr. Makali	Kunene Head	Roads Authority (Oshakati - responsible for Kunene)
Mr. Roots	Area Manager	Roads Authority (Oshakati - responsible for Kunene)
Saima T Amadhila - Nghishidi	Senior Private Secretary to Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry: Permanent Secretary
Laurica C. Afrikaner	Hydrologist	Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry: Water Affairs
Natanael Amadhila	Chief Regional Forester	Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry: Forestry Directorate
Michael Aimanya	Chief Forest Technician	Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry: Forestry Directorate
Hennie Kakondo	Forest Technician	Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry: Forestry Directorate
Justine Kandali		Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry: Forestry Directorate
Kapukatua Kuvare	Regional Head (Water OPUWO)	Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry: Rural Water Supply
Sam Petrus	Officer (Water OPUWO)	Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry: Rural Water Supply
Emily Kakwena Handunge (Mrs.)	Chief Scientific Officer	Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry: Agriculture
Eugene Simwanza	Chief Agricultural Technician	Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry: Agriculture
Mr. Ambafa	Technician	Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry: Agriculture
Mr. Vepee Havarua		Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry: Agriculture
Charon Sennobia Katjiuungua	Cultural Officer	Ministry of Education
Mr. Tjoola	Principal	Ohandungu Primary School (Ruiter's PS)
Jaco Burger	Translator	Private
Otjiherero service	Radio	Namibian Broadcasting Corporation
Community Kunene Radio	Radio	Kaokoland Radio
Broadcasting Studio	Radio	Namibian Broadcasting Corporation
Annette	Owner	Kaokoland Restaurant