



## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

# ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MINING CLAIMS IN NAMIBIA

**TO BE ATTACHED TO THE PRO-FORMA ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACT**

### 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 Companies/Natural persons applying for **MINING CLAIMS** must complete this questionnaire. (Please fill in ALL questions).
- 1.2 The answers provided in this questionnaire shall be regarded as commitments which will become part of the **Environmental Contract** between the Applicant and the Government of the Republic of Namibia, duly represented by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME).
- 1.3 Once the Holder has completed this questionnaire MEFT and MME will either accept/reject/request further information regarding the environmental commitments made therein. MEFT and MME reserve the right to add further conditions.
- 1.4 Once agreed to by all parties concerned, the completed questionnaire shall form part of the **Environmental Contract**.
- 1.5 Please attach a map of the mining claim area and a copy of the application to register mining claims.

### 2. Applicant details

2.1 Name of Applicant	Small Miners of Uis (SMU)
2.2 Telephone, Cell Phone and E-Mail	Tel.: 061-2848111 Cell: 0812168094 E-mail: <a href="mailto:aune.andreas@mme.gov.na">aune.andreas@mme.gov.na</a>
2.3 Postal Address  Residential/Registered Address	PO Box 6991, Aussspannplatz, Windhoek, Namibia  C/o Ministry of Mines and Energy, 6 Aviation Road. P/Bag 13297, Windhoek, Namibia
2.4 Reference Number	NEPL No: 4228      Expiry: 03/10/2023
2.5 Registered Number(s)	68634 - 68637
2.6 Location (Name of Private Farm/Communal Area, District, Region) of mining claim(s)	Noordoewer –//Karas Region
2.7 Group(s) of Mineral(s) to be mined	Industrial minerals - Slate

2.9 How many people will work on your mining claim, and where will they live?

Number of people	Where will they live?
±15	Noordoewer settlement/village

### 3. Environmental commitments

#### 3.1 Pollution and Waste

3.1.1 What will you do with **normal litter** (e.g., Kitchen spoils, cans, bottles, paper, etc.)?

**No normal litter since workers have been residing at their own houses/places at the settlement.**

3.1.2 What **industrial waste** will be generated and what will you do with it (e.g., old machinery, vehicles, building rubble, batteries, paint, thinners, vehicle oil, etc.)?

**None.**

**Waste generated from the operation has been put back into the pits ever since the commencement of the mining activities and at the dump site between the settlement and the mining area. This practice will continue even after mining has been completed.**

3.1.3 Describe what type of **toilet facilities** will be provided.

**There are two septic toilets and showers - one for male and one for female.**

#### 3.2 Vehicle, earthmoving equipment, drilling and blasting

3.2.1 List the type and quantity of vehicles, earthmoving equipment, drilling equipment, and other machinery likely to be used on your mining claim (e.g., 2 x bakkies; 1 x bulldozer, etc.)

Vehicles:

**A tractor with a trailer is being used on the plant.**

Earthmoving equipment:

**N/A. Only spades and chisels are being used for mining.**

Drilling equipment:

**N/A**

Other equipment and/or machinery:

**Non**

3.2.2 Describe the environmental damage that is likely to result from the use of vehicles and machinery within the mining claim area (e.g., on the landscape in general, soil, vegetation, noise, dust, etc.).

**Possible diminishing availability of space for waste storage. Excessive mining of slate over a number of years of mining might lead in the destruction of the ecology.**

**There is little or no vegetation in the mining area, hence little damage will be caused to the environment. Drivers are encouraged to use existing gravel or sand roads.**

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**The removal or mining of slate mainly by hands does not cause noise or dust.**

- 3.2.3 How will you control the movement of **vehicles and machinery** in order to minimise environmental damage?

**By using existing gravel/sand roads or old trucks.**

- 3.2.4 Which routes will be used by vehicles to get to your mining claim and state whether you intend making new roads or tracks (both to your mining claim and within your mining claim)?

**There is already an existing "sand" road which is currently being used.**

- 3.2.5 Will you do any blasting on your mining claim?

Yes:

No: X

Unsure:

- 3.2.6 If "yes" above, explain how you intend minimising environmental impacts, including the safety of humans, livestock and wildlife?

N/A

### 3.3 Water

- 3.3.1 How much water do you intend using for various activities (e.g., human use, washing of equipment, washing sand/stones, dust control, gardens, etc.) and state how you intend saving water within each category of use.

Activity or category of use	Quantity of water needed per month (litres)	Water saving methods
Human consumption and lubricating blades during cutting and washing of slates.	$\pm 7\,000$ l/m NOTE: This is just an estimate, the quantity will depend on slates cut and polished.	The water from the slate-cutting machineries and tile-washing basins has been diverted to the plants on site to avoid wastage.

- 3.3.2 Where will you get your water (e.g., river, own borehole, Water Affairs connection, etc.)?

**Water affairs connection.**

- 3.3.3 Explain how you will minimise or completely avoid polluting any water source, including underground water.

**The water at the settlement is sourced from the river while the claims are a few kilometres away from it and there are farming activities between the plant and the river. No pollution**

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caused during period under review.

### 3.4 Relations with neighbouring communities and/or the general public

3.4.1 Are there any people living in or near your mining claim?

Yes:

No: X

Unsure:

3.4.2 If "yes", explain where these people live and describe their economic activities.

N/A

3.4.3 If "yes" in 3.4.1, explain what you will do to maintain a good relationship with such people.

N/A

3.4.4 Will the activities on your mining claim restrict the movement of other people in the area (e.g. the general public, tourists, farmers, local people, etc.)?

Yes:

No: X

Unsure:

3.4.5 If "yes" for 3.4.4, please explain why their movements or access will be restricted.

N/A

### 3.5 Protection of plants and wildlife

3.5.1 How will you ensure that your activities will not cause unnecessary damage to **plants and wildlife** in or near your mining claim) e.g., hunting, plant collecting, fishing, etc.)?

**The slate quarrying/mining method includes the dislodging of slate and the haulage/transportation of raw slate to the processing plant (about 5 km away). Overall likely negative impact on plant and wildlife, if any with respect to the overall slate production will be limited.**

### 3.6 Historical, archaeological and cultural heritage (e.g., rock art, graves, monuments, fossils, sacred sites, historical buildings, etc.)

3.6.1 Are there any historical, archaeological or culturally important sites within your mining claim area?

Yes:

No: X

Unsure:

3.6.2 If "yes", please describe briefly.

N/A

3.6.3 If such sites are known, how will you avoid damaging them?

N/A

3.6.4 If such sites are discovered after you have started working your mining claim, would you accept new conditions to this contract so that they can be properly protected?

Yes: X

No:

Unsure:

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### 3.7 Rehabilitation

3.7.1 When will you rehabilitate the environmental damage done during prospecting? (Tick the appropriate box)

I have no intention of rehabilitating any damage

On a continuous basis (i.e., simultaneous with prospecting)

X

Only after all prospecting has finally been completed

X

I do not know

3.7.2 Describe the programme of mining from the start and the methods to rehabilitate damage.

1. Slate will be removed from the quarry/pit by using spades and chisels.
2. Load the slate into a tractor to be delivered at the plant.
3. At the plant, the slates will be cut into different sizes of tiles.
4. Unwanted slate will be put/pushed back onto the pits immediately.

### 4. Existing Damage

Describe what environmental damage exists in your mining claim area now, in other words, damage caused by someone else before you began working on the mining claim. Where possible, provide evidence such as photos, statements, etc.

There are small mining pits where slate sheets are currently being removed.

**I hereby declare that the information provided in this questionnaire, is to the best of my knowledge, accurate and correct, and that I am prepared to keep to the commitments stated therein.**

Deeuid  
Mining Claim Holder  
(Or Authorised Representative)

Windhoek  
Place

21 NOV 2024  
Date

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**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM**

OFFICE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER

**ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE**

**ISSUED**

In accordance with Section 37(2) of the Environmental  
Management Act (Act No. 7 of 2007)

**TO**

**Small Miners of Uis (SMU)**  
**P.O. Box 6991, Ausspannplatz, Windhoek**

**TO UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING LISTED ACTIVITY**

**Mining Activities on Mining Claim No. 68634-68637 at Noorderwer, //Karas  
Region**

Issued on the date: **2020-08-17**

Expires on this date: **2023-08-17**

(See conditions printed over leaf)



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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

## MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY

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21 November 2024

Office of the Environmental Commissioner  
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism  
Private Bag 13306  
Windhoek

Dear Colleague,

### RE: RENEWAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE FOR THE NOORDOEWER SLATE PROJECT, KARAS REGION

The Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) hereby requests that your Ministry grant an exemption from the standard procedures for obtaining an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC), and to renew the ECC-00831 with Serial: bPEglw831, which expired on 17 August 2023 (**copy attached**).


The Noordoewer Slate Project is operated by the Small Miners of Uis (SMU) under Mining Claims 68634 – 68637, with the MME's assistance. The mining claims are currently pending renewal and require a valid ECC.

The project, located 4km east of Noordoewer, is for mining and processing slate tiles at the local cutting facility, managed by the SMU. After the expiration of ECC-00831, all mining activities halted because there was sufficient material to supply the facility. However, at moment the mining activities need to re-start.

We therefore request your Ministry to renew ECC-00831 for the SMU.

Your positive consideration is highly appreciated.

Yours Sincerely

  
.....  
**MRS. ISABELLA CHIRCHIR**  
**DIRECTOR/MINING COMMISSIONER**

