

APPENDIX F: MINUTES OF FOCUS GROUP & PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

Date	05 and 06 December 2024
Purpose	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.
Number of Attendees	5 Public Enterprise Staff
Meeting Facilitator	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
Leonard Nghilululwa	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.
Mburura K.N & Gary G. Nekongo	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.
Moses Areseb	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.
J. Jantze	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.
U. Makono	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.

Annexure 1

Attendance Register

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

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INFORMATION SHARING MEETING

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR MINING ACTIVITIES WITHIN MINING CLAIMS 72631, 72632 & 72633 ON THE STEILRAND MOUNTAINS, EPUPA CONSTITUENCY, KUNENE REGION

Date	02 December 2024
Venue	KM Maundu Primary School, Otjivero
Time	10h30 - 13h00
Purpose	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.
Number of Attendees	117 Public and Otjivero Community Members
Facilitator	Immanuel Katali (IK)
Translator	Sharon
Client Representative	Gideon Kalumbu (GK) and Morne Du Toit (MDT).

PRESENTATION

The community elders opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed IK, GK, MDT and Sharon.

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 a preliminary assessment before the actual assessment?	ΙK	We are currently busy with the public participation process. The input we are receiving from the public, including this meeting, will be considered during the assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the project.
		GK	From our side, we are here to answer any technical questions that Immanuel cannot answer.
2.	Are you here to request permission from us to start mining?	ΙK	The purpose of this meeting is to share information regarding the proposed mining activities in this area and further obtain comments from the community members. However, the community always plays a major role in any project that directly or indirectly affects them. Therefore, platforms such as this are made available for community concerns to be heard and considered throughout the life of the mining project.
3.	Are you working together with Gecko?	IK	I am an independent environmental assessment practitioner, facilitating the public meeting on behalf of Philip Hooks, who is the EIA project lead for the mining claims. Both Philip and I

			are independent.
4.	What will happen to the people living within the boundaries of the mining claims, with their goats and donkeys?	ΙK	The EMP document that will be prepared will include various commitments that Gecko will have to adhere to. This will include mitigation measures that will be developed as part of the socio- economic assessment, which includes measures regarding the people, if any, living within the boundaries of the mining claims.
5.	Is the socio-economic assessment completed?	ΙK	No. The assessment is still taking place, and this meeting also forms part of that, since we are gathering social issues from the community members.
6.	What will happen to the project if the community is not in support of it?	IK	All the comments from the community will be recorded, therefore if someone has an issue or concern regarding the project, this is the platform to bring up the issue to be considered in the assessment and to be addressed in the EMP as part of mitigation measures, which will ultimately be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism for decision-making.
7.	What will happen if you find other resources beyond the boundaries of the Mining License?	IK	Should Gecko 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.	An earlier question was about rehabilitation. What is so different between Gecko and those companies that failed to backfill the holes they dug?	ΙK	The EMP will contain measures on rehabilitation which Gecko should adhere to. This document is a legally binding document; therefore, Gecko is required to implement it throughout the project.
9.	There should be no alcohol activities on the site. We have seen this from other mining companies whereby the workers consume alcohol and invite our local people to consume alcohol.	IK	The EMP will contain a zero tolerance of alcohol in the work place.
10.	Will the EIA report be available to us?	IK	Yes. The Scoping Report will be available for public review before it

			is submitted to MEFT.
11.	Can Gecko take us to the Mining Claims because there are graves that we know of in that area.	MDT	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.	Gecko was not telling us what they were doing exactly in the past when they were in the area.	GK	That was for an EPL whereby we were exploring in the area to find areas with copper deposits. It was not mining.
13.	Can we be taken to the specific areas where the mining will be taking place?	MDT	The mining will be taking place in any area within the mining claims. It is for the entire area.
14	After the Life of Mine, what happens to the infrastructure left behind?	MDT	The EMP will contain the measures of rehabilitation and decommissioning.
15	Can the EMP be available to the Chief's office?	IK	The EIA reports are public documents. That can be arranged.
16	There are individual miners in the area, how are you going to uplift them?	MDT	We need to assess what they are mining because we are mining copper. If they are mining copper, then we can either come in an agreement or move them or any solution that is beneficial to both parties.
17	What happened to the previous boreholes that gecko previously funded in the area because they no longer pump?	GK	Unfortunately, they seem to be blocked. But we currently have no license here, but once the mining claim is granted, then we will attend to it.

DEADLINE

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

CLOSE

The community elders closed the meeting with a prayer.



Annexure 1 Meeting Photos





Annexure 2 Attendance Register

ATTENDANCE REGISTER - PUBLIC MEETING

Project: Environmental Impact Assessment for Mining Activities within Mining Claims 72631, 72632 & 72633 on The Steilrand Mountains, Epupa Constituency, Kunene Region.

Date: 02 DECEMBER 2024, 10H30AM

Venue: KM MAUNDU PRIMARY SCHOOL, OTJIVERO

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ATTENDANCE REGISTER - PUBLIC MEETING

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Date: 02 DECEMBER 2024, 10H30AM

Venue: KM MAUNDU PRIMARY SCHOOL, OTJIVERO

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Dear Interested and Affected Party / Stakeholder	
Please find attached the Scoping Report with Assessment and Draft Environmental Management Plan for the mining project for the three mining claims at Okanihova, Steilrand Mour Range, near Otjivero, Kunene Region.	ntain
Please provide your comments, concerns with regards to the project reports. The Final reports will be amended and checked during these next two weeks. If you would like to corresp directly to the DEA directly please use the project reference number on the second page of the report.	pond
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Dear Interested and Affected Party / Stakeholder

Please find attached the Scoping Report with Assessment and Draft Environmental Management Plan for the mining project for the three mining claims at Okanihova, Steilrand Mountain Range, near Otjivero, Kunene Region.

Please provide your comments, concerns with regards to the project reports. The Final reports will be amended and checked during these next two weeks. If you would like to correspond directly to the DEA directly please use the project reference number on the second page of the report.

Regards

Philip Hooks

Environmental Consultant

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