

MEETING MINUTES

FOR

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR PROPOSED
SMALL-SCALE MINING ON MINING CLAIMS 72610, 70310, 72092 &
72093 NEAR ONDERA AREA, OTUANI, KUNENE REGION**



- **ATTENDANCE**

Venue: Opuwo Rural Constituency Office

Starting Time: 10:40

The following people attended the public meeting:

Name	Organization
Chief U.R Kututa	Ombepera Traditional Authority
Mr. Truman Nguazireko	Opuwo Rural Constituency Office, Kunene Regional Council
Community members	Otuani and surrounding villages
Ruth	Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc
Bernard	Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc

See Appendix A, Register

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr Truman Nguazireko from Opuwo Rural Constituency Office, Kunene Regional Council made the opening remarks. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced all parties.

3. PRESENTATION

Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc made a presentation on the proposed small scale mining project. The whole presentation was translated from English to Herero. The presenter was Ruth from Eco-Wise and the translator was Mr Truman Nguazireko from Opuwo Rural Constituency Office. The following topics were highlighted in the presentation:

- The purpose of the public meeting
- Project Background
- Legal and regulatory framework
- Environmental Impact Assessment Process
- Identified positive and negative impacts of the project
- Management of the impacts
- Questions and comments

Some of the rules of the meeting were as follows:

- Silence was required during presentation
- Questions were to be reserved till after the presentation
- Participants were required to state their full names before asking questions or raise any comments.
- Only one person was allowed to speak at a time

4. OBJECTIVE OF PUBLIC MEETING

- To provide an opportunity for Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) to comment and raise their views and concerns regarding the proposed project.

5. ISSUES, COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED AND DISCUSSED

Issues raised were as follows:

NAME	CONTRIBUTION/ COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS	RESPONSE
Mr. Truman 10:40	Contribution: Introductory remarks	
Ruth 10.44	EIA Presentation	
Uatembwa Kututa 11:49	Question: Which people are supposed to attend the meeting?	By: Ruth People from Ondera and Omao including anyone interested and affected by the project
Uatembwa Kututa 11:52	Contribution: We don't see the people from Omao here.	By: Ruth They were invited, maybe they are on their way.
Chief 11:56	Question: One interested community member is on his way can we wait for him so that he can be part of this meeting?	By: Bernard. They can come join the meeting, all information on what has been discussed will be made available to them when they arrive, so we can still continue with the meeting in their absence so as not to delay those who came on time.
Ronny Tjihange 11:57	Contribution: The community is concerned that Marius Steiner had an agreement with my uncle, Justice Kapetja in which they agreed to co-own the mining claims in question. We are also concerned about the environmental impacts associated with the proposed small-scale mining	By: Ruth The potential impacts were part of the presentation which was done, it's only that the presentation was done when you had not yet arrived. Ruth went on to stipulate some of the potential impacts which might be associated with the project. She highlights that an EMP will be drafted which will have proposed mitigation measures. About the issue of the co-ownership, you can write your concerns, comments and contributions on the comment sheets provided so that the issues can be documented and addressed.
Ruth 12:11	Contribution: EIA Presentation again	
Ruth 12:37	Contribution: Opens the floor for questions	
Mr Uatembwa Kututa 12:39	Question: Where did Marius get the permission to have the mining claims?	By: Bernard. Lilac Investments owns the EPL which contains the mining claims, the owner of a mining claim engages the owner of the

		EPL to seek permission before pegging the mining claim.
12:40 -14:25	Contribution: Discussions on how mining rights are acquired in Namibia.	
14:28 Ronny Tjihange	Question: Can people be allowed to say no to the project?	Ruth As highlighted earlier, yes you are allowed to comment what you want and to give reasons for your comments
14:49 Uatembwa Kututa	Contribution: These mining claims are overlaying with our small-scale mining areas.	Bernard, you need to include that on your comment sheet so that if there is any overlap the relevant authorities will look into the matter. If anyone has any issues, they should just write them down on the comment sheets provided.
15:10 Chief	Contribution: We want to have our discussion as a community in the absence of the consultant so that we see what we agree.	
15:15 After the community had their caucus meeting in the absence of the consultants, the main meeting reconvened, but the community members had taken the attendance register from the table and indicated that they were not going to fill in the questionnaires given to them by the consultants at the beginning of the meeting		
15:39 Ronny Tjihange	Contribution: We are rejecting the assessment we will not give comments, bring in the person who gave the job to you.	Ruth If you are all refusing to comment then you should put it in writing so that it's documented that the whole community decided to reserve their comments.
15:43 Kavari	Question: For you to come and make an assessment, what are you doing it for, where are you going to take our comments?	Ruth The assessment and the comments are done so that your concerns and the associated impacts can be documented and submitted along with the environmental clearance application to help the Relevant authority which is the ministry of environment to make decisions on matters pertaining to the proposed project
15:44 Ronny Tjihange	Question: Did you capture the names of the attendees on your computer	Ruth No
15:48 Ronny Tjihange	Question: So, who is it that you intend to say was saying those things?	Bernard: The minutes are being taken down and everyone who is saying something we are taking it down because the meeting is happening, even though you refused to comment and took away the register.

15:52 Kavari	Contribution: Yes, we will comment to say we did not allow the assessment to go forward	
16:00 Ronny Tjihange	Question: Do they even know where the claims are?	Bernard: Yes, we do, we have already been on site to assess them.
16:04 Chief	Question: Did you see any graves on the site when you were there?	Bernard: There was an archaeologist on site two weeks prior to the meeting and his report will deal with such issues if they are there.
16:06 Kavari	Contribution: If you say you were there, from my understanding you should have questions for us, even on what animals frequent the site.	Bernard: It's unfortunate that you did not manage to come to the meeting on time, those issues were discussed during the E.I.A presentation by Ruth and particularly that issue of animals that frequent the site, they were identified using the droppings found on site
16:08 Kavari	Question. Who do we address the letter stating our demands to?	Ruth: We will provide details of the proponent's representative for that purpose
16:16 Ronny Tjihange	Contribution: Apologies for the heated arguments.	Bernard: We understand, these are livelihood issues.
16:22 Ronny Tjihange	Contribution: We have agreed to continue this meeting at another time when the proponent's representative is present, if you don't come, we will know that you have cheated us.	Ruth: For us to come back you know we have to be paid, the trip has to be justified and how do we justify it when we have already done our work.
16:40 The community members demanded that we should have another meeting in which the proponent or his representative should be present so that they can make their demands to him in person. The consulting team contacted the client and they agreed to send a representative to meet the community members. The meeting was scheduled for the following day 10-04-2026 at the site of the mining claims.		
16:43 Kututa	Question. Will there be more food again tomorrow?	Ruth: We will contact the client and see if they can make an arrangement considering its short notice and its already late afternoon
16.45 The meeting ended with all parties agreeing to meet the following day at the site of the mining claims. The community members however did not return our register and the questionnaires given to them to fill in.		

Meeting 2 @ Marius' mining claims 10-04-2026



<p>10:30 Bernard</p>	<p>Contribution: Good morning once again. We would require our register and other documents that you took yesterday so that we may afford the attendees to fill in the register as well.</p>	<p>Otjambangu Conservancy Secretary: Ronny Tjihange and Justice Kapetja who were claiming that the mining claims are theirs are not yet here so what will happen if we start without them?</p>
<p>10:39 The remaining community members arrived and it was agreed that the meeting can start</p>		
<p>10:40 Bernard</p>	<p>Contribution: Now that everyone is here and your demand for the client's representative has been met, can we now have the register so that we can start.</p>	
<p>10:46 Ronny Tjihange</p>	<p>Question: Had the community agreed to accept the project yesterday before I arrived?</p>	<p>Bernard: The conclusion yesterday was that you want the Client's representative at the meeting today, now he is here and we now need the register and our documents which you took so that we can continue with the meeting</p>
<p>10:50 Ronny Tjihange</p>	<p>Contribution: We demand that everything be clarified first, then we give the register.</p>	
<p>10:54 Ngavoengue Kututa</p>	<p>Contribution: My understanding is that the register should be circulating while the meeting is happening, why is it not circulating and what</p>	<p>Ronny Tjihange: Its not with me its with the community.</p>

	happened to the register because I was not there yesterday?	
10:59 Bernard	Contribution: The register ended with you yesterday you were the last one to arrive, any way the community should produce the register so that the meeting can continue.	
11:00 The community requested to have a short side meeting to decide on the way forward, whether they were going to return the register or not		
11:14 The community returns to the meeting area after their short private meeting		
11:15 Bernard	Question: Did you manage to come to a decision?	Chief: It's not a decision; it's a request that the register will be handed over once our request has been addressed by the representative.
11:17 Bernard	Question: So What is the take on today's register, are you willing to fill it in?	Chief: Its ok we will fill in the register for today.
11:19 Bernard	Question: What Happened yesterday?	Chief: Our demand was that we want the representative of Marius to come. So if we are not happy with the response from the representative we will take today's register again.
11:20 Bernard	Contribution : The representative is here so that he can answer your concerns	
11:21 Ronny Tjihange	Contribution: Greetings Marius' representative. According to the information that we have there is only one mining claim which Marius owns and it used to belong to this gentleman here Mr Justus Kapetja. They agreed that if Marius register it then when it is operational they can agree on how to share.	Hanse: I will have to communicate with others then we can have a discussion.
11:25 Ronny Tjihange	Contribution: There are two other mining claims that are not active , the representative must come and answer who will handle the environmental impacts and other demands from the community	Hanse: Ok
11:26 Ronny Tjihange	Question; Since the family will handle the claims what will happen to this gentleman Justice Kapetja?	Hanse: I can provide the number of the sister if you would like so that you can talk together

11:34 Kututa G.	Contribution I feel that if Hanse does not have the final say then we have to wait for a meeting with the person who has the final say.	Bernard: It Is best that you write all your concerns, requests and or demands on paper so that they can be presented to the client
11:41 Ronny Tjihange	Contribution: The community has agreed to write a formal letter, but does it have to be typed or it can also be handwritten.	11:44 Bernard: It can be either of the two it does not matter as long as you stamp it with the Chief's stamp and make two copies, one for you and one for the proponent.
<p>The community agreed to fill in the register and also returned the register for the previous meeting. They also wrote a letter highlighting their demands to the proponent.</p> <p>Bernard made the closing remarks and the meeting finished at 12.15</p>		

5.1 SUMMARY

Both the meetings which were conducted on 9 and 10 April 2026, the community demanded to meet the representative of the proponent. The representative of the proponent and the community later met on 2 May 2026 and they discussed and reached an agreement. A consent letter was granted by the Chief of Ombepera. The Chief of Ombombo for mining claim 72610 did not have any objections, a letter of consent was granted see Appendix B.

6. WAY FORWARD AND CLOSING REMARKS

6.1. MINUTES OF MEETING

Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) were notified that the minutes of the meeting will be available upon request from Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) were further notified that they will have fourteen (14) days after the date of the public meeting to submit their comments and concerns to Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting Public Participation Officer.

The comments can be submitted via:
Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc
Public Participation Officer
Mail: P. O. Box 40168, Windhoek
Cell: +264 81 382 6460
E-mail: info@ecowiseec.com