

5.3. MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AND ATTENDANCE REGISTER



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Postal Address: P. O. Box 51006, Bachbrecth, Windhoek, Namibia

MEETING MINUTES

Project Code	SBD_PPP
Project Name	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for Mining Claims (MCs) 75160, 75161, 75162, 75206, 75207, 75212 & 75211 near Otjimuhaka, Epupa constituency, Kunene Region
Date	11 September 2025
Time	11:00 AM - 13:35 PM
Location/Venue	Otjimuhaka Primary School Kunene region, Namibia
Meeting Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss the ECC application pertaining to the proposed mining activities within the MCs in the Kunene Region of Namibia. - Provide information describing the proposed mining project and associated activities. - Provide an overview of the independent environmental and social assessment of the activities associated with the proposed project and well as provide opportunities for community input; and - Explain the development of management and mitigation measures associated with any identified potential impacts where necessary.
Presentation Summary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Introduction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for seven mining claims (MCs 75160, 75161, 75162, 75211, 75212, 75206, and 75207). • Proponents: Morné du Toit, Timo Smit, and Nina Smit. • Location: Kunene Region, near Otjimuhaka, within the Kunene River Conservancy. 2. <u>Project Description</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed open-cast mining of Rare Earth Elements (REE), iron ore, sodalite, and associated minerals. • Processing to be undertaken at ML40 (accessory works area), which already has an ECC. • Planned lifespan of 25 years. 3. <u>Legal Framework</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is subject to the Environmental Management Act and EIA Regulations. • ECC required before operations can commence.

Meeting Minutes	Version V002
Compiled by Emerita Ashipala	15 September 2025
Authorized by Lovisa Amwele	Page 1 of 7

	<p>4. <u>Project Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction: Access roads, fencing, use of existing ablution and accommodation, diesel generators for power. • Operations: Drilling, blasting, crushing, screening, separation, and product haulage (approx. 5 trucks/day). • Water Supply: Boreholes and potential Kunene River pipeline (permits required). • Decommissioning: Infrastructure removal, land rehabilitation, and road closure after Mine life. <p>5. <u>Geology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project area lies within the Kunene Intrusive Complex. • Mineralization occurs in REE-bearing dykes, sodalite, and iron ore. <p>6. <u>Public Participation Process (PPP)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notices placed in newspapers and locally. • Background Information Document distributed to I&APs. • Meeting held to record concerns; written input accepted until 11 October 2025. <p>7. <u>Need and Desirability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project will contribute to local and national socio-economic development. • Approx. 50 permanent jobs plus contractors and transport opportunities. • Contribution to government revenue through royalties and taxes. <p>8. <u>Potential Impacts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative: Dust, noise, water quality risks, biodiversity disturbance, heritage impacts, visual impacts, traffic, and radiation concerns. • Positive: Employment, income generation, skills transfer, and regional economic upliftment. <p>9. <u>Next Steps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation of scoping report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP). • Submission of documents to MEFT for ECC decision. • Incorporation of community feedback into reports.
<p>Attendees (As per the register attached)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Lovisa Amwele – Alliance Environmental Consultancy 2. Mr. Iyaloo Shaketange – Consultant Administration Support 3. Mr. Gideon Kalumbu – Chief Geologist representative of the clients 4. Mrs. Charon Katjiuongua - Translator 5. Community leaders and Members – Attached attendance register

Meeting Minutes	Version V002
Compiled by Emerita Ashipala	15 September 2025
Authorized by Lovisa Amwele	Page 2 of 7

Proceedings	<p>Before the formal presentation commenced, one community leader immediately raised concerns regarding the short notice of the meeting and the low level of attendance. They questioned why the community had not been adequately informed in advance, noting that only a small number of members were present. Several participants suggested that the meeting should be postponed to a later date at Ondoto village, where the wider community could attend and contribute.</p> <p>The facilitator acknowledged these concerns, clarifying that statutory notices had been placed in newspapers and on local boards, and that chiefs and conservancy representatives had been contacted in advance. However, she emphasized that the meeting was part of an ongoing process, and that additional inputs could still be provided in writing or through follow-up engagements. Community requested that a separate consultation should be held between GECKO, the Traditional Authority, and the community before any decisions on new claims.</p> <p>After further discussion, it was agreed to proceed with the meeting with the attendees present, on the understanding that a request for a follow-up consultation would be submitted by the community.</p> <p>The meeting proceeded with introductions by the facilitator, Ms. Amwele, from Alliance Environmental Consultancy (AEC). She explained her role as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for facilitating the consultation meeting as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process on behalf of Mr. Philip Hooks. The facilitator then continued with an overview of the EIA process, the proponents, and the scope of the proposed project.</p> <p>The meeting concluded with a spokesperson (Mr. Edward Kaendapeke - 0813928569 and Tjiposa Murekeke - 0813772125) being nominated to act as contact point for the community for this EIA process.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 13:35PM.</p>
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DISCUSSIONS AND FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

"Why was this meeting so short-noticed and not properly communicated to the community? Only a few members are present, and we feel it should be postponed until everyone can attend"

- o We acknowledge your concern about the short notice. Notices were published in newspapers, posted on boards, and communications were sent through traditional leaders and conservancy offices. However, this is part of an ongoing consultation process, and additional inputs can still

Meeting Minutes	Version V002
Compiled by Emerita Ashipala	15 September 2025
Authorized by Lovisa Amwele	Page 3 of 7

be submitted in writing or in follow-up meetings. We will respect your request and note the community's wish for a larger follow-up meeting.

“GECKO has previously operated here, and the community suffered environmental damage. They did not consult us properly and left issues unresolved. Why should we believe, this process will be any different?”

- o We understand the grievances with GECKO's past operations. This process is independent, and the purpose of the EIA is to capture such grievances to inform better management. The applicants for the new claims are different parties, and the EIA will incorporate your concerns to ensure the mistakes of the past are not repeated.

“If you really want to understand the impacts, you should come to Ondoto village where the GECKO operations took place, so we can show you the environmental damage.”

- o We appreciate the invitation. Seeing existing impacts on the ground will help us understand cumulative impacts better. This feedback will be shared with the proponents, and arrangements can be considered for a follow-up consultation at Ondoto.

“Why are new claims being applied for when old grievances remain unresolved? Shouldn't the previous issues be fixed before allowing new projects?”

- o Your concern is valid. Environmental law requires each new application to undergo its own EIA process, regardless of past projects. However, cumulative impacts are considered in the assessment, and unresolved grievances from existing operations will be documented as part of the baseline for the new applications.

“Are the applicants' members of this community, or are they outsiders?”

- o The applicants are Namibian citizens but not residents of this area. They are investors who have applied for six new mining claims. Part of the EIA process is to ensure that local community perspectives are captured before any activity proceeds.

“We already submitted complaints to government and the Ombudsman, but there has been no response. Are our voices even considered in these processes?”

- o Your concerns are valid and will be formally recorded. If you can submit or put them in writing again, we will include them in the EIA report submitted to the Ministry of Environment. This ensures your voice is documented in the legal process.

Meeting Minutes	Version V002
Compiled by Emerita Ashipala	15 September 2025
Authorized by Lovisa Amwele	Page 4 of 7



Conclusion and Final remarks:

- o Appreciation was expressed to participants for attending the meeting and sharing their perspectives.
- o Community members emphasized the need for broader participation and requested that a follow-up meeting be scheduled so that all stakeholders, including those who could not attend today, can contribute.
- o Participants highlighted ongoing concerns regarding previous mining operations (GECKO) and stressed the importance of these grievances being acknowledged and addressed.

Way Forward	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community to submit a written request for a new meeting, signed by leaders and community representatives. 2. Two community contact people were identified for ongoing communication. 3. Community grievances to be compiled in writing and resubmitted, to be attached to the EIA documentation. 4. Consultant to forward community concerns to the proponent. 5. Meeting adjourned pending a properly convened follow-up session.
Meeting Tone	The tone of the meeting was tense and cautious, with participants focused on clarifying misunderstandings and ensuring proper consultation regarding both existing and new mining claims.
Meeting Adjourned	13:35 PM

Meeting Minutes	Version V002
Compiled by Emerita Ashipala	15 September 2025
Authorized by Lovisa Amwele	Page 5 of 7



Meeting Gallery



Meeting Minutes	Version V002
Compiled by Emerita Ashipala	15 September 2025
Authorized by Lovisa Amwele	Page 6 of 7



Meeting Minutes	Version V002
Compiled by Emerita Ashipala	15 September 2025
Authorized by Lovisa Amwele	Page 7 of 7



ATTENDANCE REGISTER



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Postal Address: P. O. Box 51006, Eschbreticht, Windhoek, Namibia

PROJECT: B.E.E Mining Project

VENUE: At. j. muhaka

DATE: 11 September 2015 TIME: 11H00

	NAME & SURNAME	ORGANIZATION	TEL/CELL NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
1	Jehii Kozohera	IRONE	0813730912	Plethora 81
2	Eyolona Capwusus	IROND	0812944419	exploring@irond.org.na
3	Jahit'a Ngombe		0813772210	
4	Ngaumda Ngombe		08184411476	
5	mbalcaimba Icajaba		0812944993	
6	Kaafendino Ngombe		0818523540	
7	gicasa Hembinda			
8	Muhamo Gindanda		0813928569	

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9	Kabwica - Mandua		0816763745
10	Kayove Ngombe		
11	Tjoni Kamunetako		0813578885
12	FAREE SHATIKA		0817372626
13	SASINDY KUISI		0818668202
14	MUANJORA IFRAME		0814933826
15	KARETI TIIPASA		0817787607
16	TIHUPURO MURUMBA		0816931118
17	ERARA KARENARE		0817886126
18	YKAZIMBA NGEMBE		
19	GILSON KALUMBA		0812956068
20	Mulumba Isaac		0814721951
21	Pufundo msethile		0816703569

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23	Muendopeke Veribuaerera		0813057946	
24	NDIAOMBE KARAMBI		0816259220	
25	NGOMBE KATAPI			
26	KAGUATPEKE EDIMARA		0817286126	
27	NGOMBE JAKAMBUA			
28	SIMONI	OROUTUMBA		
29	RIMBIRIKI IAMBIRU		0812308063	
30	MUHENU MUMUNDJUA			
31	VABAARANA MUMUNDJUA			
32	NGOMBE MBERIKUATISA			
33	RUTJINDO KAZETUNGIRUA			

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PROJECT: REE Mining Project
 VENUE: Otjomuhaka
 DATE: 11 September 2015 TIME: 11h.00

	NAME & SURNAME	ORGANIZATION	TEL/CELL NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
1	Jahona Ngombe			
2	Jindangi Ngombe			
3	Uahoniza Ngombe			
4	Kapirizu Mbendura			
5	Immanuel Pitereb			
6	Mbika Gremuhungu Rute			
7	Kareka Rute			
8	Johness Rute			

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23	Mathews Naufila	0816712007		
24	Jorobim Maatis	0816712007		
25	Lorisa Amwele	AEC		enviro.aec@gmail.com
26	Yaloo Shaketenge	AEC		
27	Charon Katjunga	Translator		
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