



Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT (ESA) FOR THE PROPOSED FOR SMALL-SCALE MINING ACTIVITIES OF MINING CLAIMS (MCs) No. 75887 -75896 LOCATED NORTH WEST OF OPUWO, IN THE KUNENE REGION, NAMIBIA.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT:

ECC Application Reference: [APP- 006660](#)

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 14/02/26

EAP Signature and Date

 13/02/26

Proponent Signature and Date

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Abishai Eilo Ishitile (herein referred to as The Proponent), has applied to the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy (MIME) to be granted rights to conduct the small-scale mining activities on Mining Claims (MCs) No. 75887 - 75896. However, the approval of the MCs is subject to a granted Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT). The 10 (ten) MCs are measuring a total area of 173.8124 hectares (ha), located about 10 km northwest of Opuwo in the Kunene region as shown in **(Figure 1)**. The MCs (center coordinates: -18.0338, 13.7722) overlay the following conservancies, Ombazu, Ombombo, Otjindjere, and Okatjandja Kozomenje. The Proponent applied to conduct small-scale mining activities of **Base & Rare metals** as commodities of interest.

Mining and all extraction-related activities are among the listed activities that may not be undertaken without an ECC under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. Subsequently, to ensure that the proposed activity is compliant with the national environmental legislation, the project Proponent, appointed an independent environmental consultant, Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd to undertake the required Environmental Assessment (EA) process and apply for the ECC on their behalf.

The application for the ECC was compiled and submitted to the competent authority (Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)) as the environmental custodian for project registration purposes. Upon submission of an Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) Report and Draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP), an ECC for the proposed project may be considered by the Environmental Commissioner at the MEFT's Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF).

Brief Project Description

Planned Activities: Proposed Exploration Methods

The Proponent intends to adopt a systematic prospecting and exploration approach to the project as follows:

- 1. Non-invasive Technique:** This phase includes geological & geophysical mapping, reviewing of existing geological maps, field evaluation, and soil sampling.
- 2. Invasive Technique:** Trenching, pitting and open pit mining.

Public Consultation

Public Consultation Activities

Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations details steps to be taken during a public consultation process and these have been used in guiding this process. The public consultation process assisted the Environmental Consultant in identifying all potential impacts and aid in the process of identifying possible mitigation measures and alternatives to certain project activities. The communication with I&APs about the proposed prospecting and exploration activities was done through the following means in this order to ensure that the public is notified and allowed to comment on the proposed project:

- A Background Information Document (BID) containing information about the proposed exploration activities was compiled and emailed upon request to all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).
- Project Environmental Assessment notices were published in the New Era Newspaper (**25 September 2025 and 02 October 2025**), and The Namibian Newspaper (**25 September 2025 and 02 October 2025**), briefly explaining the activity and its locality, inviting members of the public to register as I&APs and submit their comments/concerns.
- Public meeting undertaken by the Proponent was held at Yahungumure on the 16 October 2025.
- Public meetings were first planned for the Opuwo Urban Constituency offices. However, based on community input, they were moved to village locations to improve accessibility, encourage participation, and eliminate transport challenges. The meetings were then held at: **(a)** Orijitombo village, 03 November 2025 at 10h00 (minutes and list of participants attached) **(b)** Ekongo village, 03 November 2025 at 14h00 (minutes and list of participants attached). The issues and concerns raised were noted and used to form the basis for the ESA Report and EMP.

Potential Impacts identified

The following potential impacts are anticipated:

- **Positive impacts:** Socio-economic development through employment creation (primary, secondary, and tertiary employment) and skills transfer; Opens up other investment opportunities and infrastructure-related development benefits; Produces a trained workforce and small businesses that can serve communities and may initiate related businesses; Boosts the local economic growth and regional economic development and; Increased support for local businesses through the procurement of consumable items such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), machinery spare parts, lubricants, etc.
- **Negative impacts:** Potential disturbance of existing pastoral systems; Physical land/soil disturbance; Impact on local biodiversity (fauna and flora); Habitat disturbance and potential illegal wildlife and domestic hunting in the area; Potential impact on water resources and soils particularly due to pollution; Air quality issue: potential dust generated from the project; Potential occupational health and safety risks, Vehicular traffic safety and impact on services infrastructures such as local roads. Vibrations, and noise associated with drilling activities may be a nuisance to locals; Environmental pollution (solid waste and wastewater), Archaeological and heritage impact and Potential social nuisance and conflicts (theft, damage to properties, etc.).

The potential negative impacts were assessed, and mitigation measures were provided accordingly.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

The potential impacts that are anticipated from the proposed project activities were identified, described, and assessed. For the significant adverse (negative) impacts with a medium rating, appropriate management, and mitigation measures were recommended for implementation by the Proponent, their contractors, and project-related employees.

The public was consulted as required by the EMA and its 2012 EIA Regulations (Sections 21 to 24). This was done via the two newspapers (New Era and The Namibian) used for this environmental assessment. A consultation through a face-to-face meeting with directly affected landowners whereby they raised concerns and comments on the proposed project activities (copies of scoping meetings' minutes attached).

The issues and concerns raised by the registered I&APs formed the basis for this Report and the Draft EMP. The issues were addressed and incorporated into this Report whereby mitigation measures have been provided thereof to avoid and/or minimize their significance on the environmental and social components. Most of the potential impacts were found to be of medium-rating significance. With the effective implementation of the recommended management and mitigation measures, will particularly see a reduction in the significance of adverse impacts that cannot be avoided completely (from medium rating to low). To maintain the desirable rating, the implementation of management and mitigation measures should be monitored by the Proponent directly, or their Environmental Control Officer (ECO) is highly recommended. The monitoring of this implementation will not only be done to maintain the reduced impacts' rating or maintain a low rating but to also ensure that all potential impacts identified in this study and other impacts that might arise during implementation are properly identified in time and addressed right away too.

It is crucial for the Proponent and their contractors as well as to effectively implement the recommended management and mitigation measures to protect both the biophysical and social environment throughout the project duration. All these would be done to promote environmental sustainability while ensuring a smooth and harmonious existence and purpose of the project activities in the community and environment at large.

Recommendations

The Environmental Consultant is confident that the potential negative impacts associated with the proposed project activities can be managed and mitigated by the effective implementation of the recommended management and mitigation measures and with more effort and commitment put into monitoring the implementation of these measures.

It is, therefore, recommended that the proposed prospecting and exploration activities be granted an ECC, provided that:

- All the management and mitigation measures provided herein are effectively and progressively implemented.
- All required permits, licenses, and approvals for the proposed activities should be obtained as required. These include permits and licenses for land use access agreements to explore and ensure compliance with these specific legal requirements.

Legislation / Policy / Guideline: Custodian	Relevant Provisions	Implications for this project
	has been established with a view to physical, social and economic characteristics, urbanization patterns, natural resources, economic development potential, infrastructure, land utilization pattern and sensitivity of the natural environment.	
Traditional Authority Act (Act No. 25 of 2000): Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD)	The Act also stipulates that Traditional Authorities (TAs) should ensure that natural resources are used on a sustainable basis that conserves the ecosystem. This Act implies that TAs must be fully involved in the planning of land use and development for their area. It is the responsibility of the TA's customary leadership, the Chiefs, to exercise control on behalf of the state and the residents in their designated area.	The MC's falls under the Ovinyange and Oritjitombo which fall under the Otjikaoko and OvaHerero Traditional Authority. Therefore, the Traditional authorities and community members should be consulted.
Water Act 54 of 1956: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)	The Water Resources Management Act 11 of 2013 is present without regulations; therefore, the Water Act No 54 of 1956 is still in force: Prohibits the pollution of water and implements the principle that a person disposing of effluent or waste has a duty of care to prevent pollution (S3 (k)).	The protection (both quality and quantity/abstraction) of water resources should be a priority. The permits and license required thereto should be obtained from MAWLR's relevant Departments (these permits include Borehole Drilling

Legislation / Policy / Guideline: Custodian	Relevant Provisions	Implications for this project
	<p>Provides for control and protection of groundwater (S66 (1), (d (ii)).</p> <p>Liability of clean-up costs after closure/abandonment of an activity (S3 (l)). (l)).</p>	<p>Permits, Groundwater Abstraction & Use Permits, and when required, Wastewater / Effluent Discharge Permits).</p>
<p>Water Resources Management Act (No 11 of 2013): Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)</p>	<p>The Act provides for the management, protection, development, use, and conservation of water resources; provides for the regulation and monitoring of water services, and provides for incidental matters. The objects of this Act are to:</p> <p>Ensure that the water resources of Namibia are managed, developed, used, conserved, and protected in a manner consistent with, or conducive to, the fundamental principles set out in Section 66 - protection of aquifers, Subsection 1 (d) (iii) provide for preventing the contamination of the aquifer and water pollution control (S68).</p>	
<p>National Heritage Act No. 27 of 2004: Ministry of Education, Arts, and Culture (MEAC)</p>	<p>To provide for the protection and conservation of places and objects of heritage significance and the registration of such places and objects; to establish a National Heritage Council; to establish a National Heritage</p>	<p>The Proponent should ensure compliance with this act's requirements. The necessary management measures and related permitting requirements must be taken. This is done by</p>

Legislation / Policy / Guideline: Custodian	Relevant Provisions	Implications for this project
	Register; and to provide for incidental matters.	consulting with the National Heritage Council (NHC) of Namibia. The management measures should be incorporated into the Draft EMP.
The National Monuments Act (No. 28 of 1969): Ministry of Education, Arts, and Culture (MEAC)	The Act enables the proclamation of national monuments and protects archaeological sites.	consulting with the National Heritage Council (NHC) of Namibia. The management measures should be incorporated into the Draft EMP.
Soil Conservation Act (No 76 of 1969): Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)	The Act makes provision for the prevention and control of soil erosion and the protection, improvement, and conservation of soil, vegetation, and water supply sources and resources, through directives declared by the Minister.	Duty of care must be applied to soil conservation and management measures must be included in the EMP.
Local Authorities Act No. 23 of 1992: Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD)	To provide for the determination, for purposes of traditional government, of traditional authority councils; the establishment of such authority councils; and to define the powers, duties and functions of traditional authority councils; and to provide for incidental matters.	The Opuwo Town Council and Opuwo urban constituency are the responsible local Authority of the area therefore they should be consulted.
Public Health Act (No. 36 of 1919): Ministry of Health and	Section 119 states that “no person shall cause a nuisance or shall suffer to exist on any land or premises owned or occupied by him or of which he is in	The Proponent and all its employees should ensure

Legislation / Policy / Guideline: Custodian	Relevant Provisions	Implications for this project
Social Services (MHSS)	charge any nuisance or other condition liable to be injurious or dangerous to health.”	compliance with the provisions of these legal instruments.
Health and Safety Regulations GN 156/1997 (GG 1617): Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS)	Details various requirements regarding the health and safety of labourers.	
Public and Environmental Health Act No. 1 of 2015: Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS)	The Act serves to protect the public from nuisance and states that no person shall cause a nuisance or shall suffer to exist on any land or premises owned or occupied by him or of which he is in charge any nuisance or other condition liable to be injurious or dangerous to health.	The Proponent should ensure that the project infrastructure, vehicles, equipment, and machinery are designed and operated in a way that is safe, or not injurious or dangerous to public health, and that the noise and dust emissions which could be considered a nuisance remain at acceptable levels. Public and environmental health should be preserved and remain uncompromised.
Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Ordinance (1976): Ministry	This ordinance provides for the prevention of air pollution and is affected by the Health Act 21 of 1988. Under this ordinance, the entire area of Namibia, apart from East Caprivi, is	The proposed project and related activities should be undertaken in such a way that they do not pollute or compromise the surrounding air

Legislation / Policy / Guideline: Custodian	Relevant Provisions	Implications for this project
of Health and Social Services (MHSS)	proclaimed as a controlled area for section 4(1) (a) of the ordinance.	quality. Mitigation measures should be put in place and implemented on-site.
Hazardous Substance Ordinance, No. 14 of 1974: Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS)	The ordinance provides for the control of toxic substances. It covers manufacture, sale, use, disposal, and dumping as well as import and export. Although the environmental aspects are not explicitly stated, the ordinance provides for the importing, storage, and handling.	The Proponent should handle and manage the storage and use of hazardous substances on site so that they do not harm or compromise the site environment
Road Traffic and Transport Act, No. 22 of 1999: Ministry of Works and Transport (Roads Authority of Namibia)	The Act provides for the establishment of the Transportation Commission of Namibia; for the control of traffic on public roads, the licensing of drivers, the registration and licensing of vehicles, the control and regulation of road transport across Namibia's borders; and for matters incidental thereto. Should the Proponent wish to undertake activities involving road transportation or access to existing roads, the relevant permits will be required.	Mitigation measures should be provided for, if the roads and traffic impact cannot be avoided, the relevant permits must be applied for.
Labour Act (No. 6 of 1992): Ministry of Labour, Industrial	Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation is aimed at ensuring harmonious labour relations through promoting social justice, occupational health and safety, and	The Proponent should ensure that the small-scale mining activities do not compromise the safety and welfare of workers.

Statute	Provisions	Project Implications
	<p>Historically Undeserved Traditional Local Communities</p> <p>Performance Standard 8: Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Performance Standard 9: Financial Intermediaries (FIs)</p> <p>Performance Standard 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information</p> <p>A full description of the IFC Standards can be obtained from</p> <p>http://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework/brief/environmental-and-social-standards?cq_ck=1522164538151#ess1</p>	
<p>The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 1992</p>	<p>Addresses land degradation in arid regions with the purpose to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the mitigation of climate change.</p> <p>The convention's objective is to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability United Nations Convention.</p>	<p>The project activities should not be such that they contribute to desertification.</p>

Statute	Provisions	Project Implications
Convention on Biological Diversity 1992	Regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity whether within or outside protected areas, to ensure their conservation and sustainable use. Promote the protection of ecosystems, and natural habitats, and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings.	Removal of vegetation cover and destruction of natural habitats should be avoided and where not possible minimized.
Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment, Stockholm (1972)	It recognizes the need for: “a common outlook and common principles to inspire and guide the people of the world in the preservation and enhancement of the human environment.	Protection of natural resources and prevention of any form of pollution.

Relevant international Treaties and Protocols ratified by the Namibian Government

- Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 1973.
- Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992.
- World Heritage Convention, 1972.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BASELINE

The project activities will be undertaken in specific environmental and social conditions. The understanding of these conditions helps in identifying the sensitive environmental features that may need to be protected through the implementation of certain management and mitigation measures.

The summary of selected physical, biological and social baseline information of the project area is provided below as per the site visit conducted by the Consultant on the 2nd and 3rd of November 2025 and relevant published reports and books.

The climatic conditions of the project area are described using the available nearest data for the area obtained from the Meteoblue website (2025).

5.1 Biophysical Environment

5.1.1 Climate

The MC's located northwest of Opuwo, has a climate consistent with that region. Opuwo has a regional steppe climate (Classification: BSH) with annual rainfall of approximately 464mm, with rainfall season spanning from October to April. The average daily maximum temperatures are measured during October and November reaching up to 34°C; the coldest temperatures are measured during June and July with average temperatures reaching below as 11°C. The winter season, characterized by little to no precipitation, extends from May to September. Wind direction is mostly southwestern, southeastern and Northeastern.

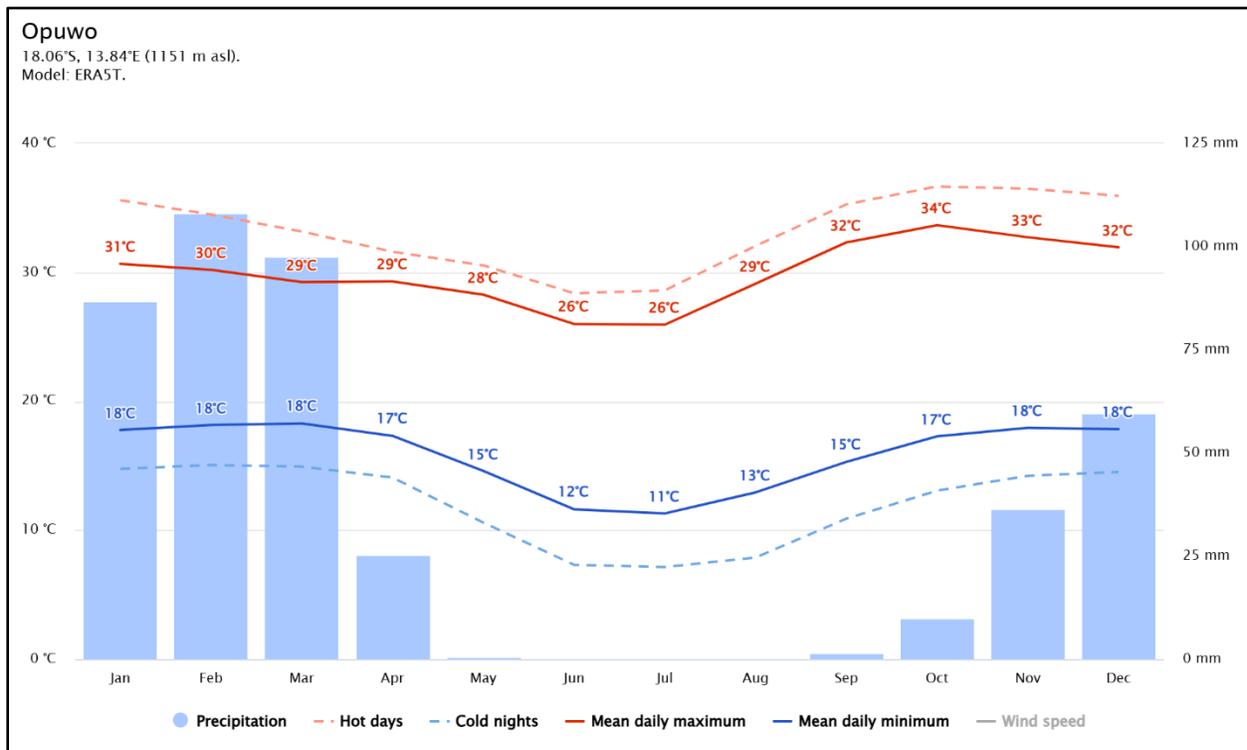


Figure 3: Climate condition around the project area, Opuwo (source: (Meteoblue, 2025))

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