

The following is in the EIA report

6.1 Public Participation in the EIA process

The public participation process (PPP) provided a platform to IAPs and stakeholders in an independent and neutral way that encouraged IAPs and stakeholders to participate and raise comments, issues of concern and suggestions for inputs into the EIA and EMP reports. During the EIA phase, public participation allowed IAPs and stakeholders to review and provide comments on the findings of the environmental assessment and the proposed management measures. IAPs and stakeholders will be notified about the outcome of the authority's decision and by when the decision may be appealed.

6.1.1 *Public Notices and Invitations*

Following the EMA Act No 7 of 2007 (and its regulations of 2012), public notices were placed in two local newspapers (Confidente and The Namib Times) on the 17th and 24th May 2024 calling for registration of IAPs and stakeholders ([Appendix B](#)). Furthermore, notices were put at the notice board of the Erongo Regional Council Office, the Ministry of Mines and Energy office and the Swakopmund Constituency Office in Swakopmund as well as Arandis municipality ([Appendix B](#)). In addition, proactive measures were taken to engage directly with identified affected community at Goanikontes through the management of the resort at the Goanikontes Oasis as well as Bannerman ([Appendix C](#)).

6.1.2 *Public meeting and participation*

On the 07th September, 2024, a meeting was held in the Arandis town hall following public notice of the invitation to the EIA public participation meeting (see Figure 18 and [Appendix C](#) for attendance register). The meeting started from 09:30 to 11:00. In addition, a meeting was held with Management of Goanikontes Resort and Camping site to solicit inputs and consent for the proposed project.

A background information document for the proposed project was produced and disseminated to the I&APs as well as the line ministry. The background information was presented at the public consultation meeting where 18 I&APs participated in the meeting and all the raised questions, comments and concerns as well as responses by the EAP were captured under sections **6.3.2.1** and **6.3.2.2** respectively.

6.1.2.1 Raised Questions and Comments by the Interested and Affected Parties (I&Aps).

The consultant opened the meeting and introduced the purpose of the meeting. The consultant further presented the BID to participants: The following is summary of inputs from public meeting in Arandis. The number in bracket correspond to the number of the participant on the attendance register in **Appendix C**:

1. The proponent should prioritise employing local youth people from Arandis town, inclusive of all tribes (Participant 4);
2. Most small scale mines do not employ/appreciate the importance and need for Personal protective equipment (PPE). Therefore, it must be considered a priority for this project should it get approved (Participant 3);
3. Training on use of PPE must also be prioritised as it is usually left out from similar projects (Participant 6);
4. There must be a qualified safety officer stationed at the mine (Participant 2);
5. The proponent must progressively fill up the trenches as soon as they are done with a site (Participant 4);
6. The proponent must keep the environment clean e.g. from litters (Participant 9);
7. The proponent must give fair payment and labour practices to the employees (Participant 8);
8. How many people will be employed once the mine open? (Participant 7);
9. How long will the mine be operational? (Participant 13)
10. The proposed mine will bring opportunities to the youth (Participant 8);
11. From working experience of similar project on industrial minerals, such activities do not have a lot of disadvantages, but will be more beneficial if it is a long term project (Participant 4).

The meeting at Goantikontes oasis was considered since they are the community that is mostly closer to the mining claims. No one showed up at the meeting. However a meeting was held with representative (Mr. Baard) from the Goantikontes oasis/resort management. The representative gave consent ([Appendix F](#)) for the project to go ahead with a condition that the proponent consider using alternative route to the proposed mining site. This is due to the fact that the gravel road to Goantikontes gave been congested due to increased traffic from the new Bannerman uranium mine in the area. In addition, Goantikontes management requested to be notified of the EIA and mining progress.

6.1.2.2 Responses to the raised Questions and Comments by the Interested and Affected Parties (I&Aps).

1. Recommendations will be made to the proponent to prioritise employment of youth from Arandis, however the proponent reserves the right to follow the labour act and interview all qualified candidates.
2. PPE is a must for such kind of project and should be one of the conditions attached to the ECC.
3. Safety training for employees should also be prioritised and this will be included in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).
4. Safety officer is highly recommended to be employed by the proponent. This will be reflected in the EMP.
5. The proponent indicated that the proposed mining activities include filling up of trenches as the mining progress.
6. A solid waste management strategies will be included in the EMP.
7. Salaries and labour conditions will be based on the labour act as it mandate.
8. The employment question was reserved for the proponent and the EAP later found out from the proponent that it is difficult to preempt the number of employment that will be created by the project. However, a substantive amount of employees in the range of 50-100 is expected to be employed for efficiency of the project.
9. The operational period of the mine will depend on the efficiency of mining operations and demand. However, the proponent indicated that the project may take up to 7 years.
10. Point was noted
11. Point was noted

From the discussion with management of Goantikontes resort, the proponent recognised the need to use an alternative route to the proposed mining area apart from the road leading to Goantikontes Oasis. As a result, the proponent identified a route branching from the road to Goantikontes at about 600m from the B2 tare road (*Fig. 13&14*). This route follows already existing old tracks thus it will not require new tracks. The consequence of using this route is assessed and results are presented under 6.4 (impact identification assessment results). In addition, the proponent will set up a committee with the existing track users, including the Palmenhorst community on maintenance and of the routes. Transportation using tracks will also be minimised and only carried out to carry bulk minerals.

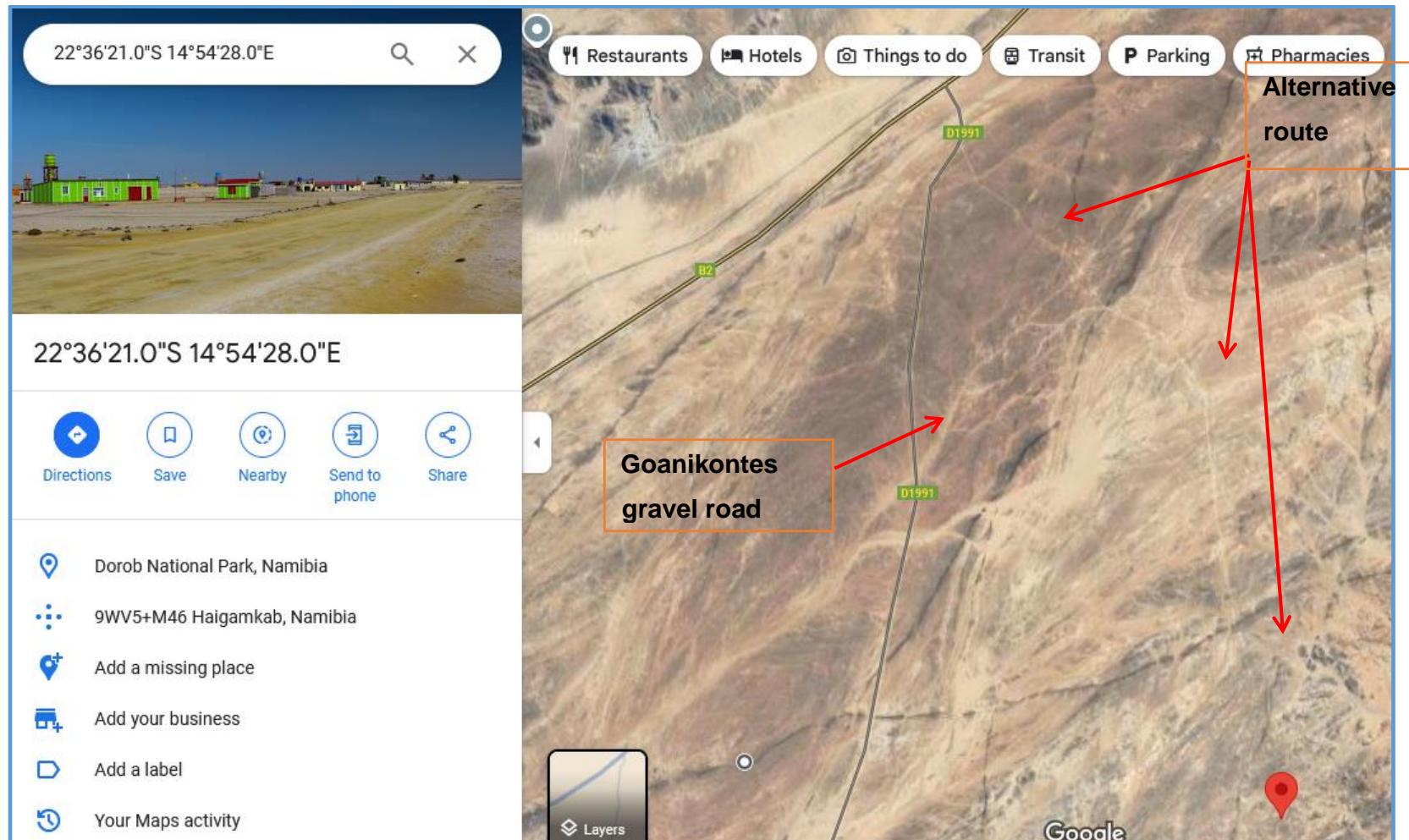


Figure 1: Alternative route to the proposed mining site (Google Maps, September 2024).

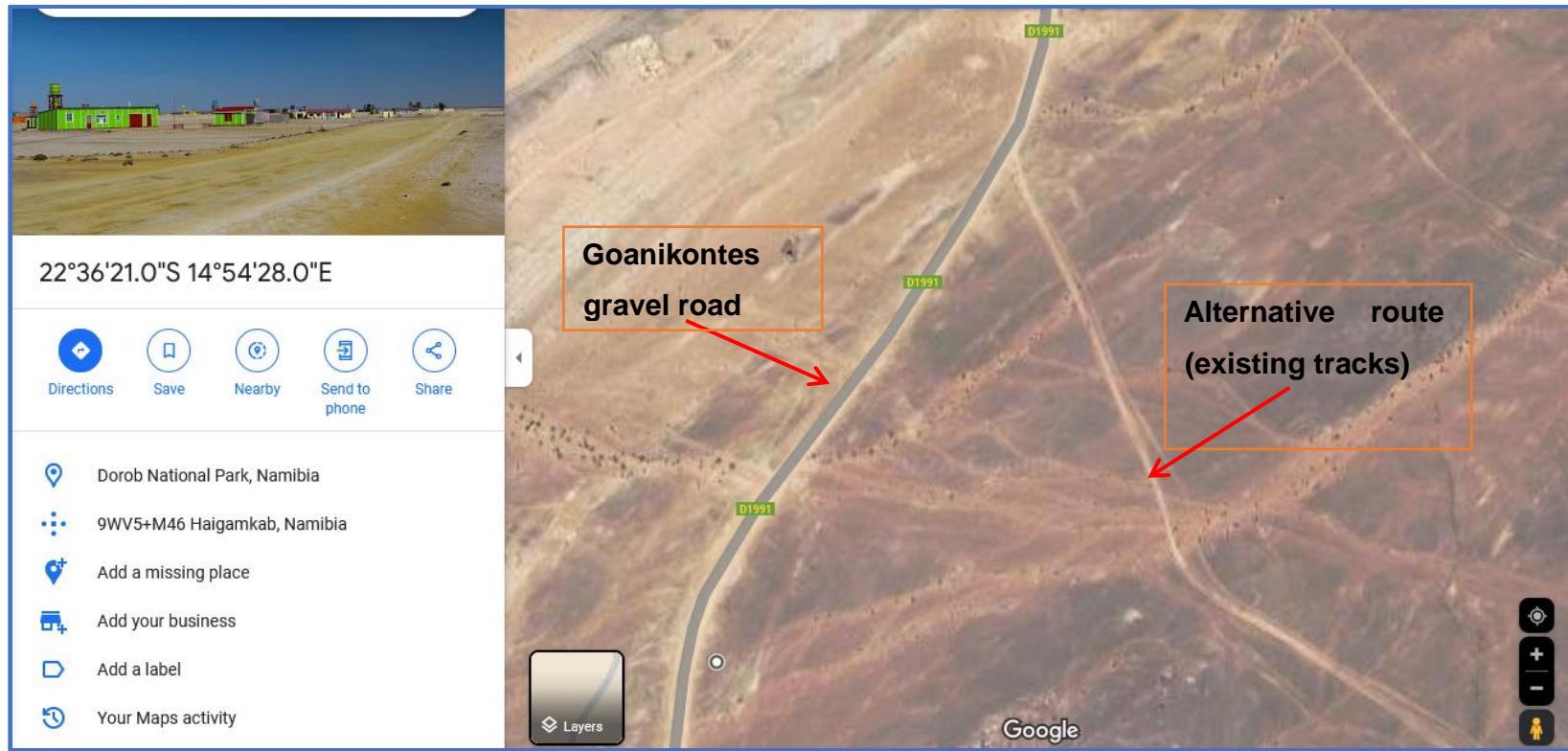


Figure 2: Alternative route to the proposed mining site (Google Maps, September 2024).