

# **Consultation meeting minutes**



**10 April 2026**

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING MINUTES:**

**PROJECT: Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) for Proposed Exploration Activities on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) No. 10196 Located Northeast of Okahandja in the Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia**

**Date:** 10/04/2025

**Time:** 10H00

**Venue:** Okandjira Settlement, Ovitoto Village – Community Hall

Seventy-seven people attended the public consultation meeting, including two Environmental Consultants (Mr. Mandume Leonard and Ms. Vistolina Augustus) and one Archaeologist (Mr Nkosana Hlabangana) from Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (EDS).

**Supplementary farm-to-farm visits were also made to engage with the affected land owners. Additionally, telephone communications were used to further interact with stakeholders who were unable to attend in person.**

**These minutes encompass feedback and discussions gathered from both meeting and subsequent farm visits, as well as insights shared through phone conversations.**

Please refer to the attached attendance register for a complete list of attendees.

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS**

The Environmental Consultant (Mandume) began the meeting by introducing the team and explaining the purpose of the consultation, which was to engage Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed prospecting and exploration activities within **EPL 10196**.

An attendance register was then circulated among the attendees, enabling them to register their names and contact details, which would be used to maintain communication and provide updates on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

## **2. MEETING AGENDA AND PRESENTATION**

The agenda of the meeting included the following main points:

### **2.1 Brief Description of the Project**

Mr. Mandume provided the attendees with an overview of the ESA process, citing relevant legislation such as the Environmental Management Act and its 2012 EIA Regulations on Public Consultation. He then explained the significance of obtaining an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed project, emphasizing the attendees' crucial role in contributing to the ESA process by offering

their insights and feedback regarding the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of the proposed project. Additionally, Mr. Mandume addressed the methods involved in the ESA, highlighting both the Invasive and Non-Invasive methods used to assess and manage environmental impacts effectively.

## **2.2 Presentation of Potential Project Impacts**

To ensure transparency and that the attendees understand both sides of the proposed project activities, the Environmental Consultant also presented the potential pre-identified potential positive & negative environmental and social impacts.

## **2.3 Public Open Discussion (Interactive Session)**

Mr Mandume allowed the meeting attendees to raise their concerns, issues, and/or comments on the proposed project activities. The concerns/issues and comments recorded are presented in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Comments and issues raised during the public consultation meeting**

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
1.	We as the OvaHerero traditional authorities why are we not exclusively being consulted regarding this EPL?	<b>(ML):</b> The concerns of the OvaHerero Traditional Authorities are acknowledged. A dedicated meeting will be scheduled to engage with the Traditional Authorities exclusively, ensuring that their views and inputs regarding the EPL are fully addressed.
2.	Past "hazardous mining initiatives" in the Ovitoto area left open mining pits, posing severe safety and environmental hazards, what will be different this time?	<b>(ML):</b> Africa Venture Partners Projects (Pty) Ltd is a responsible corporate citizen and will employ best environmental principles/practices as required by Namibian law. An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be implemented, including financial guarantees for rehabilitation and closure
3.	The Ovitoto community are predominantly livestock farmers. What guarantee do we have that agricultural farming activities will not be adversely affected by mining activities?	<b>(ML):</b> The purpose of conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is to systematically identify, predict, and evaluate potential environmental and social impacts associated with a proposed project prior to implementation. This process enables the development of appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or manage adverse effects, while enhancing potential benefits. Ultimately, an EIA supports informed decision-making, ensures regulatory compliance and facilitates stakeholder engagement.

<p>4.</p>	<p>Can you provide any information on the potential area of exploration?</p>	<p><b>(ML):</b> At this stage, we are unable to define the exact area of exploration as the proponent has not yet conducted any onsite prospecting activities. Once the exploration begins, the area will be better defined based on the geology of the area and the results of the prospecting activities.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Water is already insufficient for grazing.</p>	<p><b>ML:</b> If water is not sufficient, the proponent might have to take another route of getting water, its either getting water from somewhere else and having to transport it on site.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>What steps will be taken to protect against trespassing and unauthorized access to our farms during the proposed exploration phase?</p>	<p><b>ML:</b> Prior to the commencement of any exploration activities on your farms, it is crucial that a mutually agreed upon the land access agreement is reached between the Proponent and the landowners. This agreement will include regulations regarding the timing of the exploration activities, ensuring that they are conducted in a manner that minimizes disruptions to farming and other land uses. Security protocols, including the use of designated entry points, personnel identification, and a signed access register, will be implemented to prevent unauthorized access. No activities will commence without consultation, agreement, and notice to landowners.</p>

7.	With regard to the prospecting phase, in which you've mentioned the employment of approximately 5 to 10 people, we would like to understand the procedures for managing and	<b>ML:</b> If the proponent is granted the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC), strict guidelines will be put in place for the prospecting phase. This will include thorough background checks on all personnel to be
	monitoring the personnel. Could you please elaborate on the mechanisms in place for ensuring that these individuals are properly vetted, supervised, and held accountable for their actions?	employed, as well as continuous monitoring and supervision throughout the duration of the project.
8.	How long is the Environmental Clearance Certificate valid?	<b>ML:</b> The Environmental Clearance Certificate is typically valid for 3 years. However, its validity may also depend on the progress of work within the EPL area. To maintain the ECC, the holder must demonstrate active exploration or mining activities and provide evidence of their work.
9.	At what stage of the process do we start dealing with the owner of the EPL?	<b>ML:</b> Once they receive the Environmental Clearance Certificate and prior to the prospectors entering your farms, whereby you need to establish clear communication with the EPL owner to discuss access arrangements, terms, and any necessary precautions.

<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p>So the proponent does not have the right to conduct the mining activities yet?</p>	<p><b>ML:</b> It is important to note that the Proponent has not yet been granted any rights to conduct mining activities. They have applied for an Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL), but this permit will not be issued by the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy (MIME) until the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT) has issued an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). Only when the ECC has been granted, indicating that the project has been deemed environmentally acceptable, will the MIME consider issuing the EPL.</p>
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p>What if these operations result in significant damage to the grassland that takes a lengthy period of time to recover, how will the landowner be compensated?</p>	<p><b>ML:</b> In order to ensure that affected landowners are adequately compensated for damages incurred during mining operations, a legally binding agreement between the proponent and the landowner will be required.</p>

## **FINAL REMARKS AND CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

Mr. Mandume thanked the attendees for their crucial input through comments and raising their concerns. He indicated to the attendees that all their comments, concerns, and inputs had been noted down for consideration and addressing in the Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) Report as well as incorporating their recommendations into the draft EMP.

Furthermore, Mr. Mandume informed the attendees that the draft meeting minutes, Environmental Assessment Report, and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be shared with them for review and further comments. These documents will be made available through emails provided on the attendance register.

Once the review of the draft ESA Report and EMP is done, the documents will be finalized and submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) for evaluation and consideration of an ECC.

