

Consultation meeting minutes

09 February 2025

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING MINUTES:

PROJECT: Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) for Proposed Exploration Activities on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) No. 10676 Located Northeast of Otjiwarongo in the Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia

Date: 09/02/2025

Time: 10H00

Venue: Crocodile Ranch, Otjiwarongo

Ten people attended the public consultation meeting, including one Environmental Consultants (Mr. Mandume Leonard) and one Archaeologist (Mr Nkosana Hlabangana) from Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (EDS).

Supplementary farm-to-farm visits were also made to engage with absent farmers. 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 the Crocodile Ranch Otjiwarongo 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 10676**.

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: |
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| 1. | Has any aerial or drone-based survey been conducted to determine the mineral potential within the EPL area? | (ML): At present, the only available information is historical data obtained from the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy. The Proponent has not yet conducted any site visits, as access to the area is not permitted without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). Although an application for the EPL has been submitted, it remains pending approval of the ECC, and site access will only be granted once this certificate has been issued |
| 2. | It is understood that, historically, activities were conducted without the need for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). Could you please clarify the regulatory framework that allowed such activities to proceed without this requirement? | (ML): Historically, such activities were conducted without the requirement for prior environmental authorization. However, the regulatory framework has since been revised, and current legislation now requires that an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) be obtained before any activities may commence. |
| 3. | To who do we send our concerns regarding the EPL? | (ML): Stakeholders are encouraged to submit their concerns to us, so we compile and include them as an appendix to the report under the Public Consultation section for affected landowners. These submissions will form part of the documentation reviewed by the Ministry. In addition, stakeholders may submit their concerns directly to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), specifically to the Department of Environmental Affairs, provided that the relevant EPL number is clearly referenced. |
| 4. | In the event that the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) is granted and subsequent exploration activities confirm the presence of minerals, what would be the next steps in terms of project development? | (ML): Following the issuance of the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC), the Proponent will proceed with exploration activities aimed at defining the mineralization of the area. This involves detailed geological investigations to assess the presence and concentration of minerals within the host rock. |

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| | | Should minerals be identified, further evaluation will be undertaken to determine their economic viability, taking into account factors such as quantity, quality, and feasibility of extraction. It is important to note that, in many cases, exploration projects do not advance to the mining phase, as the identified mineral deposits may not be economically viable. |
| 5. | Will stakeholders be informed of the outcomes of the exploration activities, particularly with regard to whether any minerals were identified within the area? | (ML): Yes of course you will be notified, but you also have the right to ask for updates as the farm owner. |
| 6. | Should the minerals be economically viable, who is coming to mine, is it a foreign company? | (ML): It will be the Proponent (Afron Exploration Namibia (Pty) Ltd) |
| 7. | So, the proponent does not have the right to conduct the mining activities yet? | (ML): 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 Prospective 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. |

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| 8. | If we, as farmers, are unable to reach an agreement with the Proponent? | (ML): You can seek assistance from the Office of Ancillary Rights within the Ministry of Mines and Energy. This office acts as a mediator, facilitating discussions between the Proponent and the affected |
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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.