

**Appendix E – Comment and Response**

**Table of Contents**

**Section 1**

Register of Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties

**Section 2**

Table of Concerns and Responses circulated to all stakeholders

**Section 3**

Copies of correspondence received from stakeholders.

**Section 4**

Copies of minutes of meetings with authorities and different groups

**Section 1 : Register of Interested & Affected Parties and Stakeholders**

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Key
Gov/Prov/Municipal
Registered I&APs

**Section 2 Table of Concerns and Responses sorted by Category (text in blue indicates additional response to that originally sent out)**

Num	Name	Organisation / Authority/ Resident/ Property etc	Main Concern or Interest in the Extended Phase of Prospecting	Category	Current Response to Concern	Ref. No.
275	Agenbag, Louise	Resident, Tzaneen	*Hoe ver is die terrein van Haenertsburg?	Access	6.5km direct and about 10km by road.	1
286	Barnard, Mr A.E.(Manager)	Silican Smelters(Pty) Ltd.are the Owners of Paeroa,( Remaining Extent) and also Fountainhead.	1. Access is a concern.	Access	1. The most acceptable access route for heavy vehicles will be determined through negotiations with affected land owners /users etc <a href="#">Discussions have taken place and a route has been selected. This is indicated on the Site Plan</a>	2
236	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	4. Enquired as to whether the trucks would come through the village?	Access	4. It is intended that they will not . The most acceptable access route for heavy vehicles will be determined through negotiations with affected land owners / users etc <a href="#">Discussions have taken place and a route has been selected. This is indicated on the Site Plan.</a>	3

234	Coad, Ian	Resident (son-in-law of Dennis Thompson)	Concern about access road from a noise, dust and disturbance point of view; from a road maintenance point of view.	Access	It is intended that the existing road will not be used for trucks. The most acceptable access route for heavy vehicles will be determined through negotiations with affected land owners /users etc <a href="#">Discussions have taken place and a route has been selected. This is indicated on the Site Plan.</a>	4
159	Human, Willie	Doornhoek	3. Asked if the <u>access road</u> had yet been planned.	Access	3. No, the access road has not yet been confirmed. The most appropriate option will be negotiated with affected landowners / users. As far as possible existing roads will be used and upgraded if necessary. <a href="#">Discussions have taken place and a route has been selected. This is indicated on the Site Plan.</a>	5
128	Liddle, R.S.	Southern Era( Imanyano Mineral Resources (Pty) Ltd)	3. If access to the Ndwana prospecting site is required over the Imanyana Joint Venture's ground holding, then the Joint Venture's operations could be impeded/affected by access roads etc..	Access	3. Business discussions and arrangements need to be put in place between the two parties to avoid this. This has been initiated.	6



129	Liddle, R.S.	Southern Era( Imanyano Mineral Resources (Pty) Ltd)	4. Joint Venture access to the eastern portion of Doornhoek is only feasible along the fire break on the Paeroa side of the common farm boundary. The access gate onto Doornhoek falls within the Ndowana prospecting site.	Access	4. This constitutes a risk for the Ndowana operation in that any inappropriate activities by Imanyano staff whilst travelling on Ndowana permitted land could jeopardise the Ndowana operation. Business discussions and arrangements need to be put in place between the two parties to avoid this. This has been initiated.	7
112	Mare, Jaap	Westwood Farm and Forest Glens Farm	Concern regarding use of road up valley through his properties.	Access	The most acceptable access route for heavy vehicles will be determined through negotiations with affected land owners / users etc <a href="#">Discussions have taken place and a route has been selected. This is indicated on the Site Plan.</a>	8
96	Milstein, Shelley	Weighton Farm CC Owner	1. Clarification was asked for regarding what kind of equipment was going to be used, what size trucks etc would be going up the road. Concern was expressed about the use of the road through the village and it was suggested that an alternative route be used.	Access	1. It was stated that the smallest equipment possible would be used, (refer to attached summary note on the details of the prospecting). <a href="#">A Table showing details was also sent out with the Comments and Response Table.</a>	9

97	Milstein, Shelley	Resident - Weighton Landowner	1b. I also requested to know which access road would be used and once again received no clear answer. I wish to have this submitted in your report as an area of concern because answers have not been forthcoming from the company in the public meeting.	Access	1b The most acceptable access route for heavy vehicles will be determined through negotiations with affected land owners / users etc <a href="#">Discussions have taken place and a route has been selected. This is indicated on the Site Plan.</a>	10
98	Milstein, Shelley	Resident - Weighton Landowner	1c. <u>R71</u> The fact that the R71, while a National road, is full of blind corners and single lanes on both sides. There is very little opportunity for overtaking and the maximum speed is 80km/h between the village of Haenertsburg and the Randfontein turnoff. I would ask that the company establishes the number of car accidents per annum in the past five years as well as the frequency of traffic in this period. There is no plan to widen this road. I believe the road is unsuitable for more trucks.	Access	1c. The amount of additional traffic on the R71 as a result of the prospecting will be minimal (refer to attached summary note on the details of the prospecting), but it is intended that any heavy vehicles using the R71 regularly be routed so as to avoid this problematic section. <a href="#">The details of the number of accidents has not been ascertained.</a>	11

99	Milstein, Shelley	Resident - Weighton Landowner	<p>2. <u>Roads in Haenertsburg:</u> The maximum tonnage on the roads in the village is 5 ton. Any trucks carrying drilling equipment greater than this would be breaking the traffic laws and so will not be allowed to enter or travel through the village. What will the company do about this? Such a plan should be made available before prospecting rights are granted or begins.</p>	Access	<p>2. The most acceptable access route for heavy vehicles will be determined through negotiations with affected land owners / users etc. The current plan is to avoid routing heavy vehicles through the village. <a href="#">Discussions have taken place and a route has been selected. This is indicated on the Site Plan.</a> <a href="#">Correspondence with the Planning Department in Tzaneen indicates that if there are weight restrictions for any road there will be Roads Department signage to enforce this, otherwise all vehicles may use the road. There are currently no Roads Department signs indicating weight restrictions for the road up the valley through Weighton.</a></p>	12
100	Milstein, Shelley	Resident - Weighton Landowner	<p>3. <u>From the village to the site:</u> The road from the village through Weighton farms (Milstein and Thompson) and the protected indigenous forest on Westwood/Forest Glen (Mare) is a single lane dirt</p>	Access	<p>3. The most acceptable access route for heavy vehicles will be determined through negotiations with affected land owners / users etc The current plan is to avoid using the road through Weighton for heavy vehicles. <a href="#">Discussions have taken place and a route</a></p>	13

		road that is not maintained by the state. It is not suitable for trucks in terms of width and structural formation and, as such, I request that the company makes alternative plans to access the site prior to permission being given.		has been selected. This is indicated on the Site Plan.	
101	Milstein, Shelley Resident - Weighton Landowner	<p>4. <u>Damage to the farms:</u> Apart from concerns raised on using the inadequate roads, the impact to 3 farms on this road includes the fact that the houses are 50m to 100m from this road and the dust and noise will affect us.</p> <p>There will increased people moving through the properties and, as such, increased chances of theft, litter and damage to our properties.</p> <p>Establishing a mine, or even prospecting, changes the dynamics of our farming operations completely. Until this point, the four or five farms have not had</p>	++	<p>4. The impact of dust and noise is noted and mitigation would have to be taken should these be significant. The current plan is to avoid using the road through Weighton for heavy vehicles. Employees will be travelling through the properties in light vehicles en route to or from work so the chances of theft or damage to properties will be minimal. The proponent has a procedure relating to litter and waste management which is briefed to all workers and monitored. The proponent would not retain the services of dishonest people. There are security checks on people employed from outside the area. Landowners will have a contact</p>	14

		significant traffic and, should prospecting begin, we will need to erect fences and gates to isolate the road that goes through all our properties to protect our assets. This will cost a lot of money.		name and number for any problems that occur that are relevant to Ndowana.		
89	Morgan, Colin	Stevens Lumber Mills (Pty) Ltd (Paardevelei Portion 01)	2. The Wolkberg road is not maintained by the Roads Department so access is an important issue.	Access	2 The most acceptable access route for heavy vehicles will be determined through negotiations with affected land owners / users etc. Discussions have taken place and a route has been selected. This is indicated on the Site Plan. Should use of any road by the proponent have the potential to cause serious degradation, then the proponent will contribute to maintenance / repairs.	15

60	Railton, L.	Resident	<p>1. Concerned with access and routes to the site - what studies have been done to quantify erosion? I specifically asked that a slope stability study be made on the steep slopes in the planned prospecting areas. The reason for this is that seemingly stable slopes in the area can fail dramatically during high rainfall periods, such as the summer of 2000. So any additional tracks or roads required for the prospecting may have a significant probability of triggering similar failures.</p>	Access	<p>1. If drilling does go ahead on the grassland on the upper part of the site a specialist engineer will be required to plan and build a track through here for the drill rig. A rehabilitation specialist might also need to be consulted, depending on where the mini bulk sampling takes place. This will be specified in the EM Plan. Slope stability tests will be done for roads or tracks on steep gradients, or where large diameter drilling or mechanised pitting is proposed on steep areas.</p>	16
61	Railton, L.	Resident	<p>2. Who is involved in the process of deciding where the routes go?</p>	Access	<p>2 The most acceptable access route for heavy vehicles will be determined through negotiations with affected land owners / users etc I30</p>	17

39	Symonds, Rodney	Allandale	No access for the prospecting to go through the Allandale property	Access	This was noted.	18
35	Thompson, Dennis	Owner of 2 portions of Weighton	Concern about the use of the road up the valley through the farm.	Access	The most acceptable access route for heavy vehicles will be determined through negotiations with affected land owners / users etc The current plan is to avoid using the road through Weighton for heavy vehicles.	19
16	van Zett, Jon	Tivani	1. Overseas drill rigs are often moved by helicopters where terrain is difficult. Can this not be done here?	Access	1. This is a possibility which will be considered for at least some of the work e.g. small diameter drilling. The option considered at present is to use man portable rigs. The high altitude mitigates against using helicopters for mini-bulk sampling due to the lift / weight ratio.	20
276	Agenbag, Louise	Resident, Tzaneen	- Gaan werkers tydens prospektering op 'n daaglikse basis na die terrein vervoer word, of is die plan dat hulle op die terrein gehuisves sal word?	Accommodation	They will go out to the site on a daily basis.	21

176	Gardner, Michael	HADEF	2. Stated that Haenertsburg was not able to expand. If a mine had to develop, an alternative would have to be found for accommodation.	Accommodation	2. There would be no accommodation on site during prospecting. Persons employed would use local accommodation - B&Bs, camping or would come in daily from nearby. The BA is for prospecting only, not mining. The EIA that would be required, should mining be considered, would address the issues of accommodation for mine employees.	22
150	Kgopa, Alex	Represents Community on Paeroa	3. Concern about impact of prospecting activities on grazing area for goats; concern goats could fall into any pits if left open and unfenced at night; will be grateful if prospecting offers jobs..	Agriculture	3. The impact on grazing should not be significant owing to the short time spent at any one site. Any pits left open at night will have a barricade built around them.	23
55	Selemela, Richard	Natural Resources, Dept. of Agriculture	No specific concerns mentioned.	Agriculture		24
36	Thema, Reuben	Contact person for community on Paeroa.	Reduce grazing area for goats.	Agriculture	Would not really exclude goats from grazing land - do not think it will be a significant impact.	25



114	Machumele, T.M.	Greater Tzaneen Municipality	6. Concern that an air quality assessment might be necessary.	Air Quality	6. It is not considered necessary for an air quality assessment to be done as the dust from the drill site is not significant. Road wetting will be applied if dust situation warrants this.	26
277	Agenbag, Louise	Resident, Tzaneen	Hoeveel (watter grootte area) van die terrein wat op die liggingskaart as EIA-terrein aangedui word, bestaan uit sensitiewe habitate? Of is die sg. EIA-terrein geheel en al sensitief?	Biodiversity	The map in the previous EM Plan indicates the sensitive areas. Certain vegetation types were defined as "sensitive" areas (approx 50% of current study area).	27
237	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	Annex A5. Concerns regarding impact on biodiversity through soil compaction, water use, soil disturbance and invasive species, noise and human activity.	Biodiversity	Annex A5. Specialist studies will be undertaken to determine any significant impacts of the prospecting on water replenishment and stream and river flow through water use and soil compaction; the potential impact on increased invasive alien species through soil disturbance; erosion potential and the impact of noise and human activity on rare or endangered species.	28

134	Le Roy, Marc	Private	<p>The first point that I would like to raise here quickly however is the issue of legislation. LEMA is still in place and as such applies to the development. Chapter 8 Section 64.1.c.ii and iii states that “no person may without a permit pick (defined as gather, cut off, chop off, uproot, damage or to destroy wholly or partially, or any similar action) any indigenous plant; (ii) on land next to a public road within a distance of 100 meters measured from the centre of the road; and (iii) within an area bordering any natural water course, whether wet or dry, up to and within a distance of 50 meters from the high water mark on either side of the natural water course” In terms of this any activity that does this (it was stated last night that some sampling will be near streams) will need a permit in terms of LEMA.</p>	Biodiversity	<p>The way things stand at present the proponent may need to obtain a permit for the prospecting area. This had never been brought to the attention of the proponent in previous applications for prospecting permits. The proponent will apply for relevant permit or exemption from this. Permit also to be requested in terms of the Biodiversity Act.</p>	29
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123	Lunt, Graham	Resident	2. Biodiversity: Think the extent of the site will be a problem in the potential it presents for damage to biodiversity.	Biodiversity	2. Yes, the nature of the terrain, especially on the upper part of the site, access to this area and the threatened nature of the grassland are of great significance in the impact on biodiversity. These factors will be given serious consideration and will be looked at in specialist studies.	30
67	Perkins, Luke	Member of FROHGS WESSA	3. " <u>Sensitive Areas</u> " - Plantations being seen as non-sensitive and indigenous vegetation as sensitive makes sense on the face of it. WESSA head office has pointed out that the legislation makes no provision for this. Indeed , I can find no reference to sensitive and non-sensitive areas in NEMA . If there is no legal provision for distinguishing between sensitive and non-sensitive areas, then I would like to repeat the call for the whole area near the Haenertsburg catchment , to be subjected to a full EIA, whether in	Biodiversity	3. The definition of "Sensitive areas" was a term used and defined in the previous EMPlan for prospecting and was done in conjunction with the vegetation specialist and the I&APs involved with the process. The prospecting right was granted based on this, and it is in line with what was agreed that the current Basic Assessment is being undertaken. Plantations and degraded grasslands were not seen to have the same intrinsic value as pristine grasslands and this view stands. However, the Basic Assessment is indeed considering the study area as a whole.	31

		<p>plantations or not. Part of the reason is that many plantations are illegally planted right up to the water courses. Therefore we as a community suspect, in fact are convinced, that there are sensitive areas within the plantations, and that this whole area is in fact sensitive. Any and all prospecting should, we feel, be subjected to an EIA.</p>		
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238	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	Annex A 4. Concern about access routes causing damage to grasslands, potentially affecting vulnerable species and creating disturbance for local residents.	Biodiversity	Annex A4. The best route for heavy vehicles to access the site will be negotiated through discussions with affected land owners/users etc. <a href="#">Discussions have taken place and a route has been selected. This is indicated on the Site Plan.</a> Impact on vulnerable grasslands will receive serious consideration and cognizance will be taken of the specialist report. Contact with the EWT Blue Swallow working group has confirmed that there is at present no danger regarding affecting this endangered species through prospecting activities, but contact will be maintained to keep abreast of any changes in this situation.	32
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287	Barnard, Mr A.E.(Manager)	Silican Smelters(Pty) Ltd.are the Owners of Paeroa,( Remaining Extent) and also Fountainhead.	5. Concern regarding the potential impact of prospecting on the biodiversity of the area.	Biodiversity.	5. The prospecting team has strict procedures for limiting any impact on the environment based on the ISO 14001 certification implemented and maintained by the De Beers exploration section for a number of years.The EMPlan and this Basic Assessment will also identify sensitive areas and set out mitigation measures.	33
239	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	3. Requested all and any documentation indicating whether any application for a prospecting or mining right has previously been granted or refused in respect of the area within 100km of Haenertsburg.	Business	This request is extraneous to the scope of this Basic Assessment. This information is held by the Department: Minerals and Energy, not by the applicant.	34
130	Liddle, R.S.	Southern Era( Imanyano Mineral Resources (Pty) Ltd)	5. Operations within the prospecting site could encroach on the Imanyano Joint Venture's ground holding.	Business	5. If boundaries are clearly demarcated this should not happen. Boundaries have subsequently been clearly demarcated.	35

131	Liddle, R.S.	Southern Era( Imanyano Mineral Resources (Pty) Ltd)	6. The performance of Ndowana Exploration Two (Pty) Ltd could be used to prejudge the activities of the Joint Venture.	Business	6. This is a mutual risk equally applicable to both parties. Business discussions and arrangements need to be put in place between the two parties to avoid this. Discussions have been initiated.	36
52	Short, Richard	Bizznet cc	Haenertsburg Business interests	Business		37
8	Victor, Rentia	Magoebaskloof Tourism Agency	5a. Concern over impact on butterflies through impact on vegetation.	Butterflies	5a. Specialist studies will determine potential impacts on butterflies.	38
2	Woodhall, Steve	Butterfly expert who has worked in Haenertsburg area	1. Concern regarding any potential impact of the prospecting activities on the rare butterflies in this area.	Butterflies	Specialist study on butterflies to be undertaken.	39
278	Agenbag, Louise	Resident, Tzaneen	Het jy miskien 'n kaart wat aandui waar die terrein teenoor Haenertsburg geleë is? Ek herken nie die plaasname wat op die	Documentation	The maps with the background document show where the site is and the scale indicates the distance from Haenertsburg.	40

		liggingskaart in die inligtingsdokument sigbaar is nie.				
245	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	2. Requested all and any documents and / or correspondence relation to any request or enquiry received by any person or entity pertaining to the submission of the above mentioned application.	Documentation	2. All queries have been documented in this table. The meeting held was to initiate the process, indicate the potential aspects identified to date and receive issues/ concerns from I&APs that would need to be addressed. The current responses to these queries have been included. These could be modified or amended once the specialist studies have been completed. This table therefore serves as the minutes of the public meeting and also includes all hardcopy and email concerns received.	41
240	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	5.1.1 Requested all and any correspondence between Ndowana Exploration Two (Pty) Ltd and the joint venture partners, and the DME or DEAT.	Documentation	5.1.1 Much of this correspondence between partners is private business correspondence. The original prospecting right can be made available. The original EMPlan was made available to the FROHGS, and has been re-supplied.	42



241	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	5.1.2 Requested all and any correspondence which bears any reference to is ancillary to or refers in any way to the above mentioned application.	Documentation	5.1.2 The "Intent to submit an Application" which was submitted to LEDET can be made available. The Application has not yet been submitted - this will be done with the Basic Assessment(BA) and EM Plan.	43
242	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	5.1.3 Requested the application form including appendages.	Documentation	5.1.3 The application has not yet been done and will only be submitted with the BA and amended EM Plan, and will be available to I&APs.	44
243	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	5.1.4 Requested all file notes, memoranda or internal documentation pertaining to any decision in respect of the application.	Documentation	5.1.4 The application has not yet been completed and will only be submitted with the BA and amended EM Plan, and will be available to I&APs.	45

244	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	5.1.5 Requested the draft EM Plan and all Annexures, including but not limited to the prospecting works program and ancillary documentation pertaining thereto as referred to in the MPRDA regulation 7.	Documentation	5.1.5 The EMPlan (not Draft ) which was approved and authorised when the prospecting right was granted by DME in January 2007, was made available to the FROHGS. This has been re-supplied as indicated in 5.1.1 above. The original prospecting work programme has not been supplied for the following reasons: It is viewed as commercially confidential information in terms of section 31(1) (a) (iii) of NEMA; it applies to the prospecting right as a whole, not just the area being covered by the Basic Assessment; the key information is now available in the attached Table 1b.	46
279	Agenbag, Louise	Resident, Tzaneen	- Hoeveel werkers sal betrokke wees by die prospektering?	Employment	There will be up to between `12 and 20 workers employed on a temporary contract basis, other than the few full time workers in the Ndowana Prospecting team. The longest period of contract employment would be about 2 months. They will be brought in on a daily basis in light vehicles	47

				from where they are staying.		
246	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	4.8 How many staff will be employed at different stages and for how long? How will they access their workplace and how often?	Employment	There will be between `12 and 20 workers employed on a temporary contract basis, other than the few full time workers in the Ndowana Prospecting team. The longest period of contract employment would be about 2 months. They will be brought in on a daily basis in light vehicles from where they are staying.	48
82	Mphahlele, Mr S.E.	Municipal Manager, Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality	The exploration could contribute to community development by offering some job opportunities as the project expanded.	Employment	If the project should go ahead it will offer temporary employment to workers in the area in the form of short term contracts. Depending on the activity engaged in, there could be between 12- 20 persons working on the project at any one time.	49

54	Seroto, Mr Selo Steven	Ward Councillor, Haenertsburg	Has no objection about the development / project that is to take place in Haenertsburg , provided it will have a positive impact on the life's of entire member of the GTM and Limpopo. I think this is an important project to our community and it will help alleviate poverty and high unemployment rate.	Employment	If the project should go ahead it will offer temporary employment to workers in the area in the form of short term contracts. Depending on the activity engaged in, there could be between 12 and 20 persons working on the project.	50
124	Lunt, Graham	Resident	1. <u>End Plans:</u> . Would like to look at end plans and find out what the end result could be? Could it end up something like the Kimberley Big Hole?	End Plans.	1. The prospecting might never get to the mining stage. There could be any number of scenarios. It is not possible to even give scenarios until further information is obtained. <u>End plans only theoretically possible after the bulk sampling exercise when the tons and grade and shape of the ore body have been defined.</u>	51
20	van Rooyen, Theo	Environmental Management, Capricorn District Municipality	No concerns at this phase / stage of the prospecting.	Environmental Management	Will remain registered as an interested and affected party.	52

185	Evans, Steven	BSWG	Blue Swallows - none nesting in past 3 seasons but always the potential to return.	Fauna	Formal permission to be requested to prospect throughout the year (owing to absence of Blue Swallows) so as to shorten the prospecting period. Will maintain contact with Local BS Working group so as to be appraised of any change in BS situation.	53
135	Le Feuvre, Phillip	Local Chair, BSWG	Blue Swallows - none nesting in past 3 seasons but always the potential to return.	Fauna	Formal permission to be requested to prospect throughout the year (owing to absence of Blue Swallows ) so as to shorten the prospecting period. Will maintain contact with Local BS Working group so as to be appraised of any change in BS situation. The specialist bird study will take this into account.	54

68	Perkins, Luke	Member of FROHGS WESSA	2d. <u>Fauna</u> - Apart from the flora of the site, the fauna are extremely important and poorly understood. What little is known is cause for concern as there appear to be several endangered animals living on the site and in the vicinity, which would be impacted on by activities on site, during construction activities of any access roads, and during subsequent access to the site. A sufficient understanding of the fauna of this area, and how it would be affected, would therefore require the following specialist surveys: Bird, mammal, herpetological, invertebrate	Fauna	A herpetological specialist study will be undertaken. Communication with the EWT Blue Swallow Working Group has confirmed that at present the prospecting activities would not be a threat to the Blue Swallow. Close contact will be maintained to ensure the proponent is informed if there is any change in the movement of the Blue Swallow. A study of the impact of prospecting on birds on and adjacent to the study area will be undertaken. There does not appear to be sufficient motivation for the further fauna studies with regard to the prospecting activities envisaged. These could be relevant if the prospecting should progress to the next phase which is bulk sampling, and would be considered at this stage. <a href="#">A butterfly specialist study has been undertaken.</a>	55
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280	Agenbag, Louise	Resident, Tzaneen	- Is daar enige kans dat die prospekteringsaktiwiteite die risiko vir bosbrande sal verhoog?	Fire Hazard	There is no reason for fires to be made during any of the prospecting activities. <a href="#">The potential fire risks posed by generators and fuel are recognised and covered by the operational procedures.</a> The prospecting team has strict procedures to mitigate against the winter fire hazard and to report observed fires.	56
288	Barnard, Mr A.E.(Manager)	Silican Smelters(Pty) Ltd.are the Owners of Paeroa,( Remaining Extent) and also Fountainhead.	4. Concern regarding the potential impact of prospecting on the winter fire hazard.	Fire Hazard	4. There is no reason for fires to be made during any of the prospecting activities. The prospecting team has strict procedures to mitigate against the winter fire hazard and to report observed fires. <a href="#">The prospecting team are very happy to be involved and included in the precautions taken on red alert fire days.</a>	57
90	Morgan, Colin	Stevens Lumber Mills (Pty) Ltd (Paardevelei Portion 01)	3. Concern regarding a small dam on Colberg drying up as this was very important during the fire season.	Fire Hazard	3. This was noted <a href="#">and included in the geohydrological study.</a>	58

91	Morgan, Colin	Stevens Lumber Mills (Pty) Ltd (Paardevelei Portion 01)	4. Possibility of amending the prospecting team fire procedure to include communication on red alert fire days.	Fire Hazard	4. The proponent would be very glad to be included in the precautions taken on red alert fire days.	59
43	Slater, Brian	Haenertsburg Resident	1. <u>Fire:</u> Enquired as to the potential fire impact if prospecting is done in winter.	Fire Hazard	There is no reason for fires to be made during any of the prospecting activities. <a href="#">The potential fire risks posed by generators and fuel are recognised and covered by the operational procedures.</a> The prospecting team has strict procedures to mitigate against the winter fire hazard and to report observed fires.	60
267	Botha, Mark	Cape Conservation Unit, Botanical Society of South Africa	Botsoc Comments as submitted by Cathy Dzerefos	General.	As indicated in Botsoc Comments	61
247	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	1. Potential impact of prospecting on Conservation, environmental and biodiversity issues . List of questions to be emailed for replies.	General.	1. These have been received and are dealt with in this table.	62



248	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	Annex A6.Other Considerations; Geohydrology; Pollution of catchment; Reptiles; Blue Swallows; Butterflies; Noise pollution; Tourism impact.	General.	Annex 6. Specialist studies will be done on reptiles, butterflies, geohydrology, tourism; wetlands; birds; vegetation;cultural and historical aspects; no hazardous chemicals are used which would pollute the catchment; EWT BSWG have confirmed that there is no concern for the Blue Swallow at present but close contact will be maintained to monitor any change in this situation; there will be noise from drilling but distance from tourism accommodation is a mitigatory factor and no drilling will be done at night; there will be noise disturbance to those hiking particularly during the two or three months of continuous drilling; noise will impact on the community on the former Bird Hunter property and the Zeederburg hostel..	63
160	Human, Willie	Doornhoek	4. A <u>comprehensive list including all the issues addressed during any EIA, obtained from DEAT, was sent in, but these have not been listed individually here.</u>	General.	4. Most items on this list are considered during the course of an BA. Mr Human's particular concerns regarding his property are listed in this table.	64

81	Mphofela, Mr S.M.	Ward Councillor, Lebowakgoma	1. Comments given to be sent but at this time not yet received? (20/06/08)	General.		65
126	Lithole, Donald	Cultural Officer, SAHRA	Items of cultural or historical significance within the study area - nothing specific mentioned at this time.	Historical / Cultural	A specialist study has been undertaken on the items of historical and cultural significance in the area.	66
92	Morgan, Colin	Stevens Lumber Mills (Pty) Ltd (Paardevlei Portion 01)	5. Mentioned the existence of graves in the vlei area east of the Zeederburg singles hostel.	Historical / Cultural	5. This was noted - but is outside of the study area.	67
22	van Rooyen, Louis	Agri Letaba	Loss of the Hanertsburg heritage	Historical / Cultural	A specialist study has been undertaken on the items of cultural / historical significance in the area.	68

195	Dzerefos, Cathy	Botanical Society	<p><u>Other people that should be contacted for comments:</u> Please contact the following people for their comments:- Sue Posnik a well known environmental impact assessment consultant in the mining industry who knows the area and has recommended that a SEA be undertaken. - Martha Komape Water Resource Management DWAF. Willem Du Toit Groundwater specialist at the DWAF</p>	I&AP	All three persons were emailed to request comments.	69
137	Land Affairs	Colberg (Lot 366)	Part of the property falls into the identified prospecting site.	I&AP	Attempting to locate documentation to indicate the protection status of Colberg. <a href="#">All attempts to ascertain the protection status of Colberg through National and Provincial Departments have shown that to date there is no documentation to indicate that any part of Colberg falls under any form of protection status.</a>	70

132	Liddle, R.S.	Southern Era( Imanyano Mineral Resources (Pty) Ltd)	1. Imanyano Mineral Resources (Pty) Ltd in joint venture with SouthernEra Management Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd (the Joint Venture referred to) is the holder of Prospecting Right 237/2006 for diamonds over various contiguous properties to the west, north and east of the Ndowana Exploration Two prospecting right. The Joint Venture's prospecting right includes the farms Doornhoek 1080LS and Eastbrooke 198KS. These properties adjoin the 'prospecting site' / EIA area delineated by Ndowana Exploration Two.	I&AP	1. This is noted.	71
133	Liddle, R.S.	Southern Era( Imanyano Mineral Resources (Pty) Ltd)	2. The Joint Venture has not been engaged as a stakeholder (I & A P).	I&AP	2. This was an omission and they have now been registered as a stakeholder.	72

93	Morgan, Colin	Stevens Lumber Mills (Pty) Ltd (Paardevlei Portion 01)	1. Part of the property falls into the identified advanced prospecting site - they do not want a mine.	I&AP	1. This is noted.	73
69	Perkins, Luke	Member of FROHGS WESSA	2h. <u>Contact with GTM -</u> WESSA urges the Environmental Practitioner to establish contact with Greater Tzaneen Municipality and to invite comment from them on issues relating to zoning, access, water and waste management.	I&AP	2h. The GTM Municipality, Town Planners, Ward Councillors were contacted from the outset. The GTM Solid Waste have registered as an I&AP. The environmental section attended the public meeting.	74
64	Rademeyer, Sanri	Head of Town Planning, Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	No specific concerns at this stage of prospecting.	I&AP	Will keep Town Planning on the I&AP list.	75
249	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	AnnexA2. The prospecting activities will substantially and permanently disturb the environment. Need to look at EIA for mining because if mining would not be allowed then no point in doing prospecting.	Mining	Annex A2. The scope for this study is the impact and potential impact on the environment of the planned activities for the next phase of prospecting. There is insufficient knowledge to indicate if mining is even a consideration or possibility at present.	76

213	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	10. It is mentioned that activities in sensitive areas will call for a Basic Assessment, which means that such areas will be mined. Why take all the trouble to identify such areas as it will not exclude it's mining?	Mining	10. Sensitive areas were identified in the original EM Plan in order to identify the impact of prospecting activities. Specific procedures would be followed here in order to minimise any negative impact on the environment, and ensure adequate mitigation in prospecting. There is no indication whether mining would be allowed here. That would be established in a separate EIA, for mining.	77
214	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	15. In conclusion it will be short sighted to mine this area at all.	Mining	15. The BA is for prospecting only, not mining. Should the kimberlites be found to have any economic value, there will be a rigorous pre-feasibility study by the proponent and a Scoping and EIA with public participation before any mining considerations take place. <a href="#">The no-go option is again a consideration.</a>	78

212	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	4. This Basic Assessment is about the influence of the prospecting on the environment. The end result of the mining on the environment should be considered at this stage. Models of different mining scenarios should be built on the basis of present knowledge.	Mining	4. At present there is not sufficient knowledge to know if the prospecting will even proceed to the next phase of prospecting, let alone to mining. There is insufficient information to attempt to draw up any kind of mining scenarios should it even go to mining.	79
177	Gardner, Michael	HADEF	3. A slimes dam in the hills above Haenertsburg is not acceptable. What was the alternative?	Mining	3. The proposed prospecting activities will not result in a slimes dam being constructed and the current Basic Assessment scope is only for prospecting.	80
178	Gardner, Michael	HADEF	4. All these factors needed to be built into the scenarios and the impact on tourism, the village, rehabilitation, social development, biodiversity etc needed to be considered.	Mining	4. All these factors would certainly be taken into account if the project got to a pre-feasibility study, as well as in the EIA to convert prospecting to mining.	81

44	Slater, Brian	Haenertsburg Resident	<p>6. <u>Marsfontein: This issue was raised at the public meeting. Subsequent to the public meeting the following was received:</u> "The unrehabilitated Marsfontein Diamond Mine issue needs to be fully documented. By this I mean that De Beers needs to fully explain in writing why the mine was not rehabilitated after closure. The research I have undertaken indicates that as of 2003 the mine was still owned by De Beers. This 3 years after they stopped mining there. As I stated in the Public Meeting Marsfontein is relevant because of the issue of trust. How can I&amp;APs trust De Beers to prospect in a highly sensitive location in an environmentally responsible manner when they have left such an environmental disaster at Marsfontein? Please include the attached document as part of my</p>	Mining	<p>There is a history behind Marsfontein. The mine will not be granted closure until the rehabilitation as approved in the EMPR has been carried out and there were funds set aside for this. De Beers Head of Strategy &amp; Business Development offered to take some I&amp;APs to The Oaks Mine to see how De Beers do closure. The Ndowana Director explained that rehabilitation at Marsfontein was not yet complete and would need to be carried out according to the EMPR. A specific response on this matter will be provided by De Beers and then circulated to I&amp;APs.</p>	82
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		response." A series of photographs on Marsfontein was included. This can be supplied on request.				
17	van Zett, Jon	Tivani	2. This is not just about prospecting it is about mining. It compares to the attempt to mine coal in the KNP.	Mining	2. Can appreciate that there would be concerns with regard to mining but this project is focused on prospecting and it is not known at present if it will progress to the next step of prospecting or to a consideration of the feasibility of mining. EIA's would be done for each of these steps. If the area had been declared a protected area prior to the authorisation for prospecting, then prospecting	83

				could not have taken place here in terms of the Protected Areas Act.		
186	Egan, Vincent	Polokwane	6. It should be noted that the <u>Iron Crown is the highest point in Limpopo</u> . As such, it would provide a valuable <u>opportunity for carrying out research and monitoring on global warming</u> . By interfering with the midslope of the peak, one could be putting such potential into jeopardy.	Monitoring	6. It is hoped that the nature and time frame of the prospecting activities would not be such that they would jeopardise any research and monitoring as outlined. I110	84

115	Machumele, T.M.	Greater Tzaneen Municipality	1. <u>EM Plans:</u> The EM Plans which form part of the EIA often read well, but there is often very little monitoring to ensure everything undertaken in the EMP is adhered to. It was requested that monitoring by the appropriate person take place and that copies of these monthly monitoring reports be available in a public library for scrutiny.	Monitoring	1. Monitoring is done on an ongoing basis, reported monthly for internal purposes and annually to DME as a requirement of the MRPDA. These reports can be made available. Internal and external audits of the Environmental Management System can also be made available (usually done annually). Inspection by DME takes place on an ad hoc basis.	85
116	Machumele, T.M.	Greater Tzaneen Municipality	5. Concern over the availability of Environmental audit reports.	Monitoring	5. Compliance is reported on monthly (internally) and is reported on to DME annually. These reports can be made available. Audits of the Environmental Management System take place twice a year.. These cover specific projects on a rotational basis (usually once per 12 to 18 months).	86

281	Agenbag, Louise	Resident, Tzaneen	- Die inligtingsdokument dui aan dat geraas a.g.v. booraktwiteite nie harder sal wees as geraas wat met nabygeleë timber harvesting gepaard gaan nie. Beteken dit dat die prospektering gedoen sal word wanneer harvesting in omliggende platasies gedoen word? Ek neem aan daar word nie heeljaar, elke jaar in die omgewing naby die terrein hout geoes nie?	Noise	The noise impact was simply compared with the noise of timber harvesting. There is no correlation with the timing of the activities. The largest drills are in fact a lot more noisy than chain saws. The maximum period of drilling would be approx 1 month. Refer to Table 1b for details.	87
151	Kgopa, Alex	Represents Community on Paeroa	2. Concern over potential noise & dust pollution - houses are close to the road.	Noise	2. If this becomes a significant factor it will need to be addressed (e.g. by road wetting). However due to the number of vehicles and the speed traveled it is not anticipated that this will be a major problem.	88
37	Thema, Reuben	Contact person for community on Paeroa.	Potential noise pollution	Noise	Action would be taken if this became significant.	89

161	Human, Willie	Doornhoek	5. Concern was expressed with regard to potential poaching as the farm is fairly remote and could not be policed regularly to ensure there were no illegal hunting activities as a result of activity on the adjacent property. What compensation in the eventuality of such offences?	Poaching	6. Employees will be inducted on acceptable conduct on site, respect for landowners' property / assets and notified of the consequences of illegal actions. The proponent would compensate surface owners for any such loss found to be caused by its employees.	90
162	Human, Willie	Doornhoek	6. Concern as to the safety of cattle because the farm is remote and cannot be policed regularly to check that the cattle are safe. What compensation in the eventuality of such offences?	Poaching	6. Employees will be inducted on acceptable conduct on site, respect for landowners' property / assets and notified of the consequences of illegal actions. The proponent would compensate surface owners for any such loss found to be caused by its employees.	91
163	Human, Willie	Doornhoek	7. Concern with regard to poaching of medicinal or other plants because of the remote location of the property and there not being labour on these areas on a daily basis. What compensation in the eventuality of such	Poaching	6. Employees will be inducted on acceptable conduct on site, respect for landowners' property / assets and notified of the consequences of illegal actions. The proponent would compensate surface owners for any such loss found to be caused by its employees.	92

			offences?			
9	Victor, Rentia	Magoebaskloof Tourism Agency	5b. Concern about potential poaching..	Poaching	6. Employees will be inducted on acceptable conduct on site, respect for landowners' property / assets and notified of the consequences of illegal actions. The proponent would compensate surface owners for any such loss found to be caused by its employees.	93
282	Agenbag, Louise	Resident, Tzaneen	- Ek sien nie dat daar in die inligtingsdokument iets van 'n Openbare Vergadering genoem word nie – kyk ek dit net mis of gaan daar nie 'n vergadering behou word nie?	Process	A public meeting was held in Haenertsburg on 22nd May. This was advertised in the Tzaneen local newspaper and in Tzaneen.	94

282	Agenbag, Louise	Resident, Tzaneen	<p>Daar is tans nie elektrisiteit in Haenertsburg beskikbaar vir verdere ontwikkeling nie. Wat is die situasie i.t.v. elektrisiteit op die terrein waar die prospektering voorgestel word?, Sal daar 'n ekwivalente area van sensitiewe habitat deur die aansoeker bewaar word om die area wat deur die myn verwoes word, te offset?, Waarvandaan sal die arbeiders getrek word en sal daar vir Tzaneen-omgewing enige voordeel hierin wees?, Behuising vir werkers? Sal hulle op die terrein gehuisves word of daaglik van woongebiede ingery word?, Gaan dit nodig wees vir die toegangspaaie om verbreed te word?, As die myn gevestig sou word, sou toegang nog steeds via Haenertsburg wees of sou daar dan vanuit 'n ander rigting 'n toegang gebou word?</p>	Process	<p>At this stage the size, grade (diamond content) and diamond quality of the kimberlite(s) is unknown. It is not possible to create realistic scenarios of what mining could be like, if it was ever to take place, until this information is obtained through further prospecting. All the factors mentioned would be assessed in the Scoping and full EIA done prior to the next phase of prospecting and then again in the EIA which would need to be undertaken to convert a prospecting permit to a mining authorisation.</p>	96
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250	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	5.1.6 Requested all and any notices, publication or advertisements to include but not limited to those published in any Gazette, place at any magistrates Court and any local or national newspaper circulate in the relevant area;	Process	5.1.7 Notices were placed in the Limpopo Informant and the Lowveld Bulletin, at the Local Municipalities in Tzaneen and Lobowakgoma and at five places in Haenertsburg and at two places on site. The Municipal Managers and Town Planners of both municipalities were contacted by phone and email as were the Ward Councillors, and were sent a letter and the Background Information. A letter was sent to all identified interested and affected parties including the FROHGS, and they were told an electronic copy of the Background Information Document could be sent to them or they could collect a hard copy from the library in Haenertsburg. These were re-sent to Ian Burman.	97
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251	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	5.1.7 Requested all and any notices, publications or advertisements informing all interested and affected persons of the public meetings to be held in terms of the MPRDA or the NEMA regulations and the minutes of public meetings held in terms of the aforementioned acts.	Process	5.1.7 Notices were placed in the Limpopo Informant and the Lowveld Bulletin, at the Municipalities in Tzaneen and Lobowakgoma, the Municipal Managers and Town Planners of both municipalities were contacted by phone as were the Ward Councillors, notices were placed at five places in Haenertsburg and at two places on site and a letter was sent to all known interested and affected parties including the FROHGS. Copies of all notices, photographs of them at each site, newspaper adverts, letters to I&APs etc will all be included in the BA as is required by the process. All issues raised at the public meeting have been tabled in this document, together with all hard copy concerns and emailed concerns received so this serves as a the minutes of the public meeting. Copies of notices, newspaper adverts and letter to interested parties have been sent to I. Burman.	98
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215	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	1. He had done a few EIA's but been rejected because his opinion was not agreed with. His view was that consultants "Speak the language of the people who pay you".	Process	1. It is hoped that adequate information will be collected to allow an informed decision to be made by the authority. The NEMA EIA regulations are being followed and this requires the proponent to pay for the assessment to be done by an independent practitioner - this is the process being followed by Ndowana.	99
217	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	11. An Environmental Management Plan should be in place before commencement of any prospecting, is such a plan in place?	Process	11. An EM Plan was authorised by DME prior to the start of the prospecting in January 2007. It is in compliance of one of the commitments in this EM Plan that this Basic Assessment is being undertaken for the next phase of prospecting in the identified "sensitive " areas.	100
218	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	12. The accumulative effect of the prospecting activities will already have an influence on the environment including defacing.	Process	12. There will be a number of manual pits dug during prospecting, but it is hoped that with careful rehabilitation these will not leave defacing scars. Drilling will also be followed by planned rehabilitation to mitigate negative impacts on the environment as much as possible..	101

219	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	13. The whole area is sensitive as it is part of a mountain catchment area, the prospecting thus warrants a full EIA preceded by a Scoping Report.	Process	13. The NEMA regulations set specific criteria under which a Basic Assessment and under which a Scoping and EIA should be conducted, and under what circumstances( sections 21 (3) and 25(3) ) it would be necessary to convert from a Basic Assessment to a Scoping and full EIA. It cannot be shown that this study requires a Scoping and full EIA if the required information is presented to the authorities to allow for an informed decision. To this end a number of specialist studies are being undertaken.	102
216	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	3. This Basic Assessment can not be part of any EIA (page 3), it is an document on it's own according to Government Notice No R.385 of 21 April 2006.	Process	3. A Basic Assessment is one of the forms of EIA outlined in the NEMA EIA regulations .	103
196	Dzerefos, Cathy	Botanical Society	<u>A Strategic Environmental Assessment cont.:</u> In the interests of integrated management it is essential that all suspected kimberlite areas, second phase prospecting sites and	Process	A SEA has not yet been done for Greater Tzaneen Municipality ; a State of the Environment Report has been commissioned. The local municipality has proposed that an SEA be undertaken after this. This could	104

		<p>possible areas for mines be identified and prioritised to ensure sustainable development. One example is that companies plan together so that a minimum number of tracks and infrastructure is required. When economics were at stake last year the two companies managed to commission a joint magnetic helicopter survey so it is requested that in the interests of biodiversity and catchment they consolidate their efforts. Currently there is a charcoal burning operation which has not had an EIA undertaken a few kilometres from the site and it is essential that this be sorted out before any further activities be permitted in this sensitive area.</p>		<p>take some time and it is not feasible to delay the applications until the SEA is finalised. DWAF will be consulted with regard to ensuring that the water necessary for drilling is acquired lawfully. Meetings between Ndowana and Southern Era (Imanyano) have been initiated. Legal consultation has confirmed that the legality of other enterprises on the property does not fall within the scope of the BA.</p>	
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196	Dzerefos, Cathy	Botanical Society	<p><u>A Strategic Environmental Assessment cont.:</u> The site's proximity to the Iron Crown mountain which is Limpopo's highest point make it the ideal place for monitoring climate change as the first impacts of climate change will be picked up here. The proposed prospecting site is a worthwhile addition to the Wolkberg Wilderness area. The site also forms an important biotic corridor between the northern Drakensberg, Strydpoort and Leolo mountains of Sekhukhune, particularly note worthy for reptiles.</p>	Process	<p>A SEA has not yet been done for Greater Tzaneen Municipality ; a State of the Environment Report has been commissioned. The local municipality has proposed that an SEA be undertaken after this. This could take some time and it is not feasible to delay the applications until the SEA is finalised. DWAF will be consulted with regard to ensuring that the water necessary for drilling is acquired lawfully. Meetings between Ndowana and Southern Era ( lmanyano) have been initiated. <a href="#">Checks on the protection status of Colberg in the national and provincial offices have not shown any known protection status at present.</a></p>	105
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196	Dzerefos, Cathy	Botanical Society	<p><u>A Strategic Environmental Assessment:</u> A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required to determine whether this area should be part of the Wolkberg Wilderness area and the Kruger to Canyon Biosphere Reserve. It is noted that the site is at the confluence of the Drakensberg and the Strydpoort mountains and at the water shed of two catchments (Letaba/Luvuvhu and the Olifants). In terms of long-term planning of water provision for Limpopo province the watercatchment function of this area is vital and in urgent need of protection. It is not clear whether the existing plantations are legitimate. The Haenertsburg community has commissioned a hydrology report dated May 2008, which concludes that: "It is abundantly clear that,</p>	Process	<p>A SEA has not yet been done for Greater Tzaneen Municipality ; a State of the Environment Report has been commissioned. The local municipality has proposed that an SEA be undertaken after this. This could take some time and it is not feasible to delay the applications until the SEA is finalised. DWAF will be consulted with regard to ensuring that the water necessary for drilling is acquired lawfully. Meetings between Ndowana and Southern Era ( Imanyano) have been initiated. Legal consultation has confirmed that the legality of other enterprises on the property does not fall within the scope of the BA. <a href="#">Water for the prospecting operation will be obtained from an authorised water provider, unless the land owner indicates that they have the water available. The geohydrological study has looked at the provision of the water necessary for the project and concluded that quantity required was small.</a></p>	106
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		<p>apart from the possible allowance of some borehole water for the farm Paardevlei, all new water uses required for the future mining operation will have to be purchased from existing lawful water users. A licence will be required for such transfers. No licence for the use of "new" water will be contemplated by DWAF, as both the catchments in question are already under severe water shortage stress".</p>		
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197	Dzerefos, Cathy	Botanical Society	<p><u>Access to information In the interests of transparency</u> it is requested that copies of prospecting permits be made available as soon as they are issued along with full details of planned rehabilitation. It is also requested that environmental performance assessments or audits on the EMP submitted for first phase prospecting be made available for public comment before further activities are undertaken.</p>	Process	<p>The existing prospecting right (not permit) can be made available. The approved EMPlan has been made available. The amended EMPlan will be made available, if and when approved. This will provide details of the planned rehabilitation for the proposed new activities. See response under monitoring category regarding performance assessments.</p>	107
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198	Dzerefos, Cathy	Botanical Society	<p><u>Meeting:</u> It was suggested that if a second meeting be held, that only responses to issues raised at this meeting be discussed.</p>	Process	<p>It is proposed that when the Basic Assessment (together with specialist studies) and EM Plan are completed, that a meeting be held to introduce I&amp;APs to this and copies of these will then be available for comment and these comments will be appended and sent to SAHRA, DWAF and Dept of Agric and then to LEDET and to DME for the evaluation of the amended EM Plan. Responses to issues raised at the meeting on 20th May will be circulated to all I&amp;APs when documented and responses obtained.</p>	108
182	Gardiner, Megan	Resident	<p>1. Suggested that it was not so much an anti-De Beers opinion, but more a "pro planet earth" concern. It was requested that multiple copies of the EIA /EM Plan be made available in the liobrary and not just a single copy.</p>	Process	<p>1. It was agreed that this could be done.</p>	109

179	Gardner, Michael	HADEF	1. Stated that scenario planning was needed which took into account if every step was carried out and it was a positive result all the way; and the different alternatives.	Process	1. At present there is insufficient information available to do scenario planning as it is not known how big the kimberlites are, what their grade is or what the quality of the diamonds are.	110
180	Gardner, Michael	HADEF	6. Challenged the competency of the MEC of the province to make an informed, unbiased decision if he wore the hats for economic development, environment and tourism simultaneously?! Doubted if a court of law would agree that this was possible?	Process	6. The best course of action is to present holistic, comprehensive data / information so that an informed decision can be made.	111
148	Kohne, Sylvie	Haenertsburg Residents and Ratepayers Association	Enquired as to whether a representative from Ndowana would be present at the public meeting.	Process	Was informed that somebody from Ndowana would be present at this meeting.	112
109	McComb	Graham	2. Said that it was a Catch 22 because if the prospecting was allowed to go ahead and it was bad news i.e. the project went no further, then everybody would be happy. But they were reluctant to take this step, because the result	Process	2. This dilemma is appreciated, but should the project progress to the next step in prospecting, there would be public participation in the EIA for this.	113

		could be positive. Suggested it was a moral issue and that it was not justified to destroy a piece of pristine grassland with the only benefit being that some people received employment. The community had a vested interest in THEIR mountain and catchment area.			
80	Mulaudzi, Azwihangwisi	DME	Amendment of EM Plan in accordance with original authorisation and according to new activities.	Process	114
79	Nkhwashu, Ms Fatima	Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism	EIA Process	Process	New person in this position is Thiva Marega 115

70	Perkins, Luke	Member of FROHGS WESSA	2a. <u>Full EIA</u> - There is no doubt that a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is called for in this case. A full EIA is triggered by the reconnaissance activities referred to under Items 7 and 8 of Listing 2 (Scoping and EIA) under NEMA:	Process	2a. The process is following the NEMA regulations. Legal council has confirmed that Activities 7 and 8 on Listing 2 (Activities 8& 9 on Listing 1) are "not in effect", and should be withdrawn from the list of activities submitted on the Intention to submit an application. Regulations 21(3) and 25(2) allow for a request for the process to be changed to Scoping and full EIA if the authority is unable to reach a decision based on the information presented. With the specialist studies being undertaken, it is anticipated that the information collected and presented will allow for an informed decision.	116
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71	Perkins, Luke	Member of FROHGS WESSA	4. I have also been asked to enquire which environmental practitioners body you are registered with - there seem to be several in this country?	Process	4. Jan Phelan, the EAP for this study, is not registered with any environmental assessment practitioners body. She is a member of IAIA (International Association for Impact Assessment South Africa) and this body is kept informed and comments on the Government process underway. The criteria and standards for persons wishing to train and qualify as EAPs and the various exit /entry level requirements has recently been confirmed but the Board to certify EAPs and the standards and criteria for these is not yet in place. As soon as the legal process is in place, currently practising EAPs will have a clear mandate for becoming registered. This could be early in 2009.	117
59	Rasesepa, Ms Grace	Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism	EIA and Basic Assessment Processes	Process	New person in this position is Juliet Mukhari.	118

57	Sanderson, Lindsey	Resident	1. Why should the community trust De Beers more than any other company such as Exstrata, who have have been responsible for very negative impacts on environment recently?	Process	1. Firstly, there needs to be trust in the EAP that the relevant information will be collected as holistically as possible and presented to the authorities so that an informed decision can be made. Thereafter, compliance by Ndowana with the requirements of the amended EMPlan will be in the reputational interests of both its shareholders i.e. De Beers and Mvelaphanda.	119
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45	Slater, Brian	Haenertsburg Resident	<p>2. <u>Access to information:</u> He had asked for a copy of the botanist's specialist report on the Monday and at the time of the meeting had still not received this.</p>	Process	<p>2. The EAP explained that as she had only received the botanist's draft specialist report shortly before the meeting, she had not had time to read it. A quick glance had indicated that additional information was necessary, and that when as all specialist studies are in their final form they will be made available. There is no intention to withhold this information from interested persons. <b>This report and other specialist reports have been amended several times. They are now at the stage where they can be put onto a CD and made available to stakeholders, hopefully at the beginning of March..</b></p>	120
46	Slater, Brian	Haenertsburg Resident	<p>3. <u>Accuracy of information:</u> A figure given in the presentation on the prospecting activities did not concur with a figure given in the background information document.</p>	Process	<p>3. A. Macdonald checked the two references and apologised that there was an error <b>in the background information document.</b> This had not been intentional.</p>	121

47	Slater, Brian	Haenertsburg Resident	<p>4. <u>Basic Assessment vs Scoping and EIA:</u>  Demedanded that a Scoping and full EIA be done owing to the seriousness of the consequences for the area as it was a water catchment area. This request was repeated again later during the meeting.</p>	Process	<p>4. In section 21(3) it may be requested by the proponent /EAP that the process be changed from a Basic Assessment to a Scoping and full EIA if it becomes obvious that the authority is not going to be able to reach an informed decision in the process. There does not appear to be the need for this as far as can be ascertained at present. The water use in the proposed prospecting exercise is not excessive. The geohydrological study should determine if the proposed drilling could have any impact on the catchment area, on the water replenishment capacity of streams which in turn replenished the Olifants and Letaba Rivers, and water for the prospecting will be acquired via advice from the Lepelle Water Board as advised by DWAF. Section 25 (2) allows for the authority to request a Scoping and EIA if they are not able to come to an informed decision but this is fourth option after requesting further information or</p>	122
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				an additional specialist study.	
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48	Slater, Brian	Haenertsburg Resident	4a. Again a request for Scoping and full EIA. Request for another public meeting.	Process	4a. It was suggested that maybe a core representative group meet at a later stage, but the meeting wished to have another meeting with all persons present, A meeting will be held to introduce the completed Basic Assessment (together with specialist reports) and amended EM Plan, after which the reports will be available for comment. These comments will be appended to the reports when they are submitted to SAHRA, DWAF and Dept of Agriculture before going to LEDET and DME.	123
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49	Slater, Brian	Haenertsburg Resident	7. A further meeting to discuss the specialist reports was requested. A submission after the meeting stated "3. At the public meeting De Beers agreed to follow-up meetings once the specialist reports had been completed. You as the independent EIA Practitioner are obligated to ensure the De Beers adheres to this undertaking. This implies that the amended EM Plan will not be submitted for approval until these meetings have taken place."	Process	7. It was suggested that maybe a core representative group meet at a later stage, but the meeting wished to have another meeting with all persons present, A meeting will be held to introduce the completed Basic Assessment (together with specialist reports) and amended EM Plan, after which the reports will be available for comment. These comments will be appended to the reports when they are submitted to SAHRA, DWAF and Dept of Agriculture before going to LEDET and DME.	124
252	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	AnnexA1. Suggestion that a Scoping and full EIA would be more appropriate as the area is sensitive, includes a threatened grassland etc.	Process	Annex A1. The Basic Assessment is following the requirements of the NEMA regulations and sections 21(3) and 25 (3) do not require this unless it is viewed that the authority will not be able to reach a decision. It is envisaged that the specialist studies being undertaken will provide adequate information for the	125

				authority to make an informed decision.	
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188	Egan, Vincent	Polokwane	<p><u>1.The impression was created during your presentation that only a Basic Assessment would be triggered by the IEM process for Phase I</u> - I noted that, if the information coming to light warranted it, a full scoping and EIA could also be triggered during the Basic Assessment;</p>	Process	<p>The NEMA regs are being followed and according to the activities triggered it appeared that a Basic Assessment was required. Section 21(3) states that IF it is viewed that the authority is unlikely to reach a decision on the basis of the information provided in a basic assessment report, the applicant may apply, in writing, to the competent authority for permission to apply scoping instead of basic assessment to the application. Section 25(2) allows the authority, as the fourth of four possible options to request the EAP/ proponent to subject the application to scoping and environmental impact assessment. It is hoped that with the specialist studies being undertaken, adequate information will be presented to the authority to allow for an informed decision.</p>	126
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189	Egan, Vincent	Polokwane	8. I am surprised that the intention was to carry out a single stakeholder meeting so early in the process. The background document described the activities that would take place on the site but would not inform anyone of the ecological impacts of the activities. It is therefore essential that a public meeting be held after all scientific reports have been submitted so that comments that are elicited from the public are suitably informed. A large number of additional issues were identified at the meeting and there appears to be a need to hold another earlier meeting simply to collate additional concerns.	Process	8. Once the Basic Assessment and amended EM Plan have been completed, a meeting will be held to present the Basic Assessment, including specialist reports and amended EM Plan. These will be available for comment. The comments will be appended to the report when it goes to the authorities, and then to LEDET and DME.	127
50	Slater, Brian	Haenertsburg Resident	5. <u>Wished to have it recorded that the process had been misleading, inaccurate and not timeous.</u>	Process	5. Responses 2., 3., and 4 above indicate that there were no intentional actions to obstruct the process on which these perceptions could have been based.	128

10	Victor, Rentia	Magoebaskloof Tourism Agency	2. Wanted a full EIA done.	Process	2. Legal consultation indicates that there is no justification for this at present. Regulations 21(3) and 25(2) indicate that it may be requested by the authority or the EAP that a Basic assessment be changed to scoping and full EIA if the authority is unable to arrive at a decision on the information presented. It is hoped that with the specialist studies being undertaken, the authorities will be able to arrive at an informed decision.	129
283	Agenbag, Louise	Resident, Tzaneen	- M.b.t. die areas wat op die liggingskaart in swart en blou aangedui word as Prospecting Right: word prospektering reeds op hierdie terreine onderneem, of is dít die nie-sensitiewe areas waarna verwys word waar prospektering nou gaan begin?	Prospecting process	Prospecting has continued in non-sensitive areas, but no drilling has been undertaken to date.	130
253	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	2. It was enquired as to what the prospecting time scale was.	Prospecting process	2. This could take up to two years including the inactive periods when results are awaited from laboratories and no field work is done.	131

257	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	4.10 Is there a possibility of operations taking place at night.	Prospecting process	4. No, it is not planned to do this.	132
254	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	4.4 How many drill rigs will be used- narrow diameter & large diameter? 4.5 How (many?) operating days for drill rigs - narrow diameter & large diameter? - in total and per month?	Prospecting process	4.4 There will probably be two different size drill rigs used, a smaller one for narrow diameter drilling (probably modular and man portable) and a larger one for large diameter drilling (up to 30 tonne rig). The maximum period of continuous drilling would be approx. one month, and this could happen twice per site (once for small diameter and once for large diameter drilling). See attached Table 1b .	133



255	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	4.7 How many pits, dumps, cores etc will be dug and where? Your briefing document touches on this but it is not possible to quantify the impact from that information. How many kimberlites are there or how many do you anticipate?	Prospecting process	4.7 The number of kimberlites needing at least some work is not known, but it is assumed that there may be two needing work. As each set of results is obtained from the laboratories so it is determined whether further work is necessary. The estimated number of manual pits is 90. The cores come out in sections of 1.5 to 3 metres. It is not known how deep the small diameter drilling will be, but taking a probable max of 100m per hole there could be 66 cores per hole drilled and at each of two sites there could be up to 10 holes. To obtain 2 mini-bulk samples of 100 tonnes, will require 6 large diameter drill (Idd) holes to 100m at each site. Alternatively or in combination with large diameter drilling, mechanised pitting may be used, 1 or 2 pits per site (depending on depth that can be reached based on rock hardness). The exact location of the above work will be dependent on geophysics and/or results from manual pitting. See attached Table 1b.	134
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256	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	4.9 What is the expected time for the different activities? How long could activities continue? How often?	Prospecting process	4.9 This could range from a few days to a month at any one site depending on the activity and the results. The longest time of continuous drilling would be one month. As per the response earlier - the entire project could take up to 2 years, however active, continuous prospecting will probably not exceed 6 weeks at a time over the two years.	135
199	Dzerefos, Cathy	Botanical Society	<u>Sensitive areas</u> The EMP compiled in the first phase of prospecting by Ndowana highlighted numerous endemic and red data plants and animals in the area therefore the entire area should be viewed as sensitive not just sites with pristine vegetation. The BID states that a Basic EIA is only being done for what the EMP recognised as sensitive. This raises the question where else is second phase prospecting taking place and how is this impacting on the ecological functioning of the area? In	Prospecting process	Second phase prospecting is taking place in plantation areas and harvested plantation areas. To date manual pitting has been used in preference to small diameter drilling. The impact of this work within or adjacent to the active forestry areas has a minimal impact on the ecological functioning of the area as a whole.	136

		the interests of integrated management of environmental issues this information needs to be made available.				
125	Long, Tony	Resident	1.Query as to when the prospecting would start? 2. When would this likely to be granted? 3. Assuming Nov would prospecting only start in 2009?. 4. Query that this would be the wet season?	Prospecting process	Prospecting would start as soon as authorisation is granted, but subject to any restrictions incorporated in the amendment to the EMPlan. Dates will thus only be determined once a decision is made. It is clear that some activities would probably not be undertaken in the wet season e.g. it is not planned to do drilling or mechanised pitting during wet periods.	137

32	Thompson, Nipper	Local - farming.	<p>1. Many areas were mined but in all the mining history very little mention is made of this being a diamond bearing area. How did the earlier prospectors manage to miss these major Kimberlites? It is more than likely that they are barren. The ilmenite garnet and pyroxene tracer minerals that are present would appear to be found in the ratios that indicate that the kimberlites could be diamond bearing but where are the diamonds to back this up?</p>	Prospecting process	<p>The main aim of the proposed prospecting is to reliably determine the size and diamond content of the the kimberlites.</p>	138
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33	Thompson, Nipper	Local - farming.	3. Ndowana and any other diamond mining company in this area needs to supply an extremely strong argument that there are diamonds in this area. This a very steep and rugged terrain with numerous streams sampling and concentrating heavy minerals, if no diamonds can be found then it is obvious that they are not present. We cannot allow the Marsfontein Effect to damage an extremely sensitive area.	Prospecting process	3.Ndowana will do a rigorous feasibility study and EIA prior to undertaking any mining, if warranted by the results of prospecting. The proposed project is aimed at gaining more information on the size of the kimberlites, whether they contain diamonds and if so, to get an idea of the grade and quality. Further details on grade and quality would only be established during bulk sampling which would be the next phase of the prospecting programme.	139
200	Dzerefos, Cathy	Botanical Society	<u>Protected status of the farm Colberg</u> According to Cor Van Den Bergh ex Reserve manager of the Wolkberg Wilderness area and the person who found the Blue Swallow nest on the farm Colberg, this is a protected area. According to section 4(48) of the protected areas act, DME cannot unilaterally issue prospecting rights without the written permission from the Minister	Protected area / legal	We are attempting to get the documentation relating to Colberg being a protected area. Once this has been obtained the necessary legal follow-up will undertaken. <a href="#">Current investigations at a national and provincial level show that there is no known documentaioin indicating any form of protection status for Colberg.</a>	140

			of Environmental Affairs.			
284	Agenbag, Louise	Resident, Tzaneen	- As daar nie voldoende kimberlite gevind word om ontginning te verwerdig nie, neem ek aan dat die versteurde area gerehabiliteer sal word?	Rehabilitation	Disturbed areas will be rehabilitated with the envisaged end use being that prior to the disturbance.	141
269	Blandy, Richard	Tourism	<u>2. The proposed mining area is a popular tourist attraction.</u> Mining operations in the area will adversely impact on tourism. Concern as to whether the area will be properly rehabilitated? Request / demand that a rehabilitation plan is submitted for our comment.	Rehabilitation	2. Rehabilitation following prospecting (the Basic Assessment is not addressing mining) is a requirement in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act and will be described in detail in the EM Plan.	142

265	Branson, J.S.	Chairperson of Haenertsburg Ratepayers Association	2. Concern with residue	Rehabilitation	<p>2. The samples removed are taken away for analysis. Any overburden would be stockpiled for the very short time the pit was open and then replaced during rehabilitation as would drill tailings that were not put back down the hole. Liquid residue from drilling (excess water) will be disposed of in a way that is acceptable to DWAF following testing for quality e.g. evaporation, use for road wetting / dust suppression. <a href="#">The geohydrological study has established that the best practice disposal of liquid residue from drilling will be to test the quality, remove any hydrocarbon for hazardous waste disposal and then use the liquid and fine sediment in the bentonite mixture which will be used to grout boreholes that will not be used in the future. This option is approved by DWAF.</a></p>	143
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258	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	3. Would a fund be set up to ensure rehabilitation was undertaken in the event that the operation stopped?	Rehabilitation	3. The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Plan (MPRDP) requires a fund or trust to be set up specifically for rehabilitation. This is detailed in the EM Plan. If the operation is taken over by another company this fund is transferred to that person / organisation. In the event that the operation ceases, either the proponent would be responsible for rehabilitation, or DME has access to the funds to ensure a contractor completes the planned and approved rehabilitation prior to closure being granted.	144
259	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	5. What are the details of the rehabilitation plan and the rehabilitation standards Ndowana and their joint venture partners are prepared to commit to. E.g. will drill holes and pits be rehabilitated, is top soil retained for this purpose, is there any control of invasive alien plants coming in, what is done with drill tailings,	Rehabilitation	5. These will all be addressed in the amended EM Plan. Rehabilitation is committed to leaving a minimal impact on the environment including mitigation against invasion by alien plants; top soil is retained and replaced.	145



		what will be the visible impacts on the site after prospecting.			
223	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	14. Long after the mine has been worked out the scarred and damaged environment will remain.	Rehabilitation	14. The BA is for prospecting only, not mining. It is acknowledged that mining has an unfortunate legacy of leaving a scarred and damaged landscape. It is planned to ensure careful rehabilitation so that the proposed prospecting activities cause minimal lasting impact on the environment.
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220	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	7. What will be done with the drill tailings? It cannot be allowed to end up in a watercourse.	Rehabilitation	7. This will be specified in the EM Plan. The drill tailings will be put back down the hole or will be spread at the drill site and the top soil replaced. The geohydrological study has established that the best practice to dispose of liquid residue from drilling will be to test the quality, skim off any hydrocarbon for hazardous waste disposal and then use the liquid and fine sediment in the bentonite mixture which will be used to grout boreholes that will not be used in the future. This option is approved by DWAF.	147
221	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	8. Who will audit the soil reclamation after prospecting. A detailed description of the methods to be used is needed including the replacement of bacteria and fungi in the subsoil.	Rehabilitation	8. The rehabilitation will be specified in the EM Plan. Internal checks and audits will be done, an annual performance report has to be submitted to the DME and the DME plus other government departments may conduct site visits.	148
222	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	9. Who will see to it that the top soil is stock piled for replacement?	Rehabilitation	9. This will be specified in the EM Plan and the project manager will be accountable for this being done according to the EM Plan. There will be a	149

				designated environmental officer.		
190	Egan, Vincent	Polokwane	<p><u>3. A comment was made about "temporary" transformation of the habitat, drawing a comparison to "permanent" transformation associated with structural developments. I noted that transformation of habitat and soil structure will lead to great changes in the environment which may not be reversible over the short or medium term, if at all. Regaining pristine habitat is unlikely. The applicant should commit itself to rehabilitation to pristine state; a field of vetiver grass was not desirable.</u></p>	Rehabilitation	<p>3. (a)The rehabilitation of any disturbed grassland which is in pristine condition will have as its objective to get it back to its pristine condition. (b) Areas of Woodbush Granite Grassland which have been afforested, or which were afforested, the trees removed and are now covered in invasive exotics are not viewed as being as sensitive or special as those in pristine condition. However, if concensus between the landowner /conservation body/ vegetation specialist is that this should be rehabilitated to grassland, then this can form part of the EM Plan. The views on vetiver are accepted.</p>	150

191	Egan, Vincent	Polokwane	<p><u>4. The method to be used in Phase I is likely to lead to problems with alien infestations</u>, even if the disturbance is limited to manual pitting of areas around 1square metre of surface. It is presumed that the pits will be dispersed widely over the area. This will introduce a large number of small patches of disturbance where the soil structure and vegetation has been altered. These patches would be suitable for the establishment of alien weeds and have the potential to set up alien populations that are distributed throughout the area which could in turn encroach on the pristine vegetation.</p>	Rehabilitation	<p>The EM Plan will specify monitoring of pitted areas, excavation areas and drill site areas and the removal of any invasive alien plant species which are found. There will be an objective to prevent invasive alien plants coming into the grasslands on sites where prospecting was done. This will be done until closure is obtained. (It was of interest that during a visit to Colberg to inspect the reported diggings there, that a number of young pine trees, scattered about, were noticed in part of the grassland where no visible human disturbance could be detected.)</p>	151
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141	Kohne, Sylvie & Stefan	Haenertsburg Residents & FROHG	4. Will there be any effluent / drill tailings from the prospecting operations? What will be done with the drill tailings?	Rehabilitation	4. Water is contained and recycled. Some sediment is left in the bottom. This is put back down the hole or used in the rehab of site under the topsoil. No dangerous chemicals are used. The samples are not treated on site, so there will be no effluent on site. The water will be disposed of appropriately after testing eg. possibly for road wetting to alleviate dust.	152
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142	Kohne, Sylvie & Stefan	Haenertsburg Residents & FROHG	5. What quality standards for effluents (if any) are envisaged?	Rehabilitation	5. The only "effluent" would be excess drill water. If there was a large quantity to be disposed of, this would have to be contained and tested prior to disposal as approved by DWAF e.g. use for road wetting, seepage, evaporation etc. The geohydrological study has established that the best practice to dispose of liquid residue from drilling will be to test the quality, skim off any hydrocarbon for hazardous waste disposal and then use the liquid and fine sediment in the bentonite mixture which will be used to grout boreholes that will not be used in the future. This option is approved by DWAF.	153
62	Railton, L.	Resident	3. What is the standard for the rehabilitation?	Rehabilitation	3. Details for rehabilitation will be clearly specified in the EM Plan.	154

18	van Zett, Jon	Tivani	4. De Beers abandoned a mine in Lesotho at Letseng. Why could that not also happen here?	Rehabilitation	4 The Lesotho issue has a history. It is at present a very profitable mine. There is minimal chance the proposed prospecting project would be abandoned and if it was full rehabilitation according to the approved EM Plan would be done before closure was granted by DME.	155
11	Victor, Rentia	Magoebaskloof Tourism Agency	4. Concern over proper rehabilitation.	Rehabilitation	4. Top soil will be set aside ( in many cases there is very little topsoil present)and careful rehabilitation done. Rehabilitation will be described in the EMPlan. Closure will not be granted prior to rehabilitation.	156

72	Perkins, Luke	Member of FROHGS WESSA	<p>2e. <u>Compaction of soils</u> - As noted above, this area plays a crucial role in water regulation. This is a montane catchment area. The interaction of water droplets, soil and underlying geology in channeling water down to the many streams and springs in this area is a fragile one. Compaction of soils while heavy machinery is brought onto site, and the operation of this heavy machinery, is cause for concern. Likely consequences will be compaction of soils over potentially wide areas, and subsequent interference with the subterranean water regime. Increased soil runoff from compacted areas is likely. Even worse, some of these slopes are very steep. Soil erosion could well be the consequence, with subsequent siltation of streams leading into Ebenezer Dam. A hydrological or</p>	Soils	<p>2e. A geohydrological study is to be undertaken to confirm, amongst other items, if the drilling, use of large vehicles and compaction could have serious impacts for erosion and water production.</p>	157
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		geohydrological survey is needed to investigate this aspect. The compaction of soils and likely impact is one of the many reasons why a full EIA is needed, if the proposal goes ahead.				
73	Perkins, Luke	Member of FROHGS WESSA	2f. <u>Steep Slopes</u> - The site is on a very steep slope. Prospecting activities on this site are likely to disturb the soil in a manner which could lead to soil erosion. The same is true of road-building and road usage, especially by heavy trucks or machinery. For this reason, prospecting on this site is ill-advised. Specialist studies	Soils	2f. The additional hazard of steep slopes with regard to prospecting and access tracks mainly to the upper portion of the site, and the potential of soil erosion is accepted. The design of tracks and rehabilitation of sites will take these into account. <u>Slope stability tests will be undertaken prior to activities on steep slopes.</u>	158

		must take into account the steep nature of the site.			
285	Agenbag, Louise Resident, Tzaneen	- Watter spesialisstudies beplan julle tydens hierdie BA?	Specialist studies	The following are being considered: Birds, herpetology, vegetation, cultural, historical, tourism, geohydrological; wetland; butterfly.	159

270	Blandy, Richard	Tourism	<p><u>1.Assessment requested on the Morality of Mining on the Wolkberg - "Given the fact that nobody with more then two brain cells believes that the mining scar on the Wolkberg could ever be rehabilitated the morality of mining it becomes a legitimate issue to fall within the scope of this survey. The moral imperative is to weigh up the intristic beauty of the mountain against peoples desire to adorn themselves with small. shiny, useless pebbles. Every decision we make has a moral component and conflicting interpratations of the morality of this issue require an independant, competent assesment. To that end I call on you to have a moral assessment done prior to any decision. "</u></p>	Specialist studies	<p>1.The EIA process being followed is that as outlined in terms of the NEMA regulations. These regulations do not include any criteria / conditions for a moral assessment. However this Act itself can be viewed as a means to address the moral issue of development vs. environmental integrity. The issues which give rise to the concern for a moral assessment have been identified and addressed. The scope for the present Basic Assessment (BA) has been clearly defined as the next phase of prospecting and the study will therefore not include mining considerations as it is not known if it will progress to this stage.</p>	160
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271	Blandy, Richard	Tourism	3. We request / demand that a <u>tourism impact study</u> be done before any prospecting /mining is done.	Specialist studies	3. A study of the potential impact of the prospecting activities on the current tourism in Haenertsburg is being undertaken.	161
260	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	6. Requested any existing or preliminary biological studies of which you are aware. You indicated there was a preliminary Flora and Fauna study (a.k.a. Peter Winter's report) . This could be helpful	Specialist studies	6. The presentation at the public meeting detailed the specialist studies that had been identified as necessary - Flora, Herpetological, Butterfly, Cultural, Historical. Further studies on wetlands, geohydrology, birds and tourism will be undertaken. If drilling does go ahead on the grassland on the upper part of the site, a specialist engineer will be required to plan and build a track through here for the drill rig. A rehabilitation specialist might also need to be consulted, depending on where the mini bulk sampling takes place. This will be specified in the EM Plan. None of the specialist studies are complete/ finalised. Some have not yet started. These will all be included in the BA and be available for comment.	162

261	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	Annex A3. Faunal studies would need to be done during the summer as winter studies would be inconclusive.	Specialist studies	Annex A3. Agreed that the necessary faunal studies would be done during spring / summer.	163
233	Coetser, Bennie	Butterflies SABCA & LEPSOC	Potential impact of prospecting on butterflies	Specialist studies	A specialist study will be undertaken to ascertain if the identified prospecting activities will have any negative impact on any rare or threatened butterfly species on the site so that a responsible decision can be taken and the necessary mitigation put in place if prospecting is allowed to go ahead.	164
230	Cook, Clayton	Aquatic ecologist	1. Impact on biodiversity - rare and threatened species esp. reptiles and aquatic . The surveys will need to be conducted during the summer as a winter survey will not give a true picture.	Specialist studies	1. Specialist study to be undertaken to establish if the envisaged prospecting will have any negative impact on herpetology and biodiversity on the site. The need to conduct studies during the summer months is accepted.	165

231	Cook, Clayton	Aquatic ecologist	2. Not in favour of allowing the prospecting to go ahead during summer as it could impact on flora and fauna in their active seasons.	Specialist studies	2. Specialists will assist in determining if the scale of the prospecting is likely to have a significant impact. Prospecting throughout the year will reduce the overall time spent in the area which has some benefits. Both summer and winter have their drawbacks, but it is not planned that drilling or mechanised pitting would be undertaken during wet periods.	166
228	de Boer, Ben	Birdlife SA Limpopo Birding Route	From BirdLife South Africa's side I feel that the specialist studies need to be undertaken over a year long period to assess where the birds are at different times of the year. The Blue Swallows mentioned in the meeting may not be breeding there but there are sightings every year in the area around sept/oct and again in March/April. They do seem to be utilising the grasslands in their migrations to and from the current breeding grounds	Specialist studies	There has been communication with the Blue Swallow Working Group with regard to the impact on this species. It is hoped to get a bird specialist to give his recommendations on the potential impact on bird species.	167

229	de Boer, Ben	Birdlife SA Limpopo Birding Route	The status of the Golden Moles must be established in that area as well.	Specialist studies	Both the Gunnings and the Hottentot Golden Mole are known to occur in the general Haenertsburg area. Prior to large scale mechanised work, i.e. mini bulk sampling or large diameter drilling, an assessment of the drill/pit sites will be undertaken by a specialist.	168
224	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	5. A detailed hydrological study should be undertaken with special attention to subsoil lateral water flow.	Specialist studies	5. A geohydrological study will be undertaken to determine the potential impacts of the drilling on the water production and biodiversity of the area; .	169
225	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	6. The compaction effect of the tracks on subsoil lateral water flow should be investigated.	Specialist studies	6. This will be included in the geohydrological study.	170

201	Dzerefos, Cathy	Botanical Society	<p><u>Specialist biodiversity reports</u> Specialist reports are required for all red data and endemic fauna and flora that could be located in the area and must take place at the correct time of year when these are likely to be seen. The specialist reports must be made available for comment and review to the public and also to specialists in the Biodiversity section of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. If the Department does not have the relevant specialist available then an external reviewer should be appointed. It is requested that the date for public comments to be submitted is extended to give opportunity to review these reports.</p>	Specialist studies	<p>Consideration was given to the extension of the date for comments on issues which needed to be addressed in the EIA and this was extended until the 20th June 2008 and all I&amp;APS were notified of this. A Public Meeting will be held to guide I&amp;APs through the Basic Assessment and EM Plan (including the specialist reports) and it will then be available for comment. These comments will be sent to DWAF, SAHRA and Dept of Agric before they are submitted to LEDET and the AMENDED EM Plan submitted to DME for authorisation.</p>	171
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203	Dzerefos, Cathy	Botanical Society	<p><u>Water Quality</u> There is a good chance that iron pyrites are found on the proposed prospecting site. Once exposed to oxygen and water by drilling iron pyrite decomposes to a soluble sulphate of iron which results in sulphuric acid being formed. The risk and effect of this needs to be thoroughly investigated.</p>	Specialist studies	<p>This is a possibility and will be considered as part of the geohydrological study. In addition, measures to reduce the risk of such a situation will need to be incorporated in the amendment to the EMPlan.</p>	172
202	Dzerefos, Cathy	Botanical Society	<p><u>Water Quantity</u> In the Great Letaba Water Resources Development Main Feasibility Report compiled by BKS, Dec 1998, the proposed prospecting site occurs in what they refer to as "the most important uplands around Haenertsburg and the Magoebaskloof which generate a very significant proportion of total runoff in the Great Letaba River. Numerous other scientific reports commissioned by DWAF re iterate the importance of the catchment</p>	Specialist studies	<p>A geohydrological study and a wetland study will be undertaken to determine if the prospecting activities could have any impact on water replenishment of springs and streams on affected farms through compaction or drilling. It is of interest that the spring that used to supply Bali Will Will has dried up in recent years, although the cause is at present unknown. Although water will be used in drilling, the quantities used are not excessive. The proponent will consult with DWAF regarding the process for obtaining water for drilling. Intensive drilling will</p>	173

		<p>area which includes the proposed prospecting site. Landowners in the area have stated that the local springs have never run dry. It is highly likely that prospecting will reduce the catchment of the area as drill rigs and trucks compact the soil and the flow of springs is affected by deep drilling activities. The hydrology of the area including all springs and all wetlands need to be identified and the impact of prospecting operations fully assessed by a professional hydrologist.</p>		<p>probably take place over two months. For the following phase of prospecting, water will be a far greater issue.</p>	
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192	Egan, Vincent	Polokwane	<p>5. There was a statement that there would be some reliance on the <u>South African Reptile Conservation Assessment</u> trip that was carried out recently by Marius Burger of UCT's Avian Demography Unit. It must be stated unequivocally that this field trip would be not be at all suitable as a herpetofaunal assessment. It was carried out at the beginning of winter, a season notorious for poor capture rates. It must be noted that the amphibian survey must be focussed around October so as to assess the presence of the northern forest rain frog (<i>Breviceps sylvestris sylvestris</i>), a red-listed Limpopo endemic. Reptile surveys need to include primary data and should be intensive - there are a number of red-listed reptile species that are likely to be found at the site, including <i>Lygodactylus</i></p>	Specialist studies	<p>5. The intention is to get a herpetological study done. It was thought that the information obtained during the recent study should be included if it was of interest. It is noted that herpetology has great biodiversity significance in this area.</p>	174
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		<p>methueni, Acontophiops lineatus, and more. It is also a possible locality for the Eastwood's long-tailed seps Tetradactylus eastwoodae which is currently listed as extinct. Only 2 specimens of this species have been collected, both in the early 1990s. I have heard of 2 verbal accounts that agree with the description of this species; one in the Wolkberg Wilderness Area and the other in the Black Forest Inn area near Haenertsburg. The latter locality is close to the proposed mining site and the precautionary principle would dictate that the site should be thoroughly investigated w.r.t. this species, particularly given the fact that this site has one of the larger patches of continuous suitable habitat.</p>			
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74	Perkins, Luke	Member of FROHGS WESSA	<p>2g. <u>Further Surveys</u> - WESSA supports the calls by various members of the Community for the following studies: i) A Tourism Impact Survey ii) A step-by-step outline of the probable scenario should valuable diamonds be found and a mine is brought to fruition. lii) Other biodiversity studies which would be needed as part of a full EIA, including bird, mammals, herpetological and invertebrate surveys.</p>	Specialist studies	<p>2g. Specialist studies on the impact of the prospecting activities on tourism and on herpetology will be undertaken. It is not seen to be necessary that additional studies on mammals and invertebrates be undertaken for the proposed prospecting activities, although these could be necessary if the next phase of prospecting was embarked upon. <a href="#">Specialist studies on butterflies and birds are to be undertaken.</a> The scope of the Basic Assessment is prospecting, and at present there is insufficient information to outline any kind of meaningful mining scenarios. It is not known if prospecting will progress to the next phase of prospecting(bulk sampling, pre-feasibility studies etc).</p>	175
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51	Slater, Brian	Haenertsburg Resident	<p>8.A report on the likelihood of successful rehabilitation after large diameter prospecting needs to be undertaken by a Specialist Rehabilitation Practitioner. A close look at the print out of Andrew Macdonald's presentation reveals the following about large diameter drilling: A drilling rig weighs about 30 tonnes and 6 holes will be drilled; 10 tonne trucks will remove the samples requiring approximately 10 trips. De Beers ( Ndowana) plans to build a "track" into an undisturbed sensitive grassland for this drill rig and 10 tonne trucks. And then rehabilitate to the same condition? How? Surely a basic EIA is not an adequate approach to such a huge impact?</p>	Specialist studies	<p>8. This concern is shared and the possibility or not of this will be considered in the Basic Assessment. The approach to rehabilitation, including the use of specialists, will form part of the amended EMPlan. See responses under <b>process</b> regarding the applicability of the Basic Assessment.</p>	176
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117	Machumele, T.M.	Greater Tzaneen Municipality	3. Concern over the siting of the toilets in the field.	Toilets	3. Toilets will be sited appropriately. Only environmentally friendly reagents are used in the chemical toilets. Waste material will need to be disposed of into a municipal sewage system ( i.e. not a septic tank) and arrangements will be made with a local municipality (Tzaneen or Polokwane). <a href="#">Tzaneen confirmed it can be taken to the sewerage works there.</a>	177
204	Dzerefos, Cathy	Botanical Society	<u>Gradient of site</u> As this is mountainous terrain with very steep slopes and rocky protrusions the impacts of heavy vehicles, parking places, storage places and site for toilets will each require substantial earthworks to level the ground and obtain access. This seems to have been underestimated in the background information document. The BID does not mention whether the drill rig will be fenced but it is assumed that this will be the	Topography	The steep terrain is a challenge and would require skilled engineering and technology for certain aspects, if the prospecting was to go ahead on this part of the site. If it was deemed necessary owing to valid concerns, for the drill rig to be fenced, this could be arranged, but it would have a number of additional environmental impacts. Fencing of pits would be more important.	178

			case to comply with health and safety regulations. The impacts of erecting a fence in this rocky area would be high and difficult to rehabilitate.			
23	van Rooyen, Louis	Agri Letaba	The damage to eco-tourism	Tourism	A study of any potential impacts of the prospecting on current tourism in Haenertsburg will be undertaken.	179
19	van Zett, Jon	Tivani	3. De Beers do not have a good record on the West Coast. People were excluded from huge areas. What is to stop De Beers from stopping hiking in our area?	Tourism	3. There would be no consideration at all of stopping any kind of hiking in the area due to prospecting. This is not a security situation like the West Coast.	180



12	Victor, Rentia	Magoebaskloof Tourism Agency	<p>1. Only tourism wanted in the area and not mining. Tourism includes an international photographic congress in October , and mining would have a huge negative impact on this. People come to the area because of what it offers in the way of biodiversity, the beauty of the surroundings, the peace and quiet and the sense of place.</p>	Tourism	<p>1. A study of any potential impacts of the prospecting on current tourism in Haenertsburg will be undertaken.</p>	181
4	Wilkinson, L.	Resident	<p>1. Has overnight accommodation in Haenertsburg situated on Rissik Street. It is a themed development reflecting the history of Haenertsburg when the village was founded in 1887. Concern that with respect to the diamond mining activities in the area there could be dire consequences for the business through increased noise, carbon emissions of heavy transport vehicles making their way through the village, and that it would</p>	Tourism	<p>1. The present Basic Assessment is for prospecting and not for mining so some of the potential impacts for mining would not be relevant for tourism in this situation. It is planned that the heavy vehicles will not pass through the village to the site as an alternative access route is to be negotiated. This will hopefully mitigate against any impact on the overnight accommodation facility.</p>	182

		be detrimental to the safety and privacy of villagers and tourists. Tourists come to Haenertsburg for its tranquil and natural beauty.				
193	Egan, Vincent	Polokwane	2. My <u>comments around the Woodbush Granite Grassland targets</u> and remaining pristine habitat are drawn from Mucina & Rutherford - I can't remember either value offhand. The crux is that the vegetation type is critically endangered and that there is not enough pristine habitat left to satisfy the conservation target;	Vegetation	2.(a)This is noted and is of serious biodiversity and conservation significance. (b) Areas of Woodbush Granite Grassland which have been afforested, or which were afforested, the trees removed and are now covered in invasive exotics are not viewed as being as sensitive or special as those in pristine condition if this area had to be subjected to pitting or drilling prior to rehabilitation. Aspeciliast study on vegetation is being undertaken and will highlight significant areas.	183

102	Milstein, Shelley	Resident - Weighton Landowner	5. <u>Potential damage to the indigenous forest.</u> The narrow road goes through this farm. The road will need to be widened at the expense of this forest causing damage to the biodiversity.	Vegetation	5. If the road did require to be widened it would be done with care and consideration for the indigenous forest and biodiversity. However at this stage there is no intention to do this.	184
75	Perkins, Luke	Member of FROHGS WESSA	<u>Comment 1: Woodbush Granite Grasslands</u> - It has become apparent during the early stages of the public participation process that at least half of the proposed prospecting site ("the site"), as well as related areas which may be used for access and related activities, fall within a threatened vegetation type known as <u>Woodbush Granite Grassland (WGG)</u> . The Limpopo Branch of WESSA therefore maintains that prospecting should not be further contemplated on this site and that all activities in this regard cease immediately.	Vegetation	1 A specialist study on the vegetation is being undertaken and authorisation was given to access the SANBI data. The threatened status of the Woodbush Granite Grasslands is acknowledged, and it will be taken into account that any damage to this vegetation type has very serious consequences for biodiversity and conservation. Areas of Woodbush Granite Grassland which have been afforested, or which were afforested, the trees removed and are now covered in invasive exotics are not viewed as being as sensitive or special as those in pristine condition if such areas had to be subjected to pitting or drilling prior to rehabilitation.	185

34	Thompson, Nipper	Local - farming.	<p>2. Are these grasslands to be destroyed as a result of the Marsfontein Effect? De Beers actually discovered Marsfontein but decided that it was too small and so failed to exploit it. When the quality and richness of the ore body was verified it was a major embarrassment. Now with the discovery of any Kimberlite no expense will be spared to asses the potential of the ore body. Bulk sampling of the Kimberlite in this extremely threatened grassland is unacceptable and cannot be allowed.</p>	Vegetation	<p>2. The risks to the <b>threatened</b> Woodbush Granite Grassland on the lower portion of the site and to the <b>vulnerable</b> Northern Escarpment Quartzite Grassland on the upper portion of the site from prospecting activities is acknowledged and understood and will be taken into account. A specialist study on vegetation has been commissioned. Bulk sampling is the next phase of prospecting and will require a Scoping and Full EIA according to the current NEMA regs. <a href="#">Refer to the separate report on Marsfontein. As a matter of interest these facts are not entirely correct and Marsfontein was actually discovered by Southern Era Resources.</a></p>	186
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205	Dzerefos, Cathy	Botanical Society	<p><u>Access tracks for prospecting</u> The linear impact of tracks and the ecological degradation that will occur through the Iron Crown grasslands, Forest Glen afro-montane forest, springs and water courses need to be explored in full before any further prospecting occurs. The track from the Iron Crown is extremely steep, goes close to a drainage line possibly a spring and will be in pristine grasslands? The second track from the Haenertsburg side shows what kind of damage is suffered by this soil type when a track is built and the difficulties in rehabilitating and controlling disturbances to an area which is prone to high rainfall events and is exposed to fire and wind. It is a concern that pristine grasslands and forests that have previously been inaccessible to the public will be accessible with the</p>	Vegetation	<p>On the lower part of the site it is unlikely that new roads need be constructed. Existing tracks will be used and upgraded. The need for maintenance to prevent degradation is noted. For the upper area the forestry tracks would be used as far as the existing plantation. The steepness of the terrain and scar of the existing road is noted as a concern. A vehicle track across the grassland would be necessary to access the drill site. A suitably experienced engineer would be necessary to ensure minimal impact on the grassland. It is not anticipated that these tracks should increase poaching, diminish sense of place or the wilderness nature of the area or encourage off-road driving as those wanting to access these areas would probably already have done so using existing tracks. Co-operation would be sought with surface owners to ensure measures to control off-road driving whilst the track is rehabilitated. Current controls to</p>	187
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		<p>tracks proposed for the second phase of prospecting. It is anticipated that off road driving, poaching of plants and animals will follow and the wilderness nature of the area or sense of place will be lost.</p>	<p>limit poaching of plants and animals from existing tracks would be upheld.</p>	
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76	Perkins, Luke	Member of FROHGS WESSA	<p>2b. <u>Northern Escarpment Quartzite Grassland</u> - This is the other Grassland vegetation type on this site. It is not as threatened as WGG but its status is nonetheless described as "vulnerable". As background information, it should be noted that the cultural use of Grasslands is deeply woven into the socio-economic fabric of life in Limpopo. Both medicinal and food plants are routinely harvested from Grasslands in general, and the Grasslands surrounding Haenertsburg in particular, and have been for hundreds of years. The Haenertsburg community has no desire to halt this activity, and through the efforts of the local group FROHG (Friends of the Haenertsburg Grasslands) is actively engaging with plant collectors. The proposed prospecting by Ndowana will have little or</p>	Vegetation	<p>2b. The "vulnerable" status of the grassland type (Conservation target 27%, only 15% conserved) is noted as is the cultural use. It is noted that the "vegetation type is closely related to the Wolkberg Centre of Endemism".</p>	188
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		no impact on the plant trade. However, by clarifying the context of the use of these Grasslands, it can be seen that the purpose of preserving them is not merely for straightforward biodiversity reasons but for cultural and economic ones too.				
262	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	4.6 How many other vehicles will be involved? Size of trucks and other vehicles? How many trips - per day and per month?	Vehicles	See attached Table 1b providing a detailed breakdown of activities for the response to these questions.	189
103	Milstein, Shelley	Resident - Weighton Landowner	1a. At the meeting I requested information about the type of vehicles to be used for this prospecting in terms of tonnage, frequency and duration of travel. As the company aims and	Vehicles	See sheet providing a detailed breakdown of activities for the response to these questions.	190



			intends to do prospecting as soon as permission is granted, I was disappointed that the company was not able to supply specific details and I request that this information be made available.			
118	Machumele, T.M.	Greater Tzaneen Municipality	4. Concern over waste management of field activities.	Waste	4. There is a specific procedure regarding waste management.	191
105	Mienie, Henk	Solid Waste Division, Greater Tzaneen Municipality	1. Please register Solid Waste Division as an IAP.	Waste	1. They have been registered as an Interested and Affected party.	192

<p>106</p>	<p>Mienie, Henk</p>	<p>Solid Waste Division, Greater Tzaneen Municipality</p>	<p>2. Require an "Integrated Industry Waste Management Plan" before any comments be made regarding the application.          3. The "IWP" must be developed by a "Waste Management Specialist " which must address the following issues in detail. 1. Waste minimisation (Re-use; recycling &amp; reduction). 2. Containerisation 3. Collection and transportation. 4. Treatment. 5. Disposal 6. Control and Auditing.</p>	<p>Waste</p>	<p>2. This requirement is in terms of the Waste Management Bill which is not yet enacted. In terms of this proposed legislation , these plans need to be prepared by an organ of state, other than a municipality. Waste generation from prospecting activities is minimal and includes: • Small amounts of general waste (e.g. empty food containers) which is disposed of at the commercial accommodation used and then to the local municipal dump. Where recycling facilities exist, these will be used. • Small amounts of hazardous waste (e.g. oily rags, used aerosol cans, empty oil cans ) which is transported back to the De Beers offices in Johannesburg for disposal by InterWaste at a registered hazardous waste disposal site. Records of waste disposal and certificates are retained. • Chemical toilets will be used in the field. 1105 Waste management forms part of the EMS which has been certified compliant with the ISO 14001</p>	<p>193</p>
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				international standard.	
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194	Egan, Vincent	Polokwane	<p>7. It should be noted that the grassland/wetland ecosystems at the site are at high altitude and are important as water capacitors, absorbing water and releasing this slowly into the lowland wetland systems. There needs to be a wetland assessment carried out - both delineating the wetlands (including rivers) and assessing their hydrological/biodiversity roles in the system. The prospecting impacts should then be assessed against these roles. Compaction could impact on hydrology and sedimentation off-site.</p>	Water Catchment	<p>7. It is planned to have a wetland study done and that this specialist would liaise with other specialists regarding the significance of water production and replenishment, hydrology and off-site sedimentation.</p>	194
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170	Gyedu-Ababio, Thomas	Manager: Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation, Kruger National Park	1. The destruction of vegetation cover will only increase the surface run-off thereby depriving the catchment of water that will recharge the ground water.	Water Catchment	1. The removal of vegetation would take place in relatively small areas. The increase in run-off should not be of such significance that the catchment is deprived of water to recharge the ground water. It is planned to have a wetland study done and that this specialist would liaise with other specialistse.g. geohydrologist regarding the significance of water production and replenishment, hydrology and off-site sedimentation.	195
164	Human, Willie	Doornhoek Farm	1. <u>Concerned that any impact on the water provision of the mountains would impact seriously on their property.</u> Springs on the property have never dried up - would prospecting impact on these?	Water Catchment	1. This would be a serious concern and it is planned to have a geohydrological study done to ascertain if drilling could have any impact. There are some people in the area who have reported that they have had springs that have dried up in recent years. The cause of this is currently unknown.	196

143	Kohne, Sylvie & Stefan	Haenertsburg Residents & FROHG	1. Although the present EIA process is only aimed at the extension of prospecting operations, it may lead to full scale mining operations later on. Therefore, it needs to be pointed out that the properties mentioned fall into two catchment areas (Letaba and Olifants) which are already under severe water shortage stress.	Water Catchment	1. This is known and DWAF will be consulted to ensure legal use of water for the prospecting activities. A geohydrological study will be undertaken to determine what impact prospecting activities are likely to have on the catchment	197
136	Lategan, John	Owner of greater portion of Paardevlei	Potential impact on the ability of the dolomite structures to replenish the Olifants River water. Serious concern for all the farms that rely on this water.	Water Catchment	The planned prospecting will not impact on dolomite structures or water supply. A geohydrological study will be done to determine what, if any, impacts there may be and how these should be mitigated.	198
289	Barnard, Mr A.E.(Manager)	Silican Smelters(Pty) Ltd.are the Owners of Paeroa,( Remaining Extent) and also Fountainhead.	2. Concern over the potential impact on water quality.	Water Quality	2. Prospecting should not have any serious impact on water quality because no hazardous chemicals are used. Measures will also be taken to ensure no pollution from sanitation, sediment and waste.	199

171	Gyedu-Ababio, Thomas	Manager: Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation, Kruger National Park	2. We are also concerned about the quality of water in the Letaba and fear that any mining activity upstream will worsen the situation for the management of biodiversity downstream (KNP). Currently, the KNP is experiencing water quality problems in the Olifants and Letaba rivers. Crocodiles deaths (last week) in the two rivers are a big concern to the KNP and we believe water quality might be the cause. Any other activities that will compound the problem will not be welcome.	Water Quality	2. The concern over water quality coming into the KNP is acknowledged and it is not anticipated that the prospecting activities( the scope of this Basic Assessment does not include mining) will contribute to water quality deterioration. A geohydrological study is to be undertaken.	200
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165	Human, Willie	Doornhoek	2. Would the prospecting result in any <u>pollution of water</u> ?	Water Quality	<p>2. No, there should not be any pollution of water from the prospecting activities as no hazardous chemicals are used. The geohydrologist will be asked to investigate the possibility of encountering iron pyrites during drilling and measures to reduce the risk of such a situation will need to be incorporated in the amendment to the EMPlan. Mitigation will also ensure prevention of pollution from sanitation, sediment and waste. The geohydrological study has established that the best practice to dispose of liquid residue from drilling will be to test the quality, skim off any hydrocarbon for hazardous waste disposal and then use the liquid and fine sediment in the bentonite mixture which will be used to grout boreholes that will not be used in the future. This would mitigate against the possibility of any negtives impacts should iron pyrites be encountered. This option is approved by DWAF. Details are in the geohydrological report.</p>	201
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152	Kgopa, Alex	Represents Community on Paeroa	1. Query regarding any potential for water pollution from prospecting.	Water Quality	1. No, there should not be any pollution of water from the prospecting activities as no hazardous chemicals are used. Measures will also be taken to ensure no pollution from sanitation, sediment and waste. I277	202
85	Morris, Rob	Nikiwe Consulting cc & Mountain Yacht Club, Ebenezer Dam	2. We currently have the enviable position of some of the country's cleanest water. Ebenezer Dam at the foot of the Iron Crown supplies fresh drinking water to half of Limpopo's population and irrigation water to the breadbasket of the Lowveld agricultural regions. We urge you to take into account all the negatives around mining the Iron Crown and to suspend the process right now.	Water Quality	2. The use of water for drilling will not result in water pollution. No hazardous chemicals are used; the water is recycled and the small amount of tailings is either put back down the drill hole or spread out prior to rehabilitation and the return of the top soil. I221	203
83	Mosefowa, William	Dept. of Water Affairs and Forestry	1. Requested a field visit when the team were next in the area.	Water Quality	1. Very happy to accompany them on a field visit and discuss water quality - visit arranged. <a href="#">Seven officials came on this visit.</a>	204

38	Thema, Reuben	Contact person for community on Paeroa.	Potential for water pollution from prospecting.	Water Quality	There should not be any pollution of water from the prospecting activities as no hazardous chemicals are used. Measures will also be taken to ensure no pollution from sanitation, sediment and waste.	205
24	van Rooyen, Louis	Agri Letaba	Pollution of water sources	Water Quality	There should not be any pollution of water from the prospecting activities as no hazardous chemicals are used.	206
14	Venter, Andre	Letaba Water User Association	1. Concern about possible pollution of inflow to Ebenezer Dam	Water Quality	1. There should not be any pollution of water from the prospecting activities as no hazardous chemicals are used. Measures will also be taken to ensure no pollution from sanitation, sediment and waste.	207

13	Victor, Rentia	Magoebaskloof Tourism Agency	3. Concern over water quantity to be used and potential impact on quality.	Water Quality	3. DWAF will be consulted on water use and no hazardous chemicals are used in the drilling, so chances of pollution of water are minimal. Measures will also be taken to ensure no pollution from sanitation, sediment and waste	208
290	Barnard, Mr A.E.(Manager)	Silican Smelters(Pty) Ltd.are the Owners of Paeroa,( Remaining Extent) and also Fountainhead.	3. Concern regarding potential water use of prospecting.	Water Use	3.For manual or mechanised pitting water is not necessary. For smaller drill rigs the use would be about 2 cubic metres per day, total of ~ 120 cu m. Using a larger drill rig it could be a figure of 10 cubic metres per day, total of ~ 600 cu.m. See table 1b detailing these requirements.	209
266	Branson, "J".S.	Resident and Chairperson of Haenertsburg Ratepayers Association	1. Concern is the quantity of water which would be used, and particularly if it got to the stage of mining. Where would this water come from?	Water Use	The use of water in prospecting (the Basic Assessment is not addressing mining) will only be during drilling. The use during small diameter drilling the estimated use is 2 kl / day or up to 120 kl in total. With the large diameter drilling the estimated use is 10 kl / day or up to 600 kl in total. The local water board will advise on where water should be obtained from (pers.	210

				comm. DWAF) for trucking to the drilling sites.		
263	Burman, Ian	Chairman of FROHGS (Friends Of Haenertsburg Grasslands)	4. Requested comprehensive information on prospecting activities so as to be able to understand the full impact. 4.1 How much water used at different stages in litres. And the rate of use per day. 4.2 From where will water be sourced (not just nearest source) 4.3 How will water be delivered, how often and where, how will water be used	Water Use	4. The use of water in prospecting will be during drilling. During small diameter drilling the estimated use is 2 kl / day or up to 120 kl in total. With the large diameter drilling the estimated use is 10 kl / day or up to 600 kl in total. An additional 200 kl may be required if a road has to be constructed. The local water board will advise on where water should be obtained from (pers. comm. DWAF) for trucking to the drilling sites. Water will be delivered daily as required to the drilling site (in suitably sized bowser depending on the site access e.g. 1, 2, 5 or 10 kl tankers).	211

226	de Villiers, Pieter	Ecoknow	2.The mining will take place in a mountain catchment area, no mining whatsoever should be allowed in such an area, it is short sighted, especially in view of the water shortage in South Africa.	Water Use	2. The use of water in prospecting (the BA is not for mining) will only be during drilling. For smaller drill rigs the use would be about 2 cubic metres per day, total of ~ 120 cu m. Using a larger drill rig it could be a figure of 10 cubic metres per day, total of ~ 600 cu.m. See table detailing these requirements.	212
211	de Witt, Linda	Owner of Eastbrooke	Concerned that any impact on the water provision of the catchment and/or the water quality would impact seriously on their property	Water Use	A specialist study will investigate the potential impacts of the prospecting on the water production of the catchment. Water quality will be monitored prior, during and after the prospecting. Mitigation will also ensure prevention of pollution from sanitation, sediment and waste. A geohydrological study is being commissioned as part of the Basic Assessment.	213

181	Gardner, Michael	HADEF	5. A mine could use 3000 cubic metres of water a day and this quantity was not available in Haenertsburg. A study was necessary to look at the eventual impact of a mine. One did not get onto the bottom rung of a ladder if one did not intend getting to the top. Could not only look at prospecting.	Water Use	5. The point is noted, but at this stage it is not possible to look at a mining scenario as it is not known if the project will go this far, nor is any information on the size / value of the possible deposit available. However, should mining be considered in future, options for the location and design of the treatment plant would have to be carefully considered to mitigate this problem.	214
172	Gyedu-Ababio, Thomas	Manager: Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation, Kruger National Park	3. This kind of mining activity will use/need a lot of water and the Letaba system is quite stressed at the moment. It will therefore be appropriate to ensure the availability of water for your activities before you embark on any exploration projects.	Water Use	3. The BA is for prospecting and not for mining and will use relatively small amounts of water. But this concern is noted and DWAF will be consulted to ensure legitimate water use. See attached table for water use and other details.	215
144	Kohne, Sylvie & Stefan	Haenertsburg Residents & FROHG	2. Where will the water required for the proposed prospecting operation come from?	Water Use	2. The best option will be looked for following discussions with DWAF, the municipality and the land owners.	216

145	Kohne, Sylvie & Stefan	Haenertsburg Residents & FROHG	3. What are the instantaneous, monthly and annual water requirements of the entire proposed prospecting operation (sensitive areas <u>and</u> areas not identified as sensitive)?	Water Use	3. For pitting water is not necessary. For smaller drill rigs the use would be about 2 cubic metres per day, total of ~ 120 cu m. Using a larger drill rig it could be a figure of 10 cubic metres per day, total of ~ 600 cu.m. See table detailing these requirements.	217
146	Kohne, Sylvie & Stefan	Haenertsburg Residents & FROHG	6. Will there be any storage of water? If so, will platforms be prepared for water storage facilities on slopes?	Water Use	6. There could be a maximum of 1000 litres stored in a container for recycling - either a lined depression in the ground or a porta pool type structure. In addition, water tanks with clean water of up to 5000 l may be required. These will be temporary storage containers and low platforms would be considered for stability reasons. This could in fact reduce the impact on vegetation.	218
147	Kohne, Sylvie & Stefan	Haenertsburg Residents & FROHG	7. What other uses of water, apart from taking and storing are envisaged? (The possible water uses, as per sections 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 are listed in the attachment.)	Water Use	7. Water will only be used for drilling and possibly for some wetting of tracks to suppress dust. It will not be taken from site unless agreed to with the land owner.	219

121	Mabada, Donald	DWAF Water Quality	Suggested the Lepelle Water Board be consulted regarding lawful water use. Responding to a query regarding best practice for disposing of recycled water on completion of drilling, one of the suggestions was testing the quality of the water and then using it for wetting of roads in dust alleviation.	Water Use	This positive comment was noted and would be further investigated. The geohydrological study has established that the best practice to dispose of liquid residue from drilling will be to test the quality, skim off any hydrocarbon for hazardous waste disposal and then use the liquid and fine sediment in the bentonite mixture which will be used to grout boreholes that will not be used in the future. This option is approved by DWAF.	220
119	Machumele, T.M.	Greater Tzaneen Municipality	2. It was requested that proper consultation be done to ensure water use was lawful.	Water Use	2. This will be done.	221
110	McComb	Graham	1.Suggested that source / supply of water be looked for as close to the site as possible to be sensible and not waste resources.	Water Use	1. This would be done, but it would not be assumed that the water could be obtained on site.	222



86	Morris, Rob	Nikiwe Consulting cc& Mountain Yacht Club, Ebenezer Dam	<p>1. 1. We have major concerns about the proposed prospecting and mining of the Iron Crown Mountain. This is the watershed for the Olifants and Letaba catchments and any threat to this crucial water supply can have devastating effects on the livelihood of the majority of Limpopo's population. The Letaba area is the bread basket of the lowveld and farming is the major industry. To threaten this with proposed diamond mining of its water source, for short term gain is unacceptable. To be honest we all know that the prospecting itself will not have major effects on the environment but mining itself will have major long term detrimental effects. For us to make sure mining does not take place we must oppose every aspect of the processes that can lead to mining.</p>	Water Use	<p>1. The importance of water to the area and region is accepted. DWAF will be approached to ensure that any water used in prospecting is obtained legally. The quantities required for drilling are not excessive. A geohydrological survey will be undertaken to determine whether prospecting will impact the catchments.</p>	223
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77	Perkins, Luke	Member of FROHGS WESSA	<p>2c. <u>Water</u> - Significant quantities of water will be used in the prospecting phase. The Applicant does not yet know how much water will be used, and desires a free hand to use as much water as he needs. The water might be purchased from a farmer in the hills where prospecting is proposed, or might be drawn from a water source lower down, such as Tzaneen Municipality or Ebenezer Dam. Neither case is unacceptable as both catchments in question are already over-allocated. The Applicant would probably be able to purchase adequate water, but only to the detriment of poorer people who cannot afford it, and to the detriment of the catchment system and those who use it long after the Applicant has left the area. For these reasons, the Limpopo Branch of WESSA does not</p>	Water Use	<p>23c. In most cases drilling would use about 2 cubic metres per day (similar to twice an average household) but if large diameter drilling proved to be necessary, as much as 10 cubic metres could be used per day for a maximum period of 1 month at a time. This type of drilling could be undertaken at two sites during the prospecting. DWAF would be approached as to where it would be best to collect the water from, if there was no suitable source locally. See table detailing these requirements.</p>	224
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		believe that the proposed prospecting activity can be seriously entertained. The constraints of the Letaba /Ebenezer catchment and Olifants / Steelpoort catchments were cited in detail from different reports.		
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30	Thompson, Sylvia	Local Farmer.	<p>1. Wanted the long term picture of what the mountain supplied to be considered. The mountain supplied water and employment. Thought that a mine would destroy both these and affect not only the Haenertsburg community but those further down the catchment.</p>	Water Use	<p>The issue of adequate water is critical for mining and could be a fatal flaw regarding a mine being established here. The current project is only looking at prospecting and it is thought that the prospecting will not have a significant impact on the quantity of water used or the production capacity of the catchment. A geohydrological study will be undertaken to determine any possible negative impacts. The prospecting will not impact on any current employment, but may offer a few part time jobs to the communities living in the proximity.</p>	225
25	van Rooyen, Louis	Agri Letaba	The non-availability of water	Water Use	<p>1. The importance of water to the area and region is accepted. DWAF will be approached to ensure that any water used in prospecting is obtained legally. The quantities required for drilling are not excessive. A geohydrological survey will be undertaken to determine whether prospecting will impact the catchment.</p>	226

15	Venter, Andre	Letaba Water User Association	2. Concern regarding the non-availability of water requirements for this project (volumes needed not specified)	Water Use	2. Consultation will be undertaken with DWAF or the municipality to ensure legitimate water use for the prospecting activities. See table detailing these requirements.	227
84	Mosefowa, William	Dept. of Water Affairs and Forestry	1. Requested a field visit when the team were next in the area.	Water Use.	1. Very happy to accompany them on a field visit and look at streams and springs. Visit conducted.	228

PART 2 APPENDIX E**Section 3**

Copies of correspondence received from stakeholders.

List of Stakeholders from whom correspondence was received. Submissions from the night of the public information / participation meeting are also included.

**Name**

Ben de Boer

Brian Slater

Cathy Dzerefos on behalf of the Botanical Society of South Africa

Nipper Thompson

Henk Mienie – Divisional Head, Solid Waste, Tzaneen Municipality

JJ. Branson – Chairman Residents and Ratepayers Association of Haenertsburg.

Marc Leroy

Bob Liddle - Imanyano Mineral Resources (Pty) Ltd

Linda Wilkinson

Louise Aggenbag

Luke Perkins on behalf on Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa

Andre Venter on behalf of the Letaba Water User Association

Sello Seroto – Ward Councillor for Greater Tzaneen Municipality

Michael Gardner

Pieter De Villiers

Rob Morris - Nikiwe Consulting & Mountain Yacht Club, Ebenezer Dam

Willie Human

Shelley Milstein

Sylvie and Stefan Kohne

Dr Thomas Gyedu-Ababio, Manager Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation, KNP.

Theo van Rooyen , Environmental Management, Capricorn District Municipality.

Vincent Egan

Louis van Rooyen on behalf of Agri Letaba

Elise Tempelhof - , Journalist, Die Beeld Newspaper

Rentia Victor - Magoebaskloof Tourism

Richard Blandy – Magoebaskloof Tourism

Maggy Machumele – Environmental Department, Greater Tzaneen Municipality

Ian Burman, Chairman Friends of the Haenertsburg Grasslands

Laurie Railton

Hi Jan

From BirdLife South Africa's side I feel that the specialist studies need to be undertaken over a year long period to assess where the birds are at different times of the year. The Blue Swallows mentioned in the meeting may not be breeding there but there are sightings every year in the area around sept/oct and again in march/April. They do seem to be utilising the grasslands in their migrations to and from the current breeding grounds.

The status of the Golden Moles must be established in that area as well.

Ben De Boer

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Hi Jan

Thank you for arranging for Andrew McDonald to send me his presentation from the 22 May public meeting. However, I am disappointed that he decided to send me a printout as opposed to the electronic version. Surely it is far more environmentally responsible to use electronic versions rather than expensive laser printing and paper? At least he used duplex printing.

Here are my comments regarding the Phase II EIA and Public Meeting:

1. The unrehabilitated Marsfontein Diamond Mine issue needs to be fully documented. By this I mean that De Beers needs to fully explain in writing why the mine was not rehabilitated after closer. The research I have undertaken indicates that as of 2003 the mine was still owned by De Beers. This is 3 years after they stopped mining there. As I stated in the public meeting Marsfontein is relevant because of the issue of trust. How can IAP's trust De Beers to prospect in a highly sensitive location in an environmentally responsible manner when they have left such an environmental disaster at Marsfontein? Please include the attached document as part of my response
2. A report on the likely hood of successful rehabilitation after large diameter prospecting needs to be undertaken by a Specialist Rehabilitation Practitioner. A close look at the print out of Andrew McDonald's presentation reveals the following about large diameter drilling: A large diameter drill rig weighs about 30 tones and 6 holes will be drilled; 10t trucks will remove the samples requiring approximately 10 trips. De Beers plans to build a "track" into an undisturbed sensitive grassland for this drill rig and 10t trucks. And then rehabilitate to the same condition? How? Surely a basic EIA is not an adequate approach to such a huge impact?
3. At the public meeting De Beers agreed to follow-up meetings once the specialist reports had been completed. You as the Independent EIA Practitioner are obligated to ensure the De Beers adheres to this undertaking. This implies that the amended EMPlan will not be submitted for approval until these meetings have taken place.

Regards  
Brian Slater

Hi Jan

I am a resident of Haenertsburg.

I refer to Figure 2 of the Background Information Document.

Please provide me with the GPS co-ordinates of the EIA site polygon.

Thanks and regards  
Brian

Hi Brian,  
Herewith below please find the approximate co-ordinates of the study area for the EIA for which I have been appointed as EAP. I do not have the co-ordinates for the rest of Ndowana's prospecting area.

Many people have sent in comments with regard to the impacts on the environment resulting from the proposed prospecting activities for this next phase of the prospecting programme. These have been acknowledged and been noted for response, and information supplied where requested. One cannot



attend to all things simultaneously, so please be a little patient if you do not get an immediate reply as there are many emails and requests to be attended to other than yours.

In response to the request at the meeting for an extension to the comment period I will be sending out an email on this. Your request in this regard has been noted.

In decimal degrees, datum WGS 84

E corner	S23.99306 E29.92779
ESE corner	S23.99848 E29.92770
NE corner	S23.98837 E29.92493
NW corner	S23.99140 E29.91999
SE corner	S23.99998 E29.92619
SW corner	S24.00002 E29.92431
W corner	S23.99674 E29.92430

In UTM 35 S coordinates X then Y, datum WGS 84:

E corner	797892 7343445
ESE corner	797870 7342845
NE corner	797612 7343971
NW corner	797102 7343646
SE corner	797713 7342682
SW corner	797522 7342681
W corner	797528 7343045

Regards,  
Jan

Hi Jan

Thanks for these documents, do you have a copy of the existing EMPlan that you could send me?

What time of year will the proposed prospecting take place? I ask because in the “dry season” there is a risk of fire to the surrounding plantations.

Thanks  
Brian

Hi Brian,

No unfortunately I do not have a copy of the existing EM Plan which I could send you. It is a pretty big document.

Yes, the operating procedures take the hazards of fire in the winter months into account. In summer it is the hazard of churning up roads, and also creating a greater impact if areas of grassland need to be traversed. So all these factors need to be considered. But thank you, and I will note your concern. We look forward to meeting you on 22nd.

Regards,  
Jan

Hi Jan

At the meeting on 22 May will you be showing more photos of the proposed site?

I ask because Figure 4 of the Background Document is a photo with the view north. However you have not included a photo of the view south from the same spot. Nor have you included any photos taken from the south or the west of the site. This means that the south western and south eastern corners of the site are not shown in Background Document.

It also means that the terrain the “possible new track” mentioned in Figure 3 will traverse is not pictured in any photograph, satellite image excluded. In fact there is a dearth of information specifically regarding this “possible new track” in the Background Document.

The photos in the Background Document are uncredited so may I assume that you took them yourself?

Regards  
Brian

Hi Brian,

Thanks for your email. When I was last up on the mountain with Pieter Winter and Andrew, the Senior Project Manager, it was very misty and our opportunity for taking photographs was limited by reduced visibility, but I did the best I could. Yes, I will be taking more photographs when up there before the meeting, and can try and show the views you wish to see.

It was thought that the image was the best way to indicate the possible new track, as this cannot be done in a single photo. Will try, weather permitting to get some additional photos.

Brian, please could you email me your specific interest or concern in the prospecting so that I can add this to the register.

Many thanks.

Look forward to meeting you on 22nd.

Kind regards,

Jan

Hi Jan

Please forward me the attendance register from last nights meeting.

I would also like to get a copy of Andrew’s presentation.

Thanks

Brian

Hi Brian,

Please could you send me your fax number so that I can fax you the attendance register which you requested.

I do not have a copy of the presentation Andrew gave, but will speak to him and try and get a copy.

In one of your previous emails you asked about specialist reports. I do not have any specialist reports other than Pieter's. I still have to discuss a couple of things I would like to include, and have some queries on other things, so would like to sort these things out first, and not have different people getting different versions of it.

With regard to the GPS co-ordinates, I will try and get those and send them to you early next week.

Kind regards,

Jan

No reply from fax machine - fax unable to go through.  
Regards,  
Jan

Hi Brian,

I tried to fax the attendance register several times but it did not go through. Subsequently I have discovered that the register is actually a confidential document and I am not at liberty to disclose details like cell numbers and email addresses without the consent of the persons. But I can certainly send you the list indicating who was present at the meeting and who they were representing, so I will get this information copied and courier it to you today. I trust this is in order? I will get it out before midday so it should be with you before midday tomorrow - I will send it to your box number so please ask for it at the Post Office counter.

Kind regards,  
Jan

Hi Brian,  
Attendance register couriered yesterday. Page 11 with the De Beers people, Ndowana and my name got left behind - will follow by snail mail.  
Regards,

Hi Brian,  
Please could you confirm if you received the register that was couriered to you?  
Regards,  
Jan

Hi Jan

Welcome back to Haenertsburg, hope you have a chance during your visit to enjoy "the mountain" with all its natural splendour.

Attached are photos I took on or near the proposed prospecting site on 10 May looking south, west, and north west. You may use them in your presentation on Thursday. If you would like I could explain their location to the audience.

I'm pleased you mentioned Pieter Winter. Could you please forward me the Botanical Specialist Report? I would also appreciate it if other specialist reports that you have received to date be forwarded to me.

You may note on your register that my concern is that all relevant information that could inform decision making has not been included in the Background Document (as evidenced by the lack of photos of the south and west of the site) and that other relevant documents have not been released to IAP's timeously.

See you on Thursday.

Regards  
Brian

REPLY TO THE ABOVE IS IN THE COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE

Hi Jan

As you know today is the deadline for submitting comments re Ndowana Phase 2 Prospecting.

I have not received any reply from you regarding my request on 23 May for the attendance register and Andrew's PowerPoint presentation.

On 28 May I have also requested the co-ordinates of the whole of the Ndowana 2 prospecting right.

Consequently I hereby request an extension in the deadline for submissions to 2 days after I receive the requested information.

Please note I have copied this message to some other IAP's so that there cannot be any dispute as to when my request for an extension was sent.

Thanks  
Brian

Hi Brian,

Many thanks - have added you to the list of Interested and Affected parties.

Would also be keen to note down your main concern(s) with the prospecting if you would care to list these briefly in an email? Do you work in the area?

Attached are the approximate co=ordinates of the polygon as requested:

In decimal degrees, datum WGS 84

E corner	S23.99306 E29.92779
ESE corner	S23.99848 E29.92770
NE corner	S23.98837 E29.92493
NW corner	S23.99140 E29.91999
SE corner	S23.99998 E29.92619
SW corner	S24.00002 E29.92431
W corner	S23.99674 E29.92430

In UTM 35 S coordinates X then Y, datum WGS 84:

E corner	797892 7343445
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NE corner	797612 7343971
NW corner	797102 7343646
SE corner	797713 7342682
SW corner	797522 7342681
W corner	797528 7343045

Regards,  
Jan Phelan

Dear Jan

Please acknowledge receipt of the following email.

**Concerns for second phase prospecting by Ndowana Exploration Two, near Iron Crown Mntn, Limpopo Province**

Submitted by: Cathy Dzerefos BSc (Hons) MSc

On behalf of: BotSoc (Botanical Society of South Africa)

cc Mark Botha, Cape Conservation Unit, BotSoc, Private Bag X10, Claremont, 7700

The following issues / concerns are expressed regarding the proposed extension of prospecting by Ndowana Exploration Two (Pty) Ltd, a joint venture between Mvelaphanda Resources (Pty) Ltd. and De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited near Haenertsburg, Limpopo Province.

***Sensitive areas***

The EMP compiled in the first phase of prospecting by Ndowana highlighted numerous endemic and red data plants and animals in the area therefore the entire area should be viewed as sensitive not just sites with pristine vegetation. The BID states that a Basic EIA is only being done for what the EMP recognised as sensitive. This raises the question where else is second phase prospecting taking place and how is this impacting on the ecological functioning of the area? In the interests of integrated management of environmental issues this information needs to be made available.

***Specialist biodiversity reports***

Specialist reports are required for all red data and endemic fauna and flora that could be located in the area and must take place at the correct time of year when these are likely to be seen. The specialist reports must be made available for comment and review to the public and also to specialists in the Biodiversity section of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. If the Department does not have the relevant specialist available then an external reviewer should be appointed. It is requested that the date for public comments to be submitted is extended to give opportunity to review these reports.

***Gradient of site***

As this is mountainous terrain with very steep slopes and rocky protrusions the impacts of heavy vehicles, parking places, storage places and site for toilets will each require substantial earthworks to level the ground and obtain access this seems to have been underestimated in the background information document.

The BID does not mention whether the drill rig will be fenced but it is assumed that this will be the case to comply with health and safety regulations. The impacts of erecting a fence in this rocky area would be high and difficult to rehabilitate.

***Access tracks for prospecting***

The linear impact of tracks and the ecological degradation that will occur through the Iron Crown grasslands, Forest Glen afro-montane forest, springs and water courses need to be explored in full before any further prospecting occurs.

The track from the Iron Crown is extremely steep, goes close to a drainage line possibly a spring and will be in pristine grasslands. The second track from the Haenertsburg side shows what kind of damage is suffered by this soil type when a track is built and the difficulties in rehabilitating and controlling disturbances to an area which is prone to high rainfall events and is exposed to fire and wind.

It is a concern that pristine grasslands and forests that have previously been inaccessible to the public will be accessible with the tracks proposed for the second phase of prospecting. It is anticipated that

off road driving, poaching of plants and animals will follow and the wilderness nature of the area or sense of place will be lost.

***A Strategic Environmental Assessment:***

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required to determine whether this area should be part of the Wolkberg Wilderness area and the Kruger to Canyon Biosphere Reserve. It is noted that the site is at the confluence of the Drakensberg and the Strydpoort mountains and at the water shed of two catchments (Letaba/Luvuvhu and the Olifants). In terms of long-term planning of water provision for Limpopo province the watercatchment function of this area is vital and in urgent need of protection. It is not clear whether the existing plantations are legitimate. The Haenertsburg community has commissioned a hydrology report dated May 2008, which concludes that: "It is abundantly clear that, apart from the possible allowance of some borehole water for the farm Paardevlei, all new water uses required for the future mining operation will have to be purchased from existing lawful water users. A licence will be required for such transfers. No licence for the use of "new" water will be contemplated by DWAF, as both the catchments in question are already under severe water shortage stress".

The site's proximity to the Iron Crown mountain which is Limpopo's highest point make it the ideal place for monitoring climate change as the first impacts of climate change will be picked up here. The proposed prospecting site is a worthwhile addition to the Wolkberg Wilderness area. The site also forms an important biotic corridor between the northern Drakensberg, Strydpoort and Leolo mountains of Sekhukhune, particularly note worthy for reptiles.

Cummulative impacts and environmental degradation must be considered to protect the integrity of this sensitive area and plan for rehabilitation. It is a concern that another diamond mining company (Southern Era) is prospecting on adjacent land and that Ndowana may also be prospecting in places that they consider non-sensitive. In the interests of integrated management it is essential that all suspected kimberlite areas, second phase prospecting sites and possible areas for mines be identified and prioritised to ensure sustainable development. One example is that companies plan together so that a minimum number of tracks and infrastructure is required. When economics were at stake last year the two companies managed to commission a joint magnetic helicopter survey so it is requested that in the interests of biodiversity and catchment they consolidate their efforts.

Currently there is a charcoal burning operation which has not had an EIA undertaken a few kilometres from the site and it is essential that this be sorted out before any further activities be permitted in this sensitive area.

***Water Quantity***

In the Great Letaba Water Resources Development Main Feasibility Report compiled by BKS, Dec 1998, the proposed prospecting site occurs in what they refer to as "the most important uplands around Haenertsburg and the Magoebaskloof which generate a very significant proportion of total runoff in the Great Letaba River. Numerous other scientific reports commissioned by DWAF re iterate the importance of the catchment area which includes the proposed prospecting site. Landowners in the area have stated that the local springs have never run dry. It is highly likely that prospecting will reduce the catchment of the area as drill rigs and trucks compact the soil and the flow of springs is affected by deep drilling activities. The hydrology of the area including all springs and all wetlands need to be identified and the impact of prospecting operations fully assessed by a professional hydrologist.

***Water Quality***

There is a good chance that iron pyrites are found on the proposed prospecting site. Once exposed to oxygen and water by drilling iron pyrite decomposes to a soluble sulphate of iron which results in sulphuric acid being formed. The risk and effect of this needs to be thoroughly investigated.

***Protected status of the farm Colberg***

According to Cor Van Den Bergh ex Reserve manager of the Wolkberg Wilderness area and the person who found the Blue Swallow nest on the farm Colberg, this is a protected area. According to section 4(48) of the protected areas act, DME cannot unilaterally issue prospecting rights without the written permission from the Minister of Environmental Affairs.

***Access to information***

In the interests of transparency it is requested that copies of prospecting permits be made available as soon as they are issued along with full details of planned rehabilitation.

It is also requested that environmental performance assessments or audits on the EMP submitted for first phase prospecting be made available for public comment before further activities are undertaken.

***Other people that should be contacted for comments:***

Please contact the following people for their comments:

- Sue Posnik a well known environmental impact assessment consultant in the mining industry who knows the area and has recommended that a SEA be undertaken.
- Martha Komape Water Resource Management DWAF
- Willem Du Toit Groundwater specialist at the DWAF

Best Regards  
**Cathy Dzerefos**

## KIMBERLITE CONDEMNATION REPORT REQUIRES THE DESTRUCTION OF PRISTINE MOUNTAIN GRASSLAND.

Kimberlites have been located in the Haenertsburg area and even though they probably do not contain diamonds they will be studied and sampled until a final Condemnation reports can be filed.

It is well known that many Kimberlites contain no diamonds at all. With this in mind and knowing the mining history of the Haenertsburg area, it is obvious that the possibility of this prospect becoming a viable mine are very slim indeed.

Major prospecting for gold occurred in this area 100 years ago. With gold and diamond fever motivating hordes of people the area was thoroughly searched. Every little stream was panned and gold bearing ore bodies located. This area lends itself to the oldest and most reliable means of gold and diamond prospecting, ie by panning. There are enough streams sampling the area as well as water to facilitate the panning process.

Many areas were mined but in all the mining history very little mention is made of this being a diamond bearing area. How did the earlier prospectors manage to miss these major Kimberlites? It is more than likely that they are barren. The ilmenite garnet and pyroxene tracer minerals that are present would appear to be found in the ratios that indicate that the kimberlites could be diamond bearing but where are the diamonds to back this up? Are these grasslands to be destroyed as a result of the Maasfontein Effect? De Beers actually discovered Maasfontein but decided that it was too small and so failed to exploit it. When the quality and richness of the ore body was verified it was a major embarrassment. Now with the discovery of any Kimberlite no expense will be spared to asses the potential of the ore body. Bulk sampling of the Kimberlite in this extremely threatened grassland is unacceptable and cannot be allowed.

Ndowana and any other diamond mining company in this area needs to supply an extremely strong argument that there are diamonds in this area. This a very steep and rugged terrain with numerous streams sampling and concentrating heavy minerals, if no diamonds can be found then it is obvious that they are not present. We cannot allow the Maasfontein Effect to damage an extremely sensitive area.

Nipper Thompson Bsc Geology Hons UCT



Dear Jan.

1. Please register the Solid Waste Division as a I.A.P. at this stage.
2. Place on record that we require a "Integrated Industry Waste Management Plan" before any comments be made regarding the application
3. The "I.W.P." must be developed by a "Waste Management Specialist " which must address the following issues in detail viz
  1. Waste Minimization (Re-use;recycling & reduction)
  2. Containerization
  3. Collection & transportation
  4. Treatment
  5. Disposal
  6. Control & Auditing

Kind regards,

Henk Mienie  
Divisional Head:Solid Waste  
Greater Tzaneen Municipality  
P.O.Box 24  
Tzaneen  
0850  
Tel:015-3078291  
Cell:083-294-1960  
E-Mail:henk.mienie@tzaneen.gov.za

I will be in attendance and am particularly concerned about water requirement and residue.

JJ Branson

Dear Jan

After attending the public meeting last night I decided to email some comments through to you.

Please note that I will be adding extra comments once I read through the supplied documents thoroughly!

The first point that I would like to raise here quickly however is the issue of legislation. LEMA is still in place and as such applies to the development.

Chapter 8 Section 64.1.c.ii and iii states that “no person may without a permit pick (**defined as** gather, cut off, chop off, uproot, damage or to destroy wholly or partially, or any similar action) any indigenous plant;

(ii) on land next to a public road within a distance of 100 meters measured from the centre of the road; and

(iii) within an area bordering any natural water course, whether wet or dry, up to and within a distance of 50 meters from the high water mark on either side of the natural water course”

In terms of this any activity that does this (it was stated last night that some sampling will be near streams) will need a permit in terms of LEMA.

I will be assessing other relevant issues over the next couple of days.

Regards

**MARC LEROY**

**Conservation Scientist:  
Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism  
Cell: 082 412 7703  
Cnr. Dorp and Suid Streets  
Polokwane**

**FORM FOR COMMENTS:**

Title	Mr
First Name	Bob
Surname	Liddle
Initials	RS
Organisation/ Property Name	Imanyano Mineral Resources (Pty) Ltd
Interest in Project	Imanyano Mineral Resources (Pty) Ltd in joint venture with SouthernEra Management Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd (the Joint Venture referred to below) is the holder of Prospecting Right 237/2006 for diamonds over various contiguous properties to the west, north and east of the Ndowana Exploration Two prospecting right. The Joint Venture's prospecting right includes the farms Doornhoek 1080LS and Eastbrooke 198KS. These properties adjoin the 'prospecting site' / EIA area delineated by Ndowana Exploration Two.
Postal Address	PO Box 5606, Tygervalley
Post Code	7653
Tel Number	012 660 1432
Cell Number	083 261 3492
Fax Number	012 660 1432
Email	liddles@worldonline.co.za

1. The following issues must be noted regarding the proposed extension of prospecting by Ndowana Exploration Two near Haenertsburg:

- The Joint Venture has not been engaged as a stakeholder (I & A P).
- If access to the prospecting site is required over the Joint Venture's ground holding, then the Joint Venture's operations could be impeded/affected by access roads etc..
- Joint Venture access to the eastern portion of Doornhoek is only feasible along the fire break on the Paeroa side of the common farm boundary. The access gate onto Doornhoek falls within the Ndowana prospecting site.
- Operations within the prospecting site could encroach on the Joint Venture's ground holding.
- The performance of Ndowana Exploration Two (Pty) Ltd could be used to prejudge the activities of the Joint Venture.

2. Any additional comments or queries? N/A

EAP Contact Details:

- ~ Jan Phelan
- ~ P.O. Box 25, Howick, 3290
- ~ Cell: 082 876 0003
- ~ Email [mwplanit@mweb.co.za](mailto:mwplanit@mweb.co.za)

*Compiled by :*

*RS Liddle*

*Geologist*

*Imanyano Resources (Pty) Ltd.*

*25 May, 2008*

Dear Jan,

I have an overnight accommodation (Cottages) establishment in Haenertsburg, situated on Rissik st.(The main street)

It is a themed development reflecting the History of Haenertsburg when the village was founded in 1887.

With respect to the proposed diamond mining activities in this area, I have the following concerns as these activities could have dire consequences to my business:

The increased noise factor and increased carbon emissions of heavy transport vehicles, making their way through the village, will be detrimental to the safety and privacy of villagers and tourists.

Tourists come to Haenertsburg and to this area for its tranquility and natural beauty.

Regards,

Linda Wilkinson

**The Pennefather self-catering cottages  
105 Rissik st.  
Haenertsburg.**

**079 525 7849**

Môre Jan,

Baie dankie vir vinnige aanstuur van die inligting, en ek vra om verskoning dat ek aangeneem het jy is manlik! Ja dankie, ek sal dit waardeer as jy my as 'n I&AP kan registreer en op hoogte hou van die vordering van die proses. Ek sal graag na die BAR wil kyk wanneer dit vir openbare insae beskikbaar is.

Het jy miskien 'n kaart wat aandui waar die terrein teenoor Haenertsburg geleë is? Ek herken nie die plaasname wat op die liggingskaart in die inligtingsdokument sigbaar is nie. Hoe ver is die terrein van Haenertsburg?

'n Paar navrae wat ek oor die voorgestelde prospektering het:

- Gaan die toetsgate eweredig oor die hele aangeduide terrein versprei wees of net in sekere areas gekonsentreer wees? In geval van eersgenoemde, is ek bekommerd oor die impak wat die *drill rigs*, vragmotors en werkers (te voet) op die sensitiewe ekologie sal hê. Is ek korrek om aan te neem dat feitlik die hele terrein versteur sal word deur die swaar voertuie en masjinerie wat van toetsgat na toetsgat beweeg?
- M.b.t. die areas wat op die liggingskaart in swart en blou aangedui word as Prospecting Right: word prospektering reeds op hierdie terreine onderneem, of is dit die nie-sensitiewe areas waarna verwys word waar prospektering nou gaan begin?
- Hoeveel (watter grootte area) van die terrein wat op die liggingskaart as EIA-terrein aangedui word, bestaan uit sensitiewe habitate? Of is die sg. EIA-terrein geheel en al sensitief?
- Gaan werkers tydens prospektering op 'n daaglikse basis na die terrein vervoer word, of is die plan dat hulle op die terrein gehuisves sal word?
- Hoeveel werkers sal betrokke wees by die prospektering?
- As daar nie voldoende kimberlite gevind word om ontginning te verwerdig nie, neem ek aan dat die versteurde area gerehabiliteer sal word?
- Die inligtingsdokument dui aan dat geraas a.g.v. boor-aktiwiteit nie harder sal wees as geraas wat met nabygeleë *timber harvesting* gepaard gaan nie. Beteken dit dat die prospektering gedoen sal word wanneer *harvesting* in omliggende platasies gedoen word? Ek neem aan daar word nie heeljaar, elke jaar in die omgewing naby die terrein hout geoes nie?
- Is daar enige kans dat die prospekteringsaktiwiteit die risiko vir bosbrande sal verhoog?
- Watter spesialisstudies beplan julle tydens hierdie BA?
- Ek sien nie dat daar in die inligtingsdokument iets van 'n Openbare Vergadering genoem word nie – kyk ek dit net mis of gaan daar nie 'n vergadering behou word nie?

Ek besef dat hierdie BA slegs vir die prospektering is en dat, as die kimberlite gevind word, 'n aparte studie onderneem sal word om aansoek te doen vir die ontginning daarvan, maar ek is bekommerd oor die impakte wat die ontginning sal hê as daar wel kimberlite gevind word. Sal die BAR 'n uiteensetting bevat van watter impakte rondom die ontginning verwag kan word indien daar kimberlite op die terrein gevind word? Ek besef die BAR sal nou nie in fyn besonderhede van daardie impakte kan ingaan nie, aangesien dit nie direk die onderwerp van hierdie BA is nie, maar dit is tog impakte wat indirek a.g.v. hierdie prospektering verwag kan word, want indien die prospektering nie plaasvind nie, sal daar ook nie later ontginning plaasvind nie. Impakte wat met ontginning kan verband hou, waarvoor beide ek en my man bekommerd is, is die volgende:

- Geraas
- Erosie
- Potensiële negatiewe impak op toerisme
- Ligbesoedeling (ek neem aan daar sal deurnag beligting by die myn wees?)
- Is daar voldoende water beskikbaar? Wat sal met *waste water* en riool gedoen word?
- Daar is tans nie elektrisiteit in Haenertsburg beskikbaar vir verdere ontwikkeling nie. Wat is die situasie i.t.v. elektrisiteit op die terrein waar die prospektering voorgestel word?
- Sal daar 'n ekwivalente area van sensitiewe habitat deur die aansoeker bewaar word om die area wat deur die myn verwoes word, te *offset*?
- Waarvandaan sal die arbeiders getrek word en sal daar vir Tzaneen-omgewing enige voordeel hierin wees?

- Behuising vir werkers? Sal hulle op die terrein gehuisves word of daagliks van woongebiede ingery word?
- Gaan dit nodig wees vir die toegangspaaie om verbreed te word?
- As die myn gevestig sou word, sou toegang nog steeds via Haenertsburg wees of sou daar dan vanuit 'n ander rigting 'n toegang gebou word?

Dankie!  
Louise

---

Dear Jan

Thank you for a very well-run meeting last night.

I don't think I have formally registered as an I&AP so would like to do so now.

Name: Luke Perkins  
Organisation: WESSA (Wildlife and Environment Society of SA), Limpopo Branch, PO Box 70,  
Haenertsburg 0730  
Contact: 015 276 5001  
082 9348 365  
[wessa@limpopomail.co.za](mailto:wessa@limpopomail.co.za)

Initial major concerns:

Water usage  
Wolkberg Granite Grasslands  
Access Roads

I will however email you a comprehensive set of comments next week.

Regards  
Luke

**Luke Perkins**  
Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa  
WESSA: Limpopo Province



Northern Areas Region: Limpopo Branch

**Northern Areas Region**

P.O. Box 435, Ferndale 2160  
18 Blackwood Street, Bryanston Ext 3, Johannesburg  
Tel: +27 (0) 11 462-5663 Fax: +27 (0) 11 462-8364  
e-mail: [info@wessanorth.co.za](mailto:info@wessanorth.co.za)  
<http://www.wildlifesociety.org.za>



**WILDLIFE AND  
ENVIRONMENT  
SOCIETY OF SA**

*People caring for the Earth*

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COMMENTS ON THE APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
AUTHORIZATION FOR NDOWANA EXPLORATION TO EXTEND ITS  
PROSPECTING ACTIVITIES IN THE HAENERTSBURG AREA



These comments are submitted by:

Luke Perkins  
of the Limpopo Office of WESSA

May 2008

INTRODUCTION

Ndowana Exploration has conducted limited prospecting in the Haenertsburg area since 2007. Application has been made to the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism for authorization to extend this prospecting, in a limited area but in more intensive and intrusive way.

These comments are submitted under the following assumptions:

- A. The current Basic Assessment/ EIA process, together with the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and the Limpopo Environmental Management Act (LEMA), exists to protect the environment and to properly investigate and assess the environmental impact of a project before economic activities commence.
- B. The Precautionary Principle\* and the concept of Sustainable Development as espoused and adopted as a guiding principle at the Johannesburg Sustainable Development Summit (2002) will be followed throughout and subscribed to by all stakeholders, including especially the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), the MEC of that Department, the Applicant, and the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).

\* The precautionary principle requires that, if there is a strong suspicion that a certain activity may have environmentally harmful consequences, it is better to control that activity now rather than to wait for incontrovertible scientific evidence. This principle is expressed in the [Rio Declaration](#), which stipulates that, where there are “threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.”

## DETAILED COMMENTS

### Comment 1: Woodbush Granite Grasslands

It has become apparent during the early stages of the public participation process that at least half of the proposed prospecting site (“the site”), as well as related areas which may be used for access and related activities, fall within a threatened vegetation type known as Woodbush Granite Grassland (WGG).

WGG is named and identified on page 412 of *The Vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland* by Mucina and Rutherford (eds). This is the latest and most authoritative work on the vegetation of South Africa, including Limpopo. Data from SANBI (South African National Biodiversity Institute) has been included in the vegetation descriptions and amongst other things, SANBI identifies WGG as:

- The most threatened vegetation type in Limpopo Province
- The least conserved vegetation type in the country (0% conserved)
- The highest conservation priority in Limpopo
- The most irreplaceable vegetation type in Limpopo
- Critically Endangered

SANBI recommends Conservation Targets for each vegetation type in the country. The Conservation Target recommended by SANBI for the WGG is 27% of the original vegetation. Only about 10% of the original vegetation remains, due to transformation to silviculture and other practices. Consequently, the Conservation Target can never be attained, even if all the remaining WGG were conserved. Since none of it is conserved, despite repeated calls, any damage to the existing vegetation cannot be mitigated by protection in a national park or nature reserve. Protection and conservation of the remaining fragments is therefore essential. Rehabilitation of Grasslands is extremely difficult, or impossible, after compaction by heavy machinery, removal for road building, pitting or drilling.

It is important to realise that SANBI is a South African National Institute, brought into being by an Act of Parliament, and reporting to the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. It has the backing of National Government. The status of the WGG as unique and irreplaceable must be seen in this light and it is hoped that the appropriate gravity is accorded this opinion.

The Limpopo Branch of WESSA can therefore not in all conscience support prospecting on this site. The prospecting activities proposed would certainly cause permanent damage to the Woodbush Granite Grasslands on site, and this damage cannot be mitigated.

The Limpopo Branch of WESSA therefore respectfully submits that, armed with this knowledge, it would be best for Ndowana to withdraw its application to expand prospecting. By their own estimates, there is about a 1% chance of finding diamonds worth mining on this site. To definitely destroy part of a Critically Endangered ecosystem for a 1% chance of finding suitable diamonds, makes no sense.

The Limpopo Branch of WESSA therefore maintains that prospecting should not be further contemplated on this site and that all activities in this regard cease immediately.

Comment 2

Notwithstanding the above, and in the unfortunate event that the application is not withdrawn, the following comments pertain:

2a. Full EIA

There is no doubt that a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is called for in this case. A full EIA is triggered by the reconnaissance activities referred to under Items 7 and 8 of Listing 2 (Scoping and EIA) under NEMA:

Listing 2 (extract)

7	Reconnaissance, exploration, production and mining as provided for in the Mineral	Mining activities (prospecting, mining, and mining closure) may have the following impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• degradation of ecosystems by destroying</li> </ul>
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	<p>and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), as amended in respect of such permits and rights.</p>	<p>and changing habitat;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water pollution from waste dumps;</li> <li>• increased water and energy usage;</li> <li>• noise and air pollution from transport and processing infrastructure;</li> <li>• cultural and socio-economic impacts on surrounding inhabitants (benefits from mining are rarely shared with local communities); and</li> <li>• influx of people could result in inflow of HIV/AIDS, other STDs, human transmittable diseases, prostitution, drugs, breakdown of social/cultural norms etc.</li> </ul>
8	<p>In relation to permits and rights granted in terms of 7 above, or any other right granted in terms of previous mineral legislation, the undertaking of any reconnaissance exploration, production or mining related activity or operation within a exploration, production or mining area, as defined in terms of section of 1 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002).</p>	

The law is thus clear on this point. Even were this not the case, the many environmental concerns raised under this proposal, and their gravity, call for a full EIA. Please note that Comment 1 above still takes precedence, ie that the entire venture should cease forthwith, but if it does not then the Precautionary Principle requires that a full Scoping and EIA are done.

## 2b. Northern Escarpment Quartzite Grassland

This is the other Grassland vegetation type on this site. It is not as threatened as WGG but its status is nonetheless described as “vulnerable” (pg 411, Mucina and Rutherford 2006). The Conservation Target is 27% and only 15% is formally conserved. Also, this vegetation type is closely related to the Wolkberg Centre of Endemism. In other words, many unique plants are found in this vegetation type and some could be found on site. Forbs in particular flower at different times of the year and not all are identifiable during one site visit, so a number of site visits would need to be made by the vegetation specialist. The fact that Northern Escarpment Quartzite

Grassland is also of conservation concern strengthens the argument that prospecting would be undesirable here.

A short note on the economic and cultural value of Grasslands may be relevant here:

As background information, it should be noted that the cultural use of Grasslands is deeply woven into the socio-economic fabric of life in Limpopo. Both medicinal and food plants are routinely harvested from Grasslands in general, and the Grasslands surrounding Haenertsburg in particular, and have been for hundreds of years. Dozens of plant species are involved and dozens of collectors are involved, some of them returning regularly at the same time each year.

The medicinal plant trade in South Africa is estimated to be worth around R 2,9 billion annually. For most (over 60%) South Africans, traditional medicine is the first and preferred option.

The Haenertsburg community has no desire to halt this activity, and through the efforts of the local group FROHG (Friends of the Haenertsburg Grasslands) is actively engaging with plant collectors. Advice has been sought from the Agricultural Research Council and GardenAfrica, a UK-based NGO which supports medicinal plant nurseries in South Africa, regarding medicinal plant use and cultivation. Haenertsburg may host such a nursery in the future, in order to ensure the future supply of these medicinal plants.

The proposed prospecting by Ndowana will have little or no impact on the plant trade. However, by clarifying the context of the use of these Grasslands, it can be seen that the purpose of preserving them is not merely for straightforward biodiversity reasons but for cultural and economic ones too. The economic benefit that plant collectors gain goes directly into their pockets, without being filtered through a multinational diamond mining company. The preservation and expansion of traditional knowledge is an empowering concept and its current interaction with western medicine is an exciting one which is supported by the Ministry of Health as well as numerous NGOs. We in the small village of Haenertsburg hope to be involved in this broader endeavour to the best of our ability.

## 2c. Water

Significant quantities of water will be used in the prospecting phase. The Applicant does not yet know how much water will be used, and desires a free hand to use as much water as he needs.

The water might be purchased from a farmer in the hills where prospecting is proposed, or might be drawn from a water source lower down, such as Tzaneen Municipality or Ebenezer Dam.

Neither case is unacceptable as both catchments in question are already over-allocated. The site in fact lies across a watershed, with some rainfall flowing north to the Letaba Catchment and the rest flowing south to the Olifants/ Steelpoort

catchment. WESSA has possession of data from various sources, including the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), Lepelle Northern Water and independent consultants, which indicates, inter alia:

i) The body mandated to draw water from Ebenezer Dam has a water use license for 32 kL per day. They freely admit to drawing anywhere from 52 to 55 kL per day.

The annual situation at Ebenezer Dam can be summarized thus:

*"The total quantity of water allocated from Ebenezer Dam is therefore 28.5 million m<sup>3</sup>/a. With a yield of 23.9 million m<sup>3</sup>/a (historical yield), the dam is currently over allocated."*

- Internal Strategic Perspective (ISP), DWAF. 2000.

Please note that the proposed prospecting site falls within the Groot Letaba/ Ebenezer Dam catchment.

*"No new allocations are possible from this [Groot Letaba] catchment. No new allocation can also be made as a result of the raising of Tzaneen Dam, as the additional yield will be fully absorbed in improving the assurance of supply."*

- Internal Strategic Perspective (ISP), DWAF, 2000.

Further,

*"Trading of allocations especially within a water sector will often be the preferred option for a user to obtain an allocation. Trading between sectors is however problematic. As an example, providing the future mining requirements with water by means of trading from agriculture would mean the "loss" of thousands of hectares of irrigation with the concomitant impact on existing employment and the social and economic fabric of the area. This level of trading would thus be ruled out as an option."*

- Internal Strategic Perspective (ISP), DWAF, 2000.

ii) Annual yield of the Letaba system: 160 million m<sup>3</sup>/a

Annual demand of the Letaba system: 177 million m<sup>3</sup>/a

(DWAF, 2000).

Ebenezer water also supplies Polokwane, and a reduction of their supplies would limit economic development there. It also supplies Kruger National Park, via the Letaba River. The Letaba River, according to SANPARKS, has experienced worryingly low levels in recent years. Climate change is predicted to exacerbate these conditions. The Letaba River also supplies Mozambique with water, and NGOs in Mozambique have already voiced concerns about a reduction in water supplies to Mozambique due to activities in South Africa.

Any further stress on this water catchment, by a project with only 1% chance of success, is undesirable, irresponsible and almost certainly illegal in that the guaranteed Ecological Reserve will not be maintained.

iii) The Olifants/ Steelpoort catchment is similarly strained. Boreholes in this catchment are also used to supply Polokwane with water, and the brown water reported by many Polokwane households during 2007 is suspected to come from this diminishing source. This water is pumped west, to Polokwane. The water flowing east is also, as with the Letaba system, of lower and lower volume each year. Climate change in this very hot area is expected by international scientists to further reduce the water supply in this catchment.

Annual local yield of the Olifants/ Steelpoort system: 609 million m<sup>3</sup>/a

Annual local demand of the Olifants/ Steelpoort system: 965 million m<sup>3</sup>/a

(DWAF, 2000).

The Applicant would probably be able to purchase adequate water, but only to the detriment of poorer people who cannot afford it, and to the detriment of the catchment system and those who use it long after the Applicant has left the area.

For these reasons, the Limpopo Branch of WESSA does not believe that the proposed prospecting activity can be seriously entertained.

## 2d. Fauna

Apart from the flora of the site, the fauna are extremely important and poorly understood. What little is known is cause for concern as there appear to be several endangered animals living on the site and in the vicinity, which would be impacted on by activities on site, during construction activities of any access roads, and during subsequent access to the site.

Initial surveys of which WESSA is aware have noted the following animal species in the vicinity:

Blue Swallow (historically and in recent times to c. 2004).

African Rock Python

Swazi Rock Snake

Methuen's Dwarf Gecko

Woodbush Legless Skink

Gunning's Golden Mole (around Haenertsburg and possibly up in the hills)

Bolas Spider (only one sighting outside of KZN, in the WGG above Haenertsburg).

A sufficient understanding of the fauna of this area, and how it would be affected, would therefore require the following specialist surveys:

Bird, mammal, herpetological, invertebrate.

## 2e. Compaction of soils

As noted above, this area plays a crucial role in water regulation. This is a montane catchment area, subject to frequent mists and sometimes heavy rainfall. It has the second highest precipitation in Limpopo and one of the highest in the country.

The interaction of water droplets, soil and underlying geology in channeling water down to the many streams and springs in this area is a fragile one. Compaction of soils while heavy machinery is brought onto site, and the operation of this heavy machinery, is cause for concern. Likely consequences will be compaction of soils over potentially wide areas, and subsequent interference with the subterranean water regime. Increased soil run-off from compacted areas is likely. Even worse, some of these slopes are very steep. Soil erosion could well be the consequence, with subsequent siltation of streams leading into Ebenezer Dam.

[These small streams are vital for Polokwane's water supply. At the end of winter, when Ebenezer Dam is typically low and Polokwane often has water restrictions, these streams draining the Iron Crown and vicinity run night and day. They are the water sources which keep Ebenezer from running dry and thus ensure that Polokwane has at least some water to drink. Few people in Polokwane realise how dependent they are on these streams.]

A hydrological or geohydrological survey is needed to investigate this aspect. The compaction of soils and likely impact is one of the many reasons why a full EIA is needed, if the proposal goes ahead.

## 2f. Steep Slopes

The site is on a very steep slope. Prospecting activities on this site are likely to disturb the soil in a manner which could lead to soil erosion. The same is true of road-building and road usage, especially by heavy trucks or machinery.

For this reason, prospecting on this site is ill-advised. Specialist studies must take into account the steep nature of the site.

## 2g. Further Surveys

WESSA supports the calls by various members of the Community for the following studies:

- i) A Tourism Impact Survey
- ii) A step-by-step outline of the probable scenario should valuable diamonds be found and a mine is brought to fruition.
- iii) Other biodiversity studies which would be needed as part of a full EIA, including a bird, mammal, herpetological and invertebrate survey.

## 2h. Contact with GTM



WESSA urges the Environmental Practitioner to establish contact with Greater Tzaneen Municipality and to invite comment from them on issues relating to zoning, access, water and waste management.

## REFERENCES

Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, 2000. *Internal Strategic Perspective (ISP)*, Luvuvhu and Letaba Catchment and Olifants Catchment.

Mander M, Ntuli L, Diedericks N, Mavundla K. 2007. *South Africa's Traditional Medicines Industry*. Department of Trade & Industry; 2007.

Mucina, L. and Rutherford, M.C. (eds). The Vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. 2006. *Strelitzia* 19. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria

27 May 2008  
Luke Perkins  
WESSA Limpopo Office

Hi Jan

I have just a few more questions, please, if you don't mind:

- 1) I have been asked to raise with you the question of identifying "sensitive areas" as I understand has been done in the current case, with plantations being seen as non-sensitive and indigenous vegetation as sensitive. On the face of it this makes sense, but my Head Office has pointed out that the legislation makes no provision for this. Indeed, I can find no reference to sensitive and non-sensitive areas in NEMA. If there is no legal provision for distinguishing between 'sensitive' and 'non-sensitive' areas, then I would like to repeat the call for the whole area near the Haenertsburg catchment, to be subjected to a full EIA, whether in plantations or not. Part of the reason is that many plantations are illegally planted right up to watercourses. Therefore we as a community suspect, in fact are convinced, that there are 'sensitive areas' within the plantations, and that this whole catchment is in fact 'sensitive'. Any and all prospecting in this area should, we feel, be subjected to an EIA.
- 2) I have also been asked to enquire which environmental practitioners' body you are registered with – there seem to be several in this country?

Thanks  
Regards  
Luke

**Luke Perkins**  
Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa  
WESSA: Limpopo Province

P.O. Box 70, Haenertsburg 0730  
Cell: 082 9348 365  
Email: wessa@limpopomail.co.za

## FORM FOR COMMENTS:

Title: <b>MR</b>	
First Name: <b>ANDRè</b>	Surname: <b>VENTER</b> Initials: <b>A.J.</b>
Organisation / Property Name: <b>LETABA WATER USER ASSOCIATION</b>	
Interest in project (e.g. authority, neighbour, competitor, supplier, local resident):	
<b>MANAGING WATER FROM EBENEZER TO KRUGER NATIONAL PARK</b>	
Postal Address: <b>P.O. BOX 1220 TZANEEN</b>	
Post Code: <b>0850</b>	
Tel Number: <b>015 307 2651</b>	Cell Number: <b>082 680 7000</b>
Fax Number: <b>015 307 2651</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:lwgv@absamail.co.za">lwgv@absamail.co.za</a>

1. The following issues must be noted / concerns are expressed regarding the proposed extension of prospecting by Ndowana Exploration Two near Haenertsburg:

<b>CONCERN IS EXPRESSED ABOUT</b>
<b>(a) Possible pollution of inflow to Ebenezer dam.</b>
<b>(b) Non availability of water requirements for this project</b>
<b>(volumes needed not specified).</b>

2. The following potentially interested and affected parties should also be contacted: ( IF RELEVANT )

Name:	Organisation:
Tel Number:	
Address:	

Name:	Organisation:
Tel Number:	
Address:	

3. Any additional comments?


**FORM FOR COMMENTS:**

<b>Title: Mr</b>		
<b>First Name: SELLO</b>	<b>Surname: SEROTO</b>	<b>Initials: SS</b>
<b>Organization: Greater Tzaneen Municipality</b>		
<b>Interest in project: Ward Councillor</b>		
<b>Postal Address: P.O. Box 2187, TZANEEN</b>		
<b>Postal Code: 0850</b>		
<b>Tel Number: 015 307 8007</b>	<b>Cell Number: 074 425 3739</b>	
<b>Fax : 015 307 8049</b>	<b>Email: maureen.maake@tzaneen.gov.za</b>	

**1. THE FOLLOWING ISSUES MUST BE NOTED/CONCERNS ARE EXPRESSED REGARDING THE PROPOSED EXTENTION OF PROSPECTING BY NDOWANA EXPLORATION TWO NEAR HAENERTSBURG:**

**I ward Councillor Seroto Sello, ward 16 has no objection about the development/project that is to take place at haenertsburg, provided it will have a positive impact on the life's of entire member of the GTM and Limpopo.**

**2. THE FOLLOWING POTENTIALLY INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES SHOULD ALSO BE CONTACTED: (IF RELEVANT)**

<b>Name: OJ Mushwana</b>	<b>Organization: Greater Tzaneen Municipality</b>
<b>Tel Number: 015 307 8007</b>	
<b>Address: P.O. Box 24, TZANEEN, 0850</b>	
<b>Name: Joyce Nkwinika</b>	<b>Organization: Greater Tzaneen Municipality</b>
<b>Tel Number: 015 307 8007</b>	
<b>Address: P.O. Box 24, TZANEEN, 0850</b>	

**3. ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

**I think this is an important project to our community and it will help to alleviate poverty and high unemployment rate.**

Maureen Maake  
Office of the Mayor  
Greater Tzaneen Municipality  
Tel: 015 307 8007  
Fax: 015 307 8049 Email : mureen.maake@tzaneen.gov.za

## **DIAMOND PROSPECTING IN THE HAENERTSBURG AREA**

### INPUTS FROM MICHAEL GARDNER, HAENERTSBURG RESIDENT

I would be pleased if the following comments could be taken into account in preparing your report on the diamond prospecting in the Haenertsburg area. Some of these points were made at the Public Meeting held on 22 May 2008 in the Thusanang Hall, but others are new.

1] What is urgently required is to develop a 'scenario' of what the eventual social, economic and environmental impacts of a diamond mine will be on this area and neighbouring villages. It is not acceptable for Ndowana to state, almost pessimistically, that the next and the following phases of prospecting may reveal nothing worthy of being mined. This may well be the case, but it is also assumed that the information currently held by Ndowana regarding the mining potential of the site is positive and could well lead to the ultimate goal of a mining operation. Therefore, it is critical to look at what the eventual impacts will be should mining be undertaken. Such a scenario should include 'high road' and 'low road' components in terms of the likely impacts. Some of the issues to be considered in developing such a scenario are as follows:

- The Village of Haenertsburg has no opportunity for further expansion. A firm decision has been taken that no residential or industrial expansion will be allowed on the Haenertsburg Grasslands. Therefore, any future accommodation of mine workers or personnel would have to be located elsewhere;
- Access through the village for any vehicles over 5 tonnes is not permitted;
- Availability of water is a major concern because the Letaba catchment is already fully committed and there is little likelihood of extracting water from the Olifants/Steelpoort system as the platinum mines are heavily dependent on that source of supply. It is also noted that the proposed (and approved) new Steelpoort Dam will diminish the flow in the lower Olifants River to an extent that will materially affect both agriculture and wildlife;
- A diamond mine in the upper catchment of Ebenezer Dam carries severe potential risks. Ebenezer Dam is the major source of water for the Tzaneen, Haenertsburg, Mankweng and Polokwane communities and any threat regarding pollution of this dam would have disastrous consequences. One has only to look at the recent incidence of crocodile deaths in the Olifants River in Kruger Park to realise what far-reaching impacts the mining industry can have on the health of our rivers;
- A slimes dam above Haenertsburg Village is simply not an acceptable option. One still has lingering memories of the tragedy at Harmony;
- Whilst a new diamond mine may have significant economic benefits for local workers, shopkeepers, restaurants and the accommodation sector, it would change forever the character and personality of a Village that is over 120 years old and worthy of heritage status;
- Further alteration of the intrinsic nature of the grassland resource within the Letaba or Olifants catchments will add to the already serious degradation that is taking place on the grasslands and within the indigenous forests in the area. This is caused by the lack of effective management of these resources by the relevant Provincial authorities including the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. The impacts of this process of degradation on the water retention capacity of the Wolkberg mountains will have far-reaching negative effects on the supply of water for human consumption, agriculture and wildlife;

3] The intention to carry out a Basic Assessment is not acceptable. It is vital that a full Environmental Impact Assessment be done because the impacts will almost certainly extend well beyond the immediate prospecting concession and will need to be assessed before any further prospecting is undertaken.

4] It is the opinion of several persons within this community that the process leading to a Record of Decision is flawed. This arises from the fact that the Provincial MEC responsible for the final decision controls the portfolios of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. Therefore, any decision on his part cannot be relied on to be unbiased. It is noted that the MEC is a political position and his performance at the next elections will not be judged on how many plants, insects, birds or small animals he may have saved. It will be dependent on how many jobs he has created and what he has added to the Provincial coffers. In any court of law, the suitability of this person to deliver an unbiased judgment would be challenged and he would, almost certainly, not be allowed to sit in a position of judgment. This matter will be pursued through other channels.

5] It is fully appreciated that there is a need to know exactly what diamond or other mineral resources may lie beneath the surface of this particular prospecting concession – or, in fact, any other part of the Province - especially a province such as Limpopo that is so desperately poor and in need of economic development. However, it is noted that the insatiable hunger for increased income by the major mining houses will never be satisfied if they do not move towards the ultimate situation of extracting the mineral wealth that lies beneath the ground. However, in this process, they permanently alter, well beyond any 'limits to acceptable change', the natural, social and cultural environments of the countryside. A time must surely come when some sanity must prevail in our relentless exhaustion of the resources of this planet. Perhaps this particular situation may be a good place to start taking into account the very substantial and well-founded objections to both the prospecting and the possible mining operations.



Michael Gardner

'Tembani'  
4 Rabe Street ~ HAENERTSBURG  
P.O. Box 129 ~ HAENERTSBURG 0730 ~ Limpopo Province

Tel: (015) 276-4807 ~ Cell: 083 255-9448

E-mail: vavasour@mweb.co.za

16 June 2008

-ooOoo-

## FORM FOR COMMENTS:

Title: Dr.			
First Name: Pieter	Surname: de Villiers	Initials: P.A.	
Organization / Property Name: Ecoknow			
Interest in project (e.g. authority, neighbor, competitor, supplier, local resident):			
Interested Person			
Postal Address: P.O. Box 199 Duivelskloof			
Post Code: 0835			
Tel Number: 015 395 4364		Cell Number: 083 527 0858	
Fax Number: 015 395 4364		Email: ecoknow@telkomsa.net	

1. The following issues must be noted / concerns are expressed regarding the proposed extension of prospecting by Ndowana Exploration Two near Haenertsburg:

- 1) The mining will take place in a mountain catchment area, no mining whatsoever should be allowed in such an area, it is short sighted, especially in view of the water shortage in South Africa.
- 2) This Basic Assessment can not be part of any EIA (page 3), it is an document on it's own according to Government Notice No R.385 of 21 April 2006.
- 3) This Basic Assessment is about the influence of the prospecting on the environment. The end result of the mining on the environment should be considered at this stage. Models of different mining scenarios should be built on the basis of present knowledge.
- 4) A detailed hydrological study should be undertaken with special attention to subsoil lateral water flow.
- 5) The compaction effect of the tracks on subsoil lateral water flow should be investigated.
- 6) What will be done with the drill tailings? It cannot be allowed to end up in a watercourse.
- 7) Who will audit the soil reclamation after prospecting. A detailed description of the methods to be used is needed including the replacement of bacteria and fungi in the subsoil.
- 8) Who will see to it that the top soil is stock piled for replacement?
- 9) It is mentioned that activities in sensitive areas will call for a Basic Assessment, which means that such areas will be mined. Why take all the trouble to identify such areas as it will not exclude it's mining?
- 10) An Environmental Management Plan should be in place before commencement of any prospecting, is such a plan in place?
- 11) The accumulative effect of the prospecting activities will already have an influence on the environment including defacing.
- 12) The whole area is sensitive as it is part of a mountain catchment area, the prospecting thus warrants a full EIA preceded by a Scoping Report.
- 13) Long after the mine has been worked out the scarred and damaged environment will remain.
- 14) In conclusion it will be short sighted to mine this area at all.

2. The following potentially interested and affected parties should also be contacted: ( IF RELEVANT )

Name:	Organization:
-------	---------------

Tel Number:
Address:

Name:	Organization:
Tel Number:	
Address:	

3. Any additional comments?

See under paragraph 1

Dear Jan,

I am writing this comment on behalf of Nikiwe Consulting, an agricultural and environmental consultancy company operating from Magoebaskloof, Limpopo. I am also the current Commodore of the Mountain Yacht Club, Ebenezer Dam and the committee of this institution concurs with the submissions expressed below.

We have major concerns about the proposed prospecting and mining of the Iron Crown Mountain.

This is the watershed for the Olifants and Letaba catchments and any threat to this crucial water supply can have devastating effects on the livelihood of the majority of Limpopo's population.

The Letaba area is the breadbasket of the lowveld and farming is the major industry. To threaten this with proposed diamond mining of its water source, for short term gain, is unacceptable.

To be honest we all know that the prospecting in itself will not have major effects on the environment but mining itself will have major long term detrimental effects. For us to make sure mining does not take place we must oppose every aspect of the processes that can lead to mining.

We currently have the enviable position of some of the countries cleanest water. Ebenezer Dam at the foot of the Iron Crown supplies fresh drinking water to half of Limpopo's population and irrigation water to the breadbasket of the Lowveld agricultural regions.

We urge you to take into account all the negatives around mining the iron crown and to suspend the process right now.

Best regards

Rob Morris  
Director - Nikiwe Consulting cc

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Jan Phelan](#)

**To:** [Rob Morris](#)

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2008 10:06 AM

**Subject:** Re: Extension of Date for Submission of Concerns on Impacts and Potential on Environment from Proposed Ndwana Two Prospecting Project.

Dear Rob,

Thanks for your email. I look forward to receiving your comments on the proposed prospecting.

Regards,

Jan Phelan

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Rob Morris](#)

**To:** [Jan Phelan](#)

**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2008 12:01 PM

**Subject:** Re: Extension of Date for Submission of Concerns on Impacts and Potential on Environment from Proposed Ndwana Two Prospecting Project.

Dear Jan,

Thank you for the extension for date of submission. It is in the best interests of all concerned.

I am also an Environmental Assessment Practitioner practising in Magoebaskloof, Limpopo and I am will to offer my services to reach a solution that is workable to all concerned parties.

Best regards

Rob Morris  
Nikiwe Consulting cc

[Generic List of the Questions Asked / Considerations taken into Account During an EIA As Submitted by Willie Human.](#)



## PROSPEKTERING DEUR NDOWANA EXPLORATION IN DIE HAENERTSBURG AREA

### 1. Wetlike konteks

Watter wetgewing is van toepassing op die eksplorasië ?

Wie (Nasionaal, Provinsiaal, Plaaslik) moet in terme van die wetgewing goedkeuring/permitte ens. gee?

Watter prosesse (EIA, EMPR ens.) moet in terme van die wetgewing gevolg word?

Wat is die tydraamwerk vir die prosesse (EIA, EMPR ens.) ?

Watter staatsdepartemente word geken (Landbou, Waterwese, Omgewingsake – Provinsiaal, SHARA ens.) ?

Is al die maatskappy se dokumentasie in terme van die MPRDA in orde?

### 2. Strategiese konteks

Is daar 'n strategies plan vir die gebied (SEA, EMF ens.) in terme van die beste grond gebruik opsie?

Is daar beskermde gebiede in die area (reservate, vlei gebiede ens.) ?

Is daar gebiede wat deur "Treaties" geraak word (voëls, vlei gebiede, kultuur, erfenis gebiede)?

### 3. Projek beskrywing

Wat behels die projek?

Watter aktiwiteite gaan plaas vind (paaie, kampe, eksplorasië) ?

Metode van hierdie aktiwiteite (meganies, hand ens.) ?

Watter toerusting gaan gebruik word vir die aktiwiteite ?

Is daar alternatiewe ? (areas, toerusting ens.) ?

Waar gaan werkers tuis – toerusting gestoor ?

### 4. Impakte

Plantegroei ( beskermde & bedreigde) spesies ens.) ?

Fauna ( diere, insekte) (beskermde & bedreigde spesies ?

Hidrologie – impak op oppervlak bronne (fonteine, vlei gebiede, dreineringskanale, afloop – siltasie en erosie) ? Besoedeling ("spills" van chemikalieë, diesel ens.) ?

Lug – stof, rook ens. ?

Grond – erosie, landbou potensiaal ?

Voëls (broei & vreet areas) ?

Kultuur, erfenis, argeologie & paleontologie ?

Sosiale impakte ?

Wie doen die studies ? Is dit 'n veldopname of a "desk top" studie ?

### 5. Bestuurs aangeleenthede

Is daar 'n omgewingsbestuursplan ?

Is daar 'n rehabilitasie plan? – grondgebruik na eksplorasië (voortdurende insette of self onderhoudend) ?

Watter standard gaan gevolg word vir die plan ?

Is daar 'n rehabilitasie fonds sou die maatskappy bankrot gaan ?

Onderskryf DM&E die fonds ?

Hoe word toegang tot die terrain beheer ? Wat van sekuriteit ?  
 Wat van strike, onwettige jag, diefstal van lewende hawe en gesaiides – kompensasië ?  
 Wat van die verwydering van medisinale plante, toesien dat drade, hekke ens. toe bly en instand gehou word ?  
 Wat van skade vergoeding na verlies van eiendom/skade ?  
 Veldbrande en die beheer daarvan ? Is daar brandbestrydings toerusting ?  
 Waar gaan personeel tuis? Werksure ? Vervoer van personeel en toerusting – hoeveelheid, metode en wanner (frekwensie) ?  
 Stof & erosie beheer maatreels ?  
 Afval (huishoudelik & "tailings" waste" & proses afval bestuur? Gaan dit by 'n geregistreerde afval terrain gestort word ?  
 Waar gaan water, elektrisiteit vandaan kom ?  
 Wat se sanitasie geriewe gaan daar wees? In chemiese waar gaan dit gestort word ?  
 Waar gaan gevaarlike chemiese stowwe en produkte geberg word? SABS Kodes ens.  
 Wie gaan die monitering & auditering van die voldoening van die bestuursplan doen? Hoe gereeld gaan dit gedoen word? Onafhanklike persoon/e ?  
 Wie gaan toesien dat die bestuursmaatreels na gekom word?  
 Wie is verantwoordelik en aanspreeklik vir die implementering van die bestuursplan?  
 Onkruid beheer  
 Translokasie en hervestiging van beskermde & bedreigde spesies)  
 Rehabilitasie van area – hervestiging van inheemse spesies ens.

Other Specific Queries by Willie Human are listed in the Comments and Response Table.

Dear Jan

Response to prospecting by S Milstein – Weighton Landowner

At the meeting I requested information about the type of vehicles to be used for this prospecting in terms of tonnage, frequency and duration of travel. As the company aims and intends to do prospecting as soon as permission is granted, I was disappointed that the company was not able to supply specific details and I request that this information be made available.

I also requested to know which access road would be used and once again received no clear answer.

I wish to have this submitted in your report as an area of concern because answers have not been forthcoming from the company in the public meeting.

I would like to also comment on:

1. R71 The fact that the R71, while a National road, is full of blind corners and single lanes on both sides. There is very little opportunity for overtaking and the maximum speed is 80km/h between the village of Haenertsburg and the Randfontein turnoff. I would ask that the company establishes the number of car accidents per annum in the past five years as well as the frequency of traffic in this period. There is no plan to widen this road. I believe the road is unsuitable for more trucks.
2. Roads in Haenertsburg: The maximum tonnage on the roads in the village is 5 ton. Any trucks carrying drilling equipment greater than this would be breaking the traffic laws and so will not be allowed to enter or travel through the village. What will the company do about this? Such a plan should be made available before prospecting rights are granted or begins.
3. From the village to the site: The road from the village through Weighton farms (Milstein and Thompson) and the protected indigenous forest on Westwood/Forest Glen (Mare) is a single lane dirt road that is not maintained by the state. It is not suitable for trucks in terms of width and structural formation and, as such, I request that the company makes alternative plans to access the site prior to permission being given.
4. Damage to the farms: Apart from concerns raised on using the inadequate roads, the impact to 3 farms on this road includes
  - The fact that the houses are 50m to 100m from this road and the dust and noise will affect us.
  - There will be increased people moving through the properties and, as such, increased chances of theft, litter and damage to our properties.
  - Establishing a mine, or even prospecting, changes the dynamics of our farming operations completely. Until this point, the four or five farms have not had significant traffic and, should prospecting begin, we will need to erect fences and gates to isolate the road that goes through all our properties to protect our assets. This will cost a lot of money.
5. Potential damage to the indigenous forest. The narrow road goes through this farm. The road will need to be widened at the expense of this forest causing damage to the biodiversity.

I believe all of the above makes it imperative that alternative routes are identified before mining occurs.

Thank you  
Shelley Milstein  
Landowner and resident

Hi Jan,

The following issues must be noted / concerns are expressed regarding the proposed extension of prospecting by Ndowana Exploration Two near Haenertsburg:

1. Although the present EIA process is only aimed at the extension of prospecting operations, it may lead to full scale mining operations later on. Therefore, it needs to be pointed out that the properties mentioned fall into two catchment areas (Letaba and Olifants) which are already under severe water shortage stress.
2. Where will the water required for the proposed prospecting operation come from?
3. What are the instantaneous, monthly and annual water requirements of the entire proposed prospecting operation (sensitive areas and areas not identified as sensitive)?
4. Will there be any effluent / drill tailings from the prospecting operations? What will be done with the drill tailings?
5. What quality standards for effluents (if any) are envisaged?
6. Will there be any storage of water? If so, will platforms be prepared for water storage facilities on slopes?
7. What other uses of water, apart from taking and storing are envisaged? (The possible water uses, as per sections 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 are listed in the attachment.)

Please acknowledge receipt of this email and indicate when a response can be expected.

Best regards,

Sylvie & Stefan Köhne  
P.O.Box 161  
Haenertsburg  
0730 South Africa  
Phone: +27 15 276 5025  
Mobile: +27 83 458 4733

Dear Mrs Phelan

On behalf of the Haenertsburg Residents and Ratepayers Association, I would like to clarify whether a representative of Ndowana Exploration will attend the public meeting on 22.5.2008 as we have questions relating to the process of prospecting. If not, would it be possible to have someone attend? Is there an agenda for the public meeting? Further, could any additional documentation (other than the background document) be made available before the public meeting?

Kind regards

Sylvie Köhne  
P.O.Box 161  
Haenertsburg  
0730 South Africa  
Phone: +27 15 276 5025  
Mobile: +27 83 458 4733  
Dear Jan,

Thank you for answering my questions. Please register myself and Stefan as Interested and Affected parties for the EIA. In addition, please register Mr J Branson (email: [jsbranson@gmail.com](mailto:jsbranson@gmail.com)), Chairperson of the Haenertsburg Residents and Ratepayers Association, as Interested and Affected party for the EIA.

With thanks and kind regards,

Sylvie

Hi Jan,

Thanks for the mail.

My comments are as follows;

1. The destruction of vegetation cover will only increase the surface run-off thereby depriving the catchment of water that will recharge the ground water.
2. We are also concerned about the quality of water in the Letaba and fear that any mining activity upstream will worsen the situation for the management of biodiversity downstream (KNP). Currently, the KNP is experiencing water quality problems in the Olifants and Letaba rivers. Crocodiles deaths (last week) in the two rivers are a big concern to the KNP and we believe water quality might be the cause. Any other activities that will compound the problem will not be welcome.
3. This kind of mining activity will use/need a lot of water and the Letaba system is quite stressed at the moment. It will therefore be appropriate to ensure the availability of water for your activities before you embark on any exploration projects.

Thanks for the opportunity.

Best regards

Thomas

**Dr. Thomas Gyedu-Ababio**

*Manager: Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation*

ThomasGa@sanparks.org

**Kruger National Park**

P/Bag X1021 Phalaborwa 1390 South Africa

tel: 013 735 3515

fax: 013 735 3518

mobile: 082 908 7729

Skype ID: susubribi

Dear Mrs Phelan

Thanks for the documentation.

Firstly, I confirm that I wish to be registered as an interested party. Secondly, please provide me with a facsimile number so that I could fax you the completed form for comments that was provided in PDF format.

Regards

**Theo van Rooyen**

**Head: Environmental Management**

Capricorn District Municipality, P.O. Box 4100, Polokwane, 0700

Tel: (015) 294-1000 x 1027 / Cellphone: 082 774 8021

Fax: 086 513 2103 / E-mail: environment@cdm.org.za

My apologies Jan.

I must be honest; I do not have any comments on the proposed prospecting application. Based on your documents, it seems to be small scale with little anticipated impacts.

However, the media & community hype seems to concentrate on the actual mining which everybody is sure will follow. That will not take place now nor is it part of this study / application.

Please proceed with the basic assessment - I'm happy with the issues you will cover as part of the specialised studies and do not wish to add more.

Regards

**Theo van Rooyen**

**Head: Environmental Management**

Capricorn District Municipality, P.O. Box 4100, Polokwane, 0700

Tel: (015) 294-1000 x 1027 / Cellphone: 082 774 8021

Fax: 086 513 2103 / E-mail: environment@cdm.org.za

Hi Jan,

Here are my comments from Thursday's meeting:

The impression was created during your presentation that only a Basic Assessment would be triggered by the IEM process for Phase I - I noted that, if the information coming to light warranted it, a full scoping and EIA could also be triggered during the Basic Assessment;

1. My comments around the Woodbush Granite Grassland targets and remaining pristine habitat are drawn from Mucina & Rutherford - I can't remember either value offhand. The crux is that the vegetation type is critically endangered and that there is not enough pristine habitat left to satisfy the conservation target;
2. A comment was made about "temporary" transformation of the habitat, drawing a comparison to "permanent" transformation associated with structural developments. I noted that transformation of habitat and soil structure will lead to great changes in the environment which may not be reversible over the short or medium term, if at all. Regaining pristine habitat is unlikely. The applicant should commit itself to rehabilitation to pristine state;
3. The method to be used in Phase I is likely to lead to problems with alien infestations, even if the disturbance is limited to manual pitting of areas around 1 square metre of surface. It is presumed that the pits will be dispersed widely over the area. This will introduce a large number of small patches of disturbance where the soil structure and vegetation has been altered. These patches would be suitable for the establishment of alien weeds and have the potential to set up alien populations that are distributed throughout the area which could in turn encroach on the pristine vegetation.
4. There was a statement that there would be some reliance on the South African Reptile Conservation Assessment trip that was carried out recently by Marius Burger of UCT's Avian Demography Unit. It must be stated unequivocally that this field trip would be not be at all suitable as a herpetofaunal assessment. It was carried out at the beginning of winter, a season notorious for poor capture rates. It must be noted that the amphibian survey must be focussed around October so as to assess the presence of the northern forest rain frog (*Breviceps sylvestris sylvestris*), a red-listed Limpopo endemic. Reptile surveys need to include primary data and should be intensive - there are a number of red-listed reptile species that are likely to be found at the site, including *Lygodactylus methueni*, *Acontophiops lineatus*, and more. It is also a possible locality for the Eastwood's long-tailed seps *Tetradactylus eastwoodae* which is currently listed as extinct. Only 2 specimens of this species have been collected, both in the early 1990s. I have heard of 2 verbal accounts that agree with the description of this species, one in the Wolkberg Wilderness Area and the other in the Black Forest Inn area near Haenertsburg. The latter locality is close to the proposed mining site and the precautionary principle would dictate that the site should be thoroughly investigated w.r.t. this species, particularly given the fact that this site has one of the larger patches of continuous suitable habitat.
5. It should be noted that the Iron Crown is the highest point in Limpopo. As such, it would provide a valuable opportunity for carrying out research and monitoring on global warming. By interfering with the midslope of the peak, one could be putting such potential into jeopardy.
6. It should be noted that the grassland/wetland ecosystems at the site are at high altitude and are important as water capacitors, absorbing water and releasing this slowly into the lowland wetland systems. There needs to be a wetland assessment carried out - both delineating the wetlands (including rivers) and assessing their hydrological/biodiversity roles in the system. The prospecting impacts should then be assessed against these roles.
7. I am surprised that the intention was to carry out a single stakeholder meeting so early in the process. The background document described the activities that would take place on the site but would not inform anyone of the ecological impacts of the activities. It is therefore essential that a public meeting be held after all scientific reports have been submitted so that comments that are elicited from the public are suitably informed. A large number of additional issues were identified at the meeting and there appears to be a need to hold another earlier meeting simply to collate additional concerns.

Regards,

Vincent Egan



PostNet Suite No. 387 Privaatsak X4019 Tzaneen 0850  
 Tel & Faks (015) 307-2725 / 307-3509  
 E-pos: ldlu@mweb.co.za

20 June 2008

FORM FOR COMMENTS:

Title: <b>MR.</b>	
First Name: <b>LOUIS</b>	Surname: <b>VAN ROOYEN</b> Initials: <b>LJ</b>
Organisation / Property Name: <b>AGRI LETABA</b>	
Interest in project (e.g. authority, neighbor, competitor, supplier, local resident):	
<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	
Postal Address: <b>Postnet Suit 387 ~ Private Bag X4019 ~ Tzaneen</b>	
Post Code: <b>0850</b>	
Tel Number: <b>(015) 307 - 2725</b> Cell Number: <b>082 941 4136 / 083 627 6007</b>	
Fax Number: <b>(015) 307 - 3509</b> Email: <b>info@agriletaba.co.za</b>	

1. The following issues must be noted / concerns are expressed regarding the proposed extension of prospecting by Ndowana Exploration Two near Haenertsburg:

<b>The non availability of water</b>
<b>Pollution of water sources</b>
<b>The damage to eco tourism</b>
<b>Loss of the Haenertsburg heritage</b>

2. The following potentially interested and affected parties should also be contacted: ( IF RELEVANT )

Name: <b>MR. LJ VAN ROOYEN</b>	Organisation: <b>AGRI LETABA</b>
Tel Number: <b>(015) 307 – 2725 / 3509</b>	
Address: <b>AGRI LETABA OFFICE (REPRESENTS LETABA FARMERS)</b>	

Name:	Organisation:
Tel Number:	
Address:	

3. Any additional comments?

<b>Agri Letaba represents farmers in the Letaba region and the general feeling is that the</b>
<b>mine will damage the environment.</b>

Dear Mr. McDonald & Ms Phelan,

I am the environmental journalist from Beeld newspaper. The inhabitants of Haenertsburg sent me information regarding prospecting for diamonds near the town in the Wolkberg.

I will appreciate it if you could send me your contact telephone numbers and all relevant documentation regarding the proposed mining activities.

Kind regards  
Elise Tempelhoff (083 309 1192)

The background information document and information on the prospecting proposal was sent to the journalist.

## FORM FOR COMMENTS:

Title: Ms		
First Name: Rontles	Surname: Victor	Initials: EH
Organisation / Property Name: Magoebakloof Tourism		
Interest in project (e.g. authority, neighbour, competitor, supplier, local resident): Tourism and local resident.		
Postal Address: PO Box 123 Haenertsburg		
Post Code: 0730		
Tel Number: 015 2764972		Cell Number:
Fax Number:		Email: tourism@magoebakloof.info

1. The following issues must be noted / concerns are expressed regarding the proposed extension of prospecting by Ndowana Exploration Two near Haenertsburg:

- Where would water come from? Our country does hardly supply drinking water for its people. No harmful chemicals? All chemicals are harmful.  
- our water is severely pure, we want to keep it like it is.  
- In Organic gardening it is known that you can never repair once you tamper with the soil, so by taking out and putting back will not rehabilitate the plot/area. The concern of the butterflies is not the activity <sup>going on</sup> when they are present, our concern is that the butterflies need vegetation to eat, breed and live. You destroy their vegetation, you destroy them.

2. The following potentially interested and affected parties should also be contacted: (IF RELEVANT)

Name:	Organisation:
Tel Number:	
Address:	

Name:	Organisation:
Tel Number:	
Address:	

\* Need to see Tourism Assessment report and other specialist reports.

3. Any additional comments?

\* Can you ensure us that the people working there will not get involved in poaching?  
Past experience has proven that poaching goes on.

\* The area is popular to the tourists, for hiking and photo's, (in October we have an international photographic congress). Tourists visit this area because of the unspoilt beauty.

13



\* Debbie Thompson has agreed / confirmed that Haenertsburg is part of the Kruger to Canyon.

**Jan Phelan**

---

**From:** "Richard" <richard@limpopotourism.info>  
**To:** <mwplanit@mweb.co.za>  
**Sent:** 06 June 2008 10:48 AM  
**Subject:** Document(02)

**From: Richard Blandy (local resident)**  
P.O. Box 123 Haenertsburg 0730  
015 276 4972  
082 958 5430  
richard@limpopotourism.info

To: Jan Phelan  
mwplanit@mweb.co.za

Impacts and Potential on Environment from Proposed Ndowana Two Prospecting Project.

**Assesment request on the Morality of Mining on the Wolkberg**

Given the fact that nobody with more than two brain cells believes that the mining scar on the Wolkberg could ever be rehabilitated the morality of mining it becomes a legitimate issue to fall within the scope of this survey.

The moral imperative is to weigh up the intrinsic beauty of the mountain against peoples desire to adorn themselves with small, shiny, useless pebbles.

Every decision we make has a moral component and conflicting interpretations of the morality of this issue require an independent, competent assesment.

To that end I call on you to have a moral assesment done prior to any decision.

FORM FOR COMMENTS:

Title:	MR
First Name:	RICHARD
Surname:	BLANDY
Initials:	
Organisation / Property Name:	MAGOEBAKLOOF TOURIST AGENCY
Interest in project (e.g. authority, neighbour, competitor, supplier, local resident):	TOURIST AGENCY
Postal Address:	P.O. BOX 123 HAENERTSBURG
Post Code:	0730
Tel Number:	015 276 4972
Cell Number:	082 956 5430
Fax Number:	086 512 0915
Email:	TOURISA@MAGOEBAKLOOF.INFO

1. The following issues must be noted / concerns are expressed regarding the proposed extension of prospecting by Ndowana Exploration Two near Haenertsburg:

THE PROPOSED MINING AREA IS A POPULAR
TOURIST ATTRACTION.
MINING OPERATIONS IN THE AREA WILL
ADVERSELY IMPACT ON TOURISM.
THE AREA WILL BE REHABILITATED PROPERLY.

2. The following potentially interested and affected parties should also be contacted: (IF RELEVANT)

Name:	R. BLANDY	Organisation:	MAGOEBAKLOOF TOURISM
Tel Number:	015 276 4972		
Address:	P.O. BOX 123 HAENERTSBURG		0730
Name:		Organisation:	
Tel Number:			
Address:			

3. Any additional comments?

WE REQUEST / DEMAND THAT A TOURIST
IMPACT STUDY BE DONE BEFORE ANY

PROSPECTING / MINING IS DONE.

& THAT A REHABILITATION PLAN IS SUBMITTED

FOR OUR COMMENT! 13

FORM FOR COMMENTS:

Title:	MILL		
First Name:	MAGNY	Surname:	MACHUMELE Initials: T.M
Organisation / Property Name:	GREATER TRANEEN MUNICIPALITY		
Interest in project (e.g. authority, neighbour, competitor, supplier):			
Postal Address:	P.O BOX 24 TRANEEN		
Post Code:	0850		
Tel Number:	015 307 8296	Cell Number:	072 956 8264
Fax Number:	015 307 8049	Email:	
	maggy.machumele@traneeh.gov.za		

1. The following issues must be noted regarding the proposed extension of prospecting by Ndowana Exploration Two near Haenertsburg:

1.	Siting of toilets
2.	Waste management
3.	Environmental Audit Reports
4.	Air quality Impact Assessment
5.	

2. Any additional comments or queries?


EAP Contact Details:

- > Jan Phelan
- > P.O. Box 25, Howick, 3290
- > Cell: 082 876 0003
- > Email [mwplanit@mweb.co.za](mailto:mwplanit@mweb.co.za)

**Friends of the Haenertsburg Grasslands**

P.O.Box 174  
Haenertsburg  
0730

30 May 2008

Jan Phelan  
Plan-It with enviro care  
P.O. Box 25,  
Howick, ]  
KZN, 3290

Re: Raising concerns: Application from Ndowana Exploration Two (Pty) Ltd  
to extend prospecting operation in the Haenertsburg Area

As the Chairperson of Friends Of The Haenertsburg Grassland (FROHG) and representative for a number of members of the Haenertsburg community I would like to raise concerns as listed in Annexure A to this letter. Please acknowledge the receipt of these concerns.

Further I want you to acknowledge that these concerns are by no means complete and I firmly insist on being given the opportunity to raise more concerns before your EIA assessment report is completed. In this regard your public meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May was entertaining but did not give us sufficient detail to properly understand what Ndowana Exploration Two (Pty) Ltd plans to do. In order to effectively participate in the public participation process and to identify all concerns we need to fully quantify the range of actions that might take place. We are a membership based organisation and the concerns listed below have been raised various members. However 7 (seven) days is simply not long enough for members of the community to research, apply their minds and bring forward all relevant issues.

Consultation must be seen as more than a mere opportunity that you give to us, as an interested and affected party, to make ineffective representations. In order for us to effectively raise concerns we will require the following documents and information:

1. All and any documentation of any nature whatsoever which pertains to the application for prospecting rights referred to above; including but not limited to the following:

- 1.1. all and any correspondence between the Ndowana Exploration Two (Pty) Ltd, and the joint venture partners, and the DME or DEAT;
- 1.2. all and any correspondence which bears any reference to is ancillary to or refers in any way to the above mentioned application;
- 1.3. the application form including the appendages;

- 1.4. all file notes, memoranda or internal documentation pertaining to any decision made in respect of the application;
  - 1.5. the draft Environmental Management Plan and all Annexures, including but not limited to the prospecting works program and ancillary documentation pertaining thereto as referred to in the MPRDA regulation 7;
  - 1.6. all and any notices, publication or advertisements to include but not limited to those published in any Gazette, placed at any Magistrates' Court and any local or national newspaper circulate in the relevant area;
  - 1.7. all and any notices, publications or advertisements informing all interested and affected persons of the public meetings to be held in terms of the MPRDA or the NEMA regulations and the minutes of all public meetings held in terms of the aforementioned acts.
2. All and any documents and/or correspondence relation to any request or enquiry received by any person or entity pertaining to the submission of the abovementioned application.
  3. All and any documentation indicating whether any application for a prospecting or mining right has previously been granted or refused in respect of the area within 100km of Haenertsburg.
  4. Comprehensive information on prospecting activities. Your briefing document and the information provided at the meeting did not give us sufficient detail. Statements to the effect that you will only know the full scope of activities once you have started work is not helpful for us to understand the potential impact. Please can you give us specific figures for the expected scope as well as the maximum possible scope for the following in writing:
    - 4.1. How much water will you use at different stages in litres. Also the rate as in litres per day?
    - 4.2. From where will water be sourced? We need more detail than "It will be purchased from the nearest source."
    - 4.3. How will water be delivered, how often and where, how will water be used?
    - 4.4. How many drilling rigs will you use – narrow diameter & large diameter?
    - 4.5. How operating days for drilling rigs – narrow diameter & large diameter – in total and per month?
    - 4.6. How many other vehicles will be involved? Size of trucks and other vehicles? How many trips – per day and per month?
    - 4.7. How many pits, dumps, cores, etc will be dug and where? Your briefing document touches on this but it is not possible to quantify the impact from that information. How many Kimberlites are there or how many do you anticipate?
    - 4.8. How many staff will be employed at different stages and for how long? How will they access their workplace and how often?
    - 4.9. What is the expected time line for different activities? How long could activities continue? How often?
    - 4.10. Is there a possibility of operations taking place at night?



5. Details of the rehabilitation plan and the rehabilitation quality standards Ndowana and their joint venture partners are prepared to commit to. For instance, will you fill in and rehabilitate drill holes & prospecting pits afterwards? Will you retain top soil separately for the purpose? Will you provide for on going interventions in subsequent years to control invasive aliens? What will you do with drill tailings? What will be the visible effects on the site after you have gone?
6. Any existing or preliminary biological studies of which you are aware. You indicated there was a preliminary the Flora & Fauna study (a.k.a. Peter Winter's report). This could be helpful.

I trust you find the above in order and await the documentation and/or information as requested above in order for us to meaningful and effectively participate in the public participation process.

Regards,

Ian Burman  
Chairman - **Friends of the Haenertsburg Grasslands**  
Tel: 083 266 5579

## Annexure A

### **1. Basic assessment vs Full EIA**

We note that, with reference to the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998), although activities mentioned in Listing 1 require a minimum of a Basic Assessment the regulations explicitly envisage situations where such activities would require a full scoping and EIA process. Since the your demarcated prospecting area and immediately adjacent land includes extremely sensitive, threatened and irreplaceable biome a full EIA would be appropriate in this case.

### **2. Why start if you can't finish**

From the limited information you have provided so far it is clear that the prospecting activities contemplated would substantially and permanently disturb that environment. It seems highly likely that water and environmental issues would preclude there ever being a mine established at that location. It is thus inappropriate to consider the impact of the prospecting in isolation. A full EIA looking at the impact of a mining operation should be done. If that concludes that mining cannot proceed then there would be no point in damaging the environment through prospecting. If it did show mining as possible then you would have your way with us.

### **3. Biological studies inconclusive in winter**

Yourself and others have raised the need for biological studies into vegetation, insects, reptiles, amphibians, bird life & other fauna. We endorse this. However we are most concerned at your suggestion that such studies could be completed by August this year. Winters are cold and dry here – life in all forms shrivels, hibernates and dies back at this time. Studies done at this time will certainly miss critical information. The studies must be done through the complete spring and summer growing period.

### **4. Access routes:**

Many people are concerned about the impact of accessing the site. Access routes, frequency and types. For example footpaths, access and tracks causing compaction and crossing the sensitive grasslands biome, and access routes around the grasslands potentially affecting vulnerable species and creating disturbance for local residents. Also the potential for degradation of existing roads & tracks.

- Are you prepared to upgrade the route from top Annie Fortune road via Forest glen for access?
- Would you consider building a road via Dornhoek 1080 / Bloemhoek / Annies Fortune?

### **5. Impact on bio-diversity**

We are concerned on the impacts of the prospecting and exploration activities on biodiversity. The remaining land area covered by the once large granite grasslands has declined dramatically over the past century. Many species in this biome are extremely vulnerable to population decline and extinction due

to disturbances in and around the eco-system, and due to habitat destruction. These activities include any access to the grasslands that causes soil compaction; any changes in water use and water courses used by the grasslands species including fauna that use both grassland and forests; any soil disturbance which allows alien invader species to colonise the grassland areas; and any noise and human activity that disturbs the habitat of the endangered blue swallows and other vulnerable species.

## 6. Other Considerations

- What about hydro-geological study? – Drilling operation could disturb sub-surface water flows & springs.
- What potential for pollution of the catchment?
- What about a reptile study? – endangered skenks & others in the area.
- What about impact on Blue swallows?
- What about impact on Wolkberg Zulu butterflies?
- Noise pollution – cumulative effect of your operations combined with existing timber operations and other potential prospecting by Southern Era or others?
- Tourism economy impact?

Dear Jan,

Sorry I did not respond earlier - it's very hectic for us at this time of the year.

I have a concern about what was recorded about the questions I raised at the public meeting. I specifically asked that a slope stability study be made on the steep slopes in the planned prospecting areas. The reason for this is that seemingly stable slopes in the area can fail dramatically during high rainfall periods, such as the summer of 2000. So any additional tracks or roads required for the prospecting may have a significant probability of triggering similar failures. Your records of the meeting do not reflect this request.

Regards,

Laurie Railton

**Section 4**

**Copies of Minutes of Meetings with Authorities, Government Departments and Others.**

Copies of the Minutes of the following meetings:

1. Meeting with Mayor of Tzaneen
2. Meeting with Ward Councillor and Municipal Manager, Leboakgoma
3. On-site meeting with DWAF
4. Meeting with Silicon Smelters
5. Meeting with Stevens Lumber Mills
6. Meeting with community on Mr Birdhunter's property near the site.

<b>Meeting Title:</b>	Meeting with Mayor of Tzaneen
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 30 July 2008
<b>Location:</b>	<b><i>Tzaneen Municipal Offices</i></b>
<b>Note Taker:</b>	Jan Phelan

<b>Attendees:</b>	OT Mushwane (Mayor) Sello S Seroto (Ward Cllr) Joyce Nwikinika (Chief Whip) Monika Makhuthudise	Sipho Mofokeng (Director Ndwana) Andrew Macdonald (Senior PM-Ndwana Prospecting) Jan Phelan (EAP)
<b>Apologies:</b>	None received	

<b>Topics:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr Sipho Mofokeng thanked the Mayor for the possibility of meeting with him to outline the prospecting project and the basic assessment process which was being followed w.r.t. the Haenertsburg Project.</li> <li>2. It was explained that prospecting had been conducted since January 2007 when the authorisation had been obtained from the Dept of Minerals and Energy and in the EM plan the commitment had been made that should prospecting move to the next phase in any sensitive areas then environmental assessments would be done for these specific areas. This was the stage at which the project was at the moment.</li> <li>3. It was not yet known if the project would lead to mining as the objectives of the current phase of prospecting were to establish the size of the kimberlite and to make some effort to establish whether there were diamonds present and what the grade was. This would only be determined conclusively in the next phase of prospecting when bulk sampling was done and only at that stage would feasibility studies be done to see whether it was worth converting the prospecting into a mining authorisation. Until the results came back from the laboratories, it would not be known whether it was worth even considering this.</li> </ol>	

<p>4. Mr Mushwane said that he was very glad to meet with Mr Mofokeng and the people involved in the prospecting project and although they (the council) did not have any direct decision making authority in the matter, they were very pleased to be informed of the project and would support it, if it would contribute to jobs for people in the area and was not in conflict with any legal framework and would not do any serious damage to the environment.</p> <p>5. Mr Mushwane and Joyce Nwikinika wished to visit the site and Mr Macdonald said that this could be arranged.</p> <p>6. <b>Mr Mushwana thanked Mr Mofokeng for attending the meeting for the opportunity of explaining details of the Ndowana Prospecting Project. He said that they would follow with interest the progress of the Basic Assessment.</b></p>	<p>AM</p>
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(Post meeting note: A site meeting was subsequently arranged for the following month and at this meeting Mr Seroto, Mr Mushwane and Ms Nwikinika visited the Haenertsburg site with Mr Macdonald.)

<b>Meeting Title:</b>	Meeting with Ward Councillor, Mr Mopofela
<b>Date:</b>	29 July 2008
<b>Time:</b>	2:00 pm
<b>Location:</b>	<b><i>Lebowakgoma</i></b>
<b>Note Taker:</b>	Jan Phelan

<b>Attendees:</b>	Mr Mphahlela, Municipal Manager Mr Pleasure Setsiba (Town Planner)	Sipho Mofokeng (Director of Ndowana) Andrew Macdonald (Chief Project Manager -Ndowana ) Jan Phelan (Environmental Assessment Practitioner)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mr Mopofela	

<b>Topics:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
<p>1. The primary objective of the meeting was to meet with Mr Mopofela who is the Ward Councillor of the Lebowakgoma area.</p> <p>Although Mr Mopofela had been informed of the meeting several weeks beforehand, he was unable to attend as he had been unavoidably held up at the University. Therefore he had arranged for Mr Mphahlela, the Municipal Manager, to attend in his place. Mr Mphahlela was accompanied by Mr Pleasure Setsiba.</p> <p>2. Mr Mphahlela stated that job creation was essential but that it should balance with nature. He said that his concern rested equally with nature, poverty and joblessness.</p> <p>He said that he could say from his community and from Lebowakgoma that they supported development within the legal framework.</p>	

3. Sipho Mofokeng said that as the project was a prospecting programme, at present not a great many jobs would be created but the project would contribute in a small measure to the local economy.

It was not known at this stage whether the prospecting could or would lead to mining as the size of the kimberlite and whether diamonds were present was not known, and, if present, what the grade and quality of the diamonds was.

4. Mr Mphahlela mentioned the poverty in certain of the villages in the area and said that if any projects went ahead they could help to alleviate the poverty through the creation of jobs.

5. Pleasure Setsibo agreed to obtain copies of the maps that went with the spatial development framework and would forward them for use. This was noted and appreciation was expressed.

**PS**

6. Sipho Mofokeng thanked Mr Mphahlela for his interest in the project and for the opportunity to meet with him.

5. Regret was expressed that Mr Mopofela, the Ward Councillor, had not been able to attend but it was hoped to meet with him at some stage in the future.



<b>Meeting Title:</b>	Meeting –with DWAF (Dept of Water Affairs & Forestry) officials
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2008
<b>Location:</b>	<b><i>On site at Haenertsburg</i></b>
<b>Note Taker:</b>	Jan Phelan

Noted: A ministerial enquiry to the Minister in charge of DWAF had been made by the Friends of the Haenertsburg Grasslands. Several officials had been to the site accompanied by Members of the FroHGs.

<b>Chaired by:</b>	<b><i>Jan Phelan</i></b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Willem du Toit Martha Komape Donald Mabada William Mosefowa	Mercy Mamali Andrew Macdonald Joseph Mahlo Meso Kama
<b>Apologies:</b>	None received	

<b>Topics:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
<p>1. JP and AM met up with the DWAF officials at the police station and travelled to the site, stopping along the way near the Bird Hunter property (portion 1 of Paeroa) where we could get a good view of the site right to the top of the mountain. AM explained the prospecting and where the different activities would take place.</p> <p>We stopped closer to the old Zeederburg house (now forestry worker's hostel) to get a view of the site from a different angle and then drove up towards the fire lookout hut where we left the vehicles and most of us walked up the hill to get a view across the top of the site from the top looking down to the bottom. We could also see across the saddle from the summit.</p>	

## 2. Major Concerns raised:

- Potential pollution of water, particularly as a result of drilling, or from disposal of residue, sanitation or waste

It was explained that procedures were in place to address these and it was thought that there would be minimal, if any, pollution of water.

- Compaction or disruption of water courses/stream flow
- Impact on groundwater from drilling

It was advised that a geo-hydrological study would be undertaken to ascertain whether there could be any negative impact from drilling on groundwater or water quality.

- JP enquired as to the correct procedure for obtaining authorisation for the water that would be needed for drilling. It was not assumed that water would be taken from a landowner unless an arrangement had been reached with the farmer for this.
- DWAF officials stated that the people to contact would be the CEO Forset Mwasha, from the Lepelle Water Board in Polokwane. DWAF were thanked for this information and advised that this would be followed up so that the necessary authorisation could be obtained.
- David Mabada suggested that Nodowana apply to DWAF for a permit/exemption wrt stream sampling. AM said that DWAF officials had been taken out on a stream sampling exercise and had stated that a permit was not required. DM said that best practice would be for this to be formalised via a permit or exemption.
- JP queried if the catchments had been studied and if any info would be available to give to the geo-hydrologist. This was not known.
- JP asked what the best practice was wrt the disposal of water after a drilling programme. DWAF officials present suggested that water quality should be tested to determine if any treatment was necessary before releasing it. A suggestion that it could be used for road-wetting to keep down the dust was noted as a possibility,

JP to get contact details for AM to apply for permit

AM

Geo-hydrologist

but another suggestion to take the water to the sea but was not considered to be feasible.

8. It was enquired as to what the sanitation facilities were on drill sites. AM said that a chemical toilet would be supplied – the nearest sewage treatment works to be established.
9. DWAF was asked which laboratory they used for water sample analysis: they usually used the CSIR in Pretoria. Sometimes the municipal laboratory in Polokwane was used although this was not accredited. The former was therefore the preferred laboratory to be used.

AM

<b>Meeting Title:</b>	Meeting with Ryno van Wyk, Silicon Smelters
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 20 May 2008
<b>Time:</b>	9.00 am
<b>Location:</b>	<i>Twefontein</i>
<b>Note Taker:</b>	Jan Phelan

<b>Attendees:</b>	Ryno van Wyk (representing Mr. A.E. Barnard, Silicon Smelters) - RvW	Andrew Macdonald (Snr Project Manager) - AM Jan Phelan - JP (Environmental Assessment Practitioner)
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<b>Topics:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. JP explained the Basic Assessment (BA) process and that certain concerns had already been gathered and that on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July a Public Participation Meeting was being held to explain the concerns that had been identified, to explain to people how the BA would be conducted and to gather concerns from those present wrt the proposed prospecting.</li> <li>2. It was explained that an authorisation from the Dept of Minerals &amp; Energy had been obtained for the current prospecting and that in terms of the EM plan it had been agreed that should prospecting proceed to the second phase or an advance phase in any of the sensitive areas, then specific EIAs would be done for those areas. That was the stage currently reached where advanced prospecting was proposed on the 57 hectares of the study area.</li> <li>3. AM explained how the prospecting would be undertaken; it was a phased approach and there would be periods when no field work was being done whilst material was being analysed in the laboratory.</li> </ol>	

4. Discussion followed over the goat grazing and RvW said that he would find out if there was any formalised agreement in place wrt the grazing of the goats on the different properties. The goats are owned by the community on the Bird Hunter but they do not stay only on this property, but range across Colberg, Paeroa and Fountainhead which is also one of the properties owned by Silicon Smelters.

5. Impact of the Prospecting on Silicon Smelters  
AM explained that should they want to dig any pits (either manually or mechanically) within the plantation it might be necessary to remove one or two rows of trees and asked if this would be acceptable. RvW said this would not be a problem and they could let them know and they would remove the timber. Ndowana would reimburse them for the trees that had to be removed. RvW said they would just require adequate warning and they could remove the timber.

6. **Use of Water**

The Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry would be approached to ascertain the right authority to contact to find out if a permit was required and where the water should be collected. It would not be assumed that water could be taken from the prospecting area without the landowner's agreement.

7. **Issues of Dust and Noise**

If dust were a problem, Ndowana could look at wetting the roads.

8. **Silicon Smelters - main concerns**

- access roads, volume of traffic (dust and noise) and the issue of road maintenance
- use of water
- impact on the biodiversity of the area wrt grassland and riparian habits, and fauna such as birds, butterflies etc
- sense of place and potential change of the character of the area
- fire hazard issues in winter

**9. EIA on Charcoal Burning**

RvW : this had commenced but he was not sure at which stage it was or when it would be completed.

10. AM: if the prospecting programme made progress and the BA went ahead he would return with the consultant to discuss the issue of access roads and whether there would be any possibility of using the roads and contributing towards maintenance.

AM/JP

**11. Fire Hazard**

AM: there would be close co-operation between the team working in the field and the timber companies. The team would be briefed to be on the lookout for fires and smoke, would carry the necessary contact numbers and would heed alerts wrt red fire days.

12. RvW will convey contents of matters discussed at this meeting to Mr Barnard and would look forward to receiving the response to the concerns when it was sent out to I&APs.

<b>Meeting Title:</b>	Meeting with Mr Colin Morgan
<b>Date:</b>	20 May 2008
<b>Location:</b>	<b><i>Stevens Lumber Mills</i></b>
<b>Note Taker:</b>	Jan Phelan

<b>Attendees:</b>	Colin Morgan (CM) Andrew Macdonald (AM) Jan Phelan (JP)	Stevens Lumber Mills Snr Project Manager - Ndowana Environmental Assessment Practitioner
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<b>Topics:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. JP explained the EIA process and the involvement of the different government departments.</li> <li>2. AM outlined the phased approach of prospecting, explaining that results determined the next step and how the proposed extension for prospecting would be followed by another phase of prospecting for which a separate EIA would be undertaken. Results of this prospecting and feasibility studies would determine if the option of mining could be considered. A full EIA would be done to convert from prospecting to mining and interested parties would be involved in both these assessments.</li> <li>3. AM then explained the proposed activities to be undertaken by Ndowana during the proposed phase of prospecting.</li> </ol>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. JP outlined the current potential aspects and impacts which had been identified and some of the responses to these. Several of these did not relate to the prospecting activities, but it was important to capture these, as they might warrant consideration in the next phase or if the project progressed to mining.</li> </ol>	

<p>5. Road issue</p> <p>CM explained that the Roads Department no longer did any maintenance on the access roads to Paeroa and Paardevlei and that farmers and Stevens Lumber Mills invested a considerable amount of money in the maintenance of these roads.</p> <p>6. CM said that the sense of place and peacefulness of Haenertsburg were very important attributes. He said that they did not want a mine on the property.</p> <p>7. CM – small dam on Colberg was important for the fighting of fires. It had always stayed full even during dry seasons and there would be great concern if it dried up. He stressed the danger of fires during winter (red fire alert days) and the special procedures in place. AM – suggested prospecting teams could be involved and it was agreed that the procedure could be amended to include them.</p> <p>8. Main concerns with regard to prospecting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of the roads – that they would deteriorate if used by prospecting teams</li> <li>• Character of the village might change</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible additional fire risk – but AM said that there was no need for any of the prospecting teams to make fires. They would be trained and involved in fire procedures and notified of red alerts</li> <li>• Impact of prospecting on biodiversity – the Friends of the Haenertsburg Grasslands had made the community realise how special the grasslands were and if there were tracks through the grasslands others in 4x4s might be tempted to go on them and they would take a very long time to be rehabilitate</li> <li>• Erosion – a potential risk if pits were dug high up in the mountain where slopes were steep</li> </ul>



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>9. It was noted that there are graveyards in the vlei, east of the Zeederberg village.( Forestry Single Quarters Hostel)</li><li>10. CM would attend the public participation meeting. AM said that if there was a positive outcome on the proposed prospecting Basic Assessment, he would refer back to CM with regard to using the Stevens Lumber Mills roads.</li></ol> |  |
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<b>Meeting Title:</b>	Meeting with Community living on Mr Aubrey Birdhunter's Property
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2008
<b>Time:</b>	6 pm (Full moon rise )
<b>Location:</b>	<b><i>On site</i></b>
<b>Note Taker:</b>	Jan Phelan

<b>Chaired by:</b>	<b><i>Jan Phelan</i></b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Alex Kgopa Alphious Maphelo Rose Mapheto Rosinnah Sekgobela Reuben Thema	Adrinah Mogaswa Alphious Lekota Lefika Andrew Macdonald Jan Phelan
<b>Apologies:</b>	None received.	

<b>Topics:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
<p>1. Lefika translated the main issues of the Background Information Document (BID) into Pedi and outlined the Prospecting Programme.</p> <p>2. <b>Main Concerns raised :</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Whether the noise of the machines would create a disturbance at night? (Reply: Only during the day.)</li> <li>2. Dust ? (Reply : roads would need wetting if dust an issue.)</li> <li>3. Whether prospecting would pollute the water from streams which were used for drinking? (Reply: no chemicals used that will go into the stream. Measures will be in place to prevent potential pollution form waste, sanitation and residue</li> <li>4. Whether prospecting would restrict the goats grazing area? AM said that because prospecting operated in a small area at a time, it would not really restrict the goats.</li> </ol>	

3. The community asked if pits were ever left open at night because the goats were not kraaled and could possibly fall into the pits. It was agreed that if any pits were left open at night they would be barricaded to prevent access.
4. Alex Kgopa said that if the above concerns were addressed then they had no further concerns and would be glad if the prospecting provided jobs for any members of their community.

## **Response to the various questions from interested and affected parties regarding the status of the Marsfontein Mine**

The Mining Licence (5 of 1998) for the Marsfontein Mine was issued in the name of the “Marsfontein Joint Venture” (“MJV”), with De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited (“DBCM”) and Southern Era Resources Limited (“Southern Era”) ultimately being members of the joint venture.

Mining commenced at the Marsfontein Mine in September 1998 and ended in December 2000.

Subsequently DBCM transferred its participation interest in the MJV into a company known as Steppon Investments (Pty) Ltd (“Steppon”) and in turn sold 40% of the shares in Steppon to empowerment partners, the most prominent of which was New Diamond Corporation (Pty) Ltd (“NDC”). Steppon later became known as Naka. In 2001 the name of the Joint Venture was changed to Klipspringer Joint Venture (“KJV”) and included participation in the Klipspringer Mine.

On 6 October 2004 De Beers sold all of its shares in Naka to an empowerment consortium including NDC. The KJV Agreement was also simultaneously amended to reflect that DBCM would no longer participate in the KJV. As part of the amendment to the KJV Agreement agreement, the remaining members of the KJV, Naka and Southern Era, contractually undertook to perform any further rehabilitation that may be required at the Marsfontein Mine. This remains the case as confirmed recently by Southern Era.

In addition, a financial guarantee for environmental rehabilitation is held in the form of a trust fund at Alexander Forbes Limited, which, at the time of DBCM’s exit from the KJV, had been credited with an amount of R1 172 050 in respect of the Marsfontein mining operations.