

A full-page photograph of a worker in a green uniform and hat using a yellow tool in a stream. The worker is standing on rocks in a shallow stream, surrounded by lush green vegetation. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding foliage. The worker is holding a long yellow pole or tool, possibly for sampling or maintenance. The background shows a stone wall and more greenery.

ISSUE 1, 2020 • APRIL

Chamber of Mines OF NAMIBIA

NEWSLETTER

The quarterly newsletter of the Namibian mining industry

www.chamberofmines.org.na



THE RHINO GOLD BAR

| CREATIVE PHILANTHROPY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET |

© PHOTO BY OLWEN EVANS

WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN **1000 OUNCES** OF GOLD MAKE?



Through a ground-breaking donation of 1000 ounces of Namibian gold by B2Gold, organizations and individuals have the opportunity to contribute directly to the protection of the last free-roaming population of black rhinos left in the world by investing in a limited edition Namibian Rhino Gold Bar.

Proceeds from the sales will provide long-term sustainable funding for rhino conservation on communal land in Namibia, where a rhino-based economy is developing – supporting livelihoods and providing hope for the future to rural communities.

This initiative is administered by B2Gold and its Advisory Committee and supports the activities of Save the Rhino Trust Namibia, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation, Conservancy Rhino Rangers and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, for the benefit of black rhino conservation and communities in northwest Namibia.

These are graphic renderings and not the final product.

TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE
| CONTACT rhino@b2gold.com |



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Environmental Practitioner from Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb collecting samples for water quality monitoring in the Tsumeb area. ©Dr. Paul Goddard



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FEATURE IN OUR NEXT 2020 ISSUE



ADVERT & CONTENT DEADLINES

A 'NEW NORMAL'



“
Challenges and
Opportunities
for Namibia in
a maturing
industry....

The new decade started off with fresh hope and optimism, which focused on various strategies and plans to overcome the difficulties confronting the mining sector in recent years. As the saying goes, “life happens when you’re making other plans,” and the global COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it a complete reordering of priorities and focal areas.

Since the situation rapidly escalated in mid-March, the world has witnessed a scramble by Governments, industries, international and civil society organisations to curb the spreading of COVID-19 while trying to keep economies afloat. This virus has not spared any country, sector or person, and we are all establishing how to function in this ‘new normal’ we find ourselves in.

With the confirmation of the first two cases confirmed in Namibia, the Chamber of Mines formally communicated its decision to postpone the Mining Expo and Conference to 2nd and 3rd September. While we sincerely hope the event will take place, we are also closely monitoring developments, with a view to make a final decision early in June.

The Chamber has been working round the clock to consolidate efforts of its members, Government and the union to curb the impacts of COVID-19 and mitigate impacts on mining employees. With the local tourism devastated by this pandemic, mining remains one of the few sectors to ensure that the Namibian economy doesn’t come to a grinding halt. As such, the Chamber also advocated for Cabinet to allow mining companies to return to normal operations, which was thankfully granted, though the required approvals for COVID-19 measures were delayed. This is on the proviso that COVID-19 health and safety requirements are adhered to and implemented in all operational business units.

The mining sector has heeded nation-wide calls for support in the fight against COVID-19. As at the time of writing, the following operations have made in-kind or monetary donations totalling N\$ 36.1 million as per below;

- Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb donated N\$5million to Tsumeb District hospital to increase preparedness for COVID-19,
- Debmarine Namibia donated 20 ventilators to the value of N\$9.9 million,
- De Beers Group donated N\$ 15 million to National Government,
- Rössing N\$200,000 to National Government, and
- B2Gold donated N\$6 million which was split between Development Workshop of Namibia to support their programmes in informal settlement areas and targeted Government interventions.

In addition, the industry is also supporting local communities and hospitals to ramp-up COVID-19 preparedness and response measures.

This issue initially intended to capture some of the unique and innovative actions by member operations and associated organisations to broaden its contribution to socio-economic development in non-mining regions and its role in wildlife environmental conservation. While we navigate this new normal, it remains important to highlight these initiatives as they will continue to make a positive impact through this pandemic and when we recover from it.

Stay safe and healthy,

VESTON MALANGO
CEO – Chamber of Mines of Namibia
27TH MARCH 2020

COLLECTIVE MINING EFFORTS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Historically, and at present, investments by mining companies have shaped the socio-economic development of many towns and communities in Namibia's mining regions. Initially, the rationale motivating such actions were linked to direct benefits for the mine and mining community. In recent years, however, investments by mines have seen a marked shift towards making a broad-based contribution to economic development.

The shift in paradigm is linked to the depleting nature of mining activities and environmental footprint as well as generating a social licence for companies to operate. Emerging from this is the concept of "offsets", which refers to an approach that compensates for mining's impact on the environment and surrounding communities.

In Namibia and elsewhere, mining companies support local communities and towns through targeted Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes that are generally located where operations have immediate impact. The focus of mining CSR programmes tend to be on areas with sustainable benefits, such as education, health, infrastructure, conservation and other economic sectors.

Chamber members identified a need to broaden their contribution to socio-economic development, by investing in activities that produce benefits beyond the borders and lifespan of a single operation. Collectively, this idea and thinking was taken a step further when the Council of the Chamber formalised this objective into the Chamber's overarching strategy in 2017.

To achieve this, the Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE) through its involvement on the Chamber Environmental and Social Committee, identified two projects that support the objective of furthering socio-economic development in non-mining regions. Chamber members collectively allocated an amount of N\$1,325,939 to invest in the two projects, which were coordinated and implemented by the NCE in 2019. The reported outcomes of both projects translated into long-term benefits far beyond those planned and expected.

The first project involved the electrification of 130 homesteads, benefiting more than 1,000 people, in

two villages in the Mashi Conservancy, located in the Zambezi Region. The Conservancy contributed just over N\$460,000 towards the project (36% of the costs) and the Chamber of Mines the remaining N\$826,000. Such a significant contribution by the project beneficiaries illustrates their prioritisation and commitment to this development. The electrification project allows households to create and run small businesses from their homesteads such as barber shops and kiosks. This is in addition to the expected educational and health benefits derived by families living in an electrified homestead.

The second project to receive support from industry is an urban development initiative in Oshakati. The project facilitates access to serviced land by low income families and individuals, through an affordable self-financing mechanism in the form of a revolving fund. Collective contributions from Chamber members served as the seed capital for the revolving fund, which financed the servicing of 122 plots in Oshakati, and helped to initiate similar projects in Okahao, Karibib, Opuwo and Keetmanshoop. A total of more than 4,000 plots are now being developed by this rapidly expanding programme, with several additional towns having requested support. Material benefits derived from the two projects have incited further consideration by industry to expand on them and incorporate new ideas to broaden their impact.

The finite and impactful nature of mining has prompted industry, together with its social and environmental partners, to harness the common objective of furthering socio-economic development beyond mining and make this a reality. In efforts to widen offsets of mining, it has become the hope of industry to leave an enduring legacy that will support and contribute to Namibia's environmental, social and economic diversification.





B2GOLD DONATES 1,000 OUNCES

to rhino conservation and communities that protect them

B2Gold Corp officially launched its ground-breaking donation of 1,000 ounces of Namibian gold that will be used to conserve the Black Rhino and support the communities that protect them. To commemorate this hallmark initiative, the Rhino Gold Bar was launched at two separate events; in Windhoek on 26 February at Drombros and also at the Mining Indaba on 5th February in Cape Town.

With this donation, B2Gold is producing 1,000 limited-edition Rhino Gold Bars that will be available for sale to investors. The reverse side of the Rhino Bar displays a black rhino mother and her calf, symbolising a sign of hope for the longevity and future of the species. The obverse shows the Namib desert, an evocative and recognizable image strongly associated with Namibia. The Bars will be sold at the spot price of gold on the date of sale plus a 15% conservation premium. Bars will be available in 500g, 1 ounce and ½ ounce denominations. The monetary value of the donation is around N\$25 million.

Mark Dawe, Managing Director and Country Manager for B2Gold Namibia and keen conservationist, explained that proceeds from the sale of the Rhino Gold Bar will be managed by B2Gold and an Advisory Committee that includes representatives from Save the Rhino Trust Namibia, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation, Namibia Chamber of Environment, and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The funds will be used in two ways; a portion of the proceeds will be invested to provide long-term sustainable financing for black rhino conservation, while significant funding will be applied immediately to conservation actions in the field, including support for patrols, intelligence activities, and to rural communities for whom the protection of rhinos is their birthright.

Clive Johnson, President and CEO of B2Gold Corp. explained how B2Gold is redefining conservation financing. “The donation represents the first time that gold, a natural resource from the ground, is being used to provide sustainable funding to community-backed initiatives for the protection of the iconic black rhino.”

It is the first time in the history of Namibia, and across the globe, that a mining company is taking such bold measures in support of wildlife conservation. B2Gold Namibia has become a flagship example of how mines can mitigate their immediate impact by making long-term and sustainable investments into the environment and communities.



The 500g B2Gold Rhino Gold Bar; ten 500g bars



The Rhino Gold Bar Prospectus on display



Mark Dawe, B2Gold Namibia Managing Director and Country Manager, addressing the gala.



The B2Gold Rhino Gold Bars



The B2Gold Rhino Gold Bars

“How do banks assist in clean energy transition?”

“We dig deeper to find alternative funding options.”



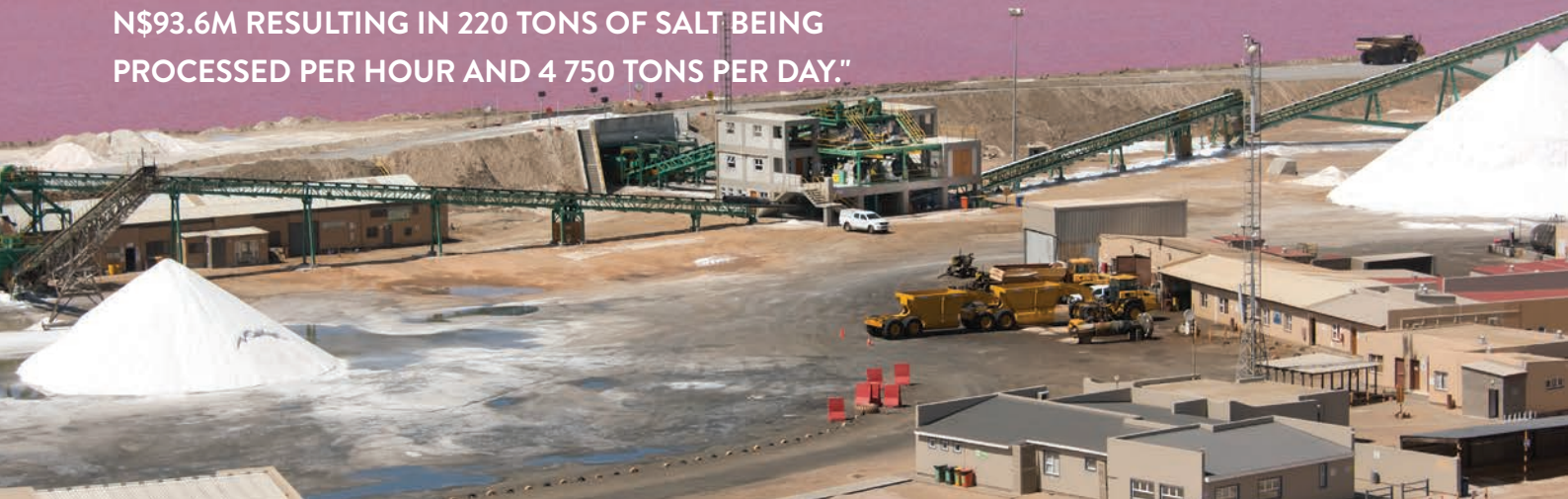
The mining industry is in transition, with conventional mining techniques and minerals making way for a **lower-carbon economy**.

The way banks finance the industry is in transition too, with alternative funding solutions now required for **water treatment plants, renewable energy units** and the like.

Our **multi-disciplinary teams** can assist with identifying opportunities, and navigating risks and challenges. With our **well-established presence** in the industry, we provide the specialist expertise required for your mining operation to transition with confidence.

For more information, contact Gaby Horne on 061 294 2689, Gaby.Horne@standardbank.com.na

"THE NEW WASH PLANT SAW A PROJECT COST OF N\$93.6M RESULTING IN 220 TONS OF SALT BEING PROCESSED PER HOUR AND 4 750 TONS PER DAY."



SALT OF THE EARTH

THROUGHOUT HISTORY SALT HAS PLAYED A DRAMATIC AND PIVOTAL ROLE THROUGH TRADE ROUTES, VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY, POWER STRUGGLES, RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES, AGRICULTURE, MEDICAL TREATMENTS AND MORE. NOT TO MENTION ADDING TASTE TO MAKE THE MOST DELICIOUS DISHES IN THE WORLD.

At Walvis Bay Salt Holdings (WBSH) in Walvis Bay, Namibia, salt is literally of the earth. Harvested from the sea, the salt mine covers over 6,000 hectares of land, producing some 900,000 tonnes of processed salt per year. All it needs is seawater, sunshine and wind – luckily in plentiful supply in the area.

As Africa's largest sub-Saharan salt mine, the traditional core business of Walvis Bay Salt Refiners (WBSR) is to produce, process and market solar sea salt in both bulk and bag formats for the local and international markets. The crude solar salt produced by WBSR needs to be upgraded through washing and processing to remove impurities such as calcium, magnesium and insolubles and to reduce the moisture content, in order to meet a wide range of client specifications.

"In the salt industry it is all about efficiencies – you only offer a successful salt business if you have low cost basis of the products," says Andre Snyman, managing director of WBSH.

Andre Snyman, Managing Director of WBSH, is upbeat about the opportunities to generate revenue from this low-price commodity. "To be successful there are a few key points – you must have volume, you must be in control of your logistics and have high economies of scale in terms of your volumes," he explains. "People think all salt is the same. That's not true. Salt is not salt. It gets graded and you must have the ability to provide the correct technical specifications to a wide variety of markets." As Andre explains, five years ago the company didn't have that ability, but now is able to after the installation of a new wash plant.

INTERNAL INNOVATION AND GROWTH

After a salt field expansion in 2015, WBSH required the ability to wash up to 1,200,000 tonnes of crude salt per year. The previous wash plant, which was constructed in 1989 and had reached the end of its life, had to operate at very high Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) levels, 365 days per year, 24 hours per day in order to meet salt field capacity and market demand.

The biggest improvements of the new processing plant are anticipated to be lower processing losses, a drier product, lower power consumption, as well as the fact that the larger plant intake capabilities will support harvesting and haulage operations at a constant feed rate. This investment enhances international sales and marketing efforts by offering a wider range of product specifications from a lower cost base. In addition, the new plant increases the processing capacity of salt from 120 to 220 tonnes per hour and brings the benefit of improved product quality.

“Initially the new wash plant has had a few challenges but we have resolved them all,” says Andre. “The WBSR site is located in the Kuiseb river delta close to the sea, which made it necessary to cast raft foundations on a sand basis, just 300mm above the water level on the site. The harsh, highly corrosive environmental conditions also required special design and standards to ensure a plant life of more than 30 years.”

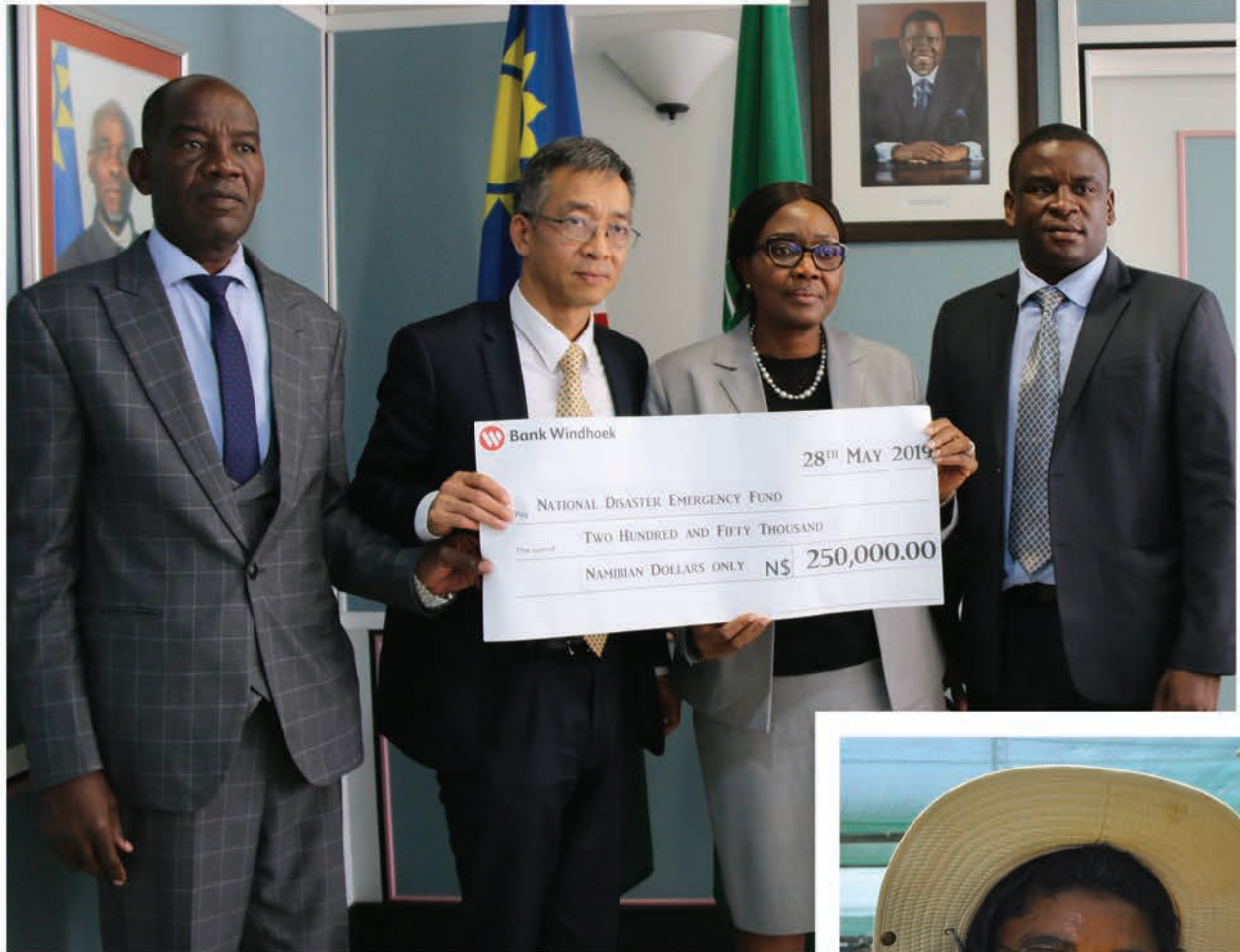
WE THINK OF OURSELVES AS SALT FARMERS. THIS NEW PLANT MAKES OUR EFFORTS MORE EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE.

Andre Snyman
WBSH Managing Director

By investing in the new wash plant, WBSH have seen improvements all round. The new wash plant requires lower operator input, making more time available for monitoring, measuring and maintenance work. The capital investment of N\$93.6 million ensures sufficient salt processing capacity in order to target various international markets with confidence as they can meet the ever-increasing international specifications. “We think of ourselves as salt farmers,” says Andre. “This new plant makes our efforts more effective and sustainable and it wouldn’t have been possible without a great multi-national design team with extensive knowledge of salt and the conditions on the Walvis Bay Salt Refiners’ site behind it.”

SALTY FACTS

- Salt was one of the greatest treasures of the ancient world.
- Man found his way to salt by following animal paths to salt licks and so salt trails developed.
- The oldest known salt production site is in the city of Provadia, Bulgaria, dating from about 4,500 years BC.
- Salt was used as currency in ancient Rome, and the roots of the words ‘soldier’ and ‘salary’ can be traced to Latin words related to giving or receiving salt.
- Salt taxes and monopolies have led to wars and protests everywhere from China to France, India and parts of Africa.
- Salt has had cultural and religious significance in every religion from Buddhism to Christianity. Salt is mentioned often in the bible, most famously when Lot’s wife was turned into a pillar of salt.
- Salt was so valuable it was traded for slaves, which is the origin of the expression ‘not worth his salt’ or ‘not worth his weight in salt.’
- Someone who is the ‘salt of the earth’ is a dependable, unpretentious person, a saying which originated from the bible.
- ‘Salting the earth,’ however, refers to an ancient military tactic of plowing fields with salt so that no crops could be grown.
- Salt could mean life or death when it was used to preserve meat and food.
- Superstitions around salt had people believing that spilling salt meant bad luck. Throwing a pinch of salt over your left shoulder was a way to cast off the evil.
- Taking something with a ‘pinch of salt’ means remaining sceptical about its truth, which relates to the fact that salt makes everything more palatable.



**MORE THAN
MINING**

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RADIATION SAFETY *is not limited to the Uranium Sector*

The Namibian Uranium Institute now offers courses on Radiation Safety for People working with Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials.

The Namibian Uranium Institute, in collaboration with the independent specialist consulting firm VO Consulting, is regularly offering radiation-related training courses at its training facilities in Swakopmund. Courses are aimed at informing potentially affected persons about radiation-related risks, how to monitor, manage and control them, and implement mitigation measures.

In view of the many different exploration and mining activities involving naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM), including dimension stone (such as granite for example), rare earth minerals and many other mineral ores, and the increasing demand for an introductory radiation safety course, VO Consulting developed a new one-day training course which will be offered from 2020 onwards. The course, which is titled “Introductory Radiation Safety Course for Persons Working with NORM” introduces the concepts of radiation protection, essential radiation safety requirements and how to minimise potential exposure to radiation when working with NORM.

This one-day training course is specifically suited for persons dealing with radioactive minerals other than those dealt with in the uranium exploration and mining sectors. The course starts with an introduction to radiation, discusses the biological effects as a result of exposure to ionising radiation and covers the practical aspects related to applying radiation safety in the workplace. It also provides a

short introduction to radiation monitoring equipment and how one can best minimise the risk of exposure to radiation when handling NORM. The course is tailor made for the non-specialist dealing with NORM in the workplace.

This NORM-focused radiation safety training course is informed by the diverse experiences in successfully offering a variety of radiation protection courses during the past decade. These include the Namibian Uranium Institute’s flagship courses to certify Radiation Safety Officers, which are offered in the form of three consecutive modules. In addition, a variety of shorter radiation protection and practical radiation safety courses are offered, including the

- Radiation Safety Course for Transporters of Radioactive Materials, i.e. a one-day course on radiation protection for persons transporting radioactive materials;
- Radiation Safety Course for Sealed Radioactive Sources, i.e. a one-day course on the basic requirements and radiation protection when handling sealed radioactive sources, such as those used in various mining and industrial settings;
- Radiation Safety Course for Emergency Management, i.e. a one-day radiation safety course for first responders and emergency recovery personnel who may have to deal with radiative materials;
- Radiation Safety Course for the use of X-rays,

RADIATION COURSE OFFERED AT THE NUI



i.e. an introductory radiation protection course of relevance to persons operating X-ray equipment, including those used in non-destructive testing and various medical settings.

- In addition, the Namibian Uranium Institute offers the following introductory radiation-related courses that have proven particularly useful for non-specialist audiences:
- Radiation Safety for Managers, i.e. a half-day course introducing the principles of radiation protection for managers who have staff dealing with radioactive sources and/or X-ray equipment; and
- An Introduction to Radiation and Uranium, i.e. a 2-hour course providing an overview of radiation-related topics and uranium mining activities in Namibia's Erongo Region.

Radioactive minerals and X-ray equipment can expose persons to ionising radiation. It is therefore essential that radiation-related risks are professionally

managed, and that their impacts are deliberately minimised. This is best achieved when staff are aware of work-related risks, and have been trained in minimising exposure to radiation.

The Namibian Uranium Institute's main objective in providing radiation-related training is to empower those that are responsible for safety in the workforce, including practicing Radiation Safety Officers. Its training courses are geared to ensure that radiation-related risks are neither trivialised, nor that staff are immobilised by fear of potential radiation exposure and its impacts on the body.

All radiation-related training courses are offered by highly qualified and experienced radiation professionals, providing systematic guidance on how radiation-related risks are identified, monitored, and managed to ensure that exposure to radiation is kept as low as reasonably achievable.

To attend a radiation-related training course, please contact Ms. Monika Ruppel or Ms. Helena Niimbala at the Namibian Uranium Institute in Cottage Avenue in Swakopmund.

You can also contact them telephonically on 064 - 402 393, or by fax 064 - 402 394, or send an email to administrator@namibianuranium.org. Namibian Uranium Institute staff will gladly provide additional information on the radiation-related courses offered as well as the cost and schedule of courses to be held.

CREATING BRILLIANCE THROUGH CONSERVATION

Namdeb's operation located within the Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park, adjacent to the Orange River and the Namibian Islands Marine Protected Areas, calls for a very responsible and sensitive approach to environmental management. Namdeb is involved in numerous conservation, monitoring and ecological history programmes that aim to minimize the potential impact of its operations on the environment.

The Brown Hyena Research Project is one such initiative that Namdeb supports and has been conducting research in the Tsau//Khaeb National Park (Sperrgebiet) since 1997. Initially, studies focused on hyena clans living in the northern coastal areas, but in 2018, the project started to expand its activities to Oranjemund.

The first task was to establish a carnivore inventory for the Lower Orange River. Brown hyenas and black-backed jackals are the most common carnivores sighted on camera traps that have been set-up in the area. With this information, the project team hopes to establish an identification catalogue of resident brown hyenas, and possibly even population size estimates.

The team also plans to monitor the 'urban' hyenas in Oranjemund in 2020, and identify potential risks of their interaction with such an environment. Experience from the previous studies in and around Lüderitz show that vulnerable animals, often move towards urban areas in search of food. The Brown Hyena Research Project has applied for funding to implement this study in the Oranjemund area. Results of this study will be presented towards the second half of the year.

Other long-term study sites are still monitored. The project has camera traps set-up in the Bogenfels area, animals with satellite collars around Elizabeth Bay and started a long-term monitoring study at Baker's Bay, just north of Chamais. The latter project aims to formulate a tourism concept for the area in order to enable future visitors to observe predators foraging at the mainland seal colony.

Through collaborative efforts, the project was able to establish an entire genome of the brown hyena, which will in future help to estimate population size and changes through non-invasive sampling techniques. The process of replacing the breeding female's satellite collar at Elizabeth Bay and fitting these to the resident Baker's Bay hyenas will be an invaluable addition to their research on Brown hyenas in the Tsau//Khaeb National Park. These vast and inaccessible areas would otherwise limit the ability to expand knowledge on the unique brown hyena population along the southern coastal Namib desert.

Namdeb, through its environmental fund, is proud to continue supporting educational development and research initiatives for key biodiversity species such as the Brown Hyena by linking people with nature through conservation.





SAY NO TO
HEPATITIS E

ADDRESSING THE HEPATITIS B OUTBREAK

More than 170,00 people, almost half of Windhoek's residents, now live in shacks in the fast-growing informal settlements. A majority of these residents do not have access to toilets and defecate in the open, mostly in riverbeds. Some 40 tonnes of faeces end up in open spaces every day, dissolve into dust or washed down riverbeds during heavy rains. Faeces particles reach households carried on shoes, flies or unwashed hands. A general lack of hygiene such as regular handwashing with soap or safe storage of water (in closed containers) means that household food and water are easily contaminated, leading to a generally high prevalence of diarrhea in children and the spread of Hepatitis E.

Clearly, there is need for an alternative and pragmatic approach to sanitation in these areas. Since early 2018, Development Workshop Namibia (DWN) has been testing appropriate urban low-cost sanitation solutions with support from the Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE), in several towns across Namibia. In August 2019, DWN initiated a sanitation project in Windhoek that received financial and technical support from the NCE, UNICEF, UNDP, Japanese Embassy, and the Debmarine-Namdeb Foundation (DNF). Additional support in 2020 is being provided by the First Rand Foundation (FNB/RMB). The Windhoek intervention is a direct response to the Hepatitis E outbreak and the emergency sanitation situation caused by open defecation, poor hygiene and behaviour (such as regular hand washing) and unsafe water storage.

The programme is implemented through a unique and collaborative institutional arrangement, that is led by the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) and the City of Windhoek (CoW), and actively promoted by the Constituency Councillors of Samora Machel and Moses Garoeb. DWN acts as the project implementing partner, in collaboration with some 100 active volunteers from the two constituencies. The project is implemented in two main areas. The first is the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) which uses a bottom up approach to sensitize and educate informal settlement residents on the dangers of open defecation, importance of regular hand washing and safe water storage, and to encourage residents

to construct latrines according to guidelines provided by the CoW. The second approach involves Sanitation centres with demonstration toilets, constructed in different areas of informal settlements, which show how latrines can be built safely and at low cost. By February 2020, the project consisted of eight DWN team members training more than 100 volunteers in designated areas. Eight sanitation centres have been built, and approximately 13,000 residents were educated through community sensitization on improved sanitation. Thirty-five owner toilets were completed or are under construction as a direct outcome of sensitisation efforts.

The project is also supporting job-creation in the training of more than 50 individuals in brick laying. Specifically for latrine construction. With limited resources, the project has had a notable impact in a very short period of time. This is a direct result of the collaborative effort between MoHSS and the CoW, and the very proactive engagement of the two constituency councils. Concerted and coordinated donor support, bringing together UN organisations and local foundations, also allows for a focused and effective intervention. In the next few months, an additional 25 sanitation centres will be constructed in selected kindergartens in the informal settlements, reaching out to children, parents and teachers in an effort to contain Hepatitis E and generally improve sanitation and hygiene. In parallel, additional funds are being sought to increase project coverage in Windhoek and other Hepatitis E affected towns in Namibia.

IRDNC JOINS NATIONAL DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORTS

Since its establishment in the early 1980s, the purpose of the Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) is to link conservation to the social and economic development of the people who live with wildlife and other valuable natural resources.

With permanent field teams in the Kunene and Zambezi Regions, IRDNC observed the distressing effect of drought hitting communal conservancies and rural farmers in both regions with great concern. Plunging wildlife numbers, migration and illegal settlement of cattle farmers in search of better grazing, dying livestock and the eventual outcries of food deficiencies called for immediate response to the crisis. IRDNC held an emergency workshop in Windhoek, convening government officials, development agencies, local corporate firms, and other non-governmental organisations to brainstorm urgent solutions to the devastating drought crisis.

Through the workshop, the IDRNC managed to raise N\$ 863,479.16 from the DEBMARINE-

NAMDEB Foundation, Ongava Game Reserve, Wilderness Safari, Agribank, RMB Namibia through the FirstRand Namibia Foundation Trust, Natural Selection and Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb Community Trust.

The funds were used to support the “Cash for Meat Carcass” initiative in the Kunene Region, which allowed farmers in the Kunene conservancies to trade in cattle carcasses for cash. The Torra Conservancy brought ten carcasses from two farmers, while #Khoadi //Hôas and Anabeb Conservancies sold 22 and 117 from 10 and 11 farmers respectively. Ozondundu Conservancy sold 55 carcasses and Sesfontein Conservancy sold 70. In total, 274 carcasses have been sold thus far. Planning and preparation of this project required joint collaboration and efforts by a number of parties, including the Namibian Police, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Councillors Offices and the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management of the Office of the Prime Minister.

The field team led by IRDNC’s Cluster Coordinator, Dave Kangombe, toured Kunene conservancies buying cattle carcasses and distributing meat to the elderly and vulnerable members of the conservancies, as well as to local schools. This ingeniously relieved farmers with cattle unlikely



Cattle to be slaughtered

DONORS LOGO'S



to survive beyond the drought crisis and simultaneously provided food to starving rural communities. Some farmers made use of the cash income to buy fodder for their remaining herds, in the hope that their best breeds would survive to restock their kraals in the future. The field team proceeded northwards in the Kunene to include conservancies such as Puros, Otjikondowarongo and more.

IRDNC extends a huge appreciation to all the donor organisations, planning partners and stakeholders, and especially to B2Gold Managing Director, Mark Dawe, who helped immensely with fundraising efforts. IRDNC's Executive Director, John Kasaona, the IRDNC Kunene office staff, and the Natural Resources Working Group at NACSO have been integral in steering and driving this project to success.



Register of the cattle



Paying out



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MARENICA EXPLORATION DELIVERS PROMISING RESULTS ON “KOPPIES” PROJECT

In November 2019 and February 2020, Marenica Energy announced very positive results from its drilling programme on its Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) 6987, commonly referred to as “Koppies”.

The results confirmed high grade uranium mineralisation in the Koppies 1 palaeochannel, the best result of 2 metres at 4,504 parts per million (ppm) of uranium oxide (U₃O₈) was contained within an intersection of 13 metres at 905 ppm U₃O₈ from 3 metres below surface.

A second, high grade palaeochannel (Koppies 2) was detected with uranium mineralisation located the full length of the EPL (3.6 kilometres) and 1.2 kilometres wide. The best result at Koppies 2 includes an exceptional assay interval of 1 metre at 7,060 ppm U₃O₈ contained within an intersection of 3 metres at 3,087 ppm U₃O₈ from 1 metre below surface. The high levels of mineralisation occur at shallow depths of less than 20 metres. In addition, the resource is hosted in a calcrete

ore, the same type of uranium hosted resource that was used to develop Marenica's *U-pgrade*TM. This indicates that the *U-pgrade*TM process could potentially be used should the resource reach mine development phases.

These initial results indicate a strong potential to further explore and develop this area. Marenica thus plans to carry out further drilling on this licence area. The Koppies area is one of several tenements the company has within its portfolio and this licence forms part of Marenica's strategy to continue with significant exploration programmes in the Namib Desert. The success of the drill programme to date supports the Company's decision to apply for exploration ground in this highly prospective mineral field.

Mincon's comprehensive range of class-leading hard-rock drilling consumables and systems are designed and manufactured to deliver ultimate performance in the toughest conditions, using less energy per metre drilled.

Mincon Namibia proudly services customers in a wide range of industries, including mining, quarrying, exploration, construction and water well drilling. Contact us and find out why Mincon tools are: The Driller's Choice.



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RMB'S SOLUTIONIST THINKING APPROACH UNLOCKS VALUE IN NAMIBIA

RMB Namibia, a division of FirstRand Namibia Limited, is a leading African Corporate and Investment Bank and part of one of the largest financial services groups (by market capitalisation) in Africa – FirstRand Limited. We offer Namibian clients a comprehensive suite of Corporate and Investment Banking products and services.

WHAT MAKES RMB UNIQUE?

At RMB we are passionate about solving problems for our clients. Our thinking digs deeper and sees further. It's an approach we call Solutionist Thinking. With a can-do mindset that is considered, innovative, curious and resilient, we seek solutions beyond the obvious. We are innovative in our thinking and turn challenges into opportunities. Bound by the belief that together we can make a difference for our clients, for society and for the future. Solutionist Thinking is the magic that inspires everything we do. RMB Namibia has been a valued partner for corporate banking and financial solutions to clients in Namibia for more than a decade. These solutions include: Structured Lending; Trade Finance; General banking facilities; Loan Solutions; Syndication and Distribution; Infrastructure Finance; Resource Finance; Export Credit Agency; Leveraged Finance; Real Estate Finance and Custody and Trustee Services. It is our ability to think differently, our collaborative spirit, our client-centric solutions and our belief that great minds don't always have to think alike, what sets us apart.

OUR TEAM

Our team at RMB has a wealth of knowledge and are able to advise clients on a range of products and services, individualised to their specific needs. The team has an in-depth knowledge of the economy and global markets to advise clients on the best quality and inventive solutions to make their businesses grow and flourish. During the past year, RMB Namibia has successfully negotiated deals and provided landmark solutions for big companies in Namibia including: Debmarine Namibia, Nampower, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, MMI, Ohorongo Cement, Ohlthaver & List, Air Namibia, Telecom and Otjikoto Gold.

DEDICATED TO CSI

RMB Namibia, through the FirstRand Namibia Foundation Trust also plays a big role in numerous Corporate Social Investment (CSI) projects such as: Song Night; The Kids on Bikes development project; the Concerto Festival; Early-Rider Development BMX programme for the Namibian Cycling Federation; Physically Active Youth; the Grace Welfare project and the RMB Come Together Workshop Series in co-operation with the National Art Gallery of Namibia.

OUR ACCOLADE UNDERPINS OUR COMMITMENT

At the beginning of 2018, RMB Namibia's Trade and Working Capital division was recognised as the 'Best Trade Finance Provider in Namibia' by the Global Finance Magazine. The award was based on several factors, including transaction volume, global coverage, customer service, competitive pricing and innovative technologies – all of which are part of RMB Namibia's solutions-driven ethos.



RMB NAMIBIA

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Corporate and Investment Banking





PROTECTING OUR NATURAL WORLD THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

The location of our operations within the Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park, adjacent to the international Orange river and Namibian Islands Marine Protected Area, calls for a strong focus and responsible environmental management. Namdeb has for several years supported various research and conservation efforts through the establishment of partnerships with key research and academic institutions.

