



***17TH MEETING OF INTOSAI
OCTOBER 2016***

**Issues, Opportunities and Challenges in
Audit and Environmental Assessment**

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ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

- Pollution and Environmental Rehabilitation of Mining Sites in Namibia





AUDIT FOCUS

- Pollution Control and
- Rehabilitation of Mining Sites





POLLUTION CONTROL

- The Department of Environmental Affairs under the Ministry of Environment and Tourism did not conduct any inspections at the mining sites whereas the Directorate of Mines under the Ministry of Mines and Energy conducted inspections but the audit could not establish the extent to which these inspections were conducted due to incomplete information provided;





POLLUTION CONTROL

- The Department of Environmental Affairs does not adequately ensure that Mineral Right Holders complies with their Environmental Management Plans because inspections were not conducted at the mining sites;





POLLUTION CONTROL

- There is lack of monitoring by Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry because the Sand Miners were operating without Environmental Clearance Certificates which is one of the requirements of permit conditions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry which have to be acquired from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. This is due to a lack of enforcement of the provisions of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act 7 of 2007);





POLLUTION CONTROL

- There is inadequate environmental monitoring by the Directorate of Geological Survey under the Ministry of Mines and Energy because only one active mining site was inspected for the periods under review (2011/12-2015);





POLLUTION CONTROL

- The Ministry of Mines and Energy did not adequately communicate the findings of inspections on environmental impacts to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and other stakeholders. The findings of the inspections reported by the Directorate of Geological Survey on Otjihase and Oamites mines and of which the audit found similar findings during the physical observations,



POLLUTION CONTROL... CONT

were not formally communicated to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and were not acted upon by both the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. These are indicated below:

- Contaminated seepage from Otjihase Copper mine tailing dams were released into the Kuruma river system; and
- The surface water in the Oamites river is polluted with sewage from the waste water plant treatment plant at Oamites abandoned mine.



POLLUTION CONTROL... CONT



Effluents disposed on to the environment at Otjihase and Matchless Copper Mines.





POLLUTION CONTROL

- The Department of Water Affairs under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry did not adequately ensure that Mineral Rights holders operate with valid Water Effluent Disposal Exemption Permits.





REHABILITATION OF MINING SITES

- The Directorate of Mines under the Ministry of Mines and Energy did not establish financial mechanisms for environmental rehabilitation and aftercare and issues Mining Licenses to Mineral Right Holders without them providing Final Mine Closure Plans together with funding mechanisms. As a result, approximately 157 mining sites were left abandoned after closure.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Ministry of Mines and Energy should put measures in place to ensure that the Directorate of Geological Survey adequately conduct environmental monitoring at active mining sites in Namibia.
- The Ministry of Mines and Energy should also put measures in place to effectively communicate findings of inspections on environmental impacts to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and other stakeholders as stipulated in the Minerals Policy of 2002.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should put measures in place to ensure that Mineral Rights Holders comply with Environmental Management Plans.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry should put measures in place to ensure Sand Miners adheres to permit conditions.
- The Ministry of Mines and Energy should put measures in place to ensure financial mechanisms are established for environmental rehabilitation and aftercare.





OPPORTUNITIES

- Exposure to the INTOSAI Waste Management and Mining Guidelines;
- Information sharing on environment auditing by delegates from SAI South Africa and Norway;
- Conduct of parallel audits with other SAI's;
- Attachment to other SAI's; and
- Usage of experts.





CHALLENGES

- Division still new and staff do not have experience in the subject matter;
- Unavailability of documented information;
- Untimely provision of information and staff attitude;
- Voluminous data analysis;
- Vague standards and laws that are not harmonized;
- Information not user friendly or incomplete - manner in which the information is compiled;





CHALLENGES

- Lack of expertise to sufficiently test the impacts on the environment; and
- Budget constraints and time - could not visit the mining sites of the Small-scale miners and hire experts.



QUESTIONS??

