

NAMIBIA

Sustainable Use of the Mineral Resource Potential



Region:
Southern Africa

Focal point:
Mineral
Resources

BMZ-theme:
Sustainable
Economic
Development

Project type:
Bilateral

Project duration:
2022 - 2025

Cooperation
since: 1998

The Geological Survey of Namibia (GSN) is working with the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) to contribute to a sustainable use of Namibia's mineral potential. Building on the achievements of previous cooperation, the project supports the generation of relevant geoscientific data for various commodities, highlighting the potential of local value addition.

The project aims at the improvement of the geoscientific information access.



Large feldspar crystals in a pegmatite, Central Namibia.

Situation

Currently, the focus of Namibia's mineral sector is on the mining of diamonds, uranium, copper and gold, making the sector very vulnerable to price fluctuations of these commodities. Diversification of mining activities will increase Namibia's economic resilience. Especially non-metallic raw materials, also called industrial or development minerals, are only mined to a small extent and local demand is often met through imports.

Furthermore, the potential of local value addition through refining and utilization of raw materials is still largely untapped.



Open cast mining and processing plant, Uis Tin Mine

Goal and approach

The overall goal is to support the Namibian Mineral Beneficiation Strategy through investments into the mining sector. Specifically, the project aims at:

- Highlighting economic potentials of mineral raw materials, focussing on local value addition and sustainability aspects.
- Improving the accessibility of digital economic geological information and data for investors and political decision makers.
- Actively promoting Namibia as an investment destination for mining with high ESG standards.
- Capacity Development for GSN personnel in the relevant fields.



Preparation of field work

On behalf of



NAMIBIA

Sustainable Use of the Mineral Resource Potential

Partners:



Ministry of Mines
and Energy



Sustainable
Development
Goals:

1 NO
POVERTY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

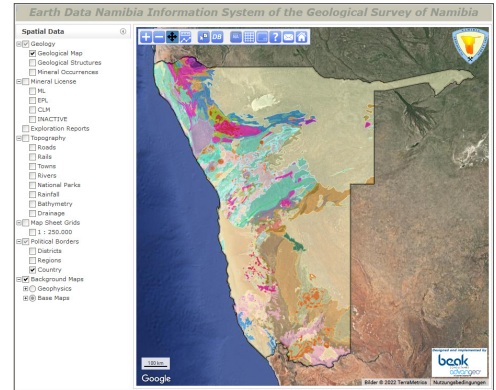


Access to digital information

The global effort to move towards green energy in combination with unexpectedly interrupted supply chains brought the global raw material market into uproar. International exploration companies are urgently looking for alternative sources especially for the so-called critical raw materials (CRM). In order to identify prospective areas, they depend on access to economic geological information.

The GSN, as the custodian of Namibia's geological heritage, has a true treasure of this specific data and information; however, it is often only available in hard copies and insufficiently catalogued. Access to this data is very difficult.

With the database "Earth Data Namibia" as a core, the Project supports the development of an integrated digital data strategy for the GSN and establishes workflows to collect e.g. exploration data in digital digestible formats.



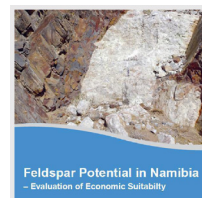
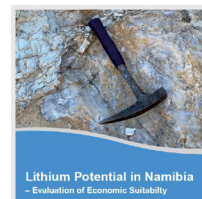
"Earth Data Namibia" database

Source: <https://www.mme.gov.na/edni/>

Mineral Potential Studies

To evaluate the economic potential of selected commodities, various factors need consideration. These are upstream and downstream factors which are interlinked and dependent on each other. The following factors are key to demonstrate the economic potential of a commodity

- Quality, grade and industry requirements for the raw material are as important aspects as quantities, ease of access (e.g. surface versus underground mining) or the required processing and beneficiation steps.
- Access to infrastructure like roads, water and energy as well as the question, whether the mineral can be sourced with minimal negative social and environmental impact.
- The final question is: can the local product compete with imported ones? What are the local and regional competition and prices?



Scan the QR Code to access the studies

The Potential Studies on Lithium and Feldspar elaborated by the Project summarize these various topics in order to advise the Namibian government with regard to policy-making and give potential investors a sound basis of information for investment decisions.

BMZ-Nr:
2021.2096.2

Version:
16/12/2022

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