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The Extractor
Mapping Namibia's Mineral Resources

- Chinese commit N$5.7bn to Namibian mines
- South32 funds N$50m for Noronex's exploration
- Ongwe moves into the drill-defined phase
- Otjikoto cashes in on gold rally in 2025 revenue

VOLUME 04 | Edition 19 MONDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2026

Nam sits on N$17b critical minerals reserve

353 products across 23 sectors identified

UNCTAD says 60 products are directly linked to critical energy transition mineral value chains, which could create 26,000 jobs, unlock an estimated N$15.4 billion in export opportunities, and generate around N$2.2 billion through import substitution.

Picture courtesy Lepidico

A BDO report titled Annual Mining Report 2026: Navigating Industry Shifts in Critical Minerals, Sustainability and Innovation identifies a series of structural and execution challenges that could constrain Namibia's ability to fully capitalise on the global mining and critical minerals upswing if left unaddressed.

A LOOK AHEAD TO 2026 IN NAMIBIA – RECONAFRICA

As our work with the communities and authorities of Namibia continues into 2026, we are pleased to share a number of successes and developments around our exploration activities under PEL 073, as well as a look to the year ahead.

KEY SUCCESSES OF 2025

In 2025, ReconAfrica progressed key priorities by drilling our second exploration well in the Damara Fold Belt. The results showed indications of oil and gas over eight separate intervals in the Kavango West 1X well. A total of 64 metres (210 feet) of the sections contained confirmed hydrocarbons, with additional promising signs deeper in the well within the limestone reservoir. These findings suggest that the Damara Fold Belt has real potential for future energy development.

Following these positive results, PEL 073 partners ReconAfrica (operator), NAMCOR, and BW Energy met with Her Excellency President Nandi-Ndaitwah to discuss the oil and gas findings and explore how the partnership could support onshore development and help strengthen Namibia's long-term energy future.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES IN KAVANGO EAST AND KAVANGO WEST

ReconAfrica continues to invest in and work with local communities and is proud to have an industry-leading Environmental, Social and Governance programme in Namibia.

To date, ReconAfrica has:

- Locally hired and contracted over 2,700 short and long term positions, and worked with over 550 local, regional and national service and supply companies
- Supported 10 STEAM and 7 SAN Nursing students from the Kavango East and Kavango West regions with scholarships
- Installed 36 solar-powered community water wells in remote areas
- Completed more than 2,600 community engagement sessions
- Provided N$19 million in funding for medical services, equipment, training and wellness programmes
- Provided funding for environmental and social projects in various communities

WHAT IS NEXT FOR RECONAFRICA IN NAMIBIA?

Preparations are underway for a production test of the Kavango West 1X well this year. The team is currently procuring the necessary equipment and has applied for permits required for production testing in order to evaluate the zones of interest. This will be the first production test for hydrocarbons in Namibia and could result in the first flow of hydrocarbons to surface for the Country. We expect to conclude this testing by the third quarter of 2026.

In all aspects of our operations, ReconAfrica is committed to minimal disturbance of habitat in line with international standards and implementing environmental and social best practices in our project areas.

We remain grateful to the people of Namibia for your partnership in exploring the potential for long-term energy development in the area and look forward to providing further updates throughout 2026.

Inside

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COVER STORY

Namibia can unlock US$900m and 26,000 jobs through critical minerals value addition

Namibia could unlock close to US$900 million (about N$17 billion) in new economic activity and support around 26,000 jobs by moving beyond the export of raw critical minerals and developing targeted value-added industries linked to the global energy transition, according to a new United Nations trade study.

The findings are contained in a report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which identifies 353 feasible products across 23 sectors that Namibia could competitively develop using capabilities it already possesses.

Within this pipeline, 60 products are directly linked to critical energy transition mineral value chains. UNCTAD estimates that US$811 million of the opportunity lies in export markets, while US$117 million could be realised

through import substitution, reducing Namibia's reliance on foreign industrial inputs.

Titled Rapid Assessment of the Value Addition and Diversification Within and Beyond the Critical Energy Transition Minerals Value Chain: Namibia, the study argues that Namibia's long-standing dependence on exporting unprocessed or semi-processed minerals is limiting the developmental impact of its resource endowment.

Despite being a significant producer of uranium, zinc, copper and other minerals essential to renewable energy systems, electric mobility and energy storage, the country continues to capture only a small share of downstream value.

UNCTAD's assessment is grounded in economic complexity and product-space analysis, a methodology that maps how closely potential new industries align with a country's existing production knowledge, skills, infrastructure and institutions.

Rather than proposing aspirational industrial leaps, the report focuses on "nearby" products that Namibia is realistically capable of producing with targeted policy support and incremental investment.

The study finds that

the most promising diversification opportunities are concentrated in midstream processing and adjacent industries rather than in capital-intensive end products such as electric vehicles or battery cell manufacturing.

These opportunities include mineral beneficiation steps, chemical processing, fabrication of industrial inputs, specialised engineering and maintenance services, logistics, recycling, and construction activities linked to mining, energy and large-scale infrastructure projects.

> **US$811 million lies in export opportunities, with a further US$117 million available through import substitution.**

According to UNCTAD, this approach offers a more resilient pathway to industrialisation.

By embedding itself more deeply in global supply chains as a supplier of intermediate goods and specialised services, Namibia can capture steady demand and build industrial capabilities without assuming the financial and technological risks associated with full downstream manufacturing.

The report also

highlights the importance of Namibia's existing advantages. These include a relatively stable regulatory environment, long experience in mining governance, expanding renewable energy capacity, and strategic access to regional and international markets through the Port of Walvis Bay.

UNCTAD notes that these foundations position Namibia favourably compared to many resource-rich peers competing for a role in energy transition supply chains.

Institutional coordination emerges as a central constraint.

The assessment warns that fragmented policymaking across mining, industrialisation, trade, skills development and investment promotion could undermine otherwise viable opportunities. UNCTAD recommends stronger alignment among these policy domains to ensure that supplier development, infrastructure investment, and skills training are sequenced with industrial expansion.

The availability of skills is identified as a decisive factor. The report stresses that technical training, vocational education and industry-specific skills development must precede or move in parallel with value-addition efforts. Without this sequencing, Namibia risks reinforcing its role as a raw-material exporter even as global demand for critical minerals accelerates.

The assessment was launched in Windhoek in collaboration with the National Planning Commission and is expected to inform ongoing policy discussions around industrialisation, green hydrogen development and the implementation of the Sixth National Development Plan. UNCTAD frames the study as a practical tool for prioritising investments rather than a theoretical wish list for industry.

The report concludes that the global energy transition presents a narrowing window of opportunity. Countries that move early to position themselves within value chains through targeted, capability-driven industrial strategies are likely to secure lasting economic gains. Those who delay, it warns, may remain exposed to volatile commodity cycles with limited employment and industrial spill-overs.

UNCTAD's central message is that Namibia's diversification challenge is no longer about identifying opportunities, but about executing them.

The minerals are already in the ground, the markets are already forming, and the capabilities already exist. What remains is the institutional discipline to convert mineral wealth into a broad-based economic transformation.

BDO Flags infrastructure, capital and skills gaps as key risks to Namibia's mining ambitions

A BDO report titled Annual Mining Report 2026: Navigating Industry Shifts in Critical Minerals, Sustainability and Innovation identifies a series of structural and execution challenges that could constrain Namibia's ability to fully capitalise on the global mining and critical minerals upswing if left unaddressed.

The report situates Namibia within a group of mineral-rich jurisdictions that are strategically important to the global energy transition, but cautions that geological endowment alone is no longer sufficient to secure competitiveness.

Instead, it argues that success will increasingly depend on how countries manage infrastructure, capital mobilisation, skills development, environmental pressures and policy implementation.

One of the most significant challenges highlighted for Namibia is the capacity of its infrastructure.

While the country benefits from political stability and access to export corridors, the report points to persistent constraints in electricity supply, transmission infrastructure and water availability, particularly for projects located in arid and remote regions.

> **Namibia sits among the world's strategically important critical-minerals jurisdictions.**

These limitations increase development costs, complicate feasibility studies and can delay project timelines, reducing Namibia's attractiveness relative to peer jurisdictions competing for the same capital.

Access to capital is flagged as another critical constraint, especially for junior and mid-tier mining companies that dominate Namibia's exploration landscape. The report notes that rising exploration costs, stricter ESG compliance requirements and commodity price volatility have made early-stage funding more difficult to secure. This risks slowing the pace of discoveries and delaying the advancement of projects in emerging districts such as copper, uranium and rare earths.

Skills shortages also feature prominently in the report's assessment. Namibia faces growing gaps in advanced technical capabilities, including geological modelling, digital and automated mining systems, environmental management and project finance.

As mining operations become more technologically complex, the report warns that limited local capacity could increase reliance on expatriate expertise and undermine localisation and skills-transfer objectives.

On policy, the report acknowledges Namibia's commitment to local content and beneficiation but highlights implementation challenges.

It cautions that local content requirements, if not matched with deliberate investment in supplier development,

skills training and access to finance for SMEs, risk becoming compliance exercises that raise costs without delivering meaningful industrial depth.

Environmental and social pressures are identified as another risk factor. Namibia's sensitive ecosystems and water-scarce environment demand higher standards of environmental management, tailings control and community engagement.

The report notes that failure to manage these aspects effectively can lengthen permitting processes and heighten social licence risks, particularly as community expectations around employment and benefits continue to rise.

Finally, the report points to Namibia's exposure to global commodity price cycles as an ongoing vulnerability. While critical minerals are strategically important, their markets remain volatile and subject to geopolitical shifts. This volatility complicates long-term planning and financing, especially for capital-intensive projects with long development horizons.

Overall, the BDO report concludes that Namibia's principal challenge is not a lack of mineral potential, but the pace at which it

can align infrastructure development, skills formation, capital access and policy execution with rapidly shifting global demand.

How effectively these constraints are addressed will determine whether Namibia merely participates in the next mining cycle or emerges as a competitive, value-adding jurisdiction in the critical minerals era.

Namibia's mining sector is a cornerstone of the national economy and one of the most diversified in sub-Saharan Africa, anchored by long-life operations, advanced development projects and an active exploration pipeline.

The country hosts a broad range of minerals, led by uranium, diamonds, gold and copper, alongside zinc, lead, tin, lithium, rare earth elements, graphite, fluorspar and other industrial minerals.

Uranium has re-emerged as a strategic pillar, with Namibia ranked among the world's leading producers, while diamonds remain historically significant through both onshore and offshore mining.

The country is well positioned for the energy transition — but position does not guarantee capture.

Gold production has expanded over the past decade, and copper exploration activity has accelerated, particularly in the Kalahari Copper Belt.

Namibia currently has more than 20 producing mines, supported by dozens of advanced exploration and development projects at various stages.

Major operating mines include Swakop Uranium's Husab Mine, one of the largest uranium operations globally; Rössing Uranium, one of the world's longest-running uranium mines; and Paladin Energy's Langer Heinrich Mine, which is returning to production. Gold output is led by B2Gold's Otjikoto Mine and Navachab Gold Mine, while diamonds are produced through land-based and marine operations by Namdeb and Debmarine Namibia.

Beyond operating mines, Namibia hosts a growing pipeline of development-stage and advanced exploration projects across uranium, copper, gold, lithium, rare earths and critical minerals.

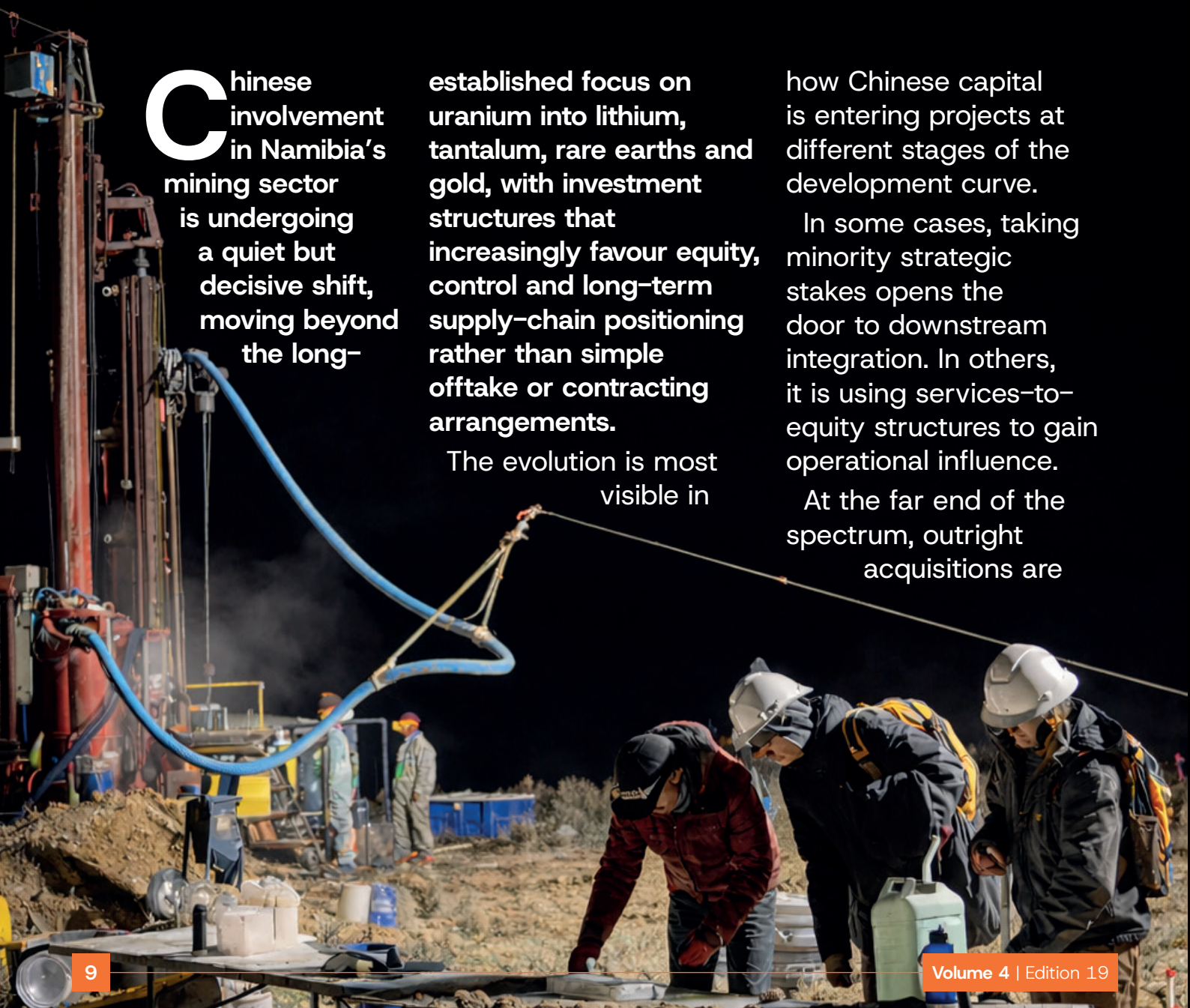
These are largely driven by junior and mid-tier companies, supported by international capital and technical partnerships, and regulated under a mining framework overseen by the Ministry of Mines and Energy, with industry coordination through the Chamber of Mines of Namibia.

Mining contributes roughly 10% of Namibia's GDP, remains a major source of export earnings, and underpins employment, infrastructure development and fiscal revenue.

However, the sector's future trajectory is increasingly shaped not only by geology, but by infrastructure readiness, access to capital, skills availability, environmental constraints and policy execution.

CHINESE INVESTMENT

Chinese firms pour almost US$300m into Namibian mines, smelters and future metals



Chinese involvement in Namibia's mining sector is undergoing a quiet but decisive shift, moving beyond the long-established focus on uranium into lithium, tantalum, rare earths and gold, with investment structures that increasingly favour equity, control and long-term supply-chain positioning rather than simple offtake or contracting arrangements.

The evolution is most visible in how Chinese capital is entering projects at different stages of the development curve.

In some cases, taking minority strategic stakes opens the door to downstream integration. In others, it is using services-to-equity structures to gain operational influence.

At the far end of the spectrum, outright acquisitions are

transferring full ownership of advanced Namibian projects into Chinese hands.

At the Swanson Tantalum Project in southern Namibia, Arcadia Minerals Limited has adopted a development pathway that reflects this changing dynamic. Arcadia entered into a binding term sheet with Hong Kong Xinhai Mining Services Limited, part of the broader Xinhai group, allowing the Chinese company to earn up to 70% of the project through staged funding and delivery of mining and processing services.

Rather than an upfront cash takeover, the structure is designed to move Swanson into production while limiting Arcadia's capital burden, effectively tying project control to execution and operational delivery.

The approach mirrors a broader Chinese preference for gaining influence through build-operate capability, particularly in smaller but strategically important critical-mineral assets.

Chinese involvement in Namibia's mining sector is no longer about uranium alone — it is about control, execution and long-term supply chains.

A different but related model is emerging at the Kameelburg rare earth element and niobium project, where Aldoro Resources Limited has aligned itself with Chinese technical capacity without selling equity in the project itself.

Aldoro disclosed that Cheng Du Ao Hua Exploration Engineering was granted performance rights linked to the delivery of exploration and technical milestones.

The arrangement keeps project ownership in Australian hands while embedding Chinese contractors early in the technical workflow, positioning them close to the asset should it advance toward development and financing. Kameelburg, therefore, represents a foothold strategy rather than a takeover, reflecting how influence can be built through execution rather than ownership.

The most explicit example of Chinese capital moving directly into Namibia's critical minerals value chain is found at Askari Metals.

Askari Metals Limited secured a A$2.5 million strategic equity investment from Zhejiang

Huayou Cobalt Co., Ltd, one of the world's largest producers of battery materials. The placement gave Huayou a significant minority stake in Askari, with the right to lift its holding to 9.9% and nominate a board representative at that threshold.

Askari explicitly linked the investment to accelerated exploration at its Uis Lithium Project in Namibia, effectively connecting Namibian lithium upside to a global Chinese battery supply chain at the corporate level rather than through future offtake negotiations.

The clearest signal of how far Chinese investment has evolved is seen at Twin Hills.

> **Chinese capital is moving from offtake and contracting into equity, control and embedded execution.**

The gold project, developed by Osino Resources, was acquired by Shanjin International Gold, formerly known as Yintai Gold, in an all-cash takeover.

The C$368 million transaction resulted in 100% ownership of Osino and the Twin Hills project transferring to the Chinese group, displacing a competing Western bid and marking one of the largest Chinese acquisitions of a Namibian gold development to date.

Since completion, the project has shifted decisively into execution mode under new ownership, with management changes and development planning aligned toward construction.

Running parallel to these newer investments is a deal that predates them all and helps explain the current trajectory.

In 2018, Sinomine Resource Group acquired the Tsumeb Smelter from Dundee Precious Metals for about US$20.3 million, transferring 100% ownership of one of Namibia's most strategic pieces of minerals infrastructure into Chinese hands.

The smelter is one of the few facilities globally capable of treating high-arsenic copper concentrates, giving its owner leverage well beyond Namibia's borders.

Under Sinomine, Tsumeb has been repositioned from a legacy copper operation into a strategic processing hub within China's wider metals supply chain.

The company has also signalled a transformation of the facility beyond traditional copper, outlining plans to process critical and speciality metals such as germanium, gallium and zinc-bearing materials, aligning the smelter with China's priorities in semiconductors, photovoltaics and advanced manufacturing.

This shift places Tsumeb firmly within the same strategic arc now visible in lithium, tantalum and gold investments: control of processing capacity as a complement to upstream resource ownership.

> **Chinese investment is entering Namibian projects at multiple points along the development curve.**

In funding terms, direct exploration and equity investment in Namibian projects with Chinese participation currently amount to about A$7.5 million, or roughly US$5 million.

This includes capital raised into Askari Metals to advance the Uis Lithium Project and early-stage funding associated with Arcadia Minerals as it progresses, Swanson.

Outright acquisitions, however, dwarf exploration funding. More than US$290 million has been committed through full takeovers and asset purchases, led by Shanjin International Gold's acquisition of Twin Hills and Sinomine's purchase of the Tsumeb Smelter.

Beyond cash already deployed, additional value may still flow into Namibia through development-linked commitments, including services-based earn-ins at Swanson that could add at least A$1 million in construction and development work if milestones are exercised.

Taken together, these transactions illustrate a clear pattern. Chinese companies are no longer content with being contractors, minority partners, or downstream buyers loosely tied to Namibian production.

They are increasingly embedding themselves structurally into projects, using a range of mechanisms, from strategic shareholdings and earn-ins to full corporate takeovers.

The focus has also broadened decisively beyond uranium into the minerals that underpin energy transition technologies and industrial manufacturing.

COPPER

South32 commit about N$50m for Noronex' 2026 exploration

South32 has committed approximately A$4 million, or about N$50 million, to FY26 exploration activities as part of a five-year earn-in arrangement with Australia-listed Noronex Limited, which provides both funding and technical input.

The commitment forms part of a broader A$20 million (about N$250 million) earn-in package that allows the diversified mining major to progressively increase its interest in selected licences through exploration expenditure rather than upfront acquisition.

Noronex controls an extensive ~10,000-square-kilometre licence position across Namibia and Botswana within the Kalahari Copper Belt, giving the junior explorer one of the largest continuous landholdings in the region.

The portfolio is primarily focused on sediment-hosted copper-silver systems, with exposure to uranium in Namibia.

The FY26 programme is anchored by active drilling in both jurisdictions. In Namibia, a 7,000-metre reverse-circulation drilling campaign is underway at the Powerline Project, targeting copper-silver mineralisation beneath cover sequences.

In Botswana, a 3,000-metre RC drilling programme is now underway at the Cgae Cgae Project as part of South32's earn-in commitments.

The Cgae Cgae Project represents a significant expansion of the strategic alliance. Two exploration tenements were applied for in January 2025 and granted in February 2025, covering more than 1,500 square kilometres of previously unexplored terrane in Botswana. The new licences cover interpreted extensions of the basement complex to the north-east of the Damara geological system, opening up a new exploration frontier within the broader Kalahari

The earn-in model allows South32 to scale exposure through execution rather than acquisition.

structural corridor.

South32 agreed to formally include the Botswana tenements into the Strategic Alliance Agreement, under which the major can earn 60% by spending A$5 million (about N$62 million) over five years commencing in FY26. For the current financial year, South32 has committed A$1 million (about N$12.5 million) toward the Cgae programme, funding RC drilling to test basement geology beneath the Kalahari cover. Drilling is currently underway.

In Namibia, Noronex has highlighted what it describes as outstanding prospectivity across its tenure, citing strong geological similarities to nearby large-scale copper deposits elsewhere in the belt.

At the Fiesta Project, drilling has defined a prospective strike length of approximately 4.5 kilometres, with multiple copper-silver intercepts confirming scale and continuity.

Reported Fiesta intercepts include 45 metres at 0.8% copper and 23 g/t silver, 30 metres at 0.56% copper and 62 g/t silver, 16 metres at 1.3% copper and 33 g/t silver, and 33 metres at 0.8% copper and 31 g/t silver.

The company has indicated that these results support the presence of a broad, laterally extensive mineralised system rather than isolated high-grade zones.

Drilling at the Powerline Project in Namibia has also returned copper-silver mineralisation, including intercepts of 4 metres at 0.58% copper and 69 g/t silver, 7 metres at 0.25% copper and 25 g/t silver, 9 metres at 0.24% copper and 29 g/t silver, and 9 metres at 0.45% copper and 43 g/t silver.

These results are being used to refine structural models and guide further step-out drilling along interpreted mineralised corridors.

Beyond copper, Noronex is advancing uranium exploration at its Etango North Project in Namibia under a low-cost option agreement. The company currently holds 51% and has the right to increase its interest to 80% through further investment.

The project is

located in the heart of Namibia's hard-rock uranium district. It lies along strike from Bannerman Energy's Etango deposit, which hosts a reported 207 million pounds of contained U_3O_8, placing Noronex's ground in a well-established uranium corridor.

Noronex presented its expanded copper-uranium portfolio and drilling programmes at the Investing in African Mining Indaba 2026, positioning its assets within a global context of tightening copper supply, rising electrification demand and long lead times for new mine development.

A ~10,000 km² land position gives Noronex one of the largest continuous footprints in the Kalahari Copper Belt.

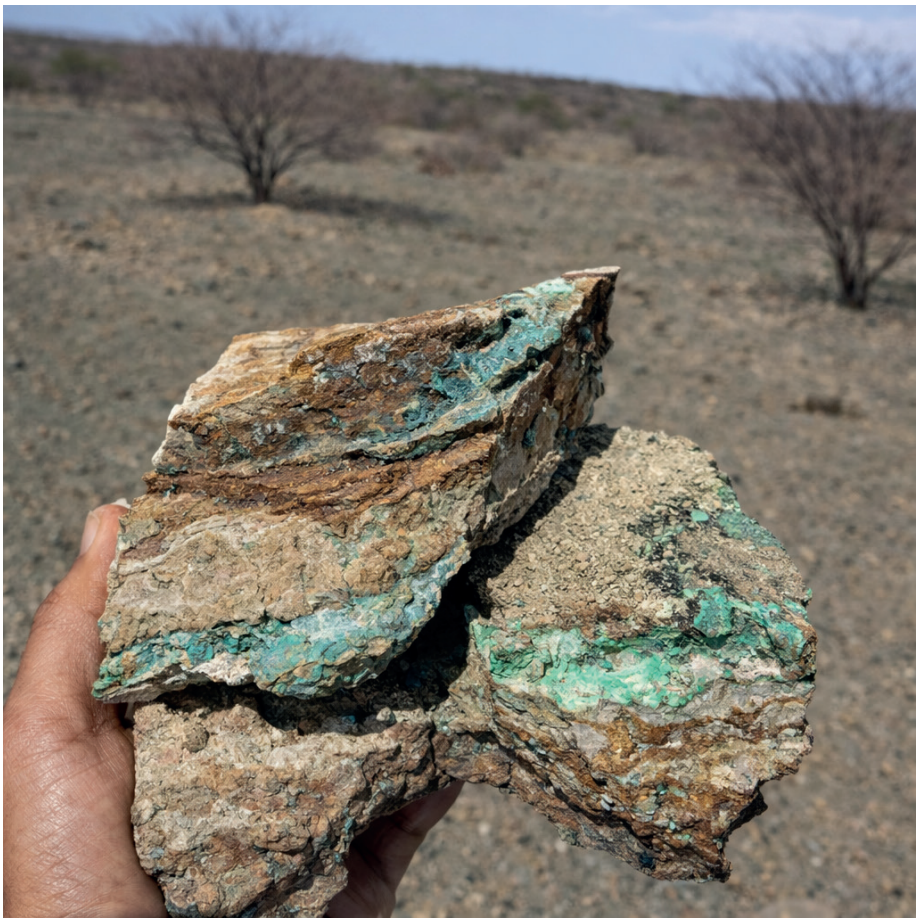
At the time of the presentation, Noronex reported a market capitalisation of approximately A$9 million, or about N$110 million, highlighting the leverage to exploration success relative to the scale of funding committed by South32 under the strategic alliance.

With active drilling underway in Namibia and Botswana, defined strike length and encouraging intercepts at Fiesta, early mineralisation at Powerline, new basement testing at Cgae Cgae, and uranium exposure in a proven Namibian district, Noronex is positioning itself as a junior explorer with both scale and momentum across southern Africa's emerging copper belt.

GOLD

Khorixas gold ground moves into drill-defined phase

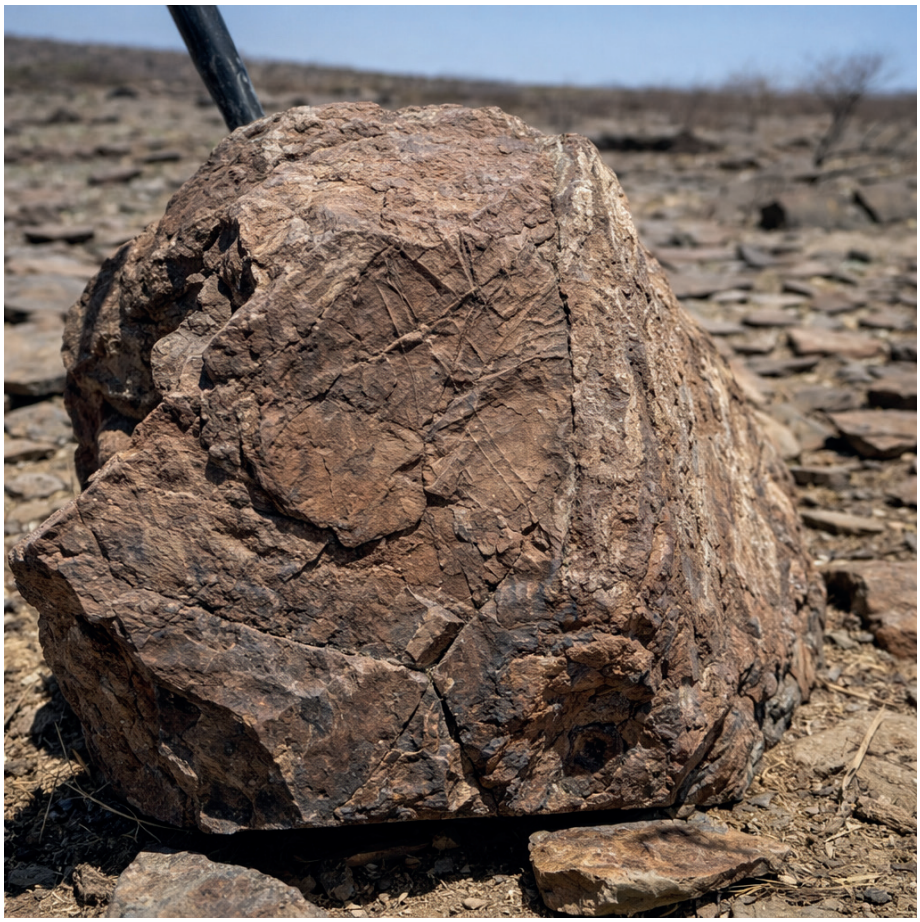
The gold story around Khorixas is shifting from surface anomalies to bedrock definition as Ongwe Minerals Inc. begins its first sustained drill-led campaign on the Belmont Prospect, part of its Khorixas Gold Project in Namibia's emerging Northwest Damara gold belt.



The Belmont ground itself has changed hands over the past few years before landing in Ongwe's portfolio before the reverse takeover that created Ongwe Minerals, the Khorixas Gold Project was controlled by Great Quest Gold Ltd, which had secured up to a 70% interest in Belmont Mineral Exploration (Pty) Ltd, a Namibian private company holding the underlying prospecting licences in the Khorixas area.

Belmont Mineral Exploration originally assembled the licence package over the district-scale footprint now being tested through systematic bedrock drilling.

The subsequent corporate restructuring — involving Great Quest Gold and Lotus Gold Corporation — consolidated the Namibian assets into what is now Ongwe Minerals Inc., positioning the Khorixas and Omatjete projects within



a single TSX Venture Exchange–listed vehicle.

The company has mobilised a reverse circulation rig to start a bedrock sampling programme designed to punch through calcrete and shallow cover and map gold mineralisation where it actually matters: in fresh rock beneath surface signals.

Belmont is being positioned as a district-scale orogenic system with a surface footprint of roughly 12 km by 6 km, where previous work returned high-grade rock chips, including samples grading up to 145.7 g/t gold, alongside multiple occurrences of visible gold in gossanous quartz-vein material.

Limited scout drilling completed in 2024 intersected bedrock mineralisation and delivered a best intercept of 6 metres at 6.85 g/t gold from 20 metres, results that underpin the rationale for returning with a systematic bedrock programme rather than another round of surface sampling.

Ongwe is attempting to do at Khorixas what the market has watched happen elsewhere in Namibia's covered terrains: turn geochemical footprints into drill-ready targets through methodical bedrock sampling.

The company has budgeted 6,000 metres of RC drilling to be completed by Q2 2026, split between 4,000 metres at Belmont and 2,000 metres at Manga, with flexibility to expand the programme if infill is required as anomalies sharpen.

The drilling is being executed across Ongwe's two flagship project areas — Khorixas and Omatjete — which together cover more than 260,000 hectares across the Northwest Damara Belt, a terrain still regarded as underexplored because extensive calcrete and wind-blown sand historically deterred conventional exploration.

The catalyst behind the acceleration is corporate as much as geological.

Ongwe says the campaign marks the start of its 2026 work programme after completing a reverse takeover and commencing trading on the TSX Venture Exchange under "OGW", placing the Khorixas Gold Project into a new

capital-markets phase where the measure of progress becomes metres drilled, targets refined and follow-up decisions funded.

The company has also disclosed a US$4.85 million concurrent financing completed at $0.50 per share on a post-consolidation basis — roughly N$90 million at the prevailing conversion rates used in local reporting — giving it room to scale field activity and data flow through 2026.

Chief executive officer David Underwood linked the strategy directly to techniques proven elsewhere in Namibia's covered belts, saying, "Now that the RTO has been completed and Ongwe has commenced trading on the TSXV, we have begun our much-anticipated bedrock sampling programme at Belmont," Underwood said.

"This technique was instrumental in the discovery of Osino's Twin Hills deposit and we

are applying the same methodology to define drill-ready targets across Belmont and Manga."

The timing matters because Namibia's gold pipeline is already being re-rated by two large-scale discoveries that are moving beyond exploration narratives into development reality.

WIA Gold's Kokoseb deposit in the Damara Belt is currently disclosed at roughly 2.93 million ounces at 1.0 g/t.

In comparison, Osino's Twin Hills is estimated at 3.1 million ounces and is widely referenced as in development, having been developed into a saleable project package during Namibia's recent gold discovery cycle.

Those projects have set a benchmark for what "success" looks like in covered Namibian terrain: not just anomalous soil, but the conversion of surface footprints into coherent mineralised bodies with resource confidence, permitting pathways, and engineering momentum.

> **This is the moment where anomalies stop being stories and start being targets.**

Khorixas enters that conversation from a different starting point.

Belmont is still in the target-definition stage, but its scale, the presence of reported high-grade surface material, and the earlier confirmation of bedrock mineralisation give it a narrative investors understand: a large, covered system now being systematically tested to separate noise from mineable signal.

The bedrock sampling plan reflects that discipline. Ongwe has described drilling shallow holes typically between three and 15 metres, collecting samples above and below the bedrock transition to map the geometry of gold anomalies beneath cover ahead of a wider diamond drilling programme targeted for the second half of 2026. Ongwe's broader bet is that Namibia's next growth in gold ounces will not come only from adding ounces to known deposits, but from replicating discovery methodology along under-tested structures in the Northwest Damara Belt.

It's Omatjete ground, where Manga lies around 30 km along strike from Kokoseb, which is being advanced in parallel.

Still, the Khorixas Gold Project is the immediate proof point: whether the Belmont footprint can be turned into drill-ready targets that justify deeper, higher-cost drilling and move the project into the same "fast-coming-up" category that now defines Kokoseb and Twin Hills in Namibia's gold discourse.

Otjikoto cashes in on gold rally, delivers N$13bn in 2025 revenue

B2Gold Corp. converted more than 70% of the realised gold price directly into margin at its Otjikoto mine in 2025, demonstrating how a rising gold price environment transformed a mature Namibian operation into a peak cash-generation asset during its final year of open-pit mining.

Otjikoto produced more gold in 2023 than in 2025, yet likely generated substantially less revenue because average realised prices were below US$2,000/oz at the time. Even in 2024, when prices improved to roughly US$2,370–US$2,400/oz, implied mine revenue would still have been under US$500 million.

The jump to US$685 million in 2025, therefore, reflects price expansion rather than production growth.

That margin strength underpinned Otjikoto's delivery of 199,139

ounces of gold for the year and US$685 million (approximately N$13.02 billion) in revenue, even as production volumes broadly tracked guidance rather than expanding materially.

Average realised gold prices reached US$3,449 per ounce for the year, accelerating sharply to US$4,175 per ounce in the fourth quarter, magnifying the revenue contribution of each ounce produced.

The company has released its 2025 results, indicating that Otjikoto Gold Mine generated approximately N$13.02 billion in revenue, driven by the sale of 199,139 ounces of gold into a sharply rising price environment. Otjikoto, which entered production in 2015 as Namibia's first modern large-scale gold mine, was originally designed as a stable, low-cost open-pit operation rather than a high-volume producer.

Otjikoto turned a rising gold price into a peak cash-generation moment.

That structure proved critical in 2025, as disciplined cost control and high recoveries enabled elevated gold prices to translate directly into revenue during the mine's final year of open-pit mining.

Operational discipline ensured that inefficiencies did not dilute price strength.

Cash operating costs averaged US$658 per ounce produced (about N$12,502/oz), while all-in sustaining costs of US$969 per ounce sold (around N$18,411/oz) came in at the low end of guidance. At those levels, Otjikoto achieved operating margins of roughly US$2,400 per ounce, allowing the bulk of the gold price uplift to flow directly into revenue and free cash flow.

The impact of rising prices was amplified by timing. Production momentum peaked in the fourth quarter, when Otjikoto produced 50,793 ounces, significantly above expectations. The outperformance was driven by continued processing of high-grade open-pit stockpiles after mining activities in the pit ended early in the

quarter, allowing ounces mined under earlier cost assumptions to be sold into the strongest gold price environment of the year.

For the full year, the operation processed 3.44 million tonnes of ore at an average grade of 1.83 g/t, maintaining an average gold recovery of 98.7%. High recoveries became particularly valuable in a rising price environment, where each incremental gain in payable metal carried an outsized revenue impact.

Capital discipline further strengthened cash generation. Capital expenditure at Otjikoto totalled US$24 million (approximately N$456 million) in 2025, focused mainly on underground development at Wolfshag, expansion of the tailings storage facility, early development work at the Antelope deposit and mobile equipment rebuilds. Sustaining capital spending came in about US$8 million (around N$152 million) below budget, largely due to slower-than-planned underground development, allowing a greater share of price upside to remain on the balance sheet.

With open-pit mining completed late in the year, attention has shifted to the underground growth pipeline. In September 2025, B2Gold approved development of the Antelope underground deposit following optimisation work that reduced estimated pre-production capital costs from US$129 million (about N$2.45 billion) to approximately US$105 million (around N$1.99 billion).

The preliminary economic assessment outlines an initial five-year mine life producing roughly 327,000 ounces, with Antelope expected to lift Otjikoto's annual production to around 110,000 ounces between 2029 and 2032 when combined with stockpile processing, subject to the uncertainties associated with inferred mineral resources.

Gold production at Otjikoto is expected to moderate in 2026 to between 70,000 and 90,000 ounces as the operation transitions fully to underground mining at Wolfshag, supplemented by existing low-grade stockpiles.

Capital expenditure is forecast to rise to about US$57 million (approximately N$1.08 billion) in 2026, reflecting increased underground

development and progress at Antelope, as the mine reshapes itself from an open-pit operation into a longer-life underground producer within Namibia's gold sector.

Based on reported production volumes and B2Gold's disclosed average realised gold prices at the group level, Otjikoto's revenue contribution in 2023 and 2024 can be reasonably estimated, even though the company does not publish mine-by-mine revenue figures for those years.

In 2023, Otjikoto produced 208,598 ounces of gold. B2Gold reported an average realised gold price of approximately US$1,946 per ounce for the year.

Applying that price to Otjikoto's output implies indicative gold revenue of about US$406 million, equivalent to roughly N$7.7–N$7.9 billion, using the same exchange rate convention applied in the 2025 figures.

The jump to US$685 million in 2025 reflects price expansion, not production growth.

This places Otjikoto's 2023 contribution well below the 2025 level, despite higher production volumes, reflecting the lower gold price environment at the time.

In 2024, Otjikoto's output eased to 198,142 ounces, while the average realised gold price increased to around US$2,370–US$2,400 per ounce.

On that basis, Otjikoto's implied revenue contribution rises to approximately US$470–US$490 million, or about N$8.9–N$9.3 billion. The increase occurred even as production declined slightly, underscoring the growing influence of price rather than volume on revenue outcomes.

By comparison, in 2025, broadly similar production of 199,139 ounces translated into US$685 million (about N$13.02 billion) in revenue, as average realised prices surged to US$3,449 per ounce for the year and peaked at US$4,175 per ounce in the fourth quarter.

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