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What Katti saw before everyone else

The Namibian businessman believed in oil & gas when most doubted

Sintana had 560.43 million shares in issue by 30 June 2026, while its Toronto-listed shares closed at C$0.405 on 25 August, giving a market value of approximately C$227 million. Its market capitalisation climbed to C$441.5 million at the end of 2024, as drilling at Mopane transformed expectations around Sintana's Namibian interests.

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What Katti saw before everyone else

Namibian businessman Knowledge Katti positioned himself in the country's offshore petroleum sector more than a decade before the discoveries that transformed the Orange Basin, building interests through companies including Kunene Energy and Grisham Assets Corp before a 2021 transaction eventually gave Canadian-listed Sintana Energy indirect exposure to the licence on which the Mopane discovery was made.

Sintana's market capitalisation has since risen from about C$18.2 million at the end of 2021 to roughly C$227 million on 25 August 2026. However, that increase cannot be attributed to Mopane alone because the company has issued substantial additional equity, raised capital and expanded its portfolio through subsequent acquisitions.

The company had 560.43 million shares in issue by 30 June 2026, while its Toronto-listed shares closed at C$0.405 on 25 August, giving a market value of approximately C$227 million. Its market capitalisation climbed to C$441.5 million at the end of 2024, as drilling at Mopane transformed expectations around Sintana's Namibian interests.

Katti currently beneficially owns 23.09 million Sintana shares, or 4.12% of the company. Of those, 21.84 million are held through Grisham Assets Corp and 1.25 million directly.

Grisham opens the door

The direct corporate route from Katti into Sintana traces back to Grisham, which Sintana's own financial statements identify as a private company owned by Katti.

Sintana agreed in September 2021 to acquire 49% of Inter Oil, a private Namibian company, from Grisham and completed the transaction on 8 March 2022.

The consideration comprised US$4 million in cash and approximately 34.93 million Sintana shares, which the company valued at C$8.03 million.

Inter Oil indirectly held carried interests in several Namibian petroleum exploration licences, including 10% of PEL 83, 10% of PEL 82, 15% of PEL 87 and 10% of PEL 90, as well as indirect exposure to onshore PEL 103. Because Sintana acquired 49% of Inter Oil, its effective indirect interest in PEL 83 was approximately 4.9%.

The timing is significant.

Sintana signed the definitive Grisham agreement in September 2021, months before Shell and TotalEnergies announced the Graff and Venus discoveries in early 2022 that transformed international perceptions of Namibia's offshore petroleum potential.

Katti joined Sintana's board after the transaction closed and remains a director and significant shareholder.

Katti's oil trail predates Grisham-Sintana deal

The 2021 transaction was not Katti's first attempt to build value from Namibia's offshore acreage.

He was already a director and Namibian representative of Canadian explorer UNX Energy more than a decade earlier, and was also associated with Namibian petroleum company Kunene Energy.

UNX reported in 2010 that it held a 90% working interest in Blocks 2713A and 2713B in the Orange Basin, while Katti was publicly promoting the potential of the company's Namibian offshore portfolio.

By early 2011, UNX was reporting prospective resources across its Namibia licences, including the Moosehead prospect on Block 2813A, with Katti describing the work as part of efforts to define drilling opportunities in the Orange Basin.

Brazilian explorer HRT subsequently acquired UNX in an all-share transaction valued at about US$780 million in 2011, after which Katti became involved with HRT's Namibian business.

HRT later drilled Wingat-1, Murombe-1 and Moosehead-1 offshore Namibia in 2013. Although none became commercial fields, Wingat recovered light oil and demonstrated the presence of an oil-generating petroleum system.

The licence history matters because Namibia later reissued and renumbered parts of this acreage.

Galp records that today's PEL 82 was previously PEL 23, while PEL 83 was previously PEL 28. Galp had originally farmed into PELs 23, 24 and 28 before the 2013 HRT drilling campaign and later secured the reissued PEL 82 and PEL 83 acreage from the Namibian government.

This establishes continuity in the petroleum acreage itself, although it does not establish that Katti personally retained an uninterrupted ownership interest from the HRT-era licences into the later Custos and Inter Oil interests.

Grisham was active long before Sintana

Grisham itself can also be traced back almost a decade before the Sintana transaction.

In March 2012, Petro Viking Energy announced an agreement to acquire 100% of Grisham, describing it as a British Virgin Islands company whose principal asset was an agreement to acquire 80% interests in offshore Blocks 1710, 1810 and 2913B, covering more than 20,000 square kilometres.

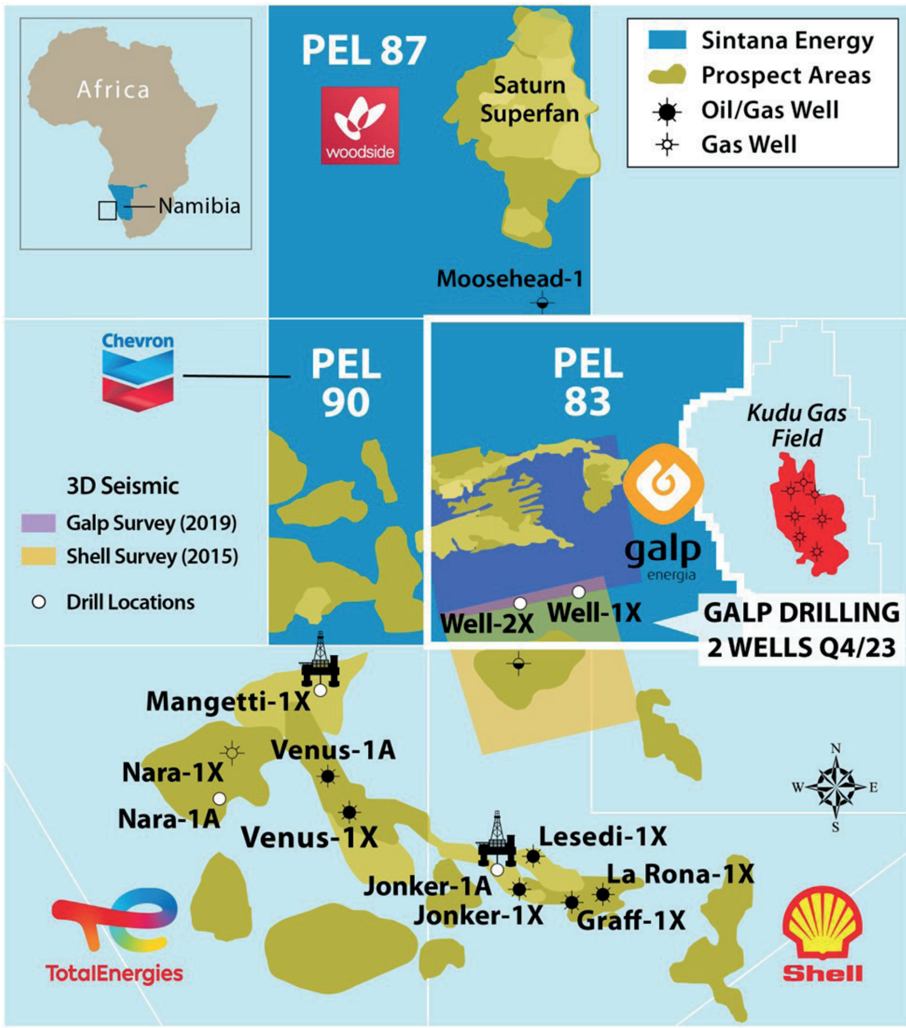
The proposed acquisition of the whole company did not proceed as originally envisaged after Petro Viking struggled to raise the larger amount of financing required.

The parties subsequently restructured the transaction around Alphapetro, a Namibian company associated with Grisham. In August 2012, Petro Viking announced an agreement to acquire 80% of Alphapetro, which held PEL 0027 over Blocks 1710A and 1710B, for US$2 million in cash, 2.5 million shares and 2.5 million warrants.

Those old Grisham interests should not, however, be presented as the direct predecessors of Mopane.

In particular, historical Block 2913B subsequently became associated with the Venus licence rather than PEL 83, while Mopane lies on acreage now covered by PEL 83.

The significance of Grisham's 2012 activity is therefore not that it proves Katti held Mopane for 14 years, but that it shows he was already using corporate vehicles to acquire and transact in Namibian



petroleum acreage long before the recent offshore discoveries.

The most consequential interest acquired by Sintana from the Grisham transaction ultimately proved to be PEL 83.

Galp and its partners drilled Mopane-1X in late 2023 and announced light-oil discoveries in January 2024. Subsequent exploration and appraisal drilling expanded the discovery across several reservoirs.

Five wells eventually supported an upgraded gross 3C contingent-resource estimate of approximately 1.38 billion barrels of oil equivalent, up from an earlier estimate of about 875 million barrels.

Production testing at Mopane-1X achieved an infrastructure-constrained flow rate of about 14,000 barrels of oil per day.

Those figures relate to the Mopane discovery as a whole and are not reserves attributable directly to Sintana. Sintana's exposure remains an indirect minority interest through its 49% holding in Inter Oil and the underlying Custos interest.

The structure has nevertheless been particularly valuable because Custos's interest is carried, limiting Sintana's expected capital exposure as the project moves through appraisal and towards a possible development decision.

TotalEnergies takes the next step

TotalEnergies agreed in December 2025 to acquire a 40% operated interest in PEL 83 from Galp, while Galp would retain 40% and Custos and Namcor would continue to hold 10% each.

TotalEnergies also agreed to carry 50% of Galp's costs for exploration, appraisal and the initial development of Mopane.

The transaction remains subject to completion and Namibian approvals, meaning TotalEnergies is operator-elect rather than the final confirmed operator.

Sintana says TotalEnergies has indicated a target of 2028 for a final investment decision and 2032 for first oil, with preliminary development concepts contemplating an FPSO capable of around 200,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day. Those remain proposed development parameters rather than an approved project.

The relationship between Katti and Sintana has not ended with the Inter Oil transaction.

On 20 August 2026, Sintana entered into definitive agreements to acquire 44% of Maravilla Oil and Gas, a privately held Namibian company that Sintana says Katti indirectly controls.

Maravilla owns 80% of Paragon Oil and Gas, which holds the operated interest in PEL 37 in the Walvis Basin. Sintana describes the proposed acquisition as giving it an indirect 35% interest in PEL 37.

Sintana agreed to pay US$6.5 million, comprising a US$500,000 deposit paid in January, US$3 million in cash, US$500,000 in pre-funded technical and commercial expenditure and US$2.5 million in newly issued Sintana shares.

Because Katti is a Sintana director and indirectly controls Maravilla, the deal is classified as a related-party transaction. Sintana said its independent directors, after consulting its nominated adviser, considered the terms fair and reasonable to shareholders. Completion remains subject to regulatory approvals and other conditions.

Sintana itself predates Katti and was not created from one of his businesses. It was already a Canadian-listed exploration company and retained a legacy Colombian position when it entered Namibia.

Its Colombian VMM-37 project ultimately stalled, and Sintana agreed with ExxonMobil in February 2026 to settle their dispute by conditionally assigning the licence interests to ExxonMobil for US$9 million.

Sintana has received the first US$3 million, while another US$6 million remains conditional on Colombian government approval of the transfer.

Namibia, meanwhile, has become the source of the discoveries that most dramatically changed Sintana's market profile.

The comparison between its roughly C$18.2 million market capitalisation at the end of 2021 and approximately C$227 million on 25 August 2026 does not represent the investment return earned on an individual Sintana share. The company's share count expanded substantially through acquisitions, capital raisings and other issuances during the period.

The comparison does show how Sintana changed after acquiring its Namibian portfolio.

Katti's role in that story did not begin with Mopane or even with Sintana. His documented involvement spans Kunene Energy and UNX, the HRT exploration era, Grisham's petroleum transactions, and eventually the sale of the 49% Inter Oil interest that put Sintana indirectly into PEL 83 before Mopane was discovered.

The records do not support describing that history as one uninterrupted chain of ownership of the same licences, because Namibian acreage was relinquished, reissued and renumbered along the way.

They do, however, show that Katti had repeatedly positioned himself around Namibia's offshore petroleum acreage years before the discoveries that finally gave those minority interests substantial value.

PARTNERSHIP

17-year Deep Yellow deal lands Oponona 5% of Tumas

Oponona Investments, the Namibian empowerment company historically associated with ambassador Monica Nashandi, Ben Mulongeni and Jason Nandago, is set to become a 5% shareholder in the company that holds Deep Yellow's Tumas uranium project, without having to finance its share of historical and development expenditure upfront.

The deal brings to fruition an empowerment relationship established about 17 years ago and could give Oponona long-term exposure to one of Namibia's major proposed uranium mines, while Deep Yellow carries the local company's share of project costs through an interest-free loan repaid from future dividends.

Deep Yellow has signed Subscription and Shareholders Agreements under which Oponona will acquire 5% of Reptile Uranium Namibia (RUN), which holds Tumas Mining Licence 237 and EPLs 3496 and 3497. Deep Yellow subsidiary Reptile Mineral Resources and Exploration will retain 95%.

Oponona will not immediately have to pay its proportional share of historical expenditure already incurred on Tumas or contribute cash towards its 5% share of construction and development expenditure through to commercial production.

Instead, RMR will carry those costs as an interest-free loan to Oponona and recover them from dividends attributable to its shareholding once the project generates distributable earnings.

The amount that could ultimately be carried on Oponona's behalf has not been disclosed.

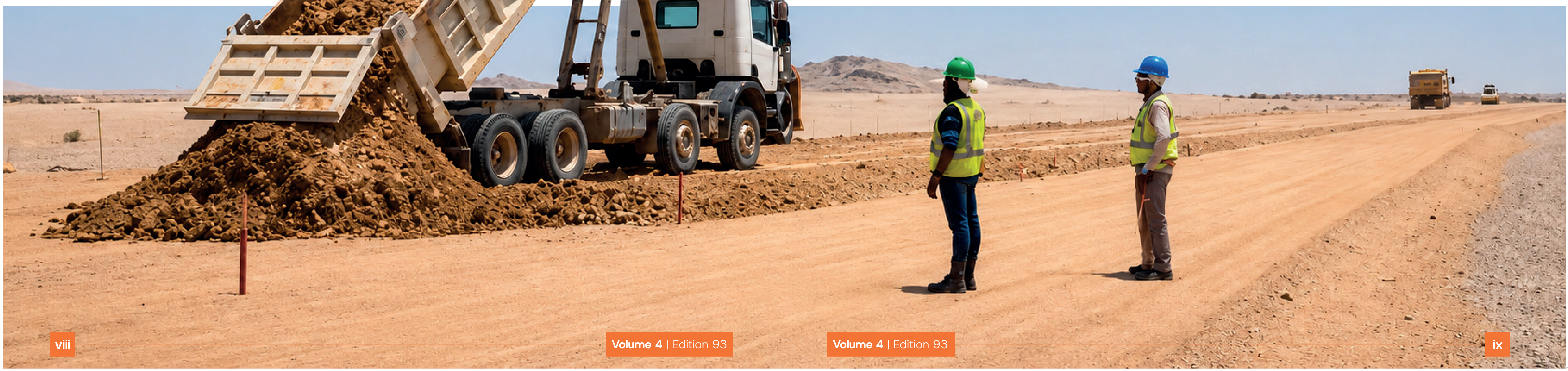
The arrangement significantly lowers the financing hurdle that Oponona would otherwise face in acquiring a 5% position in the project. However, the company will have to repay the accumulated costs from the earnings generated by its stake before receiving the full economic benefit of the investment.

Deep Yellow said the transaction implements local ownership requirements associated with Tumas' mining licence.

Oponona's involvement with Deep Yellow predates Tumas' development by more than a decade.

Deep Yellow's historical records show that its Namibian subsidiary developed a BEE and broader-based empowerment arrangement in 2009 after discussions with the Ministry of Mines and Energy about local participation associated with its exploration licences.

The company subsequently agreed with Oponona that the Namibian partner could acquire interests in projects as they progressed toward mining.



Deep Yellow identified Monica Nashandi, Ben Mulongeni and Jason Nandago as Oponona's "directors and principals" when the relationship was established.

The latest Deep Yellow announcement does not disclose Oponona's current beneficial shareholders, so the historical records show who was behind the company when the arrangement was created but do not confirm whether its ownership has remained unchanged.

The 2009 agreement was important because it established the basis upon which Oponona would eventually participate in projects developed from RUN's Namibian exploration portfolio.

Tumas has now become the largest project to emerge from that relationship.

The relationship has also led Oponona to acquire interests in other projects associated with Deep Yellow.

Oponona obtained 5% of Shiyela Iron alongside RUN's 95% interest and subsequently became a 10% participant in the Aussinanis uranium joint venture.

The Aussinanis structure was established with RUN holding 85%, Oponona 10% and state-owned Epangelo Mining Company 5%, with Deep Yellow describing Oponona at the time as RUN's empowerment partner.

Historical records also show Oponona holding EPLs 4604 and 4605, which RUN managed.

The Tumas transaction therefore represents an expansion of an existing commercial relationship rather than the introduction of a new local partner shortly before mine development.

Deep Yellow had also disclosed Oponona's prospective participation in Tumas years before the latest agreements. Earlier company reports recorded Oponona's right to acquire a 5% interest once the project progressed to the relevant stage.

The latest agreement also retains a community-benefit mechanism that formed part of the original empowerment structure.

Oponona must establish a dedicated Special Purpose Entity that will be beneficially entitled to 40% of its future dividends, with the proceeds directed toward community initiatives in and around Tumas.

The remaining economic benefit will accrue to Oponona, subject to repayment of the interest-free loan used to carry its historical and development expenditure.

Deep Yellow has not publicly detailed how the 40% community allocation will interact with repayment of the carried loan, including whether it will calculate the community entitlement before or after loan deductions.

Earlier Deep Yellow disclosures had contemplated a community trust receiving 40% of the economic benefits associated with Oponona's participation and provided for minimum annual community payments once the mine became profitable.

The latest agreements refer instead to an SPE beneficially entitled to 40% of Oponona's dividends.

Oponona's 5% interest is also being taken at the RUN corporate level rather than being described simply as a 5% interest in uranium produced from Tumas. RUN holds ML237 and EPL3496 and EPL3497, which include Tumas as well as other exploration prospects.

Tumas is meanwhile approaching a final investment decision targeted for the fourth quarter of 2026, subject to uranium market conditions.

Deep Yellow has completed bulk earthworks at the project and commenced major civil and concrete works after awarding approximately A$34 million in contracts to two Namibian contractors. The company has also concluded a long-term water supply agreement with NamWater covering construction, commissioning and eventual operations.

If Deep Yellow makes a positive investment decision, the financing arrangement means Oponona will enter the development phase as a 5% shareholder without having to raise its proportional share of Tumas' construction expenditure upfront, with that cost instead carried forward for repayment from the mine's future earnings.

CRITICAL METALS

Golden Deeps revives historic Otavi mining belt

Golden Deeps has started deeper drilling at Graceland to determine whether high-grade metals found close to the surface extend into a substantial underground sulphide deposit, marking the most important test yet of the Australian explorer's attempt to establish a new mining project in Namibia's historic Otavi Mountain Land.

The programme moves Graceland beyond the shallow sampling and drilling that produced copper grades of up to 9.2%, silver at 417 grammes per tonne, zinc at 23.2%, lead at 8.2% and germanium at 118 grammes per tonne.

Those headline grades have attracted attention, but they do not establish Graceland as an economic deposit. Golden Deeps has not declared a mineral resource, determined the average grade and tonnage or demonstrated that the metals can be recovered commercially.

The deeper programme is intended to establish whether the mineralisation identified at the surface is connected to larger sulphide bodies extending beyond 200 metres underground.

Golden Deeps chief executive Jon Dugdale said the programme represents the next stage of systematic exploration that has included rock-chip and channel sampling, shallow drilling and induced-polarisation surveys.

"We are very pleased to have commenced our deeper diamond drilling program at the exciting Graceland discovery in Namibia – to test the high-priority critical metals targets identified within the Gossan 1 corridor by our previous systematic exploration programs," Dugdale said.

An initial 10 diamond holes will test targets below Gossan 1 and Gossan 1 East within an 800-metre corridor. Further drilling is planned

at Gossan 1 Far East, the largest and strongest of three induced-polarisation targets identified by the company's geophysical survey.

Dugdale said earlier exploration had produced high-grade copper, silver, zinc, lead and germanium results from rock-chip sampling, channel sampling and shallow drilling, giving the company confidence to pursue the deeper targets.

He said the programme would test whether the induced-polarisation anomalies represent sulphide mineralisation similar to that associated with the historic Tsumeb deposit, while acknowledging through the exploration programme itself that drilling is required to establish what lies beneath the anomalies.

Gossan 1 Far East has no visible surface expression and remains open towards the east and at depth. An intersection there would extend the exploration area beyond the gossans and outcrops that guided the earlier work.

The 800-metre drilling corridor forms part of a much wider mineralised area. Golden Deeps says soil sampling has outlined anomalous copper, zinc, lead and silver across an area approximately three kilometres long and one kilometre wide.

The programme will take several months, with results expected as individual holes

are completed and assays become available. Golden Deeps has not disclosed the programme's total planned meterage or cost.

Modern exploration returns to old mining ground

Graceland is situated about 30 kilometres south of the former Tsumeb mine, which produced approximately 27 million tonnes grading 4.3% copper, 10% lead, 3.5% zinc, 95 grammes of silver per tonne and 50 grammes of germanium per tonne.

The metals found at Graceland and the geological structures controlling the mineralisation have led Golden Deeps to classify the targets as potentially "Tsumeb-type".

Tsumeb's original surface expression was comparatively limited, while the deposit eventually extended to a mining depth of about 1,500 metres. Golden Deeps is testing whether Graceland's shallow gossans could similarly be connected to larger mineralised structures underground.

The comparison remains a geological exploration theory rather than evidence that Graceland is comparable with Tsumeb in scale or commercial value. The deeper drilling must first confirm the presence, width, grade and continuity of the sulphide targets detected by the geophysical survey.

Dugdale has said the results from Graceland have strengthened the company's confidence in pursuing that geological model.

"These latest, outstanding results from our Graceland critical metals prospect give us even greater confidence in our exploration program, which is targeting similar deposits to the nearby, world-class, Tsumeb copper-silver-zinc-lead-germanium deposit mine just 30km to the north," he said following the earlier drilling results.

Goldfields and Sabre

Resources previously conducted exploration around Graceland, mainly through soil sampling and portable X-ray fluorescence analysis. Golden Deeps says insufficient quality-control information is available to report some of that historical work under the present JORC exploration-reporting standard.

The current programme combines new geophysical modelling with rock-chip sampling, trenching and shallow diamond drilling to identify targets that earlier surface exploration may have missed.

This approach forms part of a wider return to the Otavi belt by exploration companies searching around former mines and known mineral occurrences. Midas Minerals is drilling copper-silver targets at T-13 and Spatzu, while Golden Deeps is assembling prospects around Graceland, Nosib, Abenab, Khusib Springs, Border, Kaskara and Driehoek.

Golden Deeps holds its Namibian interests through 80%-owned subsidiaries Huab Energy and Metalex Mining and Exploration, which control six exclusive prospecting licences covering more than 440 square kilometres.

A Namibian drilling contractor has been appointed to undertake the Graceland programme, including deeper drilling in the prospect's hilly terrain.

High grades remain early indications

The latest shallow drilling included 8.2 metres grading 3.46% copper equivalent from 6.8 metres depth at Gossan 1. That intersection contained 2.12 metres at 6.16% copper equivalent.

Drilling at Gossan 1 East returned 4.48 metres at 4.03% copper equivalent from 2.52 metres, including 1.12 metres at 13.03% copper equivalent.

Some of the highest individual grades occurred over considerably narrower intervals. The result containing 9.19% copper and 417 grammes of silver per tonne covered 30 centimetres, while the 23.18% zinc result came from a 47-centimetre sample. Germanium at 118 grammes per tonne was recorded over 60 centimetres.

The reported intersections are downhole lengths and should not yet be treated as the true thickness of the mineralised zones because their complete geometry has not been established.

Golden Deeps has also expressed the combined metals as copper-equivalent grades, using assumed recoveries or payabilities of 65% for copper, zinc, lead, silver, germanium and antimony.

Those assumptions are based partly on metallurgical work conducted at the company's Abenab and Nosib projects and historical information from Tsumeb, Khusib Springs and Kombat. They are not based on metallurgical testing of a defined Graceland resource.

Germanium could increase Graceland's potential value because of its use in semiconductors and specialised technologies, but its presence in drill samples does not guarantee that it can be recovered into a saleable product. That will depend on the minerals hosting it, its distribution through any eventual deposit and the processing method selected.

Golden Deeps has not yet determined a processing route, development cost, mining method or production timetable for Graceland. These steps would follow only if drilling defines sufficient continuous mineralisation to justify resource estimation and technical studies.

The significance of the current programme therefore lies less in the previously reported shallow grades than in what the deeper holes establish beneath them. Positive intersections would provide the foundation for resource drilling and metallurgical work, while unsuccessful holes could show that the surface mineralisation is smaller or less continuous than the geophysical targets suggest.

Graceland remains an early-stage discovery, with Dugdale describing the deeper programme as the test of targets generated by the company's earlier systematic exploration rather than evidence that a Tsumeb-scale deposit has already been established.

Namibia earns US$26.7m profit as Paladin's foreign operations deepen losses

Paladin Energy's Namibian business returned to profitability with a US$26.7 million after-tax profit during the year ended June 2026, but losses from the uranium group's Canadian projects and corporate operations pushed the company to an overall US$9.1 million loss.

The geographical breakdown contained in Paladin's management discussion and analysis provides a clearer picture than its headline results because it shows that the Langer Heinrich mine was the only part of the group generating revenue and profit during the financial year.

Paladin's Canadian segment recorded no revenue and a US$14.5 million loss after tax, compared with a US$2.2 million loss a year earlier. Its Australian exploration business lost US$200,000, while corporate operations recorded a US$21.1 million loss.

Together, those losses absorbed the US$26.7 million profit generated by the Namibian segment and left Paladin with a group net loss of US$9.1 million.

The results establish Langer Heinrich as more than Paladin's only producing mine. The operation near Swakopmund is currently carrying the group's earnings while the company advances uranium development and exploration projects in Canada and Australia.

Paladin owns 75% of Langer Heinrich, with the remaining 25% held through an arrangement involving CNNC Overseas Limited. The financial statements consolidate the Namibian segment before accounting for the portion attributable to the minority shareholder.

Namibia reverses US$46.9m loss

The US$26.7 million profit represents a US$73.6 million turnaround from the US$46.9 million loss recorded by the Namibian segment in the preceding financial year.

Revenue from Langer Heinrich increased by 71% from US$177.7 million to US$304.3 million after production rose to 4.82 million pounds of uranium oxide and sales reached 4.35 million pounds.

The mine averaged US$70 a pound, up from US$65.70 the previous year. Higher production and improved plant performance helped Paladin report a US$52.2 million group gross profit, reversing a US$26.1 million gross loss.

The improvement followed Langer Heinrich's operational ramp-up after commercial production resumed in March 2024. The mine had been placed under care and maintenance in 2018 after prolonged weakness in uranium prices.

Paladin reported that Langer Heinrich directly employs 449 people and is supported by more than 1,400 contractor personnel on site. Namibians account for 99% of the mine's employees, although the company did not state whether that percentage also applies to contractor personnel.

The company supported the establishment of the Walvis Bay Oncology Centre, the Palliative Care Namibia Erongo Centre and workforce training through the Omaruru Technical Vocational Education and Training Centre. Its disclosures do not place a separate monetary value on each Namibian initiative.

Canadian expansion adds to losses

The Canadian loss increased sharply as Paladin expanded work around the Patterson Lake South project in Saskatchewan and reassessed parts of the Michelin uranium portfolio in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Canada's US$14.5 million loss included US$6.1 million in impairments of exploration and evaluation assets, of which US$5.7 million related to the rationalisation of

Michelin project tenements.

Paladin also spent US$32.4 million on exploration and evaluation activities across the group during the year. Patterson Lake South remains at the development and regulatory approval stage and is not generating revenue.

This contrast means uranium produced in Namibia supports Paladin's current operating earnings, while Canada accounts for a substantial share of its development spending and segment losses. This does not mean Langer Heinrich revenue is directly assigned to individual Canadian expenses, but the Namibian mine is presently the group's only operating source of revenue.

Paladin strengthened its cash and investment position from US$89 million to US$265 million during the year, although most of the increase did not come from mining income. The company raised net proceeds of US$257.5 million through an equity raising and share-purchase plan, while operating activities generated US$37.7 million.

Costs climb as full mining resumes

The detailed results also show that Langer Heinrich's transition to full mining has brought higher costs.

Its annual production cost rose from US$40.20 to US$43.30 a pound, reaching US$51.60 in the final quarter of the financial year. Paladin attributed the quarterly increase to the move into full mining, depletion of the previously mined MG3 stockpile and lower-grade ore encountered as work began in the J pit.

The mine moved 24.41 million tonnes of material during the year, including 18.32 million tonnes of waste and 6.09 million tonnes of ore. Another 3.29 million tonnes of low-grade ore was placed into stockpiles for future processing.

Paladin spent US$35 million mining and stockpiling the low-grade material, US$20.5 million on capitalised stripping and US$12.1 million on capital expenditure at Langer Heinrich. The company excludes stockpiling and deferred stripping expenses from its reported US$43.30-a-pound production cost.

The company forecasts that production costs will average between US$44 and US$48 a pound during the 2027 financial year, when Langer Heinrich is expected to produce between 5.1 million and 5.6 million pounds.

Paladin has contracted the sale of 21 million pounds of estimated uranium production through 2030 under a combination of fixed-price, base-escalated and market-related arrangements.

The contract book provides some protection from immediate spot-market movements. However, the company says it cannot yet reliably calculate total revenue because final prices are generally determined near delivery.

The latest accounts consequently present two sides of Langer Heinrich's recovery. The Namibian operation has returned to profit and is carrying Paladin's operating performance, but its costs are increasing as the mine moves deeper into full-scale mining and the group spends money advancing assets that are not yet producing revenue.

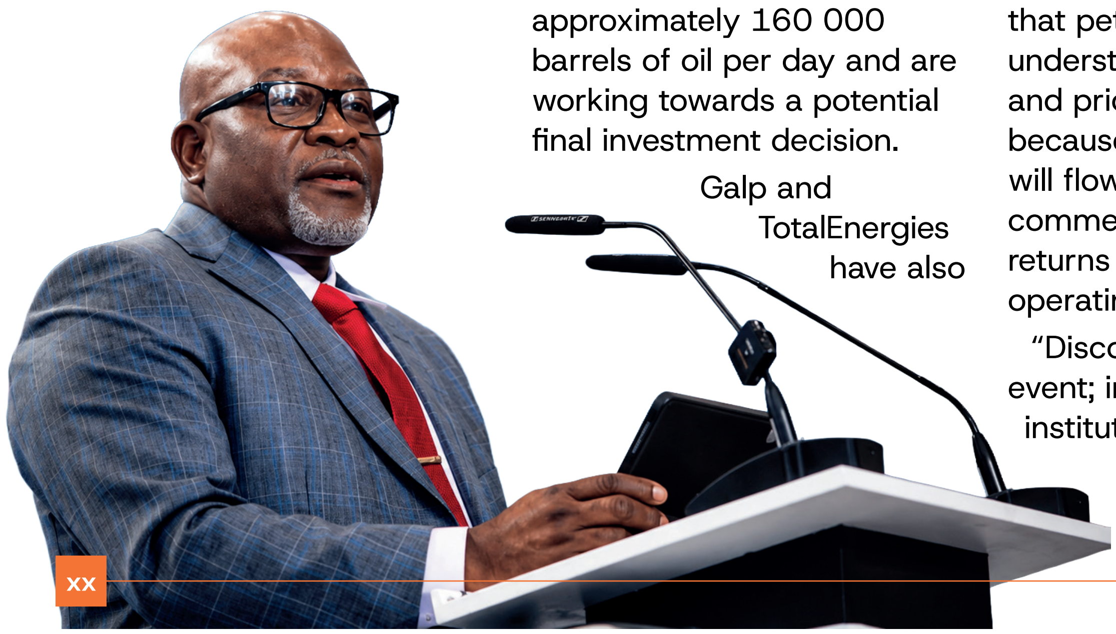
POLICY

Namibia says Orange Basin must still earn investor confidence

Namibia's Orange Basin discoveries will not automatically become producing oilfields, and the country must earn investment through predictable regulation, commercial terms and capable institutions, industries, mines and energy minister Modestus Amutse has warned.

Speaking at the Offshore Northern Seas programme in Stavanger, Norway, on Wednesday, Amutse said the discoveries that have placed Namibia among the world's emerging petroleum provinces remain capital-intensive deep-water projects competing against opportunities elsewhere for development funding.

"The discoveries have given us an opportunity, not an entitlement. Investability must still be earned through competence, consistency and trust," he said.



Amutse said exploration successes beginning with Graff and Venus in 2022, followed by Jonker, Mopane and subsequent discoveries, had confirmed a working petroleum system and placed Namibia on the global deep-water map.

The basin has since moved beyond geological promise, with discoveries and prospects progressing through exploration, appraisal and development planning at different speeds.

TotalEnergies and its partners have defined a development concept for the Venus discovery centred on a floating production system capable of producing approximately 160 000 barrels of oil per day and are working towards a potential final investment decision.

Galp and TotalEnergies have also outlined further exploration and appraisal work around the Mopane discoveries, while recent drilling results in Rhino Resources-operated Petroleum Exploration Licence 85 have added to available geological information about the basin.

Amutse, however, cautioned that the growing number of discoveries should not be interpreted as a guarantee that every prospect would succeed or reach commercial production.

"Not every well will succeed, and not every discovery will become a producing field. These are capital-intensive projects in deep and ultra-deep water, competing globally for investment," he said.

The minister said Namibia must focus on ensuring that petroleum risks are understood, distributed, and priced appropriately because international capital will flow to projects offering commercially acceptable returns and predictable operating conditions.

"Discovery is a geological event; investability is an institutional achievement," Amutse said.

"Geology belongs to nature; predictability belongs to us."

He identified political and legal stability, capable institutions, commercial realism and shared national value as the four foundations of Namibia's attempt to turn the discoveries into investable projects.

Namibia's constitutional system, investment protection, and the allowance for profit repatriation form part of its offer to international investors, while establishing the Upstream Petroleum Unit in the Presidency is intended to strengthen coordination as projects move closer to development.

The government is also modernising the petroleum legal framework, although Amutse said reforms must maintain transparency and accountability while providing investors with sufficient certainty.

"Government cannot command geology to become commercial or ask capital to ignore economics. Our framework must protect the national interest while allowing responsible investors to earn a competitive return," he said.

The recently approved National Upstream Petroleum Local Content Policy would be used to increase employment, procurement, enterprise development, skills transfer and Namibian participation in the industry.

Amutse acknowledged that Namibia would not immediately be able to supply every product or service required by a deep-water petroleum industry. Local participation should instead increase as the sector develops, supported by investment in skills and institutions before oil production begins.

"Namibia will not localise every component from the first day, and it should not pretend that it can. But local participation must deepen as the industry matures, and early investment in people and institutions must begin before first production — not after it," he said.

Infrastructure and services required to support development include ports, marine logistics, engineering, environmental science, research and training, and reliable electricity, water and transport networks.

The government expects petroleum projects to create economic value extending beyond taxes and royalties by supporting Namibian businesses, employment, infrastructure and public services.

"The investor must see a competitive project. Namibia must see opportunity beyond taxes and royalties. And the Namibian child must ultimately see a difference in education, infrastructure, energy access and economic possibility," Amutse said.

He rejected the view that petroleum development and the energy transition must necessarily compete, arguing that Namibia still needs to expand electricity access, develop industries and increase the productive capacity of its economy.

Revenue and economic activity generated by the Orange Basin could, if managed transparently, help finance infrastructure, education, renewable energy, green industries and critical-mineral value chains.

Amutse also challenged the practice of treating African energy investments as a single high-risk category without considering the institutions, commercial conditions and project fundamentals of individual countries.

Namibia offers a stable Atlantic location, experienced international operators and an increasingly understood petroleum basin, but the minister said the country intended to learn from Norway and other established petroleum producers rather than attempt to develop its governance system without drawing on their experience.

"Ultimately, the Orange Basin will not be judged only by the number of barrels produced. It will be judged by whether it strengthens energy security, builds Namibian capability, creates competitive businesses and leaves the country more resilient than it found it," he said.

OIL & GAS

88 Energy proposes surrendering half of PEL 93

88 Energy and its partners have proposed surrendering 50% of Namibia's PEL 93, while retaining all 13 prospects and leads identified across the licence as they seek approval for another two years of exploration that would include preparations for at least one well.

The proposal forms part of an application submitted to the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy on 29 June for PEL 93 to enter a second renewal exploration period from 3 October 2026. The current exploration period ends on 2 October.

PEL 93 currently covers approximately 18,500 square kilometres in the onshore Owambo Basin, meaning a 50% relinquishment would leave roughly 9,250 square kilometres, depending on the final boundaries approved by government.

The acreage reduction is based on an integrated technical interpretation of the licence and is intended to concentrate future Exploration on the areas the joint venture now considers most prospective.

"The proposed relinquishment is based on the results of the integrated technical interpretation and will enable the JV to focus future exploration activities on the highest-ranked opportunities within the licence area, including all 13 identified prospects and leads," 88 Energy said.

The Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act requires holders of exploration licences to surrender acreage as licences mature, although the statutory position is more nuanced than simply requiring 25% at renewal. Section 37 provides for the relinquishment of at least 50% by the end of the fourth year and a further 25% by the end of the sixth year, unless different arrangements apply under the petroleum agreement or the minister grants an exemption.

88 Energy nevertheless says the proposed 50% surrender exceeds the 25% minimum requirement under the PEL 93 renewal arrangements. The company said giving up the larger area would result in minor cost savings and mean that no further relinquishment obligations would apply during the proposed renewal period.

The proposal is significant because the joint venture expects to give up half of PEL 93 without surrendering any of the 13 prospects and leads it has identified for further Exploration.

Monitor Exploration, which operates the licence, completed an integrated interpretation combining new aerogravity, magnetic and radiometric data with historical 2D seismic, passive seismic and other legacy datasets.

The work improved structural definition across the licence and confirmed Lead 9 as a priority future drilling candidate.

88 Energy's own project information says Lead 9 has an approximate areal extent of 100 square kilometres and was further defined after about 200 line-kilometres of 2D seismic processing, followed by gravity and magnetic work.

The proposed surrender therefore represents a concentration of the exploration footprint around the areas the partners now consider worth pursuing rather than a withdrawal from PEL 93.

According to 88 Energy, the joint venture has completed all commitments attached to the current exploration period.

If the second renewal period is approved, the proposed two-year programme would carry a gross minimum joint venture exploration expenditure commitment of US$10 million, including a well commitment.

88 Energy expects its firm share of the programme through 30 June 2027 to amount to approximately US$98,000, together with about US$267,000 as its share of the licence bond.

The more substantial expenditure associated with the Exploration well from July 2027 remains subject to joint venture and Namcor approval.

The company said the proposed second renewal period includes preparations for and drilling of at least one Exploration well, although the final programme remains dependent on the renewal being approved.

88 Energy holds a fully earned and unconditional 20% working interest in PEL 93, alongside operator Monitor Exploration (55%), Legend Oil (15%) and Namcor (10%).

During the first half of 2026, 88 Energy amended its farm-in agreement with Monitor, removing its Stage 2 and Stage 3 earn-in obligations and reducing its future minimum capital exposure by approximately US$15 million while preserving its 20% interest.

The company has also retained an option to increase its interest in the licence. It is considering future funding routes including third-party participation and the possible creation of a Namibia-focused listed entity.

88 Energy said its immediate work in the second half of 2026 would focus on further integrating technical data, ranking Lead 9 and the other prospects, evaluating funding options, and working with Monitor on the submissions required for government consideration of the renewal.

The decision now rests with the government and the joint venture partners. If the renewal and proposed relinquishment are approved, PEL 93 would move into its next exploration phase with roughly half its current geographical footprint but all 13 of the prospects and leads that the partners currently consider worth retaining.

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