



**Ministry of Mines & Energy**

*"promoting Namibia's mineral, geological and energy resources"*

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# **Strategic Environmental Management Plan for the central Namib Uranium Province**

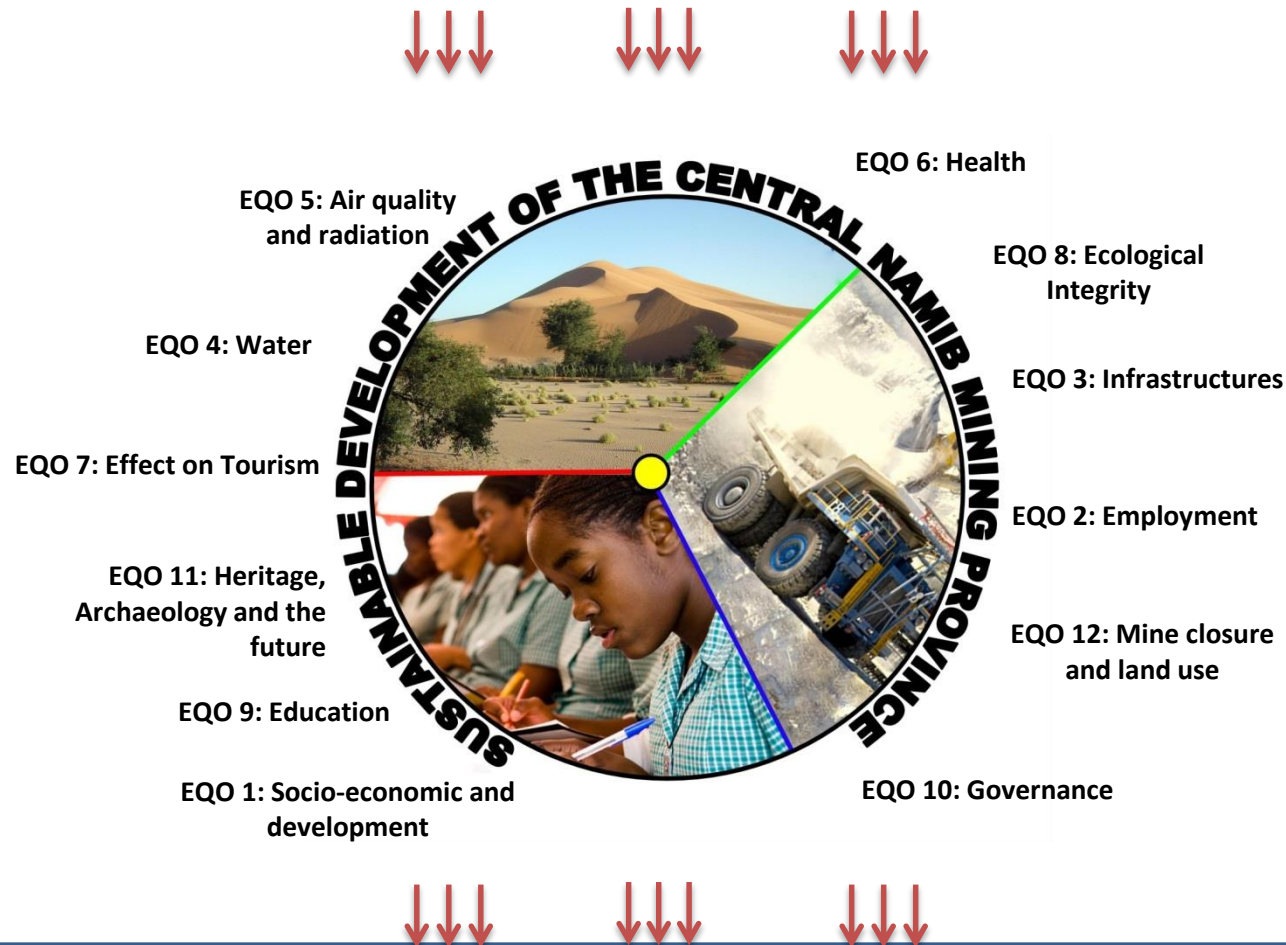
## **2015 Annual Report Official Release**



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**Director – Applied Geosciences**  
**Geological Survey of Namibia**  
**27 April 2017**

# SEMP Background

SEMP is a roadmap for addressing cumulative impacts of existing and potential developments, within which individual projects have to be planned and implemented.



## ❖ SEMP 12 Environmental Quality Objectives (EQOs)

- ❖ Measuring the extent of uranium mining impact in Erongo Region
- ❖ Based on **122 indicators**, **46 targets** and **37 desired outcomes**
- ❖ Each indicator is assessed in terms of whether it is **“Not Met”**, **“In Progress”**, **“Met”**, or **“Exceeded”**

The desired outcome is that development and utilization of Namibia's uranium resources significantly contribute to the goal of sustainable development for the Erongo Region and Namibia as a whole.



# SEMP Governance



## Strategic Environmental Management Plan(SEMP) Steering Committee



Chair: Ministry of Mines and Energy(MME)- Geological Survey of Namibia

Members: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry(MWAF)- Department of Water Affairs,  
Ministry of Health and Social Services(MoHSS)- National Radiation Protection Authority(NRPA),  
Ministry of Environment and Tourism(MET), Gobabeb Research and Training Centre- Namibia Ecological  
Restoration and Monitoring Unit(NERMU), Namibian Coast Conservation and Management (NACOMA),  
Namibia Uranium Association(NUA)

### SEMP OFFICE (Geological Survey of Namibia)

Task: Secretariat for the SEMP implementation (monitoring, meetings, reporting)

Advice to MME (Minister, Mining Commissioner, Mineral Prospecting and Mining Rights Committee (MPMRC) and organs state on sustainability parameter. Facilitation of dialogue between stakeholders and SEMP SC.

### SEMP TEAM

Working Groups of key persons from SEMP office, Government and Specialists

Tasks: Monitoring, compilation and assessment of information

#### Regular Monitoring

**Groundwater**  
DWAF,(GSN)

**Radiation and Air**  
NRPA, GSN

**Health**  
MoHSS

#### Tourism

NERMU, MET, Gobabeb, Tours and  
Safari Association(TASA), CTAN

**Ecology, Sense of Place**  
NERMU, Gobabeb, MET

**Heritage and future**  
NERMU, Gobabeb, National  
Heritage Council(NHC)

#### Regular consultation

**Water Supply**  
Namwater

**Electricity Supply**  
Nampower, ErongoRED,  
Electricity Control Board(ECB)

**Mining and Exploration  
Companies**  
Chamber of Mines

**Transport Infrastructure**  
Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT),  
Road Authority, TransNamib, NamPort

**Social Infrastructures**  
Ministry of education (MoE)  
Municipalities

**Housing Infrastructures**  
Municipalities

#### Consultation

**Political decision makers**

**Local Experts**

**Non-governmental  
organizations**

**Civil society**

**International experts**

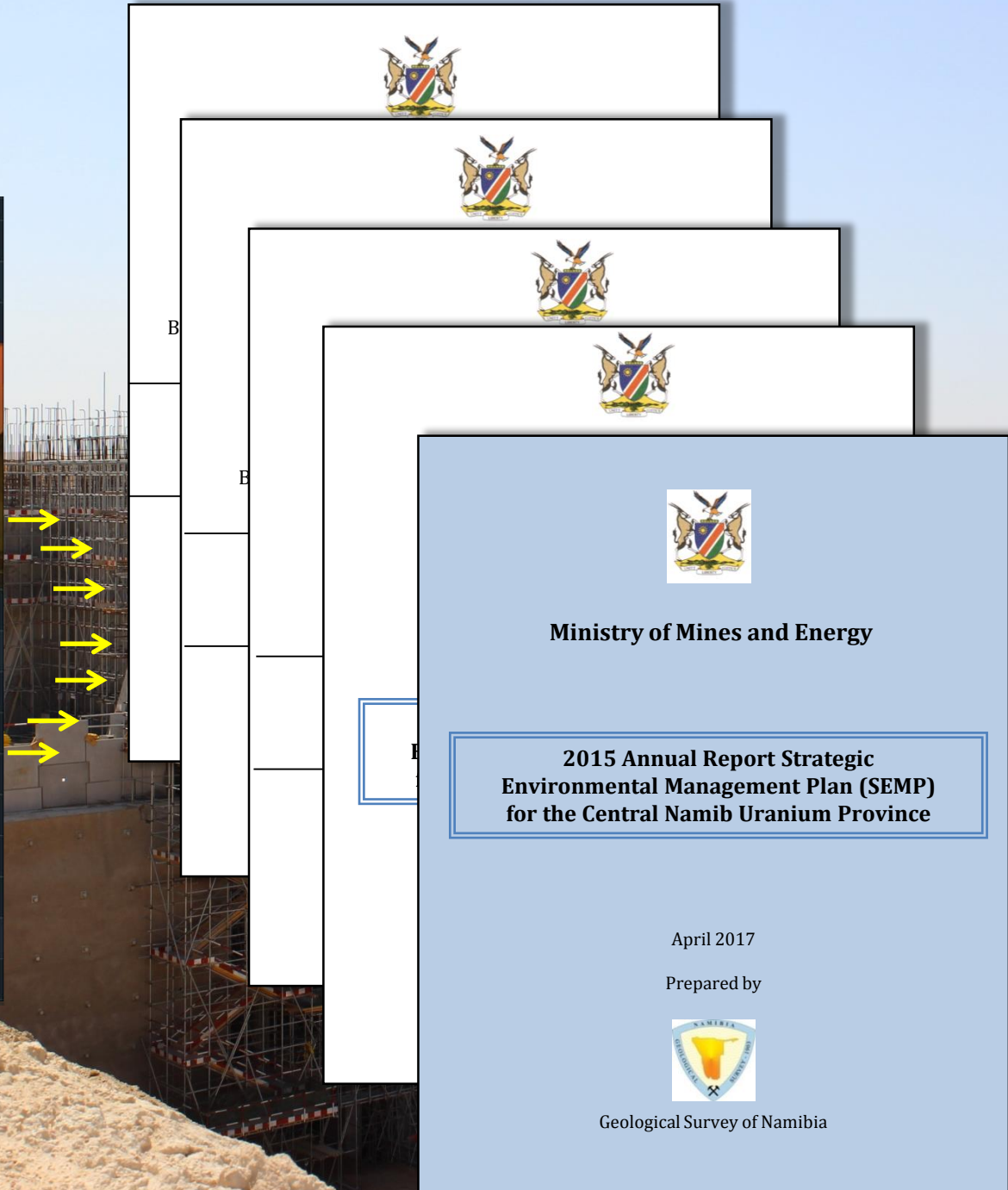
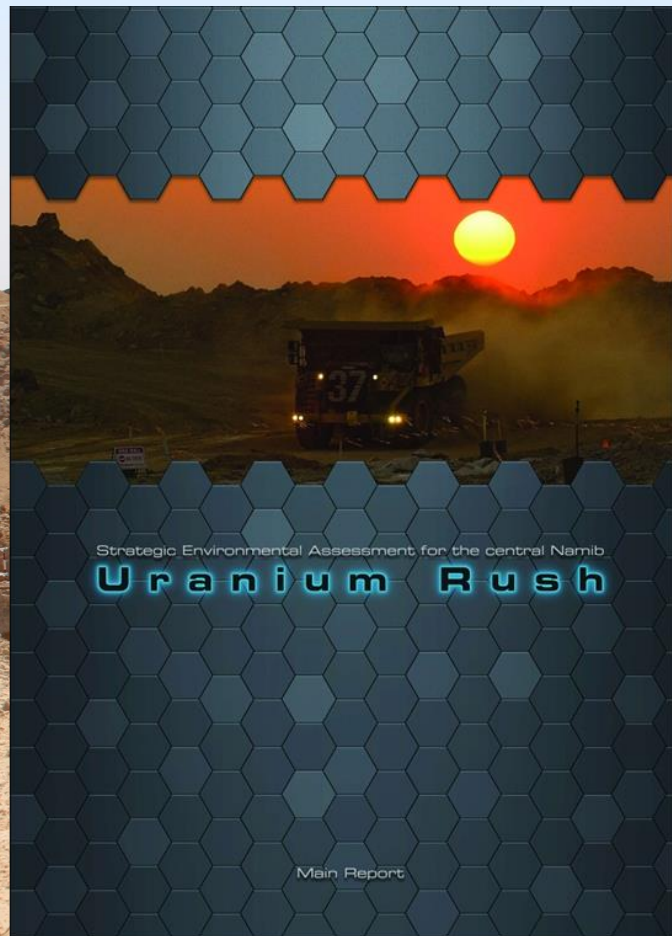
**Regional and Urban  
landuse planner**

**Basin Management  
Committee**

- **Comprises 3 components:**
  - **Steering Committee – chaired by MME**
  - **SEMP Office – housed at the GSN, operated by the Engineering and Environmental Geology Division**
  - **SEMP Team**
- **All the relevant stakeholders provide data on a voluntary basis!**



# SEMP Flashback

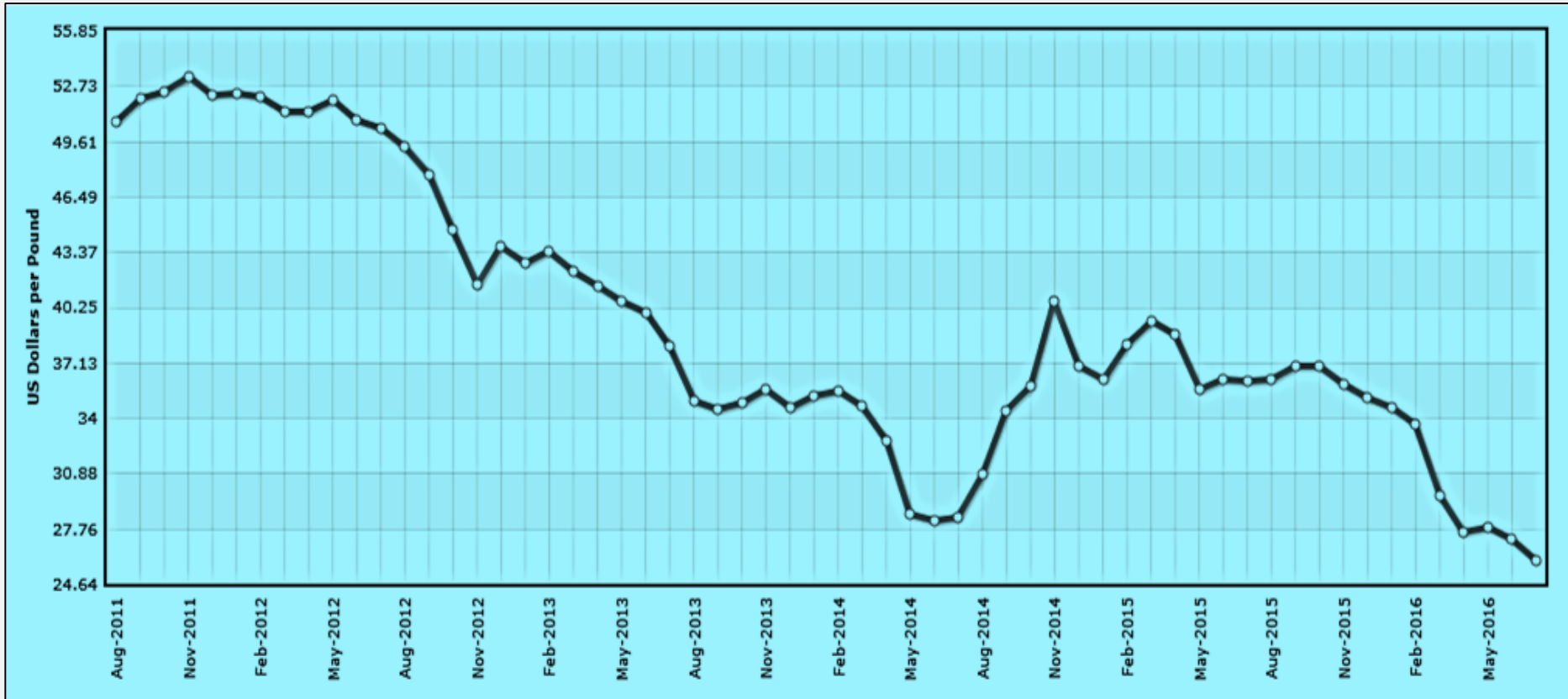


# Uranium Mining Scenario in 2015

- ❖ The Namibian uranium industry has remained in **SEA Scenario 1**
  - Two producing mines (Rio Tinto's Rössing Uranium and Paladin's Langer Heinrich Uranium) and two new mines being developed (Husab and Trekkopje).
- ❖ Bannerman Mining Resources completed the construction of a heap leach demonstration plant at its Etango uranium project in March and commissioned the plant in April 2015 (uranium extraction of 93% achieved)
- ❖ Swakop Uranium continued construction of Husab mine, Overburden stripping started in 2015 and employees for all departments were recruited and trained throughout the year.
- ❖ Valencia Uranium completed feasibility study for the Norasa uranium project (consolidation of the Valencia and Namibplaas projects).
- ❖ Marenica Energy Namibia has applied for a mineral deposit retention licence for its EPL to await an increased uranium price
- ❖ Zonghe resources and Reptile Uranium's exploration activities included geological mapping, ground geophysics and metallurgical testing
- ❖ The moratorium on exclusive prospecting licences remained in place since 2007 and no new uranium mining licences were issued in 2015.

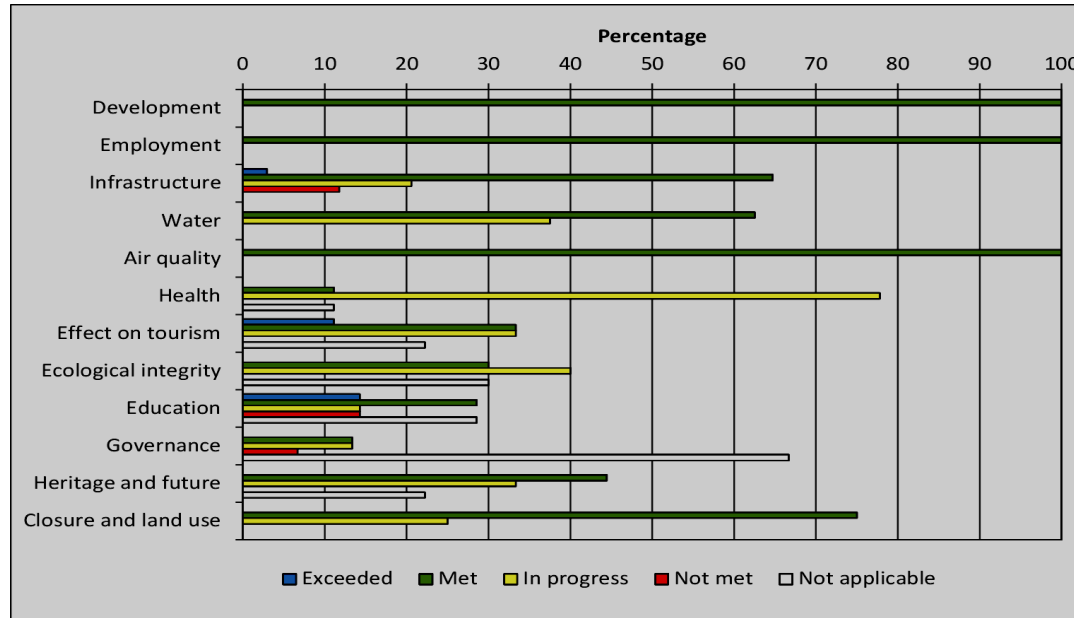


# Uranium U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> Prices



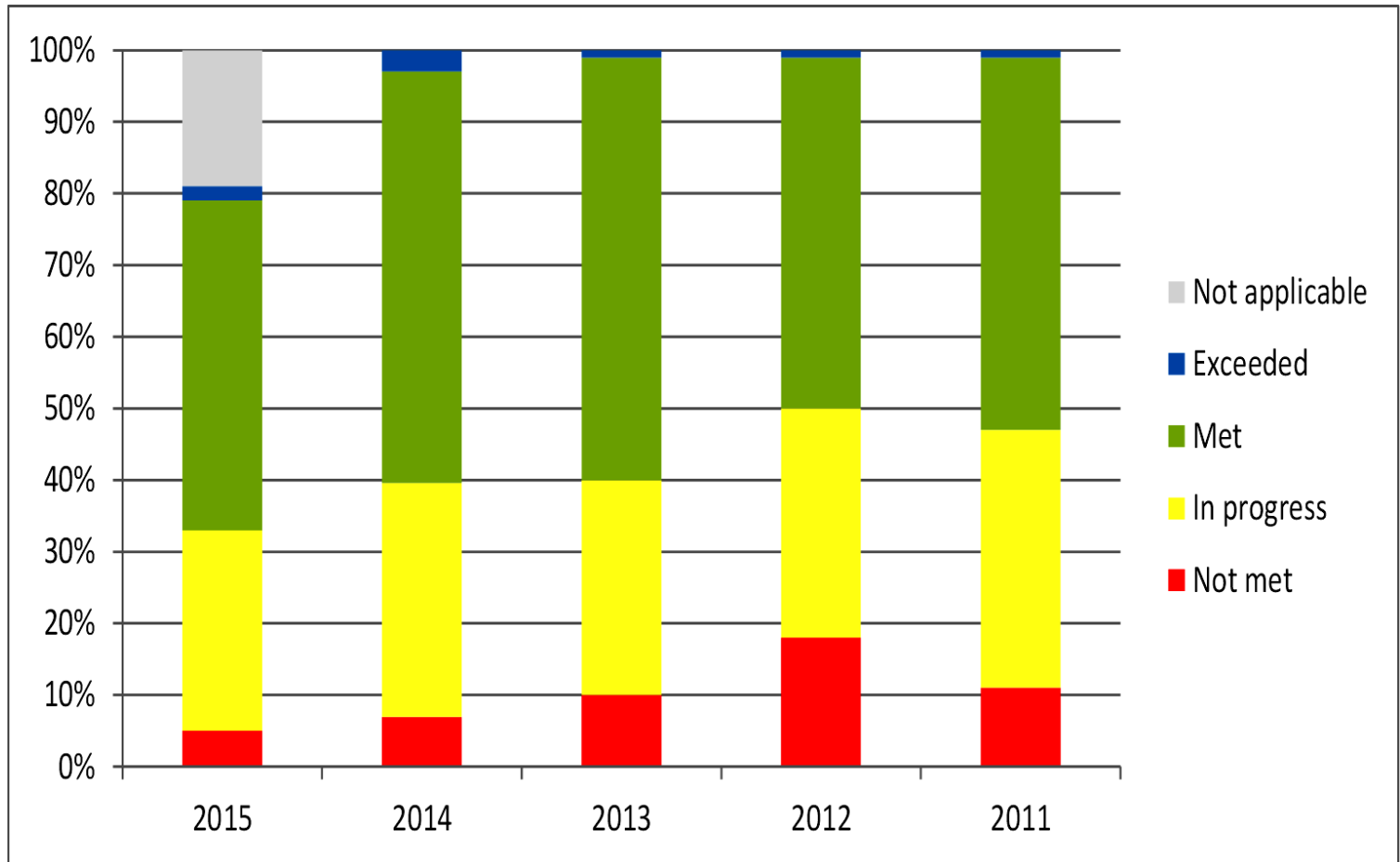
- The uranium spot price fluctuated around US\$35-39 per pound
  - ▶ A recovery to at least US\$60-70 per pound is required for the profitability of many projects that are currently at the exploration or development stage.

# EQO Performances for 2015



- ❖ The Socioeconomic Development (**EQO 1**), Employment (**EQO 2**) and Air Quality (**EQO 5**) objectives were 100% **MET**.
- ❖ The objectives for Water (EQO 4), Governance (EQO 10), Heritage and the Future (EQO 11), as well as Mine Closure and Future Land Use (EQO 12) were mostly **MET** while some indicators remained **IN PROGRESS**.
- ❖ Mixed results ranging from **EXCEEDED** to **NOT MET** were obtained for the Infrastructure (EQO 3) and Education (EQO 9) objectives.
- ❖ Effect on Tourism (EQO 7) show the same percentages of indicators **MET** and **IN PROGRESS**, with one **EXCEEDED** in each EQO.
- ❖ The highest number of indicators **IN PROGRESS** can be found in Health (EQO 6) and ecological integrity.
- ❖ Six indicators (3%) were **NOT MET**; these can be found under Infrastructure (EQO 3), Education (EQO 9) and Governance (EQO 10).

# EQO Performance Trends



- ❖ A gradual improvement in performance observed since the first SEMP report in 2011.
- ❖ The number of indicators **NOT MET** has decreased and the percentage **IN PROGRESS**, **MET** and **EXCEEDED** has increased.
- ❖ **NOT APPLICABLE** category has only been added in 2015 (either because the relevant activity did not take place in 2015 and is unlikely to become available in future)



# Challenges

- ❖ Decline in participation by key stakeholders
- ❖ Lack of input from the SEMP Team
  - Huge burden on the SEMP Secretariat (GSN)
- ❖ Participation and adherence to the SEMP recommendations by the industry and other stakeholders
  - Voluntary and no legal backing

## Arising Questions

- ❖ Is SEMP still perceived as a valuable tool for sustainable development of the uranium province by its stakeholders?
- ❖ Is the voluntary-participation approach the most practical way of implementing the SEMP?



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# Conclusion

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- SEMP remains a necessary tool in guiding sustainable development of the Namibian Uranium Province
- Evaluation of the SEMP's achievements and effectiveness at this point is required



# The 2015 SEMP Annual Report is hereby Officially Launched

The 2015 Annual SEMP report is available:

<http://www.mme.gov.na/publications/?designation=gsn>

or

[http://www.mme.gov.na/files/publications/f49\\_2015\\_Annual\\_SEMP\\_Report.pdf](http://www.mme.gov.na/files/publications/f49_2015_Annual_SEMP_Report.pdf)

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THANK YOU