

TUNGSTEN MINE THREATENS WAY OF LIFE OF THOUSANDS AND PLACES RAMSAR-SITE VERLORENVLEI AT HIGH RISK

- We the people of the Verlorenvallei stand as one against a threat which could destroy our way of life and our valley.
- We the farm workers, fishermen, farmers and entrepreneurs will not allow the pollution of our air, water or land or loss of our livelihoods for the sake of a greedy few.
- We the lovers of nature reject further desecration of the already endangered Verlorenvlei and the unique and wide variety of animals, birds, reptiles and plants which have survived the depredations of humans.
- We will protect the rare and largely unexplored rich pre-historical heritage for those who may follow us.
- We have formed the Verlorenvlei Coalition; we are growing steadily, please join.

The **Verlorenvlei Coalition (VC)** is a coalition of labour, business, civic organisations, environmental groups and local residents formed to preserve the integrity of the area and its people.

We call our valley, which runs from Piketberg to Elands Bay, the Verlorenvallei.

THE CHALLENGE: No less than 5 applicants have submitted applications to the DEPARTMENT OF MINING for the right to build an open-cast tungsten and molybdenum mine, one of these 50 hectares in extent and 200 metres deep, in the Moutonshoek Valley, between Piketberg and Elands Bay in the Western Cape. The Moutonshoek is a narrow valley, approximately 17 kilometres long and 3-4 kilometres wide, on the slopes of the Piketberg-mountain.

THE VERLORENVLEI COALITION will oppose the proposed mining because:

1. It will destroy **productive and profitable farms** and detrimentally affect the **food security** of the Western Cape. The Moutonshoek Valley alone has an annual turnover of R69.59 million.
2. It will cause hundreds of farm workers in the Moutonshoek Valley and hundreds more from Piketberg to Elands Bay to lose their **jobs** and their **homes**.
3. Water draining into the mine from 2 Aquifers (underground **rivers**) could compromise distant locations (potatoes in the Sandveld or spring flowers in Namaqualand). It is unacceptable to take such a risk.
4. Mine-generated polluted ground and surface water could destroy the Verlorenvlei, an internationally recognised **RAMSAR Wetland Site**.
5. Mining activities could cause irreparable harm to the natural historical and San cultural **heritage** of the Verlorenvallei region.
6. The dust produced by such a mine could cause irreparable damage to the health of **plants, crops, animals and humans** of the Verlorenvallei. To date 12 endangered species have been identified in the area; many more await verification.

7. The invasive character of open-cast mining, both physical and cultural, could destroy the **way of life** of the Verlorenvallei community forever.
8. **Our greatest fear is that a mining operation would begin and fail and any possible mitigation against full-scale destruction of all forms of life in the valley from Piketberg to Elands Bay will never be implemented.**

THE FACTS: Such a mine - with an expected life of less than 20 years - should be seen as a short-term and uncertain opportunity to make huge profits, at the expense of the long-term livelihoods and natural heritage of the people of the Verlorenvallei.

THE LAW: The Verlorenvlei Coalition will fight the applications on legal and all other fronts. We already have some of the best brains and expertise available to help us match the seemingly limitless resources of the mining applicants, many pro bono. But we will need all the support we can get. **HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!**

JOIN THE VERLORENVLEI COALITION NOW!

Since the VC's formation, groups and individuals from all walks of life have already pledged their support:

LABOUR: The Moutonshoek Employee's Association, Banghoek/ Kapteinskloof Labour & Residents, Stawelklip Estates Werknemers Trust.

BUSINESS: Aartappels Suid-Afrika, Agri Wes-Kaap, Verlorenvlei Fragrant Products, Cape Eco Tours, Colors Fruit, Elands Bay Backpackers, Fox Electro, The Beach Camp in Cape Colombine Nature Reserve, The Grape Company, Unifrutti Matroozefontein; Lambertsbaai, Elandsbaai en Leipoldville Toerisme Vereniging.

FARMING: Unifrutti, Wilgerbosdrift, Kosie van Niekerk Farms, Namaquasfontein Boerdery Trust, Eendekuil Boerevereniging, Het Kruis Boerevereniging, Stawelklip Estates.

CIVIC: Krom Antonies Water Users Association, Wild Dogs Motorcycle Club.

ENVIRONMENTAL: Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa, Birdlife South Africa, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Western Cape Wetland Forum, Krom Antonies Conservancy, Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve, Cape Bird Club, CBC Conservation, Federation for a Sustainable Environment, Dendrological Society of South Africa, Schapenberg Sir Lowry's Conservancy, South African Faith Communities' Environment Institute, The Cape Leopard Trust, West Coast Bird Club.

RESIDENTS: Verlorenvlei Heritage Settlement & Nature Reserve Home Owners Association, Banghoek Private Nature Reserve Body Corporate, Elands Bay Ratepayers Association, Klawer Hengel Klub, Piket-Bo-Berg Residents Association, Piketberg Forum.

To date we have received support and help from all over the world. We need you to join our Coalition. Your membership alone makes a difference. Please add your name to our growing list of members. Membership is free; voluntary donations are very welcome.

To join the Verlorenvlei Coalition either email Kerry Kruger at kerry@devs.co.za or you may post your name and address and phone number to Verlorenvlei Coalition, P.O. Box 75, REDELINGHUYNS, 8105 or fax the information to 0865244536.

We will update this and our website www.verlorenvlei.co.za as we gather facts and figures.