





OPPORTUNITIES

IN THE MINING

INDUSTRY

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It is widely known that the mining industry is risky, faced with disruptions from within as well as outside the mine site boundaries. In addition to the conventional risks – such as identification and replacement of reserves, volatile commodity prices, and access to capital – new and growing risks have emerged over the years, including the current pandemic, access to clean sustainable energy, digitisation and cyber security. These risks, both old and new, play a critical role in shaping the landscape of the mining industry.

Mining businesses should put in place proper strategic responses to mitigate these risks, and thus, unlock further streams of value.

#### Some of these strategic responses are:

- Investing in digital transformation to increase efficiency and decrease operational costs across the value chain
- Building partnerships with key stakeholders to secure supply chains and streamline disruptions
- Constantly engaging with the community to ensure implementation of corporate social investments and adherence to regulations

As part of the strategic response to mitigating these risks, identifying and understanding these risks is key. It is understandable that some risks are beyond the miner's sphere of influence. However, early identification can help develop options and actions to enhance opportunities and mitigate risk.

# Here are five risks that have emerged throughout 2020:







#### **Global pandemic:** COVID-19

The mining sector has weathered periods of devasting economic conditions before, but the COVID-19 pandemic is unique. This risk is different in the sense that it is not only a health, social and economic disruptor, but also impacts world economic activity, simultaneously. The lockdowns and economic shutdowns to curb the spread of the virus have caused disruptions in global mining supply chains. The demand for commodities has dropped as a result of a reduction in economic activity, while concurrently, the supply side is hindered as a result of travel restrictions. This has impacted global commodity prices, with some prices increasing, such as uranium and gold, and other prices decreasing, such as fuel, copper and zinc.

### Access to clean sustainable energy

Mining operations can be highly energy intensive, with the cost of energy accounting for up to a third of the total cost base. Throughout the years, the industry has relied on conventional fossil fuel-based energy sources, such as coal, natural gas and diesel, to generate electricity. However, the sector is faced with rising electricity prices, placing a tight squeeze on margins, and unreliable power supply from the grid. Additionally, the sector is faced with a growing demand from both global and local regulatory bodies to operate in a sustainable manner. These pressures have resulted in mining companies integrating conventional fossil fuel methods with renewable sources of energy, such as wind, solar, hydropower and biodiesel. The use of renewable energy sources creates a vast stream of benefits, including cheaper mining operations in the long run, lower greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency on site, and sustainable development support.

#### Regulatory and fiscal stability

With the growing demand for commodities and ore reserves depleting in first world countries, mining firms are increasingly operating in jurisdictions known for fiscal and regulatory instability, namely in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Often governments in natural resource rich countries seek to have larger returns from their natural resources beyond the normal taxation system. One of the ways they achieve this is through resource nationalism. Studies have shown that the higher commodity prices are, the more disputes and controversy surrounds the structure of mining firms within a jurisdiction. Therefore, it is crucial that both mining firms and host governments operate on a basis of transparency, with reasonable expectations of the anticipated revenue from the project.



#### **Digitisation**

With the awakening of the fourth industrial revolution and industries across the globe adapting to smart technology to increase efficiency, mining companies have started adopting digital innovation. The mining landscape is being transformed by the fourth industrial revolution through data mining and analytics, automation and industrial internet. However, digital innovation goes beyond the implementation of smart technology. Adopting these technologies should be based on solving operational constraints, such as enhancing productivity and increasing margins from the pit to the port. Already, we have seen the first autonomous underground mine in Africa (Syama Mine in Mali) and we can surely expect that some of Africa's biggest open pit mines will use driverless trucks in the near future.



### **Environmental sustainability**

The mining industry has a reputation for its environmental concerns around emissions, water use, deforestation and community relations. It is an image that many within the industry have been working to rectify. Mining companies have started working in conjunction with a growing number of regulatory structures that govern the environmental policies and impact of the mining sector. These structures recognise and emphasise the importance of a low-carbon economy and the role of the community, challenging mining companies to find innovative ways to reduce their carbon footprint across the value chain and to demonstrate sustainability to the community.

# OUR CAPABILITIES: MINING AND METALS

## Leverage superior Mining and Metals sector expertise

Partner with Standard Bank Namibia for unrivalled expertise in the Mining and Metals industry. With a well-established presence across Namibia's mining industry, we can provide you with the specialist technical expertise required to operate in the mining and commodities industry.

#### Gain access to innovative solutions

We offer a holistic suite of solutions, tailored to your specific needs. These include:

- Transactional solutions and services
- Advisory services
- Equity capital markets
- Debt primary markets
- Project and export finance
- Securitisation
- Structured debt solutions
- Structured trade and commodity finance
- Global Markets solutions and services



# Our Mining and **Metals Team**





Access our multi-disciplinary team of experts, who can assist you with identifying opportunities in the Mining and Metals industry and help you navigate risks and challenges:



**Gaby Horne** Head: Client Coverage / Relationship Manager: Mining & Metals



**Kerikora Kavari Client Analyst** 



**Pius Alweendo Investment Banking** Manager



**Riaan Beukes Global Markets** Sales Manager



**Ndatota Hangula Transactional Solutions** Manager



**Pichard Aderam Credit Manager** 



**Sharon Beukes Client Service Manager** 







"How do banks assist in clean energy transition?"

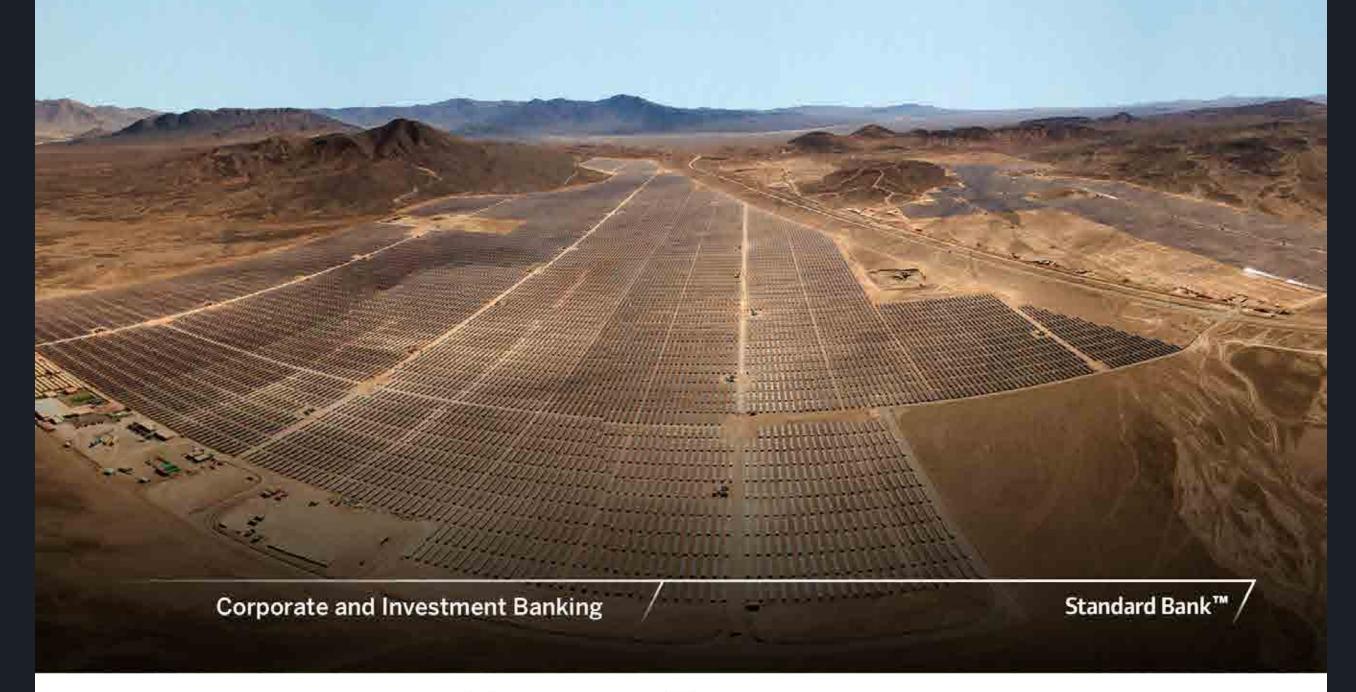
"We dig deeper to find alternative funding options."

The mining industry is in transition, with conventional mining techniques and minerals making way for a lower-carbon economy.

The way banks finance the industry is in transition too, with alternative funding solutions now required for water treatment plants, renewable energy units and the like.

Our multi-disciplinary teams can assist with identifying opportunities, and navigating risks and challenges. With our well-established presence in the industry, we provide the specialist expertise required for your mining operation to transition with confidence.

For more information, contact Gaby Horne on 061 294 2689, Gaby.Horne@standardbank.com.na





# NOTICE

#### **NEW BRAND CAMPAIGN** LAUNCH / IT CAN BE

Standard Bank recently launched a repositioned brand and changed its tagline, adopting one that epitomises how we see our role in Namibia today. The change our customers and indeed all Namibians.

It gives me great pleasure to invite you, our esteemed client, to join us as we embark on this exciting journey of writing a new narrative of hope, belief and optimism.

Our clients often ask themselves if their dreams can be. And we do so proudly, with a resounding "It Can Be" our new tagline.

It Can Be is a celebration of the human spirit, of the belief in our dreams. There is no better time to introduce this new positive message to encourage us all to keep going, especially during these challenging economic times exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At Standard Bank, we believe that dreams matter. They fuel our growth. Together with you, our valued client, we need to take new uncharted paths to realise them.

Our research shows that individuals and businesses are looking for a brand that believes in them, inspires them, and journeys with them. They want a bank that

can help them realise their ambitions – personally or as businesses - and which always puts them at the centre of the discussion. It Can Be allows us to do just reflects the evolution of the lives and experiences of that, because it is about finding new ways to make your dreams possible.

> The refreshed position is about inspiring belief in Namibia's future, while showcasing Standard Bank's client-centric and innovative solutions. It is about being bold changemakers who are curious and responsive.

Can it be that I will one day own my dream home? Can it While our tagline has changed, our purpose remains the be that I will be able to build enough wealth to take care same: "Namibia is our home. We drive her growth." By of my children? Can it be that I can turn a local business adopting a new positioning and tagline, we are changing into a global player? As their financial partner, it is our how we bring the purpose to life in all our markets across responsibility and privilege to answer these questions. the continent. Our new brand positioning and tagline spurs us on and heightens our resolve to make your dreams and aspirations come true. This is the essence of It Can Be.

> As I invite you to celebrate this milestone with us, may I also take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. We look forward to delivering excellent banking services and to walking this path of renewed hope and optimism together. We indeed believe that It Can Be.

#### **Nelson Lucas**

Head of Corporate and Investment Banking



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