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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

PROPOSED BLOCK 3B/4B EXPLORATION EIA





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Abbreviation List

EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIMS	Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
PASA	Petroleum Agency of South Africa
PPP	Public Participation Process
PPR	Public Participation Report



1 INTRODUCTION

Africa Oil SA Corp, Ricocure (Pty) Ltd and Azinam Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Eco Atlantic) (the Joint Venture Partners of the Block 3B/4B Exploration Right - hereafter jointly referred to as the Applicants) have appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the required authorisation processes (including the statutory public participation), and to compile and submit the required documentation in support of application for:

- Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the NEMA- Listed activity 18 (GNR 984)

The Applicants are the holders of an existing Exploration Right for Block 3B/4B in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (No. 28 of 2002 – MPRDA), as amended. The licence block covers an area of approximately 11 100 km² and is situated between latitudes 31°S and 33°S on the continental shelf in water depths ranging from 200 m to 2 000 m. The applicant is the operator and holder of an existing Exploration Right for Block 3B/4B in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (No. 28 of 2002 – MPRDA), as amended. The licence block covers an area of approximately 11 100 km², and is situated between latitudes 31°S and 33°S on the continental shelf in water depths ranging from 200 m to 2 000 m.

Block 3B/4B is located approximately 120 km west of St Helena Bay and approximately 145 km south-west of Hondeklip Bay off the West Coast of South Africa. The area of primary interest is in the north of this block, but this could also cover other areas in future. As part of the process of applying for the Exploration Right, the applicant undertook and completed the reprocessing project covering 2 000 km², which is a subset of the 10 000 km² BHP/Shell 3D seismic datasets, focussed primarily on the most northern portion of Block 3B/4B. Based on analysis of the reprocessed 3D dataset, the JV Partners are now proposing to drill an exploration well in the area of primary interest in order to fully appraise the hydrocarbon potential of the geological structure or “prospect”. In the event that the well is successful, it is envisaged that up to four additional wells could be drilled.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

South Africa, being one of the countries with the most progressive constitutions, enshrined the public’s right to be involved in decisions that may affect them in its Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution that provides: *“The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement”*. This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the recent regulations passed under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making.

Public participation can be defined as...*“a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders, technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently”*¹. From this definition, it can be seen that the input of the public is regarded as very important indeed.

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

- During the Scoping and EIA Process:
 - Contribute relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment;
 - Verify that their issues have been recorded;
 - Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments; and

¹ Greyling, T. (1999) Towards Managing Environmental Disputes: Appropriate Public Participation. Prepared for Conference on Environmental Dispute Resolution 10-11 June 1998, Fourways, Gauteng, Manyaka Greyling Meiring (Pty) Ltd, South Africa



- Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

The PPP is a requirement of several pieces of South African Legislation and aims to ensure that all relevant I&APs are consulted, involved and their opinions are taken into account and a record included in the reports submitted to Authorities. The process ensures that all stakeholders are provided this opportunity as part of a transparent process which allows for a robust and comprehensive environmental study. The PPP for the necessary authorisation required for the proposed TGS Reconnaissance BA Project needs to be managed sensitively and according to best practises in order to ensure and promote:

- Compliance with international best practice options;
- Compliance with national legislation;
- Establishment and management of relationships with key stakeholder groups; and
- Encouragement of involvement and participation in the environmental study and authorisation/approval process.

As such, the purpose of the PPP and stakeholder engagement process is to:

- Introduce the proposed project and process for the authorisation project;
- Explain the environmental authorisation;
- Determine and record issues, concerns, suggestions, and objections to the project;
- Provide opportunity for input and gathering of local knowledge;
- Establish and formalise lines of communication between the I&APs and the project team;
- Identify all significant issues for the project; and
- Identify possible mitigation measures or environmental management plans to minimise and/or prevent negative environmental impacts and maximise and/or promote positive environmental impacts associated with the project.

This Public Participation Report (PPR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs and stakeholders from the 30-day initial notification and call to register period from the 12 June 2023 to date. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this PPR.

2.1 LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The PPP must comply with all environmental legislation that requires public participation as part of an application for authorisation or approval; namely:

- NEMA;

Adherence to the requirements of the above-mentioned Acts will allow for an Integrated PPP to be conducted, and in so doing, satisfy the requirement for public participation referenced in the Acts. The details of the Integrated PPP are provided below.

3 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

An initial I&AP database has been compiled from historic projects in the area, desktop based I&AP identification and newspaper advertisements to obtain the contact details of the potentially affected I&APs. The I&APs referred to in the PPR include:

- Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders;
- Regulatory authorities;



- Specialist interest groups; and
- All I&APs who responded to the initial notifications and requested to be registered.

Efforts to pre-identify key I&APs involved various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and government departments, review of related previously conducted studies, and identification of key interest groups and authorities within the vicinity of the study area and municipality. Refer Appendix 1 for the Key Stakeholder/I&AP Database.

All key stakeholders have been notified about the project via post, fax and/or email as well as through advertisements and/or site notices inviting them to participate in the EIA process. Refer to Appendix 1 for the landowner, key stakeholder and I&AP initial notifications.

3.1 LIST OF AUTHORITIES NOTIFIED

The following authorities, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- Bergrivier Local Municipality
- Cape Nature
- Cederberg Local Municipality
- City of Cape Town Metropolitan
- Eskom SOC Ltd
- Heritage Western Cape
- Kamiesberg Local Municipality
- Matzikama Local Municipality
- Nama Khoi Local Municipality
- Namakwa District Municipality
- National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform And Rural Development;
- National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment;
- National Department of Mineral Resources
- National Department of Public Works
- National Department of Social Development
- National Department of Transport
- National Department of Water and Sanitation; and
- National Energy Regulator of South Africa
- Northern Cape Department of Nature and Conservation
- Northern Cape Provincial Heritage Resource Agency
- Petroleum Agency of South Africa
- Ritchersveld Local Municipality
- Saldanha Bay Local Municipality
- SANPARKS
- South African Heritage Resources Agency
- Swartland Local Municipality
- West Coast District Municipality
- West Coast Marine Conservation Society
- Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

3.2 LIST OF OTHER KEY I&APS AND STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

The following key I&APs, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- Abalobi
- ADR Fishing (Pty) Ltd



- Africa Conservation Trust
- Afriforum
- Agri Westcape
- Anglo American
- Aukotowa Fisheries
- Aukotowa Fishing Co-Op
- Birdlife
- Centre for Environmental Rights
- Chapmans Peak Fisheries
- Cochoqua Tribal Authority
- Combined Fishing Enterprise cc
- Community Processors and Distributors (Pty) Ltd
- Conservation South Africa
- Council for Geoscience
- CSIR
- Dargle Conservancy
- De Beers Group of Companies
- Earth Life Africa
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd;
- Federation for a Sustainable Environment
- Fisherman Development Organisation
- FishSA
- Frackfree SA
- Fresh Tuna Exporters Association
- Gansbaai Marine (Pty) Ltd
- Green Connection
- GroundWork SA
- Hacky Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- Hicksons Fishing Company Ltd
- Hondeklip Bay Women's Group
- Hondeklipbaai Visserye Bpk.
- iAfrica
- iGas
- Ikamva Lethu Fishing Company (Pty) Ltd
- Imbiza
- Impact Oil and Gas
- Impala Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- Inert Fas Industries
- Ingwe Emnyama Fishing Enterprises (Pty) Ltd
- IRASA Khoisan
- Irvin & Johnson Limited
- Isinda Tient (Pty) Ltd
- Iziko Museums of South Africa
- Japan Marine Supplies & Services
- Jayfish cc
- Kernel Marine (Pty) Ltd
- Khulani Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- Kobush
- Local Ward Councillors
- Lucky Star
- Masifundise Development Trust
- NamaquaRIGHTS
- Natural Justice
- North Western Cape Mining Forum
- Observatory Civic Organisation
- Oceana Group Limited
- Oceans Not Oil
- Pescaluna
- PetroSA
- Port Nolloth Abalone
- Port Nolloth Fish Factory



- Port Nolloth Fisheries
- Port Nolloth Sea Farm Ranching
- Premier Fishing
- Premier Fishing (SA) (Pty) Ltd
- Protect the West Coast
- Quayside Fish Suppliers Cape (Pty) Ltd
- Reige Visserye cc
- Risar Fishing
- SA Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds
- South African National Biodiversity Institute
- South African Pelagic Fishing Industry Association (SAPFIA)
- South African United Fishing Front
- Sunbird Energy
- Sungu Sungu Petroleum
- Tetra4
- Thombo Petroleum/Africa Energy corp
- Transnet SOC Ltd
- Umbono Energy Partners (UEP)
- West Coast National Park
- World Wildlife Fund

4 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

This section provides details on the notifications that were distributed as part of the consultation process to date.

4.1 INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF KEY I&APS

The PPP commenced on the 12 June 2023 with site notice placement followed by an initial notification and call to register which started on 15 June 2023. Notification during this initial consultation was given in the manner described below.

4.1.1 NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

An initial round of newspaper advertisements has been published during June 2023. The advertisements described the proposed project, Scoping and EIA process urging I&APs to register to receive notifications regarding opportunities to participate in the EA process.

The newspaper advertisements included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;
- Legislative requirements;
- Public meeting details; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project:

The advertisements and notices were placed as follows:

Table 1: Newspaper Advertisements Details

Newspaper	Languages	Publication Date
Cape Times	English and IsiXhosa	14 June 2023



Newspaper	Languages	Publication Date
Sentinel News	English and Afrikaans	15 June 2023
Weslander	English and Afrikaans	15 June 2023
Ons Kontrei	English and Afrikaans	16 June 2023
Die Plattelander	English and Afrikaans	15 June 2023

Please refer to Appendix 2 for proof of adverts and notices placed.

4.1.2 REGISTERED LETTERS, FAXES AND EMAILS

Notification letters in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa were distributed to pre-identified I&APs through either registered mail, faxes, and/or emails and/or SMS. Please refer to Appendix 3 for initial notification and proofs.

The notification documents included the following information:

- List of anticipated activities to be authorised;
- Sufficient detail of the proposed development to enable I&APs to assess/surmise what impact the development will have on them or on the use of their land;
- The purpose of the proposed project;
- Details of the application processes associated with proposed activities;
- Details of the affected properties (including a locality map);
- Details of the South African environmental legislation that must be adhered to;
- Contact details of the EAP.

4.1.3 SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT

One hundred and fifty (150) A1 Correx site notices (in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa) were placed at 150 locations along the West Coast, stretching from Hout Bay to Alexander Bay on the 12 -17 June 2023. The on-site notices included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Map of proposed project area;
- Project description;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to Appendix 4 for proof of site notice and site notice distribution.

4.1.4 RADIO ADVERTISEMENTS

An initial round of Radio advertisements has been published during June 2023. The advertisements described the proposed project, Scoping and EIA process urging I&APs to register to receive notifications regarding opportunities to participate in the EA process.



The newspaper advertisements and notice included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

The advertisements and notices were placed as follows:

Table 2: Radio Advertisements Details

Radio Station	Languages	Publication Date
KFM	English	14-16 June 2023
Radio NFM	English and Afrikaans	14-16 June 2023
Radio West Coast	English and isiXhosa	12-16 June 2023
Radio Namakwaland	English and Afrikaans	12-15 June 2023

Please refer to Appendix 5 for proof of adverts and notices placed.

4.1.5 PUBLIC MEETINGS

4.1.5.1 SCOPING PHASE PUBLIC MEETINGS

A series of public meetings with I&APs will be planned and held at various locations along the West Coast. A high-level presentation of the proposed project's scope and the anticipated impacts will be given to the I&APs. Comments and concerns regarding the project will be captured in the meeting minutes.

4.1.5.2 EIA PHASE PUBLIC MEETINGS

A series of public meetings with I&APs will be planned and held at various locations along the West Coast. A presentation of the finding so of the EIA Phase and the anticipated impacts will be given to the I&APs. Comments and concerns regarding the project will be captured in the meeting minutes.

5 RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED

The comments presented in are those that have been received and addressed from 15 June 2023 to date and will be updated during and following the public participation period.

5.1 Summary of issues that were raised

A high-level summary of the comments raised to date are presented below.

- I&AP registrations and deregistration;
- Request for clarity regarding terminology such as the reprocessing of data;
- Request for clarity on the nature of the project;
- Request to be informed about updates of the project;
- Request for files related to the location and situation of the project site;
- Provision of information related to SAHRIS application procedure for the project



All comments and/or queries received to date are included in this report and presented in Appendix 6. Please refer to Appendix 7 for proof of correspondence.

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report will be updated for submission to the competent authority, following the 30-day public review period of the Draft Scoping Report and associated appendices.



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: I&AP Database



Appendix 2: Advertisements



Appendix 3: Initial Notification and Proof of Initial Notification

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's, proof of the actual notification documents submitted to I&AP's will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za.



Appendix 4: Site Notice Placement and Proof of Placement



Appendix 5: Radio Advertisements



Appendix 6: Table of Correspondence



Appendix 7: Correspondence Document

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's copies of the notification proof will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za