

APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTION RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION TO PROSPECT IN SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C, ALONG THE WEST COAST BY TRANS ATLANTIC DIAMONDS

Date: 8 June 2022 **Time:** 15:00 – 17:00

Venue: Community Centre, Hondeklipbaai, Northern Cape

Presenter and Environmental Assessment Practitioner: Cheruscha Swart – Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Assistance: Simone Louw – Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

MEETING NOTES

ABBREVIATIONS

Anchor	Anchor Environmental Consultants (The EAP)
BAR	Basic Assessment Report
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
DMRE	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
TAD	Trans Atlantic Diamonds (The applicant)

GENERAL REMARKS

- As required by the government, COVID-19 protocols have been adhered to. Upon arrival, participants were asked to complete the general Covid-19 questionnaire, disinfect their hands, make sure to wear masks, take their temperature, and sit far enough apart.
- Cheruscha Swart, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner and consultant at Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd (Anchor), welcomed everyone.
- Simone Louw, also an environmental consultant at Anchor, provided technical assistance and took notes at the meeting.
- The meeting was attended by 34 stakeholders.
- Cheruscha discussed various topics and participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and comment after the presentation.

- The community has made it clear that they are opposed to the project. They are particularly concerned about the impact that prospecting will have on their livelihoods, the environment and future generations.

The course of the meeting was as follows:

1. Welcome
2. “Housekeeping” rules
3. Purpose of the meeting
4. Introductions
5. Project Overview: Information as outlined in the Background Information Document was discussed
6. Questions
7. Closing

1. WELCOME

Me. Swart welcomed everyone at 15:15. A total of 34 people attended the meeting.

2. “HOUSEKEEPING” RULES

Participants were asked the following:

- To make sure that they have signed the necessary documents at the entrance of the hall. This includes the Covid-19 questionnaire and attendance register for the meeting.
- To send the questions / comments back to Anchor using a method of their choice (e.g. by email, telephonic or post) .
- Please keep all questions and comments until the end of the submission.
- To turn off their cell phones to avoid interruptions.

3.PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

To apply for prospecting rights, environmental authorisation must also be obtained. The environmental authorisation then gives the applicant the right to carry out certain activities associated with prospecting. To obtain environmental authorisation, a Basic Assessment Process must be performed. This includes, among other things, an assessment of the potential impacts of prospecting in that area, as well as a Public Participation Process and meeting during which the community can provide input and ask questions about the process. A Pre-Consultation meeting is also held with the communities before the specialist and impact studies are carried out. The aim is to inform the communities and other interested and affected parties of the project and associated activities, to get the community's input and answer questions so that these can be taken into account during the impact studies. The Pre-Consultation is also used as an opportunity to obtain contact details of other important community representatives and organisations to inform them of the process and the official public participation process. All this information and findings are then compiled together with the stakeholder questions and comments in a report and submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE). Members have been informed that this is the Pre-Consultation meeting and not the official public meeting.

4. INTRODUCTIONS

Anchor Environmental Consultants has been appointed by the applicant (Trans Atlantic Diamonds) as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner, to conduct a Basic Assessment of the proposed activities. Anchor does work all over South Africa and also in various countries in Africa and Worldwide. Their work includes environmental studies and evaluations, plant and animal surveys, fish surveys, studies on the existence of communities, impact studies for both the environment and communities, Basic Assessment Processes and the development of environmental legislation and conservation programs. Their studies focus on various habitats including the sea, wetlands, freshwater and rural areas.

Trans Atlantic Diamonds is the prospecting rights applicant. They are a licensed, uncut diamond dealer who has been involved in the diamond industry since 1986. They are an independent, online diamond sales channel that connects buyers and sellers and provides a sales solution for producers, small tradesmen, and suppliers. They are well known in the diamond industry and have more than 30 years of experience.

5. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The purpose of the meeting is to provide the community with more information about the Basic Assessment process, prospecting work, potential impacts and mitigation measures. This will enable stakeholders to better understand the project and thus make meaningful comments. Background Information Documents were circulated to all participants and the following topics were discussed:

- Background of the project
- Project activities
- Mitigation measures

6. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- The participants were thanked for listening and the floor was opened for questions and comments.
- Cheruscha also asked for input from the community in terms of what they want to be considered by the specialists and the EAP, what important organizations and people need to be contacted and what they want Anchor to do on their part.
- Permission was requested from the participants to be recorded on tape. They agreed.
- Participants were asked to introduce themselves and their organization.
- The community agreed that the meeting does not have to be transcribed verbatim, but that a summary of the main comments and concerns would suffice.

Question/ Comment

- Prospecting, particularly drilling will produce mud, which will have an impact on the area's fish resources, and the community strongly suggests that another method be utilized to avoid water quality deterioration.
- The community is dissatisfied with the mining industry since previous mining companies made promises to the community of Hondeklip Bay, only to break those pledges and abandon the community after the mining companies had left. As a result, the community has been misled by companies such as Transhex and the De Beers group, and they do not want to be misled again, so they are requesting transparency of all processes involved from the project application to the final decision process, and request that all promises must be recorded and followed through.

- Several community members of the community have stated their opposition to the prospecting.
- The community requested that all future notices must be erected at the at the municipal hall (service point) as opposed to the police station where they saw the current pre-consultation meeting notice.
- A community member suggested that TAD and the community could form a 50/50 partnership, , adding that they would need insurance and that the proposed activities would benefit the community.
- The community is concerned about the community's socioeconomic status after the TAD has left the area and completed their activities (i.e., a maintenance plan after they have completed their activities).
- The mines benefit the community in no way and create no known opportunities for the community and the opportunities available does not allow their workforce to be employed.
- The area's fish resources are already depleted in the area, and mining and exploration activities will exacerbate the problem.
- Before any activity is to begin, the community would need to see the results (i.e., benefits/investment for the local community).
- The community has a strong cultural connection to the ocean, and the ocean's resources support their livelihoods
- Trans Atlantic Diamond has been asked by the community to clarify which company is asking for prospecting rights. They inquired as to whether the company that was founded in 2017 or 2021 will be applying as these two different companies have different owners.
- Several members of the community expressed worries about the meeting registrations, expressing fears that Anchor might alter the register and lie, as other companies have done in the past. As a result, they're also asking for transparency and legality in all communications and during the public participation processes.
- The drilling will scare away the local fish population.
- The community is already having trouble obtaining permits, and they are fearful that when mining begins, the problem will become even worse.
- The community want to know what the impact is if the community opposes the application, and what the guarantee is if the community objects to the activity.
- The community is concerned about the impact of water quality on human health as a result of prospecting-related drilling activities
- The community requests that TAD provide a video of all activities that will take place during the operational phase. This request will aid in the community understanding what the project entail and potential environmental and socio-economic impacts. For example, a video must be provided of the benthic environment before the activities commences and after which include the prospecting tools that will be used.

In summary, three primary concerns were highlighted by the community.

First, the community is particularly concerned about the potential impact of the proposed prospecting activities on the area's water quality.

Second, before the proprietor of Trans Atlantic Diamonds comes to Hondeklip Bay, the community members do not allow any prospecting activity to take place.

Third, the notice and participation periods are too short, and the application and stakeholder processes need to be prolonged due to a lack of time for information to reach the entire community, and the processes need to be adjusted even before consulting firms are involved.

7. CLOSING

The participants were thanked and the meeting was adjourned.