

**FINAL BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
PROSPECTING IN SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C BY TRANS
ATLANTIC DIAMONDS (PTY) LTD**

Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd
Office 1603 Portside
4 Bree Street
Cape Town, Western Cape, 8001



TRANS ATLANTIC
DIAMONDS

**Appendix 16:
Emails Received**

Anchor Environmental Consultants
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close, Tokai, South Africa
www.anchorenvironmental.co.za



Request to register as an I&AP in Trans Atlantic Diamonds Pty LTD Block 7c

[REDACTED]

Mon 06/06/2022 14:36

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Cheruscha/Anchor Consulting

Re Application in Block 7C

Please can you kindly register me as an interested and affected party in the application by Trans-Atlantic Diamonds for Block 7C

Thank you

[REDACTED]

University of Cape Town

Dept. of Environmental and Geographical Sciences

One Ocean Hub Research Project

RE: Prospecting Rights Application 7C: Invite to submit initial comment and input

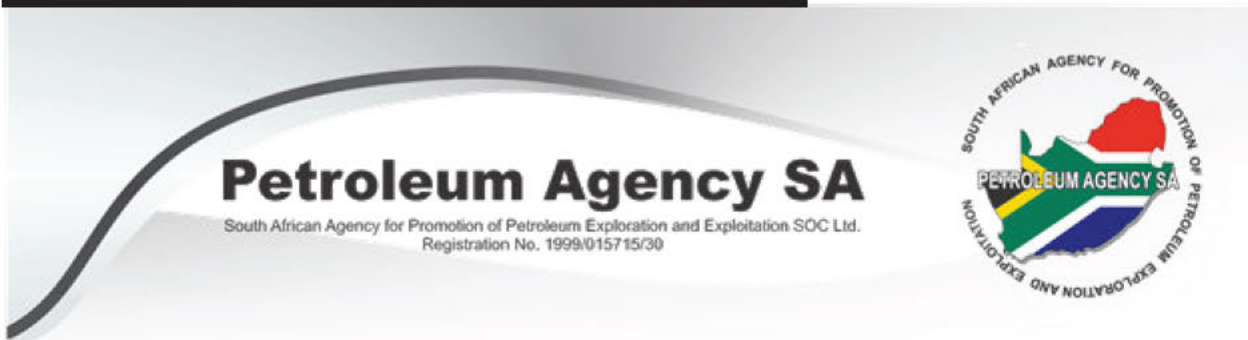
Mon 06/06/2022 07:33

To:

Dear Cheruscha

Thank you for the notification. Kindly provide us with the shapefiles of the application area so that we can establish which petroleum exploration rights overlap with the application area in question.

Kind Regards



From:

Sent: Friday, 03 June 2022 17:47

To:

Subject: Prospecting Rights Application 7C: Invite to submit initial comment and input

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Petroleum Agency SA organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Geagte Belanghebbende,

VOORAF-KONSULTASIE: KENNISGEWING VAN AANVAARDING VAN 'N AANSOEK OM PROSPEKEREGTE EN OMGEWINGSMAGTIGING VIR PROSPEKERING IN SEEKONSESSIEGEBIED 7C, NOORD-KAAP.

Trans-Atlantic Diamonds Pty (Ltd) (die 'Aansoeker') doen aansoek vir die reg om vir diamante te prospekteer in Suid-Afrikaanse Seekonsessiegebied 10B langs die Wes- en Noord-Kaapse kus. Ingevolge die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (Wet No. 107 van 1998), word van die Aansoeker verwag om 'n Basiese Assessering (BA) van die voorgestelde aktiwiteit en gepaardgaande potensiële impakte uit te voer. Hulle het Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd as die onafhanklike Omgewingskonsultante (Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)) aangestel om met hierdie proses te help.

Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Partye (B&GP'e) word hiermee uitgenooi om te registreer, die Agtergrondinligtingsdokumente na te gaan en enige aanvanklike kommentaar of bekommernisse rakende die voorgestelde projek per e-pos, pos of telefonies aan die kontakpersoon hieronder **voor 23:59 op 24 Junie 2022 in te dien**.

Ons besoek ook Hondeklipbaai op 8 Junie. As u enige navrae of kommentaar het wat u persoonlik met ons wil bespreek, sal ons op 8 Junie 2022, tussen 15:00 en 17:00, by die Eric Baker Gemeenskapsaal in Hondeklip Bay, Noord-Kaap wees.

Neem asseblief kennis: Hierdie is NIE die amptelike openbare deelnameproses en vergadering nie. Ons vra slegs vir enige aanvanklike kommentaar en insette wat alternatiewelik ook per e-pos, pos of telefonies verskaf kan word. 'n Amptelike 30-dae openbare deelnameproses en vergadering sal nog gereël word en besonderhede sal op 'n later stadium aan belanghebbendes gekommunikeer word.

Indien u bewus is van enige belanghebbendes wat deur hierdie aktiwiteit geraak kan word en wat ons op ons kontaklys moet insluit en na die opedag en komende vergaderings moet nooi, stuur asseblief vir ons hul kontakbesonderhede of verwys hulle na hierdie e-pos.

Moet asseblief nie huiwer om ons te kontak indien jy enige vrae het oor die voorgestelde projek of konsultasieproses nie.

**Baie Dankie
Vriendelike Groete**



[REDACTED]
Ecologist and Environmental Consultant
Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close, Tokai,
Cape Town, South Africa
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
Cell: +27 79 285 0529
[REDACTED]
Website: anchorenvironmental.co.za

Ons voldoen aan die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting (POPI), ingevolge waarvan u persoonlike inligting nie sonder u toestemming of kennis versprei of openbaar gemaak mag word nie. Ons sal egter alle kommentaar van belanghebbendes aan die publiek beskikbaar stel, alhoewel dit anoniem sal bly.

Let daarop dat slegs geregistreerde belanghebbendes verdere korrespondensie sal ontvang. Ten spyte van voorsorgmaatreëls is daar verskeie e-posdiensverskaffers wat dalk u e-poskennisgewings as strooi-pos klassifiseer. Indien u wil registreer, voeg die volgende e-posadres by u kontakte om te verseker dat u toekomstige opdaterings oor hierdie projek kan ontvang:

[REDACTED]

Dear Stakeholder,

PRE-CONSULTATION: NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF AN APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR PROSPECTING IN SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C, NORTHERN CAPE.

Trans-Atlantic Diamonds Pty (Ltd) (the 'Applicant') is applying for the right to prospect for diamonds in South African Sea Concession Area 7C along the Northern Cape coast. In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), the Applicant is required to conduct a Basic Assessment of the process and associated potential impacts. They have subsequently appointed Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with this process.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to register, review the Background Information Documents (this document) and submit any initial comments or concerns regarding the proposed project by email, post or telephone to the contact person **below before 23:59 on 24 June 2022**.

We will also be visiting Hondeklipbaai on 8 June. If you have any queries or comments that you would like to discuss with us personally, we will be available on 8 June 2022 at the Eric Baker Community Hall in Hondeklip Bay, Northern Cape, between 15:00 and 17:00.

Please note: This is NOT the official public Participation Process and meeting. We are only calling for any initial comment and input which can, alternatively, also be provided by means of email, post or telephonically. An official 30-day Public Participation Process and meeting will still be arranged and details communicated to stakeholders at a later stage.

Should you be aware of any stakeholders that might be affected by this activity and which we should include on our contact list and invite to the open day and upcoming meetings, please send us their contact details or refer them to this email.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions concerning the proposed project or stakeholder consultation process.

Thank you.
Kind regards,



[REDACTED]
Ecologist and Environmental Consultant
Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close, Tokai,
Cape Town, South Africa
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
Cell: +27 79 285 0529
[REDACTED]
Website: anchorenvironmental.co.za

We are compliant with the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act according to which your personal information may not be distributed or made public without your permission or knowledge. We will, however, make all stakeholder comments available to the public, although these will be kept anonymous.

Please note that only registered stakeholders will receive further correspondence. Despite precautionary measures that we have taken, our notifications could be categorised as spam by a number of email service providers. Should you wish to register, please add the following email addresses to your contacts to ensure that you receive future updates on this project:

[REDACTED]

This email and its content are subject to the disclaimer as displayed at the following link
<http://www.petroleumagencyrsa.com/DisclaimerInformation38.aspx>

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by **Mimecast Ltd**, an innovator in Software as a Service (SaaS) for business. Providing a **safer** and **more useful** place for your human generated data. Specializing in; Security, archiving and compliance. To find out more [Click Here](#).



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Att: Ms. Cheruscha Swart
Suite 8 Steenberg House
Steenberg Office Park
Silverwood Close

TOKAI

7945

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT ON THE APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION TO PROSPECT IN THE OFFSHORE SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C.

The Branch Oceans & Coasts (O&C) of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) appreciates the opportunity granted to comment on the Background Information Document on the Application for Prospecting Rights and Environmental Authorisation to Prospect in The Offshore Sea Concession Area 7C. The Branch O&C has provided recommendations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), ("NEMA") and the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) ("**ICM Act**").

The Branch O&C has the mandate to ensure the holistic management of the coast and estuarine areas as an integrated system and promote coordinated coastal management. It ensures that the ecological integrity, natural character, and economic, social, and aesthetic value of the coastal zone are maintained, and that people, properties, and economic activities are guarded against dynamic coastal processes.

Guided by the principles of integrated coastal management, the Branch O&C continues to strive for social equity and promote the sustainable use of coastal resources. The Branch O&C will provide detailed comments and recommendations based on the assessment of the adequacy of proposed mitigation measures in the Marine Ecology Impact Assessment, Fisheries Impact Assessment, Socioeconomic Impact Assessment, and Climate Change and Air Emissions Impact Assessment.

Please note the following recommendations for your considerations:

1. The report outlines that Trans-Atlantic Diamonds Pty Ltd (The Applicant) has applied for the right to prospect for diamonds and other gemstones and precious metals and ferrous and base metals such as rare earth in Sea Concession Area 7C. This area covers 200 246 ha and extends from 12km south of Hondeklipbaai (southern boundary) to 19km north of Hondeklipbaai (northern boundary) (Figure 1). The boundary closest to the shore starts approximately 5 km (2.7 nautical miles) west of the high-water mark at a water depth of 70 m. The concession extends 65 – 100 km westwards (at its furthest point) from this point to 200 m water depths.
2. The report further elaborates that sampling will be undertaken in four phases and includes a combination of non-invasive (acoustic survey, data acquisition, and analysis) and invasive activities (Van Veen grab, core, and drill samples). It is further detailed that sampling will be done at 20–50 sites where core samples will be collected at 100–200 sites, disturbing a total surface area of 5 square meters (m²) and a total volume of 1.5 cubic meters (m³) in which acoustic equipment will be used to send out sound towards the seabed to determine the presence of minerals. Consequently, impacts on marine ecology - potential disturbance of fauna (invertebrates, fish, mammals, seabirds, and turtles), the impact of fine sediment plumes on surrounding benthos and water column; damage to the seafloor, impact on benthic habitat communities, seabird features noise, shipping activities, waste discharges during vessel operations; and impacts on fisheries and the livelihoods of fishing communities due to exclusion from fishing grounds and disturbance of target fish species, impact on commercial and small-scale fisheries and/or fishing activities, tourism, noise, disturbance, and socio-economic impact on fisheries are anticipated.
3. While the EAP has embarked upon listing potential mitigation measures to inform assessment and report on the necessary mitigation measures to reduce impact, this recommends the following specialist studies to be undertaken to provide expert advice on each of the impacts, including recommended mitigation measures to inform decision-making:
 - Marine Ecology Impact Assessment - to assess the impacts of proposed well drilling activities on the biophysical and ecological integrity of the seabed including impacts on; marine fauna and flora, the planned and future use of the adjacent coastal area, and whether this is in alignment and whether this proposal will augment/support the planned socio-economic development for the South-West coastline.
 - Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment- to assess the impact on aquatic biodiversity. A combination of environmental concerns relating to the proposed well drilling of the seabed necessitates that the merits of each proposal can be carefully weighed against the externalities to inform whether this proposal is socially responsible, economically justifiable, and ecologically sustainable.

- Fisheries Impact Assessment - to assess the long-term cumulative and unintended impact of the proposal on small-scale fishers, and fisheries research, sediment plume impact on fish stock recruitment during all project phases.
 - Cumulative Impact Assessment- Past assessment of similar applications has revealed that there is adequate consideration of cumulative impacts. The scope of cumulative impacts is often limited to direct impacts (project-related activities) and the scope often fails to consider long-term, unintended impacts resulting from similar activities within one area of interest (other seismic surveys/exploration drilling expeditions, oil, and gas activities). The aspect that is often unacknowledged is that all the anticipated impacts of the drilling, sampling, and/or surveying, are taking place together at the same locations. This Branch would like the assessment reviewer and appointed specialist to take cognisance of this and report on the significance of these impacts in the next report.
4. The Branch O&C will provide detailed comments and recommendations during the next public process when specialist studies have been conducted and more information is available.
 5. The Branch O&C requests to be registered as an I&AP.

Kindly note that the Department reserves the right to revise its comments and request further information based on any additional information that might be received. All future correspondence and documentation (hard copy and an electronic copy) must be submitted to our office via [REDACTED] / or **Physical Address: Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment (DFFE), Branch: Oceans and Coast, 2 East Pier Building, East Pier Road, Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town, 8001.**

Yours Sincerely



[REDACTED]

DATE: 22 JUNE 2022

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: Thursday June 23, 2022
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Trans Atlantic Diamonds Pty Ltd has applied for the right to prospect for diamonds and other gemstones and precious metals and ferrous and base metals such as rare earths in Sea Concession Area 7C. This area covers 200 246 ha and extends from 12km south of Hondeklipbaai (southern boundary) to 19km north of Hondeklipbaai (northern boundary).

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) would like to thank you for submitting the Background Information Document (BID) for the proposed Prospecting Rights and Environmental Authorisation to Prospect in the Offshore Sea Concession Area 7C.

As part of the Environmental Authorisation process a Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan must be completed. SAHRA is pleased to note that the BID has already identified that there may be impacts to Heritage during the proposed project and as such has outlined possible mitigation measures on page 10 of the document. Furthermore, as part of the assessment of the possible impact on heritage, SAHRA requires that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) must be undertaken as part of the project including an evaluation of the likelihood for any shipwrecks being present in the proposed prospecting area. The HIA must include a specialist study of maritime and underwater cultural heritage to be undertaken by a suitably qualified Maritime Archaeologist.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA), Sections 2 and 35 stipulates that any wreck, being any vessel or aircraft or any part thereof older than 60 years in South Africa's territorial waters or maritime cultural zone is protected and falls under the jurisdiction of SAHRA's Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit. These heritage sites or objects may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority.

Should anything of archaeological or paleontological significance be exposed during the proposed project, work must cease immediately and SAHRA must be informed of its discovery without delay. In this event, work may not commence until feedback has been received from SAHRA.

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: Thursday June 23, 2022

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/598790>

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management, Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg, Cape Town, 8018

Ref: [REDACTED]
Enqu [REDACTED]

Tel: ([REDACTED])

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Suite 8 Steenberg
Steenberg Office Park
Silverwood Close
TOKAI
7945

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION TO PROSPECT IN THE OFFSHORE SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C, IN HONDEKLIP BAY.

The Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment ("DFFE") has reviewed the Background Information Document for the proposed prospecting in the offshore sea concession area 7C by Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd. The comments of the DFFE are as follows:

1. The DFFE, Branch: Fisheries Management has a mandate in the development and management of aquaculture in South Africa, please register the Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP).
2. The proposed Trans Atlantic Diamonds prospecting right within the concession 7C area falls within the Northern Cape sea-based aquaculture ranching concession area.
3. Diamond Coast Abalone (Pty) Ltd has a valid ranching abalone ranching right and permit issued by the Department. The ranching concession area, NC 4 has the following coordinates [-30.102264°; 17.185564° (Land side), -30.101241°; 17.154059° (Sea side), -30.432294°; 17.334842° (Land side), -30.432047°; 17.303689° (Sea side)] and has been seeded with abalone.
4. Diamond Coast Aquaculture is a land based facility (location: -30 19' 04.18"; 17 16' 22.19"), abstracting and discharging sea water in the proposed prospecting area. The operator of this facility needs to be consulted to ensure that access is not denied to the coast for servicing their pipes and other operations. Please do ensure that Diamond Coast Abalone is included as and I&AP.
5. The Environmental Impact Assessment process for the proposed prospecting in concession area 7C should consider the already approved and seeded aquaculture ranching concession areas for



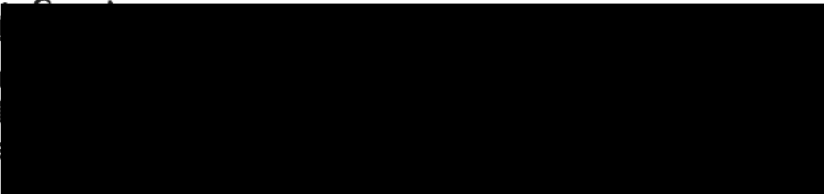
Batho pele- putting people first

the Northern Cape. The application should consider the necessary specialist studies, such as but not limited to Dispersion Modelling and Marine Ecological Assessments, to assess the impacts of proposed mining application might pose to the seeded abalone ranching concession areas and the aquaculture operations in the area.

6. The Department requests that the impact studies investigate the potential impact of heavy metal accumulation and resuspension from the sediments emanating from the mining activity located near the ranching site, which have the potential to impact ranched abalone by accumulating heavy metals in the flesh of the animal.
7. It is noted that on pages 8-9 of the document reference is made to the fisheries sector, please consider the above mentioned comments regarding the aquaculture operations in the area as they may be affected by the proposed activity and would need to be considered.

Please note that the Directorate Sustainable Aquaculture Management reserves the right to review and/or provide additional comments in future. Enquiries may be directed to the contact provided at the top of this correspondence.

Yours sincerely


M
D
D



22 June 2022

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Postal address: Suite 8 Steenberg House,
Steenberg Office Park, Silverwood Close, Tokai, 7945

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attention: [REDACTED]

RE: Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd APPLICATION: PROSPECTING RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION TO PROSPECT IN THE OFFSHORE SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C.

SANParks is hereby registering as Interested and Affected Party for the above project. SANParks takes note of the proposed project, as described below.

Trans Atlantic Diamonds Pty Ltd (The Applicant) has applied for the right to prospect for diamonds and other gemstones and precious metals and ferrous and base metals such as rare earths in Sea Concession Area 7C. This area covers 200 246 ha and extends from 12km south of Hondeklipbaai (southern boundary) to 19km north of Hondeklipbaai (northern boundary) (Figure 1). The boundary closest to the shore starts approximately 5 km (2.7 nautical miles) west of the high-water mark at a water depth of 70 m. The concession extends 65 – 100 km westwards (at its furthest point) from this point to 200 m water depth (Figure 2 below).

SANParks also takes note that only prospecting activities are applied for in the current application and will consist of:

Geophysical/ Acoustic Surveys: Acoustic equipment is used to send out sound towards the seabed. The sound energy is reflected from the seabed and travels back to the receiver.

Van Veen Grab sampling: Sampling will be done at 20–50 sites, disturb a total surface area of 5 square meters (m²) and a total volume of 1.5 cubic meters (m³).

Core sampling: Core samples will be collected at 100–200 sites. The core samples will disturb a total surface area of 1.57 m² and collect a total volume of 4.71 m³.

Drilling: Target areas will be sampled using a drill with a surface area of 5m². In total, 1 500 samples will be collected and will cover a surface area of 7 500 m². A total surface area of 7 507 m² (0.75 ha) will be disturbed during all phases.

- addo elephant
- agulhas
- IAi-IAis / richtersveld
- augrabies
- bontebok
- camdeboo
- garden route
- golden gate highlands
- groenkloof
- karoo
- kgalakgadi transfrontier
- kruger
- mapungubwe
- marakele
- mokala
- mountain zebra
- namaqua
- table mountain
- tankwa karoo
- west coast

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PO Box 787
Pretoria
0001

Tel [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

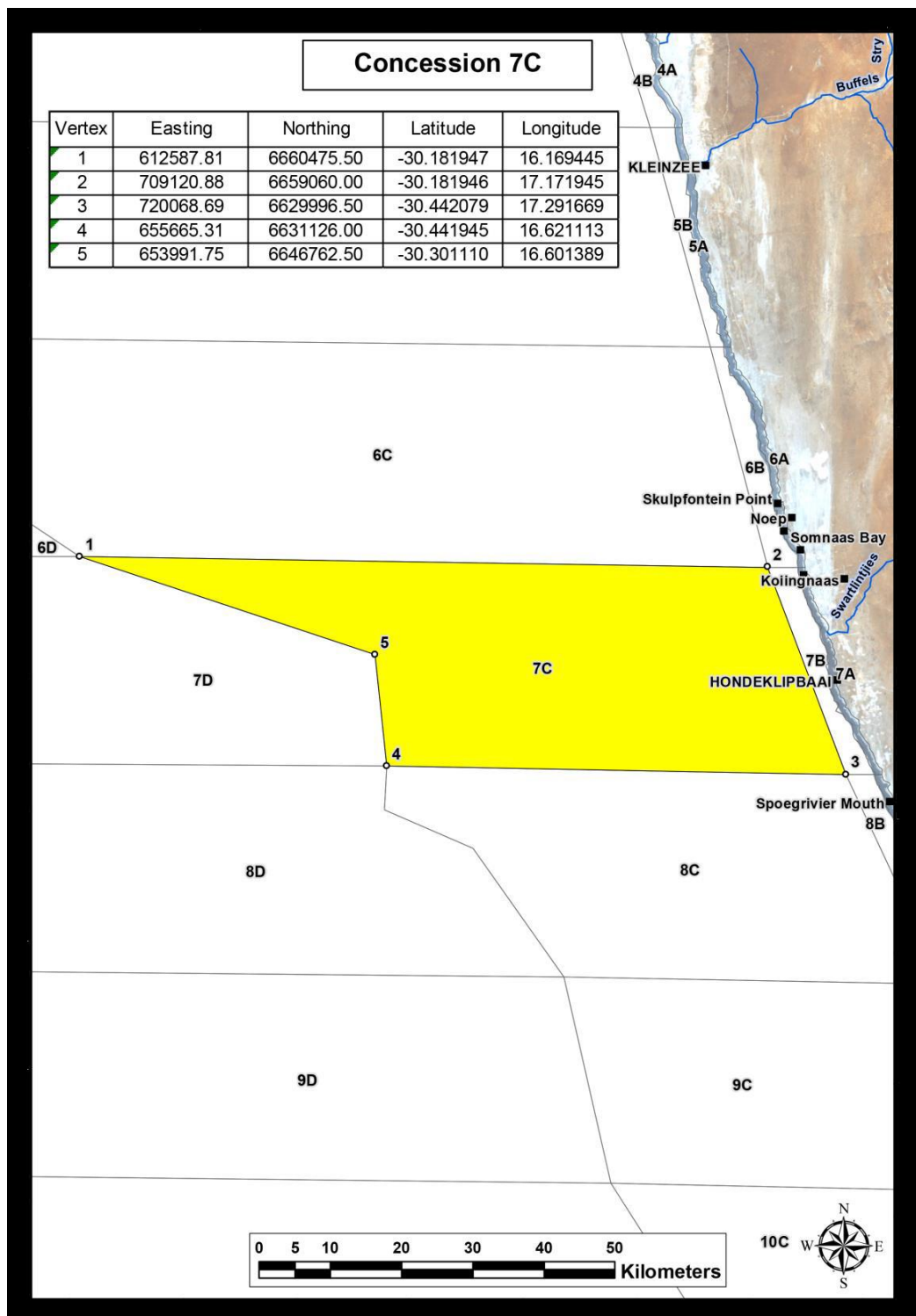


Figure 2. The concession extends 65 – 100 km westwards (at its furthest point) from this point to 200 m water depth.

SANParks comment and concerns on possible impact:

- It is not clear what method will be used for the geophysical surveys, the activity is labelled acoustic, but under impacts seismic surveys are mentioned, this need to be clear, impacts are significantly different.
- Prospecting activities have less damage to the sea floor compared to the extraction/mining phase which will have significant impact, what activities will extraction entail?
- Is there a specific location of where in the block the activities will take place, or will it be spread across the entire footprint?
- The activities will take place near the Namaqua MPA with sensitive ecosystems and habitats. Please ensure to map the MPA and provide distances to the MPA.
- The footprint may overlap with the fishing area of the Hondeklipbaai community. What are the impacts and compensation for loss of fishing to the community area of fishing?

Specific impacts concerned about:

- direct impact of seabed excavation and tailings disposal on benthic habitats specifically in and biodiversity important area
- impact of fine sediment plumes on surrounding benthos and water column, impacting fishing areas and MPA ecosystems
- Improper waste discharges during vessel operations;
- Impacts on fisheries and the livelihoods of fishing communities due to exclusion from fishing grounds and disturbance of target fish species.

SANParks remains concerned about the future impact on livelihood and biodiversity impacts.



██████████

██████████████████

██████████

██████████████████

██

RE: Prospecting Rights Application 7C: Invite to submit initial comment and input

[Redacted]

Fri 01/07/2022 09:52

To: [Redacted]

It has been noted.

Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries will be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email:

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 01 July 2022 09:35 AM

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Prospecting Rights Application 7C: Invite to submit initial comment and input

Good day,

I apologise that you did not receive the link. Please find the BID here:

[Redacted]

Please note that this is still the pre-consultation process and that no specialist studies have been conducted, nor has a BAR been compiled yet.

This is simply to provide initial comment on the proposed project.

Thank you

Kind Regards



[Redacted]
Ecologist and Environmental Consultant
Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close, Tokai,
Cape Town, South Africa
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Friday, 01 July 2022 09:05

To: [Redacted]
[Redacted]: Invite to submit initial comment and input

Dear Sir/Madam

Please note, you did not provide us with the access link for this project and note that; if you do not provide the access link on time. Then, you will receive your comments late.

Kindly send your project documents via wetransfer.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 June 2022 02:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Prospecting Rights Application 7C: Invite to submit initial comment and input

FYA

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 03 June 2022 17:43
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Prospecting Rights Application 7C: Invite to submit initial comment and input

Geagte Belanghebbende,

VOORAF-KONSULTASIE: KENNISGEWING VAN AANVAARDING VAN 'N AANSOEK OM PROSPEKEREGTE EN OMGEWINGSMAGTIGING VIR PROSPEKERING IN SEEKONSESSIEGEBIED 7C, NOORD-KAAP.

Trans-Atlantic Diamonds Pty (Ltd) (die 'Aansoeker') doen aansoek vir die reg om vir diamante te prospekteer in Suid-Afrikaanse Seekonsessiegebied 10B langs die Wes- en Noord-Kaapse kus. Ingevolge die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (Wet No. 107 van 1998), word van die Aansoeker verwag om 'n Basiese Assessering (BA) van die voorgestelde aktiwiteit en gepaardgaande potensiële impakte uit te voer. Hulle het Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd as die onafhanklike Omgewingskonsultante (Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)) aangestel om met hierdie proses te help.

Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Partye (B&GP'e) word hiermee uitgenooi om te registreer, die Agtergrondinligtingsdokumente na te gaan en enige aanvanklike kommentaar of bekommernisse rakende die voorgestelde projek per e-pos, pos of telefonies aan die kontakpersoon hieronder **voor 23:59 op 24 Junie 2022 in te dien**.

Ons besoek ook Hondeklipbaai op 8 Junie. As u enige navrae of kommentaar het wat u persoonlik met ons wil bespreek, sal ons op 8 Junie 2022, tussen 15:00 en 17:00, by die Eric Baker Gemeenskapsaal in Hondeklip Bay, Noord-Kaap wees.

Neem asseblief kennis: Hierdie is NIE die amptelike openbare deelnameproses en vergadering nie. Ons vra slegs vir enige aanvanklike kommentaar en insette wat alternatiewelik ook per e-pos, pos of telefonies verskaf kan word. 'n Amptelike 30-dae openbare deelnameproses en vergadering sal nog gereël word en besonderhede sal op 'n later stadium aan belanghebbendes gekommunikeer word.

Indien u bewus is van enige belanghebbendes wat deur hierdie aktiwiteit geraak kan word en wat ons op ons kontaklys moet insluit en na die opedag en komende vergaderings moet nooi, stuur asseblief vir ons hul kontakbesonderhede of verwys hulle na hierdie e-pos.

Moet asseblief nie huiwer om ons te kontak indien jy enige vrae het oor die voorgestelde projek of konsultasieproses nie.

**Baie Dankie
Vriendelike Groete**

[REDACTED] Consultant
Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close, Tokai,



Cape Town, South Africa



Ons voldoen aan die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting (POPI), ingevolge waarvan u persoonlike inligting nie sonder u toestemming of kennis versprei of openbaar gemaak mag word nie. Ons sal egter alle kommentaar van belanghebbendes aan die publiek beskikbaar stel, alhoewel dit anoniem sal bly.

Let daarop dat slegs geregistreerde belanghebbendes verdere korrespondensie sal ontvang. Ten spyte van voorsorgmaatreëls is daar verskeie e-posdiensverskaffers wat dalk u e-poskenningsgewings as strooi-pos klassifiseer. Indien u wil registreer, voeg die volgende e-posadres by u kontakte om te verseker dat u toekomstige opdaterings oor hierdie projek kan ontvang:



Dear Stakeholder,

PRE-CONSULTATION: NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF AN APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR PROSPECTING IN SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C, NORTHERN CAPE.

Trans-Atlantic Diamonds Pty (Ltd) (the 'Applicant') is applying for the right to prospect for diamonds in South African Sea Concession Area 7C along the Northern Cape coast. In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), the Applicant is required to conduct a Basic Assessment of the process and associated potential impacts. They have subsequently appointed Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with this process.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to register, review the Background Information Documents (this document) and submit any initial comments or concerns regarding the proposed project by email, post or telephone to the contact person **below before 23:59 on 24 June 2022.**

We will also be visiting Hondeklipbaai on 8 June. If you have any queries or comments that you would like to discuss with us personally, we will be available on 8 June 2022 at the Eric Baker Community Hall in Hondeklip Bay, Northern Cape, between 15:00 and 17:00.

Please note: This is NOT the official public Participation Process and meeting. We are only calling for any initial comment and input which can, alternatively, also be provided by means of email, post or telephonically. An official 30-day Public Participation Process and meeting will still be arranged and details communicated to stakeholders at a later stage.

Should you be aware of any stakeholders that might be affected by this activity and which we should include on our contact list and invite to the open day and upcoming meetings, please send us their contact details or refer them to this email.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions concerning the proposed project or stakeholder consultation process.

Thank you.
Kind regards,



[Redacted]
Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close, Tokai,
Cape Town, South Africa
[Redacted]
Website: anchorenvironmental.co.za

We are compliant with the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act according to which your personal information may not be distributed or made public without your permission or knowledge. We will, however, make all stakeholder comments available to the public, although these will be kept anonymous.

Please note that only registered stakeholders will receive further correspondence. Despite precautionary measures that we have taken, our notifications could be categorised as spam by a number of email service providers. Should you wish to register, please add the following email addresses to your contacts to ensure that you receive future updates on this project:

[Redacted]

'Please consider the environment before you print this email' The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

'Please consider the environment before you print this email' The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

South African [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Trans Atlantic Diamonds Pty Ltd has applied for the right to prospect for diamonds and other gemstones and precious metals and ferrous and base metals such as rare earths in Sea Concession Area 7C. This area covers 200 246 ha and extends from 12km south of Hondeklipbaai (southern boundary) to 19km north of Hondeklipbaai (northern boundary).

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) would like to thank you for submitting the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) for the proposed prospecting in Sea Concession 7C by Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA), Sections 2 and 35 stipulates that any wreck, being any vessel or aircraft or any part thereof older than 60 years old lying in South Africa's territorial waters or maritime cultural zone is protected and falls under the jurisdiction of SAHRA's Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit. These heritage sites or objects may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority.

The prospecting activities described in the report are a geophysical/acoustic survey, grab sampling, core sampling and drilling. The geophysical survey is non-invasive and will use ship mounted acoustic equipment. The core sampling is invasive and will disturb a total surface area of approx. 1.57m. The grab sampling will take between 20-50 samples and will disturb a total surface area of approx. 5m². The most invasive sampling technique will be undertaken during the drilling phase of the work when a total of 1500 samples will be collected and will cover a surface area of 7500m². A total surface area of 7,507m² (0.75 ha) of seabed will be disturbed during all phases of the proposed prospecting.

A maritime heritage study has already been undertaken as part of the application process and is included in the DBAR. The specialist study was informed by desktop research and has identified that the potential for disturbing maritime cultural heritage is very low. Records indicate that one wreck, the *Shanger* (1878), is possibly located within the concession area, as it is recorded as wrecking in 1878. As it is more than 60 years



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

South African

old, it is considered a heritage resource and is therefore protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA). However, its exact wrecking location is unknown as records show that the wreck caught alight and was abandoned offshore where it is believed to have founded.

The heritage study has concluded that the potential risk to heritage resources is very low however, essential mitigation measures have been included within the report. The mitigation measures listed in both Sections 1.5.3 and 8.8.3 of the DBAR are:

- The contractor must be notified that archaeological sites could be exposed during sampling activities, as well as the procedure to follow should archaeological material be encountered during sampling.
- Reporting of sites to the heritage practitioner for assessment and evaluation.
- Retain samples of the coarser fraction (i.e. gravel and stone (20 mm +) of sorted seabed sediment from each grab sample for assessment by an archaeologist for the presence of important material.
- Any core and drill sample sections which contain alluvial material, particularly where organic remains are present, are retained and are subject to paleo-environmental assessment.
- Any fossils such as petrified bone, teeth and shell casts, usually phosphatic, found during the processing of cores must have the details of context recorded, must be kept for identification by an appropriate specialist and, if significant, be deposited in an appropriate institution such as the IZIKO SA Museum.
- If shipwreck material is encountered during the course of sampling in any of the concession areas, the following mitigation measure should be applied:
 - Cease work in the directly affected area to avoid damage to the wreck until the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has been notified and the contractor has complied with any additional mitigation as specified by SAHRA; and
 - Where possible, take photographs of them, noting the date, time, location and types of artefacts found. Under no circumstances may any artefacts be removed, destroyed or interfered on the site, unless under permit from SAHRA.

The study has also recommended that the onboard Trans Atlantic representative must undergo a short induction on archaeological site and artefact recognition, as well as the procedure to follow should

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

South African



Page No: 4



ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/598790>

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

RE: OFFICIAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: NC 30/5/1/1/2/13061 PR

[REDACTED]
Fri 21/10/2022 12:54

[REDACTED]
Dear Mrs Swart

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Prospecting Rights Application 10B (NC 30/5/1/1/2/13061 PR)

Cognisance must be taken by the general Duty of Care, as stated in Section 28 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998:

“Every person who causes, has caused, or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing, or recurring, or, in so far as such harm cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimize and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment”

With reference to the content of the Draft Basic Assessment Report the following comments as requested.

Due to a lack of resources and capacity within this office this office only the following concentrated and pointed out studies and resources are referred to however there are quite a few other studies and resources within this regard.

Studies as being mentioned below has shown also that seismic disturbance may have in the water may have a huge impact on marine animals as they are very sensitive to sound disturbances in the water as is indicated by this study By **Robert C. Jones Jr. 01-03-2019**

“Marine mammals use sound to communicate, navigate, and hunt for prey,” said Jill Richardson, program director and senior lecturer in the Department of Marine Ecosystems and Society at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. “Evolutionarily, they capitalized on the effective propagation of sound underwater, but this also makes them very susceptible to noise pollution. Airgun noise can be so pervasive, spatially, and temporally, that it can be debilitating.”

Changes in diving and surfacing patterns, displacement from important feeding habitats, disorientation, stress, and either temporary or permanent shifts in hearing thresholds are some of the known impacts to marine mammals, according to Richardson. “And since sound is so important to their survival, the fact that they may not be able to hear each other is extremely concerning and may lead to impacts at the population level,” she said. “Imagine trying to raise a baby or communicate with friends while navigating in a concert hall where the band, essentially, never stops.”

According to Richardson, the sounds generated by airguns can travel more than 4,000 kilometres from the source. “We are only starting to understand the impact of stress on marine mammal health, but it likely contributes to immune function disruption,” she said. “This, when layered on top of the menagerie of other emergent threats, such as exposure to contaminants and biotoxins and the loss of habitat, can lead to devastating effects on marine mammals.”

This office is not aware of any studies or sources that consider the impact of the proposed activities impact on the environment to be positive.

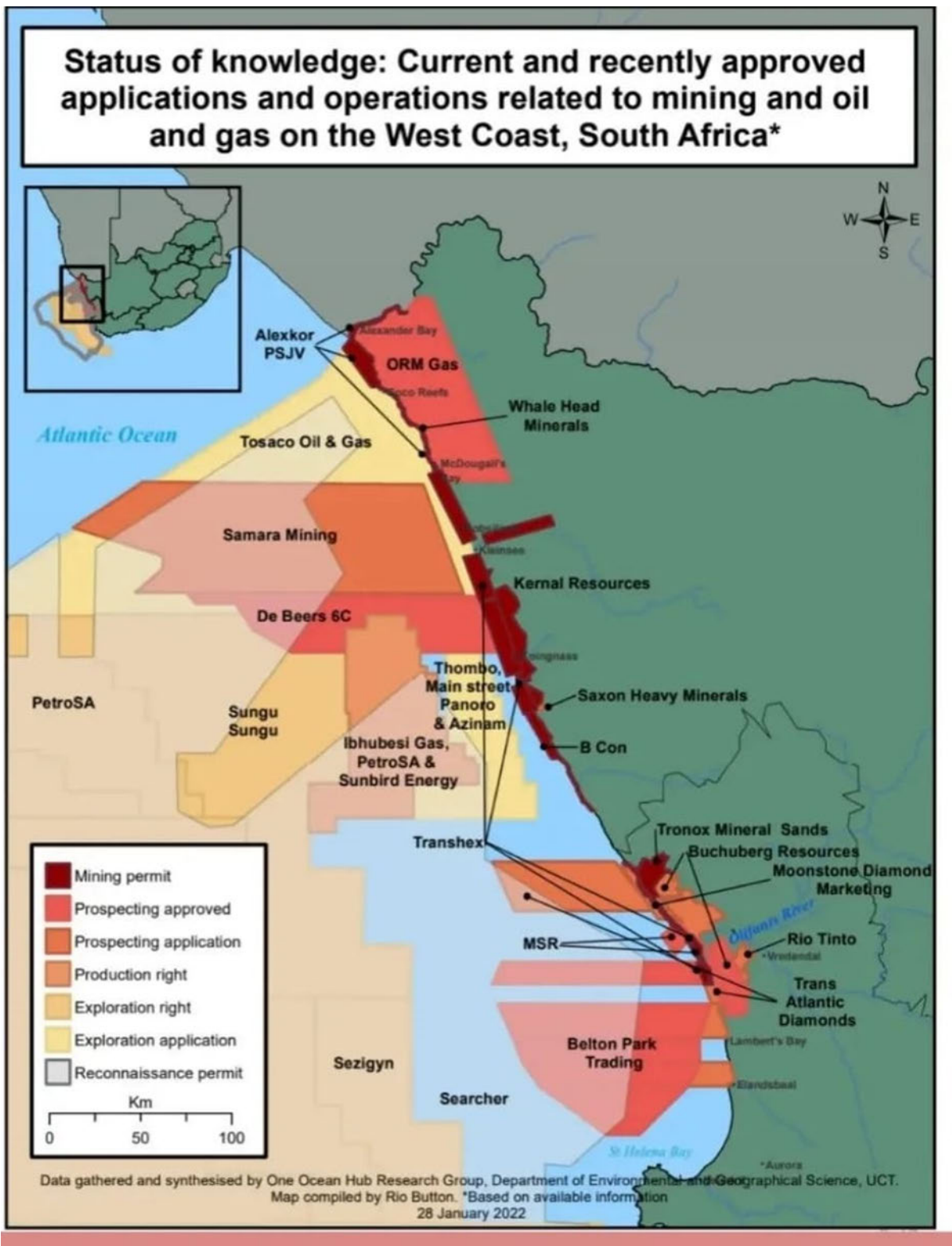
Research have also shown the Southern Right and Humpback whales pass through the West Coast in groups of 8-10 between June and December. Bryde’s whales, common dolphins, Heaviside dolphins and dusky dolphins is also spotted during the year. The southern right whale (**Eubalaena australis**) is the most spotted whale along the West Coast in the cool season between May and November.

Courting pairs breach and lobtail or slap the water with their flippers while the mothers can be seen escorting their newly born calves around sheltered bays.

Considering the above research seismic activity in the application could potentially cause great harm to the Marine Ecology and fisheries should the approval of prospecting activities leads to mining activities over a long period of time.

The West Coast is also traditionally known for its small fishing communities which relies on fish catches from the sea for a livelihood. Taking the above research outcomes into account it is extremely important to acknowledge the fact that seismic activity effects breeding and moving patterns of fish and that it could potentially lead to a devastating decline in fish population species along the Coastal Towns.

It is my sincere request that this application is implemented through the regulatory system of binding Marine Area Plans with detailed guidelines and spatial regulations that would steer development according to the Marine Spatial Planning Act (No. 16 of 2018) which inter alia provides a framework for Marine Spatial Protected areas in South Africa, provides for the development of marine area plans and provides for the Institutional arrangements for the Marine Spatial Planning to govern the use of the ocean by and across multiple sectors. This act must be read in conjunction with the National MSP Framework (including the spatial management approach) and the National MSP Data and Information Report (NDR)



Each of the marked applications has some negative potential impacts on the coastline of the West Coast and it seems like collectively, it could damage or destroy the living resources and heritage of the people of the West Coast.

Referring to the above mentioned information and map it is therefore recommended that a Comprehensive Specialist Impact Assessment must be done to determine the cumulative impact that all the relevant activities that is being applied for including the Oil and Gas exploration prospecting just a few kilometres seawards from Concession 7C will have on the greater West Coast Marine life and Maritime Sector of the West Coast.

The Municipality reserves the right to request further information and revise initial comments based on any additional information that might be received.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



All views or opinions expressed in this electronic message and its attachments are the view of the sender and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of Matzikama Municipality. No employee of Matzikama Municipality is entitled to conclude a binding contract on behalf of Matzikama Municipality unless he/she is an accounting officer of Matzikama Municipality, or his or her authorised representative. The information contained in this message and its attachments may be confidential or privileged and is for the use of the named recipient only, except where the sender specifically states otherwise. If you are not the intended recipient you may not copy or deliver this message to anyone."

[REDACTED]

Geagte Belanghebbende,

AANDAG: VERSOEK OM KOMMENTAAR TE LEWER OP VOORGESTELDE PROSPEKTERING IN SEEKONSESSIE AREA 7C, LANGS HONDEKLIPBAAI EN KOINGNAAS (NC 30/5/1/1/2/13061 PR)

Trans Atlantic Diamonds het by die Department van Minerale Hulpbronne en Energie (DMHE) aansoek gedoen om Omgewingsmagtiging en Prospekteerregte om te prospekteer vir diamante, edelstene, minerale en metale in Konsessiegebied 7C. Aansoeke is ingedien ingevolge die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (107 van 1998) en die Wet op Ontwikkeling van Minerale en Petroleumhulpbronne (28 van 2002).

Anchor Environmental Consultants is as onafhanklike Omgewingskonsultante aangestel om 'n Basiese Assessering van die voorgestelde aktiwiteit en potensiele impakte daarvan uit te voer, en om ook 'n Openbare Deelnameproses te hou, waartydens die gemeenskap geraadpleeg word en hul aanbevelings, bekommernisse en vrae opgeteken word. Die resultate gaan in 'n verslag saamgestel en by die DMHE ingedien word, wat dan sal besluit of regte toegeken moet word of nie.

U word hiermee ingelig van die 30-dae Openbare Deelname Periode vir publieke kommentaar: Vanaf 21 September 2022 tot 23:59 op 21 Oktober 2022

'n Konsep Basiese Asseseringsverslag, met inligting rondom die projek, sal gedurende dié tyd op die onderstaande webwerf (<https://anchorenvironmental.co.za>), by die Eric Baker Gemeenskapsentrum in Hondeklipbaai en die Koingnaas Gemeenskapsentrum beskikbaar wees. Dit sal ook tydens die vergaderings versprei word.

U word ook uitgenooi na die Openbare Deelname Vergadering naaste aan u:

Hondeklipbaai: Dinsdag, 11 Oktober 2022; 16:00 – 17:00; Eric Baker Gemeenskapsentrum, Hondeklipbaai, Noord-Kaap

Koingnaas: Woensdag, 12 Oktober 2022; 16:00 – 17:00; Koingnaas Gemeenskapsentrum, Koingnaas, Noord-Kaap

Moet asseblief nie huiwer om ons te kontak indien jy enige vrae het oor die voorgestelde projek of konsultasieproses nie.

Baie Dankie,

Vriendelike Groete.

NOTICE: INVITE TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING IN THE OFFSHORE SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C, ADJACENT HONDEKLIPBAAI & KOINGNAAS (NC 30/5/1/1/2/13061 PR)

Trans Atlantic Diamonds applied for Environmental Authorisation and Prospecting Rights with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), to prospect for diamonds; gemstones, minerals and metals in Concession Area 7C. This was done in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) and the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (28 of 2002).

Anchor Environmental Consultants was appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to conduct a Basic Assessment of the proposed activity and its potential impacts, along with a Public Participation Process during which the community is consulted and their recommendations, concerns and questions recorded. All findings are submitted as a report to the DMRE, who will then decide whether rights should be granted or not.

You are herewith notified of the 30-day Public Participation Period for public comment:

From 21 September 2022 to 23:59 on 21 October 2022

A Draft Basic Assessment Report, with information about the project, will be available from the website (<https://anchorenvironmental.co.za>), at the Eric Baker Hall in Hondeklipbaai and the Koingnaas Community Centre, during this time. These will also be circulated during the Public Participation Meeting.

You are also invited to the Public Participation Meeting closest to you:

Hondeklipbaai: Tuesday, 11 October 2022; 16:00 – 17:00; Eric Baker Community Hall, Hondeklipbaai, Northern Cape

Koingnaas: Wednesday, 12 October 2022; 16:00 – 17:00; Koingnaas Community Center, Koingnaas, Northern Cape

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions concerning the proposed project or stakeholder consultation process.

Thank you,

Kind regards.



Cheruscha Swart

Ecologist and Environmental Consultant

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close, Tokai, South Africa

Tel: +27 21 701 3420

Email: cheruscha@anchorenviroental.co.za

Website: anchorenviroental.co.za

"This message and any attachments may be confidential and may also be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure. It/they are sent for the attention of the named addressee(s) only. If you are not the named addressee(s) please notify the sender immediately and destroy this message. In this case, you should not copy or distribute this message or attachments, use it/them for any purpose or disclose its/their contents to any other person, opinions, conclusions and other information in this message that do not relate to the official business of the Matzikama Municipality shall be understood as being neither given nor endorsed by it. Emails cannot be guaranteed to be secure or free of errors or viruses. The sender does not accept any liability or responsibility for any interception, corruption, destruction, loss, late arrival or incompleteness of or tampering or interference with any of the information contained in this email or for its incorrect delivery or non-delivery for whatsoever reason or for its effect on any electronic device of the recipient."

"This message and any attachments may be confidential and may also be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure. It/they are sent for the attention of the named addressee(s) only. If you are not the named addressee(s) please notify the sender immediately and destroy this message. In this case, you should not copy or distribute this message or attachments, use it/them for any purpose or disclose its/their contents to any other person, opinions, conclusions and other information in this message that do not relate to the official business of the Matzikama Municipality shall be understood as being neither given nor endorsed by it. Emails cannot be guaranteed to be secure or free of errors or viruses. The sender does not accept any liability or responsibility for any interception, corruption, destruction, loss, late arrival or incompleteness of or tampering or interference with any of the information contained in this email or for its incorrect delivery or non-delivery for whatsoever reason or for its effect on any electronic device of the recipient."



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Suite 8 Steenberg
Steenberg Office Park
Silverwood Close
TOKAI
7945

Email: cher@anchorenvironmental.co.za

Dear Cheruscha Swart

RE: APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION TO PROSPECT IN THE OFFSHORE SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C, IN HONDEKLIP BAY.

The Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment ("DFFE") has reviewed the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the proposed prospecting in the offshore sea concession area 7C by Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd. The following comments are to be considered in the application:

1. The DFFE, Branch: Fisheries Management has a mandate in the development and management of aquaculture in South Africa, please register the Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP).
2. The Department notes that aquaculture is not covered in the DBAR, reference is made to the Department's comments relating to the Background Information Document submitted on the 23rd June 2022 for consideration. Please indicate as to why aquaculture was not included in the scope of the project.
3. As stated in the initial comment letter, the proposed Trans Atlantic Diamonds prospecting right within concession area 7C falls within the Northern Cape sea-based aquaculture ranching concession area.
4. Diamond Coast Abalone (Pty) Ltd has a valid ranching abalone ranching right and permit issued by the Department. The ranching concession area NC 4 has the following coordinates [-30.102264°; 17.185564° (Land side), -30.101241°; 17.154059° (Sea side), -30.432294°; 17.334842° (Land side), -30.432047°; 17.303689° (Sea side)] and has been seeded with abalone. It is important to note that ranching areas extend to about 5km from shore to the offshore.



Batho pele- putting people first

5. The Department's comments suggested that the BAR process for the proposed prospecting in concession area 7C should consider the already approved and seeded aquaculture ranching concession areas for the Northern Cape. Specialist studies, such as, but not limited to, Dispersion Modelling and Marine Ecological Assessments, are needed in order to assess the impact that proposed mining application might pose to the seeded abalone ranching concession areas and the aquaculture operations in the area. It is noted that impact on abalone ranching was discussed in the DBAR (page 67 and 95) but was scoped out due to the proposed activities taking place 5 km offshore and at a depth of more than 20m. Please confirm if it is the understanding that the impact of blasting and drilling exercises will not affect the abalone in the ranching area of the Northern Cape.
6. The Department also requested that the impact studies investigate the potential impact of heavy metal accumulation and resuspension from the sediments emanating from the mining activity located near the ranching site, which have the potential to impact ranched abalone by accumulating heavy metals in the flesh of the animal.
7. Page 95 states that there are three ranching sites in the Northern Cape with a new site in Doringbaai. A correction to this text as it should be noted that there are 4 ranching concession areas in the Northern Cape and the prospecting right application falls within concession area NC4.

Please note that the Directorate Sustainable Aquaculture Management reserves the right to review and/or provide additional comments in future. Enquiries may be directed to the contact provided at the top of this correspondence.

