



TotalEnergies EP South Africa B.V.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT (ESIA) FOR THE OFFSHORE
PRODUCTION RIGHT AND ENVIRONMENTAL
AUTHORISATION APPLICATIONS FOR BLOCK
11B/12B - REF NO: 12/4/13 PR**

Draft Environmental and Social Impact
Assessment Report



CHAPTER 4



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ASSESSMENT (ESIA) FOR THE OFFSHORE
PRODUCTION RIGHT AND ENVIRONMENTAL
AUTHORISATION APPLICATIONS FOR
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Draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report

PUBLIC

PROJECT NO. 41105306

OUR REF. NO. REPORT NO: 41105306-358669-10

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WSP





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4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The ESIA stakeholder engagement process is required in terms of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended and is a structured process that provides potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) the opportunity to obtain information about the proposed project location and activities and provide feedback in the form of questions, concerns, observations and local knowledge. This input informs the scope of the technical studies and, as such, the consultation process is an integral part of the project information-gathering exercise.

Stakeholder engagement continues throughout the project process and this chapter details the context to the Block 11B/12B consultation process and the activities and tasks undertaken, and to be undertaken, in the Scoping and Impact Assessment Phases, respectively.

4.1 GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

Table 4-1 presents the principles and objectives that have guided the planning and execution of the Block 11B/12B public participation process (PPP).

Table 4-1 – Public Participation Guiding Principles and Objectives

Reference	Guiding Principles and Objectives
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank. The Consultation Principles, The World Bank Group Consultation Guidelines 2019 (The World Bank, 2019)	The WB principles are instructive for all consultation processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Openness - open to the input from stakeholders and stakeholder contributions will be taken into account. ■ Access to information – access to all relevant information in advance to help stakeholders to provide informed opinions on the subject of consultation. ■ Accountability - input and feedback from each stakeholder is collated and assessed, shared back with stakeholders, and brought to the attention of decision makers. ■ Transparency - information is available to stakeholders about relevant aspects of the process, stakeholder engagement, stakeholder input, consultation outcomes, and how stakeholder input is used. ■ Visibility - All those who may be impacted by a decision or are interested in participating in a consultation process need to be made reasonably aware of the process. ■ Accessibility - Stakeholders must have reasonable access to the process.
International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) ³	The Spectrum of Public Participation comprises the following goals:

³ [International Association for Public Participation \(iap2.org\)](http://internationalassociationforpublicparticipation.org)

Reference	Guiding Principles and Objectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inform – provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions. ■ Consult – obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions. ■ Involve – work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered. ■ Collaborate - partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution. ■ Empower - place final decision making in the hands of the public.
<p>International Finance Corporation (2007), Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook for Companies Doing Business in Emerging Markets (International Finance Corporation, 2007) http://www.ifc.org/stakeholderengagement</p>	<p>This document constitutes good practice guidance (GIP) on Stakeholder engagement and Appendix 1 of this report summarises the consultation, disclosure and engagement requirements in the IFC’s Performance Standards and Policy on Disclosure of Information. The key themes regarding consultation are found throughout the Performance Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Information disclosure – PS 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7 ■ Consultation – PS 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 ■ Free, Prior, and Informed Consultation (FPIC) – PS 1 and 7 ■ Informed participation – PS 1, 5, 7 and 8 ■ Grievance mechanism – PS 1 ■ External reporting – PS 1 ■ Good faith negotiation – PS 7 and 8
<p>Department of Environmental Affairs (2017), Public Participation guideline in terms of NEMA EIA Regulations, Department of Environmental Affairs, Pretoria, South Africa (Department of Environmental Affairs, 2017)</p>	<p>According to Section (2)(4)(f) and (o) of the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The participation of all I&APs in environmental governance must be promoted and all people must have the opportunity to develop the understanding, skills and capacity necessary for achieving equitable and effective participation, and participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged persons must be ensured; and ■ The environment is held in public trust for the people, the beneficial use of environmental resources must serve the public interest and the environment must be protected as the people’s common heritage. <p>Section 24J of the Act requires that the person conducting a PPP must consider any relevant guidelines applicable to PP (such as these guidelines). The level of public participation must be at a minimum be informed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The scale of anticipated impacts of the proposed project; ■ The sensitivity of the affected environment and the degree of controversy of the project; and ■ The characteristics of the potentially affected parties.

Reference	Guiding Principles and Objectives
	<p>Appropriate participation measures can be put in place to deal with the range of cultural and language requirements of I&APs. The language used by the I&APs must be considered when serving a notice and when selecting a newspaper.</p> <p>The minimum requirements for public participation outlined in the EIA Regulations will not necessarily be sufficient for all applications given the differing circumstances of each application and it may be necessary in some situations to incorporate extra steps in the PPP, where the following circumstances, among others, exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Are the impacts of the project likely to extend beyond the boundaries of the province? ■ Are there widespread public concerns about the potential negative impacts of the project? ■ Is the area characterised by high social diversity (socio-economic status, language or culture)? ■ Is there a high level of unemployment in the area?

Although the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended), do not provide detailed guidance regarding the methods of public consultation, public participation guidelines emphasise the importance of meaningful consultation. Conversely, it is equally important to facilitate a PPP that is accountable and procedurally fair, not only in terms of fulfilling the “letter of the law”, but also the “spirit of the law”.

The following sections of the report detail, in a structured way, how the process of meaningful consultation was conducted during the Scoping Phase, and will be undertaken during the Impact Assessment Phase, of the ESIA.

According to the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), public comment can be collected in three primary ways, namely:

- Sharing information;
- Collecting data / information; and
- Bringing people together.

These methods of collecting input are often most meaningful if integrated during a PPP.

For the Block 11B/12B Scoping Phase, the methods of collecting public comment included (see details in Section 4.4):

- Information sharing with I&APs and the public. This included introductory meetings with key authorities which were held at the start of the process, together with focus group meetings with key sectors of society and a subsequent series of public meetings.
- Providing I&APs with opportunities to provide comments in writing through two dedicated email address;
- Providing I&APs with the opportunity to contribute questions, issues of concern and comments in their language of choice (Afrikaans, English, isiXhosa) through:
 - Completion of the comment form attached to the Registration form;
 - Completion of registration and comment forms distributed in communities;



- Submitting comment forms at the public places where information was made available;
- Emailing the Project email address (above) directly;
- Posting to the PO Box provided;
- Phoning the landline numbers provided;
- Messaging via the WhatsApp number provided; or
- Attending online and in-person meetings.

Similar methods as the above will be used to collect public comment during the Impact Assessment phase of the ESIA.

4.2 PRE-SCOPING CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

The following sections detail the tasks undertaken during the Block 11B/12B Pre-Scoping Phase.

4.2.1 COMPETENT AUTHORITY PRE-APPLICATION MEETING

Prior to the ESIA commencing, WSP, as the EAP, convened a pre-application consultation meeting with the CA. The key objectives of the pre-application consultation meeting are to:

- Notify the CA of the applicant's intent to submit a PR and EA application;
- Provide information about the technical scope of the proposed Project, and
- Confirm the approach to the ESIA and public participation process.

A pre-application meeting was held with the Petroleum Agency of South Africa (PASA) on 03 November 2021. Engagement with PASA and the CA is ongoing throughout the Project.

4.2.2 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL I&APS

The 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended, in Chapter 6 (40) (2) (a -d) and (41)(2)(b) require "consultation with-

- *The competent authority.*
- *Every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to an application for an EA.*
- *All organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application refers.*
- *All potential or, where relevant, registered I&APs.*

In addition to the above, the following I&APs must receive notification of the proposed application:

- *The occupiers of the site and, if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken.*
- *Owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken.*
- *The municipal councillor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area.*
- *The municipalities which have jurisdiction in the related areas.*
- *Any other party required by the CA."*

Furthermore, the Amendment Regulations to the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Regulations, 2020, in Chapter 1 defines "interested and affected persons as:

- *"The Department responsible for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs.*
- *The Department responsible for Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation.*



- *Any other person (including on adjacent and non-adjacent properties) whose socio-economic conditions may be directly affected by the proposed or existing prospecting or mining operation.*
- *The Local Municipality.*
- *Civil society.*
- *The relevant Government Departments, agencies, and institutions responsible for the various aspects of the environment and for infrastructure which may be affected by the proposed project.”*

The Department of Mineral Resources’ Guideline for Consultation with Communities and I&APs, which is relevant to mining, state that “I&APs include, but are not limited to⁴:

- Host communities.
- Landowners (traditional and title deed owners).
- Traditional authority.
- Land claimants.
- Lawful land occupier.
- The Department of Land Affairs.
- Any other person (including on adjacent and non-adjacent properties) whose socio-economic conditions may be directly affected by the proposed prospecting or mining operation.
- The local municipality.
- The relevant Government Departments, agencies, and institutions responsible for the various aspects of the environment and for infrastructure which may be affected by the proposed project.”

The Petroleum Agency South Africa’s Guidelines for Consultation with I&APs, determine that, in addition to the abovementioned I&APs, the following stakeholders⁵ are included⁶:

- CapeNature.
- Fishing Industry.
- South African Maritime Safety Authority.
- Relevant offshore regulatory authorities, i.e., Department of Environmental Affairs (fisheries branch, oceans and coasts branch), South African Hydrographic Office, Port Authorities; and
- Marine Research Institutions.

The following additional factors were also considered in identifying the preliminary list of I&APs:

- Description of the proposed Block 11B/12B Project and its geographical location.
- People who may be directly and indirectly affected by the proposed Project.
- People whose culture and heritage may be affected by the Project.
- Who are the most vulnerable among the potentially impacted?
- Which stakeholders can assist with the early scoping of issues and impacts?

⁴ Indigenous groups form an important group of I&APs to be consulted, therefore, they have been added to the preliminary list of I&APs to be consulted as part of the ESIA process

⁵ The terms “interested and affected parties” and “stakeholders” are used interchangeably in the report.

⁶ Small-scale fishers form an important group of I&APs to be consulted, therefore, they have been added to the list of I&APs to be consulted as part of this process

- Available information on the internet about previous public participation processes in the Project area.
- Information in the public domain about the Project area, environment, socio-economic situation, community values and interests. Information considered included but was not limited to documents such as the integrated development plans of relevant coastal municipalities and the scoping report and comment and response report of the ESIA for additional exploration drilling and associated activities in Block 11B/12B off the south coast of South Africa conducted for TEEPSA by SLR Consulting (Pty) Ltd in 2020.

Complying with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act 4 of 2013) (POPIA) in identifying potential I&APs. Several challenges, regarding obtaining I&AP personal contact information, were encountered during the development of the preliminary list of I&APs.

Table 4-2 presents a summary of key challenges and how they were addressed.

Table 4-2. List of Key Challenges

Key challenges	Method of addressing the challenge
1. Restrictions related to the POPIA meant that the contact details of preliminary identified I&APs were not readily available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Internet research to obtain the general number of an organisation to make enquiries. ■ Request for information submitted to DFFE in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, Act 2 of 2000. ■ Networking and referral. ■ Liaison with local municipalities for guidance.
2. Post COVID-19 pandemic-related changes to institutions' contact numbers from landlines to mobile numbers, and information on the internet being dated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Circulating emails to the organisation's general email address. In some cases, no response was received; in others, contact information was not shared due to POPIA.
3. Different load shedding schedules between provinces, regions and towns presented ongoing challenges to reach stakeholders to confirm contact details.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ongoing efforts to reach stakeholders.

The preliminary list⁷ of potential I&APs, to whom the initial Project notifications were sent, extends from the coastal area of Saldanha Bay in the Western Cape to East London in the Eastern Cape. This preliminary list comprised 2 606 I&APs (see Appendix 5.1). The list included the commenting authorities and representative sectors of society including, in alphabetical order:

- Academia and research;
- Aquaculture;
- Business, commerce, and property developers;
- Civil society organisations (CSOs);

⁷ Please note that the contact details of the preliminary identified I&APs and I&APs cannot be made available. This follows the requirements stipulated in the POPIA. The contact details of the preliminary list of I&APs and I&APs will be made available to the CA, in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended).



- Community Based Organisations (CBOs);
- Conservation;
- Cultural and heritage bodies;
- Faith-based organisations;
- Fishers:
 - Commercial fishers;
 - Recreational fishers;
 - Small-scale fishers and interim rights holders;
 - Small-scale fisher co-operatives.
- Government (national, provincial, local, and metropolitan authorities);
- Human rights organisations;
- Infrastructure service suppliers;
- Municipal-owned entities;
- NGOs (conservation, environmental and other);
- Provincial owned entities;
- State owned entities;
- Tourism and recreation;
- Trade unions;
- Traditional, indigenous groups and First Nations (e.g., Gouriqua, Khoi and San nations);
- Vulnerable groups (women, youth, elderly, organisations for the disabled, marginalised, etc.); and
- Ward councillors.

In terms of the EIA Regulations (2014) as amended, people must formally register as I&APs by responding to the notifications published in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations. The EIA Regulations define a I&AP in relation to an application, as “an interested and affected party whose name is recorded in the register opened for that application in terms of Regulation 42.”

The preliminary I&AP database was updated during the Scoping Phase of the ESIA process as people as I&APs in response to public notifications, grassroots notification, attended public meetings or submitted comments in writing were added to the I&AP database.

Recommendations made to the Public Participation Office regarding other stakeholder organisations to approach were followed up. Similarly, the names and contact details of stakeholders were removed from the I&AP database when a written request to do so was received. At the conclusion of the Scoping Phase, the database totalled 5 262 I&APs⁸.

4.2.3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION TIMEFRAME

The EA application was submitted to the CA on 18 November 2022. In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), an applicant must submit the final scoping report (FSR) within 44 days after receipt of the EA application.

⁸Note: additional stakeholders have registered as I&APs since the submission of the FSR, and are included in the updated database



According to the regulatory timeframes, the FSR was due to be submitted to the CA by the 23 January 2023⁹, and by implication, that the Scoping Phase public consultation process had to be completed by 16 January 2023. In an effort to manage challenging regulatory timeframes and stay true to the principles of the NEMA, the EAP applied to the CA for an extension to the Scoping Phase, which was granted. The submission date for the FSR was extended to 18 February 2023 and this allowed for the public comment period to be extended to 03 February 2023.

In compliance with the extended regulatory timeframe, the proposed Project, ESIA process, invitation to register as I&APs and opportunities for comment including invitations to virtual and in-person public meetings, as well as focus group meetings were announced through several methods in December 2022 and in January 2023.

At the public meetings held during the Scoping Phase, stakeholders requested an extension to the public comment period. Upon request, the CA further extended the submission date of the FSR to 31 March 2023, which allowed for an extension to the public comment period on the draft scoping report (DSR) from 03 February 2023 to 14 February 2023. I&APs were notified about the extension to the public consultation period by bulk email and SMS on Monday 6 February 2023.

4.3 SCOPING PHASE CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

The following sections report on the methods engaged to share information, collect input and to bring people together, during the Scoping Phase.

4.3.1 STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION

Preliminary identified I&APs and the public were notified of the commencement of the ESIA process on 01 December 2022.

The objectives of the notification process were to:

- Notify potential I&APs of TEEPSA's intention to apply for a PR and EA for offshore Block11B/12B;
- Share information about the proposed Project, PR and EA application, ESIA and PPP and opportunities for comment;
- Invite stakeholders to register as I&APs and to participate in the ESIA;
- Invite I&APs to attend public meetings; and
- In terms of the POPIA, to obtain I&APs' consent to use their contact details for the sole purpose of providing them with information about the proposed Project and inviting them to contribute comments, as well as reflecting their names in the CRR.

The notification of the proposed Project and ESIA process included:

- Distribution of a notification letter, registration and comment form and Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the DSR via email to the preliminary I&APs on the database on 01 December 2022. The notification letter also included an invitation to the online public meeting, information about the

⁹ The EIA Regulations (2014), as amended stipulate that "for any action contemplated in terms of these Regulations for which a timeframe is prescribed, the period of 15 December to 5 January must be excluded in the reckoning of days".



availability of the audio files of the DSR NTS, a QR-code to directly access the WSP website and a data-free website (via a smartphone) to download the DSR and the contact details of the Public Participation Office, including a WhatsApp number;

- Distribution of a SMS to all preliminary identified I&APs on the database with mobile numbers to notify I&APs of the proposed Project and a link to the information that was available on the WSP website as well as a data-free website;
- Production of an audio version of the DSR NRS; and
- Uploading Project information to WSP's website as well as a data-free website.

The notification letter, registration and comment form, NTS of the DSR, and the audio files of the NTS were available in Afrikaans, English, and isiXhosa. The DSR was available in English.

4.3.1.1 Notification Process

The mobilisation activities undertaken by the ESIA team for the public meetings as follows:

- Distribution of invitation letters via email;
- Distribution of meeting dates and invitations via SMS;
- Distribution of reminders to the public meetings via email;
- Distribution of reminders of the public meeting dates via SMS;
- Posting the information to WSP's website and the data-free website;
- Publishing the meeting dates in local newspapers in January 2023;
- Broadcasting the meeting dates via local radio stations in January 2023;
- Assigning the assistance of local municipalities and Ward Councillors in the proposed Project area to distribute the meeting dates via their social media, for example, WhatsApp and Facebook;
- Personal contact with key stakeholders via telephone to remind them of the meetings;
- Personal contact with First Nations/Indigenous Groups', SSF and other community leaders; and
- The Ndlambe Local Municipality helped by distributing the meeting dates, times, and venues through their local radio station, as well as the Municipality's existing social media communication structures. This assistance was provided due to reports of inadequate facilities at one of the original meeting venues, namely the Jauka Hall near Port Alfred. In this instance, the ESIA team also notified all the stakeholders on the database via SMS and email of the change in venue.

4.3.1.2 Invitations

The notification letter of the proposed Project and ESIA, distributed on 01 December 2022 invited all the I&APs on the preliminary database to a virtual public meeting that was scheduled for the 7th of December 2022. The letter also indicated that further correspondence would be sent to inform people of and invite them to the public meetings that would be convened in January 2023.

Invitations to a series of public meetings in January 2023 were distributed on 15 December 2022 to all I&APs on the stakeholder database, including those who had registered as I&APs since the announcement of the proposed Project (refer to Appendix 5.1). Reminders of the focus group and public meetings were also distributed to all the I&APs on the stakeholder database on 12 January 2023 (refer to Appendix 5.1). All meeting invitations and reminders were sent via email and SMS, and information was posted to WSP's website and the data-free website.

Some of the local authorities in the proposed Project area took the initiative to notify their constituents of the dates of the public meetings in their areas through social media. This is the reason for many I&APs' comments that they received notices of the public meetings a day before or morning prior to a public meeting.

4.3.1.3 Notification of Commenting Authorities

Table 4-3 is a list of the commenting authorities that received copies of the DSR.

Table 4-3 - Commenting Authorities

Commenting Authorities			
Government Departments			
Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	National Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment: Oceans and Coasts / Integrated Coastal Management	National Department of Public Enterprises	National Department of Transport
Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs	National Department of Health	National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure	Department of Water and Sanitation
Department of Science and Innovation: National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Office (NIKSO)	National Department of Human Settlements	National Department of Tourism	National Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
National Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment	National Department of International Relations and Cooperation	National Department of Trade, Industry and Competition	-
Provincial Departments			
Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism	Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP)	Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT)	-
Provincial Owned Entities			
CapeNature	Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority	Heritage Western Cape	-
State Owned Entities			
National Ports Authority	South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA)	SANParks	-

Commenting Authorities

Local Authorities

Garden Route District Municipality	Mossel Bay Local Municipality	George Local Municipality	Knysna Local Municipality
Hessequa Local Municipality	Overstrand Local Municipality	City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality	Bitou Local Municipality
Overberg District Municipality	Cape Agulhas Local Municipality	Kouga Local Municipality	Swellendam Local Municipality
Sarah Baartman District Municipality	Kou-Kamma Local Municipality	Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality	Sundays River Valley Local Municipality
Ndlambe Local Municipality	-	-	-

4.3.2 MANDATORY MEDIA ADVERTISEMENTS

Given the geographic reach of the Project, at the start of the ESIA process, mandatory advertisements were published in national newspapers, regional newspapers in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape and local coastal community newspapers. In addition, to secure a wide reach, media announcements were broadcast by regional, local and community radio stations along the coastal Project area from Saldanha in the Western Cape to East London in the Eastern Cape.

Table 4-4 and **Table 4-5** shows the list of newspapers and radio stations respectively that were used in November/December 2022 and the dates of the advertisements. Copies of the media advertisements and tear sheets, as well as the text of the radio announcements are attached as Appendix 5.1.

Table 4-4 – Project and ESIA Process Newspaper Advertisement (December 2022)

Newspaper	Date of Publication of Advertisement	Newspaper	Date of Publication of Advertisement
National			
Daily Sun	01 December 2022	-	-
Regional			
Daily Dispatch	01 December 2022	Die Burger Western Cape	30 November 2022
Die Burger Eastern Cape	30 November 2022	Cape Times	01 December 2022
The Herald	01 December 2022	-	-
Local			
GO! Express	01 December 2022	Suidernuus / Southern Post	02 December 2022
Hermanus Times	30 November 2022	Talk of the Town	01 December 2022
Imbhewu	28-30 November 2022	The Representative	02 December 2022
Isolezwe LesiXhosa	01 December 2022	Tygerburger Northern Suburbs	30 November 2022

Newspaper	Date of Publication of Advertisement	Newspaper	Date of Publication of Advertisement
Knysna-Plett Herald	15 December 2022	Vukani	01 December 2022
Kouga Express	01 December 2022	Weslander	01 December 2022
Mossel Bay Advertiser	02 December 2022	People's Post (False Bay)	29 November 2022
People's Post (Mitchell's Plain)	29 November 2022	Suid-Kaap Forum	02 December 2022
George Herald	15 December 2022	St Francis Bay Chronicle	01 December 2022

Table 4-5 – Project and ESIA Process Radio Announcements (December 2022)

Radio Station	Date of Broadcast	Radio Station	Date of Broadcast
Eden FM	01 December 2022, morning, and afternoon	Radio West Coast	01 December 2022, morning, and afternoon
Kouga FM	01 December 2022, morning, and afternoon	S-FM	01 December 2022, morning, and afternoon
Nkqubela FM	01 December 2022, morning, and afternoon	Whale Coast FM	01 December 2022, morning, and afternoon
Radio Namakwaland	01 December 2022, morning, and afternoon	Unitra CR 97.0 FM	01 December 2022, morning, and afternoon
Radio Overberg	01 December 2022, morning, and afternoon	Ngqushwa CR 99.5, 99.50, 99.6, 99.4 FM	01 December 2022, morning, and afternoon
Radio Peron	01 December 2022, morning, and afternoon	Izwi Lethemba CR	01 December 2022, morning, and afternoon

A second round of newspaper advertisements announcing the details of the public meetings was published in early January 2023 (Table 4-6). Furthermore, a second round of radio advertisements announcing the details of the public meetings was broadcast in early January 2023 via six radio stations (see Table 4-7).

MP3 files of the radio broadcasts have been posted to the WSP's website at <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>, as well as the data-free website at: <https://wsp-engage.com/Total-11B12bB>.

Copies of the media advertisements and tear sheets, as well as the text of the radio announcements are attached in Appendix 5.1.

Table 4-6 - Newspaper Advertisements of Public Meetings (January 2023)

Newspaper	Date of Publication of Advertisement	Newspaper	Date of Publication of Advertisement
National			
Daily Sun	12 January 2023	-	-
Regional			
Daily Dispatch	11 January 2023	Die Burger Western Cape	11 January 2023
Die Burger Eastern Cape	11 January 2023	Cape Times	11 January 2023
The Herald	06 January 2023	-	-
Local			
GO! Express	12 January 2023	Talk of the Town	12 January 2023
George Herald	12 January 2023	Suidernuus / Southern Post	13 January 2023
Hermanus Times	11 January 2023	Suid-Kaap Forum	13 January 2023
Imbhewu	09 – 13 January 2023	The Representative	13 January 2023
Isolezwe LesiXhosa	12 January 2023	Tygerburger Northern Suburbs	11 January 2023
Knysna-Plett Herald	12 January 2023	Vukani	12 January 2023
Kouga Express	12 January 2023	Weslander	12 January 2023
Mossel Bay Advertiser	13 January 2023	St Francis Bay Chronicle	01 January 2023
People's Post (False Bay)	17 January 2023	People's Post (Mitchell's Plain)	17 January 2023

Table 4-7 - Radio Announcements of Public Meetings (January 2023)

Radio Station	Dates of Broadcast	Radio Station	Dates of Broadcast
Eden FM	10 and 13 January 2023, morning	Nkqubela FM	10 and 13 January 2023, morning
Izwi Lethemba CR	10 and 13 January 2023, morning	Radio Overberg	10 and 13 January 2023, morning
Kouga FM	10 and 13 January 2023, morning	S-FM	10 and 13 January 2023, morning

4.3.3 SITE NOTICES, DRAFT SCOPING REPORT AND NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The site notices provided background information about the application, the nature and location of the activity, where further information on the application could be obtained, the manner in which, and



the person to whom representations in respect of the application could be made. The site notice was published in A2 size.

Although the PR and EA application for Block 11B/12B is an offshore project, WSP placed site notices at locations that are visible to the coastal communities, particularly, fishers, indigenous groups and coastal tourism operations. The site notices were placed at the public places, with permission, in Afrikaans, English, and isiXhosa in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape (see Figure 4-1 and Figure 4-2 respectively). These included public libraries, municipal offices, supermarkets, harbour offices, ski boat clubs as listed in Appendix 5.1.

During the public comment period in the Scoping Phase, an electronic copy of the Draft Scoping Report was available in English via the WSP's website at <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>, and the data-free website at: <https://wsp-engage.com/Total-11B12bB>. The Registration and Comment Form and Non-Technical Summary and an audio file of the NTS were available in Afrikaans, English, and isiXhosa on the same websites.

A hard copy of the DSR in English, and multiple copies of the NTS as well as the registration and comment form in Afrikaans, English, and isiXhosa were deposited at locations in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape as shown in Figure 4-3 and Figure 4-4 respectively.

A list of these locations, copies of the site notices and photographic evidence of the placement of the site notices, NTS and DSR is provided in Appendix 5.1.

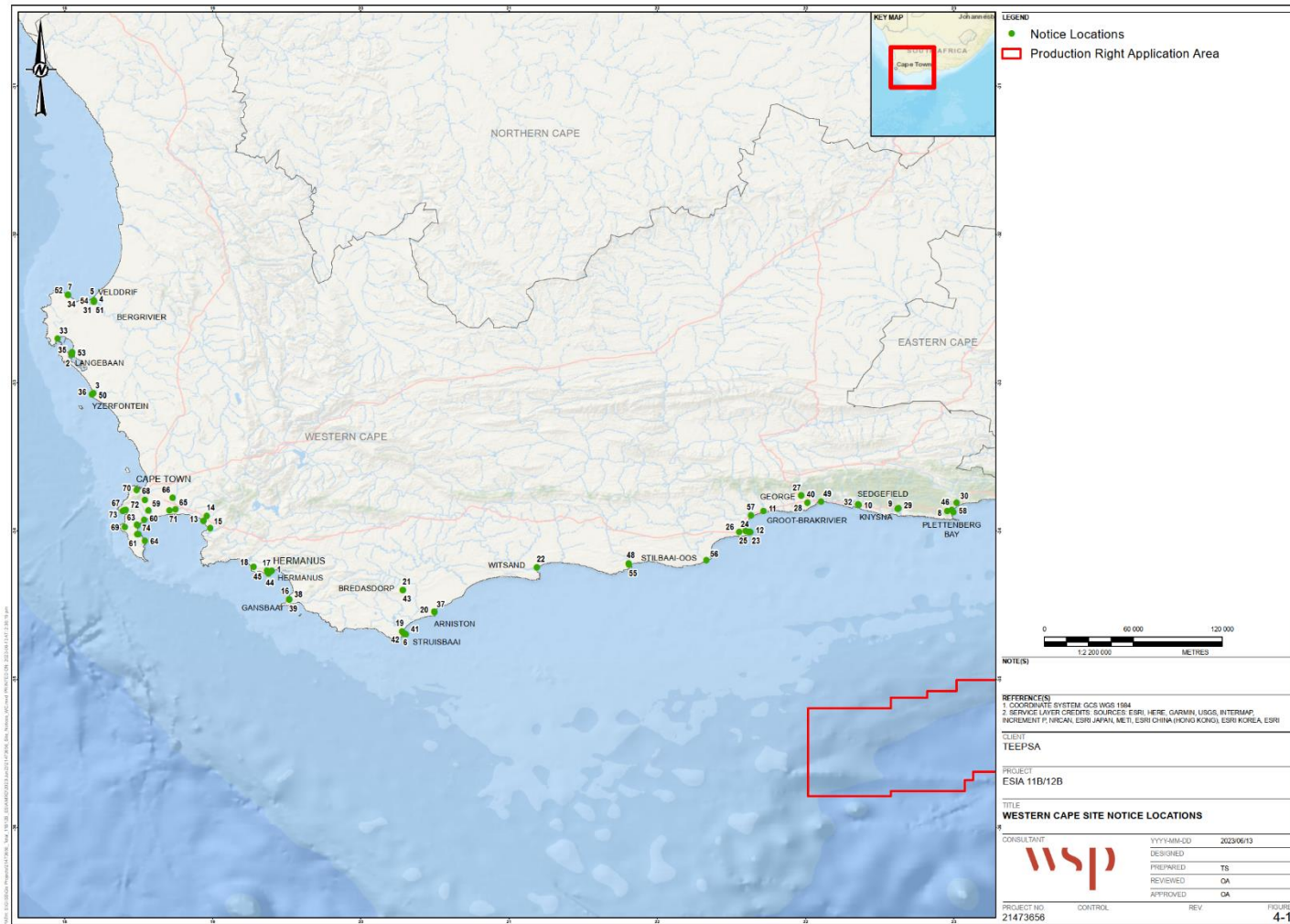


Figure 4-1 - Western Cape Site Notice Locations

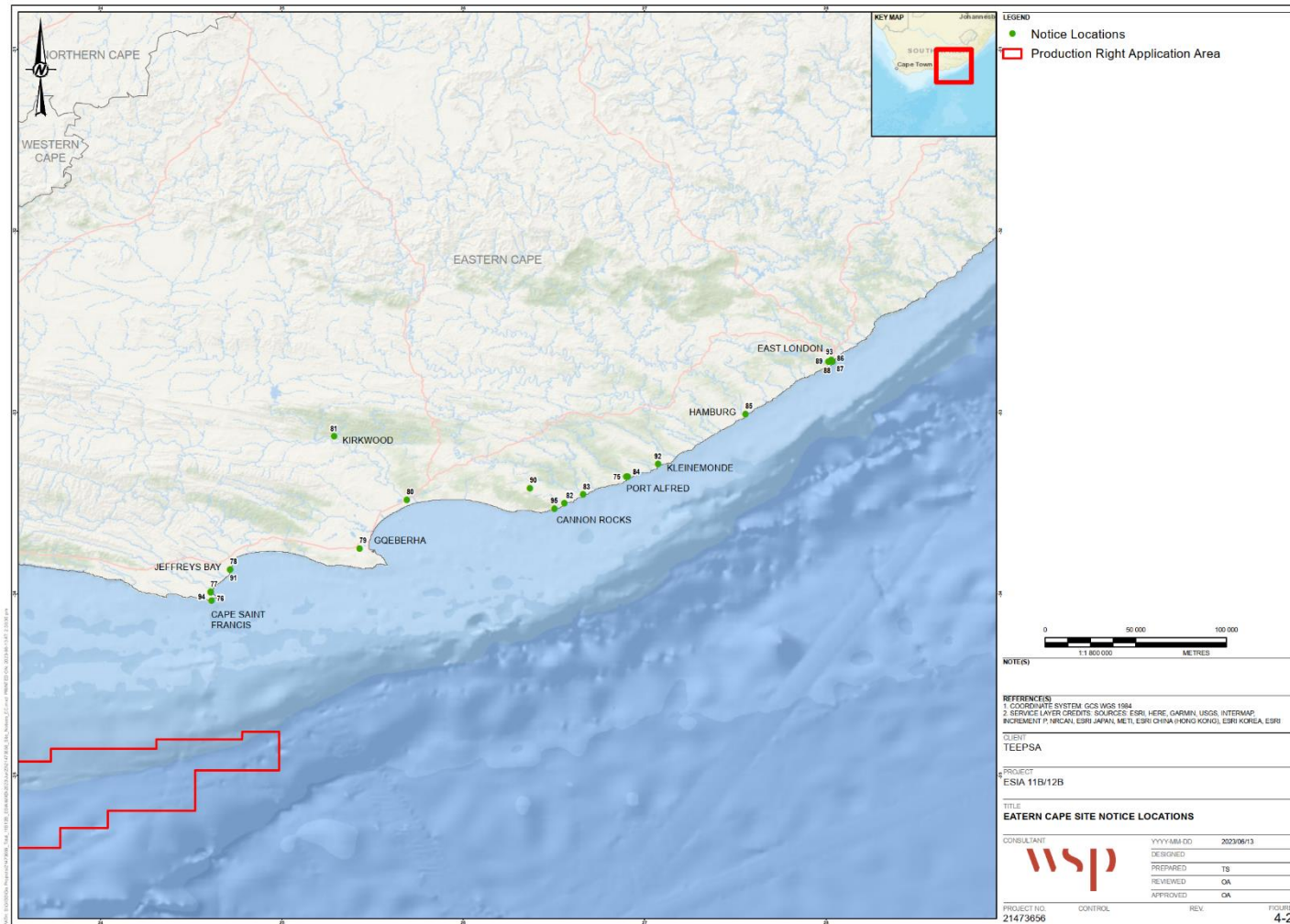


Figure 4-2 - Eastern Cape Site Notice Locations

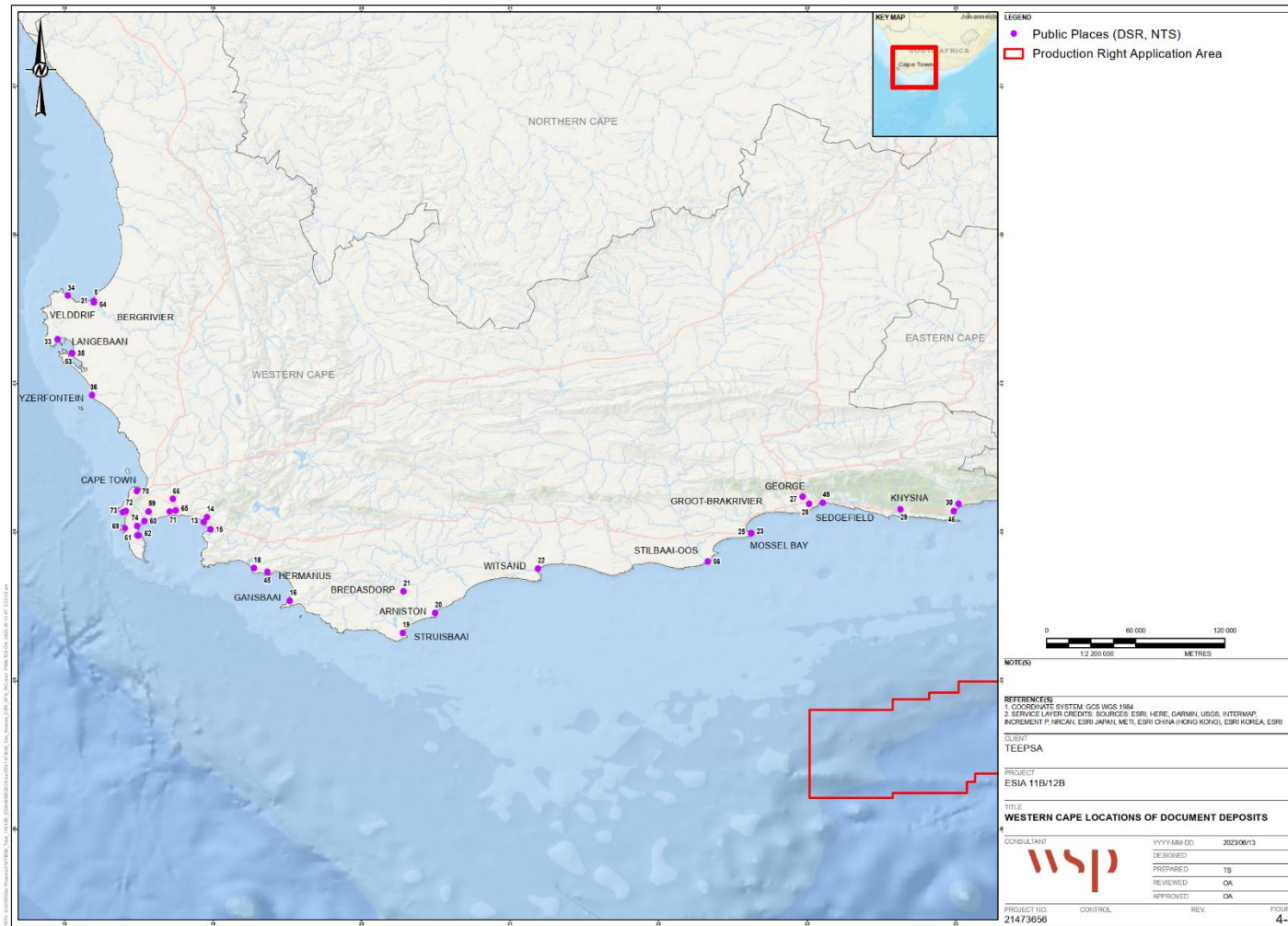


Figure 4-3 - Western Cape Locations of Document Deposits

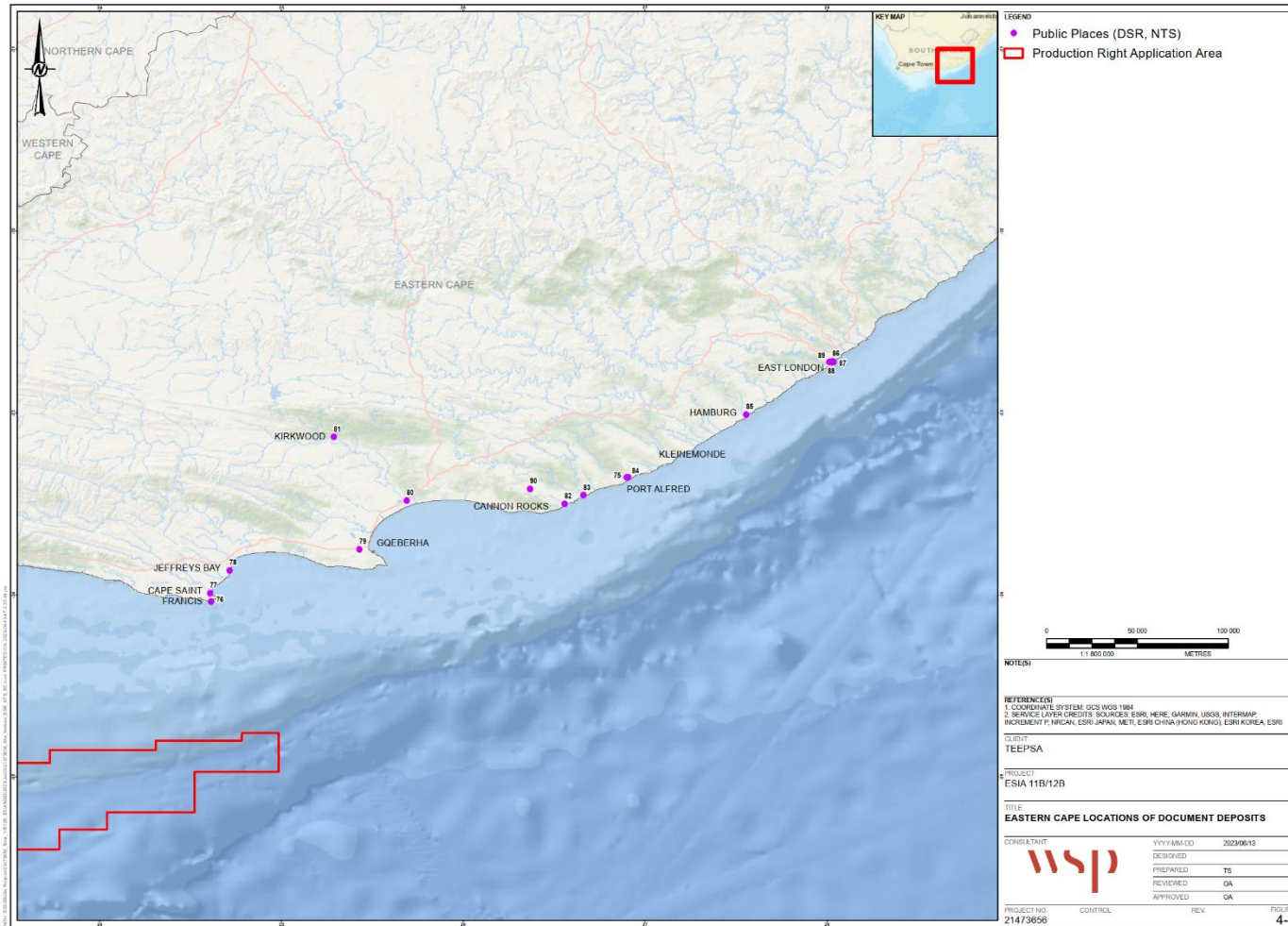


Figure 4-4 - Eastern Cape Locations of Document Deposits

4.3.4 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT: INTRODUCTORY MEETINGS

One of the key principles of public participation is to be adaptable and respectful of relevant protocols to engage meaningfully with I&APs. This process of understanding what it means to follow customary protocols often requires time and is iterative as different parties enter into dialogue.

Introductory meetings were convened with the following key authorities:

- District, local and metropolitan municipalities in the Project area;
- The National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Office (NIKSO), which is established in terms of the Protection, Promotion, Development and Management of Indigenous Knowledge, 2019 (Act 6 of 2019), under the auspices of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI); and
- The Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE).

4.3.4.1 Local authorities Within the Project Area

Consultation with local authorities within the proposed Project area is not only a statutory requirement, but also an important point of entry to the constitution and composition of their communities. Local authorities are often the first recipients of questions from the public about proposed new developments or projects in their areas of jurisdiction.

At the start of the ESIA Scoping Phase, the Public Participation team contacted the Municipal Managers of the District Municipalities and Metropolitan Municipalities listed in Table 4-8.

Table 4-8 - Local Authorities Contacted for Consultation Meetings

Province	Municipal Authority
Western Cape	City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality
	Garden Route District Municipality
	Overberg District Municipality
Eastern Cape	Amathole District Municipality
	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality in East London
	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality in Gqeberha
	Sarah Baartman District Municipality

The objectives of the telephone calls were:

- To establish the most appropriate ways of convening introductory meetings about the proposed Project and ESIA process with the District and Local Municipalities, as well as the Metropolitan Municipalities;
- To establish dates of availability for the introductory meetings;
- To identify the relevant structures, including traditional structures within the local authorities; and
- To request the District Municipalities' assistance in securing the attendance of all identified structures within the Local Municipalities within their areas of jurisdiction at the introductory meetings, particularly the relevant coastal Ward Councillors.

The telephone calls were followed up with formal letters requesting to meet online on the agreed dates (see Appendix 5.1). The introductory meetings were convened online and are shown in

Table 4-9. The notes of the meetings, as well as the presentations, are attached in Appendix 5.1, and are also available on WSP’s Project document website and the Project data-free website.

Table 4-9. Introductory Meetings with Local Authorities

Name of Local Authority	Date of Online Meeting	Objectives of the meeting
Garden Route District Municipality (including the following local municipalities: Bitou, George, Hessequa, Knysna and Mossel Bay)	Monday, 5 December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduce TEEPSEA’s proposed offshore Block 11B/12B development project. ▪ Introduce the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process that is being undertaken to support TEEPSEA’s proposed Production Right and EA process. ▪ Create understanding of the different components that form part of an offshore Production Right application project. ▪ For the local authorities to identify potential issues of concern and impacts that should be considered in the Impact Assessment Phase as well as provide input regarding the best ways of mobilising I&APs in the proposed Project area to attend public meetings planned for January 2023.
Overberg District Municipality (including the following local municipalities: Cape Agulhas, Overstrand and Swellendam)	Monday, 5 December 2022	
Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality	Wednesday, 7 December 2022	
City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality	Thursday, 8 December 2022	
Sarah Baartman District Municipality (including the following local municipalities: Kou-Kamma, Kouga, Ndlambe, Sundays River Valley)	Tuesday, 10 January 2023	
Ndlambe Local Municipality (part of the Sarah Baartman District Municipality)	Monday, 23 January 2023	

Although two municipalities could not be reached telephonically to arrange introductory meetings with, namely the Amathole District Municipality (including the two coastal local municipalities Greater Kei and Ngqushwa) and the Buffalo Metropolitan Municipality in East London, they were notified of the proposed Project. Further follow-ups confirmed that they received information about the proposed Project.

4.3.4.2 National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Office

In terms of Section 12 of the Protection, Promotion, Development and Management of Indigenous Knowledge, 2019 (Act 6 of 2019), NIKSO is mandated to: “*act as custodian with rights and obligations of a trustee in respect of indigenous knowledge in the event that, for as long as the indigenous community of the relevant indigenous knowledge cannot be identified and designated.*”

The EAP established contact with NIKSO to:

- Understand NIKSO’s current engagement with Indigenous Peoples;
- Request that NIKSO provide guidance on the relevant protocols for engaging with indigenous groups; and
- Understand the relevance of biocultural protocols to the Project.

The first online meeting with NIKSO took place on 15 December 2022. Subsequent engagements followed including a further online meeting, that took place on the 22nd of February 2023. The objectives of the last meeting were to discuss the requirements of the Block 11B/12B project in terms of engagement with community leaders of Indigenous Groups and to obtain an understanding of the most appropriate means of engagement; also to understand NIKSO's work with Indigenous Peoples within the Block 11B/12B Project area. The notes of both meetings are attached in Appendix 5.1.

NIKSO confirmed that the principal protocol to be followed with Indigenous Peoples and First Nations is to first approach the leadership of the community, following which they will meet with their constituents before advising the dates and times of meetings with their respective communities. During the online Focus Group Meeting with the First Nations/Indigenous Peoples it was recommended by the meeting attendees that a protocol for engagement with the First Nations/Indigenous Peoples is first established. These messages were confirmed by many First Nations and Indigenous Peoples Paramount Chiefs and spokespersons of the chiefdoms during and after the public meetings, in writing and during direct telephone discussions with several Chiefs who represent the Khoi, Koranna, Gouriqa, Cochequa, and San nations.

It is clear from the initial interactions with NIKSO, and the comments raised by the First Nations / Indigenous Peoples within the proposed Project area that further consultation is necessary. As mentioned, the EAP is committed to continue consultations with First Nations/Indigenous Peoples during the ESIA process and is in the process of planning further meetings as part of the ESIA IA Phase.

All comments raised at the time of publication of the FSR, have been incorporated into the CRR.

4.3.4.3 Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment

One of the of the DFFE's key strategic objectives is to manage and provide strategic leadership on oceans and coastal conservation. According to the DFFE's Fisheries Management¹⁰ branch, its purpose is *"to promote the development, management, monitoring and sustainable use of marine living resources and the development of South Africa's fisheries sectors. Sustainable livelihoods will be achieved through aquaculture growth and fisheries economic development."*

The EAP, in terms of the PAIA, submitted a request to the DFFE for contact information of small-scale fisheries (SSF) rights holders and co-operatives in the Eastern Cape on 10 January 2023. TEEPSA had already obtained the contact information of the Western Cape SSF rights holders and co-operatives from other permitting processes (for Block 11B/12B and Block 5/6/7). The DFFE supplied additional information on 23 January 2023. Notwithstanding the fact that the preliminary identified I&AP database includes the contact information of SSFs, and continued efforts to notify SSFs through the methods stated earlier (e.g., bulk SMS, providing information via data-free website in three languages and in audio format, letters, invitations to focus group, public meetings, and mobilisation), the EAP identified that the participation by the SSFs during the Scoping Phase was

¹⁰ <https://www.dffe.gov.za/branches/fisheriesmanagement> (date accessed: 2023/02/24)

limited and further engagement is necessary, given that many SSFs are members of the First Nations/Indigenous Peoples communities with the Project area.

The SSFs constitute one of the key potentially directly affected parties in the proposed Project area. Therefore, their participation in the ESIA process is of fundamental importance in the fishers having the opportunity to contribute issues of concern, questions and essential local knowledge from their daily experiences at sea but that they understand the findings and proposed measures to avoid, reduce, or manage potential negative impacts as identified in the environmental and social specialist studies.

In engaging with some of the SSFs who attended the public meetings and with the DFFE to understand the reasons for the limited participation by the SSF sector during the ESIA Scoping Phase, the EAP learned that the limited participation could mainly be attributed to the focus group and public meetings being held during the peak fishing season and that SSFs are generally only available on bad weather days.

The EAP will continue to work with the SSF sector and, as in the case of the First Nations/Indigenous Peoples, ongoing consultation will be taking place during the IA Phase.

4.3.5 FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

Seven online focus group meetings were convened with key sectors of society from 18 to 23 January 2023. The online focus group meetings were convened by invitation (see Appendix 5.1).

The objectives of the focus group meetings were to:

- Share information about TEEPSA's proposed offshore Block 11B/12B development project; and
- Provide information about the S&EIA and PPP that form part of the proposed PR and EA process, as well as opportunities for stakeholders to contribute comments and participate in the process.

The online sector-specific meetings are listed in Table 4-10.

Table 4-10 - Online focus Group Meetings (Scoping Phase)

Sector of Society	Date of Focus Group Meeting, 2023	Objectives of the Focus Group Meetings	Number of Attendees
Commercial Fishers	Wednesday, 18 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gain understanding from the fishing industry regarding specific issues, questions and critical concerns related to potential impacts of the proposed development of gas resources in the PR and EA Application area. ■ For the fishing industry to share any data, information, or findings of research studies by the industry that could inform and should be considered in the S&EIA specialist studies. This information could include, for example, practical protocols, procedures, and mechanisms that should be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme and that should be implemented by TEEPSA, if the PR and EA are granted. 	15

Sector of Society	Date of Focus Group Meeting, 2023	Objectives of the Focus Group Meetings	Number of Attendees
SSFs	Wednesday, 18 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gain understanding from the Small-Scale fishing industry regarding specific issues, questions and critical concerns related to potential impacts of the proposed development of gas resources in the PR and EA Application Area. ▪ For the Small-Scale fishing industry to share any data, real-time information, or findings of research studies by the Small-Scale fisher industry or other organisations that are undertaking research about any aspects of the Small-Scale fisher industry that could inform and should be considered in the S&EIA specialist studies. This information could include, for example, but is not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether co-operatives have been established in your Province; • how co-operatives collaborate, e.g., is there currently systems in place that enable inter-provincial collaboration between co-operatives; • how do members participate economically in the co-operatives; • how and what kind of educational training is taking place in the sector; • how grievances are managed within the Small-Scale fishing sector; • how Small-Scale fishers deal with safety at sea; • how access to fishing grounds is currently impacted by factors like climate change or natural disasters, cultural heritage, and trade, • what plans are Small-Scale fishers putting in place to secure a sustainable future. 	0
Academia and Research Institutions	Thursday 19 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For the Research Industry to share any data, information, or findings of research studies by the Research Industry that could inform and should be considered in the S&EIA specialist studies. This information could include, for example, but is not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformation of the Small-Scale Fishing sector in South Africa. • Cultural, heritage and historical importance of the ocean in the daily lives of coastal communities, sites of said importance to the coastline along the proposed Project area and other factors that should be considered. • The future role of ocean economics, sustainability, food security and biodiversity 	7

Sector of Society	Date of Focus Group Meeting, 2023	Objectives of the Focus Group Meetings	Number of Attendees
		conservation in the Project area and factors that should be considered.	
Business and Tourism	Thursday 19 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain understanding from the business and tourism industry regarding specific issues, questions and critical concerns related to potential impacts of the proposed development of gas resources in the PR and EA Application area. For the business and tourism industry to share any data, information, results of feasibility studies or business and tourism plans that could inform and should be considered in the S&EIA specialist studies. It is important for the EAP to consider all available and relevant information to the proposed Project in the S&EIA so that it can be incorporated into the specialist studies. 	15
NGOs (Human Rights, Conservation, Environmental, Faith-Based and Youth)	Friday 20 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain understanding from the NGO sector regarding specific issues, questions and critical concerns related to potential impacts of the proposed development of gas resources in the PR and EA Application Area. For the NGO sector to share any data, information, results of studies or projects that could inform and should be considered in the S&EIA specialist studies. 	6
Vulnerable Groups	Monday 23 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain understanding from the Vulnerable Group sector regarding specific issues, questions and critical concerns related to potential impacts of the proposed development of gas resources in the PR and EA Application Area. For the Vulnerable Group sector to share any data, information, results of studies or projects that could inform and should be considered in the S&EIA specialist studies. 	1
First Nations / Indigenous Groups	Monday, 23 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain understanding from the First Nations and Indigenous Peoples regarding issues, questions, fundamental and critical concerns related to potential impacts of the proposed development of gas resources in the PR and EA Application Area. Gain understanding from the First Nations and Indigenous Peoples regarding specific factors, or any data, information, results of studies or projects that could inform and should be considered in the S&EIA specialist studies. 	5

The focus group meeting minutes, as well as the presentations are attached (see Appendix 5.1). The meeting notes and the presentations are also available on WSP's website and the data-free

website. All the comments, questions, issues, and suggestions raised during the focus group meetings were incorporated into the CRR (Appendix 5.1).

4.3.6 PUBLIC MEETINGS

This section presents information about the public meetings that were convened and is structured as follows:

- Invitations.
- Objectives of the public meetings.
- Public meetings schedule.
- Notification of stakeholders.
- Administrative meeting arrangements.
- Venues and times of public meetings.

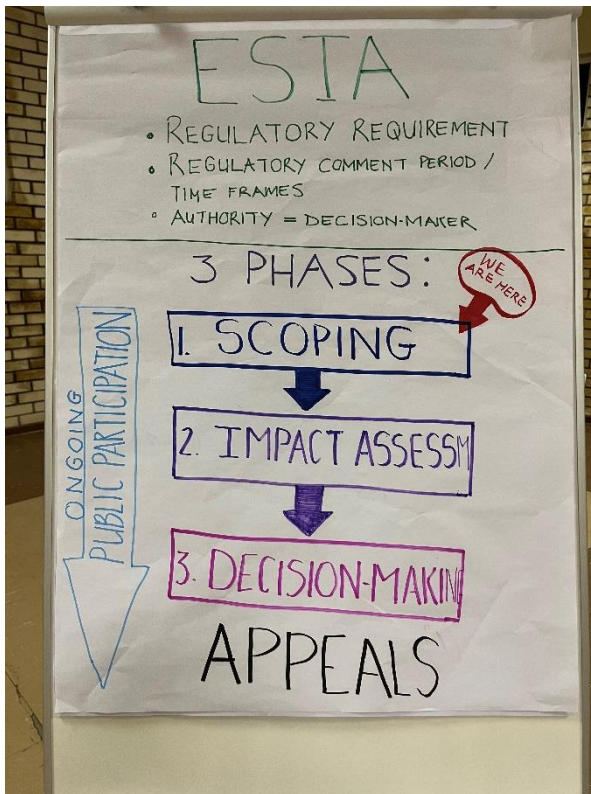


Figure 4-5 - ESIA Process Schematic Diagram

4.3.6.1 Objectives of the Public Meetings

The objectives of the public meetings were to:

- Introduce TEEPSA’s proposed offshore Block 11B/12B development Project.
- Introduce the ESIA process that is being undertaken to support TEEPSA’s proposed production right and environmental authorisation process.
- Create understanding of the different aspects that form part of an offshore production right application project.
- Allow I&APs the opportunity to raise issues of concern and identify potential impacts for consideration in the IA Phase.

4.3.6.2 Schedule of Public Meetings

A total of 15 public meetings were held during the ESIA Scoping Phase (see Table 4-11). An online public meeting was held on 07 of December 2022 shortly after the project notification. A series of in-person public meetings were convened along the coast between Mossel Bay in the Western Cape and East London in the Eastern Cape between 16 January 2023 to 26 January 2023.

Table 4-11 - Scoping Phase Public Meetings

Meeting Date	Time	Venue	No. of Participants in attendance
Wednesday 7 December 2022	17h30 – 19h30	Online meeting, MS Teams	69 (attendance fluctuated between 60 and 100 stakeholders throughout the meeting)
Monday 16 January 2023	10h00 -12h00 17h00 – 19h00	Kwanonqaba Community Hall, Mossel Bay	265 282
Tuesday 17 January 2023	10h00 – 12h00 17h00 – 19h00	Mossel Bay Town Hall, Mossel Bay	190 100
Wednesday 18 January 2023	17h00 – 19h00	Themba lethu Community Hall, George	179
Thursday 19 January 2023	17h00 – 19h00	Khaya lethu Community Hall, Knysna	131
Friday 20 January 2023	15h00 – 17h00 17h00 -19h00	Piesang Community Hall, Plettenberg Bay	148 83
Saturday 21 January 2023	14h00 – 19h30	Sea Vista Hall, Cape St Francis	23
Monday 23 January 2023	17h00 – 19h00	Pellsrus Hall, Jeffreys Bay ¹¹	42
Tuesday 24 January 2023	17h00 – 19h00	Feather Market Hall, Gqeberha	272
Wednesday 25 January 2023	10h00 – 12h00 14h00 – 16h00	Kenton-on-Sea Community Hall ¹² Ndlambe Memorial Hall	41 21
Thursday 26 January 2023	17h00 – 19h00	Scenery Park Community Hall, East London	120

¹¹ Meeting participants tabled a resolution that the public meeting would not constitute an official public meeting due to the time of the meeting and the venue. Participants requested that another scoping public meeting be convened in Jeffreys Bay at a time and venue of participants' choice. Participants who preferred to stay agreed that it would be considered an information session.

¹² The Municipal Manager of the Sarah Baartman District Municipality requested that the meeting venue for Port Alfred be changed due to inadequate facilities. The recommendation was that two meetings would be advisable, one at Kenton-on-Sea's Community Hall and one at the Port Alfred Civic Hall. The Municipality informed their Wards of the changed venues and times and broadcast the changes via the local radio station. WSP also informed all the I&APs via email and bulk SMS of the changes.



Notes of the public meetings as well as the presentations are attached in Appendix 5.1 and are available on WSP's Project website and the data-free website.

4.3.6.3 Administrative Meeting Arrangements

The ESIA team comprised four members, as follows:

- ESIA Project Lead: Helen Crosby;
- Lead Facilitator: Brian Magongoa;
- Meeting Scribe: Antoinette Pietersen; and
- Logistics Coordinator: Tumelo Mathulwe.

The Lead Facilitator started the meetings in accordance with local customs and protocols, e.g., some meetings started with a moment of silence, and others with or without prayer. The Lead Facilitator first introduced each of the ESIA team members and their roles on the ESIA project, presented the objectives of the meeting and obtained meeting participants agreement on the proposed agenda of the meeting before continuing with the meeting.

Some meetings started late due to the number of participants that arrived. However, in these cases, the Lead Facilitator would first obtain meeting participants' consent to start as soon as all meeting participants were seated. In cases where meeting participants' consent was not granted, the meeting would commence, attendees ushered into the venue and the attendance registers circulated. The purpose of the meeting attendance register was also explained so that participants understood that signing of the attendance register served as evidence that they attended the public meeting, that they would be registered as I&APs and receive information about the proposed Project until the completion of the ESIA process. The POPIA requirements to protect participants' contact information was also shared.

The Lead Facilitator further confirmed the preferred language of engagement at every public meeting and obtained meeting participants' consent. In addition, during the presentations, the Lead Facilitator would confirm at regular intervals whether meeting participants understood the technical concepts of the proposed Project and the ESIA. In cases where participants required explanations or translation in Afrikaans or isiXhosa, these were given in the required languages. In some instances, this resulted in the public meeting running over the allotted time.

The ESIA team received requests for the presentation to be translated into Afrikaans and isiXhosa. In response to these requests, the ESIA team translated the presentations and translated presentations were available from the eighth public meeting. The Lead Facilitator also obtained meeting participants' agreement regarding meeting conduct prior to the commencement of the question-and-answer sessions.

Before the start of the public meetings the facilitator obtained meeting participants' consent for the digital recording of the meeting for the purpose of the meeting notes as well as, the taking of photos as evidence of the public meetings. Participants granted consent other than at the meeting in Knysna where recording the meeting was refused and at the Kenton-on-Sea meeting where an objection was raised to photographs being taken by a participant seated on the left-hand side of the hall; that section of the hall was excluded from the photographs that were taken of the meeting. Some photos taken during the public meeting are shown in Table 4-12.

Table 4-12 - In-person Scoping Phase Public Meetings - Photographs



Meeting participants completing the attendance registers upon arrival at the Kwanonqaba Community Hall, Mossel Bay.



During the Kwanonqaba public meeting in Mossel Bay, meeting participants emphasised the importance of local employment.



The second meeting at Kwanonqaba was also well attended.



At the Mossel Bay City Hall, representatives of the Koranna nation noted the importance of involving the First Nations.



During the late afternoon meeting at the Mossel Bay City Hall, meeting participants expressed concern about the impact of the proposed Project on whales and dolphins along the coastline and wanted to know what TEEPSA's plans were to avoid impacts on marine life.



Non-Technical Summaries of the Draft Scoping Report were provided to all meeting participants at the public meetings. The documents were available in Afrikaans, English, and isiXhosa.



The facilitator continuously verified that meeting participants understood the contents of the presentation. When requested, he translated information into isiXhosa or Afrikaans.



Meeting participants at the Feather Market Hall in Gqeberha asked if TEEPSA would continue with the proposed Project if the studies found that the impacts of the proposed Project would be detrimental to marine life or the lives of people.



At the public meeting held at Kenton-on-Sea fishers wanted to know how the Project will impact them.



Meeting participants in Port Alfred asked why TEEPSA are pursuing the mining of fossil fuels when climate change is increasingly becoming a concern. Why not invest in renewable energy?



The public meetings were generally well attended by different sectors of society, including women, the youth, elderly, and people representing various interests.

4.3.6.4 Public Meetings Venues and Times

This sub-section provides a summary of factors that were considered in the selection of venues, venue criteria, and the times of public meetings.

Factors considered in the selection of venues and times of meetings, included the following:

- Recommendations by Municipal Ward Councillors and local I&APs;
- Previous experience of the EAP;

- Learnings from public meetings undertaken during TEEPSA's ESIA processes for the Block 5/6/7 and DWOB projects;
- The extent of the TEEPSA exploration Block 5/6/7;
- Recommendations made by I&APs at previous public meetings in the proposed Project area;
- Locations where PASA placed notifications about the proposed Project, namely George, Mossel Bay, Groot Brak, Sedgefield, Knysna, Plettenberg Bay, St. Francis, Jeffreys Bay, Humansdorp, Hankey and Gqeberha;
- Geographic information, such as the locations of ports and harbours;
- Marine spatial planning information, e.g., coastal protection zones in the Southern and Eastern Cape, Marine Protected Areas, fishing grounds;
- South African Exclusive Economic Zone, e.g., location of blocks with oil and gas exploration licences between Mossel Bay and Port Alfred;
- Marine coastal tourism routes closest to the coast between Mossel Bay and East London;
- Mariculture sites, aqua sea zones and World Heritage Sites; and
- Critical biodiversity areas.

The following venue criteria played an important role in selection:

- Venue security and safety;
- Accessibility and availability of venue;
- Ventilation in the meeting hall;
- Working lights, and ablution facilities;
- Power/electricity and access to plugs;
- Parking facilities;
- Proximity of the venue to local emergency services; and
- Availability of the venue.

4.3.7 COMMENT AND RESPONSE REGISTER

All the issues, questions, comments, and recommendations contributed by I&APs during the ESIA were incorporated into a Comment and Response Register (CRR) (attached in Appendix 5.1). Contributions received by I&APs were categorised according to relevant topics.

The CRR was circulated to the environmental and social specialists who responded in terms of how the comment would be considered in the impact assessment studies. The CRR is continually throughout the IA Phase as the environmental and social studies are finalised.

4.3.8 SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

This section presents a summary of the key issues raised, verbally during the focus group and public meetings, and in writing. At the time of the publication of the FSR, the EAP had received over 2,500 issues, concerns, questions, and recommendations, which were contributed by approximately 500 I&APs.

The issues summarised in this section are grouped, in alphabetical order, according to the main categories in the CRR.

Table 4-13 - Summary of Key Issues

Key Issues Summary	Key Issues Summary
<p>Air Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Management of venting and flaring during well testing. ■ Prevention of the release of volatile organic compounds and other pollutants. ■ Generation of carbon by-products and air pollutants during the offshore drilling process. ■ Management of potential impacts on air quality and acceptable risk. 	<p>Alternatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Alternatives to Vertical Seismic Profiling (VSP). ■ Consideration of feasible technological alternatives (as per Section 24O(1)(b)(iv) NEMA). ■ Oil based or synthetic non-aqueous drilling fluids (NADFs). <p>Cumulative Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cumulative effects of all South Africa fossil fuel extraction proposals.
<p>Cultural Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Impacts on tangible and intangible heritage and cultural resources. ■ Particular species hold significant cultural and heritage importance to small-scale fishers. ■ Impact of the Project on the ability to reconnect with cultural and spiritual connection with the ocean. ■ Requirements for a heritage impact assessment and the scope of the study to include fossil deposits. <p>Decommissioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Monitoring post-production and throughout decommissioning, to detect gas and oil leakages. ■ Financial provision, management, rehabilitation, and remediation of environmental impacts and future residual environmental impacts. ■ Abandoning decommissioned infrastructure on the seabed. 	<p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project allocated carbon budget by Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. ■ Comprehensive assessment of life-cycle climate impacts of the Project (upstream and downstream emissions). ■ Oil and gas extraction contribution to release of greenhouse gases and seabed carbon stores. ■ Under estimation of greenhouse gas emission, particularly methane. ■ Quantity of greenhouse gas emissions for related onshore industrial infrastructures. ■ Potential for adverse effects on food availability and affordability as a result of climate change impacts. ■ Ability to mitigate a potential environmental disaster caused by climate change.
<p>EAP Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Potential conflict of interest of WSP as EAP given environment and engineering consulting services to the oil and gas industry. ■ Potential conflict of Anchor Environmental as consultant to Karpowership and Algoa Bay ADZ EIA processes. ■ Peer review process for ESIA studies. ■ EAP's independence given the misconception of many attendees at the public meetings thinking that job opportunities would be available. 	<p>ESIA Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The lack of Strategic Environmental Assessment for offshore Oil and Gas in South Africa. ■ Concerns regarding poor and fishing communities being used by NGOs to stop developments. ■ Concerns that Environmental Groups have resources to challenge the Project in court and communities will be left without opportunities because they do not have the means to legally challenge these environmental groups. ■ Consideration of local protocols and customs with regards to collective decision making. ■ Lack of institutional capacity in South Africa for monitoring and enforcement.
<p>Marine Acoustics (noise)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Comprehensive marine acoustic studies must be done. ■ Cumulative acoustic limits determination and ambient soundscape, other operational noise contributors. 	<p>Marine Ecology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Risk to fish species and plankton, including highly sensitive marine areas and marine protected areas. ■ Impact of wells and pipelines construction on the seabed and on spawn and hatchlings.

<p>Key Issues Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about lack of scientific data and evidence of noise impacts on marine life. 	<p>Key Issues Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of a gas or condensate leak on the surrounding water column and seabed. Impact on species such as whales and turtles given the migration route for these species. Impact on fishing grounds, in terms of catch rates for large pelagic long-line fisheries and small-scale fishers.
<p>Project Need and Desirability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploitation of oil and gas is contrary to South Africa’s international climate change and biodiversity commitments and contravenes the State’s obligations under Section 24 of the Constitution. Conflict with the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals to which South Africa is a signatory. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has indicated that no new reserves of oil and gas are required if the goal of net zero by 2050 is to be met. Gas is not needed as a transition fuel. TEEPSA should rather investigate opportunities to invest in renewable projects, land-based or offshore. A comparison should be made of costs and impacts of offshore drilling against alternative energy sources. Objections to the continuation of offshore fossil fuel mining at the expense of the poorest of the poor, coastal communities. Project benefit accruing to TEPSA and Government of South Africa and not the people of South Africa, specifically the people of the Garden Route. Fossil fuel projects will harm the economy due to carbon taxes and markets closed to high carbon content goods. 	<p>Public Participation Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding engagement methods and sectors of society included in consultation during the ESIA. Comprehensive PPP to achieve meaningful consultation. Concerns regarding the PPP commencing in December. Concerns about the process followed regarding the public meetings notifications. Recognition of the First Nations as first people and real owners of mineral rights. Requests to include communities west of Mossel Bay in the public participation process. Concerns that public meetings were not procedurally fair in terms of language, conduct, timing, and venues. Lack of consultation with small-scale fisher groups. Lack of consultation with Indigenous Groups. Concerns that loud hailing misled people to a public meeting with the expectation of jobs. Concerns that the PPP is a “tick-box” or “rubber-stamping” exercise and is not a meaningful process.
<p>Social and Labour Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagements with LED Managers of relevant local authorities must be done for the Social and Labour Plan. A Mossel Bay Community Development Trust should be set up as part of Social and Labour Plan to oversee TEPSA’s investment into the Greater Mossel Bay. TEEPSA should invest in communities in terms of job creation, infrastructure development, education and training, health and social welfare, significant business opportunities. Entrepreneurs would like to benefit throughout the procurement value chain. The South African Factory for Oceans Economy should be based in Mossel Bay to service the 	<p>Socio-Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on the fishing industry (including subsistence fishers and small-scale fisher cooperatives), food security, tourism, and ensuing employment opportunities from these sectors. Economic benefits to local communities. Health impacts on local communities. The social cost of carbon. Impacts on the shipping industry. Whether the socio-economic study will consider human rights. There should be a culturally appropriate grievance mechanism.

Key Issues Summary	Key Issues Summary
<p>production, processing, and downstream activities to create jobs and grow the local economy in Mossel Bay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The SLP consultation process must be thorough. 	
<p>Production Right Applicant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Company details and shareholding. ▪ Whether TEEPSA is a fit and proper company undertake the Project. ▪ Commercial plans for the gas. ▪ Revenue generation from gas production. ▪ Concerns of the age and status of the PetroSA infrastructure and its ability to service the Project for its proposed lifetime. ▪ Lessons learnt from similar/existing projects and/or developments in the area. ▪ Implications of TEEPSA endorsement of the Zero Routine Flaring by 2030. ▪ Corporate Environmental Social and Governance commitments. ▪ Management of international personnel requirements. ▪ Monitoring oversight of company activities. ▪ Well integrity testing methodology. ▪ Types of well barriers utilised, types of plugging materials utilised, their functioning and verification. 	<p>Unplanned Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major spill prevention approach and procedures. ▪ Disaster management and associated protocols. ▪ Blowout consequences for economic activities and recreational industries. ▪ Insurance safeguards for remediation of environmental damages. ▪ Compensation in the event of an accident for those negatively affected. The method and institution responsible for deciding compensation. ▪ Risk of vessel traffic collisions. ▪ Modelling methods for blowouts and other operational and unexpected spills or leaks. ▪ Potential impacts of a seismic event on the Project. <p>Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Treatment of drill cuttings to reduce oil content before disposal. ▪ Management of planned and unplanned discharge into the ocean. ▪ Methods for treatment and disposal of toxic and radioactive drill wastes, drill mud, all radioactive substances and related tools and instruments. ▪ Details of toxicity and radioactivity of lubricants and other compound ingredients and the risk to human and animal life, including larval stages. ▪ Lack of monitoring guidelines and instrumentation to measure waste discharges.

4.3.9 TEEPSA COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION

TEEPSA employs Site Liaison Officers (SLOs) who are part of TEEPSA’s Social Performance department and are part of TEEPSA’s long-term community engagement strategy.

The SLOs were deployed by TEEPSA to conduct on the ground, door-to-door community notification in the Garden Route District and in the coastal towns in the Eastern Cape region for the Block 11B/12B Project.

The objectives of TEEPSA’s community notification were to:

- Distribute additional site notices and flyers about the proposed offshore Block 11B/12B Project as prepared by WSP;
- Create awareness of the proposed Project in high human traffic areas in coastal communities in the Project area. These areas included community libraries, clinics, community halls, municipal offices, local community shops, regional offices of government departments, and door-to-door distribution of information;

- Offer support and a point of contact through the SLOs should community members need transport to attend the public meetings to ensure accessibility where finance and other resources are limited;
 - Ensure Project information is accessible to members of the community who may not go to public facilities as recommended by the regulation; and
 - Facilitate community registration where people do not have the means to contact WSP directly.
- The community notification was conducted by the SLOs in two ways; via online WhatsApp communication with community leaders (Ward councillors, traditional leaders etc.) between the 3rd and the 15th of December 2022, and via in-person interactions with different communities and stakeholders from the 9th until the 13th of January 2023.

The SLOs asked people who wanted to receive further information regarding the Block 11B/12B Project to provide their contact details, and these registers were sent to the ESIA team for inclusion in the I&AP database.

4.4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

The Impact Assessment (IA) Phase stakeholder consultation strategy has been informed by a combination of the following key factors:

- An internal review of the Scoping Phase public consultation process;
- The need to undertake further engagement with First Nations/Indigenous Peoples and small-scale fishers; and
- The findings of the specialist studies, particularly the outcome of the oil spill modelling done for Block 11B/12B.

4.4.1 UPDATING OF STAKEHOLDER DATABASE

I&AP registration is an ongoing process during an ESIA and the database of I&APs will be updated during the IA Phase. The total number of I&APs at the conclusion of the IA public consultation period will be noted in the final ESIA report.

4.4.2 NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Notification methods for the IA Phase include:

- I&APs received a short email and bulk SMS on 05 June 2023 and 06 June 2023 respectively, to inform them that the FSR was accepted by the CA and that the IA Phase commenced (see Appendix 5.2);
- I&APs received a second short email and bulk SMS on 18 August 2023, to inform them that the draft specialist reports and ESIA report was in the process of being finalised, and that that notification of the availability of the documents for public review and of the details of the public meetings would be sent out soon (see Appendix 5.2);
- A notification will be distributed to all I&APs to inform them of the availability of the:
 - Draft ESIA report and draft EMP as well as the draft social and labour plan (SLP) for the Project;
 - Public comment period;
 - Locations where paper copies of the draft reports, the NTS and comment forms can be found (see Table 4-16); and

- Details of the public and focus group meetings.
- The notification along with the NTS and comment form will be distributed via email and a short message with a link to the letter and documents will be distributed via SMS;
- The draft ESIA, EMPr and SLP reports will be available in English;
- The NTS document will be available in print and audio format in Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa;
- An advertisement will be published in national, regional, and local newspapers (see Table 4-14). The advertisement will contain information about the availability of the draft ESIA and EMPr reports, as well as the draft Social and Labour plan for the Project; public comment period; and dates, times, and venues of the public and focus group meetings. A QR code will be included for ease of access to electronic copies of the documents that are on the websites. The advertisements will be published in the relevant language/s of the media's reach (Table 4-14);
- The availability of the draft ESIA and EMPr reports; public comment period; and dates, times, and venues of the public and focus group meetings will be broadcast via regional and local radio stations (see Table 4-15). The advertisements will be broadcast once over two days in the relevant language/s of the radio's audience;
- Laminated posters will be placed at public places. The posters will contain the same information as the advertisement and will include the details of the public and focus group meetings.
- The draft ESIA Report and EMPr, NTS and comment forms, translations of the NTS (written and audio), and the public meeting presentation will also be posted to the Project's websites. A Link to the website where the draft Social and Labour Plan can be reviewed will also be shared on WSP's websites.
- A5 flyers in print and electronic format will be distributed. The flyer will contain basic Project information, contact details, links and QR code to the Project websites and the dates, times, and venues of the public meetings. The flyer will be designed to be social media friendly for ease of distribution via WhatsApp.

Table 4-14 – Media Advertisements – IA Phase

Newspaper	Language/s	Reach
National		
Daily Sun	English	Western and Eastern Cape
Regional		
Cape Times	English	Western Cape
Daily Dispatch	English	Eastern Cape
Die Burger Western Cape	Afrikaans	Western Cape
Die Burger Eastern Cape	Afrikaans	Eastern Cape
The Herald Eastern Cape	English and isiXhosa	Eastern Cape
Local		
George Herald	English and Afrikaans	George, Gouritz River Mouth, Sedgefield, Stilbaai
Isolezwe Lesixhosa	English and IsiXhosa	Eastern Cape
Knysna/Plett Herald	English and Afrikaans	Gouritz River Mouth, Knysna, Keurbooms, Plettenberg Bay, Sedgefield
Kouga Express (Print and Online)	English, Afrikaans and IsiXhosa	Hankey, Humansdorp, Jeffreys Bay, Joubertinia, Kareedouw, Krakeel, Loerie, Louterwater,

Newspaper	Language/s	Reach
		Patensie, Storms River, Tsitsikamma and Uniondale
Mossel Bay Advertiser	English and Afrikaans	Mossel Bay
St Francis Bay Chronicle	English and Afrikaans	St Francis Bay, Cape St Francis, Oyster Bay, Humansdorp, Jeffreys Bay and in parts of Gqeberha
Go! Express	English and Afrikaans	(East London), Abbotsford, Amalinda, Beacon Bay, Berea, Buffalo Flats, Cambridge, Chintsa, Christmas Rock, Cove Rock, Duncan Villages, East Coast Resorts, Gately, Gonubie, Greenfields, Haga Haga, Haven Hills, Kei Mouth, Khomga, Kidd's Beach, Kwelera, Mdantsane, Morgan Bay, Nahoon, Quigney, Seavale, Selborne, Southernwood, Summerpride, Vincent, Vincent-Berea, West Bank, Willow Park and Wilsonia.
Talk of the Town	English and isiXhosa	Alexandria, Bathurst, East London, Grahamstown, Kenton, Port Alfred, Port Elizabeth.
The Rep	English and isiXhosa	Cala, Cathcart, Dordrecht, East London, Gonubie, Kei Mouth, Lady Frere, Molteno, Morgan Bay, Queenstown, Stutterheim
Suid-Kaap Forum	English and Afrikaans	Stilbaai

Table 4-15 - Radio Stations – IA Phase

Radio Station	Languages	Reach
Eden FM	English, Afrikaans	Riversdale, Swellendam, Riviersonderend, Mossel Bay, George, Knysna, Wilderness, Sedgefield, Dysseidorp and Oudtshoorn
Nkqubela FM	isiXhosa	Humansdorp, Jeffrey's Bay, Dispatch, Alexandria, Kirkwood, Uitenhage, Paterson and the Western outskirts of Grahamstown and Port Elizabeth
Radio Algoa	English	Eastern Cape - Garden Route Coastal Towns, Wild Coast Gauteng infiltrating into Free State, Limpopo, Mpumalanga & North West
Umhlobo Wenene FM	isiXhosa	Eastern Cape, infiltrating Free State, Northern Cape, KwaZulu Natal, Gauteng, North West & Western Cape

Table 4-16 – Public Places – IA Phase

Town	Locations
EASTERN CAPE	
East London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffalo City Municipal Library • Harbour - Transnet National Ports Authority
Gqeberha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newton Park Library • North End Library
Jeffrey's Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeffrey's Bay Tourism
Humansdorp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kouga Local Municipality Office
St. Francis Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Francis Tourism and Municipal Offices • St Francis Bay Library
Cape St. Francis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coastal Collective
Tsitsikamma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koukamma Local Municipality Kareedouw Office • Tsitsikamma Tourism Office
WESTERN CAPE	
Plettenberg Bay / Keurbooms River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plettenberg Public Library • Plettenberg Ski Boat Club • Cape Nature Office
Knysna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knysna Angling Club • Knysna Tourism Office
Sedgefield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedgefield Tourism Office
Wilderness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness Tourism Office
George	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape Nature Office • Themba lethu Library WCG eCentre
Mossel Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kwanonqaba Library • D'Almeida Library • Mossel Bay Harbour • Mossel Bay Tourism Office • Mossel Bay Municipality Office
Gouritz River Mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gouritz River Municipal Office
Stilbaai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hessequa Municipality Library

4.4.3 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The draft ESIA Report and EMPr and NTS will be in the public domain for review and comment from 22 September to 25 October 2023.

4.4.4 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE MEETINGS

Apart from opportunities to provide comments in writing during the IA Phase, I&APs will also have opportunities to contribute questions, issues of concern and comments at meetings (see Table 4-17 below for the locations), including:

- Public meetings (online and in-person); and
- Focus group meetings (online).

4.4.4.1 Format of public meetings

The EAP will convene fourteen in-person public meetings in the Project area and one online public meeting. The in-person public meetings will be in the format of an open house. The principal reasons for changing the meeting from a formal presentation with a question-and-answer session to an open house format are:

- To present the key findings of the specialist studies and Draft ESIA and EMP, as visual exhibits in the languages of I&APs.
- To enable people from different walks of life to have an opportunity to attend the meeting at any time during the day of the open house suitable to them; and
- To allow for meaningful interaction with I&APs, particularly those who are not comfortable to speak in public fora.
- To be able to respond to questions of varying degrees of technical complexity for specific topics.
- To provide an extended time period during which people can visit.

4.4.4.2 Proposed Open House Locations

The EAP will convene open house meetings in each of the following key towns within the proposed Project area (Table 4-17). I&APs will have an option to register to attend the open house should they wish to.

Table 4-17 – Public and Focus Group Meeting Itinerary

Venue	Time	Date
Mossel Bay Town Hall	Open house: 10h00 – 16h00 & Open house: 17h30 – 19h30	Wednesday 27 September
George Pacaltsdorp Community Hall	Open house: 10h00 – 16h00 & Open house: 17h30 – 19h30	Thursday 28 September
Gourits Community Hall	Open house: 11h00 – 16h00 & Open house: 17h30 – 19h30	Friday 29 September
Sedgefield City Town Hall	Open house: 10h00 – 16h00 & Open house: 17h30 – 19h30	Monday 02 October
Knysna Save Hub Hall, White Location Sports Field	Open house: 10h00 – 16h00 & Open house: 17h30 – 19h30	Tuesday 03 October
Tsitsikamma Cold Stream Community Hall	Open house: 10h00 – 16h00 & Open house: 17h30 – 19h30	Wednesday 04 October

Venue	Time	Date
Plettenberg Bay KwaNokuthula Community Hall	Open house: 10h00 – 16h00	Thursday 05 October
Plettenberg Bay Formosa Primary School	Open house: 17h30 – 19h30	Thursday 05 October
Sea Vista Sea Vista Hall	Open house: 11h00 – 16h00 & Open house: 17h30 – 19h30	Friday 06 October
Humansdorp Kwanomzano Community Hall	Open house: 10h00 – 16h00 & Open house: 17h30 – 19h30	Monday 09 October
Jeffrey's Bay Pellsrus Hall	Open house: 10h00 – 16h00 & Open house: 17h30 – 19h30	Tuesday 10 October
Gqeberha Tramways Hall	Open house: 11h00 – 16h00 & Open house: 17h30 – 19h30	Wednesday 11 October
Port Alfred Nhlambe Memorial Hall	Open house: 12h00 – 16h00 & Open house: 17h30 – 19h30	Thursday 12 October
East London Cambridge Hall	Open house: 11h00 – 16h00 & Open house: 17h30 – 19h30	Friday 13 October
Online Public Meeting	Online via MS Teams: 17h00 – 19h30	Monday 16 October
Online Focus Group: Marine ecology and acoustics	Online via MS Teams: 10h00 – 12h00	Tuesday 17 October
Online Focus Group: Oil spill and drill cuttings modelling	Online via MS Teams: 14h00 – 16h00	Tuesday 17 October
Online Focus Group: Socio-economic and cultural heritage	Online via MS Teams: 10h00 – 12h00	Wednesday 18 October

4.4.4.3 Online Public Meeting

One online public meeting will be convened via the MS Teams online platform.

4.4.4.4 Presentation

The EAP will upload a presentation of key issues as identified by the environmental and social specialist studies to the Project websites. The presentation will be available in Afrikaans, English, and isiXhosa.

4.4.4.5 Focus Group Meetings

According to the IAP2, focus groups are a small group facilitated discussion used to obtain input and comment about specific topics. They provide an opportunity for input from otherwise underrepresented groups, supplement other public participation techniques and themed focus

groups are used to obtain meaningful input from knowledgeable, local or international technical experts.

The EAP identified specific groups of directly affected I&APs that would require in-person focus group meetings and others for whom online focus groups would be preferred. The focus group meetings are not mutually exclusive. The IA Phase public consultation process makes provision for in-person focus group meetings for those who are directly affected, less technically inclined but could contribute a wealth of local experience and knowledge; as well as directly affected I&APs who are technically well versed regarding scientific issues and who could provide meaningful comments on technical aspects of the findings and proposed mitigation measures.

In-person Focus Group Meetings

I&AP groups who may not have had opportunities to further their level of education yet who possess rich local knowledge and experience, will be invited to attend specific timeslots during the open house sessions in the key towns mentioned in Section 4.4.4.2 above. The focus groups that have been identified include the First Nations/Indigenous Peoples in the Project area, small-scale fishers, fishing co-operatives, artisanal fishers, and Rastafarian groups.

The EAP will work through local channels and make use of community leadership to invite focus groups to the open houses. The EAP will be mindful of local customs and procedures but will request community leadership to invite representatives of the following groups:

- Women fishers;
- Elderly;
- Vulnerable (single head of household, physically disabled, etc.)
- Youth;
- Clergy;
- Teachers;
- Boat owners (male and female); and
- Transgender.

Online Focus Group Meetings

The EAP will convene four online focus group meetings via the MS Teams online platform. The online focus group meetings will be according to key themes that emerged during the Scoping Phase PPP:

- Marine ecology and acoustics;
- Oil spill and drill cuttings modelling;
- Socio-economic and cultural heritage; and
- Climate change.

The EAP wishes to facilitate a process by which meaningful comments can be obtained from topical experts to interrogate the findings, review the proposed mitigation measures, and make recommendations for improvements.

4.4.5 COMMENT AND RESPONSE REGISTER

The EAP will incorporate all the issues, questions, and comments contributed by I&APs in writing and at public and focus group meetings during the IA Phase in a Comment and Response Register. The updated CRR will be attached as an appendix to the Final ESIA report.



4.4.6 FINAL REPORT SUBMISSION

I&APs will be notified via email and SMS of the Final ESIA report submission to the CA. The Final ESIA report will be made available on the Project websites for review.

4.5 NOTIFICATION OF COMPETENT AUTHORITY DECISION

All I&APs will be notified of the decision by the CA via email and SMS. I&APs will be notified of the outcome and how the decision may be appealed.



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