

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
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CaseID: 16313

Date: Wednesday April 14, 2021  
Page No: 1

## Interim Comment

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

Attention: Shumani Lawrence Mulaudzi

**Tosaco has applied for an Exploration Right for offshore oil and gas in Block 1, located along the West Coast of South Africa. The exploration works programme includes the following: Year Activity 1 • Review of all available technical data: o Geographical Information System (GIS) data; o Geophysical data, geological data, borehole data and log data; o Third party technical reports; • Reprocessing of existing geological/geophysical data. • Preliminary estimation of contingent resources. • Prepare conceptual design and program of future geophysical and geological exploration and appraisal. 2 • Planning and preparation of possible seismic survey. 3 • Possible 2D and/ or 3D seismic survey. • Processing and interpretation of seismic data. • Evaluation and estimation of contingent resources based on new data.**

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) would like to thank you for submitting the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) under section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA) for the proposed Tosaco Energy Block 1 exploration right in the exclusive economic zone along the Northern Cape Coast, South Africa.

The project proposes the use of seismic surveys to locate hydrocarbon deposits. This will include the reprocessing of approximately 5000 km of existing 2D seismic lines as well as 750 km<sup>2</sup> of existing 3D seismic data. It will also potentially entail the acquisition of an additional 1340 km<sup>2</sup> of 3D seismic data pending the results of the re-analysis, in a proposed survey area in Block 1, off the Northern Cape coast of South Africa. The seismic survey will employ acoustic instruments towed behind a survey vessel and the current exploration programme does not include any provisions for exploration drilling.

The DSR addresses cultural and heritage resources under section 8.8, on page 121, and identifies the Namaqua Fossil Forest Marine Protected Area (MPA) as the only nearby heritage resource. The proposed 3D survey area would have encompassed a section of the Namaqua Fossil Forest MPA and its 5 km buffer zone, however, an adjustment to the proposed 3D survey area has already been made to exclude this MPA and its buffer zone.

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In terms of the NHRA, sections 2 and 35 stipulate that any wreck, being any vessel or aircraft or any part thereof older than 60 years 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 (MUCH) unit. These heritage sites or objects may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. The DSR fails to mention that there are several shipwrecks scattered along the coastline that borders Block 1, with no known shipwrecks in the proposed survey area. However, several vessels have gone missing along the South African coastline and there is the chance that an unknown wreck might be within the proposed survey area. As there will be no exploration drilling which could disturb these potential wrecks, the impact of this phase of the project on wrecks, if there are any, is minimal.

The text in Table 32, on Page 138 of the DSR, which reads "Any object or site which is more than 60 years old is considered to be a heritage feature..." must be amended. Wrecks, as defined in the NHRA, older than 60 years, are deemed archaeological heritage resources, whereas other material, such as fossils, or archaeological objects and sites, are also considered heritage resources, but are subject to varied definitions and age cut-offs in terms of section 2 of the NHRA.

As the survey area excludes the Namaqua Fossil Forest MPA, and the seabed will not be disturbed, no heritage impact assessment is required at this stage. However, if exploration drilling, and/or any other activity that may disturb the seabed is considered at a later stage of the project, a heritage impact assessment by a maritime heritage specialist will be required.

According to section 35(3) of the NHRA, if any heritage resource is discovered these must be reported to SAHRA immediately. Therefore, survey data, and/or resulting information, that could aid in the discovery of offshore heritage resources, such as shipwrecks, must be shared with SAHRA. Please also note that all updates and/or changes to the project, supporting documentation, correspondence, reports, or any other work relating to the project must be uploaded to the case on SAHRIS to provide SAHRA with the opportunity to comment. SAHRA does not accept emailed documents or hard-copy documents received via post.

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

Yours faithfully

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Ruan Brand  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Lesla la Grange  
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahrissahra.org.za/node/568133>

**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.