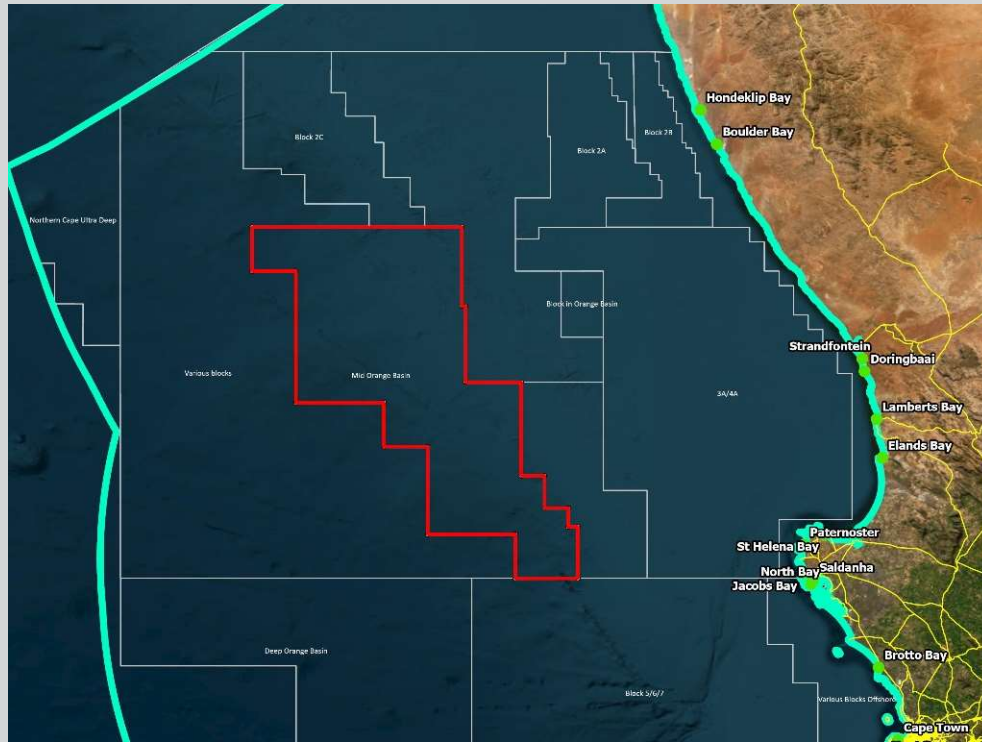


BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED AFRICA OIL SA CORP BLOCK 3B/4B OFFSHORE EXPLORATION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



DOCUMENT PURPOSE

- This Background Information Document (BID) provides you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), an overview of the proposed project.
- The BID invites you, as an I&AP, to participate in the required Public Participation Process.
- The BID provides you, as an I&AP with an opportunity to contribute and participate in the formulation of the Basic Assessment (BA) Report.
- The BID also provides you, as an I&AP an opportunity to provide the project team with your comments, concerns and objections to the proposed project.

INTRODUCTION

Africa Oil SA Corp, Ricocure (Pty) Ltd and Azinam Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Eco Atlantic) (the Joint Venture Partners of the Block 3B/4B Exploration Right - hereafter jointly referred to as the Applicants) have appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the required authorisation processes (including the statutory public participation), and to compile and submit the required documentation in support of application for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the NEMA. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process will be undertaken in terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982) promulgated under the NEMA (as amended). A Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process will be followed.

Aim of the Background Information Document (BID):

The aim of the BID is to:

- Provide an overview of the Environmental Authorisation/Licensing Applications as well as the public participation processes which will be undertaken for the proposed project;
- Allow Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) the opportunity to obtain a broad understanding of the proposed project and to request or share information; and
- Provide details on how I&APs can register their interest with and submit comments on the project. It is important to note that only registered I&APs will receive further



communication regarding the project for the duration of the EIA process (i.e. invitation to review and comment on the Scoping and EIA Reports).

LOCATION, SCALE, AND EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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

Block 3B/4B is located approximately 120 km west of St Helena Bay and approximately 145 km south-west of Hondeklip Bay off the West Coast of South Africa. The area of primary interest is in the north of this block, but this could also cover other areas in future. As part of the process of applying for the Exploration Right, the applicant undertook and completed the reprocessing project covering 2 000 km², which is a subset of the 10 000 km² BHP/Shell 3D seismic datasets, focussed primarily on the most northern portion of Block 3B/4B.

The application area corner coordinate points are as follows:

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	-31.00030518	14.74908447	12	-32.70800781	16.60467529
2	-31.00030518	15.94488525	13	-33.00018311	16.60467529
3	-31.45031738	15.94488525	14	-33.00030518	16.24932861
4	-31.45031738	15.96588135	15	-32.75030518	16.24932861
5	-31.88360596	15.96588135	16	-32.75030518	15.74908447
6	-31.88360596	16.2824707	17	-32.25030518	15.74908447
7	-32.41699219	16.2824707	18	-32.25030518	15.49908447
8	-32.41699219	16.41589356	19	-32.00030518	15.49908447
9	-32.60028076	16.41589356	20	-32.00030518	14.99908447
10	-32.60028076	16.54931641	21	-31.25030518	14.99908447
11	-32.70800781	16.54931641	22	-31.25030518	14.74908447

Closest towns or point of interest: Cape Town, Hout Bay, Saldanha, Lamberts Bay, Hondeklip Bay and Port Nolloth. Please refer to locality map at the end of this BID.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The proposed project requires certain authorisations, approvals, permits, and/or licences. The following requirements have specifically been identified:

Relevant Legislation	Listed activities or triggers	Authorisation, Approval, Licence, or Permit requirement:
Chapter 5 of the NEMA	Listing Notice 2: Activity 18: Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires an exploration right as contemplated in section 79 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including — (a) associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks; or (b) the primary processing of a petroleum resource including winning, extraction, classifying, concentrating or	Environmental Authorisation (EA)



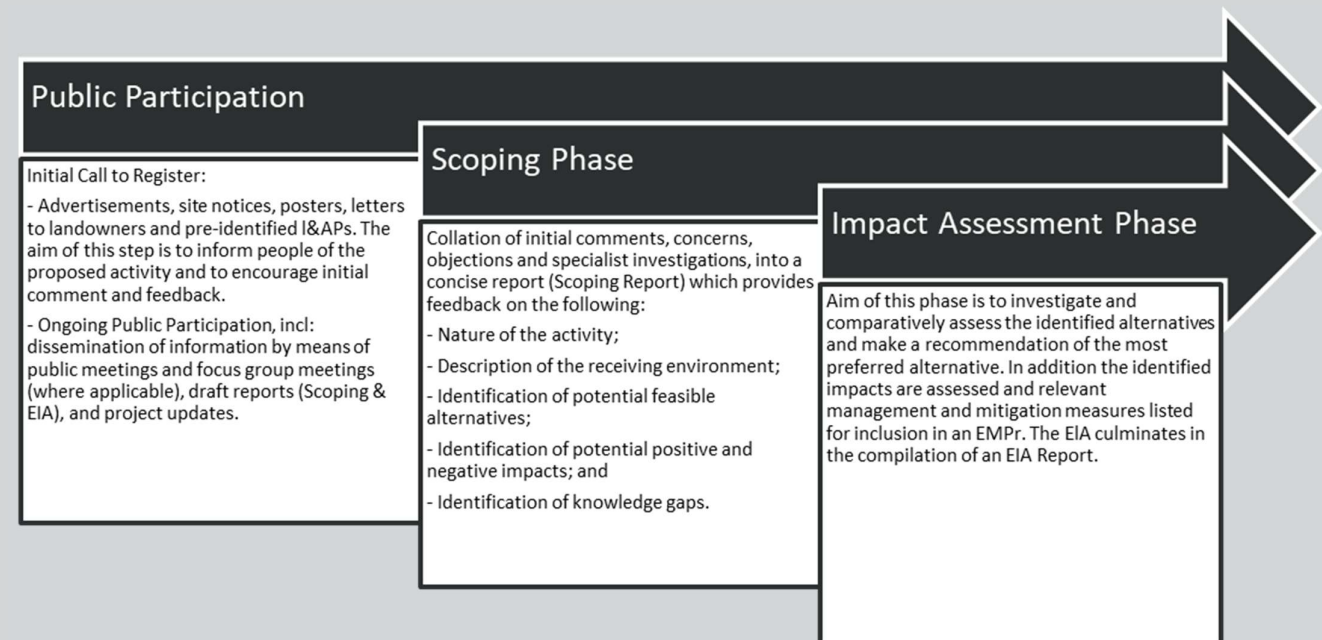
water removal; but excluding the secondary processing of a petroleum resource, including the beneficiation or refining of gas, oil or petroleum products in which case activity 5 in this Notice applies.

As a consequence of triggering the provisions above, there is a requirement to undertake a **Scoping and EIA Process**. The **Scoping and EIA Process** is to be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended (GNR982). Additional listed activities and/or water uses may be identified during the process.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

An EIA (**in this case Scoping and EIA**) process is a planning and decision-making tool, to describe and assess the physical, biological, social, and economic impacts which a given development or project may have. To be able to inform the decision-making process, it is important for public issues and concerns to be identified timeously, to enable the EIA team to evaluate them.

The EIA process allows for the environmental consequences of a proposed project to be identified up-front, investigated throughout the impact assessment process, and taken into consideration by the decision-making authorities. The EAP and various specialists also identify potential negative and positive impacts that could arise as a result of the proposed project and identify applicable mitigation measures required, to avoid or reduce negative impacts and to enhance positive impacts.



Once the relevant processes have been completed and the final documentation submitted to the competent authority, the competent authority reviews the application and makes an informed decision. The I&APs will be informed of the decision and their right to appeal in the event that they disagree with the decision.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

One of the key drivers to a successful EIA is to ensure that potential impacts (both positive and negative) are identified and investigated. Additional impacts may be identified and relevant specialists will be included into the team in order to accurately and objectively assess these potential impacts. Examples of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project have been provided below:

- Fishing sector impacts.
- Marine ecology impacts.
- Oils spill and drill cutting impacts.
- Impacts on social environment and intangible heritage impacts.

The above-mentioned impacts should not be construed as the only impacts that will be identified during the course of the assessment. Based on public consultation, specialist input and further detailed assessments, additional impacts will likely be identified and assessed.



All potential impacts will be identified and assessed following an impact assessment methodology guided by the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014. The broad approach to the significance rating methodology is to determine the environmental risk (ER) by considering the consequence (C) of each impact (comprising Nature, Extent, Duration, Magnitude, and Reversibility) and relate this to the probability/likelihood (P) of the impact occurring. This determines the environmental risk. In addition, other factors including cumulative impacts, public concern, and potential for irreplaceable loss of resources, are used to determine a prioritisation factor (PF) which is applied to the ER to determine the overall significance (S).

Furthermore, based on the identified impacts and their ratings, mitigation and management measures are recommended for the applicant and these are included in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) towards ensuring that any negative impacts that cannot be avoided are minimised and managed, and positive impacts maximised.

Specialist studies may be utilised to guide and inform the assessment of the potential impacts. The specialist studies identified to be included in this assessment include:

- Marine Ecological Impact Assessment.
- Fisheries Impact Assessment.
- Acoustic Modelling.
- Cultural Heritage Assessment.
- Social Impact Assessment.
- Air Quality and Climate Change.
- Oil Spill and Drill Cuttings Modelling.
- Economic Impact Assessment.

The need for further specialist studies may be identified through the Scoping and EIA process.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Should you feel that you may be interested in, or affected by, this project, it is essential that you register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in which case you will be kept informed regarding the project and afforded an opportunity to participate in the process. Please note that only registered I&APs will be included in future correspondence regarding the project and associated updates. You may register and/or comment as an I&AP in any of the following ways:

- Complete the I&AP registration form and questionnaire and return it to EIMS via email, fax or post;
- Submit written comments, registrations, or requests to EIMS via email, fax or post; and/or
- Via telephone call.

It is important to note that the EIA process is guided by legally stipulated timeframes and as such, in order to ensure your continued and valuable involvement in the project, we request that your registration requests and any preliminary comments are submitted to EIMS (contact details provided below).

Please note that further to the above, all registered I&APs will also be notified in due course of further participation opportunities, as well as the availability of the Scoping and EIA Reports upon which comments will be solicited.

Contact Person: Lucien James

EIMS Reference Number: 1570

Postal Address: P.O. Box 2083; Pinegowrie 2123

Fax: (086) 571 9047 **Telephone:** (011) 789 7170

E-mail: block3b4b@eims.co.za

EIMS Website: <https://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/>

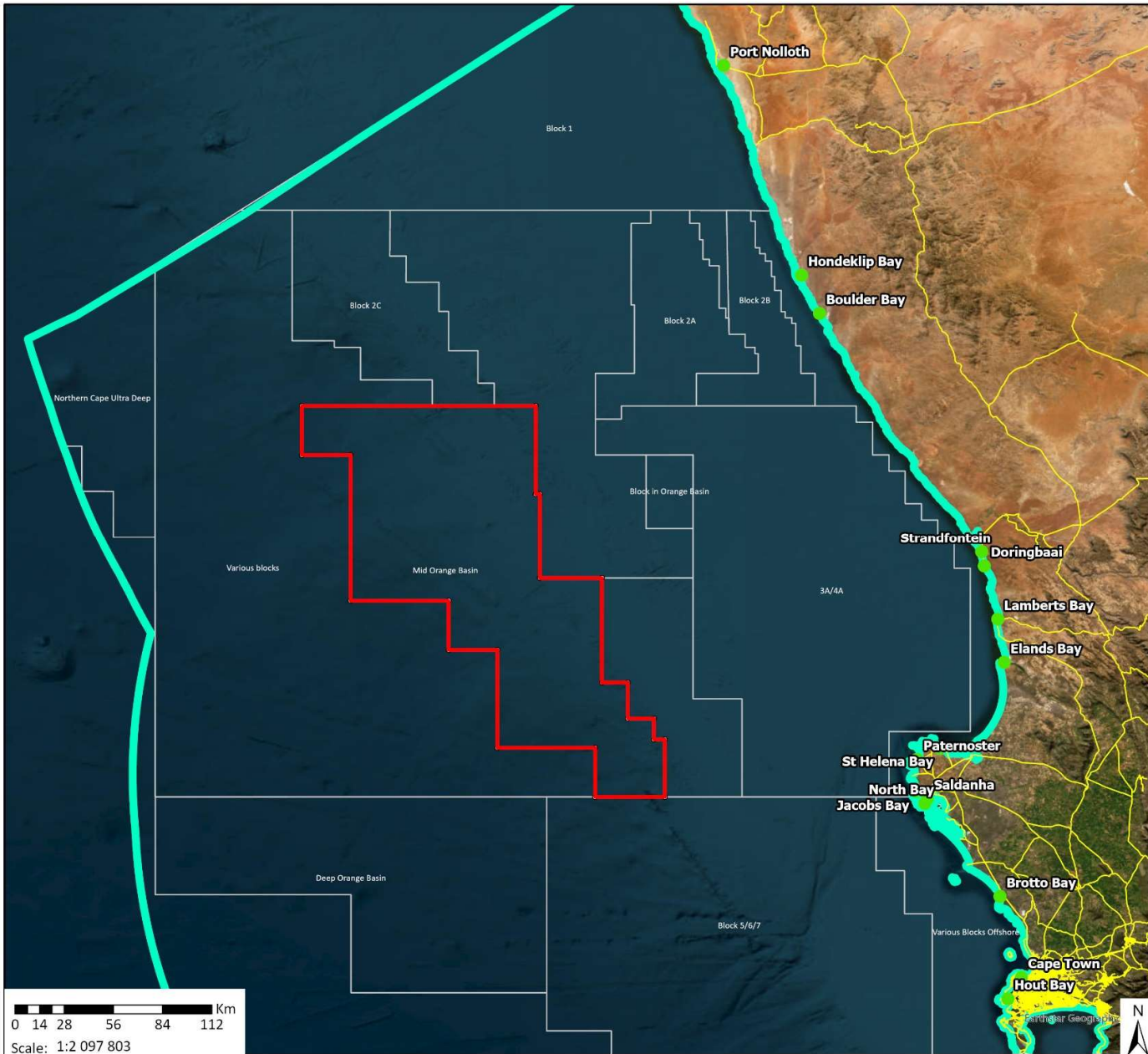
Datafree: <https://eims.datafree.co/public-participation/>



EIMS Website



EIMS Website Datafree



Locality Map

1570 AOSAC Block 3B4B Exploration EIA

Legend

-  Block 3B4B
-  Coastal Towns
-  Roads
-  South African Exclusive Economic Zone
-  Offshore Permits Rights

Data Sources:
CSG; ESRI
Coord System: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
Units: Degree
Ref: 1570_Locality Map_CM_20230329

Date: 2023/03/29
EIMS Ref: 1570
Compiled: CM
Reviewed: GP
Approved: LW

