

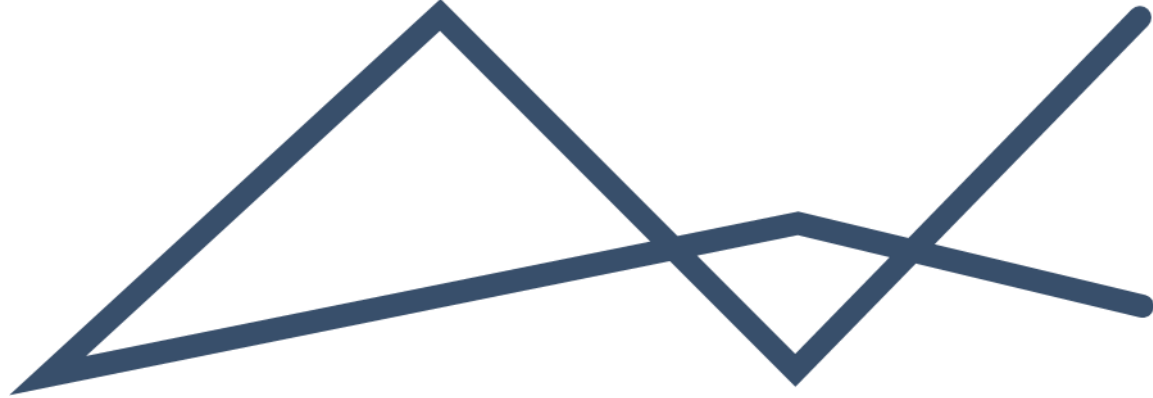


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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

SEARCHER SEISMIC SURVEY BASIC ASSESSMENT PROJECT





#### DOCUMENT DETAILS

**EIMS REFERENCE:** 1623

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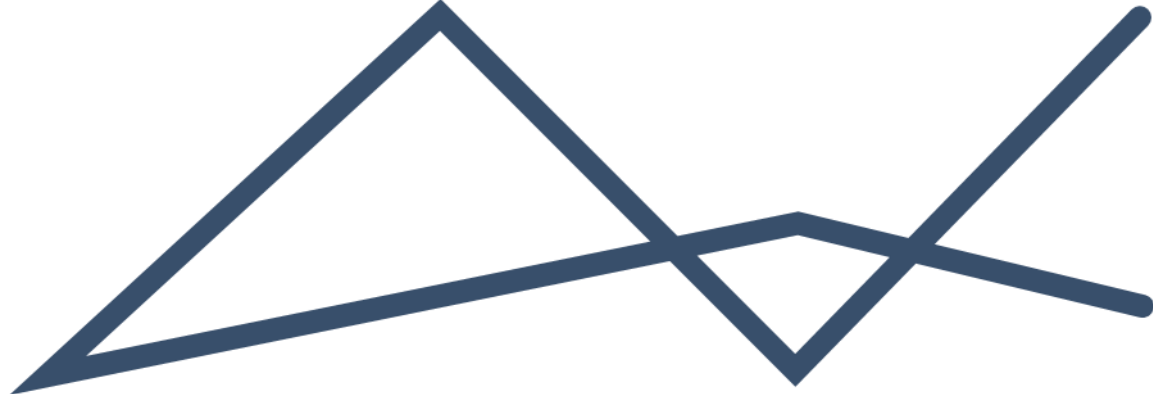
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## Abbreviation List:

BAR	Basic Assessment Report
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIMS	Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
PPP	Public Participation Process
PPR	Public Participation Report



## 1 INTRODUCTION

Searcher Geodata UK Ltd (hereafter referred to as the applicant - Searcher) has recently undertaken a 3D seismic survey offshore of the west coast of South Africa as part of the reconnaissance permit 12/1/043. The survey commenced in January 2024 and ceased in April 2024. Due to the fact that a Reconnaissance Permit can only be valid for 1 year the 043 permit will expire on the 10 November 2024.

Searcher was not able to complete the intended survey during the 2023-2024 season, due to the viable acquisition windows and vessel availability. Searcher has consequently applied for a new Reconnaissance Permit over the same area. A new Environmental Authorisation will be required in order for Searcher to continue under a new Reconnaissance Permit.

Searcher has 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 Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GRN982 of 2014, as amended)- Listed Activity 21(b) (GNR 983): *Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a reconnaissance permit in terms of section 74 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity as contained in this Listing Notice or in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required to exercise the reconnaissance permit, excluding-*

(a) any desktop study; and

(b) any aerial survey.

Searcher proposes to undertake a 3D seismic survey off the West Coast of South Africa. The proposed project area is located between approximately 256 km offshore of St Helena Bay, extending north along the western coastline to approximately 220 km offshore of Hondeklip Bay. The survey area at the closest point is approximately 218 km offshore of the coast of the Western and Northern Cape.

The survey area corner coordinate points are indicated in Table 1:

#	Longitude (E)	Latitude (S)	#	Longitude (E)	Latitude (S)	Note:
1	~14° 04' 01.4328"	~30° 14' 20.3646"	12	~13° 58' 47.2533"	~32° 10' 00.5402"	1: Indicative coordinates; the westernmost boundary of the permit area at sides 10-20 comprises the limit of the 200nm South African EEZ and is subject to change.
2	14° 16' 06.5743"	30° 27' 02.4644"	13	~13° 50' 17.2474"	~31° 53' 40.5803"	
3	14° 47' 37.1143"	31° 00' 01.3293"	14	~13° 47' 47.2497"	~31° 49' 20.6094"	
4	14° 53' 02.6665"	31° 05' 40.9497"	15	~13° 44' 07.2416"	~31° 42' 20.6158"	
5	14° 59' 56.5256"	31° 05' 40.9497"	16	~13° 41' 17.2488"	~31° 36' 40.6302"	
6	15° 09' 38.6339"	31° 05' 40.9497"	17	~13° 33' 07.2379"	~31° 15' 30.7137"	
7	15° 09' 38.8124"	31° 15' 01.0986"	18	~13° 28' 17.2401"	~31° 01' 20.7564"	
8	15° 09' 38.8811"	32° 00' 01.2222"	19	~13° 24' 37.2354"	~30° 50' 40.7684"	
9	15° 09' 38.9210"	32° 35' 25.5423"	20	~13° 21' 01.7084"	~30° 39' 24.9181"	
10	~13° 54' 5.9869"	~32° 35' 3.6389"	21	~13° 35' 39.2243"	~30° 32' 20.7014"	
11	~13° 54' 7.2447"	~32° 33' 0.4617"	22	~13° 47' 32.1985"	~30° 25' 05.6174"	2: Indicative coordinates; the boundary of the permit area at sides 20-1 lies on the international median between Namibia and South Africa and is subject to change.

## 2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

South Africa, being one of the countries with the most progressive constitutions, enshrined the public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them in its Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution that provides: *"The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement"*. This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the recent regulations passed under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making.



Public participation can be defined as...*"a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders, technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently"*<sup>1</sup>. From this definition, it can be seen that the input of the public is regarded as very important indeed.

The PPP is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

- During the Basic Assessment (BA) Process:
  - Contribute relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment;
  - Verify that their issues have been recorded;
  - Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments; and
  - Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

The PPP is a requirement of several pieces of South African Legislation and aims to ensure that all relevant I&APs are consulted, involved and their opinions are taken into account and a record included in the reports submitted to Authorities. The process ensures that all stakeholders are provided this opportunity as part of a transparent process that allows for a robust and comprehensive environmental study. The PPP for the necessary authorisation required for the proposed Searcher Reconnaissance BA Project needs to be managed sensitively and according to best practices to ensure and promote:

- Compliance with international best practice options;
- Compliance with national legislation;
- Establishment and management of relationships with key stakeholder groups; and
- Encouragement of involvement and participation in the environmental study and authorisation/approval process.

As such, the purpose of the PPP and stakeholder engagement process is to:

- Introduce the proposed project and process for the authorisation project;
- Explain the environmental authorisation;
- Determine and record issues, concerns, suggestions, and objections to the project;
- Provide opportunity for input and gathering of local knowledge;
- Establish and formalise lines of communication between the I&APs and the project team;
- Identify all significant issues for the project; and
- Identify possible mitigation measures or environmental management plans to minimise and/or prevent negative environmental impacts and maximise and/or promote positive environmental impacts associated with the project.

This Public Participation Report (PPR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs and stakeholders from the 30-day initial notification and call to register period from 19 April 2024 to date. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this PPR.

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<sup>1</sup> Greyling, T. (1999) Towards Managing Environmental Disputes: Appropriate Public Participation. Prepared for Conference on Environmental Dispute Resolution 10-11 June 1998, Fourways, Gauteng, Manyaka Greyling Meiring (Pty) Ltd, South Africa



### 3 LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The PPP must comply with all environmental legislation that requires public participation as part of an application for authorisation or approval; namely NEMA.

Adherence to the requirements of the NEMA will allow for an Integrated PPP to be conducted, and in so doing, satisfy the requirement for public participation referenced in the Act. The details of the Integrated PPP are provided below.

### 4 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APS)

An initial I&AP database has been compiled from historic projects in the area, desktop based I&AP identification and newspaper advertisements to obtain the contact details of the potentially affected I&APs. The I&APs referred to in the PPR include:

- Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders;
- Regulatory authorities;
- Specialist interest groups; and
- All I&APs who responded to the initial notifications and requested to be registered.

Efforts to pre-identify key I&APs involved various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and government departments, review of related previously conducted studies, and identification of key interest groups and authorities within the vicinity of the study area and municipality. Refer Appendix B 1 for the Key Stakeholder/I&AP Database.

#### 4.1 LIST OF AUTHORITIES NOTIFIED

The following authorities, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Abidjan Convention                                      | • Nama Khoi Local Municipality   |
| • Benguela Current Commission                             | • Namakwa District Municipality  |
| • Bergvriervier Local Municipality                        | • Namibian Crab Association  |
| • Cape Nature   | • Namibia Hake Fishing Association                                       |
| • Cederberg Local Municipality                            | • Namibia Hake & Tuna Longline Association                               |
| • City of Cape Town Metropolitan                          | • Namibian Large Pelagic Association                                     |
| • Commission on Restitution of Land Right (Northern Cape) | • Namibian Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)             |
| • Confederation of Namibian Fishing Association           | • Namibian Small Pelagic Association.                                    |
| • Eskom SOC Ltd   | • National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform And Rural Development; |
| • Heritage Western Cape                                   | • National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment;        |
| • Kamiesberg Local Municipality                           | • National Department of Mineral Resources                               |
| • Matzikama Local Municipality                            |  |





- National Department of Public Works
- National Department of Social Development
- National Department of Transport
- National Department of Water and Sanitation; and
- National Energy Regulator of South Africa
- Northern Cape Department of Nature and Conservation.
- Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Land Reform and Rural Development.
- Northern Cape Provincial Heritage Resource Agency.
- Northern Cape Department of Agriculture
- Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development.
- Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism
- Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works
- Northern Cape Department of Social Development
- Northern Cape Department of Nature and Conservation.
- Northern Cape Department of Water and Sanitation
- Northern Cape Protech and Agri Revolution (Pty) Ltd
- Northern Cape Department of Transport, Safety and liaison
- Office of the Provincial Head: Northern Cape Region
- Paternoster Fishery Group
- Petroleum Agency of South Africa
- Ritchersveld Local Municipality
- Saldanha Bay Local Municipality
- SANPARKS
- South African Heritage Resources
- Swartland Local Municipality
- Transnet
- West Coast District Municipality
- West Coast Marine Conservation Society
- Western Cape government
- Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

## 4.2 LIST OF OTHER KEY I&APS AND STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

The following key I&APs, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- !Khora | Guallaes
- !Khora | Quallaes
- Abalobi
- Africa Conservation Trust
- African Tuna Traders Cc
- Afriforum
- Afro Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- Agri South Africa
- Agri Western Cape
- AGS Nollothville
- Aikonese Tribal Council
- Alectronea
- Alexander Bay Community Works Programme



- Alexander Bay High School
- Amahlubi Traditional Council
- Amawandle Hake (PTY) Ltd
- ANC Women League
- Anomes Geral Trading Catering
- Aquarius Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- Argus Media
- Aukolokie Visserye
- Anglo American
- Aukotowa Fisheries
- Aukotowa Fishing Co-Op
- Bakoena Traditional Council
- Balobi Fishing Enterprises
- Balobi Group
- Balobi Processors (Pty) Ltd
- BEAHS Transport
- Belton Park Trading 127 (Pty) Ltd
- Bester
- Bex Group
- Bhana Coastal/Compass Trawling
- Birdlife
- C.W.P
- Calamari Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- Camcor Trading
- Cape Columbine Conservancy, Paternoster
- Cape Nature
- Caper Pilchard Pioneer CC
- Capfish
- Capricorn Marine Environment (Capmarine)
- Centre for Environmental Rights
- Century 21
- Chapmans Peak Fisheries
- CHDC
- Cochoqua Tribal Authority
- Combined Fishing Enterprise cc
- Coastal Links South Africa
- Cochoqua Tribal Authority
- Cochoqua Tribal Council
- Community Processors and Distributors (Pty) Ltd
- Conservation South Africa
- Council for Geoscience
- Combined Fishing Enterprises CC
- CPA LID
- CSIR
- CWP
- DAERLD
- Daily Maverick
- Dargle Conservancy
- De Beers Consolidated Diamond Mines
- De Beers Group Services
- De Beers Marine (Pty) Ltd
- Department Of Forestry, Fisheries And Environment
- Diamond Fields South Africa (Pty) Ltd
- Dupwest Inc.
- Dyer Eiland Visserye (Pty) Ltd
- E-Centre Doringbaai WCG
- Earth Life Africa
- Edwards Fishing CC
- Eigelaars Bote (EDMS) BPK
- Elwandle
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Environmental Specialist Journalist



- Environmental Traits (Youth Group)
- Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
- Exigent Environmental
- Extinction Rebellion
- Extinction Rebellion Cape Town
- Eyethu Fishing (PTY) LTD
- Federation for a Sustainable Environment
- Fisher Folk Women
- Fishermans Cor Limited
- Fishermen Development Organisation
- Fishing & Diving
- Fishsa
- Flinke Pikkewyntjies Kleuterskool
- Frackfree SA
- Fravardin Skyrti Holdings International
- Fresh Tuna Exporters Association
- Friends Of Verlorenvlei
- Gansbaai Marine (Pty) Ltd
- Green Connection
- Green Town Organisasie
- Groot Paternoster Pvt Nature Reserve
- GroundWork SA
- Heavenly Dine General Trading
- Henbase 2655 CC
- Hicksons Fishing Company Ltd
- Hicksons Fishing Company Ltd
- Hondeklip Bay Women's Group
- Hondeklipbaai NPRC
- Hondeklipbaai Visserye Bpk.
- Hooked on Africa
- Hout Bay Boat Owners (Pty) Ltd
- Hout Bay Public Library
- Hout Bay Seal Rescue Centre
- iAfrica
- iGas
- Ikamva Lethu Fishing Company (Pty) Ltd
- Imbiza
- Imdhgroup
- Imizamo Yethu Fishiing Community
- Imizamo Yethu Fishing Co-Operation
- Impact Oil and Gas
- Impala Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- Independent (The)
- Inert Fas Industries
- Ingwe Emnyama Fishing Enterprises (Pty) Ltd
- IRASA Khoisan
- Irvin & Johnson Limited
- Isinda Tient (Pty) Ltd
- Iziko Museums of South Africa
- Jaffa'S Bay Fishing CC
- Japan Marine Supplies & Services
- Jayfish cc
- Kamiesberg Municipality
- Katz Korana Royal House
- Katz Royal House
- Kaytrad
- Kernel Marine (Pty) Ltd
- Kernel Resources/West Coast Resources
- Khulani Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- Khoisan
- Khulani Fishing (PTY) LTD
- Kigoda



- Kleinood
- Knysna Fishing Company (Pty) Ltd
- Kobush
- Komicx Products (PTY) LTD
- Kouga Council
- La Baleine (Pty) Ltd
- Lambertsbay Tourism
- Langebaan Residents And Ratepayers Association
- Large Pelagic SMME Association
- Laureate Private Resorts
- Leeto Restaurant (Pty) Ltd
- Legal Resource Centre
- Lehlevo Corporate
- Lente Briesie Bejaarde Klub
- Local Ward Councillors
- Longtime Hondeklipbaai Fishing Primary Co – Operative
- Longtime Hondeklipbaai SSF Coop
- Lucky Star Ltd
- Lusitania Fishing
- Lusitania Trawling Services
- Mabour Ink Energy (Pty) Ltd
- Manetrade 2094 CC
- Marinata Vissersvroue Organiesasie BK
- Marine Products Cape Town
- Masakhane Fishing
- Masifundise Development Trust
- Mattanja Eiendoms Belleggings (Pty) Ltd
- Matzikama Municipality
- Matziwama Youth Development Organisation
- Maverick Traders SA (Pty) Ltd
- Moneyline 344 (Pty) Ltd
- Mount Pleasant Fishing (PTY) LTD
- Nalitha
- Namakwa District Local Economic Development
- Namakwa District Municipality: Environmental Management Unit
- Namaqua Fishing Company Ltd
- Namaqua Integrated Development Agency (NIDA)
- Namaquarights
- Namasan Oil & Gas
- National Roads Agency
- Natural Justice
- North Western Cape Mining Forum
- Observatory Civic Organisation
- Oceana Group Limited
- Oceans Not Oil
- Oranjevis St Helena Bay
- ORXY Mining
- Pakamani Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- Paternoster Vissery Bpk
- Perma Culture Trust
- Pescaluna
- PetroSA (SOC) Limited
- Phakamisa Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- Pioneer Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- Pioneer Fishing (West Coast) (Pty) Ltd
- Poli Engineering Pty Ltd
- Port Engineering And Mosiac
- Port Lobster Fisheries
- Port Nolloth Abalone
- Port Nolloth Fish Factory



- Port Nolloth Sea Farm Ranching
- Port Nolloth Sea Farms Ranching And Strandvelt Conservation Club.
- Port Splendour Pty Ltd
- Premier Fishing (SA) (Pty) Ltd
- Protect The West Coast (PTWC) NGO
- Quayside Fish Suppliers Cape (Pty) Ltd
- R.N.Y.S.C
- Rainbow Nation
- Reiger Visserye Cc
- Richtersveld Church Council And Local Entrepreneur Enterprise Development
- Richtersveld Environmental Care
- Richtersveld GEV/CPA
- Richtersveld Naledi YSC
- Risar Fishing
- Roger Seldon Music
- Rosalin Rugby Club
- S.S.F
- SA Deepsea Trawling Industry Association
- SA Fisheries Museum Velddrif
- SA Foundation For The Conservation Of Coastal Bird
- SA Hake Longline Association
- SA Tuna Association
- SA Tuna Longline Association
- Sailors Joy Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- SAMSA Port Nolloth
- San Council
- SANBI
- SANCCOB
- SANRAL
- SAPFIA
- SAPFU
- Save Langebaan Lagoon Afriforum Env Afffling West Coast
- Scotia Inn Hotel
- Sea Harvest Corporation Ltd
- Sea Point Library
- Sea Search Africa
- Sea Vuna Fishing Company (Pty) Ltd
- Shell Namibia/South Africa
- Shelley Point Estate, St Helena Bay
- Sigma Coatings (Pty) Ltd
- Sipho Shipping
- Sisonke Environmental Justice Network (SEIJN);
- Siyanqoba Rural Transformation Forum;
- Siyaphambili Emajuba Farmdwellers Association (SEFA);
- Rural Network; Landless People's Movement (LPM);
- Bothas Pass Community, Bosworth Community
- SLR Consulting (Africa)
- Small Scale Fishers Bigai Civil Society Organization
- SMIT Amandla Marine (Pty) Ltd
- Smook Property Group
- Sonwabe
- Sonwabe Co. OP
- Soundprops 1167 Investments (Pty) Ltd
- South African Aboriginal Council
- South African Association For Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR)
- South African Commercial Fisherman Corp
- South African Commercial Line Fishing Association



- South African Deepsea Trawling Industry Association (SADSTIA)
- South African Hake Longline Association
- South African Tuna Longline Association
- South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA)
- South African Underwater Fishing Federetation (SAUFF)
- South African United Fishing Front (SAUFF)
- South African Whale Disentanglement Network (SAWDN)
- South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA)
- South African National Biodiversity Institute
- South African United Fishing Front
- Sunbird Energy
- Sungu Sungu Petroleum
- Southern Sea Fishing
- Spirit Of Endeavour Fisher Folk Women
- Sprititual Leaders Forum
- SSF - Doringbaai
- SSF (Laingville)
- St Francis Sea Products (Pty) Ltd
- St Helena Bay Water Quality Trust
- St Helena Bay Hotel
- Stamatis Fishing CC
- Strandloper Ocean Boutique Hotel (Pty) Ltd
- Strandveld Conservation Club
- Striker Fishing Enterprises (Pty) Ltd
- Suid Kaap Fisheri
- Taiyo Fishing
- Team Save The Wild Coast
- Tetra4
- Terrasan Pelagic Fishery (Pty) Ltd
- The Collective South Africa
- The Cottage Collection (Pty) Ltd
- Thombo Petroleum/Africa Energy corp
- Adrian Pole Attorneys
- The Tuna Hake Fishing Corp Ltd
- TIRADE PROPS 153 (PTY) LTD
- Total E&P South Africa B.V.
- Total Energies
- Trakprops 22 Pty Ltd
- Transnet SOC Ltd
- Trans Hex Group (Pty) Ltd And Belton Park Trading 127 (Pty) Ltd
- Transnet Corporate JHB
- Transnet National Ports Authority
- Transnet Soc Ltd
- Tuna Hake Association
- Tunacor
- Turbby Transport
- Ubuntu Rural Women
- Uhlaza
- Ukloba Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- Umbono Capital
- Umzamani Fishing CC
- Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme(UCPP)
- University Of Cape Town (UCT)
- Vertivi Katolieke Kerk
- Viking Aquaculture
- Viking Fishing
- Viking Inshore Fishing (Pty) Ltd
- Visko Seeprodukte (Pty) Ltd



- VM Young Visserye Bk
- Vredendal Khoi Leadership
- Vryheidsfront Plus
- VUCIC
- VVVT
- Ward 66 – Environmental & Coastal Conservation
- WCCT E-Centre Doringbaai
- WCIC
- We Are South Africans
- Weskus Guriqua Sanvraad
- Weskus Vissers KO-OP Bpk
- WESSA
- West Cape News
- West Coast Guriqua Council
- West Coast Indigenous Council
- West Coast Marine Conservation Society
- West Point Processors (Pty) Ltd
- Western Cape Commercial Linefish Association
- Western Cape Marine Conservation Society
- WFC
- Whistle Blowers
- Wild Trust
- Wildlife And Environment Society Of South Africa (WESSA)
- Wildoceans
- Wildtrust
- World Wildlife Fund
- WPFC
- XR
- Young Spurs Rugby Club
- Yzerfontein Small Scale
- Zenzano Property Development Group
- ZWM Fishing (Pty) Ltd

## 5 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

This section provides details on the notifications that were distributed as part of the consultation process to date.

### 5.1 INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF KEY I&APS

The PPP commenced on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 with an initial notification and call to register ending on the 20 May 2024. Notification during this initial consultation was given in the manner described below.

#### 5.1.1 NEWSPAPER AND GOVERNMENT GAZZETE ADVERTISEMENTS

An initial round of newspaper advertisements was placed. The advertisements described the proposed project and BA process urging I&APs to register to receive notifications regarding opportunities to participate in the BA process. The second round of adverts included an invite to the scheduled Public Open Day. Furthermore, a notice was placed in the National Gazette on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The newspaper advertisements and Gazette notice included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;



- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

The advertisements and notices were placed as follows:

Table 2: Advertisement Details Newspaper

Newspaper Details	Languages	Publication Date
<b>Cape Times</b>	English and IsiXhosa	18 April 2024
<b>Sentinel News</b>	English and Afrikaans	19 April 2024
<b>Weslander</b>	English and Afrikaans	18 April 2024
<b>Ons Kontrei</b>	English and Afrikaans	19 April 2024
<b>Die Plattelander</b>	English and Afrikaans	19 April 2024
<b>Cape Times</b>	English and IsiXhosa	20 June 2024
<b>Sentinel News</b>	English and Afrikaans	21 June 2024
<b>Weslander</b>	English and Afrikaans	27 June 2024
<b>Die Plattelander</b>	English and Afrikaans	21 June 2024
<b>Ons Kontrei</b>	English and Afrikaans	28 June 2024

Please refer to Appendix B 2 for proof of adverts.

### 5.1.2 REGISTERED LETTERS, FAXES AND EMAILS

Notification letters in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa were distributed to pre-identified I&APS through either registered mail, faxes, and/or emails. Please refer to Appendix B 3 for initial notification and proofs.

The notification documents included the following information:

- List of anticipated activities to be authorised;
- Sufficient detail of the proposed development to enable I&APs to assess/surmise what impact the development will have on them or on the use of their land;
- The purpose of the proposed project;
- Details of the application processes associated with proposed activities;
- Details of the affected properties (including a locality map);
- Details of the South African environmental legislation that must be adhered to;
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

### 5.1.3 SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT

One hundred (100) A1 Correx site notices (in English, Afrikaans and IsiXhosa) were placed at 100 locations along the West Coast, stretching from Hout Bay to Port Nolloth on the 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2023. Additionally, four (4) A3 posters were also placed during the same period along the West Coast. The on-site notices included the following information:





- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Map of proposed project area;
- Project description;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to Appendix B 4 for proof of site notice and site notice distribution.

#### 5.1.4 RADIO ADVERTISEMENTS

An initial round of Radio advertisements was published in April 2024. The advertisements described the proposed project, and BA process, urging I&APs to register to receive notifications regarding opportunities to participate in the BA process.

The radio advertisements and notice included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

The advertisements and notices were placed as follows:

Table 3: Advertisement Details: Radio

Radio Station	Languages	Publication Date
KFM	English	18 April 2024
Radio NFM	English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa	16 April 2024
Radio West Coast	English and isiXhosa	16 April 2024
Radio Namakwaland	English and Afrikaans	16 April 2024

Please refer to Appendix B 5 for proof of adverts and notices placed.

## 6 REPORT AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

### 6.1 BASIC ASSESSMENT REVIEW NOTIFICATIONS

The Basic Assessment Report and associated appendices were made available for public review and comment from the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2024 until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2024. Notification letters in English, Afrikaans, and isiXhosa were distributed to registered I&APs through SMSs, emails, faxes, National Gazette Notice, and newspapers inviting them to participate in the review of the Basic Assessment Report and Public Open Days. As part of this correspondence, posters and pamphlets were distributed to respective communities inviting them to the Public Open Days and informing them about the availability of the BAR. Refer to Appendix B 6 for proof of the BAR



notification, correspondence, posters, and pamphlets. Subsequently, the BAR was made available at the following locations:

Table 4: Basic Assessment Report Locations

City/Town	Location
<b>Cape Town</b>	The Hout Bay Public Library (Melkhout Crescent, Hout Bay, Cape Town, Western Cape).
<b>Cape Town</b>	The Sea Point Public Library (Civic Centre, Cnr Three Anchor Bay and Main roads, Sea Point, Cape Town, Western Cape).
<b>Vredenburg</b>	The Vredenburg Public Library (2 Academy Street,(close to West Coast College), Vredenburg, West Coast, Western Cape).
<b>Lamberts Bay</b>	The Lamberts Bay Public Library (Church Street, Lamberts Bay, Western Cape).
<b>Hondeklip Bay</b>	Kamiesburg Local Municipality in Hondeklip Bay (Wag Way street).
<b>Port Nolloth</b>	A. J Bekeur Library (Robson St, Port Nolloth, Richtersveld, Northern Cape).

Additionally, a reminder notification was sent out through emails and SMS to remind the registered I&APs of the BAR availability, review period, as well as Public Open Days held in the various venues. Please refer to Appendix B 7 for reminder notification proof.

## 6.2 BASIC ASSESSMENT REVIEW PUBLIC OPEN DAYS

A series of Public Open Days with I&APs were held at various locations along the West Coast allowing all I&APs to review the BAR and share their comments and concerns. A Virtual Public Meeting was also held to accommodate I&APs who could not attend the Public Open Days. The minutes of the Virtual Public Meeting are presented in Appendix B 9. The contributions from the Public Open Day, that is the I&AP comments and Specialist response were recorded in the BA Review Engagement Record in Appendix B 8.

Table 5: List of Public Open Days' locations, venues, dates, and times during the Basic Assessment review period.

City/Town	Venue	Date	Time
Port Nolloth	Luvuyo Drop-In Centre	Monday 24 June 2024	09:00-17:00
Springbok	Hananja Lodge & Restaurant	Tuesday 25 June 2024	09:00 -17:00
Springbok	Hananja Lodge & Restaurant	Wednesday 26 June 2024	09:00 -17:00
Doring Bay	Maria Owies Hall	Thursday 27 June 2024	09:00 -17:00
Elands Bay	Elands Bay Community Hall	Friday 28 June 2024	09:00 -17:00
St Helena Bay	Sandy Point Community Hall	Monday 01 July 2024	09:00 -17:00
Langebaan	Seebries Saal/Sea Breeze Hall	Tuesday 02 July 2024	09:00 - 17:00



City/Town	Venue	Date	Time
Yzerfontein	Yzerfontein Community Hall	Wednesday 03 July 2024	09:00 -17:00
Hout Bay (Hangberg)	Hangberg Sports and Recreation Centre	Thursday 04 July 2024	09:00 -13:00
Mitchell's Plain	Alliance France	Friday 05 July 2024	09:00 -17:00
Virtual	MS Teams Online	Wednesday 10 July 2024	14:00 -15:00

## 7 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARIES

As an additional initiative, Non-Technical Summaries of the BA Report were prepared and distributed to the public. This was initiated keeping in mind that the content of the BAR would be considered too technical or of too great a volume for much of the public to engage with. As such, Non-Technical Summaries addressed this challenge, providing the public with an opportunity to engage with a summary of the report which went beyond the executive summary in detail and descriptions. These Non-Technical Summaries were prepared in English, Afrikaans, and isiXhosa. The documents were distributed together with BAR availability notifications, made available on the EIMS website, and were distributed to all I&APs who attended the Public Open Days. See Appendix B 10 for a copy of the Non-Technical Summary.

## 8 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The table below provides a summary of the opportunities provided to I&APs for participation in the public participation process to date.

Table 6: Opportunities Provided for Public Participation

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASE			
ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION/PLACE	DATE
Initial Public Notification (announcement of project and call to register)	Newspaper advertisements	Cape Times (English and IsiXhosa)	18 April 2024
		Sentinel News (English and Afrikaans)	19 April 2024
		Weslander (English and Afrikaans)	18 April 2024
		Ons Kontrei (English and Afrikaans)	19 April 2024
		Die Plattelander (English and Afrikaans)	19 April 2024
	Radio advertisements	KFM (English)	18 April 2024
		Radio NFM (English, Afrikaans, IsiXhosa)	16 April 2024
		Radio West Coast (English and IsiXhosa)	16 April 2024
		Radio Namakwaland (English and Afrikaans)	16 April 2024
	Placement of site notices.	100 A1 site notices and 4 posters (English, Afrikaans, and IsiXhosa) were placed along the coast from Hout Bay to Port Nolloth (100 placement locations).	26 - 22 April 2024



	Notification of key I&APs.	Key I&APs were notified of the project via Email, Post and/or Faxes	<b>19 April 2024</b>
<b>BAR Availability</b>	Notification of key I&APs.	Key I&APs were notified of the BAR availability and Public Open Days via Email, Post, and Faxes	<b>13 June 2024</b>
	Placement of BAR for Public Review	BAR was placed at various libraries and locations along the west coast.	<b>21 June 2024 – 22 July 2024</b>
	Posters and Pamphlets	5,605 A4 pamphlets (English, Afrikaans, and IsiXhosa) and 685 A3 posters will be placed along the West Coast from Hout Bay to Port Nolloth.	<b>11 – 21 June 2024</b>
	Newspaper advertisements	A second round of newspaper adverts was placed in the following newspapers: Cape Times (English and IsiXhosa) Sentinel News (English and Afrikaans) Weslander (English and Afrikaans) Ons Kontrei (English and Afrikaans) Die Plattelander (English and Afrikaans)	<b>20 June 2024</b> <b>21 June 2024</b> <b>27 June 2024</b> <b>28 June 2024</b> <b>21 June 2024</b>
	Public Open Days and Virtual Public Meetings	Public Open Day were held in key communities along the West Coast.  Virtual Public Meeting was also held to accommodate I&APs who could not attend the Public Open Days.	<b>24 June 2024 – 04 July 2024</b>  <b>10 July 2024</b>

## 9 RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED

The comments presented are those that have been received and addressed from 19 April 2024 – 26 July 2024 have been updated before the final submission of the BAR.

A high-level summary of the key comments raised to date are presented below.

- I&AP registrations and deregistration;
- Notification/information document requests;
- Request for clarity on the nature of the project;
- Request for files related to the location and situation of the project site;
- Concern about the impact on marine ecology and climate change;
- Competent authority registration and notification of further comments upon receipt of further information;
- Request to be notified when draft BAR is released for comments;
- Concerns for fishing grounds as a result of the 3D seismic survey;
- BAR not addressing risk of seismic survey on cetaceans in relation to population dynamics of marine mammals present in the area;



- Concern about physical observation by on-ship observers on days of fog and low visibility and likely endangering marine species;
- New oil and gas deposits running contrary to South Africa's commitment to a low-carbon economy;
- Expressions of interest in the project and words of appreciation from the I&APs;
- Mitigation measures currently in place to deal with spillage risks;
- Current employment opportunities enquiry;
- Clarification on the appeal process.
- Question on how deep the vessel can scan
- Concerns around Increase in underwater noise levels;
- Risk of seismic survey harming sea turtles after the hatchling processes is done;
- Underestimation of Socio-economic risk on the fishing industry and local economic dependency, insufficient consideration of vulnerable communities;
- Concern about environmental justice, and inadequate Public Participation and Engagement;
- Limited mitigation measures for socio-economic impacts (Grievance mechanism, and enhancing positive impacts);
- Concern about the impact on the local economy and tourism – the BAR failing to consider the local perception of environmental degradation and local economic diversification.
- Concern about the potential for increased social conflict – that if benefits are not equally distributed there might be resource competition and community divisions;
- Health and safety concerns about exposure to pollutants during the exploration phase and emergency preparedness for potential accidents;
- Gendered impacts – men being affected by potential disruption to fishing industry and women bearing increased household burdens and caregiving;
- Concern around marine fauna behavioural changes;
- Concern about marine fauna safety from the seismic survey;
- Concern about the impact on the fishing sector;
- Concern about the natural gas cycle being worse than the coal cycle when it comes to carbon equivalent emissions.
- Concern about the assessment of impacts on marine environment not based on local data;
- Concern over the West Coast islands and peninsulas as breeding grounds for dolphins, seals, and seabird species.
- Concern about the Petroleum Agency of South Africa's (PASA) acceptance of multi-client speculative surveys
- Concern around cultural heritage;
- Questions about the drilling, who will do the drilling;
- Concerns over the possibility of an earthquake occurring as result of the seismic surveys; including Africa Oil SA Corp exploration right
- Failure to consider climate change as part of the need and desirability of assessment:



- Refusal to consider climate change impacts
- Failure to consider the negative impacts of exploration drilling or drilling
- Reliance on benefits of production to justify need and desirability of reconnaissance activities
- Assumption of gas as a transition fuel
- The duration of oil production should oil reservoirs be discovered during the survey;
- Concern about Searcher's compliance with authorisations;
- Concern about the BAR's reliance on benefits of production to justify need and desirability of seismic survey activities;
- Concern that the BAR fails to contain proper and objective assessment of negative impacts on people's Human Rights;
- Concern that the spiritual and cultural rights, identities, and practices of coastal communities were not adequately assessed;
- Failure of the BAR to notify Namibian government or Convention bodies of transboundary impacts and failure to assess transboundary impacts;
- Concern that the BAR fails to consider no alternatives;
- Concern over the cumulative impacts of the project, cumulative impacts on the marine environment
- Request from the I&APs to be informed on the development of the project.
- Request for clarity on the difference between exploration and production;
- Concern on whether a Social and Labour Plan will be implemented for the project;
- Question on contributions of applicant to skills development;
- Question on whom and what is most affected by the project;
- Request to independent observers on the exploration vessel;
- Concern about PASA's acceptance of multiple seismic surveys;
- Concern over the safety of whale migration during seismic survey;
- Failure to consider climate change as part of need and desirability assessment;
- The lack of extensive research and scientific consensus on the ecological impacts of seismic surveys necessitates the application of the Precautionary Principle, assuming potential harm to marine life in the absence of credible science;
- Future employment opportunities related to activities of the project;
- Effect of activities on livelihood of communities;
- Questions around the potential impacts of oil and gas production should a discovery be made;
- Concerns around oil spillage during the survey.
- Enquiry on future contributions to be made by applicant;
- Effects of project activities of fisheries and fishermen;
- Effect of project activities on economic wellbeing of coastal communities;
- The accuracy of the data and findings of BA report questioned;
- The reliability and relevance of any older data used as part of the BA report;



- Comments raised in relation to cumulative impacts, past projects and activities along the West Coast including the Africa Oil SA Corp project and associated Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Request for before and after data to compare with historical datasets;
- The impact of the project on snoek and snoek fishing as a seasonal and sensitive activity

All comments and/or queries received to date are included in this report and presented in Appendix B 11 and Appendix B 12 for submission to the competent authority.

## **10 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This report was updated for submission to the competent authority, following the 30-day public review period of the Basic Assessment Report and associated appendices.



## 11 APPENDICES

### Appendix B 1: IAP Database

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or [popia@eims.co.za](mailto:popia@eims.co.za)

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## **Appendix B 2: Newspaper Advertisements**



### **Appendix B 3: Initial Notification**

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## **Appendix B 4: Site Notice Placement Proof**



## **Appendix B 5: Radio Adverts**



## **Appendix B 6: Posters, Pamphlets and BAR Notification**

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## **Appendix B 7: BAR Notification Reminder**

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## **Appendix B 8: BAR Review Engagement Record**

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## **Appendix B 9: Virtual Public Meeting Minutes**

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## **Appendix B 10: Non-Technical Summary**



## Appendix B 11: Table of Correspondence



## **Appendix B 12: Correspondence Document**

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