

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

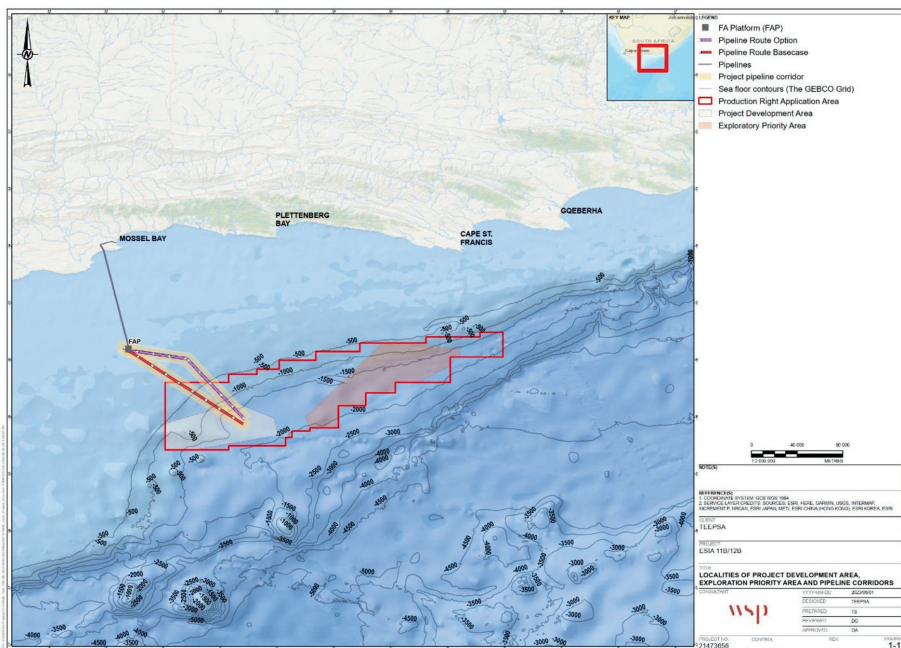
TotalEnergies on the Southern Cape Coast of South Africa

Block 11B/12B Production and Exploration

OCTOBER 2023

TOTALENERGIES HAS SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO PRODUCE OIL AND GAS OFF THE COASTLINE OF SOUTH AFRICA. THIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN **BLOCK 11B/12B**, SITUATED 75 KM OFFSHORE OF CAPE ST FRANCIS, AND 120 KM OFFSHORE OF MOSSEL BAY. THEY HAVE SUBMITTED A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTARY.

AREA OF INTEREST



OVERVIEW

TotalEnergies EP South Africa B.V. (TEEPSA) is the South African subsidiary of TotalEnergies. TEEPSA, together with its partners, **QatarEnergy International E&P LLC, Canadian Natural Resources International South Africa Limited**, and a South African consortium, **MainStreet 1549**, submitted applications to the Petroleum Agency South Africa (PASA) for a Production Right and for Environmental Authorisation for oil and gas activities in an offshore block known as Block 11B/12B.

This application includes both production and exploration activities. This means that TEEPSA has applied to extract undersea gas resources for commercial gain for a period of 25 years.

Production activities

If the Production Right is granted and Environmental Authorisation is received, TEEPSA proposes to drill up to five or six production wells in the Project Development Area. The gas and condensates from the wells will be piped to an existing platform on the surface of the ocean, called the F-A Platform, which is approximately 40 km northwest of Block 11B/12B.

Exploration activities

The Project seeks to extract gas as its primary motive, but also to find other gas reserves. For this, they have identified an area called the Exploratory Priority Area where they will drill four wells. They will also undertake further seismic testing throughout the entire block.

- **Located offshore of the Southern Cape Coast of South Africa**
- **Application area is approx 12 000 km² 75 km offshore of Cape St Francis, and 120 km offshore of Mossel Bay.**
- **Project activities will be undertaken as indicated in Figure 1-1 as the Project Development Area and the Exploratory Priority Area.**

Mossel Bay Cape St Francis



THE TIMELINE OF EVENTS

PRODUCTION RIGHT

This is obtained from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. When an application for a Production Right is submitted, an application for Environmental Authorisation is also made.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This assessment aims to predict the environmental and social impacts of the project. This is placed in a report and based on this, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy decides whether to grant environmental authorisation for the activities.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) is the Environmental Assessment Practitioner in this instance, and they are compiling the ESIA.

The draft ESIA report is now available on <https://wsp-engage.com/Total-11B12B/>

PUBLIC COMMENTS

All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are provided with an opportunity to comment on the draft ESIA.

We are currently here in the process

FINAL ESIA REPORT PUBLISHED

This incorporates all comments received on the draft ESIA Report. This is submitted to the PASA for consideration and review.

PASA RECOMMENDATION

After its review, PASA will provide a recommendation to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy on whether to grant or refuse Environmental Authorisation.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

This is obtained from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy and, if given, will allow TEEPSEA to go ahead with their plans to extract gas.

- After the Department issues its decision, all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) registered on the project database will be notified of the outcome of the application and the reasons for the decision within 14 days of the date of the decision.
- If anyone disagrees with the decision made by the Department, an appeal against the decision may be submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment within 20 days from the date the decision was communicated to I&APs.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS AND RELATED COMPONENTS

DRILLING

Drilling is undertaken in two stages: the “riserless” and “risered” drilling stages. At the start, a hole will be drilled into the floor of the ocean. At approximately 70m deep, a pipe will be placed into the hole and cemented into place, after which a wellhead will be placed on top of the pipe. Further sections will then be drilled to a depth of approximately 1070m. The 2nd stage commences with the lowering of a Blow-Out Preventer (BOP) on the wellhead, which seals the well and prevents any uncontrolled release of fluids (e.g., oil, gas or condensate) from the well.

The ESIA identifies the components of the drilling programme as follows:

- Drilling of up to six development and appraisal wells;
- Installation of sub-sea production system;
- Installation of a subsea production pipeline from the project development area to the F-A Platform;
- Installation of the riser to the F-A Platform – the vertical section that connects the production pipeline to the platform; and
- F-A Platform modifications (page 132 of ESIA).

DRILLING SURVEYS

Offshore surveys & data collection will be conducted in Block 11B/12B. Sonar surveys will be used to investigate the structure of the ocean floor in the vicinity of future wells, if needed. Surveys will be conducted from a vessel and might use echo-sounding & sub-bottom profiling. Such surveys entail transmitting frequency pulses down to the ocean floor to produce a picture of the ground below the ocean floor and to identify any obstructions or hazards.



DRILLING UNIT

A drill unit is a custom-built vessel designed to operate in the ocean. Based on the regional weather and ocean conditions and the experience gained in drilling the exploration wells in Block 11B/12B, TEEPSA is likely to use a semi-submersible drill unit. A semi-submersible drilling unit is a floating structure of pontoons that are partially flooded with seawater to submerge the pontoons below the surface of the sea where wave motion is minimised.

SUPPORT VESSELS

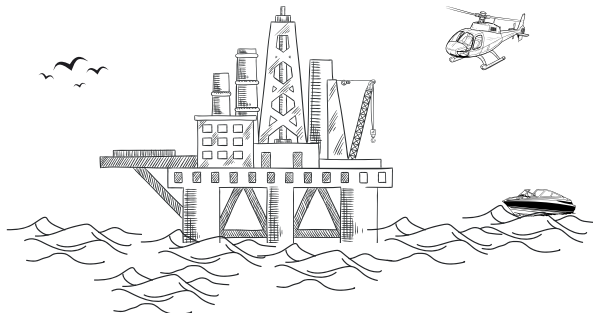
Supporting activities will include the use of supply and support vessels as well as tugboats to support construction and installation activities, operations, and decommissioning. Vessels will also be used to support drilling operations. Such vessels will very likely operate from the Mossel Bay Port.

HELICOPTERS

Transportation of personnel to and from the drilling unit by helicopter is the preferred method of transfer. It is estimated that there could be up to two trips per day between the drilling vessel and the airport at George during crew changes. The helicopters can also be used for medical evacuations from the drilling unit to shore (at day- or night-time), in an emergency.

ONSHORE LOGISTICS BASE

During all Project phases, support operations will include transportation of equipment, supplies and personnel by vessel. The transport of bulk equipment will be done from the ports of Gqeberha and/or Cape Town. It is anticipated that the supply base for the Project will be located within the Mossel Bay Port.



POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT THAT ARE CONCERNING

These impacts have been highlighted in various specialised assessment reports that form part of the draft Environment & Social Impact Assessment.

IMPACTS TO FISH AND MARINE SPECIES



In the exploration and production phase, installing infrastructure will likely increase impacts on habitats and the wildlife associated with them. When infrastructure, like anchors and pipelines, are placed on the seafloor, they disrupt the seabed and sediment increases in the area for a while.

There are concerns that using an anchor in deep-sea environments can negatively affect habitats, like those created by corals and sponges, which are delicate. Installing pipelines changes the local seabed environment, and the corrosion and potential leakage of pipelines poses can expose deep-sea organisms to pollution.

The noise generated by drilling, machinery operation, and vessel traffic can disrupt the feeding and migration patterns of marine species, particularly those that rely on sound for communication and navigation. The reproductive habits of marine mammals, fish, oysters, crabs, and even tiny krill, are disrupted, leading to population decline. Migratory birds and other coastal species could also be harmed by offshore drilling.

IMPACTS ON LIVELIHOODS



Communities and other stakeholders rely on the ocean and coastline for their livelihoods. We can find fishers and tourism operators for example, in St Francis Bay, East London and in Gqeberha.

Some communities conduct a range of cultural practices within the sea and on the coastline. Any impact that negatively alters the marine ecosystem and marine life could negatively impact the livelihood of a diversity of stakeholders. It must also be noted that people combine livelihoods to survive, and if there is a major negative impact on fishing, then the overall livelihoods of communities may suffer.

NOISE EMISSIONS

The primary sources of noise in the offshore environment will be from vessel engines, sonar surveys and the operational plant and equipment, including engines, generators, pumps and cranes. Onshore, the primary noise source will be from helicopters used for personnel transport. Drilling activities are expected to have the greatest noise impact.

INCREASE IN CLIMATE CHANGE

Investing in more fossil fuels deepens the climate crisis. Using oil and gas will increase the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which contributes to climate change. Some of the effects of climate change on coastal areas include increased carbon dioxide levels in the water and ocean acidification, variations in air and water temperatures, alterations in rain patterns, the rate of sea level rise, changes in storm intensity, and shifts in wave patterns.

According to a study*, stopping new offshore oil and gas drilling while gradually reducing current production could contribute to achieving nearly 13% of the necessary emissions reductions to avert the most severe consequences of the climate crisis. Climate change will affect everyone, especially low-income communities. It can lead to food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, displacement of people, and ill health.

IMPACTS ON CULTURE AND HERITAGE

People have a cultural relationship with the sea and coastline. This means that people value nature. The sea is described as “living waters” and is used to communicate with ancestors, as well as help our physical and mental health. Any impact on these living waters may impact communication with the ancestors. It is also considered to be a violation of the ocean. The ocean provides unique ‘senses of place’. All the sites that may be affected by the gas drilling already attract both domestic & international tourists because of this sense of place.

Small-scale fishing communities have revealed that fishing advances a particular way of life. Meaning, it is key to cultural life and practice. The activities of fishing involve working in a socially meaningful way, being part of a social group of fishers, having social boundaries and cultural processes of adaptation within this group. Negative impacts caused by the Project could disrupt this way of life.

**Oceana, 2022*



TEEPSA IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING POSITIVE IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

These are some of the positive impacts set out in the draft ESIA, which are still being interrogated by the public.

POWER GENERATION

Considering the current energy crisis in South Africa, there is an urgent need to add new generation capacity to the grid, but also to phase out the country's aging coal power stations to reduce the CO₂ emissions. Using the gas for power generation might be a good fit for South Africa's needs. Gas can complement renewable energy sources. *[Note that many civil society organisations do not believe that gas should be relied upon for power generation, as it is a fossil fuel like coal, whereas South Africa has many cleaner renewable energy sources.]*

REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS AND IMPROVING AIR QUALITY



When used for power generation, gas emits about half as much carbon dioxide compared to coal, & it doesn't emit any sulphur or nitrogen oxides. Therefore, the replacement of coal power generation by gas power generation allows the country to reduce carbon emissions, and improve air quality. *[Note that there are other significant greenhouse gas emissions, like methane, associated with the lifecycle of power generation from gas, which contributes to climate change.]*

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The 25-year production phase of Block 11B/12B will create opportunities for skills development, particularly relating to the operation & maintenance of the F-A Platform. TEEPSA will work with PetroSA to implement training & skills development programmes to ensure that technical and managerial personnel are trained. The Social & Labour Plan will identify opportunities to support communities and provide for learnerships & skills development.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The project construction phase, excluding the F-A Platform upgrade, is expected to support 634 direct jobs. The project is expected to support approximately 7 300 employment opportunities (noting that these may be low-skilled and seasonal jobs) throughout the project lifetime. For one of the scenarios presented by TEEPSA, which has to do with the construction and refurbishment of the F-A platform, 5 547 direct jobs could be supported. The main sectors most likely to benefit from employment during construction include manufacturing, trade and accommodation, and general government and community services.



GET INVOLVED

WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

The proposed project may impact communities residing close to the project area and communities relying on the ocean in or close to the project area. It is therefore important to share your views of the proposed project. However, even if you do not live close to the area of interest, you can get involved.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Gather as much information about the project as possible. All project documents can be accessed online here <https://wsp-engage.com/Total-11B12B/> or physically at the following locations:

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 • Thembaletu 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

Attend public meetings online or in person at the following locations to learn more about the project and to make verbal comments.



Dates, venues and addresses of the Open Houses		Times	Link to Venue
27 September	Mossel Bay Town Hall, Mossel Bay	10h00 – 16h00 17h30 – 19h30	
28 September	Pacaltsdorp Community Hall, George	10h00 – 16h00 17h30 – 19h30	
29 September	Gourits Community Hall, Gourits	11h00 – 16h00 17h30 – 19h30	
02 October	City Town Hall, 14 Flamingo Street, Sedgefield	10h00 – 16h00 17h30 – 19h30	
03 October	Khayaletu Community Hall; Sigcu Street, Khayaletu South, Knysna	10h00 – 16h00 17h30 – 19h30	Link
04 October	Coldstream Community Hall; Stormrivier (Opposite Coldstream Resource Centre and Diagonally across Coldstream Primary School), Tsitsikamma	10h00 – 16h00 17h30 – 19h30	Link
05 October	KwaNokuthula Community Hall, No 1 Xipula Street, KwaNokuthula (Hall is inside the municipality)	10h00 – 16h00	Link
05 October	Formosa Primary School, 56 Milkwood Road, Plettenberg Bay	17h30 – 19h30	Link
06 October	Sea Vista Hall, Geelbek Street, Sea Vista	10h00 – 16h00 17h30 – 19h30	Link
09 October	Kwanomzamo Community Hall, Mjekula Street, KwaNomzamo Humansdorp	10h00 – 16h00 17h30 – 19h30	Link
10 October	Pellsrus Hall, 1 Harder Street, Jeffreys Bay	10h00 – 16h00 17h30 – 19h30	Link
11 October	Tramways Hall, 16 Lower Valley Road, Tramways, Gqeberha	11h00 – 16h00 17h30 – 19h30	Link
12 October	Nhlambe Memorial Hall, No 1 Cause Way Port, Alfred	12h00 – 16h00 17h30 – 19h30	Link
13 October	Cambridge Hall, Brabant Street, East London	11h00 – 16h00 17h30 – 19h30	Link
Date of the online public meeting		Time	
16 October	Online public meeting (ESIA & SLP)	17h00 – 19h30	
Dates of the online themed focus group meetings		Times	
17 October	Focus Group Meeting: Marine Ecology and Acoustics and Fisheries	10h00 – 12h00	
17 October	Focus Group Meeting: Oil Spill and Drill Cuttings Modelling	14h00 – 16h00	
18 October	Focus Group Meeting: Socio-Economic and Cultural Heritage	10h00 – 12h00	
18 October	Focus Group Meeting: Climate Change	14h00 – 16h00	
Please register before/on Wednesday, 11 October 2023 for the online meetings to receive a link to the online meetings.			

COMMENT

To comment on the report, members of the public must register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and can do so via email: gld.teepsaesia@wsp.com or via this website <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/8351444dc28d4e2f87f6ee65d775baa4>

Any comments which members of the public make must be submitted by **25 October 2023**. Comments can be submitted via email: gld.teepsaesia@wsp.com or whatsapp: 076 694 3842 or telephone: 011 254 4800 or post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685.

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

Exploration and production projects have direct and indirect effects on communities, and it is important to think about what these effects could be. The questions below will help you identify and think about the influence of the project on your community.

- How will this project impact my livelihood?
- Will I be able to access the beach and ocean as I have before?
- Will the project activity affect how fish and bird species move in the area and will this impact our livelihoods?
- Do I normally fish in the project area or travel through the project area to access my usual fishing grounds?
- What effect would an oil/gas spill have on our community?
- Will the project provide our community with employment, what kinds of skills are required to be employed and will it be long-term employment?
- Once the project is complete, what benefits will the community enjoy?
- If you work in the aquaculture sector, will the project impact the businesses and jobs in this sector?
- If you are from the tourism sector, will the project have a positive or negative impact on tourism?
- How will this project impact my cultural and spiritual practices?



STRUCTURING YOUR COMMENTS

There are no templates or requirements of how you need to structure your comment. Below is an example of how you can structure your comment.

1. List your main concerns with the project and speak about whether these concerns were addressed or dealt with at the public consultations.
2. State how you believe this project will affect your livelihood and the livelihood of your community.
3. State how you believe the project will impact your access to and use of the ocean, and how it will impact the movement of fish and bird species.
3. State whether you think the project will benefit you or your community, and what those benefits will be.
4. State whether the positive and negative impacts of the project were discussed with you prior to or at the public consultations.
- 5.State how you believe the project will impact your cultural and spiritual heritage, if it goes ahead.
7. State whether the public consultations were done in a language you understand and whether it helped you understand what the project was about.
8. Any other comments.

Name: _____

Community/Area: _____


Address: _____

Tel No: _____

Email: _____

Signature

Date

Developed by:  NATURAL JUSTICE

October 2023