

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Shell Offshore Upstream South Africa B.V. Proposed Exploration Drilling in Block Northern Cape Ultra-Deep (NCUD), South Africa

Draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report

December 2024

AREA OF INTEREST

THE PROPOSED PROJECT AREA EXTENDS FROM ABOUT 300KM OFFSHORE OF PORT NOLLOTH SOUTH ALONG THE WESTERN COASTLINE TOWARDS STRANDFONTEIN, ABOUT 5,254KM² IN SIZE. THE AREA IS IN WATERS OF APPROXIMATELY 2,500 M TO 3,200 M DEEP.

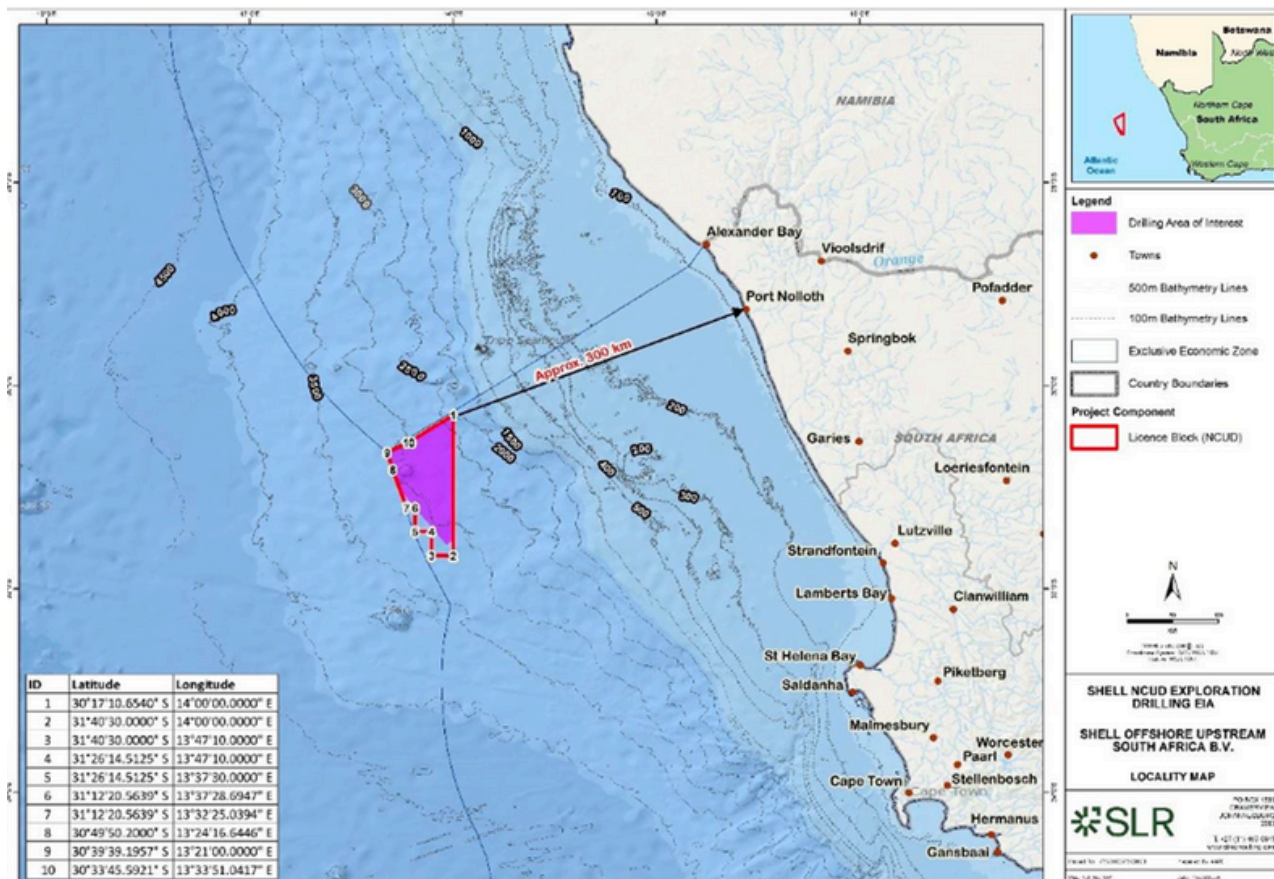


Figure 1: Locality map of Licence Block NCUD off the South African West Coast.



Shell Offshore Upstream South Africa B.V. and its Joint Venture partners hold an Exploration Right (ER) for the Licence Block Northern Cape Ultra Deep (NCUD) off the west coast of South Africa. To exercise their ER, Shell and its partners have conducted an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for their proposed activities. The draft ESIA report is currently available for public comment. Comments must be submitted no later than **13 December 2024**. SLR Consulting is the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) that compiled the ESIA report.

If the project is approved, drilling activities would begin in 2026 or 2027. This ESIA assumes that two exploration wells will be drilled in the first year and three in the second year.



THE TIMELINE OF EVENTS

EXPLORATION RIGHT (ER):

This is obtained from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), once an Environmental Authorisation has been granted.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT (ESIA):

This assessment aims to predict the environmental and social impacts of the project and is placed in a draft report.

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

We are here

FINAL ESIA REPORT PUBLISHED:

This incorporates all comments received on the draft ESIA report. This is submitted to the Petroleum Agency of South Africa (PASA) for consideration and review.

PASA RECOMMENDATION:

After its review, PASA will provide a recommendation to the DMRE on whether to grant or refuse Environmental Authorisation.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION:

Based on the final ESIA report and PASA's recommendation, an official from the DMRE will decide whether to grant or refuse Environmental Authorisation.

WHAT NEXT?

After the DMRE issues its decision, all registered I&APs 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 DMRE, an appeal against the decision may be submitted to the Department of Forestry Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) within 20 days from the date the DMRE's decision is communicated to I&APs.



POTENTIAL CONCERNING IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE DRAFT ESIA*

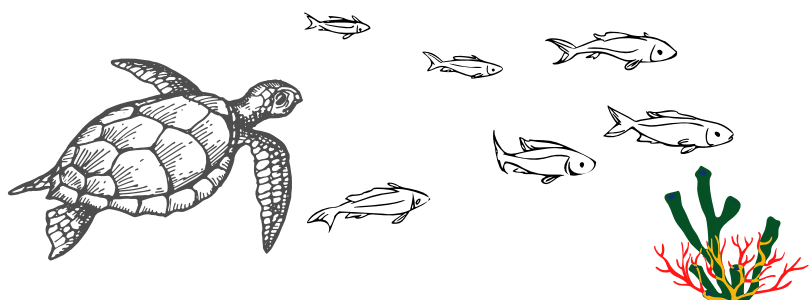
**These impacts have been highlighted in specialist reports that are part of the Draft ESIA Report. This is a summary and therefore not all the impacts are described.*

IMPACTS ON FISH AND MARINE LIFE

The project aspects that will result in underwater noise may cause a behavioural response from fish, and ultimately changes in catch. Depending on the received sound level, noise could impact fish by causing direct physical injury to hearing or other organs, including permanent or temporary shifts in hearing, interference with other biologically important sounds (e.g. communication, echolocation, signals and sounds produced by predators or prey), and causing disturbances to the receptor resulting in behavioural changes including displacement from fishing grounds, important feeding or breeding areas.

Although drilling activities would be undertaken in the offshore marine environment, 300km from the shore, there could still be a direct effect on migratory pelagic species (pelagic seabirds, marine mammals and fish) transiting through the drilling area. Some of the species potentially occurring in the drilling area, are considered regionally or globally 'Critically Endangered' (e.g. Leatherback turtles and blue whales), 'Endangered' (e.g. Black-Browed and Atlantic Yellow-Nosed Albatross and fin whales), 'Vulnerable' (e.g. Loggerhead turtles, Great White shark, Shortfin Mako and sperm whale) or 'Near Threatened' (e.g. Blue shark, Longfin Tuna/Albacore and Yellowfin tuna).

In the event of an oil spill there would be an immediate and direct effect on water quality and detrimental effects on marine fauna. These could range from death (due to toxicity or suffocation) to physiological damage and long-term effects including disruption of behavioural mechanisms, reduced tolerance to stress, and incorporation of toxins into the food chain. If the spill reaches the coast, it can result in the smothering of sensitive coastal habitats.



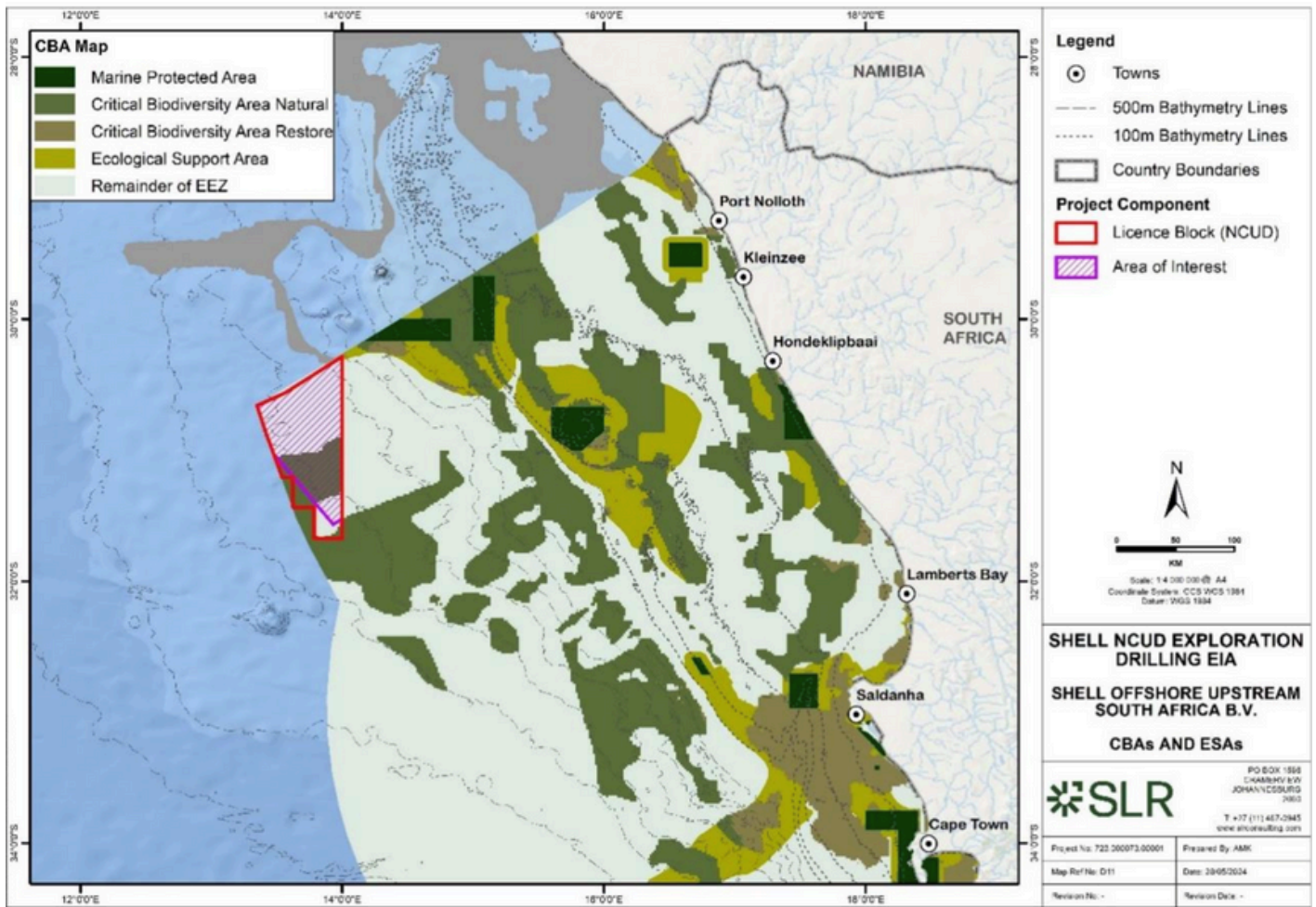


Figure 2: Licence Block NCUD (red polygon) in relation to Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs).

IMPACTS ON LIVELIHOODS

Small-Scale Fishing (SSF) communities are directly reliant on the sea for subsistence and livelihood. Research shows that livelihoods are also influenced by cultural valuations of nature and of place. Secondary livelihood activities, such as seafood restaurants, seaside hotel establishments and entrepreneurs who rely on tourism generated by unique coastal areas are also reliant on the sea. Pollutants arising from operations may affect marine species health and the movement of vessels to the platform may impact SSF mobility along coastal waters.



Drilling impacts may affect the mobility of both key West Coast species (snoek and hake) and their prey in the affected areas. In this regard, it is not only the livelihoods per se that is being affected but potentially also the cultural attachments that people have with these forms of livelihood.

In the event of an oil spill, impacts on fisheries livelihoods include periodic closure of fishing grounds for clean-up and rejuvenation, long-term displacement from fishing areas to minimize pollution effects, lost jobs and unemployment, and lost seafood markets and revenues. Additionally, the displacement of fishing vessels from the oil spill area can disrupt fishing operations, as vessels may need to relocate to alternative fishing grounds, resulting in increased fuel costs and reduced catch.

IMPACTS ON CULTURE AND HERITAGE

The sea is described as 'living' waters and is believed to play a critical role in spiritual and health management in indigenous groups specifically (First Peoples and Nguni). The sea is believed to be a living organism that forms part of and sustains a balanced global ecosystem. Any impact on these 'living' waters may therefore impact communication with the ancestors, who are consulted for a diversity of reasons. Impact on the 'living' waters is also considered to be a violation of the ocean (since the ocean is alive). Thus, any potentially negative impact requires specific mitigation (cultural measures to lessen future negative consequences both in the natural and cultural world). In addition, activities can disturb the seabed where ancestral spirits are believed to reside, and polluted water may impact seawater use for health or ritual practices. However, the report identifies these impacts to be limited.



GET INVOLVED

Why should I get involved?

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

How to get involved

Gather as much information about the project. All project documents can be accessed online [HERE](#) or physically at the following locations:

Location	Name of Facility	Physical Address
Full Report and Non-Technical Summary are available at:		
Port Nolloth	Port Nolloth Public Library	Harbour Street, Port Nolloth
Lamberts Bay	Lamberts Bay Public Library	44 Church Street, Lamberts Bay
Saldanha Bay	Saldanha Public Library	Municipal Building, Berg Street, Saldanha
Hout Bay	Hout Bay Public Library	Melkhout Crescent, Hout Bay, Cape Town
Non-Technical Summary is available at:		
Alexander Bay	Alexander Bay Public Library	Oranjeweg, Alexander Bay
Hondeklip Bay	Kamiesberg Municipality	83 Dolphin Street, Hondeklipbaai
Vredendal	Vredendal Public Library	37 Church Street, Vredendal
Elands Bay	Elands Bay Public Library	Main Road, Elands Bay
St Helena Bay	St Helena Public Library	26 Columbine Crescent, Britannica Heights, Saint Helena Bay
Velddrif	Velddrif Public Library	Voortrekker Rd, Velddrif
Doring Bay	Doringbaai Public Library	Harbour Rd, Doringbaai
Langebaan	Langebaan Public Library	Corner Oostewal & Bree Street, Langebaan,
Paternoster	Paternoster Public Library	Corner Street. Augustine's Way (in the Civic Centre building)
Yzerfontein	Yzerfontein Municipal Office	46 Main Rd, Yzerfontein

To submit comments, members of the public must register as I&APs and can do so by emailing: shell-NCUD@slrconsulting.com.

If you have already registered as an I&AP for this project, you do not need to do so again.

Any comments which members of the public make, must be submitted by **13 December 2024**.

Comments can be submitted via post: **5th Floor, Letterstedt House, Newlands on Main, Newlands, 7700;**

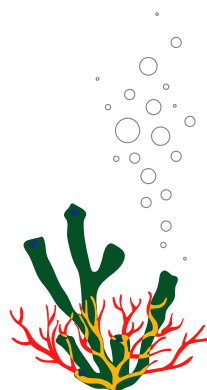
phone call: **+27 21 461 1118/9;** SMS / WhatsApp: **+27 76 402 1409** or email: shell-NCUD@slrconsulting.com



WHAT SHOULD YOU BE THINKING ABOUT?

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 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?**
- **Will I be able to access the beach and ocean as I have before?**
- **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?**
- **How will this project impact our children and future generations?**



HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR COMMENT

There are no templates or requirements for 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 animal species (birds, fish, etc.).

4. State whether you think the Project will benefit you or your community, and what those benefits will be.

5. State whether the positive and negative impacts of the Project were discussed with you prior to or at the public consultations.

6. 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 _____

