PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION PROCESS

Objective of Undertaking Consultation Process

The overall objective of undertaking the public and stakeholder consultation process was to inform all the Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed project activities, disclose the Terms of Reference, the assessment and management reports and allow for inputs, comments or objections of the proposed 2D/3D seismic survey operations.

Environmental Consultant and Proponent Roles and Responsibilities

Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) had the overall responsibilities for implementing the public and stakeholder consultation activities as part of the Scoping, EIA and EMP processes as required by the regulations as well as Searcher Geodata UK Ltd corporate requirements.

The RBS Consultant Ms. Emerita Ashipala, Mr. Samson Mulonga, Ms. Ilta Asser, Christine Links and Ms. Meriam Kauyama were responsible for the implementation of the consultation process including organising and conducting consultation events.

Direct contact and engagement of other marine users such as fisheries, fishing and other marine users in Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, Lüderitz, and Henties Bay were undertaken by Mr Percival Anthony Rinquest who is a qualified and experienced Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) and Fisheries Liaison Officers (FLO) based on Walvis Bay.

Stakeholder communications as well as the review and quality control of all technical reports, document and letters were managed by Dr Sindila Mwiya and Dr Vita Stankevica, the Project Directors and Quality Control Manager respectively. Searcher Geodata UK Ltd provided all the applicable proposed project specific information such as the survey coordinates, boundary, maps, survey vessels/s to be used, timing and 2D / 3D seismic survey technical specifications.

Consultation Approach and Implementation

In accordance with provisions of the national regulations and corporate requirements of the Proponent, the identification and assessment of stakeholders and issues of importance to them, was key step of the EIA Process for the proposed activities. In line with the provisions of the EIA Regulations, 2012, the public consultation process was undertaken during the month March 2023. A Stakeholder Registered was opened on 23rd March 2023 as required by the Environmental Management Act, 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) and EIA Regulations, 2012. During the month March 2023, public notices were published in the following local newspapers as required by the Environmental Management Act, 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) and EIA Regulations, 2012 (Figs. 1 - 4):

- (i) New Era Daily English Newspaper dated Thursday, 23rd March 2023.
- (ii) Market Watch Insert in Allgemeine Zeitung (Namibian German) Daily Newspaper dated Friday, 31st March 2023.
- (iii) Market Watch Insert in Namibian Sun (Namibian English) Daily Newspaper dated Friday, 31st March 2023, and.
- (iv) Market Watch Insert in Republikein (Afrikaans Newspaper) Daily Newspaper dated Friday, 31st March 2023.

The deadline for registration and submission of inputs, comments or objection was Friday, 14th April 2023 (Figs. 1-4). Public notices were also placed at the following key multiple strategic locations in the towns of Henties Bay, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay and Lüderitz (Plates 1-3).

(i) Henties Bay Public Notices placed at the Henties Bay Municipality Public Notice Board and the University of Namibia, Dr Sam Nujoma Campus Public Notice Board (Plate 1).

- (ii) Swakopmund Public Notices placed at the Erongo Regional Council Offices, Swakopmund Municipality public notice board, Woermann Brock Mondesa Shopping Complex Notice Board and Woermann Brock Town Centre Shopping Complex Notice Board (Plate 2), and.
- (iii) Walvis Bay Public Notices placed at Walvis Bay Municipality Main Building Entrance, Walvis Bay Municipality Library, TotalEnergies Services Station Notice Board, and Woermann Brock Town Centre Shopping Complex Notice Board (Plate 3).

A public meeting was planned in Swakopmund during the month of March 2023 but no public interest / number of registered stakeholders expressed the interest to attend.

Table 1 provides detailed information on the timing and type of activities that have been undertaken as part of the environmental assessment process during the months of March and April 2023.

Interested and Affected Party Disclosures / Requirements

All the Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) requesting for registration were asked to discloses their interest as provided for in the EIA Regulations, 2012, Regulation 23 (1), (b) which states as follows:

- (1) A registered interested or affected party is entitled to comment in writing, on all written submissions made to the Environmental Commissioner by the applicant responsible for the application, and to bring to the attention of the Environmental Commissioner any issues which that party, believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application, as long as:
 - (a) the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

Registered interested or affected parties were given the opportunity to comment in writing, on all written submissions made to the Environmental Commissioner by the applicant responsible for the application, and to bring to the attention of the Environmental Commissioner any issues which any party, believed may be of significance to the consideration of the application, subject to the comments being submitted within seven (7) days of notification of an application or receiving access to a scoping report or an assessment report. or the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

Consultations Outcomes and Recommendations

No written objections to the proposed 2D / 3D seismic survey operations in Lüderitz and Walvis Basins, offshore Namibia have been received during the consultation process undertaken during the months March and April 2023 and details of all the public and stakeholder consultations and communications send out and received.

It is important that all the registered stakeholders and especially all the other marine users including all the key fishing companies and associations, petroleum operators / PEL holders, Debmarine and Namdeb Diamond Exploration and Mining company, other marine minerals exploration companies and key marine Government regulators (Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and Ministry of Works and Transport) are notified before the implementation of each of the proposed 2D / 3D seismic survey event operations by Searcher.

 Table 1:
 Detailed activities and timing of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) consultation process.

BID, SCOPING, EIA AND EMP PROJECT CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES						I	COPING STAGE NFORMATION TO DISCLOSED	STAKEHOLDER TARGET GROUP			ESPONSIBILITY
	ACTIVITIES		2023					d Newikie eestaal			
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.	ACTIVITIES Project screening Prepared Summarised Background Information Document (BID) and Scoping Prepared Public Advert Opened a Stakeholder Register and updated continuously Directly contact and engage the key Interested and Affected Parties especially other marine users such as fisheries and fishing companies Registered the project with the Environmental Commissioner in the Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) via Ministry of Mines and Energy	MAR		23 MAY	JUN	т 1. 2.		1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.	Namibia central government ministries. Namibia regional government. Namibia local government. Other key government organs of State, and. Namibia state owned enterprises Fisheries / marine related associations / bodies. Business (Private sector) organisation associations / bodies. Project contractors and business partners	*	Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) will undertake the activities on behalf of Searcher Searcher will provide all the applicable proposed project survey coordinates, boundary, maps, survey vessels/s to be used, and the proposed 2D/3D seismic surveys technical specifications
10.	Commissioner in MEFT Updated the Draft EIA and EMP Reports as may be applicable based on the inputs and comments obtained during the public and stakeholder consultation process							11.	Commission (BCC) Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) / Public		
11.	Submitted the Application for ECC to the Environmental Commissioner supported by the final EIA and EMP Reports								(

Second annual Ride the Ridges MTB event set for this weekend

Staff Reporter

Which just a couple of days before 202 riders embark on the second annual Ride the Ridges, proudly cosponsored by PSG and Capricorn Group, excitement is growing for this epic mountain bike adventure on the beautiful scenic ridges surrounding Windhoek, which is lush green after the blessing of rain.

The vision of PSG and Capricorn Group is to offer a world-class MTB trail event, offering a unique experience for riders around the capital city. The inaugural event in 2022 set the bar very high on every level, and organisersare pulling out all the stops for the 2023 rendition.

The three-day journey will comprise three stages, starting and ending at Heja Lodge, with the first stage offering an easy introduction to the weekend. Riders will depart at 15h00 on Friday when they will be enjoying breathtaking scenery from some of the highest mountains surrounding Windhoek. A very special sundowner spot at 2100m above scalevel is the day shighlight, where riders will be rewarded with ice-cold beer on tap or gin and tonic. On Saturday, riders will be

On Saturday, riders will be enjoying the second stage, which will take them on one of the highest ridge lines in Namibia on a flowing jeep track, spread out over three privately-owned farms and restricted access land.

The last stage will commence on Sunday when riders take a shorter route through the scenic Las Vegas Namibia camp. After each day of riding, all the mountain bikes will be cared for by the Cycletec technicians in the Tech Zone and stored safely for the next day while riders enjoy complimentary food and drinks, live music, and good



Anticipation... The second annual Ride the Ridges competition will take place this weekend. Photo: Contributed

vibes. There will be water points on all three stages and a Rider Village at Heja Lodge that will bring out the deeper essence of the event with some great surprises waiting for the riders. The Rider Village will host a Gin bar, beer on tap, good food and rider massages. Heja Game Lodge has excellent outdoor space for riders, their family, friends, the public.

SPORT

Ride the Ridges is unl anything riders have ever rid in Namibia. The demand for 2 was so significant that entries w extended by 33%, yet the ev was sold out. Ridge Riders walk away from this unforgette experience richer and hun to discover when the next ev will be hosted. The scenery is hospitality are unlike anything for Namibian mountain bikers

"Capricorn Group is pro of its partnership with PSG hosting this unique threestage race. Our vision is to g the Ride the Ridges event annu offering even more riders to opportunity to access and expl the beautiful scenery around ridges of Windhoek," said Mar Horn, Group Executive: Brane Corporate Affairs at Capric Group. "PSG Namibia is so excited

"PSG Namibia is so excited be involved again this year in Ride the Ridges event. As a finan services group, we understand importance of physical health a the value it brings to a balan life. The event takes place in beautiful scenery of Namibia, a we believe that being in nature participating in outdoor activi is a great way to stay healthy a maintain a positive mindset. are honoured to support events align with our values," said Br van Rensburg

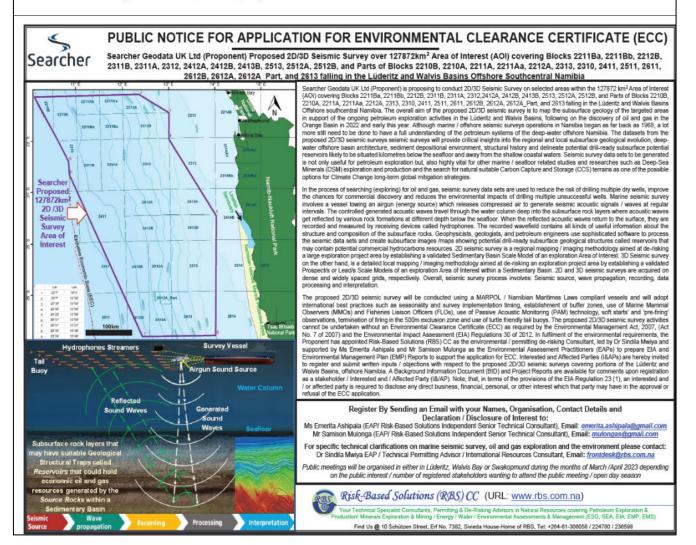


Figure 1: Copy of the Public Notice Advert No. 1 published in the New Era Daily English Newspaper dated Thursday, 23rd March 2023



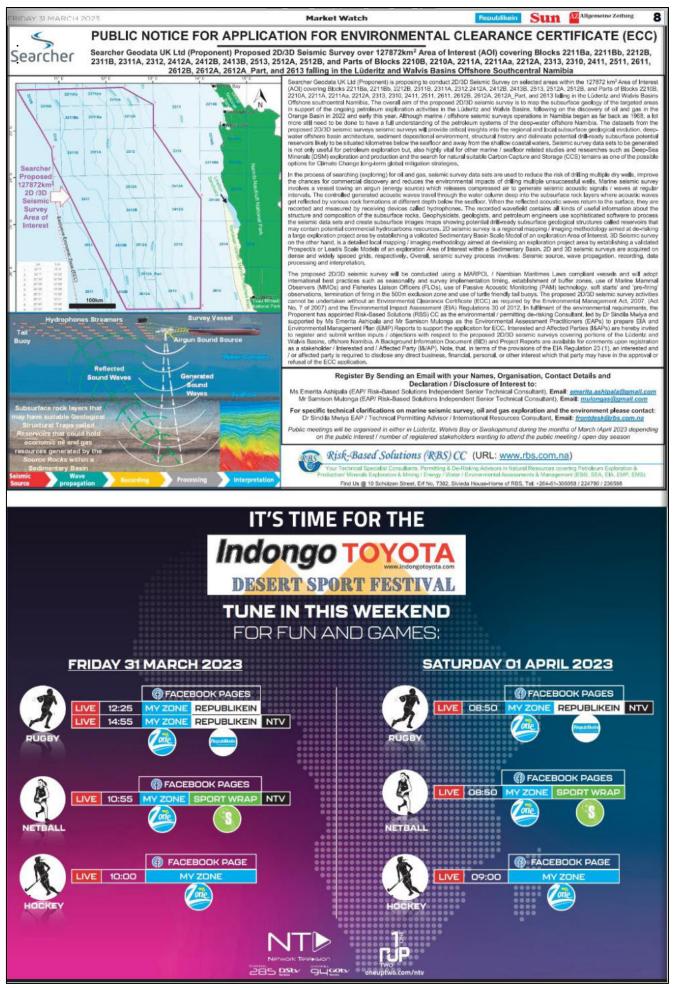


Figure 2: Copy of the Public Notice Advert No. 2 published in the Market Watch Insert in Namibian Sun (Namibian English) Daily Newspaper dated Friday 31st March 2023.

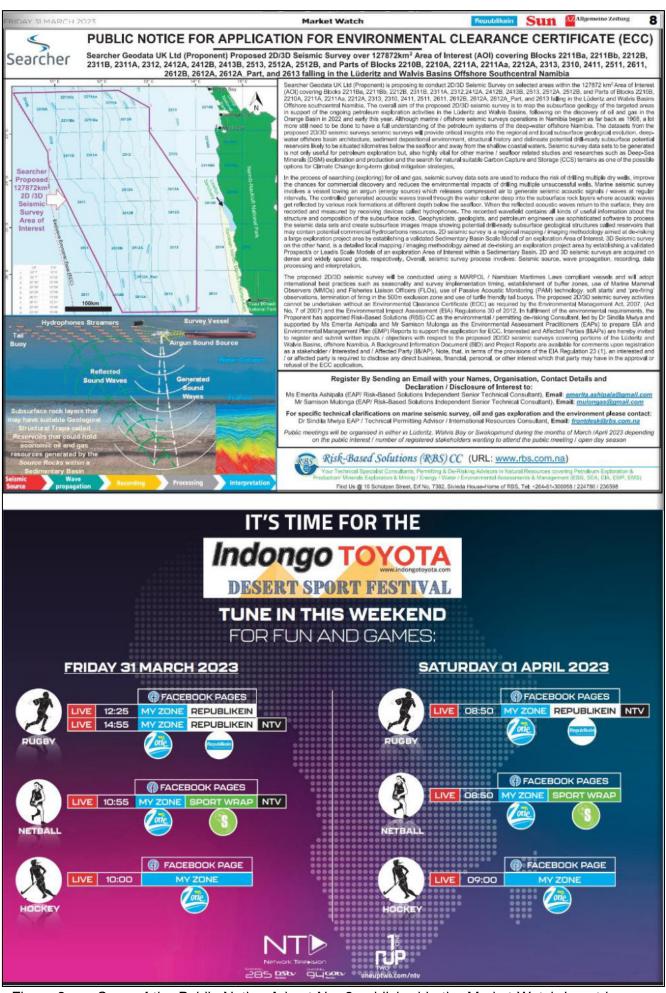


Figure 3: Copy of the Public Notice Advert No. 2 published in the Market Watch Insert in Namibian Sun (Namibian English) Daily Newspaper dated Friday 31st March 2023.

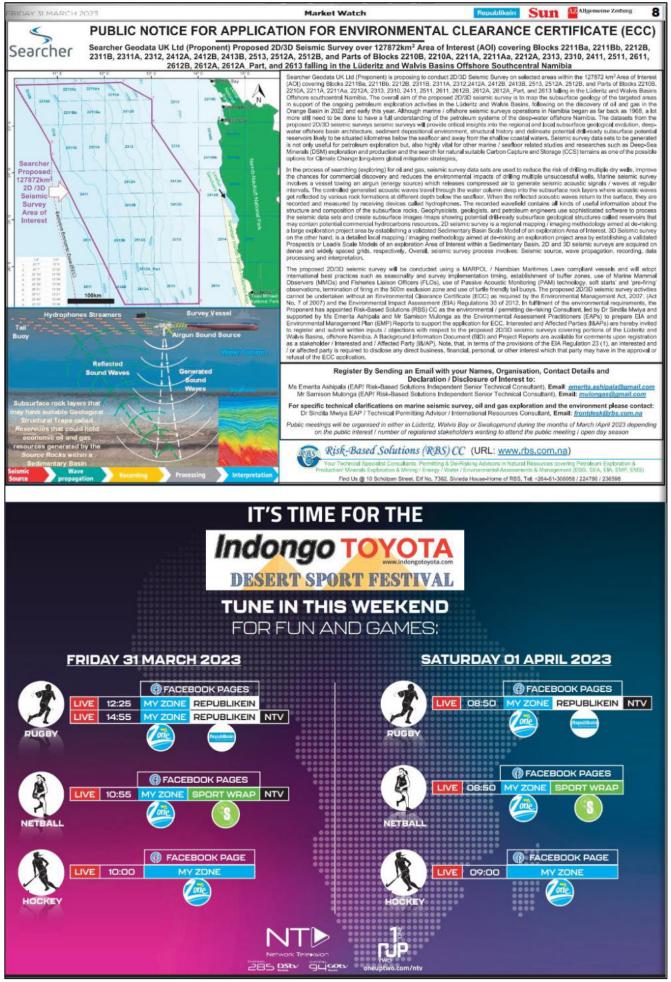


Figure 4: Copy of the Public Notice Advert No. 2 published in the Market Watch Insert in Namibian Sun (Namibian English) Daily Newspaper dated Friday 31st March 2023.



Plate 1: Henties Bay Public Notices placed at the Henties Bay Municipality Public Notice Board (top image), and University of Namibia, Dr Sam Nujoma Campus Public Notice Board (bottom right image).

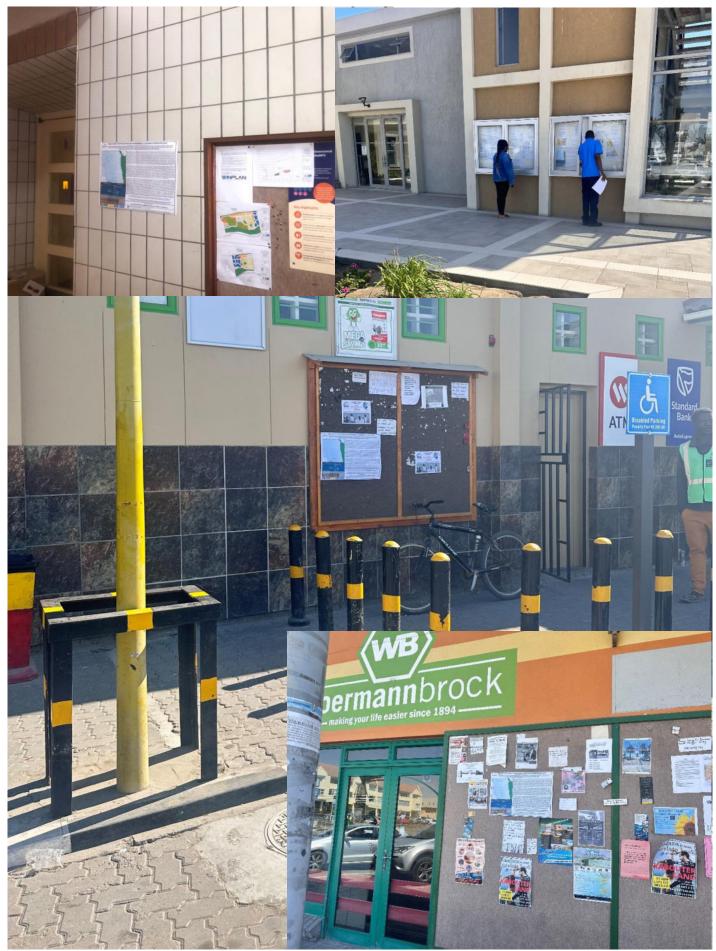


Plate 2:

Swakopmund Public Notices placed at the Erongo Regional Council Offices (top left image), Swakopmund Municipality public notice board (top right image), Woermann Brock Mondesa Shopping Complex Notice Board (bottom left image) and Woermann Brock Town Centre Shopping Complex Notice Board (bottom left image insert).

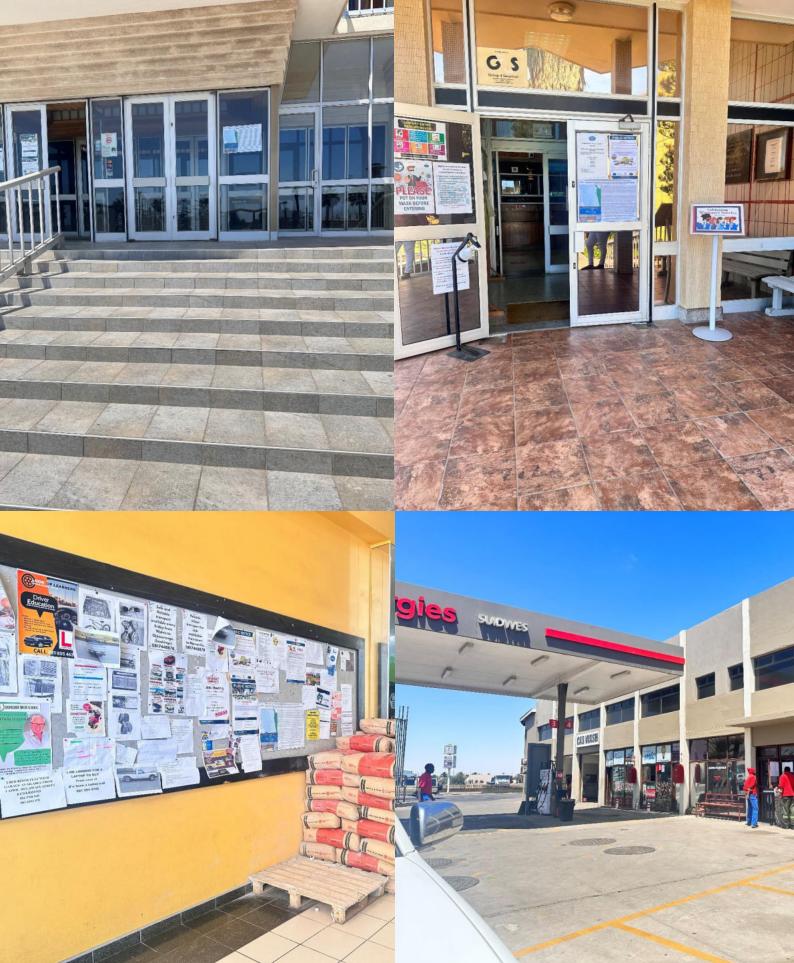


Plate 3:

Walvis Bay Public Notices placed at Walvis Bay Municipality Main Building Entrance (bottom left image), Walvis Municipality Library (top right image), Woermann Brock Town Centre Shopping Complex (bottom left image) and TotalEnergies Service Station (bottom right image).