

## Another oil rig heading for stormy waters

A righired by Eco Atlantic Oil & Gas and partners is headed for waters off South Africa, where a surge of legal moves to block fossil-fuel exploration has taken place.

Community and environmental activists have blocked two seismic surveys through lawsuits since December, including one commissioned by Shell. The groups have cited risks to marine life and criticised consultation processes.

Energy minister Gwede Mantashe

has encouraged the quest for oil and gas in a country that lacks significant domestic output.

Other government officials have pressed for a quicker move toward cleaner energy sources, with the planned transition including using gas, which along with oil is primarily imported by the nation.

Eco Atlantic's Gazania-1 prospect is targeting a 300-million-barrel lightoil resource in Block 2B, 25 kilometres offshore the Northern Cape Province, the company said Friday. The Island Innovator rig is expected to arrive and start the well, subject to weather conditions, by the end of September. It's currently offshore the coast of Norway, according to

Bloomberg ship tracking data. Other oil explorers also remain undeterred. Searcher Seismic, which called off an earlier search due to a court challenge, is planning another.

- Fin24

# **Clock ticking to save SA wool industry**

## 🌣 Chinese import ban

The local wool industry estimates it has so far lost an estimated R734 million in wool exports to China.

#### **CARIN SMITH**

■ime is running out for government to get a Chinese ban on the import of wool from South Africa lifted before SA's first wool auction for the 2022/23 season this week.

 $The \,value\,of\,wool\,produced\,in\,South$ Africa is around R5 billion per annum. Usually, between 70% and 80% are exported to China. In April this year, China imposed a ban following outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in parts of the country.

The South African wool industry estimates it has so far lost an estimated R734 million in wool exports to China.

"We registered all our export facilities to align with what the Chinese require. They accepted [our measures] in 2019, but unfortunately, with new outbreaks, they seem to have concerns that the problem is escalating," says Leon de Beer, CEO of the National Wool Growers Association of South Africa (NWGA).

#### 'UNJUSTIFIABLE'

Along with Agri SA, the NWGA has expressed concern about what it regards as an unjustifiable ban by China. South Africa already has protocols

that regulate the storage of wool after shearing for a specified time at required minimum temperatures as stipulated by the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH). South Africa negotiated these measures with Chinese Authorities during an FMD outbreak in 2019. "The aim was to limit the disruption to trade in circumstances such as the

current one," says De Beer. "All export facilities in South Africa have been registered with the Chinese authorities to ensure proper monitoring and accurate certification. No outbreaks have been recorded in



with FMD."

These producers and surrounding communities will fall back into poverty should the Chinese market remain closed for wool from South Africa.

**Christo van der Rheede Executive director: Agri SA** 

#### DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES

The industry bodies warn that if the government fails to get the ban lifted by the time of the local wool auction in Gqeberha on 17 August, it will have devastating consequences for South Africa's wool producers. It threatens the livelihoods of 35 000 workers as well as 4 500 seasonal sheep shearers and wool handlers.

The department of agriculture, land reform and rural development



The value of wool produced in South Africa is around R5 billion per annum. PHOTO UNSPLASH/SAM CARTER

(DALRRD) agrees that China's ban is not scientifically justifiable. "We are still negotiating with the

Chinese authorities to have the wool

from South Africa cleared in line with

the 2019 protocol South Africa has

with China," Reggie Ngcobo, spokes-

person of the DALRRD, told Fin24.

Christo van der Rheede, execu-

tive director of Agri SA, is especial-

ly concerned about the fate of about

40 000 small-scale wool producers.

Their wool has an annual value of approximately R300 million, and most go to China.

"These producers and surrounding communities will fall back into poverty should the Chinese market remain closed for wool from South Africa", says Van der Rheede.

Furthermore, many commercial wool sheep farmers have only recently emerged from an extended period of drought. If wool exports to China

cannot resume due to the ban, these farmers may not survive.

De Beer says if China refuses to lift the ban, South Africa would have to look for alternative markets like the European Union and Egypt.

"It will not be easy to get a market for 80% of our wool elsewhere. We have to remain hopeful. South Africa's wool is of excellent quality, and we do not mistreat our animals."

- Fin24



Notice is hereby given to all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Competent Authority and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for the following activities.

Project title: Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the proposed Aroab Scheme extension and upgrade.

Project location: Aroab, //Karas region

Proponent: Namibia Water Corporation (NamWater) Ltd.

Description: NamWater intends to extend and upgrade the Aroab Bulk Water Supply Scheme by constructing a new connector pipeline from boreholes WW29114 and WW29115, upgrade the existing Fibre Cement (FC) pipeline from boreholes BH7444, via BH7437 and construct a new 500m<sup>3</sup> Abeco pressed steel collector reservoir in Aroab.

I&APs are hereby invited to register, request for the Background Information Document (BID), attend the public meeting and submit comments/inputs to eia@greengain.com.na The last day to submit input is 29 August 2022.

The public and stakeholder meeting is scheduled as follow

Venue: Aroab Community Hall

Date: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 Time: 10:30

For more Information Green Gain Cell: +264 811422927 or +26481 3380114 http//:www.greengain.com.na



Interested candidates should visit the below website https://nieis.namibiaatwork.gov.na/ for more information Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted (Affirmative Action Candidates are encouraged to apply) see money differently



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on building an environment where motivated people flourish. If you can make a contribution to our team, join us.

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**MANAGER: PRODUCT, PRICING & MIS** 

Closing Date: 19 August 2022





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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND DECOMMISSIONING OF THE PROPOSED AROAB SCHEME EXTENSION AND UPGRADE, //KARAS REGION

DATE:	16 August 2022
<b>VENEU:</b>	<b>Aroab Community Hall</b>
TIME:	10h: 30
PRESENT	E <b>R</b>

#### ATTENDANCE REGISTER

FULL NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT DETAILS	SIGNATURE
GERRIT WITBOUT	11KHARAS RC	0813870570	ANO
Erica Mienies	Aron b V. Council	081295493	a die ies
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Agnes Esau	Resident	0812222755	
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Michaeli Gertze	Resident.	0513326339	Marche
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Piet Swartbeei	Com member Aroab		NR.
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"Striving for Environmental Sustainability"



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PRESENTI	ER

#### ATTENDANCE REGISTER

FULL NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT DETAILS	SIGNATURE
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Dear Mr. Mr. Sindongo Valentinus

02 August 2022

#### INVITATION TO THE STAKEHOLDER MEETING: 16 AUGUST 2022

Green Gain Consultants cc has been appointed by Namibia Water Corporation (NamWater) Ltd., to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for the proposed construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Aroab Water Supply Scheme extension and upgrade.

As part of the EIA study, relevant stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties should be consulted and given an opportunity to raise their concerns and inputs for consideration in the study.

In this regard, Green Gain Consultants cc hereby invite you and other senior officials to the consultative meeting, which is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday**, **16 August 2022, Venue: Aroab Community Hall: 10:30.** 

Attending this meeting will give you an opportunity to hear other stakeholders' views and issues in context with your own. Please find attached the Background Information Document for more information on the proposed activities and the EIA study.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

Yours faithfully.

Joseph Kondja Amushila +26481-1422927 Environmental Assessment Practitioner



#### **Aroab Village Council**

43 Rita De Waal Avenue P O Box 51 Aroab Namibia Tel: 063-280513 Fax : 063-683481 Email: aroabyc@iway.na

20th of September 2022

Green Gain Consultant P. O. Box 5303 Walvis Bay Namib

### RE: Proposed construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Aroab Water Supply Scheme.

Dear Sir/Madam

This letter serves to respond to your request as per the discourse held at Aroab Community Hall on the 16<sup>th</sup> Of August 2022 on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIM). The Aroab Village Council as the client yearns to highlight issues that pertain to water in Aroab. For the past and current years, Aroab summer experienced a shortage of water due to higher water demand during the season by the resident and the business, and this has set a huge burden on the council in meeting up the demand of the residents and businesses. Aroab is one of the towns growing at a fast pace in the Southeast of IIKaras region, and the water demand is very high, Aroab has no dispute with the above subject head, however, the council demands that NamWater must increase the capacity of water to ensure that enough water is provided for the residents and businesses currently and forthcoming.

Currently, the Aroab village council has surveyed 150 erfs earmarked for the reception area to cater to the current mushrooming of the shacks in the town and the reception area is to be handed over on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2022 to the residents respectively. This implies that more water is needed in the town. NamWater must ensure that more or enough boreholes are introduced to cap the shortages experienced by the town and to the current demand to come. The council has also observed that NamWater has a reservoir in Town which is situated on the school premises, Namwater must ensure that this reservoir is at full capacity. Currently, the council is experiencing a water showdown when the electricity goes off in the town, this implies that the level of water is not sufficient to keep the town afloat during the breakdown in electricity, thus NamWater must improve the capacity level.

The council has a treatment plant next to the reservoir in town at the school premises that treat the water with seaquest that is coming from the main reservoir of NamWater channeled into the reservoir in the town. The water that comes from the main reservoir of NamWater is very hard and strong and has a huge impact on the toilet pots, water meters, and tape, the hardness of water forms a substance that cannot be removed as easy unless with scale remover and this also have a huge impact on the healthy of the residents in terms of drinking it, the council has been and is still treating this water in

All official correspondence must be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer

order to soften it, for it to be drinkable by the residents. This has also surged costs in the operations of the council.

The council proposed that NamWater must build a Water treatment plant to ensure safe water for residents. Namwater must also ensure that the pipeline coming from the Klein Manessa border road to the reservoir does not pass through erven or land earmarked for development, but be able to pass underground, Aroab Village Council can be contacted on that.

Further than this, Aroab Village Council is very much proud that the project is about to start as this is long overdue. We appreciate NamWater for the service being provided and for meeting up with the Harambe Prosperity Plan in complementing the vision of 2030.

Sincerely yours 9.....

Mr. Sindongo Valentinus Chief Executive Officer Aroab Village Council