



SAVE THE OKAVANGO DELTA

RECONAFRICA COMES FOR THE TREASURE OF THE OKAVANGO

This is an information page sharing the current known information about ReconAfrica's plan to drill and frack for oil and gas in the Okavango Delta's source area of the Omataku River system in Northeast Namibia and Northwest Botswana.

To use this resource, please click the live links highlighted in green for the relevant documents which you may then download or view.

What is known:

In 2015 ReconAfrica, a Canadian based oil and gas exploration company, acquired the rights to explore for oil and gas in Namibia's northeast in Kavango East and West Regions from Namibia's Ministry of Mines and Energy. See their prospecting license granted here in [this map](#). The area is completely within the [Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area \(KAZA TFCA\)](#).

In August 2019 they were issued an [Environmental Clearance Certificate](#) to drill test wells into their prospecting license area after undergoing an EIA process that critics say is deeply flawed.

[The EIA is available here](#), and has several problems, one of which is that it does not outline the vitally important registration of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). This [contravenes Namibia's Environmental Management Act](#) in numerous places, especially page 72 Section 4.7: Undertaking Public Participation and Section 3.3.1 Page 22, as well as violating section 24 of the Constitution.

[The EIA also shows that the drilling sites can be moved by the company](#) if they choose, which is surprising, because an EIA usually requires site-specific studies on impacts on all sorts of things, especially water, communities and endangered or threatened species.

[On page 16 of their public investor document](#) from Sept 2019, the company clearly states that their long term plans for the upcoming appraisal period includes "100s of wells and modern frac stimulations". Despite this, [in recent press releases](#) they changed their tune, saying they only plan regular oil and gas drilling and no fracking. The Namibian government's press releases in September 2020, from both the [Ministry of Environment](#) and the [Ministry of Mines](#) both clearly state no fracking will take place, so who is to be believed?

Meanwhile, in June 2020, ReconAfrica acquired an exploration permit in neighboring Botswana, which covers the UNESCO

World Heritage site Tsodilo Hills, [see that map here](#).

The company has apparently not yet received an Environmental Clearance Certificate to drill there yet.

The company said in a [recent presentation to the American Petroleum Institute \(API\)](#) that their drilling rig is about to move from where it is being outfitted in Houston, Texas to Namibia in November 2020, and drilling will start in December 2020. A rising tide of Namibian activists took part in the online discussion during the talk, pointing out problems like Climate Change and lack of community involvement in the plan. ReconAfrica's stock dropped approximately 10% within 24 hours of this online debate.

Contacts for possible interviews:

- **Diphetogo Anita Legkowa**
 - San community organizer in the Okavango Delta.
 - Whatsapp: +26771777061
 - She has been meeting with San communities in Tsodilo Hills and The Delta.
- **Max Muyemburuko**
 - INP Manager at Khaudum North Complex (CBNRM).
 - Whatsapp: +264812885354
 - The Community concession he runs is under ReconAfrica's drilling license
- **Maxi Pia Louis**
 - Community Based Natural Resource Management Director. maxi@nacso.org.na
 - She has been working for years helping communities successfully manage their lands for conservation in the area that ReconAfrica wants to drill.
- **Ina Maria Shikongo**
 - Fridays For Future Windhoek.
 - fridaysforfuturewhk@gmail.com
 - Whatsapp: +4741396684
 - She has been working on the forefront of the youth-driven campaign to secure a safe future climate for Namibians.