

THE GREEN CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER



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- On 4 July 2022, The Green Connection submitted its comments on TEEPSA scoping report.
- The Green Connection received correspondence from DFFE confirming that Karpowerships had failed in its appeal to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)

Foreword



Liz McDaid The Green Connection Strategic Lead

The Green Connection Welcomes You!

The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the 4th industrial revolution and South Africans have had to adapt to the 'new normal' quite quickly. This struggle is even more real for those at grassroots who fight for environmental and social justice.

This edition is jam-packed, since the first half of 2022 has already kept us quite busy. The sad thing is the bulk of our work has been focused on opposing flawed EIAs and related processes, with government and companies ignoring their legal obligations. The lack of meaningful public participation and often deliberate attempts to exclude

those who will be affected is a recurring theme in this country.

That is why the Green Connection is on a mission to empower South Africans, especially our small-scale fishing communities who call our coastline home to participate in decision-making on proposed projects that affect them. This is the only way that social and environmental justice will be achieved. Through our community outreach and advocacy work, the Green Connection supports coastal communities who oppose offshore oil and gas activities, as well as other threats to their livelihoods, such as Karpowerships.

Let's continue to empower the youth and work towards protecting our environment and those that defend it, remembering to restore the ecosystem as people's livelihoods depend on it. Let us push for climate justice, while raising the voices of fishers, to ensure good governance. The time has come to phase out oil and gas.

For more information, kindly visit our website at www.thegreenconnection.org.za

Thank You,
The Green Connection



THE GREEN CONNECTION LAUNCHES ITS FIRST-EVER KOEKSISTER MARKET IN HOPEFIELD, WEST COAST



Image: Koeksister Market in Hopefield

Early in June 2022, the Green Connection hit off the ground its first local market in Hopefield with the aim of building local economies. The eco-justice organisation promotes sustainable living by ensuring communities grow and sell their own products to locals which in turn helps communities boost their internal economies. West Coast communities further submitted their Integrated Development Plan to Saldanha Bay ward councilors which served to indicate how they foresee development in Saldanha.

THE GREEN CONNECTION HOLDS ITS THIRD LEGACY WORKSHOP TO EMPOWER ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES

From the 27th to the 29th of June 2022, Legacy activists attended their third skills-building workshop in Schoenstatt Retreat Cape Town. The series of workshops help build and empower activists in advocating against environmental injustices in their communities.

The workshop primarily focused on providing expertise on budgeting, fundraising, monitoring, evaluations and how activists can use media and communication to advocate against socio-economic injustices. We continue to empower activists that will protect oceans from exploitation of natural resources while also advocating for sustainable development.



Image: Legacy Activists

Image: 2022 Legacy Activists

OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION DOES NOT CURB CLIMATE CHANGE CATASTROPHE – THE GREEN CONNECTION SUBMITS ITS COMMENTS ON TEEPSA SCOPING REPORT

On 4 July 2022, The Green Connection submitted its comments on TEEPSA scoping report in respect to exploration drilling in Block 5/6/7 of the West Coast of South Africa. As a country vulnerable to climate change impacts such as floods and droughts government needs to abide to the climate change agreements of limiting global temperatures to 1,5 degrees Celsius. The Green Connection continues opposing oil and gas exploration and demands the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy to move to renewable sources of energy and protect livelihoods of the people.



Image: Civil society and small-scale fishers protesting against oil and gas in Saldanha.

During Mandela month civil society highlighted the need for South Africa to transition to renewable energy and for coastal communities to be included in decision-making about their environment followed by meaningful participation processes.

EQUIPPING ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS WITH ADVOCACY SKILLS TO FIGHT SOCIO-ECONOMIC INJUSTICES

The Green Connection in partnership with Southern African Faith Communities Environmental Institute (SAFCEI) held its second workshop on 11 – 12 of July 2022, with faith based activists in Shalimar Gardens Surrey Estate Cape Town.

THE GREEN CONNECTION SUBMITS ITS TRIBUNAL VERIDCT STATEMENT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

Early July 2022, in commemorating Mandela month, The Green Connection handed over the Oceans Tribunal verdict statement to Makoma Lekalakala and Ayakha Melithafa commissioners representing civil society on Presidential Climate Change. Small-scale fishers from all over coastal areas came in numbers to attend the tribunal in Cape Town (Double Tree Hotel) on the 21 - 22 of September 2021.



Left Ayakha Melithafa, middle Makoma Lekalakala both members of the Presidential Climate Change Commission. Right: Lisa Makaula Green Connection Communications Coordinator.

Grievances such as poor public participation processes in coastal communities were one of the key factors highlighted and how oil and gas exploration projects would severely impact small-scale fishers who have been dependent on oceans for their livelihoods.



Image: SAFCEI Legacy Activists

The mentoring programme provides advocacy skills to environmental activists to address key issues in their communities through meaningful public participation against projects such as nuclear, oil and gas exploration which are major contributors of climate change.

THERE'S AN URGENT NEED TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE BY PHASING OUT THE USE OF FOSSIL FUELS

On 8 – 14 July 2022, The Green Connection's Outreach Coordinator Neville van Rooy and Strategic Lead Liz McDaid, raised awareness about offshore oil and gas in Silaka Nature Reserve Port st John's. Small-scale fishers that attended the meeting highlighted how they would be severely affected by oil and gas exploration. Coastal communities requested support and information sharing workshops regarding Green hydrogen to be knowledgeable in terms of how they would be affected.

IN SOLIDARITY FISHERS CAME IN NUMBERS TO VOICE OUT THEIR OPPOSITION AGAINST OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION!

After civil society raised its opposition to offshore oil and gas extraction, government continues to explore more fossil fuels such as oil and gas which release greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to climate change. Small-scale fishers and environmental organisations held an inter-provincial fishers meeting in Port Alfred Eastern Cape early in July 2022. The fishers meeting aimed at addressing issues that fishing communities face such as poor public participation processes and being excluded in decision-making about their environment.



Image: National Fishers meeting in Port st John's



Image: Meeting in Port st Johns

The awareness meeting was wrapped up by another workshop in Mossel Bay Kwanonqaba on 16th of July 2022 with various stakeholders such as the youth, women, small-scale farmers, Khoi-san community and local businesses. The Outreach Coordinator Van Rooy introduced what the Green connection does and how offshore oil and gas exploration will affect coastal livelihoods. Furthermore, elaborated that oil and gas projects will not create any jobs for local people.

Fisherwomen And Civil Society Vindicated, As Minister Upholds Environmental Ruling On Karpowerships

The Green Connection received correspondence from DFFE confirming that Karpowerships had failed in its appeal to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) early in August 2022. The Turkish company, which planned to supply additional power to South Africa via these floating kettles, was unable to overturn an earlier environmental ruling against its plans.



Image: Green Connection Strategic Lead Liz McDaid

According to The Green Connection’s Strategic Lead Liziwe McDaid, the Minister’s decision comes to an overwhelming conclusion that “these gaps in information and the procedural defects are material and fatal and cannot be cured during the current appeal process”.

CIVIL SOCIETY CALLS THE PRESIDENT TO STOP ALL OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

On 15 August 2022, the Green Connection with the support of small-scale fishers raised awareness in Pardeen Eiland Cape Town about dangers that offshore oil and gas exploration poses to coastal communities. Environmental defenders continued to voice out their opposition to extraction of oil and gas and called the president to take strict measures and halt oil and gas projects to protect livelihoods of people and marine species that depend on oceans to survive.

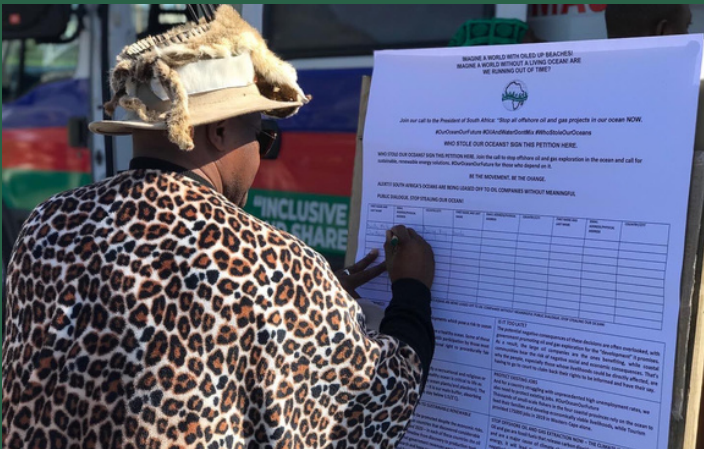


Image: Chief Kevin Maart from Saldanha

The open letter calls attention to greenhouse gas emissions that oil and gas exploration releases which places impoverished communities in a dire state of dealing with climate change effects such as heatwaves, floods and droughts.

MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE PROTEST AGAINST OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN THE WEST COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA

Civil society continues voicing out its objection against oil and gas projects in South African coastal areas. On 26 September 2022, small-scale fishers and environmental defenders protested in Pepper Bay Saldanha as to oppose Total and Azinam’s exploration of oil and gas along the coast.

SMALL-SCALE FISHERS CELEBRATE VICTORY AFTER MAKHANDA HIGH COURT SETS ASIDE SHELL’S OIL EXPLORATION RIGHT

The wait is finally over for the Wild Coast communities and civil society when, on 1 September 2022, the Makhandla High court ruled that the decision to grant the exploration right is set aside, as well as the decision to grant the renewal of this right. The decision to grant a further, second renewal, has also been set aside for Shell. And while coastal communities and small-scale fishers celebrated this huge milestone victory, despite the good news, they know that there is still more work and advocacy that must be done to ensure that our oceans are protected for future generations.



Image: Civil society and small-scale fishers outside Makhandla High court

The fact that Shell – a multinational oil and gas company – failed to conduct meaningful public participation processes with affected communities, only consulting traditional leaders about undertaking seismic surveys in the Wild Coast, was key to the challenge.



Images: Neville van Rooy Green Connection's Community Outreach Coordinator

Civil society has been calling on government to implement the Integrated Energy Plan which will guide the energy investment of the country as evidence has proven that oil and gas exploration won't yield benefits for coastal communities. With intensifying climate change effects there's an urgent need for South Africa to transition to renewable energy.

GREEN CONNECTION ATTENDS THE WHALE FESTIVAL AND CALLS ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS TO SIGN ON THE PETITION AGAINST OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

On 1- 2 October 2022, the Green Connection attended the Whale festival in Hermanus Western Cape in a bid to raise awareness about negative impacts of oil and gas exploration such as oil spills and to save oceans from exploitation of natural resources.

Environmental activists in solidarity with eco – justice organisations signed the petition to halt offshore oil and gas as to protect the livelihoods of coastal communities and marine lives. The environmental organisation calls on the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy to provide an energy plan that will guide the energy investment of South Africa.



Image: Neville van Rooy in Hermanus Whale Festival

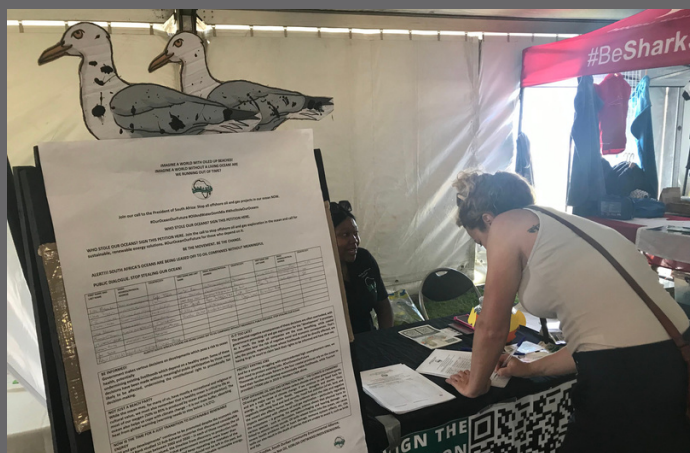


Image: Environmental defenders signing the petition

To sign the [petition](#) against offshore oil and gas exploration, visit our website and add your signature.

The Green Connection Board Members

[Yachika Reddy](#)

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[Liz McDaid](#)

[Nomaphelo Hlakula](#)

[Jaclyn Smith](#)

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