

ALERT!!! SOUTH AFRICA'S OCEANS ARE BEING LEASED OFF TO OIL COMPANIES WITHOUT MEANINGFUL PUBLIC DIALOGUE. STOP STEALING OUR OCEAN!

BE INFORMED!

Government makes various decisions on developments which pose a risk to ocean health, potentially undermining existing livelihoods which depend on a healthy ocean. Some of these decisions have been made without meaningful public participation by those most likely to be affected, undermining the constitutional right to procedurally fair decision-making.

IS IT TOO LATE?

The potential negative consequences of these decisions are often overlooked, with government promoting oil and gas exploration for the "development" it promises. As a result, the large oil companies are the ones benefiting, while coastal communities bear the risk of negative social and economic consequences. That's why the people, especially those whose livelihoods could be directly affected, are having to go to court to claim back their rights to be informed and have their say.

STOP OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION NOW – THE CLIMATE IS CHANGING!

Oil and gas are fossil fuels that release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and are a major cause of climate change. If we continue to use fossil fuels for energy, it will lead to more floods, heatwaves, droughts and storms. Thus, negatively impacting food and land security. Fossil fuel pollution (of air, land, and the ocean) also affects human health. The evidence about the risks and negative impacts associated with offshore oil and gas exploration – particularly regarding the ecosystems – is growing. For example, science shows that physical harm to various species - such as concussion, haemorrhaging and hearing damage - are linked to seismic survey sounds. Oil spills release toxins into the ocean, can cause severe health problems such as heart damage, immune system effects, etc. Oil spills can also result in the death of species that are unable to avoid it, such as birds and fish.

NOT JUST A BEACH PARTY

While the ocean may, for many of us, have mostly a recreational and religious or cultural value, we must also remember that a healthy ocean is critical to life as most of our oxygen (50% to 85% is produced by ocean plants/and plankton). The ocean also helps us cope with climate change – it is our main buffer, absorbing heat from global warming (warming needs to stay below 1.5/2 C).

NOW IS THE TIME FOR A JUST TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY

"Oil and gas developments" continue to be promoted despite the economic risks. The World Bank studied 12 Sub-Saharan countries that discovered considerable oil and gas resources between 2002 and 2020 – in each of these countries the oil and gas finds were overvalued, the timeline from discovery to production took much longer than promised, and that government revenues were lower than predicted. So why ignore the research and keep repeating the mistakes of the past? Fossil fuels are the past and South Africa should not be left in the past, but can grow new jobs and economic opportunities in sustainable renewable energy.

PROTECT EXISTING JOBS

And for a country struggling with unprecedented high unemployment rates, we also need to protect existing jobs.
#OurOceanOurFuture

Thousands of small-scale fishers in the four coastal provinces rely on the ocean to feed their families and develop economically viable livelihoods, while Tourism provided 175000 jobs in 2019 in Western Cape alone.

Organizations in support to oppose offshore oil and gas exploration are; Masifundise, South Durban Community Environmental Alliance, Eastern Cape Environmental Network, 350Africa.org, Amadiba Crisis Committee, Oceans Not Oil, KOBUSH ONTWIKKELINGSVERENIGING, Extinction Rebellion, Save Langebaan Lagoon, Support Centre for Land Change

For more information, go to www.thegreenconnection.org.za

WHO STOLE OUR OCEANS?

www.thegreenconnection.org.za

