

NEWSLETTER

THE GREEN CONNECTION

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FOREWORD

Welcome to The Green Connection's 5th edition. We continue to pride ourselves on ensuring the environment is protected and the country is gearing towards sustainable development, especially in the face of intensifying climate change.

This edition is jam-packed, with highlights of the Who Stole Our Oceans campaign which focuses on protecting oceans from offshore oil and gas drilling and encourages sustainable development. The sad part is, the bulk of our work has been focused on pursuing legal challenges against the government due to proposed fossil fuel projects while also fighting for the safety, security of the environment and coastal community livelihoods against offshore oil and gas projects.

The lack of meaningful public participation and attempts to exclude those who will be affected by offshore oil and gas projects 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 community outreach and advocacy work.

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



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“SAREM FALLS SHORT OF ARTICULATING A VISION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY” – THE GREEN CONNECTION

In its comments (submitted 31 July 2023) on the SA Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM), The Green Connection highlights concerns that the plan merely focuses on renewable electricity and associated storage but lacks a vision for the wider renewable energy sector. According to the eco-justice organisation, it is unclear how the SAREM fits within the energy road map, blaming the absence of an Integrated Energy Plan (IEP) as one of the reasons behind the limited consideration of South Africa’s long-term energy goals, particularly in terms of energy poverty and household-level energy security.



THE GREEN CONNECTION EDGES CLOSER TO COURT FACE-OFF WITH KARPOWERSHIPS



On 25 August 2023, The Green Connection submitted a replying affidavit to KarpowershipSA companies and National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) opposing affidavits in The Green Connection’s

application to compel the full record of decision. The case against NERSA to challenge its decision to grant three electricity generation licenses to the KarpowershipSA companies to operate powerships in the ports of Saldanha, Ngqura (Coega) and Richards Bay is still pending. This court case was initiated in April 2022.

For the Green Connection, it appeared that NERSA made its decision without considering the negative climate change, environmental and socioeconomic costs of Karpowerships, as at the time, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) had not granted the powerships’ environmental authorisations. In addition, The Green Connection argues that the public need to know the details of the pricing agreement – in order to be able to comment meaningfully.



Image: Protest Against Karpowership



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The organisations argue, in a letter to the DFFE, that the decision is unlawful. The DFFE has admitted that the views of these non-governmental organisations were not heard by the Minister. The DFFE overturned a decision of the Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations to deny Karpowership SA's request to submit a GEMPr for Saldanha Bay, well past the regulatory deadline.

THE GREEN CONNECTION SAYS SIERRA LEONE KARPOWER CUTS SHOULD BE A WARNING TO SA



Image: Power ship

The news that Karpowership has cut off electricity supply to Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, seemingly due to unpaid bills, should be a warning to citizens of what could happen if South Africa resolved to go with Karpower to address the energy crisis. This is according to The Green Connection, the eco-justice organisations that has been opposing the Turkish-owned company's bid to secure expensive 20-year contracts for its powerships, here in South Africa

THE GREEN CONNECTION RESPONDS – MINISTER CREECY THROWS ANOTHER LIFELINE TO KARPOWERSHIPS

CAPE TOWN, South Africa – The Green Connection continues to voice its disappointment over the South African government's ongoing support for Karpowerships, as well as its concerns over the environmental impact assessment (EIA) processes being undertaken. This comes as media reports that the Minister in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and Environment (DFFE) is “demanding” proof of expertise regarding Karpowerships' gas explosion risk report in the Karpowership Coega (Ngqura) EIA appeal process.

THE GREEN CONNECTION CONTINUES TO BUILD A LEGACY OF ECO – ACTIVISTS



Image: 2023 Legacy Activists

The eco-justice organisation (Green Connection) began its 3rd Legacy group bringing in activists from the coast of South Africa together. The workshop kick-started on the 14 – 16 of August 2023 in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape to build solidarity and a network of Green Connectors who will participate in decision-making meaningfully. A series of workshops will be held to equip the young upcoming activists with skills and knowledge to drive the climate justice movement.



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**“AFRICA IS NOT A GAS STATION”
ECO-WARRIORS PROTEST AFTER
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AFFAIRS GIVES TOTAL ENERGIES A
GREENLIGHT TO DRILL FOR OIL IN
SA DESPITE CONCERNS RAISED BY
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS**



Image: Legacy Activists Protesting

On 10th of October 2023, outraged activists and environmental organisations headed to the Department’s offices to raise their disappointment after the Minister Creecy dismissed 18 appeals as Total Energies had applied to drill up to 5 exploration wells in block 5/6/7 off the West Coast of South Africa. Eco-justice activists handed over their objections to DFFE offices in Cape Town. Abongile Namba from Coastal Links said, “They want their voices to be heard and they are against oil and gas drilling in their oceans. Total Energies & Shell should go away.”

CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIONS



COMMEMORATING FEMALE LEADERS DRIVING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

After winning several court actions which were led by phenomenal women in society, to celebrate women’s month we sparked the room with messages of wisdom from activists that were at the forefront of the Shell court-case and Searcher in a webinar hosted by The Green Connection. Nonhle Mbuthuma from Amadiba Crisis Committee shared words of wisdom to women during the Women Warriors webinar, " Our effort as women is important or the world would be upside down. Women are the pillars of the earth because they hold everything together from protecting households to protecting nature and culture women play a vital role. The presence of a woman is important & for the voice of the woman to be heard, women need to push."



Image: (left above) Nonhle Mbuthuma & (right above) Wendy Pekuer
(bottom left) Melissa Groenink & (bottom right) Liz McDaid

CIVIL SOCIETY CALLED FOR A CLIMATE JUSTICE RESISTANCE AGAINST OIL AND GAS CORPORATIONS

Following an African Climate Summit that was held in Nairobi, Kenya where African leaders came in numbers to address what a just-transition meant for African countries.



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Civil society found themselves yet again having to raise concerns of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy and Petroleum Agency of South Africa, after hosting an oil and gas conference in Cape Town International Convention Centre on 13 September 2023 while climate change is already impacting thousands of people in South Africa. Mathew Wingfield from the Climate Justice Charter highlighted outside the oil and gas conference that, there is no future in oil and gas and further stated that climate activists, do not agree with profit over people.



Image: Activists Protesting Outside CTICC

**HUMAN WELLBEING,
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND
CLIMATE CHANGE – THREE KEY
REASONS TO POWER UP WITH
RENEWABLES**



Image: Eco-justice organisations at a Power Up Event

Friday 3 November, outside Parliament, South African eco-justice activists join the global movement Power Up for Climate Solutions to kick off a month (from November 3 to December 9) of environmental and climate action in the lead up to COP28. The Green Connection, African Climate Alliance, Extinction Rebellion, 350.org, and Project90By2030 join others around the world in a united call for a peaceful and equitable world that is powered by renewable, sustainable energy sources. They say, “This year will be the 28th instalment of the Conference of the Parties – better known as COP28 – and yet, globally, governments appear to be no closer to making firm climate commitments that they intend to keep, nor do we see sufficient urgency in climate-conscious action.”

**WHILE TOTALENERGIES CONTINUES TO RISK
PEOPLE, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE CLIMATE,
CIVIL SOCIETY REMAINS RESOLVED TO OPPOSE
OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS**

The Green Connection and Natural Justice – with support from affected small-scale fishers – have been very busy making submissions to highlight, once again, all the reasons to reject two separate offshore oil and gas applications made by TotalEnergies.

Submissions Made

In response to the Draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (DESIA) for TEEPSEA’s proposed offshore production right and environmental authorisation applications for Block 11B/12B (22 September 2023), the organisations point out that, since certain aspects of the project has been excluded, not all the potential negative impacts have been accounted for or considered in the DESIA. They also argue that the impacts to ecologically sensitive marine areas and the overall effect on climate change are equally ill-considered.



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PAST ACTIONS

- COP 28 Actions - Strategic meetings and discussions, Global Day of Actions against CGG seismic surveys & TEEPSA 11B/12B
- SboNdaba Dance showcasing Our Oceans Our Future performance



Image: Neville Van Rooy Green Connection Outreach Coordinator attending COP28 In Dubai



Image: COP28 Civil Society Meetings



Image: SboNdaba Dance Performing Our Oceans Our Future

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE TAKE ACTION AGAINST EXPLORATION OF OIL AND GAS ON THE COAST OF SA



Image: Protest in the West Coast against oil and gas

Following the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's (DMRE's) authorization for CGG to conduct seismic surveys on the South East Coast of South Africa. Environmentalists and coastal communities held 14 actions all around South Africa to raise their concerns about offshore oil and gas exploration.

TO PROTECT OUR OCEANS AGAINST OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AMID CLIMATE CRISIS, SIGN THE PETITION.



COP28 GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION



Hermanus



Gansbaai



Sedgefield



Plettenberg Bay



Muizenberg, Cape Town



Gansbaai



Wild Coast



Port St Johns



Paternoster



Knysna



Plettenberg Bay



Saldanha



Durban



Muizenberg, Cape Town

