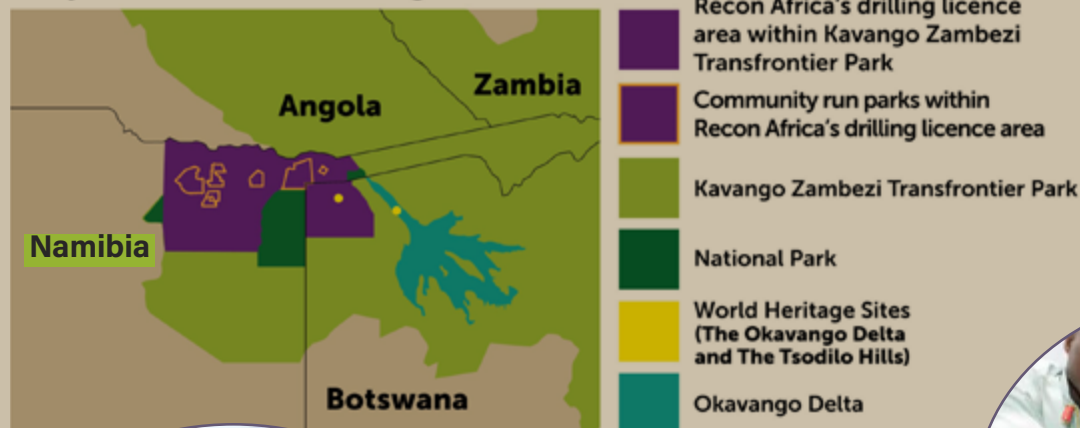


STOP RECONAFRICA!

FACT SHEET - APRIL 2022

RECONNAISSANCE (RECON) AFRICA IS OPERATING SINCE 2019 AND DRILLING SINCE 2021, WITHOUT A STRATEGIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT, IN THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE KAVANGO BASIN, WHICH IS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE KAVANGO ZAMBEZI TRANSFRONTIER PARK (KAZA) AND INCLUDES UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES.

Map of Recon Africa's drilling licence area



"We thought the oil companies came to elevate us from poverty, but they only give us poverty and the economy is dying".

Jonah Gbemre

- activist from Nigeria, where a whole region has suffered under oil production since 1956.



Published by the Nutrition and Food Security Alliance of Namibia (www.nafsan.org) in collaboration with the Women's Leadership Centre (www.wlc-namibia.org) and the Economic and Social Justice Trust (www.facebook.com/esjtnam)

For more information and resources: <https://savetheokavango.com>

WHAT WENT WRONG ALREADY:

The facts listed below are all based on evidence, which is available upon request.

NO CONSULTATIONS! ReconAfrica did not consult as required by Namibian law.

An **Environmental Clearance Certificate** was issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism on a public holiday (26 Aug 2019), without key legally required documents, such as consultations with and letters of approval from the respective Conservancies where drilling already took place.

A **Wildlife Monitoring Survey** was not conducted. Camera traps for animals were only recently set up, without the Conservancy's required permission.

Indigenous San communities – whose rights are guaranteed by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, signed by Namibia in 2007, did not give free, prior and informed consent to ReconAfrica's plans to produce oil and gas in the Okavango Delta.

'**Consultative Meetings**' held by ReconAfrica were a sham, without real opportunities to get answers to questions. ReconAfrica didn't show up at independently organised meetings.

DRILLING WITHOUT CONSENT! Several boreholes and drilling sites are being operated by ReconAfrica - without required permissions from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform nor the respective Conservancy where drilling took place.

NO OCCUPATIONAL LAND RIGHTS nor leasehold right for drilling operations were granted by Communal Land Boards, as required by the Communal Land Reform Act of 2003.

LAND WAS SEIZED FROM FARMERS without informed consent with low compensation. Recon-Africa had papers signed under pressure without leaving copies of what was signed with the farmers.

SEISMIC SURVEYS violated the terms of the Environmental Clearance Certificate, which clearly states that "*all surveys must follow existing roads, tracks, or paths*". However, ReconAfrica is bulldozing over 22km of seismic 'cutlines' through virgin Kavango forest, as well as into farming land, where brick and mud houses got damaged by the 'thumping' truck, with minimal compensations and owners being threatened to not speak about it.

RECONAFRICA OPERATES WITHOUT PERMITS FOR WATER USE AND THE DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER.

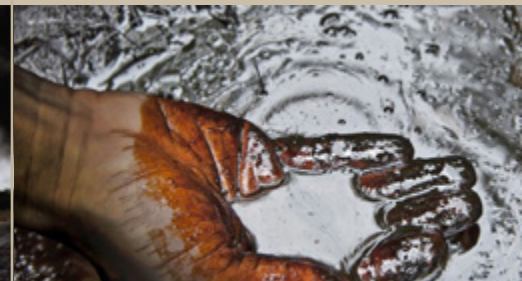
Such wastewater is toxic and requires special protected pits, which ReconAfrica failed to provide. After discovery of unprotected pits, ReconAfrica suddenly claimed their drilling fluids were apparently biodegradable 'fertilizers' and would not affect soil nor groundwater. Over the past weeks, several cattle from villages where explorations took place, have reportedly died. Hence, health of humans may already be at risk too.

ReconAfrica has been continuously **DECEITFUL IN THEIR PUBLIC RELATIONS MESSAGING** and has been trying to buy favours and positive opinion with public officials and the general public.

EMPTY PROMISES WERE MADE ABOUT LOCAL JOB CREATION, yet in reality only lowlevel jobs were given to local people for 5-10 days, after which people were then fired again. Cases with the Labor Commissioner are about to be opened.

RECONAFRICA HAS DIVIDED COMMUNITIES through a series of secretive meetings, underhand deals, intimidation tactics, and pushing for dissenting village heads to be removed.

Images of the destruction of the Niger Delta in Nigeria through oil production by Shell



DAMAGES & RISKS:

HEALTH RISKS

Many scientific studies in North America show that chemicals used in fossil fuel extraction caused skin rashes, headaches, intestinal illnesses, breathing difficulties, cancer, infertility, as well as heart defects in babies, miscarriages, and preterm birth.

AIR AND WATER

Toxic chemicals will get into the air, surface water (downstream into the Okavango Delta) and underground water, with aquifers connecting all Northern Regions with underground water in Otjozondjupa and Omaheke regions. For extracting oil, one must drill through the groundwater, plus drilling and extraction requires and poisons millions of liters of drinking water.

FOOD SECURITY

Toxins destroy the fertility of the soil and lead to devastating losses of fish.

NATURE & WILDLIFE

Environmental damage will affect wild animals and plants severely.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Mining only provides jobs for 2% of Namibians, while the tourism industry employs more than 12% of the population. The majority of Namibians depend directly or indirectly on agriculture, and 25-40% of Namibians actually depend on subsistence farming.

NEGATIVE SOCIAL IMPACT

Once there is actual oil & gas production, foreign skilled workers will come and live in 'man camps'. Evidence from other countries shows that this leads to an increase in alcohol and drug abuse, violence against women and girls, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancies and school dropouts.

INVESTING IN FOSSIL FUELS

In 2022, at a time when Namibia already feels the painful impact of climate change (e.g., through years of drought) and has joined global commitments towards renewable energies, this is simply economically wrong, not smart and sustainable at all.

FRACKING, OR NOT?

"Fracking" is a highly destructive method of oil and gas extraction using toxic chemicals and enormous amounts of water to break open layers of rock underground. Frack development requires thousands of wells to produce, and each well will need 16-20 million litres of fresh water. The only sources of water will be the Okavango River, ground and aquifer water. This will deplete the water resources of the local people. Many countries have already banned fracking. Namibia would be wise to do the same. The Namibian government is denying that fracking will be used as a means of extracting oil and gas, yet this is what ReconAfrica has marketed to its shareholders.



MOST LIKELY A SCAM

Increasing evidence suggests that ReconAfrica is trying to **pull off a major stock market fraud** by scamming shareholders and investors, with Namibia and Botswana having to pay the price.

For instance, the company is only a minor player amongst oil companies and has no practical experience, and the available geological data raises serious doubts as to whether there is even any commercially viable oil to produce in the Kavango at all, even if fracking was going to be used.

ReconAfrica is not transparent about its exploration data, releasing it only late and in part to the public, and they base their predictions on overly optimistic interpretations. Previous explorations in the nearby Owambo Basin have already been declared as not prospective, and the idea of finding economically viable oil in the Kavango Basin remains a mere theory promoted by ReconAfrica which has never been independently verified.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

ReconAfrica is currently increasing its efforts to **buy favours from local and national politicians** and key decision makers, by giving jobs and contracts to certain people, by offering sponsorships to students, and by generally attempting to come across as a company that cares - but it doesn't!

ReconAfrica also tries to get the media more and more on their side, with several cases pending with the Media Ombudsman already, and the **ridiculous show of support** for Earth Day 2022 in collaboration with a Namibian media house that once had a great sense of integrity.

Therefore, it is crucial that we all **stay informed and share information** with others to raise awareness. There is a growing number of sources and websites online, and a growing number of accounts and users on various social media platforms help create awareness.

We must **hold ReconAfrica and the Namibian government fully accountable**. For instance, the group "Saving Okavango's Unique Life" (SOUL) petitioned the Namibian Parliament last year, and over 120 Namibian civil society organisations have called for a **Moratorium and Full Public Enquiry** on the oil and gas exploration by ReconAfrica.

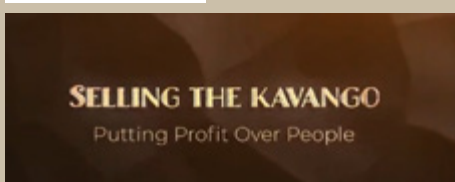
We can also take action by **signing petitions**, participating in **demonstrations**, speaking to decision makers, **contributing financially** to this cause, and just by continuously **raising awareness** against the deceitful misinformation campaign that is being led by ReconAfrica.

NAMIBIANS, WE NEED TO WAKE UP AND PROTECT OUR HEALTH, OUR LIVELIHOODS, OUR ENVIRONMENT, AND OUR ECONOMY IN SUSTAINABLE WAYS BY INVESTING NOW INTO UNLIMITED RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES.

ONLINE VIEWING

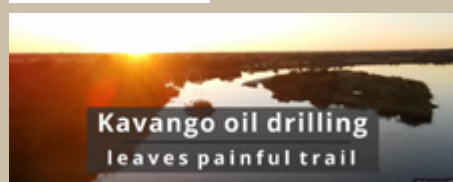
Selling the Kavango - Putting Profit Over People

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqNwuTRiqx4



Kavango Oil Drilling Leaves Painful Trail

www.youtube.com/watch?v=laDePH3X6gg



Oil in the Kavango? ALL Risk, NO Reward for Namibia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olbQEubNqJ0>

