



APPENDIX 5: Socio-Economic Assessment

FINAL BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND
PROSPECTING RIGHTS FOR PROSPECTING IN OFFSHORE SEA
CONCESSION AREA 6C, NORTHERN CAPE, BY TRANS
ATLANTIC DIAMONDS (PTY) LTD**

EA Application Ref. No.: NC30/5/1/1/2/14851 PR

September 2026



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PART OF



SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT FOR PROSPECTING ACTIVITIES IN CONCESSION AREA 6C, WEST COAST, NORTHERN CAPE

June 2026

Report prepared for:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd (TAD) has applied to the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) for a Prospecting Right and Environmental Authorisation to undertake offshore mineral prospecting within Sea Concession Area 6C, located approximately 4–5 km offshore of the Northern Cape coast and about 11 km west of the small town of Koingnaas. The proposed prospecting programme is intended to assess the mineral potential of the concession area and inform future resource evaluation and investment decisions.

The application is being assessed through a Basic Assessment (BA) process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, as the proposed activities trigger listed activities associated with seabed disturbance and the exercise of a prospecting right. The BA process is supported by specialist studies, including this socio-economic assessment, to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed activities and inform environmental and social decision-making. The prospecting programme will be implemented in a phased approach. Initial activities will comprise non-invasive desktop studies, geophysical surveys, seafloor mapping, data acquisition and geological modelling. Subject to the outcomes of these investigations, subsequent phases may include seabed sampling using grab and core sampling techniques, targeted drill sampling, and feasibility assessments to determine the technical and economic viability of any identified mineral resources.

This socio-economic assessment was undertaken to describe the demographic, social and economic context of the study area, identify and assess potential socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed prospecting activities, recommend mitigation and enhancement measures, and provide an independent opinion regarding the socio-economic implications of the project. The assessment focuses on potential impacts on fisheries, tourism, sense of place and wellbeing, employment, procurement, skills development and scientific knowledge generation. The findings are based on available project information, specialist studies and professional judgement and are subject to the assumptions and limitations typically associated with environmental impact assessments.

Socio-economic context

The proposed prospecting activities are located offshore of the Namakwa District Municipality within the Kamiesberg Local Municipality, approximately 11 km west of the small settlement of Koingnaas. The socio-economic environment is characterised by a sparse population distributed across a large geographic area, a strong reliance on primary industries, and limited opportunities for economic diversification. Mining, agriculture, fishing, government services and nature-based tourism remain the principal drivers of economic activity throughout the region.

The Namakwa District Municipality has a population of approximately 149,000 people and is historically dependent on mining, which remains the dominant economic sector and largest source of employment. The district continues to face socio-economic challenges, including unemployment, poverty, skills shortages and income inequality, despite improvements in overall human development indicators. Coastal communities such as Port Nolloth, Kleinsee, Hondeklipbaai and Koingnaas retain strong historical and economic links to the mining industry, while fishing and tourism provide supplementary livelihood opportunities.

The Kamiesberg Local Municipality is a predominantly rural municipality with a population of approximately 15,130 people residing across a number of small settlements, including Garies, Kamieskroon, Leliefontein, Hondeklipbaai and Koinaas. The local economy is supported by mining, agriculture, government services, retail activities and seasonal tourism associated with the internationally renowned Namaqualand wildflower season. Livestock farming is the dominant agricultural activity due to the arid climate and limited water resources.

Koinaas, the settlement located closest to the proposed prospecting area, is a small former mining town that has experienced substantial depopulation following the contraction of coastal diamond mining operations. The town has limited services and economic opportunities, with remaining employment largely linked to residual mining activities, environmental rehabilitation and local services. Given the offshore location of the proposed prospecting activities and their distance from settlements and land-based economic activities, direct interactions with local communities are expected to be limited. However, the socio-economic baseline highlights the importance of marine resources, employment opportunities and economic development within a region where livelihoods remain closely tied to natural resource-based industries.

Impact assessment

The socio-economic impact assessment found that the proposed prospecting activities are unlikely to result in significant negative socio-economic impacts. Potential impacts on fisheries, fishing livelihoods, sense of place, wellbeing, and tourism and recreation were all assessed as having insignificant negative significance, primarily due to the offshore location, limited duration and small spatial footprint of the activities. Conversely, the project is expected to generate several low positive impacts through employment creation, procurement and expenditure, skills development and transformation initiatives, and contributions to environmental and scientific knowledge. While these benefits are anticipated to be modest and largely concentrated at the regional and national levels, they represent positive contributions to economic activity, capacity building and knowledge generation. Overall, the socio-economic impacts are considered manageable and acceptable, with no significant adverse impacts identified. A summary of all the assessed potential prospecting phase impacts has been included in Table I indicating their significance rating with the assumption that essential mitigation measures and best practice optimisation measures are put in place.

Table I. Summary of potential socio-economic impacts associated with the prospecting phase.

Impact identified	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Status	Confidence
Impact on commercial and small-scale fisheries and fishing livelihoods	Very Low	Possible	Insignificant	Negative	High
Impact on sense of place and wellbeing	Very Low	Possible	Insignificant	Negative	Medium
Impact on tourism and recreation	Very Low	Improbable	Insignificant	Negative	Medium
Impact on employment and economic opportunities	Low	Probable	Low	Positive	High
Impact on procurement and expenditure	Low	Probable	Low	Positive	High
Impact on skills development, capacity building and transformation	Low	Probable	Low	Positive	High
Impact on environmental and scientific knowledge generation	Low	Probable	Low	Positive	Medium

Conclusions and recommendations

The socio-economic assessment found that the proposed offshore prospecting activities are unlikely to result in significant adverse impacts on local communities, livelihoods or economic activities. Due to the temporary nature of the programme, its offshore location, and the absence of permanent onshore infrastructure, potential negative impacts on fishing livelihoods, tourism and recreation, and sense of place and wellbeing were all assessed as being of insignificant significance.

The project is expected to generate several positive, albeit modest, socio-economic benefits, including limited employment opportunities, procurement expenditure, skills development and training initiatives, support for B-BBEE and transformation objectives, and contributions to environmental and scientific knowledge generation. While these benefits are not expected to be transformative, they will contribute positively to regional and national economic activity and capacity development.

The assessment concludes that no socio-economic fatal flaws have been identified and that the proposed prospecting activities can proceed from a socio-economic perspective. It is recommended that all essential mitigation measures be implemented, with particular emphasis on proactive stakeholder engagement, transparent communication with fishing and tourism stakeholders, realistic management of employment expectations, support for local and regional procurement where feasible, and the promotion of skills development and knowledge-sharing opportunities. Subject to the implementation of these measures, the project is expected to result in low positive socio-economic benefits and negligible adverse effects.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Anchor	Anchor Environmental Consultants
BA	Basic Assessment
BAR	Basic Assessment Report
B-BBEE	Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment
COLREGS	International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
DMPR	Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
MMO	Marine Mammal Observer
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MPRDA	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 28 of 2002)
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998)
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PAM	Passive Acoustic Monitoring
PPP	Public Participation Process
PR	Prospecting Right
SAMSA	South African Maritime Safety Authority
SATA	South African Tuna Association
SATLA	South African Tuna Longline Association
SAMLMA	South African Marine Linefish Management Association
SMME	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
TAD	Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd
WWF-SA	World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa

I INTRODUCTION

I.1 BACKGROUND

Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd (TAD; the Applicant) intends to undertake prospecting activities within offshore Sea Concession Area 6C in the Northern Cape to assess the viability of future mining operations (Figure 1). To this end, the company is applying to the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) for a Prospecting Right (PR) in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA; Act No. 28 of 2002) for the mineral listed above within Sea Concession Area 6C (EA Application Ref. No.: NC30/5/1/1/2/14851 PR) in the Northern Cape. In addition to the PR, the Applicant is also required to obtain Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the DMPR in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998) and the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, as prospecting is classified as a “listed activity”. Listed activities are classified as activities that may have social and/or environmental impacts and therefore require assessment and approval prior to commencement.



Figure 1. The location of Concession Area 6C along the West Coast of South Africa.

The proposed activities are not expected to constitute bulk sampling and are therefore anticipated to trigger only the following listed activities under Listing Notice 1:

- Activity 19A: “The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from (i) the seashore; (ii) the littoral active zone, an estuary

or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater; or (iii) the sea...”

- Activity 20: “Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a prospecting right in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity as contained in this Listing Notice or in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required to exercise the prospecting right.”

Accordingly, EA must be obtained through a Basic Assessment (BA) process, during which the potential environmental impacts of the proposed prospecting activities are assessed. The findings of the BA are compiled in a Basic Assessment Report (BAR), which is made available for review and comment through a Public Participation Process (PPP) prior to submission to the DMPR for decision-making. The BA process and BAR are supported by input from relevant specialists to inform the assessment of potential impacts. Anchor has been engaged to provide Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) services to support the prospecting rights application, conduct the BA, and undertake the necessary specialist studies as part of the environmental permitting process.

Diamond-mining concession areas in South Africa are grouped into three categories: (i) Land; (ii) Surf-Zone; and (iii) Marine (offshore) Concession Areas (Clark et al. 1999, Penney et al. 2007). Sea Concession 6C is located approximately 4-5 km offshore of the Northern Cape coast, about 11 km west of the nearest inland town, Koingnaas, and 25 km south of the coastal town of Kleinsee (Figure 2). The concession area is approximately 350 hectares in size, and the application is for a large variety of mineral commodities.

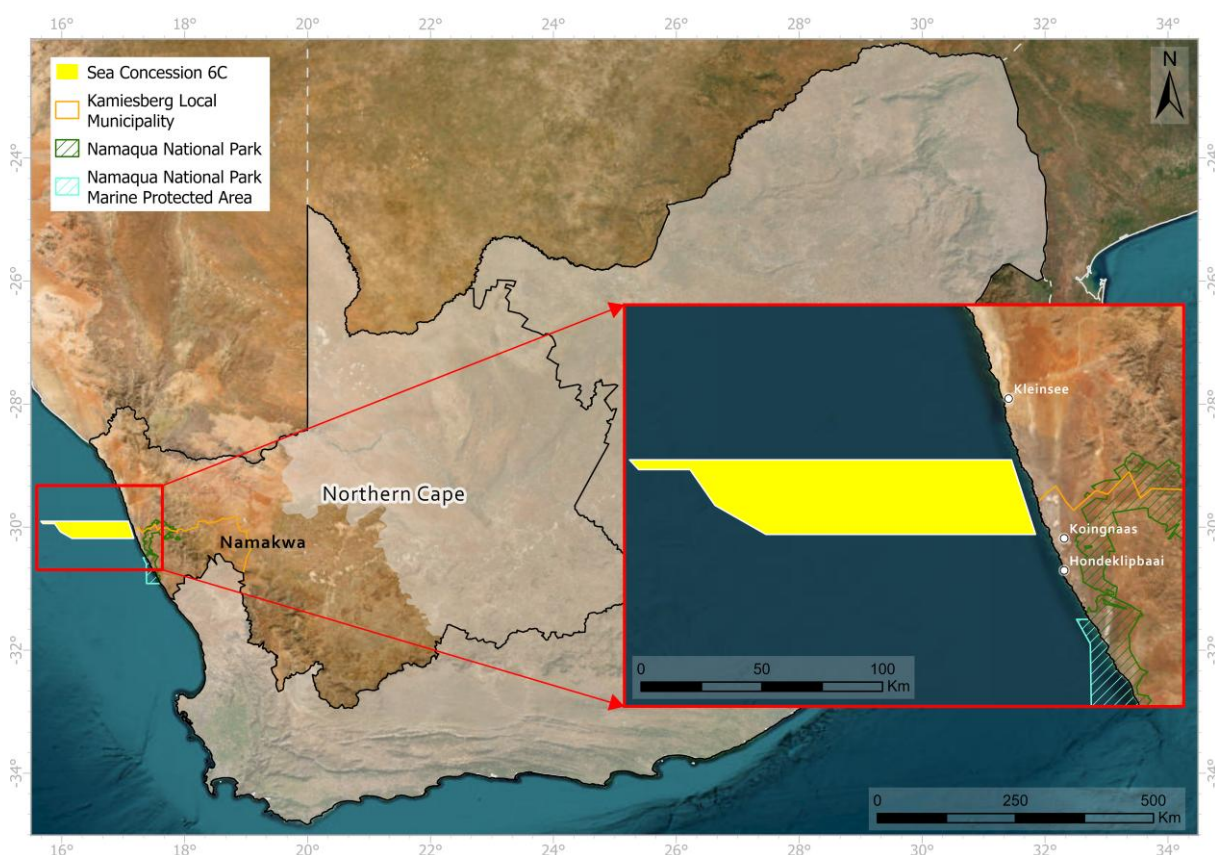


Figure 2. The location of Sea Concession 6C in relation to the Namakwa District Municipality, Kamiesberg Local Municipality and Namaqua National Park and MPA.

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The proposed prospecting programme will be implemented in a phased approach, with each phase informing subsequent activities. Phase 1 comprises non-invasive investigations, including desktop studies, geophysical surveys and seafloor mapping, followed by data acquisition, interpretation and geological modelling to identify prospective targets. Based on the results of these activities, Phase 2 will involve invasive sampling to verify seabed conditions and mineral potential, including Van Veen grab sampling as part of the ecological baseline survey and core sampling using vibracore, gravity core or sonic core methods. Phase 3 will consist of more targeted invasive drill sampling using specialised drilling equipment to further evaluate the characteristics and extent of identified mineral resources. Finally, Phase 4 will involve non-invasive feasibility assessments and resource estimation studies to determine the technical and economic viability of any identified mineral deposits.

1.3 SCOPE OF WORK

The purpose of this study is to provide background on the socio-economic context within which the proposed project will occur and thereafter to identify and assess the significance of any potential socio-economic impacts arising from the proposed activities. The tasks are as follows:

- To detail the social, demographic, and economic baseline context of the study area, as well as that of the region more generally.
- To identify any potential socio-economic impacts arising from the proposed activities
- To prescribe mitigation measures to minimise any potential negative impacts arising from the proposed activities (in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy).
- To recommend enhancement measures to increase the significance of potential socio-economic benefits arising from the proposed activities; and
- To provide an impartial conclusion and reasoned opinion of the proposed activities from a socio-economic perspective.

1.4 PROJECT ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

As with any impact assessment, the outcomes of this study are subject to certain assumptions and limitations associated with the available information, assessment methodology and professional judgement applied. These are outlined below and should be considered in the interpretation of the assessment findings:

- It is assumed that all information provided by the EAP and Client is correct, and that this assessment may be invalidated should significantly contradictory information arise following the assessment's completion.
- The baseline information used to formulate the social and demographic context for this project may be imperfect, out of date, or lack the resolution required to address specific concerns pertaining to this development. Consequently, this has been used to contextually frame this development within the broader socio-economic context of the area but should not be assumed to perfectly represent the conditions on the ground.

- This assessment only considers information that was available (or was made available) at the time of the conclusion of the assessment. Should additional information subsequently be made available, and a revision of the report be required, such a revision falls outside of the scope of work of this study. Anchor cannot be held liable for inaccuracies in this assessment that are based on information made available after the report's completion.
- There is inevitably a degree of subjectivity and limitation in impact assessment and data interpretation. While this assessment is informed by extensive project experience and a high level of confidence in both the available information and its integration, some uncertainty remains in the resulting findings and the recommendations derived from them.

2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

2.1 OVERVIEW

To assess the potential socio-economic impacts of the proposed prospecting operations it is important to understand the socio-economic context in which the proposed project is to be developed and its potential area of impact. To this end, the description of the socio-economic context is provided at the district and local scale. The proposed prospecting activity falls offshore of the Namaqua District Municipality and local Kamiesberg Municipality. The closest community to the offshore prospecting activity is the small town of Koingnaas. This section provides information about the demographic profile, general employment trends and sectoral contributions.

2.2 NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

The Namakwa District Municipality is located in the north-western part of the Northern Cape Province (Figure 2) and encompasses a vast, sparsely populated region characterised by arid landscapes, small settlements, and dispersed rural communities. It is comprised of six local municipalities namely, Kamiesberg, Nama Khoi, Hantam, Khai-Ma, Karoo Hoogland and Richtersveld. The Namakwa District Municipality is the largest district municipality in the province, making up over a third of its geographical area. It covers around 126,836 km² and has a total population of just 148,935 inhabitants and around 33,947 households (Table 1, Namakwa District Municipality 2025). The district's economy is traditionally based on mining, agriculture, fishing and nature-based tourism, with mining historically playing a significant role in regional economic development and employment generation.

Figure 3 indicates relatively slow population growth between 1996 and 2016, followed by a marked increase between 2016 and 2022. The population declined slightly from approximately 110,000 in 1996 to 108,000 in 2001, before increasing to around 116,000 in 2011 and remaining largely stable through 2016. Between 2016 and 2022, however, the population grew substantially to approximately 149,000, representing the most significant period of growth over the observed timeframe. Overall, the trend reflects moderate long-term population growth, driven primarily by the sharp increase recorded between 2016 and 2022.

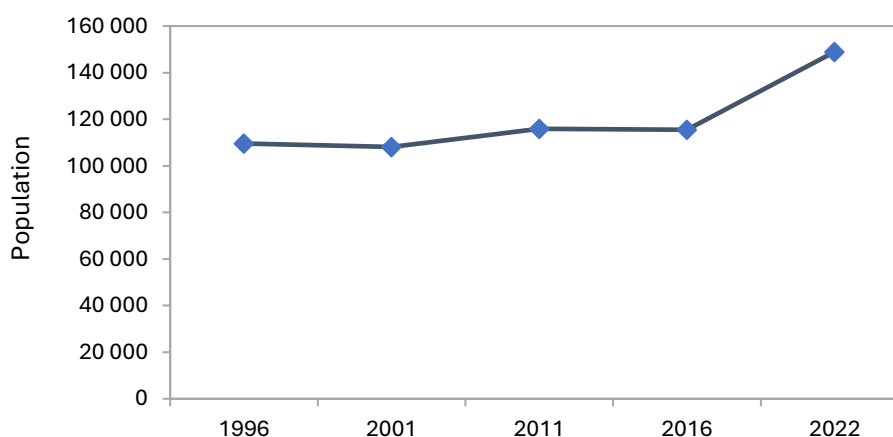


Figure 3. Population Growth in the Namakwa District Municipality between 1996 and 2022. Source: Namakwa District Municipality (2025).

Most of the population in the Namakwa District Municipality identifies as Coloured (85.5%), followed by White (7.5%) and Black African (5.9%). There is a balanced gender distribution in the Namakwa District with 49.1% of the population being Male (Table 1). The population of the district exhibits a youthful age structure, with the largest proportion of the population concentrated in the younger age cohorts (0–34 years) and a gradual decline in population size with increasing age, indicating relatively high historical birth rates and a comparatively small elderly population. The distribution between males and females is broadly balanced across most age groups, although females slightly outnumber males in the older age cohorts, reflecting higher female life expectancy (Namakwa District Municipality 2025). Most of the population are Afrikaans speaking (93.9%), with a small proportion speaking Setswana (1.7%), isiXhosa (1.6%) and English (1.2%; Table 1).

Table 1. Demographic profile summary of the Namakwa District Municipality, Kamiesberg Local Municipality and the town of Koingnaas (Stats SA 2011, Northern Cape Provincial Government 2021, Namakwa District Municipality 2025).

Indicator	Namakwa District Municipality	Kamiesberg Local Municipality	Koingnaas
Population	148 935	15 130	107
Households	33 947	3 576	62
Area (km²)	126 836	11 742	0.66
Population group			
Coloured (%)	85.5	85.6	63.8
Black African (%)	5.9	5.3	0.0
White (%)	7.5	8.1	31.4
Indian or Asian (%)	0.6	0.5	1.0
Other (%)	0.4	0.5	3.8
Gender distribution			
Male (%)	49.1	50.4	53.8
Female (%)	50.9	49.6	46.2
First language			
Afrikaans (%)	93.9	96.4	99.0
Setswana (%)	1.7	0.0	0.0
isiXhosa (%)	1.6	1.4	0.0
English (%)	1.2	0.2	1.0
Dependency ratio (%)	47.1	57.9	19.3

The educational profile of the Namakwa District population indicates relatively low levels of educational attainment, with the largest proportion of residents (44.9%) having attended some secondary school but not completed Grade 12 (Namakwa District Municipality 2025). A further 26.2% have completed Grade 12 (Matric), while only 6.2% have attained higher education qualifications. Smaller proportions of the population have completed primary school (8.5%), attended some primary school (10.3%), or received no formal schooling (3.1%). Overall, the data suggest that while access to basic and secondary education is widespread, a relatively small share of the population has progressed to tertiary-level education. The overall functional literacy rate in Namakwa District stands at 62.27% (Namakwa District Municipality 2025).

The number of people in poverty in the Namakwa District increased from 48,500 in 2010 to 60,800 in 2020, which is a 25.4% increase (Northern Cape Provincial Government 2021). The region also saw an increase in its Gini coefficient from 0.548 in 2010 to 0.582 in 2020, which shows an increased level of income inequality, with most of this change occurring within the Coloured population. Despite this increase in the number of impoverished people and income inequality, the Human Development Index (HDI) for the district, which is an indicator of average quality of life, determined by combining statistics such as schooling, average life expectancy, and standard of living, increased from 0.61 in 2010, to 0.73 in 2020 (Northern Cape Provincial Government 2021).

The Namakwa District Municipality contributes approximately 10.1% to the Northern Cape Province's Gross Domestic Product (GDP; Namakwa District Municipality 2025). While it is the largest district geographically, its economic share is smaller than other districts in the province due to its low population density and reliance on specialized sectors. The economy of the Namakwa District is strongly influenced by the mining sector, which is the largest contributor to employment and economic activity, accounting for approximately 39.8% of the economically active population (Figure 4). Community services represent the second-largest sector (18.0%), reflecting the importance of government and public service employment in the district. Agriculture and fishing contribute 11.7% of employment, highlighting the continued significance of fisheries, livestock farming and other agricultural activities in the region. Trade (10.1%) and finance (9.3%) also make notable contributions to the local economy, while transport accounts for 5.9% of employment. Smaller proportions of the workforce are employed in manufacturing (2.1%), construction (1.5%) and electricity-related activities (1.5%). Overall, the district's economy is characterised by a strong dependence on mining, supported by public sector employment, agriculture and service-based industries.

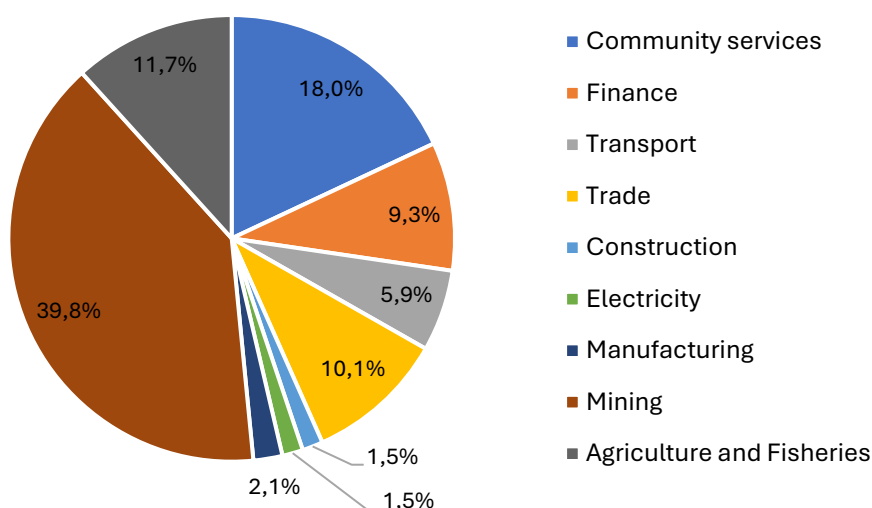


Figure 4. The main economic sectors in the Namakwa District Municipality. Source: Namakwa District Municipality (2025).

Along the coast, communities such as Port Nolloth, Hondeklipbaai, Kleinsee and Koinaas have historically been closely associated with the diamond mining industry. While mining remains an important economic sector, declining mineral production in some areas has contributed to economic challenges, including high unemployment levels and limited opportunities for

economic diversification. The total number of equivalent full-time jobs in Namakwa District in 2022 was 16,049 and the unemployment rate was 28% (Namakwa District Municipality 2025). Small-scale commercial fishing and marine-related activities continue to support livelihoods in several coastal communities, while nature-based tourism associated with the Namaqualand coastline and seasonal wildflower displays within the Namaqua National Park contributes to local economic activity.

The district has a relatively small population distributed across a large geographic area, resulting in limited access to services and infrastructure in some communities. Socio-economic challenges include unemployment, poverty, skills shortages and out-migration of younger residents seeking employment opportunities elsewhere. Despite these challenges, the region's coastal and marine resources remain important contributors to local livelihoods, cultural identity and future economic development opportunities.

2.3 KAMIESBERG MUNICIPALITY

The Kamiesberg Local Municipality is situated on the south-west coast of the Northern Cape and borders the Western Cape Province to the south, the Nama Khoi Municipality in the north, the Khâi-Ma Municipality to the north-east, the Hantam Municipality to the south-east, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The Kamiesberg Local Municipality consists of three main geographical regions, the sandy coastal lowlands, the mountainous central Kamiesberg escarpment, and the eastern plateau known as Bushmanland (Kamiesberg Local Municipality 2025a). The Kamiesberg Local Municipality consists of several small, sparsely populated rural towns and settlements, including Garies, Kamieskroon, Leliefontein, Hondeklipbaai and Koingnaas, that serve as local service centres for the surrounding agricultural and mining communities.

The Kamiesberg Local Municipality has a population of 15,130 people residing in 3,576 households across an area of approximately 11,742 km² (Table 1). This reflects a low population density of just over one person per square kilometre, characteristic of the municipality's predominantly rural and sparsely populated nature. The population is distributed across several small towns and settlements, with Garies serving as the administrative centre. The demographic profile is dominated by the Coloured population group, which comprises 85.6% of the total population (Table 1). White residents account for 8.1% of the population, while Black Africans represent 5.3%. Indian or Asian and Other population groups each account for approximately 0.5% of the population. This demographic composition is broadly reflective of the wider Namakwa District and Northern Cape regional context.

The gender distribution within the municipality is relatively balanced, with males comprising 50.4% of the population and females 49.6% (Table 1). This near-equal distribution suggests the absence of significant gender-based migration patterns that are often associated with major urban centres. Afrikaans is overwhelmingly the dominant first language, spoken by 96.4% of residents (Table 1), highlighting the municipality's strong linguistic and cultural homogeneity. IsiXhosa is the second most common home language, spoken by 1.4% of the population, while English accounts for only 0.2%. The municipality has a dependency ratio of 57.9%, higher than the district ratio, indicating that there are approximately 58 dependants (children and elderly persons) for every 100 working-age individuals. This relatively high dependency ratio places additional pressure on economically active residents and underscores the importance of employment opportunities, social support systems and public services within the municipality.

The functional literacy rate in Kamiesberg Local Municipality is below the district average and sits at 60% (Namakwa District Municipality 2025).

The Kamiesberg Local Municipality contributes roughly R764 million (or around 8%) to the total Namakwa District Municipality GDP (Namakwa District Municipality 2025). This makes it the smallest municipal contributor to the district's economy. According to census data, the largest employment sectors within the municipality were mining and quarrying (21.5%), government services (19.4%), community, social and personal services (18.1%), wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation (14.3%), and agriculture, forestry and fisheries (10.0%). Economic activities vary considerably across the municipality, with agriculture dominating the rural areas, fishing and tourism playing a significant role in Hondeklipbaai, and government, commercial and service-sector employment concentrated in the larger towns and settlements (Kamiesberg Local Municipality 2025a).

Tourism is an important contributor to the local economy of the Kamiesberg Local Municipality, although the sector is highly seasonal and largely driven by the annual wildflower season, which attracts visitors between August and October (Figure 5). The municipality is internationally recognised for its exceptional floral diversity, containing approximately one-third of the world's succulent flora species, nearly 40% of which are endemic to the region (Kamiesberg Local Municipality 2025b). The coastal settlement of Hondeklipbaai contributes a smaller but important marine tourism component to the local economy through its fishing heritage, recreational activities and holiday accommodation offerings.



Figure 5. Spring wildflower display within the Kamiesberg Local Municipality, illustrating the region's internationally renowned floral diversity and the seasonal landscape that supports nature-based tourism during the annual Namaqualand flower season. Source: Gaynor, <https://tulipsandphoenixes.co.za/>

Agriculture in the region is dominated by livestock farming, particularly the rearing of sheep and goats, which account for 56.9% of agricultural households, while poultry farming represents a further 25.4% (Stats SA 2011). The municipality has no perennial rivers and is therefore entirely dependent on groundwater resources, which are accessed through boreholes, windmills and

natural springs (Kamiesberg Local Municipality 2025b a). These arid environmental conditions and limited water availability constrain opportunities for crop production and make extensive livestock farming the most viable agricultural activity. However, the sector faces several challenges, including livestock losses due to predation, as well as stock theft, both of which negatively affect farm productivity and profitability.

2.4 KOINGNAAS

Koingnaas is a small settlement located within the Kamiesberg Local Municipality of the Namakwa District in the Northern Cape Province. The town lies approximately 11 km east of Concession Area 6C, 5 km inland from the coast, 65 km south of the coastal town of Kleinsee and 20 km north of the coastal town of Hondeklipbaai. Established in 1970 as a company town supporting offshore and coastal diamond mining operations along the Namaqualand coast, the settlement experienced significant population and economic decline following the contraction of alluvial diamond mining and the withdrawal of De Beers from the area. Like several former mining settlements along the Northern Cape coast, Koingnaas has experienced significant depopulation and now functions largely as a remnant mining settlement with limited economic activity (Kamiesberg Local Municipality 2025a).

Over the past two decades the population of Koingnaas has fluctuated in response to mining operations along the Namaqualand coast, with numbers peaking at around 1000 individuals at the height of the De Beers operations. In 2008, De Beers withdrew from the area and the population decreased significantly with people moving to other settlements in search of economic opportunities. Following the purchase of the Koingnaas Mine by West Coast Resources (owned by Trans Hex) in 2011, there was a resurgence of the town. However, the termination of mining activities in 2019 due to low profitability, resulted in another depopulation from the small mining town. According to the 2011 Census¹, Koingnaas had a population of just 107 residents from 62 households (Table 1; Stats SA 2011). The population is predominantly Afrikaans speaking, with the majority identifying as Coloured (63.8%) and White (31.4%). There were slightly more males (53.8%) than females and most of the population was of working age between 15 and 64 years (83.8%). The elderly (>65 years) made up 4.8% of the population and children aged 0-14 years made up 11.4%. The entire adult population had received some formal education, with close to 26% having a matric pass.

In 2011, most of the population in Koingnaas earned between R19 601 and R307 600 per year, with around one third earning an income in the category R76 401 and R153 800 (Figure 6). There were just three households that did not earn an income. Koingnaas recorded a very low dependency ratio of 19.3 in 2011, which indicates that there were very few people in the town for the working population to support. The population data supports the town's identity primarily as a mining town, through the relatively high level of formal education and annual income, when compared to other coastal towns in the region, such as Hondeklipbaai.

¹ While Statistics South Africa's Census 2022 provides the most recent population data available, concerns regarding undercounting and data quality have been widely acknowledged. Consequently, Census 2011 remains the most comprehensive and statistically robust national census dataset for South Africa and is therefore used as an important reference point in this assessment.

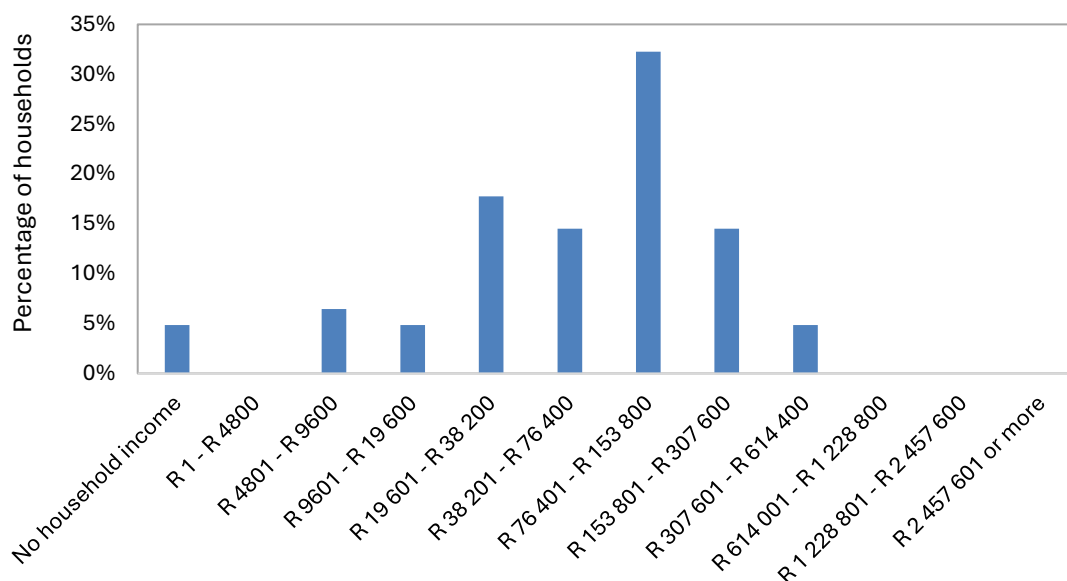


Figure 6 Percentage of households within each income category in 2011. This represents total gross annual household income from all sources combined for all household members. Source: Stats SA 2011.

The small town of Koingnaas is located within a restricted access area, where visitors are required to register and present identification at the entrance gate. The town is accessed via a gravel road and has limited services, including two general stores and a library. The local clinic is currently not operational, with residents relying on healthcare services in Hondeklipbaai. There are no schools in Koingnaas, and learners either attend schools in Hondeklipbaai or Kleinsee, or receive home-based education. Situated within the ecologically significant Namaqualand coastal region, the town forms part of a broader landscape characterised by low population densities, a strong mining heritage, and emerging opportunities associated with nature-based tourism, conservation and coastal resource management.

Employment opportunities in Koingnaas vary from residual mining opportunities, environmental rehabilitation work related to mining activities, and the services industry (e.g., shops and supplies) for the local community. The old coastal diamond diving village of Noup, located approximately 10.4 km north-west of Koingnaas, has been converted to accommodation for tourists to the area, and there is also a campsite located approximately 5.7 km north of Noup. However, since Koingnaas is not located adjacent to the coast, opportunities to diversify into tourism, fishing or mariculture-based activities are relatively limited.

2.5 SUMMARY

In summary, the socio-economic environment of the Namakwa District and Kamiesberg Local Municipality is characterised by a small, dispersed population, a strong reliance on primary industries, and a limited but important tourism sector. Mining, agriculture, fishing and government services remain the key drivers of economic activity and employment, while the region continues to face challenges associated with unemployment, poverty, skills shortages and limited economic diversification. The coastal settlements of the region, including Koingnaas, have historically been closely linked to the mining sector and continue to exhibit the socio-economic legacy of fluctuating mining activity. Koingnaas itself is a small, remote settlement

with a declining population, limited services and relatively few economic opportunities outside of mining-related activities.

Given the offshore location of the proposed prospecting activities, approximately 11 km from the nearest settlement, direct interactions with local communities and existing land-based economic activities are expected to be limited. The socio-economic baseline nevertheless highlights the importance of considering the potential effects of the project on existing marine-based industries, employment opportunities and broader regional development objectives, particularly within a region where economic opportunities remain constrained and natural resources continue to play an important role in supporting local livelihoods.

3 PERCEPTIONS AND CONCERNS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

During the Pre-Consultation Registration Period (19–29 June 2026), comments received were largely administrative in nature, relating to requests to register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), requests for project documentation, and requests to be notified of subsequent stages of the environmental assessment process. Stakeholders included local organisations, neighbouring mining interests, non-governmental organisations, and government departments. No substantive socioeconomic concerns were raised by local communities, businesses or public stakeholders during this initial registration phase.

The only comments with direct socioeconomic relevance were submitted by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management. The Directorate highlighted the potential for cumulative impacts arising from multiple prospecting applications along the West Coast and raised concerns regarding possible effects on the region's aquaculture industry, including two land-based abalone mariculture facilities near Kleinsee and adjacent abalone ranching concessions. Specifically, concerns related to the potential for increased suspended sediments from offshore drilling activities to affect seawater intake systems, aquaculture infrastructure, abalone production and existing investments in aquaculture operations. The Directorate also recommended ongoing engagement with aquaculture operators, advance communication of prospecting schedules, consideration of sensitive production cycles, and implementation of mitigation measures to avoid disruption to these economically important activities. These concerns are relevant to the socioeconomic assessment as they relate to the protection of existing commercial enterprises, employment and investment within the regional aquaculture sector.

In response, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner and marine specialists indicated that cumulative impacts would be assessed as part of the Basic Assessment process and marine specialist studies. They further noted that the aquaculture facilities would be included as registered stakeholders, that ongoing communication would be maintained throughout the project, and that mitigation measures would be incorporated into the Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme. The response also highlighted that the prospecting area is located approximately 5 km offshore of the mariculture facilities, and that, given the offshore location and nearshore seawater abstraction points, impacts on aquaculture operations are not anticipated.

4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED IMPACTS

The principal socio-economic impact pathways relate to temporary interactions with marine users, particularly fishing activities, and the generation of direct and indirect economic benefits through procurement and employment at regional and national scales. Due to the offshore location, limited duration of activities, absence of onshore infrastructure, and lack of reliance on local labour, direct impacts on nearby communities are expected to be negligible. Consequently, the significance of socio-economic impacts is likely to be low, with no material effects anticipated on local population dynamics, community services, infrastructure or livelihoods.

The assessment and rating procedure described in Appendix 1 of this report were used to assess the socio-economic impact of the proposed prospecting activities. To reduce negative impacts, precautions referred to as ‘mitigation measures’ are set and attainable mitigation actions are recommended. The proposed mitigation measures are based on international best practice mitigation hierarchy: avoid, minimise, rehabilitate/restore, offset and no-go, in that order. Measures for reducing negative impacts are classified as either:

- **Essential:** Mandatory measures that must be implemented and are non-negotiable. These measures are assumed to be implemented in the “with mitigation” impact scenario and are therefore incorporated into the post mitigation impact assessment significance rating; or
- **Best practice / recommended:** Non-mandatory measures that should be implemented where feasible and appropriate. Alternative measures or approaches may be adopted, provided that the required socio-economic outcome is still achieved and a clear and defensible motivation is provided for not implementing the recommended measure. These do not affect the overall impact rating if not implemented.

To further enhance positive impacts, a set of optimisation measures are proposed. These are best practice broader enhancement measures aimed at optimising potential socio-economic benefits associated with the project and are non-mandatory. This analysis draws on the findings of the Marine Ecology and Fisheries Assessment which assessed the impact of prospecting in Sea Concession 6C on fisheries (and livelihoods of those who depend on these fisheries) due to exclusion zones around survey vessels and direct potential impacts on target species and supporting ecosystems (Rees et al. 2026).

Potential socio-economic impacts as a result of exploration and prospecting are identified based on available literature, information collated from the Client, previous EIA and monitoring reports and the specialist’s own knowledge. Identified potential impacts include:

- Impacts on fisheries (and livelihoods of those who depend on these fisheries);
- Impacts on sense of place and wellbeing;
- Impacts on nature-based tourism and recreation;
- Impacts on direct employment;
- Impacts on procurement and expenditure;
- Impacts on training and skills development; and
- Impacts on scientific data and knowledge generation.

4.2 PROSPECTING PHASE: NEGATIVE IMPACTS

4.2.1 COMMERCIAL AND SMALL-SCALE FISHING ACTIVITIES

The Marine Ecology and Fisheries Assessment (Rees et al. 2026) considered the potential impacts of prospecting activities on commercial and small-scale fisheries operating within and around Concession Area 6C. Potential impacts identified include the temporary exclusion of fishing vessels from survey areas due to the implementation of a moving 500 m safety zone around the survey vessel, as well as the possibility of short-term changes in fish behaviour associated with survey activities. These effects could result in temporary displacement of fishing effort and minor disruptions to fishing operations.

However, the assessment found that overlap between the proposed prospecting activities and active fishing grounds is limited, with only the tuna pole and line and traditional linefish sectors operating within the concession area to any notable extent. Furthermore, catches from the concession area represent a very small proportion of the total catch for these fisheries, and the offshore location of the concession means that no impacts on local small-scale fishers are anticipated. Based on the findings of the Marine Ecology and Fisheries Assessment, the impact on fisheries was assessed as Insignificant, provided that relevant fishing stakeholders are informed of survey activities in advance and standard best-practice communication measures are implemented (Table 2).

Table 2. Impact on fisheries (and livelihoods of those who depend on these fisheries). Source: Rees et al. 2026.

	Extent	Intensity	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Status	Confidence
Without mitigation	Local 1	Medium 2	Short-term 1	Very Low 4	Possible	INSIGNIFICANT	-ve	High
Best Practice:								
Prior to survey commencement, key stakeholders (see below) should be consulted and informed of the proposed survey activity and the likely implications thereof.								

BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATION

Prior to survey commencement, the following key stakeholders should be consulted and informed of the proposed survey activity (including navigational co-ordinates of the survey area, timing and duration of proposed activities) and the likely implications thereof:

- Fishing industry / associations (contactable via liaison@fishsa.org):
 - SA Marine Linefish Management Association (SAMLMA);
 - South African Tuna Association (SATA);
 - South African Tuna Longline Association (SATLA);
 - Large Pelagic Small Medium & Micro Enterprises Association (LPSMME); and
 - Local fishing communities.
- Other associations and organs of state
 - DFFE;
 - SAMSA;
 - South African Navy Hydrographic office; and
 - Overlapping and neighbouring right holders.

These stakeholders should again be notified at the completion of surveying when the survey vessel(s) is/are off location. The operator must request, in writing, that the South African Navy Hydrographic office release Radio Navigation Warnings and Notices to Mariners throughout the survey periods. The Notice to Mariners should give notice of (1) the co-ordinates of the proposed survey area, (2) an indication of the proposed timeframes of surveys and day-to-day location of the survey vessel(s), and (3) an indication of the required safety zone(s) and the proposed safe operational limits of the survey vessel. These Notices to Mariners should be distributed timeously to fishing companies and directly onto vessels where possible.

4.2.2 SENSE OF PLACE AND WELLBEING

Sense of place refers to the meanings, values and emotional connections that people associate with a particular environment, while wellbeing encompasses the social, cultural and psychological benefits derived from living in, working in or visiting that place. In the context of the Kamiesberg and Namaqualand coastline, sense of place is closely linked to the region's natural beauty, biodiversity, coastal character, cultural heritage and the relatively undeveloped nature of the marine environment.

Although the proposed prospecting activities are temporary in nature and located offshore, some stakeholders may perceive them as a precursor to future mining activities. This may give rise to concerns regarding potential long-term impacts on the marine environment, fisheries resources, local livelihoods and the natural character of the Namaqualand coastline. Such concerns can influence people's sense of place, attachment to the local environment and overall wellbeing, even where no direct socio-economic impacts occur during the prospecting phase. As a result, perceived impacts on sense of place and wellbeing may be more significant than the direct socio-economic effects associated with the proposed prospecting activities themselves.

For a prospecting project located 11 km offshore from a small, sparsely populated coastline with limited direct dependence on the concession area, the impact on sense of place and wellbeing is expected to be Insignificant (Table 3) and recommended Best Practice is for the Applicant to maintain transparent and ongoing communication with interested and affected parties by providing clear information on the nature, duration and findings of the prospecting programme, as well as any future development processes that may be proposed.

Table 3. Perceived impact on sense of place and wellbeing arising from concerns regarding future mining and environmental change

	Extent	Intensity	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Status	Confidence
Without mitigation	Local 1	Medium 2	Short-term 1	Very Low 4	Possible	INSIGNIFICANT	-ve	Med
Best Practice:								
- Project information materials should clearly explain the temporary nature of the prospecting activities, the limited spatial extent of the survey area and the outcomes of specialist environmental studies. - Regular project updates should be provided to key stakeholder groups particularly prior to the commencement of offshore activities. - Where feasible, the Applicant should communicate the findings of specialist studies and environmental monitoring programmes in an accessible and non-technical format to improve transparency and build trust. - Any future applications for exploration or mining activities should be subject to separate environmental assessment and stakeholder engagement processes, and this should be clearly communicated during the prospecting phase.								

4.2.3 TOURISM AND RECREATION

The Namaqualand region is internationally recognised for its exceptional biodiversity and forms part of the Succulent Karoo biome, a global centre of plant endemism. Tourism is an important economic sector within the Kamiesberg Local Municipality, particularly during the annual wildflower season between August and October, when visitors contribute to local accommodation, retail and hospitality businesses. The municipality has identified tourism as a key sector for future economic growth, with development opportunities focused on the uplands, plateau and coastal areas through the promotion of natural heritage, cultural attractions and tourism infrastructure. Coastal tourism is currently limited but includes activities centred on Hondeklipbaai and tourist accommodation at the former diamond-diving settlement of Noup.

Potential impacts of the proposed prospecting activities on tourism and recreation relate primarily to the temporary presence of offshore survey vessels and the possible formation of localised sediment plumes, which could affect the visual quality of the marine environment. However, given that the concession area is located offshore and begins approximately 5 km from the coastline, these effects are expected to be negligible from coastal viewpoints. Furthermore, the short duration and localised nature of the prospecting activities mean that impacts on tourism and recreation are expected to be very low. Avoiding prospecting activities during key tourism periods, particularly the flower season, would further reduce potential disturbances. Consequently, the impact on nature-based tourism and recreation is assessed as Very Low and reduces to Insignificant with mitigation (Table 4).

Table 4. Impact on nature-based tourism and recreation

	Extent	Intensity	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Status	Confidence
Without mitigation	Local 1	Medium 2	Short-term 1	Very Low 4	Probable	VERY LOW	-ve	Med
Essential: - The Prospecting activities must be confined to the approved concession area and footprint. - All vessels must comply with applicable environmental management and operational requirements to prevent pollution or unnecessary disturbance of the marine environment. - Relevant tourism stakeholders and local authorities must be informed of the timing and duration of prospecting activities prior to commencement. Best Practice: - The Prospecting activities should, where feasible, be scheduled outside peak tourism periods, particularly the Namaqualand flower season (August–October). - The Applicant should maintain communication with local tourism operators and tourism authorities regarding the progress and duration of offshore activities. - Information provided to stakeholders should emphasise the temporary, offshore and localised nature of the prospecting activities to reduce misconceptions regarding impacts on tourism and recreation. - Where feasible, survey vessels should minimise unnecessary lighting at night and avoid prolonged stationary presence near the coastline.								
With mitigation	Local 1	Medium 2	Short-term 1	Very Low 4	Improbable	INSIGNIFICANT	-ve	Med

4.3 PROSPECTING PHASE: POSITIVE IMPACTS

4.3.1 EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

It is important to recognise that the prospecting phase is a highly specialised, short-term activity that offers limited opportunities for direct local employment. Offshore prospecting vessels typically accommodate a small crew comprising qualified maritime personnel, technical specialists, environmental observers and support staff, most of whom require specialised training, certifications and experience. Consequently, the majority of employment opportunities associated with prospecting are unlikely to be filled from nearby coastal communities. In addition, prospecting activities are generally undertaken as intermittent survey campaigns separated by periods of data processing and analysis, further limiting the potential for sustained employment and local economic benefits during this phase. As a result, any employment, procurement and skills development opportunities arising from the prospecting phase of the project should be viewed as supplementary rather than transformative in nature.

Therefore, the proposed prospecting programme has the potential to generate only a small number of short-term employment and procurement opportunities at the local, provincial and national levels. At the local level, direct employment opportunities are expected to be very limited and may include casual labour associated with vessel provisioning, port-based security services, the appointment of a Fishing Liaison Officer from the local fishing community, and the possible use of local fishing vessels as support or standby vessels during certain survey activities. Given the offshore nature of the project and the specialised skills required, local employment benefits are expected to be negligible and are unlikely to result in any material reduction in unemployment within nearby communities. At the provincial and national levels, a broader range of opportunities may arise through the procurement of goods and services associated with vessel operations, marine logistics, equipment supply, environmental monitoring, laboratory analysis, technical support and professional services. These opportunities are expected to benefit a small number of skilled and semi-skilled workers and service providers. However, the employment generated will be temporary, project-based and limited in scale.

Therefore, the prospecting programme is expected to have a low positive impact on employment and economic opportunities. While the project will contribute modestly to economic activity through direct and indirect expenditure, the short duration of the programme and the specialised nature of the work mean that employment benefits will be limited and largely concentrated at the provincial and national levels rather than within local coastal communities. Consequently, the impact is positive but of very low significance (Table 5). With best practice optimisation measures the impact is expected to be of low positive significance.

Table 5. Impact on employment and economic opportunities

	Extent	Intensity	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Status	Confidence
Without optimisation	Regional 2	Low 1	Short-term 1	Very Low 4	Probable	VERY LOW	+ve	High
Best practice: • Where suitably qualified and available, South African individuals and service providers must be afforded reasonable opportunities to participate in project-related employment and procurement. • A Fishing Liaison Officer must be appointed where required to facilitate communication between the project and potentially affected fishing stakeholders. • Preference should be given, where feasible, to local and regional suppliers for goods and services associated with vessel provisioning, security and logistics. • Employment opportunities and procurement requirements should be communicated to local stakeholders and businesses where appropriate. • The Applicant should manage stakeholder expectations by clearly communicating the limited and temporary nature of employment opportunities associated with the prospecting phase.								
With optimisation	Regional 2	Medium 2	Short-term 1	Low 5	Probable	LOW	+ve	High

4.3.2 PROCUREMENT AND EXPENDITURE

According to the TAD document which sets out the socio-economic considerations associated with the prospecting phase of operations, the proposed prospecting programme will result in expenditure on a range of goods and services, including fuel, food and catering supplies for the vessel, accommodation for crew during shore-based intervals, transport services for crew to and from the port, port services, specialist contractors and professional services. Additional economic benefits may arise through compliance-related expenditure, environmental monitoring, laboratory analysis and regulatory processes. These expenditures will contribute to economic activity and support businesses involved in the marine, logistics, environmental and professional services sectors.

However, the majority of procurement and expenditure is expected to occur through established service providers located in larger economic centres such as Cape Town and Saldanha Bay, where the necessary infrastructure, technical expertise and marine support services are available. Consequently, direct economic benefits to local communities adjacent to the concession area, including Koingnaas and Hondeklipbaai, are expected to be limited. While the project will generate some government revenue through permitting, regulatory compliance and associated economic activity, these benefits will primarily accrue at the regional and national levels.

Therefore, the prospecting phase is expected to have a very low positive impact (Table 6) on procurement and economic activity due to the temporary nature of the project and the limited opportunities for local participation. Nevertheless, project expenditure will contribute modestly to economic activity within the broader South African economy. With best practice optimisation measures the impact is expected to be of low positive significance (Table 6).

Table 6. Impact on procurement and expenditure

	Extent	Intensity	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Status	Confidence
Without optimisation	Local - Regional 2	Low 1	Short-term 1	Very Low 4	Probable	VERY LOW	+ve	High
Best practice: • The Applicant must implement its procurement and supplier development policies in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner. • All procurement activities must comply with applicable legal, contractual and regulatory requirements. • Where feasible and commercially competitive, preference should be given to South African suppliers and service providers. • Opportunities for local and regional businesses to provide goods and services should be communicated where appropriate. • The Applicant should maintain records of local, regional and national procurement expenditure to demonstrate economic contributions arising from the project.								
With optimisation	Local-Regional 2	Medium 2	Short-term 1	Low 5	Probable	LOW	+ve	High

4.3.3 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRANSFORMATION

The prospecting phase provides an opportunity to support skills development and transformation objectives through targeted training and capacity-building initiatives. Although direct employment opportunities during the prospecting phase are expected to be limited, the development of transferable skills can provide longer-term benefits to participants and improve access to future opportunities within the marine, environmental and maritime sectors.

Potential training initiatives include Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) training, Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) operator training, environmental monitoring and compliance training, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) awareness training, and basic seamanship and vessel safety training. These interventions would contribute to local capacity building and could enhance the employability of participants beyond the life of the prospecting programme.

The project also has the potential to contribute to national transformation objectives through the procurement of goods and services from South African and B-BBEE-compliant suppliers, consistent with the requirements of the Mining Charter applicable to prospecting activities. While the scale of these benefits is likely to be modest given the short-term nature of the programme, they represent a positive contribution towards skills development, economic participation and transformation.

Consequently, the impact is considered positive as it has the potential to create a lasting influence through the development of human capital and support for B-BBEE-aligned procurement and supplier participation. However, the significance is expected to be very low (Table 7). With essential and best practice optimisation measures the impact is expected to be of low positive significance.

Table 7. Impact on skills development, capacity building and transformation

	Extent	Intensity	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Status	Confidence
Without optimisation	Local - Regional 2	Low 1	Medium-term 2	Low 5	Possible	VERY LOW	+ve	High
Best practice: - Any training commitments must be implemented and appropriately documented. - Procurement processes must be undertaken in accordance with applicable Mining Charter requirements and the Applicant's B-BBEE and supplier development policies. - Training opportunities must be offered in a fair and transparent manner, with clear selection criteria. - Preference should be given to candidates from local and regional communities for training and capacity-building opportunities. - Training programmes should focus on transferable skills that remain valuable beyond the prospecting phase. - The Applicant should track and report on training outcomes, participant numbers and B-BBEE-related procurement expenditure as part of its project reporting.								
With optimisation	Local-Regional 2	Medium 2	Medium-term 1	Low 5	Probable	LOW	+ve	High

4.3.4 CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

The proposed prospecting activities have the potential to contribute positively to environmental and scientific knowledge through the collection of geological, oceanographic and ecological data. Prospecting activities will generate information on seabed characteristics, marine habitats and the geological composition of the continental shelf, thereby improving understanding of the offshore environment. In addition, observations collected by Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) and other environmental monitoring personnel may contribute valuable information on the distribution and occurrence of marine fauna, including whales and dolphins.

Beyond its environmental value, the geological information generated through prospecting may assist in informing future resource assessments and investment decisions, thereby contributing to broader national economic development objectives. While these benefits are indirect and strategic in nature, the data generated may support government agencies, research institutions and conservation organisations in improving knowledge of the marine environment. Consequently, the prospecting programme is expected to result in a positive contribution to environmental and scientific knowledge generation (Table 8).

Table 8. Impact on environmental and scientific knowledge generation

	Extent	Intensity	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Status	Confidence
Without optimisation	National 3	Low 1	Short to medium-term 2	Low 5	Possible	VERY LOW	+ve	Med
Best practice: - Environmental and scientific data must be collected, stored and managed in accordance with applicable legal, permitting and reporting requirements. - Results of environmental monitoring and survey activities must be reported to the relevant regulatory authorities as required.								

- Where appropriate and subject to confidentiality requirements, non-sensitive environmental and scientific data should be made available to relevant government agencies, research institutions and conservation organisations. - Opportunities should be explored to share marine mammal observation data and other biodiversity information with recognised conservation and research bodies. - Survey findings should be documented in a manner that facilitates their future use in environmental management, scientific research and marine spatial planning processes.								
With optimisation	National 3	Medium 2	Short to medium-term 2	Low 5	Probable	LOW	+ve	Med

4.4 SUMMARY

Overall, the assessment found that the proposed prospecting activities are unlikely to result in significant negative socio-economic impacts. Potential impacts on fisheries, fishing livelihoods, sense of place, wellbeing, and tourism and recreation were all assessed as having insignificant negative significance, primarily due to the offshore location, limited duration and small spatial footprint of the activities. Conversely, the project is expected to generate a number of low positive impacts through employment creation, procurement and expenditure, skills development and transformation initiatives, and contributions to environmental and scientific knowledge. While these benefits are anticipated to be modest and largely concentrated at the regional and national levels, they represent positive contributions to economic activity, capacity building and knowledge generation. Overall, the socio-economic impacts are considered manageable and acceptable, with no significant adverse impacts identified.

A summary of all the assessed potential prospecting phase impacts has been included in Table 9 indicating their significance rating with the assumption that essential mitigation measures and best practice optimisation measures are put in place.

Table 9. Summary of potential socio-economic impacts associated with the prospecting phase.

Impact identified	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Status	Confidence
Impact on commercial and small-scale fisheries and fishing livelihoods	Very Low	Possible	Insignificant	Negative	High
Impact on sense of place and wellbeing	Very Low	Possible	Insignificant	Negative	Medium
Impact on tourism and recreation	Very Low	Improbable	Insignificant	Negative	Medium
Impact on employment and economic opportunities	Low	Probable	Low	Positive	High
Impact on procurement and expenditure	Low	Probable	Low	Positive	High
Impact on skills development, capacity building and transformation	Low	Probable	Low	Positive	High
Impact on environmental and scientific knowledge generation	Low	Probable	Low	Positive	Medium

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed prospecting activities within Sea Concession Area 6C are located offshore of the Namaqualand coast, approximately 11 km from the nearest settlement of Koingnaas and at least 5 km from the shoreline. The project comprises a phased prospecting programme involving geophysical surveys, seabed sampling and targeted drilling to assess the mineral potential of the concession area. The activities are temporary in nature, spatially limited and do not require the establishment of permanent onshore infrastructure.

The socio-economic baseline indicates that the Namakwa District and Kamiesberg Local Municipality are characterised by small, dispersed populations, relatively high levels of unemployment and dependence on a limited number of economic sectors, particularly mining, agriculture, fishing, tourism and government services. While economic opportunities remain constrained in the region, the offshore location of the proposed prospecting activities limits the extent to which local communities and existing land-based economic activities are likely to be affected.

The assessment identified three potential negative impacts, namely impacts on fisheries and associated livelihoods, impacts on sense of place and wellbeing, and impacts on nature-based tourism and recreation. Based on the findings of the Marine Ecology and Fisheries Assessment and the socio-economic assessment, all negative impacts are expected to be of low significance. The impact on fisheries was assessed as Insignificant due to the limited overlap between the concession area and active fishing grounds, the small contribution of catches from the concession area to overall fisheries production, and the absence of any anticipated impacts on local small-scale fishers. Similarly, impacts on tourism and recreation are expected to be negligible due to the offshore location of activities and their temporary duration. Potential impacts on sense of place and wellbeing are largely perception-based and relate to concerns regarding future mining activities rather than direct effects associated with prospecting itself. These impacts are also considered to be of Insignificant significance.

The assessment further identified several positive socio-economic impacts associated with the prospecting programme. These include limited employment opportunities, project-related procurement and expenditure, skills development and transformation initiatives, and contributions to environmental and scientific knowledge generation. While these benefits are expected to be modest due to the short-term and highly specialised nature of prospecting activities, they nevertheless represent positive contributions to regional and national economic activity. Opportunities associated with skills development, environmental monitoring and B-BBEE-aligned procurement may provide benefits that extend beyond the life of the project. In addition, the collection of geological, oceanographic and ecological information will contribute to a broader understanding of South Africa's offshore environment and mineral resource potential.

The assessment concludes that the proposed prospecting activities are unlikely to result in significant adverse socio-economic impacts. The majority of identified impacts are assessed as either Very Low or Insignificant, while positive impacts are expected to be of Very Low to Low positive significance. No impacts were identified that would constitute a fatal flaw from a socio-economic perspective.

It is recommended that the Applicant implement all essential mitigation measures identified in this assessment and adopt the recommended best-practice measures where feasible. Particular

emphasis should be placed on maintaining transparent communication with fishing stakeholders and interested and affected parties, managing expectations regarding employment opportunities, supporting local and regional procurement where practical, and maximising opportunities for skills development and knowledge sharing. Subject to the implementation of these measures, there are no socio-economic reasons why the proposed prospecting activities should not proceed from a socio-economic perspective.

6 REFERENCES

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7 APPENDIX

7.1 APPENDIX I IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The impact assessment methodology set out below is applied to all potential positive and negative direct impacts associated with the construction, operational, and decommissioning phases of the proposed project. Indirect impacts are only considered where relevant and can be assessed qualitatively or using the formal impact assessment methodology described below.

The significance of all potential impacts that would result from the proposed project is determined to assist decision-makers. The significance of an impact is defined as a combination of the consequence of the impact occurring and the probability that the impact will occur. The significance of each identified impact was thus rated according to the methodology set out below:

Step 1 – Determine the consequence rating for the impact by determining the score for each of the three criteria (A-C) listed below and then adding them. The rationale for assigning a specific rating, and comments on the degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources and be irreversible, must be included in the narrative accompanying the impact rating:

Rating	Definition of Rating	Score
A. Extent – the area over which the impact will be experienced.		
Local	Confined to project or study area or part thereof (e.g. limits of the concession area)	1
Regional	The region (e.g. the whole of Namaqualand coast)	2
(Inter) national	Significantly beyond Saldanha Bay and adjacent land areas	3
B. Intensity – the magnitude of the impact in relation to the sensitivity of the receiving environment, taking into account the degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss		
Low	Site-specific and wider natural and/or social functions and processes are negligibly altered	1
Medium	Site-specific and wider natural and/or social functions and processes continue albeit in a modified way	2
High	Site-specific and wider natural and/or social functions or processes are severely altered	3
C. Duration – the time frame for which the impact will be experienced and its reversibility.		
Short-term	Up to 2 years	1
Medium-term	2 to 15 years	2
Long-term	More than 15 years (state whether impact is irreversible)	3

The combined score of these three criteria corresponds to a Consequence Rating, as follows:

Combined Score (A+B+C)	3 – 4	5	6	7	8 – 9
Consequence Rating	Very low	Low	Medium	High	Very high

Step 2 – Assess the probability of the impact occurring according to the following definitions:

Probability – the likelihood of the impact occurring	
Improbable	< 40% chance of occurring
Possible	40% - 70% chance of occurring
Probable	> 70% - 90% chance of occurring
Definite	> 90% chance of occurring

Step 3 – Determine the overall significance of the impact as a combination of the consequence and probability ratings, as set out below:

		PROBABILITY			
		Improbable	Possible	Probable	Definite
CONSEQUENCE	Very Low	INSIGNIFICANT	INSIGNIFICANT	VERY LOW	VERY LOW
	Low	VERY LOW	VERY LOW	LOW	LOW
	Medium	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
	High	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
	Very High	HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH

Step 4 – Note the status of the impact (i.e. will the effect of the impact be negative or positive?)

Step 5 – State the level of confidence in the assessment of the impact (high, medium or low).

Impacts are also considered in terms of their status (positive or negative impact) and the confidence in the ascribed impact significance rating. The prescribed system for considering impacts status and confidence (in assessment) is laid out in the table below. Depending on the data available, a higher level of confidence may be attached to the assessment of some impacts than others. For example, if the assessment is based on extrapolated data, this may reduce the confidence level to low, noting that further ground-truthing is required to improve this.

Confidence rating	
Status of impact	+ ve (beneficial) or – ve (cost)
Confidence of assessment	Low, Medium or High

The significance rating of impacts is considered by decision-makers, as shown below. Note, this method does not apply to minor impacts which can be logically grouped into a single assessment.

INSIGNIFICANT: the potential impact is negligible and will not have an influence on the decision regarding the proposed activity.

VERY LOW: the potential impact is very small and should not have any meaningful influence on the decision regarding the proposed activity.

LOW: the potential impact may not have any meaningful influence on the decision regarding the proposed activity.

MEDIUM: the potential impact should influence the decision regarding the proposed activity.

HIGH: the potential impact will affect a decision regarding the proposed activity.

VERY HIGH: The proposed activity should only be approved under special circumstances.

Step 6 – Identify and describe practical mitigation and optimisation measures that can be implemented effectively to reduce or enhance the significance of the impact and achieve the management outcome.

Mitigation / impact management measures for reducing negative impacts must be classified as either:

Essential: Mandatory measures that must be implemented and are non-negotiable. These measures are assumed to be implemented in the “with mitigation” impact scenario and are therefore incorporated into the post mitigation impact assessment significance rating; or

Best Practice / Recommended: Non-mandatory measures that should be implemented where feasible and appropriate. Alternative measures or approaches may be adopted, provided that the required environmental outcome is still achieved and a clear and defensible motivation is provided for not implementing the recommended measure. These do not affect the overall impact rating if not implemented.

Optimisation measures aimed at enhancing potential benefits are generally considered Best Practice / Recommended and are non-mandatory.

Mitigation and optimisation measures must be inserted into the completed impact assessment table, with an indication on whether they are Essential or Recommended. The impact should be re-assessed with mitigation/ optimisation, by following Steps 1-5 again to demonstrate how the extent, intensity, duration and/or probability change after implementation of the proposed mitigation measures.

Step 7 – Impact management outcomes

Next, also specify the desired **impact management outcome** that these measures aim to achieve.

To ensure that mitigation measures are effectively translated into EMPr actions, specialists should develop mitigation/ optimisation measures with an outcome-based approach in mind. These actions or measures should therefore not only reduce the significance of impacts, but also

contribute to achieving a clearly defined desired outcome. The outcome/s should be clearly indicated for each impact.

In many cases, a single overarching impact management outcome may apply to multiple impacts and may in some instances be applicable across all impacts assessed within a specialist report.

Examples:

Table 1: Describe the impact.

	Extent	Intensity	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Status	Confidence
Without mitigation	Regional 2	Medium 2	Long-term 3	High 7	Probable	HIGH	-ve	High
Essential mitigation measures/ Recommended mitigation measures Xxxx Xxxxx								
With mitigation	Local 1	Low 1	Long-term 3	Low 5	Improbable	VERY LOW	-ve	High

Desired Impact Management Outcome to be achieved: xxx

OR (if impact is positive)

Table 1: Describe the impact.

	Extent	Intensity	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Status	Confidence
Without optimisation measures	Regional	Medium	Short term	Medium	Probable	MEDIUM	Positive	Med-High
Optimisation measures: xxx. xxxxx								
With optimisation measures	Regional	Medium to High	Short term	High	Probable	HIGH	Positive	Med-High

Desired Impact Management Outcome to be achieved: xxx

OR (if impact is insignificant and no mitigation required)

	Extent	Intensity	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Status	Confidence
Without mitigation	Regional 2	Low 1	Medium term 2	Very low 4	Improbable	INSIGNIFICANT	-ve	High
Mitigation measures: Not considered to be necessary due to low significance.								

Desired Impact Management Outcome to be achieved: xxx

Step 8 – Prepare a summary table of all impact significance ratings as follows:

Phase	Impact identified	Significance	Status
xxxxxx	Impact 1: xxx	LOW	–ve
	With mitigation	VERY LOW	
	Impact 1: xxx	VERY LOW	–ve
	With mitigation	INSIGNIFICANT	–ve

Indicate whether the proposed development alternatives are environmentally suitable or unsuitable in terms of the respective impacts assessed by the relevant specialist and the environmentally preferred alternative.

7.2 APPENDIX 2: DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd is an independent consultant and has no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity, application or appeal in respect of which the company was appointed other than fair remuneration for work performed in connection with the activity, application or appeal. No circumstances arose during the course of the project that compromised the objectivity of the specialists that performed the work.

7.3 APPENDIX 3: SPECIALIST DECLARATION

I, Gwyn Letley, as the appointed specialist hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided as part of this report, and that:

- I act as the independent specialist in this matter;
- I do not have and will not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal or other) in the undertaking of the proposed activity, other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014;
- I performed the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if it results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there were no circumstances that compromised my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist assessment relevant to this application, including knowledge of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I comply with the NEMA Act, regulations and all other applicable legislation; and
- I disclosed to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;

I am aware that a person is guilty of an offence in terms of Regulation 48 (1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, if that person provides incorrect or misleading information. A person who is convicted of an offence in terms of sub-regulation 48(1) (a)-(e) is liable to the penalties as contemplated in section 49B (1) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

Dated at CAPE TOWN on this the 17th day of July 2026.



GWYN LETLEY



PART OF



Curriculum Vitae

GWYNETH KAY LETLEY

Date of Birth: 25 November 1985
Maiden Name: Wilson
Nationality: South African
Present occupation: Senior Associate, Anchor Group of Companies
Academic qualifications: MSc Conservation Biology, PC Environmental Economics
Work address: 8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close, Tokai 7945, South Africa.
 Tel. (021) 701 3420 Fax. (021) 701 5280
Email: gwyn@anchorenvironmental.co.za

Summary profile

Gwyn has an MSc in Conservation Biology from the University of Cape Town and a postgraduate certificate in Applied Environmental Economics from the University of London. Over the past 16 years Gwyn has worked on the social and economic aspects of natural resource management and conservation, including the quantitative socio-economic aspects of conservation-development problems in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Kenya, DRC, Gabon, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Gwyn is experienced in the economic appraisal of nature-based solutions, natural climate solutions and ecosystem restoration and has recently been involved in designing effective nature-based solutions for achieving water security in Tamale, Ghana; Freetown, Sierra Leone; Mombasa, Kenya and in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin in Angola where scenario analyses were undertaken to evaluate the net benefits and return on investment that would be generated through investing in conservation interventions. Gwyn has been deeply involved in the review and update of South Africa's Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) Strategy and Plan 2024-2034 and has recently undertaken an assessment of the feasibility of supporting interventions to the key challenges to natural climate solutions in the DRC and Kenya. She has extensive experience in valuing ecosystem services at various spatial scales, from basin-level to sub-national and national level assessments. Studies include the valuation of selected ecosystem services for input into a first set of monetary ecosystem accounts for the province of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa and for Uganda's ecosystem services accounts, national assessments of Namibia and South Africa's ecosystem services, regional assessments of ecosystem services in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin in Botswana and Angola, valuation of wildlife resources in selected transboundary wildlife areas of East Africa, the valuation of selected urban ecosystem services in Durban, Kampala and Dar es Salaam. Gwyn is also experienced in spatial analysis and systematic and integrated conservation and development planning.

TERTIARY EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS:

- PC Applied Environmental Economics (with Distinction) - University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) 2013-2014
- MSc Conservation Biology - University of Cape Town 2009-2010
- BSc Honours (Zoology) - University of Cape Town 2008
- BSc (Zoology & Marine Biology) - University of Cape Town 2005-2007
- Matriculated in 2003 Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School

Selected projects

Period	Country	Client	Project, Tasks
2026 - ongoing	South Africa	WWF-SA	Project: Valuation of Marine Ecotourism in the southern seascape region: False Bay and Cape Whale Coast. Position and tasks: Project management, environmental economist undertaking the socio-economic assessment of marine ecotourism across the proposed marine Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) pilot sites in False Bay, Kogelberg, and Dyer Island within the broader Cape Whale Coast region of Cape Town and Overstrand Local

Period	Country	Client	Project, Tasks
			Municipality. The assessment quantifies the economic contributions, social benefits, and non-market ecosystem values associated with key marine wildlife tourism activities, including viewing of the African penguin, boat-based whale watching, shark cage diving and other marine wildlife experiences.
2025-2026	Angola	GWPSA	Project: Economic valuation of the ecosystem goods and services provided by the Angolan highlands within the Cuvélai and Kunene River Basins. Position and tasks: Environmental economist, undertaking the valuation of ecosystem services, reporting.
2025-2026	Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire & Togo	World Bank	Project: Forest Ecosystem Accounts. Develop Ecosystem Accounts for three countries, build capacity and facilitate national dialogues on the role and mainstreaming of natural capital and biodiversity. Position and tasks: Environmental economist, undertaking the valuation of ecosystem services, accounts and final reporting.
2025 - 2026	Sierra Leone and Liberia	World Bank	Project: Forest Ecosystem Accounts for Sierra Leone and Liberia. Position and tasks: Environmental economist, helping to develop Ecosystem Accounts for two countries, including the valuation of selected forest provisioning, regulating and cultural ecosystem services.
2025-2026	Gabon	The Nature Conservancy	Project: Scoping study for the development of a National Payments for Ecosystem Services Programme. Position and tasks: Environmental economist undertaking the review of PES, ecosystem assessment and scenario analysis for the prioritization of areas for investment in PES.
2025	Zambia	World Bank	Project: Developing a background note on Ecosystem Services for Zambia's Country Climate and Development Report. Position and tasks: Environmental economist undertaking the evaluation of ecosystem services in Zambia and scenario analysis and cost benefit analysis to compare a Green Economy Scenario with a BAU approach. This as input into the Zambia CCDR.
2024-2025	Kenya	World Bank	Project: Catchment-scale mapping and prioritisation of opportunities for land and ecosystem restoration. Position and tasks: Environmental economist and NbS expert. Tasks included review of restoration activities, extent and costing of activities, valuation of ecosystem services, cost-benefit analysis and the development of an excel investment prioritisation tool.
2024 - 2025	Kenya	World Bank	Project: Developing Kenya's CIF Nature People Climate Investment Plan. Position and tasks: Environmental economist, valuation and multicriteria analysis as well as stakeholder consultation to identify priority areas for nature-based solutions and assisting with the development of a financing and investment plan.
2024	Kenya, DRC	The Nature Conservancy	Project: Mapping and costing of solutions to key constraints on Natural Climate Solutions in Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Position and tasks: Environmental economist and CC specialist. Identification of high-level costing of a feasible integrated suite of near-term supporting actions in DRC and Kenya to address the key constraints to NCS in those areas, taking a range of criteria into account.
2023-2025	Congo Basin 6 countries	World Bank	Project: Congo Basin Forest Accounts. Position and tasks: Environmental economist, helping to develop Ecosystem Accounts for six countries, including the valuation of selected forest provisioning, regulating and cultural ecosystem services.
2023-2024	South Africa	City of Cape Town & GIZ	Project: Green infrastructure options for improved waterway and catchment management for the City of Cape Town. Position and tasks: Environmental economist undertaking the socioeconomic, governance, selection and evaluation of GI interventions and valuation of ecosystem services components.
2022-2025	South Africa	GIZ & DFFE	Project: Biome-level implementation plans for the biodiversity and ecosystems sector climate change adaptation strategy and review of the Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) Strategy in South Africa.

Period	Country	Client	Project, Tasks
			Position and tasks: Natural resource economics expert responsible for data management, analysis, and report writing as well as the identification and costing of adaptation options and activities, and stakeholder engagement.
2022	Ghana	Catholic Relief Services	Project: Business case development for the Tamale Water Fund, Ghana Position and tasks: Project management, undertook the ecosystem services modelling and economic analysis, report writing
2022	Uganda	World Bank	Project: Development of ecosystem services accounts for Uganda Position and tasks: Assisted in preparing a first set of physical and monetary ecosystem accounts at a national scale, following SEEA EEA guidelines. This included mapping and valuation of selected provisioning, regulating and cultural ecosystem services.
2022-23	Mozambique Zimbabwe	IUCN & GWP-SA, through Southern Waters	Project: An integrated Eflows assessment to facilitate the development and agreement of "objective flows" at key sites in the Pungwe River Basin. Position and tasks: Responsible for the socio-economics aspects, including modelling of ecosystem services, and scenario inputs.
2022 - 2025	South Africa	DWS, through Myra Consulting	Project: Classification of the Limpopo River basin. Position and tasks: Responsible for the socio-economics aspects, including modelling of ecosystem services, water trade-offs and scenarios
2022	South Africa	uMzimkhulu Local Municipality	Project: Map out, value and undertake a complete market study on natural resource opportunities in the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality Position and tasks: Project management, ES valuation
2021	Botswana, Angola, Namibia	OKACOM	Project: Design and Roadmap for the establishment of a transboundary Payment for Ecosystem Services scheme for the Cubango-Okavango River Basin Position and tasks: Resource economist, ecosystem services assessment, review of PES.
2021-23	South Africa	Water Research Commission	Project: A framework to guide investments in hydrological services in South Africa. Development of guidelines for financing the restoration and maintenance of hydrological ecosystem services in different socio-ecological contexts, based on analysis of the South African experience & research on the demand side. Position and tasks: Project manager & lead researcher
2021	Lesotho, Botswana, South Africa, Namibia	ORASECOM	Project: Identification of potential PES projects for addressing environmental degradation in the Orange-Senqu River Basin Position and tasks: Review and analysis of environmental and socio-economic data and ecosystem services modelling to identify potential projects, narrowed down using cost-benefit analysis.
2021	South Africa	V&A Waterfront	Project: An economic analysis of the proposed Granger Bay Marina Position and tasks: Economic analysis, questionnaire development
2021	Kenya	AFD, TNC	Project: Design study for the creation of a Water Fund for Mombasa City Position and tasks: Undertook the ecosystem services modelling and socio-economic analysis
2020-21	East Africa	USAID, Economic Incentives	Project: Natural capital assessment for selected transboundary landscapes of conservation importance Position and tasks: Assisted with the valuation of ecosystem services and modelling BAU and alternative scenarios.
2020	Sierra Leone	CRS, TNC	Project: Business case development for the Western Area Peninsula Water Fund, Sierra Leone Position and tasks: Undertook the ecosystem services modelling and economic analysis
2020	South Africa	ICLEI, CoJ	Project: Economic valuation of ecosystem services for the City of Johannesburg Position and tasks: Assisted with the valuation of ecosystem services and highlighting their importance to the urban environment, enhancing of draft chapters and policy recommendations
2019 - 2020	South Africa	DEA&DP Western Cape Government	Project: Report on the valuation of the estuary in the Berg River catchment Position and tasks: Assisted with the socio-economics component to assess and update the value of Berg estuary and its ecosystem services

Period	Country	Client	Project, Tasks
			and how these values change under different yield and ecological reserve scenarios. Analysed Bird data and wrote the bird section for the Biodiversity chapter of the report.
2019-2020	Angola	TNC	Project: Economic analysis of returns to investing in Resilient Development interventions in the Angolan catchment areas of the Okavango Delta Position and tasks: Undertook ecosystem services modelling and economic analysis using scenario-based approach.
2019-2020	South Africa	UN Environment	Project: Support to the South African government for the development of monetary ecosystem accounts: Preliminary monetary ecosystem accounts for KwaZulu-Natal. Position and tasks: Assisted in preparing a first set of monetary ecosystem accounts at a regional scale in South Africa, following SEEA EEA guidelines. This included mapping and valuation of selected provisioning, regulating and cultural ecosystem services, with a view to making methodological input to the SEEA-EEA.
2019	Malawi	UNDP, Lilongwe Wildlife Trust	Project: The Case for Banning Single-use Plastic Products in Malawi Position and tasks: Provided a preliminary assessment of plastic pollution and the ban on thin plastic bags in Malawi and advised on a way forward based on a review of available information and information gathering through semi-structured interviews with government and stakeholders, and local and international experience.
2018	South Africa	UNDP, DEA	Project: Scoping and feasibility assessment for a certification scheme for the SA wildlife industry Position and tasks: Assisted with a review of certification schemes and how a scheme could be implement in SA wildlife industry, carried out a choice experiment study of landowners in the wildlife industry to determine feasibility and buy-in of such a scheme
2018	South Africa	UN Environment	Project: Review of natural capital valuation and accounting in South Africa Position and tasks: Review and design a study to pilot NCA in South Africa
2018	Laos	UN Environment through C4 EcoSolutions	Project: Economic assessment of proposed ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) strategies for reducing urban flood risk in Lao PDR Position and tasks: Undertook an economic assessment of the proposed set of EbA interventions.
2017	South Africa	TNC & The Cape Town Water Fund	Project: The Cape Town Water Fund: A business case and strategy for clearing of Invasive Alien Plants Position and tasks: Undertook ecosystem services modelling and economic analysis
2017-2018	Namibia	GIZ and Namibia MET	Project: Namibia TEEB Study: The development of strategies to maintain and enhance the protection of ecosystem services in Namibia's state, communal and freehold lands Position and tasks: Evaluated the potential of and developed proposals for the introduction of specific policy measures for each of the following four priority sectors: 1. A national assessment of Namibia's Ecosystem Services. 2. Improving state protected area financing through pricing and institutional changes. 3. Potential for the use of a PES system in communal lands. 4. Incentives for sustainable practices and conservation in freehold rangelands.
2017	Zambia	ERM	Project: Tourism Assessment for the Kalungwishi River Hydroelectric Power Project. As part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Position and tasks: Conducted a tourism assessment in Northern Zambia to determine the value of tourism in the study area. Estimated the magnitude of socio-economic impacts of the proposed hydroelectric power project. Involved field work and surveys.
2017	South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda	World Bank	Project: Greening Africa's Cities: Enhancing the relationship between urbanization, environmental assets and ecosystem services

Period	Country	Client	Project, Tasks
			Position and tasks: Co-author of a policy document with World Bank on the above topic.
2016-2017	South Africa	DWS through Aurecon	Project: Classification of and resource quality objectives for the water resources of the Breede-Gouritz Water Management Area: Economics sub-component Position and tasks: Assisted with the socio-economics component to assess value of ecosystem services and model impacts of different yield and ecological reserve scenarios.
2016-2017	South Africa	DWS through Aurecon	Project: Classification of and resource quality objectives for the water resources of the Berg Water Management Area: Economics sub-component Position and tasks: Assisted with the socio-economics component to assess value of ecosystem services and model impacts of different yield and ecological reserve scenarios.
2016	Mozambique	ERM	Project: Socio-Economic Impact Assessment for the proposed Sasol Offshore Pipeline and FSO, Inhambane Province, Mozambique Position and tasks: Conducted tourism business interviews and surveys in Inhassoro to determine the value of tourism in the study area. Estimated the magnitude of socio-economic impacts of the proposed offshore pipeline and FSO.
2015	Zambia Zimbabwe	ERM	Project: Socio-Economic Impact Assessment for the proposed Batoka Gorge Hydropower Facility – Zimbabwe/Zambia Position and tasks: Conducted tourism business interviews and surveys in Livingstone and Victoria Falls to determine the value of tourism in the study area and the contribution of the Batoka Gorge to this value. Estimated the magnitude of socio-economic impacts of the proposed dam.
2014-2016	South Africa	World Bank through AECOM Washington	Project: Promoting Green Urban Development in Africa: The value of Durban's natural capital and its role in Green Urban Development. Part 2: Evaluating the potential returns to investing in Green Urban Development Position and tasks: Economic analysis – assessing relative costs and benefits of different scenarios using a cost benefit approach.
2014-2016	South Africa	World Bank through AECOM Washington	Project: Promoting Green Urban Development in Africa: The value of Durban's natural capital and its role in Green Urban Development. Part 1: A spatial valuation of the natural and semi-natural open space areas in eThekweni Municipality Position and tasks: Ecosystem services assessment, including the development of water treatment cost models and hedonic analysis of property value.
2014-2016	Tanzania	World Bank through AECOM Washington	Project: Promoting Green Urban Development in Africa: Return on investment in Green Urban Development: amelioration of flood risk in the Msimbazi River catchment, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Position and tasks: Economic analysis – scenarios were assessed in terms of their return on investment and a life-cycle cost (LCC) to estimate the costs of the flood mitigation measures, and analyse them in relation to the reductions in expected annual losses under each scenario.
2014-2016	Uganda	World Bank through AECOM Washington	Project: Promoting Green Urban Development in Africa: A preliminary investigation of the potential costs and benefits of rehabilitation of the Nakivubo wetland, Kampala Position and tasks: Economic analysis using CBA to evaluate the viability of restoration interventions
2011	South Africa	G7 Renewable Energies	Project: Preconstruction monitoring of avifauna at two proposed wind energy sites in the Karoo, South Africa Position and tasks: Assisted with ecological surveys conducted on proposed wind farm sites.
2011	Numerous	UNOPS	Project: Agulhas Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem Valuation of Marine and Coastal Resources Position and tasks: A desktop study which involved valuing the coastlines of eastern South Africa and Mozambique (within the ASCLME) using available data

Period	Country	Client	Project, Tasks
2011	South Africa	DAFF	Project: Sector Plan for the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Position and tasks: Assisted with the editing of reports and with stakeholder consultation.
2010-2011	South Africa	SANBI	Project: National Biodiversity Assessment: South African National Estuary Conservation Plan Position and tasks: Co-author on a project aimed at developing a conservation plan for the estuaries of South Africa. The study concentrated on the development of an overarching conservation plan that involved using conservation planning techniques (MARXAN and CLUZ) and ArcView GIS
2010-2011	South Africa	CapeNature	Project: Uilkraals Estuary Situation Assessment and Estuary Management Plan Position and tasks: Assisted with writing the situation assessment and development of the EMP. The document formed the basis of the development of a vision and strategy for the management of the estuary in a participatory process involving stakeholders.
2010	Botswana	BirdLife Bots, GEF, DWA	Project: Makgadikgadi Protected Areas Project Position and tasks: Assisted with the desktop valuation of protected areas of the Makgadikgadi Pans, financial/economic models of conservation models involving co-management, and the development of a financing strategy

PUBLICATIONS:

- WEBSTER, K., TURPIE, J.K. & LETLEY, G.K. 2024. Viability of investing in ecological infrastructure in South Africa's water supply areas. *South African Journal of Science*. 20(5/6).
- DU PLESSIS, N.S., TURPIE, J.K. & LETLEY, G.K. 2023. Feasibility of financing nature-based solutions for water security through water tariffs: Evidence from South Africa. *AQUA — Water Infrastructure, Ecosystems and Society*. <https://doi.org/10.2166/aqua.2024.221>
- TURPIE, J.K. & LETLEY, G. 2023. Willingness to pay for secure and “green” water supply for Cape Town: a contingent valuation study. *Water SA* 49: 327-337. doi.org/10.17159/wsa/2023.v49.i4.4002
- TURPIE, J.K., LETLEY, G., WEISS, J. & SCHMIDT, K. 2022. Accounting for ecosystem services and asset value: pilot accounts for KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. *One Ecosystem* 7: e86392. doi: 10.3897/oneeco.7.e86392
- TURPIE, J.K. & LETLEY, G.K. 2021. Would areas under community-based natural resource management benefit from external oversight? *World Development* 142: 105442.
- WHITE, R., TURPIE, J. & LETLEY, G. 2017. Greening Africa's Cities: Enhancing the Relationship between Urbanization, Environmental Assets and Ecosystem Services. The World Bank, Washington D.C.
- TURPIE, J.K., FORSYTHE, K.J., LETLEY, G., KNOWLES, A. & BUGNAUT, J. 2017. Mapping and valuation of South Africa's ecosystem services at a national scale using locally-relevant data: a matter of perspective. *Ecosystem Services*.
- LETLEY, G. & TURPIE, J.K. 2016. The contributions of natural and man-made green open space to property value in Durban, South Africa: a hedonic pricing study. *Environment for Development Discussion Paper Series Efd DP forthcoming*.
- WILSON, G. & HOCKEY, P. A. R. 2013. Causes of variable reproductive performance by Southern Ground-hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri* and implications for management. *Ibis* 155: 476 - 484.
- HELM, C., WILSON, G., MIDDLEY, J., KRUGER, L. & WITKOWSKI, E. T. F. 2011. Investigating the vulnerability of an African savanna tree (*Sclerocarya birrea ssp. caffra*) to fire and herbivory. *Austral Ecology* 36: 964-973.
- WILSON, G., BRANCH, G. M. & DE COITO, P. 2009. Comparative salinity tolerances of four siphonariid limpets in relation to habitat restriction of the rare and endangered *Siphonaria compressa*. *AFRICAN JOURNAL OF MARINE SCIENCE* 31 (3): 311-318.

SELECTED TECHNICAL REPORTS:

- LETLEY, G., TURPIE, K., BRÜHL, J. 2026. ECONOMIC VALUATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ANGOLAN HIGHLANDS WITHIN THE CUVELAI AND KUNENE RIVER BASINS: BASELINE ASSESSMENT. PREPARED BY ANCHOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS FOR GWPSA.
- TURPIE, J.K., WILSON, L., BRÜHL, J., SENTERRE, B., LETLEY G., HICKINBOTHAM, B., GARDNER, K. & PHILIPPART, J. 2025. FOREST ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTS 2000-2020 FOR SIX CONGO BASIN FOREST COUNTRIES: SYNTHESIS REPORT. PREPARED BY ANCHOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS FOR THE WORLD BANK.
- TURPIE, J.K., WILSON, L., BRÜHL, J., SENTERRE, B., LETLEY G., HICKINBOTHAM, B., GARDNER, K. & PHILIPPART, J. 2025. FOREST ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTS FOR EQUATORIAL GUINEA: ECOSYSTEM EXTENT, FOREST ECOSYSTEM CONDITION, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND ASSET ACCOUNTS. REPORT PREPARED BY ANCHOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS FOR THE WORLD BANK.
- TURPIE, J.K., WILSON, L., BRÜHL, J., SENTERRE, B., LETLEY G., HICKINBOTHAM, B., GARDNER, K. & PHILIPPART, J. 2025. FOREST ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTS FOR GABON: ECOSYSTEM EXTENT, FOREST ECOSYSTEM CONDITION, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND ASSET ACCOUNTS. REPORT PREPARED BY ANCHOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS FOR THE WORLD BANK.
- TURPIE, J.K., WILSON, L., BRÜHL, J., SENTERRE, B., LETLEY G., HICKINBOTHAM, B., GARDNER, K. & PHILIPPART, J. 2025. FOREST ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTS FOR CAMEROON: ECOSYSTEM EXTENT, FOREST ECOSYSTEM CONDITION, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND ASSET ACCOUNTS. REPORT PREPARED BY ANCHOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS FOR THE WORLD BANK.
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