

1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a brief description of the project background and location, and describes the objectives, purpose and the structure of this report.

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND LOCATION

TotalEnergies EP South Africa Block 567 (Pty) Ltd (“TEEPSA”) and its partners hold an Exploration Right over Block 5/6/7 off the South-West Coast of South Africa (see Figure 1-1), which allows for the undertaking of various exploration activities within the Block, including two-dimensional (2D) seismic, three-dimensional (3D) seismic and controlled source electromagnetic surveys.

Since the first granting of the Exploration Right, a 2D and 3D seismic survey have been undertaken within the Block. Based on an analysis of acquired seismic data, TEEPSA proposes to drill one exploration well, and success dependent, up to four additional wells in total within an Area of Interest within the Block (i.e. up to five wells in total). The Area of Interest is 10 000 km² in extent and is located offshore roughly between Cape Town and Cape Agulhas, approximately 60 km from the coast at its closest point and 170 km at its furthest, in water depths between 700 m and 3 200 m (see Figure 1-1).

The proposed project triggers a number of listed activities in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014 (as amended), and as such requires an Environmental Authorisation before such activities can commence. TEEPSA, as the Operator of the Block, is the applicant for the Environmental Authorisation.

SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd (SLR) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake a full Scoping and EIA process for the proposed additional exploration activities (hereafter collectively referred to as "Environmental and Social Impact Assessment" or "ESIA" process).

1.2 OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This final Scoping Report has been prepared in compliance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) as part of the ESIA process that is being undertaken for the application by TEEPSA for the proposed exploration well drilling activities in Block 5/6/7.

The objectives of the Scoping Phase and this final Scoping Report are to, amongst others:

- Identify the relevant policies and legislation relevant to the activity.
- Present the need and desirability of the proposed activity.
- Describe the proposed activity, technology and site(s) (including any alternatives).
- Describe the receiving (baseline) environment to provide an understanding of the environmental and social context and sensitivity within which the proposed project activities would occur.
- Screen and identify potential impacts that will be further investigated in the Impact Assessment Phase.
- Outline of the public participation process and scope of specialist studies to be undertaken in the impact assessment phase, as well as the impact assessment methodology to be used to define impact significance (i.e., the Plan of Study - see Chapter 9).

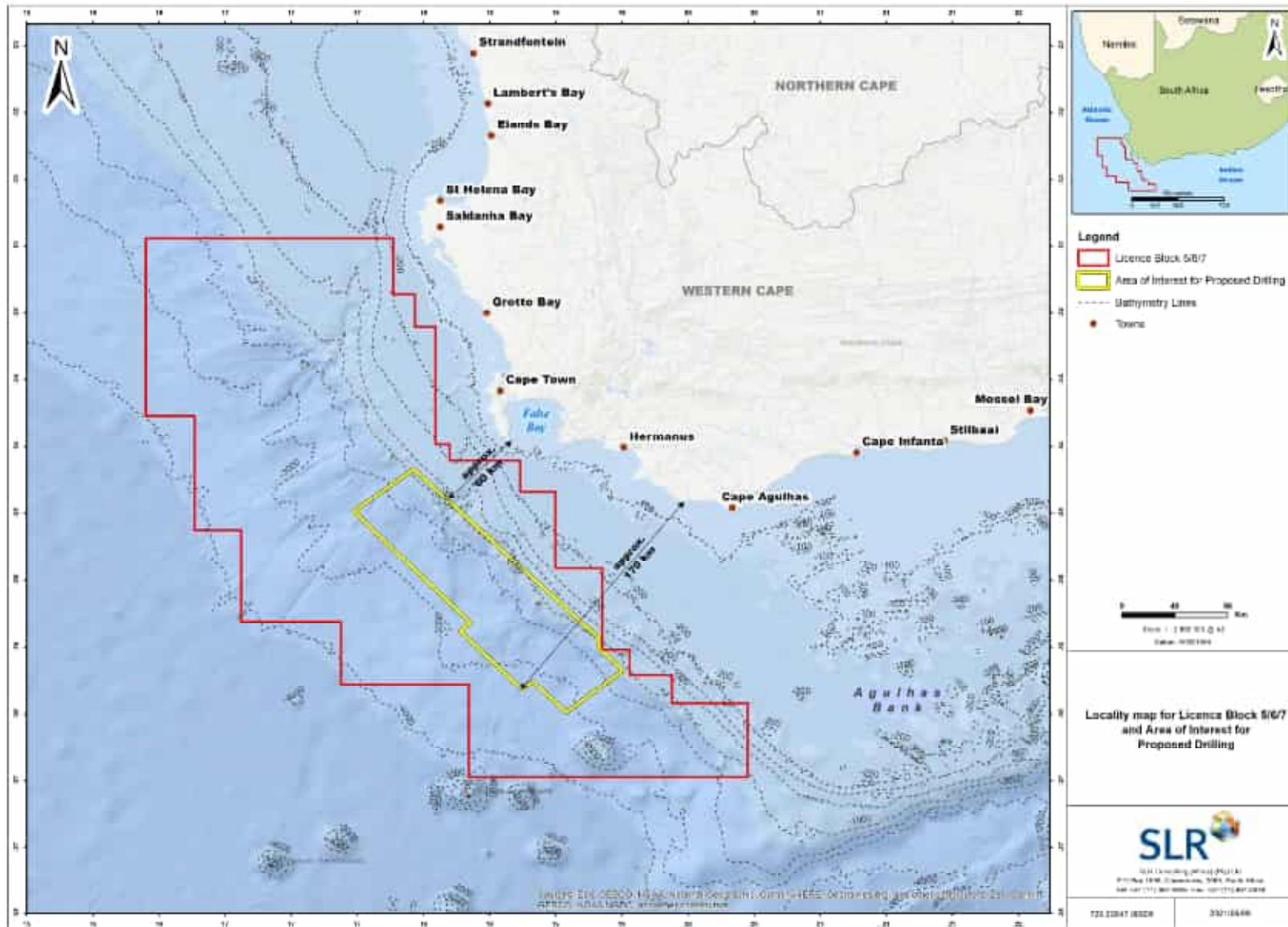


FIGURE 1-1: LOCATION OF LICENCE BLOCK 5/6/7 AND THE AREA OF INTEREST FOR PROPOSED EXPLORATION DRILLING OFF THE SOUTH-WEST COAST

The compilation of the final Scoping Report has been informed by comments and issues received following the distribution of the draft Scoping Report for a 44-day comment period (20 May to 4 July 2022) and those raised during various public and focus group meetings. Comments received by SLR on or before 4 July 2022 have been recorded and responded to in a Comments and Responses Report (see Appendix 4.10). **It should be noted that all significant changes to the draft report are underlined and in a different font (Times New Roman) to the rest of the text.**

This report is submitted to the delegated authority, the Petroleum Agency of South Africa (PASA), for consideration and review. PASA will then make a recommendation on the acceptance or rejection of the report to the Minister of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), who will make the final decision.

1.3 STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

This report has been prepared in compliance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) (see Table 3-2). An overview of the structure and content of this report is given in Table 1-1 below.

TABLE 1-1: STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT

Section	Contents
Executive Summary	Provides a synopsis of the final Scoping Report.
Chapter 1	Introduction Provides a description of the project background and location, and describes the objectives, purpose and the structure of this report.
Chapter 2	Administrative and Legal Framework Outlines the key South African administrative authorities and legislative framework, international regulations and conventions, and TotalEnergies standards and policies applicable to the proposed project and ESIA-related guidelines considered in the compilation of the report.
Chapter 3	ESIA Approach and Process Presents the ESIA Project Team, ESIA assumptions and limitations, and outlines the approach and process followed during the ESIA.
Chapter 4	Public Participation Process Presents and describes the public consultation process undertaken during the ESIA process.
Chapter 5	Policy, Need and Desirability Provides an overview of the national and international policies informing the need and desirability for the project.
Chapter 6	Project Description Provides general project information and a detailed description of the proposed activities and associated project alternatives.
Chapter 7	Receiving Environment Describes the existing physical, biological, socio-economic and cultural environment that could potentially be affected by the proposed exploration activities.
Chapter 8	Screening of Environmental and Socio-Economic and Key Impacts Provides a high-level screening of the interaction between project activities and the biophysical and social environment; identifies key issues and impacts associated with the proposed exploration activities; and describes project alternatives and options for further consideration in the ESIA.
Chapter 9	Plan of Study for Impact Assessment Outlines the scope of further investigations (including the specialist studies) to be undertaken during the Impact Assessment Phase and sets out the proposed approach to the assessment of impacts.
Chapter 10	References Provides a list of the references used in compiling this report.

Section	Contents
Appendices	<p>Appendix 1: EAP declaration and undertaking</p> <p>Appendix 2: Curricula Vitae of the SLR ESIA Project Team</p> <p>Appendix 3: DFFE Screening Report</p> <p>Appendix 4: Public Participation Process Documents:</p> <p>Appendix 4.1: I&AP registration, notification letters and emails</p> <p>Appendix 4.2: I&AP correspondence received during the registration <u>and draft Scoping Report comment periods</u></p> <p>Appendix 4.3: Advertisements</p> <p>Appendix 4.4: Site notices</p> <p>Appendix 4.5: Radio announcements</p> <p><u>Appendix 4.6: Additional handout / placement of NTS and comment form</u></p> <p><u>Appendix 4.7: Minutes and photographs of public and focus group meetings</u></p> <p><u>Appendix 4.8: DMRE approval scoping phase extension</u></p> <p><u>Appendix 4.9: Additional Information provided to I&APs during the draft Scoping Report comment period</u></p> <p>Appendix 4.10: Comments and responses report</p>