Best Practices: Water

Protecting Namibia's Water

Water is a scarce resource in Northeast Namibia and the water that is available must be protected. ReconAfrica is committed to protecting the environment, avoiding environmentally sensitive areas and minimizing impacts and disturbances. That includes protecting Kavango's water and contributing to potable drinking water capacity to help improve life for Namibians living in the Kavango Basin region.

ReconAfrica is implementing the most advanced drilling practices available to protect the environment above and below the surface. We are avoiding ecologically sensitive and national preserve areas – and we are working collaboratively with government, using our drilling expertise to provide potable water from the region's considerable aquifer systems.

Water-Management Plan

ReconAfrica's water-management plan includes groundwater assessments, hydro census, monitoring, and mitigation. We are working collaboratively with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), NamWater, Regional Authorities, Traditional Authorities and other experts and interested stakeholders to protect Namibia's water.

The water-management program has three key objectives: aquifer protection; surface water and drainage management; and sustained protection of project no-go zones.

Technology to Protect Aquifers and Surface Water

ReconAfrica has conducted comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to fully understand and protect the integrity of the region's aquifers and surface water. When ReconAfrica drills a well, we implement safe, proven and effective technologies and techniques designed to prevent contamination. When drilling, ReconAfrica protects the well with one of the most important components in the drilling process – casing. The multiple layers of cement and steel casing provide the foundation of the well, sealing it to prevent any fluids from escaping.

A 100% Organic Drilling Fluid System

When a well is drilled, drilling fluid is used to manage the drilled formation, cool the drill bit and carry the rock cuttings to the surface. ReconAfrica is using a 100% organic, biodegradable, water-based drilling fluid system that minimizes environmental impacts. This system incorporates the latest technologies for both safe drilling and surface/subsurface environmental protection. Once drilling is complete, the remaining fluid can be recycled or used as a soil enhancement/fertilizer for agriculture. The fluid will biodegrade, yielding no toxic or damaging by-product, just an effective fertilizer that has been used by farmers and the agricultural industry in the U.S. and around the world.

We have intentionally avoided older and lower-cost systems, such as pit lining, which can present significant challenges during the reclamation phase. The water-based system we have opted to use has been tested and proven safe and environmentally sound and has been approved for use by the most stringent regulatory regimes around the world.

Avoiding Waterbodies and the Okavango Delta

ReconAfrica is not drilling anywhere near sensitive waterbodies or the Okavango Delta. Our first drilling site (Site 1) is located approximately 40 km from the boundary of the Khaudum National Park; 55 km south of Rundu; 50 km south of the Kavango River; and about 260 km from the Okavango Delta in Botswana.

Additionally, the project has set no-go buffer zones to protect water that include a 10-km setback from the Okavango River and a 20-km setback from the Okavango Delta.

Technology and Expertise Bring Access to Water

The majority of those who live in the Kavango region rely on the Okavango River for their water supply, or well water for those living in rural areas further from the river. For many women in Kavango, their daily routine involves walking up to 10 km each way to the closest source of potable water.

ReconAfrica is working closely with local community members and the Namibian government to contribute to the Rural Water Management Plan (RWMP). We're providing meaningful and positive impacts for local residents by using our drilling experience to drill potable community water wells much closer to home.

Find out more about what this new water well project means to the community at https://reconafrica.com/our-sustainable-approach/the-voices-of-kavango/

ReconAFRICA

Frequently Asked Questions

There are many reports that the Okavango Delta is at risk due to ReconAfrica's upstream operations. Is this true?

No. ReconAfrica's operations pose no risk to any sensitive waterbody, including the Okavango Delta. The Okavango Delta is 260 km away from the closest of our three exploratory drill sites and no-go buffer zones have been established to ensure no sensitive waterbody will be impacted.

Will ReconAfrica's operations harm the local water supply?

ReconAfrica is implementing the most advanced technologies and systems available in our exploratory drilling operations to ensure all water, above and below ground, is protected. Our 100% organic, water-based, biodegradable drilling fluid system is the best, most expensive water-based system available and our multiple layers of steel and cement casing eliminates the risk of cross contamination in the well.

ReconAfrica is focused on providing more potable drinking water by using our expertise to drill new community wells that provide much better access to those living in rural areas who previously had to walk up to 10 km to the nearest well. Learn more at https://reconafrica.com/our-sustainable-approach/the-voices-of-kavango/

We keep hearing ReconAfrica is going to frac in Namibia and fracing uses a lot of water. How does this protect our water supply?

ReconAfrica is conducting a conventional oil exploration program. To date, ReconAfrica has been granted licence by Namibia only to explore and confirm the resource; we have no licence to produce or frac. And if this exploratory phase confirms an environmentally and economically viable reserve, Namibian authorities will determine if and how it will extract that reserve.

Is it true that conventional oil production can require a lot of water?

For our exploratory drilling program, we require a very minimal amount of water. If a viable new oil reserve is discovered in Kavango, water requirements for conventional wells would remain minimal during drilling. Water would not be required for conventional oil production, as natural below-ground pressures are typically more than sufficient to maintain production for many years in such an undeveloped deposit.

About ReconAfrica

ReconAfrica is a Canadian-based oil and gas company working collaboratively with national governments to explore oil and gas potential in Northeast Namibia and Northwest Botswana – the Kavango Basin.

To date, ReconAfrica has been granted licences by Namibia and Botswana to explore and confirm the presence of their resources; we have no licence to produce oil or to engage in hydraulic fracturing ('fracing').

This project aims to prove a potential reserve that could lead to economic stimulus, funding local and regional jobs and other socio-economic benefits such as increased infrastructure, potable water access and investments in environmental and wildlife conservation.

Should oil and gas be discovered, the traditional authorities and elected governments of Namibia and Botswana will determine how they will manage those resources.

Contact Us:

For general inquiries about ReconAfrica's work in Namibia, please email: admin@reconafrica.com
For media inquiries or requests for information, please email: media@reconafrica.com

For more information visit : www.reconafrica.com