Protecting Kavango’s Water

ReconAfrica is implementing the most advanced drilling practices available to protect the environment above and below the surface. We are working collaboratively with government, Regional Authorities, Traditional Authorities and other experts and interested stakeholders to protect the Kavango Region’s water – and to provide potable water from the area’s considerable aquifer systems.

Water-Management Plan

ReconAfrica’s water-management plan includes groundwater assessments, hydro census, monitoring, and mitigation. 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 we drill 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

ReconAfrica is using a 100% organic, water-based, biodegradable, chloride-free drilling fluid system that minimizes environmental impacts. Water-based systems are the best approach to protect the environment. We install a layer of black liner at the top of the reserve pit simply to prevent erosion. Drilling fluids keep the drill bit cool and bring rock cuttings to the surface that we study to determine if there is oil and gas in the ground.

Avoiding Waterbodies and the Okavango Delta

ReconAfrica will not be exploring or active in the Tsodilo Hills World Heritage Site, the Okavango Delta World Heritage Site or any National Parks. The company has set no-go buffer zones that include a 10-km setback from the Okavango River and 20-km setbacks from the Okavango Delta and Tsodilo Hills. The entire project is being designed to protect the environment.

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 using its drilling expertise to provide new potable water from the region’s considerable aquifer systems; to date, we’ve drilled four solar-powered community water wells, with plans to drill and donate another 24 water wells.
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