

Best Practices: Wildlife

Protecting Wildlife

ReconAfrica is committed to sustainable development and employs industry best practices wherever it operates to protect the environment, including policies and protocols to support wildlife conservation efforts in Namibia and Botswana.

ReconAfrica is committed to protecting the region's wildlife.

As part of this commitment, ReconAfrica is implementing the most advanced drilling practices available. We are avoiding ecologically sensitive areas, migratory routes and national preserve areas. We are implementing the world's lowest-impact 2D seismic testing system and working with experts across the region to ensure we collect and integrate local feedback and knowledge into our wildlife conservation plans. To facilitate these efforts, ReconAfrica has a wildlife survey and wildlife environmental monitor as part of our team.



Low-Impact 2D Seismic

Recognizing the sensitivities for wildlife in Kavango, the Namibian government ensured all seismic testing would use the 2D low-impact seismic process. Seismic testing is a process that uses sound waves to determine what's under the earth. 2D seismic pushes soundwaves directly down rather than outward, as 3D systems do. This greatly reduces the impact and reach of the seismic waves being emitted.

Low Sound Low Frequency

For ReconAfrica's seismic program, the low-impact seismic system we are using, called Explorer 860, is one of the world's lowest-impact units and has been designed specifically with wildlife communications patterns in mind. The Explorer 860 tractor operates at an idle, minimizing sound disturbance and the 2D seismic tools operate at a low frequency designed to not interfere with wildlife communications.

Avoiding Sensitive Areas and Migratory Routes

While ReconAfrica is not drilling near migratory routes or any other area that would adversely impact wildlife, the 2D low-impact seismic program will cover broader licenced areas permitted by Namibia and Botswana. All National Parks are outside of the exploration licence, as is the Tsodilo Hills World Heritage Site and, of course, the Okavango Delta World Heritage Site. As an additional measure, the project has set no-go buffer zones to protect the environment and wildlife that include a 10-km setback from the Okavango River and a 20-km setback from the Okavango Delta.

We are also incorporating measures and planning activities to avoid migratory routes during seasonal migration periods. The entire project is being designed to protect the environment and wildlife. There will be no indication of seismic operations after we leave. Our 2D seismic program is a simple, low-impact ultrasound of the Earth.

Working with Stakeholders

ReconAfrica is working closely with local communities, businesses, tourism, government authorities and multi-national African conservation groups to protect wildlife in the area. We're committed to conservation in the region and will continue to work with stakeholders to support those efforts.

For current updates on our Environment, Social and Governance commitments in Kavango visit <https://reconfrica.com/our-sustainable-approach/the-voices-of-kavango/>

Frequently Asked Questions

You say that you are currently not drilling on wildlife migratory routes, what if you discover oil?

ReconAfrica has only been granted licence to explore and confirm a resource. If our three-well exploratory program is successful, Namibian authorities will determine if and how a reserve would be extracted. All regulatory processes, including comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and wildlife protection practices would be applicable for any future development.

ReconAfrica would include comprehensive mitigation plans in any future developments to ensure migration patterns are considered and there are no impacts on wildlife. We want to protect Africa's diverse wildlife as much as anyone. And we will.

What is the difference between 2D and 3D seismic?

Seismic testing is a process that uses sound waves to determine what's under the earth. 2D seismic uses longer, individual lines that are processed individually and, in onshore exploration, are the basic tool in new basins like the Kavango. 3D seismic uses shorter, denser spaced seismic lines that are processed together, providing a sharper image over an area. This greatly reduces the footprint of the seismic waves being emitted, the equipment required and the impacts to the environment and wildlife.

3D seismic is the most common tool in offshore exploration and can be used onshore in some circumstances.

Will seismic testing harm the elephants' sensitive hearing?

ReconAfrica is implementing the most environmentally responsible 2D low-impact seismic system ever developed. This system uses a lower and different frequency than

elephants use for communications and we will not operate at night when elephants typically communicate. Combined with our efforts to avoid migratory routes and the buffer zones set to avoid ecologically sensitive areas, these measures will ensure elephants are protected.

How can you be sure you are avoiding wildlife migration routes?

ReconAfrica has conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that details traditional migration patterns for wildlife in Kavango. Working with local experts and authorities, we understand where wildlife lives throughout the year and when to avoid sensitive areas at times such as breeding. We worked with stakeholders to include their knowledge during development of the EIA and the governments of Namibia and Botswana must approve the EIA before we can conduct any activities.

In all of our operations, ReconAfrica includes comprehensive mitigation plans to ensure we do not harm wildlife. We want to protect Africa's diverse wildlife as much as anyone. And we have a wildlife survey and wildlife environmental monitor as part of our team.

Are the buffers to ecologically sensitive areas like the Okavango Delta permanent?

To date, ReconAfrica has only been granted licence by Namibia for the three conventional exploratory wells to explore and confirm the resource; we have no licence to produce. We fully expect that these zones will be applied by the Namibian government for all future activities should a resource be discovered and Namibia decides to move forward with development.

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@reconafrika.com
For media inquiries or requests for information, please email: media@reconafrika.com

For more information visit : www.reconafrika.com