

Best Practices: Wildlife

Wildlife Conservation

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. As part of this commitment, we've conducted comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to fully understand and protect the region's wildlife.

Committed to Protecting Kavango's wildlife

ReconAfrica is focused on conventional oil and gas reservoirs which flow naturally under their own pressure – we are not fracing. We are 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. We are working with experts across the region to ensure we collect and integrate local feedback and knowledge from communities, businesses, tourism, government authorities and multi-national African conservation groups into our wildlife conservation plans.

To facilitate our environment and wildlife protection programs, ReconAfrica has a wildlife survey and wildlife environmental monitor as part of our team. We're committed to conservation in the region and will continue to work with stakeholders to support those efforts.

Avoiding Sensitive Areas and Migratory Routes

While ReconAfrica is not drilling near migratory routes, the seismic program will cover broader licenced areas, as permitted by government. ReconAfrica will not be exploring or active in the Tsodilo Hills World Heritage Site, the Okavango Delta World Heritage Site or any National Parks. As an additional layer for protection, 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.



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.

2D Seismic: Low-Impact – Low Frequency

- ReconAfrica's exploration commitment in Kavango includes a 450 km, 2D low-impact seismic survey program – a simple, low-impact ultrasound of the Earth.
- We are implementing the world's lowest-impact 2D seismic testing system, the Explorer 860
- All seismic activities will take place only in government-approved license areas
- 95% of seismic survey will be performed on existing roads/tracks
- ReconAfrica will not operate at night, when elephants typically communicate
- There will be no indication of seismic operations after we leave



One Explorer replaces 4 larger Seismic trucks. It operates at a low frequency that does not affect wildlife.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

To date, ReconAfrica has only been granted licence to explore and confirm a resource in Namibia. If our 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?

In onshore exploration, 2D seismic is the tool used in new basins like the Kavango. 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. Additionally, 2D seismic uses longer, individual lines that are processed individually (3D seismic uses shorter, denser spaced seismic lines that are processed together). This greatly reduces the footprint of the seismic waves being emitted, the equipment required and the impacts to the environment and wildlife.

Recognizing the sensitivities for wildlife in Kavango, the Namibian government ensured all seismic testing would use the 2D low-impact seismic process.

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.

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

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

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

ReconAfrica has conducted Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) that detail traditional migration patterns for wildlife in Kavango. Working with local experts, authorities and other stakeholders to include their knowledge in the EIAs, we understand where wildlife lives throughout the year and when to avoid sensitive areas at times such as breeding. The governments of Namibia and Botswana must approve our EIAs before we can conduct any activities. And we have a wildlife survey and wildlife environmental monitor as part of our team who is responsible for ongoing monitoring and mitigation of the associated programs.

Meet our Wildlife Monitor

"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."



Francois Jahs
Wildlife Survey
& Monitoring

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:

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