

Building capacity for EIA and SEA in Zanzibar

2-year cooperation project on EIA&SEA

Exploration of oil and gas reserves off the coast of Zanzibar is about to start. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar wants to tap into any such reserves sustainably. EIA and SEA will be important instruments in the management of environmental and social risks of any oil and gas activities. In a government-to-government project the Netherlands will be supporting Zanzibar agencies with the implementation of these instruments.

In this co-operation project, the Department of Environment of Zanzibar has been teamed up with the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment. These partners will be working together for two years (2014–2016) to improve the practice of environmental impact assessment (EIA) and to support the introduction of strategic environmental assessment (SEA).

Why work on EIA & SEA?

The purpose of EIA is to help identify environmental and social risks of projects, and to determine with stakeholders how these risks can best be managed. But EIA practice in Zanzibar is not yet optimized for oil and gas extraction, or for the development of associated infrastructure, such as ports. For example, some projects proceed without EIA, or EIA reports are of poor quality. Also, the agencies that need the EIA reports for their own decision-making, may not have the technical capacity to check that the EIA information is sound and that there are no risks that have been missed out.

SEA applies to the planning level, and can support decision-making on oil and gas policies. Within SEA, for example, different ways of phasing and locating exploration and extraction activities can be analysed. Also, the effects on other sectors (such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries) can be assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures identified.

This project will be building on results achieved in previous EIA and SEA co-operations, and it will be coordinated with ongoing work in this area.

About the NCEA

The Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) is an independent advisory body of experts which advises government at home and abroad on the quality of environmental assessment.

Who else will be involved?

The NCEA will work directly with the Department of Environment, but other agencies will also be involved. Including the Planning Commission and the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Agency. Both approve projects that are subject to EIA. Key ministries for oil and gas (infrastructure) development, such as the Ministry of



Lands, Housing, Water and Energy and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Communication, will also be involved. People working with EIA outside of government will be invited to partake in activities.

Project activities

The following project activities are planned:

- EIA mapping: in a workshop the EIA system in Zanzibar will be analysed, to identify the strong and weak points;
- Advising on the EIA regulation of Zanzibar, including a close look at financing the governmental tasks in EIA;
- Joint quality review of EIA reports;
- In-depth workshops on different aspects on EIA with different stakeholders, as well as a seminar to raise awareness on EIA;
- Public participation in EIA/SEA: workshop on how to get the most out of participation, and development of guidance specific to the Zanzibar situation;
- Awareness raising and training on SEA, including advise on SEA application to existing planning processes in Zanzibar.

Government-to-Government Co-operation

Under the Dutch government's government-to-government programme (G2G), Dutch agencies with a public function are teamed up with corresponding agencies in eligible countries. The aim is to foster bilateral relations and to contribute to sustainable economic development in the receiving countries. The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) administers the programme and oversees the cooperation projects.

Links

- for more information on the Zanzibar Department of Environment, see: www.fvpozanzibar.go.tz/environment.html
- for more information on the NCEA, see: www.eia.nl, or contact Ineke Steinhauer or Bobbi Schijf.