

SAVE THE OKAVANGO



The United Nations secretary general, **Antonio Guterres**, issued a stark warning at the recent COP27 summit that the world was losing its fight against climate change.

“The global addiction to fossil fuels must end and a renewables revolution jumpstarted! We are in the fight of our lives, and we are losing. Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing, global temperatures keep rising, and our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible. We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator.”

UN News, 18 September 2022

Speaking at the 15th summit on biodiversity (COP15) **Guterres** said:

“Humanity has become a weapon of mass extinction. Governments must end the orgy of destruction. Our land, water and air are poisoned by chemicals and pesticides, and choked with plastics ... The most important lesson we impart to children is to take responsibility for their actions. What example are we setting when we ourselves are failing this basic test? Multinational corporations are filling their bank accounts while emptying our world of its natural gifts and making ecosystems playthings of profit. We must recognise the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities as stewards of nature. The deluded dreams of billionaires aside, there is no Planet B.”

UN News, 6 December 2022

We, Civil Society Organisations in Namibia, renew our call for a moratorium and full public enquiry into the exploration and possible production of oil and gas in the Kavango Regions. With this we take a stand for all future life on this planet. There is no planet B!

This Petition is supported by the following Civil Society Organisations of Namibia:

1. Kavango East and West Regional Conservancy and Community Forestry Association
2. Kavango East Farmers Union
3. Kavango West Farmers Union
4. Kyaramacan Association, Bwabwata National Park
5. Namibia San Council
6. Nyae Nyae Development Foundation
7. //Ana-Djeh San Trust
8. Women's Leadership Centre
9. Economic and Social Justice Trust
- 10 - 80. Namibian Chamber of Environment representing 70 environmental organisations
81. Legal Assistance Centre
82. Institute for Public Policy Research
83. Namibia Institute for Democracy
84. Namibia NGO Forum Trust
85. Namibia Network of AIDS Service Organisations
86. AIDS & Rights Alliance Southern Africa
87. The Anglican Church in Namibia
88. Frack Free Namibia
89. Earthlife Namibia
90. SunCycles Namibia
91. Young Feminists Movement Namibia
92. Positive Vibes
93. Women's Solidarity Namibia
94. ShutItAllDown Movement
95. Nutrition and Food Security Alliance of Namibia
96. Forum For the Future
97. Pots of Hope
98. Sister Namibia
99. Out-Right Namibia
100. Namibia Diverse Women's Association
101. Namibia Equal Rights Movement
102. One Billion Rising Namibia
103. Wings to Transcend Namibia Trust
104. Rights not Rescue Trust Namibia
105. Rainbow Reflections
106. Namibia Women's Association
107. The Children's Movement Namibia
108. Khaibasen Community Trust
109. Comrades Association
110. Powerpad Girls
111. Slutwalk
112. Namibian Sex Workers Alliance
113. Transgender, Intersex And Androgynous Movement of Namibia
114. Trans Masculine Namibia
115. Aio Da Go Community Garden
116. Aitsama Mabasen Community Garden
117. Pomp Stasie Family Garden
118. Greenspace
119. Lifeline/Childline
120. Namibian Environment and Wildlife Society
121. NEWSYouth
122. Labour Resource and Research Institute

THERE IS NO PLANET B!

According to its own statements, the Canadian-based company ReconAfrica Limited plans to explore the so-called Kavango Basin and, in the case of a promising discovery, to extract oil and/or gas mainly from shale layers in the licensed area in Namibian and Botswana for a period of at least 25 years.

<https://reconafrika.com/wp-content/uploads/ReconAfrica-Investor-Presentation-6.pdf>

The rural areas targeted for oil and gas exploration and development in Namibia, Kavango East and West, are inhabited by indigenous San Peoples and local communities. Women and girls in these communities are already marginalised and suffer from multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination. Oil and gas extraction will only exacerbate these vulnerabilities, through both its local and global impacts.

Locally, oil and gas production – particularly through unconventional methods, like fracking – could lead to depletion and contamination of scarce local water sources and other forms of pollution, health hazards, displacement and disruption of local livelihoods and food security, and potential introduction of social conflict and disease, among other potential impacts.

Globally, the production of oil and/or gas in Namibia will lead inevitably to increased greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of those fossil fuels, exacerbating climate change which disproportionately harms women, particularly rural women.

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