



commission for environmental impact assessment

MICOA / DNAIA
Mr. Inácio Bucuane

your reference	your letter of	Our reference
-	July 2006	059-080 RP/Jz
Subject Advisory review of the EIA for offshore exploration in Blocks 16 and 19, Inhambane and Sofala Provinces, Mozambique	direct dial + 31 30 234 76 49	Utrecht, 29 September 2006

Dear Mr Inácio Bucuane,

By e-mail, dated 24 August 2006, you requested the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (the Commission) to review the quality of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for offshore exploration in blocks 16 and 19, Inhambane and Sofala Provinces, Mozambique.

It is my pleasure to submit herewith the Advisory review prepared by a working group of the Commission. I would like to draw your attention to the following:

Already prior to but also during our site visit in September 2005, I observed that various actors in the decision making process on granting the permits for this project had a clear wish for a strategic appraisal of the various interests in the project area. The EIA report makes clear that the call for such strategic appraisal is really broad.

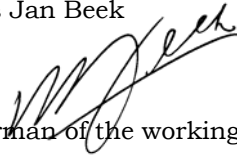
I would like to suggest applying strategic environmental assessment to help formulate a policy and clear criteria for awarding hydrocarbon concessions. Formulation of such policy would have the following advantages:

- ◆ it would help to avoid that concession rights are awarded in areas that Mozambique would like to pre-empt from the risks of hydrocarbon exploration;
- ◆ it would help to balance the interests of conservation objectives and competing economic sectors in concession areas, and
- ◆ it would most probably help pre-empting future controversy on the granting of hydrocarbon concessions.

The Commission would appreciate to be kept informed about the use that is made of this advice.

Yours sincerely,

Klaas Jan Beek



Chairman of the working group

cc. Ms Célia Jordão, Royal Netherlands embassy Maputo, Moçambique

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