

7 Consultation and Disclosure

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7.1 Introduction

Stakeholder consultation is an important element of the Environmental and Socio-economic Impact Assessment (ESIA) process. Soliciting, collating and documenting the opinions of potentially affected people and interested parties ensures that project design and the ESIA reflects the collective views of key stakeholders.

This Chapter presents an overview of the consultation and stakeholder engagement relevant to the 3D Seismic Survey and the process for ESIA disclosure.

7.2 Overview of Consultation and Disclosure Process

The 3D Seismic Survey ESIA stakeholder consultation has:

- Made use of the consultation framework and methods established for other BP projects in Azerbaijan;
- Been developed with reference to accepted guidance on expectations of ESIA consultation and disclosure;
- Considered the extent of consultation and disclosure processes undertaken in recent years; and
- Acknowledged the requirement to engage with the following during the ESIA process:
 - National state bodies including:
 - The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR);
 - The Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT);
 - State Committee on Town Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
 - Ministry of Emergency Situations;
 - Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
 - State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR); and
 - Azerbaijan State Maritime Administration and the Navigation and Oceanography Services of Naval Forces.
 - Institutes of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences:
 - The Institute of Botany;
 - The Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography (IoAE); and
 - The Natural History Museum etc.

Engagement with local stakeholders has included local businesses, land owners, residents, fishermen and local government officials contacted during the SWAP specific surveys (refer to Sections 7.5.1 and 7.5.2 below).

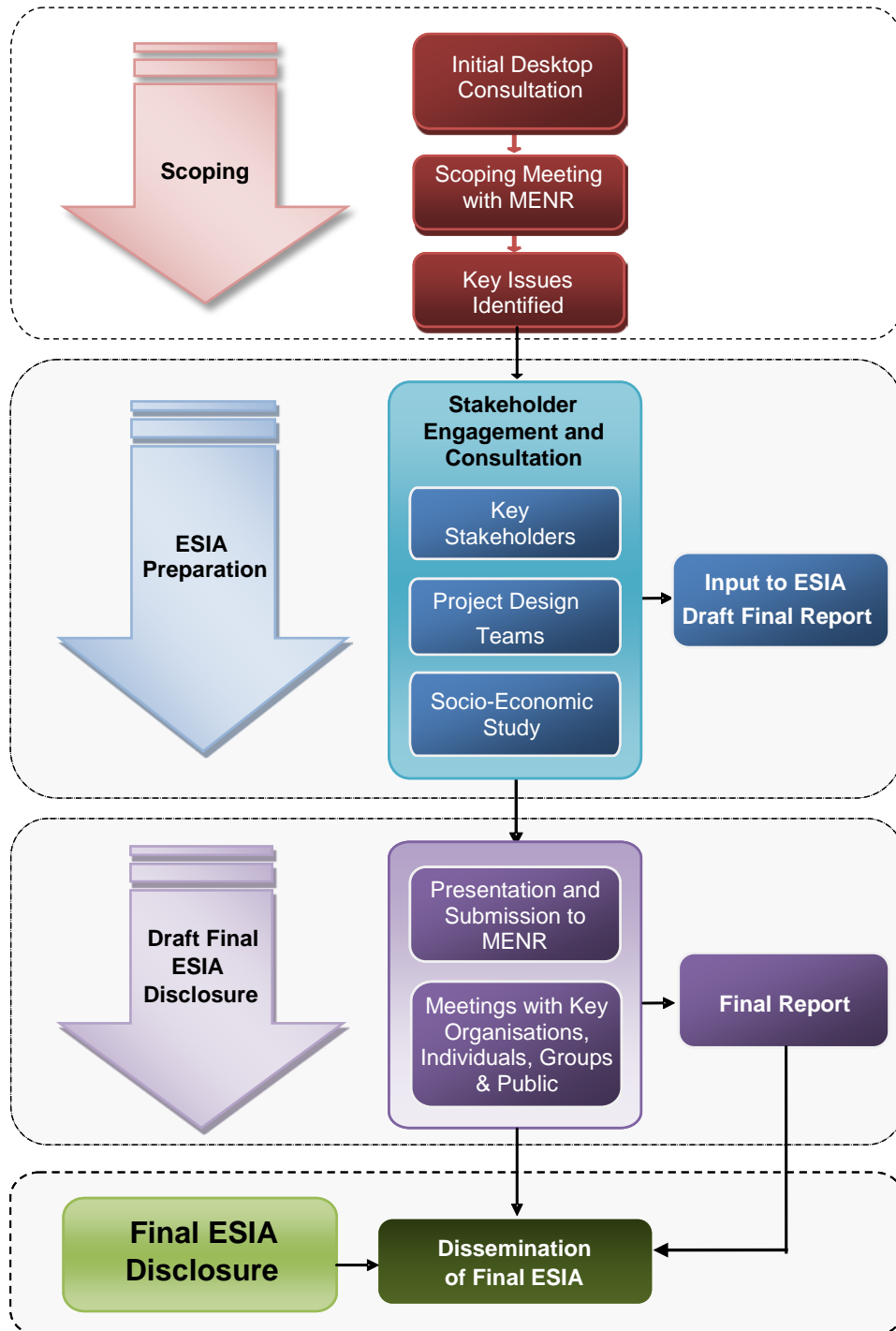
Figure 7.1 below illustrates the 3D Seismic Survey ESIA consultation and disclosure process.

A Public Consultation and Disclosure Plan (PCDP) has been prepared to support the 3D Seismic Survey ESIA. The PCDP outlines the consultation and disclosure objectives and the national and international regulatory regime that project consultation and disclosure will follow, to ensure best practice approaches.

The PCDP also sets out the:

- Process by which stakeholders are identified and consulted;
- The consultation completed and planned over the duration of the ESIA; and
- Process for lodging and responding to complaints.

Figure 7.1: ESIA Consultation and Disclosure Process



7.3 Previous ESIA and Ongoing Related Stakeholder Consultation

BP has been operating in Azerbaijan since the mid-1990s and has established strong working relationships with key stakeholders as a result of a number of projects in the region.

Over the past 15 years, BP has undertaken ESIA's for projects such as the Azerbaijan International Operating Company's (AIOC) Chirag Oil Project, Azeri Chirag Guneshli (ACG) Phases 1, 2 and 3 and Shah Deniz Phases 1 and 2 as well as ESIA's for oil and gas pipelines from Azerbaijan to Georgia (for example, the South Caucasus Pipeline (SCP)). For these ESIA's, extensive consultation with stakeholders including government, academic and scientific bodies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local potentially affected stakeholders including businesses, local government, local

residents, land users and fishermen was undertaken. This consultation has continued during the construction and operation of the projects, led by BP's Community and External Affairs Team. The lessons learnt from this previous consultation have helped to inform the SWAP 3D Seismic Survey consultation approach.

7.4 Scoping Consultation and Disclosure

7.4.1 Initial SWAP Desktop Consultation

The first stage of consultation undertaken for the SWAP Project, comprising desktop data collection, was completed between April and July 2015. The purpose of the initial desktop data collection was to obtain relevant, available data held by government and academic institutions, companies and other bodies sufficient to allow an understanding of the current baseline conditions in the areas potentially affected by the seismic survey activities. Consultation primarily involved issuing written data requests, which included a brief overview of the project and the project area, to relevant stakeholders. Table 7.1 presents the organisations and institutions consulted as part of the initial desktop consultation process.

Table 7.1: Institutions and Organisations Consulted During Desktop Consultation

Institution / Organisations	
Azerbaijan State Maritime Administration	Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT)
Caspian Shipping Company	Ministry of Economy and Industry
Fisheries Research Institute, MENR	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Icharishahar State Historical and Architectural Reserve	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR)
Institute of Botany, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences	Natural History Museum
Institute of Geography, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences	Navigation and Oceanography Services of Naval Forces
Institute of Geology, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences	State Committee on Town Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Institute of Physiology, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences	State Statistical Committee
Institute of Soil Science and Agro Chemistry of the National Academy of Sciences	SOCAR
Institute of Zoology, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences	Temiz Sheher Project

The responses and information provided by these consultees has been logged and the relevant data has been incorporated into Chapters 5 and 6 of this ESIA.

7.4.2 MENR Scoping Consultation

A scoping meeting, covering both the 2D¹ and 3D SWAP Seismic Surveys, was held with the MENR on 20th August 2015. An overview of both Surveys, including survey techniques, key project activities and indicative schedule, was provided in addition to a summary of the key project aspects proposed to be assessed as part of the ESIA. An overview of the planned baseline surveys to be undertaken to inform the 3D Seismic Survey ESIA was presented including the purpose and scope of the surveys (refer to Chapters 5 and 6 for further details of the noise, cultural heritage, ecology and socio-economic surveys undertaken).

During the meeting, the BP project team confirmed that no activities would be undertaken within the nationally protected Absheron National Park; however activities were planned within the surrounding

¹ The 2D Seismic Survey activities have been assessed separately and the ESIA was approved in November 2015.

Buffer Zone to obtain subsurface data. The Buffer Zone area represents a significant proportion of the SWAP Contract Area, which has not previously been characterised in terms of exploration potential.

The MENR indicated that their initial view is that any development activities within the Absheron National Park Buffer Zone are prohibited. It was agreed that this aspect of the project would require further discussion and these discussions would continue during the ESIA disclosure process.

The MENR agreed that the scope of the socio-economic survey should include small scale fishermen who could potentially be negatively impacted by the seismic survey activities and that all consultation associated with cultural heritage including the planned survey must include the IoAE and the MoCT.

7.5 ESIA Consultation

During the preparation of the ESIA, consultation with stakeholders has been ongoing. This has included:

- Further desktop consultation (including requests for clarifications and for specific data e.g. associated with further defining the presence of potentially vulnerable people within the affected communities, further definition of sensitive areas for seals during migration and further definition of commercial fish species and fishing activities); and
- Consultation during the socio-economic and cultural heritage surveys as described below.

The information gathered has been used during the preparation of Chapters 5 and 6 of this ESIA.

7.5.1 Socio-Economic Survey

In November 2015, a socio-economic survey was undertaken within the onshore 3D Seismic Survey Area (within Priority Areas 1, 2, and 3). The survey, undertaken by a local company Sulaco, supported by BP Community Liaison Officers (CLOs), involved semi-structured interviews (or catch interviews) with a number of stakeholders and a visual walk-over along the coastline to record land use and recreational activity observed. Those who were asked to participate in catch interviews across the three Priority Areas included:

- Land users and residents of local communities;
- Small-scale / artisanal fishermen; and
- Business owners and representatives of hotels, coastal resorts and other tourism facilities.

Prior to commencing the socio-economic survey, the relevant local authorities were contacted by letter to inform them of the survey purpose and objectives. This included the District Executive Powers of Garadagh, Sabayil, Surakhani, Khatai and Khazar.

7.5.2 Cultural Heritage Walkover Survey

A cultural heritage walkover survey was undertaken between 30th October and 6th November 2015 to verify the list of monuments and their locations provided by the MoCT and IoAE as part of the initial desktop consultation and to identify any other additional cultural heritage features within the onshore 3D Seismic Survey Area. The survey team comprised AECOM cultural heritage specialists supported by representatives from the IoAE.

Prior to commencing the survey, a meeting was held with a representative of the MoCT in Baku to present the scope of the survey. This was followed up with a close out meeting at the end of the survey to present the findings.

During the cultural heritage walkover survey, the survey team met with representatives of the Surakhani District Executive Power and the Zira and Hovsan Municipalities to inform them of the survey. The representatives of Zira and Hovsan Municipalities assisted in identifying the locations of monuments within Zira and Hovsan.

7.5.3 Project Information Leaflets

During the socio-economic survey, the participants in the catch interviews were given a project information leaflet, which provided an overview of the 3D Seismic Survey, explained the purpose of the survey and provided contact details for a BP representative in the event of a grievance associated with the survey. A similar leaflet was also provided to the stakeholders that were consulted during the cultural heritage walkover survey. To date, no formal grievances have been raised in connection with either survey.

7.6 Draft Final ESIA Report Public Consultation and Disclosure

As per the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Handbook for the Environmental Impact Assessment Process in Azerbaijan, the Draft Final ESIA report will be submitted to the MENR and simultaneously released to public and stakeholder groups for comment. The expectation will be that within two months a response from the MENR will be provided to BP. During this two-month public consultation and disclosure period, BP will hold a public meeting and other relevant stakeholder group meetings.

The Draft Final ESIA Report and the Non-Technical Summary will be published in English and Azerbaijani. Copies of the draft documents as well as feedback forms will be made available for public review using media and other communications channels such as internet and e-mail.

Copies of the Draft Final ESIA Report and Non-Technical Summary will be made publicly available at the following locations:

- BP's website;
- Culture Houses and/or public libraries at Garadagh, Sabayil, Surakhani, Khatai and Khazar districts;
- Aarhus Public Environmental Information Centre, Baku;
- Baku Education Information Centre;
- BP Xazar Centre Office receptions, Baku;
- M. F. Akhundov State Library, Baku; and
- Scientific Library of the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan.

Comments received on the Draft Final ESIA Report will be collated and analysed. Responses to comments received from consultees will be issued as soon as possible after completion of the three-month consultation period and as part of the overall response to the MENR.

The Final ESIA as approved by the MENR will be issued once all comments and conditions have been agreed.

7.7 Post-ESIA Project Consultation

There will be a need for ongoing consultation and disclosure throughout the 3D Seismic Survey. The framework for this consultation is provided within the PCDP. Consultation will build on the well-established consultation and disclosure process established for earlier BP projects, while taking into consideration the differences between these projects and the 3D Seismic Survey.

At the start of 3D Seismic Survey activities, the consultation process will be reviewed to ensure that it is still appropriate and effective in terms of communicating information about the project and to the right audience.

7.8 Consultation Under the Espoo Convention

As a signatory to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary context (i.e. the Espoo Convention), the Azerbaijan Government is obliged to provide early notification to countries that may be subject to transboundary impacts as a result of a development within Azerbaijan.

Potential transboundary impacts, including potential impacts associated with greenhouse emissions are presented in Chapter 10 of this ESIA and will be discussed with the MENR as part of the ESIA disclosure process.