

## Appendix C: Public Consultation and Disclosure

### C.1 Introduction

This Appendix provides details of the stakeholder consultation carried out for the Khor Al-Zubair (KAZ) Oil Terminal Project, Iraq.

Stakeholder consultation is of crucial importance to understand how the Terminal would impact on stakeholders and to obtain their input on which impacts should be included and excluded. WTPS recognises the importance of consultation and that it is also an early opportunity for stakeholders to become better informed about the planned Terminal. Stakeholders may be considered to be individuals, groups and organisations who may be affected by the Terminal.

Information provided by the stakeholders has been incorporated into relevant chapters of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), however, EAME have received only a very limited response with no substantial opinions or additional information coming forward. This low level of responsiveness is not unusual for Iraq which only has a short history and experience of ESIA's being performed and no formal requirements for public or statutory consultation. Furthermore, there are no residential communities in the area and the nearest commercial entities that could be affected are direct stakeholders in the project.

Stakeholder consultation comprised two parts:

- the development and issue of a Scoping Report; and
- the direct consultation with potentially affected communities.

### C.2 Stakeholder Identification

Stakeholders were identified as a result of discussions with Waterway Trading & Petroleum Services LLC (WTPS), General Company Ports of Iraq (GCPI) and EAME's extensive knowledge of Southern Iraq. As such, a number of key stakeholder groups were developed, including:

- **National and local government authorities** including those with either a formal role in the approval process or an interest in the Terminal project;
- **Local communities**, however, it should be noted that the nearest residential dwellings are over 5km distant from the Terminal and the land in between the Terminal and these properties is similarly unused and unoccupied. Consequently, there are no residential communities likely to directly interact with the Terminal;

- **International and national NGOs.** EAME maintains a database of NGOs operating in Iraq which was accessed for this project. However, with the current humanitarian crises in Iraq, a number of the limited responses from NGOs indicated that they regrettably do not have the time nor manpower to respond in an appropriate manner;
- **Scientific and educational institutions.** EAME has a number of links with relevant people in the Basra scientific and educational community. Please note, however, that much of the literature created in recent times can be classed as '*grey literature*'.
- **Commercial organisations.** Due to EAME's extensive knowledge of the area in the vicinity of the Terminal, EAME was able to identify a number of existing and proposed commercial and industrial organisations;
- **WTPS staff members** are stakeholders in the Terminal project and will be kept informed of progress at regular intervals; and
- **Terminal project partners** are also stakeholders in the Terminal project and will be kept informed of progress at regular intervals

### C.3 Scope of ESIA Consultations

The Scoping Report (014-1287 WTPS Iraq Oil Terminal Environmental Scoping Report REV03, August 2014) was prepared at the start of the ESIA process. It is a standalone document that describes the project, sets out the environmental issues that will be assessed through the ESIA (and those that have been screened out), explains how these will be assessed and seeks feedback from the consultees on these issues and any additional information that they have. The Scoping Report was sent to the identified stakeholders in August and September 2014. Over one hundred copies of the Scoping Report were issued, however, replies were only received from four entities, none of which provided any additional information or sought to amend the proposed approach.

### C.3 Summary of ESIA Scope Consultations

As mentioned previously, the responses from identified stakeholders were very limited, however, pertinent information is presented in this section:

Dr Azzam Alwash, Founder and President of Nature Iraq, responded indicating that of any upcoming publication indicating that Khor Al-Zubair would be identified as a Key Biodiversity Area. The publication is to be published jointly with the Ministry of Environment (MoE). Dr Alwash also urged EAME to include the MoE and local fishermen within our consultation.

The Co-ordinator of Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), Dr Hassan Mohammadi, declined to comment on the Scoping Report and stated that only the MoE could determine the scope of the ESIA.

Engineer Taha Yaseen Mohammed, the Director General South of the MoE, stated that the MoE is the competent authority to decide the scope of the ESIA for the Terminal, however, no other comments were forthcoming.

Dr Andreas Lueck, Senior Water Resources Expert from the Iraq office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) indicated to consult with the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) regarding groundwater protection and hazardous waste management, however, the MoWR did not respond to the Scoping Report.

#### **C.4 Direct Consultation**

Direct consultation was also undertaken with potentially affected communities, particularly fishermen of the Khor Al-Zubair. As such, EAME interviewed the Basra Fishing Union leader and also boat owners and fishermen who operate out of the fishing port to the south of the site, fishermen encountered on-site and fish sellers in Umm Qasr and Zubair. Details of which are provided in *Chapter 9 – Socio-economic Conditions*.

#### **C.5 Post-ESIA Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

Assuming the Terminal project were to be approved, additional public disclosure and stakeholder engagement will be required during the construction and operation phases of the Terminal.