

Stephanie Gopaul

Principal Consultant



Stephanie Gopaul is an Associate Partner based in Durban, South Africa. She holds a science degree in engineering and environmental geology and Masters in Environmental Management. Stephanie started her career at the eThekweni Municipality and thereafter, served at GCS (Pty) LTD as an Environmental Scientist before joining ERM. Stephanie has more than fifteen years of experience in the field of environmental management consulting and is registered with Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA) as an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).

Her fields of expertise include environmental permitting, environmental auditing, due diligence, feasibility studies and environmental risk assessments. Additionally, Stephanie has experience in closure planning and costing.

Stephanie has managed projects for several public and private sector clients in the oil and gas (upstream and downstream), power utilities, renewable energy, industrial, mining and transport sectors. Her particular focus and area of expertise is in the African context where she has managed various large-scale, multi-disciplinary and complex projects for companies including TotalEnergies, Shell, Impact Africa, Shearwater, Chevron, ENI, ExxonMobil, Equinor, Sasol, Anglo suite, ENGIE, etc.

Experience: 15 years' experience in environmental permitting, environmental management and project management.

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Professional Affiliations & Registrations

- IAIA SA
- Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA)

Fields of Competence

- ENVID
- Environmental Impact Assessments/ Basic Assessments,
- Environmental Management Programmes,
- Environmental Audits and Due Diligence,

- Compliance Audits;
- Waste Management Licenses,
- Integrated Water Use License Applications,
- Integrated Water and Waste Management Plans,
- Environmental legal assessments;
- Environmental compliance monitoring,
- Mining and prospecting right applications,
- Public / stakeholder consultation and participation,
- Mine closure and closure cost estimations.

Education

- Masters in Environmental Management, University of the Free State, South Africa, 2012
- BSc. Environmental and Engineering Geology, University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, 2005

Additional Education

- Water Quality Monitoring Short Course - GCS

- Environmental Impact Assessment Training– Metamorphosis Environmental Consultants;
- Intermediate/ Advanced Excel (ExecuTrain);
- Conflict resolution (Elsie Van Der Merwe)
- Project Management- University of the Free State;
- Hazardous Waste Course- IWMSA (Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa)
- Environmental Managers as Leaders, Managers and Change Masters- University of the Free State;
- First Aid- Titan Medical; and
- Defensive Driving Course- MasterDrive.

Languages

- English, native speaker

Key Industry Sectors

- Diversified Energy
- Offshore
- Manufacturing
- Chemicals
- Mining

Key Projects

Oil & Gas/ Offshore/ Marine

- **ExxonMobil Rovuma LNG Midstream project, Mozambique, 2023**

Project Manager and EAP

ExxonMobil's Rovuma LNG Project in Mozambique was redesigned with ESG in mind – lowering emissions through engineering and technology selection, reducing security risks by offshoring operations, investing in biodiversity and local communities. ExxonMobil's efforts ceased due to local insurgency, COVID pandemic and Force Majoue in the country and they took the opportunity to redesign the plant, including an option for CCS, potential to significantly reduce emissions as well as reduce reliance on the workforce. The current scope and includes work includes:

1. Environmental Design Basis for the Area 4 midstream plant.
2. Review of the contractor's Waste Management Philosophy
3. Review of the contractor's Noise Management Philosophy
4. Review of the contractor's Environmental Design Basis
5. Review of a contractor's Acorn's Gap Analysis of the Area 4 Project
6. Regulatory review of the Combines Cycle Power Plant
7. Early Authorities Engagement (including impact screening) as part of an imminent update to the EMP
8. Compilation of a Permitting Action Tracker for the midstream and Upstream Components
9. Updates to 16 contractors Environmental Management Plans & 10 Socio-economic Management Plans

- **GeoPartners EIR for a 3D Seismic Survey - Offshore Angoche Basin, Mozambique, 2023**

EAI technical Lead/ Reviewer

The Angoche 3D Seismic Survey Project was characterized as a Category A activity, subject to a

full EIA process (including EPDA and EIR) in accordance with the Mozambican Regulations.

- **Sasol Expert Responding Affidavit on Review Application for Offshore Exploration Project, Block ER236 of the East Coast of South Africa, 2022**

Project Manager and EAP

Various applicants lodged a review application in the High Court of South Africa, against the Environmental Authorisation held by ENI and Sasol for offshore exploration in Block ER236 of the East Coast of South Africa. Duties as a project manager and EAP included preparing an expert affidavit in response to the review and co-ordinating the inclusion of the opinions of marine fauna experts, oil and gas subject matter experts, an underwater noise modelling expert, and a climate change expert. This also included collaboration with the clients, client's attorneys and the expert legal council.

- **Shell and Impact Africa Expert Responding Affidavit on Review Application for Offshore Seismic Survey, Transkei and Algoa Blocks, 2022**

Project Manager and EAP

Various applicants lodged a review application in the High Court of South Africa, against the exploration right held by Impact Africa on the Transkei Algoa blocks. Duties as a project manager and EAP included preparing an expert affidavit in response to the review and co-ordinating the inclusion of the opinions of marine fauna experts, oil and gas subject matter experts, an underwater noise modelling expert, and a climate change expert. This also included collaboration with the clients and the client's attorneys.

- **TotalEnergies Post Oil-spill Audit, Angola, TotalEnergies E&P Angola S.A.- Sucursal EM (TEPA), 2022**

Project Manager

Stephanie was responsible for co-ordinating the auditing and management of specialists and an in-

country team to conduct a post-spill environmental audit and advise the company on corrective actions to improve prevention and response systems and to address possible environmental contamination and also assess the impact on the environment/response management.

- **Coega LNG Redflags Reporting, ENVID/ HAZID, Stakeholder Mapping and Permitting Roadmap, South Africa, TotalEnergies, 2021**

Project Manager

Stephanie managed the team to support TotalEnergies carry out a Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) in order to inform a series of proposed exclusion zones for the TOTAL Coega LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) concept which TOTAL has proposed to the South Africa Department of Mineral Resources and Energy

- **Coega LNG Exclusion Zone Quantified Risk Assessment, South Africa, TotalEnergies; 2021**

Project Manager

Duties as project manager included client liaison, authority engagement, team management and project co-ordination, to deliver four key outputs (Redflags Reporting, ENVID/ HAZID, Stakeholder Mapping and Permitting Roadmap) necessary to confirm TotalEnergies risk assessment, identify mitigation measures, map key stakeholders and understand their expectations.

- **EMP for Multi-Client 3 D Seismic Survey, Transkei Basin, South Africa, Shearwater, 2021**

Project Manager

As project manager, Stephanie led the team that supported Shearwater who with a Reconnaissance Permit for an area of 22,000km² in the West Transkei region, offshore Port Elizabeth in South Africa. As part of this permit the requirement was to develop an EMP for managing potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed operations and notify and consult with affected parties.

- **Closure Certificate for Tugela South Offshore Block, South Africa, Impact Africa, 2021**

Project Manager

Impact Africa was supported in their application for a closure certificate for a portion of the Tugela South offshore block.

■ **ExxonMobil Exploration and Production South Africa Limited, 2020**

Project Manager

Project managed, reviewed reporting and supported compilation of the audit Transkei Algoa Exploration EMPr audit.

■ **Environmental Compliance Audit of the ER236 Exploration Right for Eni South Africa B.V, South Africa, 2020**

Project Manager

Managed the environmental compliance audit for the ER236 Exploration Right.

■ **Environmental Compliance Audit for the Tugela South Exploration Right EMPr, South Africa, ExxonMobil Exploration and Production South Africa Limited, 2020**

Project Manager

Project managed, reviewed reporting and supported compilation of the Tugela South Exploration EMPr audit.

■ **Environmental Compliance Audit (Close Out) for Deepwater Durban Exploration Right EMPr, South Africa, ExxonMobil Exploration and Production South Africa Limited, 2020**

Project Manager

Project managed, reviewed reporting and supported compilation of the Deepwater South Exploration EMPr audit.

■ **Environmental Impact Assessment Appeal, South Africa, ENI, 2019-2020**

Project Manager

Managing ERM submissions to an appeal against the Environmental Authorisation. The appeal decision upheld the Environmental Authorisation.

■ **Biodiversity Management Plan, ENI Kenya, 2020**

Project Manager

Managed the development of a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) as part of ESMP for drilling of the Mlima-1 exploratory well in L11B Block in offshore Kenya. This also included stakeholder engagement.

■ **NEMA EIA License Renewal, ENI Kenya, 2020**

Project Manager

Project managed the NEMA EIA license renewal for the Mlima-1 exploratory well in L11B Block in offshore Kenya.

■ **Environmental Impact Assessment for Offshore Exploration Drilling, South Africa, ENI, 2019**

Project Consultant

Contributing to the drafting of a Scoping and EIA Report and the management of specialists for an exploration drilling project, offshore South Africa. Additional support on this project included addressing appeal comments in collaboration with the ENI team and their appointed legal consultants.

■ **Gas to Power EIA, South Africa, ACED, 2021**

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Stephanie was the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) for the EIA for this Gas to power facility, Saldanha Bay in the Western Cape, South Africa

■ **East Algoa Exploration Right EMPr Environmental Compliance Audit, South Africa, Equinor (formerly Statoil), 2020**

Project Manager

Project managed, reviewed reporting and supported compilation of the East Algoa Exploration EMPr audit.

■ **Environmental Compliance Audit for Transkei Algoa Exploration Right EMPr, South Africa, Project Manager**

Project managed, reviewed reporting and supported compilation of the Transkei Algoa Exploration EMPr audit.

- **Kroonstad Terminal ECO Audit, Chevron, South Africa, 2015**
Project Manager
Responsibilities included co-ordinating the monthly ECO site visits, reviewing the monthly ECO compliance audits and overseeing the compilation and submission of the annual compliance report.
- **Alrode Terminal ECO Audit, Chevron, South Africa, 2015**
Project Manager
Responsibilities included co-ordinating the monthly ECO site visits, reviewing the monthly ECO compliance audits and overseeing the compilation and submission of the annual compliance report.
- **On-Land Early Power Project, Department of Energy, South Africa, 2016**
Project Consultant
Responsibilities include compilation of the application form, Scoping Reports, EIA and EMPs for this Gas to Power Project, located in Richards Bay, KwaZulu Natal.
- **Floating Power Plant Project, Department of Energy, South Africa, 2016**
Project Consultant
Responsibilities include compilation of the application form, Scoping Reports, EIA and EMPs for this Gas to Power Project, located in Richards Bay, KwaZulu Natal.
- **Terminal Screening/ Scoping and EIA, Globeleq, South Africa, 2016 - ongoing**
Project Consultant
Responsibilities include compilation of the application form, Scoping Reports, EIA and EMPs for this Gas to Power Project, located in Richards Bay, KwaZulu Natal.
- **IPP Floating Power Plant, Department of Energy, South Africa, 2016 - ongoing**
Project Consultant
Responsibilities include compilation of the application form, Scoping Reports, EIA and EMPs for this Gas to Power Project, located in the Port of Richards Bay, KwaZulu Natal.
- **On-Land Early Power Project, Department of Energy, South Africa, 2016**
Project Consultant
Responsibilities include compilation of the application form, Scoping Reports, EIA and EMPs for this Gas to Power Project, located in Richards Bay, KwaZulu Natal.
- **Floating Power Plant Project, Department of Energy, South Africa, 2016**
Project Consultant
Responsibilities include compilation of the application form, Scoping Reports, EIA and EMPs for this Gas to Power Project, located in Richards Bay, KwaZulu Natal.
- **Terminal Screening/ Scoping and EIA, Globeleq, South Africa, 2016**
Project Consultant
Responsibilities include compilation of the application form, Scoping Reports, EIA and EMPs for this Gas to Power Project, located in Richards Bay, KwaZulu Natal.
- **Alrode Depot Basic Assessment, Chevron, South Africa, 2015**
Project Manager
Responsibilities included co-ordinating the project, reviewing the reports and overseeing the compilation and submission of the reports.
- **Mageza Feasibility and Conceptual Remedial Design, Sasol Oil, South Africa, 2014**
Project Manager
Responsibilities included managing and compiling a feasibility assessment and conceptual remedial design for the Mageza Filling Station based on the concept and associated costs of using wetlands for the removal of contamination.
- **Shell Gess Programme, Shell, South Africa, 2013 - ongoing**
Project Manager

Responsibilities included managing various (ERM has been awarded over 400 to date) Shell Gess projects including Remediation Orders, Section 24G Rectification Processes, Environmental Licensing, Environmental Audits and Waste Management Licenses in terms of specialists co-ordination, public consultation, client liaison, report compilation and all financial aspects. List of selected Projects include:

1. Basic Assessment for the Construction of the Aerodrome Service Station;
2. Decommissioning Basic Assessment for Shell infrastructure at the AEL Modderfontein Site;
3. Bayhead Road Compliance Motivation;
4. Breede Valley Decommissioning Basic Assessment and ECO Audits;
5. Davenport Service Station Compliance Audit;
6. Combined Transport Section 30 Application;
7. Five Star Service Station Compliance Audit;
8. Glebe Service Station Compliance Audit and ECO;
9. Key Delta Basic Assessment Process and ECO Audit;
10. Assegai Motors Environmental Audit and EMP;
11. Bailey and Maile EMP;
12. Mondi Basic Assessment Process and ECO Audit;
13. Montrose Service Station ECO Audit;
14. Ntokozweni EMP and ECO Audit;
15. Philani Valley EMP and ECO Audit;
16. Masakhane Basic Assessment Process and ECO Audit;
17. Beverly Service Station Basic Assessment Process;
18. Diepsloot Basic Assessment Process;
19. Alberton Water Use License;
20. Bargain Wholesalers EMP;
21. Quatro EMP;
22. Summit Road Basic Assessment Process;
23. Willie Street Basic Assessment Process;
24. Cosmo City Basic Assessment Process;
25. Caledon Depot Basic Assessment;
26. Witbank WULA;
27. Mvoti Service Station WULA;
28. Umfula Motors Basic Assessment Process;
29. Update of Dom Pedro EMP;
30. De Beers Kleinsee Decommissioning Basic Assessment Process;
31. AEL Modderfontein Decommissioning Basic Assessment Process;
32. Three Sisters Screening;
33. Western Cape Sites Screening;
34. Project Black Rhino Screening and AEL;
35. Section 24G Screening Assessment.

Renewables

- **Rheboksfontein Wind Energy Project- Part 2 Amendment, South Africa, ENGIE, 2021**
Environmental Assessment Practitioner Reviewed reporting and served as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner on the Part 2 Amendment for the Rheboksfontein Wind Energy Project, Western Cape, South Africa.
- **Project Rhynbow (Green Hydrogen)- Ongoing Permitting Support and Steering Committee, South Africa, 2022 Ongoing**
Confidential Project
Stephanie is a member of the steering committee for a consortium set up for a heavy-duty hydrogen mobility project in South Africa.
- **Permits and Consent Screening for a Green Hydrogen Project, South Africa, Confidential Client, 2022**
Stephanie was the project manager and co-author of a permitting and consents report for a green hydrogen, production and storage facility in South Africa.
- **Social, Environmental, Economic Context Analysis (SEECA) study, South Africa, Enel Green Power, 2021**
Project Consultant
SEECA study for the Sonneblom and Serurubele Solar PV projects, Free State, South Africa.
- **Goldfields Solar PV EIA, South Africa, ENEL Greenpower, 2017- 2019**

Project Consultant

Gold Fields in collaboration with Enel Green Power proposed a 40MW Solar PV Plant at the South Deep Gold Mine near Westonaria, Gauteng. My project responsibilities included compilation of the financial provisioning for closure and drafting certain sections of the EIA.

Marine Telecoms

- **EIA for the METISS Subsea Cable System e Landed in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, ASN, 2018 to 2020**

Project Consultant

Supported the project by engaging with authorities on the EIA, amendment considerations, coastal lease negotiations and routing aspects. Supported in a short-term project management capacity towards the end of the project.

- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reports for 2 Africa Subsea Cable System, ASN, 2021- ongoing**

Project Consultant

The project involves complex reporting, permit application, consultations and project management for subsea cable system for multiple countries in West Africa. Stephanie provides support to the team on various legal, procedural, financial and contractual aspects as and when needed.

Other Industry

- **Basic Assessment for the Dow PUSH Project, Dow Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd, 2019**

Project Manager

Conducted a Basic Assessment process and obtained an Environmental Authorisation for the Dow Polyurethanes Systems House (PUSH) Expansion Project, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended.

- **Project Caterpillar Audit, Arista Environmental Audit, 2018**

Project Manager & Auditor

Completed the following tasks:

- ✚ Review of the formal and informal management systems, mechanisms, policies and procedures in place for the management of EHS issues at the Sites, including organization, objectives, targets, training, performance monitoring and auditing, and staffing, including use of contractors. Review of EHS capital expenditure (CapEx) plans.
- ✚ Review of sustainability issues in the Supply Chain.
- ✚ A review of integrated environmental permitting requirements, conditions and improvement programmes, as applicable.
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- ✚ A review of emissions to air (both point-source and fugitive) from the site, focusing on demonstration of compliance with the permit and abatement measures required to achieve compliance with current or anticipated future permit/ license/ consent conditions.
- ✚ A review of direct risks in relation to climate change regulation, such as emissions trading programmes and other climate change related regulations and taxes.
- ✚ Review of wastewater sources, treatment and discharge (including storm water, process wastewater and domestic / sanitary wastewater) together with a demonstration of compliance with permit / consent conditions.
- ✚ Review of processes for the handling and storage of liquid and solid hazardous raw materials, intermediates and products. Review of principal waste types (hazardous and non-hazardous, liquid and solid), storage, handling and disposal practices (current and former, on-site and off-site), and a review of waste documentation and permitting.

- **Environmental Compliance Audit, Leggett and Platt Inc., 2018**

Project Consultant

Conducted an environmental compliance assessment at the L&P Springs Stanger facility, which included an evaluation of the facility's compliance with the national and local environmental requirements and practices. Environmental topics reviewed included environmental permitting, air quality, waste materials management, water management (supply, storage release), wastewater management, storage tank systems, PCBs, asbestos; and ozone depleting substances.

- **Vopak Growth 4 Basic Assessment, Vopak terminal, South Africa, 2017**
Project Manager
Responsibilities included managing the project in terms of processes co-ordination, authority and public consultation, specialist's co-ordination, report compilation and financial aspects.
- **AFROX CIBE, AFROX, South Africa, 2013- 2014**
Project Manager
Responsibilities included managing the project in terms of coordinating specialists, holding public consultation, acting as client liaison, report compilation and managing all financial aspects.

Mining

- **Anglo IFC Gap Analysis and PS Training to Mines, South Africa and Botswana, Anglo American and De Beers, 2020**
Project Manager
The project involved a gap analysis of national and local legislation applicable to the South African and Botswana mines against the IFC Performance Standards. A workshop was held to facilitate an interactive learning on how to achieve compliance with IFC standards and what actions should be prioritised. Further to this, ERM led training sessions at each of the mines on IFC Performance Standards, the gaps identified and how to identify and close out any gaps.
- **Hillside/ Mozal Closure Reports Update, South32, South Africa/ Mozambique, 2020**
Project Manager
Responsibilities include project managing all the tasks associated with updating the risk assessments and closure plans for the South 32 sites Mozal (Mozambique) and Hillside (South Africa).
- **Swartberg Part 2 Amendment, South Africa, Black Mountain Mining, 2021**
Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Reviewed reporting and served as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner on the the Swartberg Mine Expansion Project, Northern Cape, South Africa.
- **Jwaneng Mine Cut 9 Feasibility, Debswana, 2018**
Project Co-ordinator/ Manager
Responsibilities included managing the project from a schedule and financial perspective. Additional tasks included updating the Mine Closure (including rehabilitation) Plan as well as the Closure Cost Valuation and associated report.
- **Polihali Reservoir and Associated Infrastructure, (Lesotho), Lesotho Highlands Development Agency, 2018**
Assistant Project Manager
Responsibilities include input into the Inception Report, co-ordination of specialists in terms of field visits and their reporting, compilation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan.
- **Venetia Mine Waste Management Licence, De Beers, 2015-2017**
Project Manager
Responsibilities included managing the Waste Management Licence in terms of specialists' co-ordination, public consultation, client liaison, report compilation and all financial aspects.

- **Voorspoed Mine Closure Social Impact Assessment, De Beers, 2017**
Project Manager
Responsibilities included managing the project from a schedule and financial perspective. Additional tasks included compiling the environmental baseline and impact assessment.
- **Hillside/ Mozal Closure Costing, South32, South Africa, 2020**
Project Manager
Responsibilities include project managing all the tasks associated with closure modelling for 2 South 32 sites, namely Mozal and Hillside.
- **Bakubung Platinum Mine Conceptual Closure Plan, Wesizwe Platinum Limited, 2015**
Project Consultant
Compiled the Closure Plan for the Bakubung Platinum Mine located on the Western Limb of the Bushveld Igneous Complex, north of Rustenburg in the North West Province of South Africa. This Closure Plan has been defined to meet South Africa's regulatory requirements for mine closure.
- **Teranga Mine Closure Plan (IFC), Teranga Gold Corporation, 2015**
Project Consultant
Compilation of sections of the Mine Closure Framework and Mine Closure Plan in English for the Sabodala Gold Mine and regional exploration located in Senegal. The final documents were translated to French and submitted to the Government of the Republic of Senegal.