

ENDORSED BY



Ministry of
Industries, Mines and Energy,
Republic of Namibia

4th
Edition



Namibia

Oil and Gas Conference
and Exhibition

18 - 20 August 2026 | Mercure Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia

**From Decision to Dividend:
Making Namibia's Oil Work
for Namibians**

www.namibiaoilandgasconf.com

#NamibiaOGC26

ESG Capacity Building for Large-Scale Oil and Gas Development in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

John Aronson, ESG Director
Deepwater Development Consortium
London, United Kingdom & Windsor, Colorado, USA



#NamibiaOGC26

Two Forces Reshaping Global Energy

Artificial intelligence and ESG principles are converging to redefine how oil and gas projects are developed and governed. Namibia must rapidly build up its AI & ESG capabilities



Artificial Intelligence

A transformative force now emerging across the oil and gas sector — reshaping operations, monitoring, and decision-making.

- Predictive analytics and machine learning
- Real-time environmental monitoring
- Automated risk assessment tools



ESG Principles

Environmental, Social, and Governance standards are becoming critical to sustainable development in resource-rich regions like Namibia.

- International compliance and regulation
- Community trust and transparency
- Long-term environmental stewardship

Namibia's Moment

Large-scale oil and gas development brings both economic opportunity and environmental, social & governance responsibilities.



01 Sustainable Growth

A resource-rich nation positioned to pursue large-scale development while safeguarding long-term national interests.

02 Global Compliance

Alignment with international standards and regulations is essential to attract investment and sustain trust.

03 The Capacity Hurdle

Capacity building remains a formidable challenge in applying modern ESG principles — now compounded by the pace of AI adoption.

The AI-Driven ESG Toolkit

Three applications of AI that directly strengthen ESG performance in large-scale oil and gas operations. Mastering basic AI platforms can enhance local expertise for ESG



Predictive Analytics

For environmental monitoring — anticipating impacts before they occur rather than reacting after the fact.



AI-Powered Risk Assessment

Tools that continuously evaluate operational and environmental risk against ESG benchmarks.



Machine Learning Efficiency

Models that optimize resource use, reducing waste and environmental footprint across operations.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand pointing at a tablet screen. The screen displays a bar chart with seven bars of increasing height from left to right. The bars are represented by white wireframe outlines. The background is a blurred blue fabric.

AI applications can build and
bolster local expertise, quickly
and cost effectively

Anchored to Global Standards

AI-enabled ESG performance is measured against three internationally recognized benchmarks.



United Nations SDGs

Sustainable Development Goals — a shared global framework for transforming development by 2030.



IFC Performance Standards

International Finance Corporation benchmarks for environmental and social sustainability.



The Equator Principles (EP4)

A risk-management framework adopted by financial institutions for major project finance.

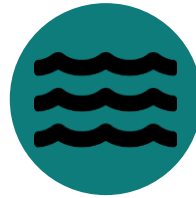
Namibia-Specific Challenges

Applying AI and ESG frameworks locally requires navigating challenges unique to Namibia's development context. AI can assist in rapid and meaningful capacity building across the broad ESG spectrum.



Growth vs. Protection

Balancing rapid economic growth from oil and gas development with environmental protection.



Community Impact

Managing the direct and indirect impacts of large-scale projects on local communities and ecosystems.



Stakeholder Trust

Fostering engagement with stakeholders to build lasting trust and transparency in project delivery.

Capacity Building Recommendations

Three priorities to close the capacity gap and sustain AI-enabled ESG performance.



Local AI Expertise

Invest directly in developing Namibian talent equipped with AI and data science skills. Expand AI access and applications



Global Partnerships

Build partnerships with global technology providers to accelerate capability transfer. Educate local specialists in application of AI platforms.



Regulatory Frameworks

Establish regulatory frameworks aligned with international best practices in ESG governance. Use AI to build on local capacity and interests

A Roadmap for Compliance

Five actionable steps for aligning AI-enabled operations with international rules and regulations.

- 1 Adopt AI tools for ESG data collection and reporting, using predictive analytics and real-time monitoring.
- 2 Align with global ESG frameworks — IFC Performance Standards, the Equator Principles, and the SDGs.
- 3 Enhance transparency and stakeholder engagement through AI-based communication tools.
- 4 Invest in local workforce development, building AI and ESG skills among Namibian professionals.
- 5 Establish clear governance structures with national ESG guidelines that incorporate AI advancements.

A Roadmap to ESG Excellence

By synthesizing AI innovation with ESG principles, Namibia's oil and gas sector can achieve sustainable growth while meeting international compliance requirements. Local expertise can gain leverage across the broad spectrum of ESG engagement using AI.

- ✓ A leader in responsible resource development
- ✓ A showcase for AI-driven ESG strategy in global energy
- ✓ A model for sustainable, homegrown capacity building

This presentation sets a precedent for the responsible development of Namibia's oil and gas resources in the age of AI.



About the Presenter

Ekkehard Friedrich, CFA

Shepherd's Tree Investment, Windhoek, Khomas, Namibia



About the Author

John G. Aronson

Member / ESG Director
Deepwater Development Consortium
London, United Kingdom



Thank You

Questions & Discussion

Key References

- United Nations (2015). Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Transforming our world by 2030.
- International Finance Corporation (2012). Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability.
- The Equator Principles Association (2020). The Equator Principles (EP4).