

# CES EXPERTISE IN THE BIOFUEL AND AGRI-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

CES IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONSULTANCY BASED IN SOUTH AFRICA



Since our establishment in 1990 we have grown into one of the largest specialist environmental and social consulting companies in southern Africa, with well-qualified and experienced staff with skills in the environmental and social sciences. Our belief in the necessity of achieving a balance between development and environmental protection ensures that a strong emphasis on social development is incorporated into every project we undertake.

We have been involved in the biofuel sector since 2006 when we were contracted to undertake the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Grown Energy Zambezi bio-ethanol project in the Zambezi Province of Mozambique.

The Grown Energy project involved the development of 11,000ha of sugarcane and sweet sorghum. In the same year we conducted an SEA for forestry in South Africa which was closely followed by an ESIA for the Dutch Jatropha Project in the Buzi District of Sofala Province, Mozambique.

Most notably, in 2009 we were appointed by Addax Bioenergy of Geneva, Switzerland to undertake an ESHIA for the Makeni Ethanol and Power Project in Sierra Leone. We were the lead environmental and social consultants for this project, which covered a 46,000ha study area and a 14,500ha planting area of sugarcane under irrigation, as well as an ethanol plant and other project infrastructure. The ESHIA, which involved 14 specialist studies, was completed in January 2011. The project received significant funding from a consortium of international development funding institutes, which included AfDB and FMO. An independent review undertaken by Chalmers University of Sweden and Ecophys of the Netherlands found the assessment to be outstanding compared to 19 other similar biofuel assessments.

Since then we have been involved in many agriculture and biofuel projects in South Africa and various other African countries and our experience includes the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to identify suitable areas for commercial and out-grower forestry in the former Transkei of South Africa, undertaken on behalf of the National Department of Forestry, an ESIA for Niassa Green Resources for their pine and eucalyptus plantation in Niassa Province, Mozambique to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Community, Climate and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) Standards, a Palm Oil ESHIA in Liberia on behalf of Equatorial Palm Oil and the Siva Group, both to Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil Standards.

We have also completed several Environmental & Social due diligence assessments on large-scale agri-industrial projects on behalf of international development banks and investment organisations. These assignments, conducted primarily by our highly experienced senior professional staff, have involved identification and evaluation of a full range of project-related E&S risks, identification of material gaps in performance in terms of the requirements of international E&S safeguards (including the IFC Performance Standards) and preparation of Environmental and Social Action Plans (ESAP) which ultimately form part of the loan

agreements. The CES team has also been contracted to act a Lenders' E&S Advisor on numerous projects which involves long-term monitoring the performance of projects against the agreed ESAP on behalf of the Lenders. Based on our track record in this area of work, CES has also been recommended by Lenders to their clients to provide E&S-related technical assistance to meet their obligations in terms of the ESAP where this has presented a challenge to them. To date the CES team has been contracted for work in the Agri-Industrial sector by a number of international Lenders including the DEG (Germany), Finnefund and Norfund.

For more information see [www.cesnet.co.za](http://www.cesnet.co.za)

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS SPECIFIC TO THE BIOFUEL AND AGRI-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

CES was the lead environmental assessment practitioner for the following projects, responsible for managing the entire process, including coordinating the work of in-house and external specialist consultants, consulting with stakeholders, preparing all relevant documentation, and adhering to the requirements of relevant and applicable domestic / national and international policies, laws, regulations, standards and guidelines.

- **2006-2011: Grown Energy Zambezi:** An ESIA for a large-scale bio-ethanol project in the Sofala Province, Mozambique, including a large-scale Resettlement Action Plan, to IFC Standards
- **2008-2010: Jathropa Dutch Consortium (JDC):** An ESIA for the Jathropa Biofuel Estate and processing facilities in Buzi District, Mozambique, to IFC Standards
- **2006-2008: South African Forestry SEA:** an SEA for forestry in South Africa, including a decision support system to identify areas for social and environmental sustainable plantation establishment
- **2009-2011: Addax Bioenergy:** ESHIA for the Makeni Ethanol and Power Project for a 14,500ha sugarcane and ethanol factory project in the Bombali District of Sierra Leone. It involved 14 specialist studies and was completed to international lenders' standards. It was found to be 'outstanding' compared to 19 other similar biofuel EIAs in an independent review undertaken by Chalmers University of Sweden and Ecophys of the Netherlands. CES continues to assist Addax Bioenergy with monitoring and compliance aspects of the project
- **2009: RSB Guidelines for environmental and social impact assessment:** The ESIA guidelines that CES developed for the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) are based on international best practice but have also been tailored to comply with the RSB Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Biofuels. These guidelines are therefore specifically for the biofuels sector and indicate, through a screening approach, when it is appropriate to undertake a full ESIA, a Rapid Assessment or just an Environmental Management Plan
- **2010-2011: Nedoil Lokomasama Oil Palm Project:** Environmental Scoping for a proposed 40,000ha palm oil plantation and milling project in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone
- **2010: Green Resources AS (Uganda):** E&S Due Diligence for establishment and upgrade of a forestry plantation in Uganda on behalf of a confidential DFI
- **2010: Sappi Usuthu (Swaziland):** Due Diligence. E&S for a forestry plantation and pulp mill in Swaziland.
- **2011-2012: Farm Secure (South Africa):** E&S Due Diligence covering all of the company's diverse operations (fertilisers, field crops, orchards and cattle ranches) and facilities throughout South Africa for a confidential prospective investor
- **2012: Niassa Green Resources Plantation Project:** ESIA for Green Resources for a Pine and Eucalyptus plantation in Northern Mozambique. The assessment complied with FSC and CCBA

standards to facilitate the client to obtain funding through the Clean Development Mechanism

- **2012: Equatorial Palm Oil, Liberia:** ESHIA for a large palm oil development in Liberia. The project involved planting and rehabilitating 22,000ha of palm oil to maximise social benefits and infrastructure development in Liberia. Assessment to RSPO standards
- **2014-2015: VillaCropProtection:** Environmental and social compliance review, environmental site inspection and contaminated land remediation of South African production, warehousing and distribution operations for a range of crop protection chemicals for a prospective overseas investor
- **2013-2015: EcoFarm Organic Sugar Cane and Beef Production.** ESIA for EcoFarm in Chemba, Mozambique, who wish to supply European markets with organic sugar and beef. CES are ensuring that the project is completed to IFC Standards and complies with EU organic food standards
- **2014: Zambeef Products Plc (Zambia):** E&S Due Diligence for a complex and vertically-integrated agri-industrial company on behalf of a confidential Development Finance Institution. The assignment covered a range of commercial farming operations (cattle, dairy, chickens broilers, piggeries, feed crops, feed milling and leather production) across Zambia
- **2014-2015: Zambeef Products Plc (Zambia):** Biodiversity and Social Technical Assistance programme to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for one of Zambeef's farms which is situated within the Lower Zambezi Game Management Area, and five individual Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEPs) to facilitate management of communication between the company and their stakeholders, including the communities surrounding their five farming operations in Zambia
- **2018: United Sugar Mills Limited / Meghna Sugar Refinery Limited (Bangladesh):** E&S Due Diligence for an existing and new (under construction) sugar production facilities as well as the entire Meghna Economic Zone on behalf of a consortium of confidential Development Finance Institutions
- **2019: United Sugar Mills Limited / Meghna Sugar Refinery Limited (Bangladesh):** Contracted by a consortium of confidential Development Finance Institutions as Lenders E&S Advisor to monitor compliance of the companies with the Lenders' ESAP. The scope of the assignment includes multiple monitoring events over a 3-year period
- **2018 - ongoing: Ethiochicken (Ethiopia):** Contracted as E&S Advisor to the company to assist them with the implementation of an Environmental & Social Management System (ESMS) across their entire organisation including the corporate Head Office and individual farms and feed mills and with their other E&S obligations related to their loan agreements
- **2017: National Agricultural Research Organisation (NAROA) (Uganda):** CES was contracted by Atacama Consulting to assist them with the development of an ESMS across all of NARO's operations and activities including numerous agricultural research facilities across Uganda
- **Africa Agriculture Trade and Investment Fund (AATIF): 2017 - ongoing:** E&S-related capacity building for employees of BancABC. This project involved a number of E&S training audits at agri-industrial facilities including a feed mill and commercial dairy farm in Zimbabwe



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US ON:**

+ 27 46 622 2364

P.O. Box 934 | Grahamstown | 6140

Also in Cape Town, East London, Port Elizabeth,

Johannesburg, Maputo (Mozambique) and Romsey (UK)

[www.cesnet.co.za](http://www.cesnet.co.za) | [info@cesnet.co.za](mailto:info@cesnet.co.za)