La'o Hamutuk

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Mr. Tony Heynen Environmental Adviser Eni Australia tony_heynen@eniaustralia.com.edu

Reference: Draft Environmental Management Plan for Bicuda 2D Seismic Survey

Dear Mr. Heynen:

Thank you for including La'o Hamutuk in the public consultation process on Eni's draft Environmental Management Plan for the Bicuda 2D seismic survey. We appreciate the time you spent with us earlier this week, as well as Eni's work to address concerns we raised in our submission on the Albacora survey last year. We hope that your visit to Suai and Betano went well, and that fishing communities there are now well-informed about the upcoming survey.

Because we discussed a number of issues on Monday, La'o Hamutuk will not write an extensive submission. However, we would like to highlight a few important points:

- 1. The Bicuda Environmental Plan is deficient in minimizing harm to whales and other marine mammals, particularly at night. The large number of whales observed during the Albacora survey indicates many such creatures will be nearby at all times of day and night during Bicuda. We encourage Eni to rethink the wisdom of operating when darkness or bad weather makes it impossible to see how close whales are to the seismic vessel.
- 2. Since the seismic vessel may interfere with shore-based fishing 500 m or more from the coast, it is important to liase with fishermen onshore while the survey is underway near coastal areas, so that they do not deploy their nets. This can help avoid damage to both the nets and the seismic equipment. We hope that Eni, working with DNSMA and local community groups, will communicate effectively, promptly and continually with local fishermen during the survey.
- 3. The *Pacific Titan* and its chase vessel should only be refueled in the port of Dili, and not while in the Timor Sea.
- 4. The bathymetric survey ship *Ridley Thomas* will be exploring in the same waters as the *Pacific Titan* at around the same time. We hope that the two ships will coordinate operations to avoid undue accident risk.

- 5. La'o Hamutuk encourages Eni to implement the same level of transparency and consultation for your activities in the JPDA as you do in Timor-Leste territory. In particular, we would appreciate information, including draft exploration, environmental and development plans, for the Kitan project in JPDA PSC 06-105. Although TSDA regulations are in flux and currently have limited requirement for public consultation, we hope that you will follow the DNSMA guidelines even though the national sovereignty of the JPDA is still unresolved.
- 6. As you know, public consultations are currently under way regarding new Technical Regulations for the TSDA and for a new Timor-Leste National Petroleum Authority (NPA). We would appreciate copies of any submissions or comments Eni has made to the TSDA or SERN. La'o Hamutuk's submissions are on our website.

La'o Hamutuk continues to post information relating to seismic explorations in Timor-Leste at http://www.laohamutuk.org/Oil/Project/07EniEPseismicLH.htm.

Thank you very much for your attention, and we look forward to further constructive discussion.

Pp_ Charley Delein

Sincerely,

Viriato Seac, Charles Scheiner

La'o Hamutuk Natural Resources Team

Cc: Antonio Lelo Taci (DNSMA), Alfredo Pires (SERN), Florencio Fernandes (Eni Dili), James Kernaghan (Eni Darwin), public.