

Dear Save Langebaan Lagoon (SLL),

We, The Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI), pledge our support for your campaign to prevent the implementation of an industrial scale fish farming project off the coast of Langebaan.

SAFCEI is a multi-faith environmental organisation committed to increasing awareness and understanding, and taking action for eco-justice, sustainable living and climate justice. As such, we oppose the proposed aquaculture development project on the following grounds:

- The project does not take into account the animal welfare issues that will arise from fish farming at this scale. Neither does it consider the impact that aquaculture will have on the lagoon's unique marine ecosystem, home to certain endangered wildlife species.
- Developers claim fish farming will address unemployment, however aquaculture by its very nature is not labour intensive. Instead, this project threatens the livelihoods of indigenous small-scale fishers who have fished in the area for generations.
- Small-scale fishers are already economically vulnerable due to policies that favour recreational and commercial fishers over small-scale fishers. So further limiting their fishing rights and undermining the ecosystem that supports wild fishing will greatly threaten their livelihoods.
- At a time when we are facing climate change and its destructive impacts it is of utmost importance we preserve and build the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems. This project threatens to directly undermine the resilience of both.

Therefore, we fully support the SLL's civil society action to prevent industrial scale fish farming and goal to further the conservation of Langebaan's marine ecosystem.

Yours sincerely
Francesca de Gasparis
Executive Director of SAFCEI