



**TotalEnergies SE**

To the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Patrick Pouyanné  
La Défense 6, Tour Coupole  
2 place Jean Millier - 92400 Courbevoie

Paris, 17 October 2022

Re: BLOOM and The Green Connection request to TotalEnergies to halt oil and gas exploration and extraction projects in South Africa

Dear Mr. Chairman and CEO,

BLOOM and The Green Connection are two small NGOs, one French and the other South African, committed to the defense of nature, the climate and social justice. We are writing to you to ask you to immediately abandon all your new hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation projects that TotalEnergies is developing off the South African coast.

We know that on September 5, 2022, TotalEnergies applied for a production license to develop two large gas fields, which could hold up to one billion barrels of oil equivalent, off the southern coast of South Africa. A few days later, an article reported that you were planning to invest about \$3 billion to launch operations in South African waters, which are characterized by spectacular marine biodiversity and serve as a "blue corridor" and feeding or nesting ground for thousands of whales, seals, penguins, petrels, albatrosses, gannets and endangered leatherback turtles.

TotalEnergies is also involving in oil and gas reconnaissance applications all around the South African Coast, actively pursuing a development path that risks the livelihoods of current and future generations of coastal communities.

Civil society and artisanal fishermen have been alerting you for months: you are knowingly developing your oil and gas projects in an area of unequalled strong marine currents that have so far forced TotalEnergies to abandon the exploitation of hydrocarbons buried under the ocean floor. Nature has long been stronger than you. Now, TotalEnergies' technological genius is enabling you to meet the challenge of the staggering currents at the tip of Africa. But "can" does not mean "must".

Your "duty", Mr Pouyanné, is to make TotalEnergies an exemplary company. You *can* destroy nature and the climate, but you *must* protect them. You run one of the world's largest companies. You have a greater responsibility because your activities have a direct impact on the future of humanity and determine the planet's habitability. Moreover, you



have, more than any other entity, the financial means to both transform your activities and to make the energy transition of our societies to reach the goal of net zero CO2 emissions by 2050.

Mr. Pouyanné, the planet is burning at both ends: the climate is warming at the rate of the most pessimistic scenarios and biodiversity is disappearing at a speed unprecedented in the history of life on Earth. The IPCC climate scientists warn us about the suffering future that is promised to us if we do not immediately and drastically reduce our CO2 emissions. The International Energy Agency has reiterated that no new fossil fuel extraction projects should be built. The UN Secretary General denounced the "*moral and economic folly*" of investing in new fossil fuel infrastructures.

Yet you persist in ignoring the frightening reality that is no longer an "inconvenient truth" but a "killing truth", which is materializing every day before our eyes.

Keep it in the ground, Mr. Pouyanné, and put your total energy and TotalEnergies at the service of humanity and biodiversity.

Give hope to the youth and announce, even before the COP27 in Egypt, that you are giving up your Promethean projects in South Africa.

Sincerely yours,

Claire Nouvian  
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