

An Overview of the Geology & Geophysics of Angola's Oil & Gas Fields and Oil Industry Activity

Tako Koning

Public Relations, Tullow Oil Angola, Luanda, Angola.

Angola is the second largest oil producer in Africa after Nigeria. The oil and gas industry in Angola continues to experience significant growth. A decade ago Angola was producing 750,000 barrels of oil per day and since that time production has increased significantly to an average of 1.8 million barrels of oil per day during 2009.

Oil production commenced in Angola in 1962 with production from the onshore Benfica oil field. Thereafter oil production in Angola was primarily from the Pinda carbonates although significant production was also derived from pre-salt sediments in the shallow water area off Cabinda. The discovery of the Girassol oil field by Elf in 1996 had a dramatic impact on Angola's oil industry with the result that almost 2/3's of Angola's current oil production is from Tertiary turbidites. In 2007 the oil consultancy firm of Wood Mackenzie predicted that Angola production could reach up to and plateau at 2.7 million barrels oil per day by about 2015, assuming no production constraints imposed by OPEC. This author also shares that view.

This presentation provides an overview of the geology and geophysics of Angola's oil fields and also gives a review of Angola's oil industry in terms of past, present and future.