

## **Journey from National Oil Company to National Energy Company - Tunisia**

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### **Abstract**

Since its creation, ETAP was mandated by the Tunisian State to manage the activities in the upstream O&G sector. For long years, ETAP accumulated knowledge and trained staff in E&P operations' cycle by being mainly a partner with operating companies. From 2006, ETAP started its operating journey in Tunisia and then, looking for opportunities abroad in Algeria, Mauritania... Parallel to enhancing the attractiveness of Tunisian hydrocarbon sector, the recent years witnessed a change. In fact, ETAP has launched its transformation process into a national operator by exploring permits and working on development of strategic assets like Zarat discovery, offshore Gulf of Gabes, which will create a great synergy for undeveloped gas discoveries. As the O&G sector evolves globally towards green transition, IOCs started abandoning small assets because of their decarbonization strategies and ETAP is facing big challenges to continue alone the operations on strategic assets (i.e. Miskar & Hasdrubal). That's why ETAP set a new strategy based on four pillars to guarantee oil and gas input for local market and progressive transformation into a national energy company (NEC). This strategy includes *relaunching exploration; increasing oil and gas production; containing costs and transforming ETAP*. The latter is ongoing with respective authorities by implementing reforms on legal, institutional and regulatory frameworks plus guaranteeing financial capacities for ETAP to become a national operator. In addition, a digitalization process was kicked off in 2017 to modernize the national petroleum database for better exploitation of available technical data. Moreover, implementation of projects like the digital signature system will achieve better administrative management and transparency. ETAP also started engaging in renewable energies with a first solar PV project of 10 MW, in cooperation with Eni. ETAP's transformation toward 2030 includes more RE projects and the exploration of new ideas toward achieving energy transition like green hydrogen, biofuels... In parallel, ETAP has become more aware of ESG issues. In fact, an environmental strategy of reducing carbon emissions was adopted to stop routine gas flaring by 2030 and set adapted solutions (*hybrid system of solar CSP and gas for power generation in Adam field*). Regarding social engagement, ETAP developed CSR programs in collaboration with local communities to preserve a peaceful social climate. For better governance, ETAP engaged since 2012 to the *UN Global Compact* initiative and Tunisian authorities are working on *EITI standard* implementation. In order to succeed its challenging transformation into a NEC, ETAP has reconsidered its priorities and engaged in the shift for a low-carbon business model. ETAP is looking for new collaborations with actual and future energy actors, in Tunisia and abroad, to achieve shared goals in win-win partnerships