Opening New Oil Basins: A Pattern of Discovery*

Angus McCoss¹

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Abstract

I discuss our team's story on opening new oil basins and show there is a pattern of discovery. Tullow Oil is focused on finding oil and then selling it in the ground or through the pipe. We are focused on low-cost of supply, light oil which flows naturally. We are conventional oil finders and our exploration covers two continents – Africa and South America. Africa is the continent in which Tullow Oil began doing business, and where we see considerable future exploration potential. South America presents us with exciting new opportunities and a chance to replicate the exploration success we have had in Africa. Our "off-limits" exploration filters help us focus on high-margin light oil in onshore rifts in East Africa, simple offshore settings on the African and South America continental margins and in our production heartlands of West Africa, particularly in Ghana.

^{*}Adapted from oral presentation given at AAPG 2017 Annual Convention and Exhibition, Houston, Texas, United States, April 2-5, 2017

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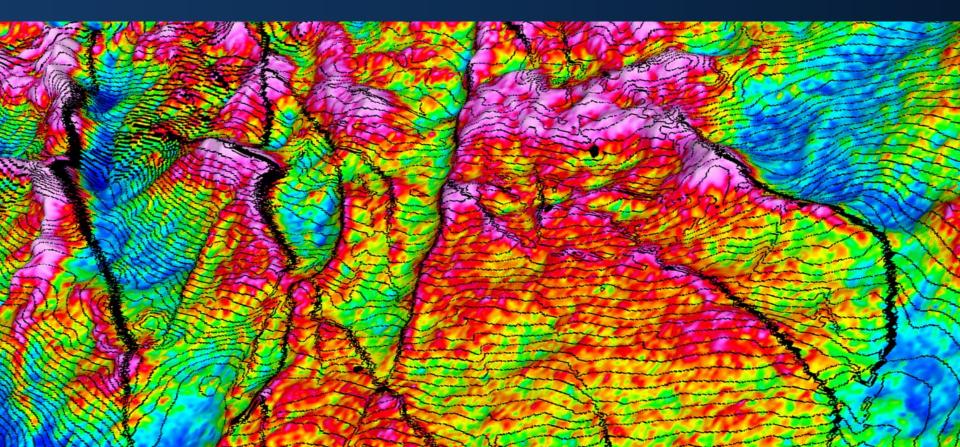
¹Tullow Oil, London, United Kingdom (<u>Angus.McCoss@tullowoil.com</u>)



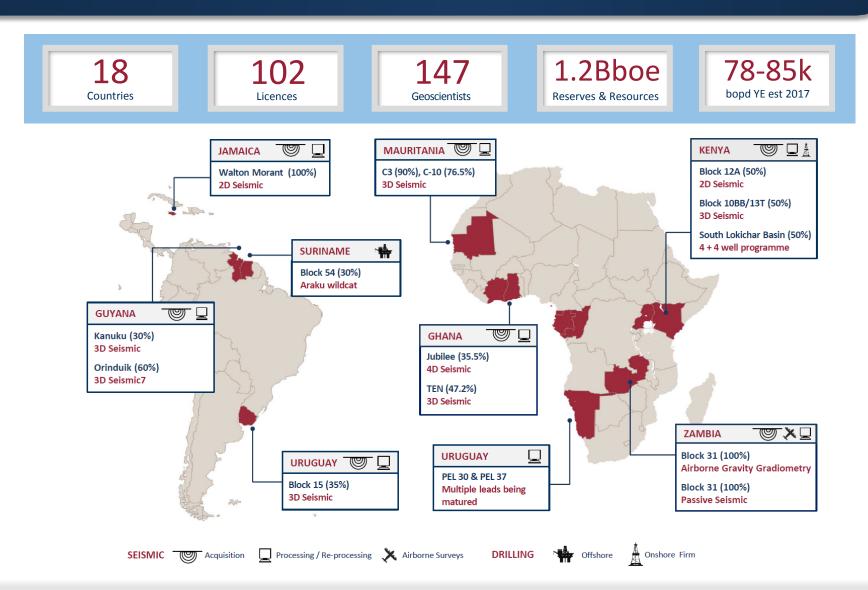
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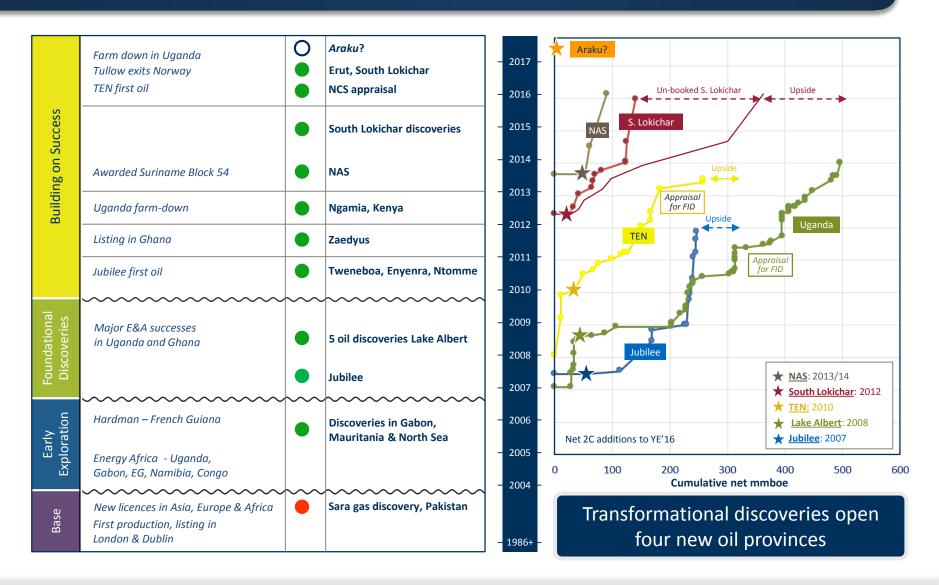
Angus McCoss, Exploration Director, Tullow Oil plc



Oil finding focus



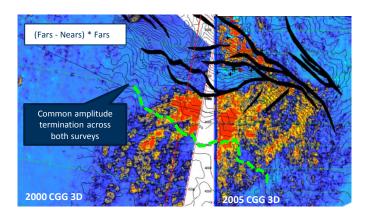
"Chronostratigraphy" of Tullow Oil



Jubilee: Progressive exploration & development in Ghana

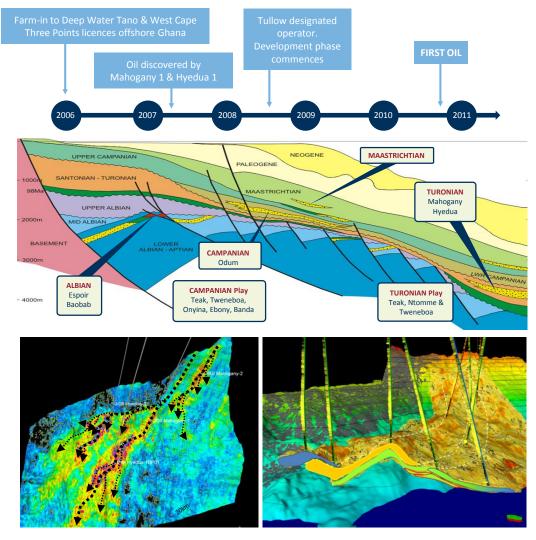
Frontier exploration de-risked

- Proven petroleum system on shelf
- Class 2 AVO fits structure, albeit on two vintage 3D surveys with "risky" gap
- Geological Goldilocks zone 40% N/G



Jubilee present & future

- 4D dual-azimuth seismic complete
- Dynamic sub-surface data integration
- Iterative updates of reservoir model

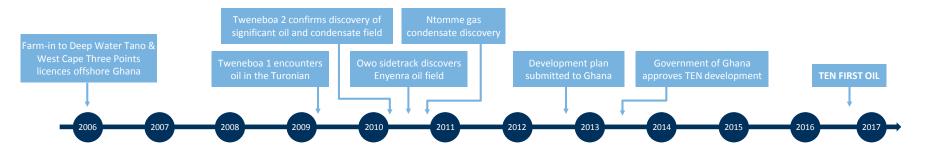






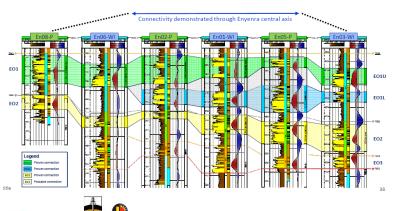


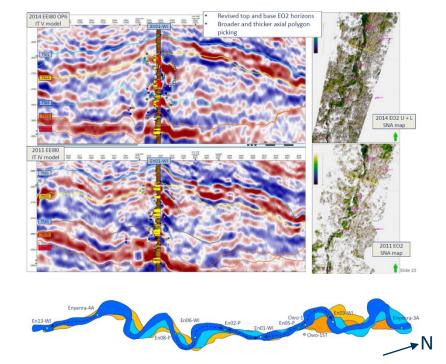
TEN: Extending the Turonian play west of Jubilee



<u>T</u>weneboa-<u>E</u>nyenra-<u>N</u>tomme

- High quality 3D seismic proved essential
- Extended Elastic Impedance "patterns" learned from Jubilee
- However, thinner reservoirs complicated the EEI "pattern"
- Bold 5 km outstep appraisal wells could have been 15 km!







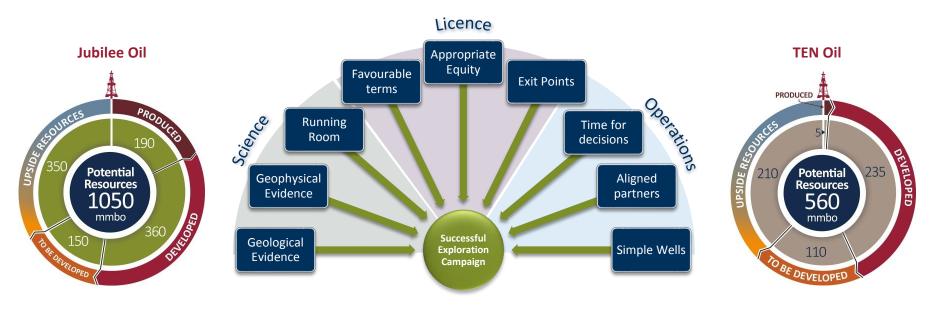




Pattern of exploration success in Tano Basin, Ghana

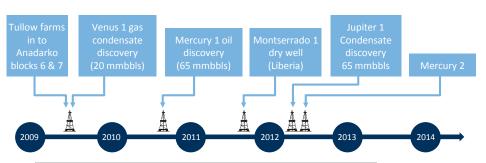
Insights & Lessons

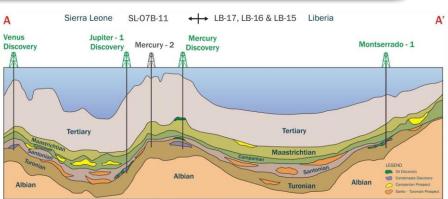
- Paradigms challenged industry over-focused on Cenozoic turbidites
- Proven working petroleum system reduces exploration risk when opening a basin
- Understand & adapt to limitations of geophysical methods
- Good quality seismic data during the exploration phase enhances impact & efficiency
- Aligned partners enabled acceleration of Jubilee & T.E.N. exploration to production (in 40 months)

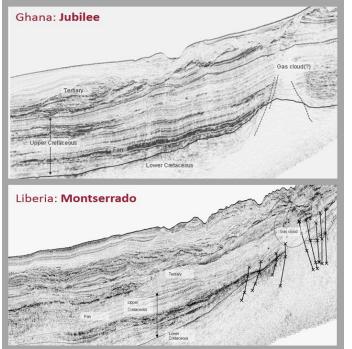


Quick to "follow golden threads" – prioritized for high-return investment

Hunting for another Jubilee along the African margin







Geophysical analogues - over-emphasized

- High profile industry campaign in Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone & Liberia
- Strikingly similar seismic, supported by AVO and EEI
- Paon, Venus, Mercury & Jupiter discoveries up to 31 m net pay

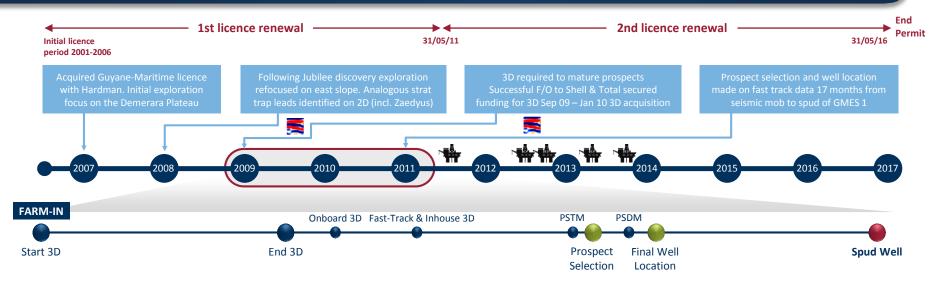
Geological Goldilocks zone - too shaley

- Reservoir quality and N/G quickly identified as issues
- Limited well control, stratigraphic knowledge incomplete
- Under-appreciation of erosion impact trap breach

Over-confidence in stratigraphic traps



French Guiana: Jubilee twin across the Atlantic?

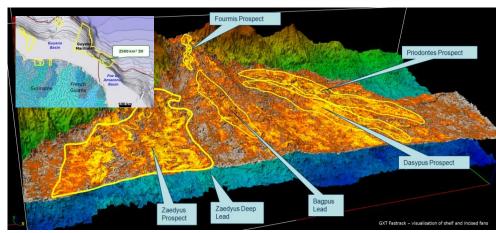


Giant Cingulata Turbidite Fan Complex

- EEI predicts sand presence but not quality
- Class 1 AVO limited fluid response
- Tullow's most complex deep-water well

Geological Goldilocks zone - too sandy

- Maastrichtian & Santonian 72m net oil pay discovered below thick mudstone seals
- Hasty appraisal: back-to-back rig-driven programme







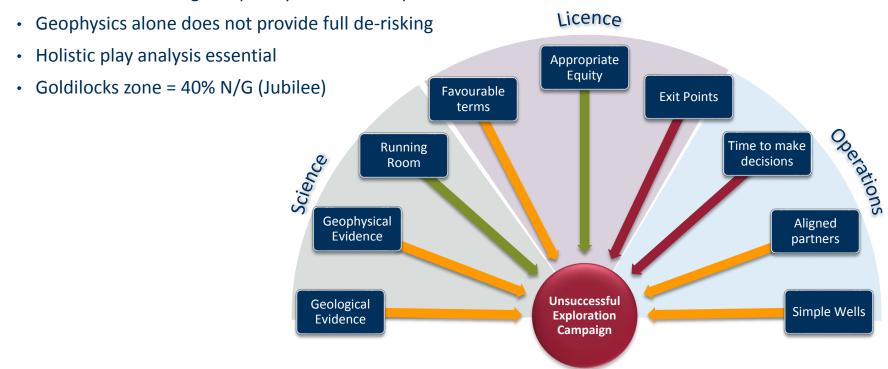




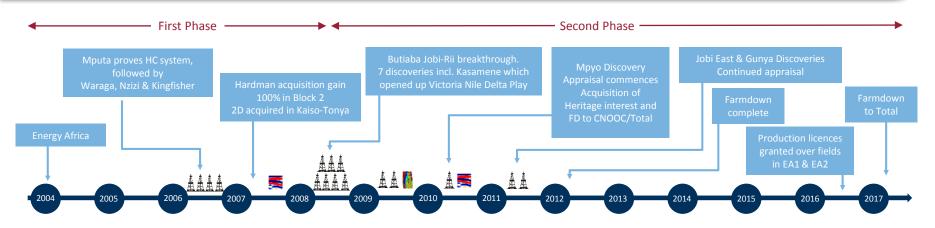
Tried to extend the Jubilee play "pattern" - but unsuccessful

Insights & Lessons

- · Wells drilled during significant sector cost escalation minimum commercial field size trebled
- · Compressed timelines due to licence deadlines added significant pressures
- Need to properly understand consequences of data quality
- · Uncalibrated drilling complexity in frontier exploration



Uganda: finding oil from first principles



Attracted to oil seeps

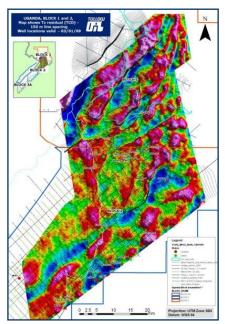
- First wildcats drilled on 2D seismic, guided by geological fieldwork
- Darcy permeability reservoirs identified

Strategic geophysics & wildcatting

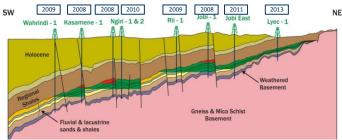
- 2007 basin-wide 2D seismic acquisition
- Kasamene discovery opens Victoria Nile play
- 2009 FTG acquired: pseudo-3D survey
- 3D seismic acquired 2011 for appraisal phase

Wells tested at 1,100 -14,000 bopd 32° API Oil

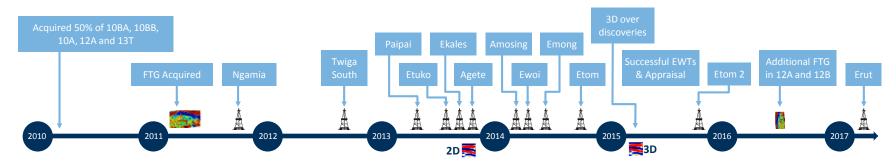








Kenya exploration campaign shaped by Ugandan "patterns"

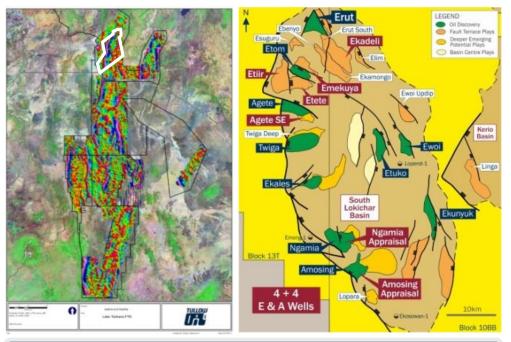


Regional approach to onshore Africa exploration

- Loperot-1 legacy well proved working petroleum system
- Legacy 2D plus Tullow FTG generates significant inventory
- Ngamia-1 opens basin & 2D seismic firms up next prospects
- Several other basins tested with wildcats

South Lokichar Basin exploration & appraisal

- Early 3D seismic for appraisal & development
- 20 untested prospects in 1Bbo upside potential
- 2017 E&A wells drive basin towards 2018 FID





World class source rock: 10/12 success ratio

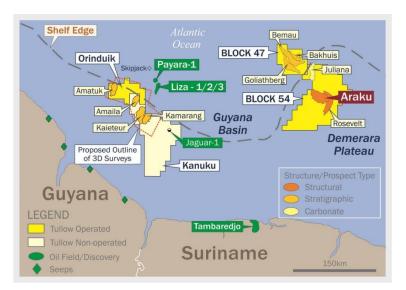
Pattern of exploration success in East African Rift Basins

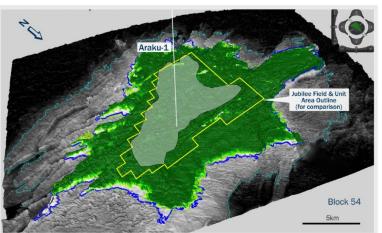
Insights & Lessons

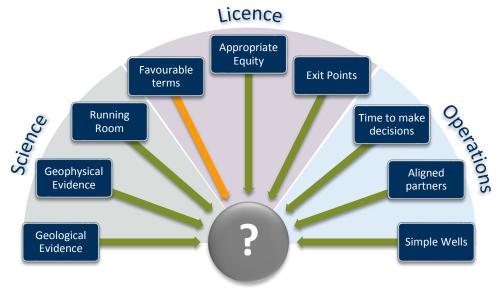
- · Paradigms challenged industry over-focused on dormant rifts
- First mover advantage, ~100,000 sq km acreage position
- World class source rocks in oil windows seeps indicated active petroleum province
- FTG reduced our footprint, time & cost
- Licence Wildcats on sparse 2D seismic data + FTG (pseudo-3D) Imagination, geoscience & perseverance **Appropriate** Equity Prioritized for value build Favourable **Exit Points** terms Time to make Running decisions Room Aligned Geophysical partners Evidence Successful Geological Simple Wells **Exploration Evidence** Campaign

Araku: Testing new patterns in Guyana-Suriname basin









High-impact, high-reward prospect from portfolio refocus

- AVO supported, multiple flat spots, 4-way closure
- Simple well design, moderate water depths
- 500mmbo, high impact, follow on potential
- De-risked by Liza-1 oil discovery in the basin

Material low-cost new play in de-risked oil province



