

# Gabon Oil and Gas Report Q3 2016

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## Abstracts

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BMI View: Gabon's oil sector remains vulnerable to the decline in global oil prices, with reports of delays to a key upstream project on the back of uncertain economic conditions. Continued upstream investment is indicative of the market's untapped potential, but above-ground worries ranging from industrial action to unattractive fiscal terms will remain obstacles to the sustained investment necessary to reverse declining reserves and output.

The main trends and developments we highlight for Gabon's oil and gas sector are as follows:

Gabon rejoined OPEC in June 2016, becoming the 14th and smallest member of the cartel in terms of production.

In October 2015, Gabon launched its 11th licensing round. The round offers five deepwater blocks in the Gabon South basin: E12, E14, F12, F13 and G14. Bids for the 11th Gabonese deepwater Licensing round have now been submitted following the April 29 deadline.

Shell reported in April 2016 that it is looking to divest its onshore assets in Gabon, worth about USD700mn.

It was reported that operator Harvest planned to drill additional wells on the Dussafu permit before reaching a conclusion on how best to develop the block, and in August 2015 Panor Energy, a partner on the block, took a USD32.4mn charge after it was announced the entire development would be reviewed. An FID is still awaited.

While most upstream activity in Gabon is focused on liquids, there is some limited potential upside from the development of recent natural gas discoveries. There were reports Royal Dutch Shell was considering a liquefied natural gas (LNG) option for development of the deepwater Leopard-1 and Leopard-2 discovery in the BCD10 license.

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