

O ECONÓMICO (MOÇAMBIQUE) · ANGOLA

Angola opens 100+ blocks in 25-year hydrocarbons plan

Saga deep read · 23 October 2026 · Score 56

Angola is preparing to offer more than 100 exploration blocks as part of a new 25-year hydrocarbons development strategy, with implementation potentially beginning in 2027. The plan also includes greater flexibility in concession terms and a reduction of the block-award timeline from six months to three months, signalling a deliberate push to accelerate exploratory investment across the country's upstream sector.

The reform is a direct response to declining output from mature producing fields. Angola currently extracts approximately one million barrels per day, a figure that has been trending downward as legacy reservoirs age and new exploration has failed to keep pace. By more than doubling the number of blocks available and streamlining the licensing process, Luanda is signalling that it wants to compete more aggressively for exploration capital at a time when African nations are vying to attract international oil companies and independent operators.

The regulatory efficiency dimension is central to the strategy. Cutting the adjudication period in half — from six months to three — addresses a long-standing friction point for operators weighing Angola against peer jurisdictions where licensing is faster. Combined with more flexible concession conditions, the reforms are designed to lower the administrative barrier to entry and make Angola's acreage more competitive relative to other African frontier and emerging producers. The article does not specify whether the 100-plus blocks are onshore, shallow-water, or deepwater, nor does it identify which basins will be prioritised.

For the broader African investment climate, Angola's move reflects a pattern of regulatory modernisation that is reshaping how governments compete for upstream capital. With more than 100 blocks potentially entering the market under a simplified licensing regime, the volume of activity — seismic acquisition, well planning, rig procurement, and eventually development engineering — could be substantial over the 25-year horizon of the strategy. The 2027 implementation date gives service and equipment companies a meaningful window to position themselves ahead of the first licensing rounds under the new framework.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a licensing-round announcement and strategic framework — no contracts have been signed and no FID has been taken, so direct procurement outreach is premature. Norwegian service companies should monitor the 2027 implementation timeline closely and begin relationship-building with Sonangol and ANPG now, tracking which basins and block types are prioritised when formal round documentation is published. Early engagement at industry forums and bilateral trade events will position partners favourably before competitive tenders open.

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- **Drilling:** A pipeline of 100-plus new exploration blocks signals a sustained demand cycle for drilling rigs and well services — track licensing-round details from 2027 to align rig availability and crew planning.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If deepwater or pre-salt blocks are included in the new acreage, FPSO and subsea tie-back demand will follow discovery; begin monitoring basin classifications as block documentation is released.
- **Seismic/Geoscience Services:** New blocks require new seismic data acquisition and reprocessing before drilling commitments — a near-term opportunity for geophysical service companies to engage operators entering unfamiliar acreage.
- **Pipeline:** Onshore or shallow blocks in the new acreage may require gathering and export pipeline infrastructure; monitor block locations to assess midstream development needs.

- **LNG:** If associated gas volumes grow with new exploration success, Angola LNG's existing infrastructure and any expansion plans become relevant — watch for gas utilisation terms in the new concession framework.

[Original source: O Económico \(Moçambique\) →](#)

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