OIL FIELD AFRICA REVIEW · AFRICA · DRILLING

# Vaalco plans 2027 drilling push in Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt

Saga deep read · 06 November 2026 · Score 66

Vaalco Energy's Chief Executive Officer, George Maxwell, has confirmed that the company is planning active drilling campaigns in Côte d'Ivoire and Egypt in 2027, as part of a broader strategy to grow production across its African asset base. Maxwell described the upcoming programs as the next major phase of operational activity for the company in the region.

The announcement signals continued commitment to Vaalco's African portfolio at a time when the company is consolidating operational gains across multiple jurisdictions. Maxwell stated that the company is confident in its strategic vision and that current operational performance is laying the groundwork for the 2027 campaign cycle. No specific well counts, capital expenditure figures, or production targets were disclosed in connection with the announcement.

Côte d'Ivoire and Egypt represent two distinct operating environments within Vaalco's African footprint. The company's presence in both countries reflects a multi-basin approach to portfolio management on the continent. While the article does not detail the specific blocks or acreage involved in the 2027 programs, Maxwell's comments indicate that preparation for those campaigns is already underway.

Vaalco has maintained a consistent operational presence in Africa, and the CEO's remarks suggest the company views the 2027 drilling cycle as a significant step in its production growth trajectory. The confirmation of forward drilling plans in two countries simultaneously points to organizational capacity being directed toward sustaining and expanding output levels across the portfolio.

The 2027 timeframe gives Vaalco approximately two years to complete pre-drill planning, secure rigs, and finalize well programs. For the broader African upstream sector, the announcement adds to a pattern of independent operators reaffirming multi-year drilling commitments in West and North Africa, where fiscal terms and reservoir performance continue to attract mid-cap exploration and production companies.

## Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

With Vaalco's 2027 drilling campaigns in Côte d'Ivoire and Egypt still in the planning phase, this is a monitoring and relationship-building opportunity rather than an active procurement window. Norwegian drilling and well-services companies should track Vaalco's rig contracting timeline and position themselves with local agents in Abidjan and Cairo ahead of any formal tender process. No procurement outreach is warranted at this stage.

### PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Monitor Vaalco's rig contracting schedule for Côte d'Ivoire and Egypt campaigns expected to mobilise ahead of 2027 spud dates.
- **Well Services:** Early positioning with Vaalco's operations teams in both countries could yield preferred-supplier status before formal tendering opens.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If Côte d'Ivoire drilling confirms commercial volumes, production infrastructure requirements may follow — worth tracking block-level results.
- **Pipeline:** Incremental production growth in Egypt could require tie-in or gathering infrastructure; monitor well results for downstream opportunity signals.

Original source: Oil Field Africa Review →

**Saga Advisory**

General: info@saga-advisory.com · saga-advisory.com

*STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN*