

OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY · FPSO

Vaalco Restarts Baobab Field Production After FPSO Refurbishment Offshore Côte d'Ivoire

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Vaalco Energy has resumed oil production at the Baobab field, located on the CI-40 block offshore Côte d'Ivoire, following the completion of refurbishment work on the Baobab Ivoirien FPSO vessel. The restart marks the end of a planned production shutdown associated with the maintenance and upgrade programme carried out on the floating production, storage and offloading unit.

The Baobab field represents one of Côte d'Ivoire's established offshore oil assets, and the FPSO serves as the central processing and export hub for production from the CI-40 block. Refurbishment campaigns of this nature are critical for extending the operational life of ageing FPSO infrastructure and maintaining production integrity in West African offshore environments, where asset uptime is directly tied to revenue generation and licence compliance.

Vaalco Energy has been expanding its West African portfolio in recent years, and the successful restart at Baobab underscores the operator's commitment to sustaining output from its Côte d'Ivoire position. Bringing the FPSO back online following a refurbishment — rather than opting for vessel replacement — signals a strategy focused on maximising the remaining productive life of the existing asset while managing capital expenditure.

For service companies monitoring the West African offshore market, the Baobab restart is a useful indicator of operator activity levels in Côte d'Ivoire, a jurisdiction that has seen renewed interest from international oil companies alongside longer-standing deepwater development ambitions. FPSO refurbishment cycles in the region consistently generate demand across multiple service segments, including inspection,

maintenance and repair work, rotating equipment overhaul, marine systems upgrades, and recommissioning support. The conclusion of the Baobab refurbishment also implies that near-term service intensity at this specific asset will normalise, though ongoing production operations will sustain baseline demand for well services, topside maintenance, and cargo and offtake logistics.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian FPSO and marine service companies should note Vaalco as an active operator in Côte d'Ivoire running ageing FPSO infrastructure that will require recurring maintenance cycles. This restart confirms the Baobab Ivoirien vessel is back in active service, making it a live target for companies offering topside inspection, rotating equipment services, or FPSO lifecycle management. Saga recommends monitoring Vaalco's CI-40 operational schedule for upcoming tender opportunities tied to the next planned maintenance window.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **FPSO:** The post-refurbishment operational phase creates near-term openings for FPSO integrity monitoring, topside maintenance contracts, and potential involvement in any follow-on life extension studies for the Baobab Ivoirien vessel.
- **Subsea:** Restarting production at an established field typically triggers subsea inspection and intervention campaigns to verify flowline and riser integrity after an extended shutdown period.
- **Drilling:** Sustained production from CI-40 may support infill or workover drilling activity to offset natural decline, representing a potential drilling services opportunity worth tracking.
- **Service:** Rotating equipment overhaul, marine systems certification, and recommissioning support are recurring service needs on refurbished West African FPSOs and warrant direct engagement with Vaalco's procurement team.

[Original source: Offshore Technology →](#)

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