

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT · FPSO

CNR Restarts Deepwater Baobab Field Output After Côte d'Ivoire FPSO Refurbishment

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Canadian Natural Resources (CNR) has recommenced crude oil production at the Baobab field in deepwater offshore Côte d'Ivoire, following a refurbishment programme on the field's FPSO vessel. The restart marks a significant operational milestone for one of West Africa's established deepwater assets, signalling that CNR is committed to sustaining production from the field rather than pursuing decommissioning or divestment in the near term.

The Baobab field restart follows what the source describes as an FPSO refurbishment, indicating that the downtime was planned and maintenance-driven rather than the result of an unplanned incident or commercial dispute. FPSO refurbishment programmes of this nature typically involve hull integrity works, topsides equipment overhauls, and upgrades to production and safety systems, though the article does not specify which scopes were executed in this instance. The fact that production has now recommenced suggests the refurbishment was completed to the operator's satisfaction and that the facility has been returned to an operational state.

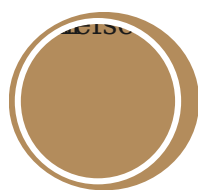
Côte d'Ivoire has been working to reinvigorate its upstream oil sector after years of relatively modest activity compared to regional neighbours. A producing deepwater asset returning to operation supports government revenue streams and reinforces the country's credentials as a stable host for offshore investment. For CNR, the recommencement preserves the commercial value of an asset in which the company has maintained a long-standing operational presence in West Africa.

From a broader regional perspective, the Baobab restart is a reminder that West Africa's ageing deepwater infrastructure requires continuous investment in maintenance and life-extension work. As FPSOs on fields across the region approach mid-life and beyond, operators face recurring decisions about refurbishment versus replacement, and the scope and cost of such programmes are increasing. The Baobab case, while limited in disclosed detail, illustrates the operational cycle that Norwegian service companies know well from other offshore basins.

The article does not disclose the duration of the production shutdown, the specific works carried out during refurbishment, contract values, or which yards and service providers were engaged for the programme. Partners should note these gaps and seek further intelligence through direct operator engagement or industry contacts in Abidjan before drawing firm commercial conclusions.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian FPSO and subsea service companies should monitor this restart closely, as recommencing production on a refurbished FPSO often triggers follow-on integrity, inspection, and maintenance contracts. Companies with life-extension and brownfield FPSO competencies — areas where Norwegian firms hold strong credentials — are well positioned to engage CNR as the operator assesses the field's longer-term production strategy. At this stage, partners should register interest and seek further detail on scope before committing resources to a bid effort.



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- **FPSO:** Life-extension specialists and FPSO topsides maintenance contractors should engage CNR to understand the residual refurbishment scope and any follow-on service agreements now that the vessel is back in production.

- **Subsea:** A field returning from a production halt will likely require subsea inspection, flowline integrity checks, and potential equipment recommissioning — areas where Norwegian subsea firms can offer structured IRM programmes.
- **Drilling:** If CNR pursues infill drilling or well intervention to optimise production rates post-restart, there may be demand for well services and light well intervention vessels suited to deepwater West Africa.
- **Service:** Brownfield asset management and rotating equipment service providers should position early, as a freshly refurbished FPSO will enter a period of heightened monitoring and performance verification requiring specialist support.

[Original source: Africa Oil+Gas Report →](#)

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