

AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER · DRILLING

# Côte d'Ivoire Upstream Expansion and Drilling Campaigns Draw AEC Attention

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The African Energy Chamber (AEC) conducted a high-level working visit to Abidjan, meeting with Côte d'Ivoire's Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy, Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly, to advance discussions on upstream sector expansion and ongoing drilling campaigns. The engagement signals renewed momentum in the country's hydrocarbons sector and reflects a broader push to attract investment and technical partnerships into Ivorian upstream activities.

The discussions covered upstream sector growth as a central theme, with both parties examining how Côte d'Ivoire can accelerate exploration and development activity. Drilling campaigns were explicitly on the agenda, suggesting that near-term well programs are being actively planned or reviewed at the ministerial level. This level of government engagement with the AEC indicates that Abidjan is positioning itself to fast-track activity and is seeking institutional support to do so.

Energy financing was another key topic, with progress on the African Energy Bank forming a significant part of the conversation. The African Energy Bank, an initiative championed by the AEC and the African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO), is designed to provide dedicated financing for African oil and gas projects at a time when international development banks are reducing exposure to fossil fuel investments. Advancement on this instrument is directly relevant to Côte d'Ivoire's ability to fund upstream campaigns without being constrained by ESG-driven lending restrictions from Western institutions.

The AEC delegation also held meetings with Africa Global Logistics, GES-Petrogaz, and Société Ivoirienne de Raffinage (SIR). The inclusion of GES-Petrogaz, an energy

services and logistics operator active in West Africa, alongside the national refining company SIR, suggests that discussions extended beyond exploration into midstream and downstream value chains. Africa Global Logistics, with its port and supply chain infrastructure, points to logistical readiness as a supporting theme for any drilling scale-up.

Côte d'Ivoire has been building its upstream profile in recent years, and a ministerial-level commitment to drilling campaign expansion, backed by progress on regional financing mechanisms like the African Energy Bank, places the country firmly on the active monitoring list for international oil and gas service providers. The combination of political will, institutional backing, and engagement with logistics and refining stakeholders suggests a coordinated effort to move from planning to execution in the near term.

### Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should actively monitor Côte d'Ivoire's drilling campaign planning, as ministerial-level commitment combined with AEC institutional backing suggests tender activity could materialise within the next one to two years. Companies with West Africa experience in drilling services, well management, and subsea should position early through local partnerships or AEC network engagement. The African Energy Bank's progression is also worth tracking, as it may open project financing pathways that could unlock contracts currently stalled for lack of capital.

#### PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** With drilling campaigns explicitly on the ministerial agenda, Norwegian drilling contractors and well services firms should assess Ivorian operator relationships and monitor upcoming tender announcements.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Any offshore discoveries resulting from expanded drilling activity in Côte d'Ivoire may require subsea tieback or FPSO solutions, making early market presence and relationship-building strategically valuable now.
- **Service:** GES-Petrogaz's inclusion in AEC meetings signals an active local services ecosystem; Norwegian well services and inspection companies could explore teaming arrangements with established West African operators.

- **Pipeline:** Engagement with Société Ivoirienne de Raffinage suggests midstream infrastructure is within scope; pipeline integrity and engineering service providers should watch for downstream capacity investments linked to upstream growth.
- **LNG:** If upstream expansion yields gas volumes, Côte d'Ivoire's proximity to existing West African LNG infrastructure makes monetisation planning relevant for Norwegian LNG technology and process companies.

[Original source: African Energy Chamber →](#)

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## Saga Advisory

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