

AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER · OFFSHORE

Murphy Oil's Ivory Coast Bubale-1X Discovery Targets 500,000 bpd Production Goal

Saga deep read · 23 June 2026 · Score 58

Murphy Oil has made a discovery at the Bubale-1X well offshore Ivory Coast, a result that the African Energy Chamber says bolsters confidence in the country's offshore basin. The find is seen as a meaningful step toward Ivory Coast's stated ambition of lifting national oil production to 500,000 barrels per day by 2035, a target that would represent a substantial increase from current output levels.

The African Energy Chamber, one of the continent's leading energy advocacy bodies, welcomed the discovery as validation of Ivory Coast's upstream potential. By publicly endorsing the significance of the Bubale-1X result, the Chamber signals that the find is considered material enough to shift investor sentiment toward the basin — not merely an incremental technical result. Ivory Coast has been working to attract sustained international operator interest in its offshore acreage, and a named discovery by an established independent such as Murphy Oil carries weight in that effort.

For the broader West African offshore picture, the Bubale-1X result adds to a series of exploration outcomes across the Gulf of Guinea that have kept the region on the radar of international oil companies and their service partners. Ivory Coast sits within a geologically active margin that has already seen significant production from established fields, and a successful new well reinforces the case for further exploration drilling and eventual appraisal and development activity.

The 500,000 bpd production ambition by 2035 is an aggressive target by any regional standard. Achieving it would require not only further exploration success but also accelerated appraisal drilling, development planning, infrastructure buildout, and the

deployment of offshore production systems at scale. The timeline implies that commercial decisions on discoveries made in the near term — including potentially Bubale-1X — would need to move relatively quickly through appraisal and front-end engineering phases to contribute meaningfully to the 2035 figure.

For Norwegian oil and gas service companies tracking West Africa, Ivory Coast is a market worth monitoring with increased attention following this result. The country's regulatory framework and its relationships with international operators have matured over successive licensing rounds, and a confirmed discovery from Murphy Oil creates a concrete anchor point around which future contracting activity may develop. The pace of that activity will depend on appraisal outcomes and final investment decisions, but the direction of travel is now more clearly established.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should move Ivory Coast up their West Africa monitoring list and engage early with Murphy Oil's local and regional procurement teams to position for appraisal and potential development contracting. If Bubale-1X is appraised positively, subsea and FPSO segments in particular could see tendering activity within a two-to-four year horizon. Given Ivory Coast's 2035 production target, operators will be under schedule pressure, favouring suppliers who establish relationships before formal tender processes open.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea:** A confirmed offshore discovery creates a future pipeline for subsea production systems, umbilicals, and flowlines — Norwegian subsea contractors should register interest with Murphy Oil's development planning teams now.
- **FPSO:** Ivory Coast's offshore development history and the scale of the 500,000 bpd target suggest FPSO solutions will be central; Norwegian FPSO owners and conversion specialists should track Bubale-1X appraisal progress closely.
- **Drilling:** Appraisal drilling following the Bubale-1X discovery represents a near-term contracting opportunity for drilling contractors and well services providers active in West Africa.

- **Service:** Well intervention, cementing, and completion services companies should position with Murphy Oil's regional operations team ahead of any appraisal campaign.
- **Pipeline:** Depending on field architecture and distance from existing infrastructure, subsea pipeline and riser engineering firms should monitor development concept studies for potential tie-back or standalone pipeline scope.

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

Saga Advisory

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

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN