AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT

Cameroon Projects Hydrocarbon Output Recovery from 2029 Led by Yo Yo Field

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Cameroon's Ministry of Finance has projected a rebound in the country's hydrocarbon production beginning around 2028–2029, following an anticipated steep decline in 2027. The recovery is expected to be led by the Yo Yo field, signalling a new phase of upstream development activity in the country after a period of output contraction.

The projection reflects a familiar production cycle challenge common across mature hydrocarbon provinces in Sub-Saharan Africa, where ageing fields require either enhanced recovery efforts or new developments to offset natural decline. Cameroon's upstream sector has been navigating declining output from legacy assets, and the Yo Yo field appears central to the government's strategy for reversing that trajectory. The Ministry of Finance's involvement in this projection underscores the fiscal significance of hydrocarbons to the national budget, making production recovery a matter of both energy policy and sovereign revenue planning.

While specific technical details regarding the Yo Yo field — such as water depth, recoverable reserves, or development concept — are not disclosed in the available information, the timeline pointing to first meaningful contribution from 2029 suggests that development planning and potentially early-stage execution work is already underway or imminent. A 2029 production start implies a procurement and contracting window that is likely to open within the next one to two years, depending on the field's development concept and the lead times required for key infrastructure components.

For Norwegian service companies operating across Sub-Saharan Africa, Cameroon has historically been a smaller but commercially active market. The country's offshore acreage spans both shallow and deeper water environments in the Gulf of Guinea, a region where Norwegian subsea, drilling, and well services companies have established track records. A government-backed production rebound narrative, anchored to a specific named field and a defined timeline, provides a more actionable planning horizon than speculative exploration announcements.

The 2027 decline period identified by the Ministry also presents a near-term opportunity framing: operators managing existing Cameroonian assets will likely be evaluating enhanced oil recovery, well intervention, and production optimisation measures to mitigate output losses ahead of new field contributions. This creates a dual opportunity structure — near-term services demand around decline management, followed by a more capital-intensive development cycle tied to Yo Yo from the late 2020s onward. Norwegian companies with regional presence or existing client relationships in Cameroon's upstream sector should be tracking operator plans and contracting strategies as the Yo Yo development concept is formalised.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should monitor operator announcements around the Yo Yo field development concept, as a 2029 production target implies a contracting cycle opening within the next 12–24 months. In the near term, well intervention and production optimisation opportunities may arise as operators seek to manage the projected 2027 output decline on legacy assets. Saga Advisory recommends proactive engagement with active Cameroon upstream licensees to position ahead of formal tender processes.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Monitor Yo Yo field development concept selection — if an offshore tie-back or standalone FPSO solution is chosen, early positioning with the operator is advisable given Norwegian FPSO and subsea installation expertise in the Gulf of Guinea.

- **Drilling:** A 2029 first production date implies development drilling campaigns likely commencing 2027–2028, creating a rig and drilling services demand window that Norwegian drilling contractors should track now.
- **Service:** The anticipated 2027 production decline on existing Cameroonian assets points to near-term demand for well intervention, artificial lift, and enhanced recovery services to manage decline curves ahead of Yo Yo contributions.
- **Pipeline:** Depending on Yo Yo's location and development concept, pipeline or flowline infrastructure from field to existing export terminals may be required — an area where Norwegian engineering and installation companies can offer competitive solutions.

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