

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT · LNG

ReconAfrica Targets Horizontal Drilling at Kavango West 1 After Gas Flows Confirmed

Saga deep read · 17 August 2026 · Score 50

Canadian independent ReconAfrica has reported a successful flow of natural gas and potential liquids to surface from two separate zones at its Kavango Basin operations, and is now preparing to drill and test 1,000 metres of horizontal hole from the Kavango West 1 well. The development marks a meaningful step forward for one of Sub-Saharan Africa's more closely watched frontier exploration programmes.

The Kavango Basin, straddling Namibia and Botswana, has been a focus of considerable debate since ReconAfrica began exploring the area. The confirmation of gas flows from two distinct zones adds technical credibility to the company's thesis that the basin holds commercial hydrocarbon potential. The presence of potential liquids alongside natural gas is a notable detail, as liquids-rich reservoirs typically improve the economics of any future development scenario.

The planned horizontal section — 1,000 metres drilled and tested from Kavango West 1 — represents a deliberate shift in appraisal methodology. Horizontal drilling is commonly used to evaluate reservoir deliverability and flow rates more representatively than vertical wells alone, and its deployment here suggests ReconAfrica is moving toward a more rigorous characterisation of the resource. The results of this programme will be closely watched by investors and potential partners assessing whether the basin can support a commercial development pathway.

For the broader regional energy picture, a confirmed gas resource in the Kavango Basin would carry strategic implications. Botswana and Namibia are both landlocked

or infrastructure-constrained markets with limited domestic gas supply. Any commercial discovery would trigger questions around monetisation routes — whether through domestic power generation, regional pipeline supply, or, over a longer horizon, LNG or gas-to-liquids processing — each of which carries distinct infrastructure requirements and investment profiles.

The project remains at the exploration and appraisal stage, and significant technical and commercial derisking lies ahead before development decisions could be taken. Nevertheless, the sequencing of events — successful multi-zone gas flows followed by a horizontal drilling and testing campaign — indicates that ReconAfrica is advancing the programme with purpose. Partners and observers in the energy services sector should monitor upcoming flow test results from the horizontal section closely, as these data points will be the most material indicators of whether Kavango West 1 can anchor a larger basin development story.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should place Kavango on their watch list rather than pursue immediate commercial engagement — the asset is still in exploration and appraisal, and monetisation infrastructure does not yet exist. If horizontal testing returns strong flow rates, well services and drilling contractors should be positioned to respond quickly, as appraisal programmes in frontier basins can accelerate rapidly once commercial thresholds are approached. LNG and gas processing specialists should begin early-stage dialogue with ReconAfrica given the potential liquids component and the landlocked basin's limited obvious monetisation routes.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Horizontal drilling contractors and MWD/LWD service providers should track the Kavango West 1 programme, as a successful test could prompt an expanded appraisal well campaign requiring specialist directional drilling capability.
- **Service:** Well testing and flow assurance specialists are directly relevant to the current phase — ReconAfrica's multi-zone testing programme requires surface testing equipment and reservoir evaluation expertise.

- **LNG:** If the basin proves commercial, the landlocked setting makes small-scale LNG or compressed gas solutions a viable monetisation route worth early feasibility engagement by Norwegian LNG technology providers.
- **Pipeline:** Regional gas pipeline developers should assess Kavango's proximity to potential anchor demand centres in Botswana and Namibia, where domestic power generation could provide an initial offtake market.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Not applicable at this stage given the onshore basin setting, but FPSO and subsea players with gas processing affiliates may find indirect relevance if liquids volumes prove significant enough to require dedicated separation infrastructure.

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

Saga Advisory

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

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