

DRILLING CONTRACTOR · GABON · OFFSHORE

Borr Prospector 5 sinks offshore Gabon, halting Dussafu MaBoMo Phase 2 campaign

Saga deep read · 16 October 2026 · Score 82

The Borr Prospector 5 jackup rig, which had mobilised to the MaBoMo production platform on the Dussafu Marin permit offshore Gabon to conduct the MaBoMo Phase 2 drilling campaign, has sunk following an incident on 24 October 2026. Borr Drilling confirmed the incident publicly on 25 October 2026, with operator BW Energy providing further details. The rig went down at 20:37 local time on Saturday, 24 October 2026. Of the 115 personnel on board at the time of the incident, 110 have been confirmed safe and accounted for; the status of the remaining five persons has not been disclosed in available reporting and must be assumed unresolved.

The MaBoMo Phase 2 campaign had been targeting four new production infill wells across the Hibiscus and Hibiscus South fields, with first production from the initial well expected in early 2027. The loss of the Prospector 5 effectively halts that programme in its entirety. Whether BW Energy will seek a replacement jackup to continue the campaign, or suspend Phase 2 pending investigation outcomes and insurance resolution, has not been announced. The subsurface targets and existing MaBoMo production infrastructure remain in place, but the near-term drilling timeline must now be considered highly uncertain.

The sinking of a jackup on an operational production platform raises immediate questions about the condition of the MaBoMo platform itself and the status of existing Dussafu Marin production. Investigations into the cause of the incident will likely be initiated by Gabon's regulatory authorities, Borr Drilling, and BW Energy

concurrently, and findings will influence both the replacement rig tender process and the broader reputational and regulatory environment for jackup operations on the Gabonese shelf. The human toll — with five personnel still unaccounted for at the time of reporting — will rightly dominate immediate attention before commercial considerations are addressed.

From a market perspective, the incident fundamentally changes the near-term opportunity profile that had made this campaign attractive for Norwegian well-services companies. Procurement cycles that appeared open or approaching market for the later Phase 2 wells are now suspended. However, if BW Energy ultimately pursues a replacement rig and restarts the campaign, a new mobilisation and vendor qualification process would follow, potentially reopening the supply chain window. Norwegian companies that had already initiated contact with Borr Drilling's supply chain team or BW Energy's procurement function should monitor operator communications closely for any indication of programme restart intentions.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The sinking of the Prospector 5 suspends the immediate well-services opportunity pipeline that had been identified for Norwegian companies active in West Africa, and direct procurement outreach should be paused pending operator guidance on programme continuity. Should BW Energy elect to source a replacement jackup and restart the MaBoMo Phase 2 campaign, a new vendor qualification and procurement cycle will open, and Norwegian firms already in contact with the operator will be better positioned to respond quickly. Companies should also be alert to potential demand for emergency response, salvage engineering, or environmental services as the incident investigation progresses.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Well services and completions companies:** The Phase 2 infill campaign is suspended; monitor BW Energy announcements for programme restart and be prepared to re-engage procurement quickly if a replacement rig is secured.

- **Marine and subsea engineering firms:** The sunken jackup and potential impact on the MaBoMo platform may generate demand for salvage assessment, subsea inspection, and environmental containment services in the near term.
- **Insurance and risk advisory specialists:** The incident will trigger complex insurance, liability, and regulatory processes; Norwegian maritime and energy insurance specialists may find advisory or technical support roles relevant.

[Original source: Drilling Contractor →](#)

Saga Advisory

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

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN