



# Hydrocarbon Exploration in Morocco: Status & Perspectives

Pittsburgh May, 2013





Conventional HC Exploration;

- Licensing Status;
- Exploration ancient objectives and lew ones
- Perspectives;
- Objectives of the Remaining open blocs;
- Unconventional HC Exploration status
- Summary







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# **Conv.H.C. Licensing Status**



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#### 2D and 3D Seismic Acquisitions offshore 1998 - 2013:



# **H.C. Licensing Status**

#### 2D and 3D Seismic Acquisitions onshore since 1998:



**Exploration Development Cycle** 



# **Ancient Exploration Objectives**

### Ancient offshore exploration

- Reconnaissance phase;
- Had set the bases for advanced exploration;
- Identified myriad of prospects and leads (Over 200);
- focused on one unique play,
  - Outboard of the central part of the salt province;
  - Salt related Targets;
  - Focused on one unique
     Source Rock/Reservoir pair
     (Cenomanian, Turonian).



# **Exploration Objectives: Offshore**

#### Objectives in relation with structural provinces :

- Alpine thrust and fold belt province (Cretaceous and Tertiary)
- Northern Shallow Offshore Province (Paleozoic and Triassic)
- Mobile salt province (Jurassic, Cretaceous and Tertiary)
- Platform and Deep Offshore Province (Jurassic, Cretaceous and Tertiary)



# (SR, RR) Pairs: Offshore

#### (Source Rocks , Reservoir Rocks) Proven Pairs:

- Alpine thrust and fold belt (Cenomanian, Tertiary)
- Northern Shallow Offshore (Silurian, Devonian) and (Silurian, Triassic)
- Mobile salt province (Toarcian, Cretaceous / Tertiary)
- Platform and Deep Offshore Province

(Jurassic, Cretaceous / Tertiary)



# **Exploration Objectives: Onshore**

#### Objectives in relation with the Main structural domains :

- The Rif fold and thrust belt (Mesozoic and Tertiary)
- The Meseta domain (Paleozoic, Triassic and Jurassic)
- The Atlas fold belt (Triassic and Jurassic)
- The Anti Atlas and Zag Hercynian domain (Paleozoic )
- The Saharian Coastal basins (Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous and Tertiary)



# (SR, RR) Pairs: Onshore

#### <u>Source Rocks-Reservoir Rocks</u> <u>Proven Pairs</u>

- The Rif fold and thrust belt (Toarcian , Domairian) (Cenomanian , Tertiary)
- The Meseta domain

   (Silurian, Paleozoic)
   (Silurian, Triassic)
   (Oxfordian, Upper Jurassic)
- The Atlas fold belt

   (Silurian, Triassic) and
   (Toarcian, Jurassic)
- The Anti Atlas and Zag basin (Silurian, Cambro Ordovician) (Silurian, Devonian)
- The Saharian Coastal basins (Triassic, Triassic) (Toarcian, Jurassic) (Cenomanian, Coniancian)



## **Perspectives**

DRILLING







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## **Conventional Hydrocarbon Resources**

### **Offshore Basins**



## Example of play concepts : Lower Cretaceous lead in Offshore (Boujdour block)



## **Conventional Hydrocarbon Resources**

### **Onshore Basins**

#### Example of play concepts : Triassic prospect in Onshore (Abda block)

Line DA-05, through the OBZ-1 Well to the D1 Structure





- Traps : Faulted blocks and accommodation anticlines
- Reservoirs: Triassic sandstones (TAGI)
- Source rocks: Silurian hot shales & Frasnian shales
- Seals: Triassic and Liassic interbedded shales & salt









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## **Unconventional Hydrocarbons: Oil Shale**



Oil - shale deposits have been identified at ten localities in Morocco (map), the most important of which are Upper Cretaceous . The two deposits that have been explored most extensively are the Timahdit and the Tarfaya deposits ;

Morocco has important oil reserves contained in the oil shales (approximately 50 billion barrels, just in Timahdit & Tarfaya).



## **Unconventional Hydrocarbons: Oil Shale**



Timahdit Upper Cretaceous oil shale: Up to 250m thick

interval in an area of 900  $\rm Km^2$ 



## **Unconventional Hydrocarbons: Shale Gas**



## **Unconventional Hydrocarbons: Shale Gas**

## Paleozoic system

Three potential formation intervals :

- Carboniferous TOC 1-2 %;
- Devonian TOC 1-5.3 %;
- Silurian TOC 1-12 %;







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# Summary

- Between 1998 and 2005, ancient Hydrocarbon exploration, in the Moroccan offshore have set, the bases for advanced exploration in frontier areas;
- It was focused one unique play;
- Exploration drilling activity, although limited, have contributed to the understanding Petroleum Systems;
- Present day exploration is looking at plays of different types, ranging in age from Paleozoic to Tertiary and associated with different proven (SR,RR) pairs;
- In terms of unconventional hydrocarbons, preliminary studies indicate that the Moroccan basins have a good potential and are worth to be explored in depth. DNH

# Summary

### Future exploration orientations

- Resumption of intensive exploration of the untested plays, both onshore and offshore;
- Reevaluation and upgrade of the previously identified prospects and leads to go ahead for drilling;
- Acquisition of high quality seismic data and use of new reprocessing techniques and modeling, to accurately assess and test the delineated plays and prospects;
- Intensive exploration programs to prove the unconventional hydrocarbon potential of the Moroccan basins.



# Thank you



