

T H E E N E R G Y N E X U S



**NAMIBIA
INTERNATIONAL
ENERGY
CONFERENCE
2026™**

4th Edition

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Strategic Outlook

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

Namibia continues to command the global spotlight as a **leading energy frontier** and this edition of *Energy Nexus* captures the momentum shaping our sector. From **Shell's reaffirmed long-term commitment** and **Rhino Resources' Volans-1X spud to ReconAfrica's preparations for Kavango West 1X**, the pace of activity reflects Namibia's expanding role in the global energy landscape.

Policy and governance remain central to Namibia's energy ambitions, with **Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Natangwe Ithete** set to represent the country at **African Energy Week 2025**, a signal of Namibia's growing voice and strategic positioning in the global energy landscape. Meanwhile, **NAMPOA** has announced new leadership, marking a new chapter for the association.

Youth and human capital remain at the forefront, highlighted by **Hon. Kornelia Shilunga's call to action** at the Youth in Oil & Gas Summit and **PETROFUND's new scholarship cycle**. **NamPower's call for a national base load power strategy** further emphasizes the urgency of securing long-term energy security, including investment in renewables, gas, and nuclear capacity.

This edition also spotlights **new leadership at Chevron and SLB**, underscoring both the presence of international industry players and the rise of locally grounded leadership in shaping Namibia's energy future.

Looking ahead, preparations are already underway for the 8th edition of the Namibia International Energy Conference (NIEC), taking place in April 2026. As the longest-standing energy platform in the country, NIEC continues to convene strategic conversations and foster high-impact partnerships across the value chain. I'm also excited to share that the Energy Nexus podcast is now live, bringing exclusive interviews and insights, follow us on our social platforms to stay connected.

As these milestones unfold, Namibia continues to present compelling opportunities for investment and partnership across the entire energy value chain. Collaboration between government, industry and communities will be essential to ensure this growth translates into lasting, inclusive impact.

Driving the Energy Conversation Since 2012

Warm Regards,

Ndapwilapo Selma Shimutwikeneni

Founder & CEO, RichAfrica Consultancy



Shell Reaffirms Commitment to Namibia's Energy Future



Shell's Executive Vice President for Exploration and Upstream Strategy, **Eugene Okpere**, met with President **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah** to reaffirm the company's long-term commitment to Namibia and provide updates on its offshore exploration activities. Despite recent exploration setbacks — including a **USD 400 million write-down on the PEL 39 discovery** — Shell has invested over **N\$1 billion** since entering Namibia, drilling nine wells since 2022 and pursuing further offshore opportunities.

The meeting underscored Shell's continued interest in advancing its upstream portfolio as Namibia emerges as a key destination for global oil majors. President Nandi-Ndaitwah welcomed the company's sustained presence and its role in supporting national development, noting the government's openness to strategic, long-term investment. The reaffirmation aligns with Namibia's broader efforts to strengthen investor confidence, expand infrastructure, and translate energy investments into jobs, skills, and local value creation.

Deputy Prime Minister Ithete to Speak at African Energy Week 2025



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy, **Hon. Natangwe Ithete**, will represent Namibia at **African Energy Week 2025** in Cape Town this September, as Namibia accelerates its energy and industrial transformation. Since his appointment in March, Minister Ithete has led efforts to align policy, investment, and infrastructure development with the country's growing oil, gas, renewable energy, and power sectors. His participation at AEW 2025 signals Namibia's deepening regional and global engagement as it positions itself as a leading energy and industrial hub in Africa.

NAMPOA Appoints New Leadership to Guide Sector Collaboration



In mid July, the **Namibia Petroleum Operators Association (NAMPOA)** announced new Board appointments to strengthen strategic engagement across the oil and gas sector.

Eduardo Rodriguez, **Shell Namibia** Country Chair, stepped in as Chairperson, succeeding Klaus Endresen, who served two terms and remains on the Board representing BW Kudu. Selma Usiku, Non-Executive Director at **Eco Atlantic Oil & Gas**, was named Vice- Chairperson, advancing inclusive leadership in the sector.

Saave Nakashole of **NAMCOR** joined the Board, bringing the perspective of Namibia's national oil company.

NAMPOA retained Diogo Martins (**Galp**) and Laurent Roché (**TotalEnergies**) as continuing members, ensuring stability and continuity during a period of intensified exploration activity. To enhance internal operations, Suoma Andreas was appointed Administrative Coordinator, supporting member engagement and institutional capacity as the industry scales up.

Beatrice Bienvenu Takes the Helm at Chevron Namibia



In an interview with The Energy Nexus, Chevron's newly-appointed Country Manager Beatrice Bienvenu tells us about her career at the company, the role of women in the energy industry and what her expectations are for her new role in Namibia.

Q. Beatrice, congratulations on your new role. Tell us a little bit about yourself: where you come from, what you studied and how your career at Chevron has brought you to where you are today.

Thank you! It's an honour to take up this role. I'm originally from Washington DC, United States. Growing up, I was influenced by my dad's career leading infrastructure projects in geopolitically complex geographies at the World Bank. I started down a technical path, with an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering and a masters in geophysics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The oil and gas industry was a natural fit for me as it combines geopolitics with very technical work.

I started at Chevron 15 years ago as a seismic processor and interpreter, working several international basins. I then focused in the United States, drilling offshore deepwater wells in the Gulf of America and working onshore in the Permian Basin in Texas. From there, I broadened to work on exploration strategy, portfolio management, and financial tracking for our international assets, and then transitioned into policy and stakeholder engagement as Chief of Staff for our office in Washington DC. I most recently led our Houston Operations Control center, which remotely operates Chevron's 5,600 kilometres of regulated pipelines and two power plants in the US.

Now, as Country Manager for Namibia, I've come back to the business of exploring for oil and gas, which is an exciting place to be in the company right now. The role brings together my technical background and policy experience. I'm looking forward to engaging with external stakeholders and representing Chevron.

Q. Namibia is unique in the high number of women that hold key positions in the energy sector, an industry which is traditionally dominated by men. What has been your experience as a woman in the industry, and how has Chevron enabled you to advance in your career?

It's incredible to see how many women in Namibia are in top roles in this industry and beyond, including your President. That really empowers women to have a voice in the future of this country.

In most of the environments I've been in at school or in industry, there have been a lot more men than women. I've had the good fortune of having men and women supporting my career at Chevron, but there were two people in particular who helped me a lot. Early on in my career, one of the most senior technical women at Chevron mentored me and helped me develop the technical skills that are so crucial to demonstrate as an earth scientist. Later on, as my career took me into broader management roles, I learned a lot from our Vice President of Exploration, Liz Schwarze.

Beyond my personal experience, Chevron is an employer which is very much committed to advancing women through workforce development, leadership opportunities, employee networks, and community investment. From our CFO Eimear Bonner to our head of Corporate Affairs, Laura Lane, we've got strong representation in leadership roles.

Q. Chevron was the first company to make an offshore discovery in Namibia back in the 1970s. How is Chevron approaching its exploration activities this time around, especially given the technological leaps that have been made in the decades since?

Since the 1970s, we've had incredible leaps, particularly in seismic technology. Our ability to process 3D seismic data allows us to get a much clearer image of what the subsurface looks like. That coupled with the fact that there have been more wells drilled offshore Namibia since the 70s means we have a lot more data to integrate and help us understand the geology of the offshore.

The other thing that has changed is drilling technology. The waters offshore Namibia are ultra-deep. We now have high-end rigs that help us drill in these challenging environments and give us access to new opportunities.

All these factors along with Namibia's efficient and effective approach to permitting mean that we were able to enter the country, acquire a seismic survey, and drill a well in record time with zero incidents earlier this year.

Q. Chevron is also active in Namibia beyond its exploration program. Tell us about some of the social initiatives that your company is involved in.

Social initiatives are an important part of how Chevron works all around the world. It's part of our belief that working with governments, nonprofits and communities is how you advance human progress.

In Namibia, in addition to meeting our regulatory obligation to support PETROFUND, we have proactively provided additional funding for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes, aligned with the evolving needs of the local industry at this stage.

We have supported initiatives aimed at strengthening food security and improving access to potable water through targeted aid efforts. We are currently partnering with Palms for Life to continue advancing these efforts, with a particular focus on food security, water accessibility, and Early Childhood Development (ECD).

Youth in Oil & Gas Summit 2025: Equipping Future Energy Leaders



Held on 25–26 July 2025 at the Walvis Bay Town Hall, the second edition of the **Youth in Oil & Gas Summit** brought together young professionals, students, and industry leaders for two days of dialogue on skills development, entrepreneurship, and inclusive participation in Namibia's expanding energy sector.

Under the theme *"Drilling into the Future: Empowering Youth in Namibia's Oil & Gas Revolution"*, the summit included interactive panels, technical presentations, and expert-led sessions exploring topics such as local content, offshore training, finance, logistics, policy, and non-technical career paths. As Namibia moves toward first oil, the summit provided a platform for discussing ways to build local capacity and position young people to engage with and benefit from the country's energy future.

Driving Youth Empowerment: Hon. Kornelia Shilunga's Call to Action at YIOGS 2025



At the recently concluded Youth in Oil & Gas Summit 2025, **Hon. Kornelia Shilunga, Special Advisor and Head of the Upstream Petroleum Unit in the Presidency**, underscored the pivotal role of young Namibians in shaping the country's energy future through local content, skills development, and ethical leadership. Speaking in Walvis Bay, she outlined Namibia's strategic direction as it positions itself as Africa's newest oil and gas frontier.

Key Priorities for Namibia's Oil & Gas Sector

- **First Oil Preparedness:** With recent offshore discoveries, Namibia must accelerate readiness for production by strengthening infrastructure, securing financing, and aligning regulatory frameworks.
- **Local Content as a Growth Driver:** The Local Content Policy Framework is central to ensuring Namibians gain meaningful participation in the value chain, with a strong focus on supplier development and enterprise growth.
- **Skills and Human Capital Development:** In partnership with PetroFund, universities, and technical institutions, the government is investing in training programs to equip Namibians for technical, managerial, and entrepreneurial roles in the sector.
- **Strategic Infrastructure Development:** Preparations are underway for the Namibia Oil and Gas Logistics Supply Base, a critical enabler for servicing operations and positioning the country as a regional hub.
- **Policy and Governance Certainty:** Legislative reforms led by the Presidency aim to provide clarity, ensure transparency, and create an investor-friendly environment while safeguarding equitable benefit-sharing.
- **Youth Leadership and Innovation:** Hon. Shilunga challenged young Namibians to seize opportunities, lead in innovation, and advocate for ethical, climate-conscious practices to ensure the industry becomes a true engine of inclusive growth.

Insight: Namibia's rise as a leading oil and gas frontier will not be defined by discoveries alone but by how effectively it embeds local content, human capital, and governance into its energy strategy – with youth at the forefront of this transformation.

Elsie Kambala Appointed Country Manager for SLB Namibia



SLB has announced the appointment of **Elsie Kambala** as its new **Country Manager** in Namibia, marking a significant leadership transition at a pivotal moment for the country's energy sector.

Elsie brings extensive experience from Namibia's financial services industry, including executive roles at Old Mutual Investment Group Namibia and the Bank of Namibia. She also holds a Master of Science in Investment Analysis (Distinction) from the University of Stirling and is currently pursuing an MSc in Oil & Gas with Energy Management, alongside doctoral research focused on sustainable oil and gas policy in Namibia.

Her appointment signals SLB's commitment to inclusive, locally grounded leadership as Namibia prepares for first oil and continues building out its energy ecosystem. Elsie is expected to play a key role in strengthening local content, promoting innovation, and advancing sustainable development goals. She succeeds João David Tiago, who led SLB Namibia since 2022 and played an instrumental role in expanding its presence and partnerships.

Sintana Energy Secures Extension for PEL 79 in Orange Basin



Sintana Energy has confirmed a 12-month extension for **PEL 79**, located in Namibia's Orange Basin, extending the license period to July 2026. The permit covers blocks 2815 and 2915 and is held jointly by **NAMCOR** (67%, operator) and **Giraffe Energy Investments** (33%), in which Sintana owns a 49% stake. PEL 79 is strategically located near active licenses held by BW Energy, Shell, and Rhino Resources. The license benefits from a robust prospect inventory supported by 2D and 3D seismic data and a legacy well intersecting the Kudu source rock. The extension coincides with rising regional activity, including Rhino Resources' Capricornus-IX oil discovery and upcoming drilling at Volans, as well as BW Energy's seismic and drilling plans in adjacent PEL 3.

ReconAfrica Prepares to Spud Kavango West 1X

Reconnaissance Energy Africa (**ReconAfrica**) is in the final stages of preparation to spud its **Kavango West 1X** exploration well in northeastern Namibia. The well will target a **1,500-metre** thick Otavi carbonate reservoir within the **Damara Fold Belt** and is expected to reach a total depth of **3,800 metres**. Final rig assembly and safety checks are underway, with all permits secured.

Kavango West 1X is the second test in the emerging Damara Fold Belt, identified through 2D seismic data. ReconAfrica has mapped over **19 additional prospects** in the area and recently expanded its footprint by **5 million acres in Angola**.

ReconAfrica President and CEO **Brian Reinsborough** said the well represents "a pivotal step for the company and Namibia's energy sector," underscoring its potential impact while reaffirming the company's commitment to safe operations and active engagement with local communities and authorities.

NamPower Urges Investment in National Base Load Power



NamPower Managing Director Simson Haulofu has cautioned that Namibia risks higher electricity tariffs and ongoing reliance on imports — currently meeting more than **60% of national demand** — unless it develops a new base load power plant. The country has not built a major base load facility since Van Eck (coal) and Ruacana (hydro), leaving it dependent on imports from South Africa and the Southern African Power Pool.

Although renewable capacity is expanding, including a **100 MW solar plant valued at N\$1.6 billion**, intermittent sources cannot ensure grid stability without essential infrastructure such as voltage and frequency control. Haulofu called for a **nationally backed strategy** to fund large-scale projects — such as gas or nuclear — to secure long-term energy security, stabilize tariffs, and reduce the financial burden of short-term fixes.



Northern Ocean Secures N\$712 Million Contract for Offshore Namibia Campaign

Northern Ocean, a semisub spin-off of Northern Drilling, has secured a **N\$712 million** contract for its **Deepsea Mira** rig to operate offshore Namibia. The campaign, awarded by **Rhino Resources**, will span at least **112 days** and includes drilling of the **Volans-1X** exploration well in **PEL 85**—Rhino’s third successive well alongside **partners NAMCOR, Korres Investments, and Azule Energy**.

One firm well for another operator and up to three optional wells are also part of the agreement. Northern Ocean CEO **Arne Jacobsen** noted that the deal extends Deepsea Mira’s continuous operations in Namibia, reinforcing the company’s unique two-year presence in-country following its campaign with **TotalEnergies**.

Rhino Resources Spuds Volans-1X Well in PEL 85

On 31 July 2025, **Rhino Resources Ltd** commenced drilling operations for the **Volans-1X** exploration well on **Block PEL 85** in Namibia’s offshore **Orange Basin**, marking its third consecutive well on the licence. The well is being drilled using **Northern Ocean’s Deepsea Mira** semi-submersible rig in water depths of about **1,200 metres**, with drilling expected to take approximately **55 days**.

Volans-1X targets a new play with potentially sheet-like reservoir morphology that, if successful, could help inform future development options for Rhino and its partners — **Azule Energy, NAMCOR, and Korres Investments**. The operation builds on earlier successes at Sagittarius-1X and Capricornus, with the latter flowing more than **11,000 barrels per day** of light oil during testing.

Rhino Resource’s CEO **Travis Smithard** noted that the well represents a “strategic step in deepening the understanding of the highly prospective PEL 85,” while underscoring the company’s commitment to local sourcing, environmental stewardship, and national value creation as Namibia’s offshore sector continues to gain momentum.

PETROFUND: Investing in Namibia’s Petroleum Future

At the Youth in Oil and Gas Summit 2025 in Walvis Bay, **PETROFUND CEO Ms. Nillian Mulemi** reaffirmed the Fund’s commitment to building a skilled Namibian workforce for the country’s growing petroleum sector. Since its establishment in 1992, PETROFUND has invested over **N\$115 million**, supporting 438 Namibians through scholarships and training programmes.

Mulemi announced the launch of a new **PETROFUND Scholarship cycle on 4 August 2025**, offering fully funded opportunities across undergraduate, postgraduate, and technical fields critical to the oil and gas value chain. She also highlighted PETROFUND’s expanding on-the-job training initiatives and the development of a national oil and gas CV repository to connect young professionals with industry roles.

Key PETROFUND Initiatives:

- **Scholarships:** Covering undergraduate, postgraduate, and technical fields across the full oil and gas value chain.
- **On-the-job Training:** Over 82 Namibians placed with leading service companies such as TechnipFMC, SBM, Halliburton, and Total Energies.
- **New CV Repository:** Launching later in 2025 to connect young professionals with industry opportunities.
- **Expanded Partnerships:** With NUST, UNAM, and NTA to offer accredited oil and gas programmes locally.

She emphasized that Namibia’s energy future depends not only on discoveries but on the readiness of its people:

“Through PETROFUND, we are ensuring that Namibian youth are equipped to lead and thrive in the oil and gas revolution.”

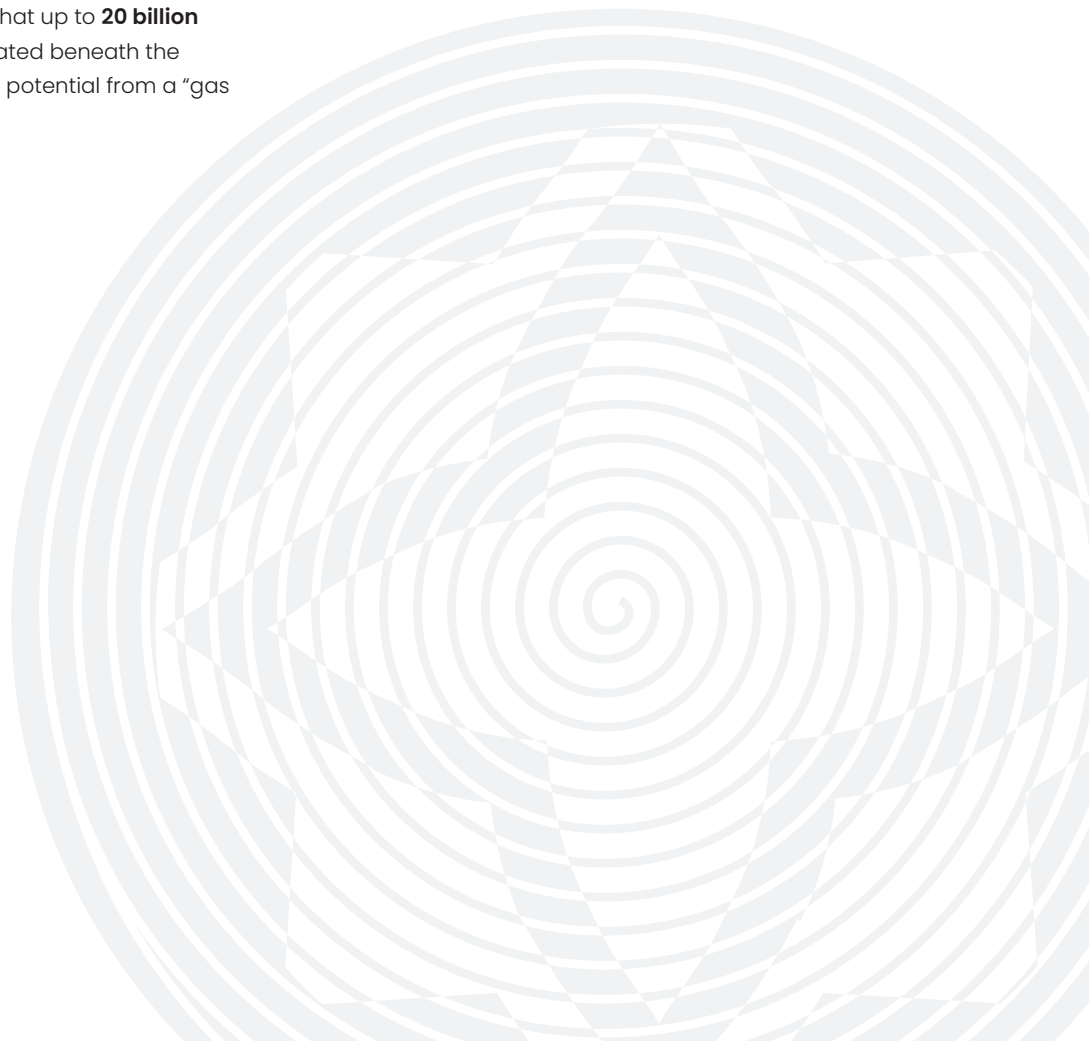
Pancontinental Highlights New Prospects in PEL 87



Pancontinental Energy has announced encouraging results from recent basin modelling and seismic analysis in **PEL 87**, located in Namibia's **Orange Basin**. The studies confirm that the **Kudu shale formation**, a proven source rock for major discoveries to the south, is present within the permit.

The assessment of **3D seismic data** revealed consistent **Class II AVO responses** in the upper and lower intervals of the **Saturn Complex**, indicating potential hydrocarbon presence. The company estimates that up to **20 billion barrels of oil** may have been generated beneath the Saturn Complex, with additional gas potential from a "gas kitchen" to the northeast.

CEO **Iain Smith** noted that further quantitative interpretation is underway and that updated resource estimates are expected soon. The company is actively seeking new **farm-in partners** following **Woodside Energy's exit** from the permit earlier this year.





African Energy Week 2025

CTICC, Cape Town
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