

# **EQUATOR EXPLORATION LIMITED**

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS 2016

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# **Operating Review**

## **Events during 2016**

This statement covers the significant events of the last year, from January to December 2016.

## The Company's Oil & Gas Interests

The Company holds interests in the following oil & gas exploration projects in the Gulf of Guinea:

- Block 5 and Block 12, ultra-deep water in the Exclusive Economic Zone of São Tomé & Príncipe;
- OPL 321 & OPL 323, deep water Nigeria;
- The Bilabri and Owanare oil and gas developments in OML 122, shallow water Nigeria.

An appraisal of these interests is given in the Asset Review which immediately follows this Operating Review. Key matters which arose during 2016 and after are:

# Blocks 5 & 12, São Tomé & Príncipe

In December 2015, EEL entered into Farm Out agreements with Kosmos Energy. The transaction comprised a transfer of a 65% participating interest in each of Blocks 5 and 12 in return for cash of US\$7.4 million to equalize past costs, a 50% carry up to US\$9.0 million on each of the commitment wells for both Phases II and III of the Exploration period for Block 5 and a carry of the first US\$2.0 million of OER's portion of costs for Block 12. Equator retains participating interests of 20% and 22.5% in Blocks 5 and 12 respectively.

The transactions were completed in early 2016 and extensions totalling 3 years were secured from ANP to the Block 5 PSC.

In 2017, a new 3D seismic survey was acquired over both blocks followed by the processing of the field data by PGS and then interpretation by Kosmos Energy. Processing was completed by August 2018. Interpretation, which continues through 2018, is progressively enabling the prospects to be better defined, risked and ranked, leading to the "drill or drop" decisions required by mid-March 2019 for Block 5 and by mid-December 2019 for Block 12.

We are heartened to observe that our social projects are being put to good use. They comprise the provision of 19 school buses and 3 fully equipped ambulances, capable of traversing rough roads in the remote areas, and the funding of the upgrade of a side road connecting a small community to the main road, giving the community access to transport, particularly our school buses.

# OPL 321 & OPL 323

At the start of the year 2016, the litigation initiated by KNOC in March 2009 to challenge the government's decision to void the awards made in 2006 was still ongoing in the Supreme Court. The counter parties were various parts of the Federal Government of Nigeria, Owel, NJ Exploration, Tulip and ONGC. We had declined to enter the litigation being both a member of the ONGC Consortium and a party to the PSC signed with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and KNOC.

On 27 January 2016, the disputing parties successfully applied to the Supreme Court for a suspension to the proceedings to allow further attempts at an out-of-court settlement. However, the initial efforts by KNOC petered out after a few weeks. We sought a bi-lateral meeting with KNOC but this was declined.

The litigation culminated on 3 March 2017 when the Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the Court of Appeal. It ruled that the action taken by the President in 2009 to void the award of the Blocks was within his executive powers. The remedy for KNOC was therefore a suit for breach of contract and damages and not a writ of certiorari. The Supreme Court did not rule on the merits of KNOC's case. KNOC could have chosen to return to the High Court with a contractual lawsuit, but it has become clear that they have decided to withdraw from the blocks, seeking a refund of their partial payment of the signature bonuses of US\$ 92.3 million.

The Department of Petroleum Resources re-offered the blocks to the ONGC Group. Equator tried to reach agreement with the other remaining claimants in order to present the government with a joint solution. However, Owel, NJ Exploration and Tulip continued to press government with their individual claims. Faced with this, Equator has decided to concentrate on its claim to at least 30% of the blocks and is vigorously pursuing it.

Pending ONGC's confirmation of their withdrawal, we seek a new major partner to replace them to operate the blocks and to bear most of the considerable financial burden. In preparation for the data room, we have installed the 3D seismic survey on our own work station, reconstructed the interpretation made for the KNOC led joint venture by a third party consulting firm and re-evaluated it. This activity also demonstrates Equator's technical ability to lead the group in the interim. We will also seek improved fiscal terms that recognise the now known geological difficulty of exploring the deepwater of the Niger Delta.

Throughout, the Company has maintained that it is entitled to at least a 30% participating interest in the two blocks, despite the return of its share of the signature bonuses, totalling US\$ 161.7 million, in October 2009. At the time, the government acknowledged receipt of the Company's letter stating this position.

# Bilabri & Owanare (OML 122)

The Settlement Agreement signed in May 2015 granted Peak a period of 6 months to source the funding required to pay its outstanding project debts and to finance the development of the field. The agreement provided a further 3 month period for Peak to make payment into an escrow account of the outstanding renegotiated debt to Equator. But, even with the help of generous extensions to the Settlement Agreement, Peak has failed to secure funding. In 2017, Equator returned to the Appeal Court seeking for the remaining appeals to be struck out so that the liquidation can continue. However, Peak successfully sought adjournments and, for the remainder of 2017 and throughout 2018, continued to seek refinancing of the project. Equator monitors these efforts.

# **Parent Company**

Oando Netherlands Holdings 1 Coöperatief U.A., a Netherlands registered company, continues to hold 392,237,688 shares of the Company's Oando Netherlands Holdings 1 Coöperatief U.A., a Netherlands registered company, continues to hold 392,237,688 shares of the Company's common stock out of a total of 481,117,270. This company is wholly owned by Oando Energy Resources Inc. ('OER'), which is registered in British Columbia, and is the effective parent of Equator.

Equator became a direct subsidiary of Oando in 2009 when, in a number of transactions, Oando acquired a 78 per cent stake in the Company. During the fourth quarter of 2011, Oando acquired further shares in Equator, raising its shareholding to 81.5 per cent. On the 24 July 2012, Oando transferred all of its holding in Equator to Oando Netherlands Holdings 1 Coöperatief U.A, pursuant to a reverse takeover transaction between Oando and Exile Resources Inc. (now OER).

Oando Plc ('Oando'), which is listed on the Lagos and Johannesburg stock exchanges, remains the ultimate parent of Equator through its shareholding in OER. On delisting from the Toronto Stock Exchange on 12 May 2016, OER became the wholly owned subsidiary of Oando E&P Holdings Limited ('OEPH'). As a result of delisting and certain other transactions described in Oando's Annual Report, Oando's interest in OEPH, and hence OER, became 77.74% by end 2016 and 78.18% by end 2017.

#### Results for 2015 & 2016

The Group posted the following losses in 2015 and 2016: **(US\$ 000's)** 

2015: US\$ 3,521 2016: US\$ 3.127

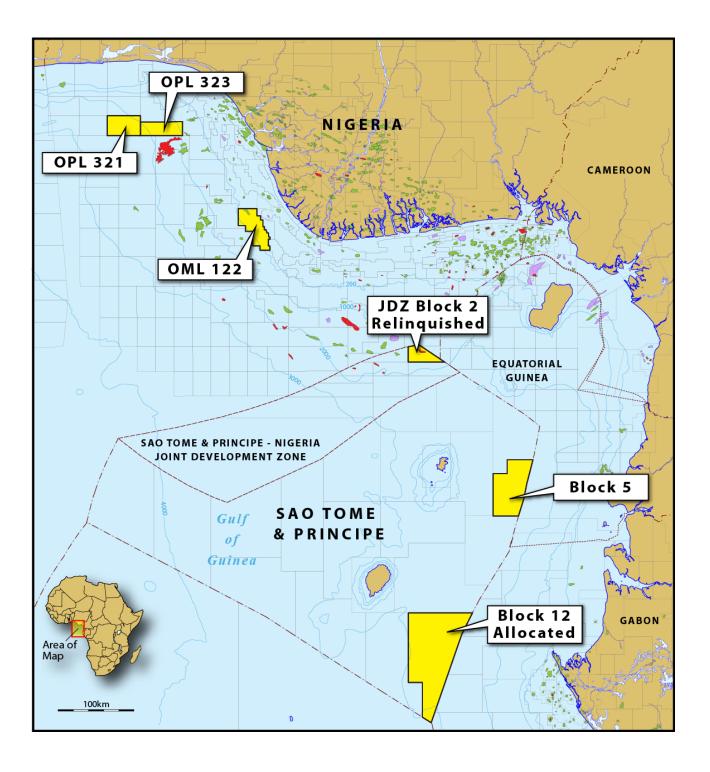
# **Dividends 2015 & 2016**

No dividends were paid in 2015 or 2016.

The Directors remain determined to maximise the value of Equator's assets for the benefit of all shareholders. Accordingly, they again have secured continued funding from Oando Energy Resources.

29 November 2018

# **Map of Equator's Interests**



# **Asset Review**

# Exclusive Economic Zone of São Tomé & Príncipe – Blocks 5 & 12

# **History and Status**

The maritime boundaries of São Tomé & Príncipe ('STP') encompass an area of approximately 160,000 square kilometres. The proximity of STP's offshore waters to the proven hydrocarbon systems in the adjacent waters of Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon suggested the potential for hydrocarbons. This was further supported by regional seismic data and petroleum seeps seen on the islands.

Therefore, in a joint venture with Petroleum Geo-Services ASA ('PGS'), Equator partly funded the acquisition in 2001 and 2005 of 10,000 kilometres of 2D seismic data within the Exclusive Economic Zone ('EEZ') of STP. It had been agreed with the government that licences for the seismic data would be sold to oil companies to promote a licensing round. In return for the risk taken in investing in the seismic acquisition programme, the joint venture gained the right to acquire a 100% interest in two blocks of its choice. Subsequently, the Company bought out PGS to gain the right wholly for itself.

The first Licensing Round for the EEZ took place in 2010. Prior to this, the government invited the Company to make its first choice of two blocks. Equator was duly allocated its chosen blocks, Block 5 and Block 12. The PSC for Block 5 was signed with the National Petroleum Agency ('ANP') on the 18 April 2012 triggering the payment of a signature bonus of US\$ 2 million, the provision of a performance guarantee for US\$ 5.2 million and commitment to a four year work programme of seismic acquisition and studies. The PSC became effective on 14 May 2012.

In 2012, Equator purchased a licence for the 2D seismic data covering Blocks 5 and 12 and, with the help of RPS Energy, the Company carried out a comprehensive study on the prospectivity and economics of the blocks.

In 2014, under an amendment to the existing seismic license, the Company engaged PGS to reprocess the 2D seismic data set with state of the art computing algorithms. Furthermore, PGS's existing gravity and magnetic data was added to the license. Using the data, three specialist interpretation firms (ERCL, Getech and IGI) conducted a new comprehensive study of the block. The resulting revised geological interpretation enhanced the probability of the existence of a working petroleum system.

As part of its social obligation under the PSC, the Company supplied 8 school buses to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science in order to greatly shorten the journey times for high school students living in remote rural areas. The Company also funded overseas training courses for a number of staff in the National Petroleum Agency.

In preparation for a 3D seismic survey, an Environmental Impact Assessment was submitted to the government and ANP granted our request to reduce the 2D obligation by 1500 km in return for increasing of the 3D seismic obligation by 200 sq km to 1200 sq km.

In 1H 2015, Equator acquired and processed 1,480 sq km of 3D seismic data over the area of prime interest in Block 5 along the Kribi fracture zone via a risk sharing contract with a consortium of BGP and Geoex. Equator also renegotiated and eliminated the 2D seismic data acquisition requirement under the PSC and replacing it with the additional 3D seismic data acquired during the acquisition survey.

As part of our commitment to training under the PSC, Equator granted Scholarships to students at the University Institute of Accounting, Administration and Information Technology in São Tomé city.

In December 2015, the Company entered into two farm out agreements with Kosmos Energy. The transaction consisted of a transfer of a 65% participating interest in each of Blocks 5 and 12 and the transfer of operatorship. For Block 5, the consideration comprised cash of US\$ 7.4 million to equalize past costs, a net carry on seismic liabilities of US\$ 6.6m million and a contingent 50% carry, up to US\$ 9.0 million, on each of the commitment wells for both Phases II and III of the Exploration Period. For Block 12, the consideration was a carry of US\$ 2.0 million on Equator's portion of future costs. Equator retains participating interests of 20% and 22.5% in Blocks 5 and 12 respectively with the obligation to fund its share of the government interest of 15% for Block 5 and 12.5% for Block 12.

# **Activities in 2016**

In February 2016, Equator secured governmental consent for the farm out of Block 5 and concluded the PSC negotiations on Block 12. The closure documents for Block 5 were executed at a signing ceremony with the ANP-STP on 19 February 2016. ANP-STP granted a one year extension to Phase 1 of the Exploration Period.

Equator entered the PSC for Block 12 with the government also on 19 February 2016. On the same day, the PSC was ratified by the Prime Minister making it effective. Governmental consent for Block 12 was secured in March 2016 and subsequently the transaction documents were executed on 31 March 2016. The initial Phase 1 of the Exploration Period of the PSC of Block 12 has a duration of four years and carries

an obligation to acquire 3D seismic, magnetic and gravity surveys covering 2,000 sq km and to perform geological and environmental studies.

On 16 November 2016, ANP granted a further two year extension to Phase 1 of the Exploration Period for Block 5 which now expires in May 2019. On 13 December 2016, Kosmos assigned 20% of its interests in Block 5 and Block 12 to Galp retaining a 45% interest in each block. Equator's interests were not affected.

During 2016, the Company continued with its social programme by supplying a further 11 school buses to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

## **Post Period Activities**

Between February and August 2017, the joint ventures engaged CGG to acquire a 3D seismic survey over Blocks 5 and 12 and over Blocks 6 and 11, in which the Company has no interest. The survey, one of the largest in the world, covered 16,800 sq km of which 2,567 sq km was in Block 5 and 4,117 sq km in Block 12. With the exception of geological studies, the 3D survey effectively completed the obligation for Phase 1 of the PSC for both blocks.

The survey was processed by PGS, starting in August 2017 and continuing to August 2018. Equator progressively received the various products of processing – On board, Fast Track, Pre-Stack Time Migration ("PSTM") and Pre-Stack Depth Migration. They have been installed on our work station. During the period, Equator has been monitoring the thorough interpretation of the seismic by Kosmos. So far, the fairways have been evaluated and prospects identified. The work continues with estimation of prospect volumes and, through detailed evaluation of the AVO (Amplitude Variation with Offset) and other attributes, the geological risking. At the next technical meeting to be held in early December 2018, Kosmos is expected to present its recommended drillable prospect for Block 5. Phase I of the PSC expires in May of 2019 and notice of the intention to enter Phase II and thereby commit to a well must be given 60 days before i.e. mid-March 2019.

The drill or drop decision for Block 12 must be made by mid-December 2019, 60 days before the expiry of Phase I of the PSC in February 2020. Kosmos' interpretation of Block 12 is therefore not as advanced as that of Block 5.

Equator is protecting its interests by not only monitoring and challenging the interpretation and evaluation being made by Kosmos but also by conducting its own focussed studies on its work station using the "Kingdom" interpretation software.

Kosmos has been reconnoitring various locations for a drilling supply base including Luba and Punta Europa in Equatorial Guinea, Port Gentil in Gabon and Tema in Ghana. STP does not have a port with a large enough draft for oilfield supply vessels. Plans are also being made for rig crew change by helicopter and conceptual well designs are being engineered.

In 2017 under its social obligation, Equator provided the Ministry of Health with three fully equipped, four wheel drive ambulances for use on the islands' rough roads. It then fulfilled the social obligation by funding the upgrade of a side road connecting a small community to the highway, giving the villagers access to transport, particularly our school buses. The project was started in 2017 and completed in 2018, using a community construction firm. We are heartened to observe that our social projects are being put to good use.

During 2018, Equator has been contributing to a large social programme being managed by Kosmos, which includes the construction of two primary schools and extensions to two existing ones and the provision of two buses for the daily transport of teachers.

#### **Block 5 Prospectivity**

Block 5 has an area of 2844 sq km and is located east of the island of Príncipe, adjacent to the Equatorial Guinean shelf with water depths ranging from 2000 to 2500m. The block is within Zone A of the government's block classification scheme and is ranked highest by Equator based on the criteria of water depth, on proximity to the Equatorial Guinea shelf and to the ancient Ogouee delta, and on the presence of Cretaceous structural traps related to basement faulting. The structure of the block is dominated by the Kribi Fracture Zone Complex. Our license for 2D seismic data includes approximately 1500 line km within Block 5 on a spacing of some 2.5km by 5km. The quality of data is generally good in both the Tertiary and Cretaceous intervals.

In 2014, the block was re-evaluated. The 2D seismic data was reprocessed and ship borne gravity and magnetic data was licensed. This data has provided new insights into the understanding of the geology of the block and, in particular, the nature and history of the Kribi Fracture Zone. Regionally, source rocks are geochemically proven in the Albian-Turonian. Modelling of the maturity of two intervals of source rocks indicates that they have become early to mid-mature over most of the block. The main area of the source kitchen is in the furrow of the Kribi Fracture Zone coinciding with the location of the reservoir structures created by the Fracture Zone. The dominant hydrocarbon phase expelled is oil.

Seven horizons within the Cretaceous and Tertiary Periods were mapped in time and depth. A number of prospects and leads were identified in the section from the Albian through to the Upper Cretaceous, predominantly associated with structural trapping geometries over the Kribi Fracture Zone. Further opportunities exist within large stratigraphic leads in the Upper Cretaceous and potentially the Tertiary.

The results of the 2014 study were used to design a 3D seismic survey undertaken in 1H 2015. The 3D seismic survey improved the definition of the prospects within block 5 and lowered the estimation of exploration risk. Some preliminary AVO analysis proved encouraging. The results further affirmed the prospectivity of the block. The 2017 3D seismic survey which covers a larger area than the survey acquired in 2015 is providing an even better definition of the prospects. Interpretation of this survey will be completed in early 2019.

It has to be said that the international perception of oil prospectivity in STP has been enhanced by the entry of major companies such as Kosmos, Galp, BP and Sonangol into the country thus confirming the vision held by Equator 20 years ago.

## **Block 12 Prospectivity**

Block 12 is the most south-easterly block in the EEZ with an area of 7940 sq km in water depths ranging from 2500 to 3000m. It is the closest to the North Gabon salt basin, lying some 150 km to the west of Port Gentil. The block is situated within Zone B of the government block classification scheme, and within this group has been ranked the most attractive by Equator due to its proximity to the North Gabon salt basin and the presence of structural prospects located both on the footwall of the Ascension Fault and similar sub-parallel trends.

Within Block 12, we licensed approximately 800 km of 2D line data on a spacing of some 11km by 40 km. The seismic data shows reasonable reflection continuity, although the line spacing in this area is much greater than in Block 5. The seven seismic mapping horizons defined in the 2012 study of Block 5 were correlated into Block 12 through the use of the regional tie lines and a number of prospects and leads have been identified. Large robust closures exist within the Block associated with the main Ascension Transform Fault zone. Middle to Late Cretaceous synrift and post rift sedimentation has resulted in numerous interesting structured prospects. Clastics in the Miocene may also provide exploration potential.

Full investigation of the stratigraphic potential of the block (deepwater turbidite plays for example) will be achieved with the current 2017 3D seismic survey. Processing and interpretation will be completed in 2019.

# Nigeria - OPL 323 and OPL 321

## **History**

In March 2006, Equator gained a 30% participating interest in each of deep water licenses OPL 323 and OPL 321, offshore Nigeria.

Equator's bidding group won the blocks in the 2005 licensing round with bids comprising signature bonuses (US\$ 161.7 million net), work programmes and local content. However, the Korean National Oil Corporation ('KNOC') exercised a right of first refusal and was awarded a 60% interest in the blocks and was appointed operator. Equator's main bidding partner, ONGC Videsh elected not to participate, allowing Equator to take a 30% interest. The remaining 10% was awarded to Local Content Vehicles ('LCVs') - Tulip Energy Resources Nigeria Limited for OPL 321 and NJ Exploration Limited for OPL 323. Equator and KNOC carried the costs of the two LCV's in proportion to their participating interests. The two Production Sharing Contracts ('PSC's') were signed with the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation ('NNPC') on the 10 March 2006. Subsequently, the Joint Operating Agreements were signed on the 7 June 2007.

The award of operatorship to KNOC made it impractical for the Company's other bidding partners to enter the PSC's directly. The Company therefore granted them carried interests amounting to 4% out of its 30% participation in the PSC's. During 2008, the Company entered into agreements to eliminate these carried interests for a combination of warrants and contingent cash payments, giving Equator the full economic rights to its 30% participating interest in each PSC.

From March 2006 until January 2009, the joint venture of KNOC, Equator, NJ and Tulip thoroughly interpreted the existing 3D seismic survey and identified several prospect horizons in a number of geological structures. The prospect horizons and, in turn, the geological structures were ranked in order to select the optimum locations for the two commitment wells on each block.

The Deepwater Pathfinder was contracted and preparations were made to drill the four obligation wells starting in the third quarter of 2009. Fortunately, once the litigation between KNOC and the government started, a substantial early termination penalty on the rig was avoided by assigning it elsewhere despite its record high day rate.

In August 2007, the Company executed an agreement to farm-out a 20% interest in OPL 323 to BG Exploration and Production Nigeria Limited. The total consideration to be paid by BG was US\$ 75 million, comprising both cash and a carry on the future expenditure on Equator's remaining 10% interest. However, NNPC withheld its required approval due to a number of on-going public and private government inquiries into the award of the blocks to KNOC.

In January 2009, the Nigerian government voided the allocations of OPL 323 and OPL 321 to KNOC. The blocks were simultaneously offered to the winning group in the 2005 licensing round of which Equator is a member. KNOC brought a lawsuit against the government parties in the Federal High Court in Abuja. One of Equator's bidding partners, Owel Petroleum Services Nigeria Ltd ('Owel'), joined in the lawsuit as a co-defendant of the government. In August 2009, judgment was given in KNOC's favour. The government and Owel responded by submitting separate appeals against the High Court judgment.

In September 2009, at the request of the Company, the government refunded its signature bonuses of US\$ 161.7 million. The government subsequently acknowledged the Company's notice of its intention to maintain its interests in the two blocks. BG terminated the farm-out agreement in August 2010.

The government did not pursue its appeal in the courts but Owel did. In April 2012, the Court of Appeal ruled on Owel's appeal. The three judges considered a total of twenty one issues, six of which were resolved in favour of Owel while the rest were resolved in favour of either KNOC or all of the ten Respondents, comprising KNOC, the President of Nigeria, other Federal Government parties, the Local Content Vehicles and ONGC Videsh. The Owel appeal therefore succeeded only in part. However, on Issue 8, which bordered on the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court, the Court of Appeal ruled that the junior court had no jurisdiction to entertain KNOC's original action for a Judiciary Review because, in ordering the voiding of the award of the blocks to KNOC, the President of Nigeria had acted in an executive capacity not a judicial one. The Court of Appeal therefore set aside the Federal High Court judgment of August 2009 and struck out the original KNOC petition for a Judiciary Review. However, the Court of Appeal did not rule on the validity of the PSC's. Owel therefore petitioned the Supreme Court seeking a ruling that the PSC's no longer subsist. KNOC and the government parties cross petitioned.

By the end of 2013, KNOC engaged Covington & Burling of Washington DC to help them reach a settlement with Owel, Equator, NJ, Tulip and, ultimately, the Federal Government. In the second half of the year, a number of meetings were held among KNOC, Owel (also representing ONGC) and Equator and steady progress was made on new participating interest splits and the treatment of back costs.

In Abuja on Friday 7 February 2014, ONGC and NJ Exploration joined the settlement negotiations (the principle of Tulip was in hospital). The parties subsequently held meetings in Seoul and New Delhi in which technical and economic studies were shared and the split of participating interest and the allocation of past expenditure were negotiated. The parties came close to agreement on most of the issues. However, by October 2014, ONGC was indicating that it was withdrawing from the process. Also, new management in KNOC ordered a review of all of its corporation's activities. As a result, settlement discussions on OPL 321 and OPL 323 became suspended.

After the inauguration of President Buhari, Equator re-opened discussions by holding bi-lateral meetings with each of KNOC, Owel and NJ Exploration, including a visit to Seoul in July 2015. At the same time, Owel petitioned to unify the various petitions lodged in the Supreme Court. During the year, Equator sought clarification of the intentions of ONGC.

## **Activities in 2016**

On 27 January 2016, the disputing parties successfully applied to the Supreme Court for a suspension to the proceedings to allow further attempts at an out-of-court settlement. However, the initial efforts by KNOC petered out after a few weeks. We sought a bi-lateral meeting with KNOC but this was declined.

## Post period activities

A year later, on 3 March 2017, the Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the Court of Appeal that struck out KNOC's original suit for a judicial review. The Supreme Court ruled that the action taken by the President in 2009 to void the award of the Blocks was within his executive powers. The remedy for KNOC was therefore a suit for breach of contract and damages and not a writ of certiorari. The Supreme Court did not rule on the merits of KNOC's case. KNOC could have chosen to return to the High Court with a contractual lawsuit, but it has become clear that they have decided to withdraw from the blocks, seeking a refund of their partial payment of the signature bonuses of US\$ 92.3 million.

The Department of Petroleum Resources re-offered the blocks to the ONGC Group. Equator tried to reach agreement with the other remaining claimants in order to present the government with a joint solution. However, Owel, NJ Exploration and Tulip continued to press government with their individual claims. Faced with this, Equator has decided to concentrate on its claim to at least 30% of the blocks and is vigorously pursuing it.

Pending ONGC's confirmation of their withdrawal, we have sought a major company to replace them, to operate the blocks and to bear most of the considerable financial burden. During 2017, we prepared for the data room. We installed the 3D seismic survey on our own work station and re-evaluated the interpretation made for the KNOC led joint venture by a third party consulting firm. This activity also demonstrates Equator's technical ability to lead the group in the interim. We also seek improved fiscal terms that recognise the now known geological difficulty of exploring the deepwater of the Niger Delta.

# **Impairment**

In recognition that the extended court processes were preventing Equator from exploring the blocks and from developing any oil discoveries, the Company posted impairment provisions at the end of 2012 of US\$ 11,092,732 for OPL 321 and US\$ 12,008,639 for OPL 323. These amounts represented the Company's share of the joint expenditure made by the operator, KNOC. Subsequently, further impairments of US\$ 934,881 and US\$ 1,012,072 respectively, representing amounts invested by the Company on its own behalf, were made leaving zero carrying values.

It is emphasised that the Company continues to maintain and to vigorously pursue its full rights to the blocks.

# **Prospectivity**

#### **OPL 323**

OPL 323 is located 80 kilometres offshore and lies in water depths of between 890 metres and 2080 metres. A number of large structures have been identified by interpretation of the 3D seismic survey. Within each of the geological structures there are several prospective horizons. Many of the prospect horizons are supported by seismic amplitude anomalies. Furthermore, the proximity of the block to large oil fields on adjacent acreage supports the presence of source rocks and abundant reservoir sands. OPL 323 is to the west of the Abo Field in OML 125 and immediately to the north of the large Bosi and Erha Fields in OML 133. Erha has proved reserves reported by ExxonMobil to be in excess of 500 million barrels of oil and 5 trillion cubic feet of gas and, with its satellite development Erha North, produces in excess of 200,000 barrels of oil per day. The long awaited development for Bosi, the second field on OML 133, reportedly is expected to produce 135,000 barrels of oil per day.

During 2006, Agip made a discovery of both oil and gas in the Okodo-1 well on OML 125, adjacent to OPL 323. This discovery had a direct impact on the prospectivity of one structure on OPL 323, located only seven kilometres away. It appears to lie in the same channel as the Okodo discovery, which proved that the hanging wall of the common major bounding fault forms a trap for hydrocarbons and that the immediate area has sources of oil and gas and migration paths.

In September 2011, Netherland, Sewell & Associates Inc. ('NSAI'), Independent Petroleum Engineers, confirmed its 2006 assessment of the prospective resources within the four largest structures, which used a statistical 'Monte Carlo' approach. For 'Best Estimate', they used the median (P50), the standard adopted in 2007 by the Society of Petroleum Engineers. The Best Estimate of Gross Unrisked Prospective Resources on four structures is 1.1 billion barrels of oil and 4.9 trillion standard cubic feet of gas (Tables 1 & 2).

The subsequent more detailed evaluation of five structures by the operator gave a best estimate of 1.3 billion barrels for oil.

#### **OPL 321**

OPL 321 is located immediately to the west of OPL 323, lying in deeper water in the range 1900 to 2600 metres. The block lies on trend with block OPL 322 to the south, where Shell's discovery well, Bobo-1, encountered a significant column of hydrocarbons. It has access to the same hydrocarbon sources as the giant Bosi and Erha Fields located nearby to the southeast. NSAI assessed the Best Estimate of the Gross Unrisked Prospective Resources in the largest prospect to be 0.57 billion barrels of oil and 0.67 trillion standard cubic feet of gas (Tables 1 & 2).

The operator, in its subsequent and more detailed evaluation, identified a total of four structures and calculated the best estimate of the total gross unrisked prospective resources of oil to be 1.6 billion barrels.

|                     | Table 1 - OPL 321 & OPL 323 |                  |              |                |                  |         |                  |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|---------|------------------|
|                     | Unris                       |                  |              | ources (millio | n barrels)1      |         |                  |
|                     |                             |                  | as at 30 Jun | ie 2011        |                  |         |                  |
|                     | Gros                        | s (100 per cer   | nt)          | Equator        | Interest (30 pe  | r cent) | POS <sup>2</sup> |
| Prospect<br>Cluster | Low                         | Median<br>(Best) | High         | Low            | Median<br>(Best) | High    | per<br>cent      |
| 323-G               | 115                         | 507              | 2,611        | 34             | 152              | 783     | 36               |
| 323-O               | 52                          | 157              | 643          | 16             | 47               | 193     | 25               |
| 323-W               | 100                         | 278              | 889          | 30             | 84               | 267     | 34               |
| 323-L               | 55                          | 165              | 617          | 16             | 49               | 185     | 33               |
| 321-E               | 156                         | 574              | 2,506        | 47             | 172              | 752     | 27               |
| Total               | 478                         | 1,682            | 7,266        | 143            | 504              | 2,180   |                  |
|                     |                             | Table            | e 2 - OPL 32 | 1 & OPL 323    |                  |         |                  |
|                     | Unr                         | isked Recove     | erable Gas R | esources (bill | ion cu ft)¹      |         |                  |
|                     |                             |                  | as at 30 Jun | ne 2011        |                  |         |                  |
|                     | Gros                        | s (100 per cer   | nt)          | Equator        | Interest (30 pe  | r cent) | POS <sup>2</sup> |
| Prospect<br>Cluster | Low                         | Median<br>(Best) | High         | Low            | Median<br>(Best) | High    | per<br>cent      |
| 323-G               | 834                         | 3,487            | 16,271       | 250            | 1,046            | 4,881   | 36               |
| 323-O               | 279                         | 896              | 3,401        | 84             | 269              | 1,020   | 25               |
| 323-W               | 89                          | 316              | 1,291        | 27             | 95               | 387     | 34               |
| 323-L               | 57                          | 232              | 1,186        | 17             | 70               | 356     | 33               |
| 321-E               | 147                         | 670              | 3,623        | 44             | 201              | 1,087   | 27               |
| Total               | 1,406                       | 5,601            | 25,772       | 422            | 1,681            | 7,731   |                  |

Totals may not add due to rounding

- (1) Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc.
- (2) Probability of geological Success.

At the end of the joint studies conducted in 2014 by ONGC, KNOC and Equator, it was concluded that the unrisked oil and gas resources remain similar to those expressed in the above tables. However, from a deeper understanding of the nature of the geology and a knowledge of the poor exploration success achieved in the Nigerian deep water since 2009, it was concluded that the Probabilities of Geological Success are about half those indicated in the above tables. This makes exploration of the blocks under the 2005 fiscal terms marginal. The Company is therefore seeking improved terms in order to regain some economic attractiveness for the blocks.

# Nigeria – Bilabri & Owanare Fields (OML 122)

# **Operational History**

OML 122 is located 25 to 60 kilometres offshore from the Western Niger Delta in water depths of 40 to 300 metres.

In April 2005, Equator signed a Finance and Service Agreement with Peak Petroleum Industries Nigeria Limited ('Peak'), the lease holder and operator of OML 122. In return for providing the funding and technical services for an appraisal well on each of two discoveries and for a selected exploration well, Equator became entitled to a share of any oil and gas production.

In September 2005, Equator and Peak chartered the 'Bulford Dolphin' semi-submersible drilling rig and, in November 2005, commenced drilling their first well, Bilabri DX-1, on the multi-layered discovery. The extent of the known hydrocarbon reservoirs was found to exceed expectations and, furthermore, the well discovered additional gas reservoirs. On test, the 21 metre oil column in the C2 sand flowed crude oil with a specific gravity of 39 degrees API, at a rate of 7188 barrels per day. The gas reservoir in the overlying C1 sand flowed at a rate of 26 million standard cubic feet per day. The data from the flow tests combined with the well logs to confirm that the reservoir properties and crude oil quality of Bilabri were excellent. Accordingly, Equator and Peak initiated a development programme consisting of 6 wells and signed a charter contract for a Floating Production, Storage & Offloading vessel ('FPSO') with BW Offshore on 17 October 2006.

Following the DX-1 well, the Owanare prospect was selected for the exploration well and the AX 1 well was drilled. Gas was discovered in three separate horizons and the well was suspended for a future development.

The Bilabri field was then further appraised with wells D2, D3 and D4. During the drilling programme, operations were disrupted on three occasions when the field was invaded by militants from the Niger Delta. On two occasions, crew members were taken as hostages. In addition, Peak defaulted on the cash calls for its share of project expenditure.

The three additional appraisal wells established that the aerial extent of the C2 sand was larger than expected but determined that the C1 sand contained gas only. In April 2007, NSAI assessed the Gross Proved plus Probable oil reserves for Bilabri as 13.2 million barrels. In terms of gas, NSAI's best estimate of Gross Proved plus Probable contingent resources was 395 billion standard cubic feet for Bilabri and 106 billion standard cubic feet for Owanare, giving a total gross contingent gas resource of 501 billion standard cubic feet, all discovered by wells funded by Equator. Based on the results from the appraisal drilling, the scope of the Bilabri oil development was reduced from six to three wells comprising two horizontal completions of the existing D2 and D4 wells plus a vertical completion of the existing DX-1 well.

On the 22 January 2007, the FPSO entered a shipyard in Singapore for upgrade and delivery to Nigeria in the fourth quarter of 2007. The sub-sea equipment was ordered and scheduled for installation also during fourth quarter 2007. Equator funded 100% of the cost of developing Bilabri, with expenditure on OML 122 totalling US\$ 263 million.

However, during 2007 the project was beset with security problems, including a fourth militant invasion and kidnapping, which caused the shutdown of drilling operations. The contract for the Bulford Dolphin drilling rig was terminated for prolonged force majeure on the 11 May 2007. Subsequently, BW Offshore terminated the contract for the FPSO. The Company became liable for early termination penalties on the FPSO and for debts on a number of unpaid invoices from suppliers.

In September 2007, Equator agreed terms with Peak by entering into the Bilabri Settlement Agreement ('BSA') for Peak to take responsibility for operations and to fund the remainder of the Bilabri oil development. Peak also assumed the existing and future project liabilities and an obligation to make an upfront payment to Equator. In return, Equator's interest in Bilabri and Owanare was reduced to a carried interest of 5% in the oil project and a paying interest of 12.5% in any gas development.

## **Legal Proceedings**

Peak did not meet any of its obligations under the BSA. Equator therefore served a notice of arbitration on Peak in the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA). Peak responded by obtaining an order from the Federal High Court in Lagos restraining the continuation of the Arbitration Proceedings being held at LCIA. Equator nevertheless, continued with the proceedings, and on the 27 May 2008, the tribunal awarded the total sum of US\$ 123 million plus interest to Equator.

In 2010, Equator filed a winding up petition against Peak for its inability to pay its debt. By mid-2011, some success was achieved with the withdrawal of the suit filed by Peak to restrain the Arbitral proceedings. Equator followed by offering Peak a compromise in which Equator would reassume the responsibility of funding the development of Bilabri in return for a larger share of production and the recovery of future costs, the existing debts and interest. Peak rejected the offer.

In November 2011, the winding up order was made final. In February 2012, a liquidator was appointed to take custody and control of the assets of Peak.

The Liquidator held the first Creditors and first Contributories Meetings on the same day in July 2013. Eleven out of sixteen registered creditors attended the Creditors Meeting while none of Peak's shareholders attended the Contributories Meeting. Given that there is only one significant asset, Oil Mining Lease 122, the Liquidator described his three options as:

- sell the assets by public auction;
- ascertain the value of the assets and invite creditors, members of the public and the shareholders of Peak to buy shares in a new company; or
- direct the creditors to manage OML 122.

In each case, the proceeds would be used to pay the debts to the creditors. Any remainder would go to the shareholders of Peak.

A Committee of Inspection comprising three of the creditors including Equator was formed to advise the Liquidator. During the meeting, Shell announced that it had a 40% interest in the block. This claim arises from heads of agreement signed with Peak in 1998, long before Oil Prospecting License 460 was converted to Oil Mining Lease 122 in 2001.

Peak responded with a series of appeals and applications. Many were struck out by the courts. However, Peak continued to pursue:

- an application seeking to restrain Equator from dealing with its assets; and
- further applications seeking to commit Equator's lawyer, Baker Hughes' lawyer and the Liquidator for contempt.

Until these applications are determined, the Liquidator holds Peak's assets for the benefit of the creditors, particularly Equator.

By the end of 2013, Peak did make one attempt to reinitiate discussions on a settlement. We declined preferring to continue to pursue our rights with the Liquidator and to seek the striking out of all appeals.

In 2014, Equator agreed to work with the Peak shareholders in developing an opportunity to again settle. At the time, a capital advisory services firm was offering to settle Peak's outstanding project debts and finance the development of the field. In September 2014, Equator and the Peak shareholder signed a letter agreement that outlined the terms of the new settlement. The Peak shareholders would acknowledge and pay Equator the sum of \$52.24m to settle agreed debts owed solely to Equator. They would also honour Equator's other rights under the BSA, namely a carried interest of 5% in the oil project and a paying interest of 12.5% in any gas development. Details of the settlement agreement were negotiated and agreed during 4Q 2014, the court action having been suspended.

# **Activity in 2016**

Peak and Equator signed the Settlement Agreement in May 2015. The agreement granted Peak a period of 6 months to source the funding required to pay its outstanding project debts and to finance the development of the field. The agreement provided a further 3 month period for Peak to make payment into an escrow account of the outstanding renegotiated debt to Equator.

# **Post Period Activities**

Even with the help of generous extensions to the Settlement Agreement, Peak has failed to secure funding. In 2017, Equator returned to the Appeal Court seeking for the remaining appeals to be struck out so that the liquidation can continue. However, Peak successfully sought adjournments and, for the remainder of 2017 and throughout 2018, continued to seek refinancing of the project. Equator monitors these efforts.

# Oil & Gas Resources

In September 2011, NSAI confirmed their assessment of the recoverable hydrocarbons in the Bilabri and Owanare discoveries. However, because the development of Bilabri had been suspended they reclassified the oil volumes as contingent resources (Table 3).

| Table 3 – Bilabri & Owanare Fields<br>Contingent Recoverable Resources as at 30 June 2011 <sup>1</sup> |       |              |       |                |       |                |
|--|-------|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|----------------|
| Bilabri Oil Bilabri Gas Owanare Gas Million barrels Million cu ft Million cu ft                        |       |              |       |                |       |                |
| Category   | Gross | Net<br>at 5% | Gross | Net<br>at 12½% | Gross | Net<br>at 12½% |
| Low Estimate (1C)  | 10.3  | 0.5          | 332   | 41.5           | 59    | 7.4            |
| Best Estimate (2C)   | 13.2  | 0.7          | 395   | 49.3           | 106   | 13.3           |
| High Estimate (3C)   | 16.5  | 0.8          | 457   | 57.1           | 172   | 21.5           |

(1) Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc

# Joint Development Zone - Block 2

# **History**

From the 17 March 2006 until 16 March 2012, Equator held a 9% participating interest in Block 2 in the Nigeria and São Tomé & Príncipe Joint Development Zone ('JDZ').

Other participants in the PSC were Sinopec (28.67% operator), ERHC (22.00%), Addax (14.33%), ONGC Videsh (13.5%), Amber Petroleum (5%), Foby Engineering (5%) and A & Hatman (2.5%). In 2009, Foby and Amber went into default on the payment of cash calls. ONGC resigned from the block in June 2010.

An exploration well, Bomu 1, was drilled in 1655 metres of water between the 29 August 2009 and the 3 October 2009. The well reached a total depth of 3543 metres below sea level achieving all of its geological objectives. It was completed under budget by approximately US\$ 10 million. The well fulfilled the work obligation of Phase I of the Exploration Period in the PSC.

The well encountered reservoir sands and traps largely as expected but the discovery of only biogenic gas in a number of the sand intervals rather than oil was disappointing. The Phase 1 Exploration Period was extended for a total of two years to allow a thorough technical and commercial evaluation of the Bomu discovery and the remaining prospects on Block 2. As well as using the data gathered from Bomu 1, Sinopec was also able to include the regional information from four other wells drilled in Blocks 3 and 4 in the studies.

The studies confirmed that the small Bomu gas discovery is sub-commercial under current conditions. An adequate source of oil is believed to exist but no faults are seen to provide a migration path for oil between the source rocks and the reservoir sands. The studies also concluded that the best remaining prospect is more likely to contain gas than oil, in quantities not very much larger than those discovered in Bomu. This did not justify commitment to a second exploration well, as required for entry into Phase II of the PSC.

With the possible exception of ERHC, which was carried through Phase I, the participants, including Equator, elected to exit the block on 16 March 2012. There have been no activities since 2012 – date.

# **Directors' Report**

for the year ended 31 December 2016.

The directors submit their report and the audited financial statements of the Equator group of companies ("Group") for the year ended 31st December 2016.

# Review of the business & principal activity

Equator Exploration Limited ('Equator' or the 'Company') is a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands. The address of the registered office is given on page 16. The Company and its subsidiaries engage in the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas projects in West Africa.

A full review of the Company's activities for the period of these accounts is set out in the Operating Review and Asset Review on pages 1 – 12 of this Annual Report.

#### Results and dividend

The Group made a loss of US\$ 3.1 million in 2016. (2015: US\$ 3.5 million)

The Company did not pay a dividend in 2016 (2015: nil).

#### Litigation

In September 2010, Equator commenced a winding up action against Peak Petroleum Industries Nigeria Limited in the Nigerian courts following Peak's failure to pay its debts to Equator under 1) the Bilabri Settlement Agreement and 2) the arbitration award for US\$ 123 million of 27 May 2008 (see a full explanation in the Asset Review under OML 122). In November 2011, the winding up petition against Peak was made final by the Nigerian Federal High Court and a liquidator was appointed to take control of the assets of Peak. Peak appealed against that decision in the Court of Appeal. A second settlement agreement was reached but Peak failed to raise the finance necessary to meet its new obligations. Equator has reinstituted court proceedings in order to have the appeal struck off. The proceedings remain adjourned to the present day.

#### Financing

In a number of transactions during 2009, Oando Plc, a Nigerian public company quoted on the Nigerian and Johannesburg Stock Exchanges, became the majority shareholder of the Group, with 78% of the Group's shares. In 2011, Oando purchased an additional 3.5% of the Company's shares increasing the total of shares to 81.5%. The shares held by Oando Plc were transferred to a wholly owned subsidiary of Oando Energy Resources Inc. ('OER') on the 24th of July 2012. OER has committed to provide financial support to the Company for eighteen months from the date of this report to enable it to meet its financial obligations.

During 2016, the Company repaid Oando Servco Nigeria Limited's interest bearing working capital loan of US\$ 3,245,358 (2015: US\$ 2,934,191 received).

# Risk management

The Group operates in a geographical area and in an industry with a range of risks that have to be managed by the Company. The Group's management assesses and evaluates these risks both on company-wide parameters and on specific projects. The Group's philosophy is generally to pass risk to partners where they have greater control over the assets and liabilities or where the cost of protection would be substantially lower. In those instances where management deems a risk to be of significant importance it will consider protecting its own exposure. The main risks to the Group and the action taken in mitigation can be summarised as follows:

- Currency risk is managed by matching costs with income as far as possible. Each of the companies within the Group accounts for
  its business in its functional currency, US Dollars, thereby minimising translation risk.
- Economic risk to project cash-flows is expected to be managed through structured financing to match debt repayment and project cash-flows.
- Drilling risk of blow-out and pollution is covered through insurance policies that limit the Company's exposure to an acceptable
  deductible amount and provide sufficient coverage for re-drilling in line with industry norms.
- Security in West Africa is a continuing concern and Equator's management take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of
  its own and its contractors' staff whether working onshore or offshore.
- The company is participating in a number of lawsuits. It seeks to engage the legal firms with the best experience and track record on each type of case.

# **Charitable donations**

The Company made no charitable donations during 2016 (2015: nil).

Supplier payment policy

The Company's policy is to pay suppliers within the credit period granted by each supplier.

Statement of disclosure of information to auditors

So far as each of the directors is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware. Each of the directors has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as director in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

Re-appointment of auditors

A resolution for the re-appointment of PWC as auditors of the company is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Jub il Tinubu - Director

29th November, 2018

Omamofe Boyo - Director

29th November 2018

# **Statement of Directors' Responsibilities**

Under the Company's Articles of Association, the directors are responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and of the profit or loss of the Group for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state the basis of preparation and accounting policies applied; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

The directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements. The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the group's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and for safeguarding the assets of the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The directors are also responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Company's website.

Legislation in the British Virgin Islands and/or the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

# Directors, Officers and Professional Advisors For the year ended 31 December 2016

#### **Board of Directors**

Mr JA Tinubu – Chairman Mr O Boyo Mr OO Durotoye

# **Company Secretary**

Ms Ayotola Jagun

# **Registered Office**

Dantrust Limited 49 Main Street, Road Town Tortola, British Virgin Islands

## **Solicitor**

Harney Westwood & Riegels Craigmuir Chambers PO Box 71, Road Town Tortola, British Virgin Islands

# **Share Registrar**

Computershare Investor Services (Jersey) Limited Queensway House Hilgrove Street St Helier Jersey, JE1 1ES

#### **Banker**

Standard Chartered Bank 2nd Floor 1 Basinghall Avenue London EC2V 5DD appointed 8 September 2009 appointed 8 September 2009 resigned 31 March 2018

appointed 20 October 2012

## **Registered Agent**

Dantrust Limited 49 Main Street, Road Town Tortola. British Virgin Islands

## **Solicitor**

Akindelano Legal Practioners 21 Military Street Onikan-Lagos Lagos, Nigeria

#### **Auditor**

PricewaterhouseCoopers Landmark Towers Plot 5B Water Corporation Road Victoria Island Lagos Nigeria



# Independent auditor's report

To the Members of Equator Exploration Limited

# Report on the audit of the consolidated financial statements

# Our opinion

In our opinion Equator Exploration Limited's ("the company's") consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the company as at 31 December 2016, and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance International Financial Reporting Standards.

#### What we have audited

Equator Exploration Limited's consolidated financial statements comprise:

- the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016;
- the consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- · the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the consolidated financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies.

# Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

# Independence

We are independent of the company in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code). We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code.

# Material uncertainty relating to going concern

We draw attention to Note 22 in the consolidated financial statements, which indicates that the Company incurred a net loss of US\$ 3.1 million and as of that date, the Company's current liabilities exceeded its total assets by US\$25.2 million.

As stated in Note 22 these events or conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

# Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the: Operating review, Assets review, Directors Report, and Statement of Directors' Responsibilities, but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

# Responsibilities of the directors and those charged with governance for the consolidated financial statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the company's financial reporting process.

# Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Ind Joseph

For: PricewaterhouseCoopers

Chartered Accountants Lagos, Nigeria

Engagement Partner: Cyril Azobu FRC/2013/ICAN/0000000648



3 December 2018

# Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income For the year ended 31 December 2016

|  | Notes | 31 December<br>2016<br>US\$000's | 31 December<br>2015<br>US\$000's |
|--|-------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Operating expenses                                       | 5     | (1,099)                          | (1,369)                          |
| Operating loss   |       | (1,099)                          | (1,369)                          |
| Finance costs  | 7     | (2,028)                          | (2,152)                          |
| Loss before tax<br>Taxation                              | 17    | (3,127)                          | (3,521)                          |
| Loss for the year attributable to equity sharehold       | ders  | (3,127)                          | (3,521)                          |
|  |       |                                  |                                  |
| Other comprehensive (loss)/income for the year           |       | -                                | -                                |
| Total comprehensive loss attributable to owne the parent | rs of | (3,127)                          | (3,521)                          |

# Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2016

| Acasta                                      | Notes | 31 December<br>2016<br>US\$000s       | 31 December<br>2015<br>US\$000s |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Assets<br>Non-current assets                |       | 175                                   | 175                             |
| Intangibles: Goodwill                       | 8     | 1,453                                 | 7,935                           |
| Exploration and evaluation assets           | 9     | 1,433                                 | 18                              |
| Property, plant and equipment               | 10    | 1,638                                 | 8,128                           |
|   |       |                                       |                                 |
| Current assets                              | 12    | 1,635                                 | 8                               |
| Trade and other receivables                 | 13    | 44                                    | 61                              |
| Cash and cash equivalents                   | 10    | 1,679                                 | 69                              |
| Total assets                                |       | 3,317                                 | 8,197                           |
| Liabilities                                 |       |                                       |                                 |
| Current liabilities                         |       | (28,470)                              | (30,223)                        |
| Trade and other payables                    | 14    |                                       |                                 |
| Net liabilities                             |       | (25,153)                              | (22,026)                        |
| Net liabilities                             |       |                                       |                                 |
| Equity attributable to owners of the parent |       | -                                     |                                 |
| Share capital                               | 16    | 458,721                               | 458,721                         |
| Capital reserves                            | 16    | (483,874)                             | (480,747)                       |
| Accumulated losses                          |       | (25,153)                              | (22,026)                        |
| Total equity                                |       | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |                                 |

Approved by the board of directors on 2416. November, 2018.

Signed on behalf of the board of directors by:

Omamofe Boyo Director

# **Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity**

For the year ended 31 December 2016

|   | Share capital | Capital reserves | Accumulated        | Total equity |
|---|---------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------|
|   | US\$000s      | US\$000s         | losses<br>US\$000s | US\$000s     |
| Balance at 1 January 2015                           | -             | 458,721          | (477,226)          | (18,505)     |
| Loss for the year Other comprehensive income/(loss) | -             | -                | (3,521)            | (3,521)      |
| Balance at 31 December 2015                         | -             | 458,721          | (480,747)          | (22,026)     |
| Loss for the year Other comprehensive income/(loss) | -             | -                | (3,127)            | (3,127)      |
| Balance at 31 December 2016                         | -             | 458,721          | (483,874)          | (25,153)     |

# **Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows**

For the year ended 31 December 2016

|  | 31 December<br>2016 | 31 December<br>2015 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Notes  | US\$000s            | US\$000s            |
| Cash flow from operating activities                    |                     |                     |
| Operating loss   | (1,099)             | (1,369)             |
| Adjustments for:                                       | •                   | •                   |
| Depreciation   | 8                   | 8                   |
| Operating cash flow before movement in working capital | (1,091)             | (1,361)             |
| (Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables 12  | (1,627)             | 25                  |
| (Increase) /decrease in trade and other payables 14    | (536)               | 408                 |
| Net cash used in operating activities                  | (2,163)             | (928)               |
| Cash flow from investing activities                    |                     |                     |
| Additions of exploration and evaluation assets 9       | (5,101)             | (2,383)             |
| Additions of property, plant and equipment             | -                   | (6)                 |
| Disposal of EE assets                                  | 11,583              | -                   |
| Net cash generated from (used in) investing activities | 6,482               | (2,389)             |
| Cash flow from financing activities                    |                     |                     |
| (Repayments to)/Receipts from parent company           | (3,245)             | 2,934               |
| Net cash used in financing activities                  | (3,245)             | 2,934               |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents              | (17)                | (383)               |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period 13    | 61                  | 444                 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period 13          | 44                  | 61                  |

#### 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and IFRIC interpretations. The consolidated financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria set out in International Financial Reporting Standards. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the consolidated financial statements are disclosed in note 4.

Equator Exploration Limited, the parent company of the Group, is incorporated and domiciled in the British Virgin Islands. The address of the registered office is given on page 15. The Company and its subsidiaries engage in the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas projects in West Africa. The Group's objective is to build a diversified portfolio of exploration, appraisal and production assets in this region.

#### Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The directors have no doubt that the Company would remain in existence after 12 months.

#### 1.2 Changes in accounting policies and disclosures

#### New standards, amendments and interpretations

Disclosure Initiative: Amendment to IAS 1: Presentation of Financial Statements

The amendment provides new requirements when an entity presents subtotals in addition to those required by IAS 1 in its financial statements. It also provides amended guidance concerning the order of presentation of the notes in the financial statements as well as guidance for identifying which accounting policies should be included. It further clarifies that an entity's share of comprehensive income of an associate or joint venture under the equity method shall be presented separately into its share of items that a) will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss and b) that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss. The effective date of the amendment is for years beginning on or after 01 January 2016.

The impact of the amendment is not material. All subtotals have corresponding notes in the financial statements.

The following Standards and amendments were issued and effective in the current year but not adopted:

- 1. Amendment to IFRS 7: Financial Instruments: Disclosures: Annual Improvements Project
- 2. Amendment to IAS 19: Employee Benefits: Annual Improvements Project
- 3. Amendments to IAS 16 and IAS 38: Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation
- 4. Amendment to IFRS 11: Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations.

#### 1.3 New accounting standards and amendments issued but not yet adopted

- (a) IFRS 9 Financial Instruments ("IFRS 9") is a new standard that replaces IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement and previous versions of IFRS 9. The revised standard incorporates the changes in IFRS 9 (2013), which provides revised guidance on the classification and measurement of financial assets and liabilities and adds guidance on general hedge accounting. In addition, IFRS 9 provides for a further classification category for financial assets, and includes a new impairment model for financial instruments. The standard is effective for annual periods on or after 1 January 2018. The Company has determined there is no impact of this standard on the financial statement.
- (b) IFRS 15, Revenue from Contracts with Customers ("IFRS 15") is a new standard on revenue recognition effective for first interim periods within years beginning on or after 1 January 2018, superseding IAS 18, Revenue, IAS 11, Construction Contracts and related interpretations. The objective of IFRS 15 is to provide a single, comprehensive revenue recognition model for all contracts with customers to improve comparability within industries, across industries, and across capital markets. It contains principles to determine the measurement of revenue and timing of when it is recognized. The Company has determined there is no impact of this standard on the financial statement.

- (c) Amendment to IAS 12, Income taxes, Recognition of deferred tax assets for unrealized losses. These amendments clarify the requirements for recognizing deferred tax assets on unrealized losses. It also clarifies the accounting for deferred tax where an asset is measured at fair value and that fair value is below the asset's tax base. The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2017, with earlier application being permitted. The Company has determined there is no impact of this standard on the financial statement.
- (d) IFRS 16, Leases, is a standard which supersedes IAS 17 Leases. IFRS 16 eliminates the classification of leases as either operating leases or finance leases for a lessee. Instead all leases are treated in a similar way to finance leases applying IAS 17. Leases are 'capitalized' by recognizing the present value of the lease payments and showing them either as lease assets (right-of-use assets) or together with property, plant and equipment. If lease payments are made over time, a company also recognizes a financial liability representing its obligation to make future lease payments. For companies with material off balance sheet leases, IFRS 16 changes the nature of expenses related to those leases. IFRS 16 replaces the straight-line operating lease expense for those leases applying IAS 17 with a depreciation charge for the lease asset (included within operating costs) and an interest expense on the lease liability (included within finance costs). The new standard is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. The Company has determined there is no impact of this standard on the financial statement.
- (e) Amendment to IAS 7, 'Cashflow statements' disclosure initiative introduces an additional disclosure that will enable users of the financial statements to evaluate changes in liabilities arising from financing activities. The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2017, with earlier application being permitted. The Company has determined there is no impact of this standard on the financial statement.

#### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 2.1. Going concern

The Financial Statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, which assumes that the Group will continue in operational existence for at least one year from the date of signing of these Financial Statements. The ability of the Group to continue as a going concern is dependent on the support of the Group's parent, Oando Energy Resources (OER), and other sister companies under the OER group. The directors of Oando Energy Resources have confirmed that they will continue to provide financial support for a period of eighteen months from the date of these financial statements to ensure that the Group can meet its liabilities and obligations as when they fall due. As a result, the directors of the Group consider that the use of the going concern basis is appropriate.

The ability of the Group to maintain its interests in the Production Sharing Contracts as described in the Asset Review on pages 4 – 10 is dependent on the continuing support of Oando Energy Resources, other sister companies under the OER group and/or the agreement of farm-outs with other oil companies, including the funding of signature bonus payments and the committed exploration expenditures.

#### 2.2 Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the Company and entities controlled by the Company (its subsidiaries). Control is achieved where the Company has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity.

Uniform accounting policies have been adopted across the Group. All intra-group transactions, balances, income and expenses are eliminated on consolidation.

#### 2.3 Business combinations

The acquisition of subsidiaries is accounted for using the acquisition method. The cost of the acquisition is measured at the aggregate of the fair values, at the date of exchange, of assets given, liabilities incurred or assumed, and equity instruments issued by the Group in exchange for control of the acquiree, plus any costs directly attributable to the business combination. The acquiree's identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities that meet the conditions for recognition under IFRS 3 are recognised at their fair value at the acquisition date.

# 2.5 Employee services settled in equity instruments

The Group issues equity-settled share-based payments to certain employees. These are measured at fair value (excluding the effect of non market-based vesting conditions) at the date of grant. The fair value determined at the grant date is expensed on a straight line basis over the vesting period, based on the Group's estimate of shares that will eventually vest and adjusted for the effect of non-market based vesting conditions.

Fair value is measured by use of the Black-Scholes model. The expected life used in the model has been adjusted, based on management's best estimate, for the effects of non-transferability, exercise restrictions and behavioural considerations.

#### 2.6 Other goods or services settled in equity instruments

Goods or services (other than employee services) received in exchange for equity-settled share-based payments are measured at fair value at the date of grant. The fair value determined at the grant date is expensed on a straight line basis over the vesting period. The proceeds received on exercise of the options, net of any directly attributable transaction costs, are credited to share capital (nominal value) and share premium when the options are exercised.

# 2.7 Foreign currencies

(a) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates ('the functional currency'). The consolidated financial statements are presented in US Dollars, which is the Company's functional and presentation currency.

#### (b) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

#### 2.8 Goodwill

Goodwill arising on consolidation represents the excess of the cost of acquisition over the Group's interest in the fair value of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities of a subsidiary or jointly controlled entity at the date of acquisition.

If, after reassessment, the Group's interest in the fair value of the acquiree's identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities exceeds the cost of the business combination, the excess is recognised immediately in profit or loss. Goodwill is recognised as an asset and is tested for impairment annually, or on such occasions that events or changes in circumstances indicate that its value might be impaired in accordance with IAS 36.

Goodwill arising on the acquisition of subsidiaries is presented separately in the balance sheet.

On disposal of a subsidiary, associate or jointly controlled entity, the attributable amount of goodwill, which has not been subject to impairment, is included in the determination of the profit or loss on disposal.

#### 2.9 Exploration and evaluation assets

#### Exploration and evaluation assets - capitalisation

Oil and natural gas exploration and evaluation expenditures are accounted for using the successful efforts method. Under this method only costs which relate directly to the discovery and development of specific oil and gas reserves are capitalised. Exploration and evaluation costs are capitalised within intangible assets. Capital expenditure on producing assets is accounted for in accordance with IAS 16, 'Property, Plant and Equipment'. Costs incurred prior to obtaining legal rights to explore are expensed immediately to the income statement.

#### Costs incurred in the exploration and evaluation of assets include:

All lease and licence acquisition costs, geological and geophysical costs and other direct costs of exploration, evaluation and development are capitalised as intangible or property, plant and equipment according to their nature. Intangible assets comprise costs relating to the exploration and evaluation of properties which the directors consider to be unevaluated until reserves are appraised as commercial, at which time they are transferred to property, plant and equipment following an impairment review and depreciated accordingly. Where properties are appraised to have no commercial value, the associated costs are treated as an impairment loss in the period in which the determination is made.

Costs are amortised on a field by field unit of production method based on the commercial proved and probable reserves, with the exception of compressors, which are depreciated on a straight line basis (10 years) over their anticipated useful life.

The calculation of the 'unit of production' amortisation takes account of estimated future development costs and is based on current period end escalated price levels. Changes in reserves and cost estimates are recognised prospectively.

#### Exploration and evaluation assets - impairment

Exploration and evaluation assets are tested for impairment when reclassified to development tangible or intangible assets or whenever facts and circumstances indicate impairment. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the exploration and evaluation assets' carrying amount exceed their recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of the exploration and evaluations assets' fair value less costs to sell and their value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, the exploration and evaluation assets subject to testing are grouped with existing cash generating units (CGUs) of related production fields located in the same geographical region. The geographical region is the same as that used for reserves reporting purposes.

### 2.10 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses. Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and the costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use. Depreciation is charged so as to write off the costs over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method commencing in the month following the purchase, on the following basis:

Fixtures and fittings: 3 years
Equipment and software: 3 years
Motor vehicles: 3 years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in income.

#### 2.11 Investment in multi-client seismic library

This investment represents the Group's participating interest in seismic surveys that are licensed to customers on a non-exclusive basis. In accordance with the Group Policy, the survey costs have now been fully amortised. However, the Group continues to receive income from the sale of licences for some of the seismic surveys.

#### 2.12 Impairment

At each balance sheet date, the Group reviews the carrying amount of its tangible and intangible assets with finite lives to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to

determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). For the purposes of impairment, the Group estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which assets belong.

Goodwill arising on acquisitions is allocated to cash-generating units. The recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which goodwill is allocated is tested for impairment annually, or on such other occasions that events or changes in circumstances indicate that it might be impaired.

If the recoverable amount of a cash-generating unit is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is reduced to its recoverable amount.

Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) in prior periods. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised as income immediately, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase. However, impairment losses relating to goodwill may not be reversed.

#### 2.13 Trade receivables

Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment. Appropriate provisions for estimated irrecoverable amounts are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when there is objective evidence that the assets are impaired.

#### 2.14 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and demand deposits and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

# 2.15 Financial liabilities and equity

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidence a residual interest in the asset of the Group after deducting all of its liabilities

#### 2.16 Trade payables

Trade payables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### 2.17 Equity instruments

Equity issued by the Group is recorded at the proceeds received, net of direct issue costs.

### 2.18 Current and deferred income tax

The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of the tax laws enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date in the countries where the Company's subsidiaries and associates operate and generate taxable income. Management periodically evaluates positions taken in tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulation is subject to interpretation and establishes provisions where appropriate on the basis of amounts expected to be paid to the tax authorities.

Deferred income tax is provided in full, using the liability method, on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the consolidated financial statements. However, the deferred income tax is not accounted for if it arises from initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction other than a business combination that at the time of the transaction affects either accounting nor taxable profit or loss. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantially enacted by the balance sheet date and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised or the deferred income tax liability is settled.

Deferred income tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised.

Deferred income tax is provided on temporary differences arising on investments in subsidiaries, except where the timing of the reversal of the temporary difference is controlled by the Group and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

#### 2.19 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation and the amount has been reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to anyone item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to passage of time is recognised as interest expense.

#### 2.20 Retirement benefit costs

Payments to personal retirement benefit plans are charged as an expense as they fall due.

#### 2.21 Share warrants

Share warrants represent the fair value of warrants issued to loan note and shareholders. Warrants issued as equity instruments are presented such that the related loan balances are reduced by the fair value of the warrants in issue. Warrants issued as share based payments are recognised at fair value at the date of issue with changes in fair value recognised in the income statement over the life of the instrument. As these warrants have no legal right of setoff, there is no net presentation in the balance sheet.

#### 2.22 Finance expenses

Finance expenses include interest expenses and other costs in association to borrowing funds as well as an expense relating to accretion incurred in relation to the Company's decommissioning liabilities, derivative gains and losses and foreign exchange gains/losses.

#### 2.23 Borrowings

Borrowings are recognized initially at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Borrowings are subsequently measured at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Company has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date.

Summary of significant accounting policies; continued

#### Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognized as an expense in the period in which they are incurred, except when they are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset. These are included as part of additions to property, plant and equipment. A qualifying asset is an asset that takes a substantial period of time, generally greater than a year, to get ready for its intended use or sale.

Where borrowing costs are capitalized to a qualifying asset, the interest cash flows associated are presented within the relevant expenditures line on the statement of cash flows.

#### 3. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

#### 3.1. Financial risk factors

The Group's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk (mainly currency risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The Group's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Group's financial performance.

Risk Management is carried out by management under policies approved by the board of directors. Management identifies and evaluates financial risks in close co-operation with the Group's operating units. The board provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as foreign exchange risk, interest rate risk, non-derivative financial instruments and investment of excess liquidity.

## 3.1.1. Market risk

#### Interest rate risk

The Group is exposed to interest rate risk on its cash balances held at bank as these have variable interest rates pegged to LIBOR. This risk is immaterial due to the size of cash balances held and the current low interest rates. There is interest payable on amounts due to related parties at 16% p.a.

### Foreign exchange risk

The Group operates internationally and is exposed to foreign exchange risk arising from various currency exposures, primarily with respect to the GB Pound and Nigerian Naira. Foreign exchange risk arises from future commercial transactions and recognised assets and liabilities. The majority of the Group's transactions are conducted in US Dollars, its functional currency. As a result there is no significant foreign exchange risk, however, the Group does review its exposure to transactions denominated in other currencies and takes necessary action to minimise this exposure.

Currency risk is managed by matching costs with income as far as possible. Each of the companies within the Group accounts for its business in its functional currency, US Dollars, thereby minimising translation risk.

At 31 December, if the currency had strengthened or weakened by 10% against the GB Pound and Nigerian Naira with all other variables held constant, post-tax loss for the year would have increase/decreased by :

|                  | Strengthened by 10%                    | Weakened by 10%                        |
|------------------|--|--|
|                  | Increase / (decrease) in post-tax loss | Increase / (decrease) in post-tax loss |
|                  | and impact on equity                   | and equity                             |
|                  | US\$000s                               | US\$000s                               |
| 31 December 2016 | 49                                     | (53)                                   |
| 31 December 2015 | 73                                     | (60)                                   |

The differences are mainly as a result of foreign exchange gains/losses on translation of GB Pound denominated trade and other payables and GB Pound dominated bank balances. 10% is deemed appropriate for the foreign exchange sensitivity analysis due to the current financial market.

#### Cash at bank and short term deposits

|  | As at 31 De | cember   |
|--|-------------|----------|
|  | 2016        | 2015     |
|  | US\$000s    | US\$000s |
| Aa- (Moody's rating) – Standard Chartered Bank | 42          | 59       |
| Other bank balances                            | 2           | 2        |
| Total  | 44          | 61       |

#### 3.1.2 Credit risk

Credit risk is managed on a group basis. Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents. All of group's cash and cash equivalents are held by "Aa' or better rated banks.

#### 3.3 Fair value estimation

|                             |          | As at 31            | December |                     |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Financial assets            | 2016     |                     | 2015     |                     |
|                             | Current  | Non-                | Current  | Non-                |
|                             | US\$000s | Current<br>US\$000s | US\$000s | current<br>US\$000s |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | 44       |                     | 61       | -                   |
| Trade and other receivables | 1,635    | -                   | 8        | -                   |
|                             | 1,679    | -                   | 69       | -                   |

|                                | As at 31 December |             |          |          |  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------|----------|--|
| Financial liabilities          | 2016              |             | 2015     |          |  |
|                                | Current           | Non-current | Current  | Non-     |  |
|                                |                   |             |          | current  |  |
|                                | US\$000s          | US\$000s    | US\$000s | US\$000s |  |
| Trade and other payables       | 8,298             |             | 8,834    | -        |  |
| Amounts due to related parties | 20,172            |             | 21,389   | -        |  |
|                                | 28,470            | -           | 30,223   | -        |  |

The directors consider that the carrying amount of trade receivables payables approximates to their fair value.

# 4. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In order to prepare the Consolidated Financial Statements in conformity with IFRS, management of the Group has to make estimates and judgements. The matters described below are considered to be the most important in understanding the judgements that are involved in preparing these statements and the uncertainties that could impact the amounts reported in the results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

### Estimation of oil and gas reserves

Oil and gas reserves are key elements in the Group's investment decision-making process. They are also an important element in testing for impairment. Changes in proved and probable oil and gas reserves will also affect the evaluation of discounted cash flows.

Proved and probable oil and gas reserves are the estimated quantities of crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids which geological and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions, i.e. prices and costs as of the date the estimate is made. Estimates of oil and gas reserves are inherently imprecise, require the application of judgment and are subject to future revision. Accordingly, financial and accounting measures (such as the evaluation of discounted cash flows, depreciation, depletion and amortisation charges, and decommissioning provisions) that are based on proved reserves are also subject to change.

Proved and probable reserves are estimated by reference to available reservoir and well information, including production and pressure trends for producing reservoirs and, in some cases, subject to definitional limits, to similar data from other producing reservoirs. Proved reserves estimates are attributed to future development projects only where there is a significant commitment to project funding and execution and for which applicable governmental and regulatory approvals have been secured or are reasonably certain to be secured. Furthermore, estimates of proved and probable reserves only include volumes for which access to market is assured with reasonable certainty. All proved reserves estimates are subject to revision, either upward or downward, based on new information, such as from development drilling and production activities or from changes in economic factors, including product prices, contract terms or development plans. In general, changes in the technical maturity of hydrocarbon reserves resulting from new information becoming available from development and production activities have tended to be the most significant cause of annual revisions.

## **5. OPERATING EXPENSES**

|                  | Year ended 31 De | cember           |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                  | 2016<br>US\$000s | 2015<br>US\$000s |
| Depreciation     | 8                | 8                |
| Consultant fees  | 25               | 25               |
| Legal fees       | 24               | 96               |
| Auditor's fees   | 102              | 58               |
| Directors' fees  | 88               | 118              |
| Block 5 expenses | 802              | 840              |
| Other expenses   | 49               | 224              |
|                  | 1,099            | 1,369            |

## 6. STAFF COSTS

|  | Year ended 31 December |                          |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u> </u>   | 2016<br>US\$000's      | 2015<br><b>US\$000's</b> |
| The average monthly number of employees (including executive directors) employed was as follows: | 4                      | 4                        |
| Their aggregate remuneration comprised:  | 2016                   | 2015                     |
| Wages, salaries and accrued directors' fees  | <b>US\$000s</b><br>108 | <b>US\$000s</b><br>138   |
| Recharges from Head Office   | 108                    | 138                      |

2016: No recharges occurred during the course of the year (2015:nil).

## 7. FINANCE COSTS

|                            | Year ended | 31 December |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------|
|                            | 2016       | 2015        |
|                            | US\$000s   | US\$000s    |
| Interest payable (note 14) | 2,028      | 2,152       |

# 8. INTANGIBLES - GOODWILL

|  | Year end                | Year ended 31 December  |  |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
|  | <b>2016</b><br>US\$000s | <b>2015</b><br>US\$000s |  |  |
| Carrying amount at 31 December 2016 and 2015 | 175                     | 175                     |  |  |

The goodwill relates to Equator Exploration's investment in Equator Exploration Block 12 STP (formerly Aqua Exploration Limited), which owns rights to EEZ seismic data. Equator has a 5% interest in the rights to seismic data for EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) of Sao Tome.

## 9. INTANGIBLES - EXPLORATION AND EVALUATION ASSETS

|   | OML 122 | OPL 323 | OPL 321 | JDZ<br>Block 2 | EEZ<br>Block 5   | EEZ<br>Block 12  | Total<br>US\$000s |
|---|---------|---------|---------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| At 1 January 2015<br>Additions(i)               | -       |         | -       | -              | 3,351<br>2,383   | 2,201            | 5,552<br>2,383    |
| Transfer on signing of PSC Impairment provision | -       | -       | -       | -              | -                | -                | -                 |
| At 31 December 2015                             | -       | -       | -       | -              | 5,734            | 2,201            | 7,935             |
| Additions (note i)<br>Farm-out (note ii)        | •       | -       | -       | -              | 2,430<br>(7,652) | 2,671<br>(3,931) | 5,101<br>(11,583) |
| At 31 December 2016                             | -       | -       | -       |                | 512              | 941              | 1,453             |

Note (i): Additions

The additions to Block 5 include the 3D seismic survey and work undertaken by G&G specialists.

#### Note (i): Farm out Block 5 and 12

On February 19, 2016 the Company executed a Production Sharing Contract with the National Petroleum Agency of STP "ANP-STP" for an 87.5% participating interest in Block 12. The Company subsequently farmed out 65% participating interest and transferred operatorship in Blocks 5 and 12 to Kosmos Energy Sao Tome and Principe. After completion of both farm-outs, the Company now holds 20% and 22.5% in Blocks 5 and 12 respectively.

The farm-out arrangements with Kosmos have been accounted for by recognizing only the cash payments received without recognizing any consideration in respect of the value of the work to be performed by the farmee, see the section "assets review" on page 4 for the value of the consideration received. The carrying value of the remaining interest after the farm-out is the previous cost of the full interest in both Blocks 5 and 12 reduced by the amount of cash consideration received for entering the agreement. The effect is that there was no gain recognized on the disposal as the cash consideration received did not exceed the carrying value of the entire asset held.

#### 10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

|  | Fixtures<br>and<br>Fittings | Equipment<br>and<br>software | Total    |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
|  | US\$000s                    | US\$000s                     | US\$000s |
| As at 1 January 2015                   | 10                          | 10                           | 20       |
| Addition                               | -                           | 6                            | 6        |
| Depreciation                           | (3)                         | (5)                          | (8)      |
| Carrying amount as at 31 December 2015 | 7                           | 11                           | 18       |
| As at 1 January 2016                   | 7                           | 11                           | 18       |
| Addition                               | -                           | -                            | -        |
| Depreciation                           | (3)                         | (5)                          | (8)      |
| Carrying amount as at 31 December 2016 | 4                           | 6                            | 10       |

## 11. INVESTMENTS

As at 31 December 2016

| Name  | Principal activity                  | %    | Country of registration | Country of operation |
|---|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Directly held   |                                     |      |                         |                      |
| Equator Exploration STP Block 12 Limited                    | Development of oil and gas projects | 100% | Bahamas                 | STP                  |
| Equator Exploration Nigeria Limited                         | Development of oil and gas projects | 100% | Nigeria                 | Nigeria              |
| Equator Exploration (OML 122) Limited                       | Development of oil and gas projects | 100% | BVI                     | Nigeria              |
| Equator Exploration STP Block 5 Limited                     | Development of oil and gas projects | 100% | BVI                     | STP                  |
| Oando Equator JDZ Nigeria Block 2 Limited (note i)          | Development of oil and gas projects | 100% | Nigeria                 | Nigeria              |
| Oando Equator Exploration 321 Nigeria Limited (note ii)     | Development of oil and gas projects | 100% | Nigeria                 | Nigeria              |
| Oando Equator Exploration 323 Nigeria Limited (note iii)    | Development of oil and gas projects | 100% | Nigeria                 | Nigeria              |
| Oando Equator Exploration Nigeria OML 122 Limited (note iv) | Development of oil and gas projects | 100% | Nigeria                 | Nigeria              |

# 12. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

|  | As at 3          | As at 31 December |  |
|--|------------------|-------------------|--|
|  | 2016<br>US\$000s | 2015<br>US\$000s  |  |
| Other debtors  | 1                | 3                 |  |
| Prepayments and accrued income   | 5                | 5                 |  |
| *Kosmos working capital account  | 1,629            | -                 |  |
| Trade and Other Receivables  | 1,635            | 8                 |  |
| *Double the control of the few Means and the few |                  |                   |  |

<sup>\*</sup>Represents the amount receivable from Kosmos under a carrying arrangement contained in the farm out agreement.

The directors consider that the carrying amount of trade and other receivables approximates to their fair value.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the carrying value of each class of receivable mentioned above after provisions for receivable impairment. The Group does not hold any collateral as security. All trade and other receivables were denominated in US Dollars.

#### 13. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

| As                        | at 31 December |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| 201                       | <b>3</b> 2015  |
| US\$000                   | US\$000s       |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 4 61           |

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash held by the Group in the form of short term bank deposits with an original maturity of three months or less and earn interest at a respective short-term deposit rates. The carrying amount of these assets approximates their fair value.

#### 14. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

| Amounts falling due in less than one year | As at 3<br>2016<br>US\$000s | 1 December<br>2015<br>US\$000s |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Trade payables                            | 2,564                       | 3,425                          |
| Other payables                            | 2,657                       | 2,657                          |
| Accruals                                  | 3,077                       | 2,752                          |
| Amounts due to related parties (Note 21)  | 20,172                      | 21,389                         |
| Trade and Other payables                  | 28,470                      | 30,223                         |

Trade payables are principally dominated in GB Pound and USD Dollars

Included in the amount due to related parties is other interest payable of \$2,028,157 (2015: \$2,152,166)

Trade and other payables principally comprise amounts outstanding for trade purchases and on-going costs.

# 15. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

#### **OML 122 Contingent Liabilities**

In September 2007, the Group transferred, under the Bilabri Settlement Agreement ('BSA'), the full responsibility for completing the Bilabri (OML122) development to Peak Petroleum Industries (Nigeria) Limited ('Peak') who specifically assumed responsibility for the project's future funding and its historic unpaid liabilities. Now that Peak is wound up, it is possible that a subsidiary of the Group may be called upon to meet some or all of the unpaid liabilities which currently amount to US\$22.8 million.

#### **OPL 321 and 323 Contingent Liabilities**

The Company bid as part of a consortium for OPL 321 and 323. It was granted a 30% interest in the PSCs but two of its bidding partners were not included as direct participants in the PSCs. As a result, the Company granted them respectively 3% and 1% carried economic interests in recognition of their contribution to the bidding group.

During 2007, it was agreed with the bidding partners that they would surrender their carried interests in return for warrants in the Company and payments of US\$4 million and US\$1 million. The Warrant Instruments were issued immediately but it was agreed that the cash payments would be deferred. In the first instance, payment would be made within 5 days after the closing of a farm out of a 20% interest in OPL 323 to BG. However, BG terminated the farm out agreement. Under the successor obligation, the Company issued two loan notes with an aggregate value of US\$5 million, redeemable out of the first US\$5 million of proceeds received on the occurrence of any one of the following events related to either OPL 321 or OPL 323:

- a farm out with another party,
- a sale or partial sale of the interest, and
  - a sale or partial sale of the subsidiary holding the relevant PSC.

During 2010, one bidding partner successfully sued Equator in an arbitration tribunal for its US\$1 million. This has been paid in full. On the advice of its barrister, the Company maintains that the remaining US\$4 million owed is not yet due and that any second arbitration hearing can be successfully defended. If none of the above events occur, it is assumed that the Company will not need to settle the US\$4 million loan note and can defer payment indefinitely.

#### **Block 5 Contingent Liabilities**

The company acquired a performance bond from Ecobank in Sao Tome and Principe and there was a contingent liability of USD5.2m due if Equator did not meet their obligations in relation to the production sharing contract. The performance bond expired in 2016, the obligation having been fulfilled.

### 16. SHARE CAPITAL /CAPITAL RESERVES

SHARE CAPITAL US\$000s

(i) Authorised

1 billion ordinary shares of US\$ nil par value

Equity share capital allotted and fully paid Number US\$000s

2016

2015

(ii) Issued equity share capital

As at 31 December 2015 and 2016 481,117,270 -

The shares rank pari passu and have equal right to dividends and on winding up.

#### **CAPITAL RESERVES**

These reserves represent both warrants and share options issued to date as well as share premium on the issue of share capital.

#### 17. TAXATION

The Group is not subject to tax in the British Virgin Islands. Operations within Nigeria, São Tomé & Príncipe and other jurisdictions are subject to local taxation and where applicable will be included in the financial statements. No tax has arisen in any of the jurisdictions.

#### **18. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

The PSC for EEZ Block 5, signed on the 18 April 2012, provided that Equator Exploration STP Bock 5 Limited commit to a US\$19 million four year work program. This is covered by a US\$5.2 million performance bond provided by Ecobank on behalf of Equator Exploration STP Block 5 Limited without collateral.

#### 19. DIVIDENDS

No dividends have been paid to ordinary shareholders in the year (2015: nil).

#### 20. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

On 24 July 2012 the majority shareholding of 81.53% was transferred from Oando plc to Oando Energy Resources (formerly Exile Resources Inc). The Group is therefore controlled by Oando Energy Resources (registered in Canada) and the ultimate parent company is Oando plc (incorporated in Nigeria). As at 31 December 2016 Oando Energy Resources owns 81.53% of the Group's shares and the remaining 18.47% of the shares are widely held by non-controlling interest.

#### 21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The following transactions were carried out with related parties:

a) There were no sales and purchases with related parties during the year (2015: nil)

# b) Directors Emoluments

|   | US\$000s                    | US\$000s                    |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total Executive and Non Executive Directors' emoluments, including pension, fees and termination benefits   | 118                         | 118                         |
| c) Year end balances held with related parties  | As at 31                    | December                    |
| cy real end balances held with related parties  | 2016<br>US\$000s            | 2015<br>US\$000s            |
| Loan balance from Oando plc (the loan is repayable on demand and bears interest at 16% p.a.)  Amount payable to Oando plc in respect of bank charges incurred on the loan receipts  Loan balance from Oando Servco Nigeria Limited (the loan is repayable on demand and bears interest at 16% p.a.) | (13,459)<br>(12)<br>(6,701) | (12,271)<br>(12)<br>(9,106) |
| Total   | 20,172                      | 21,389                      |

#### 22. GOING CONCERN

During the year ended December 31 2016, the Company incurred a net loss of US\$ 3.1 million (2015: US\$ 3.5 million) and as of that date, the Company's current liabilities exceeded its total assets by US\$ 25.2 million (2015: US\$ 22 million).

These events or conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. However, the directors of Oando Oil Limited, a sister company, have indicated that they will continue to provide the Company with financial support to enable it realise assets and settle its liabilities as and when due in the normal course of business. These financial statements do not include any adjustments that would result from the going concern basis of preparation being inappropriate, accordingly, these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

# 23. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There were no events after the reporting period which could have had a material effect on the financial statements as at December 31, 2016.

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