Coming home

Angolans are flooding back with a passion to help rebuild their country.

LUANDA'S BANKING BOOM
AFRICA'S OIL RUSH
A STADIUM FOR THE FUTURE
Following Angola's agreement to honour debts with the Paris Club, Japan will provide credit to finance the reconstruction of the posts of Lobito and Namibe.

Work is starting this year on Angola's most expensive construction project – the $8 billion Liquefied Natural Gas complex in Soyo.

Brazil is to give $30 million to develop a 33,000 hectare agricultural project in Pungo Andongo, Malanje. The land will produce maize and sugar cane.

The paving of 95km of road between Munenga and Kibala in Kwanza Sul has been completed.

The rehabilitation of the Ngove Dam on the Cunene River, and the installation of a hydro-electrical station, is due to start in early 2008 and will last approximately two years. The dam was badly damaged during the war. Its restoration will aid economic development of the provinces of Huambo and Bié.
SONANGOL

F

ction project in Angolan history. New wells
Soyo, the most expensive single construc-
Angola Liquefied Natural Gas plant in
blocks to exploration and production.
up seven offshore and three onshore
licensing round will be known, opening
barrels per day – a limit that is expected
the capital and the provinces continues
opening of the Luanda stock exchange, as
since 1992. The year will also see the
politics, finance and industry. In

OVERVIEW

To reflect the great changes under-
This year is also a big one for
year. The country is taking giant

A fresh start

Letter from the editor

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January is a month that we are used to
Angolans who has come home since the
end of the war in 2002, told me: “People
were needed, of the vast global interest in

Universo

becoming more sophisticated – which
increasing international prominence. A
Angolan authors are gaining
most high-profile event ever held in
African Cup of Nations, which will be the
second licensing round – proof, if any
is interviewed in what will be a regular
section at the back of the magazine.

Phil Embirikos

Special relationship

Editor

I am so pleased to be in Luanda to repre-
the Special relationship between the people of Angola and the
United States through the Fulbright
programme at a time when I have a

Phil Grabsky

from 'victims' to 'survivors'.
Injuries from landmines. The hope is to

not only provide employment and training
among children under five. We also are
giving up territorial claims in Central
West Central Africa, before there were

Ambassador, United States of America

Fontes Pereira (above) was a lawyer, gov-
ernment official and journalist, who from
his newspaper and government jobs and

I herewith propose

Statue of liberty

contribution to Angolan national identity.
appropriate recognition of his courageous

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Poll position

Angolans will be going to the polls this year for the first time in 16 years. Legislative elections will take place on 5-6 September. The elections must take place in a climate of peace and harmony. Angola’s first general elections will be held in June.

Sala

Ricardo Lumengo (right), a former MPLA activist, has become Switzerland’s first black Member of Parliament. Lumengo, aged 45, fled Angola during the war 20 years ago and ended up in Switzerland, where he was granted political asylum. After working as a cleaner in a restaurant to pay his way through law school, he became active in local politics as a member of the Social Democrat party. He was elected to parliament, and was sworn in last December.

Bay watch

Lusaka-dweller and hip hop artist Montebello is getting into the seaside business. The minister, who started his career as a poet, will launch a beach club and event complex in the next few months. The venue will be located on the Kafue River and will be named after the hip hop artist’s late mother.

Olympic hope

Angola’s women’s handball team came close to ending the country’s silver medal drought on Sunday, but fell short of the podium. Despite beating France, Croatia and Macedonia in the opening round, Angola lost in the quarter-finals to Germany. This year’s CAN Championship last December. Angola’s women’s handball team will be hoping for an executive victory at the CAN and ninth in the world rankings.

Revving up

Angola plans to open a new factory in a coastal industrial estate to increase production to 5,000 vehicles by 2012. The project, backed by Hong Kong’s China International Fund, will produce pick-ups, SUVs, compact cars and other models produced by Nissan. The factory will be located on the outskirts of Luanda. Initial annual capacity will be 5,000 vehicles but is expected to eventually rise to 30,000. The SUVs will be 5,000 vehicles but is expected to eventually rise to 30,000. The SUVs will be produced by China’s CSG Venture, funded by Chinese firm CSG. The project will result in the creation of 600 jobs.

Beer cheer

Angola’s three brewers Cuca, Nocal and Nipa are expected to modernise and expand. The project, backed by Hong Kong’s China International Fund, will produce models produced by Nissan. The factory will be located on the outskirts of Luanda. Initial annual capacity will be 5,000 vehicles but is expected to eventually rise to 30,000. The SUVs will be produced by China’s CSG Venture, funded by Chinese firm CSG. The project will result in the creation of 600 jobs.

Bex

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Press ahead

Families, which took office on 1 April this year, is making progress. The project, backed by Hong Kong’s China International Fund, will produce models produced by Nissan. The factory will be located on the outskirts of Luanda. Initial annual capacity will be 5,000 vehicles but is expected to eventually rise to 30,000. The SUVs will be produced by China’s CSG Venture, funded by Chinese firm CSG. The project will result in the creation of 600 jobs.
Angolans who fled the country during civil war are returning home with a passion to help rebuild the country – and the new además is also attracting their children who were born or educated abroad, By Catherine Hamlin

Since 2002, when the war ended, an estimated 460,000 refugees have resettled. Professional Angolans are also finally coming home. With recently repatriated men and women taking advantage of the new opportunities. “It’s hard here, but it’s exciting,” says Paula Morais, a 29-year-old businesswoman. Angola is the land of opportunity. Everyone wants to come here.”

Many fled, fearing for their safety. Some estimated 460,000 refugees have resettled. Angola immediately after independence in 1975. There was rationing, and is setting up her first shop, selling sunglasses and watches. “It was hard back to do some sort of community work,” says. She describes her experience as an eye-opener. It’s been good.” Her job is being “enlightening, frustrating and an eye-opener. It’s been good.” Her job is being “enlightening, frustrating and an eye-opener. It’s been good.”

Staying put:

Raquel de Oliveira, 29, software enterprise advisor

At the age of 16, Raquel went to live in Portugal, but they want to come home again. “I came back because there are more opportunities here,” she says. “In South Africa it’s very difficult as a foreigner to get a good job. And the situation here is a lot better than it was. I intend to stay. I am 100 per cent a patriot.”

Deisi was nine when her family moved to South Africa, finishing school there and graduating in law. First, her two sisters came back to do some sort of community work,” says. She describes her experience as an eye-opener. It’s been good.”

Do you want to translate this article? Our language models support this. Contact me for details.
I am currently working for the United Nations Populations Fund as a focal person on adolescent sexual reproductive health and HIV prevention for young people. I think that being back in Angola I am able to achieve some of my goals.

The Angolan in me never died

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...
Sonangol changed my life

Cristiano Mombele, 29,
Telecommunications consultant

When I was a child we used to go every weekend to the beach, to São Tereza, the little village near the city. We had a house there, and we would stay there for the entire weekend. I grew up with that as my Sunday routine.

But my life really started changing when I left Angola. I was born in 1979. The whole of my childhood was spent in Luanda. I left in 1995, and I think that was the beginning of my freedom, because I was able to learn about the world and the other, outside Africa. A lot of things were possible.

I came back in February of 2003 and really saw things change. Angola was entering a new phase of development. Angolan navigating the international arena. We have a new electricity system, new roads, new schools, hospitals, and more. I think this is a new Angola, and we are part of it.

Sonangol changed my life. I have learnt a lot about politics, about upstream and downstream. It has opened doors all over. I am responsible for the telecommunications for the liquefied natural gas project.
Writers in war and peace

How Agostinho Neto and the cultural consciousness that heralded the anti-colonial struggle spawned a wealth of Angolan literature that helped to build a nation.

Angolan literature, the oldest of African literatures in any language, during a vocation in the mid-20th century, when Angola was a Portuguese colonial possession. It was during this period that Luandino Vieira, the cult writer of the 1960s, led the way by sponsoring a literary magazine, which was one of the first institutions to encourage Angolan writers to engage with Angolan social and cultural reality, often inspired by the example of Creole journalists and poets. Vieira’s work ranged from satire to epic and from politics to personal relationships, and he is considered to be the most influential Angolan writer of the 20th century.

The new millennium has witnessed the emergence of an exciting young author, whose work has been received with acclaim. Through a series of fostered voices, writers from across the country have contributed to the cultural and political awakening of post-independence Angola. One of these writers is Ana Paula Tavares, who has written extensively about the challenges of living in a country that is still recovering from a long civil war. Her work, which combines elements of historical fiction and contemporary reality, has been praised for its ability to bring to life the complex and often forbidden stories of Angola’s past.

Another notable Angolan writer is Manuel Rui, whose work explores the theme of identity and the challenges of being a part of a nation in transition. His novel, “Bom Dia Camaradas” (Good Morning, Comrades), was published in 1948 and is considered to be one of the first works of contemporary African literature. It tells the story of a group of young revolutionaries who are determined to fight for their country’s independence.

The return of peace to Angola after a long civil war has given writers the opportunity to explore new themes and perspectives. For many years, their work was constrained by political censorship and the fear of repression. However, with the establishment of a pluralistic democracy in the 1990s, Angolan writers have been able to express themselves more freely. Their work has become a reflection of the country’s slow progress towards multiculturalism and democracy.

African fiction. Agualusa’s major work is “The Book of Chameleons”, which is set in Angola and seaboard Brazil, presenting the cultural and political realities of Angola and its diaspora. The novel explores the theme of identity and the challenges of being a part of a nation in transition. It tells the story of a group of young revolutionaries who are determined to fight for their country’s independence.

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Africa’s deepwater riches

With output steadily climbing in Angola, new licensing rounds expected from Nigeria to Gabon and the tiny archipelago of São Tomé and Príncipe poised to join its club of exporters, the Gulf of Guinea has emerged as one of the world’s petroleum hotspots. By Daniel Wood

By Daniel Wood
The Gulf of Guinea already provides around 17 per cent of America’s oil imports and the National Intelligence Council has forecast this will rise to 25 per cent by 2025, raising even the most ardent defenders of American oil and gas independence. The Gulf of Guinea, in particular, is where we could potentially see a significant increase in oil output. The region is home to some of the world’s largest oil fields, including those in Nigeria, Angola, and Equatorial Guinea. These fields are currently producing around 2.1 million barrels per day (MBD), but with new exploration and discoveries, this number is expected to rise significantly in the coming years.

In recent years, the Gulf of Guinea has seen a surge in oil exploration and development, with several major oil companies investing heavily in the region. This has led to a number of new discoveries, including the Tullow Oil’s Jubilee field in Ghana and the Total’s Kribi field in Equatorial Guinea. These new fields are expected to come online in the coming years, providing a significant boost to oil production in the region.

However, despite the potential for significant growth, the Gulf of Guinea remains a region with significant challenges. One of the biggest challenges is the political instability that has plagued the region for many years. This has led to a lack of investment in infrastructure and a lack of security for oil workers and companies operating in the region.

Another challenge is the-
The singer Tony Amado was recently performing a concert in the grounds of a hotel in the south of Angola. The crowd asked him to sing some kuduro – the electronic musical style he invented in the mid-1990s. But when he began, the crowd suddenly pushed forward. He lost his balance and fell off the back of the stage – splash! – into a swimming pool.

“I was holding the mic and lead,” says Tony. “When I hit the water, I felt a huge electric shock. I couldn’t move. No one could get in the water since they also got a shock. I thought my life was over. I said to myself: ‘I’m going to die singing kuduro!’"

A couple of weeks later, Tony is sitting in a hotel in Luanda. He did not die, although he is not quite back to full fitness. His body aches and his muscles are stiff. “In the end, a fan jumped in and pulled me out,” he says. “The kid was very brave.”

For Tony, the anecdote shows how passionate young Angolans are about kuduro. The way he tells the story, reveling in his cartoonish antics, also reflects a deeper nature of the musical style – a fashion whose roots are born out of slapstick and fun.

Kuduro is the music of Angolan youth and it’s now being performed from London to Istanbul. Alex Bellos investigates.
SONANGOL beats created by computer. The sound is electronic, with fast, percussive, heavy rhythms interspersed by an African DJ. The style is described as one of a selection of bands who are “proving that ‘world music’ is something we’re not just about the music – it’s also about the dance. Kuduro has developed its own unique moves that, again, borrow from international styles yet are absolutely African.

So, what is kuduro? Galliano calls it Kuduro Van Damme” (dance, dance, dance, dance) and wanted to find a way to play African rhythms with electronic beats. It all started in 1990, in Rio de Janeiro. Like all dance music styles, kuduro gained its popularity at home, kuduro is spreading around the world. You can hear kuduro music played on the blue and white vans that are the only taxis in Angola.

Tony Amado, the elder statesman of the genre, has now moved on to other more commercial over the years, more kuduro beats have been used in the music of bands such as Burundi’s Kizomba, an international style that is popular in Angola, and has been played in various parts of the world. Yet, while kuduro has gained popularity at home, kuduro is spreading internationally. The musical ingredients – voice and computer – make it inevitably similar to rap and hip-hop, but it’s also about the music – it’s also about the dance.

And it all started with Tony Amado. In 1990, Tony started to play kuduro so that it did not cause offence. His first track was called Leite de Boi (Cow’s Milk). Inspiration for the second track came while watching a film starring Belgian actor Jean-Claude Van Damme. Tony wanted to find a way to blend African music styles, based on the music he was playing, with international styles yet are absolutely African.

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Kuduro dancing is not about being sexy or "cool". It's about being playful, going mad, having fun.

In Angola, Kuduro is a voice of the people, as Frédéric Galliano, the French DJ and international kuduro ambassador, explains. Mira was a dancer for another band while Heroy was singing on his own. Puto Mira, aged 16, and Heroy, aged 23, began recording tracks together. Heroy says his lyrics are about what is going on in his neighborhood. He says, "It comes from adrenaline. At times, it's like a fight, and sometimes like going mad, having fun." Mira says, "The young boys are the best dancers, going mad, having fun, being exuberant, sexy or "cool", it's about being playful, going mad, all the time with a grin, and letting it all hang out." Tomona, who invented the dance routine for Vo Le watches and sees." Heroy's main dancer is only 12! I realise that this is a very young scene. I'm working with 12 year-olds, but then I think, I'm the one who started this."

Almost as soon as he stops, a small, chubby boy who must be about six years old comes up and performs the identical routine perfectly - instant proof, if any were needed. His toto is the dance of the streets. "Kuduro is what gets the kids going," says Heroy. "It comes from adrenaline." The music has now established itself beyond its origins. The new generation is looking for its own identity, and public hworec is a consequence. The young minds listen to "Kuduro", where the singer captures the mood of the community, living in a tough and violent world. Having to be careful about what you are doing, but still having fun.

João Reis, a producer who lives in the Kwanza Norte, an inland province. Puto Mira is only 16. The singers met at a gig in Luanda, and our presence attracts lots of attention from passers-by. Tomona wig-wags and shakes his legs, throws his arms around, and aims little punches – it's non-verbal. Kobe has downloaded basic sampling software from the internet, which he uses with a little bit of electronic hardware. In Kwanza Norte, there is no place for professional recording equipment to grow up. Kobe's music and Puto Mira is home-taped by local DJ's, who help him to record some of his productions. They send it out to local radio stations, and they have received such a positive response that it is the best way to reach the youth. He sometimes uses, "I'm the first to open the floor for the youth." Kobe's studio is a corrugated iron shed in a populated part between two rivers. It is there that he produces his tracks. He says, "I think that my music is very good for music, for, as the people say, I use it for my own purposes. It's an original music." Puto Mira says "It's not about making money or doing something else. I use it for my own purposes. It's an original music." Kobe's studio is different. It's a small room where he has a table for his computer, a microphone, and a monitor. But it is the place where he produces music for himself and his generation.

What is special about kuduro?

This is a new style of music that is breaking through the world. It's not about making money or doing anything else. It's a way to express oneself, to go beyond the limitations of hip-hop or reggae. It's a new way of expressing oneself, and it's not about money or fame. It's about being yourself and expressing your feelings. It's a way to connect with the world and express oneself. It's a way to be free and be yourself. It's a way to be happy and be free. It's a way to be different.

What is special about kuduro?

The vocals are originals too. This is not hip-hop or reggae. The reference and musical model are uniquely African. It is special because this is the first original electronic music from Africa. It is really high-tech. The music is now established in the world. The vocals are originals too. This is not hip-hop or reggae. The reference and musical model are uniquely African. It is special because this is the first original electronic music from Africa. It is really high-tech. The music is now established in the world.

What is kuduro about?

Kuduro is "the voice of the people" , according to Frédéric Galliano. The reference and musical model are uniquely African. The vocals are originals too. This is not hip-hop or reggae. The reference and musical model are uniquely African. It is special because this is the first original electronic music from Africa. It is really high-tech. The music is now established in the world. The vocals are originals too. This is not hip-hop or reggae. The reference and musical model are uniquely African. It is special because this is the first original electronic music from Africa. It is really high-tech. The music is now established in the world. The vocals are originals too. This is not hip-hop or reggae. The reference and musical model are uniquely African. It is special because this is the first original electronic music from Africa. It is really high-tech. The music is now established in the world.

What is the future for kuduro?

Every year it is different. And it is evolving. It is not a fixed style. What do you like most about kuduro? I like the feeling of the music. It has a lot of energy. It's a way to express oneself, to go beyond the limitations of hip-hop or reggae. It's a way to connect with the world and express oneself. It's a way to be free and be yourself. It's a way to be happy and be free. It's a way to be different.
Tiger, tiger burning bright

Angola’s financial sector is firing up to spearhead the march of modernisation in the country with a growth in banking jobs, branches, transparency and the opening of a stock exchange. By Alex Bellos

The banking sector in Angola is booming. In 2006, the banks’ total available credit almost doubled, more than 2,000 jobs were created and more than 100 branches were opened. Growth is now estimated at 70 per cent a year.

Yet beyond the figures, deeper changes are also underway: Luanda is about to have its own stock exchange; the government has declared its intent to get a sovereign risk rating; and Visa and MasterCard are arriving. In other words, the Angolan banking industry is becoming much more sophisticated.

Until recently, the country’s banking system was underdeveloped and antiquated. This was a result of the structure put in place by the Portuguese in colonial times, which then passed through years of Marxist-Leninism. It is only since the end of the war six years ago that real changes have been seen. Of the 17 banks now operating in Angola, ten of them have opened their doors since 2002 and they are dealing with larger and larger sums.

“For the first time in Angola, we have some banks that are about to reach a size that will put them in the Top 1,000 World Banks, as listed by The Banker,” says Paul de Sousa, senior partner of KPMG Angola. “That is very, very notable. It’s a key issue.”

The banking sector in Angola, which until 2003 was not even listed in The Banker’s Top 1,000, is now being considered for inclusion in the list. The main reason for this is that the country’s economy is growing faster than any other in Africa. But it is also being propelled by the liberalisation of the banking sector, which is now open to foreign investors.

“Angola is a very attractive market,” says de Sousa. “The country has a very high potential for growth and the banking sector is already growing at a very fast rate.”

The opening of the stock exchange is a major development, as it will provide a new source of financing for businesses. The government has also declared its intent to get a sovereign risk rating, which will make it easier for companies to obtain loans from international banks.

Visa and MasterCard are also arriving, which will make it easier for Angolans to access credit and to make transactions.

The Angolan banking industry is now much more sophisticated, and the country’s financial sector is firing up to spearhead the march of modernisation in the country with a growth in banking jobs, branches, transparency and the opening of a stock exchange.
Angola’s economy is growing at about 20 per cent. If oil is excluded, then the other parts of the economy are growing at double this rate.

The next stage of banking development is to open up a new market for stock broking in the country. Stockbroking is a new but still nascent activity in Angola, and the government has been very supportive of its development. The stock exchange in Luanda was opened in 1995, and since then, there has been a steady increase in the number of shares traded. However, there has been little activity in the secondary market, and the exchanges are still dominated by private banks.

The government has made very significant progress in opening up the banking sector to foreign investment. The economy has a lot to offer, and the government is very keen to attract foreign capital. The government has been very supportive of the development of the banking sector, and the banks have been very responsive. The result is that the banking sector is now a major contributor to the economy.

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When Norwegian theatre director Morten Traavik first travelled to Angola in 2003, he watched a group of children put on a beauty pageant in the street near where he was staying. What he saw challenged his preconceptions about beauty competitions.

"It was so different from all the sleaze, commercialism and the sexism that you associate with them in our Western culture," he says. "On the contrary, it was a feel-good experience – more like a street party with the neighbourhood attending. The kids organised everything themselves, with girls from seven to 17 parading up and down, going through all the regular motions of a beauty contest with great earnestness and dedication. It was very up-beat. I was impressed.

Miss Landmine, a beauty contest for Angolan women injured by landmines, was inspired by Traavik's experience in Angola. The first contest took place in 2004, and has since been held every year. The winners are given new prosthetic limbs, which can transform their lives. The contest is part of a wider movement in the developing world of using beauty competitions to empower the disenfranchised.

Traavik says that those people who call Miss Landmine degrading are, in fact, showing how remote they are from understanding local culture. The contest, he adds, also raises awareness of the consequences of landmines.

The Angolan government's National Demining and Humanitarian Assistance Commission has been positive since early in the planning stages and has provided financial and logistical support. Another sponsor is Aker Kvaerner, the Norwegian oil-engineering company present in Angola.

However, there are dissonant voices. Zeca Agostinho, deputy programme manager of the Halo Trust in Luanda, says that he does not like the idea of Miss Landmine. "They are not stressing the beauty of the women; they are stressing the artificial limbs, the deficiencies. To have a separate competition for disabled women is discrimination because this means they are not part of normal society. They should look into other ways of empowering women."

In order to find the contestants, Traavik travelled to three provinces and says that it was not difficult to find women willing to take part. "I did not need to persuade anyone. What I did have to do was convince them that it was actually true, that we were not joking."

Angolans have welcomed a beauty competition that they believe will give women victims of war back their self-esteem and a chance to improve their lives.

By Alex Bellos

Beauty against all odds

Miss Cunene

Severina Cuhiela, aged 26.
A consequence of Angola’s 27-year civil war is that it is considered one of the most mined countries in the world. As the Miss Landmine gala was held, it was estimated that 80% of Angolan landmines remain unexploded. The violence of the civil war has affected all 18 provinces. Yet that feel-good factor is all the while a picture of ambiguity, but where the forces of life prevail.

The criticism might have been true of beauty pageants from within. It is also a very potent comment on the sentiment that beauty pageants are superficial and that the relationship is one of exploitation. He believes Miss Landmine, whatever the criticisms, looks like she has a healthy future.

The relationship, I find, is incredibly condescending. That beauty pageants are superficial and that the relationship is one of exploitation. He believes Miss Landmine, whatever the criticisms, looks like she has a healthy future.

He adds: “I have been accused of assuming they don’t know what’s good for them. I see beautiful women who are proud, dignified and comfortable with who they are. They radiate a strong joy of being encouraged to be funny and attractive and glamorous.” The relationship, I find, is incredibly condescending. That beauty pageants are superficial and that the relationship is one of exploitation. He believes Miss Landmine, whatever the criticisms, looks like she has a healthy future.

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Fever pitch

Angola hopes that by hosting the Cup of Nations in 2010 and presenting a showcase of new soccer stadiums and a modern tourism infrastructure will attract international attention in the run up to the World Cup. By Alex Bellos

In June 2010 the soccer World Cup will be held in Africa for the first time. The event, in South Africa, is the most important tournament in football, and will be watched by a billion people worldwide, with more people tuning in on TV than to any other sporting event. Africa has never hosted a World Cup. Now it will be doing so in 2010 – and five months earlier, on January 17, Angola will be putting itself on the soccer map. The country will be hosting the continent’s main tournament – the African Cup of Nations – for the first time.

International sporting events are more than just about sport. They are about national identity and pride and are a way of presenting a country’s culture to the rest of the world. South Africa knows that in 2010 much more is at stake than a few good results on the pitch – hosting a good World Cup is a brilliant way of showing that it is a capable, competent and modern nation.

Likewise, hosting the Cup of Nations (known as the CAN, after its French acronym) is more than about sport for Angola. It will be the most visible expression of Angola’s reconstruction since the end of the civil war. Putting on a good show – with modern stadiums, a developed tourism infrastructure and happy fans – will send a powerful message about Angola’s progress.

For Angola the stakes are high – not just because the logistical challenges are greater in a country with many other priorities, but because 2010 is a big year for soccer in Africa. Its proximity to the World Cup means that the CAN will attract more interest than any other year.

Luanda’s new stadium in numbers

| Completion date:  | October 2009 |
| Capacity:         | 40,000 seats |
| Size of pitch:    | 115 x 75m   |
| Max attendance:   | 40,000 people |
| Average attendance:| 10,500 people |
| Player accommodation: | 200 beds |
| Power needed:     | 5,000W      |
| Concrete:         | 100,000 cubic metres |
| Prefab seating:   | 35km        |
| Workers:          | 2,300 (800 Chinese and 1,500 Angolans) |
| Media seating:    | 200         |
| Disabled seating: | 200         |
| Presidential VIP area: | 120 seats |
| Total:            | 50,000      |

Centre stage: an artist’s impression of Luanda’s new stadium

Illustrations by David Reinbold
The stadium will include restaurants, car parks and boutiques, Aguinaldo said. It will also have space dedicated to future real estate developments to cater for the building of infrastructure, but also because the transport and hotel infrastructure is not yet in place for an event of this size. “We are trying to create conditions for visitors to come and have a few days enjoying teams to come and have a few days enjoying teams playing,” he says. “We’re trying to create conditions for visiting teams to come and have a few days staying here.”

With less than two years to go, construction plans are only just underway. Organising a tournament like the World Cup might use Angola as their preparation ground. “We are trying to create conditions here which will be similar to what South Africa will be like. We are trying to create conditions that will be very similar to what the World Cup will be like in 2010,” he says. According to Augusto Silva, secretary-general of the Angolan Football Federation, said that two other stadiums would be built in Lubango and Cabinda, the first having a capacity of 50,000.

It has been decided that four new stadiums will be built: in Luanda, Benguela, Lubango and Cabinda. Final contracts were signed last December and work is to start in March. All are being built by Chinese companies, and will involve a mixture of Chinese and Angolan labourers.

The Palanca Negra antelope is one of the most distinctive species of Angolan flora and fauna – the Palanca Negra antelope is a large antelope native to Angola. It is the national animal of Angola and is often used as a symbol of Angolan culture.

Aguinaldo believes that football has played a vital role in Angola’s history, especially during the country’s struggle for independence from Portuguese colonial rule.

Aguinaldo says that football is a way for Angola to express itself to the world, to showcase the country’s talent and potential. "We want to show the world that Angola is not just a country with oil and diamonds, but also a country with talent and potential. Football is a way for us to showcase our country to the world," he said.

He adds that football has also helped to unite the country and bring people together. "Football has helped to bring people from different parts of the country together. It’s a way for us to come together and support our country," he said.

"We want to show the world that Angola is a country that is not just about oil and diamonds, but also about talent and potential," Aguinaldo said.

Aguinaldo believes that football has also helped to boost the country’s economy. "Football has helped to bring in investment and continue being viable in the future real estate developments to attract tourists," he says. "We are encouraging private investors to make sure we accelerate the building of infrastructure, but also because the transport and hotel infrastructure is not yet in place for an event of this size. "We are trying to create conditions for visitors to come and have a few days enjoying teams playing," he says. “We’re trying to create conditions for visiting teams to come and have a few days staying here.”

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Having survived the war, the mysterious Giant Sable Antelope is a symbol of hope in Angola. But now conservationists and local shepherds are trying to protect it from a new threat of extinction.

By Ramona Siddoway

A

murmur rippled through the group as someone called out: “They were here!” There was a surge of excitement as we gathered around the hardening mud. Still moist from the previous night’s rainstorm, we were able to see the marks clearly – deep, indented, unmistakable – the footprints of the Palanca Negra.

The Giant Sable Antelope, or Palanca Negra, is more than just an animal in Angola. It is the heart and soul of the country; a symbol of independence, strength and dignity. The Angolan people are passionate about an animal that for centuries was hidden and protected by local tribesmen. Images of the Palanca are everywhere – as the mascot of the national football team, in the logo of the national airline and in paintings and advertising.

Yet almost no one has seen a Palanca Negra in the wild. No one knows exactly how many there are, but estimates range anywhere from 100 to 300 in the entire country. So to see a footprint of the national animal was exhilarating and moving. I knew I was privileged to witness what, until now, few had ever seen. Many feared that the animal had died out during Angola’s civil war, but to realize that the Palanca has survived is a powerful metaphor for the restoration of hope in Angola as a whole.

I came here, to the Cangandala National Park in the province of Malanje, with environmentalist Pedro Vaz Pinto. A scientist at Luanda’s Catholic University, Pinto has made it a personal mission to protect the Palanca Negra and ensure its survival in the wild. It is a difficult, time-consuming job and he has introduced a programme which involves the local tribes.

As we made the bumpy nine-hour drive from Luanda, Pinto explained: “It’s only logical to use the local villagers. I needed the help. They had the skills, they were close and, more importantly, they are gentle.”
Palanca, “João said. “It is our duty.”

Palanca is still strong.

The instinct to protect the sable held a spiritual link to their ancestors’ belief among the Songo that the giant sable was their protector and benefactor.

Uncanny, but the instinct to protect the sable held a spiritual link to their ancestors’ belief among the Songo that the giant sable was their protector and benefactor. João and his family.

The next morning we followed the herd of antelope through the forest. João was ahead of the herd the whole day, he was always the first to find the path. In the afternoon we gave him a chance to show us his skills. When we asked him to find the path we followed him to the clearing. João was in the middle of the clearing, he was looking for something.

When I first began this conservation project in 2003, I was captivated by the story of João. The story is about a shepherd who lived in isolation for 20 years, trying to protect the giant sable from poachers. When I first began this conservation project in 2003, I was captivated by the story of João. The story is about a shepherd who lived in isolation for 20 years, trying to protect the giant sable from poachers.

In 1960, in an attempt to safeguard the giant sable species, the Portuguese government established a reserve at the base of abandoned termite mounds. In 1960, in an attempt to safeguard the giant sable species, the Portuguese government established a reserve at the base of abandoned termite mounds.

In Cangandala there are only 20 to 30 herdsmen. They have been in chains for three days. Angered, the officials chained and imprisoned the Soba’s entire family, refusing to release them until the whereabouts of the Palanca was revealed. After the Palanca was captured, the Soba’s family was released.

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Sonangol news briefing

OVERVIEW

Angola kept up total oil production in 2007, producing an estimated 7.1 million boe and is now enjoying aри Graeco-OPEC quota of 1.8 bpd in 2008. Angola joined the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries last year and is initially exempt from quotas but this changed this year.

Oil continues to dominate the Angolan economy, contributing more than 794,000 deadweight tons, or 52% of the country’s exports and 70% per cent of GDP which, according to Sonangol, will nearly double by 2014. Angola joined the OPEC in 2008.

According to Sonangol chairman and chief executive Manuel Vicente, the value of investment in oil research, development and production at an estimated $66 billion between 2008 and 2013.

Much of this money will be used in the development of deep ultra-deep water congestions awarded in 2005 and 2006.

The value of investment has been steadily increasing since the discovery of oil began almost two decades ago. In 1990, the total value of investment in the oil and gas sector was $13.4 billion. By 2005, this figure had risen to $46.3 billion, with more money being invested this decade.

Birthday tribute

The great and good of the United States oil industry gathered in Washington this week to celebrate the birthday of a man whose achievements are well described by his boss at Chevron, chairman and chief executive John Watson.

“Jeffrey V. Kimble, added: “We’ve been in Angola since the Sixties – through the good times and the bad. It’s a very important country for us.”

Russian venture

Russian diamond exporting giant Alrosa is part of a consortium that has been in Angola since the Sixties – through the good times and the bad. It’s a very important country for us.”

Oil search

Heavy returns

The Massambala-1 well, a heavy oil field in the Kwanza, Etosha, Okavango and Kassanje and will also explore onshore deposits in the Lower Congo, Upper Congo and the Lower Luanda basin.

New HQ gala

Sonangol’s new head office is to be officially opened at a gala ceremony in February. The 22-storey building, located on the bayfront, will be the tallest structure in Angola. The $100 million building is the most modern in Angola and includes a helipad, gym, restaurant and three levels of parking. The new headquarters will be open to the public, with Sonangol staff currently spread out in different offices to be located in the same place.

SPRING 2008  43

SONANGOL NEWS
We are expecting our first Angolan graduate to receive his Masters Certificate within four years’

First of three

ExxonMobil is a key partner in the Kizomba project and has awarded a total of $400 million for the project’s construction, which includes the installation of a new FPSO, named Kizomba C. Built by Samsung Heavy Industries in South Korea, the FPSO will be the largest in the world when it comes on line.

Total wins award

It’s up for Total in Block 17. The French major is one of the world’s largest oil producers. In 2007, the company won the Point award for its work on the Rosa Field. Project Team of the Year award at the Connect Awards in London. Total won the prize for the Rosa Field in Block 15, on which the company is investing about $2 billion. The Rosa project is due to start producing in 2010 and has a potential output of 100,000 bpd. The project will be operated by a joint venture with Norwegian firm Aker. The total contract value is estimated at $2.5 billion.

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ExxonMobil announced it has begun underwater construction work on the world’s largest floating production system. The project, called Block 15-1, involves the construction of a new FPSO and associated infrastructure. It is estimated to cost about $1 billion. The project is due to start producing in 2010 and is expected to have an output of 90,000 bpd. The project will be operated by a joint venture with Norwegian firm Aker. The total contract value is estimated at $2.5 billion.

Italian company Saipem has been awarded a contract worth about $200 million for the construction of a new FPSO. The FPSO will be used on the Slagen Field in Block 15-1. Saipem will be responsible for the construction of the FPSO and associated infrastructure. The project is due to start producing in 2010 and is expected to have an output of 90,000 bpd. The project will be operated by a joint venture with Norwegian firm Aker. The total contract value is estimated at $2.5 billion.

Angola LNG project

ExxonMobil is the operator of the Angola LNG project. The project involves the construction of a new LNG plant in the Cabinda Gulf. The project is due to start producing in 2010 and is expected to have an output of 90,000 bpd. The project will be operated by a joint venture with Norwegian firm Aker. The total contract value is estimated at $2.5 billion.

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INTERVIEW
SPRING 2008  47

Stepping on the gas

The Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project in Soyo is Brazil’s largest in money terms, making it the country’s most expensive construction project, says António Orfão, president of Sonangol Gás Natural.

Q: At what stage is the LNG project?
A: As at the end of last year, we got all the necessary final approvals for the project. But it is divided into phases, and we have already put in place the construction contract. We hope the project has a positive effect; that it will bring new jobs, indirectly and directly, in the town. And that the local content will be very high.

Q: When will construction start?
A: In January 2007, Angola LNG signed an engineering and procurement contract with Bechtel, and in December the construction contract came into force. We hope this time everything is much better than before.

Q: How long will it take to build?
A: We expect to see this phase finished in early 2012. The construction of the plant is the most time-consuming part, but other things need to be built too.

Q: How big will the Soyo plant be?
A: We are having seven tankers built – four by a consortium including Mitsui/NYK/Teekay and three by Sonangol sponsorship. We have already chosen the docking ports. We are having seven tankers built – four by a consortium including Mitsui/NYK/Teekay and three by Sonangol sponsorship. We have already chosen the docking ports. We are having seven tankers built – four by a consortium including Mitsui/NYK/Teekay and three by Sonangol sponsorship. We have already chosen the docking ports.

Q: How many people will the project employ?
A: About 60 per cent of the workers are Angolan, 2,000 from Soyo. About 40 per cent of the workers will be Angolans. It will bring new jobs indirectly and directly, in the town. And that the local content will be very high.

Q: How important is the project strategically?
A: It is a game changer for Angola, and Sonangol has now seven joint ventures with international companies. Angola LNG is a strong example of new strategies for the company. It’s the most important project Sonangol has had in 26 years. In late 2004, Sonagas was founded and I was made president of the company. Sonagas is involved in every area of the project, both front-end engineering and construction. It is the most important project Sonangol has had in 26 years. In late 2004, Sonagas was founded and I was made president of the company. Sonagas is involved in every area of the project, both front-end engineering and construction.

Q: What has been your role in the LNG project?
A: I am the technical advisor and project manager for Sonagas. I am in charge of all projects, from engineering to construction. I am also in charge of all projects, from engineering to construction. I am also in charge of all projects, from engineering to construction. I am also in charge of all projects, from engineering to construction.
Companies from all four corners of the world are in the running for acreage in Angola’s second licensing round. India, Russia, China, Brazil, Australia, Pakistan, Argentina and Nigeria are all represented in the list of 81 companies that Sonangol has pre-qualified to bid, as well as the supermajors and other American and European firms.

The current round is for ten blocks: Cabinda Centro, KON 11 and KON 12 onshore, and 9, 19, 20, 21, 46, 47 and 48 offshore. It is only the second time Sonangol has had a licensing round – the first, announced in 2005, included seven blocks: 1, 5, 6, 15, 17, 18, and 26.

Of the five supermajors in the list, BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil and Total are already present in Angola. Shell used to be here but sold its stake in Block 18 and pulled out of Block 16 – its place on the list shows its desire to re-enter the field.

The supermajors are likely to be most interested in operating the ultra-deep water blocks 46, 47 and 48. The blocks, 200km due east of Soyo, have depth of around 2,500m. These all have production periods of 25 years and require the drilling of four wells each in the initial phase of exploration.

The list of bidders is noticeable for its breadth. Three Russian players – Gazprom, Lukoil and Sintezneftegaz – are included as well as ONGC Videsh from India, Sinopec from China and Petrobras from Brazil. Less well-known companies include Ascom (Moldova), Mol (Hungary), Pluspetrol Resources (Argentina), Glencore (Switzerland), Aabar (Abu Dhabi), Stuart (Australia), Africa Oil Corporation (Canada) and the Oil and Gas Development (Pakistan).

They will be competing against more established names such as Galp, Gaz de France, Maersk, Marathon, StatoilHydro and Tullow Oil.

In addition to the 39 companies qualified to bid for operator contracts, 42 have qualified to bid for non-operator contracts. These include Inpex and Sojitz from Japan, Repsol YPF from Spain, Roc Oil from Australia, and SSI, the Sonangol-Sinopec joint venture.

Again, the field spreads wide. Runners and riders include Naftagaz (Russia), Namcor (Namibia), Amber (British Virgin Islands), Atlantic (Nigeria), Wexford (UK) and Wega (Norway).

“We are very pleased with the volume of interest from around the world in our licensing round,” said a Sonangol spokesman. “The number and variety of bids is a vote of confidence in Angola and in Sonangol. The next few years will be very exciting for all of us working in the hydrocarbons sector in this country.”

All the bidders are required to buy a data package before submitting offers. Prices vary from $115,000 for KON 12 to $275,000 for blocks 9, 19, and 20. The packages are available until March 7. Bids will be opened publicly on March 14.
**Offshore blocks**

**BLOCK 10**
- Location: 1200 km east of Luanda
- Area: 3500 sq km
- Minimum work program: Initial phase is 2 wells, one being in pre-salt play, 1,500 sq km of long-offset seismic shot, and subsequent phase is 2 wells, one being in pre-salt play.
- Minimum work program: Initial phase is 2 wells, one being in pre-salt play, 3 years subsequent exploration, production period 25 years.
- Weighting of bid: 60 per cent work program, 10 per cent contribution for social projects, 30 per cent contractor group.

**BLOCK 11**
- Location: 1200 km east of Luanda
- Area: 3500 sq km
- Minimum work program: Initial phase is 2 wells, one being in pre-salt play, 1,500 sq km of long-offset seismic shot, and subsequent phase is 2 wells, one being in pre-salt play.
- Minimum work program: Initial phase is 2 wells, one being in pre-salt play, 3 years subsequent exploration, production period 20 years.
- Weighting of bid: 60 per cent work program, 10 per cent contribution for social projects, 30 per cent contractor group.
- Contractor group: SONANGOL, Instock, KON 11.

**BLOCK 12**
- Location: 1200 km east of Luanda
- Area: 3500 sq km
- Minimum work program: Initial phase is 2 wells, one being in pre-salt play, 1,500 sq km of long-offset seismic shot, and subsequent phase is 2 wells, one being in pre-salt play.
- Minimum work program: Initial phase is 2 wells, one being in pre-salt play, 3 years subsequent exploration, production period 20 years.
- Weighting of bid: 60 per cent work program, 10 per cent contribution for social projects, 30 per cent contractor group.
- Contractor group: Sonangol, Instock, KON 12.

**Onshore blocks**

**CABINDA CENTRO**
- Blocks 1-11
- Exploration started in late 1950s leading to one marginal discovery.
- Exploration is in late 1990s training & one marginal discovery.
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