

APRIL 2025



# OVERLOOKING VALUE?

## AN OPTIMIZED APPROACH TO REVITALIZE MATURE FIELDS

---

Indira Saripally, Reservoir Engineering Senior Advisor

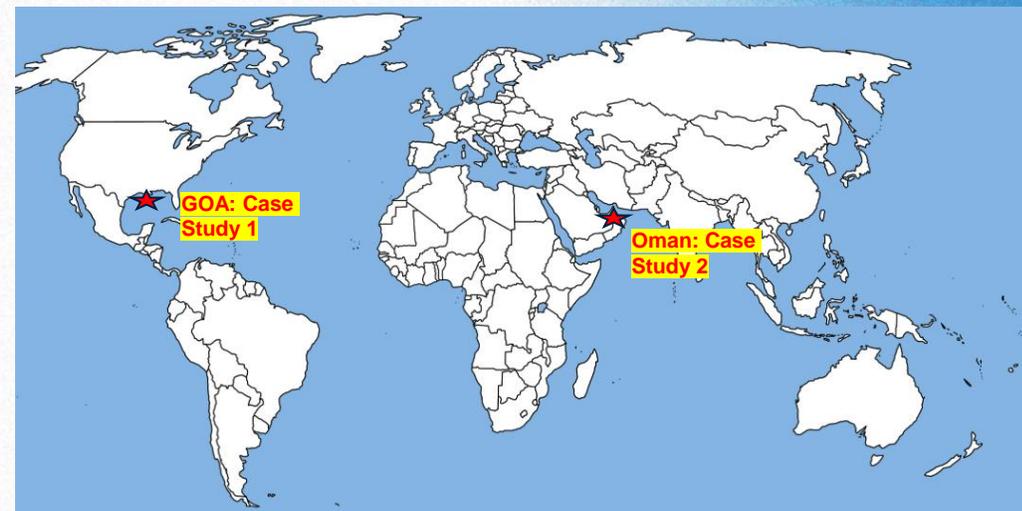
# AGENDA

## Mature fields

- **Defining maturity**
- **Challenges**
- **Importance**

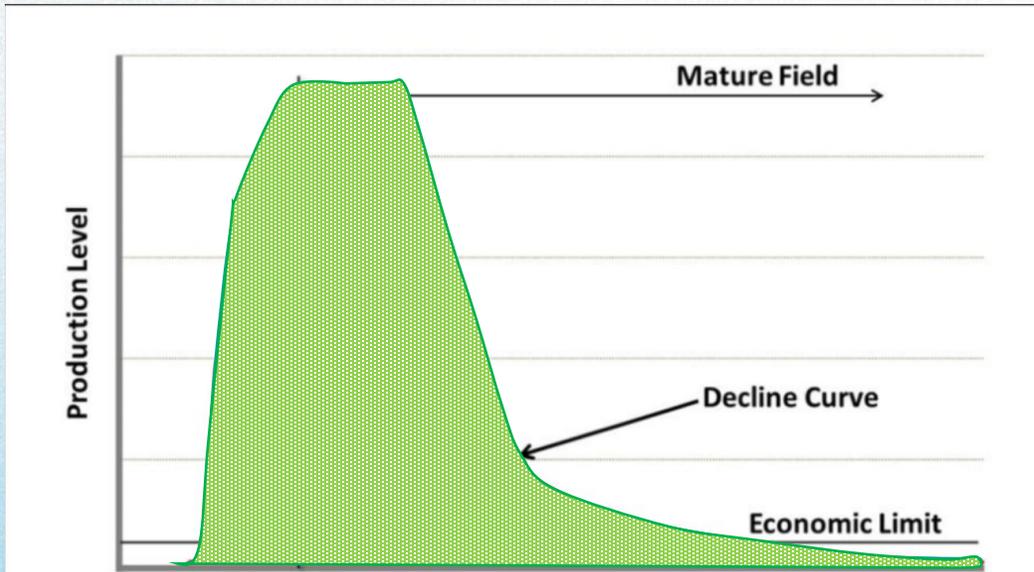
## Case studies: Onshore and Offshore fields

- **Field background**
- **Examples of revitalizing activities**
  - **Increasing efficiencies**
  - **Using new technology**
  - **Managing risks**
  - **Continuously refining field planning**



# MATURE FIELDS - FIELDS PAST “PEAK” PRODUCTION

3



## Criteria for mature field definition

- Reached production plateau
- Entered significant declining production phase
- Depleted primary and/or secondary reserves
- Reached end of economic life

## Putting in context

- Drive mechanism: Reached acceptable recovery factors
- Onshore vs. Offshore: Onshore fields have longer production life

**Maturity is NOT a function of number of wells**

**Maturity  $\neq$  Years of production**

# LIFE CYCLE OF MATURE FIELDS - EXPLORATION TO ABANDONMENT

## • Exploration phase

- Drill exploratory and appraisal wells
- Seismic acquisition

## • Development phase

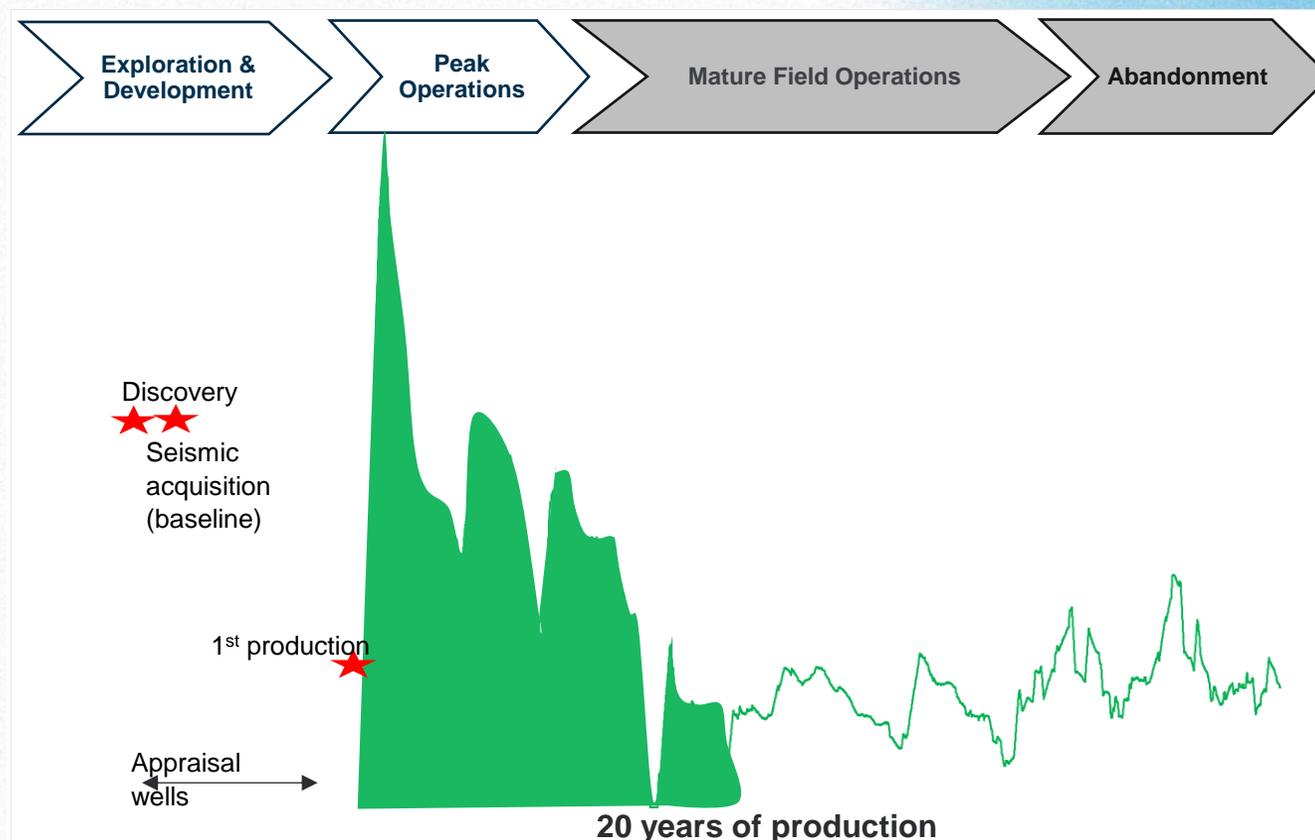
- Field development planning (FDP)
- Engineering design & construction

## • Production phase

- Drill and complete wells
- Continue field development planning
- Mature/brownfield operations
- Life extension activities

## • Abandonment

- Plug and abandon wells
- Decommission facilities/platform\*



**FDP is an iterative process triggered by  
new data, operator transfers, oil price fluctuations**

\*Applies to offshore fields

# LIFE CYCLE OF MATURE FIELDS - EXPLORATION TO ABANDONMENT

## • Exploration phase

- Drill exploratory and appraisal wells
- Seismic acquisition

## • Development phase

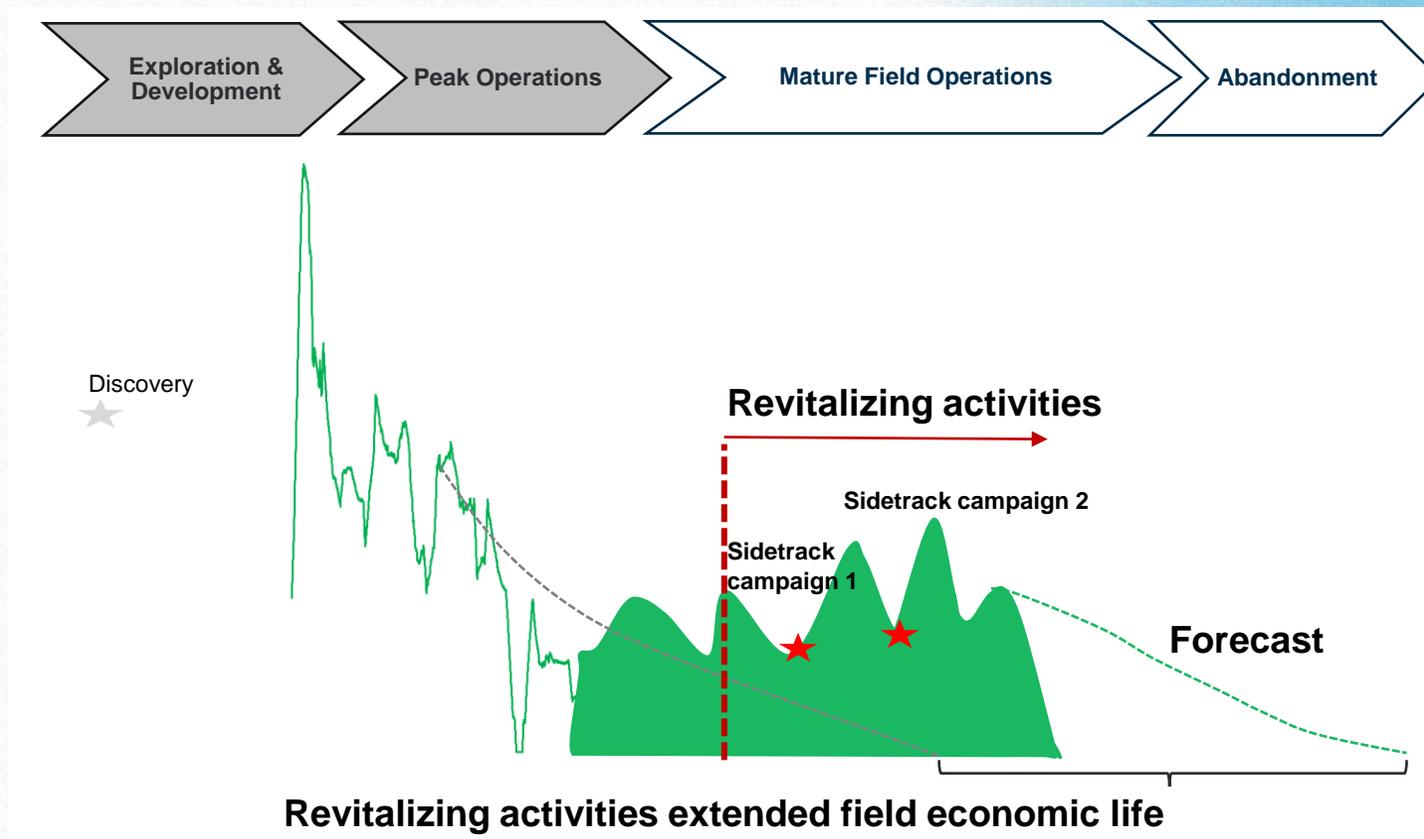
- Field development planning
- Engineering design & construction

## • Production phase

- Drill and complete wells
- Continue field development planning
- Mature/brownfield operations
- Life extension activities

## • Abandonment

- Plug and abandon wells
- Decommission facilities/platform\*



\*Applies to offshore fields

# OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES - ACT OF BALANCING

- “Easy oil” is gone
- Day-to-day operations run under constraints
- Upkeep of aging platform
- Data management
- Outdated infrastructure
- Higher carbon intensity



# WHAT'S THE PRIZE?? \$\$\$



## Big share in the pie

Mature oil fields account for ~2/3<sup>rd</sup> of world's oil production\*



## Free cash flow

Projects are beyond breakeven point



## Returns come at lower risk

Fewer uncertainties  
Efficiencies established through repeatability



**Free cash flow relies on optimization and innovation**

# **CASE STUDY – GULF OF AMERICA (GOA) HIGHER MARGIN PRODUCTION**

## **Field background**

## **Example of revitalizing activities**

- **Increasing efficiencies**
- **Using new technology**
- **Managing risks**

## GOM FIELD OVERVIEW

- 20 years of production and injection
- Water depth ~4,500'
- High-quality sands
- Compartmentalization within sands
- Dry tree wells
- Depleted reservoirs

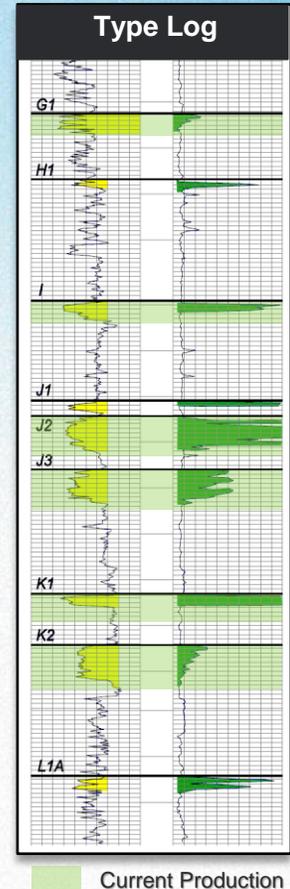
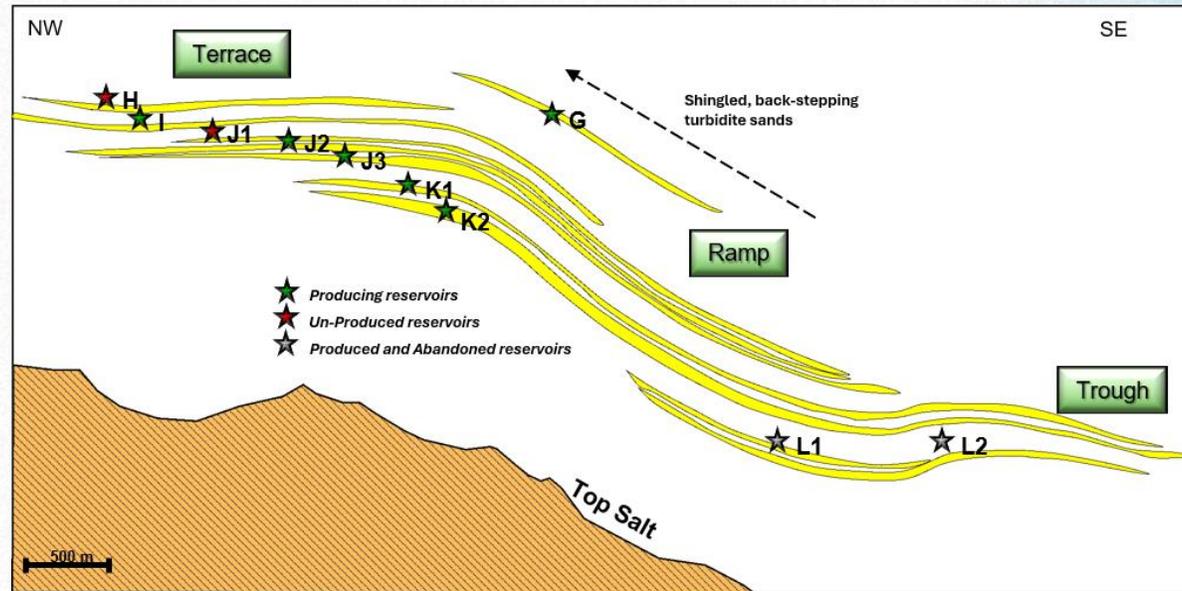


Field located in northern GOA

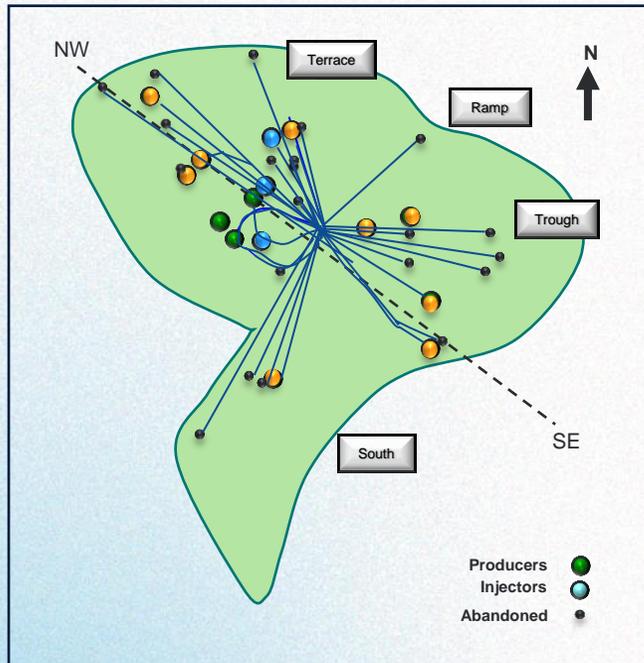
# HIGH-QUALITY, STACKED SANDS

- Pliocene-aged, high-density turbidite sands
- Reservoirs above salt
- Varied drive mechanisms

Location	Drive Mechanism	Recovery
Terrace/Ramp	Depletion with water injection	40-55%
Trough	Moderate aquifer	30-40%
South	Strong aquifer	>50%

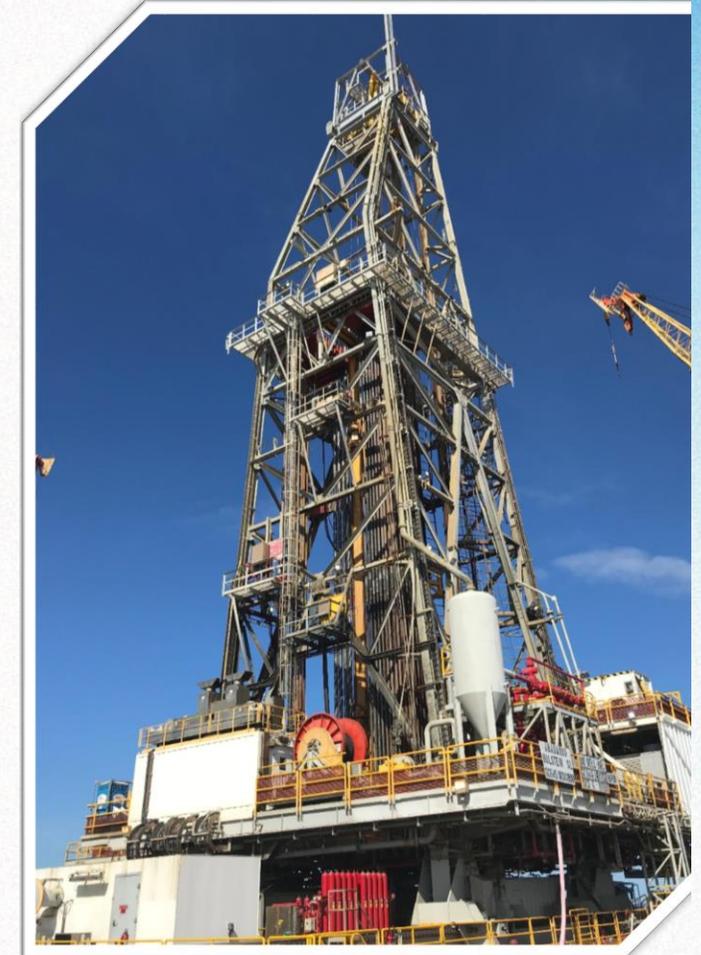
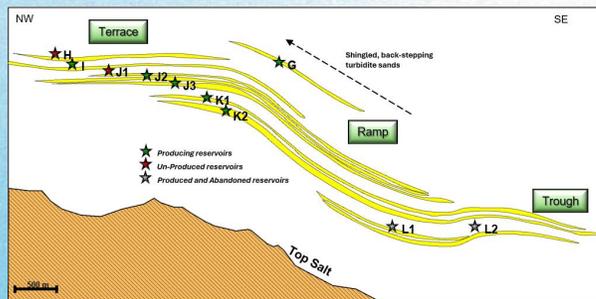


# DRY TREE WELLS & PLATFORM DRILLING RIG - SUCCESSFUL MULTIYEAR DRILLING PROGRAM



## Field Development History

- Multiple operators through time
- Dry tree wells
- Platform drilling rig
- Sidetrack using existing wellbore

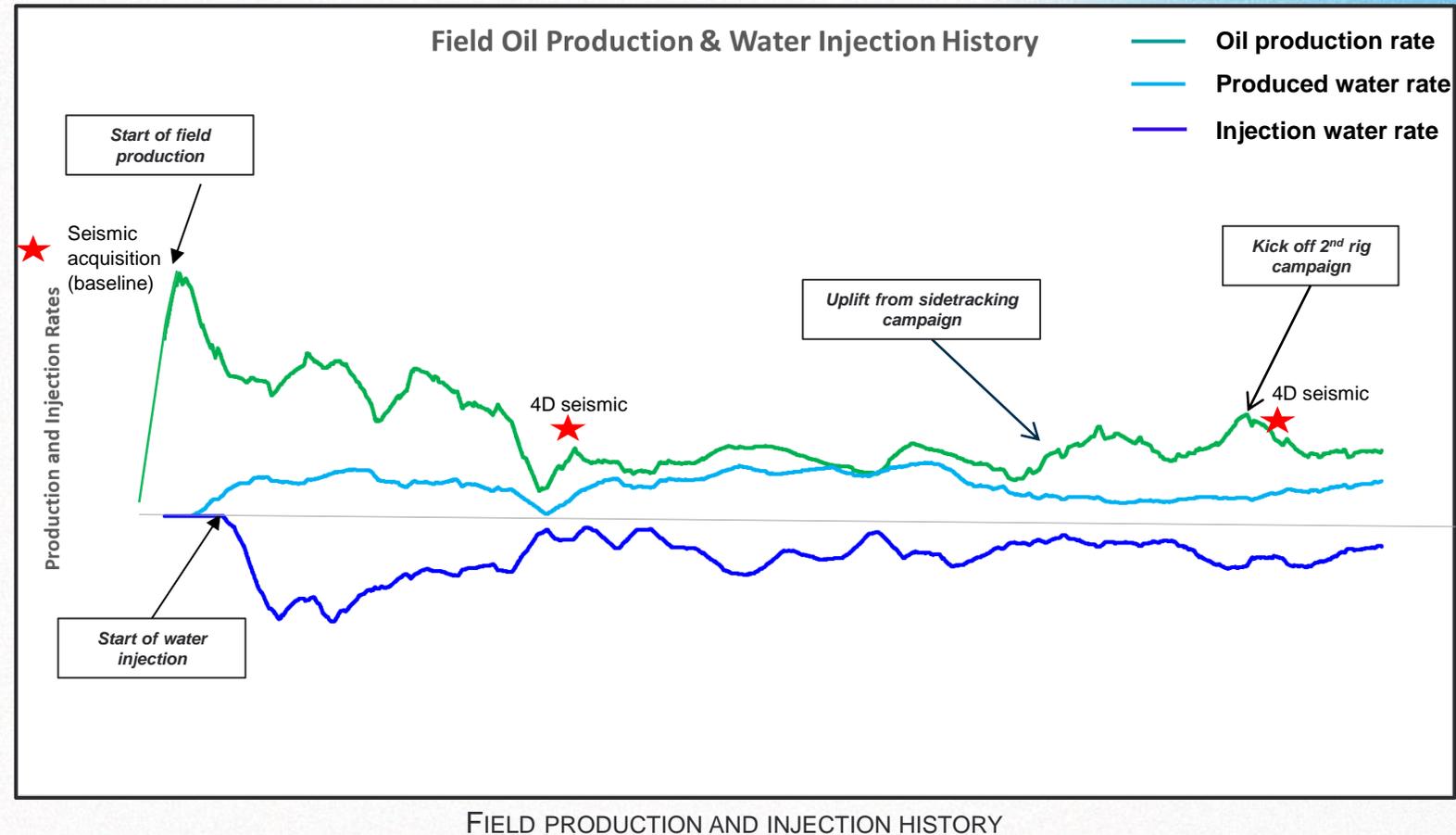


PLATFORM RIG USED TO DRILL DRY TREE WELLS

# SUCCESSFULLY WATERFLOODED

## Production History

- Production from 6 sands
- Injecting in 3 sands
- 40+ wells drilled
- Wells are on gas lift



# WHAT KEEPS IT INTERESTING - CHALLENGES

Low productivity wells

Depleted sands

Compartmentalization

Asphaltene, paraffin, and scale management

Corrosion and mechanical integrity management

Maxed out wellbore utilization



# WHAT KEEPS IT INTERESTING – ENABLERS

Dry trees and platform rig

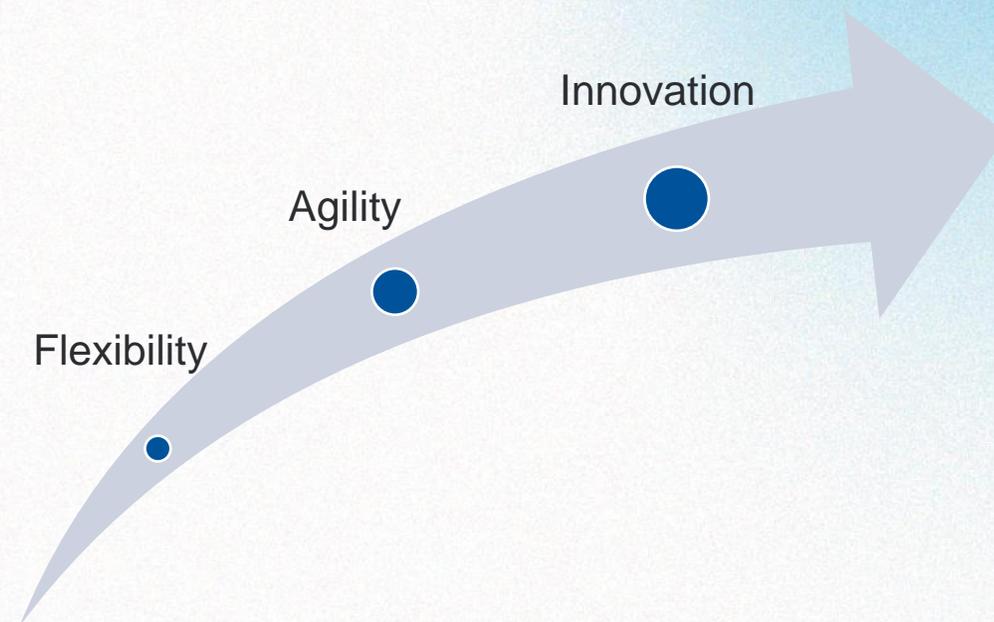
No top sides constraints on surface capacity

Efficient waterflood

Multiple 4D seismic monitors acquired

Highly efficient multiyear infield exploration

Pushing boundaries: Implementing innovative solutions



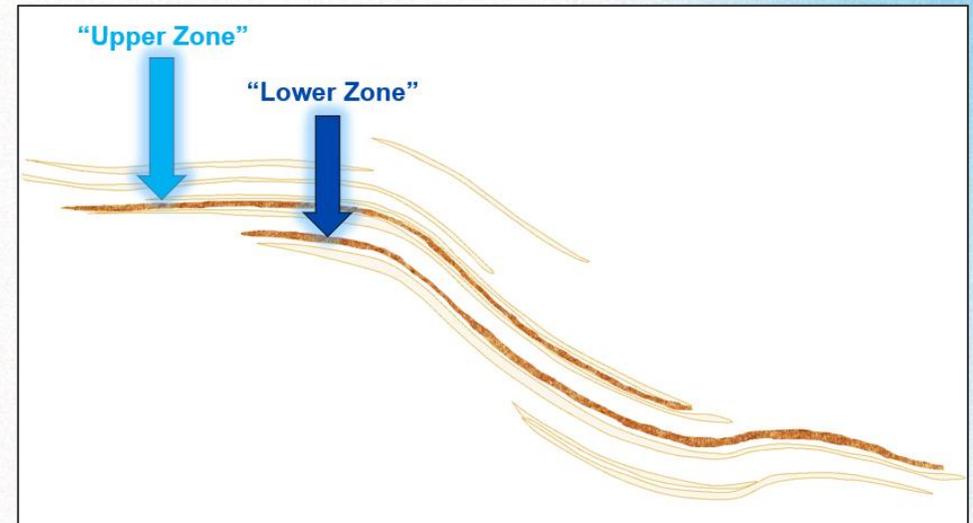
# IMPLEMENTING INNOVATIVE SOLUTION DUAL ZONE INTELLIGENT COMPLETIONS

## Upper Zone

- Sand waterflooded for 15+ years
- Reservoir pressure: 6,500 psi
- Estimated injectivity index: 9 bbl/psi
- Objective: pressure maintenance

## Lower Zone

- Never waterflooded before
- Reservoir pressure: 5,400 psi
- Estimated injectivity index: 3 bbl/psi
- Objective: waterflood sweep, increasing pressure

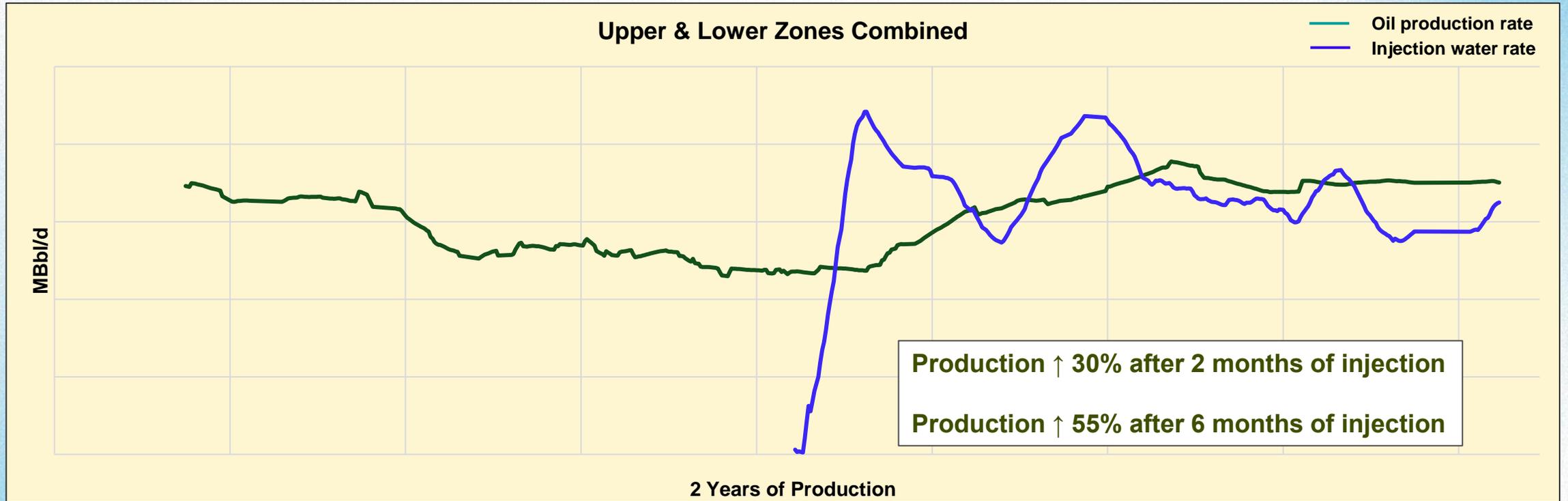


## Why intelligent completions

- Optimize well placement in Upper Zone
- Initiate waterflood in Lower Zone
- Use only one wellbore slot

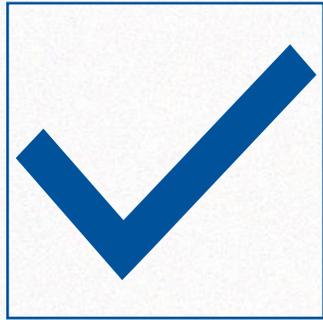
# PROJECT RESULTS: SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

Smart injection in the field



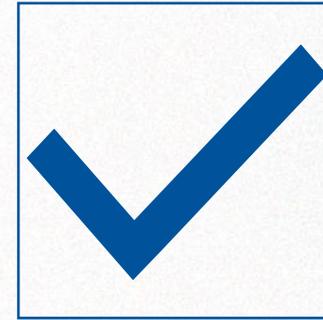
GRAPH DEMONSTRATING PRODUCTION UPLIFT FROM INJECTION

# DUAL ZONE SURVEILLANCE - KEY ENABLERS FOR SUCCESSFUL PROJECT



## Triple downhole gauge\*

Real-time surveillance



## Ability to isolate each zone

Prevent crossflow

Directly test each zone

Targeted stimulations

Maximize usefulness of chemical tracers

\*TRIPLE-GAUGE SYSTEM: GAUGES GIVE UPSTREAM-SIDE P/T OF THE TWO DOWNHOLE CONTROL VALVES AND THE P/T INSIDE TUBING OF THE COMMINGLED FLUID

# **CASE STUDY – THE OMAN STORY UNLOCKING HIDDEN POTENTIAL**

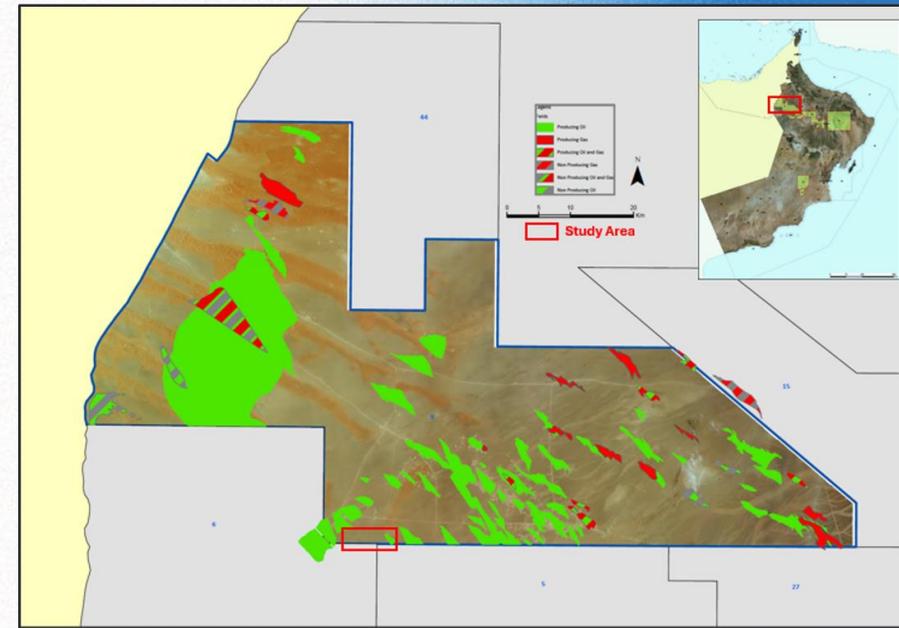
## **Field background**

### **Example of revitalizing activity:**

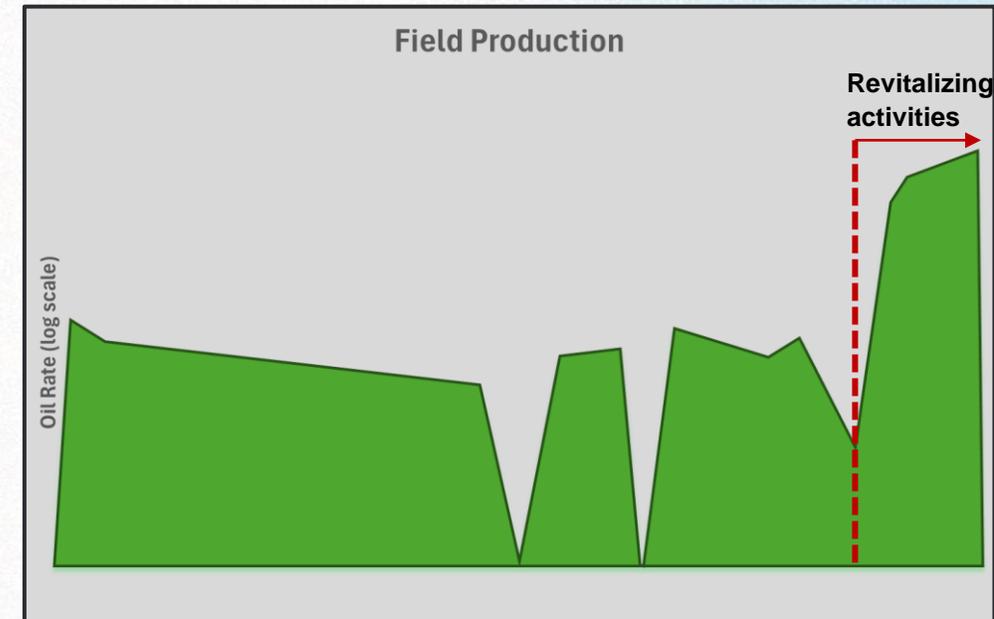
- **Using new technology**
- **Step-out drilling strategy**

# OMAN FIELD OVERVIEW

- >10 years of production
- Water injection piloted in <5 years
- Highly faulted with multiple compartments
- Thin and patchy carbonate reservoir
  - Multiple pilots for appraisal
  - Field development using horizontal wells
  - Optimum spacing between injector and producer is ~250 m



FIELD LOCATED IN NORTH OMAN



CARTOON SHOWING FIELD PRODUCTION PRE & POST REVITALIZING ACTIVITIES

# KEY CHALLENGES: LOW PRODUCTION RATE - SMALL IN-PLACE VOLUME

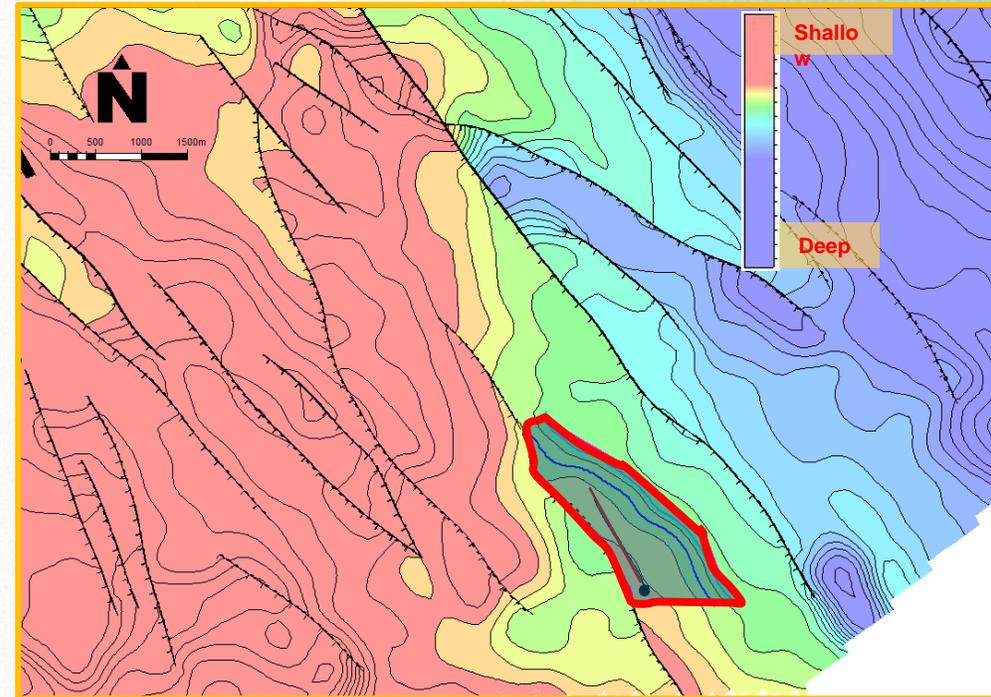
Marginal well production

Limited offsets

Poor rock quality from appraisal wells

Drilling challenges

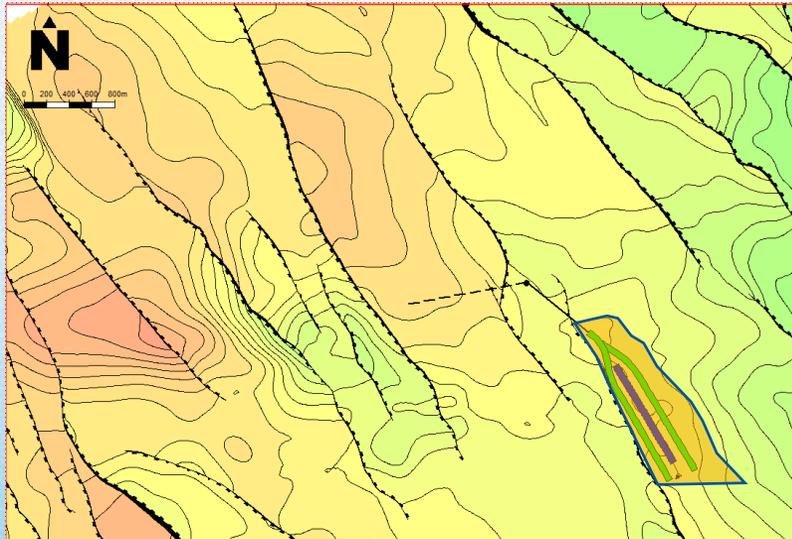
Thin reservoir and compartmentalization



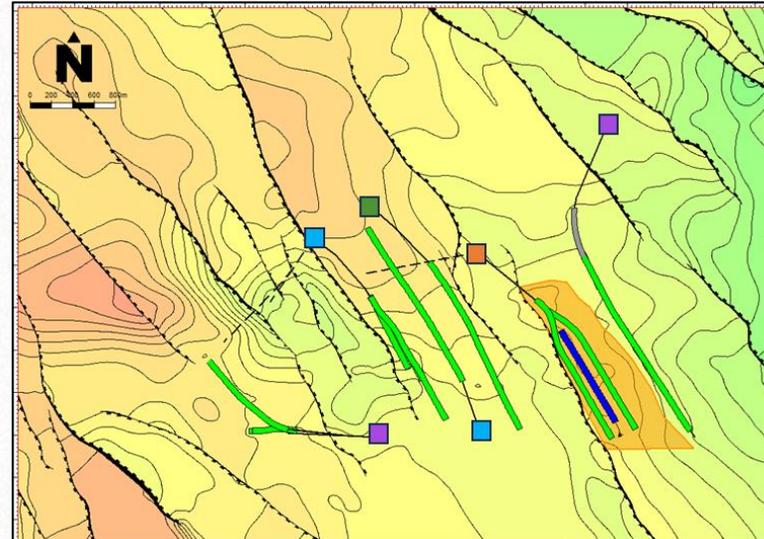
CARTOON OF STRUCTURE MAP SHOWING PERCEIVED RESERVOIR  
EXTENT PRE-REVITALIZING EFFORTS

# STEP-OUT DRILLING: THINKING OUTSIDE THE “BOX”

Then (pre-revitalizing)



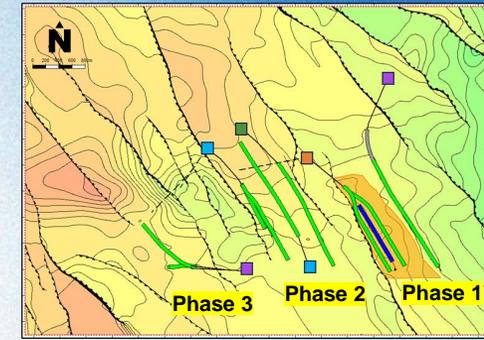
Start of revitalizing activities



Now

CARTOON SHOWING FIELD DEVELOPMENT EVOLUTION

# KEY ENABLERS: NEW TECHNOLOGY & SYSTEMATIC PLANNING

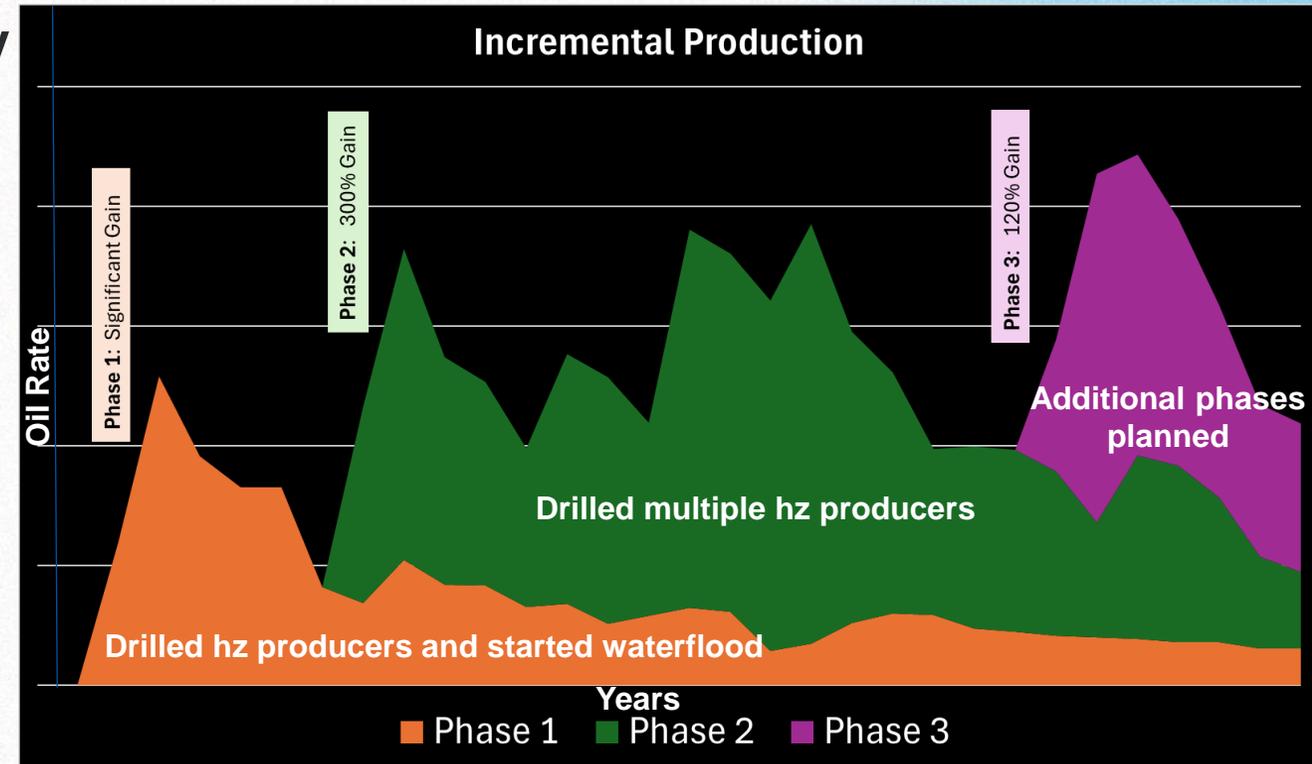


**State-of-the-art Machine Learning technology**  
for enhanced fault network

**Right tools for geosteering and data acquisition**

- Wireline tool carriers
- Geosteering tool with borehole imaging tool
- Side wall core plugs and thin sections

**Continuous refinement of development plan**



**Drilled six prolific producers (100% success rate)**

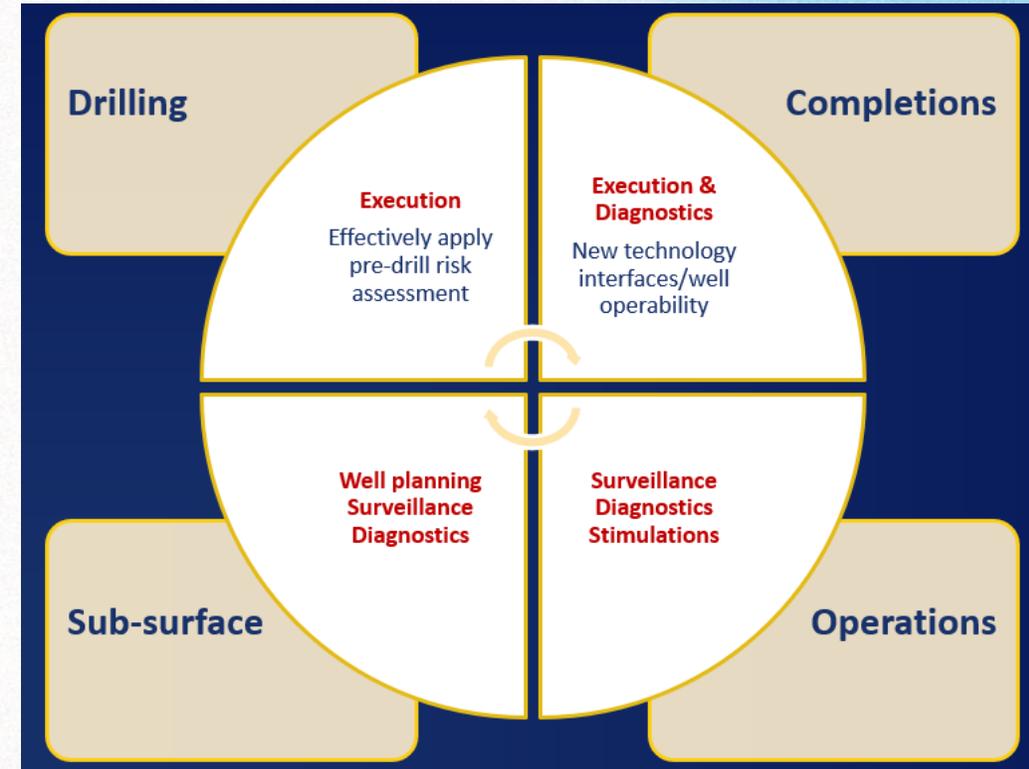
**10X increase in field development area acreages & STOIP**



# SUMMING IT UP: OPTIMIZED APPROACH THAT WORKS!

- Reducing costs through efficiencies
- Adapting to latest technologies
- Identifying and managing risks

Collaboration



Collaboration Quadrant

# WHAT'S NEXT? AI'S ROLE IN MATURE FIELDS

- Minimize downtime
- Enhanced reservoir characterization
- Production optimization using digital twins
- Smarter drilling



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- I would like to thank Occidental for supporting and granting permission to present the case studies.
- I would also like to thank the asset and production teams that play a critical role in the success of these projects.
- I would like to extend special thanks to Neha Gupta, Ahmed Al Araimi, Hannah Bolingbroke for their contributions to the slides.

**THANK YOU**



# BACKUP SLIDE – INTELLIGENT COMPLETIONS SYSTEM

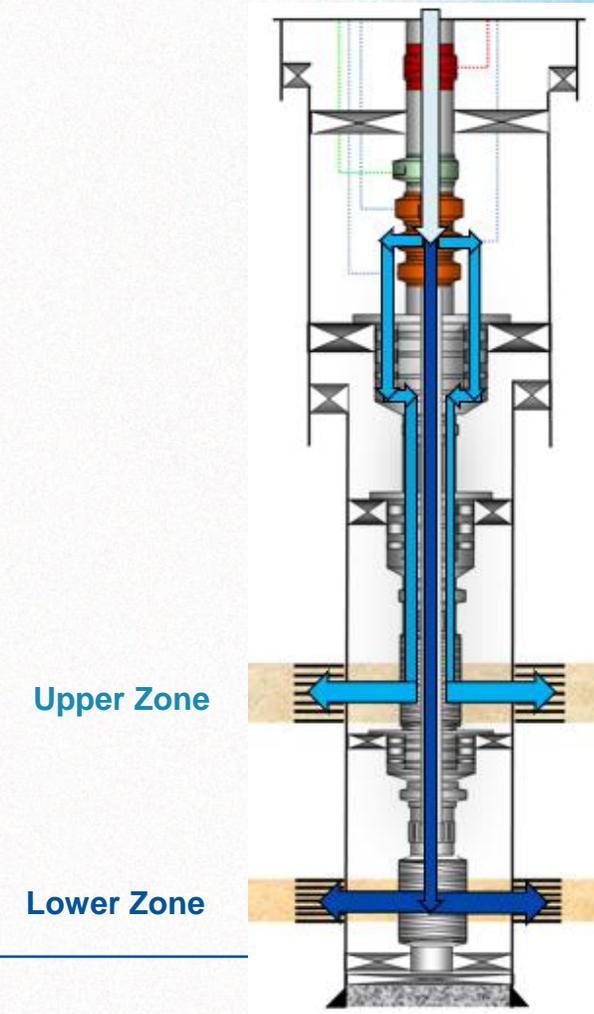
## Upper Zone Water

- “Commingled” injection water reaches upper choke
- Portion of water splits off into A-annulus
- Flows through annular flow sub
- Remains isolated from Lower Zone water
- Injected into Upper Zone

## Lower Zone Water

- Rest of the water continues past upper choke
- Flows through lower choke
- Remains inside tubing (via concentric strings)
- Injected into Lower Zone

## Intelligent Well System: Flow Path



# BACK UP SLIDE – ROLE OF RESERVOIR MODELING: CORE TO DEFINING OPERATING ENVELOPE

