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ELEPHANT HUNTING IN AFRICA

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The continuing search for new oil and gas plays and the "big ones" takes petroleum companies to some of the remotest and most hostile regions on Earth. Searching for hydrocarbons in such exploration frontier areas can be likened to big-game hunting, especially in the African continent.

Most frontier explorationists (soon to become an extinct species perhaps) are driven by the ambition to discover an "el-

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phant" or giant-sized accumulation of hydrocarbons. In Africa such accumulations have already been exploited in a number of basins and further potential exists either in deeper less-explored plays, beneath established producing plays, or in vastly underexplored or totally virgin basins.

In this talk, Africa's eighty-odd basins are classified by basin-type, and major hydrocarbon provinces and plays within the continent are explained in context to such a classification. Plays such as the Agbada, Gamba, Karroo, Nubian, Pinda and TAG-I will be described as well as a review of current African hotspots — exploration ones not the Kilimanjaro caldera!