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## East Africa Emerges As Key Area For Woodside

East Africa is emerging as a key area for Woodside's exploration efforts after its latest African farmin deal gave the company an interest in all of Kenya's seven offshore exploration blocks that cover nearly 70,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

Earlier this year, Woodside farmed into four offshore Kenyan blocks (L5, L7, L10 and L11) in a transaction involving Dana Petroleum and Global Petroleum.

In the latest deal, Woodside has farmed into a further three blocks (L6, L8 and L9) held by Afrex and Pancontinental Oil & Gas NL.

Woodside now holds a 50% stake and is the operator, while Afrex has a 30% interest and Pancontinental 20%.

Under both transactions, Woodside's commitment is limited to the acquisition of offshore 2D seismic. Seismic acquisition across all seven blocks is currently under way and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Both joint ventures have the option of entering the second exploration phases which would include exploration drilling in each of the blocks renewed.

"The addition of the seismic survey in these blocks to our current seismic contract will provide economies of scale in operations and our technical evaluation which will benefit both of the Woodside joint ventures and Kenya", said Agu Kantsler, Woodside's Director of New Ventures. ■