

INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATIONISTS

INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATIONISTS DINNER MEETING—OCTOBER 18, 1989 P. G. SCORCELLETTI—Biographical Sketch



Giorgio Scorcelletti is a consulting geologist with an international exploration background. After receiving a Doctorate in the Geological Sciences from the University of Pisa in 1954, he joined Gulf Oil Company for 31 years and later worked for Amoco for one year. Gulf posted him in Sicily for 3 years and in Africa for 20 years. In that period he contributed to the discovery of oil and gas in Cabinda, Gabon,

Libya, Mozambique and Zaire. His geological assignment in Cabinda in 1964 and 1965 developed into a residence in Luanda from 1970 to 1973.

He has served as a supervisor in Angola, chief geologist in Gabon and acted as manager in Libya and Ethiopia. In 1977 Giorgio was transferred to Gulf Oil - Houston headquarters overseeing exploration operations in Africa (Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Cabinda, Zaire), North Sea and Indonesia. In 1983 he represented Gulf in the inter-company meetings sponsored by the Angolan Government in Luanda to establish the official nomenclature for the stratigraphy of Angola. While in Houston he founded the Central-Southern Africa Scout Group.

After joining Amoco in 1985, Giorgio made important contributions to the evaluation of the Cretaceous in the Madagascar Morondava Basin and proposed the drilling of the West Manambolo, the first discovery in the area.

His consulting job has taken him to Paris, Geneva, and New York. He successfully negotiated a Sudan concession acquisition in Khartoum and established professional relations with government officials in Sana'a, North Yemen.

Giorgio is an active member of Houston Geological Society, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and the Ordine Nazionale dei Geologi; he is also an ex-member of the Petroleum Exploration Society of Libya. He has authored numerous exploration papers and presented a geological talk on Mozambique to the HGS in November 1983.

CABINDA ONSHORE A BRIEF OUTLINE OF GEOLOGY AND PETROLEUM POTENTIAL

The onshore Cabinda Area, due to peculiar circumstances, has remained unexplored since 1972, and therefore has a great, untapped potential.

Its role as a prime petroleum province has been proven by its production record of almost one billion barrels of oil, almost exclusively from the currently active offshore area.

A review of the exploration data and results obtained by the operator (Cabinda Gulf) before 1972 indicates an onshore petroleum potential similar to the surrounding areas, offshore, as well onshore to the north (Congo) and south (Zaire), which include approximately 30 producing fields.

In comparison with the offshore shallow shelf, the Cabinda onshore potential appears to be greater than its northern and southern neighbors. This is due to the occurrence onshore of well developed and prospective Lower Cretaceous to Jurassic lacustrine sediments (presalt), including thick reservoir rocks and very thick source and cap rocks. Moreover, a thick and competent salt layer is overlain by prospective upper Cretaceous to Paleogene marine sediments, especially along the coast.

The possibility exists for some onshore prospective belts to become as prolific as the Malongo-Limba, the Numbi-Kungulo and the Kambala offshore trends to which they are parallel or on trend, providing attractive stratigraphic and structural trap plays.

The few, modest pre-1972 discoveries from basement, the Vovo and Chela sands, should be regarded as attempts of a preliminary exploration phase relying on archaic seismic and a sketchy exploration philosophy.