Contents

04  Our Firm
05  Our Presence in Africa
06  Oil and Gas
07  Our Experience Highlights
12  Our Oil and Gas Team
14  Accolades
Our Firm

We help our clients manage legal complexity and unlock opportunity in Africa.

We have an enviable track record of providing legal services to the highest professional standards in Africa. We work for clients across numerous African jurisdictions on corporate, finance, competition, taxation, employment, technology and dispute resolution matters.

With eight offices in six African countries and over 400 specialist lawyers, we draw on our unique knowledge of the business and socio-political environment to advise clients on a wide range of legal issues.

Everywhere we work, we offer clients a service that uniquely blends expertise in the law, knowledge of the local market, and an understanding of their businesses. Our aim is to assist clients to achieve their objectives as smoothly and efficiently as possible while minimising the legal and regulatory risks.

Our clients include domestic and foreign corporates, multinationals, funds and financial institutions, across almost all sectors of the economy, as well as state-owned enterprises and governments.

Our expertise is frequently recognised by independent research organisations. Most recently, our Kenyan practice won the 2022 Chambers Africa Award for Law Firm of the Year in Kenya. In 2022, Bowmans won six IFLR Africa Awards including overall M&A Team of The Year; Jurisdictional Firm of the Year: South Africa; Loans Firm of the Year: South Africa; M&A Firm of the Year: South Africa; and Project Finance Firm of the Year: South Africa. We also advised on the deal named M&A Deal of the Year. At the 2022 Africa Legal Awards, we won four practice awards including Banking and Finance Team of the Year; Capital Markets Team of the Year; Tax Team of the Year; and Transport Team of the Year.

Recognising the size and enormous diversity of Africa, our approach to providing legal services across the continent is intended to offer on-the-ground advice in the countries that matter for our clients. Our presence in Africa is always evolving to meet the changes that are shaping the future of this vast continent.

Currently, we have our own offices in six African countries: Kenya (Nairobi), Mauritius (Moka), South Africa (Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg), Tanzania (Dar es Salaam), Uganda (Kampala) and Zambia (Lusaka).

We work closely with our Bowmans Alliance firms in Ethiopia (Aman & Partners LLP) and Nigeria (Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie). These are two of the leading corporate and commercial law firms in their jurisdictions.

We have a special relationship with a competent practitioner in Mozambique. We also have a non-exclusive co-operation agreement with French international law firm Gide Loyrette Nouel that provides our clients access to assistance in francophone west and north Africa. The arrangement provides complementary access for Gide’s clients and lawyers to markets in central, southern and eastern Africa.

We ensure that, whenever our clients need legal advice in other parts of Africa, we can assist them by tapping into our comprehensive database of contacts of the best firms and practitioners across the continent.

On the global front, Bowmans has long-standing and excellent relationships with a range of international law firms with whom we often work on Africa-focused client mandates. We are also a member firm of Lex Mundi, a global association of more than 160 independent law firms in all the major centres across the globe. Lex Mundi gives us the ability to connect our clients with the best law firms in each of the countries represented.
Oil and Gas

Through our offices in Africa, we bring together lawyers with a wealth of experience from across emerging and mature hydrocarbon provinces in Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone Africa. We operate a single key point of contact service for our clients and assists in developing long-term relationships, but also allows costs to be controlled and output to be delivered in the most commercially sensible way.

We recognise that there are many inter-connected challenges for investors in the hydrocarbons industry in Africa, not least the various licensing and regulatory frameworks, but also the challenges of local content, environmental regulation and fiscal and financial regimes.

What differentiates us is that we are an African law firm with credible and experienced oil and gas lawyers on-the-ground in Africa.

We provide commercially focussed legal advice that compares favourably at all levels with legal services available in London, Paris and New York: in execution, delivery, technical excellence and on price.

Our advisory experience covers upstream, midstream and downstream. We also have significant experience dealing with the oil and gas legislative environment across Africa, including exploration and production rights and all aspects of local regulatory frameworks.

We can work in key jurisdictional languages, including French, Portuguese and Spanish, adding to our ability to facilitate cross-border and inter-governmental negotiations.

Our oil and gas specialists are supported by a wider group comprised of internationally recognised lawyers in the areas of tax, forensics, corporate, M&A, project finance, infrastructure, projects, and ports and shipping law. We can therefore advise on complex major oil and gas related projects, as well as environmental and other disciplines associated with oil and gas exploration and production.

Our clients include NOCs and IOCs operating throughout the oil and gas value chain as well as government agencies and regulators.

Our lawyers were involved in the following matters in Africa:

**LEGAL AND TAX REGIMES AND REGULATORY ADVICE**

- African Petroleum Producers Association in relation to the review and the comparative study of the oil and gas legislation, regulations and model contracts in force in the APPA member countries (comprising the 18 producing countries in Africa), including the determination of the main principles, best practices and latest trends applicable to the international hydrocarbons industry, in particular in Africa, and their incorporation into a model production sharing contract.

- Anadarko Petroleum Corporation in relation to its interests in Kenya, including advice on the regulatory regime, compliance issues, corporate matters, taxation, employment, property, community and land issues, as well as government relations.

- Democratic Republic of Congo to address the main principles, best practices and latest trends applicable to hydrocarbons exploration and exploitation activities in connection with the review of its petroleum law.

- Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development in conjunction with WorleyParsons, to prepare the national midstream strategy for the transportation and storage of petroleum in Uganda.

- PetroSA, the national oil company of South Africa, on its financial provisioning obligations vis-a-vis the decommissioning of its offshore operations, as well as on proposed guidelines for well abandonment and decommissioning relative to, amongst other things, South Africa’s obligations under international law and recent developments in best international practice.

- Republic of Gabon to address the main principles, best practices and latest trends applicable to hydrocarbons exploration and exploitation activities in connection with the review of its petroleum law, and the subsequent drafting of a new petroleum law.

- Republic of Equatorial Guinea to present the main principles, best practices and latest trends applicable to hydrocarbons exploration and exploitation activities.

- Chevron in relation to the regulatory framework governing the acquisition of an exploration right in South Africa.

- Simba Energy in relation to its blocks in Kenya, including advice on the regulatory regime, compliance issues, taxation, employment, community and land issues, as well as government relations.

- Tullow Oil and Total E&P Uganda BV in the context of a review of the regulatory environment governing the construction and operation of a pipeline in Tanzania and Uganda.

- Chicago Bridge & Iron, a multinational EPC contractor, on various legislative developments affecting a proposed LNG project in Mozambique.

- DL Toll, an Australian support services provider, in relation to the regulatory regime governing the oil and gas industry of Uganda.

- Halliburton in relation to the advent of a shale gas industry in South Africa, including: analyses of existing and proposed regulatory frameworks; formal...
submissions on the proposed laws to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) and the Petroleum Agency of South Africa (PASA); and, appearing before PASA, as well as the Parliament of South Africa’s Portfolio Committee on Energy, regarding the proposed regulatory developments.

**HOST GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AND AWARDS**

- Bundu Gas and Oil Exploration in relation to its application for an exploration right for shale gas in the Karoo Basin of South Africa.
- Compañía Española de Petróleos in the context of the drafting and negotiation of a production sharing agreement in Gabon.
- Equator Exploration in the context of the drafting and negotiation of a production sharing agreement in the Republic of Congo.
- Falcon Oil and Gas in relation to its application for an exploration right for shale gas in the Karoo Basin of South Africa.
- Lundin Petroleum in the context of the drafting and negotiation of a production sharing agreement in relation to Block 10A in Kenya.
- Molopo South Africa Exploration and Production in the context of applications for the renewal of onshore exploration rights and an application for an onshore production right, as well as negotiations with black economic empowerment partners in South Africa.
- Sasol Petroleum International and its joint venture partners, Chesapeake and Statoil, in relation to an application for a technical co-operation permit to study shale gas in the Karoo Basin of South Africa.
- Tullow Oil in the context of the drafting and negotiation of a production sharing agreement in Gabon.
- A consortium, including an Ivanhoe Energy company and CITIC Resources, in the course of the USD 5 billion development of the 350m barrels Agadem oil field in Niger, including drafting and negotiating the production sharing agreement, and related refinery and transportation agreements.
- Ophir Energy in the context of the negotiation of the production sharing agreements for blocks 1, 2 and 4 offshore Tanzania.
- Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation in relation to the drafting and negotiation of an exploration and production sharing agreement and a prospecting agreement in Gabon on behalf of INPEX Corporation and Itochu Corporation.
- Tullow Oil in the context of the drafting and negotiation of two production sharing agreements in Ivory Coast.
- H Oil in relation to the drafting and negotiation of a production sharing agreement in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Total E&P South Africa in relation to its application for offshore exploration rights in South Africa.
- Ophir Energy in the context of the negotiation of four production sharing agreements in Gabon.
- Petronas Carigali in the context of the drafting and negotiation of a production sharing agreement in Equatorial Guinea.
- Equator Exploration in the context of the drafting and negotiation of a production sharing agreement in São Tomé and Príncipe.
- Kinetico Energy (Australia) in relation to its applications for technical co-operation permits relating to South African coal-bed methane reserves.
- Republic of Somaliland in relation to the drafting and negotiation of a production sharing agreement with DNO ASA in Somaliland.
- Mart Resources in relation to the drafting and negotiation of a production sharing agreement in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**M&A**

- ExxonMobil in the context of the acquisition of a 75% participating interest in the Tugela South Exploration Right in South Africa.
- Signet Petroleum in relation to the acquisition of a participating interest in twelve production sharing agreements in Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Kenya and Tanzania.
- FAR Ltd in relation to its acquisition of Flow Energy, a company with participating interests in production sharing agreements in Kenya.
- Hosken Consolidated Investments, a black empowerment investment company, in relation to the acquisition of a 20% shareholding interest in Impact Oil and Gas, including an analysis of various transactional documents relating to the acquisition of acreage in Gabon, Namibia, South Africa and the Senegal/ Guinea Bissau Joint Development Zone.

- Ophir Energy in the context of the corporate takeover of Dominion Petroleum, an E&P company with participating interests in production sharing agreements in, inter alia, Kenya and Tanzania.
- CNOC in relation to the negotiation of fiscal terms for associated gas in the context of an application for a production licence for Block 3A in Uganda.
- Compañía Española de Petróleos in the context of the acquisition of a participating interest in production sharing agreements relating to two onshore blocks in Kenya.
- A large South-East Asia oil and gas company in relation to the acquisition of a participating interest in twelve production sharing agreements in Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Kenya and Tanzania.
- A consortium, including an analysis of various transactional documents relating to the acquisition of acreage in Gabon, Namibia, South Africa and the Senegal/ Guinea Bissau Joint Development Zone.
• Libya Oil Kenya Ltd and Tamoil Africa Holdings Ltd in the context of the restructuring of the companies by way of the acquisition of a shareholding interest by Libya Oil Kenya Ltd in Libya Oil Uganda Ltd.

• Marathon Oil in the context of the acquisition of a participating interest in several production sharing agreements in Kenya.

• National Oil Corporation of Libya in relation to the acquisition of a shareholding interest in an E&P company holding a participating interest in several production sharing agreements in Libya.

• Oil India in the context of the acquisition of participating interests in several production sharing agreements in Algeria.

• Sasol Petroleum in the context of the drafting and negotiation of a farm-out agreement with ENI in South Africa.

• Swala Energy and its subsidiary Swala Kenya in relation to the acquisition of a participating interest in Block 12 in Kenya.

• Total in the context of the acquisition of a 50% participating interest in Block 11B/12B in South Africa.

• Regalis Petroleum in relation to the structuring, negotiation, and implementation of an acquisition of a shareholding interest in a company holding a participating interest in a production sharing agreement in Chad, including a synthetic joint operating agreement.

**LEGAL, CONTRACTUAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS**

• ENI SpA in the context of the acquisition of oil and gas rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including the performance of a due diligence review.

• BP in relation to a South African black economic empowerment transaction in terms of which Kapala Investments and BPSPA Education Foundation acquired shareholdings in BP South Africa.

• Effigia SA in relation to the legal requirements, documentation and procurement processes for the Kenya-Uganda refined petroleum pipeline.

• Halliburton in relation to competition approvals in various African jurisdictions, including the DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Uganda, Nigeria, Tanzania and Cameroon, where approvals were required to implement the USD 34.6 billion acquisition by Halliburton of shares in Baker Hughes.

• Kosmos Energy in relation to the review and renegotiation of oil and gas rights in Cameroon and in Morocco.

• Statoil ASA in the context of the reorganisation of its assets in Gabon, including the performance of a due diligence review of all existing hydrocarbons production and service agreements, the drafting of a business contribution agreement and the novation of the existing hydrocarbons production agreements, as well as the management all legal and tax issues in Gabon.

• Ophir Energy in relation to various contractual matters in Gabon, including the review of a production sharing contract and joint operating agreement, as well as negotiating with partners and the State in relation to an extension of the production sharing contract and an assignment of interest.

• Sasol Petroleum in the context of the due diligence review of oil and gas assets in Gabon, Nigeria and the Nigeria/Sao Tome Joint Development Zone.

• Trafigura and Puma Energy in relation to the construction of oil storage terminals in Mozambique.

• Victoria Oil & Gas in relation to the structuring, negotiation, and implementation of a natural gas production, transportation and marketing project in Cameroon, including addressing all upstream and downstream regulatory issues, drafting a model gas sale agreement, drafting and negotiating a participation agreement with the national oil and gas company, and reviewing related regulatory issues pertaining to contractual structure, gas pricing, transportation and marketing of natural gas in Cameroon.

• Republic of Guinea in relation to a due diligence review of certain oil and gas rights in Guinea.

• Sasol Petroleum in the context of the restructuring of its assets in Gabon, including the performance of a due diligence review of all existing hydrocarbons production and service agreements, the drafting of a business contribution agreement and the novation of the existing hydrocarbons production agreements, as well as the management all legal and tax issues in Gabon.

• Ophir Energy in relation to various contractual matters in Gabon, including the review of a production sharing contract and joint operating agreement, as well as negotiating with partners and the State in relation to an extension of the production sharing contract and an assignment of interest.

• Sasol Petroleum in the context of the due diligence review of oil and gas assets in Gabon, Nigeria and the Nigeria/Sao Tome Joint Development Zone.

• Trafigura and Puma Energy in relation to the construction of oil storage terminals in Mozambique.
Our Oil and Gas Team

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David Forfar is the head of our Oil and Gas Team. He specialises in upstream oil and gas matters with a particular focus on production sharing agreements, concessions and host government instruments, as well as regulatory and compliance-related issues in Africa.

Prior to joining Bowmans, David was based in Aberdeen, Scotland, where his experience included time as a senior legal counsel for Canadian Natural Resources International. He has provided extensive advice in relation to a variety of African jurisdictions, including Cote d’Ivoire, Gabon, Mozambique and South Africa.

David trained and practised as a lawyer with the Energy, Transport and Infrastructure Group at Ashurst in London.

David has BA and PhD degrees from the University of Essex, UK, and an MA from the University of Oxford, UK. He was also a Fellow in Modern Japanese Studies at the University of Oxford’s Wadham College.

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Penuell Maduna is a consultant. He is also the former South African Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, as well as the former Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development and the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs. Currently, Penuell also holds the position of deputy chairman of Sasol Oil (Pty) Ltd.

Penuell has many years of experience acting as an adviser to the South African oil and gas team, including his having acted as chairman for Tshwarisano LFB Investment (Pty) when it acquired a 25% shareholding in Sasol’s liquid fuel business for ZAR 1.45 billion, which was one of the first major black economic empowerment transactions in the sector.

Penuell has an LLB from the University of Zimbabwe, a BJuris from the University of South Africa, an LLM from the University of the Witwatersrand, an LLB from the University of South Africa and a Higher Diploma in Tax Law.

To view profiles of our lawyers, please visit www.bowmanslaw.com
AFRICAN LEGAL AWARDS 2022
Bowmans won four practice awards including Banking and Finance Team of the Year, Capital Markets Team of the Year, Tax Team of the Year and Transportation and Infrastructure Team of the Year.

CHAMBERS AFRICA AWARDS 2022
Bowmans’ Kenyan practice was named Kenya Law Firm of the Year and chairman and senior partner, Ezra Davids, was named South Africa Lawyer of the Year.

DEALMAKERS AFRICA AWARDS 2021
Bowmans was DealMakers top dealmaker in East Africa for 2021 by number of M&A transactions worked on. The firm had more than 26% market share and advised on the deal named Deal of the Year.

DEALMAKERS SOUTH AFRICA AWARDS 2021
Bowmans placed first by deal flow and second by deal value in the Unlisted M&A Transactions category; and first by deal flow and third by deal value in the BEE Deals category.

IFLR AFRICA AWARDS 2022
Bowmans received a total of six awards including overall M&A Team of the Year, Jurisdictional Firm of the Year: South Africa; Loans Firm of the Year: South Africa; M&A Firm of the Year: South Africa; and Project Finance Firm of the Year: South Africa. The firm also advised on the deal named M&A Deal of the Year.

Accolades

BAND 1
KENYA
Banking & Finance
Corporate/M&A
FinTech Legal
Intellectual Property
Projects & Energy
Real Estate

SOUTH AFRICA
Capital Markets: Debt
Capital Markets: Equity
M&A
Project Development: Energy/Power

UGANDA
Financial & Corporate
Project Development

TIER 1
KENYA
Banking & Finance M&A
Project Development: Mining

SOUTH AFRICA
Capital Markets: Debt
Capital Markets: Equity
M&A
Project Development: Energy/Power

UGANDA
Financial & Corporate
Project Development

TIER 2
KENYA
Project Development: Energy/Power
Project Development: Infrastructure

SOUTH AFRICA
Banking
Project Development: Infrastructure
Project Development: Mining
Project Finance

TANZANIA
General Business Law

OTHER NOTABLE
ZAMBIA
Financial & Corporate
Project Development

Recognised Lawyers

74

41

31

41

31

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