A review of the hydrocarbon potential of Kenya

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Abstract

The geologic history and stratigraphy of Kenya is represented and discussed. Sedimentary units are more than 12,000 m in deeper parts of basins. Sedimentation rates were high throughout the late Paleozoic and Mesozoic.

The whole sedimentary sequence in Kenya have been tectonically classified into four basins, namely Mandera Basin in northeast Kenya, Lamu Embayment along the cost, and the Anza Graben and Gregory rift basins inland (BEICIP 1984). Each of these have been affected by rifting at one time or another.

Source rocks, reservoir rocks, traps and caprocks are not very well studied but from the geology they are expected to be well developed. More than 25 wells have been drilled; although no commercial discovery had been reported so far there still is a chance of a find in Kenya. The Anza Graben, a Cretaceous/Tertiary rift basin, is the basin recommended in this paper. However, other basins need further study.