

## Onshore Exploration in Central Kazakhstan

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### ABSTRACT

The 30,000 km<sup>2</sup> South Turgai basin in central Kazakhstan, where Hurricane Hydrocarbons Ltd. have over 500 million barrels of proved plus probable reserves in Lower Cretaceous and Upper Jurassic sandstones, has been considered a mature productive province. Part of the companies growth programme in has been to add reserves by exploration in its licenses in the basin. However, it was recognized that the Mesozoic basin was only mature and explored in the post-rift section. There had been very little testing of the syn-rift with its mature source. A basin analysis project was conducted in order to manage risk before drilling exploration wells in the syn-rift section.

The Basin Exploration Study comprised analysis of seismic data, well-logs, outcrop analogues, tectonic and sedimentary models, burial history profiles, play fairway analysis, migration pathway definition, fault timing and trap generation studies and the eventual risk analysis and ranking of the defined leads and prospects.

An extensive drilling program was planned which has resulted in discovering high API, sweet crude in the first two exploration wells to be drilled in Middle Jurassic section. Drilling continues targeting other prospects in the basin.

Recognizing potential, managing risk through assembling and analyzing data, and making good business decisions resulting in discovery has taken less than one year.