



To	Company Announcements Office	Facsimile	1300 135 638
Company	ASX Limited	Date	13 August 2012
From	Helen Hardy	Pages	4
Subject	<b>DRILLING COMMENCES IN OFFSHORE KENYA</b>		

Please find attached a release on the above subject.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen Hardy".

Helen Hardy  
Company Secretary

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## ASX/Media Release

13 August 2012

### Drilling commences in offshore Kenya

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**Progress and status:** Origin Energy advises that L-8 operator Apache Corporation has, on behalf of the joint venture, commenced drilling the Mbawa Prospect in Kenya. The Mbawa 1 exploration well spudded at 6:00 hours local time on 10 August 2012.

Origin will only advise the market again when well operations have been completed with a summary of results, or of any event that is material.

**Well type and location:** Mbawa 1 is located in the Mbawa Prospect in offshore Kenya. The drillship Deepsea Metro 1 is expected to take about 60 days for this drilling operation, which will reach a total depth of 3,250m subsea in a water depth of 864m.

The well will be plugged and abandoned after the evaluation program is completed.

**L8/Mbawa Joint Venture:**

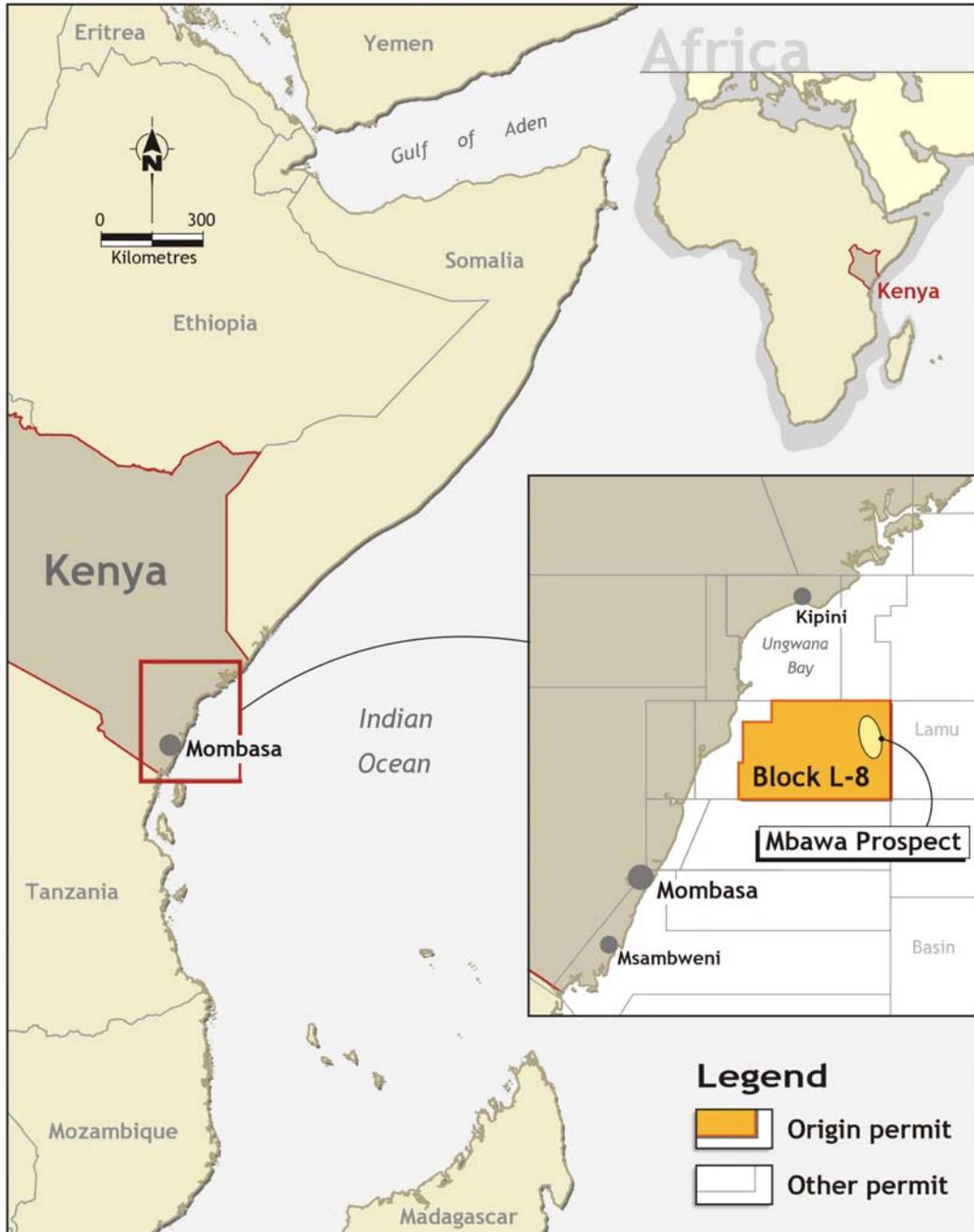
Apache Kenya Limited (Operator)	50%
Origin Energy Limited*	20%
Pancontinental Oil and Gas NL	15%
Tullow Kenya B.V.	15%

\* Through its wholly owned subsidiaries.

Ends



Block L-8, Mbawa Prospect





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**About Origin Energy**

Origin Energy (ASX: ORG) is the leading Australian integrated energy company focused on gas and oil exploration and production, power generation and energy retailing. A member of the S&P/ASX 20 index, the company has around 5,600 employees and is a leading producer of gas in eastern Australia. Origin is Australia's largest energy retailer servicing 4.4 million electricity, natural gas and LPG customer accounts and has one of the country's largest and most flexible generation portfolios with more than 5,310 MW of capacity, through either owned generation or contracted rights. Origin's strategic positioning and portfolio of assets provide flexibility, stability and significant opportunities for growth across the energy industry. Through Australia Pacific LNG, its incorporated joint venture with ConocoPhillips and Sinopec, Origin is developing one of Australia's largest CSG to LNG projects based on Australia's largest 2P CSG reserves base.

In New Zealand, Origin is the major shareholder in Contact Energy, the country's leading integrated energy company, operating geothermal, thermal and hydro generation facilities and servicing electricity, gas and LPG customers across both the North and South islands. Origin also operates several oil and gas projects in New Zealand and is one of the largest holders of petroleum exploration acreage in the country.

Origin has a strong focus on ensuring the sustainability of its operations, is the largest green energy retailer in Australia and has significant investments in renewable energy technologies.

For more information go to [www.originenergy.com.au](http://www.originenergy.com.au) .