

# Evolve

According to the Darwinian theory of evolution by natural selection, for any given species, the specimens whose lineage gets perpetuated are those which are best able to function and thrive in their environment. Though sometimes overlooked, the environmental factor has just as big a role as genetics – if not bigger – in driving natural selection. This is because a change in the environment of a species – its habitat or climate for example – might favour survival of specimens with different traits. In other words, under changed environmental conditions, tolerance of and adaptability to those new conditions become the determinants of survival.

Just as evolution in the natural world is predicated on adaptation, the same holds true in the world of business. We live in an age of constant flux as technology, consumer demands, geopolitics, and cultural norms are consistently changing around us. For businesses whose operations and markets are directly impacted by these changes, flexibility and adaptability are crucial to survival. In the energy sector, there has been a massive change in our operating environment, with a paradigm shift toward cleaner fuels and technologies.

In recent years, many hydrocarbon-based businesses have lifted anchor from fossil fuels and are investing increasingly in renewable sources of energy. Others are pursuing strategies to reduce the carbon impact of their traditional businesses, through carbon capture, increased efficiency and carbon offset mechanisms. This is the environment in which NGC and



its subsidiaries now operate, and our survival as a business depends on how we respond to the change around us.

## Adapting and evolving

The NGC Group has embraced the challenge to change. We now have a well-established sustainability philosophy, and have appointed dedicated teams to identify and pursue opportunities to expand our business along clean energy corridors. In the renewable energy space, we have made most progress with solar technologies, through the work of subsidiary National Energy. Notable among their efforts is the work being done to support advancement of a Caribbean Solar PV Assembly Project in Trinidad and Tobago.


On the alternative fuels front, NGC is looking to segue its energy marketing and trading business into the realm of green and blue hydrogen-based commodities. Methanol and ammonia

have shown great promise as cleaner fuels, and we are actively scanning for potential opportunities in those markets.

Even as the world transitions to renewable energy, natural gas will remain integral to the energy mix, given its market penetration, availability and its clean-burning properties relative to oil and coal. Accordingly, The Group is looking to strengthen its presence in the global natural gas business. In that regard, Group member Phoenix Park Gas Processors Limited (PPGPL) has now acquired another NGL asset in North America and is intent on further expansion.

Our business portfolio is not the only thing we are evolving. For instance, NGC is preparing to expand its signature reforestation programme into a more holistic sustainable development project called 'Beyond 315'. On the culture front, the Company has proudly supported a ground-breaking music transcription project undertaken by the NGC Trinidad and Tobago Sweet Tassa group, which aims to ensure the survival and evolution of the art of tassa drumming.

In this issue of *GASCO News*, we are pleased to highlight some of these efforts we are making to adapt to the conditions and demands of our new operating environment and the world around us. The stakes are high, but we are equal to the challenge. ■

  
**Mark Loquan**  
President