



GAS NO ES SOLUCIÓN

WHERE DOES SPANISH FOSSIL
GAS COME FROM? PART 1

NIGERIA

The fourth largest gas exporter to Spain, accounting for 7.31% of total gas imports in 2024.



**CONNECTED
ADVOCACY**

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Authors: Red Gas No Es Solución

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WHAT ABOUT NIGERIA?

Nigeria is located in **West Africa** and operates as a federal republic composed of 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja). It is the most populous country in Africa. The nation is culturally diverse, with over 500 distinct languages spoken. However, **English, a legacy of colonial rule, serves as the official language**. The **current president**, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, previously **worked with companies such as Mobil Oil Corporation**.

In 2023, **Nigeria's top exports were crude petroleum, petroleum gas, and gold**. The main export destinations were the United States, Spain, and France. During the same year, **Nigeria's top imports included refined petroleum, tanks and armored vehicles, and wheat**. The top origins of its imports were China, Singapore, and Belgium. Notably, **Nigeria was the world's largest importer of tanks and armored vehicles in 2023**.



TOTAL NIGERIAN GAS (NG + LNG) IMPORTED BY SPAIN PER YEAR (2004-2024)

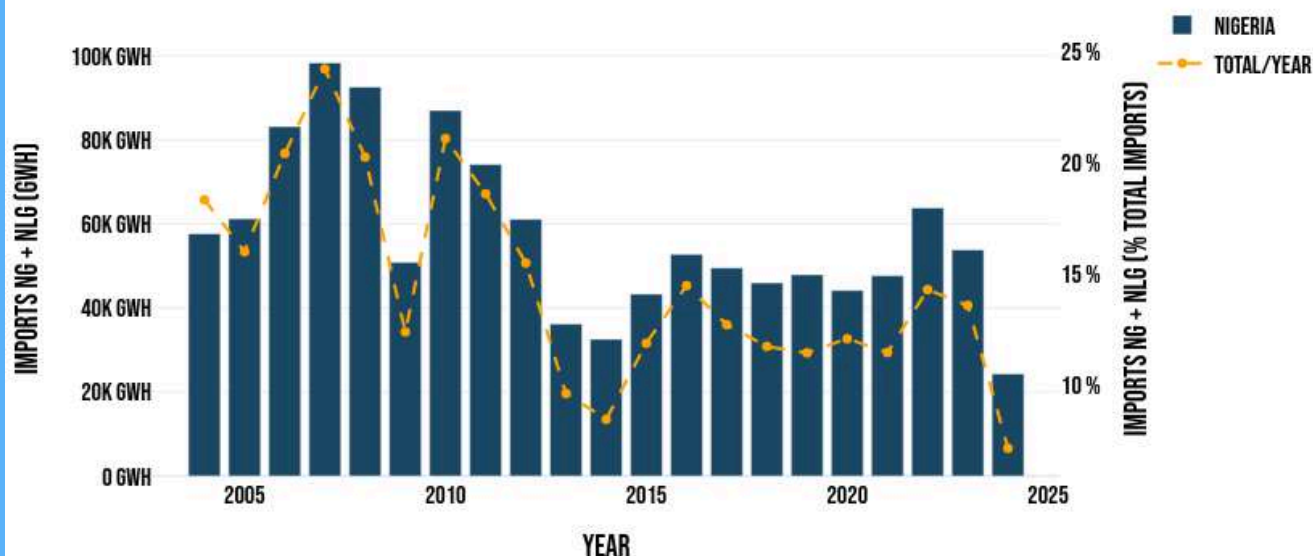
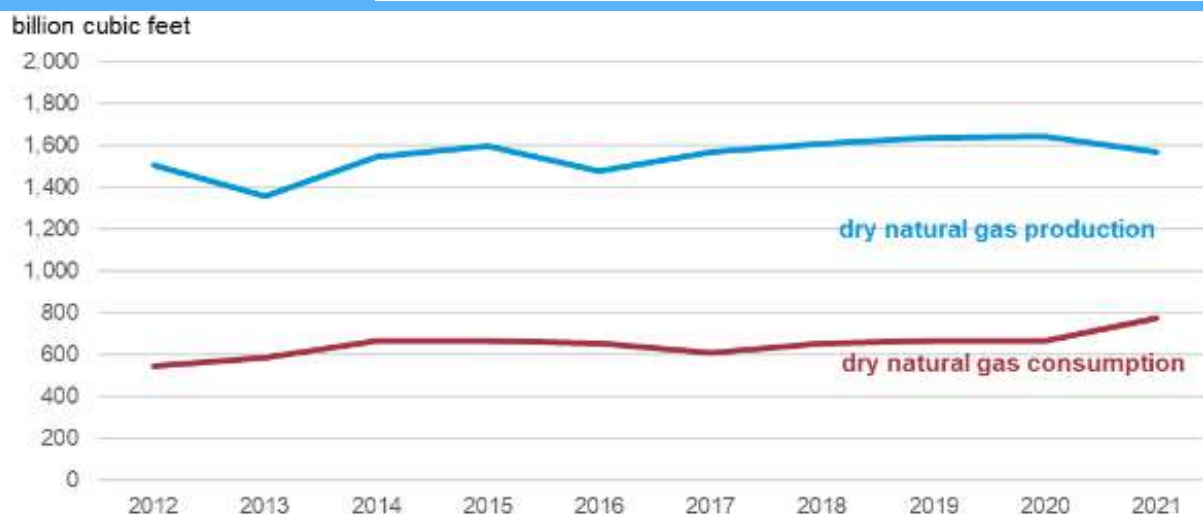


FIGURE 1. TOTAL NIGERIAN GAS, NG ("NATURAL" GAS) + LNG (LIQUEFIED "NATURAL" GAS), IMPORTS TO SPAIN BY YEAR FROM NIGERIA (2004-2024). TOTAL IMPORTS IN BARS AND PERCENTAGE OF THE IMPORTS (GAS IMPORTED FROM NIGERIA BY SPAIN * 100 / TOTAL GAS IMPORTED BY SPAIN) IN LINES. DATA: CORES. SOURCE: RED GAS NO ES SOLUCIÓN.

FIGURE 2. TOTAL DRY ANNUAL "NATURAL" GAS PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN NIGERIA 2012-2021. SOURCE: EIA.



Nigeria is also known for being a dumping ground for electronic waste, receiving around 71,000 tonnes of used consumer goods every year through Lagos's ports, mainly from the European Union and other industrialized economies. These dumping sites and the informal practices used to extract valuable materials pose severe health risks, especially to children and pregnant women, underscoring the urgent need for stricter enforcement of international agreements and the development of sustainable recycling systems.

Nigeria is one of the largest fossil gas producers in Africa, yet over 30% of its population still lacks access to electricity. Despite this urgent domestic need, the country exports about half of the gas it produces, showing how the gas industry primarily serves foreign interests and capital (figure 2).

So, where does it go? The majority is exported, with Europe and Asia-Pacific as the main destinations. In fact, in 2022 **Spain became the largest importer of Nigerian fossil gas** (figure 3).

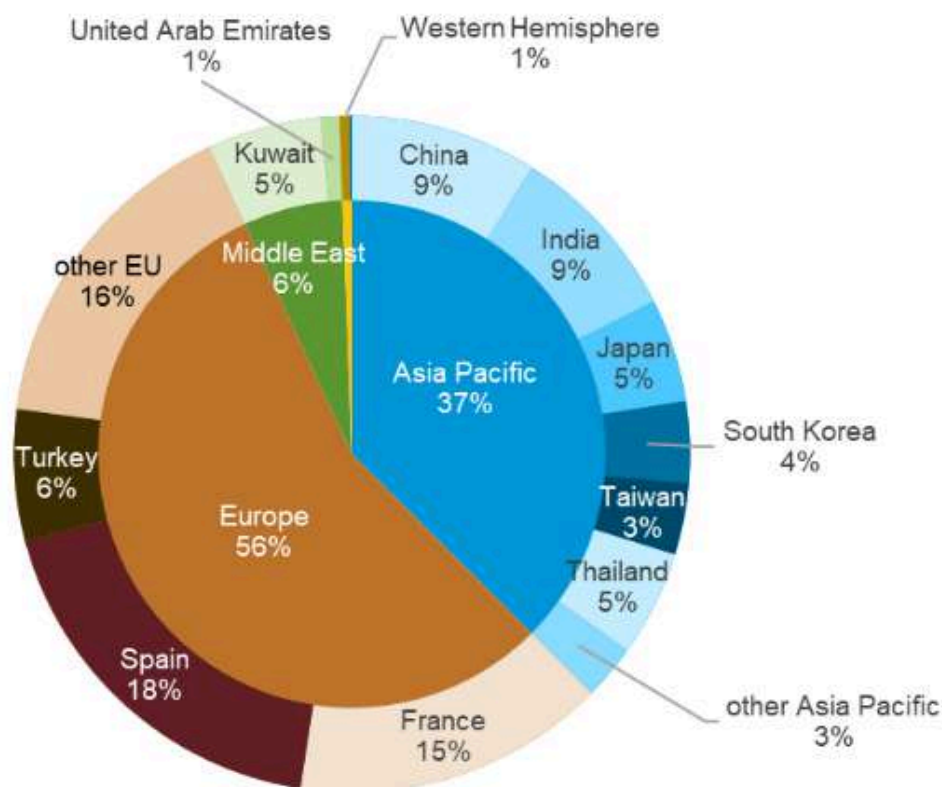


FIGURE 3. NIGERIA'S LIQUEFIED "NATURAL" GAS EXPORT BY DESTINATION IN 2022. SOURCE: EIA.

This is not happening by chance; it is the result of deliberate political decisions. At the same time, **Nigeria's ability to invest in clean and ambitious energy policies is severely constrained by debt: more than 37% of the national budget goes to servicing it**. The problem is compounded by the **tax evasion of multinational companies such as Shell, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Eni, Total, and Equinor**, which deprive the country of vital public revenue. Adding to this, banks like **Santander continue financing fossil gas projects** in Nigeria, reinforcing dependence on an extractive system that **benefits foreign actors while leaving much of the Nigerian population without reliable energy**.

ZOOM IN: NIGER DELTA REGION



FIGURE 4. OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION AREAS. THE NIGER DELTA REGION IS SHOWN IN A RECTANGLE. SOURCE: GLOBAL ENERGY MONITOR.

The **Niger River**, the main river system of Central and West Africa, flows through ten countries before reaching the Atlantic Ocean in southern Nigeria, where it forms the Niger Delta. This region **hosts vital wetlands that support local communities and biodiversity** (figure 4).

Decades of oil and gas extraction, transportation, and exploration in the Niger Delta have led to severe human rights abuses, environmental destruction, and health crises. The construction of two pipelines with cumulative length of 165 km, for example, caused **massive biodiversity loss** through habitat destruction, escalated exploitation of species, forest fragmentation, and deforestation, logging nearly ten million trees.

Communities such as the Ogoni face **water contamination from repeated oil spills**. A United Nations Environment Programme report revealed that some residents rely on wells containing benzene, a known carcinogen, at concentrations more than 900 times above WHO safety limits. This not only endangers health but also undermines food sovereignty.

The consequences are profound: **increased risks of respiratory illness** from particulate matter, **neurological and blood disorders** from polluted water, widespread **anxiety and depression** linked to livelihood loss, and reduced agricultural output. On top of this, **socioeconomic impacts intensify vulnerability, as traditional livelihoods collapse, poverty deepens, and women and girls face greater risks of exploitation and abuse in areas affected by fossil fuel projects**, such as the Gbarain Ubie gas plant.

WHAT ABOUT GAS FLARING?

Alongside oil spills, **gas flaring** is one of the region's major problems. This practice, **burning gas associated with oil extraction**, is often justified by economic, technical, regulatory, and safety challenges in capturing and utilizing it. While flaring is a relatively safe method for disposing of excess gas and managing pressure variations, it is environmentally harmful. **It emits methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, as well as black carbon and other pollutants that fuel the climate crisis.** In **2023**, Nigeria was the world's **eighth-largest gas flarer**, according to the World Bank. Figure 5 shows the gas flared in Nigeria in recent years.

In the Niger Delta, flaring has led to **acid rain** that contaminates water sources and threatens long-term **water sovereignty**. Nitrate pollution from flaring is linked to severe **health risks**, including higher mortality, cancers, miscarriages, and ectopic pregnancies and neonatal mortality. Tracking methane leaks in Nigeria is especially difficult due to limited monitoring systems and the country's heterogeneous and wooded surface, which hinders satellite detection.

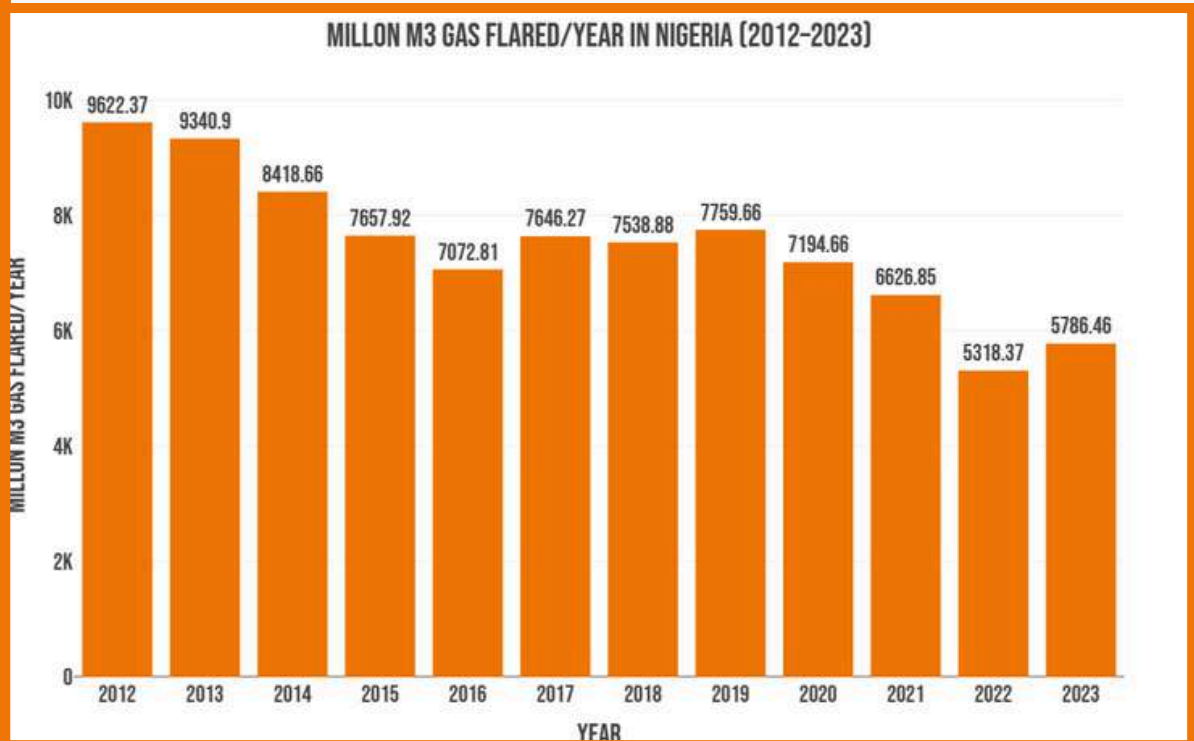


FIGURE 5. MILLIONS M3 GAS FLARED PER YEAR IN NIGERIA DURING 2012 -2023. DATA: WORLDBANK. SOURCE: RED GAS NO ES SOLUCIÓN.

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF NIGERIA?

Fossil fuels have not succeeded in providing affordable and accessible energy to all Africans. Expanding gas production and consumption is unlikely to change this outcome. **Sadly, as can be seen in Figure 6, Nigeria is one of the African countries with a larger gas system and plans to expand it.** It is developing 3,700 km of gas transmission pipelines, most of which are intended for gas export.

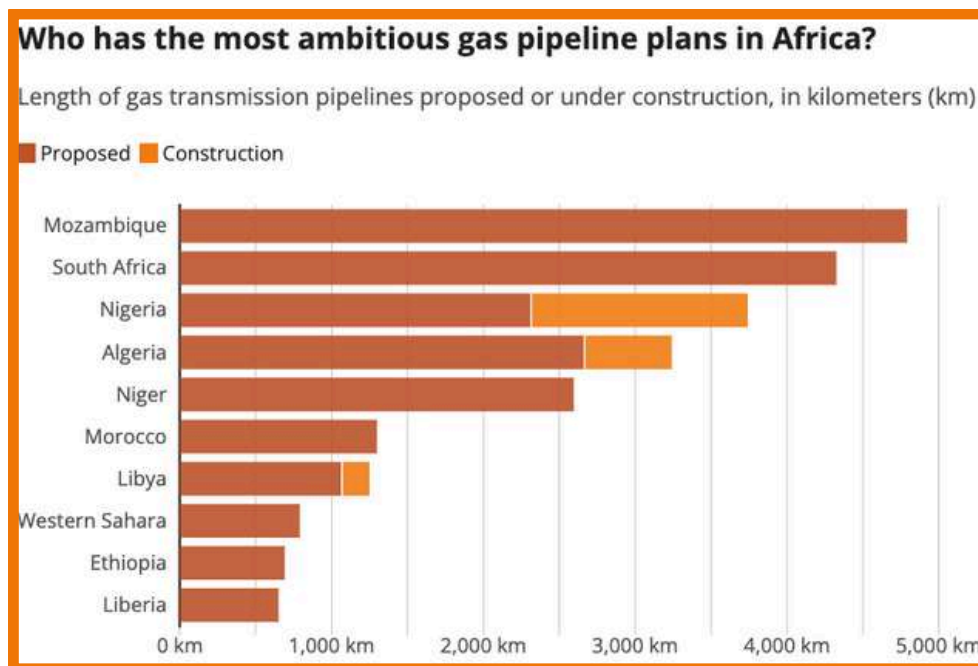
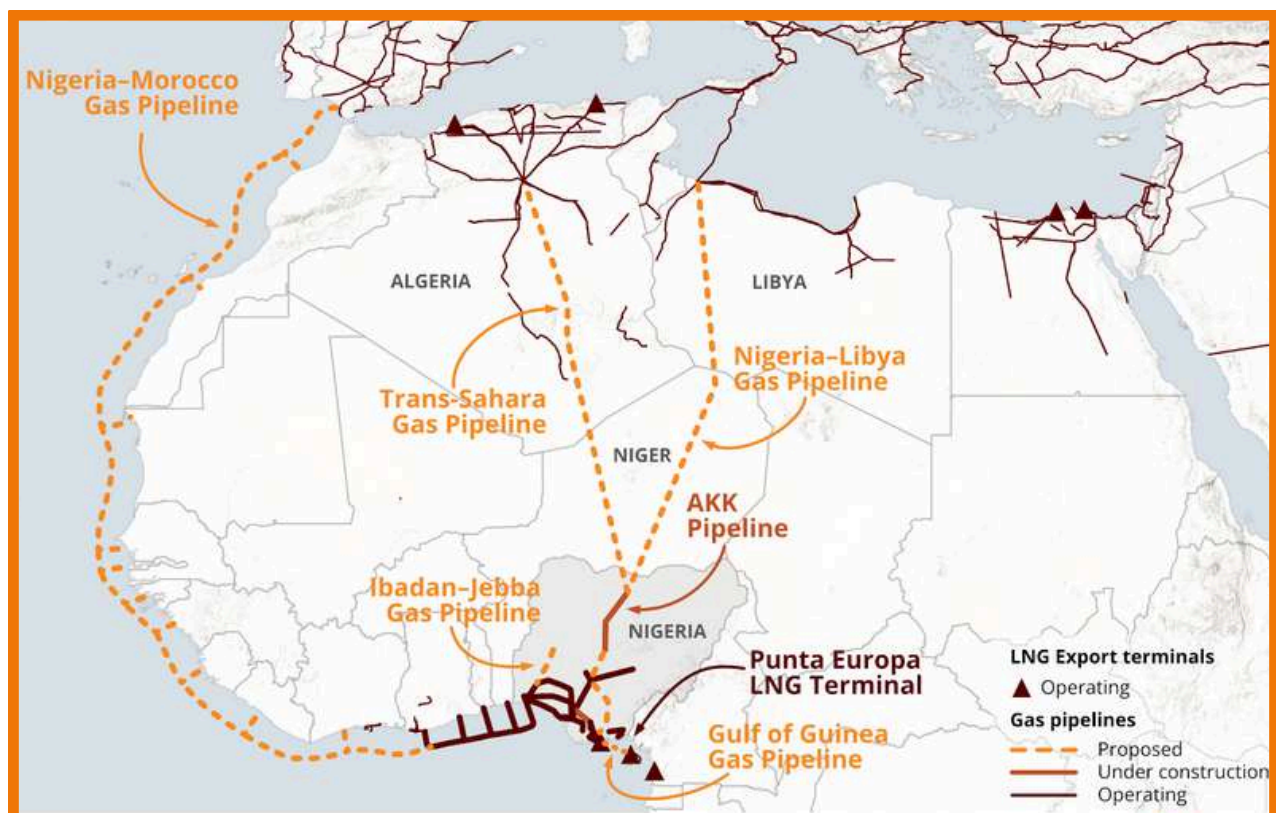


FIGURE 6. LENGTH OF GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINES PROPOSED OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION (KM). SOURCE: GLOBAL ENERGY MONITOR.

FIGURE 7. NIGERIA'S FOSSIL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION. SOURCE: GLOBAL ENERGY MONITOR.

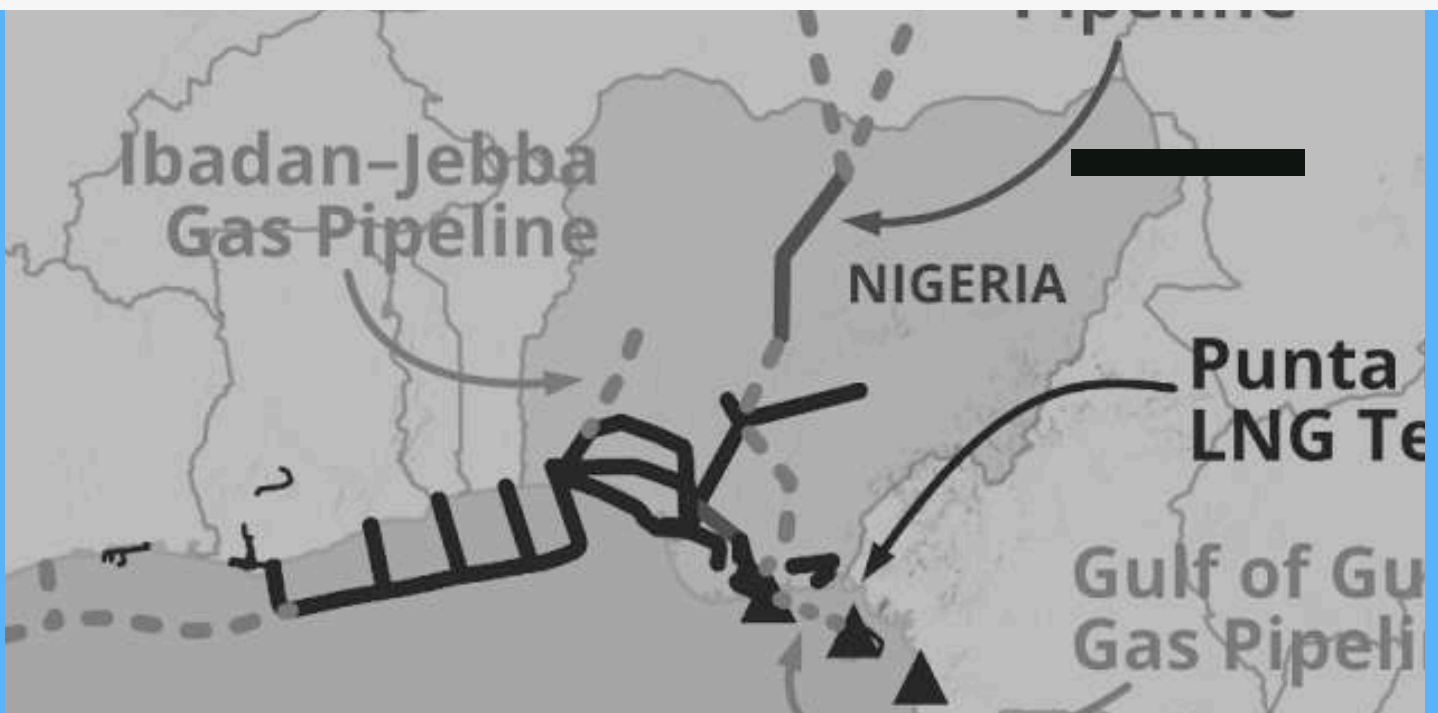


* GLOBAL ENERGY MONITOR ANALYZES SOME OF THESE PROJECTS (FIG. 7):

“The Ibadan-Jebba Gas Pipeline, a proposed 510 km network designed to expand gas access across Nigeria’s western and central states, has remained only a proposal since 2017. Similarly, the Trans Nigeria Gas Pipeline, aimed at connecting pipeline networks across Nigeria, has progressed slowly, though its first phase — the Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) Pipeline — is nearing completion and is hailed as a critical driver for economic growth and industrialization.

The **most ambitious projects, however, carry the goal of gas export to Europe and Asia.**

Two competing proposals, the Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline and the Nigeria-Libya Gas Pipeline, would transport gas from Nigerian extraction areas to North Africa and onward to Europe. Meanwhile, the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline has recently entered the land acquisition phase, with plans to supply gas to thirteen countries en route to Spain. The Gulf of Guinea Gas Pipeline will carry gas from the Nigerian coast to Bioko Island, where it will be processed for LNG export at the Punta Europa LNG Terminal.”



RESISTANCE

All around the world, **the historical energy system based on fossil fuels, rooted in colonial practices, has long affected Indigenous Peoples**, especially when their rights, knowledge, and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) are not respected. This is the case of the **Ogoni people**, an Indigenous community from the Niger Delta in Nigeria, known for their strong cultural identity, deep connection to their lands and rivers, and their long struggle against the severe social and environmental impacts of oil and gas exploitation.

After decades of Shell's destructive operations, the **Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP)** was founded in 1990 during **Nigeria's military dictatorship**. That year, it presented the Ogoni Bill of Rights, denouncing environmental damage. By 1993, Shell requested military support to build a pipeline through Ogoni territory, despite the notorious brutality of the Nigerian military.

In 1994, violence in Ogoniland was used as a pretext for military raids on 60 towns, leading to arrests and widespread abuses. **Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other leaders were unfairly tried and executed in 1995, becoming known as the "Ogoni Nine."** After years of legal battles, in 2009, Shell agreed to a \$15.5 million settlement, without admitting wrongdoing.



**WHERE THERE IS INJUSTICE
THERE IS RESISTANCE**

RESISTANCE CONTINUES

Although oil production in Ogoniland ceased in 1993, the infrastructure was never dismantled. Aging pipelines still cross the region, leaking and worsening environmental pollution. In 2025, the Nigerian government officially pardoned the Ogoni Nine, acknowledging the injustice of their executions.

Despite this symbolic step, much remains to be done: **international oil companies like Shell continue to evade their responsibility for the damage caused. Declining onshore production has pushed operations offshore to the Gulf of Guinea, leaving behind a legacy of environmental destruction and unresolved corporate accountability.**

In the face of these environmental problems, **resistance continues**. One example is the Don't Gas Africa campaign, a movement that seeks to prevent the continent from being locked into fossil gas production. The campaign promotes the scaling up of cost-effective, clean, decentralized, renewable energy and advocates for energy sovereignty across Africa.

A black and white photograph showing a crowd of people with their hands raised in the air, suggesting a protest or a public gathering. The image is partially obscured by an orange banner at the bottom.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Where does Spanish fossil gas come from? **Part 1: Nigeria**

- **Nigeria holds vast fossil gas reserves, but about half of its production is exported. In 2023, Spain was the largest importer of Nigerian fossil gas, making Nigeria its fourth-largest supplier,** while local communities bear severe social and environmental costs.
 - **Over 30% of Nigeria's population lacks access to electricity,** exposing the cruel paradox of immense energy wealth that serves foreign profits instead of local needs.
 - **Nigeria has one of the largest gas systems in Africa and plans major expansions. However, large-scale projects,** such as the Trans-Sahara, Nigeria-Libya, and Nigeria-Morocco pipelines (the latter set to supply 13 countries en route to Spain), as well as the Gulf of Guinea Pipeline, **are designed for Europe and Asia, not for domestic development.**
 - Export-driven projects are financed by multinational corporations and banks, such as **Santander.** These projects divert resources away from domestic development and trap Nigeria in **debt**, with **over 37% of the national budget spent on debt servicing.** At the same time, **tax evasion by Shell, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Eni, Total, and Equinor deprives the country of vital public funds.**
 - Nigeria was the world's **eighth-largest gas flarer in 2023.** Gas flaring emits methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, along with black carbon and other pollutants that **fuel the climate crisis.** In the Niger Delta, it has caused **acid rain, undermining water sovereignty, and creating severe health risks.**
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- Niger Delta communities endure **polluted air, recurring oil spills, chronic water contamination, collapsing agriculture, and the loss of traditional livelihoods.** These harms **hit women and girls hardest,** deepening inequalities and exposing them to exploitation and abuse around fossil gas sites like the Gbarain Ubie gas plant.
- Companies are **shifting operations offshore,** leaving behind polluted land and communities without remediation or accountability, worsening long-term local damage.
- Nigeria exemplifies the **extractivist model imposed on Global South nations:** foreign corporations profit while communities are left to suffer. Rooted in colonial practices, fossil fuel systems have long violated Indigenous Peoples' rights and ignored Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). **The Ogoni people were dispossessed and murdered, but resistance endures through movements such as "Don't Gas Africa" or Ogoni people movement.**
- **Fossil fuels** entrench **inequality, environmental destruction, and energy poverty.** Renewable energy can provide **energy sovereignty, climate resilience, and local development, but only if communities, not large corporations, control these systems.**
- **Urgent systemic change is needed:** phase out fossil fuels, promote energy sovereignty through community-controlled renewable energy systems, protect the right to protest to ensure tragedies like the Ogoni Nine are never repeated, prioritize people and planet over profit and hold companies accountable by making them pay for the pollution they cause.

