**Explainer**

Stop the Dash for Gas in Africa: One thing you can do

A big issue surrounding COP27 was the new Dash for Gas in Africa. European governments - justified by attempts to come off Russian gas, the energy price crisis and the argument that gas is necessary for development - are investing in Africa gas with a new eagerness. COP27, the first COP in Africa since 2016, will see the fossil fuel industry and governments promoting gas despite the devastating consequences for the climate, local people, wildlife and for the finances of the continent as they are left with stranded assets.

Friends of the Earth Africa and wider African Civil Society have been pushing back on this Dash for Gas. Please help support them by emailing your MP to share FOE Africa’s latest report ‘Don’t let Africa Burn’ and asking them to write to Secretary of State for International Trade requesting that the UK stop financing Mozambique LNG, a new gas mega project driving conflict, human rights abuses and climate change.

**Draft letter**

Dear MP,

COP27 in Egypt [edit if sending outside of 6th-18th November] was the first COP hosted in Africa since 2016 and was an important opportunity to listen to African civil society about how climate change is impacting the continent and their demands for the future. With this in mind we wanted to share with you [the latest publication from Friends of the Earth Africa – Don’t Let Africa Burn](https://www.foei.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Dont-let-Africa-burn_Friends-of-the-Earth-Africa_2022.pdf). This short report details:

* The new dash for gas in Africa by European countries who are looking to power their economies while leaving long-term devastation in Africa.
* The legacy and impacts of decades of coal, oil and gas across Africa and the false claims that gas is a transition fuel and is needed for development and poverty reduction in Africa
* The demands of African Civil Society for rapid and just transition to clean, decentralised renewable energy sources and for an end to the financing of fossil fuels projects in Africa.

The UK, despite a world leading policy to end financing for fossil fuels overseas, remains a key financer of the Mozambique LNG gas mega project. Mozambique LNG is set to produce between 3.3 and 4.5 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent over its lifecycle[[1]](#endnote-1) and is associated with a conflict and human rights abuses that have forced nearly 1 million refugees to flee the Cabo Delgado region.

**I am getting in touch to ask you to act in support of African civil society and to write to the Secretary of State for International Trade the Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch and request that she withdraws the $1.15 billion of UK financing from the controversial Mozambique LNG project.**

We believe this is an important intervention at this time:

* As the project has been stopped under a Force Majeure since April 2021 and we understand minimal funds from the $1.15 billion have been drawn down, providing an opportunity to withdraw funds with relatively minimal disruption.
* As the conflict associated with the gas development has resulted in nearly 1 million refugees[[2]](#endnote-2) and numerous human rights breaches[[3]](#endnote-3) - the UK government should not be supporting a project with such risks and impacts.
* In March 2022 a high court judge ruled[[4]](#endnote-4) that the controversial decision by UK Export Finance to support the project was unlawful as it was taken without a rational basis to claim it was consistent with the Paris Agreement and that Ministers had been misled about the scale of climate emissions associated with the project. Although a Second Judge ruled decision was lawful. This split judgment results in a ‘legal limbo’ and an appeal will be heard 6-8th December 2022 to resolve this.

Should you want any further information or like to work with us further on this issue please contact <name> on <contact details>.

Yours sincerely

<group name>

1. https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/tip-iceberg-future-fossil-fuel-extraction [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.unhcr.org/uk/news/briefing/2022/10/633be4474/nearly-1-million-people-fled-five-years-northern-mozambique-violence.html [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/03/mozambique-civilians-killed-as-war-crimes-committed-by-armed-group-government-forces-and-private-military-contractors-new-report/ [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2022-03/2022-03-16\_-\_FoE\_Briefing%5B1%5D.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-4)