



In June 2024, Woodside Energy began extracting oil from the Sangomar oil field off the coast of Senegal. Two other offshore drilling projects, Sangomar and Yakaar-Teranga, are in development. While these new oil and gas projects claim to bring economic development to Senegal, in reality they pose immense harm to marine environments and coastal communities, destroying fisheries and creating debt while foreign companies rake in the profits.



**SAUVER LA MER ET LA PECHE
SAVE THE COAST AND FISHERIES
AAR GUEJ GUI AK NAPAGI**

The Sauver la Mer et la Pêche (SMP) campaign is led by Hann Baykeeper and Bargny Coast Waterkeeper, Senegalese environmental organizations, and Waterkeeper Alliance, a global movement uniting more than 300 community-based Waterkeeper groups. Our coalition includes many Senegalese organizations, fisher associations, artists' groups, local mayors, women's groups, environmental organizations, and others committed to protecting Senegal for generations to come.

The campaign addresses the social, economic, and environmental threats of offshore oil and gas drilling in Senegal. Our goal is to halt offshore drilling activities while promoting sustainable coastal development and protecting local fisheries.

We believe in a Senegal where people enjoy good jobs and economic security, the right to a healthy environment, and where the people have a say in their future. Investment in green energy and local economies, protection of our natural resources, and civic participation offer opportunities for our communities to thrive.

SMP travels the country, meeting local communities, businesses, associations, and leaders to spread information about oil and gas. We host festivals, launch petitions, and attend global climate conferences to uplift the experiences of the Senegalese people. We also call for policies to protect water, communities, and our environment.

WHAT WE DO



PROTECTING JOBS AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

SMP believes that people have a right to good jobs, to benefit from their labor, and to decide where and how they want to live. Foreign companies like BP and Woodside promise jobs and economic development, but when you look closely you find that 90% of the profits will go overseas. In fact, offshore drilling will hurt Senegal economically, expose us to debt, and displace more young people in search of a good life.

- The **ownership** of offshore drilling projects is unequal and reminds us of colonial extraction. Senegal owns only 10% of the GTA project, meaning that the vast majority of profits will go back to companies in Europe, Australia, and the United States.
- Senegal has taken on **\$1 billion of debt** at high interest rates to finance the projects, and could take on another \$6.5 billion to complete the projects. This is an immense burden to the Senegalese people. Meanwhile, the profits from oil and gas are uncertain, because fuel prices are highly volatile. Senegal may never see enough profit to recover from this debt.
- The fossil-fuel industry has already **disrupted fishing and local economies**, which employ over 600,000 Senegalese people, more than oil and gas will ever employ. Offshore drilling creates exclusion zones for fishing, kills fish populations, and displaces workers with no compensation.
- **Fisheries contributes 3.2% of national GDP**. Even at peak production, oil and gas will never contribute more than 3% of GDP. Furthermore, the profits from fisheries remain in Senegal and benefit Senegalese communities, while oil and gas revenues go overseas. Oil and gas threaten an important national industry, with no promise of economic benefit to the people.



A THRIVING ENVIRONMENT

Senegal is home to rich ecosystems: coral reefs, wetlands, mangroves, national parks and UNESCO world heritage sites. Migrating birds, sea turtles, and countless fish species rely on our marine waters. Offshore drilling outs our unique and beautiful biodiversity is at risk.

- **Oil spills are too likely**. Over nine years, the United States averaged nearly two spills a day. And in West Africa's Gulf of Guinea, researchers identified over 18,000 oil spills in a 10-year period. A single oil spill can decimate marine life for generations.
- **Underwater blasts and toxic discharges** harm marine ecosystems, not only killing aquatic species but harming water quality. Furthermore, GTA and Sangomar lie in a risky fault zone - drilling 145,000 barrels of wastewater back into wells every day could trigger an **earthquake**, with devastating consequences.
- Sangomar and GTA will emit **4 million tons of carbon dioxide** in the next three years alone. With rising sea levels and disappearing coastlines, Senegal is already extremely vulnerable to climate change. Offshore drilling exacerbates climate change, putting our people, our environment, and our resources at risk.



HEALTH, TRANSPARENCY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Offshore drilling poses immediate health risks to the people. We believe that any such project requires the engagement of local communities, and we call on the government for transparency and active participation of the most affected people.

- **Flinging**, the burning of gas during extraction, has already begun at GTA. Flaring is known to cause cardiovascular and respiratory problems for nearby residents.
- Climate change, overfishing, and **loss of economic opportunity** have already forced many young people to leave their homes and make risky migrations in search of employment. Oil and gas drilling will only worsen the situation.
- In February 2025, a **gas leak** was detected from GTA, but was not reported to the public for over a week. This lack of transparency is a huge cause for concern, and demonstrates that these companies do not have the people's best interest at heart.
- Because of the **lack of transparency**, it is unclear whether the drilling projects have evacuation plans, clean-up resources, or adequate insurance to protect people from emergencies. Putting people, jobs, and livelihoods at risk is a human rights violation.

