



# SENEGAL AT THE CROSSROADS

Gas, Green Industry And The Battle For  
Economic Sovereignty



# Two Futures, One Country

Senegal stands at one of the most important moments in its history.

New oil and gas discoveries promise revenues, energy security and industrialisation. But at exactly the same moment, rapidly falling renewable costs, expanding regional electricity markets and growing green industries present a different possibility.

One future runs on fossil fuels. The other runs on wind, sun and industry.

The choices made today could shape Senegal's economy for decades.

## Key Facts

- ⚡ 79–84% electrification—among the highest in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ☀️ Rapid growth in solar power.
- 🌬️ Home to West Africa's largest wind farm.
- 🏢 Plans for 45 Special Economic Zones.
- 🛢️ First oil and gas production has begun.
- 🌍 Potential to become a regional clean-energy exporter.

# From Energy Importer To Energy Sovereign?

For decades Senegal depended heavily on imported fuel.

Now Sangomar oil and the Greater Tortue Ahmeyim gas project promise energy independence and economic sovereignty. Vision Sénégal 2050 places extractive industries at the heart of industrial development. But sovereignty is about more than producing fuels.

## A deeper question emerges

**Will Senegal simply replace imported fossil fuels with domestic fossil fuels?**

Or will it build industries powered by home-grown renewable energy?

## Big idea

Economic sovereignty means owning the future not just owning resources





# Senegal's Secret Weapon

## The Sun And The Wind

Few countries possess Senegal's combination of solar and wind resources. The Atlantic coast offers exceptional wind conditions. Northern Senegal possesses world-class solar potential. Together, these resources could transform the country into a clean energy giant.

## Conservative estimates suggest:

1,605 GW of solar potential  
297 GW of wind potential

## Enough to:

Power households  
Electrify industry  
Electrify transport  
Export electricity across West Africa  
Still have power left over.

## Big idea

Senegal has far more renewable energy than it could ever consume.

# West Africa's Battery?

Senegal's market is bigger than Senegal.

Membership in the West African Power Pool means electricity can cross borders. Regional integration under Mission 300 and the African Single Electricity Market could transform renewable power into an export industry

## Senegal could become:

- ⚡ a clean electricity exporter
- 🏭 a manufacturing hub
- 🔋 a supplier for regional industries
- 💰 a source of energy security for West Africa

## Big idea

Senegal's greatest asset may not be oil or gas.  
It may be geography





# The 4-Factory Opportunity

Special Economic Zones may become the engines of Senegal's future. Government plans envisage 45 zones across the country. Yet many existing plans still rely heavily on natural gas.

## What if every industrial zone became a green industrial zone?

Imagine:

- Solar-powered factories
- Wind-powered manufacturing
- Circular industrial parks
- Battery production
- Clean cold chains
- Agro-processing

### Big idea

Industrial policy is energy policy.

# Sandiara

## A Window Into The Future

The Sandiara SEZ hosts industries ranging from fertilisers and seafood processing to battery manufacturing and metallurgy.

Today, gas remains central.

But around 3,000 jobs already depend on industries that could increasingly electrify their operations.

### Imagine:

Solar-powered refrigeration

Electrified cold chains

Low-carbon manufacturing

Cleaner industrial heat

Battery production

### Big idea

Green industrialisation is not theoretical.

It is already possible.



# Who Benefits?

The energy transition is not automatically just.

West Africa's largest wind farm Taïba Ndiaye demonstrates both the promise and the risks.

Communities raised concerns over inadequate consultation and environmental impacts.

**The central question is not:**

"Can renewables be built?" But: **"Who owns them?" "Who benefits?" "Who decides?"**

Communities must not merely host energy projects.

They should share ownership, jobs and revenues.

## Big idea

A just transition means communities are partners—not spectators.

## Green Industrialisation Is About Jobs

Energy alone does not create prosperity. Industry does.

Green industrialisation means moving from: **Exporting raw materials** to **Producing value**.

It means:

- 🏭 Manufacturing
- ⚡ Electrified industry
- 🎓 Skills development
- 👷 Apprenticeships
- 🌐 Export competitiveness

## Big idea

The real value of renewables is not electricity. It is productive transformation.

# The Real Battle Is Finance

Technology is not Senegal's biggest challenge, money is.

High interest rates.

Take-or-pay contracts.

Dependence on external finance.

Fiscal pressures.

These structures can trap countries in new forms of dependency.

## What is needed?

Concessional finance

Better tax collection

Stronger public institutions

Community ownership models

Development finance that builds sovereignty rather than dependence

## Big idea

Debt should finance development not replace it.



# A Different Vision Of Development

Senegal faces a choice, not between development and climate action but between two models of development

**One extracts.**

**One transforms.**

**One exports fuels.**

**One exports value.**

**One concentrates wealth.**

**One spreads opportunity.**

**One locks the future into fossil fuels.**

**One builds industries powered by the sun and wind.**

## Key Takeaway

**Senegal's greatest resource may not lie beneath the ocean. It lies above the ground.** In the sun that shines across the Sahel. In the winds that blow across the Atlantic.

And in the possibility of using those resources to build industries, create jobs and power a more sovereign future.



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