

National stakeholders' engagement on

Methane mitigation and reduction in Nigeria's oil and gas sector

26 March 2024 | Hybrid | Abuja, Nigeria

Event Brief

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We would like to thank Dr Mahmoud Ibrahim Mahmoud, the in-country Researcher and Senior Climate Change Fellow at APRI, for his leadership on this project. We thank Dr Mohammed Dahiru Aminu, Non-resident Fellow at APRI, for his invaluable contributions to the event. Our special thanks go to Olumide Onitekun (MMRP Research Assistant, APRI) for his support in preparing this briefing.

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Our sincere gratitude goes to all the participants who joined us in person in Abuja and online for their participation and contributions. We would especially like to thank the following ministries, departments, agencies and organisations: representatives of Nigeria's Presidency, Federal Ministry of Environment, Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Agency, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Nigerian Governors' Forum, National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, Clean Air Task Force, civil society organisations, oil and gas value chains, media representatives, and others.

We thank Dr Olumide Abimbola (Executive Director, APRI), Dr Grace Mbungu (Senior Fellow and Head of Climate Change Program, APRI), and Isabella Roberts (Program Officer, APRI) for their invaluable leadership, feedback and administrative support to the project.

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Event

Background and context

Nigeria, despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, finds itself ranked among the most climate-vulnerable nations globally. The far-reaching impacts of Nigeria's climate crisis linked to oil and gas activities, particularly gas flaring and Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) emissions, have numerous detrimental consequences that extend to various aspects of the environment, livelihoods and human well-being.

Methane, a potent greenhouse gas with significant warming potential compared to CO₂, poses a major threat to the health and well-being of current and future generations and climate protection goals. Reducing methane emissions, particularly from Nigeria's oil and gas sector, offers a strategic opportunity. By taking action, Nigeria can not only strengthen climate action but also unlock co-benefits for public health, food security and economic development, aligning with national and multiple other sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Against this background, APRI (Africa Policy Research Institute), in close collaboration with the Department of Climate Change (DCC), Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria, organised a stakeholder engagement event in the context of an ongoing project on methane mitigation and reduction in Nigeria's oil and gas sector. The project was selected with advice from the Global Methane Initiative and is funded in part by the Government of Canada through Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The project endeavours to provide a multidimensional analysis of methane mitigation in Nigeria's oil and gas sector. It examines national priorities, existing policies, stakeholder roles and financing landscapes to identify opportunities for progress and alignment with national and global climate goals. Special attention is directed towards identifying policy implementation gaps as an offshoot of the evaluation of the challenges and opportunities inherent in Nigeria's climate change policies in relation to the mitigation and reduction of methane in the oil and gas sector.

Objectives of the workshop

The workshop introduced the project to relevant stakeholders and gathered feedback on the initial findings from the mapping exercise conducted by APRI, which maps out the methane landscape, including mitigation and reduction policies, implementation strategies, the state of financing and

stakeholders involved in these efforts. After initial inputs and a presentation of the summary of the key findings, participants discussed and assessed the status, gaps, challenges and opportunities for effective and sustained methane mitigation and reduction efforts, and also identified areas where more data and information are needed to inform and support methane action policy and implementation strategies, specifically in the oil and gas sector. This event also fostered collaboration, identified ways to address challenges, to chart a unified course toward sustainable and effective methane mitigation and reduction in Nigeria. Specifically, the objectives were to:

- Introduce stakeholders to the project's goals and their role in achieving them.
- Present the mapping report and gather feedback to ensure its accuracy and comprehensiveness.



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- Discuss existing legislation and regulations, identify gaps hindering a seamless approach to methane reduction, while highlighting recent enactments like the Petroleum Industry Act that was supposed to strengthen mitigation initiatives.
 - Facilitate networking and collaboration among stakeholders to build strong partnerships for ongoing methane mitigation efforts.
 - Raise awareness around the urgency of methane mitigation and reduction in the oil and gas sector, emphasising its impacts on climate change and human well-being.

Workshop participants

The workshop included high-level officials such as the Honourable Minister of State and the Permanent Secretary from the Federal Ministry of Environment, as well as policymakers and relevant stakeholders from across the private sector and various ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), including.

- Representatives of Nigeria's Presidency
- Federal Ministry of Environment
- Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources
- Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission
- Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Agency
- Federal Ministry of Science and Technology
- Nigerian Governors' Forum
- National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency
- Clean Air Task Force
- Civil society organisations
- Oil and gas value chains
- Media representatives.

Workshop agenda

| # | Activity | Responsibility/Remarks | Duration |
|---|--|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Registration | APRI and DCC | 30 minutes |
| 2 | Welcome remarks | Dr. Iniobong Abiola-Awe, Director DCC, Federal Ministry of Environment. | 5 minutes |
| 3 | Remarks | Chibuikem Agbaegbu , Nigeria's Representative for APRI | 5 minutes |
| 4 | Remarks | Idris O. Musa DG, National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency | 5 minutes |
| 5 | Remarks | Dr. Mohammed D. Aminu, Africa Policy Manager, Methane Pollution Prevention, Clean Air Task Force | 5 minutes |
| 6 | Remarks | Andrew O. Uchendu, Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources (Oil and Gas) | 5 minutes |
| 7 | Remarks | Nwankwo Nnenna, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology | 5 minutes |
| 8 | Opening remarks | Mahmud O. Kambari, Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Environment | 5 minutes |
| 9 | Keynote address | Dr Iziaq Adekunle Salako, Honourable Minister of State for Environment | 15 minutes |
| Group photo and tea break (All participants) | | | 15 minutes |
| 10 | Overview of the Methane Mitigation and Reduction Project | Dr. Mohammed D. Aminu, Africa Policy Manager, Methane Pollution Prevention, Clean Air Task Force | 10 minutes |
| 11 | Presentation on Methane Mitigation: Nigeria and Beyond | Participants | 20 minutes |
| 12 | Comments, Questions & Answers | Participants | 20 minutes |
| 13 | Technical Presentation | Dr. Mahmoud Ibrahim Mahmoud, Senior Climate Change Fellow, APRI | 20 minutes |
| 14 | Comments, Questions & Answers | Participants | 20 minutes |
| 15 | Next steps and Wrap Up | Head of Climate Change Program, APRI Senior Climate Change Fellow, APRI | 10 Minutes |
| 16 | Closing remarks | Director, Department of Climate Change, FMEnv | 5 minutes |

LUNCH AND DEPARTURE

Summary of proceedings

The event began with welcome remarks by Dr Iniobong Abiola-Awe, Director of the DCC. Dr Abiola-Awe extended a warm welcome to all the participants and gave special recognition to Dr Iziak Adekunle Salako, Honourable Minister of State for Environment; Mahmud A. Kambari, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment; and Idris O. Musa, Director General of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) for their presence at this crucial event. She further highlighted the critical urgency of the project due to the significant impact of methane emissions on climate change and stressed the necessity of collaborative efforts among stakeholders to effectively reduce methane emissions in Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

This gathering aims to bring together key stakeholders to discuss the pressing issues of methane reduction and mitigation in Nigeria's oil and gas sectors. It is a close collaboration with the Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI) and the Federal Ministry of Environment...so much has been done in terms of methane reduction in Nigeria, but we are here today to assess what has been done and to have a deep dive into the research on legislation, regulations and policy framework in the oil and gas sector. – Dr Iniobong Abiola-Awe

Mahmud Adam Kambari, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Environment, in his opening remark underscored the necessity of collective determination and collaboration to effectively mitigate methane emissions. He emphasised the importance of leveraging best practices for methane reduction in Nigeria, while ensuring the process prioritises equity, justice and environmental benefits.



Opening remark:

Mahmud Adam Kambari, Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Environment

Representing the Executive Director of APRI, Olumide Abimbola, Chibuikem Agbaegbu welcomed participants and provided a brief overview of the mapping report. This report details Nigeria's methane emission landscape, including its current emission context, existing policies and mitigation strategies, the state of financing for mitigation efforts, and identification of key stakeholders involved. Chibuikem emphasised the significance of the collaboration between the DCC and APRI in undertaking this crucial project. He further highlighted the importance of the stakeholder workshop in gathering feedback on the initial findings and fostering collaboration to ensure the project's success.

In his keynote address, Dr Iziaq Adekunle Salako, Honourable Minister of State for the Federal Ministry of Environment, emphasised the urgency of combating climate change's threats to social life, health and livelihoods. Recognising methane emissions from human activities, particularly fugitive emissions from the oil and gas sector, as a key greenhouse gas source, Dr Salako applauded Nigeria's leadership in becoming the first African nation to regulate methane emissions in this sector. He underscored Nigeria's commitment to methane mitigation through its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and its pivotal role as a partner in global initiatives like the World Bank's GGFR/GFMR Partnership. The minister announced a policy decision of the Federal Ministry of Environment to implement a quarterly reporting channel for oil and gas companies with respect to the gas flare down agenda of the Federal Government of Nigeria. Finally, Dr Salako emphasised the president's commitment to environmental sustainability and highlighted key policy and strategy actions that Nigeria will be undertaking to support effective and sustainable methane reduction and mitigation:



Keynote address:

Dr Iziaq Adekunle Salako, Honourable Minister of State for the Federal Ministry of Environment

Within the oil and gas sector, practical steps are being taken to address methane emissions. Collaborative efforts of government institutions have led to the development of methane guidelines. In addition, the Federal Ministry of Environment through the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) will be commencing the periodic review of the plans of international and indigenous oil companies to ensure they stay on course to end routine gas flaring by 2030.

Furthermore, Nigeria is poised to embark on methane reduction projects that will enable Nigeria's commitment to methane reduction and meeting net zero emissions by 2060. It is therefore reassuring to see initiatives such as the Project 'Methane Mitigation and Reduction in Nigeria's Oil and Gas Sector', which is being initiated with today's event. – Dr Iziq Adekunle Salako

Echoing the Honourable Minister's remarks, Mr Mahmud Adam Kambari, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Environment, underscored the necessity of collective determination and collaboration to effectively mitigate methane emissions. He emphasised the importance of leveraging best practices for methane reduction in Nigeria, while ensuring the process prioritises equity, justice and environmental benefits.

His contributions were followed by those of Mr Idris Musa, Director-General of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, who emphasised the oil and gas industry's critical role in curbing methane emissions in Nigeria and the responsibility of oil companies in methane mitigation efforts. He further pledged NOSDRA's support in achieving the project's objectives.



Remarks:

Dr Iniobong Abiola-Awe, Department of Climate Change, Federal Ministry of Environment

Dr Mohammed Dahiru, Africa Policy Manager for Methane Pollution Prevention at the Clean Air Task Force (CATF) and the project's senior advisor, spoke about the importance of collaborating with governments to enact sound policies for methane emission mitigation. He acknowledged the positive trend of increasing funding for methane mitigation efforts and concluded by mentioning CATF's ongoing collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Environment and the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission since 2019.

Lastly, Dr Grace Mbungu, Head of the Climate Change Program at APRI, provided an overview of the Methane Mitigation and Reduction Project (MMRP), expressing gratitude for the collaborative effort with the DCC. Dr Grace commended Nigeria's leading role in methane mitigation and reduction, citing its participation at COP28 and the upcoming NDC update. She emphasised the project's potential benefits for public health, job creation for youth development, and alignment with SDGs.



Remarks:

Chibuikem Agbaegbu, representing APRI Executive Director, Olumide Abimbola

Technical sections

This section summarises the key takeaways from the two technical presentations delivered during the workshop. The first, by Mohammed Dahiru Aminu of the Clean Air Task Force (CATF), explored the task force's role in supporting methane mitigation efforts. The second, by Dr Ibrahim Mahmoud of APRI, presented the mapping report on the current state of methane mitigation efforts within this sector. These presentations provided a comprehensive picture, highlighting both the progress achieved and the challenges that remain on Nigeria's path to reducing methane emissions.

Presentation on methane mitigation: Nigeria and beyond

Dr Aminu's presentation highlighted the CATF's significant role in supporting methane mitigation efforts, particularly in Nigeria's oil and gas sector. He emphasised CATF's Methane Abatement Program, the largest of its initiatives, which targets methane emission reduction in this sector.

Dr Aminu commended Nigeria's leadership in becoming the first African country to enact methane regulations and highlighted CATF's collaboration as well as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition's (CCAC) funding support for this achievement. A series of capacity-building workshops co-organised by CATF and the Nigerian government addressed key areas like national inventory development, reduction strategies and stakeholder training on implementing these strategies. These collaborative efforts yielded positive results, including Nigeria's inclusion of a 61% methane reduction target in its NDC and the publication of Methane Guidelines by the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC). Workshops focused on implementing these guidelines, utilising the Country Methane Abatement Tool (CoMAT) for emissions quantification, and demonstrating Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) techniques further solidified progress.

Dr Aminu concluded by expressing CATF's continued commitment to supporting Nigeria and outlining their expanding efforts in other African nations like Ghana, Gabon and Côte d'Ivoire, with Namibia, Morocco and Algeria as potential future collaborators. The presentation underscored the critical role of collaboration and capacity building in achieving substantial methane emission reductions across Africa's oil and gas industry.

Technical presentation on APRI mapping report

Dr Mahmoud presented APRI's mapping report on methane mitigation in Nigeria's oil and gas sector. The report's overarching objective is to comprehensively assess the current state, challenges and opportunities for methane mitigation efforts. It examines five key areas:

- Landscape overview: This section provides background on Nigeria's oil and gas sector, analyses national climate priorities, and reviews existing research on methane mitigation.
- Policy and framework assessment: The report evaluates existing national and regional policies related to methane mitigation, including their effectiveness and potential for improvement.
- Stakeholder mapping: This section identifies and analyses the roles of various stakeholders involved in methane mitigation, including government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local communities.
- Financing landscape: The report explores funding sources and distribution mechanisms, and identifies gaps and opportunities for optimising financing strategies.
- Synthesis and recommendations: This final section integrates findings from all areas, identifies key challenges and opportunities, and provides recommendations for best practices and aligning methane mitigation efforts with national development and climate action plans.



Remarks:

Dr Mohammed Dahiru Aminu, APRI Non-Resident Fellow

Dr Mahmoud also outlined the methodology used to create the report, which included a literature review, stakeholder consultations, data analysis, and a focus on ensuring the approach aligns with Nigeria's specific context.

The report's initial findings highlight several key points:

- A disconnect exists between national policies, local needs and implementation, hindering effective methane mitigation.
- The complex stakeholder landscape necessitates coordinated action and collaboration across sectors.
- Financial gaps remain a critical challenge, with current funding insufficient for comprehensive mitigation strategies.
- Opportunities exist for improved regulations, including addressing loopholes and inconsistencies identified in the recent presidential executive order.
- Emerging innovations offer promising solutions for more effective methane mitigation and reduction strategies.

Overall, the APRI mapping report provides valuable insights into the methane mitigation landscape in Nigeria's oil and gas sector. By identifying challenges and opportunities, the report aims to inform and guide future efforts towards achieving sustainable and impactful methane reductions.



Remarks:

Dr Mahmoud Ibrahim Mahmoud, APRI Senior Climate Change Fellow

Key discussions on the technical presentations

The technical presentations by Mohammed Dahiru Aminu (CATF) and Dr Ibrahim Mahmoud (APRI) generated insightful discussions that highlighted various aspects crucial for advancing methane mitigation efforts in Nigeria's oil and gas sector. Following is a summary of the key takeaways.

Workshop discussion on 'Presentation on methane mitigation: Nigeria and beyond'

Following Dr Aminu's presentation on CATF's work in methane mitigation, a productive discussion ensued. Key takeaways include:

- Sectoral scope of CATF intervention: A representative from the Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST) inquired about the scope of CATF's activities beyond the oil and gas sector. Dr Aminu responded by highlighting case studies of CATF's involvement in the waste sector, specifically mentioning their work in Ghana.
- Technical support for emerging technologies: The Deputy Registrar of the Environmental Health Council of Nigeria (EHCON) expressed interest in technical support from CATF. Specifically, they requested assistance with 'handholding support' on emerging technologies for tracking methane emissions and gas analysers. This highlights the need for capacity building and technology transfer to effectively implement methane mitigation strategies in Nigeria.

Workshop discussion on 'Technical presentation on APRI mapping report'

Dr Mahmoud's presentation on APRI's methane mitigation mapping report generated a stimulating discussion. Key points raised by participants included:

- Data tracking and reporting: A representative from NOSDRA emphasised the value of satellite technology for emissions tracking. They further stressed the importance of establishing an independent data source to ensure the robustness of emissions reporting. This highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to data collection and verification.
- Policy development: A representative from the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA) advocated for a more analytical approach to policy design, incorporating tools like SWOT

(Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) and PEST (Political, Economic, Social, Technological) analyses. This suggests a data-driven and holistic approach to policy development for effective methane mitigation.

- **Health considerations:** The Deputy Registrar of the Environmental Health Council of Nigeria proposed that the report should place greater emphasis on the health implications of methane emissions. This underscores the importance of integrating public health considerations into methane mitigation strategies.
- **Midstream and downstream considerations:** A representative from the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) highlighted their ongoing efforts to develop guidelines for tracking and mitigating emissions in the midstream and downstream sectors of the oil and gas industry. They further emphasised the need for innovative technologies, capacity building across relevant agencies, and increased public awareness. This highlights the importance of a comprehensive approach that addresses all segments of the oil and gas value chain.
- **Leveraging existing initiatives:** A representative from the Federal Ministry of Petroleum suggested exploring the possibility of adapting the Satellite-based Methane Emission Tracker (SMET) to better reflect current climate realities. They also emphasised the value of leveraging NOSDRA's initiatives. Additionally, they mentioned the ministry's collaboration with the National Council on Climate Change to advance methane emission mitigation efforts. This underscores the importance of collaboration and utilising existing resources for maximum impact.



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- **Data disaggregation and utilisation:** A representative from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security stressed the need to disaggregate data and translate it into actionable insights. This suggests a focus on ensuring data is presented in a way that is readily useable by policymakers and stakeholders.
 - **Community protection:** A representative from the Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPRENG) advocated for the report to include practical solutions on how host communities can protect their environment from the impacts of methane emissions. This highlights the importance of incorporating the perspectives and needs of local communities into methane mitigation strategies.
 - **Subnational engagement:** A representative from the Nigeria Governors' Forum proposed that APRI expand its engagement to include relevant agencies and stakeholders at the subnational level, particularly in oil-producing regions. This suggests the importance of a multi-level governance approach that incorporates the critical role of subnational actors in achieving national methane reduction targets.



Examples of methane mitigation projects and actions

The workshop referenced several case studies that showcased progress and ongoing efforts in reducing methane emissions from Nigeria's oil and gas sector. A summary of these follows.



Example 1:

Presidential commitment at COP28

President Tinubu's pledge at COP28 to reduce methane emissions by 30% by 2030 underlines Nigeria's national commitment to climate action. The focus on eliminating gas flaring and promoting cleaner cooking fuels demonstrates concrete steps being taken.

[Read more...](#)

Example 2:

Industry leadership

TotalEnergies' achievement of zero routine flaring across its Nigerian operations sets a strong example for other companies. Their commitment to methane reduction and utilisation of AUSEA drone technology for emissions detection paves the way for best practices in the sector.

[Read more...](#)

Example 3:

Capacity-building workshops

A series of workshops held throughout 2023 and into 2024 addressed various aspects of methane mitigation. These workshops included:

Implementation of methane emissions reduction guidelines workshop (26 July 2023): This workshop aimed to raise awareness and mobilise stakeholders on implementing guidelines for reducing methane emissions.

Country Methane Abatement Tool (CoMAT) workshop (10 January 2024): This workshop targeted public sector stakeholders and provided training on utilising CoMAT to quantify methane emissions in Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) techniques and oil and gas methane baseline development workshop (11 January 2024): This workshop focused on demonstrating LDAR techniques for methane detection and repair, as well as establishing baselines for methane emissions and mitigation programme implementation.

[Read more...](#)

Example 4:

Pilot project collaboration

The collaboration between NNPC Ltd., the US Department of State and Deloitte on a methane abatement pilot project signifies a commitment to developing a scalable and well-financed approach to reducing methane emissions.

[Read more...](#)

Example 5:

Broadening the scope

The case study on methane generation from municipal solid waste in Kumasi, Ghana, commissioned by CATF, demonstrates their potential to expand their expertise beyond the oil and gas sector and address methane emissions from other sources.

[Read more...](#)

Conclusion and next steps

The workshop concluded with closing remarks from Dr Grace Mbungu, Head of Climate Change Program at APRI. Dr Mbungu expressed her sincere appreciation to all participants for their valuable contributions and collaboration with the DCC in making the workshop a success. Looking ahead, Dr Mbungu emphasised APRI's commitment to ongoing collaboration with relevant stakeholders. She assured participants that the insightful feedback received during the workshop will be carefully considered and inform the finalisation of the APRI mapping report on methane mitigation in Nigeria's oil and gas sector. This collaborative approach will ensure the report reflects a comprehensive understanding of the current landscape, challenges and opportunities for advancing methane mitigation efforts in Nigeria.



Finally, the Director of the DCC, Dr Iniobong Abiola-Awe, delivered the closing remarks. She expressed her gratitude to all the participants for their patience and commitment and underscored the value and importance of their feedback, contributions and inputs in addressing climate change in Nigeria.



Media mentions

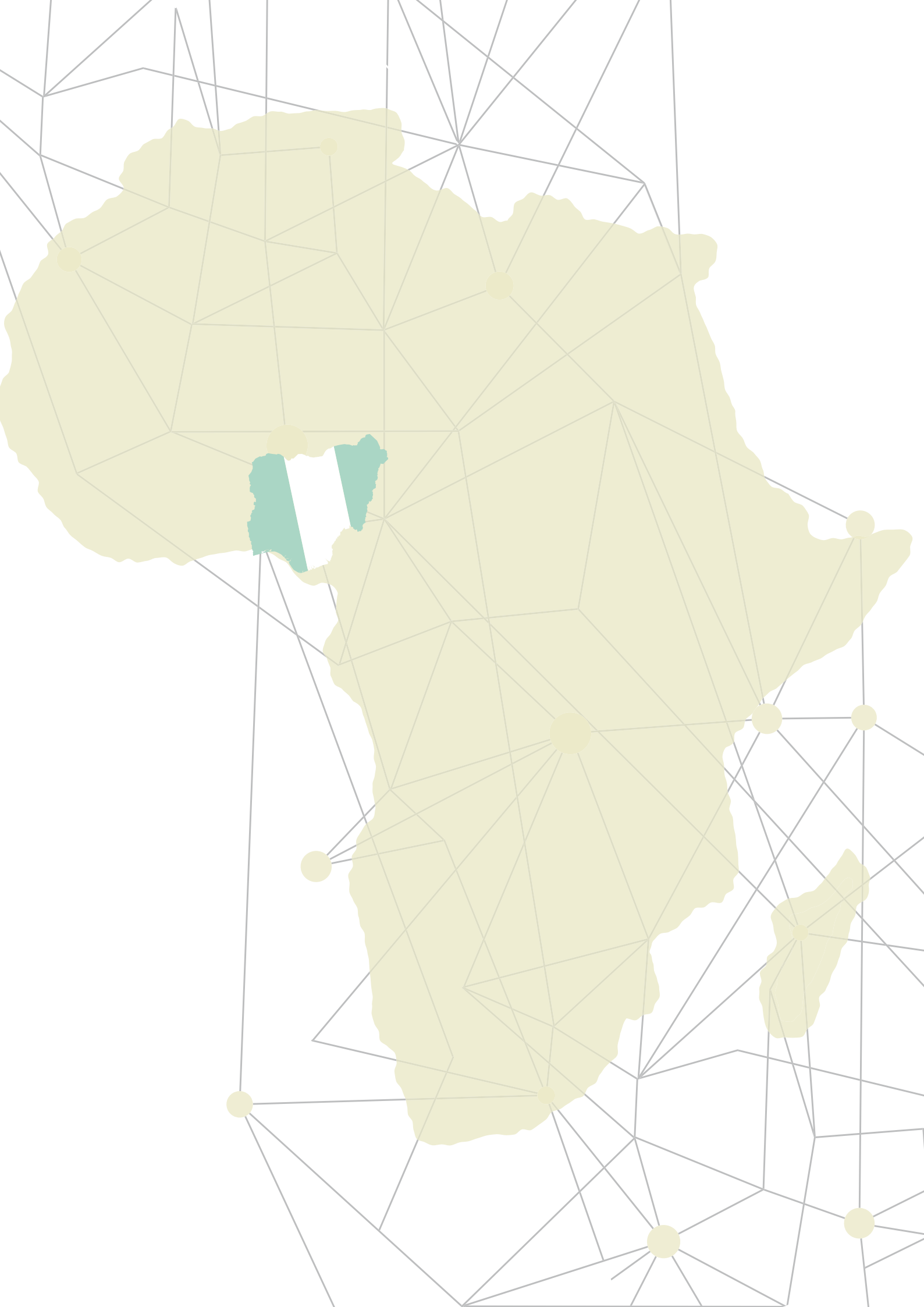
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FG to review oil firms' plans on gas flaring <https://punchng.com/fg-to-review-oil-firms-plans-on-gas-flaring/?amp>

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Oil flaring: FG to review plans of indigenous, IOCs to ensure 2030 phaseout <https://authorityngr.com/2024/03/27/oil-flaring-fg-to-review-plans-of-indigenousoics-to-ensure-2030-phase-out/>



About APRI

The Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI) is an independent and nonpartisan African think tank. It researches key policy issues affecting African countries and the African continent. APRI provides insights to the German and European Union policy-making processes on Africa. In addition, APRI provides policy options to African policymakers and civil society actors.

About the DCC

The Department of Climate Change (DCC) is the official information hub on climate change in Nigeria. It was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria under the Federal Ministry of Environment to serve as the vehicle for driving national climate actions and efforts. It was established with the broad mandate of coordinating activities towards national implementation of the national and international climate change agreements, including the Paris Agreement.

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