

# Western Sahara solar for sale

Is Western Sahara supplying half of Morocco's wind and solar energy?

Western Sahara Resource Watch, a Brussels-based NGO allied to the independence movement, estimates that by the end of the decade occupied Western Sahara could be supplying half of all Morocco's wind energy and a third of its solar energy, much of it headed for Europe.

How many solar panels are there in the Sahara?

Plans for one project in the Sahara call for 12 million solar panels and 530 wind turbines on an area of more than 650 square miles. And the land being taken for projects large enough to deliver power economically down long cables is vast.

Why is Western Sahara important?

It also has a large potential for the development of tourism and renewable energy. The exploitation of Western Sahara's natural resources takes place in a context where the cultural, economic and political rights of the Saharawi people are infringed, and which in turn, fuels Morocco's illegal occupation.

Are solar and wind farms a good idea in North Africa?

Critics also point to environmental and social concerns. Proponents of solar and wind farms in North Africa routinely describe the land they are taking as remote, empty desert. But even the Sahara Desert is not deserted, especially the coastal areas favored to link up with submarine cables.

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Is Western Sahara a self governing territory?

Western Sahara is a non-self governing territory pending decolonisation, rich in natural resources that generates numerous economic benefits for Morocco and dozens of transnational companies. Meanwhile, the Saharawi people have no guaranteed the right to self-determination and the right to manage and use their own land and resources.

The initial stages of another renewable energy project has been launched in the disputed Western Sahara region, which is under the control of Morocco. The Janassim project recently launched its measuring campaign of solar and wind energy potential.

"Western Sahara is not for sale" (WSNS), is an international campaign against the plundering of natural resources in Western Sahara, promoted by different Saharawi civil society organizations from the occupied territories, the refugee camps and the diaspora.

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Located near Dakhla in the disputed Western Sahara region, the project will involve the construction of large-scale renewable energy facilities aimed at harnessing the area's abundant sunlight and persistent winds.

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Morocco is also eager to tap into Western Sahara's solar potential. The operational solar capacity in the territory is today still relatively modest, consisting of two photovoltaic solar plants with a combined capacity ...

According to Forbes Magazine, the Sahara desert is so exposed to the sun's rays, that it would only take 335 square kilometres of solar panels in the Sahara to power the entire world (this excludes potential difficulties in storing and exporting the energy). Here lies the problem.

As demand for renewable power grows, Morocco is increasingly siting its wind and solar farms beyond its southern border -- in Western Sahara. Morocco unilaterally took over the territory, which is the size of Colorado, in 1975, after Spanish colonists left.

Morocco drew up plans in 2009 to build solar plants and wind farms to generate 4 gigawatts of power by 2020 but much of that output is to come from sites planned in Western Sahara, the focus of a ...

We are aware that the main element that pushed the Moroccan occupation and before, the Spanish colonization, is the wealth and resources of Western Sahara. Western Sahara is a very rich territory in fish, phosphate, sand, agriculture and other natural resources and Morocco is taking profit of this resources in defiance of the international ...

Clockwise from top left: Bhadla solar park, India; Desert Sublight solar farm, US; Hainanzhou solar park, China and Ouarzazate solar park, Morocco. Google Earth, Author provided A greener Sahara

"This is a momentous victory for the people of Western Sahara. At a time when international law is under

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pressure, it is fundamental that the EU follows its own court and stops collaborating with the occupier through illegal trade agreements", stated Western Sahara Resource Watch. This morning, the EU Court of Justice issued a landmark ruling.

Africa is a continent renowned for its diverse landscapes, encompassing rainforests, savannas, mountains, and deserts. A significant portion of Africa's land area is covered by deserts, including the Sahara, Kalahari, and Namib. These arid regions are characterized by low precipitation, extreme temperature fluctuations, and sparse vegetation. Desert lands in Africa often possess ...

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