

The #WetinWeGain #OpeningExtractives Reports Call for Investigative Journalism Pitches

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Policy Alert is pleased to invite Nigerian investigative journalists to submit data-informed and human-interest investigative story pitches to the #WetinWeGain #OpeningExtractives Reports Pitch Contest.

Background and overview:

The #WetinWeGain #OpeningExtractives Reports is the investigative journalism component of Policy Alert's project, *#WetinWeGain: Using beneficial ownership and extractive sector data to investigate corrupt practices in the Oil Swap deals in Nigeria*. The project seeks to utilize beneficial ownership data on commodity trading companies involved in opaque crude oil swap contracts from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) in Nigeria since 2011, follow the money trail, hold companies and state actors to account, and address related remedial issues highlighted in the NEITI Oil and Gas Audit reports in the periods between 2011-2020.

Driven by recent reforms, governance issues in Nigeria's extractive sector have gained unprecedented visibility. Specifically, improved legal backing for and implementation of beneficial ownership transparency hold huge potential for detecting and deterring corruption, plugging revenue leakages, and improving the benefits citizens derive from oil, gas and mineral resources. However, commodity trading transactions continue to fly below the radar of such reform efforts. This project recognizes the important role of journalists in changing this narrative by providing investigative reporters an opportunity to shine the light on institutions and actors in oil trading transactions, unearth and make meaning of the available data, and tell data-driven stories that can expose corruption, hold players accountable and point to solutions for strengthening reforms and improving service delivery.

The project, implemented with funding support from Open Ownership and the EITI will provide funding support for four exceptional investigations over a two-month period.

ELIGIBILITY

- Investigative journalists working anywhere in Nigeria in the print, electronic, and digital/online media
- Practitioners using cartoons/comics, animations, infographics and such other under-supported or experimental storytelling formats are also welcome to submit applications.
- Selected journalists will be expected to publish or broadcast their stories in their affiliated media within the duration of the project.
- Previously published stories are ineligible, but pitches can be designed as a sequel to a previous story. A link to the prequel should be provided.
- Policy Alert, Open Ownership and their partners shall have the right to edit, publish, broadcast and distribute these stories freely, once they have been published/broadcast in the original media outlet

- Joint submissions by two or more journalists or collaborations between media organisations/newsrooms are encouraged.
- However, preference will be given to pitches that are:
 - Submitted by investigative journalists with a track record of data-informed work or of reporting on extractive sector and beneficial ownership issues
 - Focused on single commodity trading companies
- Policy Alert will provide training and mentoring to selected reporters towards delivering the stories.
- Only shortlisted entries will be contacted.

Submission guidelines

Story pitches (not more than 400 words) should be submitted by email as an MS Word attachment to: wetinwegain@policyalert.org not later than **11.59pm WAT November 27, 2022**.

Entries should include the following details of the applicant (not part of word count): Full name of journalist (Surname first), WhatsApp phone number, email, name of media organisation/affiliation, designation, URL of affiliation, online link to at least one previous work sample, preferably related to the theme of this call, and physical contact address.