

Operationalising a Just Transition in Africa (OJTA)



Context

Just transition pathways are critical to the global financial response to climate change. The realisation and achievement of transitions in the developing country context is considerably complex and vital, particularly on the African continent, which has multiple challenges, including poverty, inequality, lack of energy access and food insecurity.

At the same time, Africa faces considerable challenges in accessing sufficient and appropriate finance to pursue effective and inclusive climate-compatible development. There is, therefore, a critical need for clearer frameworks and pathways for financing a just transition, especially in the context of current and future climate finance infrastructure. A combination of gaps in capacity, data, evidence and learning platforms for leveraging emerging practices impedes the continent's capacity to operationalise clear transition pathways and understand the required financing mechanisms and innovative approaches and instruments for accessing these finances.

The OJTA project seeks to support Africa's contribution to the body of evidence on the interplay between theoretical underpinnings/debates of a just transition and the practical experiences and needs for just transition pathways in Africa. The project responds to the need to build an understanding of the integration of just transition considerations into national policy and the need for innovative financial mechanisms to achieve just and equitable transitions, particularly concerning the energy sector, which is critical to Africa's long-term sustainable development.

Project objectives

- 1 Produce new knowledge on pathways for operationalising and financing just energy transitions in Africa to broaden the knowledge base on integrating just transition considerations into African states' energy transition targets and target-setting processes, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and NDC financing strategies.
- 2 Enhance the capacity of Multinational Development Banks (MDBs), government policymakers, and Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to support the integration of just transition considerations into government and Development Finance Institution (DFI) policies, strategies, implementation plans, and project appraisal tools.
- 3 Broker knowledge by sharing evidence for use by national and multilateral decision-makers to support African perspectives on just transition.

Focus countries



What impact does OJTA seek to achieve?

African States' transitions to low-emissions economies account for the needs of those most vulnerable to the effects of compounding risks, vulnerabilities and change.

Process methodology



Research topics will be informed by the literature review and situational analysis of OJTA and, in turn, update/inform the evidence base.



A case study will be undertaken to explore the context and practitioner experience of a research issue to enhance the research sub-question.



The research sub-question will be approached with the intention of being published in a journal article format. Therefore, standardised formatting for academic publication will frame the analysis structure.



A policy brief will showcase the journal article's key outcomes and findings.



The research team will look to coordinate a summative academic output to pull together the collective research outputs and/or those of additional researchers to amplify any empirical findings to the literature.

Key stakeholders

Stakeholders will be identified to include national and local level policymakers, funders, the private sector, universities, and research organisations involved in this research. The project will engage with these stakeholders with a view to enhancing their capacity to co-produce and translate knowledge into policy and practice through learning-by-doing and peer-to-peer learning approaches, as well as structured academic training and research.

Funding and implementation

OJTA is funded by the [International Development Research Centre \(IDRC\)](#). [SouthSouthNorth \(SSN\)](#) is responsible for implementing and partnering to deliver the programme from March 2023 until November 2025. This programme is being run in partnership with the [Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship \(CAS\)](#) at the University of Pretoria (UP) and the [African Research Impact Network \(ARIN\)](#).

More information

For more information and updates on OJTA's work, please visit the following channels:

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