

OPERATIONALISING A JUST TRANSITION IN AFRICA



AN EVIDENCE BASE OF LITERATURE FOR AN INFORMED APPROACH TO UNDERSTANDING JUST TRANSITION IN AFRICA

The concept of a just transition, as articulated in the Paris Agreement, seeks to protect jobs and socio-economic rights during the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. However, Africa faces a notable gap in evidence that is essential for effectively implementing a just transition agenda in policy and practice. The OJTA project seeks to contribute to enhancing the knowledge base regarding evidence pathways for operationalising and financing just transitions across the continent.

An evidence base of literature is crucial for fostering an informed approach to understanding Just Transition in Africa, particularly given the complexity of the concept and its relevance to the continent's socioeconomic and environmental challenges. A Just Transition involves a fair shift towards sustainable economies while ensuring social equity, inclusivity, and respect for environmental justice. In the African context, where poverty, inequality, and reliance on extractive industries are widespread, the importance of contextualising and operationalising Just Transition becomes even more pronounced. Building a robust evidence base helps inform policymakers and stakeholders about best practices, facilitates the integration of Just Transition principles into national development plans, and aids in the identification of specific challenges faced by African countries.

This document presents a compilation of emerging research on just transitions, with a specific focus on Africa and on South Africa and Kenya in particular. The document is by no means exhaustive and has been developed to be periodically updated with emerging literature and resources to guide the crafting of a just transition pathway in the African context.

It is important to recognise that there is no single, universally accepted definition of "just transitions." Instead, a practical, continent-wide approach is required to balance Africa's climate and development policies and effectively implement this concept. As such, it is crucial that African perspectives and policies that operationalise just transitions are owned by local stakeholders and practitioners, in addition to being informed by evidence-based research.

This evidence base draws on a range of approaches from environmental humanities and environmental sciences, focusing on key topics that could be expanded on in the future. In time, this may include a comprehensive list of institutions, organisations, and experts working on just transition issues in Africa.

This document is informed by a body of literature that contributes to the development of a forthcoming publication titled *Operationalising Just Transitions in Africa: Possibilities and Pathways for Energy Systems in an Uneven Global Context*.



THEMATIC BREAKDOWN

JUST ENERGY POLICY
& FRAMEWORKS



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