

10th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-X)

Theme: Just Transitions in Africa: Transforming Dialogue into Action

Windhoek, Namibia 24 - 28 October 2022

Pre-Event Concept Note

Event Title	Just energy transition in Africa: The role of the private sector
Event Date & Time	25.10.2022 TBC
Room	TBC
Online Link	TBC
Event Sponsor	ACSEA/PACJA, WWF, WRI
Event Partners	AREI
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Summary

This side event will interrogate the role the private sector can and must play to accelerate a just transition to low-emission development and industrialisation in Africa and the safeguard needed to ensure that such a role generates benefits for marginal communities. It brings together leaders from government, civil society, academia, and the private sector for a candid conversation.

Background

In 2022, the African Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access (ACSEA) and the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) led a series of reflections to develop an African perspective of just transition. The process aims to elucidate the critical issues that must inform the just transition process in Africa and our advocacy. Lessons from this process are diverse. But they converge around three cardinal points. In addition to catering for job losses and other undesired effects, policies and programs need to:

- increase sustainable energy access for all, deploying energy services to strengthen adaptive capacities and resilience through reforms to decentralise and democratise energy services
- foster low-emission industrialisation in Africa through the promotion of homegrown innovation, technology development and technology transfer
- comply with the principles of climate justice through mechanisms to compensate forgone resources (or stranded assets) And mobilise resources to programmes and projects.

As centres of innovation, finance mobilisation and job creation, private enterprises can accelerate the attainment of these goals. But quite often, they work in silos. This increases the risk that private-led investment and initiatives fail to integrate the broad range of energy and climate challenges facing Africa in their decision-making or that policies and programs do not take advantage of the strength of the private sector. One of the reasons for this is the absence of a platform for dialogue between the private sector, CSOs and other actors.

ACSEA and PACJA have partnered with WWF, WRI and others for this side event to lay the foundation for a more robust engagement of the private sector in just transition processes in Africa and the establishment of a collaborative framework with civil society.

Objectives

- Clarify the role that the private sector can play in advancing a just transition to low-emission development and industrialisation in Africa

- Create a multi-actor (civil, private, and public sectors) platform for dialogue and the sharing of experiences and expectations
- Build consensus around critical elements of African just transition perspectives and develop positions ahead of COP 27 and other global climate policy development processes

Format

- *Panel discussion.* ACSEA and PACJA will convene a two-hour panel of leading voices to share insights and perspectives
- *Plenary debate.* Physical and online participants will contribute to building key positions, messages, and strategies for elevating African just transition perspectives in UNFCCC processes.

Speakers

<p>Augustine B Njamnshi <i>Chair, Political and Technical Affairs Committee (PACJA), Coordinator (ACSEA)</i></p> <p>Joab Okanda <i>Pan Africa Senior Advocacy Advisor Christian Aid</i></p> <p>Wanjira Mathai <i>Vice President, World Resources Institute (WRI)</i></p> <p>Chantal Colle <i>Ag. Coordinator IDU, African Renewable Initiative (AREI)</i></p> <p>Thomas Opande <i>World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF)</i></p>	<p>Political Remarks</p> <p><i>Situating just transition debates within the climate justice discourse: critical issues for consideration by actors in Africa and the Global South</i></p>
Eugene N Nforngwa	Moderator and Scene-Setter

<p>Lead Expert, Just Transition and Energy Access (PACJA); Director of Programs (ACSEA)</p>	<p><i>Developing an African Perspective of Just Energy Transition: Lessons from Kigali Reflections and Nairobi Summit on Just Transition and Energy Democracy</i></p>
<p>Dr Omran Barakat <i>North African Representative in AREI</i></p> <p>Regina Nesiamu Mueller <i>Principal Renewable Energy Specialist AfDB</i></p> <p>Elizabeth Wangeci Chege <i>Sustainable Energy For All</i></p>	<p>Discussant 1, 2 & 3</p> <p><i>How are major renewable energy initiatives contributing to increased access to sustainable energy on the continent? What are the lessons so far? What opportunities exist for CSO and private sector engagement?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Case 1. the African Renewable Energy Initiative</i> • <i>Case 2. AfDB Desert to Power Initiative</i> • <i>Case 3. Sustainable Energy for All</i>
<p>Thomas Opande WWF</p> <p>Private Sector Rep <i>Title/Organisation</i></p>	<p>Discussant 4 & 5</p> <p><i>What are the key barriers to private sector participation in the energy transition process in Africa? What needs to change to encourage private-driven, people-centred renewable energy investments in Africa?</i></p>
<p>Plenary Debate</p>	<p>Questions, Answers and Comments</p> <p><i>What role should private actors play in advancing a just energy transition in Africa? What must change to strengthen this role? What urgent messages and demands must CSOs and private actors communicate to policymakers ahead of COP?</i></p>
<p>Mithika Mwenda Executive Director (PACJA)</p>	<p>What now?</p> <p><i>What are the next steps to maintain momentum and solidify emerging partnerships and processes?</i></p>

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