

A Just Transition: For Whom?



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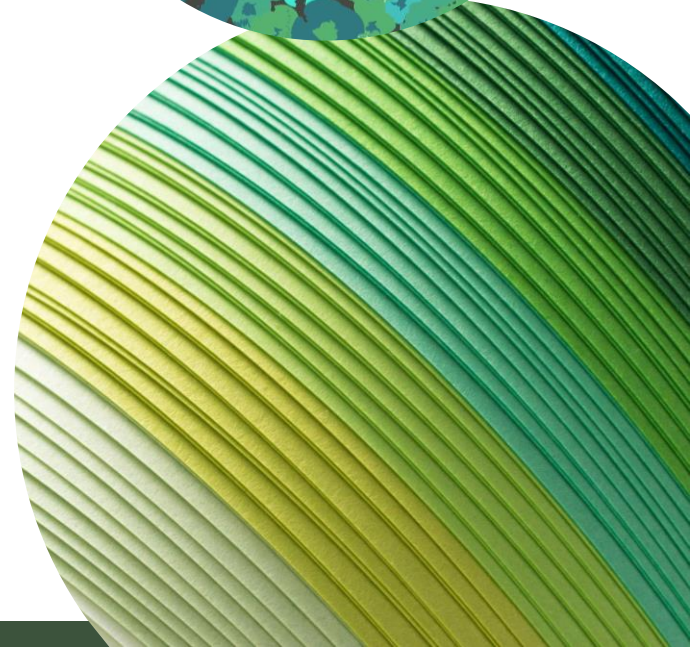
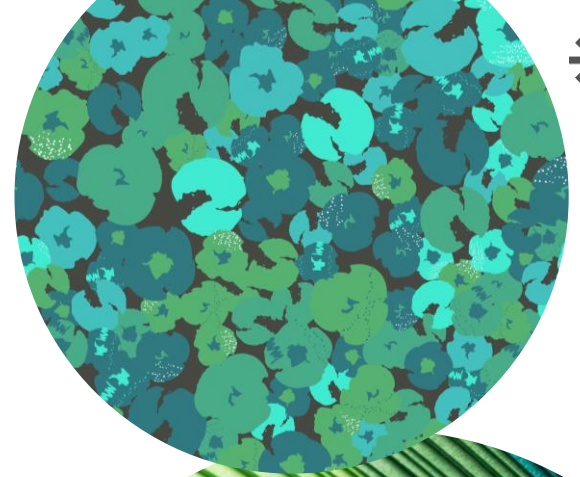
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Introduction

- The concept of a just transition is a labour – orientated concept.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) has expanded their understanding of a just transition
- Low-carbon initiatives offer significant environmental and economic benefits
- An unfair transition is inherently unsustainable (Wang & Lo, 2021)





The Global South and a Just Transition

- Northern perspectives often dominate social research and international policies (Connell, 2007)
- Since the concept of a Just Transition emerged in the North (the United States during the 1980s), a critical stance towards this concept is vital
- There is no one-size fits all approach
- The Paris Agreement has recognised the importance of understanding local and regional dynamics in communities dependent on fossil fuel extraction and usage
- For the Global South matters such as an informal labour force, land rights and natural resources should be considered



South Africa and the Just Transition movement

- South Africa is the biggest polluter in Africa and one of the top 15 greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters globally (USAID, 2023)
- In SA's move towards a green(er) economy, the impact of job losses could be devastating
- In addressing the challenges that the Global South faced, a vast amount of literature exists around suggested principles to address some of these challenges (see Konstant et al., 2021; Gunningham & Sinclair, 2017; Abeyesiriwardhana et al., 2021; UNDP, 2020; ILO, 2015).
- Socio-economic contexts differ therefore adjustment of principles and actions are vital





Principles for a societal just transition



Visioning and
effective
communication



Inclusive
planning



Collaborating
with social
partners



Addressing
inequalities



Targeted social
investment



Principle 1: Visioning and effective communication

- Long-term vision with interim milestones and targets
 - Gradual refinement of milestones and KPI's
- Inclusive dialogue with various stakeholders
 - National, regional and local government
 - Workers and worker's organisations
 - Contractors and suppliers
 - Communities
 - Partners
- Transparency
 - Just Transition Communication Strategy
 - Regular sustainability reporting





Principle 2: Inclusive planning

- Use Social Impact Assessment and Analysis to:
 - Consider long-term societal impacts
 - Consider vulnerable groups
 - Previously disadvantaged communities, minorities, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, and youth
- Skills audits, policy review
- Align transitioning objectives with social management plans and safeguards





Principle 3: Collaborating with social partners

- Regular social dialogue with worker's organisations to
 - Forecast skills needs
 - Address worker rights
 - Improve working conditions
- Invest in training and reskilling
- Advance notice of change
 - Clear communication
 - Personal finance training
 - Reinvestment opportunities





Principle 4: Addressing inequalities

- Design effective adaptation and mitigation strategies
 - Undertake Vulnerability Assessments
 - Promote inclusive dialogue through meaningful participation
- Relationship building
 - Regular community engagement





Principle 5: Targeted social investment

- Avoid white elephant infrastructure projects
- View communities as partners
- Assess current assets, resources and abilities
- Obtain community buy-in
- Self-sustainable projects





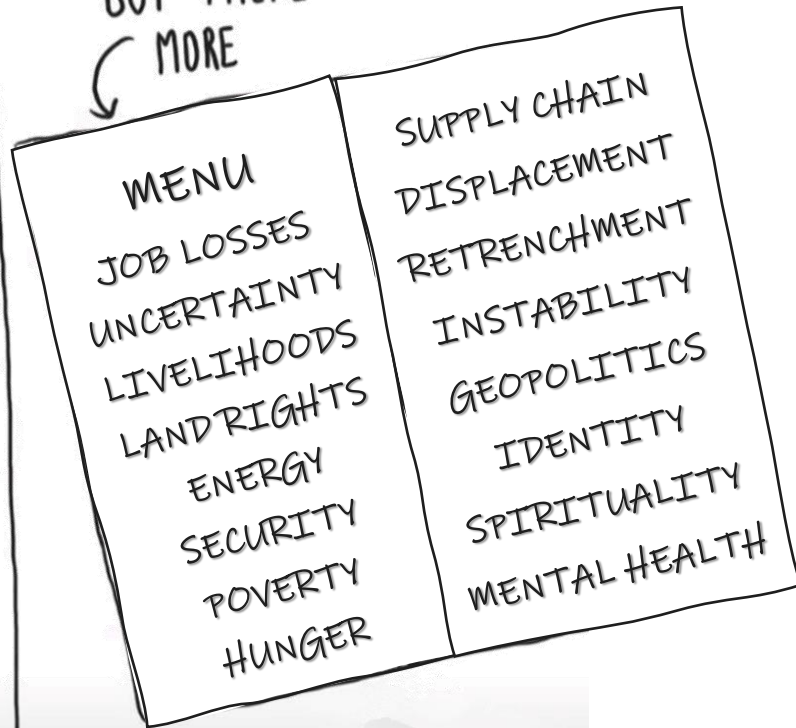
JUST TRANSITION

WHAT EVERYBODY
SEES



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BUT THERE IS
MORE



Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA24 app.

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