

carbon-free South Africa

interventions to support South Africa’s shift towards a greener future.

Given South Africa’s commitment to decarbonise its energy intensive economy as set out in its NDC, and the commitment of the IPG to support developing countries in achieving this in ways that are inclusive and equitable, the Partnership has the potential to provide a model that could be replicated across the globe.

Key priorities of the Partnership include:

- Accelerating decarbonisation of South Africa’s electricity sector, including expanding renewable energy sources and strengthening the transmission network to accommodate new investments in renewables.
- Protecting vulnerable workers and communities affected by the move away from fossil fuels.
- Supporting the reform process underway and future reforms essential to strengthen the enabling environment for the just transition.
- Addressing environmental aspects of the transition, including mine rehabilitation.
- Supporting the repurposing of mine sites (for example, for renewable energy and agriculture).
- Supporting opportunities for technological innovation and both public and private investment to drive the creation of green and quality jobs including in the Green Hydrogen and Electric Vehicles sectors; and
- In the design of the Partnership, ensuring that the programme gives due consideration to South Africa’s fiscal challenges.

The JETP benefits from, and will be enabled by, policy reforms that have been implemented in South Africa since COP26 and which affirm the relevance and focus of the JETP. These include, but are not limited to:

- An updated Climate Change Bill was tabled in Parliament in early 2022. The legislation will create a regulatory framework that enables the development of an effective climate change response and a long-term, just transition to a low-carbon economy and climate-resilient society.
- The PCC has just concluded a wide consultation process on a Just Transition Framework released on 23 February 2022, which will be finalised and presented to Cabinet. This is supported by the release of a Just Energy Transition discussion document by the DMRE that gives further substance to South Africa’s approach to a just transition.
- A sixth round of bids for renewables under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) is underway, consistent with the country’s Integrated Resource Plan.
- Positive developments related to green hydrogen are in place, including the development of a Hydrogen Economy Roadmap led by the Department of Science and Innovation. The Industrial Development Corporation, working with KfW, is identifying early-stage project potential, and in the Northern Cape work is underway to develop a port at Boegoebaai that is critical to the



Communities calling for urgent climate action ahead of climate negotiations. /supplied

development of an export market for green hydrogen.

- South Africa launched a South African Green finance taxonomy in April 2022 that outlines assets, projects, and sectors that are eligible to be defined as “green” in line with international best practice and national priorities. It is a voluntary market tool, with regulatory guidance expected later in 2022 followed by the development of a regulatory instrument from 2023.
 - A Sustainability and Climate Change Disclosure Guidance, based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD), was launched by the Johannesburg Stock Exchange 14 June 2022.
 - The DMRE is working to finalise a National Mine Closure Strategy, which will bring policy clarity and provide operational guidance for mine closures.
 - A South African Renewable Energy Master Plan is being developed that will outline a roadmap to support the expansion of renewable energy sources and supply chains in the country.
- In addition, significant work on the just transition has been undertaken outside of government that the Partnership can draw from, including:
- The Congress of South African Trade Unions’ (Cosatu) Just Transition Blueprint, which reflects the active engagement of organised labour in developing policy responses for affected workers.
 - The Life After Coal Campaign’s Just Transition Open Agenda, which is one of several inputs that civil society have made on the just transition.
 - The sustainability and climate disclosure guidance as well as guidance related to sustainable bonds and transition securities listings issued by Johannesburg Stock Exchange; and

- Work undertaken by organised business such as the National Business Initiative and Business Unity SA, as well as academic and policy research institutions on the trajectory that South Africa could take to meet the lower end of the NDC target range and move towards a net zero pathway.

JETP-linked initiatives in progress
The JETP recognises that there are several bilateral and multilateral initiatives at different degrees of readiness that will seek to support South Africa in meeting its short and long-term goals.

The Eskom Just Energy Transition Project at Komati is under development and will likely be presented to the World Bank Board for approval before COP27. This project addresses the repowering and repurposing of the Komati Power Station, and has a substantial social

and just transition component.

There is also ongoing work related to both green hydrogen and electric vehicles, including a partnership between KfW and South Africa’s Industrial Development Corporation to support potential green hydrogen-related investments and the UK support for the development of the Hydrogen Roadmap.

In addition, a policy-based operation is already under preparation by AFD and KfW to support South Africa’s priorities.

While momentum has built up in relation to the JETP, there is much work to be done both to refine the financing package and to develop the JETP-IP. These developments have placed the just energy transition at the centre of the national policy agenda and action by stakeholders across society.



PRESIDENTIAL CLIMATE COMMISSION
TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION



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