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Implications of the Just Energy Transition on Rural Economies in Africa

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Abstract: Objectives: This research examines the implications of the Just Energy Transition on rural economies in Africa, which are more vulnerable to the transition. **Prior Work:** Global warming and the associated global climate change serve as a wake-up call for policymakers and international organisations to move from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy through a just energy transition. **Approach:** This study explores the implications of the Just Energy Transition on rural economies in Africa via a systematic literature review. It analysed thirty-two journal articles from Scopus and two policy documents. **Results:** The research found that the Just Energy Transition enhances access to renewable, clean energy for rural communities that previously lacked electricity. It also encourages new investments and business opportunities, creates employment, improves sustainable land use, supports reforestation, and reduces pollution. However, in communities where fossil fuels formed a major economic activity, the loss of jobs, higher electricity prices, and diminished revenue from fossil fuels are significant consequences. **Implications:** The transition has implications spanning environmental, economic, political, and social domains. **Value:** This study contributes to customised energy transitions tailored to the specific needs and implications of individual countries.

Keywords: climate change; renewable energy; fossil fuel; greenhouse effect

JEL Classification: D6

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1. Introduction

The Global climate change is a defining challenge worldwide and a serious threat to humanity. The World Meteorological Organisation indicated that global temperatures have risen by 1°C compared to pre-Industrial Revolution periods (Satgar, 2018; Singh, 2020). The world has accumulated high levels of greenhouse gases (GHG), including carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), ozone (O3), and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), resulting from increased industrial activities and leading to ozone depletion and rising temperatures. As temperatures rise, extreme weather events such as droughts, hurricanes, heatwaves, floods, and wildfires become more frequent. Some coastal regions are also experiencing flooding due to sea level rise and glacier melting (Satgar, 2018; Singh, 2020).

World leaders have entered a series of agreements aimed at halting the continuous rise in global temperatures by reducing GHG emissions. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), established in 1992, serves as a global intergovernmental body to address climate change. Additionally, agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol of 1997, the Copenhagen Accord of 2009, and the International Renewable Energy Agency of 2009 have been implemented to facilitate transition (Satgar, 2018; Singh, 2020). The Paris Agreement (2015), ratified by over 131 countries, urgently calls for preventing a further temperature increase to 2°C, and aims to limit the rise to below 1.5°C. Governments worldwide are adopting Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as part of their adaptation strategies to meet the Paris Agreement targets. However, the Paris Agreement (2015) did not include the Kyoto Protocol's commitment to common but differentiated responsibilities, which tasked developed and industrialised countries with limiting their GHG emissions to specific levels. The voluntary nature of NDCs may hinder the realisation of the intended goal of reducing global temperatures, as many commitments are staggered and major emitters, such as the USA and China, continue to have high emission levels (Satgar, 2018).

Literature emphasises the urgent need for drastic emissions reduction strategies in highly polluting countries through legally binding commitments, without offsetting or carbon trading with developing nations (Satgar, 2018). A critical need exists to halt fossil fuel extraction and shift to renewable energy sources. Nonetheless, the use of fossil fuels remains the primary driver of the Industrial Revolution and capitalism, perpetuating reliance on fossil fuels (García-García, Carpintero & Buendía, 2020). Despite Africa's relatively low GHG emissions and energy consumption, the continent plays a vital role in the Just Energy Transition, as it is the source and major supplier of fossil fuels and minerals essential for manufacturing renewable energy solutions.

The word just transition was first coined by Mazzochi in the 1970s, who was a senior official in the United States Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, which faced

closure of multiple industries due to environmental sustainability issues (Steyn, Tyler, Roff, Renaud & Mgoduso, 2021). Mazzochi advocated for just transitions, which facilitated the closures but also provided financial support, retraining and relocation for affected workers. The energy transition is not only an environmental, economic or political challenge but also a social issue. The transition has implications for the livelihoods, well-being, and rights of millions of people who depend on fossil fuels for their income, consumption and household activities (Steyn, Tyler, Roff, Renaud & Mgoduso, 2021). The use of solid fuels such as wood, charcoal, agricultural residues, and animal dung is still prevalent among about 3 billion poor people, or nearly 41% of the global population, who use them for cooking and heating in open fires or traditional stove reduction (Kumar & Tiwary, 2020). Transitioning to renewable energy may lead to job losses in fossil fuel-based industries, and the economic activities of some developing nations with fossil fuel deposits will be affected (Delina & Janetos, 2018).

A just energy transition towards a low-carbon economy can be conceptualised as a long-term technological and socio-economic process of structural transformation that affects the generation, distribution, storage and utilisation of energy and induces changes at micro (innovation), meso (social networks, rules and technical elements) and macro (exogenous environment) levels. While also ensuring that the desired socioeconomic functions can be achieved through decarbonised and renewable modes of energy production and consumption, safeguarding social justice, equity and welfare (Miller, Richter & Leary, 2015; García, 2020). Additionally, the concept of a Just Transition, as defined at the level of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), entails the consideration of the rights of the workforce and during a period of unprecedented change, foster the creation of decent work and quality jobs in sustainable economic sectors in line with nationally defined development priorities (UNFCCC, 2016; Jenkins, Sovacool, Błachowicz & Lauer, 2020).

Energy transition, which is one of the many facets of the socio-ecological transition towards sustainability, entails a transformation of the modes of production, distribution, storage, and consumption of energy that results in changes in the policy, economic and social spheres (García, 2020). The high population growth rate places an unprecedented demand on the limited global resources, including energy. It is estimated that the energy demand globally will grow by about 50% between 2020 and 2050, which further creates the need for a more sustainable energy resource, according to the International Energy Outlook Report, 2021. More specifically, the report projects that the amount of energy that the world uses will increase from 600 units in 2020 to 700 units in 2030 and to 885 units in 2050. (One unit is equal to one quadrillion British thermal units or Btu) (Seetharaman, Moorthy, Patwa, Saravanan & Gupta, 2019; Nalley & Larose, 2021). A British thermal unit (BTU) is a way of measuring how much heat something has or gives off. It is equal to the amount of

heat needed to make one pound of water warmer by one degree Fahrenheit (Azad, Khan, Ahasan & Ahmed, 2014; Seetharaman et al., 2019; Nalley & Larose, 2021). Figure 1 shows global energy consumption projections.

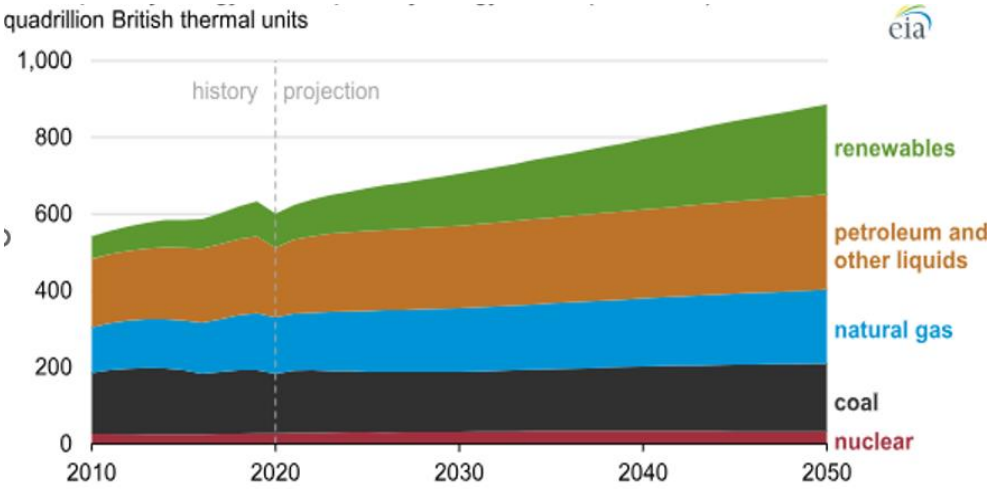

Figure 1. Global energy consumption projections, International Energy Outlook 2021 (Nalley & Larose, 2021)

The growth in energy consumption is also projected to contribute about 43 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions within the same period (Nalley & Larose, 2021). Hence, there is an urgent need to switch from using fossil fuels to renewable energy sources to avoid adverse climate change. Fossil fuels cause most of the greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) that make the planet warmer. Figure 2 shows Global energy-related carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions projections.

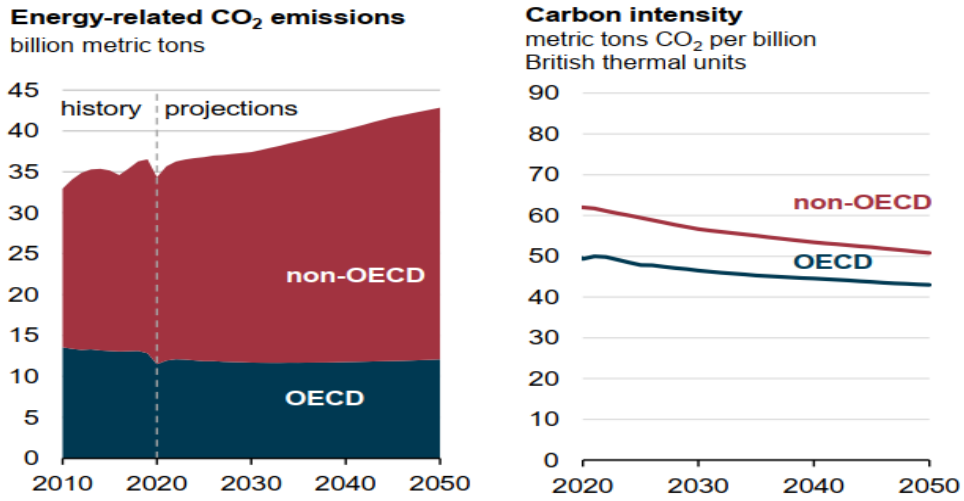

Figure 2. Global energy-related CO2 emissions projections, International Energy Outlook 2021 (Nalley & Larose, 2021)

Rural communities in Africa have a lot of marginalised and vulnerable individuals who may be negatively impacted by the Just Energy transition (Satgar, 2018). First, the impacts of climate change, which involve droughts, floods, and heat waves, negatively affect the livelihoods of rural people who depend on agricultural activities for income. Secondly, the rural populace relies on natural resources for their livelihoods and has limited capacity to adapt to change (Steyn et al., 2021). Third, rural communities have been experiencing energy poverty through lack or poor access to clean energy like electricity; the move to renewable energy may exacerbate this access due to a lack of finance (Tyler & Mgoduso, 2022). Finally, some African cultures favour traditional sources of energy like wood as cooking fuel, and these traditions might be difficult to change. This research aims to analyse the implications of the just energy transition to the rural economies in Africa, which are more vulnerable to the Just energy transition.

2. Methodology

2.1. Research Design

A systematic literature review was conducted using the PRISMA protocol, which employed bibliographic, content, and thematic analyses of literature. The systematic literature review was used to qualitatively analyse data using thematic and content analysis (Donthu, Kumar, Mukherjee, Pandey & Lim, 2021). Themes related to the implications of the just energy transition on African economies were drawn from the literature. Bibliometric analysis was employed to quantitatively identify emerging

trends in the literature, assess journal performance, examine collaboration patterns, and explore the intellectual structure of a specific domain within the extant literature (Donthu, Kumar, Mukherjee, Pandey& Lim, 2021).

2.2. Exclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The literature search was drawn from the Scopus database. This database was selected due to its comprehensive coverage of peer-reviewed scholarly publications (Tamasiga, Onyeaka, Bakwena, Dzingai, Kgengwenyane, Babugura & Ouassou, 2025). A search string titled "The implication of the just energy transition" was conducted in Scopus, searching within the article title. The Initial search identified 137 records; however, after screening for duplicates and the full texts for relevance to the African context, only 32 records were included in this systematic review. Table 1 below shows the inclusion and exclusion criteria used in the study.

Table 1. Inclusion and exclusion criteria of the systematic review

Eligibility Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Time Frame/ Years	Limit determined by publication trend (2021-2025)	2021 and below
Publication language	English	Other
Electronic Databases	Scopus	Other Sources/ Inaccessible Studies
Relevance/Setting	Related the just energy transition in Africa	Not related to the just energy transition in Africa
Document Type	Journal articles, conference papers, Books and book chapters	Other
Source type	Open access and green	Other
Publication Status	Published in Journals	Unpublished

Source: Authors' compilation, 2025

The preliminary analysis of searched data showed that literature on energy transitions started in 1975 with only one article until the late 1990s, when a few publications were made on the general energy transition. Research on the implications of the just energy transition started to get significant attention from 2021 to 2025. Hence, this study concentrated on articles published during the period from 2021 to 2025. Figure 1 highlights the systematic approach used to identify, screen, and include studies in the review, ensuring transparency and reproducibility.

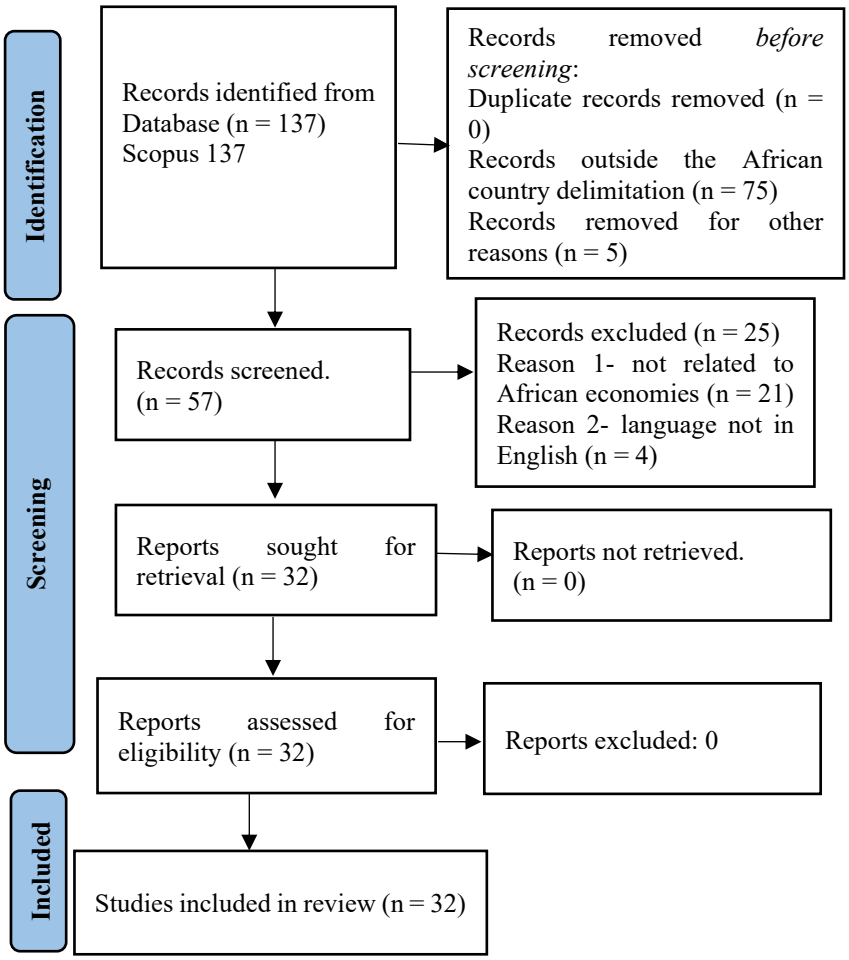

Figure 3. PRISMA flow chart of the literature review process

Source: Authors' compilation, 2025

2.3. Data Analysis

Vosviewer software was used to analyse the bibliometric data, and themes and content analysis were used to analyse the systematic literature review. Utilising a variety of methodologies, bibliometric analysis uses statistical methods to perform science mapping, network analysis, and performance analysis. These methods yield information on the volume, spatial representation, relationship, and influence of literature (Donthu et al., 2021). The study employed data descriptives, co-citations, and keyword co-occurrence as bibliometric analysis indicators. This study was

triangulated using content and thematic analysis to determine the primary themes guiding the implications of the just energy transition in rural economies.

3. Discussion of Results

3.1. Bibliometric Descriptive Statistics

The literature analysed in this study was drawn from 32 journal articles sourced from 20 journal sources, spanning the years 2021 to 2025, with 99 authors contributing and 2 single-authored papers. The authors' collaboration was centred in different nations; hence, even though the study focused on African economies, some authors outside Africa's affiliation contributed to the study. Table 2 shows the descriptive statistics of the papers used in the systematic literature review. The selected articles have an average citation rate of 6.09, and 21 articles have at least one citation, showing a significant contribution of the articles to the body of knowledge. The study also analysed data from two international reports on the just energy transition in Africa; these reports were selected based on their contribution to the subject under study.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of the papers

Main information about the data	
Timespan	2021-2025
Sources (Journals)	20
Documents	32
Average citation per document	6.09
Document content	
Keywords Plus (ID)	358
Author's Keywords	183
Authors	
Authors	99
Authors collaboration	
Single-authored docs	2
Contributing countries	20

Source: Authors' compilation, 2025

3.2. Keyword Co-Occurrence

Keyword co-occurrences identify main topics and trends in the literature. Only keywords that occurred at least two (2) times were considered for analysis. Out of

183 keywords, only 30 were mentioned more than two times. Trends in the implications of the just energy transition mainly discussed the just energy transition in relation to climate change, alternative energy, social equity, energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy poverty and social economics.

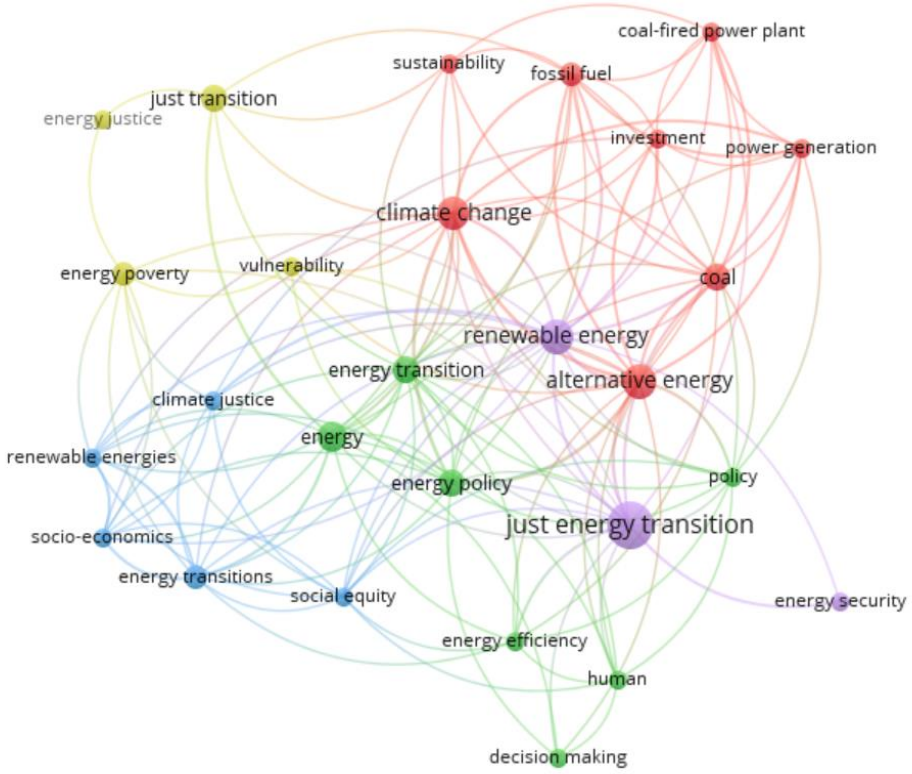

Figure 4. Keyword co-occurrence (Authors' compilation, 2025)

3.3. Publications by Year

The publication trend on literature on the implications of the just energy transition is on the rise, with the period 2023 to 2025 dominating in terms of publication outputs. The increase in publication outputs can be a result of increased discussion on the just energy transition in African economies as countries begin to implement their national goals according to the Paris Agreement.

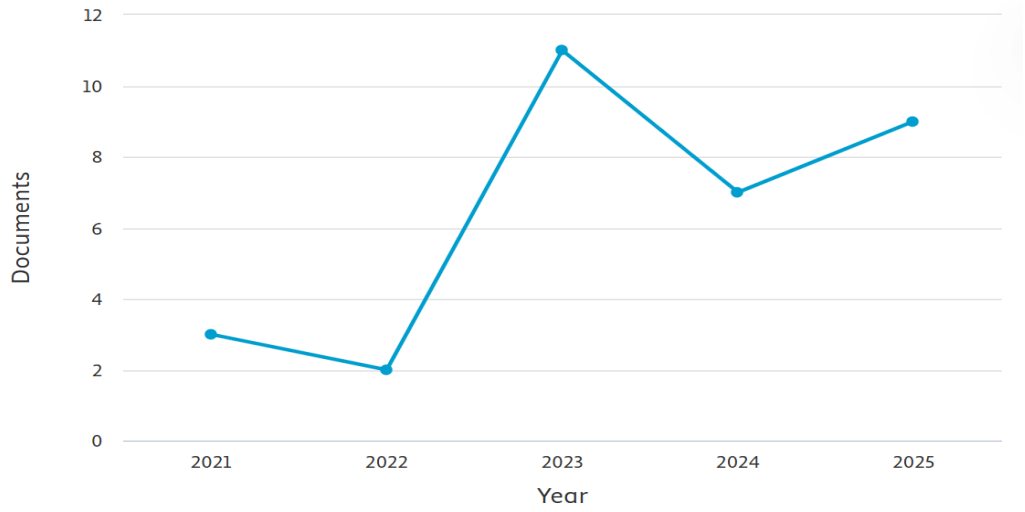

Figure 5. Publication by year (Authors' compilation, 2025)

3.4. Discussion of Results on the Implications of the Just Energy Transition on Rural Economies in Africa

The most significant energy crisis in most African countries, particularly in rural areas, is the lack of access to electricity. Energy poverty is still prevalent in most rural areas in Africa, where energy poverty is defined as a lack of sufficient options for obtaining adequate, reasonably priced, dependable, high-quality, safe and environmentally friendly energy services to promote human and economic growth. The transition to clean, renewable energy is an opportunity for people in rural areas to have access to electricity. This section explains the implications of the just energy transition on rural economies in Africa (Shari, 2022).

3.4.1. Economic Implications of Just Energy Transition

A just energy transition implies ensuring that the costs and benefits of a world powered by renewables are equitably distributed among different actors and regions. It entails creating alternatives and opportunities for people and communities that are currently reliant on fossil fuels for their livelihoods and development (Cha & Pastor, 2021). Literature documents increased investment in renewable energy technologies brought about by the Just Energy Transition as an opportunity for job creation in African rural areas. Setting up solar parks, constructing related infrastructure, maintaining them, manufacturing equipment, and conducting research and development provided opportunities for job creation. As demand for renewable energy technologies increases in Africa, opportunities for local manufacturing and

value chains of solar panels, wind turbines, and other components can foster economic growth and job creation, depending on local content policies. In contrast, the transition can entail negative impacts, such as job losses, stranded assets, social unrest, and regional disparities. Fakir (2023) cited job losses in countries or communities where fossil fuel extraction is a major economic activity as a major implication of the just energy transition. Mining workers usually possess lower levels of education and can struggle to reskill or retrain if they lose their jobs (Tamasiga, 2025). A significant portion of mine workers come from neighbouring rural areas with low opportunities for alternative employment. Literature documents measures such as retraining, unemployment benefits, wage protections, investment in alternative industries, pension rights, healthcare benefits, cash transfers and early retirement packages as strategies of ensuring protection and prosperity for just energy transition-affected people and communities (Nsafon, Same, Yakub, Chaulagain, Kumar & Huh, 2023). Therefore, the transition requires careful planning, dialogue, and collaboration among governments, businesses, workers, and civil society to address challenges and ensure a smooth and inclusive transformation (Lenferna, 2023; Tamasiga, 2025).

Energy price rises for poorer households due to the closure and suspension of coal-powered electricity production plants' expansion make electricity too expensive for poorer households (Gambhir, Green & Pearson, 2018). Nwankwo, Olaniyi and Morgan (2023) argued that a more gradual and flexible approach to energy transition is required for countries like Angola and Nigeria, which earn 90% of their revenue and 70% of foreign exchange from oil and gas. Countries holding large fossil fuel reserves will lose revenue due to the just energy transition. However, African countries which are rich in mineral resources, such as lithium, graphite, cobalt, nickel, copper, and rare earth minerals, which are new market opportunities for the green transition, will gain more revenue.

There exists a heated debate on the implementation of the JET in South Africa, as the implications of the transition differ depending on the population's income. Literature argues that the poor black South Africans face major negative implications, such as job losses and loss of income, and might not be able to benefit much from renewable energy investments, as the wealthy minority in the country who owns major economic sectors in the energy sector has the potential to expropriate the resources to their advantage. South Africa is considered one of the major greenhouse gas emitters in Africa, hence the need for urgency in reducing emissions. Lenferna (2023) argues that those responsible for pollution should pay for the harm, whilst those who benefited from unjust and harmful systems morally owe compensation to those harmed by these systems. Henceforth in South Africa, literature argues that the owners of major polluting companies should contribute to progressive taxation and climate reparations.

Fakir (2023) posited the transition to renewable energy as a facilitator of decentralisation of energy systems in Africa due to the reduction in the cost of photovoltaic solar panels, reduced battery storage costs and an abundance of sunlight for much of the year. Hence, solar power is becoming far more cost-effective than relying on the national grid electricity, which is sometimes unreliable and expensive. Literature noted the shift by some households and companies from national electricity power to personalised solar-powered electricity.

3.4.2. Social Impact of Just Energy Transition

Chidzungu and Wafer (2024) argued that the construction of renewable energy sites like windmills and solar parks causes culturally disruptive displacements of people from their traditional homes. Local people are rarely consulted in decision-making, which causes resistance in the final implementation of some projects. The use of renewable energy, like solar systems and wind energy, requires large amounts of land. Hence, the rural populace, who are usually located in less developed areas, are dislocated (Chidzungu & Wafer, 2024). Coal mining continues to be a major source of employment and export earnings in South Africa, and substantial portions of the coal-mining regions have existing coal mining rights that are yet to be exploited. Hence, the just energy transition will result in the loss of jobs of miners in the coal mines (Fakir, 2023). Social costs are generally overlooked, such as the resulting increased poverty due to job losses, and the absence of community voices in policy decision-making.

There is no consensus in the literature on the implications of the just energy transition, as the just energy transition can have positive social impacts, such as creating new jobs and income sources in renewable energy, enhancing innovation and entrepreneurship in clean energy solutions, improving health and well-being by reducing air pollution, noise, accidents, and diseases associated with fossil fuels. The transition also reduces poverty and inequality by providing energy access to underserved populations, empowering women and youth with clean energy opportunities, strengthening social cohesion and participation by engaging all stakeholders in a transparent and inclusive process to design and implement policies and measures for the energy transition.

The Just Energy transition improved the living standards of women in rural areas through improved access to renewable energy. Literature documents that access to renewable solar energy in rural areas improves the health care services provided and saves time for women who usually spend an average of 100 hours a year collecting firewood, giving them more time to work on other jobs, even during the night. Access to renewable energy also reduces gender inequalities as it gives girls more time to study and, in turn, a higher chance to compete for better income-generating jobs after completing their studies (Mhariwa, 2020). Solar cookers and cook stoves also provide better ways to cook.

Conversely, a just energy transition can also entail negative social impacts, such as losing jobs and income sources in fossil fuel industries and related sectors, such as mining, transport, and power generation, facing stranded assets and liabilities in carbon-intensive infrastructure and equipment, experiencing social unrest and conflict due to perceived or real injustice, insecurity, or exclusion in the energy transition process. In the same vein, the transition can increase energy poverty or affordability issues due to rising energy prices or inadequate subsidies or tariffs, facing barriers or discrimination in accessing clean energy services or opportunities due to a lack of awareness, information, skills, finance, or infrastructure.

Improved mitigation measures against deforestation will benefit rural people by preserving forests and creating opportunities in agroforestry, hence preserving communal land. Closure of fossil fuel extraction mines will also reduce GHG emissions and reduce health problems caused by toxic wastes. Africa loses 5%–15% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita growth annually because of climate change; hence, mitigation measures against climate change will ultimately benefit the continent.

3.4.3. Technological Impact of Just Energy Transition

The energy transition has significant technological implications, as it requires the development, deployment, and diffusion of new and existing technologies across different sectors and regions (Tladi, Kambule & Modley, 2024). Some of the key technologies that enable the energy transition are renewable energy technologies, such as solar, wind, hydro, biomass, geothermal, and ocean energy, that harness natural resources to generate electricity or heat without emitting greenhouse gases. Energy storage technologies, such as batteries, pumped hydro, compressed air, flywheels, and hydrogen, store excess electricity or heat for later use when demand exceeds supply or vice versa. Smart grid technologies, such as advanced metering, demand response, distributed generation, microgrids, and digital communication, enable the integration of variable renewable energy sources and enhance the reliability, efficiency, and resilience of the power system. Energy efficiency technologies, such as LED lighting, heat pumps, electric vehicles, smart appliances, and building insulation, reduce the amount of energy needed to provide the same level of service or comfort. Whilst carbon capture and storage technologies, such as pre-combustion capture, post-combustion capture, oxy-fuel combustion, and bioenergy, remove carbon dioxide from fossil fuel-based power plants and industrial processes, store it underground or use it for other purposes.

3.5. Case Studies of the Implications of the Just Energy Transitions in Rural Areas in Africa

3.5.1. Mpumalanga Coal Region in South Africa

South Africa is an upper-middle-income country with a well-developed infrastructure base. The country's state-owned electricity utility, Eskom, utilises 60% of coal produced in the country to produce 84% of national electricity (Steyn, Tyler, Roff, Renaud & Mgoduso, 2021), whilst the remaining 40% which is usually higher-grade coal, is exported. South Africa is committed to an accelerated decarbonisation commitment to accomplish net zero emissions by 2050 as stipulated in the NDCs. The country aims to achieve this accelerated power sector decarbonisation by reducing coal plant operations, accelerating plant retirement, cancelling plans of constructing new coal plants, ensuring that adequate renewable energy and associated infrastructure are constructed to meet demand and ensuring the financing and execution for the necessary grid investments (Steyn et al., 2021; Tladi, Kambule & Modley, 2024).

The implications of the decarbonisation strategy have resulted in load-shedding, where electricity is switched off purposefully to save energy for a certain period during the day. At the national level, this has caused significant problems, including low economic activity, closure of businesses, and loss of jobs (Steyn et al., 2021). In the Mpumalanga province in South Africa, employment heavily depends on the coal sector, with around 12,000 workers employed in Eskom's power stations and 80,000 in coal mining (Steyn et al., 2021). Due to high unemployment levels in Mpumalanga, among other factors, unionised Eskom and mineworkers have resisted job losses in the coal sector for many years. The coal miners and Eskom employees have concerns about switching to renewable energy due to the loss of employment. Henceforth, the Mpumalanga province Highveld remain a high air pollution hotspot, generating high levels of GHGs like Sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxide. Although the country is committed to a just energy transition, a funded transition plan has yet to be developed.

3.5.2. Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, two-thirds of the population in rural areas still do not have access to electricity (Irena, 2021). The Ethiopian government, through partnership with the private sector and international organisations, is working on expanding access to electricity to rural areas through clean, renewable energy. The goal is to provide and seek additional funding for clean energy for lighting and household applications, provision for energy for social infrastructure and provision for energy for productive use or income generation. Solar mini-grids and solar home systems were common in Ethiopia in 2018, at around 5.7 million (5 per cent of the population) using off-grid renewable energy. Solar lights were used by 5.6 million people, while a smaller

group of 77,000 people benefitted from biogas for cooking, and 10,000 benefited from off-grid hydropower. Henceforth, the just-in-energy transition has the potential to improve economic activities in rural areas and improve the standards of living of rural people.

3.5.3. Burkina Faso

There are higher levels of energy poverty in Burkina Faso, as the rural population's access to electricity was around 1 per cent in 2018. Most hospitals and schools in rural areas lack an electricity supply. The use of renewable energy offers a great opportunity for the country which imports most of its electricity. The country already has high solar irradiation levels. The country's renewable energy targets include the implementation of several hydropower, solar, bioenergy and mini-grid projects. Between the years 2015 and 2019, the country's renewable energy increased by 24% electricity (Irena, 2021).

There are prerequisites which researchers in the literature have agreed on and can be seen as principles of a just energy transition. First, the transition must be adaptable enough to deal with uncertainty and social complexity. Second, the groups that have obstacles to accessing the benefits of the transition, usually low-income households, must have their obstacles removed and benefit in equal terms. Third, policies must consider the rights of local communities and address the historical injustices caused by the diversity of perspectives among stakeholders. The literature suggests community-based participatory decision-making and cross-border activism supported by research. Fourth, the transition policies must ensure skilled jobs and human resources, enable retraining, focus on education, health and creativity, provide certainty to industries in transition and facilitate new businesses. Fifth, policies must be coherent, guided by a long-term vision and powered by cooperation between stakeholders, with special emphasis on the participation of workers.

4. Future Developments and Trends in the Field of Study

Literature is mainly focused on the implementation of the Just Energy Transition under the Paris agreement, and nations will continue to declare their National Determined Contributions (NDCs) adaptation strategies. However, the scale of emissions is highly concentrated in developed countries, hence the need for urgent measures to curb further increases in emissions and the resultant increase in global temperatures. Rural economies are highly energy-excluded; hence, the Just Energy Transition offer an opportunity to access clean, renewable energy. The transition requires a unified and differentiated approach where countries, companies and individuals declare their carbon emission reduction strategies.

5. Conclusion

The research sought to assess the implications of the Just Energy Transition on rural economies in Africa. Curbing continuous global temperature increases by reducing GHG emissions has been a focal point of the Paris Agreement (2015), and one of the major strategies of the Just Energy Transition entails moving away from fossil fuel energy sources to greener, environmentally friendly options. The study established that there is still a lack of access to clean energy, like electricity, in rural areas in Africa; hence, the Just Energy Transition offers an opportunity for rural people to access clean, renewable energy. Investments in renewable energy, like solar parks and wind farms, provide opportunities for employment and business. However, in countries where fossil fuel extraction is a major economic activity, loss of jobs and revenue are major implications. Hence, a just energy transition requires careful planning, dialogue, and collaboration among governments, businesses, workers, civil society, and international partners to address these challenges and ensure a smooth and inclusive transformation.

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