



PWYP Africa Conference 2023

Towards a collaborative and fair energy transition for Africa

8 - 10 June 2023

Saly, Senegal

#PWYPAC23



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180 members and partners of the PWYP movement joined the largest-ever in-person PWYP Africa Conference in Senegal in June, for three days of relationship-building, reflection, and strategising. Coming together in-person for the first time since 2019, we worked to build the collective power and capacity of the African network to accelerate the accountable, sustainable, and equitable governance of the oil, gas and mining sector in the context of the climate crisis and the imperative of ensuring a just energy transition to a low-carbon economy on the continent. This report captures conference session highlights and key takeaways from the PWYP membership in Africa.



Strong synergies are needed to address key questions because alone, we can arrive; but together, we can go further.

Conference Attendee

Additional links:

Conference photos: [Day 1](#) – [Day 2](#) – [Day 3](#)

[Conference video](#)

[Full agenda](#)

[Watch recorded sessions](#)

180

IN-PERSON
ATTENDEES

47

VIRTUAL
ATTENDEES

42%

FEMALE
ATTENDEES

38

COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED

HIGHLIGHTS



We have to celebrate our achievements but we are not yet satisfied, we cannot remain passive, waiting for the rules to be dictated. We need to continue to influence. How can we have a just transition in the context of structural and economic injustice?

Fatima Mimbire

PWYP Mozambique and PWYP ASC Chair



RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION FOR AFRICA

The world needs to slow climate change to prevent catastrophic impacts, and must replace fossil fuels with cleaner energy sources to do it. The question is not whether the energy transition should happen, but how fast and how fair we can make it. Creating a collaborative and just energy transition for Africa was this year's conference theme, with discussions over the course of three days dedicated to answering that question.

Key takeaways

African countries have significant development opportunities, if they can own their negotiating power and access financing for investment in renewable energy.

With the right backing and strategic planning, African nations currently reliant on oil and gas exports could kickstart a new era of sustainable revenue and clean development which could, in turn, unlock the potential for affordable energy access and employment opportunities in the energy sector.

Energy access must be at the centre of a just energy transition for Africa.

Over 580 million people in Africa lack access to electricity, with a further 700 million reliant on traditional biomass for cooking and heating. These people cannot be ignored in decisions around how the energy transition unfolds. An estimated annual investment of \$40-\$70 billion in renewable energy is necessary to achieve universal energy access by 2030.

Feminist leadership will secure better outcomes and women's rights must be centred.

Both the climate crisis and the energy transition present particular gendered risks, including a lack of preparedness for the impacts of climate change, limited access to information and technology, and cultural barriers which prevent women from influencing decision-making. Hearing and acting on the experience, insights and needs of women is critical to inform an inclusive understanding of what justice means in the energy transition. Women must continue to assert their rights to access decision-making spaces and resources (including financing and compensation) so that communities can thrive through informed policy-making.

Natural resource governance will be an important tool to secure a fairer energy transition that delivers for people in Africa.

Transparency and responsible governance of the mining sector, which will supply many of the raw materials vital for renewable technologies, will be essential to include communities, protect the environment and secure an energy transition that delivers for the people on the African continent. Equally, the way in which declining oil and gas industries are governed in the next decades is crucial to prosperity for Africa.

Africa's energy transition is a universal imperative, not only to protect the continent's people vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, but for its immense potential to support the transition to renewable energy sources across the globe. By addressing the energy needs of African countries in a fair and transparent way, we can create a just energy transition that benefits both Africa and the world.





We need to break down the silos in the climate movement, we need to work together to deliver this change.

Maria Ramos

Associate Director, Extractive Industries Global Program, Oxfam America

POSITIONING OURSELVES FOR A FAIR PHASE-OUT OF FOSSIL FUELS

Since the industrial revolution, natural resources – notably fossil fuels – have underpinned our global economic and political system, but by undertaking a managed, equitable phase-out of fossil fuels and embracing clean energy sources, Africa can pave the way for a just energy transition.

Key takeaways

Fossil fuel phase-out is critical to address the threat of climate change and must bring in a new era of sustainable development for Africa.

Despite challenges, eliminating fossil fuels is critical due to their role in the climate crisis, from which Africa has faced some of the worst consequences. If governments are strategic, the imperative to move away from fossil fuels could be the beginning of accelerated sustainable development on the continent but it will require a step up in collaborative action.

Governments dependent on fossil fuel revenues are failing to prepare for the phase-out in Africa, putting their economies at risk.

Over half of oil and gas-producing African countries rely on oil and gas exports for more than 50 percent of their total export revenues, and some are extremely dependent: Angola derives over 90% of revenues from fossil fuels. While the Global North must step up with financing to support the transition, African countries must also be prepared for the future by developing comprehensive plans and policies, including investments in industry staff re-training, to diversify economies.

Accountable fossil fuel industry governance is key to a responsible phase-out.

Industry risks from fossil fuel phase-out must not be borne by communities and ordinary citizens, many of whom have already suffered greatly from irresponsible oil and gas exploitation in the past. Industry actors must be held accountable for ethical management of revenues, decommissioning of existing projects, and clean up of environmental damage.

The transition to renewable energy presents an opportunity for sustainable development and better energy access.

Oil and gas exporting countries in Africa can become leaders in renewables, driving clean development and affordable energy access, but these new renewable energy industries must have high governance standards to ensure they truly benefit citizens.

With effective natural resource governance, implementation of recommended policies, and collaboration among governments, the continent can unlock sustainable development, inclusive growth, and a brighter future for its people.





The time is now for African countries to take a unified position on the global energy agenda. Africa cannot afford to remain passive, not only does it have its own strategic minerals we have a big opportunity to break the pattern of mineral value chains.

Dr. Marit Kitaw

Interim Director, African Minerals Development Centre



COORDINATING ACTION FOR A RESPONSIBLE TRANSITION MINERALS INDUSTRY

As cleaner energy sources like wind, water, and solar power become more prominent, the demand for the minerals needed for renewable technologies is expected to increase significantly. However, Africa's mineral extraction sector already faces rampant corruption, environmental damage, and human rights abuses. It is vital these challenges are tackled as the transition mineral demand increases.

Key takeaways

Fierce competition for Africa's transition minerals presents heightened risks to communities.

A sense of urgency to secure minerals is accelerating among foreign powers, spurred in part by China's dominance in global mineral processing. In response, countries and blocks like the USA and European Union are abandoning multilateralism in favour of securing deals for minerals bilaterally. This is increasing pressure on governments to sideline human rights, anti-corruption, and environmental safeguards in favour of quick licensing and extraction.

Africa's transition minerals can contribute to energy access and independence by growing domestic infrastructure and skills.

The continent holds over 40% of global reserves of transition minerals for renewable battery and hydrogen technologies. If these reserves are transformed and used domestically, rather than exploited and exported overseas, there is a real opportunity for African nations to meet their domestic energy demands which in turn will fuel economic development.

Corruption undermines responsible use of transition minerals.

Weak governing institutions and lack of legal frameworks allow corruption to flourish. African leaders must urgently act to create and enforce a well-regulated, transparent, and equitable minerals market.

Human rights and the environment must be protected.

Consultation with communities is vital to ensure people's rights are respected in all mining industry projects. Civil society will play a crucial role in ensuring the inclusion of marginalised groups, such as indigenous peoples, so that their needs are met and their voices are heard.

African Minerals for Africa's Development

A campaign for thriving communities and energy access through a just transition in Africa

PWYP's new pan-African campaign, launched at the Africa Conference, envisions strategic, responsible and sustainable extraction and use of Africa's transition minerals to unlock development, energy access and prosperity. The campaign has two goals:

1. Put African minerals for African development on the regional political agenda

For too long Africa's resources have been exploited to meet the material needs of richer countries' industrialisation and development. Africa's mineral wealth makes it strategic for the energy transition, and there is growing public awareness across the continent's institutions that Africa is the owner of these essential resources.

Transition minerals must be used as a strategic lever to drive investment (both financial and material) in renewable energy access and sovereignty, and in the infrastructure needed to achieve this.

2. Strengthen responsible mining practices to respond to transition mineral demand

Historically, African countries – particularly communities in producing areas – have not benefited from their mineral wealth. On the contrary, mining in Africa has too often left a legacy of conflict, human rights violations, and environmental degradation.

Mining governance, human rights and environmental safeguards must be strengthened to stem the harm of irresponsible mining practices, and be fit for purpose to meet the increasing demand in a way which mitigates harm.

STRENGTHENING THE PWYP MOVEMENT IN AFRICA

PWYP's outgoing Africa Steering Committee delivered a report to members, reflecting on their progress in advancing the goals for their term of office: to play a leadership role in advancing PWYP's advocacy agenda at the regional and international level; support outreach to new coalitions and relevant partners to build the effectiveness of the network in Africa; and to use their platform to increase the visibility and influence of PWYP coalitions in Africa. As a result of the conditions of work imposed by the pandemic some of these objectives were less attainable than others. Nevertheless, the ASC highlighted key achievements, including positioning PWYP's transition mineral work in Africa at [COP 27](#) in Cairo in 2022 and at the Alternative Mining Indaba in Cape Town in 2023.



The outgoing Africa Steering Committee, Left to Right Brice Mackosso, Fatima DIALLO, Christian MOUNZEO, Fatima MIMBIRE and James KORYOR

Members convened in regional caucuses to reflect on the preceding days' discussions and to share suggestions for how PWYP should be positioning itself for strategic impact beyond 2025, as we look ahead to our next global strategy. Five areas of common interest were identified across the caucus:

- **Energy Transition:** The energy transition is an opportunity to bring about energy access and affordability. The next global strategy should move from getting a fair share of revenues to how to participate in the value chain, moving from exports to processing (adding value).
- **Gender:** Women and other marginalised groups are important actors who must be included in decision-making to ensure that justice is at the heart of the energy transition. Engagement with women's groups, and CSOs working on women's rights in the community and at other levels, is crucial for PWYP's work to succeed.

- **Corruption:** PWYP must explore new ways of effectively combating corruption in the transition minerals sector. This includes exploring advocacy to ensure appropriate sanctions on companies guilty of corruption in the countries where they operate.
- **Collective Action:** Members from the four sub-regions expressed a desire to foster and engage in regional collaboration on advocacy for a fair, inclusive, and just transition, including through implementing the transition mineral campaign.
- **Capacity building and strengthening:** PWYP members need to continue to build capacity on key technical areas including the energy transition.

The regional caucuses **elected a new Africa Steering Committee**, who will be joined by the two PWYP Africa members sitting on the EITI international board.

NEW AFRICA STEERING COMMITTEE



Representing Francophone West Africa:
Elie Kaboré, PWYP Burkina Faso



Representing Anglophone West Africa:
Maybel Acquaye, Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP), PWYP Ghana



Representing Central Africa:
Christelle Yesalaso, PWYP DRC



Representing East and Southern Africa:
Adam Anthony, HakiRasilimali, PWYP Tanzania

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The 2023 Africa Conference was supported by:

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- Natural Resource Governance Institute
- Ford Foundation
- William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Luminare
- TrustAfrica
- Sigrid Rausing Trust



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