

Just Transitions

In practice



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About this brochure

Leaving no one behind. This is what just transitions are all about. They are about making sure no one is harmed or worse off after the transition from an existing state to a different state of affairs. More ambitiously, they are about improving everyone's quality of life. The just transition principle is appearing in ever more strategic policy documents and mission statements as a result of climate change and the shift to stability. Many of us also consider the transition to a more just and sustainable society as being fundamentally necessary:

We know society has to change. It must change to solve injustices being experienced today. It must change to deal with current and upcoming challenges. However, when we change, we must do it in a just way and take care of people at risk of being left behind.

This is a bold ambition. However, linking theory and practice is always a challenge. As a result, the following questions arise: how are we going to do this? Who is at risk of being left behind? Why? How can we overcome this? What can I do to help?

Putting justice into practice is challenging. However, it is already happening across the globe in various ways, tailored to the situations and issues at hand. We can learn a lot from these practices, and they can help you find your way putting just transitions into practice. This is why we developed this brochure.

This brochure presents eight inspiring approaches to realising just transitions. Some cases are from high-income countries and some from low and middle-income countries. Some cover local transition processes while others take on international scales. Some are driven by marginalised groups while others are pushed forward by the government, NGOs and scientists. This brochure provides a wide range of possible just practices and approaches so get ready to be inspired!



“*We are not all in the same boat. We are all in the same storm. Some are on super-yachts. Some have just the one oar.*”

— Damian Barr



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What are Just Transitions?

Before starting to put just transitions into practice, it is necessary to clarify what 'just transitions' are. The concept of just transitions is increasingly popular, but there is no academic consensus on its definition yet. The most commonly used definition of just transitions is: "A *fair and equitable process of moving towards a better society*", (McCauley & Heffron, 2018). 'Moving' refers to the process of a transition, and 'just' refers to being fair and equitable.

However, this definition is not specific enough to play a role in putting just transitions into practice. The concepts of 'fair' and 'equitable' can be interpreted in different ways. Furthermore, justice is a highly contextual notion, which depends on time frames, scale and scope. Based on a literature review, we found the following four aspects of justice, which can provide a starting point when applying the concept to transition thinking: recognitional, distributive, procedural and restorative justice. These concepts are interlinked and overlap, however, they enhance and contextualise our understanding of just transitions and provide a basis for putting new approaches into practice.



Recognitional justice *Who are those that are affected?* Assessing recognitional justice is the first step and fundamental to the other types of justice. It concerns the recognition of groups, communities and individuals who are affected both directly and indirectly by transitions. This requires awareness and respect for different cultures, values and socio-political contexts. It is important that recognitional justice builds on human rights and respect for cultural differences.



Distributive justice *How are (societal) costs and benefits shared?* Distributive justice is about what is lost or gained, and how much. Its main objective is the 'fair' distribution of costs and benefits. Distributive justice refers to the costs and benefits of the transition being just. However, it also refers to the distribution of burdens, responsibilities and vulnerabilities throughout the transition.



Procedural justice *Is every voice heard and has every voice access to take part?* Procedural justice means that the processes and procedures guiding the transitions are equitable and inclusive. It is important to ensure the empowerment and inclusion of groups for matters that affect their daily life.



Restorative justice *How to compensate for the harm done?* Restorative justice is compensation for harms that have been already done. Compensation can take place to ensure that those negatively affected are not left behind in the transition.



Background
information on
Just Transitions

**What are Just
Transitions?**

Approaches and Just
Transitions

Approaches and Just Transitions

Putting just transitions into practice depends on the context, norms, values and motives of the stakeholders involved in the transition. This brochure incorporates these and presents practical examples of possible approaches to the uptake of just transitions. The examples are structured according to four questions that can serve as a guide in thinking about just transitions:

- 1 How are stakeholders involved?** For a just transition, it is important to recognise that all people have the right to voice their opinion about decisions that affect their daily life, not only powerful actors (e.g. the most economically or politically active parties). The examples present ways to involve all affected stakeholders and give them a place and voice in the process.
- 2 How are injustices identified?** There is a need to assess the distribution of societal costs and benefits. It is important to bear in mind that the dynamics of availability, affordability and sustainability differ between groups and individuals. This leads to different societal costs and benefits than might be assumed. Whether distribution is fair or not differs per context and transition. This is an important question to explore with all parties involved. The examples present ways to identify potential undesirable social impacts and risks of the proposed transition strategy.
- 3 How can multicultural values be handled?** An inclusive process builds on recognitional justice by acting upon the social and political recognition of groups and citizens. This includes paying explicit attention to different cultural understandings, values and priorities concerning the loss of resources or ways of life. The examples present ways to recognise the diversity of beliefs and values and how to incorporate cultural awareness in the process.
- 4 How can trust and collaboration be built?** Transition objectives should be consciously aligned with local goals and initiatives, with a long-term engagement process including more vulnerable groups (e.g. affected local communities) and very powerful stakeholders (e.g. private sector players who can negatively affect change processes). The examples present ways to ensure that these processes are underpinned by transparency and accountability.

The case matrix presents a number of EU and global cases that were examined that demonstrate potential approaches to the identified questions. These approaches serve as inspiration for the practical integration of justice into transition initiatives. These cases are elaborated in the next sections.



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**Approaches and Just
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Inspiration from 'just' practice - overview



Inspiration from 'just' practice

	EU-cases	Global-cases
How are stakeholders involved?	<p>Birmingham Food System Strategy "Focus not on who is at the table, but on who is not."</p>	<p>The energy transition in Colombia "That is why, from this moment on, a solution must be found, hand in hand with communities and workers."</p>
How are injustices identified?	<p>Glasgow: Weathering Change project "Achieving just resilience will ensure the benefits of our region's adaptation are widely and equitably shared."</p>	<p>India's largest solar power parks "It is essential to involve vulnerable groups in developing solutions to reduce social impacts."</p>
How can multicultural values be handled?	<p>Mosaic Governance in Copenhagen "Barriers like language, organisation capacity and access to knowledge can complicate the involvement of diverse marginal groups."</p>	<p>Communities in Australia and climate change impacts "With changing weather and changing seasons, everything else is changing too: their homes, their cultures, their stories and their identities."</p>
How can trust and collaboration be built?	<p>Just Transformation of Polish coal region "It is time to 'reverse roles': the government listens to how the citizens see their future."</p>	<p>Just Export Credits "Transparency is needed for government-supported export credit agencies."</p>

Overview cases

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How are stakeholders involved?

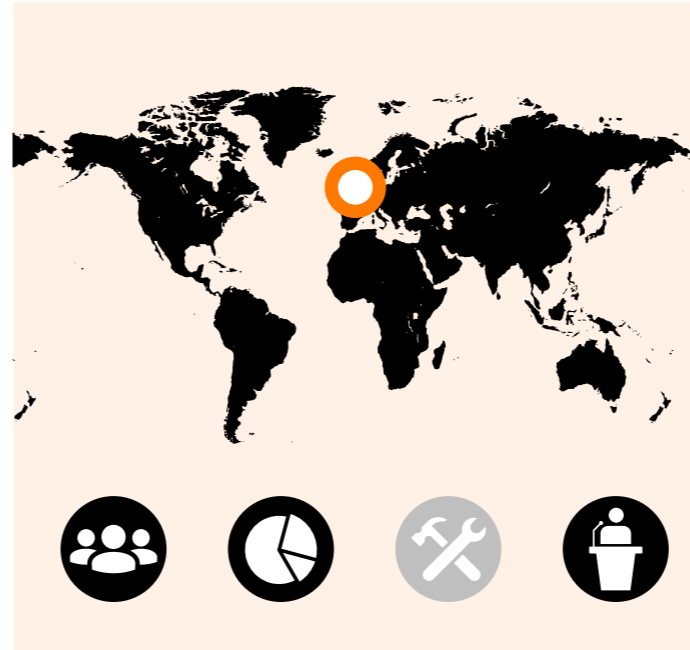
Birmingham Food System Strategy

The City of Birmingham deals with a number of challenges in its urban food system. Affordable, healthy and sustainable food is not equally accessible to every citizen. Feeding over 1.1 million residents every day, the city's -urban food system has a great impact on its people and the environment. The city is the most ethnically and culturally diverse city in the UK outside of London, and one in three children lives in poverty.

The Birmingham Food System Strategy 2022-2030 is the city's eight-year plan to creating a sustainable and healthy food system. The city's Food System Team deliberately chose a systems approach, meaning they take all elements involved with food into account, including production and transportation, but also socio-cultural aspects too like education, food culture and how and where food is bought. The strategy is the result of three years of close collaboration between the city, its partners and its citizens, and its collaborative efforts are underpinned by three principles:

- Collaborate: strengthen partnerships and build on existing best practices
- Empower: remove barriers and facilitate solutions
- Equalise: focus actions where they are needed most to reduce inequalities

The strategy describes key areas of focus to eventually develop the city's Food System Action Plan with the aim of creating a regenerative food system that works for the environment, the economy and the various communities within the city. Apart from



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How are stakeholders involved?

Birmingham Food System Strategy

the strategy itself, one of the key outcomes is how the process was conducted, providing a good example of how to ensure just multi-stakeholder processes that we can learn from.

Justice was taken into account in both the content of the strategy and the creation process. In terms of the content, the strategy focuses explicitly on the most deprived areas of Birmingham where there are fewer supermarkets and healthy affordable food options. On the whole, these areas are more food insecure and suffer more from financial hardship and health issues. The strategy is explicit in its ambition to put the diversity of citizens at the heart of its approach and consider the barriers and accessibility of the actions, such as by considering different language use or delivery methods, like internet access and literacy.

The key way the city's strategy aims to take a just approach is in how stakeholders are involved and how the ownership of the strategy is shared across communities. One of the key principles of the process was to make it as collaborative as possible, involving the communities that are usually harder to reach, which were named the 'Seldom Heard Food Voices'. The outbreak of COVID-19 and the subsequent digitalisation of a lot of processes helped to a certain extent, as it became easier to get people to attend meetings and get young people involved too. Involving lots of actors had the benefit of enabling building on what people did before and were already doing, rather than coming up with something completely new.

“*Focus not on who is at the table, but on who is not.*”

— A local food legend

EU-case



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Birmingham Food System Strategy

One of the ways this was done was connecting with existing initiatives led by people in the city: the 'local food legends'. These 'legends' engage in all sorts of activities to reshape the city's food system: from organising zero-waste dinners to learning to cook neighbours' dishes and setting up community bakeries. The municipality is looking for new legends, establishing a network between them and highlighting their initiatives to support them. Together, they form the Food Justice Network, which works to assist citizens in need of support and campaigning to end inequalities and injustices.

Lessons learned: How are stakeholders involved?

- Building on local knowledge and working with community 'legends' provides an entry into communities that are usually harder to reach in strategic engagement processes.
- If ownership and engagement with the transition are felt at every level, it is far more likely that the transition approach will be efficient and just.

Asset Based Community Development

The Birmingham example shows the benefit of an approach that builds on the strengths already existent in communities. This is also called Asset Based Community Development (ABCD): working with communities and individuals at all levels and motivating them to come together and build on each other's strengths. According to the ABCD principle, communities should not be thought of as complex networks of different needs and issues, but as a diverse collection of creativity, strengths and skills.



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Colombia: the energy transition and the extractive sector

Countries in which the extractive sector plays a critical role in their economy are highly challenged in terms of global decarbonisation, with the phasing out of fossil resources and introduction of energy alternatives. The case of Colombia showcases the ambivalence of the energy transition. However, it is also illustrative of how it can be used as an opportunity for addressing current injustices and moving towards new just practices. At the same time, this case shows the importance of some critical conditions to guide the transitions.

Colombia is rich in natural resources. Although global ambitions have been set to reduce the use of fossil fuels, demand is still high. The extractive industries play a large role in the country's exports and GDP, and they are a large source of revenue for the government. These revenues are important for regional development, but they are also essential for the transition to renewable energies and the overall peace process. The foreseen phasing out of fossil fuels will have a significant impact on the extractive industries, the labour force and the communities dependent on it. Both phasing out and phasing in require just processes. Several cases show that in the enrolment of renewable energy projects, transparency and key values innate in just transitions are not standard, which leads to new forms of injustice and negatively affects local communities.

In 2021, the workers' unions Sintracarbón, USO and Sintraelec, which represent workers in the coal, oil and electricity sectors, joined forces with NGOs and academia and launched CIPAME: the innovation and research centre for the just development of the



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Colombia: the energy transition and the extractive sector

Colombian mining and energy sector. Its aim is to proactively participate and engage in just transitions and strengthen the active and direct influence of workers in these sectors towards an energy transition. CIPAME outlines their vision as follows: “by 2035, CIPAME enhances the transformative role of trade unions and social actors on just transition policies, practices, technologies and models, to ensure environmental sustainability, economic equity, social justice and compliance with democracy and knowledge management.”

Their approach is based on “the conscious appropriation of rights, technological means and production by workers and social actors who need it, dialoguing, exchanging and contributing to national and international changes that guarantee fair development.”

The three main strategies of CIPAME focus on building a just transition policy, supportive innovations, proper knowledge management and training. CIPAME has an ambitious agenda and is currently challenged by the complexities that arise when building a foundation for just transitions. Their current focus is on developing a regional roadmap and the appropriate support for policy formulation and gaining a position in this process. Multi-actor dialogue is central to both processes.

“*This is really a new challenge for labour unions. It’s the first time labour forces combine the environment and labour rights within the energy transition. There is no central policy yet, so it’s an opportunity now!*”

— Patricio Sambonino, FNV Mondiaal

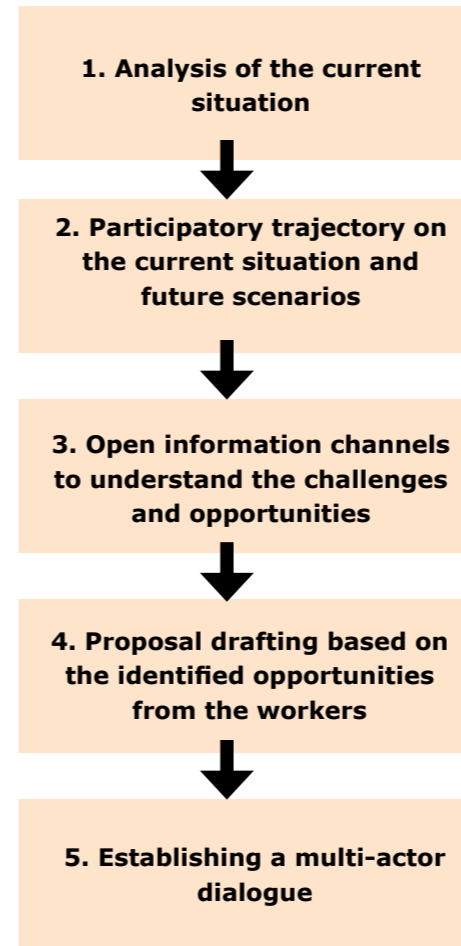


Figure 1
The five steps of the regional roadmap



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How are stakeholders involved?

Colombia: the energy transition and the extractive sector

Reflection on the different elements of justice gives this case study insight into the struggles and needs for a well-designed and supported process and notions of scalar issues. There is also a great deal that needs to be done with values, politics and governance.

The biggest challenges the process faces have to do with procedural and juridical justice. Current laws seem to hinder just transitions as they mainly support current power relations. Safety concerns for the advocates are still a daily reality. Although they are addressing just transitions transparently, open processes are not the standard yet and are even perceived as decreasing justice. Meanwhile, current developments seem to overrun adaptive capacities, also in terms of time and local communities. Finally, an asymmetric knowledge basis for the process and the actual situation hinders just engagement and influence.

Lessons learned: How are stakeholders involved?

- Global challenges cannot be seen without global dialogues (global justice). The influence (of the choices) of importing countries on exporting countries should not be underestimated. Currently, it is not always clear if all effects are taken into account.
- Proper insights into recognition are key: looking at the chain of influence.
- It is important to proactively develop a strong concept and alternative for processes that are considered unjust. Building capacity is essential for this, as is solving the asymmetric knowledge base and truly gaining a place at the table in the political process and elsewhere. This requires strong government and policies, that put social terms and regional approaches at the centre.

“*Many communities currently don't want a transition because there is no proper alternative. However, to preserve employment in the long term, [there] needs [to be] an alternative.*”

— CIPAME Expert



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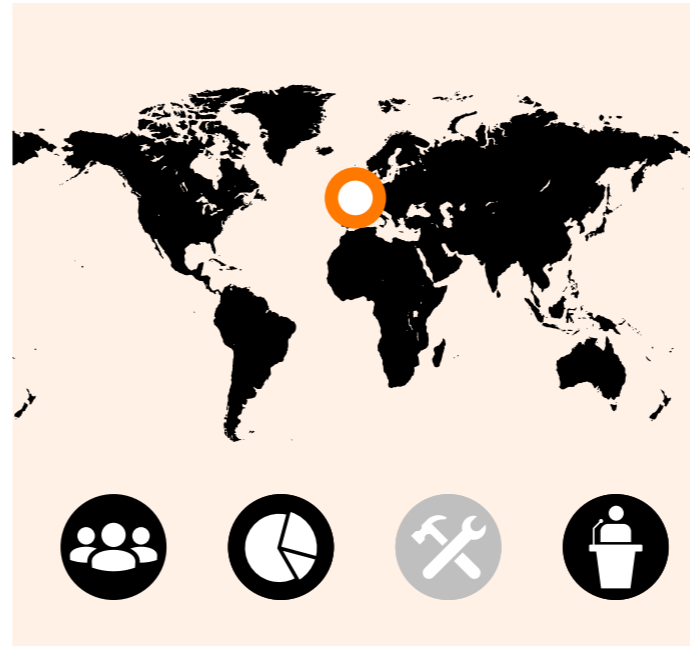
How are injustices identified?

Glasgow: Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

Like many cities around the world, Glasgow is facing changing weather and climate patterns. Climate Ready Clyde (CRC) is a cross-sectoral initiative funded by 15 member organisations and supported by the Scottish Government, which encourages partners across the region to act to strengthen climate resilience. To do so, CRC developed a Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (Climate Change and Marginalised Communities Workshop Contributors, 2020). This Strategy and Action Plan focuses on how the Glasgow City Region can become resilient while ensuring everyone benefits and preventing new inequalities arising from adaptation measures (*just resilience*). As part of the process, a comprehensive climate assessment was conducted. As well as the technical and economic assessments, a climate risk assessment and social impact assessment were also executed to provide insights into how processes and actions can deliver climate justice by supporting those who are disproportionately affected by climate change risks because of race, gender or other socioeconomic factors.

To accomplish just resilience, the CRC underlines the importance of taking social and economic factors into account when choosing interventions. Based on the outcome of the executed Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment, the exposure to climate risks and the ability to cope with the impacts is unequally distributed in the Glasgow region.

For developing climate adaptation interventions that also improve the resilience of vulnerable groups and communities, the CRC aims to strengthen *recognitional justice* by taking vulnerability



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Glasgow: Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

and other related social and economic determinants into account when determining and prioritising interventions. The approach of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency was mentioned by the CRC as a leading example in their assessment of the factors related to vulnerability to flooding in the prioritisation of flooding investments.

A social impact assessment was conducted to determine if the draft version of the Adaptation Strategy consisted of aspects that unintendedly increased vulnerability, enhanced injustices or created unwanted trade-offs. This social impact assessment consisted of a two-stage workshop, which included equality professionals, representative organisations and those involved in the strategy's development and delivery.

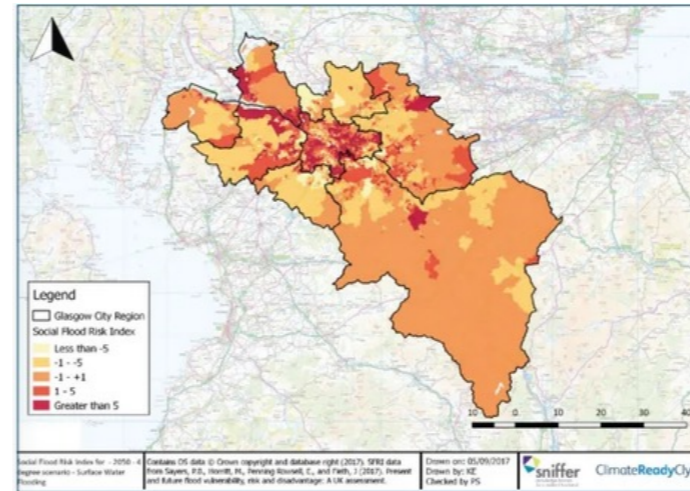


Figure 2

Shown example in City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan on how to combine future flood exposure and social vulnerability in 2050 (Climate Ready Clyde, 2021b)

“Achieving just resilience will ensure the benefits of our region’s adaptation are widely and equitably shared.”

— CRC



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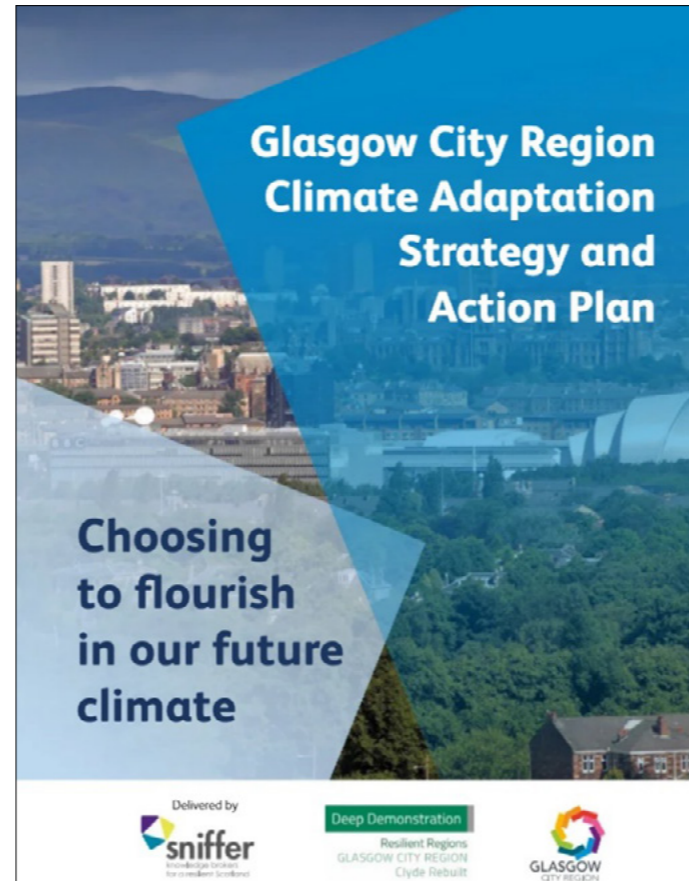
How are injustices identified?

Glasgow: Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

The workshops focused on identifying potential undesired social impacts and risks of the proposed strategy. Based on these results, recommendations were given for adjustments to make the strategy more just. Afterwards, these recommendations were incorporated into the Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (Climate Ready Clyde, 2021a).

Lessons learned: How are injustices identified?

- Risk and social impact assessments are applicable strategies to gain insights on justice, injustices and trade-offs involved in climate adaptation interventions.
- By incorporating vulnerability and other social and economic data, it provides possibilities to implement interventions that improve resilience for the most vulnerable groups and communities.



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India: Solar Farms

India made several ambitious commitments in Glasgow during COP26: India's non-fossil energy capacity will reach 500 GW by 2030, and India will transition to net zero emissions by 2070. A key strategy to achieve these goals is to prioritize the use of sites considered unproductive: the so-called 'wastelands' for the development of large-scale renewable energy projects. However, these wastelands provide critical ecosystem services and are crucial for people's livelihoods. The share of solar parks is growing rapidly with the development of the world's largest solar fields, such as the Bhadla solar park in Rajasthan (in north-western India) and the Pavagada park in Karnataka (in southern India).

These solar parks are developed through a leasing model: the land is leased for 25 years from the landowners who retain ownership of it. At first glance, these developments seem positive, with solar farms providing green energy while increasing the financial stability of landowners. However, when zooming in on the social impact on people who do not own land, the situation is less just. There are many communities in India that depend entirely on land for their livelihoods, such as pastoralists and villagers who work in agriculture. They are not included in this transition, and this has major implications especially due to the large scale of the implementation.

WRI India is part of the World Resources Institute (WRI), a global research organisation that develops practical solutions for public and private actors in the areas of food and climate change. Its climate program engages with stakeholders at the local and



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India: Solar Farms

national levels to both mitigate climate change and help communities adapt to its impacts based on research and analysis (WRI India, 2021). According to WRI India, there are three elements that need to be assessed to make this large-scale transition to renewable power more just: resource scarcity, differentiated impacts and dynamic vulnerability.

Resource scarcity: Access to land and water is critical to the livelihoods of agrarian economies like India. Therefore, the impact of the transition on the availability of these resources must be taken into account.

Differentiated impacts: What are the differential impacts of the current transition on different income groups, genders, castes and households with different landholdings? This question needs to be answered to make a valid analysis of the social impacts on the various populations in India.

Dynamic vulnerability: Assess the pre- and post-implementation situation in terms of social impacts: what solutions are necessary to have both low carbon infrastructure and positive social effects?

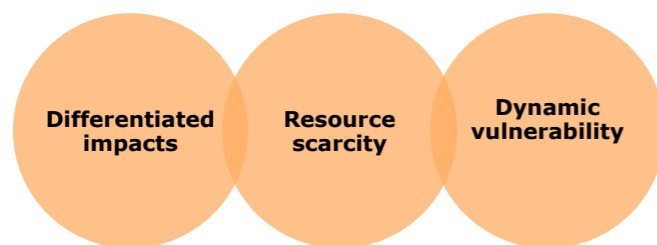


Figure 3

Three elements for assessment (Narayan, 2022)



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India: Solar Farms

WRI India encourages three possible solutions to make India's low-carbon transition more just:

- 1** Dual land use at solar sites. This could be achieved by encouraging the co-existence of sheep grazing/cultivation and solar farms by adopting suitable business models and underground cables. The result is a win-win situation, where solar grazing helps control grass growth in the solar field while making livelihoods more diversified and resilient. Solar farm developers can enter into leases with farmer cooperatives. Cooperation and business models must be developed for this purpose.
- 2** Ensure better employment guarantee schemes for landless workers displaced by infrastructure construction and provide better working conditions and opportunities, such as enrolling landless families in retraining programmes and providing safe transportation or shelter for women workers at their place of employment.
- 3** Reduce the use of land for land-intensive solar energy by incentivising rooftop solar and offshore wind energy. The financial viability could be enhanced by mixing public and private financing construction and through innovative international financing models. The assessment of their feasibilities must also account for social justice considerations.

Lessons learned: How are injustices identified?

- Transition processes must take negative trade-offs masquerading under good intentions into account. In other words, there is a misconception that some projects like renewable energy are benign, and thus they do not need the same level of scrutiny as other large infrastructural projects in terms of their social and environmental effects.
- In climate transitions, it can be attractive to apply the same model (e.g. leasing-based large solar parks) everywhere throughout a country. This means that the consequences of negative externalities of this model are significant, so it is important to make improvements for better social outcomes.



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Mosaic Governance Approach in Urbanplanen, Copenhagen

Public access to sustainable, safe and secure housing and leisure environments is a major challenge in Europe and beyond. Sustainable planning practises aim to improve this. However, the diverse needs of marginalised groups, such as new migrants and youth, have largely been overlooked in green space research and sustainable spatial planning practice (Raymond et al., 2021). Engaging diverse groups in sustainable spatial planning is a major issue. Barriers, such as language, organisation capacity and access to knowledge, can make involving diverse marginalised groups complicated.

Within the international research consortium VIVA-PLAN (Viva Plan, n.d.), the mosaic governance approach, which was developed in Wageningen, is used to identify, amplify and negotiate different values, knowledge and ontologies, and to include these in sustainable spatial planning that specifically focus on marginalised groups. Mosaic governance is a normative governance model designed to stimulate the co-creation of urban green and NBS in cross-scale networks through improved coordination between government and non-government actors (Buijs et al., 2016).

One of the cases where Mosaic Governance is applied is Urbanplanen, a neighbourhood in Copenhagen. It is one of the case studies of the VIVA-PLAN where the relation between the Mosaic Approach and Just Transformation is examined, (Gulsrud et al., 2020). Urbanplanen is a socially and economically diverse neighbourhood with large cohesive social housing areas. The area faces challenges regarding safety and overall reputation. To



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Mosaic Governance Approach in Urbanplanen, Copenhagen

improve these points, bridging organisations and social workers have been working with a mosaic governance approach to stimulate a just transformation. They have been working for 15 with a wide range of actors, including civil society and local communities to strengthen the capacities, skills and agency of green space users (empowering) and to strengthen social capital in communities by building new and better relationships among different people, groups and communities (bridging).

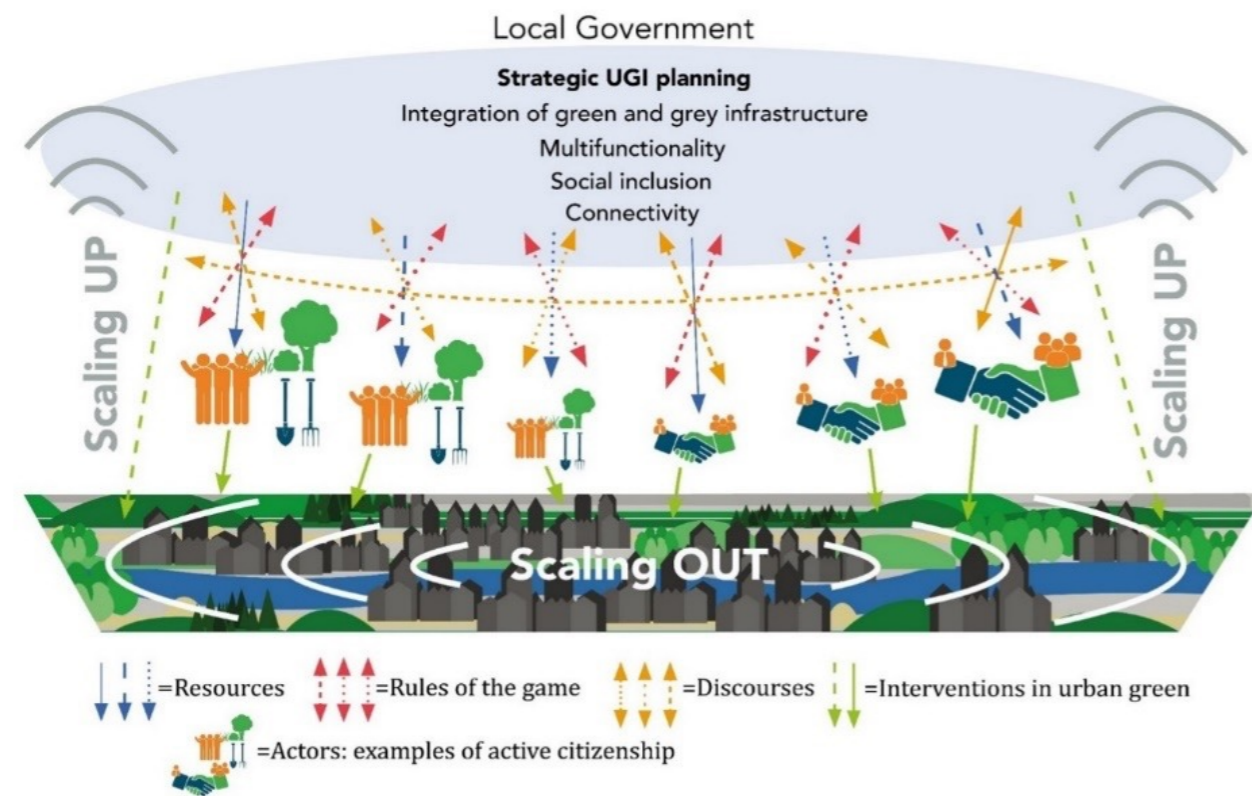


Figure 4

The concept of mosaic governance (Buijs et al., 2019)



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Mosaic Governance Approach in Urbanplanen, Copenhagen

A lot of initiatives are part of the Urbanplanen project. The social enterprise FRAK connects local youth with green maintenance jobs, resulting in the social and socioeconomic empowerment of residents. The community group, 'The Fathers Group', organises nature experiences and outdoor recreational activities for fathers and children who recently immigrated from war zones. Providing informal social interaction and combining different types of activities in local green areas not only contributes to bridging between residents, but it also invites newcomers to use the local green spaces.

In Urbanplanen, institutionalised and well-funded bridging organisations are important to link the practices and values important to local residents with the dominant discourses of municipalities and housing agencies. These organisations navigate conflicting values between grassroots demands for fellowship and democracy and the normative demands of the state for increased employment and integration. Negotiating these differences contributes to a more just transformation of the area towards a greener and climate-smart future.

The multi-method approach created by VIVA-PLAN has contributed to this process by identifying the diverse values and demands for green areas from the local community using a diversity of social science methods, ranging from PPGIS (public participation geospatial information system) to walking interviews. In 'Hackathons' – on-site, multi-day workshops to co-develop inclusive solutions – cross-scale and cross-sector dialogues are facilitated to find common ground between community values and demands and sometimes conflicting policy aims and processes (Raymond et al., 2021).

Lessons learned: How should multicultural values be handled?

- Bridging and empowering local people can stimulate just transformations by broadening the group of green space users, offering new modes of collaboration across scales, spanning different localities, cultures, age groups and educational levels in light of urban planning (Figure 4).
- Strong and trusted bridging organisations are important to navigate diverse values and demands, strengthen social capital and facilitate collaboration across scales to achieve just transformations within sustainable planning practises.



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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia and climate change impacts

Australia has about 500 aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, totalling almost 900,000 people. These First Nations people are descendants of the people who originally lived in Australia before British colonisation. Land plays a key role in their culture, spirituality, language and identity, and caring for their country is an important responsibility.

These communities bear the uneven burden of climate change, while they barely contribute to it. This is experienced as unjust. Their call is to stop climate change, to be part of the adaptation processes and to be taken care of, to secure their culture and their existence and to be compensated for the losses they have experienced. This case demonstrates how collecting evidence of injustices, dialogues and legal action can contribute to a just transition.

Evidence collection on injustice: the first scientific studies that assessed the disproportionate climate change impacts on indigenous people were developed around 2010. Some studies downscaled the regional climate models to the local circumstances of the Torres Strait Islanders. Another prominent study assessed how indigenous people themselves experienced the changes (Petheram et al., 2010). This study made clear that climate change is already impacting these communities. These studies have been used for discussion, advocacy and even legal action. Further Aboriginal-led research is required to identify climate change impacts and adaptive responses based on Aboriginal knowledge.



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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia and climate change impacts

Giving voice: National dialogues between scientists and indigenous people took place in 2012, 2018 and recently in April 2021, when over 120 Traditional Owners co-designed adaptation strategies with scientists. During these dialogues, First Peoples have had a genuine seat at the table. Preparing these national meetings took over three years, and they resulted in materials to take back to their communities. Another inspiring initiative is the joint development of a National Strategy for Just Adaptation by Future Earth Australia as part of the Reimagining Climate Adaptation initiative. This strategy calls for better inclusion of indigenous people in developing adaptation responses to climate change. The strategy states that better inclusion could take place by:

- Formally recognising 'Caring for Country' as a key pillar in Australia's response to the climate crisis through policies and legislation,
- Committing all Australian national parks and protected areas to have some form of joint management with traditional owners within ten years, and
- Drawing these and other opportunities together in a national indigenous climate mitigation and adaptation strategy.

“*With changing weather and changing seasons, everything else is changing too: their homes, their cultures, their stories and their identities.*”

— Uncle Paul (The Australian Climate Case, 2022)



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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia and climate change impacts

Legal action: Torres Strait Islanders brought their case to the UN Committee for Human Rights and sued the Australian government for not taking action to combat climate change. Due to rising sea levels, Torres Strait Islanders will lose their home when their islands disappear, while already experiencing loss of homes and food due to heavy rains. In September 2022, the UN Committee declared that Australia had indeed failed to protect the Torres Strait Islanders. The court case against the Australian government is due to start in June 2023. These cases were brought to court with the help of NGOs and law firms experienced in advocating the legal rights of marginalised people.

Lessons learned: How should multicultural values be handled?

- Science can play a role in voicing the needs of marginalised groups and promoting justice.
- This case is not so much about conflicting values but about connecting different knowledge systems. The solution for climate adaptation may be found in the indigenous knowledge systems, as they have learned to live with changes for many centuries.
- So-called 'bridging-leaders' play a key role: these are aboriginal leaders working in science and NGOs to translate and connect knowledge systems.

“*Science research runs in a very different timeline to our cultural protocols, so working around those and bringing those together is a really big priority as well.*”

— CIPAME Expert



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Poland - Post-Coal Rybnik 360

Rybnik is a city in Poland, located in one of the largest coal regions in Europe. Because of the European Union's ambition to transform towards a net zero society, this region is facing enormous economic challenges while simultaneously struggling with air pollution. This transition may mean that many jobs will be lost and the city may experience an economic collapse once the coal mining stops.

While there are many different stakeholders and interests related to the transition towards a net zero society, Rybnik would benefit from mechanisms designed to build collaboration in order to overcome unjust transitions. Since shifting away from coal would harm the city and its people both economically and socially, Climate KIC has organised the Just Transformation Deep Demonstrations programme Project Rybnik360 (Sadura, 2021). This project aims to start a long-term process to organise a just transformation by setting up a new development strategy for the city based on systemic innovations and implemented in cooperation with city stakeholders.

This long-term process is oriented towards bringing the perceptions, ambitions and ideas of the many stakeholders together in a joint vision for the future. This process has been seeking procedural justice by involving stakeholders and building trust. More specifically, the approach has been used to 'reverse roles': the government listens to how citizens see their future. The method they employed was 'deep listening': a total of 180 in-depth interviews took place; 2,800 arguments were mapped out, and 93 innovation ideas were developed. The key was listening to needs, problems and desires and narratives.



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Trust was built by embracing the diversity of values, interests, outlooks and attitudes held by stakeholders, and developing a safe environment so everyone could talk. This was used to engage all the stakeholders in a dialogue and to explore different futures. This input was analysed into a vision for future development. Trust was built because so much time was spent listening and really trying to understand the barriers and opportunities in the local context. The current system was developed and used to design a pathway and portfolio for innovations. Although the formal closure of the mining sector will still take place, the Rybnik city government is already working on bringing local entrepreneurs together to innovate for a new future.

Lessons learned

- Building trust takes time and a lot of listening to a very diverse group of stakeholders.
- Setting up the required collaboration can be done with the help of European programmes in order to bring in necessary expertise and resources.

Deep listening

Deep listening requires humility: it involves accepting that we can be incorrect all the time, seeking opportunities to change our minds and to truly dive into the other person's perspective. To do this, we need to be humble in our knowledge, in accepting other information and perspectives and in being able to let go of our identity in a certain role, such as that of a researcher or policy maker. Only then can we really place ourselves in the position of someone else, and experience mildness and kindness towards other viewpoints (Koch, 2020).



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Just Export Credits

Export credit agencies (ECAs) are government-backed organisations that provide all kinds of credit to the private sector with the aim of seizing business opportunities in developing countries and emerging markets. In doing so, ECAs finance projects that are destructive to the environment and to the human rights of the local population. NGOs have been calling for these destructive practices to be stopped since the nineties.

The NGOs are now seeking distributive justice. NGOs are making a call for foreign investments that are not at the expense of local people in developing countries. In the nineties, ECAs only used criteria like the promotion of exports and entering foreign markets to decide on the provision of financial support (i.e. lending, guarantees and insurance) to activities abroad. Many of their investment projects are large-scale in industries like mining, oil drilling, and road and dam construction.

NGOs have brought evidence of these detrimental impacts of investment project to the attention of the media. Some ECAs understood that they needed to change, and decided to adopt environmental, social and transparency criteria in their investment decisions. These ECAs then pushed for international agreements in order to avoid higher thresholds would disadvantage them in terms of competition. Consequently, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) discussed and developed in 2003, together with the respective OECD members' ECAs, the so-called 'Common Approaches' for export credit agencies that now include environmental and social impact assessments.



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These Common Approaches have been revised twice since 2003: in 2012 and in 2016. The OECD adopted this role as it provides a forum for exchanging information between ECAs. Civil society organisations are regularly involved in discussing their views on issues related to ECAs. The weakness of these Common Approaches is that they are not obligatory. Most ECAs only recently adopted environmental policies resulting from these approaches. Furthermore, there is international and national regulation with regard to export credits is limited, and there is little transparency on the climate impact of ECAs.

Encouraged by the Paris Agreement (2015) and the Glasgow Climate Pact (2021), some countries recently announced that they will stop investing in fossil fuel projects, creating an international impetus to change ECA investment practices. Sweden is a prime example. The Swedish Export Credit Agency has announced that it will not invest in the coal sector and, as of the end of 2022, it will no longer finance hydrocarbon exploration or extraction.

The corporation's willingness to change is the result of national dynamics. Sweden aims to become a net zero society by 2045 with the help of Fossil Free Sweden, an initiative started by the Swedish government in 2015 to convene 22 business sectors to develop roadmaps for a fossil fuel-free future. The roadmaps brought companies together to discuss their common challenges and to

“*We do not finance new oil and gas-fired power plants that do not have a transition plan, except in exceptional cases in war-torn countries, or in poor countries in urgent need of development.*”

— Magnus Montan, CEO of the Swedish Export Credit Corporation (SEK) and Anna-Karin Jatko, Director General of the Swedish Export Credit Agency (EKN) (SEK, 2021).



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Just Export Credits

determine how to contribute to reaching the national target. These roadmaps opened a dialogue between politics and business. However, despite these changes being in the right direction, there are still many people that are harmed by ECA investment projects and who still have to live with injustices.

Lesson learned: How can trust and collaboration be built?

- When marginalised groups are unable to voice their issues, NGOs play an important role in bringing injustice to the global media.
- International institutions play an important role as the conveners of relevant parties to encourage transitions that reduce injustices. This case also makes clear how international conferences can create momentum to push sectors towards greater sustainability.
- Transboundary impacts need to be taken into account when working on just transitions.



Inspiration from
'just' practice

Overview cases

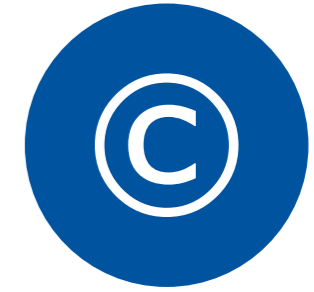
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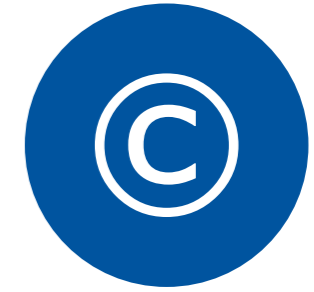
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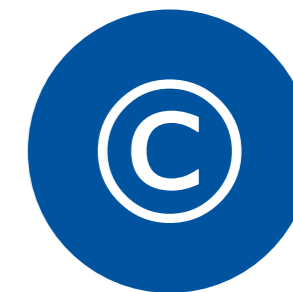
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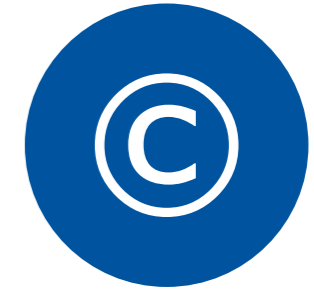


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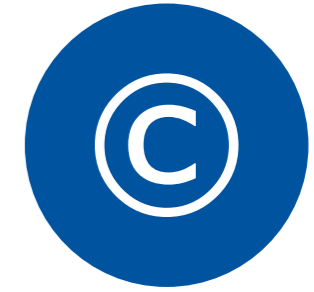
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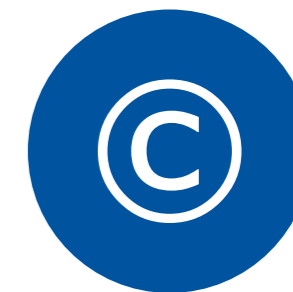
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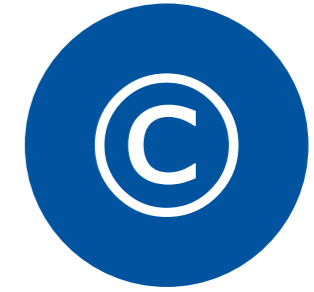
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