Report in the workshop on 'The role of the Just Energy Transition Partnership in contributing to the implementation of South Africa's NDC: A new form of climate finance and international cooperation?', convened by the SNAPFI team at the University of Cape Town

The SNAPFI team at the University of Cape Town (UCT) convened a public workshop on 8 May 2023 to present the preliminary findings of the in-country case study and gather reflections from participants on the process and progress of the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) in South Africa. The workshop was held online to enable participation from across the country.

In the SNAPFI-UCT research team, Michael Boulle leads the case study analysis of the JETP, conceptualised as the interaction between international diplomacy and domestic politics. This case study seeks to identify the actors involved, influential international and domestic factors at play, process features, and insights about implementation of the JETP. In the months since its announcement, the JETP has faced criticism calling for the strengthening of elements of justice in the JETP, and this workshop engaged voices specifically from civil society organisations. The ten participants' included representatives from environmental and social justice organisations, sustainability consulting and academic work on sustainable finance.

After a brief introduction to the SNAPFI project, Michael outlined the case study on the role of the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) in relation to implementing most ambitious targets within South Africa's Nationally Determined Contributions. He posed a set of questions for reflection around the topic of whether the JET-P represents a new form of international climate finance and cooperation. The participants joined in a highly engaged discussion that focussed on justice elements in processes and consultation, and in the areas of investment – arguing for including public transport in new electric vehicles, and interrogating interests in green hydrogen production.

In the final work on this case study, the team is focussed on identifying learnings for future tranches of support for the broader just transition in South Africa and for other countries embarking on similar JETPs. More broadly, the case study aims to offer insights into how to move from political announcements to policy and implementation.