

## Report on the Webinar: **The Just Energy Transition Partnership – South Africa.**

A public webinar hosted by the SNAPFI Team at the University of Cape Town

On September 27, 2023, the Strengthen National Climate Policy Implementation (SNAPFI) research team at the University of Cape Town (UCT) hosted a public webinar. This webinar aimed to present a paper critically analysing South Africa's Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) as a potential 'model' for countries in the Global South.

The webinar was opened by Professor Harald Winkler, then Michael Boulle presented findings from his analysis which utilized Robert Putnam's two-level game theory to investigate the emergence and evolution of the JETP process from the time of its announcement at COP26. The analysis unveiled how the interplay of international and domestic factors, actors, and knowledge has shaped the process, its progress, and the challenges it has encountered.

The distinguished guest panel featured eminent thought leaders in the field. Saliem Fakir, Executive Director at the African Climate Foundation, recently authored an essay on the JETP in the South African Journal of International Affairs. Tasneem Essop, who serves as the Executive Director of Climate Action Network International, has held two terms as a Commissioner in South Africa's National Planning Commission and is a prominent figure in the climate negotiations and activism. Crispian Olver, the Executive Director of the Presidential Climate Commission, brings extensive experience from various high-level government roles and has published well-received books exploring governance issues at the local level in South Africa. The event drew an audience of 25 participants, including finance and legal practitioners, technical advisors specializing in energy and development, research consultants, and academics.

The lively discussion was moderated by Dr Andrew Marquard and it raised a range of perspectives on the JETP. Participants concurred that the JETP has effectively directed broader public attention to energy transitions, encouraging participation in national discussions. They agreed that JETP introduces a positive technical finance innovation that is evolving, and it offers rich learning opportunities for inclusive work on justice elements and for fostering ownership and accountability among all partners. A key lesson underscores the importance of a compelling, locally produced knowledge base and process for facilitating an evidence-based national conversation and consensus-building. An essential learning underscores the complexity of the political economy in energy transitions, extending beyond a dichotomy of decarbonisation efforts versus vested interests.

Relevant insights for other Global South countries contemplating JETPs include the necessity for integrated policy approaches, the reinforcement of institutions for effective implementation, and process enhancements to meaningfully centre social justice in JETPs. There will be continued interest in tracking the partnership to assess the extent to which JETPs achieve their intended effect of accelerating energy transitions.

