

Just Energy Transition & Climate Sustainability:

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES FOR AFRICA'S ENERGY TRANSITION



Christabel Phiri, South Africa (Moderator)

Christabel is the Executive Manager for Policy and Programmes at the Southern Africa Trust. She coordinates the participation of CSOs in policy dialogue in the region. With more than 15 years of experience in policy development, strategy, and planning, she builds the capacity of civil society groups focusing on trade and industrialisation. Before joining the Trust, Christabel worked at Third World Network Africa in Ghana. She holds a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Economics from the University of Johannesburg, specialising in Industrial Policy, and a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Zambia.



Dr Claude Kabemba

Dr Kabemba is the executive director of the Southern Africa Resource Watch. His work focuses on Africa's Political Economy with expertise in natural resource governance, democratization, election politics, foreign policy, civil society engagement, conflict resolution and social policies.



Ephraim Mwepya Shitima

Ephraim is the director of the newly created Department of Green Economy and Climate Change in the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment in Zambia. He is also Zambia's National Focal Point under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), where he also serves as the Chair of the African Group of negotiators on climate change for 2022 to 2023. He is an expert on climate change policy and practices with experience spanning over fifteen years in policy formulation, implementation, and climate change negotiations under the multilateral UNFCCC negotiation process.



Alex Benkenstein

Alex is the Programme Head of the Climate and Natural Resources Programme of the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). SAIIA is a leading African think tank supporting evidence-based policymaking across various thematic areas. At SAIIA, Alex focuses on resource governance, particularly in the fields of climate and energy, ocean governance and extractive industries.



Maggie Mapalo Mwape

Maggie has over 10 years of experience in community development and environmental monitoring. She studied Business Administration, and Global Community Engagement and completed professional training in climate diplomacy, community environmental monitoring, civic engagement, and strategic environmental assessments. She is currently pursuing her MSc in Climate Change. She is the Founder and Executive Director for the Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) established in 2010. CEJ works to empower mining communities by advocating for land rights and fair compensation for displaced communities, sustainable management of natural resources, social and environmental responsibility by mining companies and promoting sustainable alternative energy. Maggie is also the Co-chair of the Southern Africa Youth Forum, which includes SADC regional civil society youth organizations.



Trusha Reddy

Trusha is the Programme Head for Women Building Power for Energy & Climate Justice at WoMin African Alliance. She is a climate justice activist with over 15 years of experience working both within and alongside civil society groups in Africa and across the world.