



1ST ANNUAL MEETING OF CORE TEAMS

The 'baseline' situation of the LbD project in South Africa was analysed in a report 'Just transition in South Africa: Situation analysis' (April 2021, Harald Winkler and Andrew Marquard). A brief summary is provided here.

The 'baseline' situation takes into account the National Development Plan (NDP) and climate policy established in 2011 by the government as well as the intended Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Both documents focus on creating a 'good life' for citizens while following climate mitigation aims. Chapter 5 of the NDP looks at the implementation of a low-carbon economy which is vital for the 'just transition'. South Africa does not have a single vision for climate-related policy as there are multiple shareholders who have varying visions due to the participatory political culture of South Africa. This means that the NDP is the closest thing to representing a national vision we have. It is possible for South Africa to be more ambitious in its investment into mitigation strategies given that renewable energy is becoming a more feasible option. Since the baseline report was compiled in the first quarter of 2021, South Africa has updated its NDC, communicated to the UNFCCC in September.

Climate policy in South Africa focuses on adaptation and mitigation. This is due to the fact that climate change is currently impacting South Africa, with a national average temperature increase at a rate of more than twice the average global



SOUTH AFRICA

The Learning by Doing project in South Africa explores a good life and just transition. To do so, a scrum methodology is being applied. The first year of LbD in South Africa saw the establishment of a group of strategic and creative thinkers, the members of the scrum. The group includes participants from government, civil society, the business community and labour unions, all participating in their individual capacities.

An initial series of meetings – a first scrum – was held in July 2021. Discussions on what a good life in 2050 in South Africa under 1.5 °C might look like was fascinating. In group work, initial narratives of a just transition towards a good life emerged. Human Action in the form of shifting development pathways to ensure a just transition to a low-carbon, resilient "good life" is a core focus.

The focus of the South African UCT team is to provide papers informing contributions in realising the vision of a just transition to a net-zero CO₂ economy and society, with a focus on enabling a 'good life' by using a type of capabilities approach to development.

Future work is planned to further develop the narratives, which are considered impactful in their own right – and much other work does not spend time developing the narrative storylines. The scrum was facilitated by the national lead, Prof Winkler, supported by Dr Andrew Marquard and the international team.

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increase (Wolski,2019). This has resulted in frequent droughts and extreme weather events. It is important to note that South Africa pioneered long-term mitigations scenarios (LTMS) long before low emissions development strategies (LEDS) were encouraged under the Paris agreement. The public discourse on the 'just transition' has reawakened the interest in a developmental approach to climate change. The interventions to get to net-zero and ensure social justice are fundamental to the 'just transition' dialogue, which this project refers to as a 'just transition to a net zero CO2 economy and society' in terms of the scrum for future-visions discussions.

South Africa's National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS) was approved by Cabinet in 2020 and has strategic objectives that coincide with the aims of the LBD project, as well as the NDC. This is shown by the establishment of the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC)'s to oversee and coordinate the 'just transition' with emphasis on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation. The commission will also be looking at holistic socially responsible developmental strategies aiming to create a 'good life' for those involved in the energy transition.

The LBD project is actively making connections with other IKI-funded projects, such as Global Climate Action After Paris, strengthen national climate policy implementation - DIW Berlin, and the LbD team has attended IKI networking events in South Africa. This supports finding synergies.



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The initial meeting of the scrum team in South Africa also resulted in spin-off activities, convened by scrum members. One of these is around public affluence, with a follow up meeting. Jose Garibaldi has written a narrative, also drawing on thinking in LbD processes in other countries. Another spin-off group on electricity and the funding crisis convened twice. The initial meeting of the energy spinoff has raised interesting questions in regards to national energy transformation, with a specific focus on debt restructuring for investment into renewable energies.

The second scrum meeting dates are set for early February 2022, with narratives continuing to be worked on. The second scrum may consider using backcasting from future visions of a good life with a just transition to a net zero CO2 society in which South Africans live a good life in 2050.