

Harnessing the Co-Benefits of Climate Action – Enabling a Just Transition

COBENEFITS Policy Dialogue – Country Focus: South Africa

BETD Side Event hosted by BMU and IASS Potsdam

Date and Venue: 10.April 2019, 09:00 – 10:30, BETD Rathenau Hall

The global transition to renewable sources of energy is in full swing. The social and economic opportunities presented by this transformation are spurring the growth of renewable energy generation in many countries. Among many other countries South Africa is in the midst of an energy transition, with important social and economic implications, depending on the pathways that are chosen. Against this background South Africa has launched a widely acknowledged country-wide Just Transition Dialogue series.

Launching the 2019 COBENEFITS Report Series for South Africa

The whole debate boils down to a single question: How can renewables improve the lives of the people in South Africa? Four new studies, published by IASS Potsdam and CSIR Energy Centre, contribute the much-needed data and figures to this question. They provide important guidance on further shaping South Africa's energy pathways to maximise the social and economic co-benefits of the new energy world of renewables while facilitating a just transition.

Contributors to the Session

Welcome and Introduction Norbert Gorißen

Deputy Director General, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

Social and Economic Co-Benefits of Renewable Energy for South Africa

Launch of the COBENEFITS South Africa Report Series

Sebastian Helgenberger, IASS Potsdam

Enabling a Just Energy Transition in South Africa

Tasneem Essop, Commissioner National Planning Commission, South Africa

Role of Renewable Energy Industry to maximise social and economic opportunities of the energy transition

Brenda Martin, CEO South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA)

Further Discussants:

- Tobias Zeller, South African-German Energy Partnership
- Ruan Fourie, CSIR Energy Centre, South Africa

Conclusion: Towards a global climate opportunity partnership: Harnessing the Co-Benefits of Climate Action & Enabling a Just Transition

BMU and IASS

Key Questions to be addressed in the session

- (1) What are the enablers of just energy transitions, maximising social and economic opportunities of renewable energy?
- (2) How can co-benefits assessments contribute to just energy transitions while raising climate policy ambitions?
- (3) How can Germany's climate partnerships support international mutual learning and domestic dialogues on enabling a sustainability-oriented and just energy transition?

Contact

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The COBENEFITS project (International Climate Initiative , IKI)

Connecting the social and economic opportunities of renewable energies to climate change mitigation strategies.

COBENEFITS cooperates with national authorities and knowledge partners in countries across the globe such as Germany, India, South Africa, Vietnam, and Turkey to help them mobilise the co-benefits of early climate action in their countries. The project supports efforts to develop enhanced NDCs with the ambition to deliver on the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (SDGs). COBENEFITS facilitates international mutual learning and capacity building among policymakers, knowledge partners, and multipliers through a range of connected measures: country-specific co-benefits assessments, online and face-to-face trainings, and policy dialogue sessions on enabling political environments and overcoming barriers to seize the co-benefits.

COBENEFITS Partnership

COBENEFITS is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag. The project is coordinated by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in partnership with the Renewables Academy (RENAC), Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU), IET – International Energy Transition GmbH in collaboration with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa (CSIR), The Energy and Resources Institute, India (TERI), the Green Innovation and Development Centre, Vietnam (GreenID) and the Istanbul Policy Center (IPC) of Sabanci University, Turkey.

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