

Breakaway Group 1

**Building community resilience to
physical impacts of climate
change**



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO PHYSICAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

THOUGHTS ON CLIMATE RESILINCE:

The thoughts on resilience from participants were as follows:

- ▶ Sustainable crop farming;
- ▶ Resilience disregards development levels, with Germany as a case in point on its disasters;
- ▶ Radical re-thinking of development;
- ▶ Reverting to traditional systems and practices which have elements of conservation and sustainable practices;
- ▶ Understanding resilience from an ecosystem carrying capacity point of view.
- ▶ Improving the system's integrity (How far and how long can the system sustain the demand)



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO PHYSICAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Lived Experiences:

Vaal, Gauteng Experiences:

Physical impacts of climate change to small scale farmers

- ▶ Enlightenment brought about by environment programmes from both non-government organisation and government organisation;
- ▶ Impacts of climate change on sustainable energy and livelihoods;
- ▶ The awareness brought to community ideas on food gardens, solar systems, biodigesters and rainwater harvesting technologies;
- ▶ Cooperatives programmes did not work due to lack of support from government. However, there's strong appetite to revise this in light of just transition journey;
- ▶ The PCC is encouraged to consider community cooperatives as model for Just transition; and
- ▶ Intentional consideration of women in decision making and empowerment.



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO PHYSICAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Lived Experiences:

Malale, Limpopo Experiences:

Physical impacts of climate change to arising from floods

- ▶ Impacts of floods on transport infrastructure, including roads and bridges;
- ▶ Impacts of floods on water supply and water supply infrastructure;
- ▶ Changes in seasonal patterns, with rain patterns changing and occurring in different seasons than usual.
- ▶ There's a very critical need for urgent response to issues, and in particular Renewable energy from the Sun and Wind.



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO PHYSICAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Lived Experiences:

Durban South, KZN Experiences:

Physical impacts of climate change: Impacts of floods to the Durban/KZN community:

- ▶ To date people are still missing and cannot be located;
- ▶ There's rumours that KZN is suffering from spiritual warfare's, given the decadal political and geographical conflicts and warfare's that have shadowed the province over the decades.
- ▶ The community in Durban South is encouraged and even more hopeful given the recent closing down of SAPREF and Engen, who are considered the immediate polluters of the Durban South Area;
- ▶ Given the recent experience from the floods, the communities are still living in fear, especially people in the informal settlements;
- ▶ Regardless of the many years into democracy (27 years), communities still suffer from poor settlement planning from municipal authorities;
- ▶ Due to transport costs, rural-urban migration has been rapid and have led to an influx of informal settlements, i.e. shacks.
- ▶ The lack of integration and communication from municipal departments and departments in government, as well as general intergovernmental coordination.
- ▶ Significance of awareness and community ownership of human settlement.
- ▶ There's a need for phyco-social support to communities who are victims of the recent KZN Floods.



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO PHYSICAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Expert Panel Session:

Governance Mechanisms:

- *There's a strong call for Gender sensitive policies and planning instruments*
- *Policies that improve access to clean and safe drinking water, as well as safe and gender sensitive transport infrastructure;*
- *Capacity building for ward councilors and other governing political structures;*
- *Inclusion of women and other key role players in decision making and planning; and*
- *The transition need to be people centric.*

Implementation Mechanisms:

- *Improve integration in government in government, particularly in municipalities;*
- *Employ non-punitive approaches to resolving rates compliance issues with communities, including engagements with the communities to find solutions to non-compliance on municipal rates;*
- *Critical review of policies and lack of implementation and integration in government;*
- *The role of society in owning up to problems and solutions thereof, including the people understanding their role in the transition; and*
- *Propose a package of solutions to government and politicians for consideration.*



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO PHYSICAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Expert Panel Session:

Financing Mechanism:

- Co-creation of solutions jointly with all partners
- Community ownership of project – essential for buy-in
- Project sustainability and financing
- Co-creation of implementation plans



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO PHYSICAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Concluding remarks:

- Preventative measures are required and necessary in place of corrective measures;
- Change and disruptive approaches to Business-As-Usual are required, including political will to enable the change;
- The reality is that we only have today and not tomorrow;
- We have the technology and data let's use it now;
- There's also a need to set targets against which progress can be measured;
- We need to start learning - draw lessons from history and not repeat mistakes, i.e. Durban floods in 1987 and 2022; and
- Learning, consistency and co-creation.



Breakaway Group 2

**Achieving universal access to
and high levels of Water, Food
and Health Securities**



Achieving universal access to and high levels of Water, Food and Health Securities

- ▶ What do you feel have been the **key achievements and highlights** on in South Africa and what **challenges** still dominate the landscape?
- ▶ What **barriers** do you see for progressing the agenda toward higher securities in a Just Transition paradigm?
- ▶ What could be **potential Big-Ticket Interventions and immediate next steps** for progressing this agenda?

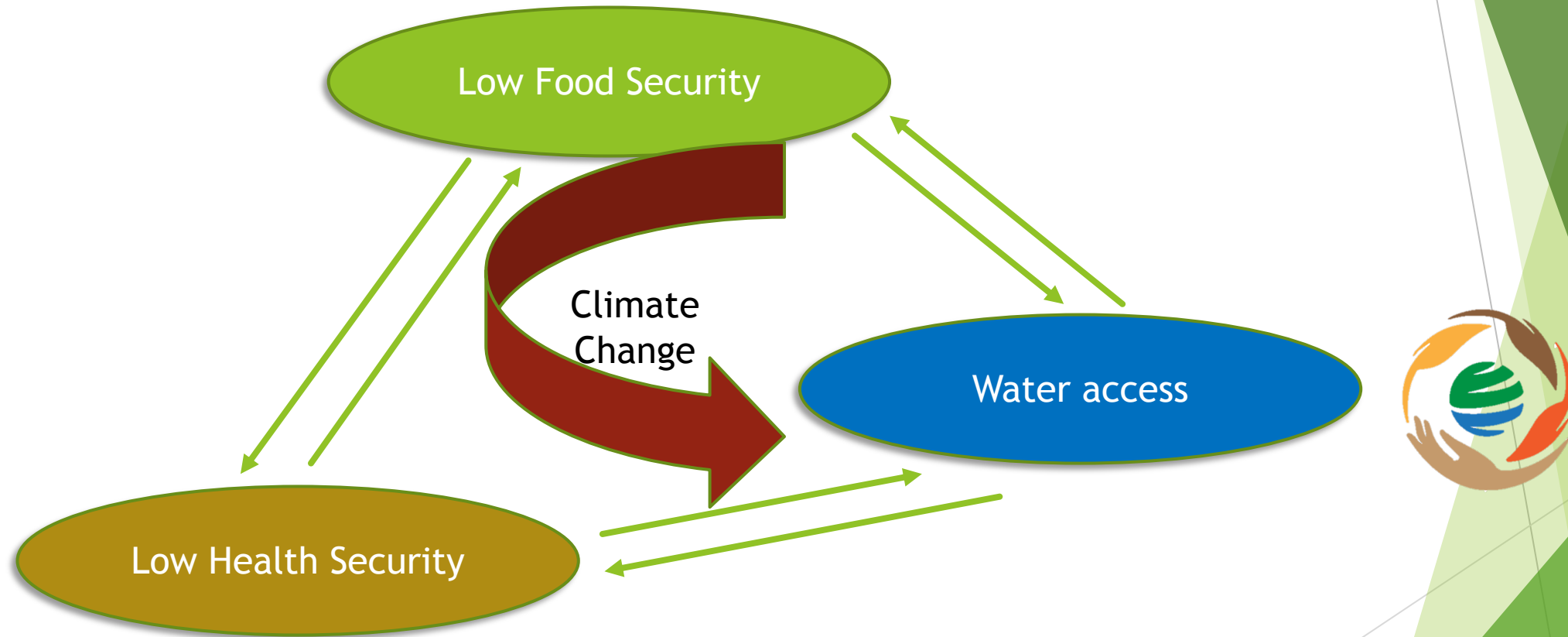


Highlights of WFH deep dive

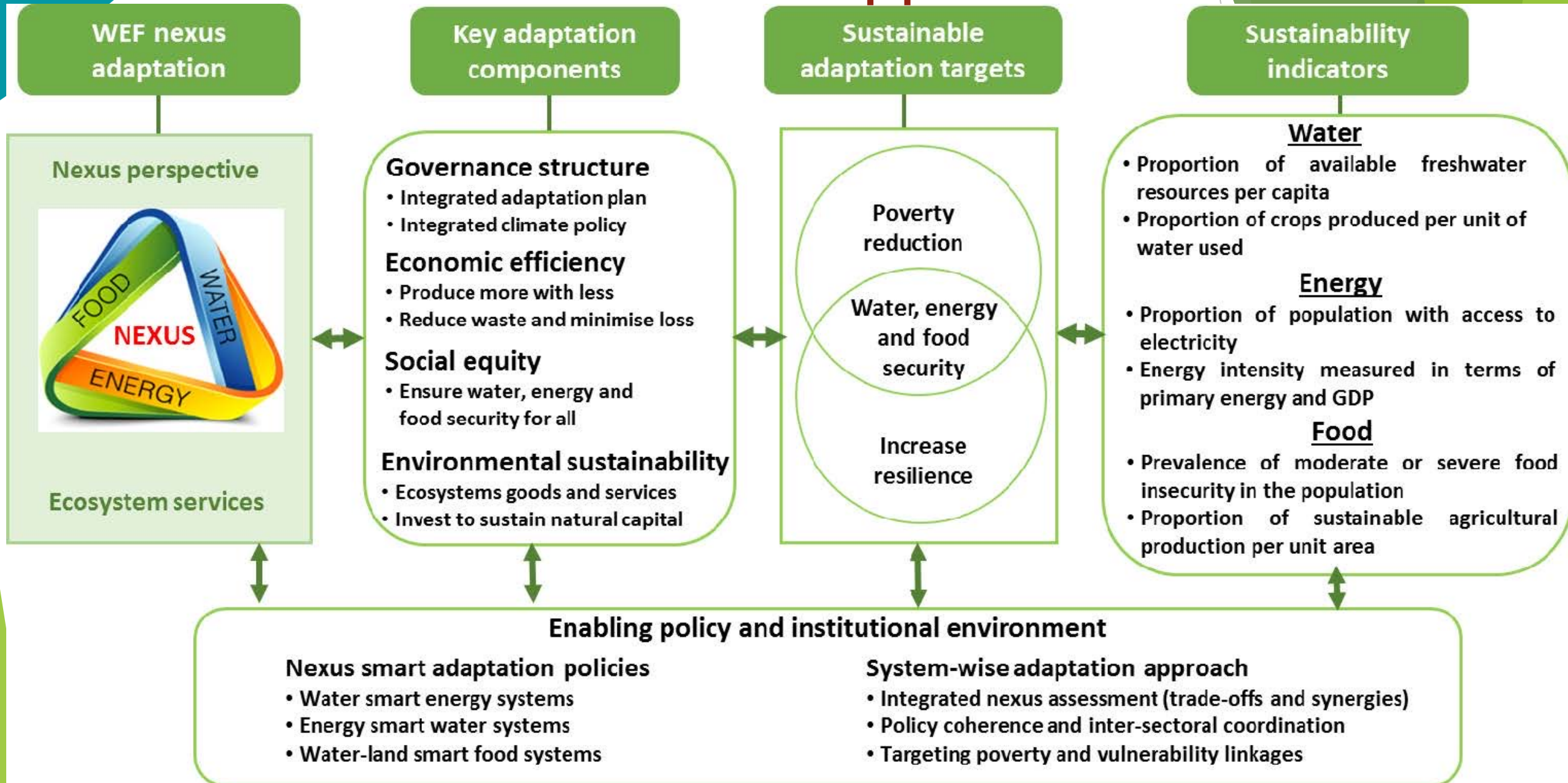
- ▶ While the current focus on the Energy Transition is mainstay to the Just Transition, it is now time to broaden the scope to include the other principal dimensions to the JT with Water, Food (Agric Value Chain) and Health security.



Climate Change fuels a Vicious Cycle



The Nexus Approach



Highlights of WFH deep dive

Critical to include :

- ▶ *Gender lens.*
- ▶ *Innovative governance.*
- ▶ *Catalytic allocation mechanisms – eg. JT-WARM for H₂O*
- ▶ *New tech – Indigenous Knowledge Systems harmonization.*
- ▶ *Master Skills Plan for a De-Carbonised Economy (DHET).*
- ▶ *Novel financing for Water, Agric and Health Sector transformation.*
- ▶ *Sectoral Adaptation Plans.*
- ▶ *Heightened Knowledge support driven by STI White Paper*
- ▶ ***Build Back Better, Build Forward Greener***



Breakaway Group 3

**Green Industrialisation and
Economic Diversification through
the Just Transition for low carbon
and climate resilience**



Green Industrialisation and Economic Diversification through the Just Transition for low carbon and climate resilience

- ❖ Achieving the Just part of the transition is as important as fast-tracking decarbonisation goals (coal plants closures, building renewable energy)
- ❖ Reskill, upskill and educate
- ❖ Leverage the opportunity to learn together in evolving the GE – mistakes have not yet been made



Key achievements and highlights for Green Industrialisation and Economic Diversification in South Africa

- ▶ Eskom and IPPs have a significant project base and pipeline (renewable energy; grid development)
- ▶ Promotion of industrialisation and local manufacturing especially in locations facing power plant closure (e.g. Emalahleni)
- ▶ Robust modelling and socio-economic studies undertaken for plant closure areas (e.g. Komati, Hendrina) with surveys and engagement at household, small business, etc. level
 - ▶ Concerns include job losses, business closure and increasing costs (e.g. Komati surrounds enjoyed free electricity) in a province that has a reported 34% unemployment rate
 - ▶ Positive elements include the possibility of new revenue streams, and the environmental benefits of plant closures
- ▶ NPC Just Transition process in 2019 highlighted the urgent need to address plant closures, resulting in community consultations and a JT Charter – pivots on (green) economic diversification
- ▶ Municipalities can act decisively to create enabling environments for local economic investment: Atlantis enabled a wind turbine manufacturing investment within 11 months (investment approach to planning approval to investment to winning a best investment award because of the seamless process). *This would have been impossible if the municipality had not been aware of the opportunities.*
- ▶ Green Economy Cluster in Mpumalanga - market intelligence reports across different sectors; industrialisation and green economy opportunities; a 200 member-wide forum
- ▶ Some sub sectors are fast gaining traction
 - ▶ Small Scale Embedded Generation
 - ▶ Electric game viewing vehicles in the conservation tourism sub-sector
 - ▶ testing of electric buses with Golden Arrow



Barriers to Progressing Green Industrialisation and Economic Diversification in South Africa

- ▶ **Municipalities are a risk group to the JT and multi-level governance is lacking:** local government does not know enough about plans and opportunities for the GE, yet they are key enablers (zoning, planning, approvals, etc.).
- ▶ Decisions are made at national level but impact locals
- ▶ Communities are not engaged in a manner that makes them integral to the solution. Therefore implementation does and will fail
- ▶ Communities are not making the connection between decarbonisation, shutting down plants, and the positive impacts
- ▶ Capacity and resources are not there, and people are still considering CC as an environmental rather than as a development issue
- ▶ Decarbonisation risks have not yet been fully determined, particularly those for livelihoods and quality of life. ***This must be balanced with the issue of report saturation versus action deficits***
- ▶ 85% of SA's coal is mined in Mpumalanga – ***it is plentiful and cheap***
- ▶ Low/no delivery of basic services is hampering economic growth and will disable green industrialization while dealing with immediate issues limits consideration of the Just Transition among communities
- ▶ Manufacturers lack sufficient certainty of demand, which limits/prohibits their investment
- ▶ Grid potential for connecting RE projects is saturated in some provinces, difficult in others but has high potential in Mpumalanga
- ▶ Terminology is too technical for most communities



Immediate next steps for Progressing Green Industrialisation and Economic Diversification in South Africa

- ▶ *Accelerate green economy developments that are inherently viable*
- ▶ Viability is largely determined by understanding and addressing community priorities (e.g. solar powered streetlighting for security, and connectivity)
- ▶ *Develop affordable technology to absorb coal heating demand in Mpumalanga*
- ▶ *Develop standardized specifications and regulations for climate resilient housing*
- ▶ Systematically develop and implement wheeling frameworks e.g. between municipalities
- ▶ Revitalise key opportunity sectors such as agriculture in the Komati area, and remove unhelpful regulatory barriers
- ▶ Immediately address workforce issues to avoid labour migration
- ▶ Support green supply chain development and land repurposing and work with existing resources
- ▶ Energise community engagement: i) Depoliticise public consultation; ii) notify in time for communities to prepare; iii) educate; iv) enable community partnerships needed to inform adequate community engagement
- ▶ **Develop an economically viable waste economy**
 - ▶ Understand what people are throwing away and link this to economic products
 - ▶ *This does not need a lot of government intervention*
- ▶ **Develop and implement wastewater treatment as a pivotal sub sector in the GE**
- ▶ Establish a glossary of JT terms that are SA contextualized, and make these widely available
- ▶ Revitalise old multi governance platforms such as the Intergovernmental CC Committee
- ▶ Urgently address current elephants in the room e.g. SAPREF in South Durban Basin



Breakaway Group 4

**Social Support, Skills
development, and Active labour
market measures**



Goal statement - what are we trying to achieve in this particular focus area?

- National JUST Transition essential , preparing all for the future, creating Champions in all spheres through collaboration with local structures and leaders
- Ensure ongoing, inclusive and meaningful consultations and collaborations
- Tangible, Informational and Social Support,
- Evolving Employment benefits, Formal, A- Typical and Informal world of work, **decent sustainable work framework**
- Regional Empowerment



Key achievements and highlights on Social Support, Skills development, Active Labour markets in South Africa?

- Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grants
- DTIC Masterplan processes
- SETA's



What barriers do you see for progressing on Social Support, Skills Development, Active Labour markets in South Africa?

- Trust
- Funding the Transition
- Temporary nature of creating jobs and casualisation
- Beneficiation - manufacturing locally



What could be potential immediate next steps?

- UBIG- Universal Basic Income Grant
- Expanding employment opportunities in and during the Transition
- Improve the job and community readiness in and during the transition,
- Enhancing motivation and incentives to seek employment
- Knowledge Economy - Innovators!
- Basic ,Higher and Indigenous knowledge/education needs to prepare students, workers and communities for the Transition
- Mass roll out of household solar systems



Just Equitable Inclusive Transition



Breakaway Group 5

**Inclusive governance and
regional / local
development mechanisms**



Inclusive governance and regional / local development mechanisms

- ▶ Need to address the issue of land, especially wrt wetland areas that are affected by pollution that communities rely on to sustain themselves
- ▶ **Empower women** economically within our communities e.g. Many women rely on EPWP jobs. Can these be transformed to **decent jobs** in a just transition particularly in areas of recycling waste
- ▶ Address and challenge issues of **environmental racism** that manifests in multiple ways (dumping sites relocated from white areas, counsellors supported by white community)



Inclusive governance and regional / local development mechanisms

- ▶ It is not a Just Transition if we are not addressing health issues caused by emissions
- ▶ Use right platforms to engage local government
- ▶ Support projects that reimagine farming such as small scale faming of resilient crops
- ▶ Inclusivity e.g. engaging faith based organisations in the implementation of a just transition



Inclusive governance and regional / local development mechanisms

- ▶ Deep rural areas are mostly affected by poverty and unemployment, therefore we need to activate smaller municipalities
- ▶ Need to think about how each municipalities Just Transition plans feed into their IDP's
- ▶ Monitoring government and business on all levels is crucial including time frames on plans and this raises the issue of transparency



Breakaway Group 6

Mobilising and Scaling Up Finance for the Just Transition



Key achievements and highlights on mobilizing and scaling up finance for the JT in South Africa

- ▶ Ambitious targets set in the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), based on science and the modelling of potential pathways in mitigation.
- ▶ Over the last few years, progress made on articulating the country's climate change imperatives:
 - ▶ The NDP outlines the need for growth, jobs and poverty reduction, setting the stage for a South African strategy for the achievement of national development goals
 - ▶ The Presidential Climate Commission works towards a social consensus on a Just Transition Framework
 - ▶ More detailed analysis of mitigation and industrial transformation programmes, particularly the emphasis on decarbonisation of the electricity, energy, petro-chemicals sectors and the development of the hydrogen and electric vehicles capability.
- ▶ The experience and investments in renewable generation projects through the REIPPP has effectively de-risked and reduced the price at which renewable power can be produced.
- ▶ Role taken by Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) in project development, planning, preparation and project management for industrialisation and localisation with a focus on SMME and entrepreneurs (Black Industrialist & Youth Programmes).
- ▶ NGO and Grassroot engagements and mobilisation to define what Climate Justice would mean for South Africa, and the consensus that adaptation and climate resiliency must be invested in.



Barriers for progressing on mobilizing and scaling up finance for the JT in South Africa

- ▶ Corruption and governance challenges facing South Africa can cripple the process of mobilisation and scaling up
- ▶ Fiscal constraints
- ▶ The private /commercial providers of capital are stuck in a paradigm of risk assessment that makes it difficult to fund just transition projects / portfolios.
- ▶ Fragmented and misaligned institutional and governance mechanisms - makes it difficult to mobilise and scale-up financing for integrated approaches to just transition programmes.
- ▶ Absence of a climate-change orientation in all budgets – National, Provincial and Local – makes it difficult to target fiscal / domestic grant funding to leverage local economic development and just transition opportunities.
- ▶ Capability and Capacity of the state to manage and implement the JT finance
- ▶ Lack of transparency in allocative decisions related to donor and grant funding for a just transition – while the energy sector is important, and requires early financing, the overall need to finance just transition components and adaptation should not be neglected.
- ▶ Misalignment in policy and regulation including key strategic initiatives e.g. NERSA regulations acting as barrier to embedded generation, need to review the IRP, the need to align and integrate the related aspects of the Infrastructure Fund, Investment SA and social infrastructure programmes at the local level. Also, to align and co-ordinate the investment programme in infrastructure with the mitigation and adaptation pathways in our climate response strategy
- ▶ Trade-off decisioning to optimise the outcomes of our investment approach – e.g., the cheapest bidders in the REIPPP programme vs incentives to create jobs and localised manufacturing capacity.



Potential immediate next steps for progressing on mobilizing and scaling up finance for the JT

- ▶ Adaptation and Resilience pathways of the JT need to be more clearly articulated and costs quantified.
- ▶ Ambitious targets in the NDC need to be defined in terms of the early steps to decarbonise, whilst ensuring embedded just transition programmes and projects, with blended finance (especially grant and highly concessional tranches) being fit-for-purpose, and affordable.
- ▶ Clear portfolio of “shovel-ready” and implementable projects for the \$8.5bn JETP, and an assessment of performance risk, as well as the embedded just transition principles in the localities of these projects.
- ▶ Coordination of Domestic vs international finance initiatives for the JT i.e. donor coordination and standardised mechanisms
- ▶ Promotion of catalytic instruments to accelerate the JT whilst mobilising finance to drive grid expansion, early retirement and industrialisation
- ▶ Define the role of DFIs in de-risking the JT, managing the costs of the JT , driving industrialisation and localisation.
- ▶ Define the role of taxes and subsidies in the mobilising and scaling up the JT
- ▶ A focus on inclusion and demonstration programmes owned by the communities to replicate and accelerate nature based solutions and insure impact investing principles guide the JT mobilisation and scaling up.
- ▶ Strengthen Public and Private Partnerships to mobilise, scale up and implement the JT, with public resources being specifically utilised to channel funding towards de-risking, local economic and livelihoods enhancement and technology development.
- ▶ Prioritise the use and role of blended finance in targeting the promotion of just transition projects.
- ▶ International donor (grant) funding to be allocated for adaptation initiatives including Loss and Damage e.g. a focus on Land, Energy and Food nexus
- ▶ Leverage on current Policy Reforms underway to further mobilise and scale up the JT e.g. infrastructure programme, D-Lab Programmes
- ▶ Development of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism, and an institutional mandate for this as the just transition unfolds.

