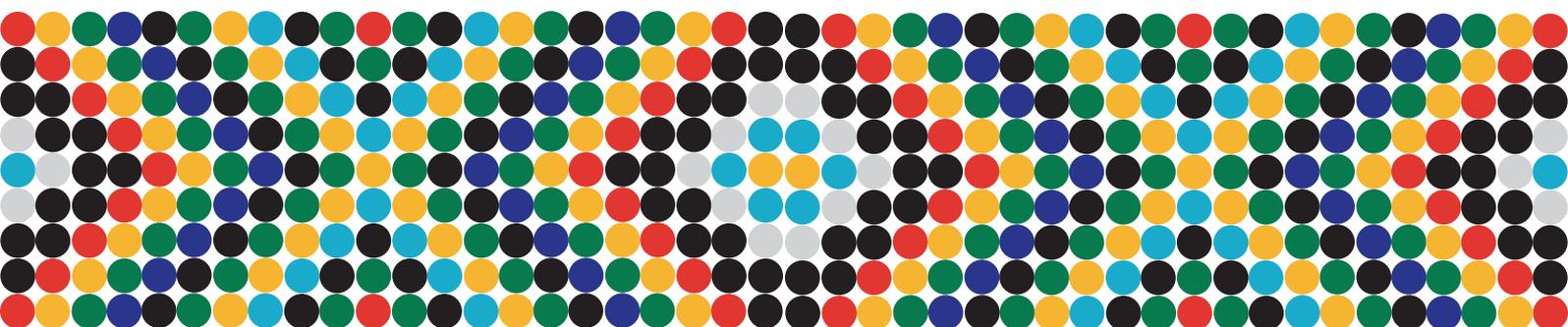


Green Economy Policies & Strategies

working paper

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Concept document to inform the 2019 Partnership for Action on the Green Economy (PAGE) Conference
By Gaylor Montmasson-Clair Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS)



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ON GREEN ECONOMY

INTRODUCTION

The transition to a green economy, in line with sustainable development goals (SDGs), has been acknowledged as a viable pathway to economic development, social welfare and environmental protection (UNEP, 2011). Such recognition prompts the need for renewed thinking around development intentions focusing not only on economic prosperity but including both social (such as poverty eradication, inequality reduction and local development) and environmental (such as climate change mitigation, pollution elimination and biodiversity preservation) considerations (IIED, 2002). In South Africa, this translates to the transition to “an environmentally sustainable, climate-change resilient, low-carbon economy and just society” (NPC, 2011, p. 199), as envisioned by the country’s National Development Plan: Vision 2030 (NDP).

Most countries however remain entrenched in highly unsustainable practices. South Africa is one of the most carbon-intensive economies in the world due to its reliance on fossil fuels (coal accounts for 70% of primary energy) and energy-intensive value chains, leading to the established domination of coal-fired electricity generation, carbon-intensive transport systems, and energy-intensive industries.

From a social perspective, in addition to severe levels of unemployment (Statistics South Africa, 2018), South African society is also one of the most unequal in the world (Palma, 2016). From an environmental standpoint, South Africa’s natural capital has declined since 1963. This is illustrated by a widening gap between the national biocapacity and the ecological footprint, since 1963 when the country started experiencing a biocapacity deficit. In 2014, the country’s biocapacity deficit stood at 2.3 global hectares per capita, compared to 1.8 in 1994 (Mudombi, 2018).

Bringing sustainability considerations into public policies and strategies therefore signifies a massive shift from traditional practices (policymaking and political settlements alike). The transition to a green economy is a disruptive force which introduces new and important dynamics that inevitably challenge the status quo. The imperative to factor sustainability into all levels of governance has called for a new prism of analysis and renewed institutional arrangements.

Transitioning to a green economy requires a cooperative and inclusive governance framework, gathering government, social partners (business, labour and civil society representatives) and wider society, based on constant policy dialogue, engagement and co-development. Each level of policymaking then plays a complementary role in the design and implementation of evidence-based, effective and ambitious policies. Inspiring strategic visions that enable meaningful change can give rise to policies that, in response to an engaged societal demand, enable sustainable change at scale and a transition to sustainable development.

Based on a ‘policy pyramid’ approach (Montmasson-Clair, 2016, 2017), this concept document assesses the state of play at each level of policymaking. Sections two to five conduct a diagnostic of the situation at the four levels of the policy pyramid: the vision, plans and strategies, measures and instruments, and toolkits. Section six concludes with targeted recommendations.



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More on the IKI

The IKI finances climate and biodiversity projects in developing and newly industrialising countries, as well as in countries in transition. The initiative focuses on climate change mitigation, adapting to the impacts of climate change, conserving natural carbon sinks/REDD+ and protecting biological diversity. Priority is given to activities that support creating an international climate protection architecture, to transparency and to innovative and transferable solutions that have an impact beyond the individual project.



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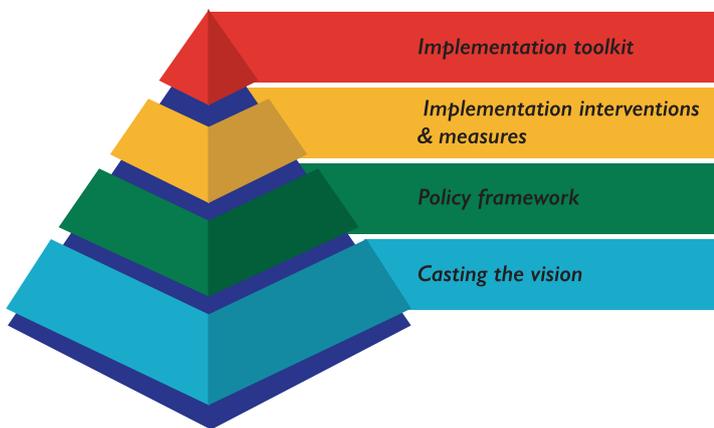
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Casting the vision is instrumental to

- **provide policy direction**

The highest level of governance focusses on casting the vision for the transition to a sustainable development path. This overarching strategic level is designed to provide the framework and the overall direction for the transition. Although it is meant as a high-level exercise, casting the vision is inherently based on feedback loops with ground-level dynamics, where people actively engage with the transition's aims and processes.

1.1. An integrated and inclusive vision provides the direction of travel

Establishing a long-term economy- and society-wide vision for the sustainability transition, along with clear roadmaps detailing the key steps to manage and achieve it, is a basic requirement for any country's planning process. The transition to a sustainable development path is not only an environmental issue, but primarily a socio-economic question with core implications for all aspects of economic and social life. Diverse and inclusive social dialogue is, in this respect, critical to base the plan on a social compact. In addition, issue and sector-specific roadmaps co-developed by social partners and wider society, detailing the steps necessary to achieve the desired outcomes for sustainable development are also needed. Most importantly, the linkages between the transition to sustainability and socio-economic considerations, such as poverty, employment, inequality, competitiveness, rural development and sustainable natural resource management, have to be engaged with at society level.

More and more countries are setting national visions in line with the transition to a green economy. Guyana, for example, is developing a 15- to 20-year Green State Development Strategy, aimed at promoting an inclusive green economy and social growth. The strategy also looks to provide a roadmap for achieving sustainable development goals and related targets, and outlines a long-term vision for a prosperous and equitable future (UN Environment, 2018). In Ghana, the National Development Planning Commission drafted a 40-year plan (2018-2057) for the country, aimed at enhancing growth and development in a sustainable manner (Bawakyillenuo et al., 2015). Similarly, Kyrgyzstan's National Strategy for Sustainable Development for 2018-2040 details the need to improve economic and social development without undermining the country's natural environment (PAGE, 2018).

In South Africa, the NDP (approved in 2012) is the most advanced forward-looking document in the country, providing an overarching perspective on the future of the nation. It plans for the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient and just society. It, however, falls short of integrating the sustainability transition into its overarching vision, connecting the various elements of sustainable development, and addressing the inevitable trade-offs. South Africa's vision tends to consider the transition to a sustainable pathway as an add-on to other developments in the country. As a result, it lacks a coherence and consistency across other elements, such as infrastructure investment and the use of mineral resources. Furthermore, a longer timeframe, such as 2050, along with intermediate milestones and targets, would lend itself to more meaningful and effective transition planning.

1.2. The need to consider the heterogeneity of the economy and society

The implications of the transition are nuanced and differentiated between socio-economic activities and stakeholders. While some stakeholders (such as service companies or wealthy households) have the potential to quickly and cheaply transition to sustainable practices, other actors (such as poor households or industries in carbon-intensive activities) face inherent challenges. The significant diversity of situations regarding the transition to sustainability (i.e. different starting points, cost and benefits, abilities and readiness levels) need to be internalised by countries' governance systems.

Without a differentiated understanding of the impacts, the transition runs the risk of deepening existing socio-economic challenges, rather than addressing them, leaving the bulk of the economy and society, and primarily the most vulnerable groups, stranded. A conscious alignment with the country's objective of socio-economic transformation is required to ensure a just and pro-poor transition.

The transition is also a contested exercise, with stakeholders resisting the transition because of favourable political settlements, contested social compacts, and difficult short-term economic trade-offs. For example, in South Africa, firms tend to be primarily concerned about the financial costs associated with the transition whereas trade unions focus on employment and poverty issues (Montmasson-Clair, 2018). Examples of past or ongoing just transitions are scarce but the experience of countries which have phased out coal mining points to the importance of adequate long-term planning and social dialogue. Coal transitions have left long-lasting effects on specific regions, often with high dependency ratios, low educational attainment, below average wages, wage stagnation and environmental problems. This often appears to be a legacy, at least in part, of a failure to anticipate and prepare for the transition (Caldecott et al., 2017).



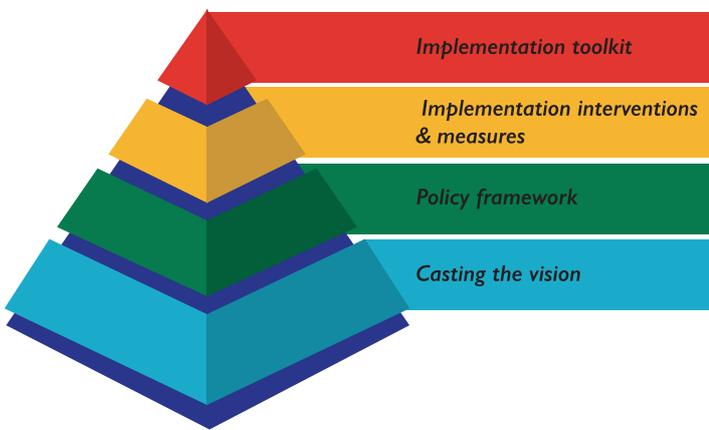


1.3. High-level political leadership and societal demand are necessary to steer the transition

The challenging nature of the transition, which cannot be managed through a one-size-fits-all framework, requires leadership from the highest levels of government as well as societal demand. Political leadership provides direction and creates opportunities for sustainability, and if done well, captures public spirit. However, it is within society that the story of change unfolds. Society instinctively demands, shapes and reacts to policies and either supports or resists change. It is at the interface between policy and societal demand that careful interventions must foster awareness, nurture adaptation, build ownership and catalyse sustainable system change. By contrast, imposed policies that do not engage society and its agendas founder are widely perceived by society to be irrelevant or unnecessary (Worsley, forthcoming).

Top-down attempts at putting sustainable development on the political agenda has ranged from presidential committees, like in South Korea's Presidential Committee on Green Growth (GGGI, 2015), to super-ministries (such as France's Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning and Colombia's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development). In South Africa, political leadership has been mainly focused on international negotiations and the necessary political clout at the domestic level has not materialised to ensure a coordinated and inclusive approach for the transition (Montmasson-Clair, 2017). However, the establishment of a Presidential Climate Change Coordinating Commission, gathering government and all social partners, to coordinate and oversee a just transition was announced in 2018 (Republic of South Africa, 2018).

While there have been considerable efforts to catalyse and create sustainable development-related policies, limited resources and effort have been directed at assuring that these match changing societal demand. The apparent assumption is that effective policy is sufficient for a green economy transition. Despite efforts to coordinate, work has remained largely disconnected from societal demand and bottom-up approaches (Worsley, forthcoming).



2. Setting the policy framework

The second level in the policy pyramid approach is characterised by plans and strategies necessary for the transition to sustainable development, as informed by the overarching vision. They provide the sectoral and thematic underpinnings to operationalise the vision and its roadmaps. The formulation of these plans and strategies in a coherent and inclusive fashion is fundamental to an effective and just transition.

2.1. The need for mainstreaming, coherence and clarity

Plans and strategies ought to flesh out the vision by bringing a grass-roots perspective, detailing goals, interventions and indicators, in a coherent, coordinated, integrated and inclusive fashion. In essence, plans and strategies aim to bridge the gap between the high- and ground-level approaches and mechanisms, laying the foundation for implementation.

The transition to sustainable development adds a new factor shaping all plans and strategies. While it is essential for government (at all levels) to design dedicated plans and strategies for the transition to sustainable development, the mainstreaming of these sustainability policies into all other plans and strategies (such as the energy, transport and industrial policies) is equally important. Despite numerous climate change strategies, climate change considerations have not yet been integrated in other policies and remain largely considered as a stand-alone in most countries. In turn, sustainability-focused policies (such as climate change and biodiversity policy), to be truly sustainable, ought to take stock of the economic and social challenges and design objectives that address these. Climate change policy, particularly, fails too often to consider the short-term socio-economic trade-offs associated with its implementation, as well as the diversity of situations. This is critical, particularly to ensure a just transition for the poorest households, workers and small businesses.

In the Philippines, the Green Jobs Act of 2016 was passed in an attempt to tackle the impacts of climate change by enhancing sustainable development and decent job creation. Fiscal incentives are provided to businesses creating and scaling up 'green jobs', while the Department of Labour and Employment, in collaboration with 11 other government entities, is mandated to draft a National Green Jobs Human Resource Development Plan (Balagtas, 2016).

South Africa has multiple plans and strategies impacting on the transition to a sustainable development model, such as the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the Industrial Policy Action Plan, the Integrated Energy Plan and the Innovation Plan. In addition to implementation challenges, detailed in section four, their inconsistency and misalignment remain problematic. While, in theory, a general coherence seems to emerge (Nicholls and Vermaak, 2015), in practice, a lack of unity and a number of problematic areas persist, such as access to resources (such as water) and key decisions on technological choices in the energy and transport space (such as embedded generation and electric vehicles), with substantial implications for a just transition. In addition, a broader misalignment persists between the South African sustainability objectives and the country's other policies and priorities. Substantial support is still being unconditionally directed at carbon-intensive sectors, most importantly through fossil fuel subsidies (Burton et al., 2018).



2.2. Coherent institutional arrangements facilitate design and implementation

Besides the need for political leadership mentioned in Section 2.3, conducive institutional arrangements at the operational level are necessary to ensure the design and implementation of policies and strategies in support of the transition.

All organs of the state are relevant. Ministries of Environment, along with Planning Ministries, are generally vested with the responsibility of driving the transition, but the implementation, beyond some regulations, is conducted by a wide array of stakeholders. The Ministries of Finance control financial appropriations as well as fiscal incentives, i.e. taxes and subsidies, aimed at promoting behavioural and technological change. Direct support for industries falls under the Ministries of the Economy but development finance institutions are instrumental in financing the shift in investment. Then, Ministries in charge of science and innovation are responsible for technology policy and fostering research and development (R&D). Ministries of Agriculture and Spatial/Rural Development manage the transition in the rural (generally impoverished, or at least marginalised) areas while state-owned enterprises can drive the change in their respective areas. Last, but not least, developing the necessary skills force is spearheaded by the Labour and Education Ministries.

In South Africa, institutionally, despite the existence of official channels aimed at facilitating coordination and alignment, such as the Forum of South African Directors-General (known as FOSAD), and ministerial political (known as MINMEC) and technical (known as MINTECH) structures, the management of the transition to a sustainable model of development also remains a key challenge.

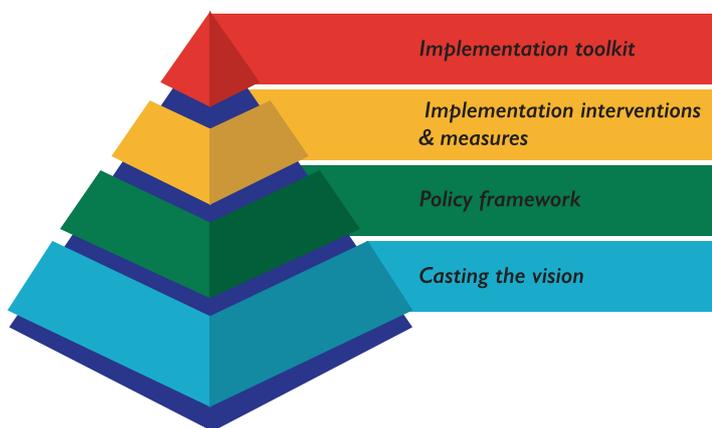
2.3. Social dialogue is at the foundation of a just transition

Ultimately, the transition relies on multiple stakeholders, sometimes with conflicting priorities and interests, including within government. In this respect, social dialogue enables plan evolution and partnerships building and an effective design and implementation of policies. Indeed, while governments play a key role in designing policies and strategies to steer the transition, the engagement of society is critical to overcome the challenges and reap the benefits, notably to develop sustainable consumption and production models and generate decent work. Policies, when discussed and implemented between government and society are better informed, easier to implement, and more beneficial for workers, businesses of all sizes, and a larger proportion of the society (ILO, 2012).

In Uruguay, collective action among civil society, trade unions, academia and state-owned enterprises, along with commitments from the government and all political parties has enabled a rapid renewable energy revolution, with more than 95% of the country's electricity derived from renewable sources. Via the enactment of a long-term energy policy (2005-2030) that includes economic, social and environmental considerations, the country is also able to localise the production of renewable energy technologies, creating jobs and promoting a just and inclusive transition (Sierra, 2018; Torres, 2018).

Social dialogue in South Africa is historically vibrant, as illustrated by the establishment of the quadripartite National Economic Development and Labour Council in 1994 and the signing of various quadripartite agreements. In addition, industrial relations are largely managed through strong trade unions, a key component for a just and fair transition (ILO, 2010). Attempts at creating a social compact in favour of the transition to sustainable development, such as the Green Economy Accord and the Decent Work Country Programme, have however failed to deliver their promises (Seeliger and Turok, 2016), partly due to their top-down nature. Key issues, such as the introduction of a carbon tax or the transition away from coal, are still subject to heated debates. In response, the NPC has embarked in 2018 on a stakeholder engagement process to design a social compact for a just transition in the country (NPC et al., 2018).





3. Implementing policies through a mix of measures and interventions

Instruments and measures constitute the principal implementing arm of the governance system and give legs to the vision as well as the plans and strategies. As no single measure can optimally lead to sustainable development, an inclusive mix of measures, i.e. a comprehensive, complementary, efficient and progressive set of instruments, is required.

3.1. The need for effective implementation

Numerous instruments are available to drive the transition to an inclusive green economy. Measures range from fiscal (such as taxes and subsidies) and market (such as trading schemes) instruments, to regulatory approaches (such as standards and carbon budgets), to information and education programmes and the government provision of public goods and services, and procurement (such as R&D funding). Voluntary actions (such as industrial agreements, community action and voluntary certification) complete the picture (Somanathan et al., 2014).

No single measure is however in a position to effectively address environmental issues while considering other socio-economic considerations. Each measure presents both advantages and disadvantages which must be understood and weighted. The most environmentally-efficient policies generally raise competitiveness concerns and/or fiscal affordability issues, while more voluntary and supportive instruments lack environmental effectiveness (Montmasson-Clair et al., 2014). What instruments are favoured depends on the context of the country and sector at hand. Carbon pricing appears preferred as a core, economy-wide intervention. According to World Bank and Ecofys (2018), 51 carbon pricing initiatives (26 carbon taxes and 25 trading schemes) had been implemented or were scheduled for implementation as of May 2018. When considering only industrial energy efficiency, information programmes are however the most prevalent instruments followed by economic instruments, regulations and voluntary actions (Tanaka, 2011).

In South Africa, mirroring a multitude of plans and strategies, numerous measures have been designed to foster the transition. Carbon budgets (voluntary until 2020) are in action, along with standards and licensing requirements. Energy management plans, pollution prevention plans, and an extended producer responsibility scheme are in the pipeline. Subsidies and tax incentives are aimed at stimulating resource-efficient behaviours and technologies by industry, while a carbon tax is planned for implementation in 2019. In addition, government has been instrumental in providing the platform for energy efficiency, utility-scale renewable energy technologies, Bus Rapid Transit systems and industrial symbiosis programmes.

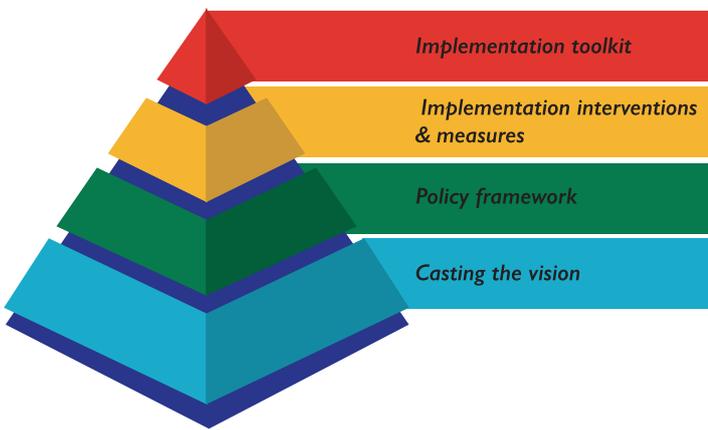
The implementation of numerous instruments is unfortunately marred by problems, weakening the progress of the transition as well as its inclusivity. Environmental standards are erratically upheld, particularly in the mining sector (Montmasson-Clair et al., 2015). Lack of implementation frameworks, such as for biofuels, makes official targets and/or requirements null and void (Mukonza and Nhamo, 2016). Concessional finance, tax incentives and grant programmes remain difficult to access, particularly for small businesses. Voluntary targets, such as the Green Economy Accord, are not adequately monitored and sparsely implemented. Last but not least, communities and households benefit from limited support to shift to more sustainable practices and/or adapt to impacts.

3.2. The need for coordination

The adequate implementation of policies and the complementary nature of existing interventions (in line with policy alignment detailed in section three) are crucial for a successful and inclusive transition. Indeed, the combination of instruments can either run the risk of undermining policy goals (also known as adverse side-effects) or reinforce and achieve various objectives (known as co-benefits) (Hood, 2013; Hood and Guelff, 2013).

In addition, targeted responses are required to cater for various situations. For example, stakeholders which have the capacity to transition have to be further enabled (if they are proactive) or nudged (if they are reactive) by government policy, whereas stakeholders that have limited capacity to transition ought to be pulled up through government interventions to prevent the risk of socio-economic marginalisation. Differentiated action is crucial to ensure that the transition addresses the country's socio-economic issues, contributing to the agenda of socio-economic transformation and empowering the marginalised groups of society (Montmasson-Clair, 2018).

In South Africa, altogether, the mix of measures lacks implementation, coherence and certainty. This mainly reflects the lack of a long-term vision and of coherence of the policy objectives. For example, as of November 2018, there is no clarity on the preferred instruments and their design, as the debates around the implementation of a carbon tax and a carbon budget approach illustrate. In addition, policies do not adequately capture the diversity of socio-economic situations and political settlements regarding the transition to a sustainable development model and fail to propose tailored solutions. Particularly, the industrial development component of the mix of measures, which has to deal with the firms that will directly benefit from the transition as well as those that will face constraints and difficulties remains largely unexplored (Montmasson-Clair, 2016). Similarly, the impacts of the transition on employment and the country's most vulnerable populations, particularly the informal economy, are yet to be fully understood and addressed in a coherent fashion by the South African government (Smit, 2015; Smit and Musango, 2015). Last but not least, there is limited effective dialogue and engagement between citizens and government in the planning and implementation process.



4. Building the toolkits for decision-making, implementation and monitoring

The foundation for evidence-based policy- and decision-making, effective implementation, and monitoring consists of the same tools necessary for policy design and implementation. In many ways, the ground level is the most critical as it underpins all other aspects of governance. It has different complementary purposes, such as information and education provision, monitoring and evaluation, facilitated and enforced implementation, and social engagement.

4.1. Knowledge, awareness and capacity as a foundation

Increasing knowledge, awareness and capacity among relevant stakeholders and the public is instrumental to overcome a lack of information and/or awareness or information asymmetry between stakeholders. Tools, such as research reports, websites, information campaign and social dialogues, are aimed at shedding light on government actions (laws and regulations, incentives and support programmes), market or societal dynamics (market trends, production and consumption pattern, technological developments), stakeholder initiatives (campaigns, projects and initiatives) and knowledge advancement (analytical tools, standards and methodologies) (IEA & IIP, 2012; Reinaud and Goldberg, 2012; Somanathan et al., 2014).

For instance, Mongolia uses the Advanced Data Planning Tool cloud-based application system to collect data, monitor and map progress on the country's Sustainable Development Vision 2030, National Development Plan 2016-2020 and Sustainable Development Goals (Paris 21, 2017). To provide stakeholders with market and energy efficiency information, the Brazilian stock exchange B3 and the Brazilian Development Bank have collaborated to develop a Carbon Efficient Index encouraging companies to monitor and disclose greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, thereafter formulating performance indicators incorporating climate action for the various companies listed (Kauffmann et al., 2012).

In South Africa, no information repository gathering all relevant information for stakeholders exists. Much of the information is held by specific institutions (such as government departments and companies) and accessible with difficulty. When available, the information is scattered around multiple platforms, making it hard to locate and use. In addition to being often outdated, the information is frequently incomplete or not detailed enough to be useful to interested parties. For example, information about funding opportunities is not available in a single, up-to-date portal for relevant stakeholders to access. This makes identifying such providers difficult and accessing funding a great challenge for small businesses and households. Social engagement is vibrant in the country, although reaching all corners of society remains a challenge. In addition, the consideration of indigenous and traditional approaches as well as successful community-based and grass-roots initiatives remains marginal.

4.2. Monitoring and evaluation underpins evidence-based policymaking

Effective monitoring and evaluation contribute to gathering the data and information about firm- and household-level activities as well as market or societal responses to policies and instruments necessary to manage the transition. Without such detailed information, based on data which is policy relevant, analytically sound and measurable, it is extremely difficult to conduct meaningful social dialogue and design policies that will attain the set objectives with limited or no unintended negative consequences.

At the monitoring and evaluation level, the knowledge necessary for evidence-based decision-making and effective implementation remain incomplete in South Africa. Comprehensive, reliable and up-to-date data and information on market trends, production and consumption patterns, resource use, waste streams, and financial flows are not available. This is notably the case for small businesses, as shown in PAGE's concept document on inclusivity (Montmasson-Clair and Mudombi, 2018).

The South African government, led by the Department of Environmental Affairs, is working to establish a Climate Change Response Monitoring and Evaluation System, which is expected to fill some of the information gaps (Letete, 2015). Similarly, while the greenhouse gas inventories and the Mitigation Potential Analysis conducted by the South African government have been crucial steps towards better information, the knowledge in these areas is still imperfect. More comprehensive and disaggregated coverage of socio-economic activities is required. Moreover, knowledge about the country's natural capital also appears nascent, despite South Africa being one of the pioneering countries producing natural capital accounts through the development of a System of Environmental and Economic Accounts and Experimental Ecosystem Accounts (Mudombi, 2018). Going forward, continual efforts by Statistics South Africa and its partners are required to ensure that natural accounts find their way into policy development and that South Africa is part, if not instrumental, in shaping the global natural capital movement.

4.3. Tools as the platform for implementation and enforcement

Last, tools, such as templates, guidelines, methodologies, forms and manuals, form the basis of an effective implementation strategy. By providing all the information to stakeholders, particularly the private sector and households, a toolkit enables the transition to sustainable practices.

In Brazil, for example, the transition towards sustainable infrastructure development has been supported by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design initiative, a green-building rating system assisting businesses and governments to incorporate energy efficiency and sustainable designs into operations and buildings (PAGE, 2016).

In South Africa, various guidelines (such as on mining and biodiversity) and reporting procedures (such as the Technical Guidelines for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of GHG Emissions by Industry) are in place. However, more efforts must be directed towards streamlining and standardising reporting procedures, facilitating the access (through application procedures) to support mechanisms, and spreading methodologies, such as the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment System (SEIAS) or energy/carbon benchmarking, and tools across agencies and stakeholders. In this respect, the SEIAS is particularly relevant, as it aims to ensure that policy proposals tackle the roots of a problem and constitute the most appropriate action, taking into account the repartition of risks and benefits and the interactions with other policy and regulations. It requires that the impacts of a proposed legislation and its alternatives on different stakeholders are considered, through five broad criteria, namely social cohesion, security, economic inclusion, economic growth and investment, and environmental sustainability (DPME, 2015a, 2015b; TIPS, 2017).

CONCLUSIONS

Tremendous opportunities exist for improving the governance of the transition to a sustainable development pathway. Governance must be enhanced at all levels of policymaking in both a top-down and bottom-up framework. Clarity and consensus must be reached on the end goal (i.e. a national vision) and the approaches to achieve it. Policy alignment and implementation must be promoted from a socio-economic and an environmental perspective, with a clear priority given to the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality. The mix of measures must be grounded in the socio-economic realities of the country, domestically and internationally, and the adequate tools, particularly information, data and social dialogue channels, must be established.

These processes are aimed at managing a balancing act, consisting of transitioning enough to maximise the benefits of the transition and minimise the risks associated with not transitioning; but in line with each country's capabilities to minimise the short-term trade-offs and threats. Importantly, the process can only be successful if it is inclusive and co-created by all social partners.

A few policy implications emanate from this reality and could include:

- 1) Transition planning: co-developing a vision for a sustainable economy and society and a roadmap for socio-economic transitions through to 2050, building on a framework on the transition, considering economic, social and environmental elements in a holistic fashion.
- 2) Stakeholder capacity: fostering the skills base for the transition and building capacity within all stakeholders to host meaningful, inclusive engagement.
- 3) Transparent information systems: establishing a robust and extensive information system (one-stop shop) on socio-economic dynamics relevant for the transition and designing a suitable platform, including joint knowledge and tools, for co-development of policy by government, the private sector, labour, communities and wider society.
- 4) Social dialogue: major long-term commitment to fostering inclusive, continuous, inter-stakeholder dialogue on the definition and management of the transition both between government and social partners as well as within government.
- 5) Policy coherence and consistency: operating a double mainstreaming of sustainability in economic policy and socio-economic considerations in environmental policy, with a focus on operationalising existing policies and improving their coherence and coordination.

Ultimately, the transition to sustainability is a long-term endeavour that will take several decades and the planning of which has to urgently commence now. From a governance perspective, it is therefore clear that designing and implementing the framework for the transition is not a once-off exercise. Regular reviews and updates (every three to five years) should be conducted at all levels of policy. This is the underlying condition prerequisite to ensuring the long-term sustainability (in all its meanings) of action, and by extension a just transition to sustainable development.





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