

# To plan or not to plan?

Climate investment plans as a  
basis for driving change

.....

Side-event inputs at Africa Climate Summit 2  
Aishwarya Hansen Joshi

10 September 2025

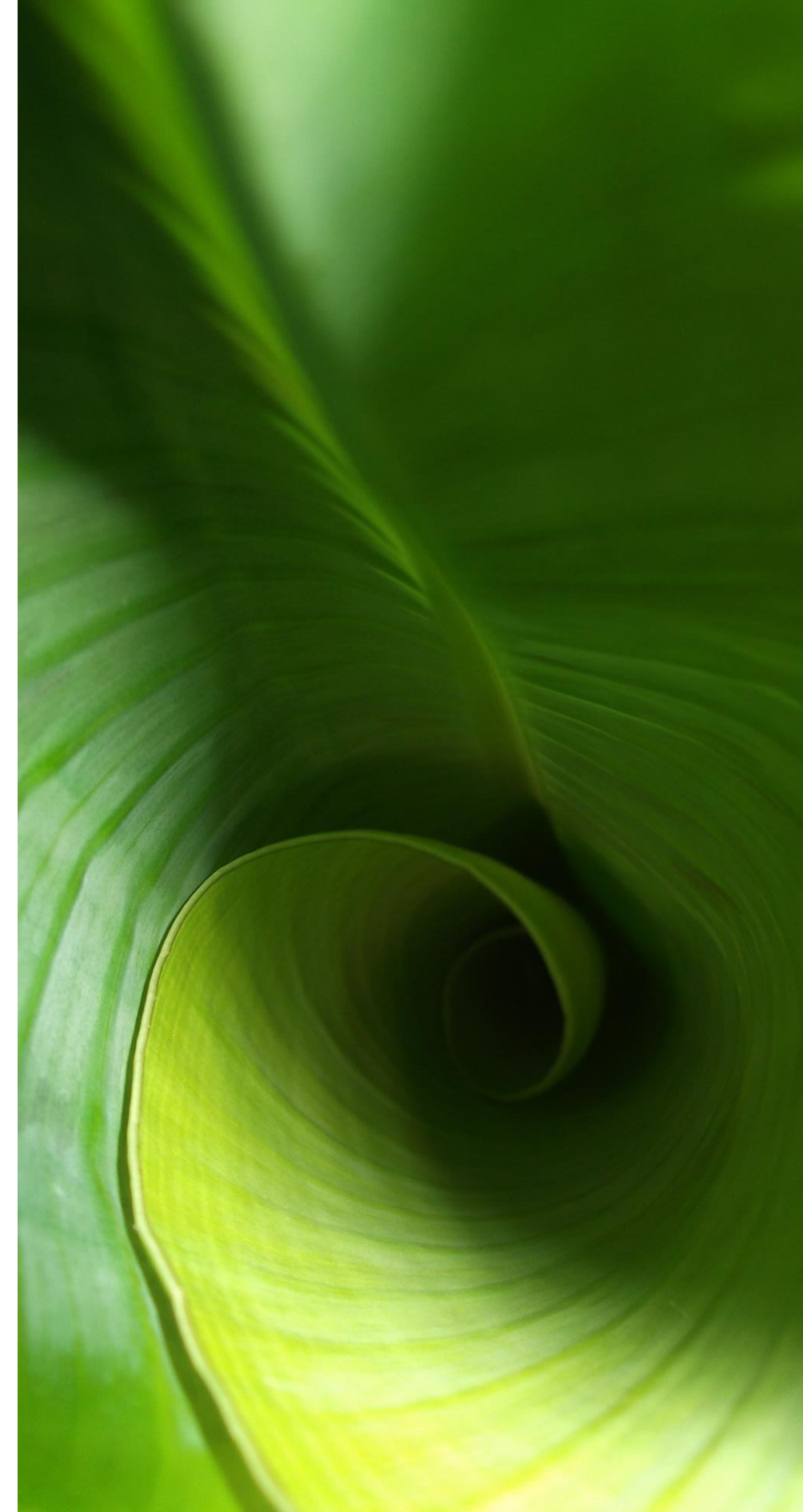


# About our Planning Provocation Question

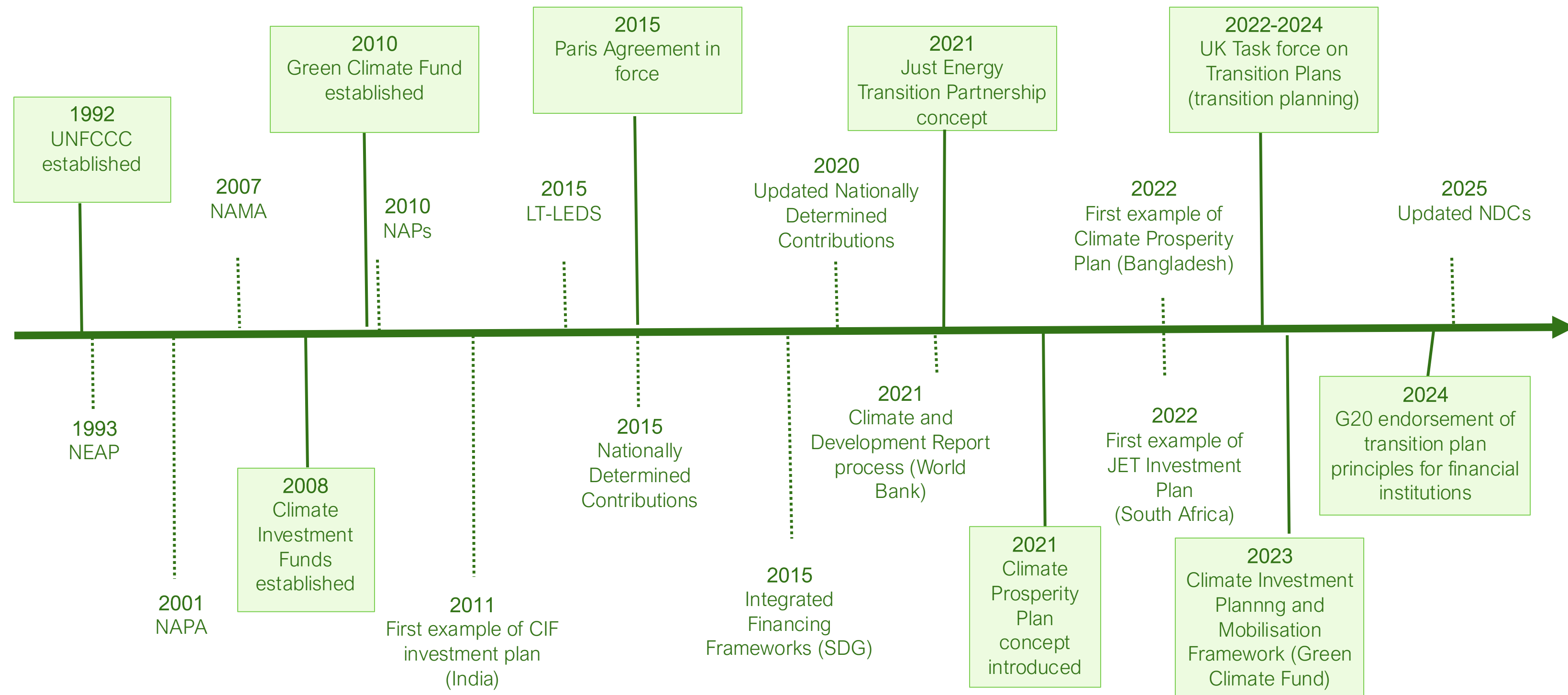
*In collaboration with 2050 Pathways on long term strategies, it is part of an ongoing project around climate investment plans, and correlation to resource mobilisation*

*The enquiry has following components:*

1. Test the hypothesis that climate related investment plans translate to the requisite resources needed by developing countries
2. Demonstrate through case studies of key countries what plans developed vs resources mobilised vs actions taken vs time to undertake such actions
3. Document lived experiences of policymakers, advisors and funders in climate related investment plans, including transition plans as basis for driving change (7 interviews underway)
4. Seek the useful elements of planning to build on towards just and dignified climate response
5. Identify the elements around transition related planning that are relevant, or necessary for developing country context
6. Learn and contribute towards action, to ensure social safety nets in place for most vulnerable over the long term



# Mapping: Climate related investment planning & tools since 1992



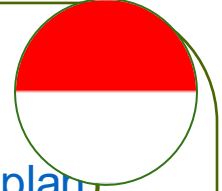
# Country Mapping: Many plans, resources mobilised? Actions delivered?

## Colombia



- Nationally Determined Contribution (Reduce emissions by 51% by 2030)
- Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy
- National Energy Plan (\$122 bn needed, [2022-2052](#))
- Just Energy Transition Roadmap (\$40bn financing plan)

## Indonesia



- FIP Investment Plan for Indonesia (\$70 million)
- Clean Technology Fund (\$474 million CTF investment [plan](#))
- Nationally Determined Contribution (Reduce emissions by 29% by 2030)
- Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy
- Low carbon development initiative
- Energy Sector Roadmap to Net Zero Emissions in Indonesia (\$90bn, [2026-2030](#))
- Comprehensive Investment Policy and Plan (\$20bn, [2023-2027](#))
- Circular Economy Roadmap and National Action Plan

## South Africa



- Nationally Determined Contribution (Reduce emissions by 31% by 2030)
- National Adaptation Plan (\$2.1-\$2.9bn, [2020-2030](#))
- Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy
- Just Energy Transition Investment Plan (\$84.75 bn, [2023-2027](#))
- South African Renewable Energy Master Plan (\$35.6bn, [2030](#))



# Correlation between plan & resources: South Africa's JET-IP

- JETP launched at COP26 (2021).
- JET Investment Plan shared at COP27 (2022).
- Initial pledge by International Partner Group \$8.5 bn
- Initial five-year investment horizon (2023-2027)
- Purpose: Finance to catalyse further finance

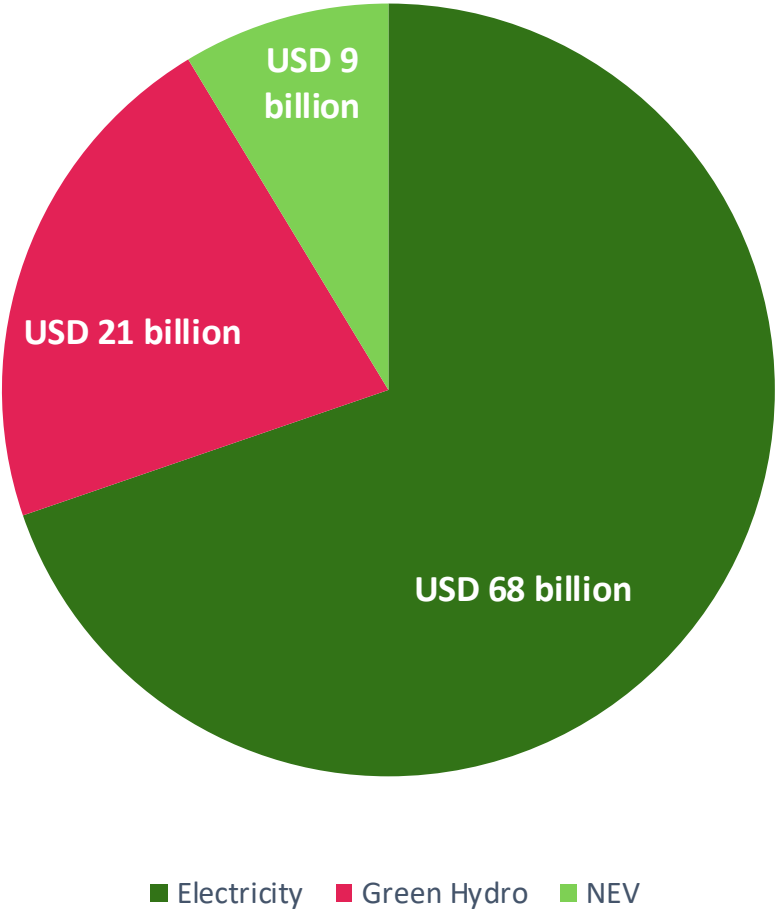
Priority Sectors		
Electricity	New Energy Vehicles	Green Hydrogen

Cross-cutting measures	
Skills development	Preparing Municipalities

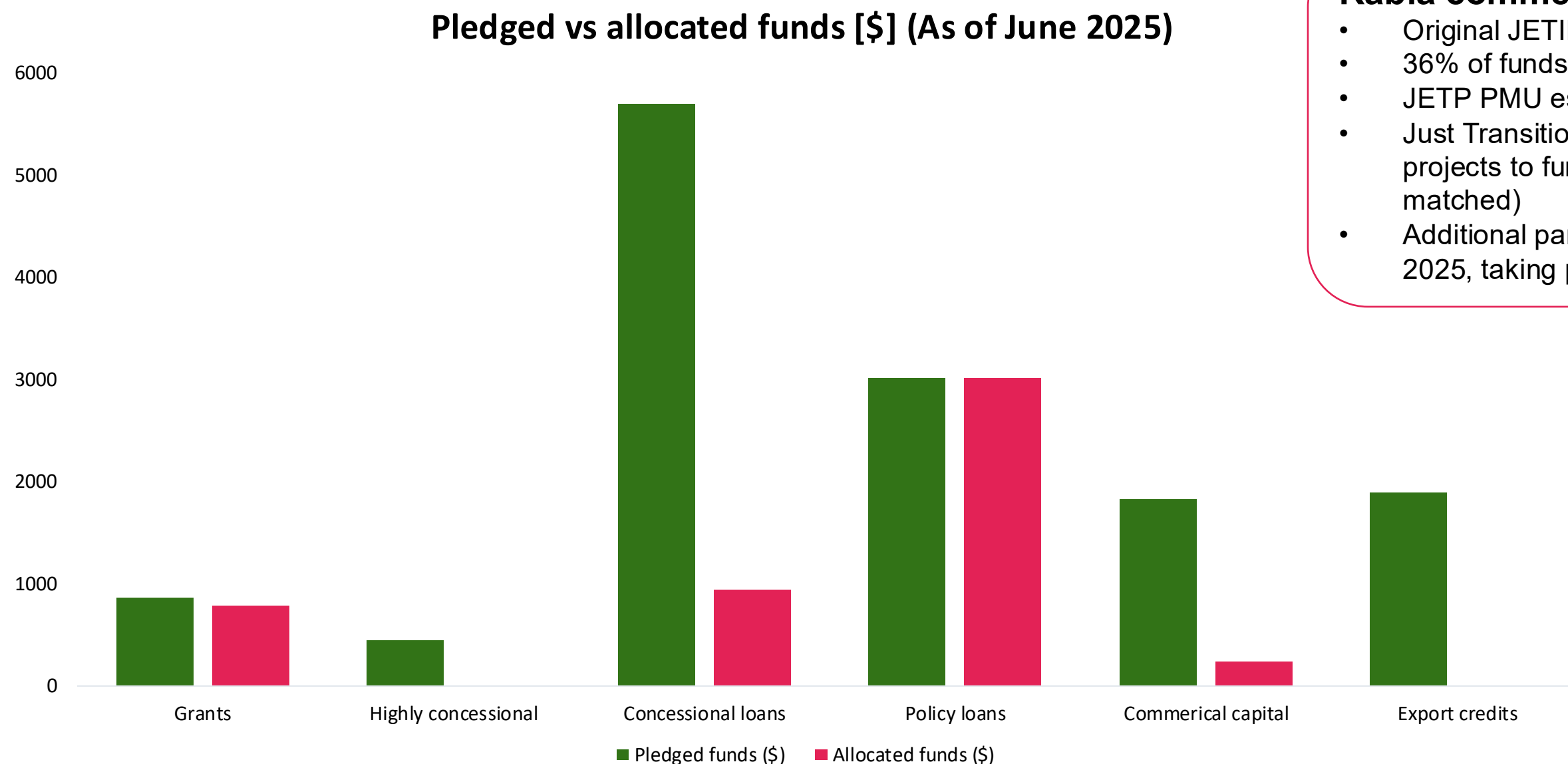
Source: SA JET IP, 2022

JET IP Investment requirements: \$98 billion



Source: SA JET IP, 2022

# Implementation: South African JET Investment Plan (2023-2027): Where are we today



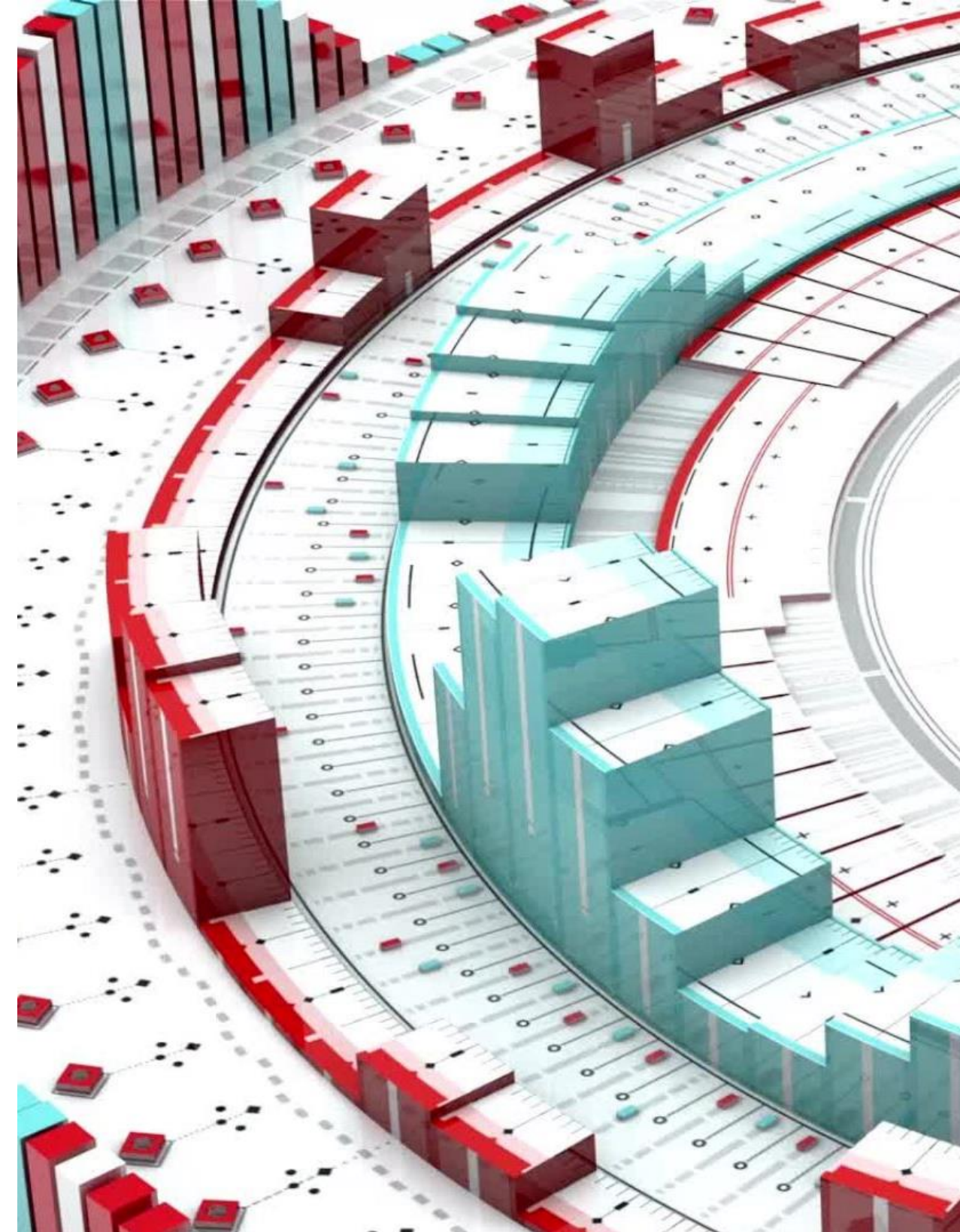
## Rabia commentary

- Original JETIP \$8.5bn
- 36% of funds have been allocated
- JETP PMU established
- Just Transition Platform matches just related projects to funders (grants are almost 100% matched)
- Additional partners added \$4.3bn as of June 2025, taking pledged funds to \$12.8bn

Source: Presidential Climate Commission,  
2025

# Lived Experiences: Early interview insights

1. Initial plans (i.e. CIFs) responded to offerings from multilateral and bilateral institutions
2. Form and substance of initial plans mainly determined by funders' information needs and mandates (*"bankable" key factor*)
3. Initial plans mainly focused on specific project interventions e.g. clean energy infrastructures, adaptation measures
4. GCF "readiness" technical support funds for planning to receive financial resources through articulation of country programming needs
5. Paris Agreement (2015) "technically" should have changed game on planning processes: shift to new development path – *did this happen?*
6. NDCs focused on emission reduction strategies and resilience measures – historically always stated as "subject to appropriate resources"
7. Self-determined planning processes by LDC country blocs (e.g. Climate Prosperity Plans) gain support as more holistic and systemic
8. Insufficient emphasis in past climate investment plans on economic and social disruptions that happen systemically at country level
9. Insufficient evidence that planning processes are integrating systemic and people centred approaches to climate investment planning & implementation
10. Insufficient evidence that plans translate to meeting country needs and mobilising resources at scale, as needed, and with dignified access
11. Future plans need to emphasise justness, socio-economic modelling at a systems level and be more temporally focused

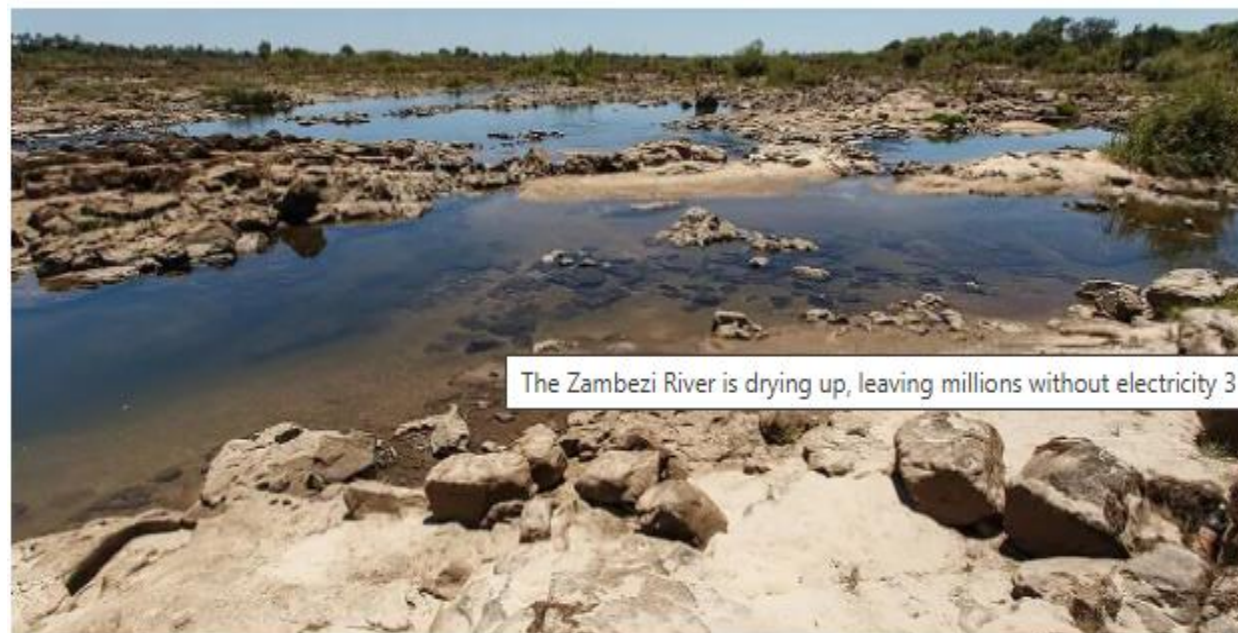




# **We are in a broader transition than just climate**

## **What happens when process outpaces progress**

- Global climate disasters caused losses of approximately \$320 bn in 2024
- Droughts in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2024 weigh significantly on Zambia's energy generation, while agricultural output declined sharply
- Recently, a landslide that killed at least 370 people in Sudan
- Increasing frequency of disasters stresses the adverse impact of years of time and effort spent drafting plans instead of implementation
- Multiple overlapping processes drain limited capacity.
- Political energy is absorbed by the process instead of implementation.
- Too often, the outcome is a document, not creating economic and social conditions for change in a just and dignified way.



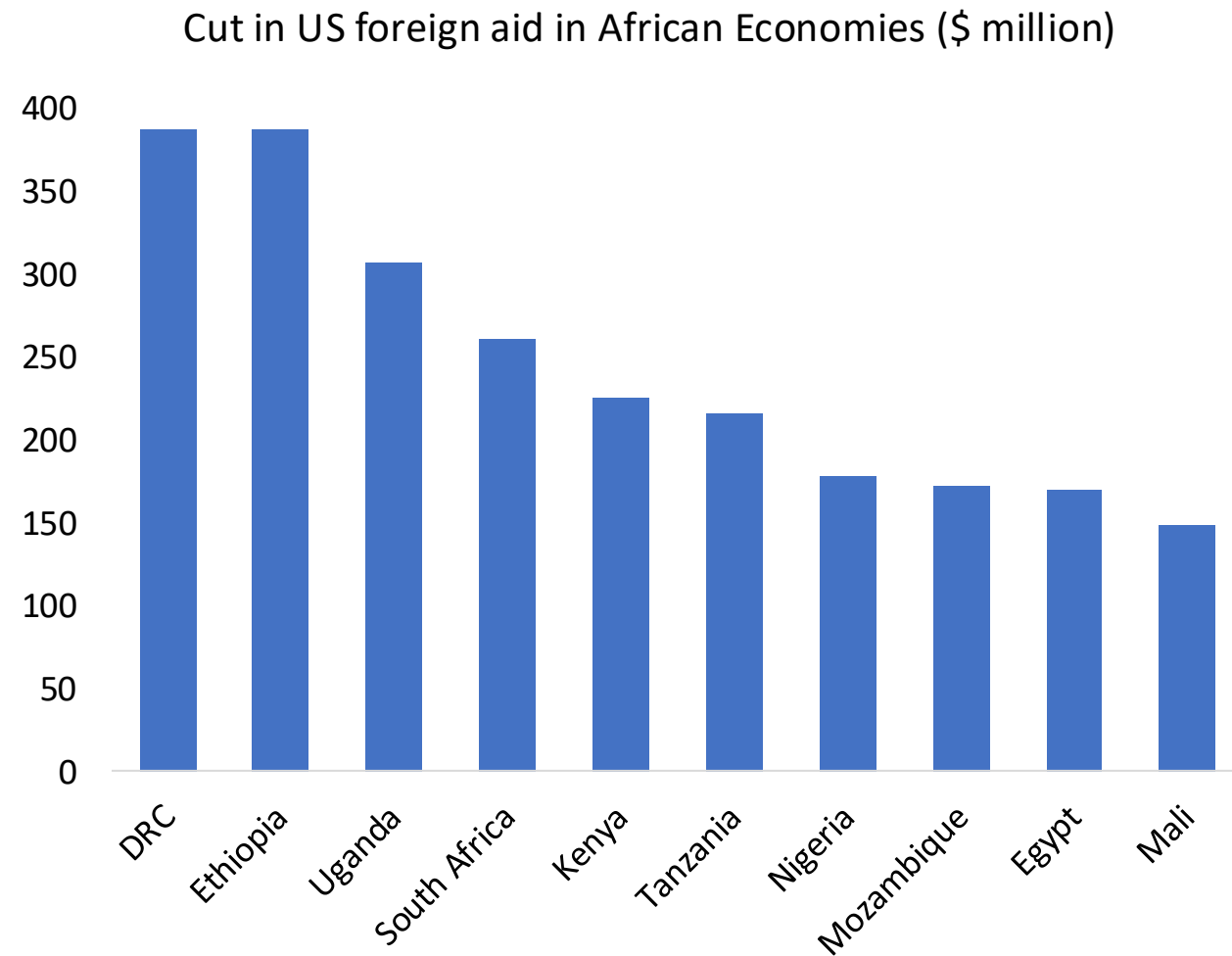
Source: [Wodnesprawny](#)



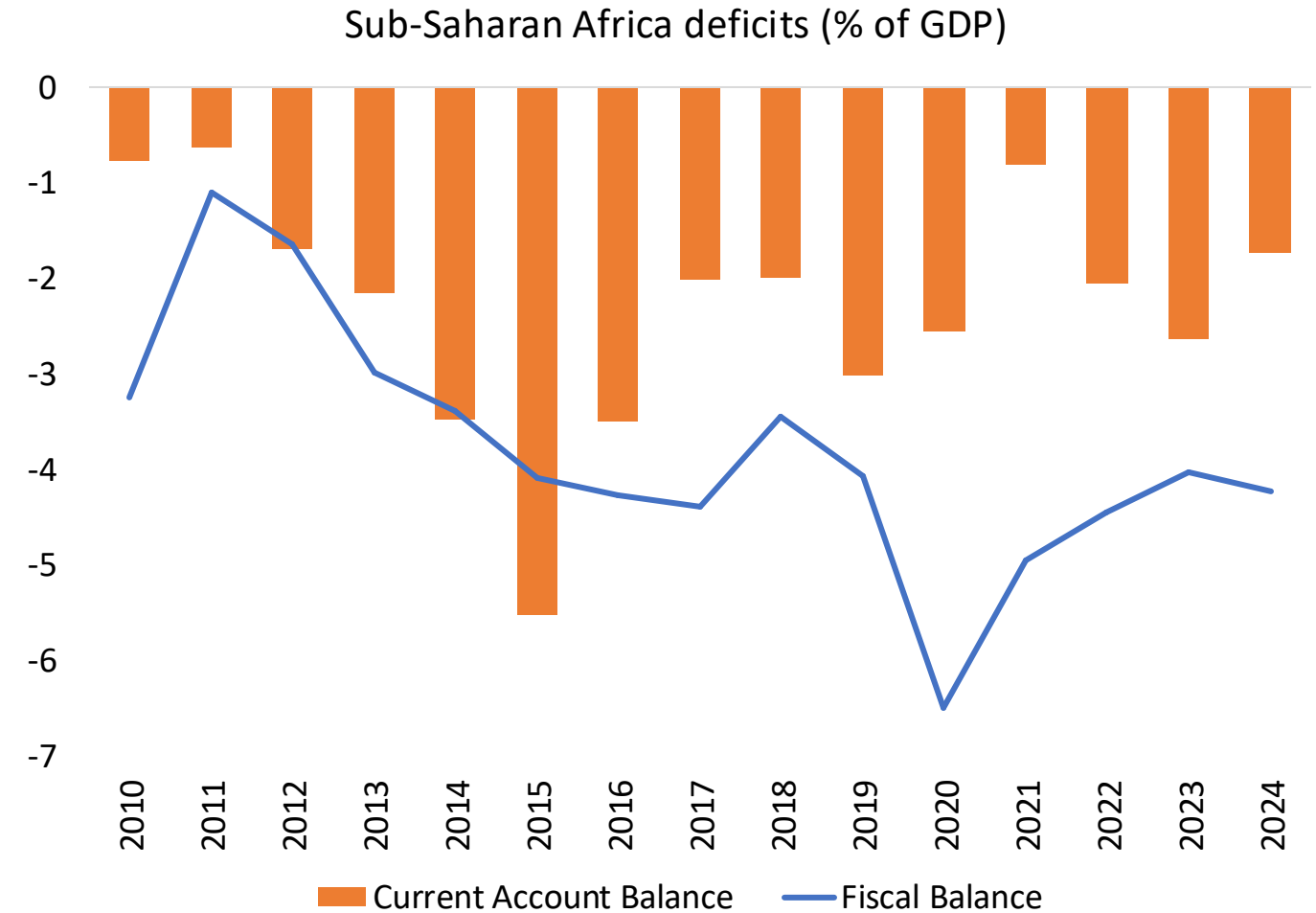
Source: [BBC](#)



# Transitioning in a tough global environment?



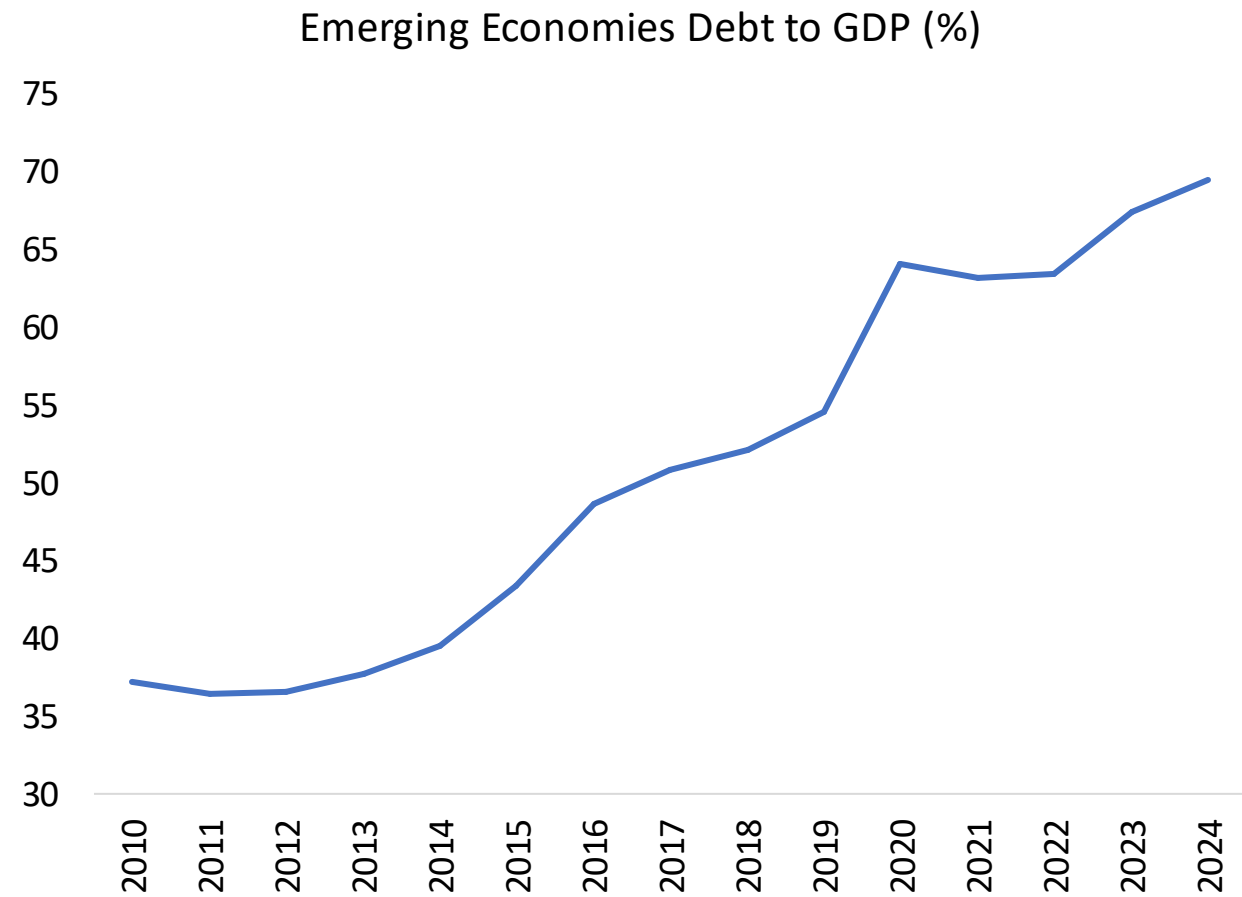
Source: US Foreign Assistance



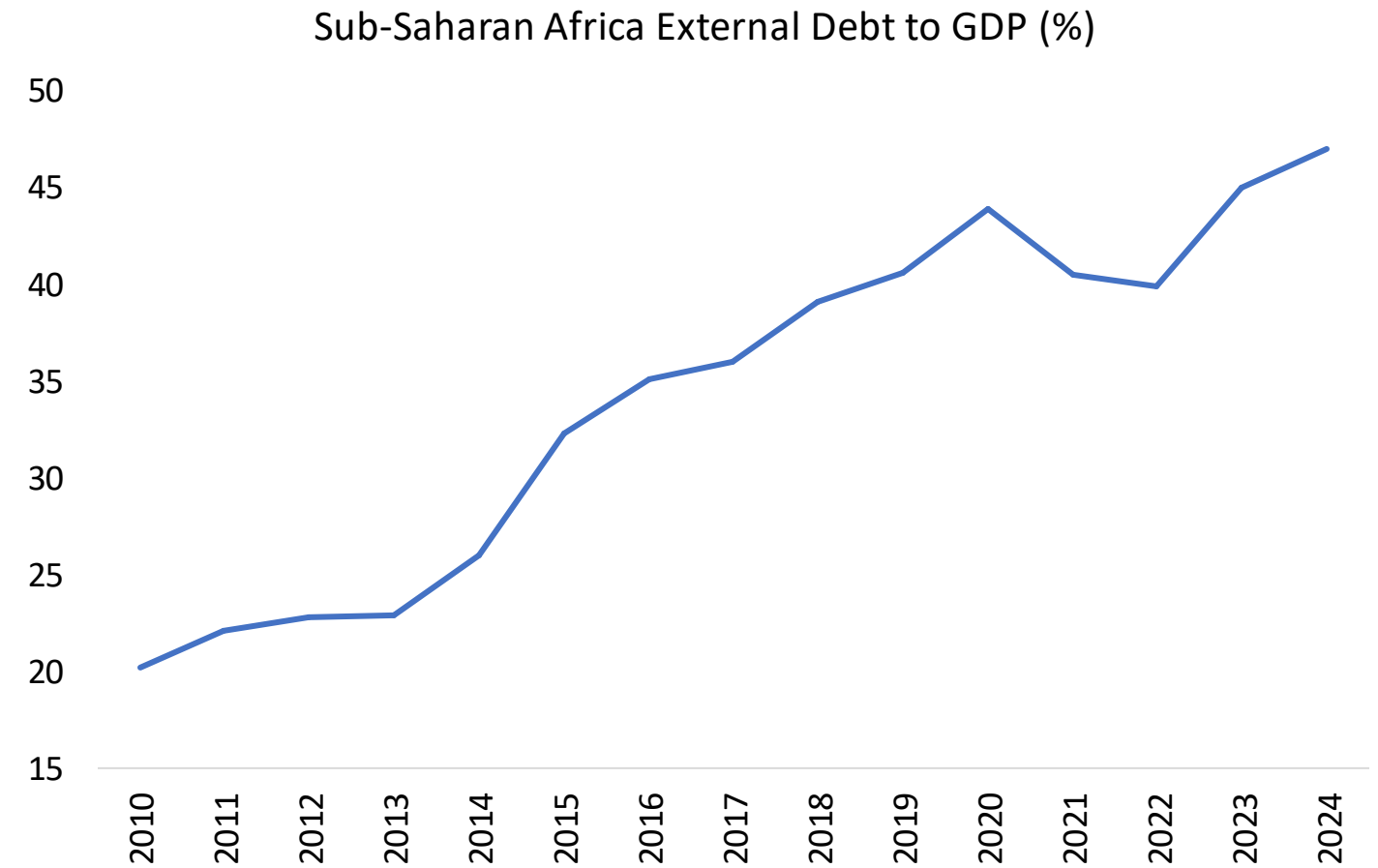
Source: IMF

- Africa continued to grapple with food insecurity in 2024 as 20% of the African population faced hunger
- The US foreign aid (\$72bn) halt will put further strain on Africa and emerging countries.
- Meanwhile, US tariff changes are estimated to deduct 0.2-0.5 percentage points from global GDP growth and will result in lower export demand

# Mounting debt pressures



Source: IMF



Source: IMF

- Debt sustainability and cost are a concern for Africa, with external debt rising to \$650 bn in 2024
- External debt servicing is estimated to cost African countries \$89 billion in 2025
- There is a growing emphasis on the need to reprice Africa's debt to enable effective climate transition through affordable borrowing
- Furthermore, Africa holds approximately 30% of the world's critical mineral reserves, which should be leveraged to address debt pressures

# Extenuating factors impacting planning: Broken global financial architecture

*“For utility-scale solar power projects, ... the weighted average cost of capital (WACC) in Kenya and Senegal is between 8.5% and 9%. In North America or Europe, rates are between 4.7% and 6.4%”  
(IEA, 2025).*

## **Rabia commentary**

- Debt-based finance = restricted fiscal capacity.
- Limited future availability of grants and concessional finance.
- Predominance of hard loans (e.g. dollars, euros etc).
- Restricted access to SDR
- Limiting state role to de-risking private investment
- No true risk sharing given mutual interest
- Need for more balanced relationship between public and private
- New dialogue essential between funders and recipients (needs-based)
- Investment processes need to be adjusted, not only passive call for plans



# An invitation: Work towards upholding *true* "needs-based" approach

## PLANNING

- **Planning based on heterogeneity** (relationship with fossil fuels, environmental & social ambitions, critical minerals)
- **Aligning** transition needs with broader developmental priorities.
- **Recognising** trade-offs and wealth of African sovereign states as essential negotiation strengths
- **A whole-of-society and economy approach** to the planning and development of plans
- **Center dignity** in how we think about planning and resource mobilisation, and how we access finance flows
- Developing **portfolio of interconnected projects** that integrate the human components (justice and dignity)
- Recognition of **rights holders in planning** – authentic engagement, participation, co-creation and transparency

## QUALITY OF FINANCE

- **Recognising country contributions** – public and private budgets as a co-financing component
- **Front loading** of investment and finance flows for portfolio not individual projects – transitions are systemic, complex, interconnected
- **Less rigidity and conditionality** in the provision of finance (transitions are fluid, complex, and uncertain)
- **Risk-sharing** between the public and private sectors (not only de-risking approach)

## QUANTITY OF FINANCE

- **Certainty and consistency** of long-term finance flows aligned with long-term plans
- **Increasing access** to concessional and grant based finance
- **Addressing debt sustainability** that impacts fiscal capacity
- **Pooling of funds** to support better access

## |What is next for our work?

**Sept 2025:** Harness insights from this discussion into our journey on exploring efficacy of climate investments

**Sept 2025:** Release of paper on "needs-based finance" (jointly with IDDRI with Ukama network)

**Oct 2025:** Release of green print on new dialogue between funders and recipient countries (London Climate Action Week)

**Sept – Oct 2025:** Continue interview series on climate investment plans with key experts

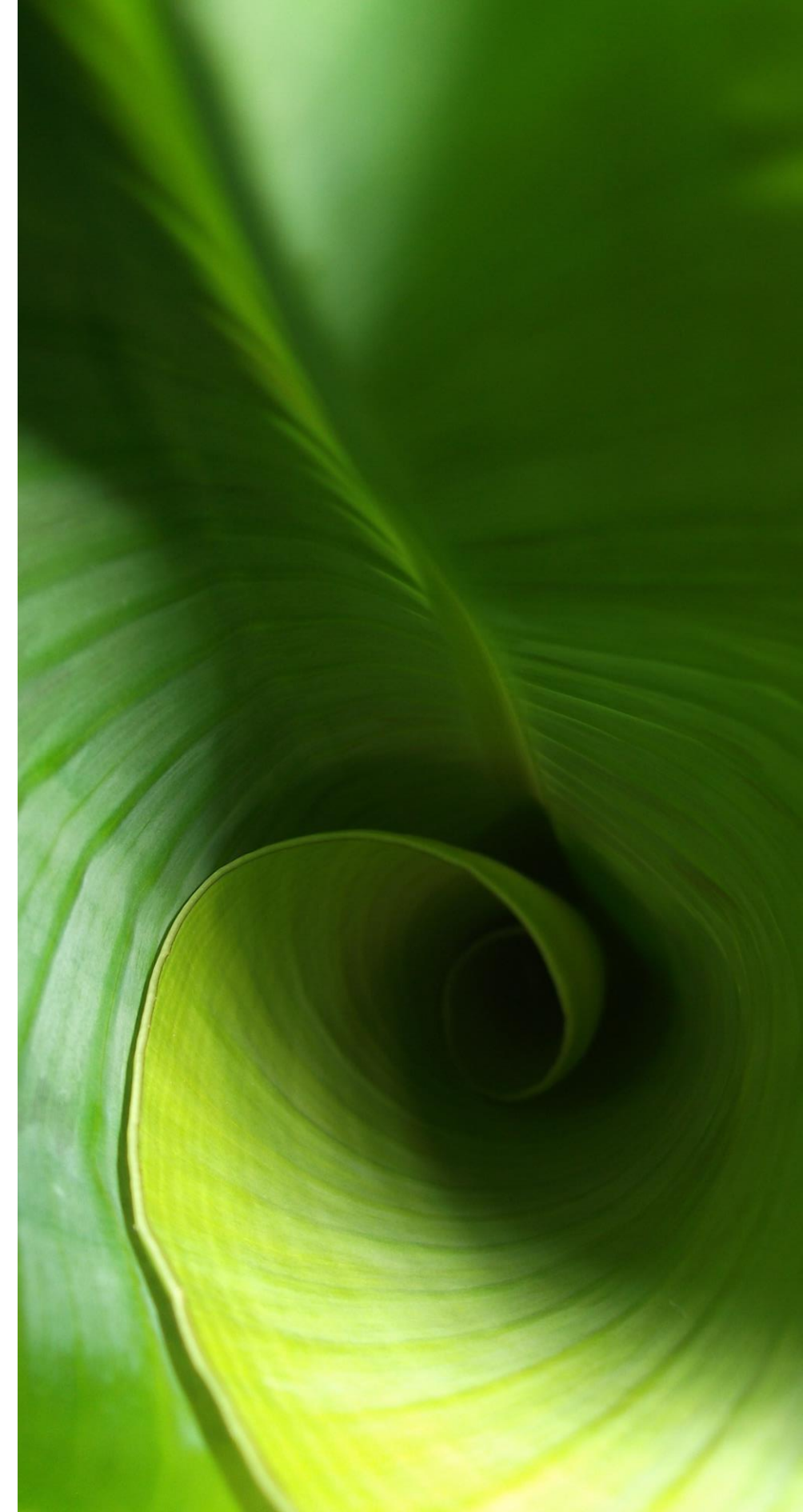
**Oct – Nov 2025:** Synthesis of interview insights from experts, including writing up of their narratives

**By Feb 2026:** Guiding notes on climate related investment plans focused on transitions, justice and dignity

# About Rabia

***We reimagine a financial ecosystem that fosters a resilient and dignified transition***

- We work at three levels – supporting financial actors, building basis for dignity in the financial sector response to climate change, and developing data sets to drive action.
- We specialise in transitions-related finance policies and practices, with deep experience in public and private finance – funders, regulators, treasuries, and development banks.
- Our work has contributed to outcomes such as designing finance-related climate policies, negotiating energy-focused development finance loans, and developing climate risk indicators for central banks.
- We have a interdisciplinary approach to our work – systemic, and long range thinking – economists, social justice lawyers, energy finance specialists, transition risk experts, financial engineers, and policy specialists
- Headquartered in South Africa, working at country, regional and global levels
- Founding member of the recently formed African Think Tank Alliance on Climate Change, that was launched here at the ACS2





# Rabia

[rabiaretransitions.org](http://rabiaretransitions.org)