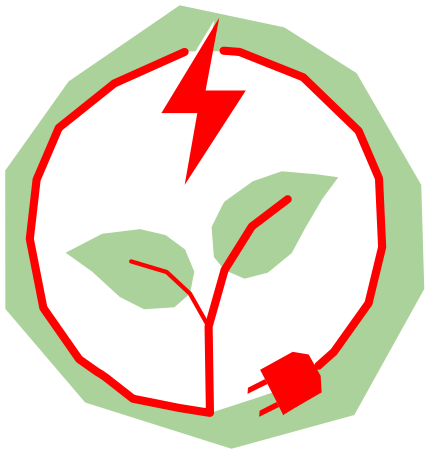
ADVOCACY GUIDE

A practical guide for CSOs and faith-based actors

October 2026

From engagement to influence- Advocacy Guide for CSOs and Faith actors on AfDB's Just Energy Transition



Working together for an inclusive, equitable and sustainable energy future for Africa.

christian aid

actalliance

African Development Bank
Civil Society Working Group

Foreword

Climate specialists and international organisations paint a bleak picture: targets to avert irreversible climate catastrophe are slipping out of reach, making action ever more urgent. This is why a Just Energy Transition matters. It must go beyond science to put people at its core, moving away from fossil fuels in ways that protect and benefit the most vulnerable.

Most faiths recognise the earth and its resources as our common home and good. Yet humanity's role is stewardship, not ownership, for as the Holy Bible says, 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who dwell in it'. We must care for the world for future generations; though we have fallen short, we can still make our time count.

Christian Aid and other faith institutions believe that people and their dignity must be central to a Just Energy Transition, and that faith actors have a distinct role in advancing it. Beyond its technical and scientific dimensions, faith leaders frame the transition as a moral, ethical and justice imperative.

Christian Aid, ACT Alliance and the African Development Bank's CSOs Working Group developed this guide to strengthen advocacy by CSOs and faith actors and hold the AfDB accountable for financing a Just Energy Transition in Africa. Their engagement with the AfDB is timely and critical. As scripture reminds us, we can be the light that illuminates this process.

Bob Kikuyu
Senior Theological Advisor
Christian Aid

Acknowledgements

The Guide was commissioned by Christian Aid and produced in close collaboration with the AfDB CSO Working Group. It provides civil society organisations and faith-based actors with practical guidance to engage with the AfDB's energy transition agenda. Christian Aid would like to extend special appreciation to the members of the Working Group for their technical guidance, strategic input and review throughout the preparation of the guide. We acknowledge the leadership and contributions of the Coalition for Human Rights in Development (CHRD), Bank Information Center (BIC), Lumière Synergie Développement (LSD), ACT Alliance, AfricaClimate Reality Project, Jamaa Resource Initiatives, StrategicYouth Network for Development, AFRODAD, Stop the Bleeding Campaign and other participating organisations.We also extend special appreciation to Benson Ireri,the lead consultant, for coordinating the research,consultations, drafting and finalisation of the guide.

Contents

Acronyms 5

1. Executive summary 6
2. Introduction and context 7
3. Evolving role of the AfDB in Africa's energy transition: key gaps and opportunities for action 9
4. The AfDB CSOs Working Group Principles of a Just Energy Transition 11
5. Policies 15
6. Entry points for CSO engagement with the AfDB 18
7. Some Advocacy tools and strategies 20
8. Case study: learning from practice 24
9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for CSO advocacy 23
10. CSOs recommendations on Africa's Just Energy Transition 26
11. Conclusion 27

Acronyms

AfDB ..... African Development Bank

AFRODAD ..... African Forum and Network on Debt and Development

CSO ..... Civil society organisation

CSP ..... Country Strategy Paper

DRE ..... Decentralised renewable energy

ED ..... Executive director

ESIA ..... Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

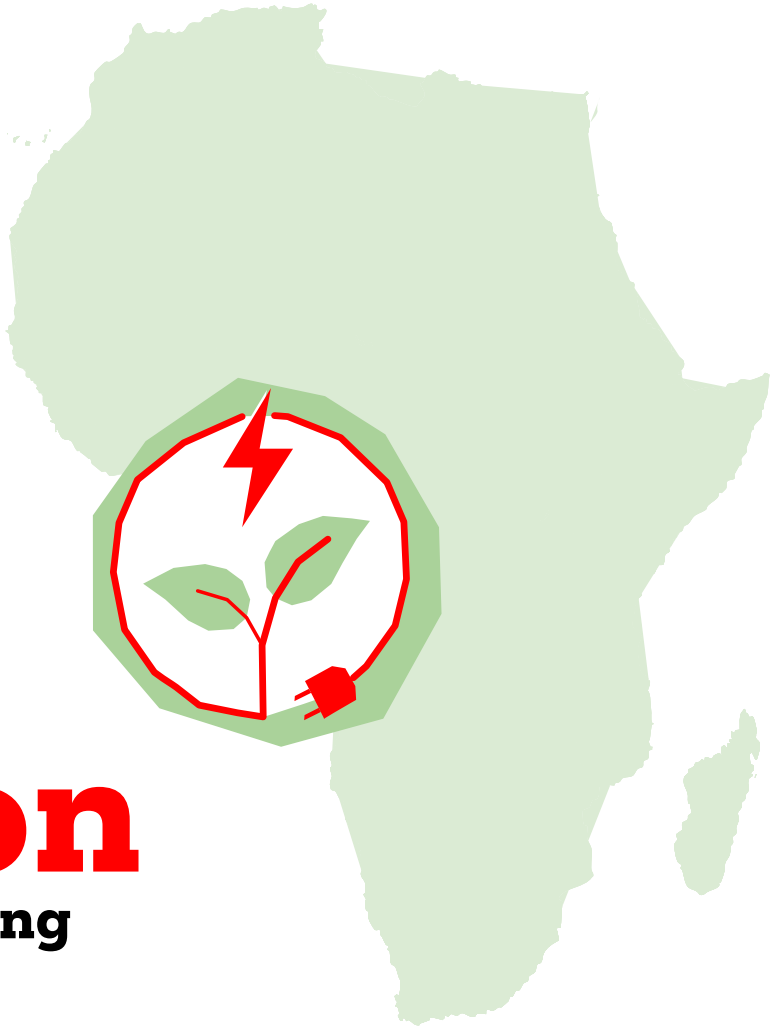
FBA ..... Faith-based actor

IRM ..... Independent Recourse Mechanism

ISS ..... Integrated Safeguards System

JET ..... Just Energy Transition

LUPA ..... Light-Up and Power Africa



595
million people lacking access to electricity and close to
a billion
without clean cooking

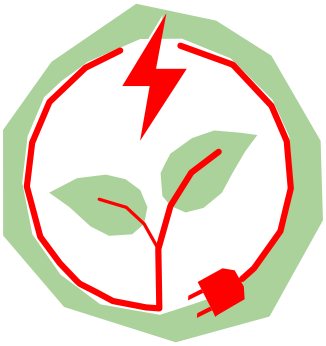
1. Executive summary

Africa stands at a critical juncture in energy transition. With close to 595 million people lacking access to electricity and close to 1 billion without clean cooking,[1] the continent's transition is not only a climate imperative – it is fundamentally a question of development, equity and justice. The African Development Bank (AfDB), as a leading financier and policy-shaping institution, plays a pivotal role in determining the pace, direction and inclusivity of this transition.

This guide has been developed to support civil society organisations (CSOs) and faith-based actors (FBAs) in effectively engaging the AfDB to advance a Just Energy Transition (JET) – one that expands energy access and sovereignty, prioritises underserved and unserved communities, safeguards livelihoods, delivers inclusive economic opportunities and ensures equitable participation in energy transitions. It provides a practical framework for influencing AfDB policies, country strategies and projects.

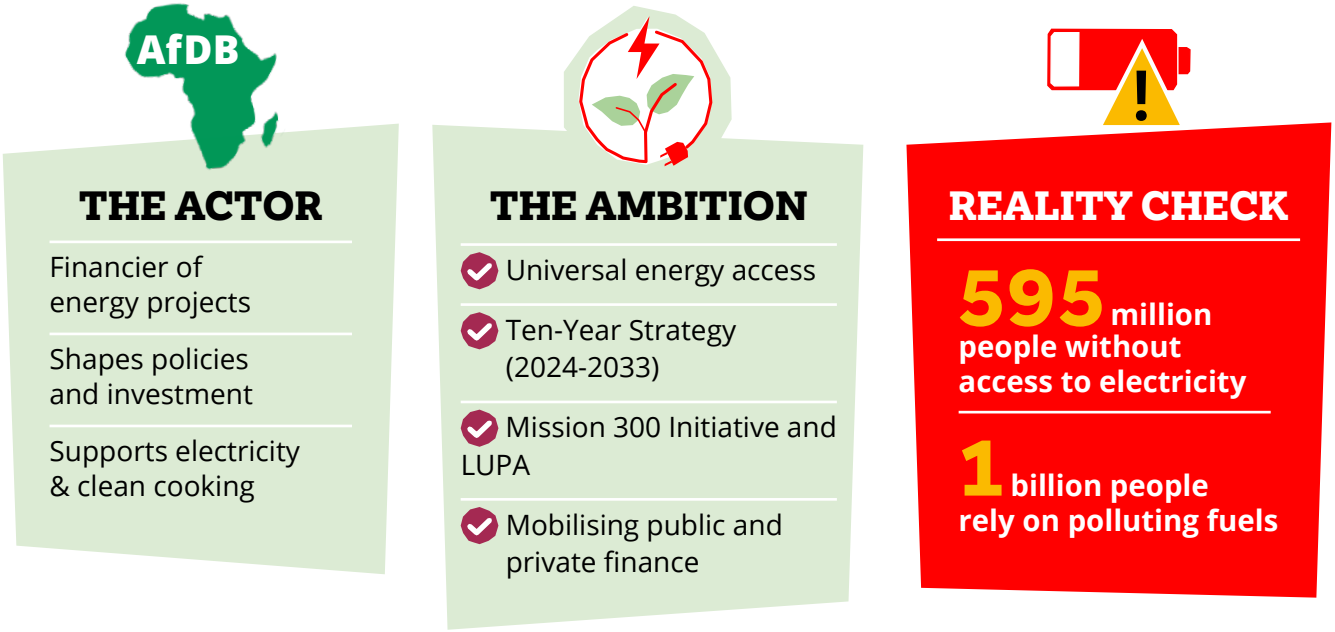
Africa stands at a critical juncture in energy transition. With close to 595 million people lacking access to electricity and close to a billion without clean cooking.

A JET in Africa will not happen by default. It requires deliberate choices about who is prioritised, how resources are allocated and how communities are engaged. By strengthening coordination, amplifying community voices and holding institutions accountable, CSOs and FBAs can play a decisive role in pushing for an energy transition that delivers clean energy, dignity, opportunity and justice for all.



2. Introduction and context

The African Development Bank (AfDB) plays a central role in shaping Africa's energy landscape, acting as a key financier and policy actor in advancing access to electricity, clean cooking and broader energy infrastructure across the continent. Through its Ten-Year Strategy (2024-2033) and flagship initiatives like Light-Up and Power Africa (LUPA) and Mission 300, the Bank has committed to achieving universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy while mobilising significant public and private investment flows.[2] Despite this ambition, around 565 million people in sub-Saharan Africa still lack access to electricity and more than 950 million rely on polluting fuels for cooking,[3] underscoring the scale and urgency of the challenge.



AfDB's role in Africa's energy transition

There is also a growing recognition that Africa's energy transition must go beyond expanding access to energy services to address deeper issues of equity, inclusion, climate justice and meaningful community empowerment. Evidence from global and African energy transitions shows that large-scale investments can have significant implications for livelihoods, land rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability.[4] Civil society organisations (CSOs) have consistently emphasised that without deliberate safeguards and inclusive processes, the energy transition risks reinforcing existing inequalities or failing to deliver meaningful development outcomes at the community level.[5] CSOs – including grassroots movements, advocacy networks and faith-based actors (FBAs) – are therefore critical actors in shaping a just and inclusive energy transition.

FBAs play a unique and influential role, given their deep-rooted presence in communities, moral authority and ability to mobilise constituencies around issues of justice, stewardship and human dignity. Networks like ACT Alliance have demonstrated the potential of faith-based engagement in climate and development advocacy, particularly in elevating the voices of communities and promoting accountability in development finance.6 At the same time, organisations like the Alliance of Civil Society Organizations for Clean Energy Access (ACCESS Coalition), Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG), African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), Power Shift Africa and Bank Information Center have played a critical role in analysing development finance flows, influencing policy debates and strengthening accountability in multilateral development banks.[7]

Despite these contributions, many national and community-level CSOs continue to face structural and technical barriers to engaging effectively with AfDB processes. These challenges include limited familiarity with the Bank's processes, restricted access to timely information and difficulties navigating complex policy, programming and project cycles.[8] This results in missed opportunities to influence energy investment decisions, safeguards and country-level programming.[9] This advocacy guide seeks to bridge this gap by providing practical, accessible and action-oriented information that empowers CSOs to engage meaningfully with the AfDB's energy transition agenda. It translates complex institutional frameworks into clear advocacy pathways, identifies strategic entry points for influence, and equips CSOs, FBAs and community actors with tools to strengthen evidence-based engagement across policy and project processes.

To support CSOs and FBAs in navigating this complex landscape, this guide is structured around a practical journey – from understanding to action. It begins by articulating a shared vision for JET, grounded in equity, inclusion and community-centred development. It next examines the evolving role of the AfDB and identifies key gaps and structural challenges that shape how energy investments are currently designed and delivered. Building on this foundation, the guide then moves into practical entry points for engagement, helping CSOs understand where and how they can influence decisions across policy, strategy and project cycles. It then provides concrete advocacy tools and strategies, followed by real-world case studies that illustrate what effective advocacy looks like in practice. Finally, the guide outlines a clear roadmap for action, supported by monitoring and learning frameworks to help CSOs and FBAs translate insights into sustained influence and impact.

John Kioli of KCCWG presents the organisation's work engaging with the AfDB

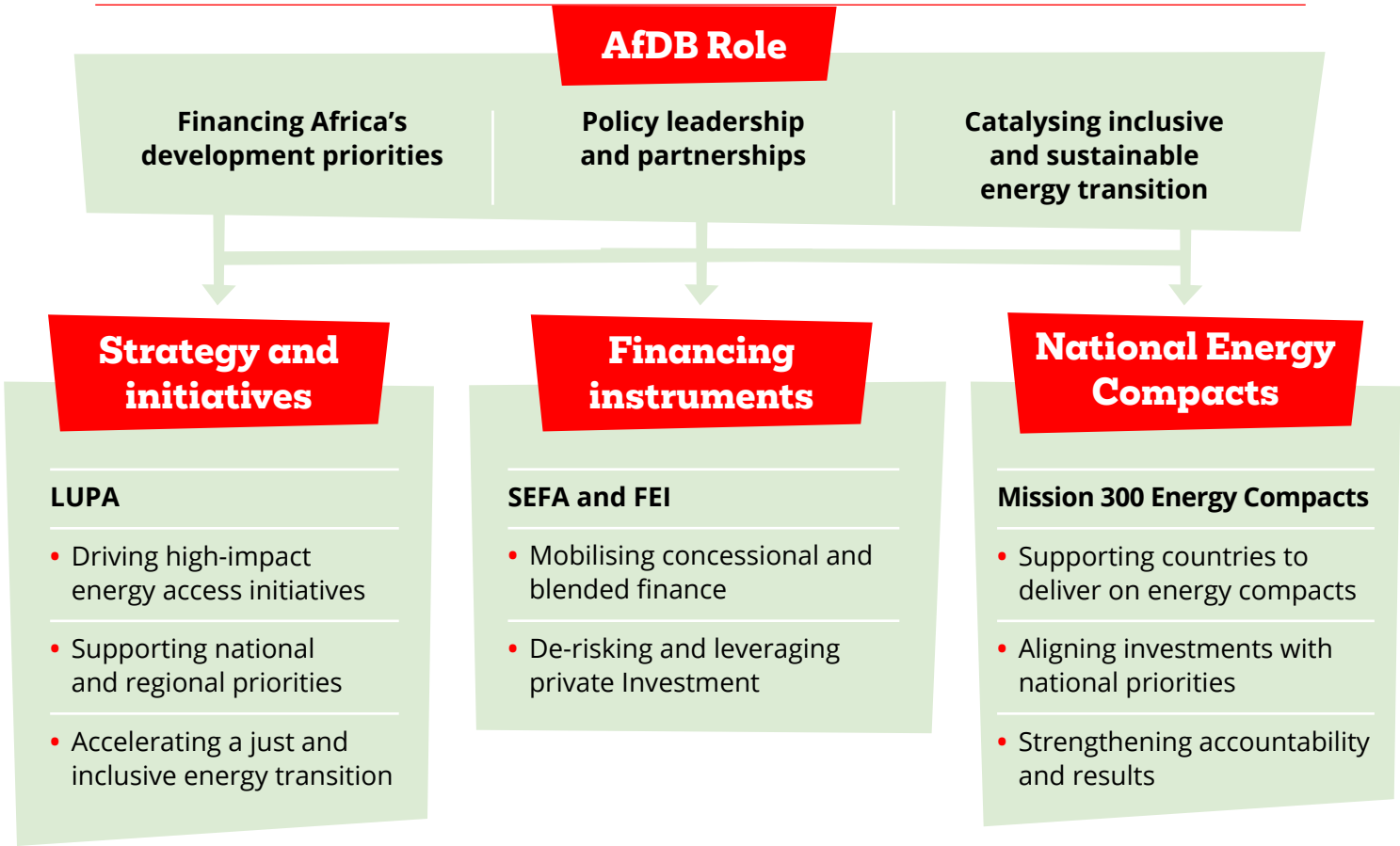
3. Evolving role of the AfDB in Africa's energy transition: key gaps and opportunities for action

The AfDB plays an important role in shaping Africa's energy future – by influencing at both project level and systems level. The Bank determines regional and country energy systems, finances energy projects, influences country policies and convenes major stakeholders. This positions the institution at a strategic level where it is able to influence who benefits from energy projects, as well as whose priorities are refined.

The AfDB's Ten-Year Strategy (2024-2033) positions energy access, climate resilience and green growth at the centre of Africa's development pathway. Through LUPA, AfDB aims to achieve universal access while scaling renewable energy and mobilising large-scale investment. Through Mission 300, country compacts present opportunities for CSOs to advocate for inclusive and transparent processes, integration of clean cooking and decentralised renewable energy (DRE) and alignment with national priorities.

Beyond these, the Bank also deploys multiple financing instruments like the (SEFA), (FEI) and sovereign lending – all of which inform the priorities that are financed as well as how energy systems evolve.

Evolving role of AfDB in Africa's energy transition



A high-level overview of AfDB's evolving role in shaping Africa's Just energy transition

However, several gaps limit AfDB's alignment with JET. These include:

1 Underinvestment in DRE and clean cooking

Large-scale grid projects continue to dominate AfDB's portfolio, while DRE and clean cooking, which are critical for last-mile access, remain unfunded. **Advocacy opportunity:** CSOs should influence the AfDB to establish a dedicated financing window for decentralised renewable energy (DRE) and clean cooking.

2 Limited integration of productive use of renewable energy

Energy investments always focus on connections, rather than economic outcomes linked to the energy interventions – e.g. jobs, income generation and local development. **Advocacy opportunity:** CSOs should influence integrated energy planning by ensuring energy investments are linked to adjacent sectors such as agriculture and rural industries.

3 Affordability and financial inclusion constraints

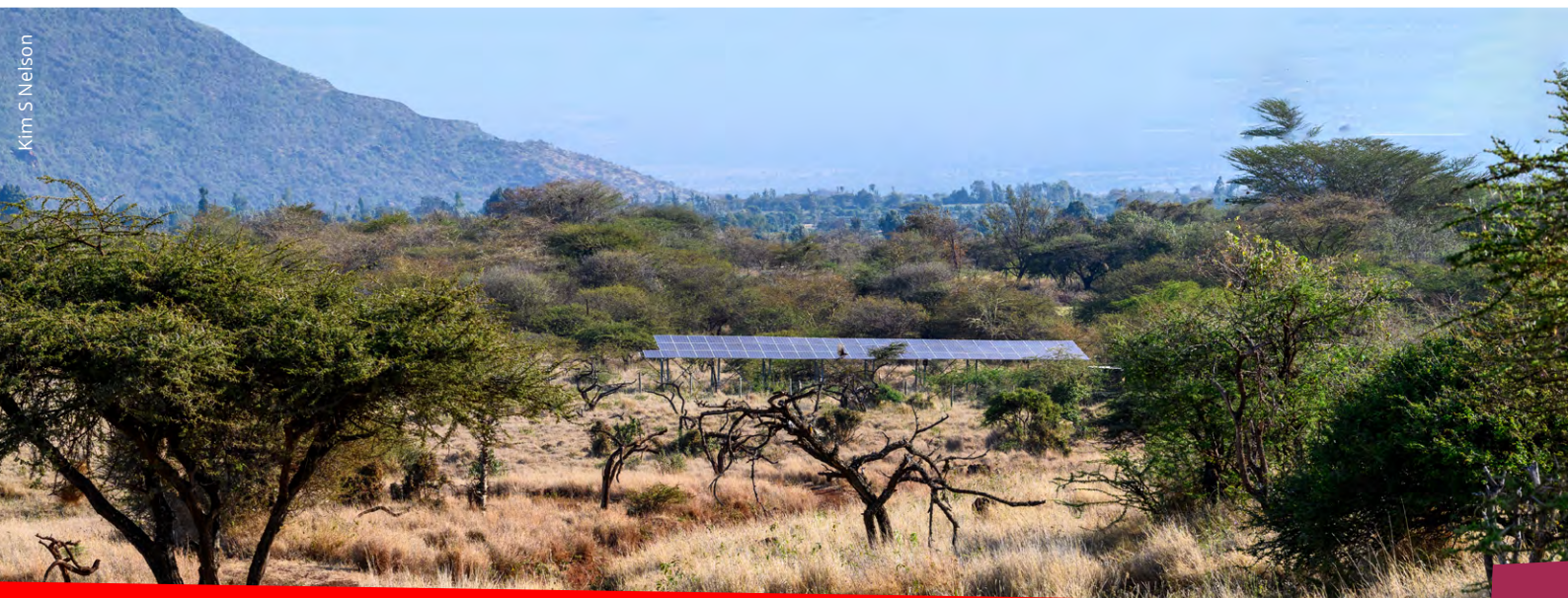
Access does not guarantee affordability. Many households and enterprises remain excluded due to high costs and limited access to finance. **Advocacy opportunity:** CSOs should advocate for inclusive financing models, including subsidies, concessional finance, and simplified access for local developers and small and medium-sized enterprises.

4 Gaps in community engagement and safeguards

Although frameworks exist such as the Integrated Safeguards System (ISS) and Independent Recourse Mechanism (IRM), implementation gaps persist, particularly in consultation, resettlement and grievance mechanisms. **Advocacy opportunity:** CSOs and FBAs can strengthen community-level accountability, raise awareness of existing mechanisms and monitor compliance between commitments and implementation.

5 Climate finance and debt sustainability concerns

A large share of climate finance is delivered as loans, raising concerns about debt sustainability and equity. **Advocacy opportunities:** CSOs should push for more concessional and equitable financing, a stronger focus on adaptation and greater alignment with country-level priorities.


Kim S Nelson

4. The AfDB CSOs Working Group Principles of a Just Energy Transition

Africa's energy transition is not just technological: it is a question of justice. As articulated by the AfDB CSOs Working Group, a JET addresses both energy poverty and economic transformation – expanding access while driving jobs, livelihoods and resilience through inclusive, development-oriented energy systems. This section outlines a shared vision and principles to guide rights-based, people-centred investments that place communities – not projects – at the core of Africa's energy.

1- People -centred investment

A just energy transition starts and ends with people

Why it matters

- Ground energy systems in people's realities
- Transform participation
- Energy access drives livelihoods
- Advance equity and inclusion

How we do it

- Foster Meaningful community engagement
- Value local knowledge
- Build local capacity and leadership
- Ensure local benefits

Who we prioritise

WOMEN	RURAL COMMUNITIES	PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	YOUTH	OLDER PERSONS

2 - Do no harm

A JET must mitigate any risks of causing harm to the community by applying the AfDB's ISS through the entire project life cycle. The ISS requires meaningful community participation, transparent disclosure of information and effective management of environmental and social risks to prevent harm, protect livelihoods, uphold human rights and strengthen accountability. (see AfDB Group's Integrated Safeguards System 2023).

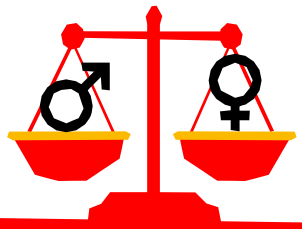
When people lead energy transitions are more inclusive, sustainable and transformational

3 - Transparency and accountability

A JET requires open, transparent and accountable governance systems throughout the project life cycle. CSOs can strengthen transparency and accountability by monitoring project implementation, participating in stakeholder consultations, requesting access to project information and safeguard documents, documenting potential environmental and social harms, and engaging with the Bank's country offices and task managers.

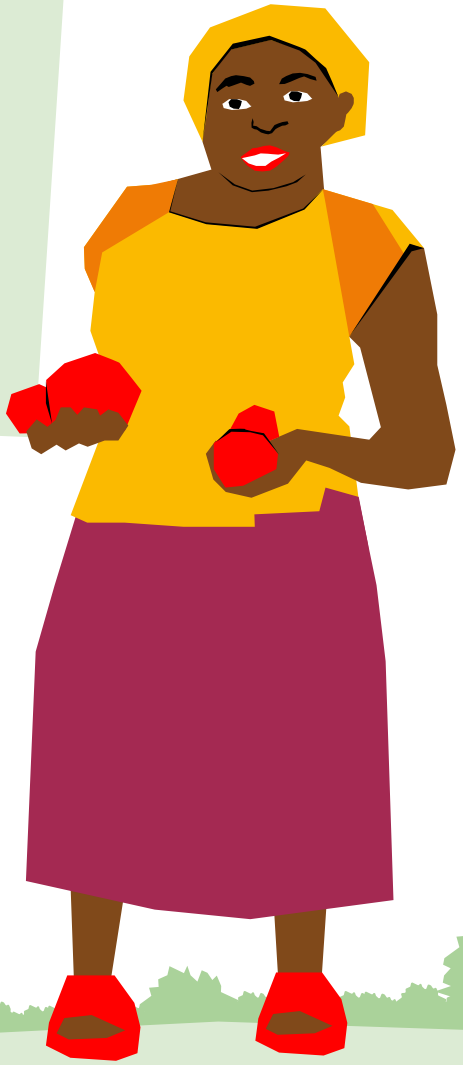
4 - Gender and social equity

Energy poverty is deeply gendered and socially unequal. A just transition must promote women's leadership and entrepreneurship, address clean cooking as a priority development issue, and ensure inclusion of all.



Gender and Social Equity

Energy poverty is deeply gendered and socially unequal. Women particularly in rural areas bare disproportionate burden due to reliance on traditional fuels with significant implications for health, time use, and economic opportunities.

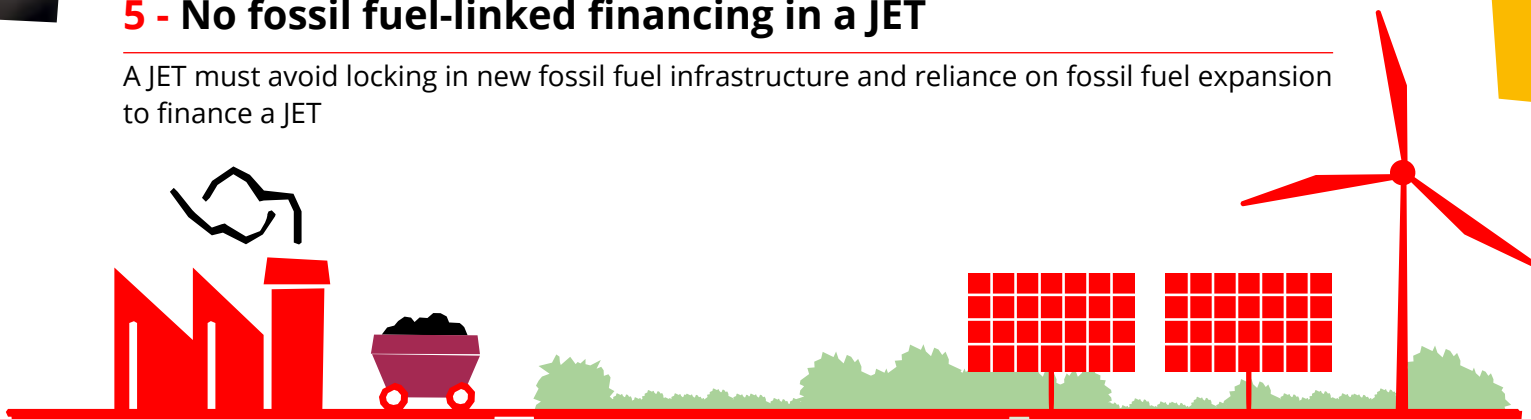


Equity is not an add-on. It is the foundation of a Just and sustainable energy future.

An Activist holds anti fossil fuel poster during African Climate Reality Project March outside AfDB offices in South Africa 2022/02/25 Photo credit: Joze Sprung

5 - No fossil fuel-linked financing in a JET

A JET must avoid locking in new fossil fuel infrastructure and reliance on fossil fuel expansion to finance a JET



Why we must avoid fossil fuel-linked financing

1. Locks in high-carbon infrastructure
2. Crowds out clean and just solutions
3. Deepens inequality and harm
4. Contradicts climate justice

Shifting Finance towards JET

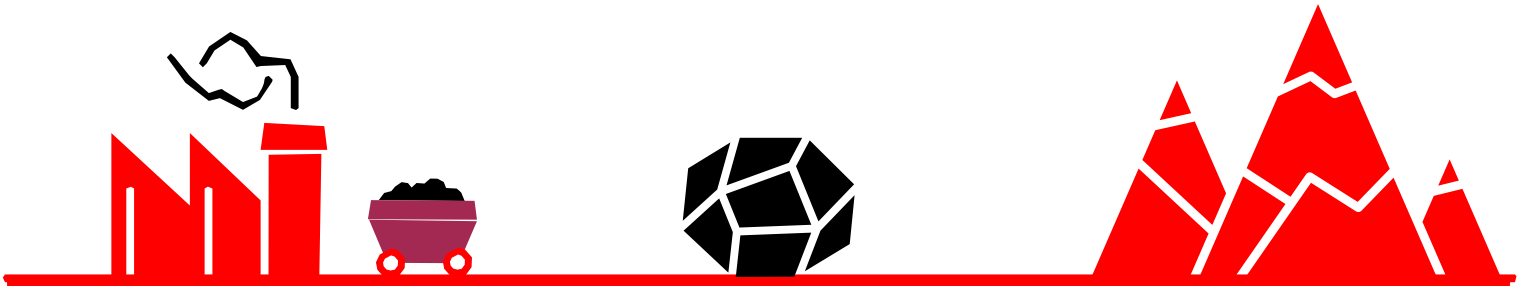
1. Scale up climate finance
2. Re-direct fossil fuels subsidies
3. Tackle illicit financial flows through tax justice
4. Provide debt relief and fiscal space

What this means in practice

1. Transparent, renewable energy aligned capital
2. Prioritise renewable energy and storage, energy access and energy efficiency
3. Ensure meaningful community participation
4. Align all finance with 1.5° and human rights

6 - Ensuring sustainable and equitable extraction, distribution and consumption of transition minerals

The equitable use of Africa's mineral resources is a strategic imperative to ensure the continent's energy transition yields a JET, decarbonisation and broad-based socio-economic prosperity.



Sustainable use of transition minerals for a just and prosperous Africa

Africa has the minerals the world needs for the energy transition. How they are governed and used will determine whether this transition delivers shared prosperity, justice and lasting benefits for African communities.

Policy frameworks and regional commitments must put Africa in the driver's seat – transforming our resources into local value, jobs and a better future for our people.

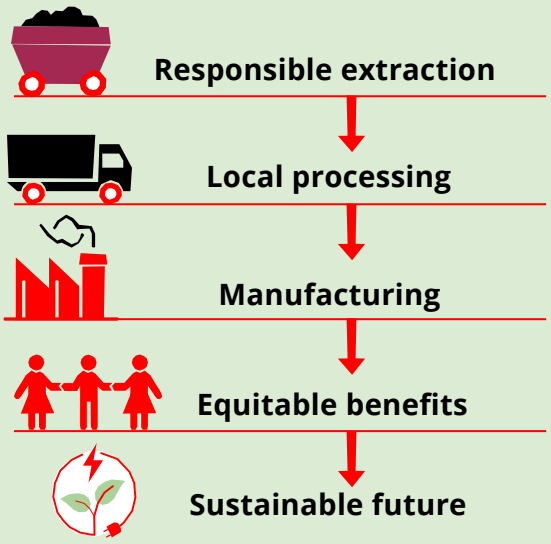
Our principles for Africa's mineral future

African led decision making	Responsible and sustainable extraction	Value addition	Fair distribution of benefits	Regional collaboration and integration

Why this matters

- Jobs and industrialisation
- Sustainability
- Equity and justice
- Global leadership

Building an African led mineral value chain



A just transition starts with fair and sustainable mineral governance.

5. Policies

To engage effectively with the AfDB, CSOs and FBAs should understand its key policies, frameworks and mechanisms, including the Integrated Safeguards System, Independent Recourse Mechanism, CSO Engagement Framework and CSO Committee

5.1 Integrated Safeguards System (ISS)

The ISS is AfDB's framework for identifying and managing environmental and social risks and impacts. It ensures projects do no harm, protect livelihoods and human rights, promote inclusive development and strengthen accountability. (see AfDB Group's Integrated Safeguards System 2023)

The ISS is based on three pillars:

1 Environmental Sustainability

Environment and social risks are identified early and managed to prevent or minimise harm

2 Social Inclusivity

Communities are informed, consulted and involved in decisions that affect them

3 Transparency and Accountability

Information is accessible, timely and clear, enabling communities to make informed choices. Responsibilities are clearly defined so communities can hold the Bank and project actors accountable.

5.2 Independent Recourse Mechanism (IRM)

When rights are violated, CSOs and FBAs can use the Independent Recourse Mechanism (IRM) to hold the AfDB accountable. As the AfDB Group's independent complaints mechanism, the IRM addresses concerns raised by individuals, workers and communities who believe they have been or may be adversely affected by an AfDB-financed project.

The IRM has three main functions

1 Compliance Review (Independent Investigations)

To examine whether the Bank has complied with its policies and procedures.

2 Problem-Solving/ Dispute Resolution

Facilitates dialogue among complainants and other parties to resolve complaints.

3 Advisory Services

Strengthens institutional learning and compliance within the Bank.

To learn more about the IRM complaint process see Home | Independent Recourse Mechanism (IRM) and BIC AfDB Toolkit-2023

6. Entry points for CSO engagement with the AfDB

The AfDB has in recent years taken important steps to strengthen its engagement with CSOs, including the development of formal frameworks and platforms to institutionalise dialogue and participation. Notably, the Bank's CSO engagement framework[10] and the establishment of a dedicated CSO and community engagement function signal a growing recognition of the role of CSOs in shaping development outcomes. However, engagement with AfDB is still often perceived as complex and inaccessible, particularly for national and community-level actors.

A member of the Ghana CSOs Alliance on Mission 300 sharing his views during a multistakeholder conference on the development of Ghana's Compact Implementation Support Document"

6.1 Key mechanisms for engagement

1 **AfDB Annual Meetings** convene high-level stakeholders including ministers, executive directors (EDs), development partners, private sector actors and civil society. CSOs and FBAs can use these meetings to organise or participate in side events, engage EDs or senior bank managers, and present policy briefs or position papers. For effective engagements, CSOs and FBAs should identify EDs representing their constituencies and schedule meetings in advance. See the List of AfDB Group Board Members for contact details of EDs.

2 **Annual CSOs forum** – AfDB convenes CSOs through the annual forum, bringing together key stakeholders, Bank staff and government representatives. The platform provides an opportunity for direct access to senior AfDB leadership and operational staff. CSOs, FBAs and community representatives should engage early with the Bank's Civil Society and Community Engagement Division and the CSO coordination process mandated to support the Bank in preparing for the forum, to stay informed about the priority themes, registration and opportunities for dialogue. Ahead of the forum, CSOs should coordinate common advocacy messages, prepare evidence-based policy briefs and position papers, identify strategic Bank officials to engage and organise engagement meetings with them. More information is available through the AfDB Civil Society Portal.

3 **Policy consultations and Country Strategy Reviews** – AfDB's financing for its country members is guided by Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) and sector strategies. Their development is required to provide opportunities for public consultation. CSOs, FBAs and community members should identify upcoming CSPs for development or review, and engage with the process by submitting evidence-based policy briefs and position papers. See the comprehensive list of CSPs and Sector Strategies and guidance on how CSOs can engage the Bank.

4 **Mission 300 and Country Compacts –** These provide an important opportunity for CSOs, FBAs and communities to influence national energy priorities and investment plans. As of 2026, 30 countries have already developed their National Energy Compacts. While remaining countries are also expected to develop their compacts, the existing ones will also be reviewed and updated during their course of implementation, thus presenting opportunities for CSOs, FBAs and communities to influence the process by submitting evidence-based recommendations and participating in stakeholder consultations to advocate for DRE and clean cooking. The AfDB established the Mission 300 Progress Tracker, a public digital platform that provides real-time data on electricity access across Africa. See also Information on Mission 300 country compacts and participating countries.

5 **Project-level engagement** – CSOs can engage through the project cycle, including through stakeholder consultations, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) and project monitoring. Where communities believe an AfDB-financed project has caused, or is likely to cause, environmental or social harm, they can access AfDB's IRM – an independent, impartial and accessible grievance mechanism that enables affected people to raise concerns, seek solutions to problems and, where appropriate, request a compliance review of the Bank's policies and procedures. (see practical guidance for the community on the IRM).

Engaging during the project cycle

Opportunities to engage

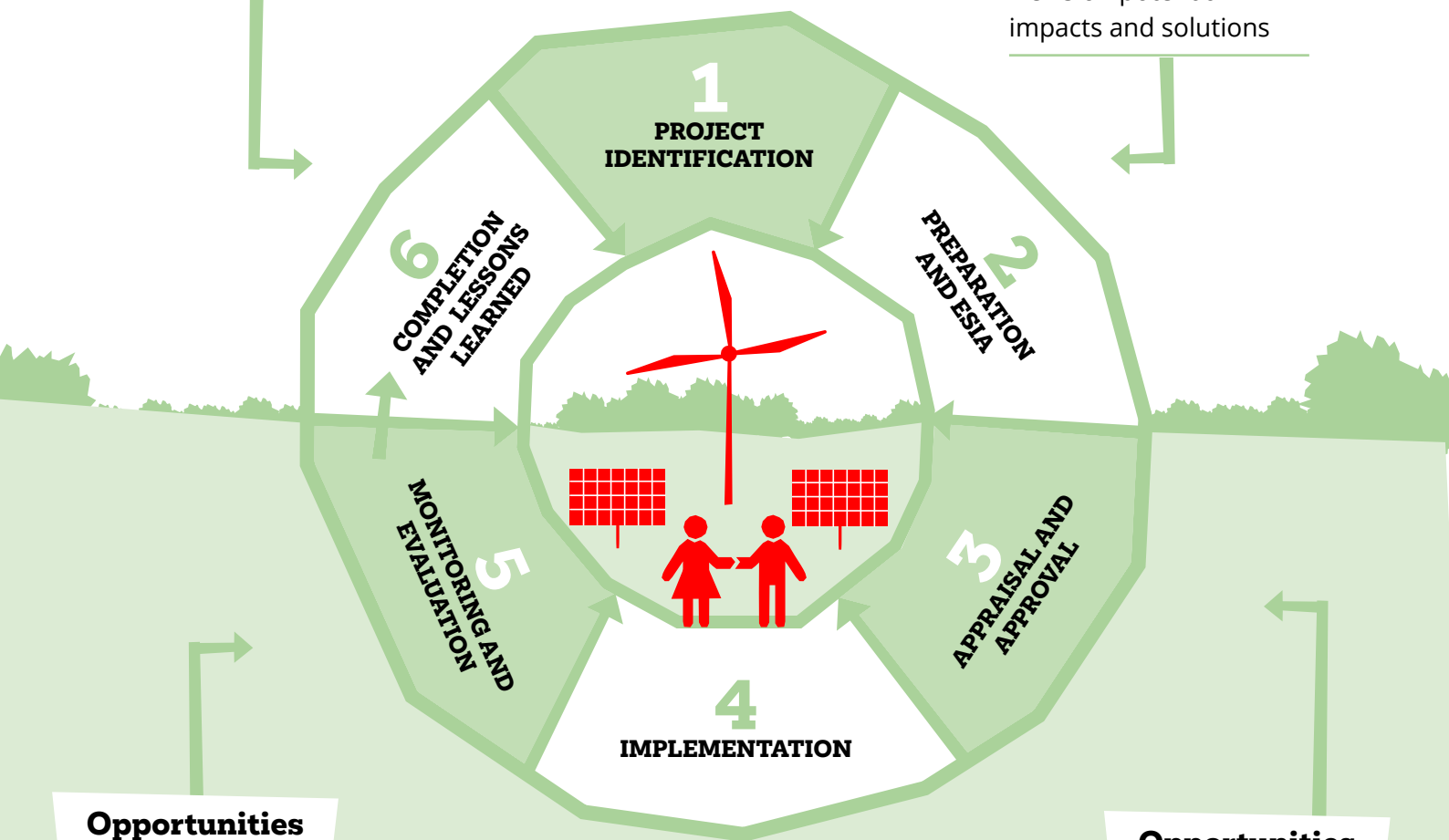
Share your experiences and lessons to improve future projects

Opportunities to engage

Share community priorities and concerns

Opportunities to engage

Participate in consultation and ESIA assessment·Provide views on potential impacts and solutions



Opportunities to engage

Provide feedback on progress and impacts

Hold implementers accountable

Opportunities to engage

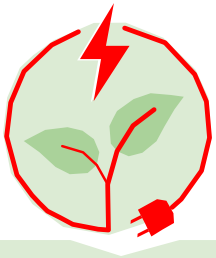
Monitor project activities and impacts

Raise concerns if something is not right

Opportunities to engage

Review project documents and provide feedback before the project is approved

6.2 Common barriers to engagement with AfDB



Despite the above entry points, CSOs across Africa consistently face challenges engaging effectively with AfDB due to several common barriers, including:

1 Limited access to information

Project and policy information is often not easily accessible or user-friendly. Technical language makes it difficult for communities to understand

What you can do

- Simplify and translate key documents
- Leverage CSOs networks for information sharing
- Engage country offices to access early and relevant information

2 Timing and late engagement

Limited notice by AfDB reduces CSOs' ability to prepare meaningful inputs

What you can do

- Proactively track CSPs calendar, projects list and policy timelines
- Coordinate early engagement through coalitions
- Anticipate entry points and prepare in advance

3 Capacity and resource constraints

Many CSOs lack the technical, financial or institutional capacity

What you can do

- Build partnerships with research organisations
- Pool resources through coalitions e.g. the AfDB CSOs Working Group
- Invest in targeted capacity building on AfDB processes

4 Power asymmetries

Significant imbalance between communities/CSOs/ developer/ financiers limits influence without collective action

What you can do

- Strengthen collective advocacy
- Use evidence and community data
- Leverage media and regional platforms to amplify voice and visibility

5 Limited awareness and accountability mechanisms

Tools like the IRM remain underutilized due to low awareness and accessibility

What you can do

- Increase awareness and training on grievance mechanisms
- Support communities to document and raise issues
- Use appropriate channels such as IRM

Some Members of the AfDB CSOs Working Group pose for a photo during a preparatory meeting ahead of the 2026 AfDB Annual Meeting.

6.3 Lessons learnt from CSO engagement with the AfDB

Key lessons for effective engagement include:

1 Engage early and continuously

Why it matters

- Early input shapes better decisions

2 Build coalitions and collective voice

Why it matters

- United voices carry more weight.

3 Anchor advocacy in evidence

Why it matters

- Evidence turns stories into solutions

4 Combine insider and outsider strategies

Why it matters

- Inside access opens doors, outside pressure drives change

5 Leverage local-to-global linkages

Why it matters

- Local voices, connected globally, create impact

Stronger engagement. Stronger voices. Better outcomes.

Some members of the AfDB CSOs Working Group attend the 2025 AfDB Annual Meeting.

7. Some Advocacy tools and strategies

This section outlines tools that CSOs, FBAs and community movements can use to effectively influence the policies, strategies and investment decisions of the AfDB.

7.1 Policy briefs and position papers

Policy brief versus position paper

Policy brief		Position paper
• Provides concise, evidence-based recommendations for action	**PURPOSE**	• Presents an organisation's or coalition's stance or viewpoint on an issue
• Brief, concise and to the point	**FOCUS**	• More detailed and argumentative
• Decision makers, policy makers and practitioners	**AUDIENCE**	• Policy influencers, partners, members and the broader public
• Recommends specific actions based on evidence	**APPROACH**	• Presents argument, rationale and supporting evidence

IN SHORT

- Policy briefs tell decision makers what to do and why
- Position papers explain what you believe and why

Process of preparing and submitting policy briefs and position papers

STEPS

1 Define the objectives

- Identify the specific decisions or process within the AfDB you seek to influence
- Be explicit about your target audience

Know your audience

Target your message.

2 Ground in evidence

- Use quantitative data e.g. energy access gaps, financing deficit etc
- Incorporate lived realities and experiences from affected communities

Evidence + experience = stronger arguments

3 Engage stakeholders

- Co-create with CSOs, FBAs, researchers and community representatives
- Ensure positions reflect real community priorities, not institutional assumptions

Collaborations build credibility and legitimacy

4 Structure the document

- Clear title
- Executive summary
- Concise problem statement
- Evidence-based analysis
- Actionable & time-bound recommendations

Clear

Concise

Actionable

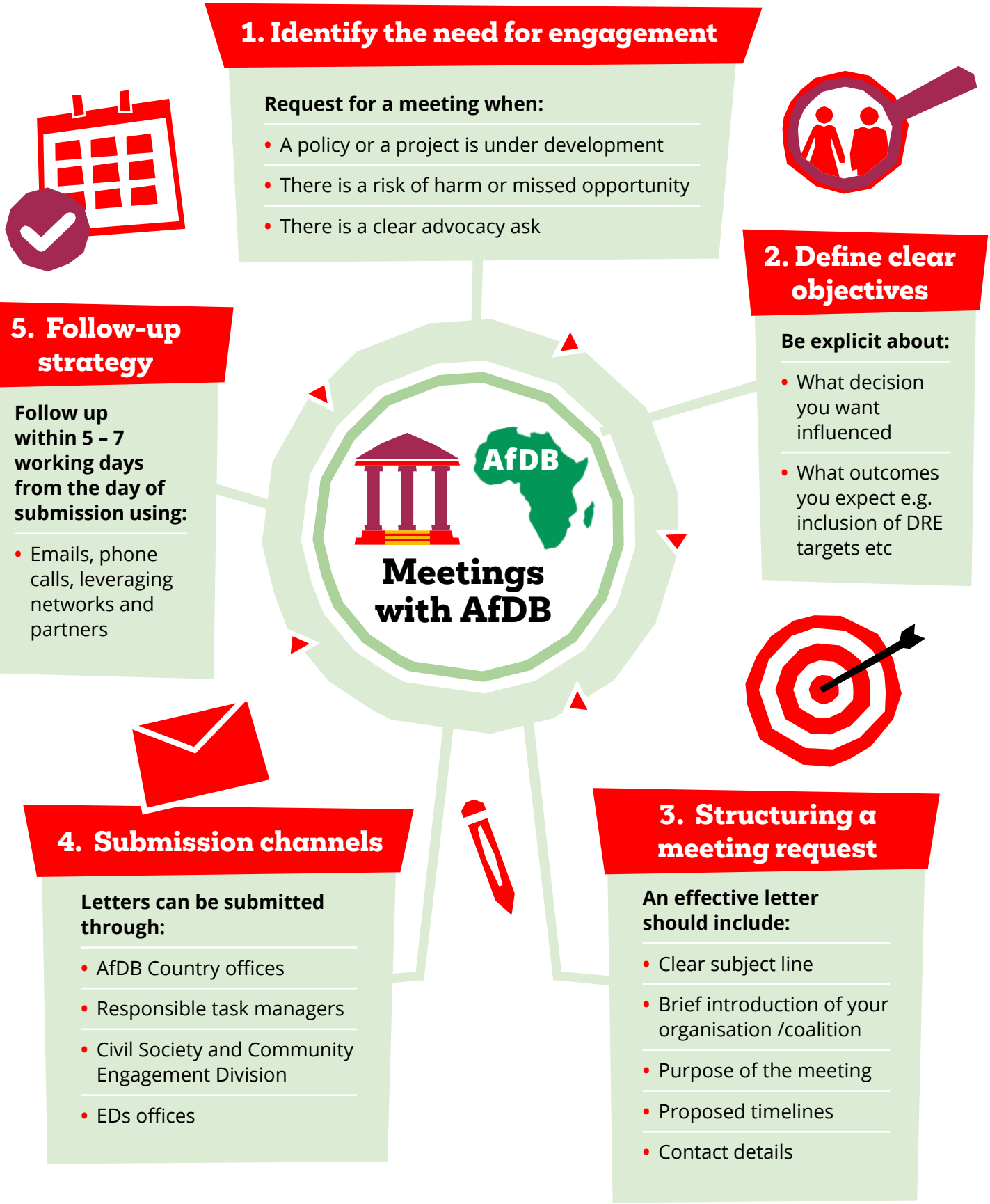
5 Submitting to AfDB

- Submit via CSO platforms
- During official consultation windows
- Send directly to relevant AfDB stakeholders (Task managers, country offices, EDs)

Submission is the start, not the end

7.2 Meetings with AfDB

The process of requesting and preparing for meetings with AfDB



7.3 Storytelling as a tool for advocacy

Storytelling drives real influence by translating technical issues into human experiences, making them more relatable, compelling and difficult to ignore. Effective storytelling begins with grounding narratives in real experiences, **highlighting how energy policies and investments affect people's daily lives** – particularly those most affected by energy poverty such as women and marginalised communities. These narratives should not replace data, but rather complement it by illustrating its human impact.

Key strategies for using storytelling to influence AfDB include:

- **Humanise the 'just' in JET** by focusing on the local impacts, through highlighting personal stories of people who are affected by the transition. Effective stories should also show – not just tell – by using community-generated content such as personal videos or local radio interviews.
- **Connect the stories to AfDB's priorities** e.g. in the priorities outlined in the Bank's 10-year strategy, the New African Financial Architecture for Development (NAFAD).[11]
- **Structure the narrative for policy influence** – stories must be actionable and linked to specific policy changes on JET.

Community members assessing the 6KW solar-powered water pump by the Omo River in Ethiopia installed by Christian Aid in collaboration with Agri Service Ethiopia Photo credit: Christian Aid/ Faith Alobo

8. Case study: learning from practice

CSOs' influence on the AfDB's decision to exit financing for the Lamu Coal Fired Power Plant in Kenya

Through persistent advocacy and evidence-based engagement, civil society helped prevent a high-risk coal project and advocate for a just energy future

What was the advocacy about?

- CSOs opposed the 1,050 MW Lamu Coal Power project due to climate, health, environmental and livelihoods risks
- Advocates urged AfDB and other DFIs to withhold funding as the project conflicted with the climate goals and could create stranded assets.

The advocacy focused on:

- Preventing coal investments
- Protecting local livelihoods and ecosystems
- Shifting finance to renewables

How the advocacy was conducted

1. **Direct engagement with AfDB and other development finance institutions (DFIs)**
2. **Strategic use of evidence and financial risk framing**
3. **Leveraging accountability and regulatory processes**
4. **Global coalition building and pressure**
5. **Adaptive strategy and learning**

- CSOs submitted briefs and engaged Bank staff and decision makers
- Highlighted climate risks, stranded assets and misalignment with AfDB investment criteria
- Took legal action through Kenya's environmental tribunal, strengthening the case to financiers
- Aligned with global climate movements to amplify pressure on AfDB and other financiers
- Strengthening policy and financial arguments and coordinated globally, improving effectiveness

9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for CSO advocacy

Effective advocacy requires the ability to track influence, measure progress, learn from experience and adapt strategies over time. This Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework provides a practical approach for CSOs, FBAs and coalitions to monitor their advocacy efforts, strengthen accountability and scale impact in engaging the AfDB.

9.1 Tracking advocacy outcomes and influence

Track advocacy across the full engagement cycle - from policy influence to project-level outcomes.

9.2 Adaptive learning and strategy adjustment

Advocacy is inherently dynamic. CSOs must assess what is working and adapt accordingly. This includes regular reflections and learning sessions within coalitions, adjusting strategies when engagement is not yielding results, and learning from other contexts and projects.

9.3 Building long-term accountability partnerships

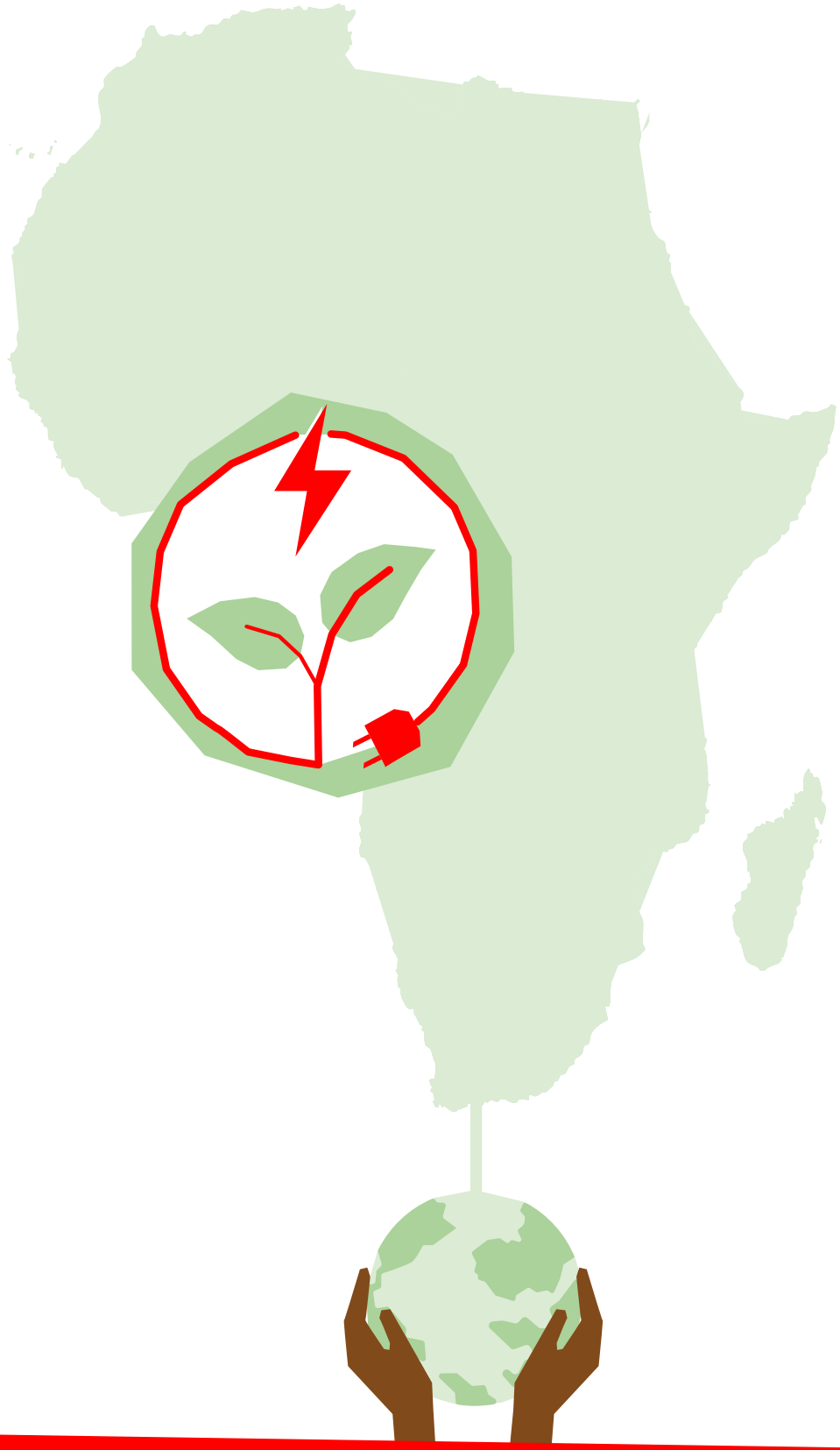
Sustained impact requires moving towards long-term, structured partnerships within the AfDB and other actors. This includes building ongoing relations with AfDB country offices, task managers and EDs; strengthening coalitions across CSOs, FBAs and research institutions to present unified positions; establishing feedback loops with communities to ensure accountability to those most affected; and engaging regional and global platforms to reinforce advocacy messages.

10. Advocacy tips for CSOs and FBAs on effective advocacy on Just Energy Transition:

Strengthen coordination and collective voice	by building coalitions and networks to present unified, evidence-based positions, increasing influence and credibility.
Invest in evidence-based advocacy	by combining data with lived experiences to inform policy briefs, position papers and engagement with AfDB.
Engage across multiple entry points	by simultaneously targeting CSP processes, project-level engagements and regional/global platforms to maximise influence.
Build community-level capacity	by equipping communities with knowledge of their rights, project processes and accountability mechanisms.
Leverage faith-based leadership	by using FBAs' moral authority and grassroots reach to elevate justice, equity and stewardship narratives in energy transition discourse.

11. Conclusion

A JET in Africa will not be achieved through policy commitments alone. It requires sustained, coordinated and evidence-based advocacy to ensure that investments are aligned with the needs and rights of all communities, leaving no one behind regardless of gender, age, disability or social status. This guide provides a foundation – but its impact will depend on how effectively CSOs and partners translate these recommendations into collective action and long-term engagement.



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