

EMERALDHANDBOOKS

THE EMERALD HANDBOOK OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRANSITION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

A GLOBAL SOUTH PERSPECTIVE

EDITED BY

JULIUS OMOKHUDU **IRENE**, BRIDGET NNEKA **IRENE**,
KINGSLEY OBI **OMEIHE** AND REGINA **FRANK**



The Emerald Handbook of Sustainable Energy Transition and Social Justice

NEW FRONTIERS IN AFRICAN BUSINESS AND SOCIETY

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The Emerald Handbook of Sustainable Energy Transition and Social Justice: Contemporary Issues and Debates in the Global South

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

*With gratitude to God for the wisdom and guidance that made this book
project possible.*

*We dedicate this work to our beloved families – your unwavering love, patience,
and support have been the foundation of our aspirations and achievements.*

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List of Abbreviations

ABS	Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene
API	Association of the polyurethane industries
bcm	Billion cubic meters
BFB	Bubbling fluidised beds
BHC-TENG	Biomimetic hairy-contact triboelectric nanogenerator
BULOG	Indonesian Bureau of Logistics
CCUS	Carbon capture, utilisation, and storage
CE	Circular economy
CECIC	Copper ionisation cell
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSR	Corporate social responsibility
CuONW	Copper oxide nanowires
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DEAT	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
DEFF	Department of Environmental Affairs, Forestry, and Fisheries
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DEMATEL	Decision Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
EbA	Ecosystem-based adaptation
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EEE	Electrical and electronic equipment
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone
EJM	Energy justice metric
EMG	Electromagnetic generator
ENSO	El Niño-Southern Oscillation
EOL	End of life
EPR	Extended producer responsibility
ESD	Education for sustainable development
ESDGs	Education for sustainable development goals
ESIA	Environmental and social impact assessment
EU	European Union
EVs	Electric vehicles
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation

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FE	Food estate
FEP	Fluorinated ethylene propylene
G7	Group of seven
GDP	Gross domestic product
GECF	Gas exporting countries forum
GFANZ	Glasgow financial alliance for net-zero
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GWEC	Global Wind Energy Council
HDPE	High-density polyethylene
HEIs	Higher education institutions
HESD	Higher education for sustainable development
HESDGs	Higher education for the sustainable development goals
HIPS	High-impact polystyrene
HRT	Human rights theory
ICT	Information and communication technology
IEA	International Energy Agency
IET	Impossible energy trinity
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IoT	Internet of things
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPG	International Partners Group
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
ISOPA	European Isocyanate Producers Association
iTEHG	Isotropic triboelectric-electromagnetic hybrid nanogenerator
JETPs	Just energy transition partnerships
KPLC	Kenya Power and Lighting Company
LAEE	Latin American Environmental Education
LDPE	Low-density polyethylene
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer plus
LIB	Lithium-ion batteries
LNG	Liquefied natural gas
LPG	Liquefied petroleum gas
LTWP	Lake Turkana Wind Power
m.a.s.l.	Metres above sea level
MIFEE	Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate
MLP	Multi-level perspective
MLRA	Marine Living Resources Act
MLRAA	Marine Living Resources Amendment Act
MPAs	Marine protected areas
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSM	Men who have sex with men
MSW	Municipal solid waste
MSWIs	Municipal solid waste incinerators
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
PA	Polyamide

PAHs	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
PAL	Latin American environmental thinking
PC	Polycarbonate
PCBs	Printed circuit boards
PCDFs	Polychlorinated dibenzofurans
PCT	Postcolonial theory
PEK	Polyetherketone
PENG	Piezoelectric nanogenerator
PET	Polyethylene terephthalate
PI	Polyimides
PM	Particulate matter
PMG	Parliamentary monitoring group
PP	Polypropylene
PPL	Field Agricultural Extension Worker
PRISMA	Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses
PS	Polystyrene
PSW	Plastic solid waste
PTFE	Polytetrafluoroethylene
PU	Polyurethane
PVC	Polyvinyl chloride
R&D	Research and development
RDF	Refuse-derived fuel
SADC-EU EPA	Southern African Development Community-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement
SASSI	South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative
SC	Supercapacitor
SCPS	Sustainable self-charging power system
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
SFC-TENG	Soft-contact flower-bud array cotton-based triboelectric nanogenerator
SFTG	Subsistence Fisheries Task Group
SPEC	Self-powered electrocoagulation cell
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
SPW	Solid plastic waste
SSFP	Small-scale fisheries policy
STATSSA	Statistics South Africa
SWG	Scientific working groups
TAC	Total allowable catch
TAE	Total allowable effort
TENG	Triboelectric nanogenerator
TWh	Terawatt-hour
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

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UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UP	Unsaturated Polyester
US	United States
USD	United States Dollar
UUPA	Agrarian Principles Law
VOCs	Volatile organic compounds
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development
WEEE	Waste electrical and electronic equipment
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
ZIB	Zinc-ion battery
ZSM-5	Zeolite Socony Mobil-5

About the Editors

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Foreword

The transition from fossil fuel to clean energy has been riddled with contestations between those in denial of the impact of climate change, who are opposed to the efforts at sequestering carbon; and ecojustice activists pushing the advocacy for the responsible use of our planet so that the upcoming and future generations will inherit an inhabitable space. These debates featured prominently in the build-up to the US presidential elections which led to the emergence of President Donald Trump who has been unequivocal in his challenge of the claims to climate change. In line with his opposition to pursuing the transition to alternative energy, he reiterated his commitment to revive the US oil industry to reduce energy costs during his inauguration speech; while declaring a ‘national energy emergency’. He also promised to repeal the mandate on having 50% electric vehicles on US roads by 2030. The US President further displayed his resolve by signing the executive order on the US withdrawal from the 2015 Paris Agreement on the day of his inauguration. The immediacy of President Trump’s actions reflects the challenges of developing national sustainability mechanisms in ensuring just transitions to alternative energy, especially with one of the globe’s highest emitters of carbon pulling out of the Paris Agreement. This is despite the recent environmental impacts on the wildfire that ravaged Los Angeles and the devastating consequences of Hurricanes Milton and Helene in the country’s Southeast.

Nonetheless, the reality of climate change has not only become persistent but threatening to life on earth, to say the least. This is evidenced in the breach of the 1.5°C benchmark for adaptability in 2024. The breach thus reveals that the economic gains of the clean energy industry with a valuation of about \$2 trillion as of 2024 is not sufficient, as there is need to complement it with sustainability practices. The contrast of the climate change debacle lies in the fact that there is no proportional consequence(s) for carbon emission, such that most of its devastating impacts are being felt by least developed countries within the Global South, especially in Africa; despite having significantly lower carbon emission rates in comparison to industrialised nations like the United States, China, Russia, Japan, India, and Iran.

It is within this context that this volume finds its relevance as it explores how the power dynamics of global energy transitions plays out in the Global South. This effort fits into the recent conversations on decolonising international organisations and their outputs, especially considering their asymmetrical foundations in terms of power, influence, and stakes. With authors drawn from scholars and

practitioners across Africa, South America and Asia, who have expertise in different fields ranging from information and communication technology, through critical geography, sociology, development economics, educational research management, environmental science, fashion and textile design, engineering, marine science to environmental economics, international relations, business strategy, and entrepreneurship; the volume provides a robust engagement of topical issues thematically structured into 3 parts of 13 chapters. The first part deals with equitable transitions into clean energy and contains chapters exploring the economics, justice ability, power dynamics, inclusivity, circular economic pathways and technology of sustainability, especially within peri-urban communities. The second part focussed on the influence of governance, policy and institutions on food productions, E-waste management, ocean conservation, and green pedagogy; while the concluding section interrogated issues around advocacy and human rights including the importance of decolonising policies and debates on climate change and recentering indigenous voices on climate advocacy.

The timeliness of this volume during a period where the African Union is emphasising the centrality of creating and sustaining climate-resilient economic communities towards achieving prosperity and peace, in line with Agenda 2063, is invaluable. There are ongoing efforts on the continent towards restoring degraded lands through regeneration as a means of implementing the Great Green Wall Project. The project is designed to cover 100 million hectares of range and drylands, while sequestering carbon to the tune of 250 million tons by 2030. This will not only create a healthier and more habitable continent but also build economic prosperity by creating over 10 million green jobs, predominantly among members of rural households empowered to create value chains within circular economies. One of the ripple effects of this would be the reduction of pressure on urban infrastructural facilities due to lesser economic migration of rural youths.

Nonetheless, the success of this project remains dependent on the ability of governments (at the continental, regional, and national levels) and their agencies to mobilise funds for green financing, not only through external sources but also by harnessing local philanthropic initiatives. The latter has become more pertinent with the shift in financing priorities in the Global North towards regional and national defence equipment and strategies; amidst the escalating tensions in the Middle East and Europe. While one could contest the rationality of prioritising destructive ventures over sustainable development projects, the reality remains that the rise and consolidation of far-right politics and ideology in donor countries do not signal a positive omen for the future of aid. It is thus pertinent that countries in Africa, and by extension the Global South, begin to develop and implement strategies for withstanding the shocks and stresses of climate change. One sustainable way to achieve this is by reverting to indigenous knowledge systems that could provide cost-effective methods in creating safety nets, as well as investing in indigenous development of the science and technology of alternative energy and sustainability practices, especially those dependent on nature-based solutions.

As we approach the end of the first half of the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration declared by the UN, it is important to take stock of the gains and challenges

of the efforts at climate resilient development initiatives. These include attempts at revamping the food chain, transformation of the water systems and blue economy, low emission and digitally driven industrial development, provision of safer transportation, clean energy production, as well as the general protection of our land-based ecosystem. The chapters in this volume are thus recommended to stimulate critical appraisals of the efforts thus far and inspire further organic innovative solutions towards the preservation of our planet.

Philip A. Olayoku
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January 2025

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Preface

The idea for this handbook has been in development for a while. It is driven by our belief that the voices and perspectives from the Global South are too often overlooked in global conversations on sustainability, energy transitions, and social justice. This volume seeks to bridge the gap created by the historical lack of attention to these critical voices. We aim to provide a platform for essential reflections and practical solutions shaped by the lived realities of communities in the Global South as they confront and adapt to complex challenges.

This work is not merely an academic compilation but an urgent call to reframe conversations around sustainability and energy transitions in ways that respect, incorporate, and prioritise the unique perspectives of the Global South. We aim to challenge traditional Western-centric narratives while centring the knowledge, experiences, and insights emerging from these regions. Through this handbook, we highlight the pressing issues facing communities in the Global South and offer grounded, locally informed solutions that advocate for social justice and equitable development.

Curating a volume of this nature is no small task. Chance played a significant role in bringing together the contributions, and the process often required dedication beyond regular working hours – including holidays – to finalise the manuscript. Balancing rigorous academic inquiry with actionable, real-world applications was our guiding principle. While scholarly in content, this handbook is also designed to resonate with practitioners, policymakers, and a broader audience committed to creating tangible change. A significant outcome has been achieving a balanced approach, with chapters addressing both conceptual frameworks and practical applications, providing meaningful alternatives for policy and practice.

The academic community has much to contribute to sustainability and energy justice. However, the true value of this work lies in its potential to inform and influence policies that address the needs of affected communities. By grounding our discussions in the contexts of the Global South, we ensure that the knowledge presented is not merely theoretical but actionable in tackling long-standing issues of inequality and injustice.

This detailed volume comprises 13 chapters that explore diverse topics related to energy transitions, sustainability, and social justice. Multidisciplinary in scope, the chapters provide fresh perspectives on enduring challenges, blending theoretical discussions with practical solutions. A strong commitment to advancing

decolonial approaches underpins this work, ensuring relevance and resonance for its intended audiences. While the introductory chapter offers a comprehensive perspective on these issues, we acknowledge that fully capturing such an expansive field is an immense task. We encourage readers to view this as a thoughtful summary of the most pertinent issues rather than an exhaustive account.

We hope this handbook serves as a valuable resource for engaging with contemporary issues in sustainability, energy justice, and social equity. Furthermore, we hope it inspires other researchers to build upon this foundation. In future research, we aim to explore areas that have received limited attention or were beyond the scope of this volume.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to all the authors who contributed their expertise and insights to this project. Their dedication has been instrumental in bringing this handbook to life. We remain aware that the work of rethinking sustainability and energy justice is far from complete. The challenges are ongoing, and new questions continue to arise. This book is but one step in a broader, continuous conversation. We hope it will encourage further research, dialogue, and action towards a more just and sustainable future for all. Any shortcomings, of course, are entirely our own.

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We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all the authors who have contributed their valuable insights and expertise to *The Emerald Handbook of Sustainable Energy Transition and Social Justice*. Each chapter represents a significant contribution to the ongoing discourse surrounding sustainability, decolonisation, and the imperative for more inclusive and equitable sustainability practices.

The diversity of perspectives presented throughout this book reflects the collective effort to reimagine sustainability in ways that are more attuned to the historical, cultural, and socio-political realities of marginalised communities, particularly the Global South. We acknowledge the dedication, hard work, and intellectual rigour of all the contributors, whose thought-provoking research and analysis have enriched this volume.

Our sincere thanks go to each of you for your willingness to share your knowledge, challenge established paradigms, and push the boundaries of sustainability studies. Your commitment to decolonising the field of sustainability is invaluable, and your contributions will undoubtedly inspire future generations of scholars, practitioners, and activists in their pursuit of a more just and sustainable world.

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Introduction – Beyond Green Promises: Sustainable Energy Transition and Social Justice

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To date, scholars have not fully or exhaustively addressed many of the gaps in the global discourse on sustainable energy transitions and social justice. Those who have attempted to engage with these issues have often done so from perspectives that reflect their own assumptions and priorities while neglecting other contexts that may not align with their frameworks. While this is understandable, we believe much of the progress made thus far has followed a well-worn path, often at the expense of exploring alternative approaches (see [Harrison & Omeihe, 2023](#); [Omeihe, 2023](#)). For us, the priority and shared interest lie in shifting the focus to the Global South.

The need to demonstrate the importance of topics such as climate change, energy transitions, and sustainability arises from their critical relevance. If these issues have risen to prominence in international policy debates, then scholars must be prepared to avoid overlooking the Global South. Yet, the perspectives, contexts, and experiences of the Global South remain underrepresented. This is why, for us, this work serves as a way to present perspectives that relate to our readers' own realities, rather than perspectives disconnected from their experiences. The justification for this handbook is embedded in two main rationales: first, it is designed to foreground these narratives by offering a nuanced analysis that bridges sustainability and justice while challenging existing paradigms rooted in historical inequities; second, it aims to contribute meaningfully to addressing the gaps that existing studies have left unresolved.

**The Emerald Handbook of Sustainable Energy Transition and Social Justice:
Contemporary Issues and Debates in the Global South, 1–7**

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And yet, readers will find that our exploration begins by examining why the Global South often remains peripheral in mainstream sustainability discourse. In doing so, we aim to bring readers into close contact with issues that cannot be effectively addressed without recognising the enduring legacies of colonialism, which continue to shape socio-economic structures, environmental governance, and energy systems. The limitations of existing studies are apparent throughout the chapters, as the handbook takes a distinct approach by critically engaging with the intersections of decolonisation, energy sovereignty, and social equity – perspectives that are key to creating context-specific solutions for sustainable development.

Attempting to understand even the current aspects of sustainability and energy transitions within this volume is perhaps to stretch the realities that often emerge from the Global South, as far as the volume will allow. However, in addressing this gap, we want to take the time to recognise the labour of scholars who have laid the foundations for this work. Without their efforts, existing approaches drawn from the Global North would continue to be promoted as universally applicable solutions to climate change.

Another justification for this handbook is that it addresses the frequent neglect of the rich diversity of indigenous knowledge systems, including cultural practices and community-based approaches, which have long sustained harmony with the environment in the Global South (Arvizu & Saravia-Shore, 2017; Ball & Janyst, 2008; Poupart et al., 2000).

This aspect of the book challenges the hegemony of dominant frameworks and advocates for a reimagined approach to sustainability – one that is inclusive, equitable, and firmly rooted in local realities.

It is worth pointing out in this connection that large-scale renewable energy projects – such as solar parks, wind farms, and hydroelectric dams – are often celebrated as milestones in the transition to clean energy. However, in practice, these projects can often replicate the extractivist tendencies of fossil fuel industries, by displacing local communities, degrading ecosystems, and perpetuating cycles of exploitation. Such developments often reflect global power imbalances, with the Global North retaining control over resources and decision-making while leaving communities in the Global South marginalised. This handbook, for these reasons, examines these dynamics and highlights alternative models of energy transition that prioritise energy sovereignty, decentralisation, and community empowerment.

We believe these issues can be complicated and uneven because decolonising sustainability should emphasise dismantling entrenched systems of power and knowledge that perpetuate global inequities. This requires prioritising the voices of marginalised communities and acknowledging the disproportionate burden of environmental degradation borne by the Global South. What we do know is that the narrative from the Global South offers a wealth of practices that integrate ecological soundness with social equity. These narratives demonstrate the potential for sustainable development pathways that are not only environmentally effective but also socially transformative.

This handbook favours solutions that highlight structural inequities embedded in global environmental governance, such as carbon markets and net-zero

frameworks, which often reinforce dependency and restrict sovereignty in the Global South. The need for such investigations is crucial in achieving genuine social justice in energy transitions, as it demands reparative justice. Another reason, which is important and should be specified clearly, is holding the Global North accountable for historical emissions and ensuring equitable climate financing mechanisms. This is particularly significant today in empowering vulnerable communities rather than perpetuating debt cycles or geopolitical agendas.

Two further observations remain to be made. First, it is important for energy transitions in the Global South not to be separated from broader struggles for social justice. Otherwise, historical inequalities – compounded by climate vulnerability, economic instability, and political marginalisation – will be overlooked. This demands an integrated approach that addresses class, race, ethnicity, and gender-based disparities. This is why this handbook explores how energy justice can be used to tackle systemic inequities while recognising the value of ecosystems and challenging the commodification of nature. Moreover, energy sovereignty is central to this vision. This involves recognising that there are no one-size-fits-all solutions; rather, energy sovereignty emphasises the right of communities to determine how energy is produced, distributed, and consumed in alignment with their cultural and social contexts.

Our second observation is that while we advocate for a decolonised approach to sustainability and energy transitions, we do not reject modern technologies or global cooperation. Instead, we call for reimagining these concepts through the lenses of equity, inclusion, and respect for diversity. However, it is crucial that the Global South plays an active role in global decision-making, and historical injustices must be addressed to pave the way for a just and sustainable future.

The interpretation being applied here is that a focus on the specific cultural, social, historical, and environmental contexts of the Global South is an argument in favour of understanding the challenges and opportunities of sustainable energy transitions. This underscores the need to explore the range of power dynamics, knowledge hierarchies, and economic systems that shape global sustainability policies. It is also within this context that we state there is room for optimism, even within the boundaries of existing knowledge gaps.

That is why a great deal of effort has been put in place by the authors in this book, who have made significant progress in advancing their interpretation and knowledge of the field. It is hoped that together, the perspectives offered here will produce and showcase pathways towards a more equitable and sustainable global future. But more importantly, the output will be of greater relevance, such that the lessons of resilience, adaptability, and community-driven innovation from the Global South can guide us all.

On this view, and based on this intellectual journey, we reaffirm the urgency of integrating justice and empowerment into the sustainability agenda. For what it's worth, we hope this contribution fosters a meaningful recognition of the Global South, by ensuring that the interests of its population are duly considered. The perspectives shared here represent an authentic interpretation from individuals within the Global South and should be regarded as a valuable and accurate viewpoint in the broader discourse. There is still much to learn about living in harmony with nature and creating solutions that are ecologically sound and socially

equitable. As such, the narrative presented in these notes should be seen as a call to action and is imagining of the possibilities for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Introducing the Chapters

Gabriel Kahan (Chapter 1) examines the rise of green industrial policy amidst the climate crisis and critiques the derisking of green investments. While this critique highlights the subordination of states to capital, the chapter argues it misinterprets 20th-century developmental states, leading to flawed analyses of contemporary policy. With a focus on the Global South, the chapter critiques Just Energy Transition Partnerships and proposes strategies for just, low-carbon transitions free from core-periphery dependencies.

In Chapter 2, Nele Bülow and Chigozie Nweke-Eze critique large-scale renewable energy projects in the Global South by highlighting the risks of green colonialism and energy injustices. Using Kenya's Lake Turkana Wind Power project as a case study, the chapter explores how colonial legacies influence renewable energy development which led to social inequality and environmental harm. Drawing on interviews and post-colonial studies, the chapter offers insights to enhance equity and sustainability in renewable energy initiatives.

Julius Omokhudu Irene et al. (Chapter 3) explore the role of natural gas in the global energy transition while focussing on energy equity in fossil-fuel-dependent economies. Using Nigeria as a case study, they argue that natural gas provides flexibility to balance energy poverty reduction and climate goals. The chapter highlights energy equity as a key to sustainable development and offers strategies to address related challenges in the Global South.

In Chapter 4, Piyush Pandey and Avinash Pratap Gupta address the growing plastic waste crisis by emphasising its environmental and economic challenges. The chapter reviews advance in solid plastic waste recycling with a focus on poly olefinic materials from single-use plastics. It explores four key treatment methods – re-extrusion, mechanical, chemical, and energy recovery – highlighting their potential to reduce green house gas emissions and preserve resources. The authors propose strategies for sustainable waste management to mitigate climate change impacts.

Chapter 5 by Raphael Kanyire Seidu et al. explores the potential of tribo electric nanogenerators (TENGs) as a sustainable energy solution for rural communities in the Global South. The chapter examines TENGs' mechanisms for converting ambient mechanical energy into electricity, addressing design considerations, challenges, and socio-economic impacts. It discusses the technology's role in reducing reliance on fossil fuels and enhancing energy accessibility. The chapter also offers policy recommendations for scalability.

Chapter 6 by Dedy Ilham Perdana, Ahmad Arif Widiyanto, and Reza Amarta Prayoga discusses Indonesia's Food Estate (FE) development project as a response to the global food crisis. While FE projects aim to secure food sources, they often lead to environmental degradation and force farmers to plant unsuitable crops. The chapter critiques the state's top-down approach, where farmers

become subjugated to state control, risking their livelihood and undermining agricultural autonomy.

Sunita Dewitt and Elmar Puntaier (Chapter 7) examine the challenges of electrical and electronic equipment waste (WEEE) disposal, especially in the Global South. Their study explores the role of institutions in shaping effective WEEE management using institutional theory. Their review of 53 articles identifies seven institutional roles: policy development, regulation, compliance, strategic planning, economic viability, knowledge development, and proactive research. The chapter introduces environmental bridging as a key institutional responsibility for sustainable WEEE management.

Danai J. Tembo (Chapter 8) examines the historical marginalisation of coastal fishing communities in South Africa by emphasising how past legislation and the growing privatisation of marine resources excluded numerous racial groups. The chapter centres on the 2012 Small-Scale Fisheries Policy, designed to empower small-scale fishers by granting preferential fishing zones and enhancing market access. Despite these initiatives, persistent legal challenges and governance issues continue to impede the full inclusion of small-scale fishers in ocean governance.

In Chapter 9, Eduardo Barros-Guerrero and Andrés Felipe Bueno-Lugo examine the role of education in fostering sustainability within Latin American Higher Education Institutions. Drawing from Latin American Environmental Education and Latin American Environmental Thinking, they explore the coexistence of diverse epistemologies, including indigenous knowledge. Through the analysis of 149 global documents, the chapter highlights the pedagogical approaches, sustainability objectives, and critical contextual elements necessary for advancing Education for Sustainable Development in the region.

Research has shown that colonial legacies continue to shape unsustainable systems in the Global South. Despite advancements in sustainability research, the influence of coloniality is often overlooked. David Flood Chavez (Chapter 10) focusses on Lima's fog oases to examine how land-trafficking exploits vulnerable ecosystems. The chapter provides a decolonial framework by highlighting the need to address systemic violence and territorial impacts while advancing the discourse on sustainability transitions towards more equitable solutions.

As a result of the ongoing clash between Western-driven LGBTQ+ rights activism and African socio-cultural contexts, Saymore Masaisai (Chapter 11) examines the intersection of sexual minority rights, colonial legacies, and geopolitical factors in Africa. Using a decolonial framework, the study highlights health disparities and socio-political marginalisation faced by African men who have sex with men. It calls for culturally relevant strategies, decolonising human rights discourses, and advocating for inclusive, locally motivated LGBTQ+ rights activism.

Ajaz Ahmed (Chapter 12) highlights the epistemic injustices faced by low-income Global South communities due to the dominance of Western knowledge systems in policymaking which often overlooks local knowledge and traditions, leading to inequities and inefficiencies. This chapter calls for incorporating traditional practices and community voices into climate action, promoting culturally sensitive, inclusive, and sustainable solutions.

Katty Cascante Hernández and Xira Ruiz-Campillo (Chapter 13) examine how indigenous peoples and local communities approach climate justice and food sovereignty by challenging power structures and economic systems that sustain inequality and environmental harm. Despite their recognised importance in the UNFCCC framework, their contributions often remain marginalised in decision-making and implementation. The chapter underscores the need for greater inclusion to address systemic gaps in climate policy and action.

Sustainable Energy Transition and Social Justice: Strategic Outlook and Critical Challenges in the Global South

The global shift towards sustainable energy is not only a technological transition but also a socio-political transformation that must prioritise equity and justice. Nowhere is this more crucial than in the Global South, where climate change, economic disparities, and energy access challenges intersect. This volume critically examines the urgent need for an energy transition that is not only sustainable but also just, ensuring that marginalised communities are active participants in shaping their energy futures rather than passive recipients of externally imposed solutions.

A key argument in this work is the necessity of moving beyond Western-centric sustainability models, which often fail to account for the historical and socio-political complexities unique to the Global South. The pathway to a just energy transition must be led by local knowledge, governance structures, and development priorities that reflect the lived experiences of those directly affected. In amplifying these perspectives, this collection challenges prevailing narratives and presents actionable strategies for decolonising energy policy and practice.

Looking ahead, the future of sustainable energy transitions will be defined by how effectively justice is embedded in global energy governance. Strengthening regional leadership, reconfiguring financial mechanisms, and adopting decolonial approaches will be essential to ensuring that the Global South drives its own sustainable development agenda. The focus must shift from prescriptive global frameworks to context-sensitive solutions that empower communities and nations to build resilient, inclusive energy systems.

This volume serves as both a critique and a forward-looking analysis of the road ahead. It calls on policymakers, scholars, and industry leaders to not only rethink existing paradigms but also actively engage in shaping a more equitable energy future. The Global South must not merely adapt to sustainability transitions – it must lead them, ensuring that the principles of justice, inclusion, and self-determination are at the heart of the global energy agenda.

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