Energy storage for resilience lesotho

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Lesotho, located in southern Africa, is a small landlocked country surrounded by South Africa. The country"s 30,355-square kilometer (sq km) land area is characterized by a rugged terrain, with only 10 percent of the land area considered arable. Lesotho has a high degree of risk to natural hazards, including floods, droughts, frost, strong winds, and heavy snowfall. The population"s vulnerability to climate change is exacerbated by the fact that over 70 percent live in remote and ecologically fragile mountainous terrain.

Africa-Press – Lesotho. In 2023, the promise remains broken: rich nations deny their responsibility while devouring massive amounts of new gas, coal, and oil, and the proposed "just transition" for energy is anything but. Current actions are too slow and filled with hypocrisy; to delay is dangerous.

In Africa and other emerging markets, proposed decarbonization pathways, including those dubbed as equitable, preclude thousands of communities from development pathways that have yielded rapid economic growth in advanced economies.

Coverage of the just energy transition often speaks of the opportunities that it presents to lower-income countries but fails to address the structural barriers to those opportunities being realized and ignores the inherent injustices by rich countries implementing climate policies that restrict developing countries" agency and access to financial resources for projects critical to development.

If current trends in climate finance flows continue, Africa faces an annual GDP shortfall of $127bn by 2030. There are still deep inequalities associated with the just energy transition, a lack of consensus about exactly who is on the frontlines, and innumerable gaps in what is currently in place to assist lower-income, lower-emitting countries through the transition.

The world"s wealthiest 5% use more energy than the poorest half of the global population combined. And more than 3 billion people in the poorest countries live in energy poverty, 80% of them in Africa and 18% in Asia. The Group of Seven (G7) subsidized fossil fuels by more than $80bn in 2021 alone, while lecturing poor countries about their dangers.

These fossil finance flows must be diverted from polluting industries to major investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and related infrastructure like grids and power storage considering each ecosystems" resilience, as well as their interconnection, conservation, and sustainable use.

Questions of justice are prominent in the global debates on climate finance. Concrete financial commitments on behalf of developed countries remain abysmal, and many climate-vulnerable countries still struggle to mobilize climate finance.

While $100 billion a year is still considered the watershed figure for climate investment, the reality is that trillions, not billions, are now required for the remainder of the Decisive Decade. In addition, the complexity of application processes to access financing, for example from multilateral climate funds, poses significant challenges.

Governments must be far more systematic about how the low-carbon transition can be financed, especially in countries facing a serious cost of capital barriers and dire debt sustainability challenges -- all exacerbated by the Ukraine conflict in the Global North.

Recently published IEA analysis estimates that annual clean energy investment in emerging and developing economies needs to increase by more than seven times to over $4trn by 2030 to put the world on track to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

Both climate justice and social justice must be intertwined to address poverty, historic and present greenhouse gas emissions by the rich, colonial legacies, and perpetuated racism.

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Web: https://hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/
Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com
WhatsApp: 8613816583346