

Leave No One Behind, Climate Change-Just Energy Transition Trajectory Exclusion Scenarios: A case study of Kriel and Carolina in Mpumalanga, South Africa

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SAIMM ESG Conference 2024



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1. Background

Climate change

A long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates" (NASA, n.d).

Just energy Transition (JET)

A response to the Paris 2015 calls for Climate Change Mitigation.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND (LNOB)

"A central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

It emphasises tackling

exclusions caused by:

- **Social inequalities and**
- **Discrimination**
- and emphasises **reaching the furthest behind first'** (UNICEF, n.d.)

2. Aim:

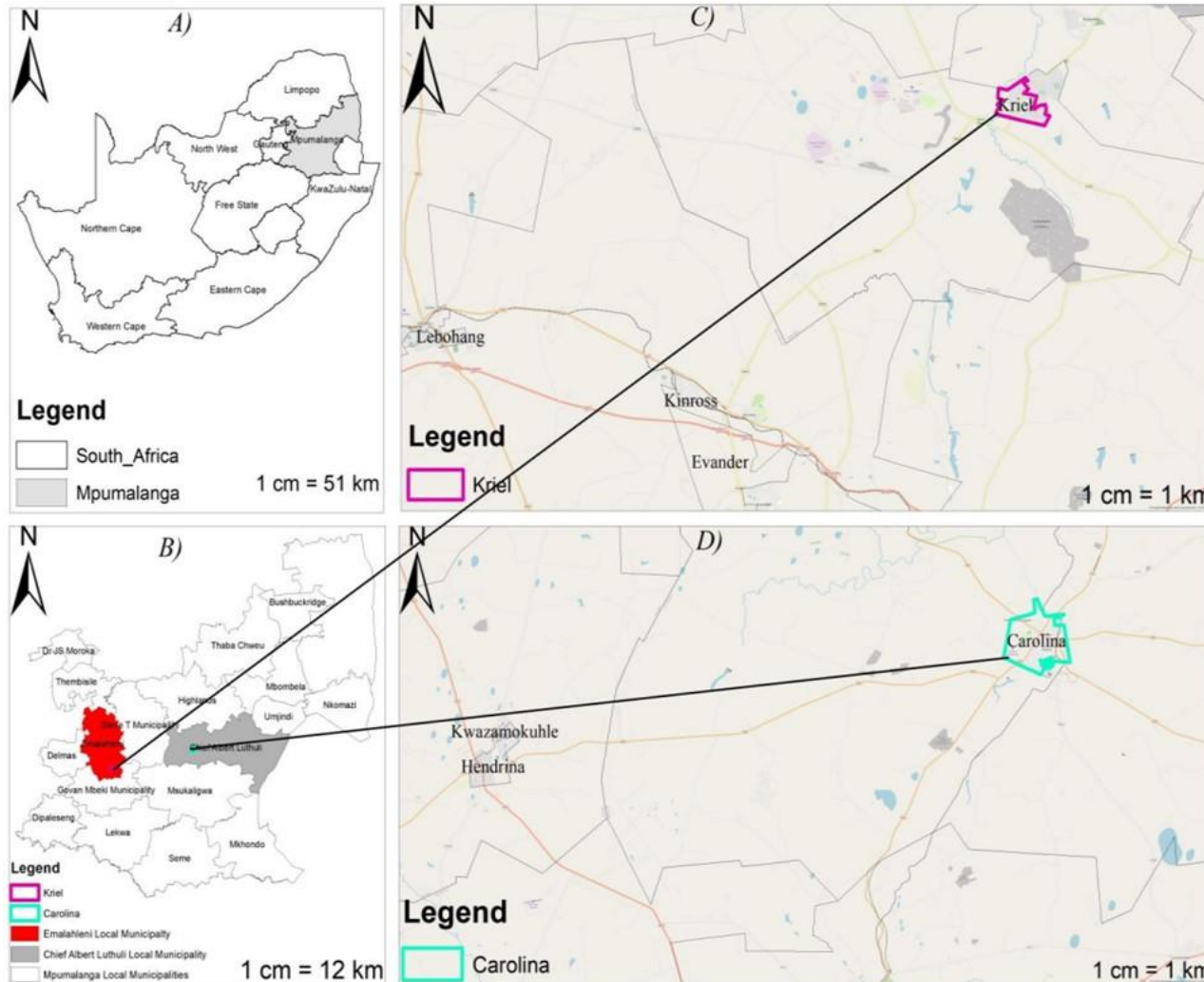
To review the principle of leave no one behind amid discrimination and social inequality driven exclusions among the climate change-JET impacted communities.



3. Research Questions

1. How do social inequality-driven exclusions along the climate change-JET trajectory leave people behind?
2. How do discrimination-driven exclusions within the climate change-JET context leave people behind?
3. What strategies can we implement to guarantee a climate change-JET pathway that complies with LNOB principles?

4. Locational Map of the Study Areas



Source: (Selahle, 2022)

5. Methodology

Qualitative Design

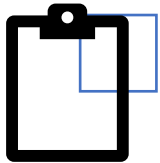
Mixed methods

Participants
(n=230)

Data
Analysis



**Data Collecting
Instruments**



Questionnaires



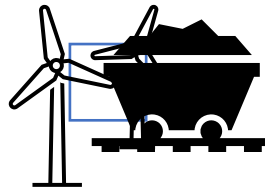
Interviews



Mining
Communities



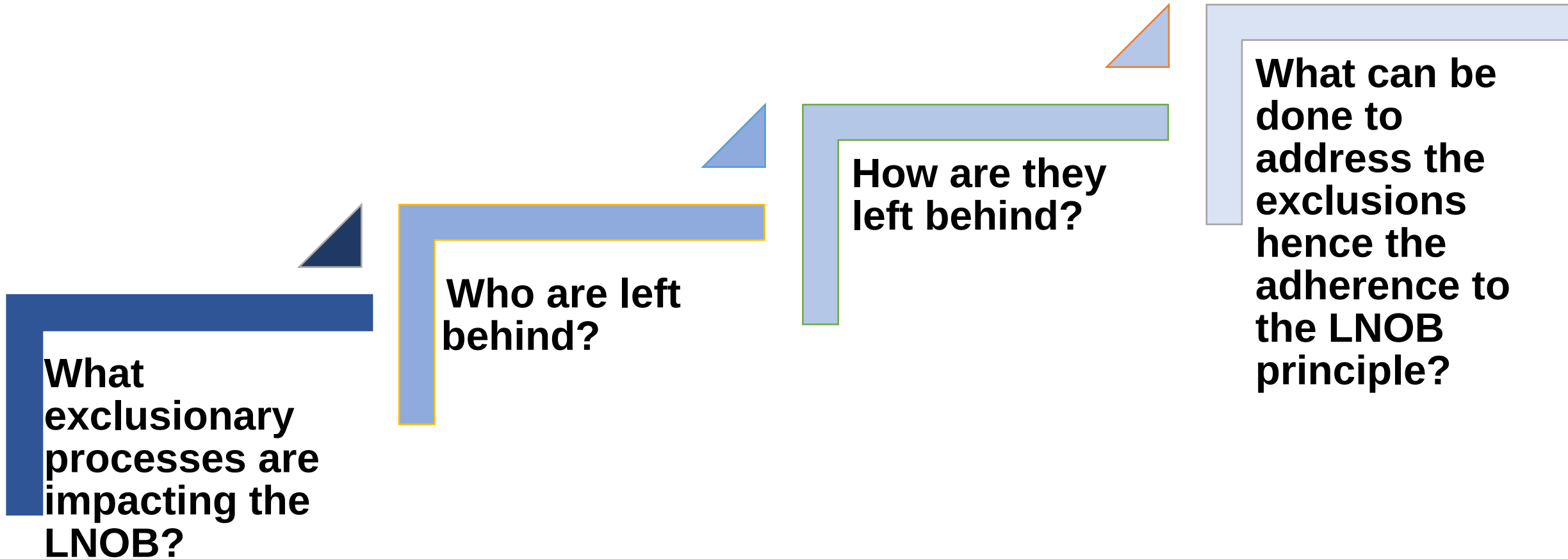
Academics



Renewable Energy and
Coal Experts

Content Analysis

6. Results and Discussions



What exclusionary processes are impacting the LNOB?

DISCRIMINATION

Practices that produce disadvantages/injustice; and exclusion from a group (Ficara, 2024).

It can be based on sex, race, culture, status, education, ethnicity etcetera, it is prohibited under section 9(3) of the SA constitution (South African Human Rights Commission [SHRC], 2019).

SOCIAL INEQUALITY

It intertwines with the global climate crisis, sustaining extreme poverty, labour exploitation, unequal resource distribution, exclusions, and discriminations influenced by class, gender, and ethnicity (Little, 2016; Shirley, 2021).



6. Who is left behind?

Women, black farmers, formal and informal businesses, the youth, the elderly coal workers, contract workers and the unemployed, JET affected coal mining communities and workers, people living with disabilities e.t.c

How are they left behind?

DISCRIMINATION:

- Land ownership rights discriminated against **women**.
- Cultural Stereotypes—STEM subjects—recruitment—**women**—self-discrimination
- Nepotism (Limpopo, KZN, vs. locals)—recruitment (discrimination by logical selection)
- Recruitment of contract workers (systemic discrimination) - mainly youth (Plumwood's (1993) *Backgrounding- discriminated against & left behind-permanent employment*)
- There is discrimination between the elderly and young employees through logical selection.
- Use of aggregated data in plans to manage and reduce the adverse impacts of climate change- JET, potentially discriminates against persons living with disabilities

SOCIAL INEQUALITIES:

- Relocation-impacted communities are unequally impacted.
- Africans and white farmers face racial disparities in adapting to low-carbon agricultural technology and acquiring new skills.
- Transition affects small-scale, formal, and informal companies differently than big companies along the value chain (reskilling and retrenchment packages).

**8. What can be done to address the exclusions hence the adherence to the LNOB principle?
(Recommendations)**

Gender mainstreaming- to deal with women who are mostly disadvantaged relative to men

Age Mainstreaming- target the youth (unemployed and contractual labour) and the elderly

Enforcement of land redistribution- consider the radical exclusions of women

Innovation hubs, business incubators,
Entrepreneurship skills (youth and elderly),
Agricultural extension workers (small holder farmers)

Use of disaggregated data in climate change-JET planning, is necessary for labour markets to help prioritise people living with disabilities.

8. Conclusion

- Gender, age, race, and class are significant factors in the discrimination and social inequalities that exclude people.
- The legacy of apartheid laws impacts landownership and technical skill repertoire, leading to discrimination and inequalities between women and men; minority and majority races compromise the LNOB principle.
- We also observe inequalities among women in climate change adaptation according to their class, level of education, and race, leaving the less privileged ones behind as the JET unfolds amid the climate change crisis.
- The elderly approaching retirement, and unskilled youth face discrimination, as some are deemed untrainable, thereby excluding them from reskilling and employment opportunities compromising the LNOB principle.
- Small-scale formal and informal industries as well as contract workers are excluded during JET planning, hence left behind in the low-carbon economy initiatives.
- There is a need to account for climate change and JET impacts on the labour market and implications for workers and entrepreneurs with disabilities.

9. References

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THANK YOU!

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