

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE NEWSLETTER

Advancing a Just & Inclusive Energy Transition

Strengthening capacity, fostering collaboration, and
driving climate action across the Global South

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Together, we power a just and sustainable future

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Chair	Chukwuemeka Diji	Nexus International University, Uganda
Co-Chair	Kamila Mendez	UNICARIBE, Dominican Republic
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	Jean de Dieu Nguimfack	University of Bamenda, Cameroon
	Abdu Kalema Kaggwa	UNACC, Uganda
Data, Monitoring & Platform Lead	Mario Heredia	PUCE University, Ecuador
Observer Member	Daniel Egbe	African Network for Solar Energy, Cameroon
Avina member	Mirana Andriarisoa	Programmatic coordinator
CoP FACILITATOR		
Mariana Hoffmann		

Impulsouth is a global initiative that supports a just and gender-responsive energy transition by strengthening capacity builders and innovation enablers across Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean

It is supported by implementing partners - Fundación Avina and the United Nations University–Vice Rectorate in Europe (UNU-VIE) - and funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC-CRDI).



What is the Community of Practice Impulsouth?

The **Community of Practice (CoP)** impulsouth serves as a collaborative platform to enhance capacities within the energy sector, driving a just and inclusive energy transition with a strong emphasis on gender equality. Bringing together diverse stakeholders, the CoP accelerates progress across nine countries in the Global South: Bolivia, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Madagascar, Uganda, and Zambia, by strengthening the institutional role in capacity building and fostering effective South-South cooperation.

Key Objectives

- ☒ Strengthen energy sector capacity
- ☒ Promote gender-inclusive participation
- ☒ Encourage South–South knowledge sharing
- ☒ Influence climate and energy policy

Who can join?

Open to: Universities · NGOs · Enterprise orgs · Sectorial Associations · Regional & international Bodies

600+

Members

11

CoP Sessions 2025

4

Working Groups

Register here: <https://cop.impulsouth.org>

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Impulsouth is a collaborative initiative that has been working since 2021 to enhance knowledge and capacity for climate action in Africa and the LAC region. It is supported by implementing partners - Fundación Avina and the United Nations University–Vice Rectorate in Europe (UNU-VIE) - and funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC-CRDI).

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In 2025, the Impulsouth CoP held 11 monthly online sessions in English, French, and Spanish — covering South–South dialogues, training programmes, case studies, and governance updates, culminating in participation at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

January–February 2025

- 3 meetings (English, French, and Spanish):
Presentation of survey results on members’ inputs regarding how the CoP should operate.
- Work Plan presentation and validation by CoP members.

March - April 2025

3 meetings (English, French, and Spanish):

Presentations by member organizations: NGOs, universities, enterprise support organizations, sectoral associations, regional and international organizations.

- Training of Trainers on Accelerating Just Energy Transitions

May -June 2025

1st South–South Dialogue:

Energy-Efficient Options (EN/FR/ES)

- Climate Change & Urban Sanitation

Clean Cooking & Energy Transition

July 2025

2nd South–South Dialogue:

Green Hydrogen & Renewable Energy Pathways

August 2025

- **Governance Structure updates:**
Madagascar Clean Cooking / Circular Economy

September 2025

3rd South–South Dialogue:

nergy Transition & Gender Mainstreaming (DR, Uganda, Cameroon)

October-November 2025

- **Lithium & the Energy Transition:**
Experiences from Bolivia

Participation of CoP Members at COP30

Belém, Brazil

December 2025

Electric Mobility & Sustainable Cities

CoP30 outcomes shared by members



Logo Presentation: “Gender & Youth” Working Group – Impulsouth

The Visual Identity

Inside the “Gender & Youth” Working Group Logo
We are proud to unveil the visual identity that will carry our mission forward. More than just a graphic, this logo serves as a manifesto for our work within Impulsouth.

1. Humanity at the Heart of Reflection

The logotype features a woman and a young person, symbolizing inclusion and intergenerational knowledge transfer. Their shared gaze reflects a common ambition: to amplify the voices of youth and women in energy policies across Africa and Latin America & the Caribbean (LAC).

2. A Color-Coded Energy Mix Every hue in our palette tells the story of a resource essential to our transition:

Yellow: Embodies solar energy, the engine of development and a source of light.

Blue: Represents water, evoking hydroelectric potential and the preservation of our water resources.

Green: Symbolizes biomass and our commitment to ecological growth.

3. Momentum Toward the Future

The circle surrounding the figures is more than a frame—it represents the rotating motion of a wind turbine. This cycle symbolizes dynamism, constant innovation, and our irreversible transition toward carbon-free energy.

4. A Vision for Sustainability.

The logo’s overall harmony illustrates the symbiosis between humanity and nature. It serves as a reminder that a successful energy transition is inseparable from social equity and the preservation of biodiversity.

A strong identity for an inclusive and sustainable energy transition

Short Version

“The Gender & Youth Working Group logo by Impulsouth embodies the alliance between social equity and the energy transition. Through powerful chromatic symbols—solar yellow, hydro blue, and biomass green—it places women and youth at the heart of sustainable energy policy-making for Africa and LAC. A dynamic design that reaffirms our mission: humanity in harmony with the environment.

— Jean de Dieu Nguimfack, University of Bamenda

THE VISUAL IDENTITY OF OUR COMMITMENT

-  **Yellow** Solar energy — engine of development and light
-  **Blue** Water — hydroelectric potential and water resources
-  **Green** Biomass — commitment to ecological growth
-  **Stars** Youth and women in energy policy across Africa and LAC
-  **Lightning** Dynamism and energy — the spark of innovation
-  **Circle** The rotating motion of a wind turbine — constant innovation and irreversible transition

Policy Briefs developed by the WG

- Policy Brief #01: [Accelerating the Inclusive Energy Transition: Youth and Gender at the Heart of Action in the Global South](#)
- Version française: [Accélérer la transition énergétique inclusive : les jeunes et le genre au cœur de l'action dans les pays du Sud](#)
- Policy Brief #02: [Women and Youth in the Clean Energy Transition in the Global South](#)

Setting the Course for 2026

The GYWG launches its inaugural semester with 5 strategic axes and a phased roadmap running April–September 2026, placing women and youth at the center of the energy transition.

5 STRATEGIC AXES

- 1 Policy & Advocacy**
Strengthening youth & gender integration in national & regional energy strategies
- 2 Capacity & Leadership**
Developing skills for women and youth in green jobs & energy innovation
- 3 Research & Knowledge**
Documenting and analysing the gender–youth–energy transition nexus
- 4 Mobilization & Partnerships**
Creating synergies with governments, NGOs, and the private sector
- 5 Social Innovation**
Piloting innovative solutions to foster inclusion and climate resilience

Major Deliverables by August 31, 2026:

Apr–May | Phase 1 — Structure & Strategy

- 3-year advocacy agenda for green employment
- Donor Mapping & concept notes for co-financing
- M&E framework with clear KPIs and 2026 baseline

May–Jun | Phase 2 — Tools & Visibility

- Policy Brief #3: Inclusive Energy Transition in the Global South
- #YouthGenderEnergy digital campaign
- Hybrid MOOCs on renewable energy & green entrepreneurship
- Regional survey on barriers to energy access

Jul–Aug | Phase 3 — Pilot & Consolidation

- Applications open: Youth & Women Energy Leaders (100 participants)
- Intergenerational mentoring network launch
- Observatory Beta: Gender, Youth & Transition interactive mapping



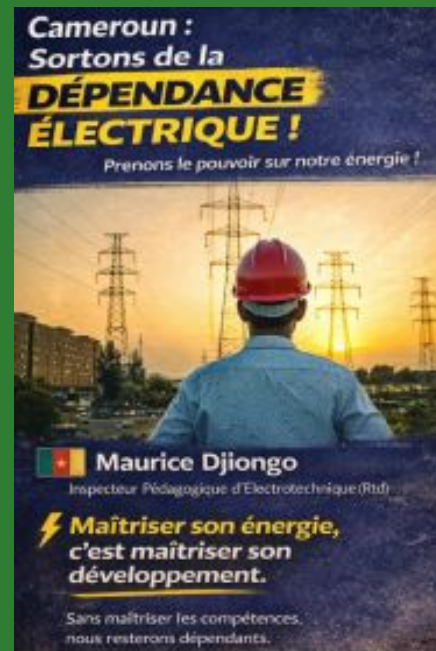
Energy Security in Cameroon

Beyond the Grid: The Competency Challenge

BACKGROUND

On April 7, 2026, during the ImpulsoUrh Community of Practice session on energy security, a pivotal idea emerged: in many developing nations, the energy crisis is fundamentally a challenge of technical and systemic control — not a shortage of natural resources or installed capacity.

Taking Cameroon as a case study, the analysis reveals that despite immense hydroelectric potential and a globally sufficient installed capacity, the country continues to experience persistent outages, high grid losses, and widespread dependence on alternative solutions such as diesel generators.



Authors

Maurice Djongo,
Electrotechnics Pedagogical Inspector (Rtd), President of ENSET Old Students Association (EOSA)

Jean de Dieu Nguimfack,
University of Bamenda



The Competence Paradox

A structural gap in the organization, operation & adaptation of Cameroon's energy system

Despite possessing vast natural energy resources — including major river systems suited for hydroelectric power — and an installed generation capacity that is theoretically sufficient, Cameroon's electricity system consistently underperforms. The root cause is not a lack of energy potential, but a systemic failure in human and organizational capacity to manage, maintain, and adapt the energy infrastructure.



Persistent Outages

Frequent and extended blackouts disrupting households, businesses, and public services across urban and rural areas.



High Grid Losses

significant energy loss during transmission and distribution due to aging infrastructure and inadequate maintenance routines.



Diesel Dependency

populations forced to rely on expensive, polluting diesel generators as a primary fallback when the grid fails.



The energy problem in the Global South is not so much a question of resources, but a matter of competence approach



The Competency-Based Approach

Addressing the human factor at the core of energy security

To address the systemic gap identified in Cameroon's energy sector, the intervention proposes a strategy rooted in the Competency-Based Approach (CBA). This framework recognizes that durable energy security cannot be achieved through infrastructure investment alone — it requires a deliberate, simultaneous investment in the people who operate, maintain, and govern energy systems.



Technical Expertise

01

The capacity to install, maintain, diagnose faults, and pilot complex energy systems — covering generation plants, transmission lines, substations, and distribution networks. This includes hands-on technical training aligned with real operational challenges.



Professional Soft Skills

02

cultivating a genuine "maintenance culture" grounded in rigor, discipline, responsibility, and the capacity for anticipation. Energy professionals must develop proactive mindsets to prevent failures rather than simply react to them — a behavioral shift as critical as any technical skill.



Coordination & Synergy

03

enhancing communication and collaboration between all stakeholders: electricity utilities, government regulators, local communities, technical training institutions, and private operators. Effective coordination multiplies the impact of individual competencies across the entire system.



Towards a Transition of "Power"

Energy transition as empowerment — not just a change of sources

A truly just energy transition cannot be reduced to a simple substitution of energy sources — moving from fossil fuels to renewables. While this technological shift is necessary, it is not sufficient. At its core, a meaningful energy transition must be a transition toward system mastery: the ability of local actors to understand, operate, maintain, and continuously improve their own energy infrastructure.

This systemic mastery then becomes a pathway to genuine empowerment and sovereignty. When communities and nations control their energy systems, they gain a form of real power — economic, social, and political.

Source Transition

Fossil Fuels → Renewables

Necessary but insufficient on its own — the starting point of the journey.

System Mastery

Technical & Organizational Control

The critical step: local actors able to manage and sustain energy systems.

Empowerment

Sovereignty & Real Power

The ultimate goal: energy independence, resilience, and community agency.

KEY TAKEAWAY

"A genuine energy transition means transitioning toward system mastery — and consequently, toward empowerment and real power for communities and nations."



Sustainable Energy Transition and Decarbonization of Mexico’s Road Transport Sector

Authors

Andrea C. Sanchez-Diaz, Julian C. Pena-Bermudez and Ricardo A. Ramirez-Mendoza

Main objective

This study aims to evaluate the role of battery electric vehicles in reducing CO₂ emissions in Latin America by conducting a systematic review of regional literature and analyzing CO₂ emissions from Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) and Internal Combustion Engine Vehicles (ICEVs).

⚡ Battery Electric Vehicles & CO₂ Emissions in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

Key Finding

BEVs consistently produce lower CO₂ emissions than internal combustion vehicles across all Latin American countries studied.

Best Results

Paraguay (99%+ reduction), Costa Rica, Uruguay & Brazil all achieve reductions >90% thanks to renewable-heavy electricity grids.

Fossil-fuel grids

In Cuba and Guyana, BEV emissions are higher but still lower than gasoline vehicles — showing gains even in challenging contexts.

Countries studied

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Ecuador, Venezuela — compared BYD Dolphin, Tesla Model 3, BYD Seagull vs Volkswagen Golf.

Main barriers

High purchase costs, limited charging infrastructure, low public awareness, dependence on fossil-fuel electricity, weak policy implementation.

Conclusion

Electric mobility is both a climate solution and an economic opportunity — but requires coordinated policy, clean energy investment, and further research on battery lifecycle impacts.



Scenarios of sustainable energy transition towards the decarbonisation of the road transport sector: A case study for Mexico

Authors

S.I. Vallarta-Serrano, E. Santoyo-Castelazo, E. Santoyo, R.A. Ramirez-Mendoza, R. Bustamante-Bello, L. Beltrán-Rodríguez.

Main objective

This study provides an integrated assessment methodology applied to a case study of Mexico to propose sustainable energy transition alternatives for the long-term decarbonisation of the national sector. Energy modelling and scenario development methods to obtain holistic alternatives for the transition of this sector were conducted.

 Decarbonising Mexico's Road Transport Sector by 2050

The Challenge

Mexico's road transport accounts for ~35% of national GHG emissions. From 1990–2018, CO₂ emissions rose by 192%, mainly due to gasoline demand growth.

Methodology

An Integrated Assessment Model (IAM) was used to develop 6 scenarios from Business-as-Usual (BAU) to Net Zero by 2050, using top-down macroeconomic modelling.

BAU Scenario

Without intervention: fossil energy +73.7% and CO₂ emissions +71.6% by 2050 compared to 2018 levels.

Net Zero (Scenario F)

Electricity: 73.9% of transport energy | Biofuels: 9.2% | Hydrogen: 8.2% | Fossil fuels: only 8.7% — achieving ~90% emission reduction.

Key Actions

Reduce fossil fuel dependency · Expand renewable electricity · Scale EV & hydrogen vehicles · Develop charging infrastructure · Strengthen public policy.

Conclusion

Decarbonising Mexico's transport by 2050 is technically feasible but requires strong institutional coordination, long-term policy consistency, and major financial investment.

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"A CoP newsletter is only as strong as the community that feeds it."