

Bridging Policy and Reality: Strengthening Justice in Southeast Asia's Energy Transition



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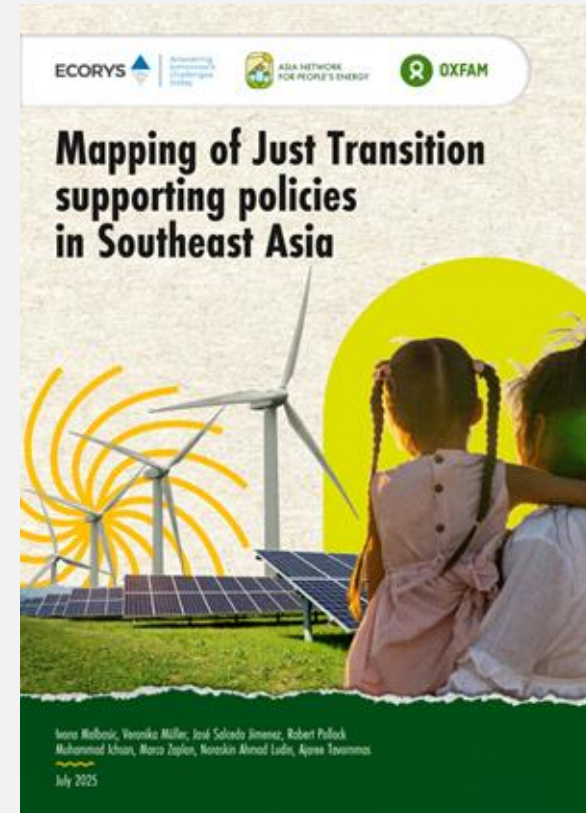
ACEF 2026

Session Topic: 3.1 Embedding Equity in Energy Policy Frameworks

9 June 2026

Introduction

- **Context:** Decarbonisation will have significant impact on the economy/society at large: need for an inclusive and people-centered approach to policy-making.
- **Objective:** to better understand the current state of play in the policy landscape in support of a just energy transition across Southeast Asia
- **Scope:** national level policies related to the energy (power) sector in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia
- Research finished in **July 2025**



Just Transition: Principles and Framework



P1: Transparent and inclusive transition governance mechanisms



P2: Meaningful and inclusive stakeholder engagement



P3: Consideration of vulnerable groups



P4: Equitable workforce transition



P5: Economic diversification

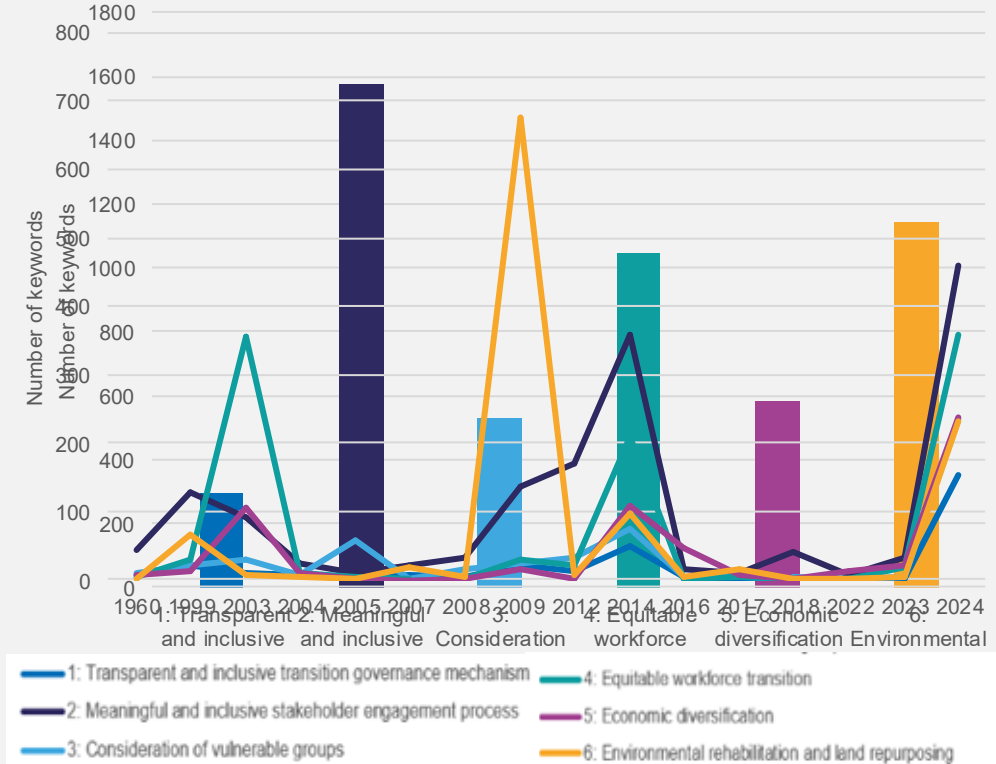


P6: Environmental rehabilitation and land repurposing

- 1: Transparent and inclusive transition governance mechanism
- 2: Meaningful and inclusive stakeholder engagement process
- 3: Consideration of vulnerable groups
- 4: Equitable workforce transition
- 5: Economic diversification
- 6: Environmental rehabilitation and land repurposing

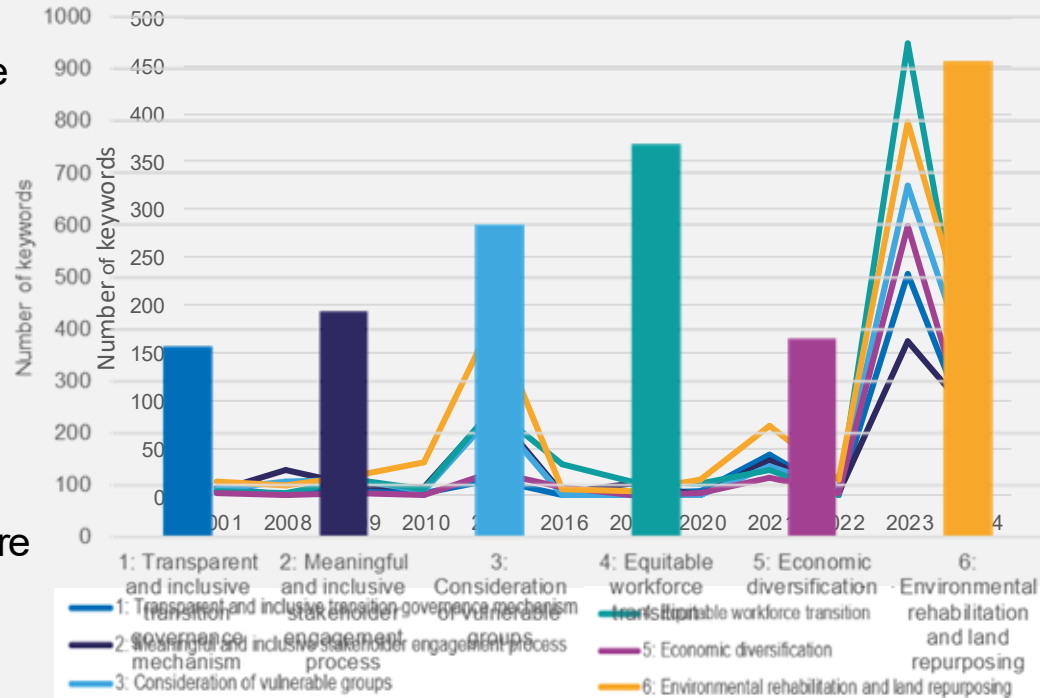
Just transition supporting policies in Indonesia

- 29 policies assessed – 5,000 references to keywords
- **Most ambitious:** P1 (coordination and the appointment of a coordinating body are basic requirements) & P2 (stakeholder identification, clarification of respective roles and public consultation are common practises in Indonesian policymaking)
- **Least ambitious:** P4 & P5 (little focus on social considerations related to workers and economic diversification)
- Older policies show stronger signs of procedural justice as compared to more recently passed policies.



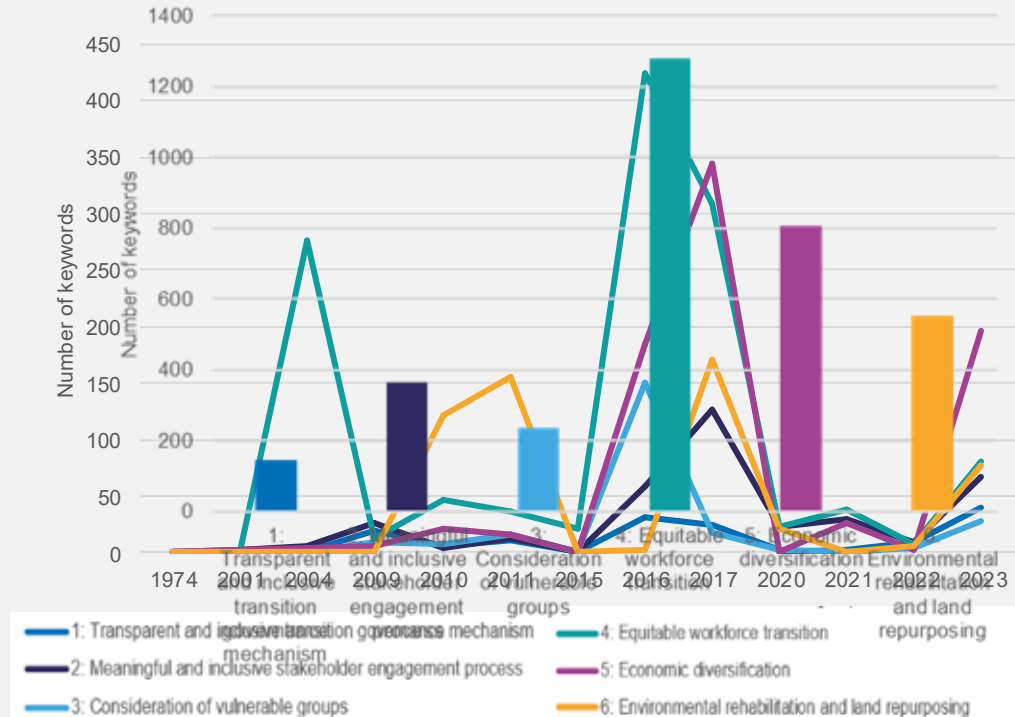
Just transition supporting policies the Philippines

- 24 policies assessed – 3,300 references to keywords
- Strategic planning documents include more references than legislation
- **Most ambitious:** P1 & P2 (formal/clear institutional frameworks, although only few policies include concrete mechanisms for transparency, accountability, or feedback)
- **Least ambitious:** P5 (limited provisions to enterprise support) & P3 (human rights frameworks not addressed)
- Just transition ambitions higher in policies passed in the past few years (stronger linkages across sectors/institutions and more participatory).
- Higher frequency in policies of post 2022 – clear acceleration of integration of JT principles



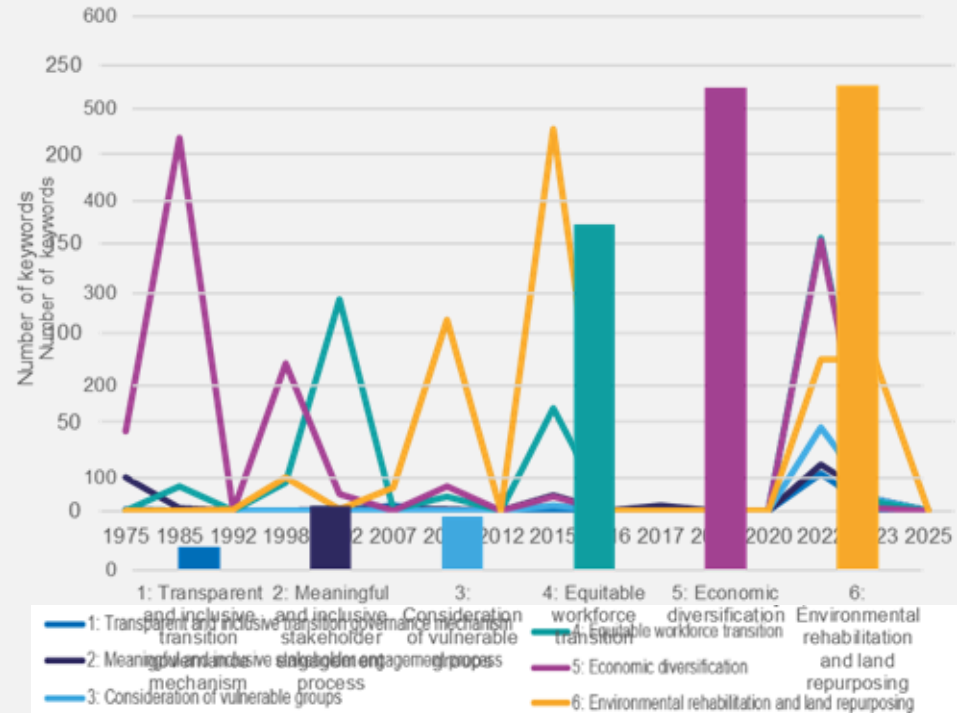
Just transition supporting policies Malaysia

- 27 policies assessed – 3,500 references to keywords
- **Most ambitious:** P1&P2 are least cited but best articulated in Malaysian policy (aspects of cross-ministerial coordination; stakeholder engagement and feedback processes)
- **Least ambitious:** P3 (marginalised populations are inconsistently identified and not systematically integrated into planning or decision-making). Limited ambition of P4/P5 due to a lack of concrete measures and broad gap identified for JT financing mechanisms.
- Frequency is higher in policies issued since 2015.



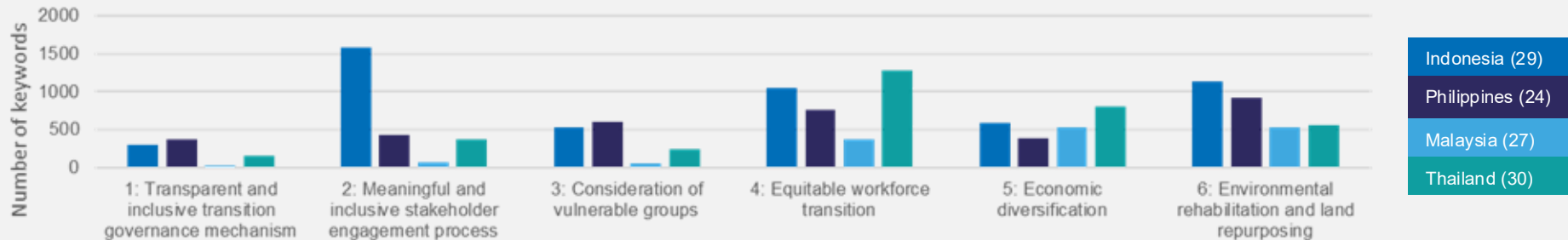
Just transition supporting policies the Thailand

- 30 policies assessed – 1,500 references to keywords
- Substantial shift in focus from economic diversification to environmental restoration post-2022
- **Least ambitious:** P1 (highly fragmented approach without dedicated national policy or legal framework for JT)
- **Most ambitious:** P5 (strong economic growth and market-based mechanisms)
- P3, P4 and P6 are addressed through key strategies but moderate ambition remains due to lack of effective governance mechanisms



Cross-country comparison

- ‘Just transition’ is inconsistently used but **related principles are increasingly being mainstreamed** into national policy frameworks.



- **Emergence and usage** of the principles in public policy **vary** across the four countries and six principles
- **High ambitions** for P1/P2 and policy gaps in P4/P5/P6 in Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia vs. Thailand where the picture is the opposite

- Despite growing references and policy ambitions recorded on paper, the **on-the-ground implementation of just transition principles** across Southeast Asia **remains uneven** and fraught with structural challenges.
- Absence of cohesive national frameworks, empowered coordination bodies, and practical tools for monitoring and enforcement continues to limit the real-world implementation and impact of just transition policies.



Legal hierarchies, overlapping mandates, inconsistent interministerial coordination, public consultations only procedural formalities, and manipulated/inaccessible ESAs



Institutional mechanisms for stakeholder engagement exist on paper, but subnational implementation is weak due to limited capacity and funding. Vulnerable groups are acknowledged in policy but rarely supported with targeted measures or budget allocations



Regional disparities in terms of government capacities, fragmented land-use regulations, siloed ministry programmes, slow permitting processes further obstruct consistent implementation



Superficial public consultation, lacking transparency and genuine inclusivity, ministries operate in silos, and enforcement mechanisms are weak



Strengthen governance and coordination mechanisms



Institutionalise credible stakeholder engagement



Mainstream just transition into sectoral policies



Design evidence-based workforce transition measures



Develop tailored subnational economic diversification strategies



Address implementation gaps through capacity building



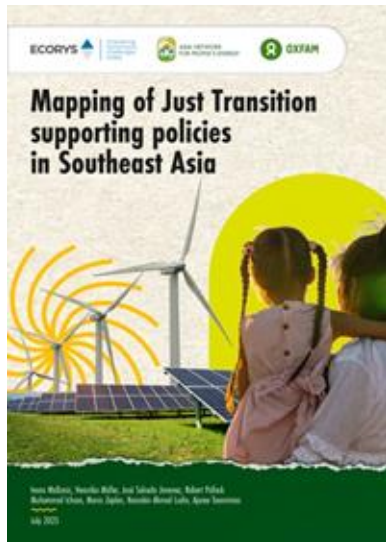
Improve monitoring, evaluation of justice metrics



Ensure justice in both phase-out and phase-in energy policies

Thank you for your attention!

Full research report available [here](#).



Meet us during ACEF!

We look forward to connecting & discussing further with you during ACEF.




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