

Just Energy Transition for People and the Planet



WHY JUST ENERGY TRANSITION?

More investments in renewable energy are necessary to achieve climate change mitigation goals. However, implementation of renewable energy projects without human rights perspective can harm local communities and jeopardize future renewable energy projects thus eventually slowing down the transition to a low-carbon economy.



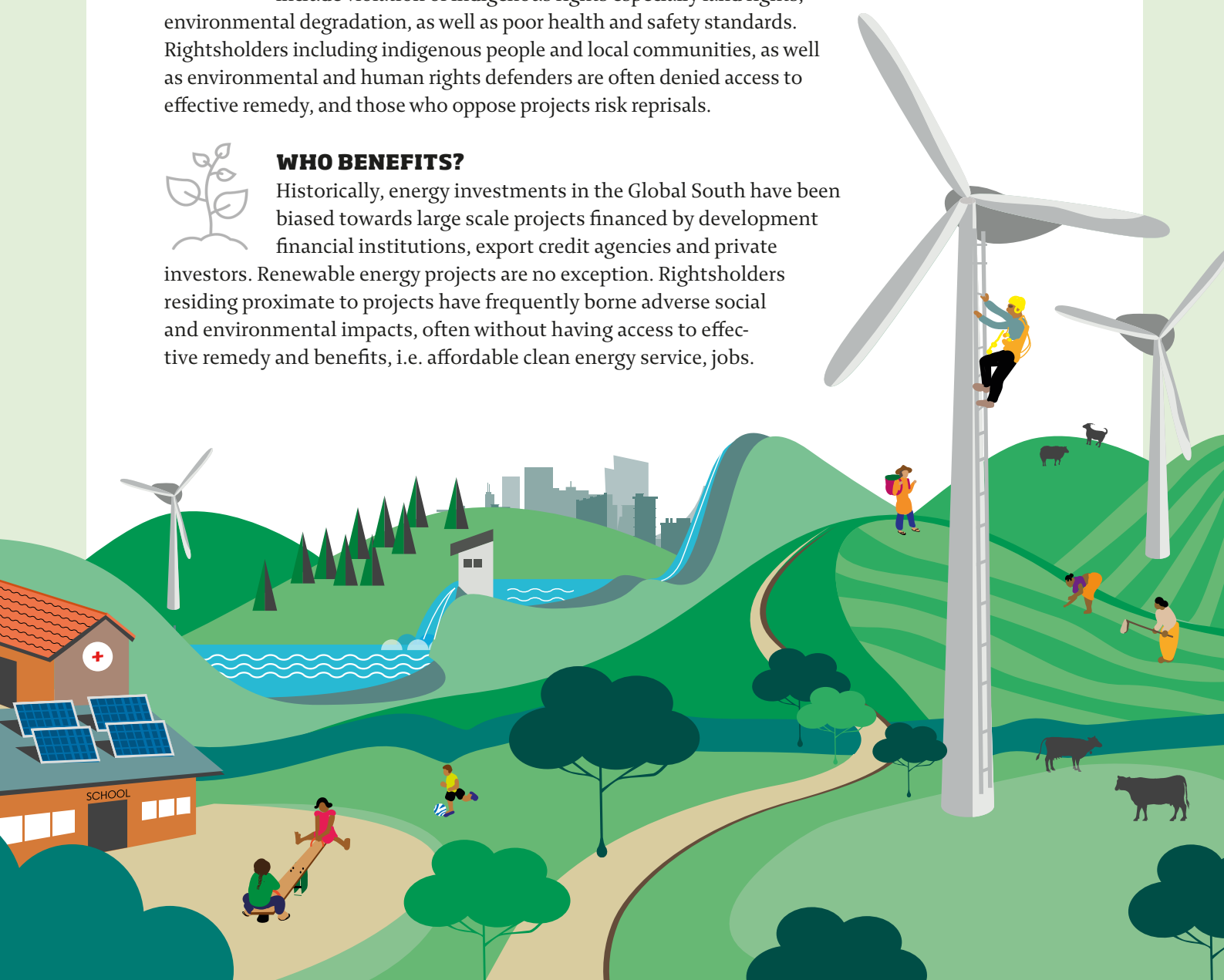
WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Implementation of renewable energy projects without human rights perspective can exacerbate environmental harm and intensify social conflicts. Salient risks include violation of indigenous rights especially land rights, environmental degradation, as well as poor health and safety standards. Rightsholders including indigenous people and local communities, as well as environmental and human rights defenders are often denied access to effective remedy, and those who oppose projects risk reprisals.



WHO BENEFITS?

Historically, energy investments in the Global South have been biased towards large scale projects financed by development financial institutions, export credit agencies and private investors. Renewable energy projects are no exception. Rightsholders residing proximate to projects have frequently borne adverse social and environmental impacts, often without having access to effective remedy and benefits, i.e. affordable clean energy service, jobs.



HOW CAN WE SAFEGUARD THE JUST ENERGY TRANSITION?

Renewable energy projects must be founded on both distributive and procedural justice, ensuring states and business actors protect and respect human rights including the right to a healthy environment. This requires states to enact strong policies to protect human rights, and businesses to meaningfully engage and involve rightsholders in project development and implementation processes, to ensure that renewable energy projects do not violate human rights, and equitably benefit communities.



FOR FAIR AND EQUITABLE ENERGY TRANSITION

Distributive justice:

- Share the benefits of renewable energy projects with rightsholders.
- Account for the environmental and social costs borne by rightsholders.

Procedural justice:

- Develop policy measures to implement the right to information and meaningful participation in line with the Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement.
- Respect and protect the right of indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent in project planning.
- Ensure meaningful representation and participation of rightsholders in decision making.
- Ensure rightsholders have full access to project information as well as effective remedy and justice.
- Protect rightsholders from threats, intimidation, and reprisals.

Recognition and capabilities

- Recognise and respect local knowledge and resource tenure.
- Respect the role of rightsholders in designing, implementing, and monitoring energy transition.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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