



BREAK THE GRIDLOCK! WIRE FOR GROWTH!



21 - 23 OCTOBER 2025
8:00 am – 5:00 pm



CAPE TOWN, SA
CTICC 2

2025 PRESENTATION

Economic Development in the Renewable
Energy Independent Power Producer
Procurement Programme: A scoping
literature review between 2010 and 2024.

Chulumanco Mdingi

22 October 2025





SPEAKER **OVERVIEW**



Chulumanco Mdingi

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PhD Researcher





OVERVIEW

- 01 Research problem
- 02 Research aim and objectives
- 03 Methods
- 04 Preliminary findings





INTRODUCTION

Overall Research aim:

This research aims to explore existing social ownership models within the REI4P. Furthermore, to promote energy transition, develop an understanding of the socio-economic development impact of renewable energy projects within surrounding communities. And explore how private power producers supplying private off-takers conduct economic development within these communities.

Paper 1

Economic Development in the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Plan: A scoping literature review between 2010 and 2024

Paper 2

Social Ownership within the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme: Comparing Two Community Development Trusts

Paper 3

Private Power Agreements: Examining mechanisms and practices towards economic development to accelerate energy transition





INTRODUCTION

- There is a growing need to phase out fossil fuels by increasing renewable energy sources within the existing energy mix.
- There is also a need to ensure explicit social benefits through the democratisation of energy systems during the transition (Allen et al. 2019).
- Energy transitions profoundly impact communities in various ways, and economic development benefits should be accrued to host communities.
- “Corporate PPAs have been proven a fitting tool for addressing sustainable initiatives, development risks, and finance opportunities” (Stanitsas & Kirytopoulos, 2023:1).
- As part of this project’s output, a scoping literature review will explore the current landscape of community benefits, focusing on the political economy, energy justice, social ownership, and economic development.





RESEARCH PROBLEM

- South Africa's renewable energy procurement landscape is rapidly shifting, accentuated by the introduction of wheeling.
- Additionally, private off-takers face unclear economic development obligations, and developers aren't required to invest in local communities. This has led to tensions between communities and renewable energy projects.
- There is a lack of guidelines and poor coordination in managing community development initiatives.
- Practical and sustainable solutions are overdue to ensure communities maximise benefits from renewable energy projects.





RESEARCH AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To critically reflect on economic development approaches and conceptualisation in the energy transitions literature in South Africa

Develop a nuanced understanding of REI4P contribution to economic development, and synthesises both successes and challenges for ED in REI4P.

Determine how local communities been involved in REI4P projects to foster social ownership?

Explore how South Africa's economic development has been conceptualised and implemented through REI4P





METHODS

Review approximately 70 published papers examining economic development dimensions of REI4P.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How has South Africa's economic development been conceptualised and operationalised under the REI4P?
- How have local communities been included in REI4P projects to enhance social ownership?
- What approaches and practices have been used for economic development?

Scoping literature review

Data collection: Scopus, Web of Science, EBSCOhost, Google Scholar

**Interpretive
analysis**





PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Uneven
distribution of
benefits

Varying
approaches to
community
participation

The identification
of community
needs and
priorities





NEXT STEPS

- Conceptual framework refinement
- Finalise categories, and codes
- In-depth analysis using Atlas.ti
- Write up
- Workshop with community stakeholders
- Start the second paper on “*Social Ownership within the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme: Comparing Two Community Development Trusts*”
- *Participate in learning sessions with industry associations.*



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THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

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