

CLIMATE JUSTICE – JUST TRANSITION DONOR COLLABORATIVE

Addressing the root causes of the climate crisis – deeply unjust social, political, and economic structures – demands transformational change across all sectors of society. The current structures have put wealth and power in the hands of a polluting few. Yet, those who have contributed least to climate change bear the brunt of its catastrophic effects, including deadly heatwaves, catastrophic fires, severe droughts, and extreme flooding.

Climate justice (CJ) and just transition (JT) are frameworks for action rooted in social justice that shift power and resources to those on the front lines of climate change. These approaches can deliver bold, innovative, and effective climate solutions that protect the rights of local communities and drive the systemic change we all need to thrive.

At the same time, philanthropy is beginning to recognize that simplified, “silver-bullet” solutions to the climate crisis are insufficient for driving transformational change. Instead, intersectional approaches – those that recognize the overlapping systems of discrimination across factors such as race, ethnicity, and gender – address the immediate impacts of the climate crisis and many of today’s most pressing problems, including food and water insecurity, migration, deadly conflict, and economic inequality.

The opportunity presented by intersectionality, and the rising demand for more justice-centered structures, requires philanthropies to change how we operate. We must recognize our sometimes harmful legacies while exploring where intersectionality can help us better support those on the front lines of injustice. This is especially true for those based in the historically colonized countries of Africa, South and SE Asia, and Central and South America, as they face the interconnected crises of climate change and drastic inequality.

The Collaborative

The Climate Justice – Just Transition Donor Collaborative¹ explores how emerging CJ and JT efforts can increase socially just climate action. Through this exploration we will:

- Gain new insights from existing work
- Identify joint learning opportunities
- Co-create grantmaking strategies

Our aim is to grow philanthropic investment in CJ and JT and do so in ways that permanently shift power and resources to those on the front lines.

Who are we?

Each organization in the Collaborative is already supporting social justice and climate action worldwide. Yet, in light of the global pandemic, it is clear that our efforts and funding of frontline grantee partners need to be scaled up and improved. We must all work together through collaborative grantmaking to support approaches that reimagine and re-shape the world before communities fall even deeper into cycles of poverty and deprivation.

¹ Oak Foundation, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Porticus, Climate Works Foundation and Ikea Foundation with Climate Justice Resilience Fund and Impatience Earth acting as an organizational hub.

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What do we want?

Philanthropies worldwide must increase the scale, speed, and quality of investments in intersectional climate action rooted in climate justice and just transition principles. We must create participatory spaces to learn, develop strategy, and collaboratively provide grants so that we can better understand how our investments in frontline communities can be most effective.

How will we do it?

Initially, our efforts focused on countries in Africa, South and SE Asia, and Central and South America, where a majority of the world lives. We started an 18month collaborative journey back in April 2021, focused on four areas:

- **Listening:** Expanding our coalition beyond donors requires that we include key voices of local communities and practitioners already working in CJ and JT. Strategic priorities for our collective work must be rooted in the lived experience of those on the front lines who can best define community needs and viable opportunities.
- **Understanding funder options:** We will identify, assess, and develop potential grantmaking options, including through participatory mechanisms and other innovative methods. We will ask CJ/JT activists and practitioners if current mechanisms are meeting their needs and solicit suggestions for immediate and longer-term improvements.
- **Taking advantage of strategic moments:** We will provide grants for collective action around COP26 and other strategic moments in the coming 18 months. There are growing opportunities to foster connections across racial and gender equity and climate justice movements that all speak to an intersectional, systemic approach to tackling rising economic and social inequalities in and between countries. We will support efforts that build on this momentum.
- **Choosing a joint way forward.** Our core group of collaborators will decide on a longer-term strategy for joint work in the first half of 2022 and increased investment flowing to climate justice and just transition thereafter.

Ready to Join?

If you're curious or ready to support our efforts as a philanthropic funder or frontline expert, contact the Collaborative's Coordinator Farhana Yamin, Impatience Earth: info@impatience.earth and Heather MacGray, Director, Climate Justice Resilience Fund: cjrfund@gmail.com

