

RENEWABLE ENERGIES

Energy sources have always been abundantly present on our planet (and with some predominance in our country). For a long time, there was a strong preference for the use of non-renewable energies, such as oil derivatives and coal. This has contributed significantly to high emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O), which intensify global warming.

The emission of these gases carries with it the potential to cause significant environmental, social and economic impacts at a global level, jeopardising our quality of life in a possibly irreversible way. In response to this, measures have been implemented internationally to protect the environment and promote the efficient use of renewable and clean energies.

What do these measures consist of? What does it mean to switch to the use of renewable energies? Why are we talking about it?

It's actually a structural change in the energy system, which involves adopting "clean" and reliable sources such as hydro (water), wind (wind) and solar energy. The use of renewable energies not only eliminates greenhouse gas emissions and reduces air pollution, but also reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels and diversifies energy supplies.

The Paris Agreement on climate change, to which Mozambique has ratified, emphasises encouraging, accelerating and facilitating innovation as key elements for an effective, long-term global response to climate change, as well as promoting economic growth and sustainable development.

The government of Mozambique has been able to establish a Just Transition Strategy that defines three fundamental objectives in the energy context:

- (i) to guarantee national development;
- (ii) to position Mozambique as a regional energy hub; and
- (iii) to implement a fair and equitable energy transition process.

Indeed, as a primary objective, the Government of Mozambique is committed to achieving the goal of sustainable energy for all by 2030, guaranteeing universal access to electricity in an affordable and sustainable manner, as well as promoting the diversification of renewable energy sources.

Considering that Mozambique is recognised for its numerous renewable natural resources, the country is establishing sustainable development that not only meets its domestic energy needs, but also positions it to export to countries in the Southern African region and other international markets.

However, the question remains: can we really talk about a just energy transition in a context where more than half of Mozambique's population still has no access to electricity?

We cannot deny that, in practice, we are a long way from abandoning energy generation from fossil sources. However, it is commendable and strategic to invest in an energy system that does not harm the present or future generations (sustainability), requiring support from various public and private sector organizations.



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