

Africa's Just Transition & Economic Transformation

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JUST TRANSITION

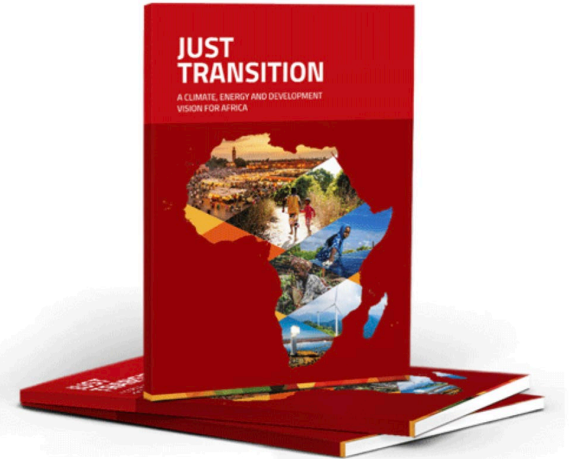
A CLIMATE, ENERGY AND DEVELOPMENT VISION FOR AFRICA

[Download report \(English\)](#)

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JustTransitionAfrica.org

*The independent expert group on
Just Transition and Development*





Polyp.org.uk



What did colonialism do to Africa economically?

- Remember that **colonialism was not designed for** industrialization, democracy, peace, justice, development, human rights, etc...
- Colonialism was non-democratic, violent, abusive, extractive,
- Colonialism imposed on Africa three core economic roles that continue to persist to this day:
 1. Africa as the source of cheap raw materials for the Global North,
 2. Africa as the consumer of Global North industrial output and technologies, and
 3. Africa as the place where the Global North dumps its obsolete technologies and assembly-line manufacturing that it no longer needs, but under the guise of “development, cooperation, job creation, partnership....”
- This is Intentional Economic Entrapment!



An important set of messages

- We can't **decarbonize** a system that hasn't been decolonized yet.
- The **energy system is the lifeblood of the economy.**
- We cannot decolonize the economy without **decolonizing the energy system.**
- **Trade Unions** played a critical role in decolonizing our countries, and today they will play a critical role in **the unfinished business of decolonizing African economics.**



Our Structural Economic Deficiencies: ...

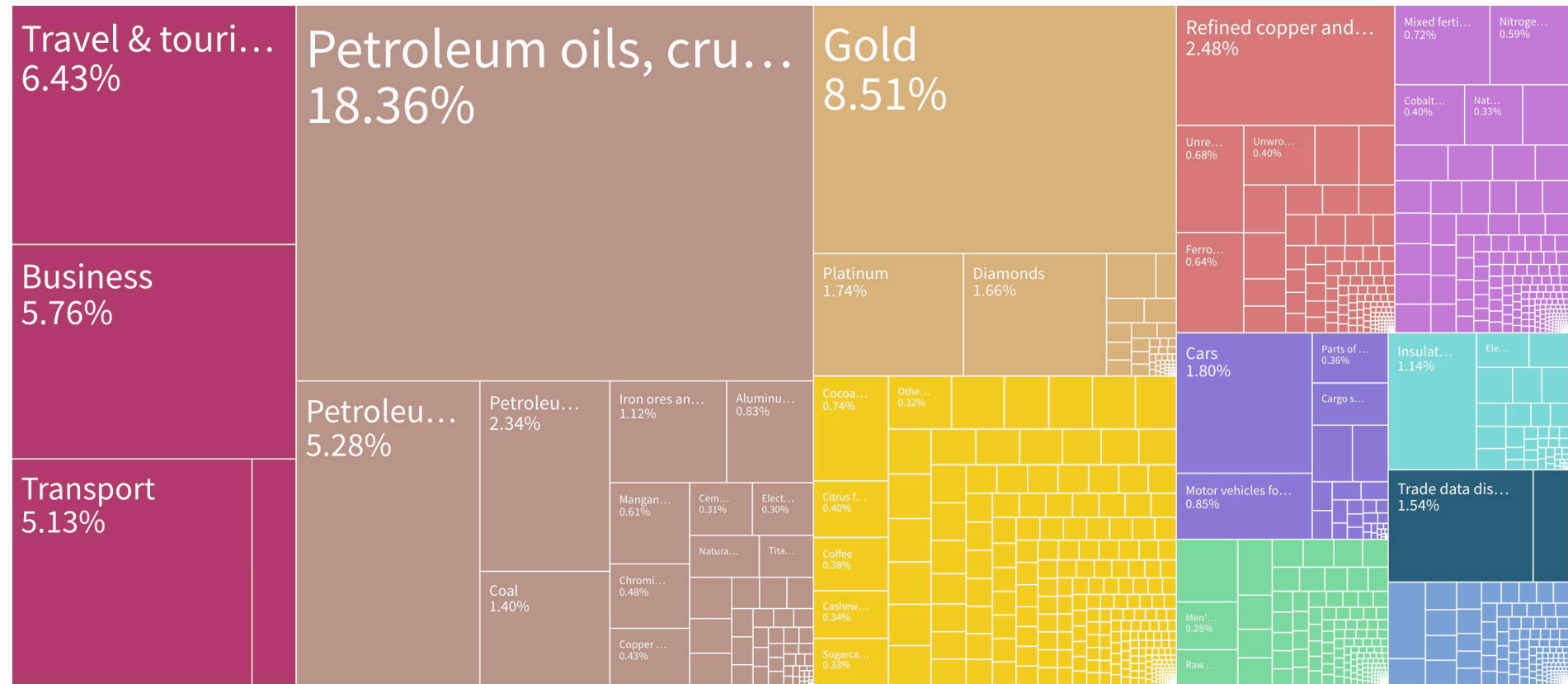
- **High external debt**
- **Major root causes:**
 - **Energy** deficit
 - **Food** deficit
 - Low value-added industrialization
- **Trade deficits**
 - → Currency depreciation
 - → Food & Fuel price inflation
 - → Social Unrest unless Food/Fuel subsidies are maintained (forces the country to continue to borrow from foreign lenders: bandaid solution)



Total Value: \$747B

What did Africa export in 2023?

FIND IN VIZ





Africa's Imports

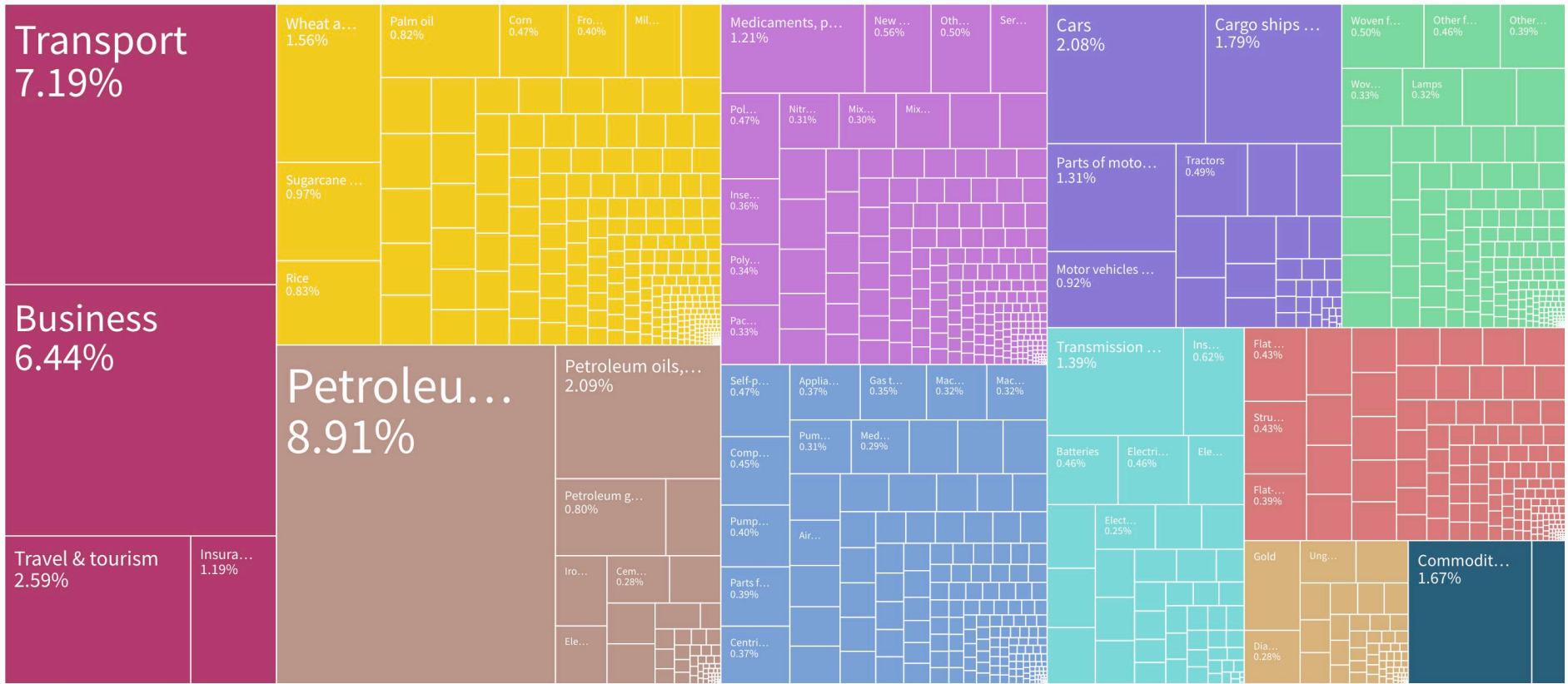


Source: <https://atlas.cid.harvard.edu/>

Total Value: \$866B

What did Africa import in 2023?

FIND IN VIZ



■ SERVICES
 ■ TEXTILES
 ■ AGRICULTURE
 ■ STONE
 ■ MINERALS
 ■ METALS
 ■ CHEMICALS
 ■ VEHICLES
 ■ MACHINERY
 ■ ELECTRONICS
 ■ OTHER

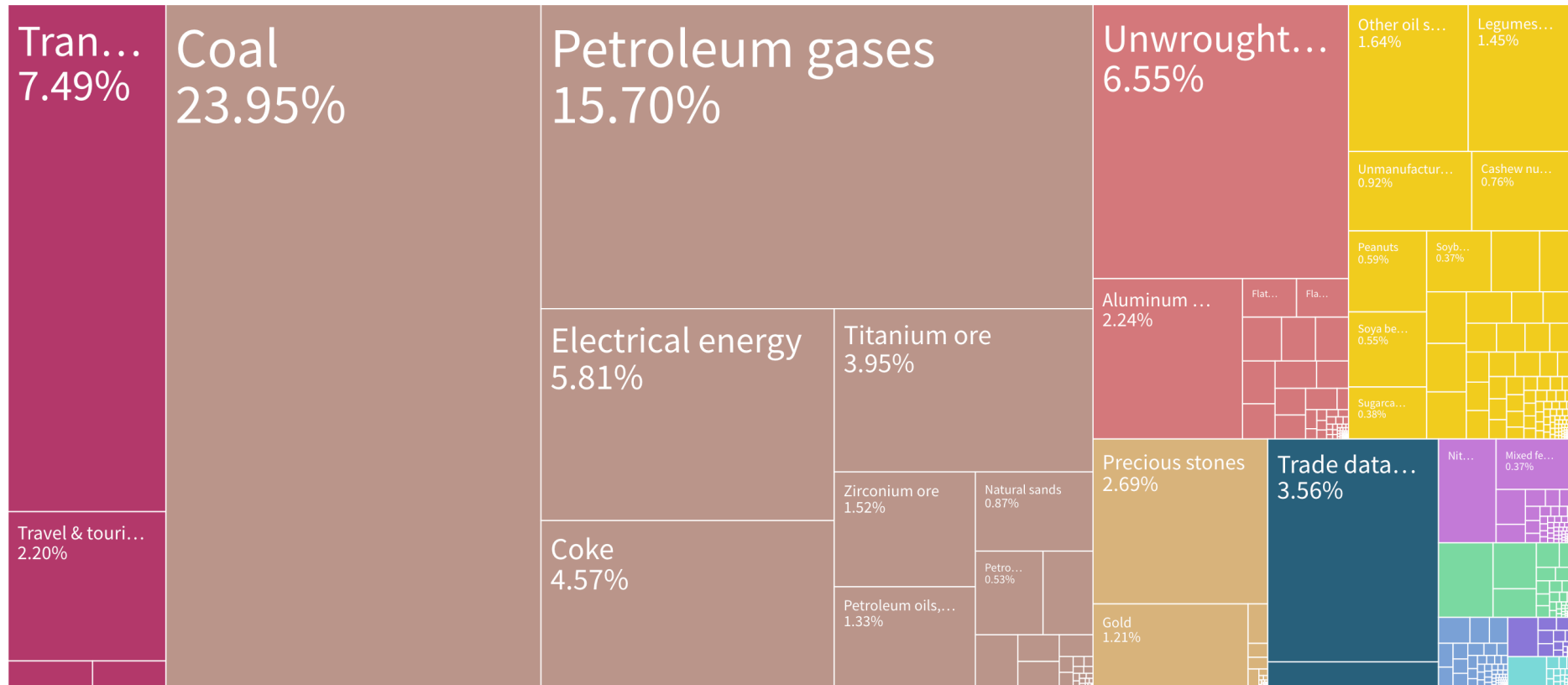


Mozambique's Exports

FIND IN VIZ

Total Value: \$10B

What did Mozambique export in 2023?



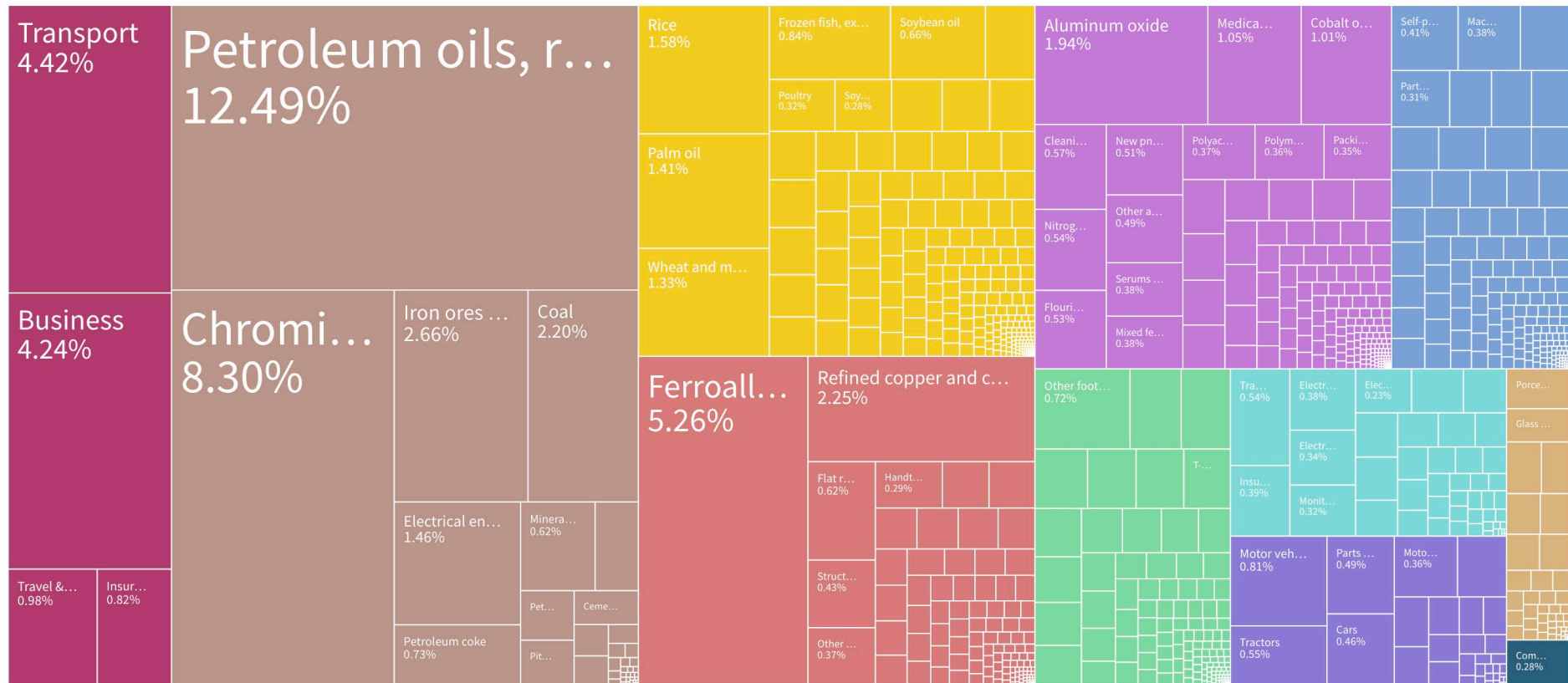


Mozambique's Imports

Total Value: \$19B

What did Mozambique import in 2023?

FIND IN VIZ





Mozambique's USD Exchange Rate

Mozambican metical to United States Dollar

0.0156

↓ 41.37%

-0.0110 MAX

Jul 29, 3:48:24 PM UTC · Disclaimer

1D

5D

1M

6M

YTD

1Y

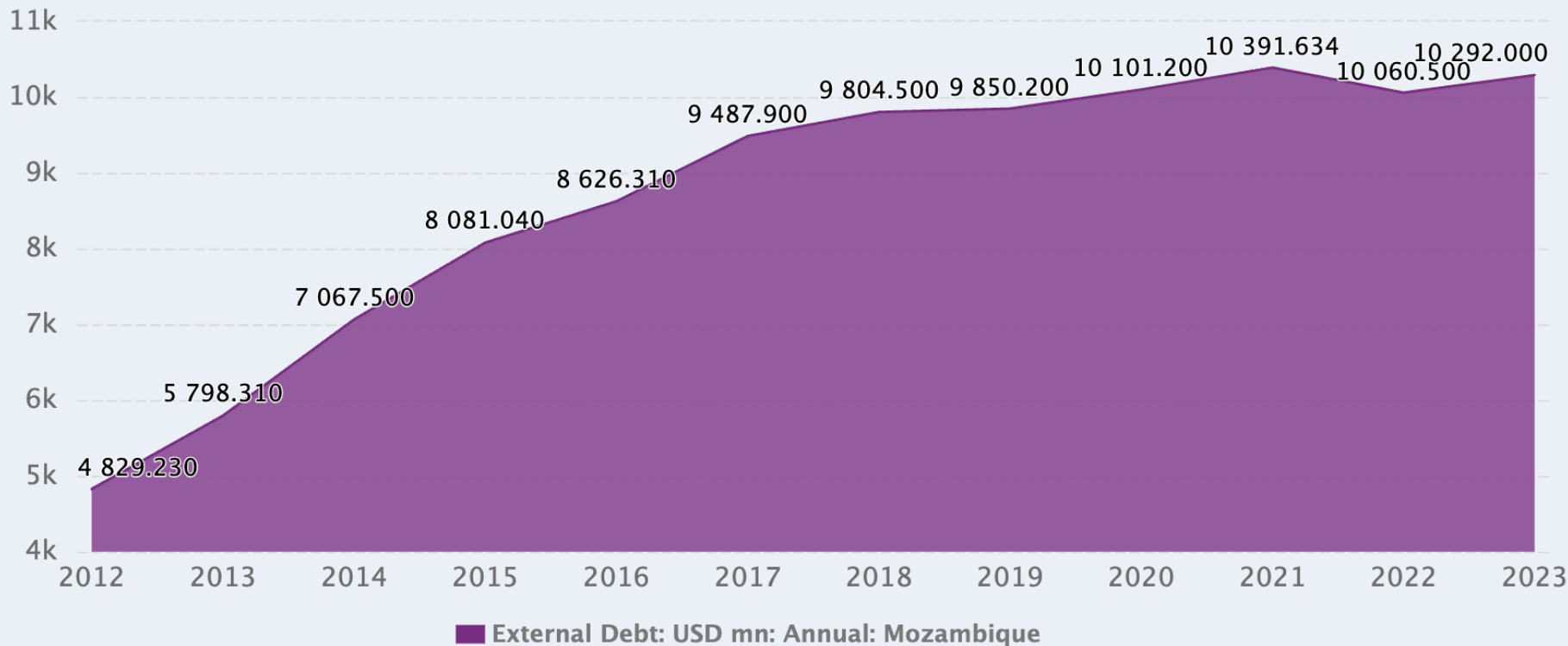
5Y

MAX





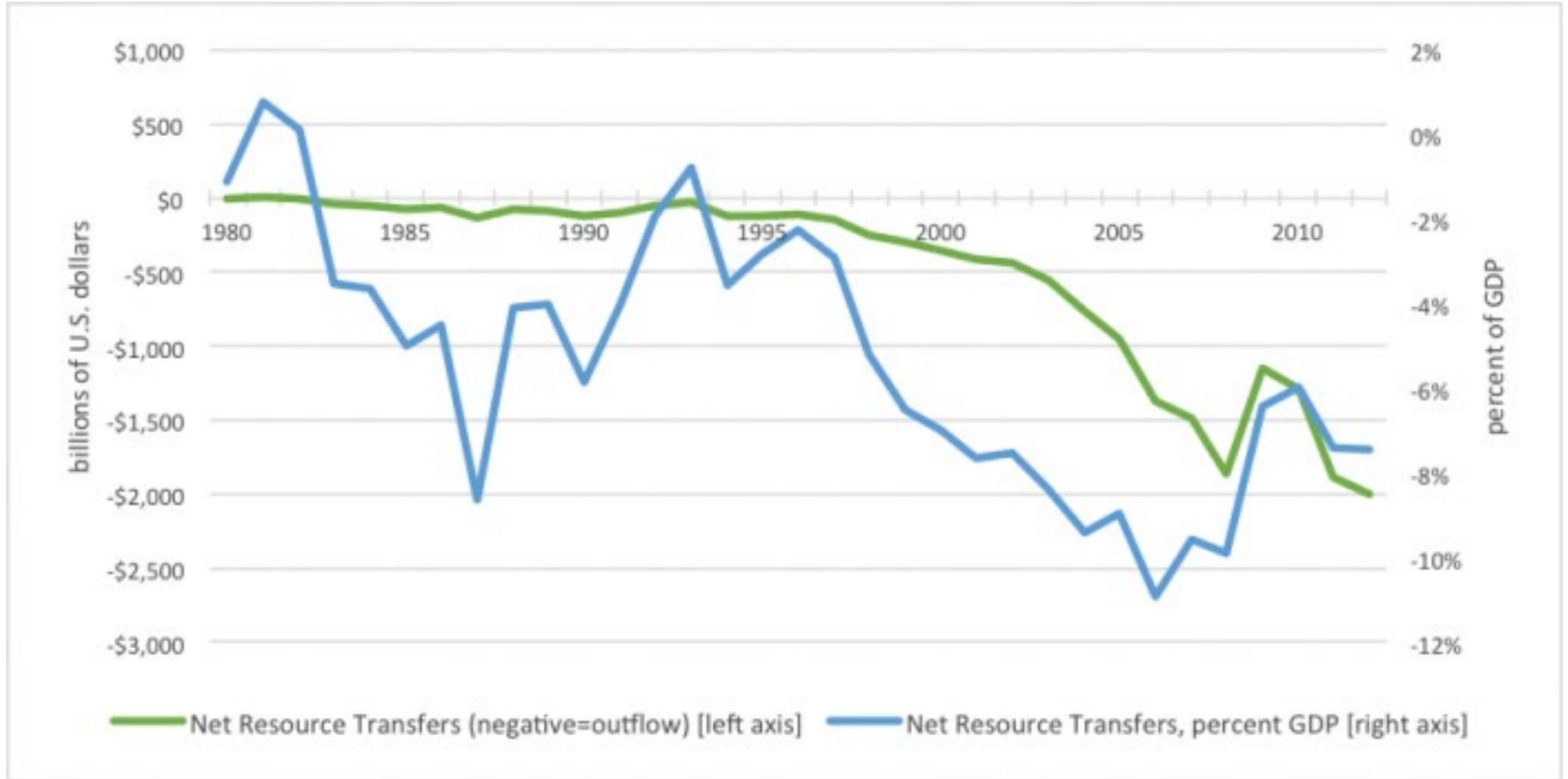
Mozambique's External Debt Stocks (USD)



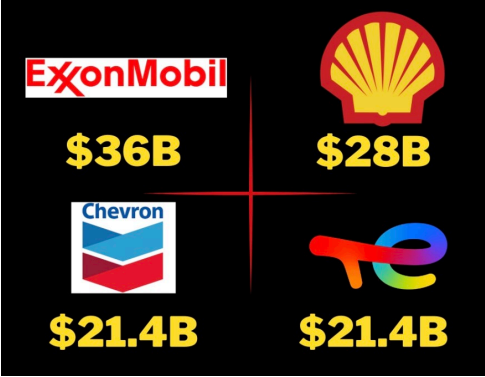
SOURCE: WWW.CEICDATA.COM | CEIC Data



Neocolonial Net Wealth Extraction



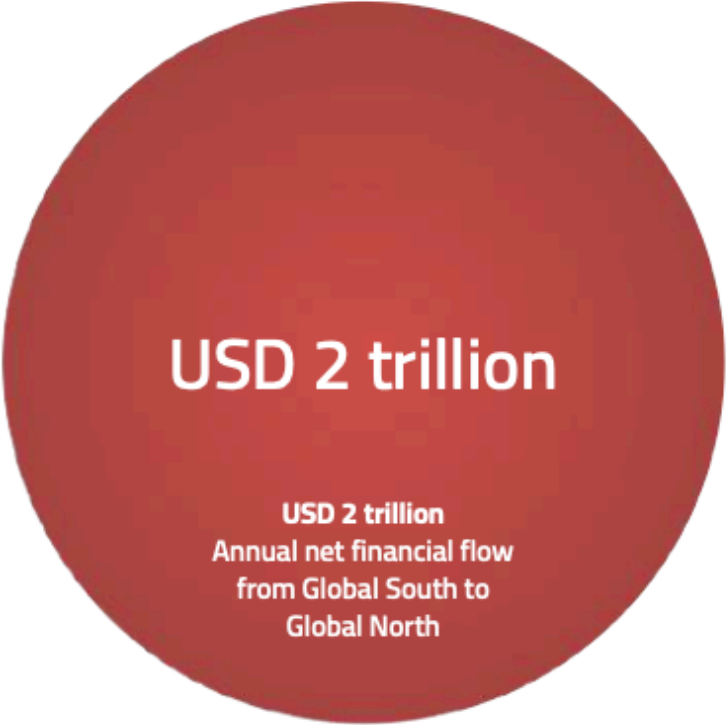
The result is net neocolonial wealth extraction of over \$2 trillion from the Global South to Global North every year



■
USD 0.7 billion
Loss & Damage
Fund from COP28

USD 15.9 billion
Green Climate Fund
(Total pledges, not yet delivered)

USD 300 Billion
Annual Climate Finance
pledged at COP29
(not yet delivered)





Mainstream Climate Finance:

- No reparations, no grants
- Market-based greenwashed solutions
- Concessional loans
- De-risking for foreign investors
- Pollution Permits (a.k.a. Carbon Credits)
- Green “industrialization”
- Green energy extractivism
- Decarbonization by dispossession

EXPOSED!



Climate Finance **EXPOSED:**



- If I owe you \$100, I must pay you \$100
- But instead...
- I give you \$3 (but I tell you what to do with it)
- I lend you \$7 at concessional rates (noblesse oblige)
- I give you \$10 (but you must give me your forest)
- I invest \$8 (but you must derisk my Green Hydrogen)
- I invest \$12 (but you must become my CBAMer)
- Stay tuned for more market-based economic entrapment



*What Climate Finance **should be:***

- Debt cancellation, not “restructuring”
- Grants, not loans
- Transfer of life-saving technology to manufacture and deploy the building blocks of development and prosperity: Renewable energy, public transportation, clean cooking infrastructure....

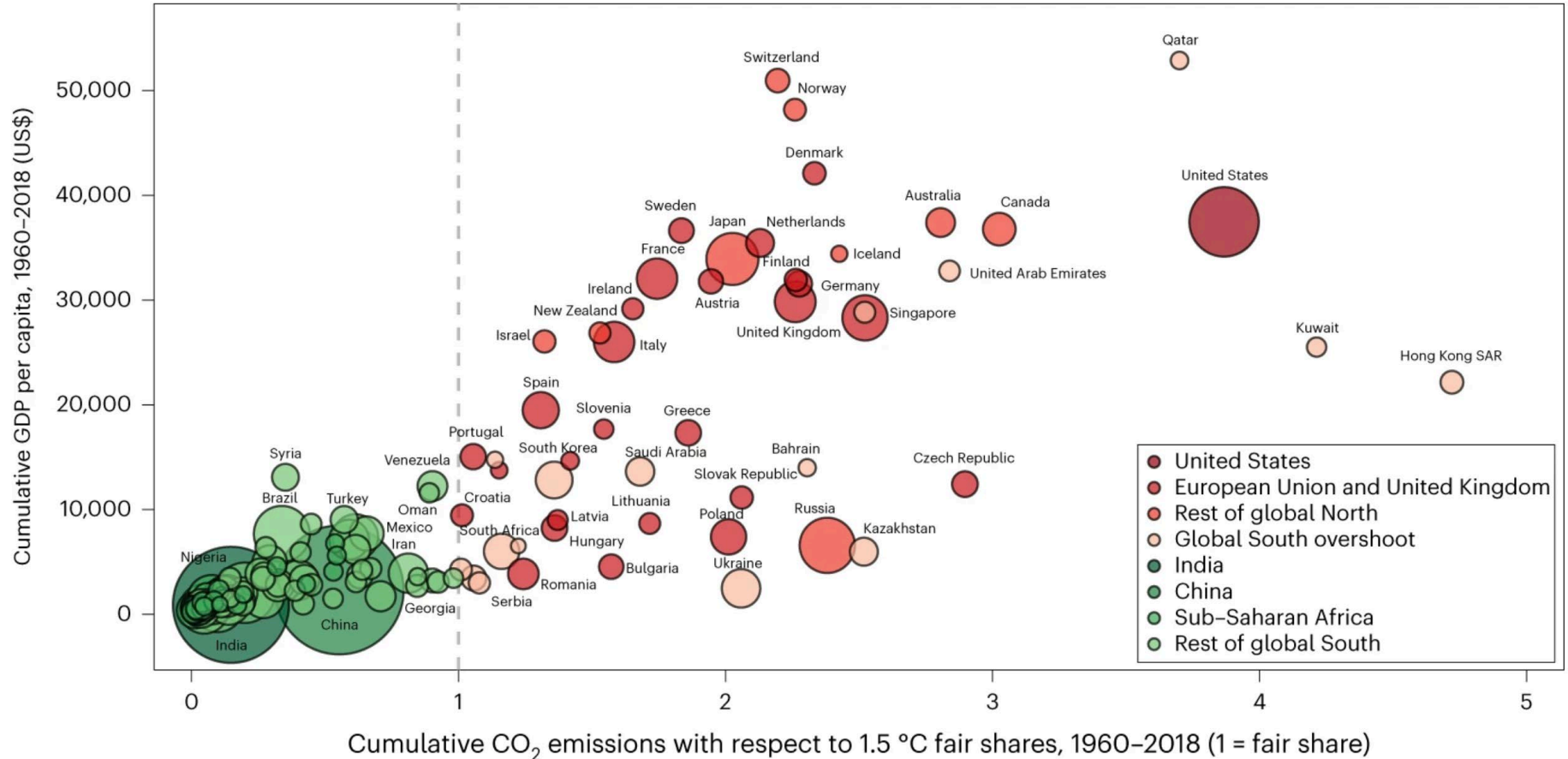


Climate Debt & Reparations:

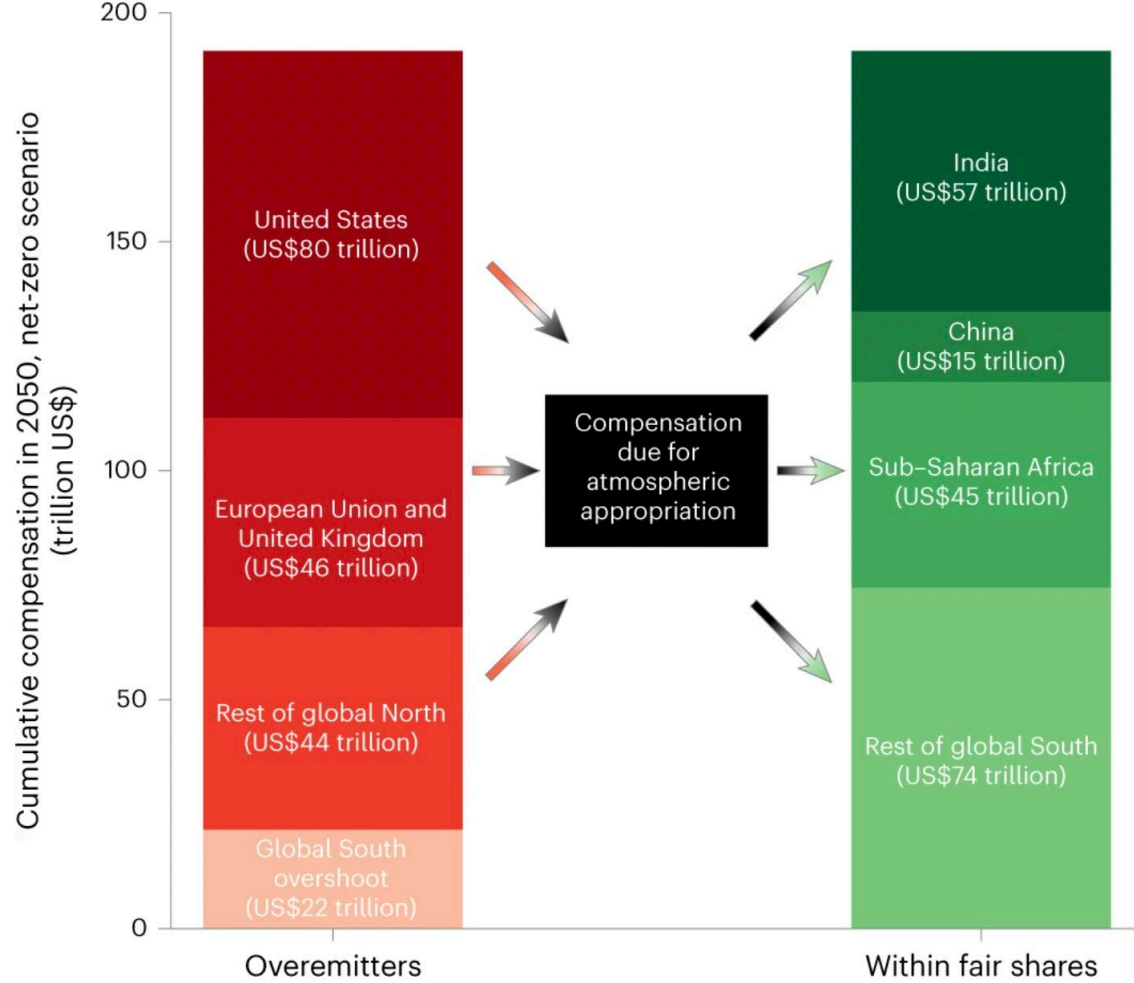
- The Global North has exceeded its carbon budget
- The GN has appropriated the atmospheric commons
- It has a Climate Debt, owed to the Global South
- Fanning & Hickel (2023): **Climate Debt = \$193 trillion**



Cumulative CO₂ emissions with respect to 1.5 °C fair shares versus cumulative GDP per capita, 1960–2018



Cumulative compensation due from overshooting country groups to undershooting country groups (relative to 1.5 °C fair shares) based on the historical period from 1960 to 2019 and net-zero scenario from 2020 to 2050.



Cumulative compensation is expressed in constant 2010 prices. See Extended Data Fig. 5 for results with cumulative financial compensation by country group starting from 1850 and 1992 and Supplementary Data 1 for results for all countries.

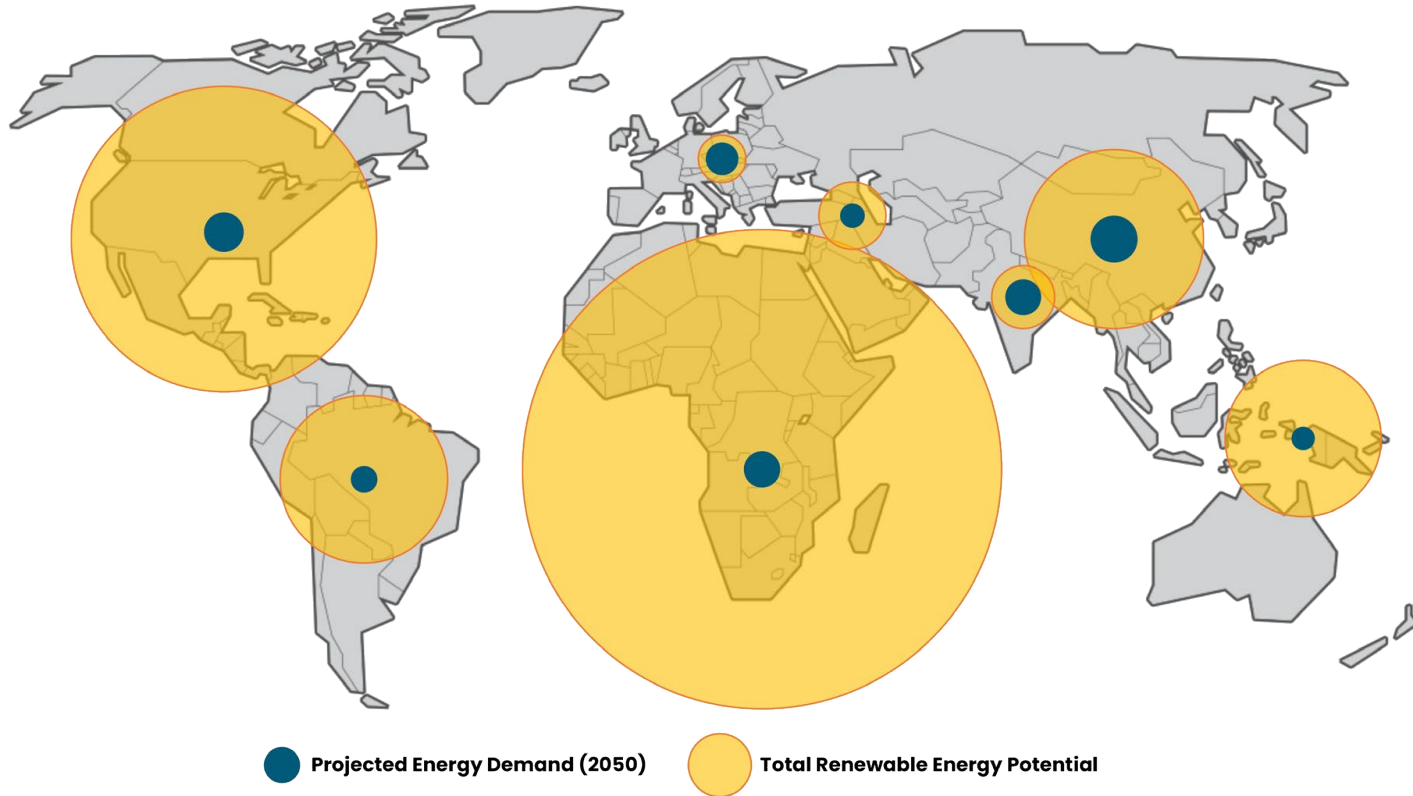


Structural Solutions:

- **Pan-African/GS Cooperation for strategic investments in:**
 - Food Sovereignty and agroecology (**not** “food security”)
 - Renewable Energy Sovereignty (**not** renewable energy exports)
 - High value-added industrial policies (**not** just high-tech assembly):
 - Renewables infrastructure
 - Clean cooking infrastructure
 - Green transportation
- **Structural *transformation* (**not reform**) of the Global Financial Architecture, as well as the International Trade, Investment, and Taxation Architecture.**



The Global South Renewable Energy Potential

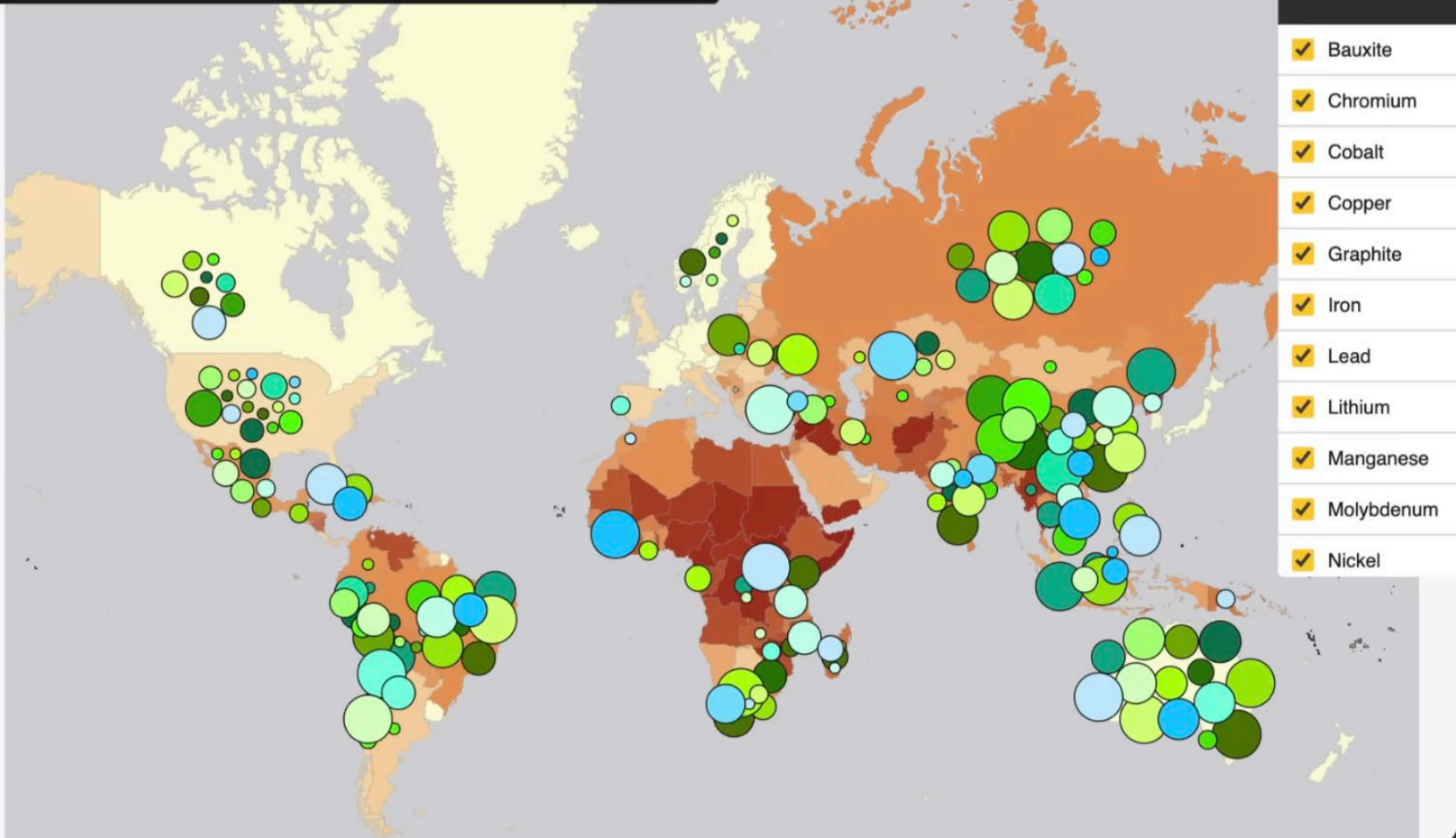


Green Conflict Minerals v.2019

The fuels of conflict in the transition to a low-carbon economy



Layers





The Geopolitical Bargain of the Century

- Africa has a Plan for itself!
- The Zero-dollar Pan-African Industrial Policy
- Transfer of technology & joint ventures
- The Role of China, EU, US, Japan, etc.?
- A New International Economic Order
- A New Multipolar World of Peace, Justice and Sustainable Prosperity





The Geopolitical Bargain of the Century

- More details in this recent paper published by the *Institute for Economic Justice* in South Africa:

<https://iej.org.za/sovereign-debt-towards-a-global-south-debtors-club/>

IEJ SOVEREIGN DEBT WORKING PAPER SERIES #2 — APRIL 2025

A COHERENT FRAMEWORK FOR SOVEREIGN DEBT AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION: TOWARDS GLOBAL SOUTH DEBTORS' COALITION



Global Institute
for Sustainable Prosperity

what?
next?



Concluding Remarks

- The time to act is now!
- The polycrisis calls for **urgent**, **bold**, and **radical** action.
- The current climate finance framework is not going to deliver any meaningful climate action.
- Refocusing the climate finance debate towards a just and equitable transition and climate reparations cannot happen without an economic and geopolitical leverage.
- National industrial policies will fail, unless they are linked with regional and continental green value chains.
- Pan-Africanism, Global South unity, and Global North solidarity are the economic & geopolitical prerequisites for development, industrialization, and a Just & Equitable Transition in a new multipolar world of peace and sustainable prosperity.
- This better system is within reach, and it is possible, desirable & affordable.

Asanteni Sana! Questions & Comments

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