A Global Fiscal Indicators Dashboard for Climate-Fiscal Analysis

Find the binding constraint before choosing the climate-fiscal lever

Eighty public indicators for 217 economies on one page, each with its year and source. Four economies show the profile separating a revenue problem from a debt-service problem; a check against the IMF's own files confirms most values and finds three compilation faults.

Stephen J. Stretton · writing in a personal capacity

Climate Fiscal Policy Brief No. 7.2 · October 2026

Climate-fiscal advice starts with a scramble across a dozen databases

217

economies on one country profile

80

indicators in twelve blocks, each block answering one question

~20

public datasets, each with its own country names, units and vintages

Debt, tax, capital spending, the cost of capital, fuel subsidies and the power mix sit in different places. Gathering them takes a day per country and a week per region, so advice tends to fix on the first number found.

Source: Global Fiscal Indicators dashboard, version 1.3; working paper 7.2, What the dashboard assembles.

The dashboard is organized around the questions an adviser asks, not around datasets

Block	Question	Main public sources
Fiscal	Can they pay for it?	IMF WEO; IMF WoRLD
Delivery	Can they build it?	World Bank BOOST; PEFA 2016
Finance 1	What does capital cost them?	IRENA; Steffen et al.; IEA; IDS
Finance 2	Who finances it, and with what risk?	OECD; IDS; PEFA; World Bank PPI
Context 1	How much fossil money runs through the budget?	IMF WoRLD; IMF subsidy data; BOOST
Context 2	Does it sell fossil fuels, or buy them?	World Development Indicators
Context 3	How is power generated?	Ember; IMF subsidy data

Four assessment blocks carry the diagnosis; three context blocks explain it; five appendices hold reference data.

Source: Working paper 7.2, Table 1.

The build is designed so that errors cannot hide

One long table: every value as a row with its country, year and source file (about 130,000 rows; 12,400 latest values).

Nothing imputed: a missing value stays missing, and the profile counts the gaps by block.

A hard stop: the build halts if its configuration asks for an indicator the data do not supply.

Two languages: Python and R matched on the original 53 indicators; the 27 added in October 2026 are not yet checked.

Every input is public; the build itself is not yet.

Source: Working paper 7.2, The build pipeline.

Scores rank countries from 1 to 10, and there is deliberately no overall index

Rescaled between the 5th and 95th percentiles, so a few extreme values do not squeeze everyone else into the middle.

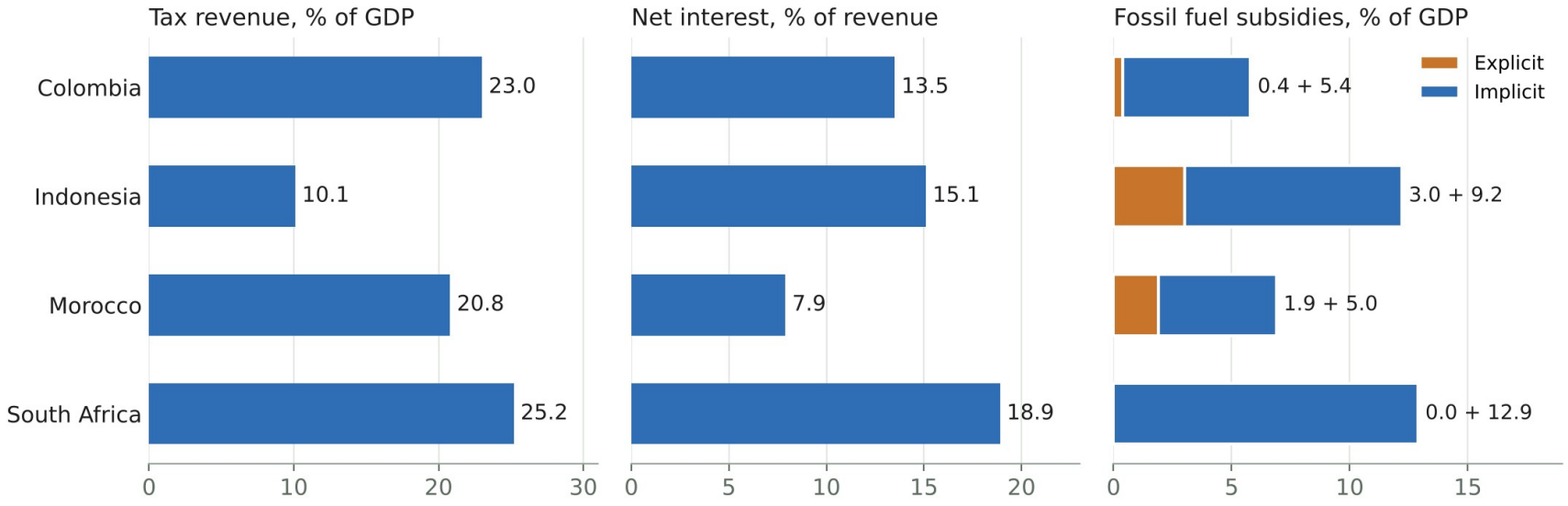
Words at fixed thresholds: 7 and above Good, below 4 Bad; context blocks read High, Medium, Low.

No index: a composite "may disguise serious failings in some dimensions" (OECD and JRC 2008).

Block averages double-count, so read the weakest indicator and the count of missing values.

Source: Working paper 7.2, Scoring and evaluation; OECD and JRC (2008).

The same tax take can carry very different interest bills and subsidy bills



Four economies, 2024, as compiled by the dashboard.

Source: IMF WoRLD; IMF WEO; IMF fossil fuel subsidy data, 2025 update; working paper 7.2, Figure 1.

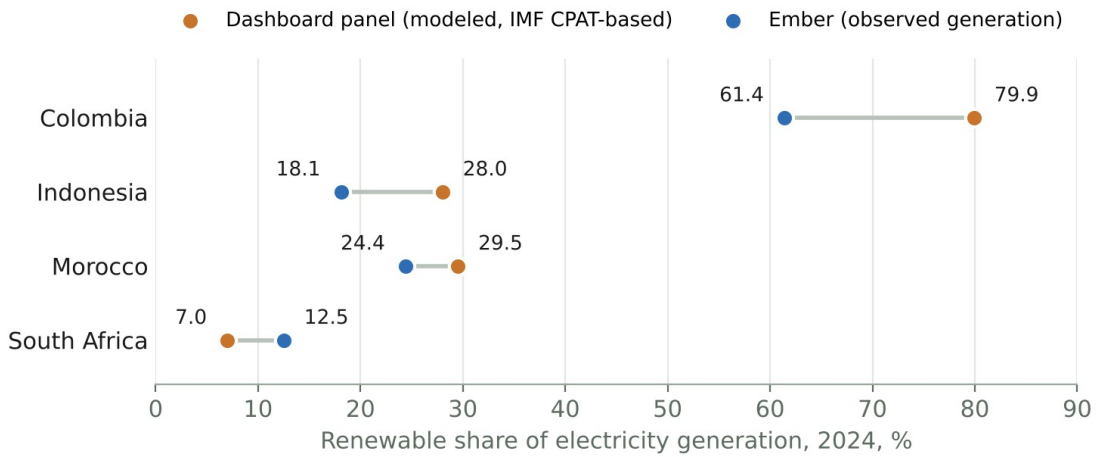
Indonesia has a revenue problem; South Africa has a debt-service problem

2024 (score 1–10)	Colombia	Indonesia	Morocco	South Africa
Tax revenue, % of GDP	23.0 (7.5)	10.1 (2.9)	20.8 (6.7)	25.2 (8.3)
Gross debt, % of GDP	61.0 (6.5)	40.2 (8.0)	67.7 (5.9)	76.0 (5.3)
Net interest, % of revenue	13.5 (5.3)	15.1 (4.7)	7.9 (7.3)	18.9 (3.4)
Fuel subsidies, % of GDP: explicit + implicit	0.4 + 5.4	3.0 + 9.2	1.9 + 5.0	0.0 + 12.9
Gasoline, per liter	US$1.16	US$0.57	US$1.46	US$1.13

Indonesia: next questions are subsidy reform and the tax base. South Africa: pricing pollution, under a debt-service constraint.

Source: IMF WoRLD; IMF WEO; IMF fossil fuel subsidy data (dollars over WEO GDP); working paper 7.2, Table 2.

A check against the publishers confirms most values and finds three faults



Mislabeled: "interest-to-revenue" is net interest, and its filter drops net creditors.

Denominator: Colombia's excises look lowest as a share of revenue, but equal Indonesia's as a share of GDP (1.06 and 1.11%).

Modeled vs observed: the panel's renewable share is 5 to 19 points off Ember's (chart).

Source: IMF DataMapper and WoRLD API, Ember, 31 Oct 2026; working paper 7.2, Checking the panel.

Carbon pricing is the gap to fill first

Explicit carbon prices: taxes and trading systems (World Bank Carbon Pricing Dashboard).

Effective carbon rates: add fuel excises (OECD 2023).

Total carbon price: also nets out fuel subsidies (Agnolucci et al. 2024).

Total Effective Carbon Price: the uniform tax that cuts emissions as much as the whole policy mix (Brief 6.1).

Why it matters: beside the fiscal blocks, it would show how hard current policy already pushes, not only what the country can afford.

Source: Working paper 7.2, Limits; Brief 6.1.

What to do

What the dashboard shows

One page, 217 economies, every value with its year and source.

Triage, not a verdict: it separates revenue, debt-service and delivery problems.

Traceability pays: an afternoon's check found three faults.

Modeled series and denominators need labels: the panel's renewable share is 5–19 points off observed.

Actions

Ministries and bank teams: find the binding constraint before choosing the lever.

Indicator compilers: record source and year, never impute, check against publishers.

The dashboard's owners: fix the three faults, add carbon pricing, publish the build.

Analysts: read the weakest indicator and its year, not the block average.