



IKI SOUTH AFRICA NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2025

Introduction by the Editors

Welcome to the latest edition of the IKI South Africa newsletter!

Since our last update, we've seen exciting developments across projects and policy spaces. Our newly launched [IKI South Africa](#) website has been growing too, with more stories, insights and resources added. Thank you to everyone who has shared content so far! If you haven't yet explored it, now's the perfect time to visit, catch up and see what's new.

This edition highlights recent activities and key updates from across the network. We were delighted to host the IKI South Africa Thematic Exchange on Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation, focusing on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA). The exchange provided a valuable space for partners to share experiences and explore innovative approaches, and more details can be found under the Spotlight section of this edition.

We're also thrilled to welcome new colleagues to the IKI South Africa Interface Team. With Esther May on leave until Q2 2026, we are delighted to have Nina Harnischfeger supporting the Interface project in the interim, and welcome Tyesha Pillay, our new Communications Specialist on a permanent basis.

As we share these stories and reflections, we also look ahead to see the outcomes of COP30 which is currently ongoing in Brazil, a key moment on the global climate calendar where stakeholders come together to reflect on progress and explore next steps for climate and biodiversity action.

Thank you for being part of our vibrant community of climate changemakers. We hope you enjoy this edition, and as always, we'd love to hear your thoughts. If this newsletter reaches you via a friend or colleague, feel free to get in touch so we can help you subscribe and stay connected. Contact us at: iki.interface.southafrica@giz.de.

Happy reading!

Warm regards,
Gregor Schmorl, Nina Harnischfeger and Tyesha Pillay
IKI Interface in South Africa

CONTENTS:

- 1 [Introduction by the Editors](#)
- 2 [Updates on Climate Policy and Developments in South Africa](#)
- 2 [Climate Policy and International Commitments](#)
- 2 [Energy Policy and Electricity Planning](#)
- 4 [Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management](#)
- 5 [General News](#)
- 6 [Spotlight](#)
- 7 [News from IKI Projects in South Africa](#)
- 7 [Bilateral Projects](#)
- 11 [Regional Projects](#)
- 12 [Global Projects](#)
- 17 [IKI Small Grants Projects](#)
- 18 [Upcoming Events](#)
- 19 [Publications](#)

Updates on Climate Policy and Developments in South Africa

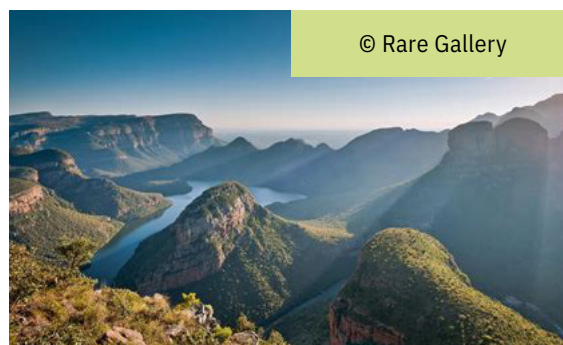
Climate Policy and International Commitments

SOUTH AFRICA SUBMITS SECOND NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC) TO UNFCCC

South Africa has officially submitted its second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), following an extensive series of stakeholder consultations across the country's major provinces.

The new NDC outlines South Africa's commitments under the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen climate adaptation measures, and advance a just transition toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. This submission fulfills the country's obligation under Article 4.9 of the Paris Agreement to communicate updated NDCs every five years.

In preparing this second NDC, South Africa took into account the findings of the first global stocktake, the latest reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The document emphasises that effective multilateral cooperation and enhanced international climate finance remain essential to achieving global temperature goals and ensuring a fair transition for developing nations.



© Rare Gallery

Energy Policy and Electricity Planning

SOUTH AFRICAN CABINET APPROVES INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN 2025

The South African Cabinet has approved the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP 2025), which outlines the country's updated electricity generation roadmap to 2039. The plan introduces several policy adjustments to balance South Africa's priorities of energy security, affordability and a just transition towards a lower-emission energy system.



Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr Kgosientsho David Ramokgopa © Engineering News

A key adjustment is the increase in the minimum load factor to 50% for the initial gas-to-power (GtP) plants to be developed by 2030. The IRP 2025 allocates 6 000 MW of GtP capacity by 2030 and 16 000 MW by 2039, supported by the potential conversion of existing open-cycle gas turbines from diesel to gas operation.

Additional policy measures include provisions to demonstrate clean-coal technologies by 2030, an allocation of up to 10 000 MW for new nuclear capacity by 2039, and maintaining the energy availability factor of Eskom's coal fleet between 66% and 68% through 2030.

In total, the IRP 2025 projects approximately 105 000 MW of new generation capacity by 2039, comprising a mix of wind, solar PV, storage, gas and nuclear technologies. The plan reaffirms the South African Government's commitment to a reliable, diversified and sustainable electricity supply that supports national development goals and climate commitments.

[Read more here](#)

KUSILE POWER STATION UNIT 6 ENTERS COMMERCIAL OPERATION

Eskom has officially brought Unit 6 at the Kusile Power Station in Mpumalanga into commercial operation, marking the completion of the multi-decade construction programme for the plant. Construction of Kusile began in August 2008, and the project is now fully operational with all twelve units online.

With Unit 6 contributing an additional 800 MW, Eskom reports that Kusile, together with the Medupi Power Station in Limpopo, now has a combined capacity of 9 600 MW. Eskom notes that this expanded capacity will support a more stable electricity supply following improvements in grid reliability and recent reductions in loadshedding.

Kusile is the first power plant in Africa to integrate wet flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) technology. All units have now passed the required testing and optimisation phases and are fully recorded in Eskom's energy availability factor (EAF), which reached a month-to-date average of 71.15% in September 2025.



Kusile power station © Eskom

Eskom leadership emphasised that the successful commissioning of Unit 6 completes the Kusile build programme and reinforces ongoing efforts to strengthen national energy security. At the same time, Eskom continues to pursue renewable energy projects in partnership with the private sector.

[Read more here](#)

LARGEST WIND FARM APPROVED IN THE WESTERN CAPE

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has granted Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the 1 GW Carissa Onshore Wind Project near Beaufort West, Western Cape. The project, developed by AMDA Developments, will feature 154 turbines, making it the largest permitted wind energy facility in South Africa.



Wind farm © Construction Review

The wind farm, with an estimated investment of R105 billion (USD 6 billion), is planned to supply electricity to support green ammonia production through a joint venture between UK-based Hive Energy and South African investment company BuiltAfrica. Construction is expected to begin in 2027, with commissioning scheduled from December 2029.

The Carissa project forms a key part of South Africa's renewable energy pipeline and is designed to support regional industrial development, including initiatives associated with the Coega Special Economic Zone.

[Read more here](#)

RENEWABLE ENERGY MASTERPLAN PLEDGE

The Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) of the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM) and Electricity and Energy Deputy Minister Samantha Graham-Maré have formalised a pledge committing to the swift implementation of the Masterplan.

SAREM's vision is to industrialise South Africa's renewable energy and battery storage value chain, supporting inclusive participation in the energy transition while contributing to economic development. The plan aims to create up to 25 000 job opportunities by 2030, with a focus on upskilling and empowering young people and women.

During the signing on 29 September, the EOC expressed full support for the plan, highlighting the importance of collaboration across government, private sector, labour and civil society to achieve its objectives. The plan is designed to remain flexible, allowing adjustments in response to industry needs and opportunities.

The EOC includes representatives from key government departments, including Electricity and Energy; Small Business Development; Trade, Industry and Competition; and Science, Technology and Innovation, alongside stakeholders from industry associations, labour organisations, special economic zones and community groups.

The pledge signals a shared commitment to developing a robust renewable energy and storage value chain that supports economic participation and energy transition goals across South Africa.

[Read more here](#)



Samantha Graham-Maré, Electricity and Energy Deputy Minister, signing the pledge. © Engineering News

Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management

SOUTH AFRICAN CABINET ENDORSES DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL CARBON MARKETS FRAMEWORK

The South African Cabinet has endorsed the development of a new framework to guide and expand high-integrity carbon markets in the country. The forthcoming South African Carbon Markets Framework will establish a credible, transparent and inclusive system for carbon trading, aligned with South Africa's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Paris Agreement's cooperative mechanisms.

Speaking at the Carbon Markets Africa Summit 2025, the former Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Dr Dion George, said the Framework would create an enabling environment to mobilise finance, transfer technology and support inclusive growth.

Developed under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, the draft Framework has been widely consulted upon and will be gazetted once finalised. It is complemented by a Draft Carbon Credit Revenue Plan, which aims to monetise South Africa's natural assets and generate sustainable revenue. The plan's objectives include producing high-integrity carbon credits, reinvesting proceeds into national climate programmes, and reinforcing South Africa's leadership in climate innovation.

Both instruments form part of an integrated approach to advancing climate finance and environmental sustainability, aligned with South Africa's G20 priorities. A fair revenue-sharing model is envisaged to ensure benefits flow to the national fiscus, project expansion and local communities.

[Read more here](#)

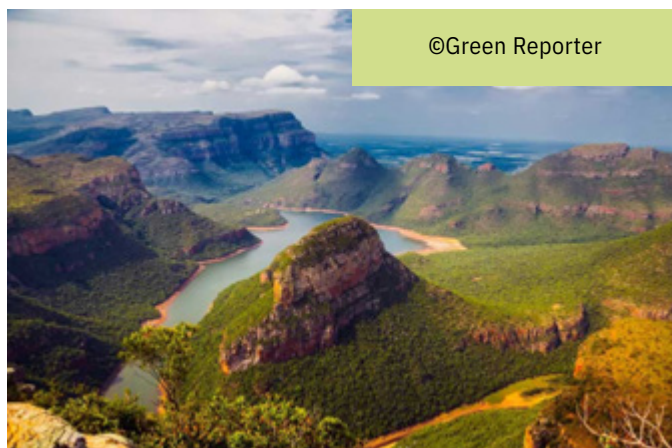


Former DFFE Minister, Dr Dion George, addressing the Carbon Market Africa Summit in Johannesburg. © South Africa News

THIRD ITERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (NBSAP)

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) is leading the development of the third iteration of South Africa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The NBSAP plays a critical role in integrating biodiversity considerations into broader policies and programmes, including development initiatives and poverty reduction strategies. It provides a roadmap for meeting national and international biodiversity objectives, strengthens the foundation of the National Biodiversity Framework, and builds on the 1997 White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biological Diversity, translating high-level policy into clear targets, roles, timeframes and measurable indicators.

Over the past months, 18 focus group engagements, each involving 100–200 stakeholders, have contributed inputs to the draft strategy, ensuring broad consultation and representation. The first draft of the 3rd NBSAP, incorporating input from these focus groups, is scheduled for submission to the Minister at the end of September 2025. This draft will then undergo further review through focus groups, followed by a comment, review and response process, to be completed by December 2025. During this period, a socio-economic impact assessment will also be conducted, with results expected by the end of January 2026.



@Green Reporter

Following these steps, the NBSAP will be considered through intergovernmental structures and is targeted for Cabinet approval by March 2026. This iteration aims to strengthen the integration of biodiversity priorities with climate action and national development goals, providing a robust framework to guide conservation and sustainable use efforts across South Africa.

General News

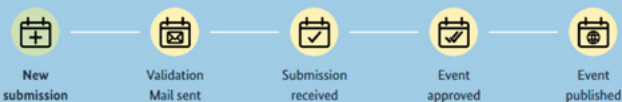
DISCOVER AND SHARE EVENTS WITH THE NEW IKI CALENDAR

We are excited to share that the new IKI event calendar is live on the IKI website. It is a central place to easily share and find events happening across the IKI community and beyond, bringing more visibility to IKI activities and connecting people across our international network.

Submit your own event

Create event proposal.

Fill out and submit the form to create a new event submission.



With this new tool, users can browse upcoming events, view them in their preferred time zone, and even export events directly to their personal calendars. Event organisers can quickly create and manage their listings, making event promotion easier than ever.

Submit your event [here](#)

UP TO €200,000 AVAILABLE IN FUNDING FOR LOCAL CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION



Local organisations are encouraged to apply for funding for climate and biodiversity projects. Registration is now open until 15 January 2026

IKI Small Grants launched its 7th International Call for Proposals on 17th November at COP30 in Belém, Brazil. The call addresses local organisations in ODA-eligible countries with an average annual revenue between 60,000 and 500,000 euros. They are invited to apply for funding of local or regional climate and biodiversity action projects.

IKI Small Grants provides funding between 60,000 and 200,000 euros. As part of the German Federal Government's International Climate Initiative (IKI), the IKI Small Grants programme supports projects and organisations worldwide that tackle climate change, address local adaptation, and conserve forests and biodiversity. Besides financing, organisations receive support in building their role as strong actors through capacity development measures.

For more information please visit: www.iki-small-grants.de

2025 IKI PHOTO CONTEST – WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Photographers from across the globe submitted striking images that showcase the impact of IKI-supported projects.

The winners of the 2025 IKI Photo Contest have been announced, and the winning entries will be exhibited at COP30 in Belém, featured on IKI's digital platforms, and receive exclusive prizes. The contest highlighted the creativity and vision of photographers capturing the real-world effects of climate and biodiversity initiatives.

Congratulations to all the winners and participants!



Explore the winning images [here](#)

Spotlight

2025 IKI SOUTH AFRICA THEMATIC EXCHANGE

On 22 September 2025, the IKI South Africa community hosted the Thematic Exchange on Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation, focusing on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA). The hybrid event brought together government departments, research institutions, civil society organisations and international partners, including DFFE, SANBI, NBI, CSIR, WildTrust, WWF-SA, and SouthSouthNorth.

The exchange offered a valuable space for participants to share experiences, explore innovative approaches and reflect on national progress in aligning climate and biodiversity objectives. Opening the session, Dr Michelle Hiestermaann (GIZ) highlighted the need for integrated, cross-sectoral approaches to environmental challenges.



Participants at the 2025 IKI-SA Thematic Exchange. © GIZ

Barney Kgope (DFFE) presented a national review of NbS, emphasising systems-based, landscape-level approaches, policy alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and opportunities to leverage international funding such as the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund. Ntakadzeni Tshidada (SANBI) discussed efforts to harmonise the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) with the Biodiversity Sector Adaptation Strategy and Implementation Plan (BSASIP), highlighting the importance of stakeholder engagement and regional collaboration.

The exchange also explored financing and scaling nature-based interventions.

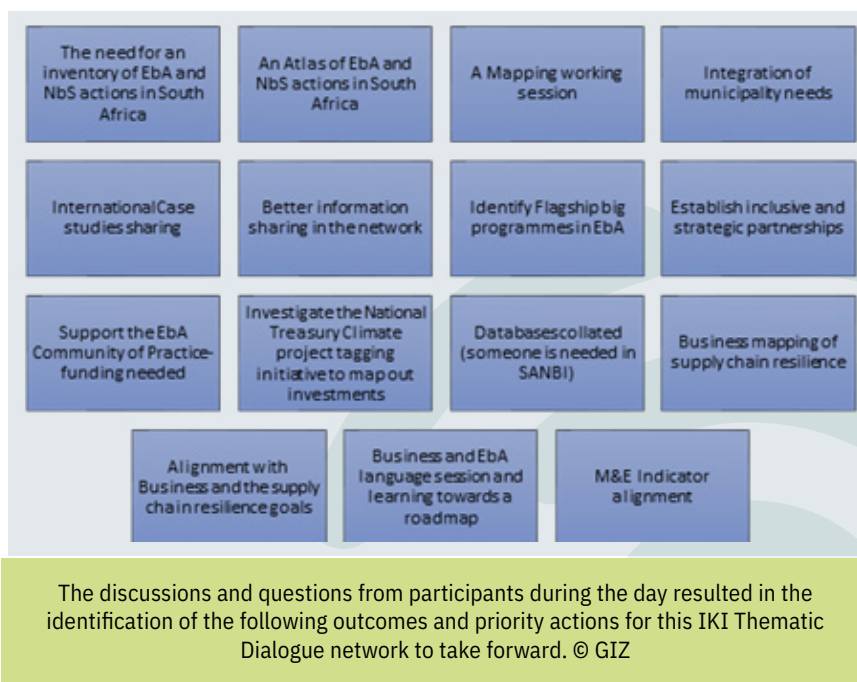
Dr Reuben Thifhulufhelwi (WWF-SA)

stressed moving from project-level actions to landscape-scale programmes with measurable impacts, while Nkosi Sithole (GroundTruth) shared research on linking ecological outcomes to financial models, showing the need for demonstration projects that attract both public and private investment.

Key takeaways included strengthening the science–policy–practice link, promoting systems approaches, integrating biodiversity and climate strategies, and enhancing coordination across sectors to accelerate impact.

The exchange demonstrated the power of coordinated, knowledge-based action, positioning South Africa to deliver resilient ecosystems and communities while contributing to global climate and biodiversity goals.

Contact: Dr Michelle Hiestermann, michelle.hiestermann@giz.de



News from IKI Projects in South Africa

BILATERAL PROJECTS

■ Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLISA) Launched at G20 ECSWG Meeting

Project: Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLISA)

Project period: 11/2024–10/2029

Implemented by: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

South Africa and Germany officially launched the Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLISA) project at the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group Ministerial Meeting in Cape Town on 16 October 2025. Led by UNEP and funded through Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI), the five-year initiative (2024–2029) restores degraded grassland, savanna and thicket biomes by linking science, policy and investment for ecological and socio-economic benefits. UNEP's Deputy Executive Director, Elizabeth Mrema, delivered opening remarks and, following statements by Ministers Hon Dion George and Hon Carsten Schneider and UN Resident Coordinator Nelson Muffuh, presented them with copies of the ReLISA photobook – a visual exploration of longlisted project sites.



From L-R: Nelson Muffuh, UN Resident Coordinator; Hon Carsten Schneider, German Federal Minister for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; Meseret Zemedkun, Head, UNEP Southern Africa Sub-Regional Office; Elizabeth Mrema, UNEP Deputy Executive Director; Hon Dion George, former Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa; Salman Hussain, ReLISA Project Lead and Head of UNEP's Economics of Nature Unit; Gulana Huseynova, UNEP Programme Management Officer. © DFFE



From L-R: Nelson Muffuh, UN Resident Coordinator; Elizabeth Mrema, UNEP Deputy Executive Director; Hon Dion George, former Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa; Hon Carsten Schneider, German Federal Minister for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. © DFFE.

Contact: Brian Mubiwa, brian.mubiwa@un.org
Dr Michelle Hiestermann, michelle.hiestermann@giz.de

Read more: [Relisa](#)

■ Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLISA) showcased at G20 ECSWG Side Event

Project: Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLISA)

Project period: 11/2024–10/2029

Implemented by: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) held the Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLISA) side event on the margins of the G20 ECSWG on 13 October 2025 in Cape Town. The event showcased ReLISA's value proposition and contribution to G20 priorities on land degradation neutrality, biodiversity, climate adaptation and sustainable land management. Speakers highlighted four key pillars: utilising national data to inform site selection, developing credible investment models, ensuring equitable community benefits, and enhancing governance through Biosphere Reserves and Water Funds. The event also launched the [ReLISA interactive map](#) of 11 longlisted sites. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment closed the session, reaffirming national alignment and support for partnerships like ReLISA that enable people and nature to thrive.



Salman Hussain, ReLISA Project Lead and Head of UNEP's Economics of Nature Unit, presents at the ReLISA G20 ECSWG Side Event. © UNEP



Group photo of participants at the G20 ECSWG Meeting side events. © SANBI

Contact: Brian Mubiwa, brian.mubiwa@un.org

Read more: [Relisa](#)

■ LCCR Water Peer Exchange: Smart Water Metering Lessons from George Municipality

Project: Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Water and Wastewater Management (LCCR Water)

Project period: 08/2022–10/2026

Implemented by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

In May 2025, the LCCR Water Peer Exchange on Non-Revenue Water showed that South African municipalities are interested in using smart water metering to boost efficiency and reduce losses. Building on this, George Municipality – a committed LCCR Water partner and national leader in smart water metering – hosted an on-site exchange on 21 August 2025, bringing together officials from eight municipalities, national stakeholders and academics. Through discussions and hands-on learning, participants shared lessons on piloting technologies, targeting high-impact areas, setting clear objectives and engaging communities. The event highlighted that success depends on strategic rollout, internal coordination and transparent stakeholder engagement.

Contact: Lynette Berrington, lynette.berrington@giz.de

Read more: [LCCR Water Peer Exchange: Smart Metering Lessons from George Municipality – IKI South Africa](#)

[Bilateral Projects – IKI South Africa](#)

[SECO - State Secretariat for Economic Affairs](#)



Participants from eight municipalities, the Department of Water and Sanitation, the Water Research Commission and the University of KwaZulu-Natal. © GIZ

■ Youth@SAIIA Champions Youth-led Climate Action

Project: Climate Support Programme IV (CSP4)

Project period: 01/2022–12/2026

Implemented by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Between August and October 2025, Youth@SAIIA mobilised young voices across South Africa through dynamic climate engagement initiatives. From Model COP30 simulations with high school and university students in KwaMashu, Makhanda and Cape Town, to nationwide SAYCAP roadshows, youth delegates negotiated positions on Just Transition and Climate Change, culminating in a resolution. Top speakers presented their work at the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa Conference. A key milestone was launching the Youth Climate Indicators: A Resource Guide, co-created with youth aged 13–25 to simplify climate policy. Youth@SAIIA also handed its COP30 statement to former Minister Dr Dion George, with Micaela de la Rey selected as South Africa's youth delegate to COP30 in Brazil. These initiatives reflect Youth@SAIIA's commitment to fostering informed, empowered and action-oriented youth leaders driving climate justice.

This piece of work by Youth@SAIIA was made possible through support from the Climate Support Programme IV as part of their overall support for youth engagement in climate change action.

Contact: Donovan Fullard, donavan.fullard@saiia.org.za
Ditebogo Lebea, ditebogo.lebea@giz.de



High school learners from Dr J.L. Dube High School in KwaMashu participating in the Model COP30 training.
© Youth@SAIIA

Micaela de la Rey and Tyla Nxumalo from Youth@SAIIA handing over the youth statement and Resource Guide to former Minister Dr Dion George. © Youth@SAIIA



■ Supporting Municipalities: Insights from the JUST SA and TIPS Training

Project: Just Transition to a Decarbonised South Africa (JUST SA)

Project period: 06/.2022 - 08/2027

Implemented by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS), in partnership with the Just Transition and Sustainable Societies in South Africa (JUST SA) project, hosted a two-day training workshop in Kimberley, Northern Cape, on 2–3 October 2025. The training aimed to equip provincial and local government officials with practical tools to advance the green economy and promote an inclusive just transition.



Group photo from TIPS Training in Kimberly. © GIZ

The sessions, delivered by TIPS experts Ian Steuart, Ntombifuthi Tshabalala and Dr Simbarashe Mhaka, included interactive exercises and group discussions on policies and instruments for climate-compatible industrial development. Participants explored opportunities for local implementation and collaboration to support a sustainable, low-carbon economy.

Contact person:

Christina von Heyden, christina.heyden@giz.de

Read more: [Welcome to JUST SA | Just SA](#)

<https://www.tips.org.za/>

REGIONAL PROJECTS

■ IKI Growing Greener Project Officially Launched in Namaqualand

Project: Growing Greener: Restoration and Sustainable use of Agro-pastoralist Systems in Open Arid Landscapes across Southern Africa

Project period: 03/2023–03/2029

Implemented by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

The Growing Greener Project was officially launched on 5 August 2025 in the Northern Cape, bringing together key stakeholders committed to restoring and sustainably managing agro-pastoral systems across Southern Africa's drylands. The launch featured presentations on project objectives, conservation outcomes and gender mainstreaming, followed by collaborative discussions with stakeholders. It also marked the first in-person National Steering Committee meeting to refine project governance and strengthen coordination among partners. On 6 August, participants visited the farm of Catharina "Aunt Ounooi" Gertze, whose story reflected resilience and the importance of indigenous knowledge. The event concluded with a visit to Steinkopf, where participants witnessed restoration efforts and nature-based solutions in action

Contacts: Dr Misheck Musokwa, misheck.musokwa@giz.de
Caroline Rose crose@conservation.org

Read more: <https://iki-southafrica.org/iki-growing-greener-project-officially-launched-in-namaqualand/>



The group visited a local farmer on the second day to look at her livestock farming. © Conservation South Africa.



The project was officially launched with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a symbolic start led by representatives from the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Environment (DFFE), The Department of Agriculture (DOA), the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAEARLLR) GIZ, Namakwa District Municipality, Nama Khoi Local Municipality, Kamiesberg Local Municipality, CCARDESA, PPF and CSA. © CCARDESA

■ Role out of GPS Trackers in the Namakwa Landscape

Project: Growing Greener: Restoration and Sustainable use of Agro-pastoralist Systems in Open Arid Landscapes across Southern Africa

Project period: 03/2023–03/2029

Implemented by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)



GPS collars being attached to a sheep ewe. © Conservation South Africa.

Tracking of 43 sheep and goat herds has begun in the arid Namakwa region to support sustainable rangeland management over the next three years. Using satellite GPS trackers, the daily movement of these herds, guided by local herders, will be monitored across a 700 000-hectare area.

By mapping livestock movement in relation to stockposts, waterpoints, and vegetation, the project aims to better understand grazing patterns across the landscape. This data will help identify:

- Grazing hotspots where overlap occurs due to neighbouring farmers settling too close together.
- Grazing coldspots where large distances prevent effective use of grazing areas.
- Accessible slopes for sheep and goats, allowing calculation of actual usable grazing hectares.

Insights will guide more informed decisions and strategies for sustainable communal rangeland management.

Contacts: Dr Misheck Musokwa, misheck.musokwa@giz.de

Caroline Rose crose@conservation.org

GLOBAL PROJECTS

■ Transnet Builds Green Hydrogen Skills in Collaboration with the International PtX Hub

Project: International Power-to-X (PtX) Hub

Project period: 11/2020–12/2025

Implemented by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

The International Power-to-X (PtX) in South Africa, together with Transnet, hosted a two-day PtX and green hydrogen training at Transnet's Esselen Park Campus in northern Johannesburg. As Transnet develops its own green hydrogen strategy, participants from Corporate Sustainability, Infrastructure and Engineering divisions gained key insights. Sandra Coetzee, Chief Legal Officer, called green hydrogen a 'strategic business opportunity', vital for a sustainable transition. Nkumbulo Sithole, Senior Specialist for Climate Change, presented the status quo of the company's green hydrogen strategy. Tsepiso Taoana-Mashiloane, Chief Director: Implementation Maritime Safety Security and Environment at the Department of Transport (DoT) highlighted South Africa's maritime decarbonisation efforts, reaffirming the Department's continued support for Transnet's green hydrogen initiatives.

Contact: Medinah Willies, medinah.willies@giz.de

Read more: [Start - PtX Hub](#)



PtX and green hydrogen training with Transnet. © GIZ

■ UN International Maritime Organization (IMO) delays vote on Net-Zero Framework Amid Pressure from Fossil Fuel Nations

South Africa stands firm in support of climate ambition and global maritime decarbonisation

Project: International Power-to-X Hub

Duration: 11/2020–12/2025

Implemented by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has postponed the final vote on its Net-Zero Framework (NZF) by one year after strong opposition from fossil fuel-producing countries, despite most member states approving it in April. The NZF aims to steer global shipping toward net-zero emissions by 2050, introducing the first worldwide emissions trading scheme for the sector. Industry groups such as the International Chamber of Shipping and ECSA reaffirm support for a fair, unified NZF enabling innovation. The International PtX Hub echoed this stance, currently supporting South Africa's Department of Transport (DoT) with research and capacity-building on zero and near-zero GHG fuels. Despite mounting pressure, South Africa upheld its climate commitments, prepared to vote in favor of the NZF, underscoring its determination to help shape a climate-neutral maritime future.

Contact: Johannes Arndt, johannes.arndt@giz.de

Read more: [Start - PtX Hub](#)



Freight ship in Cape Town in front of Lion's Head.
© Hennie Stander

■ Highlights from the CO₂ Reefer Technician Training Course

Project: Greener Reefers in International Maritime Transport

Project duration: 15/02/2023–15/02/2026

Implemented by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

The 5-day CO₂ Reefer Training course for refrigerated container technicians took place from 13–17 October 2025 at the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Academy in Durban, South Africa. Participants received theoretical and hands-on training using Carrier Transicold's NaturaLine unit, focusing on safe handling and energy-efficient operation of CO₂ systems.

Technicians and educators in South Africa and Costa Rica have received targeted training in CO₂-based refrigeration technologies for reefers, aiming to accelerate the global shift toward climate-friendly natural refrigerants such as CO₂ (R744) and propane (R290). With over 4 million refrigerated containers in use worldwide, the project supports the HFC phase-down under the Kigali Amendment by fostering safe, scalable adoption of low-impact refrigerants, contributing to a greener future for global cold chains.

Contact: Zane Silinda, Zane.silinda@giz.de,
Nina Harnischfeger, Nina.harnischfeger@giz.de

Read more: [Greener Reefers in International Maritime Transport](#)
[Project: Highlights from the Training of Trainers – IKI South Africa](#)

[South Africa and Costa Rica advance CO₂ reefer training under Greener Reefers Project](#)



Ongoing technician training. © GIZ

■ Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Dean Macpherson and Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) share South Africa's infrastructure approach in meeting with GIZ in Berlin

DPWI and ISA to attract investment and set up Private-Public-Partnerships for infrastructure development

Project: International Power-to-X Hub

Duration: 11/2020–12/2025

Implemented by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Dean Macpherson and Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) met with GIZ in Berlin, represented by Angelika Friedrich, GIZ Head of Division Southern Africa. The meeting highlighted ISA's mandate to drive infrastructure-led growth and GIZ's portfolio in energy, infrastructure and water in South Africa. Discussions focused on current opportunities and barriers to large-scale infrastructure deployment and the role of the private sector.

Contact: Maren Schöttler, maren.schoettler@giz.de

Read more: [Start - PtX Hub](#)



DPWI, ISA and GIZ delegations after meeting in Berlin. © GIZ

■ Authorisation for the Movement of R-12 Refrigerant

Project: Climate and Ozone Protection Alliance

Project duration: 2021

Implemented by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

On 28 August 2025, the South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) authorised the movement of six cylinders of R-12 refrigerant from Zimbabwe to South Africa for incineration by A-Thermal Retort Technologies.

High-temperature destruction of R-12 (Dichlorodifluoromethane) will prevent approximately 33 000 metric tonnes of CO₂ equivalent from entering the atmosphere due to improper disposal, leakage, ageing equipment or venting. The destruction will not generate carbon credits and falls outside Zimbabwe's Carbon Credits Trading Regulations (2023).

Under the global Climate and Ozone Protection Alliance (COPA), Zimbabwe's National Ozone Unit, through the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, is piloting regional cooperation with South Africa's National Ozone Unit to reduce ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and HFC banks.

Contact: Zane Silinda, Zane.silinda@giz.de;

Malin Emmerich, Malin.emmerich@giz.de; Ellen Michel, Ellen.michel@giz.de

Read more: [Regional Cooperation for Ozone Protection – IKI South Africa](#)

[Climate and Ozone Protection Alliance - COPA](#)

[Waste Management Company - A-Thermal \(Pty\) Ltd](#)



Stamp of approval from the Department of Forest, Fisheries and the Environment. © DFFE

■ The UNEP Generation Restoration Grant gives Life to the Overstrand Municipality's Catchment to Coast (C2C) Project

Project: Integrated Regional Action for Biodiversity (INTERACT - BIO)

Duration: 01/12/2016–30/04/2024

Implemented by: ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

In October 2022, ICLEI Africa, through INTERACT-Bio, began supporting Overstrand Municipality to strengthen biodiversity and restoration efforts. The partnership provided finance training, concept note development, and introductions to key funding opportunities, helping Overstrand connect with global networks and present its work internationally. ICLEI introduced the Municipality to the UNEP Generation Restoration grant, which became a turning point, giving life to the Catchment to Coast (C2C) project, supporting strategic restoration plans, a dedicated coordinator and the C2C Steering Committee. The grant also unlocked further investment, including R5 million from BOCMA and support from the White Desert Foundation.

■ IFC and FirstRand Advance Climate-smart Agriculture Finance

Pioneering a risk-sharing facility and advisory partnership to unlock climate-safe agriculture finance in South Africa

Project: Scale up Climate Finance Through the Financial Sector (30 by 30 Zero)

Duration: 01/2021–12/2028

Implemented by: International Finance Cooperation (IFC)

In September 2025, IFC launched a ZAR 1.8 billion Risk-Sharing Facility (RSF) with FirstRand to increase access to finance to underserved micro, small and medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in South Africa, focusing on high impact areas that normally lack access to finance. 10% of this facility targets climate-smart agriculture farmers. This is made possible through a 2-year Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) advisory partnership on beef and export fruits with FirstRand, under IFC's 30by30 South Africa programme.

Contact:

Nana Nuamoah Asamoah-Manu,
nasamoahmanu@ifc.org

Read more:

<https://www.ifc.org/en/pressroom/2025/ifc-and-firstrand-bank-partner-to-widen-access-to-finance-for-small-businesses-in-south-africa>



Thandi Farm worker pruning fruit trees, South Africa. © World Bank

■ Empowering Komati: Community Innovation for a Just Transition

Project: Innovation Regions for a Just Energy Transition (IKI JET)

Duration: 04/2022–01/2027

Implemented by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), with the ILO, IISD, CAN International, the Wuppertal Institut, and the Solidarity Center, in collaboration with the JUST SA project. The project is co-implemented by Indalo Inclusive South Africa NPC with various stakeholders through a multi-stakeholder approach.



Group photo of participants from the Komati JET Community Engagements and Innovations Co-Creation Project.
© GIZ

The Komati Just Energy Transition Community Engagements and Interventions Co-Creation Project (K-JET CEICC) represents a pivotal effort in South Africa's journey toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient future. Centred in the Mpumalanga region, particularly around the now-closed Komati Power Station, the project embodies the principle of procedural justice.

K-JET CEICC empowered unemployed community members affected by the Komati power station shutdown to co-create sustainable business ideas. Through climate and just transition dialogues, innovation workshops and training with Indalo Inclusive, participants developed community-led enterprises. At the Indalo Symposium, two enterprises were awarded R100 000 each supported by the IKI-JET project to launch their businesses – initiatives by the community, for the community.

Contact: Ruan Fourie: Ruan.Fourie@giz.de

Read more: [Welcome to JUST SA | Just SA](#)



Participants attending a Komati JET Community Engagement during a deep community engagement. © GIZ

■ International Capacity Development Programme - Indonesia 2025

Project: Innovation Regions for a Just Energy Transition (IKI JET)

Project period: 04/2022 - 01/2027

Implemented by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Three delegates from South Africa attended the 2025 International Capacity Development Programme (13–18 October), hosted by the Innovation Regions for a Just Energy Transition (IKI JET) project through the JET-CR Platform. The programme brought together representatives from Chile, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, South Africa, Thailand and Vietnam. The delegation visited East Kalimantan, Indonesia's coal hub, to explore just energy transition strategies.



Site visit to the Jonggon Post Mining Site. © GIZ

Vietnam. The delegation visited East Kalimantan, Indonesia's coal hub, to explore just energy transition strategies.

They also attended the Indonesia Sustainability Week Goes Regional (ISEWGR) conference, where officials shared pathways to net-zero emissions by 2060. Site visits included Samarinda, Balikpapan, and the new Nusantara Capital City, featuring MHU coal mine, Jonggon Post Mining Site, PT Pertamina, and Wasteco – an Independent Energy Village supplying clean cooking gas from landfill waste. The programme offered practical insights into balancing energy development, sustainability and community needs.

Contact person:

Ruan Fourie: Ruan.Fourie@giz.de

Read more: [Welcome to JUST SA | Just SA](#)



Site visit to the WasteCo - Independent Energy Village. Women use methane gas sourced from the landfill to power their small businesses. © GIZ

IKI SMALL GRANTS PROJECTS

■ Cultivating Connection: The Human Roots of Restoration

How the IKI Small Grants Project has Rekindled a Connection to Nature within the Community for Successful Ecological Restoration of the Grootvadersbosch Forests

Project: Invasive Riparian Species Control and Forest Landscape Restoration Leveraging Private Engagement

Duration: 08/2023–07/2025

Implemented by: Grootvadersbosch Conservancy

Over the past two years, the Grootvadersbosch Conservancy team has trained local contractors and three permanent staff in restoration skills, plant identification, ecology and climate change within the Heidelberg–Swellendam region of the Southern Cape. This work responded to a need to strengthen alien clearing with active restoration and create

steadier income for local teams. Through the project, contractors realised they could uplift their employees and improve livelihoods. Many who grew up close to nature learned, for the first time, the names and value of indigenous plants. A shared passion has taken root – to care for local ecosystems and protect them for future generations. A short YouTube Video shares personal stories of how this restoration project is reconnecting people with nature and each other in the Grootvadersbosch Region.

Contact:

Aileen Anderson, Aileen@gvbconservancy.co.za

Read more:

[GROOTVADERSBOSCH CONSERVANCY - Grootvadersbosch conservancy trail network in Grootvadersbosch Valley.](#)



Team training with Wesley from Soil Scopes.
© Lovegreen Communications



Upcoming Events

Just SA and TIPS

Green Economy and Just Transition Training 11–12 November 2025

The course is delivered over 2 days in each of the provincial capitals to capacitate local municipal officials whose day-to-day responsibilities require a strong grasp of climate change, green economy and just transition issues. This would be the 8th and last training for the year 2025.

Contact:

Natasha Du Plessis, Natasha@tips.org.za
Ruan Fourie, Ruan.Fourie@giz.de

Youth@SAIIA

Youth Conference: 'Air Aware: Breathe Joburg – Youth Voices and Policy Action for Clean Air and Healthy Communities'

February 2026 (TBC)

Youth-Led Conference on Air Pollution Policy and Implementation will convene youth, policymakers, civil society, researchers and technical experts for an in-person dialogue on how to strengthen air quality governance, accountability, and community participation.

Contact:

Donovan Fullard, Donavan.Fullard@saiia.org.za



Publications

Title: The Youth Climate Indicators: A Resource Guide

Autor: Youth@SAIIA

Publication date: August 2025

Description: Description: The Youth Climate Indicators: A Resource Guide provides a pioneering, youth-friendly guide designed to empower young South Africans to monitor, measure and drive the implementation of key climate resilience policies. This guide was developed through a participatory process involving young people aged 13 to 25 from across the country, it translates complex and comprehensive climate policy into accessible and actionable indicators. It serves as a vital tool for youth, educators, civil society and decision-makers to collectively work towards a climate-just and resilient South Africa.

Access link: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:5f8d6694-c049-475f-a4b8-9eb79fce06ce>

Title: Restoring Landscapes in South Africa – A visual exploration of ReLISA project sites

Autor: ReLISA Project

Publication date: October 2025

Description: The ReLISA Photobook offers a visual journey through longlisted project sites. It celebrates South Africa's natural heritage while highlighting ecological challenges, the restoration action needed, and the economic opportunities they present.

Access link: [Restoring Landscapes in South Africa \(ReLISA\) Photobook – Relisa](#)

Title: Identifying Renewable Energy Sites for Power-to-X Production at South African Ports

Autor: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Publication date: September 2025

Description: The Environmental Screening Study identifies feasible sites for large-scale renewable energy to produce green hydrogen and Power-to-X based on environmental and land use constraints in Richards Bay, Coega, Mossel Bay, Saldanha Bay, and Boegoebaai.

Access link: [Identifying RE sites for PtX production at South African ports - PtX Hub](#)

Title: Wind and Solar Resource Assessment and Financial Modelling at South African Ports

Autor(s): Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Publication date: September 2025

Description: The study assesses wind and solar potential near South African ports, showing how ports and SEZs can drive Power-to-X development. It links renewable feasibility, green fuel production, and a just transition to guide sustainable port energy planning.

Access link: [Wind and Solar Resource Assessment and Financial Modelling at South African Ports - PtX Hub](#)

Title: Shore Power Demand for South African Ports

Autor(s): Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Publication date: September 2025

Description: The study develops a methodology to estimate shore power demand over time for selected South African ports. It analyses vessel activity and power use while ships are docked to plan renewable energy supply and assess infrastructure capacity.

Access link: [Shore Power Demand for South African Ports - PtX Hub](#)

Title: Load Connection Capacity Assessment of South African National Ports

Autor(s): Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Publication date: September 2025

Description: The study assesses the capacity of South African ports to serve additional power demand for shore operations. It evaluates connection capacity to support renewable power supply and ranks ports by spare capacity to guide grid planning.

Access link: [Load Connection Capacity Assessment of South African National Ports - PtX Hub](#)

Title: Composting our Nursery to Sustainability

Project: Invasive Riparian Species Control and Forest Landscape Restoration Leveraging Private Engagement

Description: This short YouTube video shares personal stories of how this restoration project is reconnecting people with nature and each other in the Grootvadersbosch Region. Through the IKI Small Grants Project, the team trained with Wesley from Soil Scopes, learning to care for soil and its microbes. To cut nursery costs, they began making compost, ensuring restored plants return to the wild with the right nutrients.

Watch here: [A story of hope and restoration from GVB Conservancy](#)

Title: Rachel

Project: Invasive Riparian Species Control and Forest Landscape Restoration Leveraging Private Engagement

Description: Rachel Jacobs grew up in Grootvadersbosch, walking through forest paths to bush school and hearing tales of the Boosman who worked with plants and magic. Once seeing trees as just trees, through the IKI Small Grants project she's rediscovered her roots and love for nature.

Watch: [Rachel Rediscovering Her Roots and Love of Nature](#)

Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices in Bonn and Eschborn,
Germany

333 Grosvenor Street
Hatfield Gardens, Block C
0028, Pretoria, South Africa

+ 27 (0)12 423 5900
+27 (0)12 342 0185
giz-suedafrika@giz.de

www.giz.de

Responsible: Climate Support Programme (CSP)
Gregor Schmorl (Gregor.schmorl@giz.de)

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication
Photo credits/sources: Respective projects

Responsibility for the content of external websites linked in this publication always lies with
their respective publishers. GIZ expressly dissociates itself from such content.

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) is one of the key instruments of the German Federal
Government to support international climate action and biodiversity. The IKI supports solution
strategies in developing and emerging countries that seek to achieve sustainable change.

www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/

IKI SOUTH AFRICA NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2025

