









# South Africa

Emissions	Climate Commitment Status
<p><b>1.06%</b> of global emissions<sup>1</sup></p>	<p><b>2020 update submitted<sup>2</sup></b> ✓</p> <p><b>LTS submitted in 2020<sup>3</sup></b> ✓</p> <p><b>CAT rating<sup>4</sup></b> <b>INSUFFICIENT</b></p> <p><b>Net zero commitment:</b> No official commitment</p> <p>The long-term strategy submitted to the UNFCCC states that “We thus commit to ultimately moving towards a goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050” but this goal and the measures to achieve it “will be formally communicated in future iterations of this strategy” (<a href="#">South Africa’s Low Emission Development Strategy 2050</a>)</p> <p><b>Net zero details:</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> 2050</p> <p><b>Legal status:</b> In policy document</p> <p><b>Gases covered:</b> Uncertain</p> <p><b>Credits allowed:</b> Uncertain</p>
How action-oriented are the NDCs in the food and land sector?	
Criteria	NDC Assessment
<p><b>Specific policy priorities or actions for agriculture and food:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AFOLU sector is covered in the NDC, but no information is provided on mitigation actions or targets in the agriculture and food sector</li> <li>Agriculture is included in the key focus sectors in the adaptation component, aiming to “prioritise understanding of impacts, risk and vulnerability for the key sectors, and the development of climate response plans”</li> <li>Adaptation actions in the agricultural sector include the development of early warning systems for small scale farmers, supporting climate-smart agriculture, the development of a multi-hazard early warning system, capacity building for the farming sector on climate change and full implementation of a climate-smart agriculture framework</li> <li>In the context of COVID19 the NDC highlights the importance of ensuring that “food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner”</li> </ul>	<p>▲</p> <p><b>Medium:</b> NDC mentions <b>generic orientations of actions, commitment or strategy</b> in the agriculture and food sector but provides little detail of specific sub-sector orientations pursued by the Party</p>
<p><b>Specific policy priorities or actions for LULUCF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land sector is included in the NDC, excluding emissions from natural disturbances (IPCC 2006 guidelines categories 3B and 3D); no information is provided on mitigation measures or targets in the LULUCF sector.</li> <li>The excluded emissions are mainly related to wildfires and are excluded due to significant interannual variations and uncertainties</li> <li>The NDC states that “considerable uncertainties remain in estimating GHGs, especially in the land sector” and that recalculations following improvements in estimating land sector emissions may result in significant changes in previously reported GHG estimates</li> <li>The forestry sector is mentioned together with agriculture as one of the key focus sectors for adaptation, but no specific adaptation actions are provided</li> </ul>	<p>○</p> <p><b>Low:</b> NDC does not cover LULUCF or <b>provides no detail on general or specific orientations</b>, or only in contextual manner</p>
<p><b>Key policies in the NDC supporting priorities:</b></p> <p><b>Agriculture and food:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul> <p><b>LULUCF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<p>○</p> <p><b>Low:</b> NDC does not list any <b>sectoral</b> policy related to agriculture, food or LULUCF</p>
<p><b>Dedicated financial resources associated with policies or action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NDC states that it will require a much greater investment programme over the next decade, of between R860 billion and R920 billion (in 2019 Rands; USD60-64 billion); the figures are associated mostly to the electricity generation sector and projects</li> <li>The NDC was developed with the assumption that support will be provided for the implementation of the targets and goals specified, for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage; “South Africa expects developed countries to continue to provide and mobilise climate finance and to support country-driven strategies”.</li> <li>Public investment information is only provided for the adaptation component of the NDC, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USD 3–4 billion required for the implementation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy from 2021 to 2030 (including specific actions in the agricultural sector)</li> <li>USD 8 million for developing tools, strategies and rollout for the period 2021 to 2030 for climate adaptation including in agriculture and forestry</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>○</p> <p><b>Low:</b> NDC does not provide any detail on public funding to mitigation actions in the agriculture, food and land sectors</p>

How action-oriented are the NDCs in the food and land sector?		
Criteria		NDC Assessment
<b>Spatial information for mitigation provided in the NDC:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 2 of the adaptation communication mentions the need to develop an understanding of the impacts of 1.5°C and 2°C of global warming and the underlying global emission pathways through "geo-spatial mapping of the physical climate hazards"</li> </ul>		 <p><b>Medium:</b> NDC provides information on spatial planning related to climate mitigation and adaptation and/or includes a non-actionable map, i.e. one that is not useful in isolation or when combined with other data layers to inform policy. E.g. Map of administrative regions</p>
<b>Technology details provided in the NDC:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the actions under goal 3 of the adaptation communication is to "promote research and development in application, localisation, transfer and adoption of technology within key climate-sensitive sector for the period 2021- 2030" including agriculture and forestry</li> <li>• Section 5 on the needs for external supports restates the need for technology transfer from developed countries but does not specify what types of technologies and for which sectors.</li> </ul>		 <p><b>Medium:</b> NDC provides a general indication of technological development needs or plans related to agriculture, food or LULUCF</p>
What specific policy measures are included in the NDCs regarding critical food and land transitions?		
Critical transition	Details	NDC Assessment
Healthy diets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	 <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Productive and regenerative agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of early warning climate systems for small scale farmers and supporting climate-smart agriculture</li> <li>• The development of a multi-hazard early warning system, capacity change and full implementation of a climate- smart agriculture framework should be prioritised</li> <li>• Capacity building for the farming sector on climate change and full implementation of a climate-smart agriculture</li> <li>• Agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors are critical in attracting foreign exchange, job creation and production of raw material for the economy</li> <li>• Across South Africa, the increase in temperatures and changing rainfall patterns will bring about distinct risks for different crops and commodities in different growing areas; impacts will have major implications for crops, tree species, livestock, game and fisheries as well as the prevalence of pests and diseases</li> </ul>	 <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>
Protecting and restoring nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries is the focal point for climate change and is responsible for climate change adaptation planning</li> <li>• Priority sectors are biodiversity, ecosystems, water, health energy, settlements (coastal, urban, rural); disaster risk reduction, transport, infrastructure, mining, fisheries, forestry and agriculture</li> <li>• Enhance the Monitoring of Climate Change impacts on Biodiversity and Ecological Infrastructure</li> <li>• The current projections show a considerable increase in temperature and more erratic rainfall leading to biodiversity loss within the biodiversity sector, which contributes about 418 000 jobs (NBA, 2018); the risk to biodiversity is expected to increase in future, as explained by various projected climatic variables in the form of increased fire frequency and severity, erratic rainfall and increased evaporative demand on account of elevated temperatures</li> <li>• The adaptation communication provides detailed information on South Africa's planned contribution to the global adaptation goal during the NDC period, anticipated climate impacts, a description of our recently approved National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, and details of planned adaptation actions over the next decades and their associated costs for key areas of the economy that are likely to be most impacted by climate change (health, agriculture and forestry, human settlements, biodiversity, and water)</li> </ul>	 <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>
A healthy and productive ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water sector settlements: enhance water security; effectively deploy flood protection measures, and hydro-metrological monitoring systems</li> </ul>	 <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Diversifying protein supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	 <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Reducing food loss and waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the context of COVID-19, we highlight the importance of global solidarity, in fighting the virus and climate change. In recommitting ourselves to the multi-lateral rules based system, we highlight the importance of ensuring that "food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner"</li> </ul>	 <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>

What specific policy measures are included in the NDCs regarding critical food and land transitions?		
Critical transition	Details	NDC Assessment
Local loops and linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Digital revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water sector settlements.: enhance water security; and effectively deploy flood protection measures, hydro-metrological monitoring systems</li> <li>• Agriculture: development of early warning systems for small scale farmers; and supporting climate-smart agriculture</li> <li>• Health: monitoring, surveillance and early warning systems for climate-induced diseases</li> <li>• Biodiversity: Enhance the Monitoring of Climate Change impacts on Biodiversity and Ecological Infrastructure</li> <li>• Enhance early warning, vulnerability and adaptation monitoring system for period of 2021 to 2030</li> <li>• South Africa will seek to develop small, medium and micro-enterprises, including energy service companies, to implement innovative technologies and create sustainable employment; in addition to implementation of emissions reductions in the 2020s pursuant to the updated NDC target ranges contained in Table 2 above, support will also be required for longer term decarbonisation, which will require investments in the 2020s in infrastructure, technology development and capacity-building</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>
Stronger rural livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal Settlement: urban and rural</li> <li>• The just transition in South Africa will require international cooperation and support. In the first NDC, South Africa identified various technologies that could help us to further reduce emissions</li> <li>• South Africa is also fortunately blessed with abundant renewable energy resources, and developments in the economics of renewable energy technologies over the last decade are very favourable to low-carbon development in the country, but a well-resourced just transition strategy will be needed to shift to low-carbon technologies, to maximise benefits and minimise adverse impacts on communities, workers and the economy</li> <li>• South Africa convened a Job Summit in 2018, which agreed to establish a Presidential Climate Commission to oversee South Africa's just transition; a just transition means leaving no-one behind. It requires procedural equity to lead to equitable</li> <li>• Outcomes: a just transition is at the core of implementing climate action in South Africa, as detailed in both the mitigation and adaptation goals presented below.</li> <li>• "As South Africa indicated at the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit in 2019, as part of ensuring a just transition we will need to put measures in place that plan for workforce reskilling and job absorption, social protection and livelihood creation, incentivising new green sectors of our economy, diversifying coal dependent regional economies, and developing labour and social plans as and when ageing coal-fired power plants and associated coal production infrastructure are decommissioned. Based on this process, we will be finalising our Just Transition Plan, including defining pathways compatible with pursuing efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5 °C"</li> <li>• Agriculture: development of early warning climate systems for small scale farmers, capacity building for the farming sector on climate change; and full implementation of a climate-smart agriculture</li> <li>• Vulnerability and risk assessment for the health sector positions subgroups such as the elderly and children as the most vulnerable to temperature extremes; recognises rural livelihoods and outdoor labour, including women, as the most exposed to extreme temperature hazards leading to adverse effects such as heat stroke</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>
Gender and demography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public consultation and participation: DFFE conducted stakeholder consultations by way of a hybrid model (due to challenges brought about by the COVID pandemic) using in-person consultations and virtual participation in all nine provinces, accessible to local government and undertaken in a gender-responsive manner</li> <li>• Long and deep transformations, for example in producing green steel, require international cooperation and support; "in such transformations, we will seek to raise further awareness of the financial and technical support available for promoting the strengthening of gender integration into climate policies, including good practices to facilitate access to climate finance for grassroots women's organisations and indigenous peoples and local communities"</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>

## What specific institutional arrangements for climate have countries put in place?

### Dedicated body in place:

- The NDC states that the Climate Change Bill describes "three key climate change adaptation institutional structures in the Climate Change Bill – namely the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC); the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change (IMC) and the Provincial Forum on Climate Change – are designed to improve both coherence coordination, as well as the implementation of adaptation responses across government, and in engaging with business, civil society and research institutions"
- The NDC commits to establishing the Presidential Climate Commission and Inter- Ministerial Committee on Climate Change by 2025

### Consultation processes:

- The process for updating SA's first NDC had five parts: technical analysis, consultation within government, consultation with broader stakeholders, provincial public stakeholder workshops, and finalisation in government and Cabinet
- Public consultation and participation: The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment conducted stakeholder consultations by way of a hybrid model (due to challenges brought about by the COVID pandemic) using in-person consultations and virtual participation in all nine provinces, accessible to local government and undertaken in a gender-responsive manner; the stakeholder consultations were launched at the National Climate Change Committee, and the NDC was presented to the Presidential Climate Commission and to stakeholders across business, labour and civil society, including women and youth constituencies

## SUMMARY

### Summary of the NDC analysis:

- The NDC does not detail any mitigation measures tied to the food and land sector. Agriculture and forestry are identified as key focus sectors in the adaptation communication. Some orientations of actions are provided for the adaptation of the agriculture and food sector, but no actions are described for the LULUCF sector.
- No sectoral policies related to the AFOLU sector are mentioned in the NDC.
- The need for external financial support is highlighted, but no indications are provided on national budgetary lines.
- The NDC mentions the need for "geo-spatial mapping of the physical climate hazards" of climate change for key sectors including agriculture and LULUCF but does not include any further details.
- The NDC mentions the need to promote research and development in climate adaptive technologies in several sectors including agriculture and forestry, but no further details are provided.
- The NDC addresses five critical transitions well, however it does not reference many policies or strategies relating to each transition.
- Under the critical transition on "stronger rural livelihoods", the NDC includes many references to a just transition, including specific actions and a Just Transition Plan to define pathways to achieve climate action without "leaving anyone behind." It does however mention that a "well-resourced" strategy will be need, so this is a conditional target on international support.

## REFERENCES

1. Source: ClimateWatch, accessed 30 August 2021. <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/compare-all-targets?>
2. Submitted 27 September 2021. Source: UNFCCC. <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/South%20Africa%20First/South%20Africa%20updated%20first%20NDC%20September%202021.pdf>
3. Submitted 23 September 2020. Source: UNFCCC. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/South%20Africa%27s%20Low%20Emission%20Development%20Strategy.pdf>
4. Source: Climate Action Tracker, accessed 05 October 2021. <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/south-africa/>