BASIC COUNTRIES

CLIMATE POLICY - FACT SHEETS

February 2010

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's accounts for 1.5% of the global total of GGH emissions[10] and its annual greenhouse gas emissions amount to 417 Mt of CO_2e (carbon dioxide equivalent). Although it ranks 17th in country listings for carbon dioxide emissions, South Africa is by far the largest emitter of greenhouse gases on the African continent and accounts for 40% of Africa's electricity use[1].

South Africa's per capita emissions are higher than the global average and stand at close to 8.59 mt CO_2e. This largely owes to heavy dependence on coal for energy production as well as energy-intensive industrial activities such as mining.

CURRENT COMMITMENTS

South Africa has made voluntary submissions to the UNFCCC under the Copenhagen Accord, but also seeks to put in place a domestically binding climate policy by 2012[4]. It ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2002, and has reiterated under the Copenhagen Accord that it will undertake Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMAs) which will enable the country to accomplish:

"A 34% deviation below Business As Usual (BAU) emission growth trajectory by 2020, and a 42% deviation below the BAU emissions growth trajectory by 2025[3]".

Such action, however, is conditional upon the provision of international financial resources, transfer of technology and capacity building support. If such conditions are met, South Africa's emissions could peak between 2020-25 and then plateau for a decade before declining in absolute terms[2]. Despite being conditional upon international support, this pledge could be considered ambitious by developing country standards.

South Africa also seeks to put in place a binding climate policy (domestic) by 2012, and has set itself an energy efficiency improvement target of 12% by 2015, plus a renewable energy target of 10,000 GWh by 2013.

CURRENT ACTIONS

The beginnings of climate change-related policies in South Africa can be traced back to 1998 and the issuance of a white paper on Energy Policy. Following this, the Government issued the National Integrated Energy Plan (2003), the Renewable Energy Policy (2003) and an Energy Efficiency Strategy (2005).

In early 2009, the National Climate Change Summit saw the translation of these and related Cabinet climate change policy decisions and directives into fiscal, regulatory and legislative packages as well as sectoral implementation plans.

The table below summarises key policies and measures undertaken by the South African government on energy and climate issues (source: OECD 2009).

Policy Name	Type	Target	Status	Y
Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff (REFIT)	•Incentives/Subsidies	•Energy Production	In force	2009
Solar Water Heating Programme	•Incentives/Subsidies	•Energy Production	In force	2008
Vision, Strategic Direction and Framework for Climate Policy	•Education and Outreach •Financial •Incentives/Subsidies •Policy Processes •Regulatory Instruments	•Framework Policy •Multi-sectoral Policy	In force	2008
Energy Efficient Motors Programme	•Incentives/Subsidies	•Industry	In force	2007
State Utility Distributes Free and Subsidized CFLs	•Public Investment •Voluntary Agreement	•Appliances	In force	2006
State Utility Offers Energy Audits to Reduce Peak Load		•Multi-sectoral Policy	In force	2006
Energy Efficiency Accord	•Voluntary Agreement	•Energy Production •Industry	In force	2005
Energy Efficiency Strategy of the Republic of South Africa	•Policy Processes	•Framework Policy •Multi-sectoral Policy	In force	2005
Renewable energy subsidies - DME	•Financial		In force	2005

Policy Name	Type	Target	Status	Y
	•Incentives/Subsidies •Policy Processes			
White Paper on Renewable Energy	•Policy Processes	•Energy Production	In force	2003

South Africa's 34% commitment under the UNFCCC is based on the Long-term Mitigation Scenario (LTMS) - a study commissioned by the government to assess the mitigation potential of the South African Economy, and to provide the basis for sound scientific analyses upon which to draw up its long-term climate policy. The LTMS refers to two emission scenarios - *'not constrained'* and of emission levels *'required by science'*. The LTMS identifies actions that will take South Africa to the '*required by science'* scenario.

While most of the country's actions to combat climate change are still at the policy level, proposed actions include mandatory energy efficiency targets, a push for energy efficiency across all sectors, incentives to boost investments into renewables and efforts to shift the energy mix of the country away from coal. Under the LTMS, actions identified as *'start now'* (one of the scenarios in the report), reflect actions already undertaken.

EMISSIONS PROFILE

Greenhouse gas emission inventories for South Africa are only available from national inventory data dating from 1990 to 1994. A more recent inventory from 2004-2005 is now being updated by South Africa's Department for Environment and Tourism[7].

According to the government, total GHG emissions increased by 9.4% from 1990 to 1994, with CO_2 accounting for 83.4% of carbon-dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) emissions that year[7]. More recent International Energy Agency estimates for South Africa from 2007 indicate 345.77 Mt of CO_2 emissions in that year alone.

South Africa's energy industry alone was responsible for 56.7% of CO2e emissions in 1994, with industry (18.0%) and transport (14.6%) accounting for a significant remainder.

KEY INSTITUTIONAL PLAYERS

National climate change-related activities are coordinated by the Department of Environment and Tourism (DEAT). DEAT leads policy formulation under the national climate change response programme. The National Committee on Climate Change

(NCCC) and the Government Committee on Climate Change (GCCC) coordinate cross-sectoral inputs on climate change issues.

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