

## BACKGROUND OF OF KEY ISSUES

According to the joint submission to the United Nations **Universal Periodic Review** submitted 31st March 2022; South Africa is one of the world's top coal producers and this continues to endanger the lives of environmental activists who often face threats, intimidation and in extreme cases death. Communities in south Africa have over the years had fight energy related mutilated companies to protect their land water and air from degradation and contamination.

The conclusions/ recommendations made by the **Philippines on South Africa 3rd cycle UPR** dated May 2017, implementation and development needs to continue to hold stakeholders accountable, particularly those in the extractive sector, for **human right** violation and **environmental degradation** for their operations, although the recommendation was noted and addressed generally; the conclusion remains relevant.

## NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Despite being such an important thematic, it is still a new issue to SA. Statements made by Executive Secretary of Framework Convention on Climate Change- Secretariat at the World Summit on Sustainable Development based on woman being the most affected by climate change, indicate that linking climate policy to poverty reduction objectives, **clean energy** access for communities and stimulation of new **low-carbon industrial growth** and innovation is key to leveraging buy-in and effective engagement across levels of **governance**, horizontally and vertically. for this reason, climate change often **magnifies gender inequality**. When natural disasters cause more difficulty in securing water and fuel wood, women carry a heavier burden, their time is taken away from **income-generating activities**, and traditional roles are reinforced.

Since South Africa signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in New York on the 22nd April 2016, the adoption of the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of South Africa Version UE10 (13 November 2019) sighted the goals to Develop an early warning, vulnerability and adaptation monitoring system for key climate vulnerable sectors and geographic areas for the period 2020 to 2030, and reporting in terms of the National Adaptation Plan with rolling five-year implementation periods.

## CHALLENGES

Focusing on governmental action plans, climate change community- lead programs, consideration should also be given to which agency is best suited to lead on the coordination of the implementation of the national climate change objectives, taking into account their technical expertise, political standing and availability of resources, based on National Action Plan; the effect on women's environmental security, joint together to prevent the decay of the environment through positive human behavioral change, protect the peacebuilding initiatives, activities and frameworks that promote realistic laws and inclusive policies that will lead South Africa to relief and recovery of climate injustice.



# FACTSHEET

## SOUTH AFRICA UPR

PRE-SESSION | CSOs & SAHRC  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
2022

A Collaboration of civil society organizations representing the Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) Compact formed under the Generation Equality Forum. .

## CHALLENGES

- I. South Africa's institutional framework for climate mitigation.
- II. Mainstreaming of climate policies, sectoral policy planning and overarching national strategies can be better aligned.
- III. Limited human resources and an insufficient budget, the climate change lead agency.
- IV. Communicating past investments in adaptation for education and awareness and for international recognition.

Considering that environmental peace-building is never straightforward, but there is an increasing awareness that the challenge will become exponentially more difficult in countries where climate change is amplifying social and political instability.

However, the impacts are temporally and spatially diverse, because different social, political and economic contexts and processes are aggravated by different climate-related changes.

## CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS



The country's **7th National GHG Inventory Report**, including the latest official data, showed that South Africa's **emissions increased** by 10.4% between 2000 and 2017 to 482,016.4 Gigagrams of CO2 equivalent (531.33 million mt) after agriculture's role as a sink was taken into account.



In 2015, South Africa recorded its lowest annual rainfall since 1904.



In 2015, Cape Town recorded its highest temperature in the last 100 years at 42°C, the lack of rain and abnormally high temperatures ended up contributing to some of the worst fires the city has seen



South Africa's policies and actions as "Almost sufficient". The "Almost sufficient" rating indicates that South Africa's climate policies and action in 2030 are not yet consistent with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C temperature limit but could be, with moderate improvements. If all countries were to follow South Africa's approach, warming could be held at—but not well below—2°C.

South Africa is now; no longer seen purely as an environmental problem, but also a developmental problem. the impacts from increasing temperatures, increased flooding, changes in rainy seasons and changes in winds on many aspects of broader socioeconomic development,

such as water availability, food security, housing and infrastructure. South Africa's per capita emissions are high relative to other countries in Africa, and even globally. So climate change mitigation has been in discussion for some time and academics and government policy makers have worked closely together.

### Climate change governance.

To provide a comprehensive response to governing climate change it is important that a range of supporting policies be developed for action in each sector. Policies alone are, however, not enough. As the National Climate Change Response White Paper (NCCRWP) recognises, to ensure sustainable development and a just, managed transition to a low-carbon economy and society these policies need to be aligned both vertically (from national to local levels) and horizontally (between national departments) to achieve common goals. This section discusses the approach South Africa has adopted to manage this coordination.

The NCCRWP sets out an obligation for all government departments and state-owned enterprises to align their policies, strategies and regulations with the content of the White Paper.

The design and development of domestic climate change policy in South Africa is led by the national government with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

### QUESTION FOR REVIEW

Social, political, and economic contexts shape both the conditions for and the sequencing of environmental peacebuilding activities and determine the pathways for sustaining peace. In South Africa we continue to beseech peacebuilding efforts, policy actors to realize that peacebuilding offers better pathways to peace when it is bottom-up, inclusive, and able to address the grievances that gave rise to the conflict and those that result from war.

### NAP-WPS | Climate Change Justice



- I. The WPS Agenda affirms the critical role of women in addressing security threats, and calls for women's equal participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding efforts. Climate change is increasingly recognized as a security threat. GIWPS. Climate Change, Clara Chiu and Jessica Smith | March 3, 2022. What type of support can CSOs receive to implement the National Action Plan - WPS?

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. Community leaders to be included in the primary consultations to encourage collaborative participation.
- II. Recommend South Africa to develop environmental education programs led by peace clubs in the community centers.
- III. Consecrate a national budget to advance platforms for early warning systems for climate change/justice.
- IV. Protection of Environment through Visible policing forums for the environment, create community performance targets into key performance assessment. (Community Environment Peace Awards)
- V. Relief & Recovery – Repurposing Dumping sites, re-introduce community-led sustainability programs.

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