


Coastal Climate Change Facts

Adapted from South Africa's Climate Change Adaptation Response Plan (CARP)

 Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (2025)

Why the Coast Matters

- 12.9 million people (22% of South Africa's population) live within 20 km of the ocean.
- About 60% of South Africa's economy depends on coastal trade, ports, and natural resources.

Healthy coastal ecosystems are essential for:

- Livelihoods (like fishing and tourism)
- Natural climate protection (dunes, mangroves, reefs)
- Economic stability and food security

What's the Climate Risk?



- Rising sea levels, stronger storms, and extreme rainfall are damaging homes, infrastructure, and coastal resources.
- Storm surges and flooding are becoming more frequent and intense.
- Climate change impacts coastal communities, especially the 3.7 million people living within 1 km of the shoreline.
- Coastal areas are growing faster than inland ones, putting more people and property at risk.

What is CARP?

The Climate Change Adaptation Response Plan (CARP) is South Africa's first national plan to guide action on coastal climate resilience. It supports:

- Our international commitments (like the Paris Agreement)
- National laws (Climate Change Act, Coastal Management Act)
- Practical, science-based solutions for adaptation

CARP's Main Goals

 Goal	 Focus
Build Resilience	Use nature-based and infrastructure solutions to reduce risk.
Protect Ecosystems	Safeguard carbon-rich habitats like mangroves, estuaries & dunes.
Support Communities	Include women, youth, and vulnerable groups in decision-making.
Align Policies	Link coastal adaptation to national and local planning tools
Attract Funding	Mobilise public and private finance (e.g., GCF, blended finance)
Improve Governance	Strengthen roles across national, provincial & local levels.

What Can Be Done?

CARP proposes over 150 interventions to support:

- Safer homes and infrastructure in flood-prone areas
- Stronger local livelihoods and businesses
- Restored wetlands, dunes, and forests to absorb climate shocks
- More public awareness and capacity-building for action

How Was It Developed?

- Co-created with over 700 stakeholders during workshops in 2023–2024.
- Applies an element-based approach: Natural environment, communities, infrastructure, economy, and governance.

Final Message

Our coastal future depends on how we act now.

CARP is South Africa's commitment to protecting our coastlines, empowering communities, and building a climate-resilient future for all.