
GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO.

2024

PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT FOURTH NATIONAL COMMUNICATION FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

I, Dion Travers George, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby invites comments on the draft Fourth National Communication Report for the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (the draft 4th NC Report).

South Africa, as a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has an obligation to submit National Communications every four years and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) in between National Communications to report its current standing on climate change in terms of its efforts to mitigate climate change as well as efforts in implementing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. South Africa prepares National Communications in accordance with articles 4 and 12 of the UNFCCC in compliance with the UNFCCC National Communications Guidelines. South Africa submitted the initial National Communication to the UNFCCC in 2004, followed by the second in 2011 and the third in 2018.

The draft 4th NC Report serves as a means to present information about the implementation of climate change policies in a consistent, transparent, comparable, and flexible manner. Additionally, the report provides information to guide the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as the operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, in providing financial resources to meet the costs of implementing the Convention. The draft 4th NC Report has been prepared to comply with articles 4 and 12 of the UNFCCC. The draft 4th NC Report was prepared in alignment with the UNFCCC Guidelines as per decision 17/CP.8 and its Annex. In summary the draft 4th NC Report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 1: National Circumstances:** This chapter offers a comprehensive update to South Africa's geographical, climatic, environmental, political and socio-economic landscape, with an emphasis on its vulnerability to climate change and climate variability. The chapter also explains the planning and reporting documents produced at the national level for international reporting purposes. These documents inform national and regional priorities for addressing climate change within the context of national development programs, plans and strategies. Lastly, the chapter outlines South Africa's institutional arrangements for preparing National Communications and implementing measures to meet the Convention's objectives.

- **Chapter 2: National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Time Series of 2000-2020):** This chapter presents a summary of South Africa's 8th National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory, covering the period 2000 to 2020. The inventory was compiled in accordance with the 2006 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines for National GHG Inventories.
- **Chapter 3: South Africa's Measures Undertaken to Mitigate Climate Change:** This chapter outlines a range of cross-cutting policies and measures specifically designed to lower GHG emissions and facilitate sustainable development, aligning with the principles of a Just Transition and the broader challenge of climate change. This chapter also provides information on Greenhouse Gas emissions projections in order to give an indication of the effectiveness of the mitigation policies and measures under implementation.
- **Chapter 4: Other Information Considered Relevant to the Achievement of the Objective of the Convention:** The purpose of this chapter is to provide information on Integrating Climate Change Considerations into Social, Economic and Environmental Policies and Actions. This chapter outline the development and Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (ESTs). Climate Change Research and Systematic Observation were provided in this chapter. The chapter present Climate Change Education Training and Public Awareness as well as Capacity Building Needs. Several technical and capacity building needs and gaps were identified for the development of the National GHG Inventories.
- **Chapter 5: Constraints, Gaps, and Related Financial, Technical and Capacity Needs:** In this chapter, information on constraints and gaps related to financial, technical and capacity needs is provided. This includes the support needed and received to enable the preparation and submission of South Africa's fourth national communication report. This chapter also outlines the additional needs and constraints for capacity building needs.

Members of the public are invited to submit, within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice in the *Government Gazette* or the newspaper, whichever date is the later date, written representations or objections to any of the following addresses:

By post to: The Director-General: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
 Attention: Ms. Sandra Motshwanedi
 Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
 Private Bag X447
 Pretoria
 0001

By email to: smotshwanedi@dffe.gov.za or msteleki@dffe.gov.za; or

By hand at: to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Ground Floor
 (Reception), Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Pretoria.

Members of the public can access the draft 4th NC Report from the Department website at <https://rb.gy/5bmppo> under publications for comment.

Any inquiries in connection with this notice can be directed to Ms. Sandra Motshwanedi at Tel: 012 399 9155 or smotshwanedi@dfre.gov.za.

Comments received after the closing date may be disregarded.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. George', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**DR DION TRAVERS GEORGE
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**