

On behalf of:



of the Federal Republic of Germany

Implemented by:



In cooperation with:



Addressing Climate Change in South Africa

Promoting the transition towards a low-carbon economy and a climate-resilient society in a just and inclusive manner, while also ensuring biodiversity conservation

The challenge

South Africa is among the world’s 20 largest greenhouse gas emitters, primarily due to its heavy reliance on coal in the power and industrial sectors. Simultaneously, the country is particularly vulnerable to climate change: Extreme weather events, such as the severe drought that hit the Cape Town region from 2016 to 2018, are already occurring more frequently, and the average temperature is expected to rise particularly sharply in the future. Climate change impacts are already directly and indirectly felt across all sectors and throughout society, threatening socio-economic development in South Africa.

As a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the country is committed to combating climate change and has recently set a new ambitious 2030 target range. However, domestic policies and their successful implementation will need an additional boost to meet it.

With three global biodiversity hotspots, South Africa furthermore plays an important role in achieving the goals of the emerging Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. To manage threats to biodiversity, it is critical to incorporate and mainstream biodiversity and ecosystems into policies and planning.

Our approach

GIZ implements the Climate Support Programme (CSP) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), as part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The programme supports the South African Department of Forests, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) in mainstreaming and implementing its climate and biodiversity policies.



Project name	Climate Support Programme South Africa - Phase IV (CSP4)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)
Project region	South Africa
Lead executing agency	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
Duration	01.01.2022 – 31.12.2026

CSP4 is built on three pillars which will contribute to achieving this output:

- Policy Development – CSP supports the development and implementation of ambitious climate action in the areas of mitigation, adaptation and transparency (measurement, reporting, verification) as a means to an ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution, with advice on the inclusion of biodiversity. The partner organisation DFFE is thus supported in creating a legal framework within which appropriate national mitigation and adaptation measures can be effectively implemented.
- Policy Implementation – CSP strengthens the means of implementation of climate change and biodiversity policies and responses at national, subnational and private sector levels by supporting project preparation and promoting innovative funding streams.



L. to r.: Drought, Fynbos



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- IKI Interface Function – CSP strengthens the dialogue on climate and biodiversity among the BMUV/IKI projects as well as between further stakeholders in South Africa through networking and knowledge management.

The target group of the CSP are employees of public and private institutions at national, provincial and local level. In particular, the programme is aimed at specialists and executives in relevant public institutions, State-owned Enterprises, companies, associations, non-governmental organisations and research institutions.

BMUV International Climate Initiative (IKI):

The project is part of BMUV's International Climate Initiative (IKI). The initiative places clear emphasis on climate change mitigation, adaptation to the impacts of climate change and the protection of biological diversity. These efforts provide various co-benefits, particularly the improvement of living conditions in partner countries.

Since its establishment in 2008, the IKI has launched more than 750 climate and biodiversity projects in more than 60 countries. The resources for international climate and biodiversity activities carried out by GIZ and other implementing organisations such as KfW Development Bank, multilateral organisations like UN organisations, NGOs, research institutes, foundations and private companies have grown steadily since the programme was launched. Whereas some €170 million was available for on-going projects in 2008, by 2020 the figure had risen to €601 million.

Results in figures...

The Climate Support Programme has in its previous phases already provided assistance in developing South Africa's Low-Emission Development Strategy 2050 (SA LEDS), the Climate Change Bill, and the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS). In the third phase of CSP, a total of 65 municipalities from 17 districts were trained in mitigation, adaptation and climate finance as part of the Local Government Climate Change Support Programme (LGSP), and four IKI networking workshops were conducted, promoting knowledge sharing and cooperation among IKI projects in South Africa. In addition, several baseline documents have been established, supporting the development of effective climate and biodiversity policies and actions based on scientific analysis.

...and in stories

CSP assists DFFE in the implementation of climate change measures in different sectors in various ways, such as through providing technical advice, support in stakeholder engagement planning and facilitation of external experts. CSP's support ensures that DFFE can advance, develop, review and implement the country's climate and biodiversity policy more quickly, knowledge-based and effectively through appropriate plans, strategies, regulations, governance tools and implementation programmes. In addition, collaboration with other relevant departments is fostered to contribute to policy advancement and create an enabling environment for implementation.

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In cooperation with



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

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