SOUTH AFRICA

Climate Transparency 2020

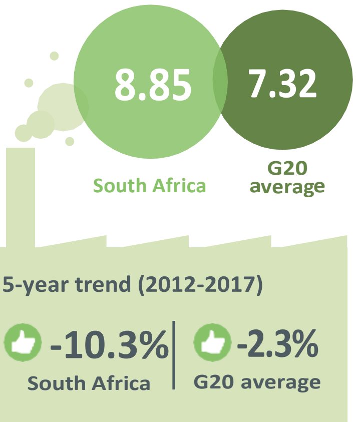
CLIMATE TRANSPARENCY REPORT COMPARING G20 CLIMATE AC'AND RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

This country profile is part of the Climate Transparency Report 2020. **Find the full report and other G20 country profiles at: www.climate-transparency.org**

PER CAPITA GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS ABOVE G20 AVERAGE

Total GHG emissions (excl. land use) have increased by 41% since 1990, but emissions in recent years have been almost constant, owing largely to low economic growth and a sharp rise in electricity prices.

GHG emissions (incl. land use) per capita (tCO_2e/capita)[1]

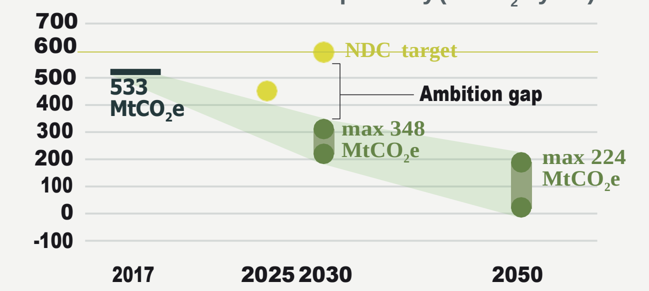


Data for 2017. Sources: Enerdata, 2020; UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, 2020; Gütschow et al., 2019

NOT ON TRACK FOR A 1.5°C WORLD

South Africa needs to reduce its emissions to below 348 $MtCO_2e$ by 2030 and to below 224 $MtCO_2e$ by 2050 to be within a 1.5°C 'fair-share' pathway. South Africa's NDC would only limit its emissions to between 415 and 631 $MtCO_2e$ (adjusted to excl. land use) in 2025 and 2030. All figures are drawn from the Climate Action Tracker and exclude land use emissions.

South Africa 1.5°C 'fair-share' pathway ($MtCO_2e$/year)[1&2]



Source: Climate Action Tracker, 2019

KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING CLIMATE AMBITION

INCREASE RENEWABLE ENERGY

Ramping up procurement processes for renewables as outlined in electricity expansion plans in the IRP and exploiting the decreasing cost of renewables would increase the proportion of renewables in the power sector.

SUPPORTING COAL PLANT COMMUNITIES

South Africa could adopt a just energy transition plan to phase coal out of the economy while still supporting communities **impacted by retirement of aging coal plants.**

REVISE NDC WITH MORE AMBITIOUS TARGETS

South Africa should submit a revised NDC in 2020 **with much more ambitious targets.**

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

During COVID-19 lockdown South Africa faced an oversupply of generation, so state electricity company, Eskom, issued curtailment notices to 22 operational wind farms. But since lifting restrictions, the shortage of capacity supply experienced before COVID-19 returned, as did the pre-pandemic rolling blackouts.

South Africa has recently announced the procurement of 6.8GW of renewable energy.

South Africa approved a low emissions development strategy with a goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, **although it does not provide for the phase-out of coal power.**

Sources: Deign, 2020; Stoddard, 2020; Lo, 2020

CORONAVIRUS RECOVERY

South Africa responded to COVID-19 with an early lockdown, just three weeks after its first reported case on 5 March 2020. This quick response managed to prevent an exponential initial outbreak, but the virus has continued to spread, greatly impacting the most vulnerable and exacerbating problems in a healthcare system already coping with HIV and TB epidemics. In April 2020, the government announced a USD 26bn stimulus package in response to COVID-19, almost 10% of South Africa's GDP.

References: Nordling, 2020; Smith, 2020