

## **I. Measuring the Economic Impact of Alternative Energy Projects in the Developing World**

The Republic of South Africa (South Africa) upholds the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) declaration that “investing in clean, efficient, affordable, and reliable energy systems is indispensable for a prosperous, environmentally sustainable future.” **Internationally**, South Africa recalls A/RES/65/151, identifying 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, and A/RES/66/197 calling for the implementation of Agenda 21. South Africa supports the outcome documents from Rio + 20 in that it seeks to enhance sustainability through green energy. South Africa contributes to the World Bank Initiative: “Sustainable Energy for All,” establishing goals to achieving, increasing, and improving universal access to energy. Twenty-five of the participating Member States opting into this initiative are African nations accounting for 80 percent of the global population without access to electricity. The Climate Trust Fund allocated South Africa 85 million USD for the initiative South Africa: Sustainable Energy Acceleration Program jointly proposed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Financial Committee (IFC). **Regionally**, the South African National Energy Association (SANEA) in association with the World Energy Council (WEC) hosts the Africa Energy Indaba, the leading energy event in Africa, highlighting alternative and renewable energy solutions, legal and regulatory framework, and investment opportunities in African energy projects. Working with the South African Development Community South Africa assisted in the development of the Protocol on Finance and Investment that seeks economic growth only through sustainability. **Nationally**, South Africa is encouraging a recent change in energy production priorities in a spectrum of sectors by supporting the emergence of non-governmental organizations (NGO) that contribute to the increase in production of sustainable energy. South Africa commends the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA) who advocates the removal of obstacles to the implementation of sustainable wind energy activities, corresponding with the South Africa Wind Energy Programme (SAWEP), a UNDP funded initiative striving to install and operate 5.2 MW of electricity generated from the Darling Wind Farm National Demonstration Programme and further prepare the development of an additional 45 MW of wind power from Independent Power Producers. The Sustainable Energy Society of Southern Africa (SESSA), which is one of 50 National Sections of the International Solar Energy Society (ISES), promotes the value of solar energy. South Africa established the National Energy Act 2008, providing for increased generation and consumption of renewable energies, contingency energy supply, and energy diversification in sustainable quantities and at affordable prices in support of economic growth and poverty alleviation. South Africa supports the **Action Plan** titled **A.C.C.E.S.S.:** **Assessing** energy impacts on the environment and economy; **Contributing** to the development of strategic policies within energy industries; **Creating** universal access to affordable energy services; **Encouraging** clean coal technologies with increased efficiency, cost effectiveness, and environmental protection in producer and user industries; **Stimulating** economic development through effective alternative energy materials; **Securing** the supply of renewable energy through diversification of sustainable development technologies

## **II. Examining the Efficacy of International Agreements on Local Environmental Viability**

The Republic of South Africa (South Africa) strongly supports the international agreements that have greatly benefitted local environmental viability. **Internationally**, South Africa is dedicated to creating an environment that contributes to sustainable development as stated in A/RES/55/2. South Africa endorses the recommendations set forth by Agenda 21, such as international institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), especially the establishment of a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development as affirmed in A/RES/47/191. South Africa supports the policies of the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD), which promotes a transition toward a sustainable development, and demonstrates how human ingenuity can be applied to improve the well being of the environment. **Regionally**, as a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), South Africa supports the Regional Environmental Education Programme to strengthen environmental education processes for equitable and sustainable environmental

management choices. South Africa supports the African Energy Ministers' adaptation of the 2011 Johannesburg Declaration, which aims to improve integrated energy planning and ensuring the design and development of sound energy projects, such as expanding access to modern, clean source of energy. **Nationally**, South Africa is committed to the principles of the Ramgar Convention, facilitating the development of national policies and actions, including legislation that aids the nation to make the best possible use of its wetland resources in its mission for sustainable development. South Africa strongly supports the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA), which is fundamentally involved as the "watch dog" in all levels of environmental governance which it recognizes as the indispensable basis for good environmental quality, sustainability and equality in the nation. South Africa passed the National Environment Management: Air Quality Act in 2004, which regulates air quality in order to protect the environment by providing reasonable measures for the prevention of pollution and ecological degradation. South Africa encourages all Member States to "Think globally, act locally," by implementing **R.E.C.I.P.E.: Responding** appropriately to emerging environmental challenges; **Enhancing** systems for integrated planning and implementation; **Creating** effective procedures for the implementation and application of international agreements on local levels; **Increasing** communication between international organizations and local governments; **Promoting** projects which contribute toward the conservation and protection of the environment; **Educating** local governments how to implement international agreements into local legislation based on national need.

### **III. Redefining the Relationship between Marine Sustainability and Economic Development**

The lack of continuity between sustainability and economic development has resulted in severe degradation of ecological functioning of our marine ecosystems due to habitat loss and fragmentation, extensive pollution, and resource exploitation of marine and coastal systems. **Internationally**, South Africa ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1977 and is focused on combating issues detrimental to our marine environment presented at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. In 1984, South Africa signed the Law of the Sea Treaty, which defines the rights, and responsibilities of Member States in their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources. As a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), South Africa supports the goal of developing and maintaining comprehensive regulatory framework for shipping, safety, environmental concerns, as well as maritime security. South Africa works with international partners such as the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to join the private sector and non-governmental organizations in the service of sustainable development. South Africa recognizes the obligation of all states to cooperate in the conservation and management of living marine resources, as well as recognizing the importance of coordinating and cooperating on all levels, as stated in A/RES/66/68 that calls on member states to ensure the sustainability of fisheries. **Regionally**, in 1999 with Angola and Namibia, South Africa signed a Strategic Action Programme identifying strategies and priority actions required to protect the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME). In 2002, the BCLME was officially launched. The Programme aims to integrate management, sustain development, and protect and conserve the ecosystem. South Africa recognizes the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), specifically the Short Term Action Plan of NEPAD's African Water Vision Framework that aims to address water resource sustainability in Africa. **Nationally**, South Africa developed the Spatial Development Initiative (SDI) in 1996 that aimed to promote investments in the country's regions that were underdeveloped but had vast potential for growth. In March 1999, South Africa published a Draft White Paper with the aim of promoting sustainable coastal development in South Africa. The proposed goals include requirements for the design and built form of coastal settlements to be in harmony with the aesthetic, amenity, biophysical, economic, social, and cultural opportunities. In 2004 South Africa passed the Biodiversity Act which provides for the coordinated management, conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity across the whole country. In order to address this situation, South Africa proposes **D.U.R.E.S.S.: Developing** national coastal policy which ensures coordination in management of the coastal zone, and makes a powerful contribution to reconstruction and development; **Utilizing** South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), created as a result of the Biodiversity Act to greater benefit the environment through further research and providing jobs; **Raising** awareness, political will, and capacity to promote resource conservation and efficiency in the marine environment; **Educating** citizens to minimize their negative impact on the environment; **Strengthening** global environmental policy development through enhanced partnership between Global Environment Facility (GEF) and civil society; **Safeguarding** and restoring marine habitats by preserving fragile ecosystems.