

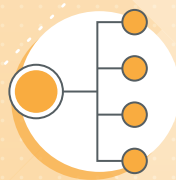
# NDC TRANSPARENCY CHECK



**SOUTH AFRICA**

## MAKING SOUTH AFRICA'S 2021 NDC MORE TRANSPARENT

April 2021



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The NDC Transparency Check provides recommendations on what information countries should provide in their NDC Update to ensure its clarity, transparency, and understanding.

This is done by evaluating existing NDCs and assessing the information provided the annex of 4/CMA.1 under Article 4.8. of the Paris Agreement, to come up with clear and practical recommendation on which information should be included in the NDC Update in order to be in full conformance with international agreements.

## 01

## INTRODUCTION TO THE 'NDC TRANSPARENCY CHECK'

The Paris Agreement was agreed in 2015 at the 21<sup>st</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP 21), and came into force a year later. Almost all countries are currently signatories of the Agreement.

The objective of the NDC Transparency Check is to provide a robust reference to assess whether the communication of Parties on the proposed mitigation in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is clear, transparent and understandable, in terms of the requirements set out in the Paris Agreement, its accompanying decision (1/CP.21) and the Annex to decision 4/CMA.1, which sets out the “information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of nationally determined contributions”.

Legally, the Annex is only binding from the second NDC onwards. However, Parties are “strongly encouraged” to apply the Annex to updated NDCs, due 2020.

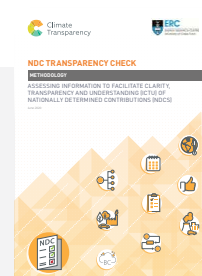
The South African government is revising the current NDC to update its commitment in relation to the Paris Agreement’s long-term goals, under the country’s specific circumstances.

In this context, the NDC Transparency Check provides information to support the process of a revision, especially in relation to the clarity of the proposed mitigation outcomes. This could help not only to provide additional clarity on the South Africa’s mitigation goals and their underlying policies and measures, but also to provide clarity on the likely collective outcome of mitigation efforts as committed to in the NDCs’.

While the approach taken for this assessment is based on conformance with the Annex, this ‘NDC Transparency Check’ aims to assess both:

- i. Conformance of a country’s NDC with the Katowice Rule Book, and;
- ii. The extent to which a country has provided additional information in relation to each element of the Annex which enhances clarity, transparency and understanding.

The detailed methodology as well as other assessments are available on: [www.climate-transparency.org](http://www.climate-transparency.org)



## 02

## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Paris Agreement architecture is based on countries periodically increasing their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) mitigation target's ambition to align global emissions to the long-term climate goals of restricting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures, and pursuing efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

In this regard, transparency of NDC mitigation targets becomes indispensable to understand the outcome of these targets clearly, and their potential contribution to the global effort. The NDC target needs to be communicated in a clear and understandable way in order to ensure clarity, transparency and understanding of the NDC.

This assessment provides a detailed analysis of the existing NDC and highlights the opportunities for a more transparent updated

NDC, based on the requirements set out in the Paris Agreement and its accompanying decisions.

From a political perspective, South Africa's leadership is more important than ever. By increasing its target in the updated NDC and increasing its transparency, South Africa will send an important signal to other major emitters, will underline its position as a key international player and will set an example for other countries.

South Africa's current 2016 NDC target consists of an absolute emissions range (GHG emissions will be between 398 and 614 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq in the years 2025 and 2030).

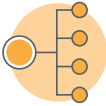






### South Africa's 2016 NDC target



GHG emissions will be between  
**398 and 614 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq**  
 in 2025 and 2030

An assessment of the NDC target can be found in the Climate Transparency Report: **[www.climate-transparency.org](http://www.climate-transparency.org)**  
 A detailed analysis is provided by the Climate Action Tracker: **[www.climateactiontracker.org](http://www.climateactiontracker.org)**

To enhance the transparency of the NDC Update, South Africa should implement the following key recommendations (further information on the recommendations can be drawn from the detailed assessment below):

ICTU Category	Current NDC	Room for improvements for NDC Update
 <b>Reference point</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Africa's NDC target is stated as an absolute emissions range, and therefore does not have a reference point in terms of which the target is defined.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Africa's updated NDC target range will most likely be expressed in the same form. The GHG emissions outcome of this form of target is clear.</li> </ul>
 <b>Time frame</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targets are specified for 2025 and 2030, implying a time frame of two five-year periods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide explicit timeframe and implementation period of NDC.</li> <li>Explicitly state that the NDC uses two single year targets.</li> </ul>
 <b>Scope and Coverage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NDC does not provide any detailed information on how the land sector is covered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide explicit information on the land sector.</li> </ul>
 <b>Planning process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some information on implementation plans is contained in the NDC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide relevant details on domestic institutional arrangements, public participation and engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples, in a gender-responsive manner.</li> <li>Provide information on best practices and experiences developing the NDC.</li> </ul>
 <b>Assumptions, and methodological approaches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Africa's NDC does not explicitly contain information on how it plans to account for its NDC.</li> <li>There is a lack of explanation as to how the land sector emissions were arrived at (see above).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include information on how South Africa plans to account for its NDC.</li> <li>Provide more detail on how the land sector will be accounted for.</li> </ul>
 <b>Fairness and ambition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Africa claims that its NDC reflects "full mitigation potential", but without any detail.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide more detail on what "full mitigation potential" entails in this context.</li> </ul>
 <b>Contribution to UNFCCC Article 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Africa's NDC specifies the country's GHG emissions will peak in 2025, plateau until 2035 and decline thereafter, and establishes a clear link between the long-term temperature goal of well below 2 degrees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include information on how natural sinks are being maintained and enhanced.</li> </ul>

## 03

## DETAILED ASSESSMENT

Note: The following assessment has been done on the basis of the Annex to 4/CMA.1, but it needs to be noted that South Africa's NDC assessed below was submitted before the Annex was agreed. The NDC assessed is South Africa's NDC as contained in the UNFCCC's interim NDC registry, as submitted on November 1, 2016: <https://bit.ly/3t211KT>



## 1. Quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year):

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(a) reference year(s), base year(s), reference period(s) or other starting point(s)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Reference year(s) – including for reduction against a baseline <input type="radio"/> Base year(s) <input type="radio"/> Reference period(s) <input type="radio"/> other starting point(s)	South Africa's NDC target is stated as an absolute emissions range (GHG emissions will be between 398 and 614 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> -eq in the years 2025 and 2030), and therefore does not have a reference point in terms of which the target is defined.
(b) Quantifiable information on the reference indicators, their values in the reference year(s), base year(s), reference period(s) or other starting point(s), and, as applicable, in the target year; (If 1 (c) is completed, this is not applicable)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Quantified – in CO <sub>2</sub> or CO <sub>2</sub> -eq or in other emissions units <input type="radio"/> Quantified – other units <input type="radio"/> Quantifiable information provided – to quantify in CO <sub>2</sub> or CO <sub>2</sub> -eq <input type="radio"/> Quantifiable information provided – to quantify in other units <input type="radio"/> No quantifiable information	Not applicable to South Africa's NDC.
(c) For strategies, plans and actions referred to in Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement, or policies and measures as components of nationally determined contributions where paragraph 1(b) above is not applicable, Parties to provide other relevant information; (If 1 (b) is completed, this is not applicable, unless a country has provided policies and measures as well)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> The country has provided reference points for relevant quantified goals for specific PAMs. <input type="radio"/> The country has provided reference point for qualitative goals for PAMs with non-quantified goals.	Not applicable to South Africa's NDC.
(d) Target relative to the reference indicator, expressed numerically, for example in percentage or amount of reduction;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="radio"/> % reduction from base year <input type="radio"/> % reduction from BAU <input type="radio"/> % intensity reduction from base year <input type="radio"/> Other	Not applicable to South Africa's NDC.
(e) Information on sources of data used in quantifying the reference point(s);	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<b>Source:</b> <input type="radio"/> GHG inventory <input type="radio"/> Reference to underlying data sources <input type="radio"/> Other studies <b>Enhanced conformance – traceability:</b> <input type="radio"/> Source readily found	Not applicable to South Africa's NDC.
(f) Information on the circumstances under which the Party may update the values of the reference indicators.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<b>GHG inventory:</b> <input type="radio"/> How values may be updated <input type="radio"/> When <b>Baseline projections:</b> <input type="radio"/> Information on whether the baseline will be updated, when and why. <b>Intensity:</b> <input type="radio"/> If, whether and how the country will update its intensity reference indicator.	Not applicable to South Africa's NDC.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
 <b>2. Time frames and/or periods for implementation:</b>			
(a) Time frame and/or period for implementation, including start and end date, consistent with any further relevant decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA);	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Stated time frame of 5 years <input type="radio"/> Stated time frame of 10 years <input type="radio"/> Other stated time frame <input checked="" type="radio"/> Start date: 1 January 2020 <input checked="" type="radio"/> End date: 31 December 2030	Targets are specified for 2025 and 2030, and the NDC states that "South Africa will use five-year periods of implementation at the national level", which implies a time frame of two five year periods, and periods of implementation from 1 January 2021-31 December 2025, and 1 January 2026-31 December 2030, but these are not explicitly stated. The "starting point" is defined in the NDC as 2020 year end for the overall emissions trajectory.
(b) Whether it is a single-year or multi-year target, as applicable.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Single-year target <input type="radio"/> Multi-year target	Two single year targets are defined but this is not explicitly stated.
 <b>3. Scope and coverage:</b>			
(a) General description of the target	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Key goals of the target – emissions reduction/limitation, intensity, BAU reduction, PAMs, mitigation co-benefits, in quantitative or qualitative terms. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Time frame, period of implementation, target year(s).	South Africa's NDC target is defined in absolute terms – GHG emissions "will be in a range between 398 and 614 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> -eq" in 2025 and 2030.
(b) Sectors, gases, categories and pools covered by the nationally determined contribution, including, as applicable, consistent with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	<b>Sectors:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Energy <input checked="" type="radio"/> IPPU <input checked="" type="radio"/> AFOLU – specified separately for land use and agriculture <input type="radio"/> LULUCF (if specified separately from above) <input type="radio"/> Agriculture (if specified separately from above) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Waste <input type="radio"/> Other <b>Categories:</b> <input type="radio"/> Categories and sub-categories used for each sector above in the NDC <b>Gases:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Carbon dioxide: CO <sub>2</sub> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Methane: CH <sub>4</sub> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Nitrous oxide: N <sub>2</sub> O <input checked="" type="radio"/> Perfluorocarbons: PFCs <input checked="" type="radio"/> Hydrofluorocarbons: HFC <input type="radio"/> Sulphur hexafluoride: SF <sub>6</sub> <input type="radio"/> Nitrogen trifluoride: NF <sub>3</sub> <b>Pools:</b> <input type="radio"/> Aboveground biomass <input type="radio"/> Belowground biomass <input type="radio"/> Dead wood <input type="radio"/> Litter <input type="radio"/> Soil organic matter	South Africa's NDC covers all sectors including land use (no specific details provided), and five gases (those covered in the National Inventory). No specific information provided on the land sector.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
<p>(c) How the Party has taken into consideration paragraph 31(c) and (d) of decision 1/CP.21;</p> <p>("(c) Parties strive to include all categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals in their nationally determined contributions and, once a source, sink or activity is included, continue to include it"; "(d) Parties shall provide an explanation of why any categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals are excluded");</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Partly</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Comparison of categories of anthropogenic emissions and removal included in previous NDC and current NDCs.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Explanation for the omission of any categories.</p>	<p>No comparison is made with previous targets regarding their coverage.</p>
<p>(d) Mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including description of specific projects, measures and initiatives of Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Partly</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a</p>	<p><b>Economic diversification:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Energy Efficiency</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Renewable energy</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Carbon Capture and Utilization/Storage</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Utilization of gas</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Methane recovery and flare minimization</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other</p> <p><b>Adaptation actions with mitigation co-benefits:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Water and waste-water management</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Urban planning</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Marine Protection</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Reduced desertification</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other</p> <p><b>Mitigation co-benefits:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Stated – yes / no</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Quantified</p> <p><input type="radio"/> In t CO<sub>2</sub>-eq</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<div>  <b>4. Planning processes:</b> </div>			
<p>(a) Information on the planning processes that the Party undertook to prepare its nationally determined contribution and, if available, on the Party's implementation plans, including, as appropriate:</p>			



Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(i) Domestic institutional arrangements, public participation and engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples, in a gender-responsive manner;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<b>Domestic institutional arrangements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="radio"/> No information provided</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Some information provided</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided</li> </ul> <b>Public participation and engagement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="radio"/> No information provided</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Some information provided</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided</li> </ul> <b>Information on stakeholder engagement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="radio"/> No information provided</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Information on engagement with local communities provided</li> <li><input checked="" type="radio"/> Information on engagement with indigenous peoples provided</li> <li><input checked="" type="radio"/> Information on other stakeholder engagement provided</li> </ul> <b>Does the country report on whether the NDC process was conducted in a gender-responsive manner?:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="radio"/> No information provided</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Some information provided</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided</li> </ul>	South Africa's NDC contains no information on domestic institutional arrangements or the planning process for the NDC other than to state that the NDC is based on "current climate policy", and contains no information on stakeholder engagement or gender responsiveness.
((i).cont.) ..if available, information provided on a Party's implementation plans;		<b>Implementation plans:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> No information provided</li> <li><input checked="" type="radio"/> Some information provided</li> </ul> <b>Enhanced conformance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="radio"/> Detailed information on how implementation plans will achieve the objectives of its NDC.</li> </ul>	Some information on implementation plans is contained in the NDC, including the development of a carbon tax, desired emission reduction outcomes for sectors and carbon budgets for large emitters, based on five-year implementation plans.
(ii) Contextual matters, including, inter alia, as appropriate:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	a. Inclusion of relevant national circumstances, such as geography, climate, economy, sustainable development and poverty eradication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> No information provided</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Some information provided</li> <li><input checked="" type="radio"/> Detailed information provided</li> </ul> b. Reporting on best practices and experience related to the preparation of the nationally determined contribution; Best practices and experience shared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> None</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Some</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Many</li> </ul> c. Information provided on other contextual aspirations and priorities acknowledged when joining the Paris Agreement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="radio"/> No</li> </ul>	South Africa's NDC provides a detailed description of its national circumstances relevant to its NDC.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(b) Specific information applicable to Parties, including regional economic integration organizations and their member States, that have reached an agreement to act jointly under Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, including the Parties that agreed to act jointly and the terms of the agreement, in accordance with Article 4, paragraphs 16–18, of the Paris Agreement;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> <b>Terms of the agreement to act jointly.</b> <input type="radio"/> <b>Emission level allocated to each Party within the relevant time period</b>  <b>Enhanced conformance:</b> <input type="radio"/> Detailed description of the basis for burden-sharing within the REIO.	Not applicable to South Africa.
(c) How the Party's preparation of its nationally determined contribution has been informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<b>Information on how the previous global stock-take (GST) informed the NDC:</b> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No  <b>Enhanced conformance:</b> <input type="radio"/> Consideration of the Secretariat's synthesis paper in the 2020 update.	No information included on this.
(d) Each Party with a nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement that consists of adaptation action and/or economic diversification plans resulting in mitigation co-benefits consistent with Article 4, paragraph 7, of the Paris Agreement to submit information on:			
(i) How the economic and social consequences of response measures have been considered in developing the nationally determined contribution;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> The NDC contains information on how the economic and social consequences of response measures have been considered in developing the NDC.	Not applicable.
(ii) Specific projects, measures and activities to be implemented to contribute to mitigation co-benefits, including information on adaptation plans that also yield mitigation co-benefits, which may cover, but are not limited to, key sectors, such as energy, resources, water resources, coastal resources, human settlements and urban planning, agriculture and forestry; and economic diversification actions, which may cover, but are not limited to, sectors such as manufacturing and industry, energy and mining, transport and communication, construction, tourism, real estate, agriculture and fisheries.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	The NDC contains information on specific projects, measures and activities for <b>adaptation which mitigation co-benefits</b> in: <input type="radio"/> Energy resources <input type="radio"/> Water resources <input type="radio"/> Coastal resources <input type="radio"/> Human settlements <input type="radio"/> Urban planning <input type="radio"/> Agriculture and forestry <input type="radio"/> Other  Specific projects, measures and activities for <b>economic diversification</b> actions in sectors: <input type="radio"/> Manufacturing and industry <input type="radio"/> Energy and mining <input type="radio"/> Transport and communication <input type="radio"/> Construction, tourism <input type="radio"/> Real estate <input type="radio"/> Agriculture and fisheries <input type="radio"/> Other	Not applicable.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
 <b>5. Assumptions and methodological approaches, including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and, as appropriate, removals:</b>			
(a) Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals corresponding to the Party's nationally determined contribution, consistent with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 31, and accounting guidance adopted by the CMA;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> A general description of the accounting approach. <input type="radio"/> Detailed description of how the country will account for the land sector in its NDC.	No specific information is included on how South Africa plans to account for its NDC.
(b) Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for the implementation of policies and measures or strategies in the nationally determined contribution;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Some information provided <input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided	Not applicable.
(c) If applicable, information on how the Party will take into account existing methods and guidance under the Convention to account for anthropogenic emissions and removals, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 14, of the Paris Agreement, as appropriate;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> The country has specified that they will use existing methods and guidance. <input type="radio"/> The country has specified that they will not use existing methods and guidance. <input checked="" type="radio"/> The country has not provided any information on this.	South Africa's NDC does not contain any information on this.
(d) IPCC methodologies and metrics used for estimating anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals;	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="radio"/> The country has specified in their NDC whether they have used 1996 or 2006 IPCC guidelines for estimating emissions and removals, and/or other IPCC guidance. <input checked="" type="radio"/> The country has specified which GWP values it is using (from which IPCC assessment report). <input type="radio"/> The NDC target is not expressed in GHG emissions terms, and contains no relevant information on GHG emissions (not applicable).	South Africa's NDC implies (but does not state) that it will use a GHG inventory-based approach, and that the national inventory is currently based on IPCC 2006 guidelines, regularly reported to the UNFCCC "as multilaterally agreed". The NDC states that GWPs will be sourced from the IPCC's 4 <sup>th</sup> Assessment Report for the NIR in future. (Subsequent South African National Inventory Reports have used GWPs from the IPCC's Second Assessment Report, apparently at the recommendation of the BUR technical review team).
(e) Sector-, category- or activity-specific assumptions, methodologies and approaches consistent with IPCC guidance, as appropriate, including, as applicable:			
(i) Approach to addressing emissions and subsequent removals from natural disturbances on managed lands:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> Approach to addressing emissions and removals on managed lands reported in the NDC. <input checked="" type="radio"/> No information included in the NDC.	No information provided on this.
(ii) Approach used to account for emissions and removals from harvested wood products;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> Approach to harvested wood products reported. <input checked="" type="radio"/> No information included in the NDC.	No mention of age class structures in forests.
(iii) Approach used to address the effects of age-class structure in forests;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> Approach to age-class structure in forests reported. <input checked="" type="radio"/> No information included in the NDC.	No mention of age class structures in forests.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(f) Other assumptions and methodological approaches used for understanding the nationally determined contribution and, if applicable, estimating corresponding emissions and removals, including:			
(i) How the reference indicators, baseline(s) and/or reference level(s), including, where applicable, sector-, category- or activity-specific reference levels, are constructed, including, for example, key parameters, assumptions, definitions, methodologies, data sources and models used;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<p><b>If the Party has chosen a mitigation target relative to a reference level, including emissions reference levels, base years, intensity targets etc:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Method for estimating the reference level.</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Sources of data, as applicable.</li> </ul> <p><b>If the Party has chosen a mitigation target relative to a baseline scenario:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Base year</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Key assumptions (GDP, population, etc)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Methodology (analytical tool) and</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Resulting projection at least up to the end year</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Data sources</li> </ul>	South Africa's NDC is not defined in terms of a reference indicator.
(ii) For Parties with nationally determined contributions that contain non-greenhouse-gas components, information on assumptions and methodological approaches used in relation to those components, as applicable;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<p><b>Assumptions and methodologies for non-GHG components:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Quantified in a manner where mitigation outcomes are clear.</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Quantifiable, but requiring assumptions to understand mitigation outcomes.</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Not quantifiable.</li> </ul>	Not applicable.
(iii) For climate forcers included in nationally determined contributions not covered by IPCC guidelines, information on how the climate forcers are estimated;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> The NDC includes black carbon, and includes information on how it is estimated.</li> <li><input type="radio"/> The NDC includes other short-lived climate forcers, and information on how these are estimated.</li> </ul>	Not applicable.
(iv) Further technical information, as necessary;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<p><b>Further information provided:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="radio"/> No</li> <li><input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Applicable</li> </ul>	South Africa's NDC would be sufficiently transparent if information specified in other provisions were provided.
(g) The intention to use voluntary cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, if applicable.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Information on whether the country intends to participate in Article 6 activities during the NDC implementation period.</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Information on whether the country intends to us ITMOs to achieve its NDC.</li> </ul> <p><b>Enhanced conformance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> The extent to which the target depends on use of ITMOs.</li> </ul>	South Africa's NDC provides no information on the possible use of ITMOs or on participation in Article 6 mechanisms.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
 <b>6. How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances:</b>			
(a) How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances;	<b>Fair</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No  <b>Ambitious</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Inclusion of grounds for why the NDC target is fair. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Inclusion of grounds for why the NDC target is ambitious.	South Africa considers its NDC to be fair on the basis of a national study, corroborated by reference to several international comparative studies. South Africa considers its NDC to be ambitious on the basis that the "INDC reflects SA's full mitigation potential as assessed in 2014".
(b) Fairness considerations, including reflecting on equity;	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	<b>The country has provided in its NDC:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> References to equity analyses by international experts. <input checked="" type="radio"/> References to equity analyses by in-country experts. <input checked="" type="radio"/> References to indicators found in equity literature. <input type="radio"/> References to the application of preferred equity indicators to other countries.	South Africa's NDC provides a number of references to both national and international equity analyses to substantiate its claim that its NDC is a fair contribution, in the light of its national circumstances.
(c) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement; ("Each Party's successive nationally determined contribution will represent a progression beyond the Party's then current nationally determined contribution and reflect its highest possible ambition, reflecting its common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.");	<b>Progression</b> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No  <b>Ambition</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No  <b>CBDRRRC</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	<b>Progression:</b> <input type="radio"/> The NDC contains a statement that the mitigation target in NDC is more stringent than the country's previous NDC or emissions target under the Convention or Kyoto Protocol. <input checked="" type="radio"/> If a developing country, the target type has changed to an economy-wide absolute emissions target, and/or more sectors have been included in the target. <input type="radio"/> An assessment of progression is provided, with reference to mitigation potential analyses.  <b>Highest possible ambition, referring to 6 (a) above:</b> <input type="radio"/> A reference to ambition in terms of the 1.5 °C limit. <input checked="" type="radio"/> A reference to ambition in terms of the "well below 2 °C" limit. <input checked="" type="radio"/> A reference to a national mitigation potential analysis. <input checked="" type="radio"/> An explanation in terms of national circumstances for the level of ambition chosen, with reference to the national mitigation potential analysis.  <b>Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances (CBDRRRC-ILONDC):</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Explanation of ambition in terms of common but responsibilities and respective capabilities. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Explanation of ambition in terms of national circumstances. <input type="radio"/> None.	South Africa notes that it has progressed from a target defined in terms of a deviation from BAU to a target defined in absolute GHG emissions terms. South Africa claims that its NDC reflects "SA's full mitigation potential" as contained in a national mitigation potential analysis conducted in 2014, noting that on account of South Africa's national circumstances (facing significant development challenges), implementation is premised on support. The level of ambition is specifically tied to a 2 degree global outcome.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(d) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement; ("Developed country Parties should continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. Developing country Parties should continue enhancing their mitigation efforts, and are encouraged to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets in the light of different national circumstances");	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Developed country NDCs – reference to leadership via economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. <input type="radio"/> Developing country NDCs – reference to enhancing their mitigation efforts. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Developing country NDCs – timing to move to an economy-wide emission reduction or limitation target indicated.	South Africa's NDC does point out that the country has moved from a mitigation target defined in relation to a BAU projection to one defined in absolute terms, but there is no reference to an increase in mitigation ambition.
(e) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement. ("The least developed countries and small island developing States may prepare and communicate strategies, plans and actions for low greenhouse gas emissions developing reflecting their special circumstances");	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<b>NDCs of LDCs and SIDS:</b> <input type="radio"/> Fairness addressed in strategies, plans and actions communicated. <input type="radio"/> Ambition addressed in strategies, plans and actions communicated. <input type="radio"/> Neither of the above.	Not applicable.



## 7. How the nationally determined contribution contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2:

(a) How the nationally determined contribution contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> The NDC refers to Article 2 of the Convention in relation to mitigation ambition. <input checked="" type="radio"/> The NDC contains information on how it contributes to the reduction of emissions in terms of Article 2 of the Convention. <input type="radio"/> The NDC contains information on how natural sinks are being maintained and enhanced.	South Africa's NDC does refer directly to Article 2 of the Convention, and it places its target in the context of the long-term goal of Article 2 in terms of South Africa's fair share of the global carbon budget contained in the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report.
(b) How the nationally determined contribution contributes towards Article 2, paragraph 1(a), and Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> The NDC contains a reference to the peaking year – either when it occurred or when it is projected to be. <input type="radio"/> For countries whose emissions have peaked, the NDC provides grounds for the NDC target being consistent with "rapid reductions thereafter". <input type="radio"/> The NDC contains a reference to a national policy goal of net zero emissions, and by which year. <input checked="" type="radio"/> The NDC contains a clear link between the Paris Agreement's Article 2.1(a) and the country's NDC.	South Africa's NDC specifies that the country's GHG emissions will peak in 2025, plateau for a decade and decline thereafter, in line with national policy, and does establish a clear link between the long-term temperature goal of well below 2 degrees.

## For questions, please contact

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For further details please refer to the methodology which can be downloaded under [www.climate-transparency.org](http://www.climate-transparency.org).



**The Energy Systems Research Group (ESRG) at the University of Cape Town** is a multi-disciplinary research centre with a focus on energy, climate and sustainability, and has done ground-breaking work on post-apartheid South African energy policy, on energy provision for the urban and rural poor and on the energy-environment nexus, and played a leading role in developing both South Africa's current energy and climate policy frameworks. The ESRG works closely with policymakers nationally, with other national stakeholders and with an international network of climate and energy researchers on energy and climate policy challenges, as well as providing advice and negotiating capacity to South Africa's national delegation to the UNFCCC.

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