

SOUTHERN AFRICAN POWER POOL POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

1. INTRODUCTION

An international convention, the “**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC]**” was developed in 1992 during the UN Conference on the Environment and Development (“the Rio Conference”). The objective of the UNFCCC is to stabilize “greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”.

Each year the countries that have signed/ratified or acceded to the UNFCCC come together at “Conference of the Parties (COP)” and “Subsidiary Body” meetings to discuss and negotiate the actions required to meet the objectives of the UNFCCC. At one such meeting, the **Kyoto Protocol** to the Convention on Climate Change was adopted, “under which industrialised countries will reduce their combined greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5% compared to 1990 levels by the period 2008 – 2012”. The Kyoto Protocol has not yet entered into force, since not enough industrialised countries have signed it.

The Attachment provides a brief description of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, and the status of the SAPP member countries ratification/accession.

2. IMPLICATIONS FOR SAPP MEMBER COUNTRIES

The SAPP member countries are vulnerable to both the negative impacts of climate change, as well as the impacts of response measures taken by the industrialised countries in order to meet their commitments.

Article 4.8 of the UNFCCC lists categories of particularly vulnerable countries and it is clear that in terms of vulnerability, SAPP member countries all meet some of the criteria:

- o arid and semi-arid areas, forested areas and areas liable to forest decay,
- o areas prone to natural disasters;
- o areas liable to drought and desertification;
- o areas of high urban atmospheric pollution;
- o areas with fragile ecosystems, including mountainous ecosystems;
- o economies [that] are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing and export of, and/or on consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products;
- o land-locked and transit countries

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3.1 SAPP members are encouraged to:

- Raise awareness and promote training and capacity building within their respective organisations at all levels:
- In the context of their respective countries national policy, support the establishment of an inventory of applicable greenhouse gases;
- Provide input and become involved in climate change projects, particularly energy projects in the region (Southern African Development Community).

3.2 Climate change efforts specific to SAPP activities will be co-ordinated by the SAPP Environmental Sub-Committee, subject to oversight by the SAPP Management Committee:

- Organizing and facilitating climate change related workshops, conferences, seminars etc for SAPP members.
- Facilitating collaboration with other organizations in order to promote climate change capacity building initiatives
- Facilitating co-operation with and support to research institutions and centres of excellence with respect to climate change and related activities.
- Facilitating and/or co-ordinating researching and investigating the impacts of climate change and response measures on SAPP's business.
- Together with the SAPP Planning Sub-Committee, ensuring that climate change issues are incorporated into SAPP long term planning processes, taking into account the inter-relationship between socio-economic factors and the environment.
- Identifying and exploring climate change related opportunities, for example opportunities provided through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), for the provision of funding, capacity building and technology transfer.
- Identifying opportunities, and recommend for approval by the Management Committee, statements to be made on behalf of SAPP at International climate change negotiations, such as the Conference of the Parties.

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ATTACHMENT

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC] details a framework and process for agreeing to specific future actions. The UNFCCC was finalized in 1992 at the Rio Conference and has since come into effect.

All the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) member countries have signed/ratified the UNFCCC and it has entered into force in all SAPP member countries.

COUNTRY	RATIFICATION	ENTRY INTO FORCE
Angola	17 May 2000	15 August 2000
Botswana	27 January 1994	27 April 1994
Democratic Republic of Congo	9 January 1995	9 April 1995
Lesotho	7 February 1995	8 May 1995
Malawi	21 April 1994	20 July 1994
Mozambique	25 August 1995	23 November 1995
Namibia	16 May 1995	14 August 1995
South Africa	28 August 1997	27 November 1997
Swaziland	7 October 1996	5 January 1997
United Republic of Tanzania	17 April 1996	16 July 1996
Zambia	28 May 1993	21 March 1994
Zimbabwe	3 November 1992	21 March 1994

Source: <http://unfccc.int/resource/conv/ratlist.pdf>

The objective of the UNFCCC is to stabilize "greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system". Countries now known as Annex 1 countries (mainly OECD, Eastern Europe, states of the former Soviet Union etc), agreed to commitments to stabilize carbon emissions. In addition the UNFCCC sets out common and differentiated commitments for Developed and Developing Countries.

The SAPP member countries have all ratified/acceded to the UNFCCC as **non-Annex 1 / developing countries**, and as such have no obligation to reduce carbon emissions. The commitments that they do have include making available their national inventories of the production of green house gases (GHGs) by source and the removal by sinks.

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They are also required, as part of its National Communications (NC):

- o to adopt national climate change policies;
- o to assess and report on mitigation measures for limiting its GHGs emissions; and
- o to assess and report on its vulnerability to the effects of climate change and response measures (adaptation) to combating these effects.

In 1997 at the third "Conference of the Parties (COP)" to the UNFCCC, the **Kyoto Protocol** was adopted.

In short, the Kyoto Protocol quantifies emissions limitations and reduction commitments to achieve a cut in emissions of greenhouse gases from Annex 1 countries to, on average, 5% below their 1990 level. This reduction is expected to occur in the period 2008 to 2012.

The greenhouse gases identified in the Kyoto Protocol are:

- o carbon dioxide [CO₂],
- o nitrous oxide [N₂O],
- o methane [CH₄],
- o hydrofluorocarbons [HFCs],
- o perfluorocarbons [PFCs] and
- o sulphur hexafluoride [SF₆].

However, developing countries are expected to report on only the first three of these gases.

The Kyoto Protocol establishes emissions trading and joint implementation between developed countries. It also established a "clean development mechanism (CDM)" to encourage joint emission reduction projects between developed and developing countries. These policy instruments were designed to give flexibility and reduce the cost of compliance. The CDM was developed to assist Annex 1 countries to meet their emission limitation and reduction commitments, while assisting non-Annex 1 countries with sustainable development. The incentive to Annex 1 countries was envisaged to be that the emission reductions should be achieved at a lower cost than in Annex 1 countries.

The Kyoto Protocol will enter into force, 90 days after it is ratified by 55 states, including Annex I parties, representing at least 55% of the total CO₂ emissions, by Annex I parties, for 1990. As at 15 April 2004, 122 countries have deposited their instruments of ratification, accession, or acceptance, representing 44.2% of Annex I parties emissions (Source: <http://unfccc.int/>). The Kyoto Protocol has thus not yet come into effect.

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As at 15 April 2004, the following SAPP member countries have signed, ratified or acceded to the Protocol.

COUNTRY	SIGNED	ACCESSION
Botswana		8 August 2003
Lesotho		6 September 2000
Malawi		26 October 2001
Namibia		4 September 2003
South Africa		30 July 2002
United Republic of Tanzania		26 August 2002
Zambia	5 August 1998	-

Source: <http://unfccc.int/resource/kpstats.pdf>