



a south african ngo climate partnership

Climate change is not simply an environmental challenge it is the greatest political, social and economic challenge the world has ever faced.

Our survival, and the survival of the magnitude of unique species that we share the planet with, depends on the successful reduction of human-induced greenhouse gas emissions and a broad acknowledgement of the link between energy, nature and climate.

It is predicted that South Africa will be one of the countries worst impacted by climate change. The country can expect average temperature increases between 1 and 3°C by the mid-21st century, accompanied by an up to 30% reduction in rainfall, an increased incidence of droughts, floods and intense storms, and up to a 1m a rise in sea level.

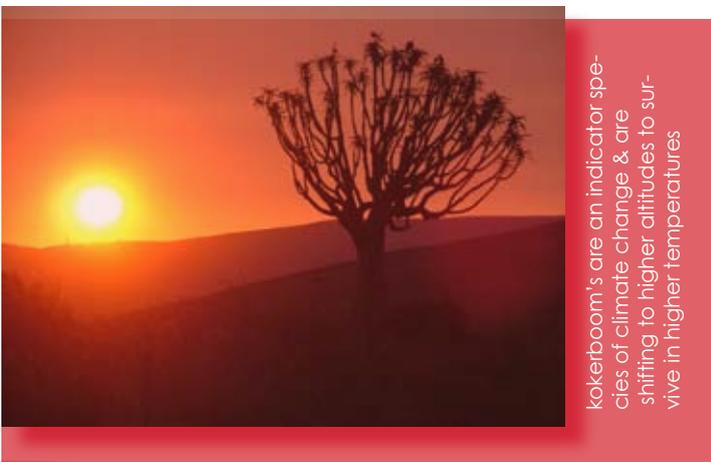
The social, economic and environmental impacts of these changes in South Africa's climate could be immense. Decreasing agricultural, forestry, livestock and fish stock yields could greatly threaten food and job security, while the collapse

of South Africa's unique ecosystems could mean extinction for many of the country's magnificent plant and animal species and threaten the lives of those vulnerable, marginal communities who are directly dependent on natural resources for their survival.

In recognition of this imminent threat, six of South Africa's largest conservation NGO's ,Conservation International's Southern Africa Hotspots Programme, Wildlands Conservation Trust, Wildlife Environment Society of South Africa, Wilderness Foundation, The Botanical Society of South Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust, have come together to form the Climate Action Partnership (CAP). A powerful alliance that aims to mitigate climate change and adapt South Africa to its effects.

The partners realize that it is only by working together that we can reduce the risk of climate change on South Africa's unique biodiversity and its people. In brief, the four objectives of the Climate Action Partnership are to:

1. Raise awareness about climate change and the links between climate change and the conservation of natural habitat;
2. Promote the integrity of climate change projects by promoting the adoption of globally accepted standards, with an emphasis on the Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) Standards and a focus on the biodiversity of Southern Africa;





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3. Advise on and support Southern African solutions for mitigation and adaptation to climate change with a biodiversity conservation outcome; and
4. Promote cross-sectoral policy that supports climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.

In the past year the Climate Action Partnership has begun to raise public awareness around climate change issues through the media and through the Live Earth Johannesburg concert, we have developed a user-friendly carbon footprint calculator tailored to the South African situation, and have begun engaging with South African businesses and with government on climate change and biodiversity issues.

We believe that climate change presents a major opportunity to address poverty and to steer South African development in a sustainable direction. Through climate change awareness, communities have the opportunity to be educated and assisted in developing sustainable livelihoods, which are highly feasible in a country that boasts breath-taking scenery, timeless landscapes, the world-renowned "big five" game animals and large tracts of undeveloped land.

Ecosystem restoration as part of climate projects is, for example, emerging as a new livelihood option for communities. Such activities provide jobs and skills while restoring natural ecosystems to provide a broad range of goods and services for humans, and habitat for plants and animals.

Our strength lies in our union. By working together, the Climate Action Partnership has the reach and influence to make a difference in South Africa. Let us steer South Africa on a path of sustainable development, one that not only withstands the future effects of climate change, but uses this change as an opportunity for positive development.

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