



**environment
& tourism**

Department:
Environment Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



South Africa's 2nd National Communication to the UNFCCC:

A call for expressions of interest in making a scientific contribution

First released July 14, 2008

Background

South Africa is committed to submitting its Second National Communication (SNC) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in partial fulfillment of its obligations under this Convention, by early 2011. The component activities of this project are funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), following its approval of South Africa's proposal that defines key areas as outlined below. The Climate Change and Bio-Adaptation Division at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) will lead the project, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT). The project will integrate input from processes already underway, such as the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory. The project will be managed by a project management team (SANBI, DEAT and selected partners), guided in its scientific content by a technical committee (drawn mainly from project participants), and in its management process and milestones by a steering committee (drawn mainly from members of South Africa's National Climate Change Committee (NCCC).

Call for expressions of interest

A call for expressions of interest is hereby issued to interested and appropriately qualified individuals and research groups to participate in this project. Responses to this call will allow the project management team and steering committee to assess the range of expertise available nationally in each topic and sub-topic area. Responses will guide the final project design and engagement of key expertise, possibly through a competitive

bidding process where otherwise unavoidable. Where appropriate, the steering committee may suggest cooperation between individuals and groups on particular topics, in order to maximize capacity building opportunities. The scope of work under each topic ranges from the review of the available information, through more focused work involving synthesis and modeling, and possibly to primary new research where appropriate and within budgetary constraints.

Impact

The project will strengthen interaction and cooperation with all stakeholders in the climate change arena, but particularly practitioners in climate impacts and adaptation. Significant progress is envisaged in the identification and filling of existing knowledge gaps, capacity building, and improved accessibility to synthesized and coherent information on climate change related issues for South Africa. The SNC will contribute to enhancing sustainable development in South Africa, particularly with respect to climate change adaptive capacity. The project will also advance public awareness of climate change related issues in South Africa.

Key deliverable

The key deliverable of the project is South Africa's Second National Communication, comprising a report to the UNFCCC. The main components to be reflected in the SNC under this call for expressions of interest include: description of national circumstances; impacts, risk, vulnerability and adaptation assessment in a variety of sectors (including economic evaluation of damage costs and costs of adaptation implementation); additional relevant information such as on research and systematic observation; education, training and public awareness; institutional arrangements, information and networking; projections, policies and measures; constraints, gaps and related financial, technical and capacity needs. The project will also integrate information on greenhouse gas inventory and mitigation aspects from separate processes already complete or underway into the final product.

Scope and content

The scope and broad content of the work required is defined in the manual downloadable at http://unfccc.int/resource/userman_nc.pdf. The following topics and sub-topics are relevant to this call for expressions of interest.

1. National circumstances

This will include information that details the national development priorities, objectives and circumstances that serve as the basis for addressing issues relating to climate change.

2. Measures to adapt to climate change

a) National scale climate modeling and projections (including defining a range of possible future climate regimes for 2050 and 2100, their underlying assumptions and uncertainties, and assessment of relevant past, current and future climate variability)

b) Impacts, risk, vulnerability and adaptation assessments (including economic damage costs where available) for:

i) Urban and rural communities and their physical and social infrastructure

ii) Water resources

iii) Agriculture (including food security)

iv) Human health

v) Rangelands

vi) Forestry

vii) Biodiversity (including terrestrial, wetland and marine resources)

c) Additional adaptation measures (e.g. early warning systems, disaster management, adaptation planning and technology development)

d) Economic cost/benefit analysis of adaptation responses.

3. Other information considered relevant to the Convention

a) Research and systematic observation

b) Education, training and public awareness

c) Institutional arrangements, information and networking

d) Projections, policies and measures

e) Constraints, gaps and related financial, technical and capacity needs.

Responses to the call for expressions of interest – due 15 August 2008

Interested and appropriately qualified individuals may respond to this call either in their individual capacities or as leaders of research groups. Please provide a concise CV, highlighting expertise relevant to the topic and/or subtopics you feel qualified to address,

and in the case of a group leader, outline the expertise and capacity of your group. In your response please identify as concisely as possible (and in not more than 3 pages) the topics and/or sub-topics as listed in the “Scope and content” section above to which you: a) feel you could make a substantial contribution, or b) wish to be involved with in a capacity development role (i.e. as a partner with some skills and interest but aiming to gain further skills, knowledge and expertise). Identify the topics/sub-topics by number (e.g. sub-topic 2bii for “impacts, risk, vulnerability and adaptation assessments for water resources”). Informative and concise submissions will enable the project management team to identify topic leaders, contributors and capacity development partners in as fair a manner as possible.

- Submissions must be made via email to SNC@sanbi.org, or by fax to 021-7998705.
- Submissions must be received by end of business on 15 August 2008.

Further engagement, project protocol and scheduling

The project management team will contact you with an offer to engage in, or bid for work under given sub-topics, with an indicative budget by the end of August 2008. Contracts or Service Level Agreements defining key deliverables, budgets and timelines will be formulated in collaboration with the project management team. We would like to initiate work on key topics by 25 September 2008, and hold a workshop involving at least all identified topic leaders in early October 2008.

The work will be conducted along the lines of an IPCC process, comprising the preparation of draft reports, followed by peer review that will guide the further development of the work, in three iterations, to allow maximum cross-referencing, coherency and synergy between topics and sub-topics. The three drafting and review iterations are currently scheduled roughly as follows: Draft 0 due for review in March 2009, Draft 1 in September 2009, and the Final Draft in May 2010.