



Quick Brief

A news update from the NBI on its programmes, business leadership and issues on sustainable development.

2 March 2018

South African Risk and Vulnerability Atlas (SARVA) - 2nd Edition

The second edition of the South African Risk and Vulnerability Atlas (SARVA) was successfully launched on 21 February 2018 in Johannesburg, with the event well attended by business, government, media and civil society. The National Business Initiative (NBI) in partnership with the developers of SARVA, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), hosted this event to highlight the key findings of the revised atlas.

Africa, despite being a low emitter, is the continent most vulnerable to climate change. The CSIR currently employs a sophisticated international climate model to make predictions regarding temperature, rainfall, sea temperatures and other variables, which shows that unless a massive effort is made to reduce carbon emissions globally there will be a huge change in climate in the latter half of this century. The impacts of a rapidly changing climate will be severe for Africa, and include more frequent events such as droughts and floods and consistently higher average temperatures.

SARVA was designed with the intent of providing up to date information for key sectors to support decision making in the areas of risk and vulnerability. It can be used by national, provincial and local authorities to help in identifying and prioritising the key short-term and long-term risks and vulnerabilities they need to plan for within their jurisdictions, as well as by the private sector and others to understand the implications of climate change on their business and the environment.

The 2nd edition of SARVA is also shortly to be complemented by an updated **online portal**, so that people can interact with the considerable data available to obtain meaningful information. The portal offers comprehensive resources which include live web mapping, static maps, reports, case studies and integrated analysis to support an

enhanced understanding of global change. Critically, the next iteration of the SARVA online portal *will encompass global change as a whole*, and will thus include almost 1 700 datasets that cover social, economic and environmental drivers. This allows for an integrated approach to societal change and resilience that is not limited to climate change aspects. The portal also allows easy access through advanced search functionalities to data on other platforms from different research institutes, such as the South African Spatial Data Infrastructure (SASDI), the Bioenergy Atlas, the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) and South African Earth Observation System of Systems (SAEOSS).

There are eleven themes that are explored in the SARVA 2nd edition. These themes are backed up by extensive datasets to provide an up to date view of the current situation and supplemented by other models to help forecast future conditions. They include agriculture, health, surface water, ground water, air quality, human settlements and disaster risk reduction. Examples of how the atlas can be used to make decisions could be in deciding where new infrastructure should be built, or where certain crops will no longer be viable in future and thus to make contingency plans, or what key environmental or socio-economic risks a business will face in a certain area.

The SARVA 2nd Edition can be accessed [here](#).

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Business Action for Sustainable Growth

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