

QUICK BRIEF 2022



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



15 June 2022

An ambitious South African Business voice is needed at COP27: Be part of the South Africa Pavilion at the UN Climate Conference in Egypt, as Africa takes centre stage

The South Africa Pavilion at the UN Climate Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt) in November 2022, will be jointly hosted by the South African government and business, coordinated by the **Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE)** and **National Business Initiative (NBI)**.

The COP27 South Africa Pavilion, provides an excellent platform for business and government to:

- Showcase South Africa's efforts towards co-creating and implementing a Just Transition to net zero emissions by 2050, while ensuring a resilient and competitive economy and society
- Mobilise finance for our transition, building resilience and adapting to a warming world
- Build credible partnerships to mobilise climate action based on transparent leadership
- Support the implementation of a Just Transition in the face of existing climate impacts

Building on the success of the COP26 Pavilion, we plan to increase our ambition even further in hosting the COP27 South Africa Pavilion. We intend to raise sufficient funding for an informative pavilion and a strong programme of events.

We are calling on South African business to join us at the pavilion, by providing your stories of climate action and sponsoring the South Africa Pavilion. This is an opportunity to share your success and best practice and ensure they are part of the South African climate action story.

Reflections from Business Sponsors of the South Africa Pavilion at COP26 and COP27

Shamini Harrington: Vice President Climate Change, Sasol:

“COP27 is on African soil, it really is the opportunity for us now to go out there and put on a map the work we are doing as part of the just transition and how critically important it is to ensure that South Africa is also featured in terms of the different dispensations and discussions and decision-making that takes place within the COP.”

Abel Sakhau: Environment and Climate Change Manager, Exxaro

“The value of it is not in having a beautiful Pavilion, the value of it is in having a South African voice there and having the visibility of the actions and the projects and the achievements that we have done as South Africans being displayed to the world and for people who want to know “what is South Africa doing?”

Past South Africa Pavilions have attracted high profile influencers, stimulating key relationships between business, government, and civil society for ambitious climate action. The COP26 South Africa Pavilion was used to demonstrate South Africa’s enhanced climate commitment and to position the country as a credible low-carbon investment destination. The South African Pavilion at COP27 will further position South Africa as a prime example of developmental decarbonisation in action, able to attract investment and to strengthen the business case for a competitive and resilient economy.

Urgent climate action needed:

Climate change is one of the biggest threats to our global economy, but tackling it is also one of the world’s big economic opportunities. Climate threats are amplified on the African continent, where impacts are further exacerbated by high levels of social and economic vulnerability. Africa continues to be the hardest hit by the physical impacts of climate change.

The South African climate response is a development and investment opportunity which must be realised to achieve a Just Transition to net zero emissions as well as ensure competitive and resilient economies and societies across the continent.

Reflections from Business Sponsors of the South Africa Pavilion at COP26 and COP27

Jonathan Dunne: Head of International Policy and UK Government Relations, Anglo-American:

“There was a sense during the COP26 in Glasgow that we’d finally moved away from debating the why of climate action and it started to move onto the what and the how and for both the what and the how - collaboration, cooperation between governments, private sector partners and all other stakeholders is fundamental not only as a platform for discussion but as a platform for demonstration of action”.

Annika Brouwer: Sustainability Specialist, Ninety One

“We really thought that this is one of the most high impact ways we can support in advancing not only the South African transition agenda but really the African regional transition agenda. We cannot lose the interest of engaged stakeholders; we need to capitalize on the momentum built at COP26 while adding more fresh energy and COP27 is a great platform to do this. “

NBI members are active in 35 African countries. This African COP is a pivotal moment for governments and business across the continent, to showcase and position the range of climate investment prospects that exist in Africa, while amplifying the value of collaborative action.

We look forward to a strong and diverse business presence at COP27, contributing to business leadership across the continent.

Please contact Reitumetse Molotsoane (ReitumetseM@nbi.org.za) for further information relating to the COP27 South Africa Pavilion



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The National Business Initiative (NBI) is an independent and voluntary coalition of South African and multinational businesses launched in 1995 by the then President, Nelson Mandela.

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