

About the Secretariat of the South African-German Energy

South Africa and Germany have many common interests in the field of energy – from setting up a hydrogen economy to ways of assuring a just energy transition. Both countries work together to enhance their roles as regional front-runners and role models for implementing their energy transitions and creating secure, environmentally friendly, and economically successful energy systems.

The Energy Partnership between the two countries was established in 2013 to join forces and mutually profit from each other's experiences, expertise and lessons learnt. The Energy Partnership complements the ongoing successful cooperation- and dialogue-programs in the energy sector between both countries, for example, the South African-German Energy Programme (SAGEN).

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH runs the Secretariat of the Energy Partnership from its Pretoria offices. The Secretariat has a coordination function and follows-up the implementation plan of the partnership. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and the South African Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) update the implementation plan annually. The Secretariat organizes all the activities under the Energy Partnership and is the first port of call for everyone being interested in the partnership's activities.



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South African German Energy Partnership

Deutsch-Südafrikanische Energiepartnerschaft



The Structure of the South African–German Energy Partnership

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and the South African Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) lead the Energy Partnership. Additional key stakeholders are governmental departments such as the South African Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), the German Federal Department for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV). In addition, private companies and business associations, research institutions, think tanks and other non-governmental organizations are participating in the partnership activities. Municipalities and regional governmental bodies of both countries are important partners, too.

A High-Level Steering Committee chaired by the Deputy Minister (South Africa) and State Secretary (Germany) for Energy meets annually and provides a platform for dialogue between high-level policy makers from both countries.

An Energy Working Group holds meetings twice a year with participation of public and private stakeholders from Germany and South Africa and with a focus on specific topics under the Energy Partnership.

Activities of the Energy Partnership

I. Facilitate intergovernmental dialogue on energy policy

We coordinate, prepare, and facilitate high-level intergovernmental meetings to strengthen dialogue on themes relating to energy policy matters in Germany and South Africa and support the implementation of agreed activities.

II. Advice on policy for the global energy transition

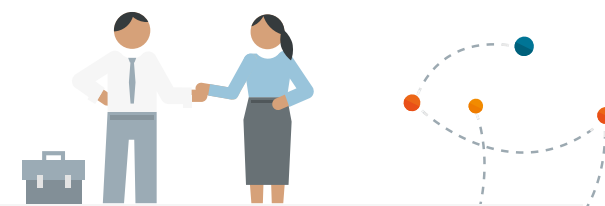
With our unique energy expertise, we provide political consultancy services on strategically relevant topics, including continuous counselling as well as preparing studies, analyses, workshops, international study tours and trainings.

III. Engage and cooperate with private sector, academia, and civil society

We build bridges between politics and business so both their voices are heard and supported as both their contributions and investments in sustainable value chains and infrastructure set good foundations for employment, income, innovation and cultivating new markets.

IV. Communicate knowledge and activities of the Energy Partnership

Enhancing Communication is imperative for our undertakings to be understood and supported by our cooperation partners in a way that showcases our energy partnership programs and to also sustain energy policy initiatives that will improve the sector.



Thematic areas of activities

Just Energy Transition/Energiewende

Our area of support is on structural changes for a decarbonised future for South Africa's coal mining regions. Shared experiences from Germany's coal exit plans and processes help to ensure that power projects are based on high efficiency, low emission technologies and other cleaner coal technologies.

Energy Storage

We support our partners in the identification and development of energy storage use cases and best available options in South Africa.

Flexibilisation of energy systems

We support our partners by increasing knowledge around the flexibilization of the energy system, especially regarding ways to balance out potential fluctuations in the flow of electricity caused by the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources.

Green Hydrogen/Power to X

Our cooperation is focused on facilitating and coordinating the exchange between German and South African stakeholders active in green hydrogen and Power to X (e.g., ministries, private companies).

Digitalization

We support our partners in identifying opportunities that advance the energy system through digital technologies and solutions available.

Energy Efficiency

We support our partners in upscaling the energy efficiency measures, by learning from international markets, especially Germany.