

Terms of Reference (ToRs)

Project title: Benchmarking Assessment of Low Emission Development Strategies and Analysis of South Africa’s first Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)

Contracting organization: 2050 Pathways Platform

In-country political lead: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) of the Government of South Africa

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1. Purpose and background

The Paris Agreement, adopted at COP21, invited all Parties to develop long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LT-LEDS or LTS) in Article 4.19. The COP27 outcome urged countries to communicate their LT-LEDS by COP28. More recently, the first Global Stocktake adopted at COP28 in Dubai “*urges Parties that have not yet done so (...) to communicate or revise, by the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (November 2024), their long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (...) towards just transitions to net zero emissions by or around mid-century, taking into account different national circumstances*”. The Global Stocktake outcome underlines the importance for Parties to revise their existing long-term strategy ensuring LT-LEDS can act as a comprehensive roadmap towards a just transition to net zero emissions by mid-century and provide a framework for the formulation and implementation of nearer-term net-zero targets.

In this context the [2050 Pathways Platform](#), a government and multi-stakeholder initiative supporting the development and implementation of LT-LEDS in countries, is supporting the upcoming revision of South Africa’s first LT-LEDS. South Africa submitted its first LT-LEDS report to the UNFCCC in September 2020 and has undertaken several policy, institutional and regulatory measures to implement elements of the first strategy. The policy environment and institutional set-up has significantly changed since the submission of the first LT-LEDS and South Africa is seeking to update its LT-LEDS in respect to this. South Africa also plans to

improve the overall LT-LEDS in a way that will better communicate its long term low carbon and development path.

This LT-LEDS revision process in South Africa is partly supported by the 2050 Pathways Platform through the NDC Partnership Global Call on NDCs 3.0 and LT-LEDS. In May 2024, the 2050 Pathways Platform formally responded to South Africa's request for support via the NDC Partnership. This response was followed by a series of coordination and scoping calls with the DFFE and other implementing partners, namely the World Resources Institute and USAID. The DFFE and implementing partners agreed in July 2024 on a joint phasing plan of deliverables and a sequencing of support between partners for the entire LT-LEDS revision project period (August 2024 – March 2026). The benchmarking assessment and analysis of South Africa's first LT-LEDS falls under Deliverable 1 of this phasing plan which is to be fully commissioned by the 2050 Pathways Platform.

2. Scope of work

2.1 Brief description

Under Deliverable 1, the selected firm will be expected to deliver the following outputs:

1. Benchmarking assessment and analysis of South Africa's first LT-LEDS
2. Presentations of key findings and recommendations from the report to the government and relevant stakeholders

2.2 Benchmarking assessment and analysis of South Africa's first LT-LEDS

The selected firm is expected to assess LT-LEDS submitted to the UNFCCC. The objective of the report is to provide DFFE with knowledge of other country experiences and best practices that can inform and steer the revision process of their existing LT-LEDS. Attention should be paid to developing countries and emerging economies with similar circumstances to South Africa in terms of economy size, environmental policy and social conditions. The government is also eager to learn more about other long-term planning policies and processes in countries (outside of LT-LEDS) that have relevance to long-term planning towards climate and development objectives. Knowledge of these 'best practices' can inform the revision of the South African LT-LEDS to suit the country's specific context.

Thematic areas of interest for this benchmarking assessment include:

- Approaches from other countries in the implementation of their LT-LEDS, particularly target-setting towards LT-LEDS implementation and the development of implementation roadmaps
- Integration of development aspects in target-setting towards net-zero. Including linkages of LT-LEDS with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other socio-economic priorities, such as inequality, unemployment and poverty reduction
- Alignment of net-zero targets with existing policy & institutional arrangements
- Monitoring and evaluation systems, including the development and tracking of indicators to measure the successful implementation of mitigation and development targets
- Development of pragmatic roadmaps for implementation of LT-LEDS, particularly in a developing country context
- Use of LT-LEDS to leverage public and private climate finance towards implementation

- Approaches to align LT-LEDS and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Inclusion of Adaptation in LT-LEDS, including the inclusion of adaptation and the extent to what it was included
- Interactions between mitigation targets and adaptation targets / aspects
- Policy reform to prepare for and enable long-term transformation of a country's economy
- The integration of just transition aspects into LT-LEDS
- Approaches for the LT-LEDS formulation process that strengthen stakeholder inclusion and enable consensus building towards nationally owned LT—LEDS.

The firm selected will be expected to select up to 10 countries for which they would like to outline best practices and experiences in the above-mentioned thematic areas.

Furthermore, the report should include an analysis of South Africa's first LT-LEDS which was submitted to the UNFCCC in September 2020. The analysis of South Africa's first LT-LEDS should:

- Analyse South Africa's contribution to global mitigation efforts and highlight opportunities and risks associated with addressing such goals.
- Take stock of existing long-term climate and development policies and processes in South Africa and lessons learned that can be drawn from these, including, but not limited to, the Just Transition Framework, the Climate Change Act, carbon tax, sectoral emissions targets and carbon budgets
- Highlight strengths from South Africa's first LT-LEDS that the government can build on for the upcoming LT-LEDS revision
- Identify any gaps the government may need to consider for the upcoming LT-LEDS revision
- Produce a set of clear recommendations highlighting elements to consider for the upcoming LT-LEDS revision. These recommendations should also build on the benchmarking exercise of best practices and experiences in other countries

The final assessment and analysis should take the form of a written report. The use of infographics and visual assets within the report is strongly recommended to make the written information and the recommendations digestible and concise to diverse audiences.

2.3 Presentations of key findings and recommendations from the report

The selected firm will be expected to deliver one or more presentations to the government and relevant stakeholders during the assignment. Upon finalising the contract, the selected firm can agree with the 2050 Pathways Platform on a set number of presentations to be completed. As part of the set of presentations, the selected firm is expected to deliver interim presentations during the assignment to present progress, the methodology used and interim results. Interim presentations can take place either online or in-person.

At the end of the assignment, a final report presentation will also be delivered to highlight the full process and approach taken, key findings and recommendations from the report to the government and other relevant stakeholders engaging with the LT-LEDS revision process. The final report presentation is highly likely to take place in person, at the DFFE offices or in another location in South Africa to be confirmed. Details and frequency of the presentations

will be discussed and agreed with the 2050 Pathways Platform and DFFE upon finalisation of the contract.

The consultancy firm/consortium will develop the outputs in close collaboration with the South Africa's Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and the 2050 Pathways Platform. Interim results should be communicated to the 2050 Pathways Platform and the DFFE throughout the development of the analysis for review and feedback.

3. Characteristics of the assignment

Duration of contract: this assignment is expected to have an approximate duration of 3 months from the contract effectiveness date.

Start date: the project is expected to start immediately after the contract signature. The Platform would like for this project to start ideally no later than the end of September 2024.

Location: preference will be given to firms based in South Africa, or to international firms with collaborative partners based in South Africa, with experience and understanding of the country's context.

4. Application process and deadline

Please send your expression of interest to apply for this project to the 2050 Pathways Platform Secretariat at secretariat@2050pathways.org by no later than **23 August 2024 18:00 (South Africa Time)**, stating the following in the subject of the email, "South Africa – Benchmarking assessment and LT-LEDS analysis" You should include as part of your application:

- Firm's background, credentials, expertise, and relevant experience. Demonstrable experience in the field (see section 6 below) and examples of previous work both in the South African domestic context and internationally (and in case the firm is not based in-country, examples of work with local partners).
- A methodological section, including how you plan to approach and carry out the deliverables highlighted in these ToRs.
- A Gantt Chart for the project, detailing the schedule for the delivery of the project, including indication of the timing of activities, delivery of outputs and key meetings/events.
- Indication of key personnel proposed to deliver the project, including a summary of relevant experiences and skills. It is expected that the key personnel listed will remain part of this project for the duration of the project.
- A financial note, including the budget template provided in the annex of this ToRs fully completed with your estimated budget requirements for each deliverable.

Once the firm is selected, some additional documents will be required for due diligence and granting.

5. Management arrangements and reporting

The firm is being commissioned by the 2050 Pathways Platform. The firm will report to the 2050 Pathways Platform for contractual and administrative purposes and will be guided by South Africa's Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on all project-related elements.

The 2050 Pathways Platform will also act as an advisor and will have overall oversight of the project, ensuring the quality of results through lessons from best practices, adherence to timelines, and general oversight of delivery. The 2050 Pathways Platform and DFFE will comment on interim products such as presentations and reports, approve products, and follow work progress. It is first suggested that the selected firm holds bi-weekly short calls with the 2050 Pathways Platform and DFFE to communicate project updates and one monthly one-hour call for in-depth discussions, interim presentations and/or working sessions around the assignment.

6. Qualifications sought from the consultancy firm/consortium

The consultancy firm/consortium is expected to demonstrate:

- Experience in LT-LEDS and climate change planning
- Demonstrated understanding of the South African country context, including economic, environmental and social considerations and challenges in-country.
- Based in South Africa with an understanding of the national socioeconomic and environmental context with additional international experience with best practices around climate change projects, climate policy and/or long-term planning. International firms will be considered as long as some team capacity is based locally in South Africa.
- Experience in working with government ministries and communicating with high-level government officials
- Experience in translating technical information into clear policy recommendations
- Proven ability to present information in a clear, precise, and well-articulated manner
- Good communication skills in English (oral and written)
- The consultancy firm/consortium should be led by a registered company

7. Annex - Budget Template

	Amount in EUR	Comments
Benchmarking assessment and analysis of South Africa's first LT-LEDS		
<i>Consulting fees</i>		
<i>Report design fees</i>		
<i>Material</i>		
<i>Travel</i>		
<i>Other</i>		
Presentations of the report		

<i>Consulting fees</i>		
<i>Presentation design fees</i>		
<i>Material</i>		
<i>Travel</i>		
<i>Other</i>		
TOTAL		