



Terms of Reference (ToRs)

Project title:

Provision of Stakeholder Engagement, Documentation and Policy Summary for the Revision of South Africa's 2050 Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)

Contracting organization:

2050 Pathways Platform

In-country political lead:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), 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.

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. To ensure a comprehensive and credible strategy, a detailed multi-phase work plan has been developed to underpin the revision. 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 2027). These components of work form part of a broader set of activities aimed at supporting the country in refining its long-term development pathways to 2050 that are aligned with net-zero objectives. This integrated plan spans four distinct phases:

- **Phase 1 (Aug 2024 - April 2026)** established the foundational vision through the finalization of development narratives, a benchmarking exercise against international

best practices, and a systems dynamics assessment of the proposed scenarios to understand risks and opportunities.

- **Phase 2 (July 2025 - Jun 2026)** focused on analytical modelling, including the development of net-zero emissions scenarios, the formulation of long-term Sectoral Emission Targets (SETs), and a socio-economic impact assessment to stress-test the proposed pathways.
- **Phase 3 (November 2025 - June 2026)** consolidated the research findings into actionable plans, culminating in a Net-Zero Development Roadmap, a supporting Investment Plan, and a robust framework of tracking indicators for Monitoring & Evaluation.
- **Phase 4 (April 2026 - March 2027)** is the current phase in which these Terms of Reference are designed to support, dedicated to finalisation, communication, and stakeholder validation. It involves preparing the complete LT-LEDS Update Report for public comment, conducting a series of targeted stakeholder engagements on the strategy, and developing accessible communication products, including a Summary for Policy Makers and public-facing materials.

The process is explicitly designed to answer fundamental questions about South Africa's future development across all key sectors, including energy, food, transport, settlements, and land use, while rigorously integrating adaptation, just transition, and human rights considerations. These components of work form part of a broader set of activities aimed at supporting the country in refining its long-term development pathways to 2050 that are aligned with net-zero objectives while achieving a vision of a good life that is enjoyed by all South Africans.

2. Scope of work

2.1. Overview of the Scope

The assignment will support South Africa's revision of its Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) in line with Article 4.19 of the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake adopted at COP28. The work will contribute to strengthening the LT-LEDS as a comprehensive and credible roadmap towards a just transition to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by or around mid-century, taking into account national circumstances and development priorities. In the context of South Africa's LT-LEDS revision workplan, the assignment will directly support the achievement of broader project deliverables 7, 8, and 10.

The scope of work includes the design, facilitation, and documentation of inclusive and structured stakeholder engagement processes, ensuring that stakeholder perspectives are systematically captured, reflected, and used to inform and validate the updated strategy (deliverable 8). In addition, the assignment will support synthesis of all LT-LEDS materials and products (e.g. benchmarking, development narratives, systems dynamics, emission pathways, LEDS investment plan and implementation roadmap, LT-LEDS M&E framework and indicators) to produce South Africa's updated final draft LT-LEDS update report (deliverable 7), and the development of a concise Summary for Policy Makers to support high-level decision-making (deliverable 10). The work will be implemented in close coordination

with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE), the 2050 Pathways Platform and relevant implementing partners, and aligned with the agreed phasing and sequencing of support under the NDC Partnership’s Global Call on NDCs and LT-LEDS.

2.2 Tasks, Expected Outcomes, and Deliverables

Task 1: Stakeholder Engagement

Task Description

This task encompasses the design, execution, and management of a comprehensive consultative process to inform the LT-LEDS update. The DFFE will provide support to identify and invite stakeholders to the consultations. Specifically, consultations will be structured across three key stages to gather inputs and build consensus for the net-zero transition. The service provider is expected to participate in all engagements in person.

- **Stage 1:** Engagement after the finalization of net-zero emission scenarios, socio-economic impacts and long-term SETs. This will be targeted at technical experts from various sectors, government, civil society, labour, academia, and industry. The objectives for doing this are to a) gather inputs on technical modelling assumptions and b) share the results of the technical analysis within the context of the development narratives. Topical coverage will include: Energy; Transport; AFOLU; Waste; IPPU; Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) and Direct Air Capture (DAC); Socio-economic Impact Assessment; plus one General Session (8 total hybrid engagements). All 8 engagements will be held in Gauteng; each engagement is one full day.
- **Stage 2:** Engagement after the finalization of the net-zero development roadmap and its investment plan. This will include an initial consultation with a selected group of experts from Government stakeholders, Business, Civil Society and Academia, Labour, and Donors and Financing Institutions to discuss unlocking long-term finance, followed by a broad consultation across sectors to gather inputs on the draft roadmap and investment plan. All Stage 2 engagements will be held in Gauteng.
- **Stage 3:** Engagement after the completion of the M&E Framework and the final draft LEDES update report, which is informed by inputs from stage 1 and 2. Broad consultations will be undertaken across all provinces. Physical engagements will occur in every province; the service provider is expected to be physically present in Gauteng, Western Cape, and Mpumalanga, with DFFE facilitating remaining provinces. In addition, two (2) virtual national sessions will be convened.

A minimum of twelve (12) multi-stakeholder engagements are envisaged across these three stages. These events will be in a hybrid format and are expected to take place primarily in Gauteng Province, South Africa.

The task will start with designing targeted engagement activities for different stakeholder groups. This will then be followed by the practical preparation of tailored workshop agendas, presentation materials, and discussion guides together with the appointment of a dedicated engagement facilitator to lead all in-person engagements. The facilitator will then lead and facilitate these workshops and consultations with government ministries, the private sector, civil society, academia, and vulnerable communities. A critical continuous component will be

the meticulous documentation of all feedback and its structured integration into the technical drafting process.

In doing so, the service provider will be required to:

- Prior to stakeholder engagement activities, to engage with the technical teams in charge of analytical and modelling outputs to ensure the most up-to-date and relevant framing and information is used for the consultations
- Manage all logistical planning for the in-person and virtual stakeholder meetings (e.g. venue arrangements, catering where needed, online set-up etc)
- Prepare all documentation for the engagements and be prepared to present during proceedings and respond to technical questions where relevant.
- Provide facilitation of all stakeholder events using purpose-driven methods to gather diverse and meaningful inputs.
- Prepare meeting reports with recommendations for all engagements.
- Prepare a Comment and Response database to track and address stakeholder feedback.

Expected Outcomes

Successful stakeholder engagements are expected to result in meaningful and inclusive stakeholder participation throughout the update process. This will, in turn, foster enhanced national ownership, transparency, and legitimacy for the final LT-LEDS outputs. Furthermore, the process will generate a well-documented repository of stakeholder inputs that directly enriches the technical analysis and ensures the report is both credible and responsive to on-the-ground insights and concerns.

Deliverables and Outputs

This task is expected to yield a suite of process and reporting documents. These include:

- All prepared **workshop materials (agendas, presentations, facilitation guides)**
- **Workshop reports** summarizing each event's discussions
- A **consolidated Stakeholder Engagement Inputs Report** that synthesizes all feedback thematically
- The delivery of professional, dedicated **facilitation services for all events is a mandatory key output**
- A **comprehensive comment and response database** tracking all stakeholder inputs and corresponding responses is also required. Additional agreed-upon outputs to support documentation may also be provided.

Task 2: Final Draft LT-LEDS Update Report

Task Description

The core activity of this assignment is to develop a comprehensive update of the Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) for South Africa.

This process will begin with a thorough review of the existing LT-LEDS document (i.e. Good-life narratives, Systems Dynamics, Net-Zero Pathways, Net-Zero Long-Term SETs, Net-Zero Roadmap, Net-Zero Investment Plan, Net-Zero Monitoring & Evaluation framework),

alongside all relevant national policies, such as current NDCs, National Adaptation Plans, and sectoral strategies, and recent analytical inputs like greenhouse gas inventories and climate vulnerability studies.

The next phase will involve the systematic integration of diverse stakeholder feedback and in-depth technical analyses into a coherent draft. Finally, this draft will be meticulously refined through iterative reviews, to be validated by the DFFE and the 2050 Pathways Platform, to ensure it fully aligns with both national development priorities and international climate guidance under frameworks like the Paris Agreement.

Expected Outcomes

The anticipated primary outcome is a coherent, technically robust, and strategically up-to-date LT-LEDS document that serves as the nation's definitive long-term climate blueprint. This document is expected to clearly explain and articulate the detailed long-term mitigation and adaptation pathways, including the necessary enabling conditions for implementation across key economic sectors. Crucially, the final draft is expected to justifiably reflect the diverse perspectives gathered from a wide range of stakeholders, to ensure that the strategy is grounded in the national consensus (i.e., policy vision) and practical reality.

Deliverables and Outputs

The expected key deliverables are as follows:

- 1) LT-LEDS outline informed by:
 - (a) existing LT-LEDS related products, that is, the good-life narratives, systems dynamics, Net-Zero (NZ) pathways, Sectoral Emissions Targets (SETs), NZ roadmap, Investment Plan, and M&E framework;
 - (b) stakeholder inputs from Task 1; and
 - (c) structured engagement with DFFE.
- 2) Draft LT-LEDS update report for public comment and government validation
- 3) Final Draft LT-LEDS update report formatted for official submission/publication by DFFE
- 4) Final LT-LEDS document for publication.

Task 3: Summary for Policy Makers (SPM)

Task Description

This task will focus on translating the technical LT-LEDS outputs into a clear, decision-oriented brief (maximum of 15 pages) that supports senior government leadership and policy-making processes. This will include distilling the most critical insights, scenario outcomes, and policy recommendations from the full LT-LEDS update for decision-making purposes. The technical content and complex data are expected to then be translated into concise, compelling, and policy-relevant language devoid of technical jargon. Throughout this process, the messaging must be strategically aligned with the context of national policy decision-making and medium-term planning cycles to ensure immediate relevance for cabinet-level officials and senior government policy advisors.

Expected Outcomes

The core goal of task 3 is to improve the accessibility and utility of the LT-LEDS's findings for time-constrained senior policymakers. The outcome will be a clear and powerful communication of the strategic measures, their socio-economic implications, and the resulting national priorities, thereby enabling informed high-level endorsement and guiding the integration of long-term climate goals into core governmental planning.

Deliverables and Outputs

The sole, focused deliverable for task 3 is the Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) report. This report will include:

- One-page LT-LEDS infographic with key messages
- Presentation slide deck for circulation with the infographic
- Translation of SPM (and infographic) into priority official languages as agreed with DFFE.

Table 1: LT-LEDS Update: Tasks, Outcomes, and Deliverables Matrix

Task	Task Description	Expected Outcomes	Deliverables and Outputs
Task 1: Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Design, plan and facilitate stakeholder engagement activities to inform the LT-LEDS update (incl. workshop logistics) ● Coordinate with DFFE, 2050PP and relevant modelling experts to ensure stakeholder engagement activities reflect outputs from the LT-LEDS revision workplan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meaningful and inclusive stakeholder participation in the LT-LEDS update ● Enhanced ownership, transparency, and legitimacy of the final outputs ● Well-documented stakeholder inputs to inform analysis and reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Workshop materials (agendas, presentations, facilitation guides) ● Stakeholder invitation templates ● Workshop reports summarizing discussions and key inputs ● Consolidated stakeholder engagement inputs ● Facilitation services, including a designated facilitator ● Other agreed outputs, as required to support engagement and documentation

Task	Task Description	Expected Outcomes	Deliverables and Outputs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepare workshop agendas, materials, and guiding questions ● Facilitate workshops and consultations with relevant stakeholders ● Document feedback and integrate inputs into the LT-LEDS update process 		
Task 2: Final Draft LT-LEDS Update Report	<p>LT-LEDS Outline informed by:</p> <p>(a) existing LT-LEDS products, that is, the good-life narratives, systems dynamics, net-zero (NZ) pathways, Sectoral Emissions Targets (SETs), NZ roadmap, Investment plan, and M&E framework;</p> <p>(b) Stakeholder inputs from Task 1; and</p> <p>(c) structured engagement with DFFE.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A coherent, technically robust, and up-to-date LT-LEDS reflecting national priorities ● Clear articulation of long-term mitigation pathways and enabling conditions ● Stakeholder perspectives appropriately reflected in the final draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Draft LT-LEDS update report for public comment and government validation ● Final Draft LT-LEDS update report formatted for official submission/publication by DFFE. ● Final LT-LEDS document for publication.
Task 3: Summary for Policy Makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extract key messages, scenarios, and recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improved accessibility of LT-LEDS findings for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summary for Policy Makers report for the LT-LEDS

Task	Task Description	Expected Outcomes	Deliverables and Outputs
	<p>from the LT-LEDS update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Translate technical content into concise, policy-relevant language ● Align messaging with national decision-making and planning processes 	<p>senior policymaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clear communication of strategic choices, implications, and priorities 	

3. Characteristics of the assignment

Duration of contract: this assignment is expected to have an approximate duration of 4 months from the date of the contract’s effectiveness.

Start date: the assignment is expected to start immediately after the contract signature. The DFFE and 2050 Pathways Platform would like for this project to start ideally no later than the end of April 2026.

Location: preference will be given to firms 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 **Monday 30th March 2026 18:00 (CET)** stating the following in the subject of the email, “South Africa – Stakeholder engagement and LT-LEDS update finalisation” 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, including a breakdown of allocated time and costs for personnel.

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

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 political 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 will comment on interim products such as presentations and reports, approve products, and follow work progress.

As part of the project's inception phase, it is expected that the selected firm, DFFE, and the 2050 Pathways Platform establish agreed-upon mechanisms and frequency for project update discussions.

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.
- Experience in working with government ministries and communicating with high-level government officials
- Experience with stakeholder engagement processes to inform policy-making is a plus
- 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
Final draft LT-LEDS update report		
<i>The final draft LEDES update report</i>		
Summary for Policy Makers		
<i>Summary for Policy Makers Report for the LEDES</i>		
Stakeholder Engagement		
<i>Workshop logistics</i>		
<i>Workshop materials</i>		
<i>Workshop reports</i>		
<i>Stakeholder engagement inputs</i>		
<i>Facilitator</i>		
<i>Other</i>		
TOTAL		