



Water sector response to Climate Change



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Cabinet decisions taken on the 22 to 24 July 2008

The Cabinet approved amongst others, the following key messages:

1. Limit temperature increase to below 2 °C above pre industrial levels
2. Build knowledge base to enhance early warning and disaster reduction systems to adapt to the impacts of climate change
3. Structurally transform the economy over the long term by shifting from an energy-intensive to a climate friendly, pro growth and pre job path
4. Accelerate energy efficiency across all sectors, including where appropriate, stringent building standards in the construction industry and emission targets in the transport sector

The Cabinet approved the proposed National Climate Change Response Policy development process



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Process going forward

- Consultation and policy drafting (Now-February 2009)
- National Climate change Response Policy Development Summit (February 2009) (Adopt Framework)
- Sectoral policy development work-stakeholder consultations, further develop policy options, draft policy positions (February-June 2009)
- Post-2012 negotiation positions (Up to July 2009)
- UNFCCC post 2012 negotiations included (Copenhagen, December 2009)
- National policy updated for implementation of international commitments (March 2010)
- Green paper published for public comment (April 2010)
- Final National Climate Change Response Policy published (end 2010)
- Policy translated into legislative, regulatory and fiscal package (from now up to 2010)



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CABINET DIRECTED MILESTONE

1

February 2009, National Climate Change Response Policy Development Summit (Adopt Framework)

- Now to Oct 2008, Detailed Implementation Plan (Complete)
- Now to Nov 2008, 3rd National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Being finalised)
- Now to Jan 2009, National Climate Change Response Policy Framework (Initial draft underway)
- Now to Feb 2009, Climate Change Response Database (Consultants appointed and work underway)
- Now to Feb 2009, Cost of Global Inaction Report (DST drafting ToR)



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CABINET DIRECTED MILESTONE

1

February 2009, National Climate Change Response Policy Development Summit (Adopt Framework)

Now to Feb 2009, Vulnerability Atlas (Draft ToR being finalised by DST)

Now to Feb 2009, Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff Report (DME, NERSA)

Now to Feb 2009, 2nd National Communication (Authors selected)

Now to Feb 2009, Carbon Tax Study (National Treasury)

Now to Feb 2009, Industrial Incentives Study (DTI, NEDLAC)

Now to Feb 2009, Summit logistics (Timing agreed (3-6 March 2009); Venue secured (Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand); President invited; programme drafting initiated; DEAT-DST as co-hosts; R2 million donor funding secured)

Jan to Feb 2009, Information Gap Analysis

3-6 Mar 2009, The 2009 National Climate Change Response Policy Summit (“the Summit”)



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KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE SECTOR

- What are the mitigation initiatives that need to be looked into?



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KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE SECTOR

- What elements should be considered in developing an adaptation plan?



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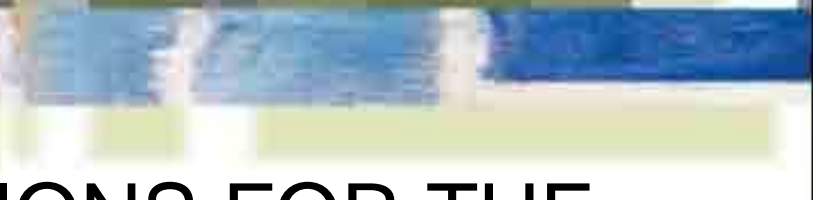
KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE SECTOR

- What are the policy and regulatory implication plan?



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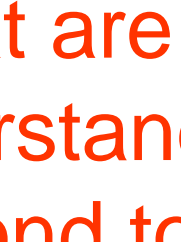
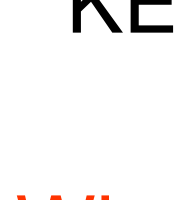
KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE SECTOR

What institutional measures are
needed to address challenges?



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KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE SECTOR

- What are the research gaps-to understand implications & respond to the challenges?



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Outcomes of the Think Tank Discussion on Climate change

- The National Water Act already provides a good basis through the Integrated Water Resources Management plans (IWRM) and National Water Strategy (NWS) for incorporating climate change (CC) issues in South Africa.
- There is some uncertainty in the science but it is general thought not to present a major stumbling block to defining and implementing policies.
- There was general consensus that the science is good but the challenge is to translate the science into useful information in particular around the following areas of impacts: spatial or geographic impacts, how the impacts will manifest, whose likely to be most vulnerable and what needs to be done.




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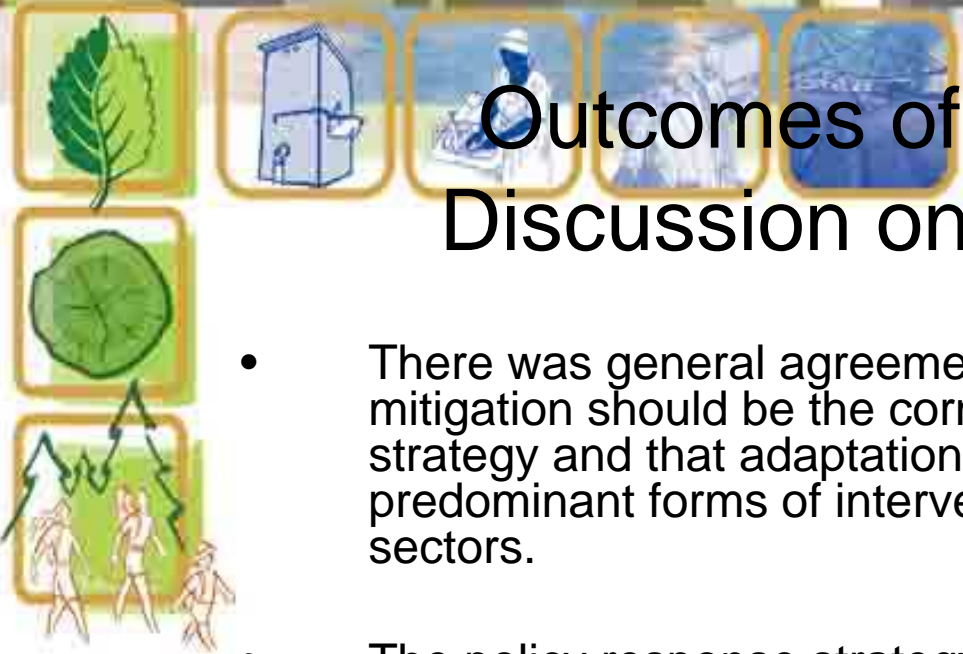
Outcomes of the Think Tank Discussion on Climate change

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- It is broadly accepted that the western part will get drier and the eastern parts of South Africa will get wetter. The resultant consequence of all of this will be shifts in demand and supply – with some areas will have surpluses and others deficits in water.
 - There was general consensus that the science is good but the challenge is to translate the science into useful information in particular around the following areas of impacts: spatial or geographic impacts, how the impacts will manifest, whose likely to be most vulnerable and what needs to be done.



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Outcomes of the Think Tank Discussion on Climate change

- There was general agreement that adaptation and mitigation should be the cornerstone of the response strategy and that adaptation issues are likely to be the predominant forms of intervention for the water and forest sectors.
- The policy response strategy should aim to understand risks and vulnerability and implications for ways in which demand and supply issues need to be balanced in the overall water management system.
- Some institutional issues relate to interdepartmental co-ordination, such co-ordination between overlapping departments such as DWAF, DEAT, agriculture, land and possibly energy, the role of catchment management agencies in implementing adaptation and mitigation strategies, and monitoring and evaluation of programmes




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Outcomes of the Think Tank Discussion on Climate change

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- It is recognized that CC has implications for future costs and investments in either existing infrastructure or the development of new infrastructure. Therefore the implications need to be quite rigorous in order for appropriate finances and investments to be mobilized. Early decisions now will save significant costs in the future.
 - The strategy must incorporate both demand and supply measures in an integrated manner.



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Outcomes of the Think Tank Discussion on Climate change

Research Gaps

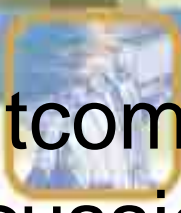
The following have been identified:

- There needs to be more work done on the socio-economic impacts of CC – especially on the livelihoods of the poor.



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Outcomes of the Think Tank Discussion on Climate change



Research Gaps

The following have been identified:

- There needs to be costs estimates done on both mitigation and adaptation.



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Outcomes of the Think Tank Discussion on Climate change



Research Gaps

The following have been identified:

- More research needs to be done to identify which are best entry points for adaptation and mitigation.



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Outcomes of the Think Tank Discussion on Climate change



Research Gaps

The following have been identified:

- The impacts of CC on water and sanitation is not thoroughly understood



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WAYFORWARD



- DWAF should develop a clear policy statement as informed by the science for both water and forestry.

- The policy statement should be the basis for developing the detailed CC response strategy in which the mitigation and adaptation aspects of the strategy are outlined.

- The current science must be used for the response strategy and out of it further research gaps may be identified.

- Two key milestones should be borne in mind, the DEAT national conference on CC in March 2009 and the revision of the National Water Resources Strategy by 2009. These two milestones provide an opportunity for DWAF to use the response strategy to inform both processes.



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**WSLG need to
discuss on how to
take process
forward.....**



THANK YOU