



COMPENDIUM OF CANADA'S ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND INSTRUMENTS

Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Environmental Affairs of the Republic of South Africa and the Department of the Environment of Canada to Enhance Environmental Cooperation

SUBJECT CATEGORY:

Environmental Cooperation

TYPE OF AGREEMENT / INSTRUMENT:

Bilateral

FORM:

Memorandum of Understanding

STATUS:

- Signed in August 2019
- Valid until 2024

LEAD & PARTNER DEPARTMENTS:

Lead: *Environment and Climate Change
Canada, Department of Environmental Affairs of
the Republic of South Africa*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Web Links:

[Canada-South Africa MOU on Environmental
Cooperation](#)

Contacts:

[ECCC Inquiry Centre](#)

COMPENDIUM EDITION:

January 2020

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) seeks to enhance cooperation between Canada and South Africa on environmental issues. It identifies five areas where the two countries will work together: climate change, environmental compliance and enforcement, chemicals and waste management, biodiversity and conservation, and marine litter and plastics pollution. It also allows for additional cooperation in other areas of environmental protection and conservation of mutual interest.

OBJECTIVE

To enhance cooperation on environmental protection and climate change, and further innovation in addressing areas of mutual interest.

KEY ELEMENTS

The MOU identifies the following areas of cooperation: climate change, environmental compliance and enforcement, chemicals and waste management, biodiversity and conservation, and marine litter and plastics pollution. Additional topics may also be included by joint decision.

Other key elements of the MOU include a commitment to Indigenous Peoples, historically marginalized groups, and women and girls. It will promote the importance of innovation to address climate change, eliminate poverty, and transition to a low carbon economy.

Cooperation under this MOU can be in the form of:

- sharing best practices and lessons learned;
- capacity building and training initiatives;
- participating in meetings and other cooperative activities.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The MOU is expected to achieve the sharing of best practices and expertise to improve the protection of the



environment and ability to combat climate change in both countries.

CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT

Canada values the need for bilateral cooperation with other countries on long-term solutions to ensure strong environmental protection, while advancing economic growth and job creation. Canada and South Africa are both members of a number of multilateral organizations, including the Commonwealth and the G20, and collaborate on important issues such as women's empowerment, the environment and climate action, and regional security. Canada and South Africa hold strategic bilateral consultations, which cover issues as diverse as foreign

policy, trade and investment, innovation, science and technology, the environment and climate change, education and culture.

During the 12th annual Canada-South Africa Bilateral Consultations in May 2018, the two countries signed a Declaration in which climate change and environmental protection were highlighted as potential areas of cooperation.

RESULTS / PROGRESS

Activities

No activities have been undertaken to date.