

Application of the Oeko-Institut/WWF-US/EDF methodology for assessing the quality of carbon credits

This document presents results from the application of version 3.0 of a methodology, developed by Oeko-Institut, World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), for assessing the quality of carbon credits. The methodology is applied by Oeko-Institut with support by Carbon Limits, Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), INFRAS, Stockholm Environment Institute, and individual carbon market experts. This document evaluates one specific criterion or sub-criterion with respect to a specific carbon crediting program, project type, quantification methodology and/or host country, as specified in the below table. Please note that the CCQI website [Site terms and Privacy Policy](#) apply with respect to any use of the information provided in this document. Further information on the project and the methodology can be found here: www.carboncreditquality.org

Criterion:	7.1 Host country commitment to the global temperature goal
Host country:	South Africa
Date of final assessment:	20 May 2022
Score:	2.33

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Assessment

The methodology assesses whether the host country has communicated a LEDS and whether it has an explicit commitment in the form of a net zero emissions target, including: the timeframe of the target, differentiating between LDCs/SIDS and other economies; the coverage of greenhouse gases and sectors; whether the target is a domestic target or whether it includes the use of international carbon credits; and the legal status of the target.

Indicator 7.1.1

Relevant scoring methodology provisions

“The country has communicated a LEDS.”

Information sources considered

1. UNFCCC – Communication of long-term strategies (<https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/long-term-strategies>)
2. South Africa’s Low Emission Development Strategy 2050 (<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/South%20Africa%27s%20Low%20Emission%20Development%20Strategy.pdf>)

Assessment outcome

Yes (3 Points)

Justification of assessment

South Africa has communicated a LEDS on 23 September 2020 (Sources 1 and 2).

Indicator 7.1.2

Relevant scoring methodology provisions

“The country is an LDC and has adopted a net zero emissions target for

a. 2050 or earlier;

OR

b. 2051 to 2069;

OR

c. 2070 or later.

OR

The country is not an LDC and has adopted a net zero emissions target for

d. 2040 or earlier;

OR

e. 2041 to 2059;

OR

f. 2060 or later.”

Information sources considered

1. South Africa’s Low Emission Development Strategy 2050
(<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/South%20Africa%27s%20Low%20Emission%20Development%20Strategy.pdf>)

Assessment outcome

Sub-paragraph e is applicable (3 points).

Justification of assessment

The country is not an LDC and has adopted a net zero carbon emissions target for 2050 (Source 1).

Indicator 7.1.3

Relevant scoring methodology provisions

“The adopted net zero emissions targets covers

- a. all sectors of the economy, including international aviation and shipping, and all main greenhouse gases (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, HFCs, PFCs, SF₆, NF₃);

OR

- b. at least 90% of the country’s GHG emissions;

OR

- c. less than 90% of the country’s GHG emissions.”

OR

- d. No information is available or it is insufficiently clear.”

Information sources considered

1. South Africa’s Low Emission Development Strategy 2050
(<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/South%20Africa%27s%20Low%20Emission%20Development%20Strategy.pdf>)
2. South Africa’s first NDC which has been updated and communicated to the UNFCCC secretariat on 27 September 2021

(https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/reports/draftnationallydeterminedcontributions_2021updated.pdf)

Assessment outcome

Sub-paragraph d is applicable (0 points).

Justification of assessment

There is insufficient information to assess the coverage of the target (Sources 1 and 2).

Indicator 7.1.4

Relevant scoring methodology provisions

“The adopted net zero emissions target is

- a. a domestic target (i.e., without the purchase of international carbon credits but possibly with linking of emissions trading systems);

OR

- b. a target to be achieved with the purchase of international carbon credits, or no information is available.”

Information sources considered

1. South Africa’s Low Emission Development Strategy 2050
(<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/South%20Africa%27s%20Low%20Emission%20Development%20Strategy.pdf>)
2. South Africa’s first NDC which has been updated and communicated to the UNFCCC secretariat on 27 September 2021
(https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/reports/draftnationallydeterminedcontributions_2021updated.pdf)
3. Climate Action Tracker Assessment for South Africa
(<https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/south-africa/net-zero-targets/>)

Assessment outcome

Sub-paragraph b is applicable (0 points).

Justification of assessment

There is insufficient information to assess whether the target is to be achieved with the purchase of international carbon credits (Sources 1 and 2).

Indicator 7.1.5

Relevant scoring methodology provisions

“The adopted net zero emissions target

- a. has been communicated to the UNFCCC in the country’s NDC and/or LEDS, *and* has been enshrined in domestic law;

OR

- b. has been communicated to the UNFCCC in the country’s NDC and/or LEDS, *or* has been enshrined in domestic law;

OR

- c. has only been announced or adopted by government or relevant legislative bodies but neither been communicated to the UNFCCC in the country’s NDC and/or LEDS nor been enshrined in domestic law.”

Information sources considered

1. South Africa’s Low Emission Development Strategy 2050
(<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/South%20Africa%27s%20Low%20Emission%20Development%20Strategy.pdf>)
2. Climate Action Tracker Assessment for South Africa
(<https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/south-africa/net-zero-targets/>)

Assessment outcome

Sub-paragraph b is applicable (1 point).

Justification of assessment

The target has been communicated in the LEDS (Source 1); however, according to Climate Action Tracker, the target has not yet been enshrined in domestic law (Source 2).

Scoring results

According to the above assessment, the country receives 7 out of 15 achievable points. Applying the scoring approach of the methodology, this results in a score of 2.33.