

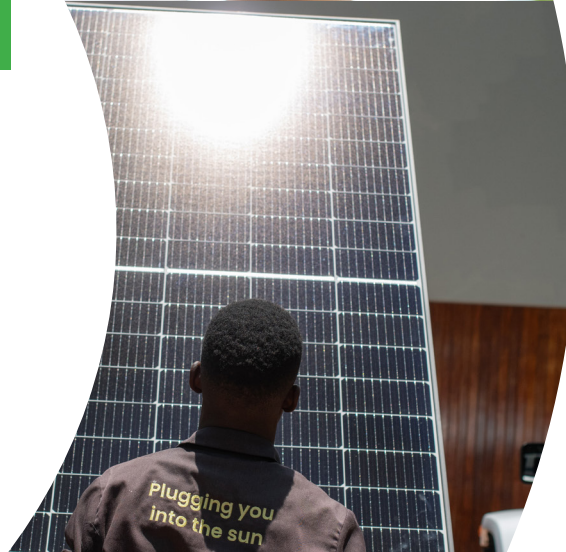


**PRESIDENTIAL  
CLIMATE COMMISSION**  
TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION

Presidential Climate Commission

# Annual Report

2024/2025



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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

## H.E. President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa



The last year has marked a major milestone in South Africa's democratic journey, as the open and competitive 2024 national elections resulted in a Government of National Unity. This peaceful transition to a multi-party government reflects the maturity of our democracy and our shared commitment to the growth, stability, and long-term development of South Africa.

Amidst this new political landscape, the imperative to confront climate change remains a unifying priority. All parties represented in the Government of National Unity are committed to advancing a just transition—one that places our country firmly on a path towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient, inclusive green economy. The newly appointed Cabinet and the enactment of important legislation such as the Climate Change Act and Electricity Regulation Amendment Act affirm our resolve to respond decisively to the climate crisis. The past year has again reminded us of the urgent realities of climate change, with record temperatures, persistent floods and droughts, and growing impacts on our communities and the economy. South Africa's transition to a more sustainable energy future must not only reduce harmful emissions but also create new opportunities for growth, jobs and innovation. This transition must proceed at a pace and scale that our country can sustain, ensuring both energy security and social justice.

Guiding this work is the Presidential Climate Commission, whose independent and expert advice remains essential to a just transition. The Commission's unique model of inclusive, multi-stakeholder engagement ensures that all voices – across business, labour, communities, civil society and government – are heard in shaping South Africa's climate future. As we prepare to update our Nationally Determined Contribution and implement the Climate Change Act, we rely on the PCC to provide rigorous evidence, sound judgment, and a spirit of partnership.

In a world marked by geopolitical uncertainty, it is vital that South Africa stays the course. Our commitment to a just transition is not only about meeting global targets—it is about building a more secure, prosperous, and sustainable future for every South African.

**Cyril Ramaphosa**  
**President of the Republic of South Africa**

# MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

## Dr Crispian Olver



The past year has been marked by an increasingly difficult geopolitical environment, in which some countries and corporations have backtracked on their commitments to sustainable development, equity, and climate action. Multilateralism, once the cornerstone of global cooperation in tackling climate change, is facing new challenges, raising concerns about the collective ability to meet the Paris Agreement targets. As the world grapples with these shifting dynamics, it is more critical than ever to reaffirm our commitment to a just and effective climate transition, with people at its centre, that prioritises both mitigation and adaptation.

The scientific evidence of climate change and its devastating impacts is now incontrovertible, as is our understanding of the remedies. A well-managed decarbonisation process is essential to putting the global economy on a realistic and sustainable path to net-zero emissions by mid-century. Delayed or poorly planned action risks exacerbating climate-induced economic and social disruptions, while a proactive and deliberate approach can unlock new opportunities for sustainable development and economic resilience.

Despite our best efforts, the world is perilously close to overshooting critical climate targets, with irreversible consequences. This reality underscores the urgency of planning and investment in adaptation and resilience-building. Without such efforts, communities—especially those already vulnerable—will bear the brunt of extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, and declining natural resources. Strengthening resilience must therefore be a central pillar of climate policy, alongside mitigation.

Unless actively managed, the climate transition can aggravate inequality, both between and within nations. Those who have contrib-

uted least to global emissions often face the greatest risks and impacts. This fundamental injustice demands a climate response that is not only effective but also fair. Ensuring that vulnerable populations do not disproportionately carry the burden of climate change requires targeted interventions, financial support, and inclusive decision-making processes that put justice at the centre of the transition.

The value of inclusive, multi-stakeholder engagement in addressing climate change cannot be overstated. Sustainable solutions require the involvement of all sectors of society—government, business, civil society, and affected communities. A broad coalition of interests and capacities must be mobilised to ensure that climate policies are informed by diverse perspectives and that the most vulnerable voices are not only heard but meaningfully incorporated into decision-making.

Finally, institutions like the PCC play a critical role in navigating the complexities of the climate transition. Independent, science-based, and multi-stakeholder in nature, the PCC serves as a platform for robust debate, consensus-building, and informed policymaking. As the world faces an increasingly uncertain climate future, the role of such institutions in guiding national and international responses will only grow in importance.

In the face of mounting challenges, the PCC remains steadfast in its mission to support a climate transition that is just, sustainable, and based on the best available science. This annual report reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring that South Africa's response to climate change is ambitious, inclusive, and equitable. We invite all stakeholders to join us in this crucial endeavour to build a resilient and sustainable future for all.



# FOREWORD

## Dorah Modise, Executive Director



Since joining the Presidential Climate Commission at the end of February this year, I have been impressed by the extensive work undertaken on climate change and a just transition.

I joined the PCC at a challenging and exciting time. In June 2024, President Ramaphosa signed into law the country's first Climate Change Act, 22 of 2024 (CCA) which paved the way for the establishment of the PCC as a schedule three entity, which was proclaimed on 17 March 2025.

Our strength, harnessed over the past years on which we will continue to improve, lies in our unique ability to foster consensus. Despite being a small team, the Secretariat is deeply committed to facilitating social dialogue to ensure a just transition across all sectors of society.

Our distinctive advantage is our advisory role to the government and society, grounded in rigorous scientific research, stakeholder perspectives, and extensive engagement. Ensuring a people-centred transition remains our mantra.

Over the past financial year, we facilitated stakeholder engagements in our quest for the best consensus possible amongst stakeholders. A study on Stakeholder Perspectives on Engaging with South Africa's Just Transition underscored the need for a deeper understanding of the just transition, especially its justice dimensions, and emphasised the importance of fostering debate to unlock consensus. Notably, the study highlighted the PCC's crucial role as a boundary organisation, knowledge broker, and translator of relevant insights. Moving forward, the PCC will continue to communicate research insights in open and transparent ways that enhance their relevance to the stakeholders.

Our Policy and Research work centred on mitigation and achieving net-zero, particularly on engaging on South Africa's second Nationally Determined Contribution. The PCC undertook extensive work on financing models for the just transition and developed recommendations on this – which were presented to stakeholders in June 2024.

Over the past year, the PCC has also published key monitoring and evaluation reports on climate action in the country, including substantial work on local government readiness to deal with the impacts of climate change.

Particularly at a provincial level, several studies were conducted on employment and economic diversification implications of the just transition and recommended measures to enhance readiness and alignment of local actions with national goals.

These reports reflect the breadth and diversity of the PCC's work, and moving forward, monitoring the implementation of recommendations will be critical.

As the first term of the Commission ends, it will be a pivotal moment to reflect on successes to challenges and leave behind a sustainable roadmap for the just transition, ensuring continuity beyond 2025.

The Secretariat will also intensify work initiatives focused on finance, adaptation, and resilience, as well as monitoring and evaluation, including continued support in the coal-belt region.

I look forward to the year's challenges and opportunities with enthusiasm, banking on the support of the Commissioners and stakeholders, as the PCC continues its work on a just transition towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy and society.

# COMMISSIONERS



**CHAIRPERSON**  
HE PRESIDENT  
CYRIL RAMAPHOSA



**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**  
CRISPAN OLIVER



**MINISTER**  
MWANELE  
NYHONTSO



**MINISTER**  
VELENKOSINI  
FIKI HLABISA



**MINISTER**  
KGOSIENTSHO  
RAMOKGOPA



**MINISTER**  
BLADE NZIMANDE



**MINISTER**  
BUTI KGWARIDI  
MANAMELA



**MINISTER**  
ENOCH  
GODONGWANA



**MINISTER**  
GWELE MANTASHE



**MINISTER**  
PEMMY MAJODINA



**MINISTER**  
THEMBISILE SIMELANE



**MINISTER**  
KHUMBUDZO  
NTSHAVHENI



**MINISTER**  
BARBARA CREECY



**MINISTER**  
DION GEORGE



**MINISTER**  
PARKS TAU



**MINISTER**  
JOHN STEENHUISEN



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
DORAH MODISE



**COMMISSIONER**  
AYAKHA MELITHAFA



**COMMISSIONER**  
BOBBY PEEK



**COMMISSIONER**  
BOITUMELO MOLETE



**COMMISSIONER**  
BRANDON ABDINOR



**COMMISSIONER**  
BRIAN MANTLANA



**COMMISSIONER**  
DAVID JARVIS



**COMMISSIONER**  
JANSE RABIE



**COMMISSIONER**  
JOANNE YAWITCH



**COMMISSIONER**  
KENALEMANG R  
BULUKINTZI



**COMMISSIONER**  
LOUISE NAUDE



**COMMISSIONER**  
LUNGISA FUZILE



**COMMISSIONER**  
MAC CHAVALALA



**COMMISSIONER**  
MAKOMA LEKALAKALA



**COMMISSIONER**  
MALUSI MPUMLWANA



**COMMISSIONER**  
MAPASEKA LUKHELE



**COMMISSIONER**  
MBALENHLE PRECIOUS  
BADUZA



**COMMISSIONER**  
MBULAHENI ENOS  
MBODI



**COMMISSIONER**  
MTETHO NYATI



**COMMISSIONER**  
MZILA MTHENJANE

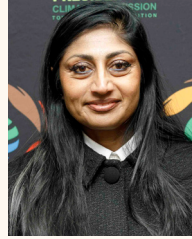




COMMISSIONER  
NASIPHI MOYA



COMMISSIONER  
SHAFICK ADAMS



COMMISSIONER  
SHAMINI  
HARRINGTON



COMMISSIONER  
TSAKANI NKAMBULE



COMMISSIONER  
WAHEED HOOSEN



COMMISSIONER  
ZAMA KHANYILE



COMMISSIONER (CHAIROPERSON OF  
FINANCE AND GOVERN-  
ANCE COMMITTEE  
GIDEON SERFONTEIN



COMMISSIONER  
(RETIRED 2024-25)  
BANTU HOLOMISA



COMMISSIONER  
(RETIRED 2024-25)  
BONGANI MWALE



COMMISSIONER  
(RETIRED 2024-25)  
JACQUES HUGO



COMMISSIONER  
(RETIRED 2024-25)  
JOANNE BATE



COMMISSIONER  
(RETIRED 2024-25)  
MELISSA FOURIE



COMMISSIONER  
(RETIRED 2024-25)  
NIKISI LESUFI



COMMISSIONER  
(RETIRED 2024-25)  
GEORDIN HILL-LEWIS



FORMER DEPUTY  
CHAIROPERSON  
VALLI MOOSA

# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACF</b>	African Climate Foundation	<b>JAR-IP</b>	Just Adaptation and Resilience Investment Plan
<b>APP</b>	Annual Performance Plans	<b>JET</b>	Just Energy Transition
<b>AR6</b>	Sixth Assessment Report	<b>JET PMU</b>	Just Energy Transition Project Management Unit
<b>ARC</b>	Audit and Risk Committee	<b>JET-IP</b>	Just Energy Transition Investment Plan
<b>CCA</b>	Climate Change Act, 22 of 2024	<b>JSE</b>	Johannesburg Stock Exchange
<b>CCRF</b>	Climate Change Response Fund	<b>JT CREW</b>	Just Transition Consortium for Research on Employment and Work
<b>CO2</b>	Carbon Dioxide	<b>JTFM</b>	Just Transition Finance Mechanism
<b>CP</b>	Country Platform	<b>LED</b>	Local Economic Development
<b>CPI</b>	Consumer Price Index	<b>LEDs</b>	Low Emissions Development Strategy
<b>CRDP</b>	Climate-Resilient Development Pathways	<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>CRDS</b>	Climate-Resilient Development Strategy	<b>MJSP</b>	Municipal Just Energy Transition Support Programme
<b>DBSA</b>	Development Bank of Southern Africa	<b>NBI</b>	National Business Initiative
<b>DFFE</b>	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contribution
<b>DMRE</b>	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	<b>NEDLAC</b>	National Economic Development and Labour Council
<b>DPME</b>	Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	<b>NEVs</b>	New Energy Vehicle
<b>EXCO</b>	Executive Council	<b>NTCSA</b>	National Transmission Company of South Africa
<b>FICS</b>	Finance in Common Summit	<b>ODI</b>	Overseas Development Institute
<b>GEAPP</b>	Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet	<b>PCC</b>	Presidential Climate Commission
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gases	<b>PIM</b>	Partnership Implementation Model
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	<b>SALGA</b>	South African Local Government Association
<b>GNU</b>	Government of National Unity	<b>SAREM</b>	South African Renewable Energy Masterplan
<b>HR</b>	Human Resources	<b>SETs</b>	Sectoral Emissions Targets
<b>HREC</b>	Human Resources and Executive Committee	<b>SP</b>	Strategic Plans
<b>ICAT</b>	Initiative for Climate Action Transparency	<b>TDP</b>	Transmission Development Plan
<b>ICCN</b>	International Climate Councils Network	<b>TIPS</b>	Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies
<b>ICLEI</b>	International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives	<b>TJTP</b>	Transport Sector Just Transition Plan
<b>IDC</b>	International Development Corporation	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	<b>VUT</b>	Vaal University of Technology
<b>IPP</b>	Independent Power Producers	<b>WRI</b>	World Resources Institute
<b>IPT</b>	Independent Power Transmission	<b>ZAR</b>	South African Rand



## 1. ABOUT THE PCC

### 1.1. MANDATE AND STRATEGIC ROLE

The Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) leads South Africa's just transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy. As an independent, multi-stakeholder body, the PCC shapes climate policy through evidence-based advice, inclusive dialogue, and strategic partnerships across government, business, labour, and civil society.

In terms of the Climate Change Act, (Act No. 22 of 2024), the PCC is mandated to advise government on South Africa's climate change response, promote a just and equitable transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy, and provide recommendations on sectoral emissions targets, carbon budgets, and adaptation measures. The PCC facilitates inclusive dialogue across all sectors of society to build national consensus on climate pathways, monitors and reports on progress toward South Africa's climate goals, supports the alignment of climate priorities across policies and development strategies, and strengthens transparency and accountability in climate-related decision making.

Underpinned by the Climate Change Act and guided by its Governance Charter, the PCC's strategic role during the year focused on its institutional transition to a statutory entity, deepening the implementation of the Just Transition Framework, strengthening climate governance and policy coherence, building national consensus through inclusive stakeholder engagement, monitoring and reporting on climate progress, and enhancing its internal governance structures and operational capacity to support its evolving mandate.

### 1.2. PCC GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

The PCC continues to operate under an inclusive governance framework that brings together representatives from various sectors, including government, business, civil society, labour, youth, research, and local government. This structure ensures that climate policy decisions reflect the interests of a broad range of stakeholders, fostering a collaborative and integrated approach to South Africa's just transition.

During the period under review, the PCC successfully navigated a series of leadership transitions, both at a Commissioner and Secretariat level. The PCC welcomed the appointment of Dr Crispian Olver as Deputy Chairperson,

whilst bidding farewell to its inaugural Deputy Chairperson, Mr Valli Moosa. Further welcomed Commissioners Boitumelo Molete (Labour), Mzila Mthenjane (Business), and Brandon Abdinor (Civil Society); whilst bidding farewell to former Commissioners: Mr Nikisi Lesufi (Business), General Bantu Holomisa (Civil Society), Mr Jacques Hugo (Organised Labour), Ms Melissa Fourie (Civil Society), Dr Bongani Mwale (Civil Society), Ms Joanne Bate (Business) and Alderman Geordin Hill-Lewis (Local Government). The process to fill these vacancies is currently underway, ensuring continued representation across key sectors. The remaining Commissioners continue to provide strategic guidance and oversight, working closely with the new Deputy Chairperson, Dr Crispian Olver, who assumed this role on 1st January 2025 and the PCC Executive Director, who serves as a Commissioner ex-officio.

At the Secretariat level, the Commission proudly welcomed the appointment of its new Executive Director, Ms. Dorah Modise. Ms. Modise, who assumed office in February 2025, brings extensive experience across academia, national and local government, as well as regional and international platforms. Her leadership ushers in a renewed perspective and strengthened direction for the Secretariat.

Aligned with its transition, the PCC has been operating on an interim basis under the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC). This transitional arrangement has provided a stable institutional base and shared services. During this period the PCC has streamlined its portfolios and work programme, reducing the number of executive positions from eight (8) to five (5). The restructured executive portfolios now focus on: (i) Research and Policy – looking at research programmes on areas of Mitigation, Adaptation, and the Just Transition; (ii) Institutional Support – advancing strategic project implementation and climate finance mobilisation; (iii) Communications and Consensus Building – enhancing visibility and stakeholder engagement; and (iv) Operations – ensuring efficient organisational resourcing and support.

The PCC has a standing Finance and Governance Committee, which convenes quarterly to oversee matters of risk, finance, and governance. During the year under review, the Committee noted the PCC's achievement of a clean, unqualified audit under NEDLAC for the 2023/24 financial year, as well as strong fiscal performance under the African Climate Foundation (ACF) funding cycle (February 2023 – January 2024). It further reviewed the PCC's ongoing fundraising initiatives, quarterly performance achievements, and risk management strategies.

In line with its interim transition arrangements, the PCC continues to account jointly to NEDLAC management through its governance structures, including the Human Resources and Executive Committee (HREC), Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), Management Committee (MANCO), and Executive Council (EXCO).

On 20 November 2024, the PCC made its inaugural presentation to the National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, where it provided an update on its work programme and recent achievements. As part of NEDLAC's executive management team, the PCC also accounts to the Portfolio Committee on Employment and Labour.

The PCC is structured into four thematic Working Groups that provide strategic direction and technical input into its various work areas. Each Working Group is composed of a balanced representation of civil society, business, labour, government, and key sectoral stakeholders, bringing an inclusive and multi-sectoral approach to climate governance. In addition to individual Working Group sessions, the PCC convenes a Chair of Chairs Session, serving as the

convergence point where Working Group Chairs collectively reflect on key outcomes, facilitate strategic alignment, elevate cross-cutting issues, and finalise the draft agenda for full Commission meetings where Working Group recommendations are formally tabled and endorsed.

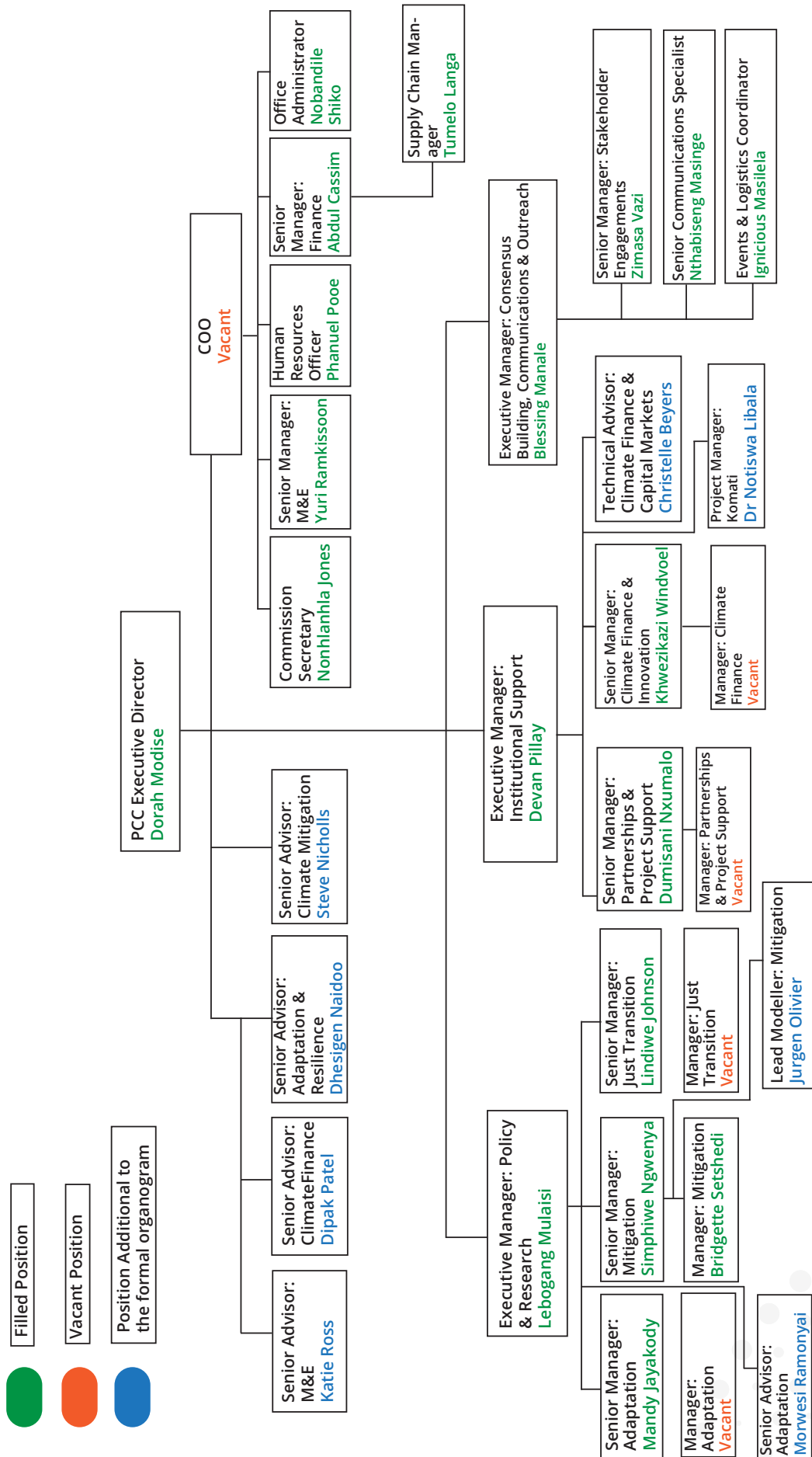
The Commission welcomes the enactment of South Africa's Climate Change Act (CCA) as an important milestone in establishing a clear and coordinated governance framework for climate action. The CCA provides a long-term legislative foundation for South Africa's transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy, setting legal obligations for emission reductions through carbon budgets, and sectoral emission targets, while embedding national adaptation strategies to address climate vulnerability. Crucially, the CCA assigns responsibilities across all levels of government and mandates policy alignment in national, provincial, and municipal planning. For the PCC, the CCA offers institutional certainty for its establishment, operations and governance, enabling it to continue driving inclusive, accountable, and evidence-based climate action in support of South Africa's just transition.



*An overview of Quarry Road informal settlement, in Quarry Road, Palmiet. The settlement is built on the banks of a tributary to the Umgeni River and was severely affected by the floods of 2022. Photo by Daylin Paul*



# PCC ORGANOGRAM



# SECRETARIAT



**EXECUTIVE: POLICY & RESEARCH**  
LEBOGANG MULAISI



**EXECUTIVE: COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH**  
BLESSING MANALE



**EXECUTIVE: INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**  
DEVAN PILLAY



**ACTING CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**  
DUMISANI NXUMALO



**COMMISSION SECRETARY**  
NONHLANHLA JONES



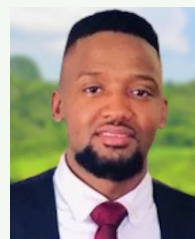
**SENIOR MANAGER: FINANCE**  
ABDUL CASSIM



**SENIOR ADVISOR: M&E**  
KATIE ROSS



**SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGER**  
TUMELE LANGA



**HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER**  
PHANUEL POOE



**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**  
NOBANDILE SHIKO



**SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST**  
NTHABISENG MASINGE



**EVENTS & LOGISTICS COORDINATOR**  
IGNICIOUS MASILELA



**SENIOR MANAGER: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**  
ZIMASA VAZI



**SENIOR MANAGER: M&E**  
YURI RAMKISSOON



**SENIOR MANAGER: ADAPTATION**  
MANDY JAYAKODY



**SENIOR MANAGER: MITIGATION**  
SIMPHIWE NGWENYA



**SENIOR MANAGER: JUST TRANSITION**  
LINDIWE JOHNSON



**SENIOR MANAGER: CLIMATE FINANCE**  
KHWEZIKAZI



**SENIOR ADVISOR: ADAPTATION**  
MORWESI RAMONYAI



**MANAGER: MITIGATION**  
BRIDGETTE SETSHEDI



**PROJECT MANAGER: KOMATI**  
NOTISWA LIBALA



**LEAD MODELLER: MITIGATION**  
JÜRGEN OLIVIER



**TECHNICAL ADVISOR: CLIMATE FINANCE**  
CHRISTELLE BEYERS



## 2. THE YEAR IN FOCUS

The 2024/25 period marked a critical phase in the evolution of PCC, with a deepened strategic focus, strengthened governance structures, and expanded stakeholder engagement as South Africa's climate response matured under the newly enacted Climate Change Act. The PCC intensified its efforts to lead a just, orderly, and inclusive transition. Central to this work was the role of the PCC's thematic Working Groups, which served as key reference points for strategic direction, engines for technical inputs, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and strengthening of evidence-based recommendations across the PCC's priority areas. Through these Working Groups, the PCC advanced targeted initiatives in adaptation and resilience, net zero pathways, climate finance and innovation, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of climate action outcomes. The following section provides an overview of the work undertaken by the PCC over the financial year.

### 2.1. ADAPTATION IN ACTION: SHAPING RESILIENCE ACROSS EVERY SECTOR

The PCC's work on adaptation and resilience focused on advancing South Africa's preparedness for climate risks, promoting climate-resilient development, and embedding adaptation strategies at all levels of governance. Through targeted policy recommendations, technical studies, and stakeholder-driven processes, the PCC provided strategic guidance in shaping a more climate-resilient future.

The PCC advanced two critical policy recommendations to strengthen South Africa's national adaptation and resilience capacity. Firstly, the PCC led the conceptualisation of the **Climate Change Response Fund**, aimed at mobilising dedicated financing for adaptation, resilience-building, and emergency response measures. As a second adaptation recommendation, the PCC initiated a strategic review of the **Disaster Management Mechanism**, providing recommendations for enhancing disaster preparedness and integrating climate risk considerations into national and local disaster management frameworks.

The following technical outputs underpinned the PCC's evidence-based approach to adaptation. The PCC in partnership with the South African Weather Service (SAWS), the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the South African Environmental Observatory Network (SAEON), reviewed **South Africa's Climate Risk Report** for the period until 2023 providing an updated assessment of South Africa's climate vulnerabilities and served as a key foundation for developing early warning information systems to support proactive risk management. This amongst others

noted the onset of *El Nino*, resulting into shifting rainfall patterns and their contribution to extreme drought conditions, as experienced in 2015 and extreme flooding as witnesses in the 2022 floods in KwaZulu-Natal.

In taking a deep-dive on the key priority sectors of National Adaptation Plan, The PCC concluded the interrogation, review, and assessment of the **Three Sectors, viz.: agriculture, water, and built environment sectors**. Three Sector Study was initiated in 2023 and identified priority adaptation interventions critical to safeguarding South Africa's economic and social systems, including key nexus points between and across the three sectors. This study also unlocked key partnerships for PCC with both the Department of Water and Sanitation, playing a key role in the finalisation of the section on the water sector, and the Agriculture department around the agriculture sector.

In order to address the pain points for the Built Environment Sector, the PCC deepened its analysis through the **Informal Settlements Upgrading Study**, which looked at the integration of climate resilience and adaptation principles into the upgrading processes for informal settlements, directly addressing the needs of the most vulnerable communities. This will provide input into the Department of Human Settlements led policy process looking at the upgrading of informal settlements in South Africa.

At the local level, the PCC led the development of a **Climate Resilient Development Strategy (CRDS)** for the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, unlocking critical planning frameworks and securing stakeholder buy-in in line with the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommendations for CRDSs. This work demonstrated the importance of integrating climate resilience into municipal planning and decision-making processes, setting a precedent for replication in other urban and vulnerable municipal jurisdictions.

Together, these achievements established a solid foundation for the conceptualisation of the Just Adaptation and Resilience Investment Plan (JAR-IP), particularly through the three-sector study, which provided the basis for identifying sectoral pathways. In parallel, the Climate Change Response Fund offered valuable insights into available capital, potential deployment mechanisms, and the institutionalisation process—setting key foundational pillars for the development of the JAR-IP. This work also positions adaptation as a central pillar of South Africa's just transition, ensuring that resilience efforts are inclusive, locally driven, and aligned with long-term development goals, guided by the latest and best available science.

## 2.2. ADVANCING SOUTH AFRICA'S NET ZERO PATHWAYS

The PCC focused on shaping South Africa's transition to a low-carbon economy, anchored in a just and equitable approach. Through the development of technical analysis, scenario modelling, and strategic policy interventions, the PCC sought to inform national planning processes, enhance ambition under the Climate Change Act, and ensure that mitigation strategies are closely aligned with South Africa's development priorities.

The PCC advanced several key policy recommendations to strengthen South Africa's net zero agenda. Central among these is the process underway to develop recommendations for the **update** of South Africa's **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** for **2030–2035**, aimed at guiding the next revision process ahead of COP30. Drawing from its capacity building programme on the NDCs undertaken in the third quarter of FY2024/25, the PCC has concluded the year with extensive stakeholder engagements and research programmes, to support its preparations for a Recommendations Report to advise the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on ambitious, balanced targets that integrate climate action with socio-economic development imperatives.

The NDC work has built on the **Net Zero Pathways Report and Scenarios Development Study** which explored 40 mitigation scenarios to map pathways for South Africa's achievement of net-zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. This analysis considered socio-economic impacts, the effects of carbon tax policies, localisation strategies, and the co-benefits of reduced air pollution and water consumption. Key findings highlighted the need for concessional finance and grants in the main, energy efficiency measures, and strategic planning to offset potential GDP losses associated with the decarbonisation pathways.

In the energy sector, the PCC delivered its **Electricity Recommendations Report (2023)** to the President and the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy. This report provided technical advice on pathways to decarbonise South Africa's electricity system, highlighting key barriers and opportunities and emphasised the need for reforms in market design, electricity pricing, and grid development to enable a just and sustainable energy transition.

To further support the reform, the PCC hosted a high-level roundtable at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) focused on **South Africa's electricity grid infrastructure needs**. The event produced strategic recommendations, later submitted to the Ministers of Finance and Electricity

and Energy, addressing immediate actions to strengthen the National Transmission Company of South Africa (NTC-SA) and medium-term regulatory reforms to accelerate grid investments critical for a renewable energy future in South Africa.

In addition, the **PCC's Electricity Pricing Project** produced six policy briefs addressing market reform, utility performance, financial sustainability, and electricity as a public good. This work built a shared knowledge base to inform debates on electricity pricing reforms and municipal procurement strategies essential to ensuring an affordable and sustainable energy transition.

The PCC partnered with the Department of Transport to support the development of the Transport Just Transition Plan (TJTP); a key national strategy aimed at decarbonising South Africa's transport sector. The plan provides a comprehensive roadmap for transitioning to sustainable, low-carbon transport systems while safeguarding jobs and promoting socio-economic equity, particularly in sectors most vulnerable to the impacts of the transition. Anchored on four strategic objectives—spatial transformation, sustainable transport systems, the promotion of zero-emissions vehicles, and enhancing the climate resilience of transport infrastructure—the TJTP is underpinned by a detailed socio-economic impact assessment to address potential labour market disruptions and propose measures to protect vulnerable workers throughout the transition process.

Recognising the critical role of robust modelling in shaping science-based climate policy, the PCC established a **Community of Practice for Modellers** to strengthen South Africa's technical capacity to plan, track, and deliver on its climate commitments. This platform convenes researchers, experts, government, and development partners to share lessons towards building a nationally aligned approach to modelling net zero pathways and just transition scenarios. Beyond technical exchange, it is a strategic investment to foster independent, transparent, and context-sensitive modelling. In the long term, the PCC aims to support the institutionalisation of a resilient national modelling ecosystem that timeously supports evidence-based policymaking and ensures South Africa's climate transition remains inclusive, viable, and informed by the best and latest available science.

Through these initiatives, the PCC has immensely contributed to the evidence base underlying mitigation ambitions aligned to the just energy transition and with the broader objectives of sustainable development and social equity.



### 2.3. CLIMATE FINANCE AND INNOVATION: UNLOCKING RESOURCES FOR A JUST TRANSITION

In the absence of the requisite resources, a just transition will not be realised. It is therefore essential to secure resources for a just transition and related project pipeline, and further track climate-related financial flows to strategically identify and assess resourcing gaps for a just transition. The PCC deepened its work across municipal readiness, just transition finance mechanisms, climate finance tracking, and international collaboration on country platforms.

Recognising that a just transition cannot be realised without adequate resources, the PCC advanced the development of a **Just Transition Finance Mechanism (JTfM)** policy recommendation. The JTfM Recommendations Report proposed a framework for mobilising and directing finance to support low-carbon economic transformation while addressing historical inequalities. It prioritises procedural, distributive, and restorative justice, enabling investments in community-led projects, reskilling initiatives, and climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly in

regions dependent on high-carbon industries. The mechanism sets the foundation for financial sector transformation to ensure no community is left behind in South Africa's transition. Following the PCC's adoption of this policy recommendation and its hand-over to government, the President welcomed this ground-breaking financing mechanism for the country's transition and encouraged its realisation through a considered design process.

For the 2024/25 period, the PCC completed the **Municipal Just Energy Transition Support Programme (MJSTP)**, assessing the readiness of ten municipalities across South Africa to implement Just Energy Transition (JET) strategies and projects. The report highlighted that while leading metros like Cape Town and Johannesburg are progressing in integrating renewable energy and climate action planning, smaller municipalities face significant challenges, including outdated infrastructure, financial constraints, and limited technical capacity. The report further outlines the need to ensure municipal readiness to achieve national climate commitments, thus guiding policymakers in designing inclusive and financially feasible and sustainable pathways for local energy transition efforts.



*Zethu Hlatshwayo, member and spokesperson of Khuthala Environmental Care Group, tending cabbages in Khuthala's gardens. Photo by Daylin Paul*

Following the successful launch of the first **Climate Finance Landscape Report** (2023), the PCC in partnership with the Green Cape and Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) embarked on a second phase to refine its methodology and deepen data collection processes. Building towards the FY2025/26 Climate Finance Landscape Report, the PCC identified key improvements, including a needs assessment for South Africa's transition, enhanced data quality, tracking guarantee facilities, and the development of transition and just transition finance tagging frameworks. These enhancements aim to produce a more detailed, accurate, and actionable overview of climate finance flows to inform strategic decision-making and resource allocation.

In February 2025, the PCC, in partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the JET Project Management Unit in the Presidency and the African Climate Foundation, convened the Country Platform (CP) Exchange. This influential event brought together over 130 representatives from developing country governments, financial institutions, philanthropies, the private sector, and civil society to exchange experiences and strengthen collaboration around country platforms. The exchange fostered open dialogue and showcased emerging models for mobilising finance aligned with national priorities. The exchange was strategically timed to feed into the Finance in Common Summit (FiCS), G20 Finance Minister's engagement, and COP30 processes, the CP Exchange established critical momentum for scaling climate finance platforms globally.

Through these initiatives, the PCC has positioned itself at the centre of national efforts to mobilise climate finance, strengthen financial readiness at the local level, and foster domestic and international collaborations to advance a just, inclusive, and sustainable transition.

## 2.4. A PEOPLE-CENTRED JUST TRANSITION

The PCC's initiatives remain strategically aligned to drive inclusive economic growth, create sustainable employment, and support communities impacted by the energy transition.

Central to the PCC's policy recommendations was the development of an **Employment Strategy** focused on generating short-term, private sector-led employment opportunities, particularly in Mpumalanga. A detailed study identified four high-impact industries, namely: citrus, wood, sustainable aviation fuel, and hemp, as priority sectors for immediate job creation. Extensive stakeholder consultations informed the four industry roadmaps. The report was adopted by the PCC and launched in August 2024, influencing local economic development policies

and further sector-specific initiatives, including reskilling programmes.

Complementing these short-term interventions, the PCC established the **Just Transition Consortium for Research on Employment and Work (JT CREW)**, a long-term research initiative addressing labour market dynamics, social security reforms, and workforce planning for the low-carbon economy. The research programme has generated insights into emerging labour market trends, identified critical skills requirements, and proposed policy adaptations to social security frameworks to support workers in the evolving employment landscape driven by digitalisation and sustainability transitions.

As part of its efforts to advance implementation of distributive justice, the PCC developed innovative economic models for the **Social Ownership of Renewable Energy**, which show how collective ownership and democratic governance structures can mitigate inequality and poverty amidst South Africa's low-carbon transition. This research underscored the potential of cooperative and ownership models, particularly in Renewable Energy, advocating for policy interventions to redirect investments into socially-owned ventures that could yield equitable socio-economic benefits and enhance resilience.

As part of the PCC's partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and South African universities, the PCC collaborated around the Just Energy Transition (JET) research platform. This collaboration built academic and institutional capacity, producing influential papers on social entrepreneurship in the energy and sustainable waste management sectors. Public engagements and policy roundtables provided opportunities for robust stakeholder discussions, highlighting practical pathways for integrating social entrepreneurship into national JET initiatives.

Further technical research commissioned by the PCC explored practical **reskilling opportunities**, notably within the emerging hemp value chain. Collaborating with a consortium including the Witwatersrand, Rhodes, and Fort Hare Universities, the PCC identified strategic pathways to transition coal mine workers into new industries, emphasising sustainable land use, agricultural diversification, and alignment of national and provincial policies to facilitate successful economic transition.

The PCC also developed an **Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Profile** to inform regional planning and amongst others identified growth opportunities, particularly within the automotive sector.



To leverage renewable energy industrialisation opportunities, the PCC co-hosted strategic workshops under the **South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAR-EM)** in collaboration with the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), and Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS). These engagements identified critical green industrial growth areas and mapped necessary skills-development pathways, directly supporting workforce readiness for renewable energy sector expansion.

Lastly, the **Mpumalanga Partnership Implementation Model (PIM)** continues to serve as a strategic programme for bottom-up project origination, coalescing government, business, communities, and organised labour to co-create viable development projects within the Gert Sibande District and Nkangala District in Mpumalanga. Extensive consultations, targeted market studies and feasibility assessments facilitated an inclusive and responsive pipeline of just transition projects. This to embed robust stakeholder governance and detailed monitoring frameworks to ensure transparent, accountable, and community-centred outcomes.

## 2.5. TRACKING A JUST TRANSITION: BUILDING EVIDENCE FOR ACTION

A core anchor of the just transition is tracking progress, impacts, and lessons learned to ensure that policies and projects remain inclusive, transparent, and effective. Throughout 2024/25, the PCC advanced a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) agenda, designed to build South Africa's capacity to monitor climate action outcomes and adapt strategies based on real-world experience. By combining policy recommendations, technical research, and stakeholder engagement, the PCC laid critical foundations for a robust system of accountability in the climate transition.

In July 2024, the PCC launched **South Africa's first State of Climate Action Report**, providing a landmark assessment of the country's progress against key climate-related indicators. The report offered a snapshot of advances towards a low-carbon, resilient, and inclusive economy, identifying areas of progress, critical gaps, and necessary shifts required across sectors. It contextualised climate action within South Africa's broader socio-economic landscape, highlighting enabling and hindering factors such as governance, finance, institutional capacity, and public trust.

Key findings revealed strong public support for renewable energy and a just transition but also highlighted persistent gaps between policy commitments and actual imple-

mentation, driven by contradictory policies, limited local government capacity, and financing shortfalls. The report particularly flagged increasing vulnerabilities in the water, food, and energy sectors, and the urgent need for sectoral transitions to meet the net-zero target by 2050.

Parallel to this, the PCC initiated the development of a national-level **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework** for the just transition. Building from international best practice, the framework aims to enable tracking of socio-economic, environmental, and governance outcomes at national, provincial, and local levels. This laid the groundwork for embedding just transition indicators into government planning and reporting systems.

The findings of South Africa's first national statistically representative survey on **Public Perceptions and Attitudes on Climate Change and a Just Transition** were released alongside the State of Climate Action report. The survey, with over 3,000 respondents, showed growing public support for renewable energy and transition policies, but revealed limited awareness of the "just transition" concept itself. Although climate change is recognised as a concern, it remains overshadowed by pressing issues like unemployment and crime. These insights informed the State of Climate Action analysis and underscored the need for stronger public education and communication strategies to harness existing support and deepen societal buy-in for climate reforms.

In collaboration with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), the PCC assessed the integration of just transition principles into sixteen (16) national departments' Strategic Plans (SPs) and Annual Performance Plans (APPs). The findings showed growing awareness of climate risks but limited systematic and substantive incorporation of just transition priorities into core departmental planning processes and outcomes. This work provided baseline data to guide future government alignment efforts and marked an important first step towards institutionalising climate considerations into mainstream development planning.

Following the closure of Eskom's Komati coal-fired power station in October 2022, the PCC undertook an in-depth evaluation of the Komati Decommissioning and Repurposing Project. The PCC's initial report, "Early Lessons and Recommendations from Komati's Decommissioning," was followed by continuous tracking through monthly coordination meetings and the establishment of seven focused workstreams. A new Progress Update prepared in late 2024 highlighted tangible advances: improved stakeholder engagement, mobilisation of additional projects and resources, and adoption of innovative community devel-

opment approaches. However, it also identified persistent challenges around bureaucracy, funding sustainability, and managing community expectations.

Komati is now seen as a national template for future coal plant closures, demonstrating the importance of early planning, coordinated action, and robust M&E frameworks to ensure communities are supported throughout the transition.

Recognising the need for global learning, the PCC co-hosted the **Tracking Just Transitions Workshop** with the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) in February 2025. This workshop convened M&E experts from Africa, Asia, and the Americas to share experiences, innovations, and challenges in monitoring just transitions.

Participants agreed on common obstacles facing developing countries and exchanged practical solutions to strengthen M&E systems. The workshop laid the foundation for establishing an international **Community of Practice on Tracking Just Transitions**, enhancing South Africa's leadership role in shaping global learning on transition monitoring.

Through these interconnected efforts — spanning research, public engagement, system-building, and global collaboration — the PCC has made major strides in developing a strong foundation for tracking the outcomes of South Africa's climate transition, ensuring that future policies are informed by evidence, adaptable to emerging risks, and are centred on justice, inclusion, and sustainability.

## 2.6. ENGAGEMENT AND CONSENSUS-BUILDING FOR A JUST TRANSITION

In the year in review, the PCC significantly enhanced its stakeholder engagement and communication initiatives, guided by a robust **Communications and Awareness Strategy Framework** approved by the Commission in December 2023. The strategic objective remained clear: to facilitate national consensus among diverse social partners – including government, business, labour, academia, civil society, media, and communities – on what constitutes a just transition, its pathways, and practical implementation.

The PCC has used the outcomes of the Public Perceptions and Attitudes Survey and the linked State of Climate Action report, to shape the PCC's stakeholder dialogues and outreach efforts, underscoring broad-based support for climate action and a just transition while addressing the

highlighted gaps in public awareness. In addressing these gaps, the PCC implemented innovative communications strategies, including interactive digital platforms, live-streamed events, and substantial investments in community radio initiatives.

Throughout the year, the PCC hosted an extensive series of policy dialogues, stakeholder consultations, and public events, notably focusing on strategic sectors such as energy transitions, building adaptation and resilience, and key enablers of the just transition, including climate finance and innovation. Key dialogue series included the NEVs Transition Roundtable, Climate Change Response Fund discussions, and sectoral studies on water, built environment, and agriculture, and NDC Capacity Building sessions. Significant events included the launch of the State of Climate Action Report, the Just Transition Skills Indaba, the Mayors Dialogue, and the launch of the Nelson Mandela Bay Climate Resilient and Just Transition Strategy.

### Youth and Community Empowerment

A significant highlight was the Youth Perspectives Essay Series, designed to amplify youth voices and provide platforms for emerging climate leaders to influence national discussions. The series included 14 insightful essays authored by young South Africans, mentored through targeted workshops. These essays addressed key transition topics, from innovative carbon capture technologies and sustainable waste management in townships to digital literacy and inclusive green economies. The essays contributed meaningfully to public discourse, highlighting youth perspectives as critical for shaping South Africa's climate policy.

### Media Capacity Building and Outreach

Recognising the media's critical role, the PCC intensified its engagement with major television, online, and print outlets, significantly increasing its media footprint. Strategic partnerships were cultivated with entities like the SABC, Newsroom Africa, Mail & Guardian, and Business Day. To address uneven climate coverage and bolster local expertise, the PCC conducted targeted media training sessions, notably the **"Role of Radio in Climate Change Awareness"** dialogue and specialised capacity-building workshops for climate communicators.

Local Community radio initiatives, especially in Mpumalanga, were initiated by the PCC, in partnership with the German Embassy in South Africa and other donors, directly resulting in enhanced awareness around climate change and enabling continuous local reporting on just transition issues, thus deepening community-level understanding



*Members of Vukani Environmental Movement hang banners around their offices promoting a respiratory health workshop to be held later that day. The organisation works on environmental and health issues related to coal mining and burning. Photo by Daylin Paul*

and engagement.

### Digital and Social Media Engagement

Digital communication channels, including a substantially redesigned PCC website, played a pivotal role in positioning the PCC as a leading knowledge hub on climate action. Managed actively across platforms like YouTube, Facebook, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter), these channels expanded PCC's reach, fostering direct dialogue and engagement with both local and international stakeholders.

### Intergovernmental and Institutional Partnerships

At national, provincial, and local government levels, the PCC maintained strong collaborative relationships, notably with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), National Planning Commission (NPC), Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), the National Treasury, the provincial governments

of KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Gauteng and local municipalities through dialogues facilitated by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). The PCC further collaborated closely with the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA), Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), and the National Business Initiative (NBI) as well as University of Mpumalanga, Tshwane University of Technology, Stellenbosch University, and the University of Witwatersrand. These partnerships ensured alignment of just transition goals with national and regional development plans and deepened multi-level governmental coordination.

Overall, these comprehensive communication and engagement efforts advanced stakeholder consensus, increased public awareness, and solidified the PCC's role as a pivotal facilitator, convenor and thought leader in South Africa's just transition journey.

<sup>1</sup> Departments of Transport, Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture and Rural Development, National Treasury, Trade, Industry and Competition, Science and Innovation, Higher Education, Employment and Labour, Social Development, Cooperative Governance, Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, Health, and the Presidency.



### 3. PCC ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE: STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

The PCC continues to actively enhance South Africa's presence and leadership in global climate governance, notably through strategic participation at key international forums and networks. As part of the South African delegation to COP29, held from 12–18 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan, the PCC contributed substantively to international engagements under the leadership of the DFFE. South Africa's pavilion, coordinated by the NBI, provided an influential platform for over forty business organisations, government entities, and social partners, attracting high-profile international stakeholders. Through its dedicated side events at COP29, the PCC emphasised critical themes such as innovative climate finance solutions and South Africa's comprehensive Just Transition Framework, thereby elevating national climate action commitments on the international stage.

In parallel, the PCC significantly strengthened its involvement with the International Climate Councils Network (ICCN), actively representing South Africa's and Africa's broader interests. As a pivotal member of the ICCN Steering Committee, the PCC shapes strategic directions and ensures African perspectives are prominent in global climate discourse. The PCC's active role in ICCN's NDC revision exchanges has provided valuable insights, influencing both national policy alignment and international climate strategy development.

In a milestone achievement for regional collaboration, the PCC recently welcomed the Nigerian Climate Change Council into ICCN, hosting their delegation alongside the ICCN Secretariat on the margins of the PCC's CP Exchange in Cape Town in early 2025. These meetings facilitated high-level dialogue on institutional strengthening, capacity building, and regional partnership deepening. Additionally, the PCC's participation at the FiCS further reinforced its advocacy for equitable and effective climate financing mechanisms in Africa.

Closing out its international engagement, the PCC continues to spearhead the establishment of a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Community of Practice focused on the Just Transition Tracking Framework. This initiative underscores the Commission's commitment to accountability and knowledge-sharing, ensuring that South Africa's transition remains transparent, measurable, and aligned with global best practices in climate governance. Through these international activities, the PCC remains a proactive and influential actor, advancing South Africa's climate re-

silience and championing a just and equitable transition globally.

### 4. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

In alignment with its expanded mandate under the CCA, the PCC strengthened its institutional and operational frameworks throughout the 2024/25 financial year. Key operational activities have focused on enhancing internal governance, strategic human resource management, effective risk management, and securing sustainable donor partnerships to enable the PCC to effectively deliver its core mandate.

The PCC improved internal governance structures for transparency, accountability, and operational efficiency. Central to these efforts was the structured functioning of the PCC's four thematic working groups, supported by a dedicated Finance & Governance Committee, which streamlined decision-making and operational oversight.

Capacity development remained integral, with targeted investments in skills enhancement and technical training for PCC staff and stakeholders. Key areas included climate governance, policy analysis, and just transition planning. Collaborations with leading academic institutions further bolstered analytical capabilities, reinforcing the PCC's role as a centre of excellence in evidence-based policymaking.

Looking forward, the PCC plans to embed capacity-building initiatives firmly within its institutional culture through digital transformation, data-driven decision-making, mentorship programmes, and leadership development to build a resilient team of climate governance professionals.

#### 4.1. Risk Management

Global geopolitical events have shaped the international climate landscape, impacting the PCC's operations and strategic environment. The promulgation of the CCA has provided certainty regarding the PCC's statutory nature, mandate, and operations.

The PCC maintains a robust management approach, proactively identifying internal and external risks. Key internal risks identified are, limited resource, under-capacitated management structures, and attracting and retaining personnel. Strategic mitigation measures include intensified resource mobilisation, enhancing management capacity, succession planning and appointment of staff on permanent contracts.





The exterior of the Witbank (eMalahleni) Specialised Tuberculosis Hospital in Ackerville. Communities in eMalahleni have the extra burden of health issues brought on by their proximity to coal mines and coal power stations in the vicinity. **Photo by Daylin Paul**

#### 4.2. Human Resources

The PCC's Human Resource management processes are aligned with and governed under NEDLAC's processes and policies to support organisational goals and mitigate operational risks. The PCC staffing is inclusive and representative of South Africa's demographics, comprising a total of 33 posts, with 17 permanent appointments, 11 fixed-term contracts, and five vacant positions at year-end.

During the reporting period, staff turnover was modest, with four departures due to retirement and fixed-term contract expirations. Efforts remain focused on improving employee retention, building a diverse and highly skilled workforce, and aligning workforce planning with organisational objectives.

##### Strategic Donor Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation

Operational effectiveness was enhanced significantly by strategic donor partnerships. Core funding support was generously provided by key donors, notably:

- **Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)**, PCC's largest donor, supporting operational and programmatic interventions.

- **Bloomberg Philanthropies**, providing extensive programmatic funding, particularly for technical research, municipal readiness assessments and stakeholder engagement initiatives.

- **African Climate Foundation (ACF)**, instrumental as a fiscal host and flexible operational funder.

Additional targeted funding came from the **German Embassy**, focusing specifically on enhancing PCC's strategic communication and public awareness initiatives, while the **Ford Foundation**, the **Open Society Foundation Africa**, and the **Agence Française de Développement (AFD)** provided valuable resources supporting the PCC's Country Platform Exchange Event and capacity-building activities.

Significant in-kind contributions were provided by technical and international development partners, notably the **World Bank**, **DBSA**, **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**, **Overseas Development Institute (ODI)**, and the **IDC**. These partners contributed substantial technical expertise, analytical support, and operational resources, critical in strengthening PCC's analytical capabilities and policy influence.



## 5. Financial Overview

During the reporting year, the PCC received total revenues of **R 63.14 million**, comprising R34.6 million from government allocations (via NEDLAC) and R30.63 million from donor contributions managed by the ACF. Key expenditure areas included staff remuneration, research and professional fees, and stakeholder engagements.

Notably, the PCC effectively utilised funds from key donors, spending approximately **R 42 million** of donor resources alongside **R 20.6 million** of NEDLAC-managed funds. Rigorous financial management practices ensured high levels of compliance and transparent reporting, with final audited financials to be reported through NEDLAC and ACF's annual reports.

Overall, through strengthened institutional governance, strategic human resource management, proactive risk management, and diversified funding partnerships, the PCC has significantly enhanced its operational capacity, enabling effective execution of its mandate under the Climate Change Act.

*NB: Detailed Human Resources and Financial information relating to the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) will be comprehensively reported in the statutory reports of the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC). These reports undergo rigorous audit procedures conducted by the Auditor-General of South Africa. For final audited financial and HR disclosures, stakeholders are encouraged to consult NEDLAC's official Annual Report.*



Children at a park in central Komati Village, with Komati Power Station's cooling towers in the background. In October 2022, the plant, which was one of the oldest coal-fired plants in Eskom's fleet, was officially shut down.

**Photo by Daylin Paul**

## 6. LOOKING AHEAD

The 2024/25 financial year marked a pivotal phase for the PCC, characterised by transformative achievements, strengthened governance, and renewed strategic clarity under the CCA. Through rigorous research, dynamic stakeholder engagement, and proactive capacity building, the PCC positioned itself as South Africa's premier national platform for advancing a just, equitable, and inclusive climate transition—while also amplifying its presence and influence on the global stage.

Key milestones included shaping South Africa's net-zero pathways, mobilising strategic climate finance through innovative platforms such as the Just Transition Finance Mechanism, embedding adaptation and resilience strategies across key sectors, and unlocking local government support frameworks. Consensus-building efforts were deepened through public perception studies, targeted youth engagement initiatives, enhanced media capacity programmes, and an expanded digital communications footprint, collectively elevating public awareness and societal readiness for action.

Operationally, the PCC strengthened internal governance, streamlined structures, reinforced risk management, and cultivated strategic donor partnerships with the GEAPP, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the ACF, the German Embassy, Ford Foundation, AFD, and others. These partnerships ensured strong financial and technical foundations to sustain momentum.

### Strategic Outlook for FY2025/26

Building on these foundations, the PCC will continue efforts to integrate climate justice into national, provincial, and local governance frameworks, foster innovation, and drive inclusive economic transformation. Key strategic priorities for 2025/26 include:

- **Establishing enabling conditions** for the practical implementation of the just transition, ensuring sectoral and spatial alignment.
- **Strengthening long-term resilience** by embedding adaptation and climate risk responses into development planning, as well as producing recommendations towards long term and considered just adaptation and resilience investment plans.

- **Advancing net-zero pathways** through evidence-based modelling, sectoral strategies, and enhanced energy transition initiatives, including making recommendations on South Africa's 3rd NDC Commitment.

- **Mobilising financial and technological resources** to support climate investments at national and local levels, particularly through municipal support mechanisms and the Just Transition Financing Platform.

- **Strengthening the PCC's institutional transition**, further operationalising its mandate and support processes to set it up as an independent Schedule 3 public entity as per the CCA.

### Specific initiatives will include:

- Supporting the embedding of just transition outcomes into the Medium-Term Strategic Framework and departmental plans.
- Expanding municipal capacity-building efforts, including streamlined access to technical and financial support for local energy and resilience projects.
- Advancing a national grid modelling project to support policy, regulation, and planning for renewable energy integration.
- Revisiting coal-dependent municipalities, particularly in Mpumalanga, to assess the socio-economic impacts of energy transitions and improve future decommissioning strategies.
- Supporting the review and renewal of the PCC's Commissioner cohort, ensuring continuity and deepening the PCC's strategic focus.

In parallel, the PCC will continue sourcing and mobilising funding to expand its programme of work, particularly in towns facing coal transition, pilot its local economic diversification programme, adaptation planning, and just transition tracking and evaluation.

With enhanced institutional capacity, a clear legislative mandate, multi-sectoral partnerships, and growing public and political support, the PCC stands ready to lead South Africa's climate transition through the next critical phase. Guided by the principles of procedural, distributive, and restorative justice, the PCC remains firmly committed to ensuring that South Africa's shift to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy is transparent, inclusive, and just—delivering tangible benefits for all its people.

*I look forward to the year's challenges and opportunities with enthusiasm, banking on the support of the Commissioners and stakeholders, as the PCC continues its work on a just transition towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy and society*

**Dorah Modise, Executive Director**





**PRESIDENTIAL  
CLIMATE COMMISSION**  
TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION

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