



EMBASSY OF DENMARK
Pretoria, South Africa

ENERGY

Contributing to a Just Energy Transition in South Africa



SAWEA AND DENMARK WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

In 2023, the Danish embassy in Pretoria initiated a partnership with the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA), aiming to promote wind- and renewable energy prospects for electricity generation and socio-economic benefit through a series of knowledge-sharing engagements with scholars, students and energy industry peers. The main objective of the project is to position wind energy as a contributor to global decarbonisation strategies, by providing education on renewable energy sources to learners in high school, internship opportunities to graduates, access to academia through research studies, academic presentations at the Wind Academic Conference and networking sessions between key industry stakeholders.

In 2024, a number of the planned activities has successfully taken place:

- The Wind Academic Conference (WINDAC) took place in October 2023, hosted alongside WINDABA. The conference is a gathering place for renewable energy industry students, experts and researchers, and SAWEA successfully implemented 14 paper presentations at the event. These were reviewed by a panel of experts and selected the best one for consequent publishing in an industry journal.
- 2 of 4 networking events in Cape Town and Johannesburg have been arranged by SAWEA. With support from the Danish Embassy, a CEO roundtable breakfast, and an IRP 2023-member roundtable engagement was conducted in March 2024, collectively engaging more than 100 industry CEOs and leaders. The networking events are conducted with an aim to match industry peers for business opportunity identification and general knowledge sharing. Topics of discussion included, but was not limited to: Grid access queuing rules, gender diversity in the utility scale renewable energy sector, South Africa's energy mix, skills development and challenges affecting the accelerated uptake of wind energy.
- 30 graduates has successfully been placed to undertake a 12-month internship as part of the SAWEA Wind Industry Internship Programme (WIIP). This provides graduates with practical work experience aligned with their studies and build their capacity for engaging in the renewable energy industries in their future careers. Currently, 13 Renewable Energy Organisations are participating in WIIP 2024.

In the near future, the following initiatives are to be conducted:

- SAWEA is arranging an informative energyDRIVE in Mpumalanga, with Eskom. The specific date and route is currently being finalized, aiming to reach 10-12 schools in the province. The drive targets Grade 9-12 students - about 2000 learners, taking an interactive approach to renewable energy education.
- 2 additional industry networking events, in a similar fashion as the ones described in the above.
- A research study addressing key issues in the wind energy industry, to contribute to the development of accessible quality information.

BACKGROUND

- Denmark's support to SAWEA is funded by the Danish Sustainable Goal Development (SDG) Grant Facility.
- This project aims to integrate SDG action with renewable energy education and job creation for a Just Transition.
- The United Nation's SDGs are the blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.
- The overall goal of the project is to have an impact on the following SDGs through targeted interventions in the Mpumalanga province: Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all, Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation, Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- The project agreement was initiated in June 2023 and is programmed to run for 18 months until completion in December 2024.

CONTACT

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