



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU

Western Cape Green Hydrogen Coordination Overview of Experience 2021 - 2025

ESMAP H4D Webinar 22 January 2026



Discussion Areas

- 1. Early efforts**
- 2. Major momentum**
- 3. Slowdown & constraints**
- 4. Acceleration**
- 5. Way forward**



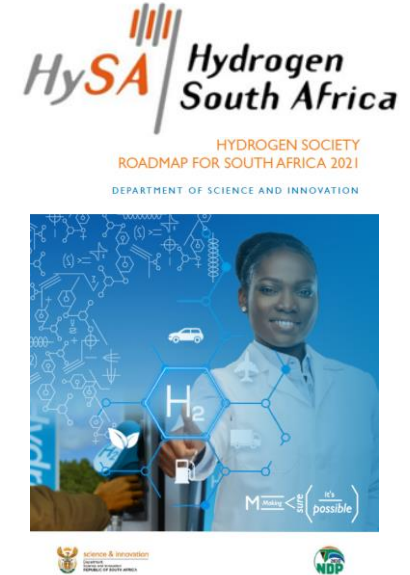
Early efforts – late awakening (2021 – 2022)

Country context:

- H₂ Society Roadmap approved by Cabinet, launched February by DSI
- Green H₂ Panel set up by DTIC, developing Green H₂ Commercialisation Strategy
- 1st H₂ Valley being set up (mining, PGMs)
- Presidency, NC Government and Sasol exploring Boegoebaai for export
- EU H₂ tour in March: DMRE, DTIC, DoT, DSI, Presidency, Transnet, IDC, EIB, CSIR
- EIB: €1 bn for public sector support in SA

Sub-national context:

- Freeport Saldanha Market Study
- GMF study on future of ships fuels – Saldanha in the spotlight
- Market enquiries (30+), hosting large investors
- Local pilot plant developments and University involvement



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Green hydrogen pioneer seeks finance for commercial plant as Vredendal proof-of-concept facility enters production



Photo by Supradip
The proof-of-concept green hydrogen facility in Vredendal, in the Western Cape

South Africa: fueling the future of shipping

South Africa's role in the transformation of global shipping through green hydrogen-derived fuels



By Records & Environmental Services Fund
For the PMU Leading to Zero Coalition Partnership
P4G

South Africa is well positioned to produce GH₂ thanks to three structural competitive advantages



SA with large scale, high quality RE potential and sufficient land

- ✓ Average **RE capacity factors** in South Africa are amongst the best in the world and on par with major competitors like Chile, Australia and Saudi Arabia
- ✓ SA with vast land available, just **1% of SA land area** (1.1 million ha) would be sufficient to produce **10 mt of GH₂**
- ✓ ~ 5.4 million ha in REDZ alone (areas not in competition with agriculture or settlements)
- ✓ REDZ zones alone can hold 900+ GW of RE capacity with premium capacity factors

Synergies in solving for water security

- ✓ Water required for green hydrogen **less than 0.5%** of SA water demand
- ✓ Reducing water requirement compared to coal power plants (10 mtpa of GH₂ production is only **31% of current power** sector use in coal based generation)
- ✓ Increasing water security making financially viable desalination plants at the coast (desalinated water cost is a fraction of a premium commodity like GH₂ ~\$0.01/kg)

Unique expertise for beneficiation into e-fuels and endowment of PGMs

- ✓ Proprietary **Fischer-Tropsch** technology lacking in other countries (critical for power to liquids)
- ✓ Endowment in **PGMs** required in the GH₂ value chain

Early efforts – late awakening (2021 – 2022)

Catching the wave:

- Position Paper to subnational political Executive (Western Cape Government)
- Approval to develop a strategy and start regional partnerships
- SA Green Hydrogen Summit in Cape Town in Nov. '22 (by InfrastructureSA)
- GH2 Commercialisation Strategy published for comment (National)
- International Funders (KfW, EIB, WB, IFC)



CONFIDENTIAL		9 - 11
CABINET MEETING	30 NOV 2022	
Minute No. 514/2022		
SUPPORT FOR THE PURSUIT OF MARKET OPPORTUNITIES IN GREEN HYDROGEN AND NOTING THE INTENTION TO CONCLUDE AN APPROPRIATE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE		
1.2. For Cabinet to support –		
1.2.1. The Position Paper, attached hereto, as the initiating policy position from which the green hydrogen work of the Western Cape Government will continue, and from which a Western Cape Green Hydrogen Strategy is to be developed.		
1.2.2. That a Western Cape Green Hydrogen Strategy is developed under the leadership of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.		
SECRETARY, CABINET		

Major momentum – policy confirmation (2023)

Policy clarity:

- GH2 Commercialisation Strategy officially launched
- Subnational policy position confirmed, work streams defined
- Strategy published for comment
- World Hydrogen Summit and H4D participation

Projects:

- Government work streams established, resources assigned
- Private project support via bilateral arrangement (team support)
- Common-user infrastructure project scoping and prefeasibility studies
 - Pipeline study
 - Water (desalination project re-activated)
 - Port and other bulk infrastructure (World Bank study)

Government coordination:

- Partnerships – 3 Capes MOU
- Second SA GH2 Summit in Cape Town (Oct '23)



THE WORLD BANK
Washington, DC



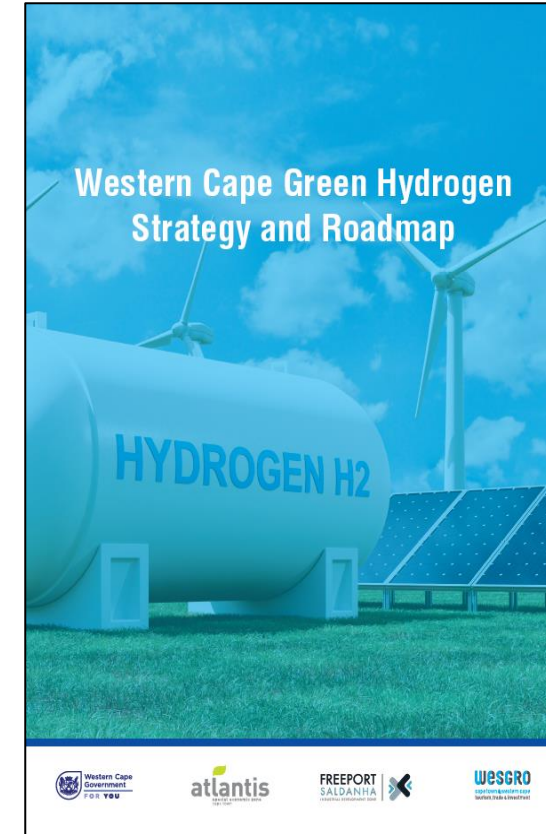
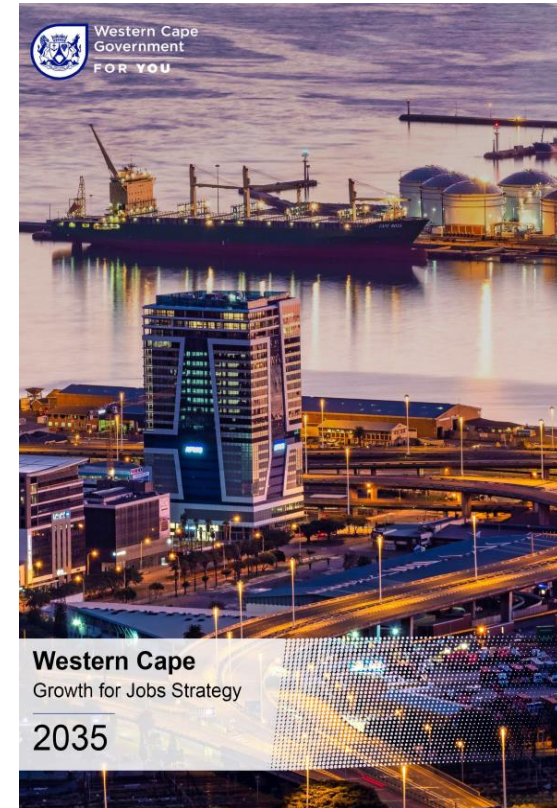
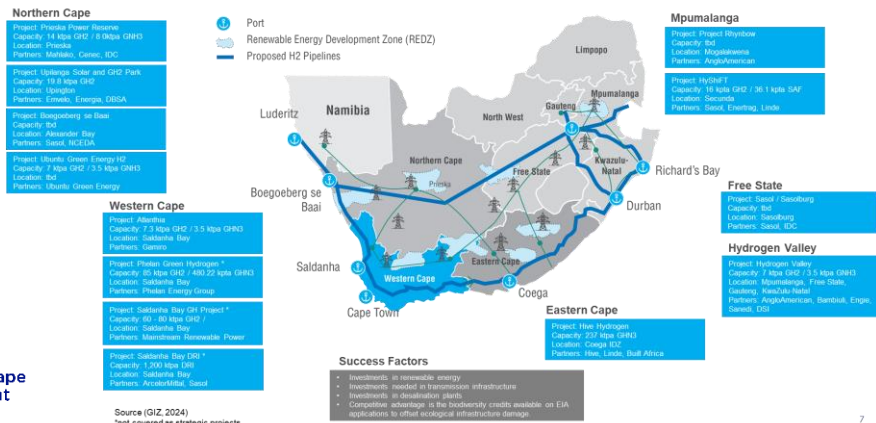
Skepticism, slowdown & constraints (2024)

Positive:

- Growth for Jobs (G4J) Economic Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Western Cape GH2 Strategy approved
- Government of National Unity (GNU) established
- Private project progress (land acquisition)
- Structured project engagements

Negative:

- Major fiscal crunch – lack of resources for GH2
- Sub-national skepticism re. GH2 and SEZs
- Coordination efforts stagnated (3-Capes and inter-governmental)
- Changes in institutional structures (National and Provincial)
- No SA Summit, lower participation at global summit



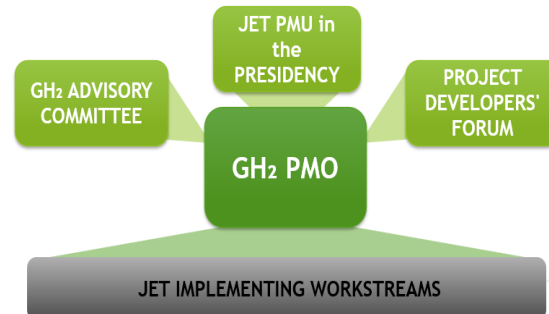
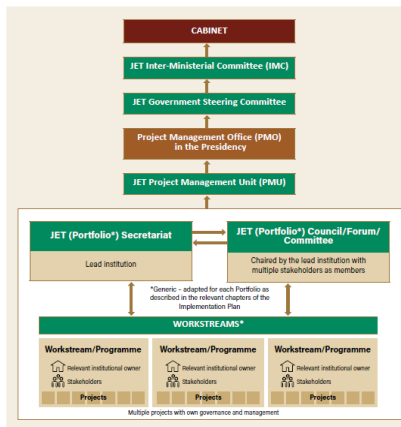
Acceleration toward implementation (2025)

Africa Green Hydrogen Summit (June '25)

- Collective engagement with project developers

Institutional structures:

- National departmental alignment (infrastructure, electricity, energy)
- PMO for Hydrogen officially structured and resourced (National)
- Sub-national action plan defined (although delayed)
- Mixed success with funding commitments
 - Provincial funding failures
 - Foreign Funding successes-
- Coordination between National and Sub-national efforts
 - Western Cape and others
 - Workstream and project support integration



The GH₂ PMO team



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GH₂ Champion



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Fund Programme
Specialist



Mahesi Tsolo
Administrator



Mthokozisi Ndlela
Technical Coordinator



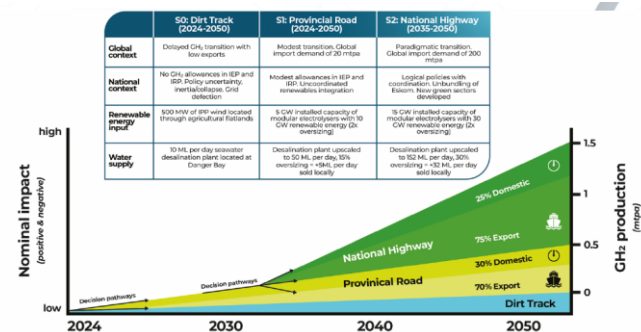
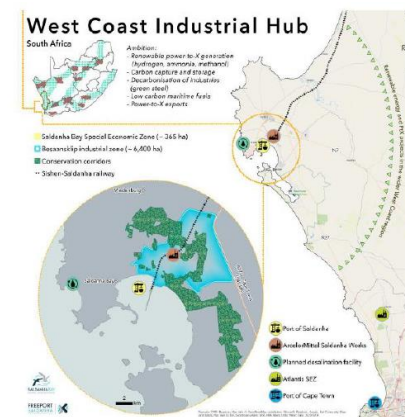
STRATEGIC ROLE AND CORE FUNCTIONS



Acceleration toward implementation (2025)

Project progress:

- Western Cape Master Planning Phase 1 concluded
- Varied progress with shared infrastructure projects
- Major progress with private projects, including funding commitments
 - Hyve Energy (funding announcement, EIA approval for 1000MW wind project)
 - 2 - 3 major Western Cape investors (approvals, commercial appointments)
 - ArcelorMittal Green DRI (commercial partnerships / market engagement)



Teaser Asset Disposal: Saldanha Works

Green Direct Reduced Iron Ready Facility



September 2025



Green Direct Reduced Iron

DRI Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A phased approach can be followed to de-risk the project.• Phase 1 can produce 800 000 t of DRI per annum.• Phase 2 can produce 1 200 000 t of DRI per annum.
Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A region with very good renewable energy capacity factors.• Phase 1 of the project requires ~800 MW of renewable energy.• Phase 2 of the project requires ~1.2 GW of renewable energy.
Green Hydrogen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Studies have shown that a LCOH of 3 - 4.5 \$/kg in the Saldanha region is possible.• Phase 1: 40 000 tpa of green H₂, 280 MW electrolyser capacity.• Phase 2: 60 000 tpa of green H₂, 420 MW electrolyser capacity.
Iron Ore	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Saldanha plant can be operated at high lump ore ratios from locally sourced high quality lump ore.• Phase 1 will require 710 ktpa of lump ore (60% of input mix) and 460 ktpa of DR grade pellets (40% of input mix).• Phase 2 will require 178 ktpa of lump ore (10% of input mix) and 1 689 ktpa of DR grade pellets (90% of input mix).
Natural Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The project can run on 76% Hydrogen and 24% Natural Gas.• Natural gas can be used for heating and carburisation of the DRI.• An electrical heater can be an alternative to natural gas.
Carbon Footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scope 1: 93 kgCO₂/t_{DRI}• Scope 2: 40 kgCO₂/t_{DRI} (200 kWh/t_{DRI}, 80% RE and 20% grid electricity at 1 tCO₂/MWh).• Hydrogen footprint: 170 kgCO₂/t_{DRI} (Carbon footprint of Green H₂ = 3.38 tCO₂/tH₂ (REDII), H₂ consumption = 50.4 kgH₂/t_{DRI}).

Short term way forward (2026 – . . .)

2026 Focus:

- Partnerships and coordination (National, Provincial, “regional”)
 - National work streams
 - Sub-national PMO(s)
- Funding allocation from Government and grant funders
- Master planning
 - Sub-national: Phase 2 – Implementation Readiness
 - National: Infrastructure
- Direct project support and unblocking (private sector project)

Government activities:

- Unblocking major policy & regulatory hurdles
 - Grid planning & connections
 - Wheeling Framework
 - SEZs for implementation
- Market engagement (finance and offtake)
- Africa GH2 Summit in Cape Town (Sep ‘25)
- Shared infrastructure projects finalised

Private project milestones:

- FID / Financial Close [2 – 3 projects] and breaking ground

Thank you