

## Press Release

# Carbon storage atlas for SA in the making

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Sasol, Eskom, PetroSA, Anglo American plc and the South African National Energy Research Institute (SANERI) are sponsoring the development of a South African Carbon Dioxide Storage Atlas. The total sponsorship amounts to R2 million.



The atlas is aimed at identifying potential sites for geological storage of carbon dioxide as a mitigation measure for the lowering of greenhouse gas emissions from industrial sources that primarily utilise coal.

Carbon dioxide would need to be captured from industrial flue gases and then geologically stored by compressing it into liquid form and injecting it into deep geological formations, such as saline reservoirs, coal seams, or depleted oil and gas fields. It is possible to track international developments in capture technology, but storage potential has to be determined locally.

Worldwide, storage reservoirs are commonly associated with the sedimentary basins in which oil and gas occur. South Africa unfortunately lacks natural world class storage reservoirs, but the onshore central basin of the Karoo Supergroup with its substantial sedimentary formations may offer storage opportunities. Offshore sedimentary rocks along the coastline also hold some potential for storage.

The Council for Geoscience (CGS) and the Petroleum Agency SA will publish the initial assessment of storage potential in a user friendly atlas by April 2010.

The atlas will illustrate the distribution and ranking of potential geological carbon dioxide storage reservoirs in South Africa, including estimated carbon dioxide storage capacities,

the main emission sources, location of industrial hubs, transportation pipelines and other factors that may have a bearing on storage feasibility.

This information would provide guidance to direct further exploration should carbon capture and storage technologies be pursued in South Africa.

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