

Sustainable environmental and economic relations of Turkiye and republic of South Africa – a focus study for the period 2000-2010

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Abstract. As one of the primary issues facing Turkiye, environmental degradation is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Therefore, a policy-level reorientation may be required to address this situation. Based on this perspective, during the increase of mutual economic developments between Turkiye and South Africa, the impact of renewable energy (RE) use, financial development, urbanization, and agriculture emissions of carbon dioxide should be analyzed separately using a dataset spanning a considerable period of time. South Africa develops its national environmental policy through a consultation process known as the National Consultative Environmental Policy Process (CONNEPP). The process is designed to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders in South Africa to contribute to the development of a new environmental policy. With the end of the apartheid period in 1994, the Republic of South Africa initiated a comprehensive program of economic reform and development going forward and made significant progress in many sectors after 2000. At this time, Turkiye, as situated on a strategic location regarding global trade, was expanding its operations worldwide. The purpose of the research is to analyze the Turkish RSA relations focusing on the first decade of 21st century. As a basis of our methodology, we have researched achieves and business records as tangible verifiable information about this time period. Although the global financial crisis of 2008 affected this country for some time; the development line and ongoing momentum in the automotive industry sector, as well as sectors such as construction, banking, investment regulations, energy, telecommunications, mining and agriculture, are worth mentioning. For this specific research article, we believe that it is imperative to focus the 2000-2010 period which is the basis of today's cooperation which will bring a specific value to the academia.

1 Introduction

A national policy, especially related to a sustainable environmental and economic relationship, is designed to be a statement of the government's guiding principles and

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intentions with regards to dealing with an important public issue. The policy provides the means by which government prioritizes problems which need to be addressed, sets objectives and allocates resources in order for these to be achieved. As mentioned within the context of the abstract, South Africa develops its national environmental policy through a consultation process known as the National Consultative Environmental Policy Process (CONNEPP). The process is designed to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders in South Africa to contribute to the development of a new environmental policy. As one of the primary issues facing Türkiye, environmental degradation is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Therefore, a policy-level reorientation may be required to address this situation. Based on this perspective, during the increase of mutual economic developments between Türkiye and South Africa, the impact of renewable energy (RE) use, financial development, urbanization, and agriculture emissions of carbon dioxide should be analyzed separately using a dataset spanning a considerable period of time. It should be underlined that there are historical relations between the two countries. The Embassy of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) was opened in Ankara on February 27, 1993, and the Embassy in Pretoria was opened on March 22, 1994. Cape Town Consulate General became operational in September 2020 [1].

The President of Türkiye held a meeting with Zuma, President of the RSA at the time, who attended the G20 Antalya Summit held in Türkiye on November 15, 2015. The visit to RSA on the occasion of the BRICS Summit held in Johannesburg on 25-27 July 2018 upon the invitation of RSA President of the Turkish Republic, Cyril Ramaphosa, constituted the highest level contact in bilateral relations in recent years [2].

The Republic of South Africa is Türkiye's most important trading partner in Sub-Saharan Africa. Our trade with RSA, which has the largest economy in the region, constitutes approximately 15 percent of our total trade with Sub-Saharan African countries. In 2019, the trade volume was 1.3 billion USD. In 2020, bilateral trade volume reached 1.5 billion USD. (Our exports: 573 million USD; our imports: 888 million USD) [1].

Turkish investments in RSA are worth more than \$600 million. Investments are mainly concentrated in the mining and textile sectors. In addition, there are companies that mainly import, wholesale and retail Turkish textiles, carpets and food, mainly in Cape Town and Johannesburg. The significant investments made by Arçelik and DHT Holding in the recent period (the acquisition of the white goods manufacturer DEFY by Arçelik and the important iron/steel enterprise CISCO by DHT Holding) have revealed our country's high level of economic interest in RSA [2].

The last Joint Economic Commission (KEK) meeting was held at RSA on 4-5 October 2017. The number of Turkish citizens living in the RSA is estimated to be around 5,000. [3]. Tourist flow from Türkiye to RSA and from RSA to Türkiye intensified with the start of THY's Cape Town-Johannesburg-Istanbul flights on 17 September 2007. THY started separate flights to Cape Town as of the end of October 2015. With THY's flights to Durban, which started at the beginning of November 2015, the number of destinations in the GAC increased to 3 [2].

1.2 Purpose, Methodology and Value

The purpose of the research is to analyze the Turkish RSA relations focusing on the first decade of 21st century. As a basis of our methodology, we have researched achieves and business records as tangible verifiable information about this time period. The research is based on Turkish national archives, chamber of commerce registries, academic researches that are published on peer-reviewed journals. For this specific research article, we believe that it is imperative to focus the 2000-2010 period which is the basis of today's cooperation which will bring a specific value to the academia [1].

We have first presented the course of economic relations between Turkiye and the Republic of South Africa during 2000-2010 period where we have provided in depth information on joint economic commission and economic agreements; and focused on trade during early 2000’s and provided foreign trade values during this 10 year period, following that the import and export information and the detailed view of economic relations between Turkiye and the Republic of South Africa is presented [4]. The results of the research provides valuable information to researchers, government officials and scholars on how the successful economic relations of the 2020s are reached by establishing strong ties via consistent communications and bond-strengthening policy making between two countries that are geographically distant [2].

2 The Course of Economic Relations between Turkiye and the Republic of South Africa during 2000-2010 period

The RSA-Turkiye Joint Business Council was established on June 24, 1998 with the agreement signed by Afrikaanse Handels Institute (AHI) and The Council of Economic Relations (DEIK) and its objectives include improving trade, providing the necessary coordination to collect and disseminate information about technology, industry, investment and trade relations in interest of both countries, solving the elements that hinder bilateral trade, prioritizing industrial and technological cooperation and promoting participation in fairs [5]

Following the signing of the Protocol on Political Consulting and Consultations in 2000, the Mutual Protection and Promotion of Investments Agreement was signed and according to this agreement, the investments could be nationalized for the public good and on the condition that compensation is paid at the market value of the day, not in contrast to the internal legal structure of each country, the qualified technical and administrative personnel of the investing party and their demands regarding their entry, residence, work and travel to the country shall be positively assessed and disputes shall be resolved in good faith [2].

The First Term Meeting of the Turkiye-South Africa Joint Economic Commission, which was held in Pretoria from March 31 to April 2, 2008, co-chaired by Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Hilmi Güler and South African Minister of Commerce and Industry, refers to the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement signed in Pretoria on March 3, 2005 [3].

In addition to the signing of the Agreements on The Prevention of Double Taxation and Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance between Customs Authorities in Pretoria on March 3, 2005; the Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism was signed on 23 June 2000 and the Police Cooperation and Cooperation Agreements in The Fields of Culture, Arts, Education, Science, Technology, Sports, Recreation and Youth were signed in Ankara on October 14, 2003 [6].

Table 1. Turkiye-South Africa Economic Agreements. Source: (Turkish Republic Ministry of Trade, 2022).

Name of Agreement	Signing Date	Signing Place	Official Gazette Date
Protocol for Consultations	23 June 2000	Ankara	07.09.2000
Cooperation Agreement in the Field of Tourism	23 June 2000	Ankara	04.11.2000
Agreement on Mutual Promotion and Protection of Investments	23 June 2000	Ankara	01.04.2005
Police Cooperation Agreement	14 October 2003	Ankara	15.06.2004
Cooperation Agreement in The	14 October 2003	Ankara	22.11.2005

Fields of Culture, Arts, Education, Science, Technology, Sports, Recreation and Youth			
Agreement to Prevent Double Taxation	3 March 2005	Pretoria	20.11.2006
Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement	3 March 2005	Pretoria	31.08.2007
Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement between Customs Authorities	3 March 2005	Pretoria	25.07.2009

2.1 Trade during early 2000s

In the context of improving trade relations with African countries, the drafting of the Strategy for the Development of Economic Relations with African Countries in 2003 by the Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade and the declaration of 2005 as the Year of Africa²⁷⁵ by the government of the time positively triggered the course of economic and political relations with South Africa. In 2003, South Africa was declared a priority country by Turkiye for entry into sub-Saharan Africa [2].

The reason the foreign trade balance in bilateral relations is constantly against us is because of the gold imports from South Africa. Solid relations between Turkiye and South Africa coincide with the outcome of apartheid rule in 1994. In 1990, the first three products in our exports were nuts, tobacco, colemanite; wheat, corn and iron concentrates in imports. Today, the product range has expanded. Currently, South Africa is Turkiye's best trading partner.

Economic and trade relations between RSA and Turkiye have been ongoing since 1966 and trade relations, which were low until 1980 due to the foreign trade policies implemented in our country, started to increase rapidly after 1981. With the Africa Expansion Policy implemented by Turkiye in 1998, our country attaches importance to developing and diversifying its relations with RSA, which is an active country on the African continent [2].

In order to improve relations, Turkiye aimed to establish a comprehensive political dialogue, high-level bilateral visits and political consultation mechanisms. Bilateral relations, which did not form a significant trade volume until the 2000s, gained momentum after this year. The volume of trade between 180 and 220 million dollars until the aforesaid years has increased year after year [7]

Table 2. Turkiye-South Africa Foreign Trade Values (1000 USD). Source: Turkish Republic Ministry of Trade, 2022.

Years	Export	Import	Volume	Balance
2000	71.049	171.810	242.859	-100.761
2001	77.871	345.028	422.899	-267.157
2002	85.453	206.653	292.406	-121.499
2003	121.528	335.713	457.241	-214.185
2004	190.113	1.006.683	1.196.796	-816.570
2005	315.739	1.259.978	1.575.717	-944.239
2006	598.489	1.793.113	2.391.602	-1.194.624
2007	653.785	2.172.298	2.826.083	-1.518.513
2008	1.238.632	1.502.492	2.741.124	-263.860
2009	866.721	1.102.513	1.969.234	-235.792
2010	369.269	889.614	1.258.883	-520.345

Before 2000; The independent Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (MUSIAD) delegation paid a business visit to South Africa in December 1996. In 2003, the Vice President of South Africa visited Türkiye, causing a dynamism in economic relations, and in 2005, relations gained momentum with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's visit to South Africa [3].

Due to the visits between both countries, the legal basis of the signed agreements was established, and as a result of the business delegation meetings and fairs held afterwards, the approach was developed and the embassies, which was not uninterested in such developments, supported the process with brochures and articles [2].

As a result of the growth of the economies of Türkiye and the Republic of South Africa by around 4-10% in the last three years and Türkiye's expansion policy to Africa, the search for alternative markets by Turkish businessmen has found its place and the total trade volume between the two countries increased by 439% in 2005 compared to 2002. The bilateral trade volume increased in 2000 and exceeded 242 million dollars. Although there was a decrease in 2002 compared to 2001, the deficit was closed in 2003, increasing the trade volume to 457 million 241 thousand dollars. From 2004 to 2006, the increase continued; In 2007, the volume was USD 2,826,083,000. Trade volume decreased slightly to USD 1,258,883,000 by 2010 [1].

When we look at the trade balance, there has always been an improvement against us. The year the imbalance was minimal, 2000, when a deficit of USD 100,761,000 was given; the maximum year was 2007, when a deficit of USD 1,518,513,000 was made. The year with the highest trade volume was 2007 with USD 2,826,083,000; the lowest year was 2000 with USD 242,859,000 [8].

2.2 Türkiye's Exports to The Republic of South Africa during early 2000s

South Africa's presence in the same time zone as Türkiye for most of the year, gratifying visits made at different times, intensified direct flights of THY, positive possibilities in terms of products due to the fact that opposite seasons are experienced simultaneously, the existence of Mersin port connected to sea transportation and cultural sympathy arising from the absence of a permit for racial discrimination in Turkish history, ease of doing business and investment compared to many developing countries and warm approach to foreign investment, all increases our country's export rates and increases the potential [2].

In between 2006-2007, our exports of industrial products to South Africa, where our export growth is at the forefront, were 112 million dollars in 2003, then increased by 466% to 634 million dollars in 2007. What Turkish companies exporting to South Africa complain about are the country's high protection walls. For this reason, Türkiye's export figure in 2000, which did not realize a serious export but rose from time to time, is 71.049 thousand dollars [1].

Türkiye's exports, which rose in 2001, were USD 77,871 and in 2002, it was USD 85,453,000. This upward trend continued in 2008 and the figure was USD 1,238,632,000. In the following years, the decline began. The export figure for 2009 was USD 866,721 and for 2010, export figure was USD 369,269,000 [3].

According to the data of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK); According to the data of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK); when we look at our export items that stand out by year on the basis of products; In 2000, motor vehicles, tractors, bicycles, motorcycles and others have a value of more than USD 13 million, special woven textile, lace, tapestries and embroideries have USD 10,271,297 and electrical machinery and appliances, units and parts have USD 6,145,211,000 [8].

2.3. Turkiye's Imports from the Republic of South Africa

When we look at the import rates carried out by Turkiye from South Africa over the years, we do not see complete stability, there have been increases from time to time and there have been decreases in some years [2].

In 2000, our imports were USD 171,810,000, our imports increased to USD 345,028,000 in 2001, but decreased to USD 206,653,000 in 2002. While it is desired to approach the import rate of the previous year again, in 2003 it was USD 335,713,000. After this year, imports are now worth billions of dollars. Our import amount for 2004 was USD 1,006,683,000, it was USD 1,259,978,000 for 2005 and it was USD 1,793,113,000 for 2006. In 2007, our imports increased even more to USD 2,172,298,000, and in the following years the level gradually began to decrease. It reached USD 1,502,492,000 in 2008, USD 1,102,513,000 in 2009 and finally USD 889,614,000 in 2010 [8].

As advantageous products for Turkiye's imports from South Africa; precious stones, iron and steel products, wool, yarn, textile, heavy duty machinery and devices, units and parts can be counted. In general, the products that constitute South African imports are gold, coal, mineral ores, automotive spare parts, stainless steel sheet metal, iron and steel products, raw leather and silver [2].

Turkish companies importing to our country from South Africa are Ereğli Demir Çelik, Granitaş, Aselsan, Borusan, Tepe-Knauf, Gama, mopak, Çukurova Construction, Başarı Electronic, Doğuş Auto, Arçelik, Eczacıbaşı, Sanko and Koçtaş. Year-on-year imports are manifesting themselves in a clear way. For example, in 2005, our imports increased by 507% compared to 2002. Gold, which is shown as the most important import item, is also the primary cause of the foreign trade deficit between South Africa and Turkiye. Gold accounted for 42% of our total imports from South Africa in 2009 and 2010 [3].

South Africa ranks 2nd in Turkiye's exports with 337 million dollars and a share of 7% in the products from petroleum and petroleum sector, which constitutes an important part of the automotive industry [3]. The inclusion of automotive products under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between South Africa and the European Union (EU), which began talks in 2005, will negatively affect Turkiye, which exports automotive sub-industrial products to South Africa [2].

3 The Detailed View of Economic Relations Between Turkiye and the Republic of South Africa during early 2000s.

The first contact between Turkiye and South Africa was established in June 2000, when South African Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad visited Turkiye since 1994, when power fell from the white minority to the black majority. Private sector representatives were also present during the first high-level political visit. With the end of the apartheid regime in 1994, the Republic of South Africa initiated a comprehensive programme of economic reform and development going forward and made significant progress in many sectors after 2000. Although the global financial crisis of 2008 affected this country for some time; the development line and ongoing momentum in the automotive industry sector, as well as sectors such as construction, banking, investment regulations, energy, telecommunications, mining and agriculture, are worth mentioning [9].

The World Sustainable Development Summit was held in Johannesburg between 26 August and 4 September 2002, and a total of 90 people attended as official and unofficial delegations with the President of Turkiye. Then-Vice President Jacob Zuma paid an official visit to Turkiye in September 2003 [2].

Members of Konya Chamber of Commerce (KTO) visited South Africa between 8-12 March 2004 for business meetings and held talks in Pretoria and Johannesburg. On May 8-

14 of the same year, Uşak Chamber of Industry made a business visit to Cape Town with a delegation of 25 people [3].

In Johannesburg and Cape Town, the Minister of State at the time, Kürşad Tüzmen, made a five-day visit to the country on 26 October 2004 with a group of 30 people. On 5-13 February 2005, the Federation of Marifed-Marmara Business Life Associations was in Johannesburg and Cape Town with a delegation of 30 businessmen [1].

A 60-member delegation of businessmen, headed by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, was in Johannesburg on 3 March 2005 and Cape Town on 4 March 2005 to hold one-on-one meetings among businessmen. On 5-8 February 2006, at the invitation of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense of South Africa, Murad Bayar, Undersecretary of Defense Industry, paid a visit to South Africa with representatives of 11 companies operating in the field of defense industry [2].

In May 2006, South African Minister of Public Economic Enterprises Alec Erwin visited our country and South African Defence Minister Masiuoa Lekota visited on June 13-15, 2006. A year later, on 22-23 March 2007, a seven-member delegation of lawmakers from the Justice and Development Party (AK PARTY) visited South Africa to hold talks and meetings on employment and labor policies, the latest economic developments in developing countries and the relations of developing countries with international organizations [10].

On 24-25 March 2007 in Pretoria, Treasury Undersecretary İbrahim Çanakçı attended the meeting of the Group of 20 (Twenty Group) G-20 platform, among members who is Türkiye, which is active in monitoring global economic developments and increasing international cooperation, together with a delegation [2].

Türkiye-South Africa Energy and Mining Working Group II Meeting held in South Africa between 13-16 May 2007 was attended by various Ministry representatives from our country under the chairmanship of Rıfat Dağdelen, General Manager of The Turkish Stone Foundation and the Memorandum of Understanding was signed. In November of the same year, the G-20 meeting in Cape Town was attended by then-Minister of State Mehmet Şimsek as the head of the delegation of our country. A year later, on 31 March-2 April 2008 in Pretoria, The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Hilmi Guler attended the First Term Meeting of the Turkish-RSA Joint Economic Commission and held various meetings [10].

The Trade Delegation consisting of 50 Turkish companies, headed by then-Minister of State Zafer Çağlayan, made a business visit to South Africa on 01-05 November 2009 and our Minister met with RSA Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr. Rob DAVIES. A RSA Delegation including 3 Ministers, 3 Deputy Ministers, relevant Ministry officials and 37 companies visited our country on 24-26 May 2010, under the chairmanship of RSA Vice President Kgalema Motlanthe, at the invitation of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan [2].

Besides, in August 2011, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu's message in Pretoria, the administrative capital of South Africa, that "we are a strategic partner with South Africa";³after South African leader Jacob Zuma disparaged Europe in response to criticism of modernism that destroyed the family life, an embracing speech of the President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who made an official visit to South Africa in October 2011, in support of Africa, the opening of a branch in South Africa for marketing purposes by Military Electronics Industry (ASELSAN), one of Türkiye's powerful industrial companies, on September 16, 2011, in an environment where negotiations on a free trade agreement are continuing rapidly, the agreement on the abolition of reciprocal visas in August 2011,³the fact that South African films were on the agenda in İstanbul in January 2012 to reflect cultural wealth ,all shows great potential in the future of our bilateral economic and political relations and points to a hopeful and productive future with South Africa in

economic life [1].

In world politics, Turkiye, which assumed the same role in 2009-2010, is likely to be a strategic partner with South Africa, which will increase its effectiveness by performing its temporary role as a United Nations (UN) Security Council Non-Permanent Member in 2011-2012. In addition, according to the UN's 2012 World Economic Outlook Report; The fact that the biggest economic growth on the African continent will be experienced in South Africa shows that there is a potential structure for the future in this region and that Turkiye acts decisively by demonstrating its determination to improve its economic relations with South Africa, indicating that we are on the right track [11].

4 Result

With the end of the apartheid regime in 1994, the Republic of South Africa initiated a comprehensive program of economic reform and development going forward and made significant progress in many sectors after 2000. Although the global financial crisis of 2008 affected this country for some time; the development line and ongoing momentum in the automotive industry sector, as well as sectors such as construction, banking, investment regulations, energy, telecommunications, mining and agriculture, are worth mentioning [3].

The Republic of South Africa, which opens all economic sectors to foreign investment and continues its stimulus policies as a government; With the close relations it has developed with the countries of the region, it continues its opening to the world with maximum effort and excitement by cooperating firmly with developing countries and European countries with huge economic power [2].

The 2010 World Cup event in this country has both enhanced South Africa's reputation with the countries of the world and added economic value to the country [12].

Although not all existing potential can be used, RSA-Turkiye trade has been increasing steadily in recent years. The fact that both countries have a growing economy, and their economic structures serve as the basis for complementing each other in many sectors, indicates that bilateral trade can be much greater [13]. Open sectors for Turkish companies that are seen as able to enter the RSA market through both investment and exports are automotive, apparel and textiles, machinery, glass and glass goods, construction and white goods-electrical appliances [14].

Apart from gold, coal and petroleum products, there are many opportunities in the industrial sector that need to be focused in a way that is intense, active and continuous. South Africa's openness to the agricultural sector will allow for the maximum increase of commercial opportunities for Turkiye. Within the framework of mutual interest and opportunities, a higher volume of foreign trade is expected in the coming period when looking at the short and medium-term agenda of both countries. Turkish companies have started to take part in public housing projects that RSA local governments have decided to implement [2].

All countries that have changed their perspectives and approaches to Africa in recent years and have an important place in the world economy are closely following the developments in South Africa. Turkiye, which evokes China's mobility a decade ago and which is expected to have similar developments with the support provided by developed countries in the next decade, has not been far from the movement in South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, and Turkiye, which is constantly moving in a negative direction in the trade balance, has turned to the role of more active exporter. A new African perspective has been created by our country's businessmen and a special importance has been attributed to sub-Saharan Africa, especially South Africa in particular, and in the short term this region has been put under scrutiny [15].

If the business communities in our country surround the region at an intense pace and

expand their R&D efforts, a vibrant movement environment will occur in the markets with the interest and support of developed countries [16].

Although there were no full-fledged connection mechanism with South Africa during 2000-2010 period; the presence of cultural and historical motifs that are relatively more attractive and closer to South Africa will allow Turkiye with no historical background without discrimination in language, religion, race and gender in its past to become a structure that has evolved into foreign trade in bilateral relations. Turkiye that will make its presence felt in Africa will be able to offer a wide range of business opportunities for its country [2].

The two countries, where there are contrasting seasons, are expected to deepen the foreign trade relationship in complementary products by taking the opportunity to create new opportunities. The difficulties in export growth should be eliminated by comparing with other countries on the distance. Resolving security with an optimistic approach without overestimating it will boost the economic relations between the two countries.

As far as we can follow the developments in today's world, the countries that increase their effectiveness in world politics are Brazil, India, Turkiye and the Republic of South Africa. The fact that the last two countries, which constitute the basis of this study, use the same language in the political sphere by expanding their economic relations as far as possible will undoubtedly be enough to increase the effectiveness of the two countries on the international field [1].

The two countries' participation in international fair organizations will enabled them to carry out original and lasting business contacts and establish deep and functional economic connections. In addition to its embassy in Ankara; despite South Africa having honorary consulates in Istanbul, Mersin and Izmir, Turkiye, which declared 2005 the "Year of Africa" to expand its expansion to the continent, has an honorary consulate only in Cape Town [3].

After one decade over 2010, the Republic of South Africa is Turkiye's most important trading partner in Sub-Saharan Africa. Our trade with RSA, which has the largest economy in the region, constitutes approximately 15 percent of our total trade with Sub-Saharan African countries. In 2019, the trade volume was 1.3 billion USD. In 2020, bilateral trade volume reached 1.5 billion USD [14].

As indicated previously, one of the primary issues facing Turkiye, environmental degradation is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Therefore, a policy-level reorientation may be required to address this situation. Based on this perspective, during the increase of mutual economic developments between Turkiye and South Africa, the impact of renewable energy (RE) use, financial development, urbanization, and agriculture emissions of carbon dioxide should be analyzed separately using a dataset spanning a considerable period of time. South Africa develops its national environmental policy through a consultation process known as the National Consultative Environmental Policy Process (CONNEPP). The process is designed to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders in South Africa to contribute to the development of a new environmental policy. Turkish investments in RSA are worth more than \$600 million. Investments are mainly concentrated in the mining and textile sectors. In addition, there are companies that mainly import, wholesale and retail Turkish textiles, carpets and food, mainly in Cape Town and Johannesburg, and this mutual interest and cooperation is getting developed and intense. Both governments and private sectors must focus on the current international trade, economic and political status-quo and enhance the mutually beneficial relationships.

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