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GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL STATES PROGRAMME BUND-LÄNDER-PROGRAMM (BLP)

Federal state - partner country

Bavaria - South Africa



Title

Setting up climate-friendly charging stations and creating a sustainable business model for e-cargo bikes in Stellenbosch, South Africa

In cooperation with the GIZ programme

Employment Promotion for Women for the Green Transformation in Africa (WE4D)

Financing arrangements

BMZ contribution	217.090 EUR
Bavaria contribution	312.938 EUR

Duration

01.01.2025 - 31.07.2026

Responsible ministry

Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection

This project helps to achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Test ride with the electric cargo bikes developed by Lark Cycle in the predecessor project

Climate-friendly Deliveries by Electric Cargo Bikes

Local situation

South Africa produces more CO₂ emissions than any other African country. It generates around 80 per cent of its electricity from coal. As a result, its overall energy mix is one of the most coal-intensive in the world. At national level, South Africa has set itself the goal of transitioning to a zero-carbon economy by 2050. Western Cape province has also adopted a 'net zero by 2050' goal in its revised climate strategy. One of the ways in which it plans to reach this target is by supporting the e-mobility sector.

For years, South Africa has faced not only an energy crisis but also an economic crisis. 66.5 per cent of 15- to 24-year-olds are unemployed. The project – based around the development of a new business model for e-cargo bikes – is designed to create new job opportunities that will help (young) people find a way out of unemployment. Every effort will be made to involve women in recognition of the fact that they often experience multiple forms of marginalisation.

Cooperation arrangements

A holistic approach has already been successfully implemented in the pilot project and is being sought again for the project in order to bring together all relevant stakeholders from the fields of politics, business, civil society and education on the South African side. Cooperation with the non-governmental organisation

“Through this project, we want to help Bavaria’s partner province, the Western Cape, transition towards more climate-friendly forms of transport based increasingly on energy from renewable sources. We’re working to create new, long-term job opportunities for the local population, especially women.”

Mr Bernhard Gerstmayr

Regierungsdirektor (Senior Government official), Bavarian State
Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection



Prototype “Long Tail” with a transport box on the rack

SEED (Stellenbosch Entrepreneur and Enterprise Development) and the University of Stellenbosch is planned. SEED specialises in nurturing micro and small enterprises and in promoting the social and economic participation of disadvantaged population groups. On the German side, the project is supported by partners whose expertise lies in the field of bicycle infrastructure and the implementation of innovation projects. The BLP project will work closely with the technical cooperation programme WE4D (Employment Promotion for Women for the Green Transformation in Africa) in South Africa.

What we are doing - and how

The project’s objective is to establish e-cargo bikes with climate-friendly charging stations in Stellenbosch and make them an integral part of the retail and commercial landscape based on a sustainable business model. It also aims to make a broader contribution to the climate-friendly transformation of South Africa’s transport sector and towards greater acceptance of renewable energy. More specifically, the first steps involve making technical improvements to the e-cargo bikes produced during the last project and building a pilot charging hub that uses electricity from renewable sources. One of the project’s top priorities is to develop a viable business model (e.g. in the form of a cooperative)

for disadvantaged people from the surrounding townships. In addition, the extent to which the project can be certified as a climate protection project that saves greenhouse gas emissions through the use of electric cargo bikes is being examined. The project will organise a series of public events to generate interest and help develop a cycling culture. As a final step, together with appropriate organisations from selected African countries, it will explore to what extent the same approach can be used elsewhere, for example in Kenya or Senegal.

Useful links

- Further information on the BLP:
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/132983.html>
<https://bund-laender-programm.de/en>
- Further information on SEED:
<https://www.seedsa.org.za/>
- Further information on the WE4D Programme:
<https://www.giz.de/de/weltweit/123226.html>
- [Press reports from South Africa](#)