

France and South Africa have engaged in a **strategic partnership** based on shared values and converging interests : supporting Africa development and achieving the Millenium Development Goals, strengthening and reforming the multilateral system, promoting a more inclusive and efficient global governance.

Economic relations

- South Africa is **France's first trading partner in sub Saharan Africa**. France is South Africa's 8th trading partner. The total volume of trade amounted to € 2 843 millions in 2008 (€ 1 642 millions imports of French goods, € 1 201 millions exports of South Africans goods).
- Around **200 French companies** have now set up their business in South Africa and employ a total **workforce of over 30 000**, actively contributing to the South African economy with their technology, job creation, skills development and full support of the national objectives of empowerment and employment equity. France is the 7th direct investor in South Africa with an investment flow of € 176 millions in 2007 (ZAR 1 498 millions). **Direct French investment is growing** on a yearly basis, and came to a total of € 1 075 million (ZAR 9 157 million) in 2007. Investments reach all main economic sectors : manufacturing industries, automotive and chemical engineering sectors, etc.

Development Co-operation

- France is committed to supporting South Africa's development and has increased its funding : commitments went up from €135 millions in 2006 to approx. €250 millions in 2008 making France is **one of the first providers of development financing to South Africa**. Commitments are set to remain at these levels and might even increase further.
- French financing towards SA development focuses mainly on : access to basic services (eg : affordable housing, access to electricity (for 1,5 million people) and water (for 800 000 people), supporting growth (eg : €85 millions loan to ACSA to upgrade its airports) and creating jobs, promoting sustainable development (eg : project with Durban to generate electricity form methane produced by landfills). The embassy also operates a **small grant projects** window, the Civil Society development Fund..
- Proparco, a subsidiary of the French Development Agency, provides **funding to the private sector**. These funds are routed through local private equity funds, financial intermediaries like the Industrial Development Corporation or local banks. Funds are also available for direct projects in the infrastructure and industrial sectors. In 2008, Proparco's commitments reached 56 M EUR.
- France is also involved in the **health sector**, primarily through its contribution to the Global Fund against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB. Skills management training has been established with French hospitals. In the field of **governance**, training programs with the South African police service are on-going.

Energy

- Energy has been defined as a **key area** for French-South African cooperation during President Sarkozy's visit in 2008. At policy level, a dialogue has been

opened/launched on reducing CO2 emissions, reliability of energy production, predictability of the electricity prices. At project level, the AFD is currently considering funding a €100 millions wind farm in the Western Cape and is involved in financing affordable and eco-friendly housing programmes backed by the French government in South Africa.

Science and Technology

France is a major partner of South Africa in many fields: Water S&T, electronics, ICT, nanoscience/technology, biotechnology, oceanography, paleo-anthropology, human and social sciences. Moreover, South African scientists can carry out experiments in the French facilities, e.g. SOLEIL, the French national synchrotron..

The ***Franco-South African Technological Institute (F'SATI)*** in Pretoria and Cape Town trains 150 students every year (BTech, MTech, MSc and PhD), most of them from previously disadvantaged communities, in electronics, ICT and satellite engineering.. A major player in capacity building, F'SATI is also a leading centre in R&D, technology transfer, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Cultural diversity and research in social sciences

- The IFAS cultural branch, “IFAS-Culture” (www.ifas.org.za), which is the cultural agency of the French Embassy, promotes ***cultural diversity***, asserts the cultural dimension of development and fosters relationships between France, South Africa and the rest of the African continent. In 2008 it supported 90 projects ranging from visual and performing arts to literature, architecture and design, focusing on previously disadvantaged individuals. IFAS-Culture dedicates each year around 700 000€ to its programmes. Each and every project incurs concrete spin-off for South African artists and community. In 2008 IFAS-Culture brought 70 French artists and 55 African artists to South Africa, while sending 50 South African artists to France and 20 in Africa.
- Through its ***social science research*** branch “IFAS-Research” (www.ifas.org.za), the French Institute of South Africa promotes joint research for South African, African, French and European researchers, contributes to capacity building (e. g the Wits/IFAS archeology workshops series) and backs social sciences as a tool for decision making, in the field of economy (e. g the APORDE programme supported by the DTI), urban planning, migration issues, social redress, etc. Those programmes involve 500.000€ a year. In 2008, IFAS funded more than 30 senior and junior researchers to attend international conferences in France and conduct field work in Southern Africa and Europe.

Promotion of the French language

- the ***Alliance Française*** runs a network (www.alliancefrancaise.org.za) of 15 offices in South Africa and caters for more than 5000 students. a programme has been designed for ***training civil servants at the DICO Diplomatic Academy***, while French has been reinforced at many universities.. Moreover, 3 ***French schools*** in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town are providing 800 pupils (60% non-French) with a bilingual tuition.