Nhamo, Godwell: University of South Africa
nhamog@unisa.ac.za
Authors:
Title: Auditing the (in)adequacy of (I)NDCs in addressing the climate action sustainable development goal

The Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and their resultant NDCs following the ratification of the Paris Agreement, remain the main platform with which the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the climate action goal – Goal 13 can be attained. However, not much work is popping up to reflect the extent to which the available (I)NDCs are geared towards this mammoth task. The pillars from which the (I)NDCs should have drawn from are well articulated in the climate Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) that focuses on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts throughout the world. Among the key pillars are the following: strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters (target 13.1); integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (target 13.2); improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning systems (target 13.3); implementing the commitment undertaken by developed countries to a goal of mobilising jointly $100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries (target 13a); and promoting the mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities (target 13b). Drawing from these targets, an auditing matrix to determine (I)NDCs compliance with the climate action goal was developed. The findings show that there are a number of gaps in the (I)NDCs resulting in their failure to adequately address the provisions of SDG 13. To this end, it will come as no surprise if countries miss the 2030 global goal on climate action. The paper, recommends that in the next rounds of revising the NDCs, countries make every effort to have their documents responding directly to the framework presented by SDG 13 targets. Part of the misalignment could be attributed to the challenge emanating from concurrent work on the finalisation of the SDGs and the IDNCs in the lead to both New York (September 2015) and Paris’ COP15 of November/December 2015.