

Eswatini (Swaziland)



The cooperation between the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security and Eswatini began in 2017, when the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea (now MASE) and the Eswatini Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs signed an agreement on the issues of climate change and sustainable energy.

Eswatini is a small state in Southern Africa of about 17 km², nestled between South Africa and Mozambique. It is landlocked, and its territory – on the eastern side of the Drakensberg Mountains – is almost entirely occupied by a plateau that slopes from west to east, while the Highveld is a mountainous area between 1000 and 1500 meters covered with forests. It has a population of just over one million inhabitants with one of the highest poverty and malnutrition rates in Africa, making it particularly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change.

The country, in fact, has to face numerous challenges related to climate change, such as extreme weather events – with long periods of drought and floods – which contribute to worsening water scarcity and create problems of security, health and electricity shortages.

PARIS AGREEMENT DECEMBER 2015



SDG: 7;13



3.175.000



2 projects

THE CONTEXT OF THE COOPERATION



In November 2022, on the sidelines of COP27, a bilateral meeting was held between the MASE delegation, led by Director Roberta Ronzitti, and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs of Eswatini, Ms. Khangeziwe Mabuza.

The meeting was an opportunity to discuss ongoing and nearing completion environmental cooperation projects and to start the negotiation process for a new Memorandum of Understanding, which could succeed the one that expired in May 2022.

OUTCOMES



Under the agreement signed in 2017 between Italy and Eswatini, two **projects** have been approved and initiated:

- [Strengthen Swatiland early warning system and climate services;](#)
- [Fossil fuel free and green building of the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital.](#)

These projects, co-financed by MASE with over €3,175,000, include energy refurbishment of a hospital and two ministerial buildings, as well as a

meteorological alert system.