

COULD A DEEP OFFSHORE PORT BE A PLAUSIBLE FUTURISTIC GREEN PORT DEVELOPMENT SOLUTION FOR SOUTH AFRICA?

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ABSTRACT

It is becoming clear that a new growth paradigm is needed that promotes economic development, while at the same time, ensuring climatic and environmental sustainability. While economic activities and environmental protection are conventionally perceived as two separate domains adversely affecting each other, green growth calls for a conceptual shift to recognize that both can be achieved complementarily.

The increasing focus on sustainable solutions, the growing size of container vessels, and increasing growth of world trade has brought challenges for ships, ports and the society. Expectations about future growth needs to be matched by a physical reality of transport infrastructure. However limited space for expansion is forcing ports to come up with new and innovative solutions.

The idea of an offshore port is simple and can be resumed in the following statement by Sven Klusen: ***“if the ship is not able to come to the port, the port has to come to the ship”***.

It remains to be proven whether an offshore port development could be the most plausible futuristic solution for South Africa.