

# SA-SOFI

a work in progress

*Presentation at International Futures Conference  
Stellenbosch, South Africa  
6 November 2007*

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# Background

- SA State of the Nation publication
- REI role and activities, potential and need for “thought leadership”
- Regional concerns
- Global benchmarking
- Ongoing institutional role in collecting and developing data sets, better application for decision making
- Support from HSRC, DST and MP

# Component 1: National Comparison SOFI

- Comparable
- 27 standardized variables and parameters
- Statistician and demographer intern
- In progress over past few months

# Component 2: National Focus SOFI

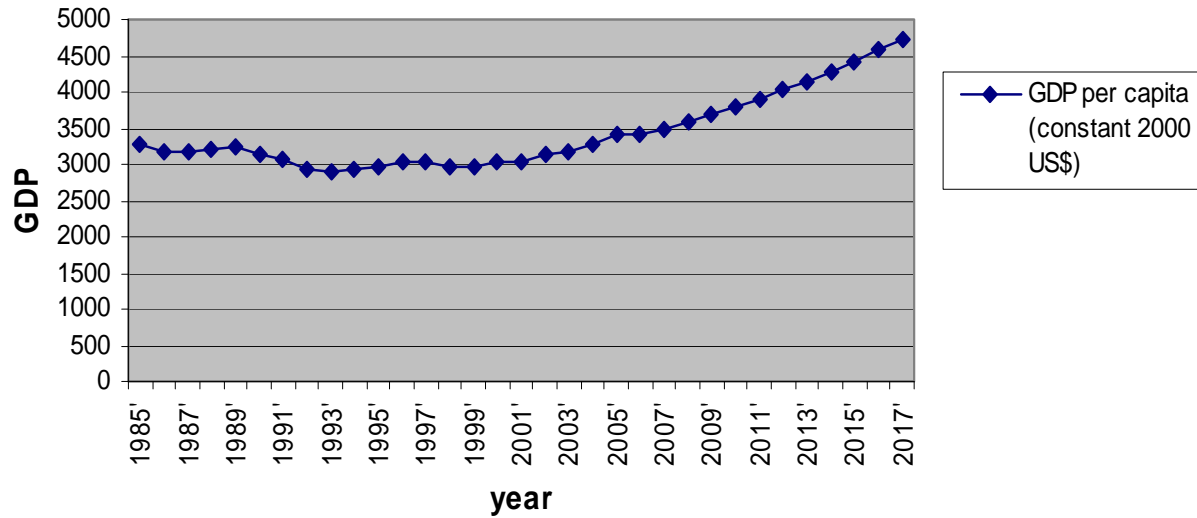
- Determine our own variables, weightings, determination of future events to consider, probabilities of events, and own opinion of plausible impact of those events on variables
- Regional intention
- Very early stages, steering committee yet to be convened
- Process:

- Desktop study
- Online Delphi: long list of variables
- Focus group (collaborative software lab): short list of variables, parameters
- Consultation with domain experts
- Computation of SOFI
- Assessment: national, regional
- Recommendations for way forward
- Implementation network

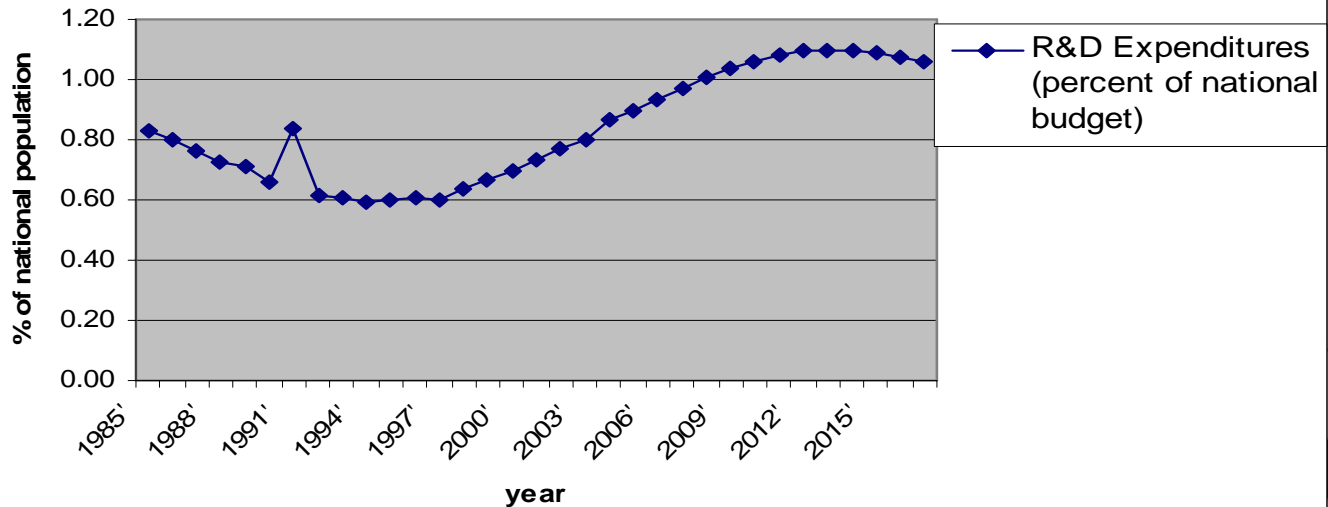
# Preview: SA National Comparison SOFI

- Work in progress
- Learning process
- Interesting, difficult, and problematic
- First cut preview:

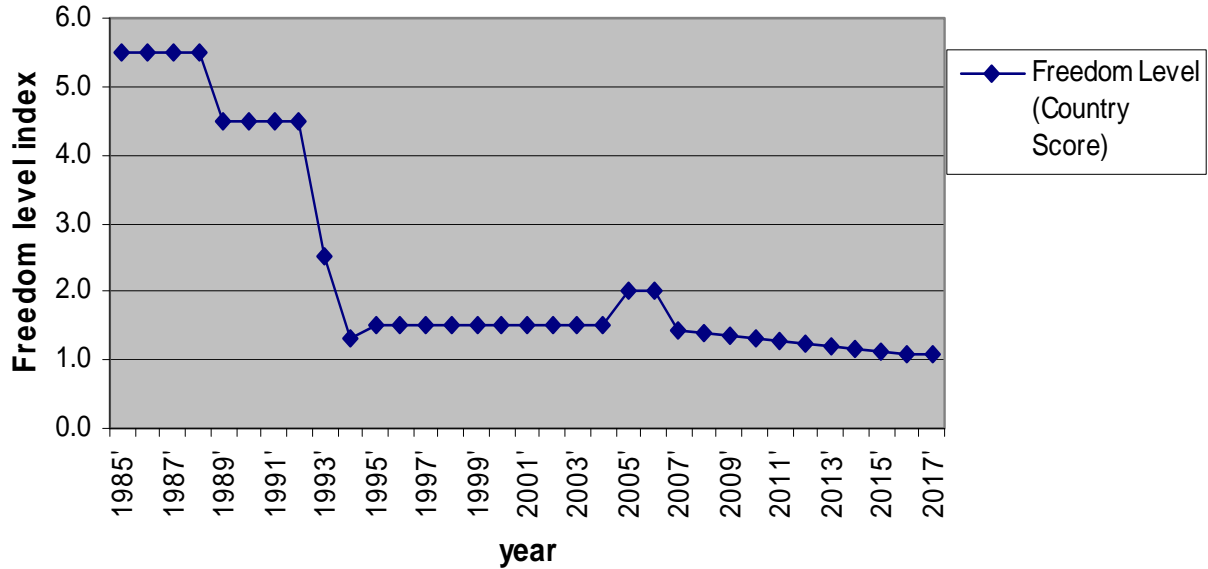
### GDP per capita (constant 2000 US\$)



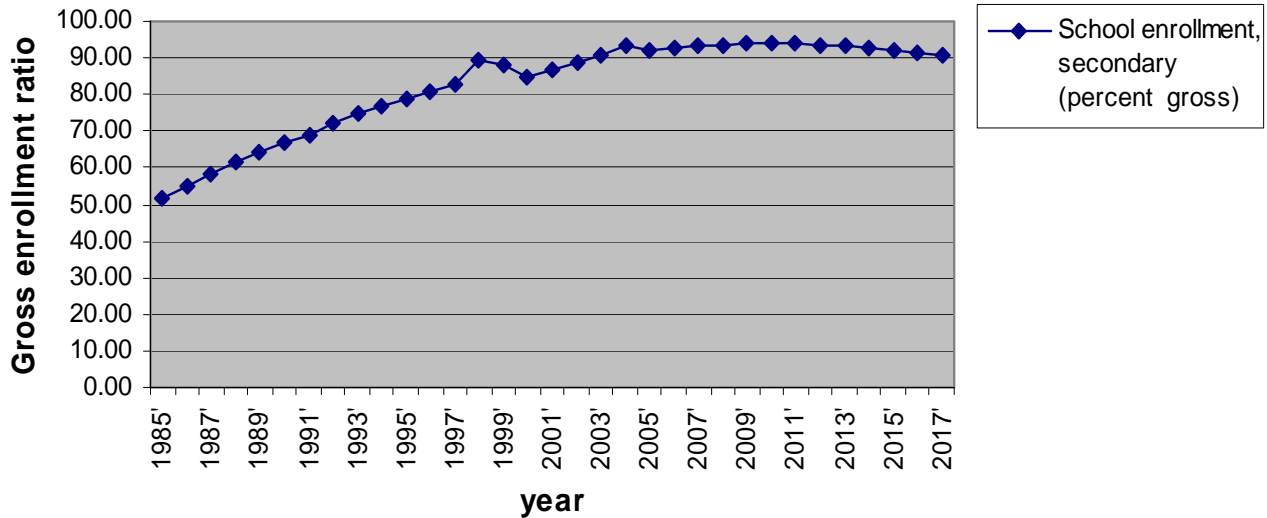
### R&D Expenditures (percent of national budget)



### Freedom Level (Country Score)

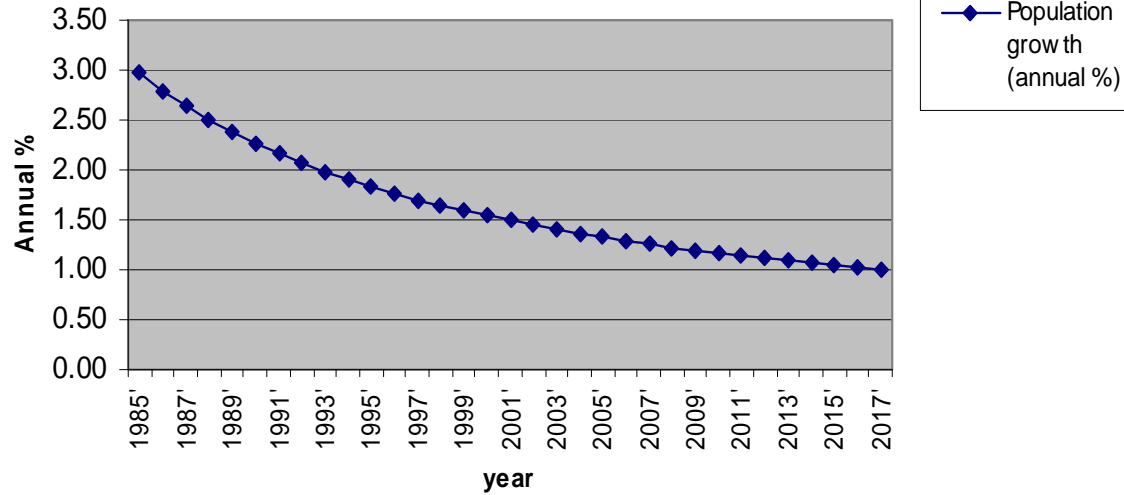


### School enrollment, secondary (percent gross)

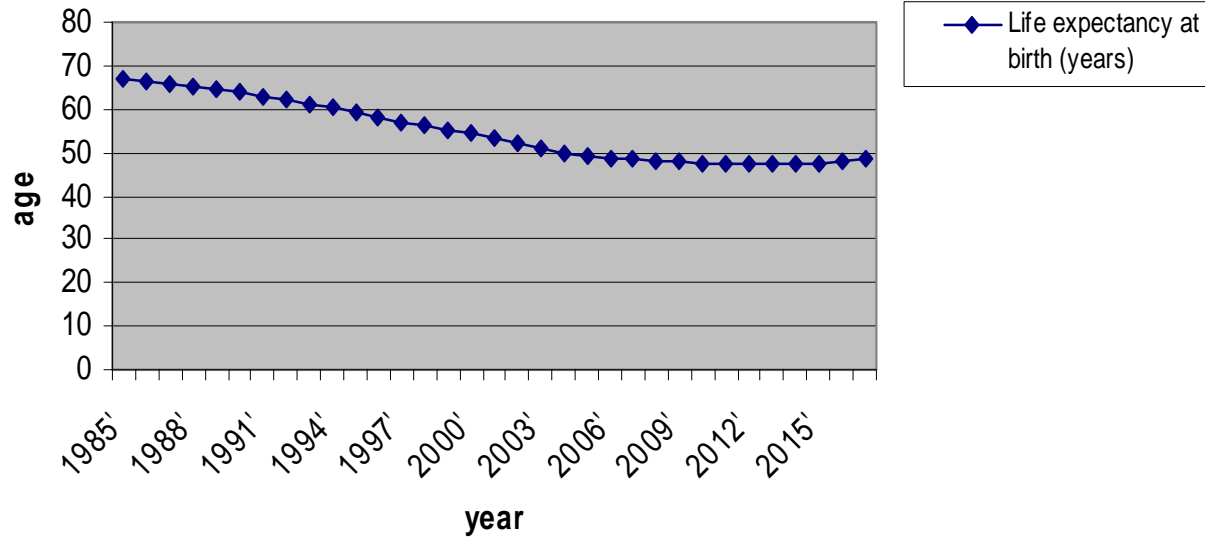




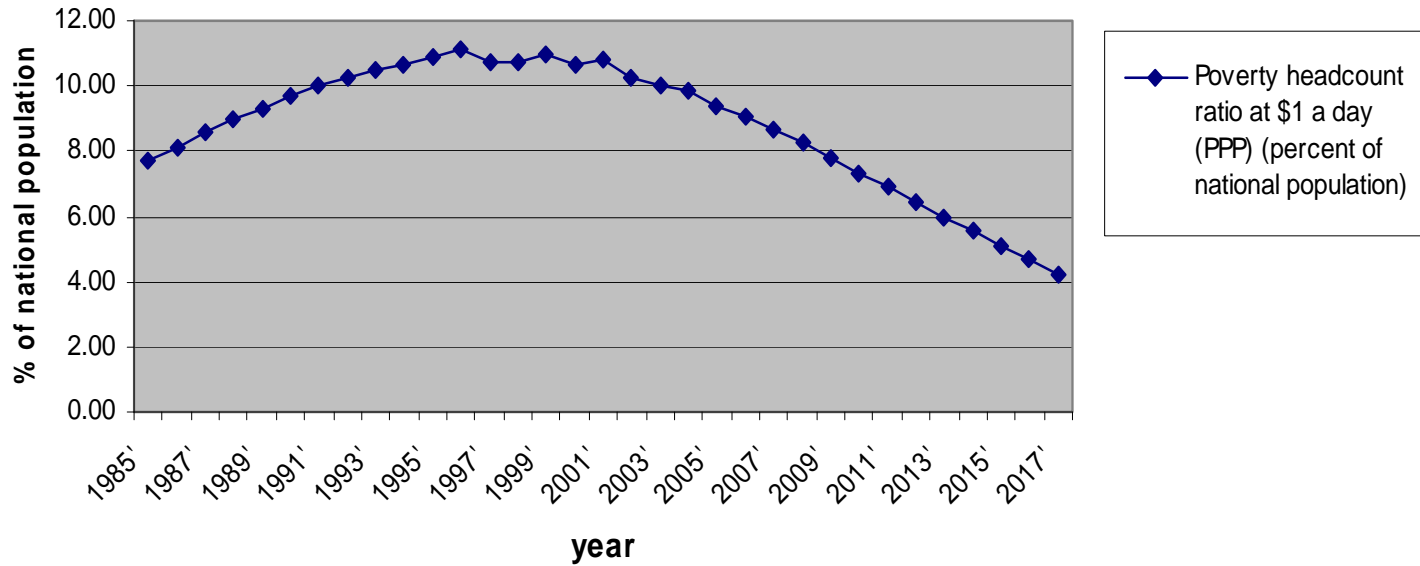
### Population growth (annual %)



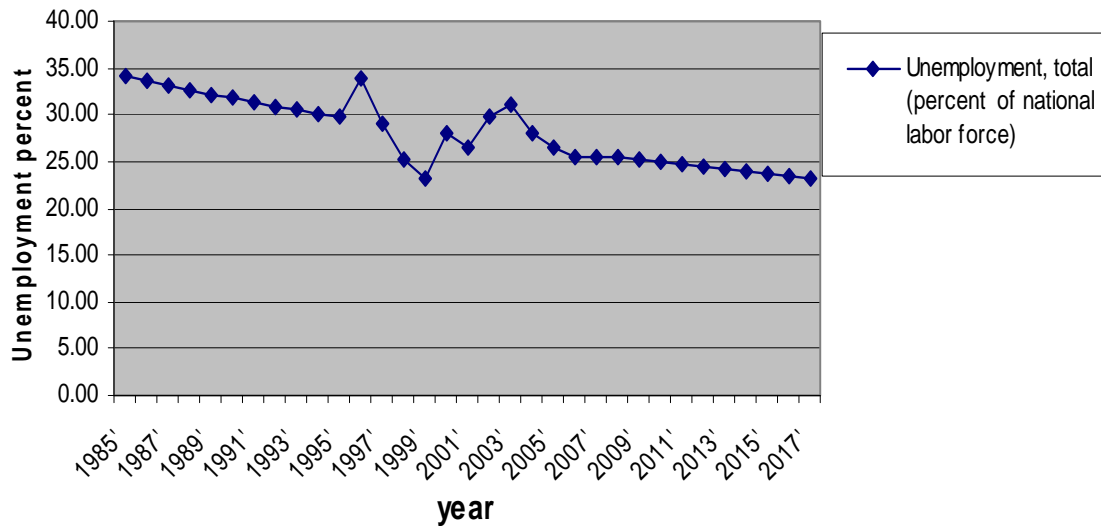
### Life expectancy at birth (years)



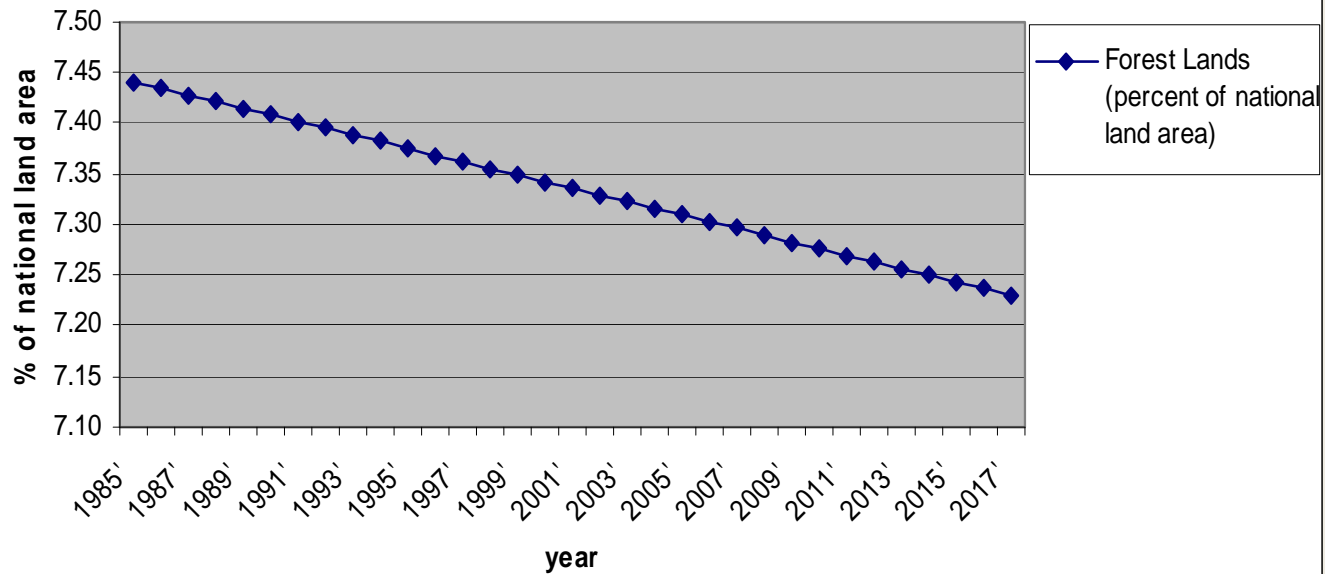
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1 a day (PPP) (percent of national population)



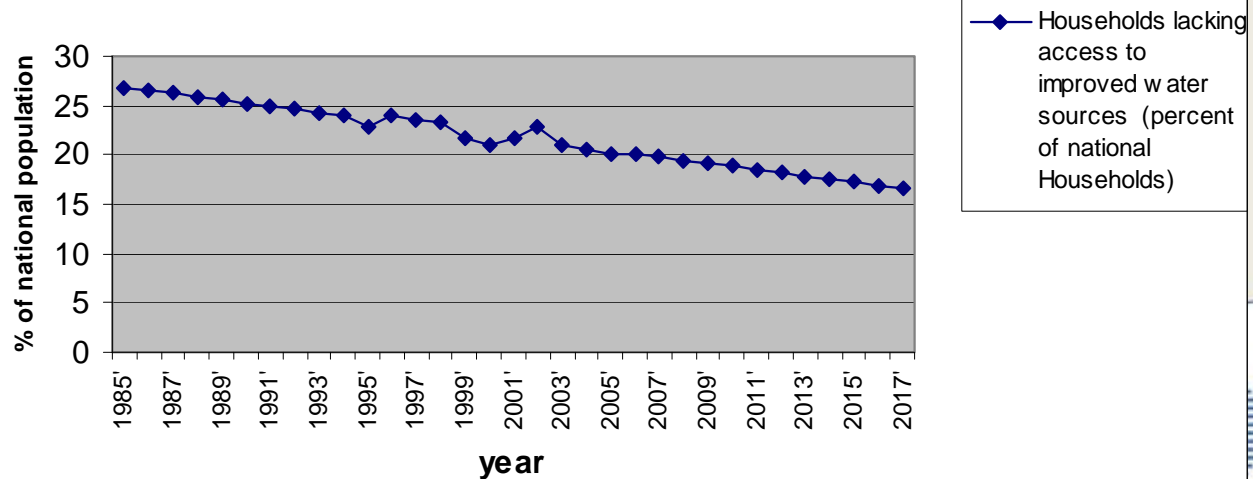
Unemployment, total (percent of national labor force)



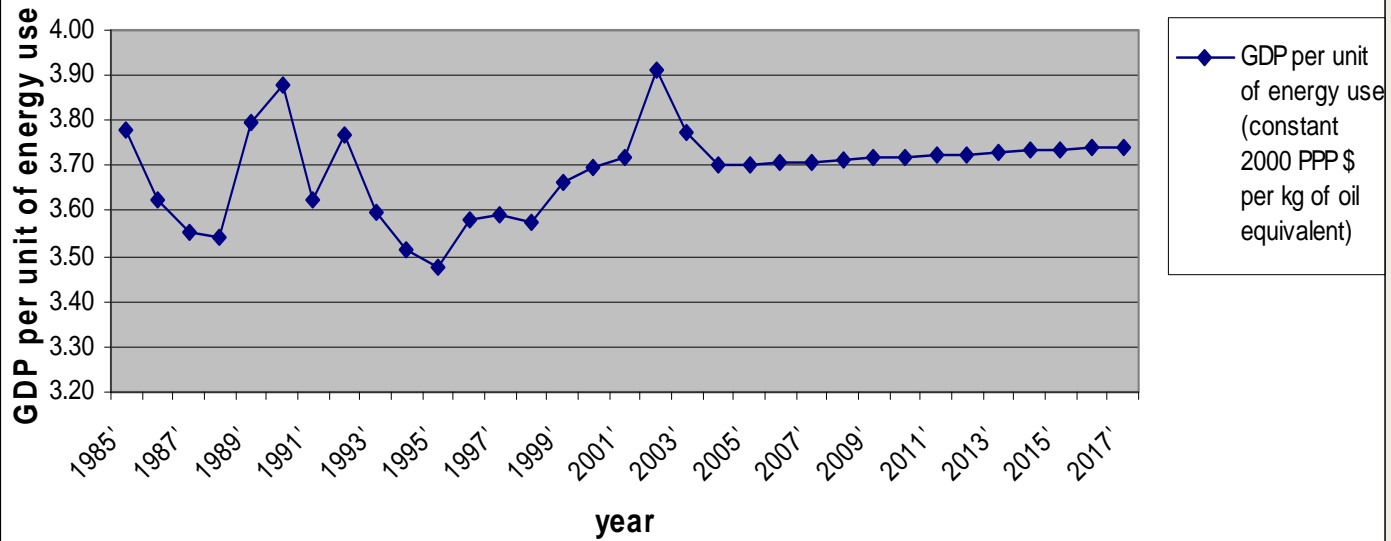
### Forest Lands (percent of national land area)



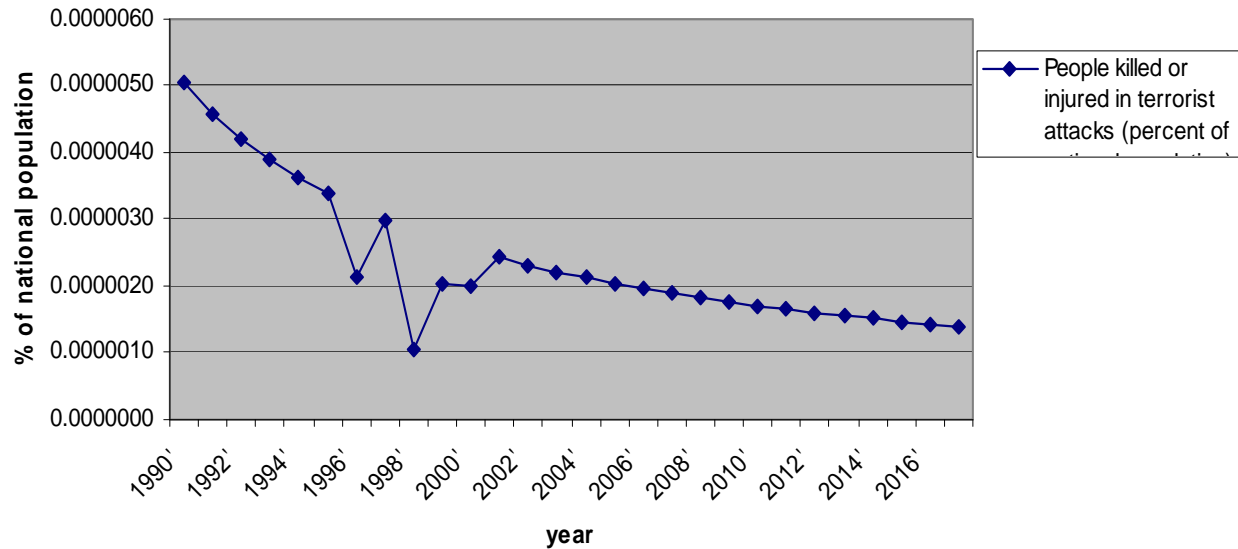
### Households lacking access to improved water sources (yard connection to house) (percent of national Households)



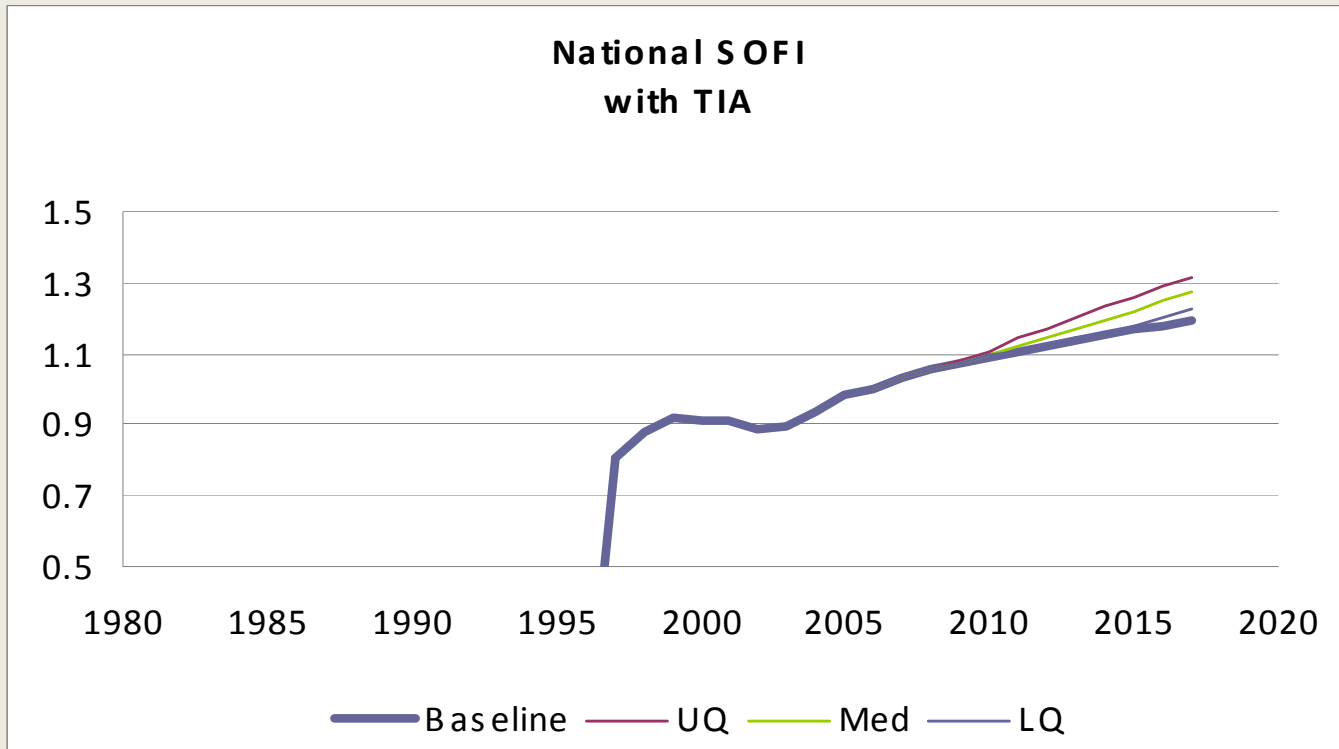
**GDP per unit of energy use (constant 2000 PPP \$ per kg of oil equivalent)**



**People killed or injured in terrorist attacks (percent of national population)**

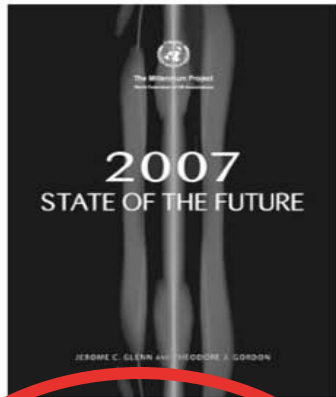


# National South Africa SOFI with TIA – 1st Cut



# Way Forward

- Revising National Comparison SOFI
- Development and computation of National Focus SOFI
- Participation in:
  - Resource group: To participate in Delphi and other consultative processes in project
  - Domain experts: To provide technical expert inputs regarding particular indicators / trends (e.g. energy, demography, etc.)
  - Implementation networks: national, regional
  - Ongoing research funding support



**HSRC**  
Human Sciences  
Research Council

Seminar  
Series

## Futures Research and the State of the Future

You are cordially invited to attend this seminar in the 2007 HSRC Seminar Series

The following seminar will be presented from Cape Town, but may be attended via video conference in Pretoria and Durban

The lecture will provide an overview of *Futures Research and the State of the Future*. We frequently hear about "Scenarios" "Foresight" "Roadmapping" "Futures research", but what do they mean, what methods are they employed, what results are produced, and are these results credible and useful, and what are the implications for social and policy research? This seminar will take advantage of the first International Futures Conference in South Africa ([www.sampnode.co.za](http://www.sampnode.co.za)) to begin discussing these questions with a panel of practitioners and researchers in the field.

Human Sciences Research Council

Date: **Friday  
9 November**

Time: 13:00 to 14:30

Venue: Video Conference Centres  
HSRC Buildings  
Pretoria,  
Cape Town,  
Durban

Jerome C. Glenn  
Director: Global Millennium Project

José Cordeiro  
Chair: Venezuela Node of the MP  
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More time to  
engage on  
method and  
details



**HSRC**  
Human Sciences  
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*Thank You!*

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