

# ON A CLEAR DAY 2020



On A Clear Day: Issue 741, 6 February 2020

## NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

**FIRST COHORT OF IRM PLUMBING CANDIDATES BEGIN WORKPLACE-BASED LEARNING** The National Business Initiative (NBI) has started the implementation of the **Installation, Repair and Maintenance (IRM) Initiative**. [Read here.](#)

**BUILDING LEADERSHIP AND MOMENTUM AROUND CLIMATE ACTION IN THE LEAD UP TO COP26** Last week, the NBI hosted a session with **Nick Bridge**, the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change which focussed on building climate ambition and private sector leadership in the lead up to COP26, taking place in Glasgow, Scotland from 9 to 19 November 2020. This COP may well be the most important gathering on climate change since the Paris agreement was signed in 2015 as it seeks to resolve outstanding issues on the Paris Agreement operating 'rulebook', needed for when the Agreement takes effect in 2020. If you are an **NBI Member Company** and would like to be part of the **South Africa Pavilion at COP26**, please contact: [Reitumetse Molotsoane](#).

**THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE (NBI) HAS COMMENCED WITH THE GENDER PAY GAP PILOT**, in partnership with the **Southern Centre for Inequality Studies** at the University of Witwatersrand, to develop a standardized methodology to calculate the gender pay-gap in South African companies. Understanding income disparities in South Africa requires applying economic models which reflect the gendered and racial aspects of the pay-gap. In addition to the NBI's published report on ***Gender Equity in the Workplace***, this pilot project will serve as a basis for the development of an online platform which will assist companies in assessing the extent of their income disparities. A report on key findings and insights of the pilot is set to be launched in July 2020. Companies interested in participating in this project are encouraged to contact: [Khanyisa Nomoyi](#).

## INDUSTRY NEWS

**ETHICS DRIVE TRUST MORE THAN COMPETENCE** Ethics is considered three times more important to company trust than competence, according to the 2020 Edelman Trust Barometer. Launched at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos,

the annual survey, which tracks trust and credibility across 28 global markets is now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year. [Richard Rattue, MoneyMarketing, 5 February 2020.](#)

**IMPACT INVESTMENT PLATFORM LAUNCHED TO BOOST INVESTMENT IN SDGS** SDG500, a \$500m impact investment platform, has launched, combining partners from the private and public sectors, including United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and a private equity firm, to catalyze investments that will help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [Bob Koigi, Africa Business Communities, 5 February 2020.](#)

**BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS: 4 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR 2020** In January, the environment was top of mind among the world's most notable business leaders at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos. According to the WEF's 2020 Global Risk Report, destruction of nature negatively will affect bottom lines and generally, these risks are undervalued by business decision-makers. [Hank Cauley, GreenBiz, 5 February 2020.](#)

**UK PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHES UN CLIMATE SUMMIT COP26** UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has launched the UN Climate Summit COP26 in London today. [Rachel Cooper, Climate Action, 4 February 2020.](#)

**#MININGINDABA: DIGITISATION TO CREATE JOBS IN SOUTH AFRICA'S MINING SECTOR** Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe's opening address at the Mining Indaba in Cape Town on Monday morning was positive for the industry, providing the affirmation that government will be allowing mines to address the issue of power generation by means of self-generation. [African Independent, 4 February 2020.](#)

**WWF'S RESPONSE TO THE RELEASE OF RHINO POACHING STATISTICS FOR 2019** WWF welcomes the reported decline in the number of rhinos lost to poaching in South Africa in 2019 (as announced by the Department of the Environment, Forestry and Fisheries\* today), and commends Minister Barbara Creecy for sharing the results of the combined efforts of government, private, community and NGO partners. [WWF-SA 3 February 2020.](#)

## NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

**STANDARD BANK, MERCHANT CAPITAL LAUNCH PRODUCT TO ADDRESS SME FUNDING GAP** Standard Bank and Merchant Capital have teamed up to launch a Shari'ah funding solution that aims to both address the significant small business funding gap in South Africa while offering a new source of working capital for entrepreneurs. [IOL Business, 5 February 2020.](#)

**INVESTEC LAUNCHES SA'S FIRST STRUCTURED PRODUCT THAT ADDRESSES ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY** The drive to protect the planet and to make sure human development is done in an environmentally sustainable way is already becoming one of the key issues of the 2020s. [MoneyMarketing, 4 February 2020.](#)

**ANGLO AMERICAN EMBRACES SUSTAINABILITY** Leading mining company Anglo American yesterday advocated for sustainability in the mining industry as pressure mounts for the industry to embrace climate change. [IOL Business, 4 February 2020.](#)

**VODACOM POSTS 6.6% RISE IN QUARTERLY REVENUE** Telecommunications giant Vodacom reported 6.6% growth in group revenue to R23.6-billion for the quarter ended December 31, as two-million customers were added to the network. [Engineering News, 4 February 2020.](#)

**A LOOK AT DELOITTE'S NEW CAPE TOWN OFFICES – WHICH WILL HAVE 'PAUSE AREAS' FOR EMPLOYEES** Cape Town's V&A Waterfront has announced its newest development project – a commercial building named The Ridge, which will accommodate the Cape Town offices of professional services firm Deloitte. [BusinessTech, 4 February 2020.](#)

**ABSA AND THE DIGITAL ACADEMY SHOWCASE TECH SOLUTIONS CREATED BY YOUNG TALENT** The Absa Group and The Digital Academy today showcased solutions designed to solve everyday problems, developed by students at the academy. [IOL Business, 3 February 2020.](#)

## NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

**TOURISM TO TACKLE PLASTIC POLLUTION WITH NEW COMMITMENT** The goal of the [Global Tourism Plastics Initiative](#) is to bring the tourism sector together under a common vision to transition to a circular plastic economy and sustainability in the sector. [UNEP, 29 January 2020.](#)

**THE 2020 EDELMAN TRUST BAROMETER REVEALS** that despite a strong global economy and near full employment, none of the four societal institutions that the study measures—government, business, NGOs and media—is trusted. The cause of this paradox can be found in people’s fears about the future and their role in it, which are a wake-up call for our institutions to embrace a new way of effectively building trust: balancing competence with ethical behaviour. [Click here to download the 2020 Edelman Trust Barometer report.](#)

**BANK 2030: ACCELERATING THE TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON ECONOMY** A report authored by the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership’s (CISL) Banking Environment Initiative (BEI) highlights the need for banks to develop an ‘active mindset’ in order to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy. [Download the report.](#)

**2020 ECO-LOGIC AWARDS CALLING SA’S GREENEST** South Africans can look forward to the 9th annual Eco-Logic Awards which will take place 05 June 2020 (World Environment Day). Hosted by the Enviropaedia, entries are now open for individuals, organisations and communities who are making a difference through environmentally sustainable initiatives. [Getaway Magazine, 29 January 2020.](#)

**NIGEL TOPPING APPOINTED UK HIGH LEVEL CLIMATE ACTION CHAMPION** Nigel Topping has today been appointed by the UK Government as its High-Level Climate Action Champion ahead of UN climate talks, COP26. [UN Climate Change, 23 January 2020.](#)

### NBI INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Bringing you news and the latest research from our international partners

**CDP** in South Africa is a long-standing partnership between the London-based CDP and the NBI. They have built the most comprehensive collection of self-reported environmental information in the world. Over the past 19 years CDP has created a system that has resulted in unparalleled engagement on environmental issues. Read their latest **News Article** entitled, “[Your journey to environmental leadership depends on your suppliers](#)”, [here.](#)

**UNGC CEO WATER MANDATE** NBI partners with the CEO Water Mandate to encourage water stewardship in South Africa. Established by the UN Global Compact in 2007 and rooted in the belief that cross-sectoral collaboration on shared water goals is the most effective path to more sustainable water management, the CEO Water Mandate is a unique public-private initiative that mobilizes business leaders for water stewardship. Read their **January 2020 News Update**, [here.](#)

**WE MEAN BUSINESS (WMB)** NBI is the South African partner to WMB. WMB is a coalition of organizations working with thousands of the world’s most influential businesses and investors to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy. Read their latest **Blog Article**, entitled, “[Corporate leadership in the decade of delivery – Our last best chance for 1.5°C](#)”, [here.](#)

**WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD)** WBCSD is a global, CEO-led organization of over 200 leading businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world. The NBI is the global partner of the WBCSD in South Africa. Read their latest **News Article** entitled, “[Why we need circularity at the heart of climate action](#)”, [here.](#)

## NBI EVENTS/WORSHOPS | 2020

**EXPANDING PROSPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN THE WESTERN CAPE'S BOOMING RENEWABLE ENERGY AND GREEN ECONOMY | Friday, 7 February 2020 | The Westin Cape Town | The National Business Initiative (NBI)** manages the implementation of the **Installation, Repair and Maintenance (IRM) Initiative**, a national programme to expand artisanal learning and employment pathways for young people, with a particular focus on the Green Economy. In partnership with **GreenCape, Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator** and **TVET Colleges**, the **IRM Initiative** will implement a series of programmes to grow economic opportunities for young people in the **city of Cape Town**, with an initial focus on the **Atlantis SEZ** and all the opportunities this **SEZ** offers business to tap into the \$3-trillion global clean technology market. These programmes are demand-driven, responding to the demand for skills in the local economy, and therefore depend on strong involvement and buy-in from industry; and which will enable the economic opportunities to be realized. Kindly click [here](#) should you wish to attend this engagement.

**ADAPTATION FINANCE EVENTS 2020 “Unlocking Private Sector Involvement in the Green Climate Fund Projects in South Africa” | Event 2: Climate Finance: Wednesday, 12 February 2020 | FutureSpace, Sandton | The National Business Initiative (NBI) and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) are hosting a series of events towards building a pipeline of adaptation and biodiversity-based adaptation projects to alleviate the acute shortage of adaption projects locally; and to attract up to US\$50 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). View further details on the series of events, [here](#).**

**NBI/BRAND SOUTH AFRICA: AN INVESTOR’S OUTLOOK ON BRAND SOUTH AFRICA - CAPE TOWN | Thursday, 27 February 2020 | The Westin, Cape Town | What can the South African economy learn about South African brands? According to the latest Brand Finance South Africa annual report, the growth of South African brands consistently outpace the South African GDP. It is a fascinating phenomenon that needs further analysis. Join us for this engagement as we explore and take stock of the economy through the eyes of the investor, whilst also exchanging information on the on-the-ground experiences of doing business in South Africa. [RSVP here](#).**

## SOUTH AFRICAN EVENTS/WORKSHOPS | 2020

**INTERNATIONALLY CERTIFIED GRI SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING STANDARDS COURSE** (earning 2 SACNASP CPD credits), followed by the course on **GRI Disclosures (Performance Indicators) | 10 to 12 February 2020 | Glenhove Events Hub in Johannesburg | For more information visit: [www.ess-sustainability.co.za](http://www.ess-sustainability.co.za), e-mail: [seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za](mailto:seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za) or phone: 082 395 7582.**

**INTERNATIONALLY CERTIFIED IIRC COURSE ON INTEGRATED REPORTING FOR PRACTITIONERS | 13 to 14 February 2020 | Glenhove Events Hub in Johannesburg | Offered jointly by ESS and ENACT. For more information visit: [www.ess-sustainability.co.za](http://www.ess-sustainability.co.za), e-mail: [seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za](mailto:seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za) or phone: 082 395 7582.**

**THE GIBS/NEDBANK BIG TRENDS 2020 BREAKFAST | 18 February 2020 | GIBS, Illovo | This breakfast event provides a powerful look at the political, socio-economic, technological, digital and business trends that will impact our 2020 and beyond. [GIBS Website](#).**

**BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS INDABA | 18 February 2020 | Gallagher Conference Centre, Midrand | The EWT's National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN) recognises the importance of biodiversity to business and aims to build the capacity of business to act as a positive force for the conservation of biodiversity in South Africa. [Details here](#).**

**CARBON-RELATED COURSES | 24 to 27 February 2020 | Glenhove Events Hub in Johannesburg | SA GHG Reporting Regulations: 24 February; SA Carbon Tax Requirements: 25 February; GHG Emissions Inventory (ISO 14064-1) and Carbon Projects, Trading and Offsetting (ISO 14064-2): 26 to 27 February. Offered jointly by ESS and Water Energy Carbon Consulting. For more information visit: [www.ess-sustainability.co.za](http://www.ess-sustainability.co.za), e-mail: [seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za](mailto:seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za) or phone: 082 395 7582.**

**SAVE THE DATE: ENERGY WATER WASTE FORUM FOR 2020 | 27 February 2020 | Old Mutual, Pinelands** | The first Energy Water Waste Forum for 2020 will focus on the following topics: Businesses' carbon neutral commitments: What does it mean and how do we do it? Designing a carbon neutral building from the ground up, finding spatial planning examples that optimise resource efficiency, looking at precincts and portfolios that are going green and workshopping Cape Town's climate action plan and how businesses can thrive in a carbon neutral future. A detailed programme to follow shortly.

## INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS | 2019

**WORKSHOP: SCIENCE BASED TARGET SETTING FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS | 11 February 2020 | London, UK** | An opportunity for stakeholders to help shape criteria for financial institutions to set science-based climate targets. [WRI Website](#).

**THE ECONOMIST: INVESTING FOR IMPACT: 2020 VISION | 13 to 14 February 2020 | NY, US** | The Economist Events' Investing for Impact summit returns to its fourth year in New York to take stock of an eventful time for the industry, to examine how it can deepen its reach, learn from failures and roadblocks, and leverage the latest developments in technology. [BSR Website](#).

**CLIMATE CHANGE: SOLUTIONS FOR A CHANGING PLANET | 24 to 28 February 2020 | Dubai, UAE** | Harmful emissions, the degradation of the earth's resources and global warming have loomed large for decades. But how do we turn our commitments into action? [More information](#).

**WBCSD LIAISON DELEGATE MEETING | Montreux, Switzerland | 20 to 23 April 2020** | [Register here](#) (password: montreux2020) to join 400 global sustainability professionals from all sectors at our traditional Liaison Delegate meeting in lovely Montreux, Switzerland. Please note that our Global Network session will take place on Monday 20 April morning.



### **National Business Initiative (NBI)**

5th Floor, 61 Katherine Street, Sandton

The National Business Initiative (NBI) respects your right to privacy, if you do not wish to receive any further On A Clear Day's from the NBI, please click [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) and your name will be removed from the mailing list.