

ON A CLEAR DAY 2020



On A Clear Day: Issue 746, 12 March 2020

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

ESG: DO YOU HAVE THE POLICIES IN PLACE TO PROTECT YOUR COMPANY FROM SHAREHOLDER ACTIVISTS? Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) is becoming increasingly important as stakeholders place greater pressure on companies to ensure their business model is resilient and sustainable. **Steve Nicholls, NBI's Head of Environment** participated in a panel discussion on Tuesday at FTI Consulting's ESG engagement held in Johannesburg, along with other panel experts, Martin Porter, Dr Adrian Saville and Franita Neuville. View highlights [here](#) and access the report [here](#).

NBI'S SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE is an advisory body of representatives from member companies and external advisors who work closely with the NBI in addressing social transformation. Participation and engagement in this committee is crucial for the successful and sustained delivery of NBI's transformation programme, which aims to activate recommitment to working towards equality and inclusion, build on best practice and create innovative and effective solutions towards social transformation, facilitate meaningful and constructive dialogues and build understanding that supports social cohesion and coordinate collective and collaborative approaches to create a more equal, effective and cohesive society. Our committee meetings focus on understanding our members' strategic needs, updating members on the programme, NBI's social transformation events and current industry trends and best practice. For further information or to participate in the committee, please contact: [Bridgette Mdangayi](#).

THE NBI IS SURVEYING LGBTQI+ EMPLOYEES as part of our research to understand LGBTQI+ experiences in the workplace and to create strategies which support and enhance inclusion and representation in the workplace. Those interested in participating in our survey should click [here](#). Please take note that participation in the survey is limited to employees who personally identify with the LGBTQI+ community.

INDUSTRY NEWS

WHY 2020 IS THE CRUNCH YEAR FOR CLIMATE RISK REPORTING Companies are clearly feeling the heat as investors ramp up pressure to address and disclose climate and energy transition risks. [Will Nichols, GreenBiz, 12 March 2020.](#)

GOOGLE TO TRAIN 20,000 WOMEN ACROSS AFRICA IN 2020 In honour of International Women's Day, Google announced it is doubling down on its commitment to women in Africa and aims to train 20,000 women this year. [BizCommunity, 12 March 2020.](#)

4 NATIONS ARE THE FIRST TO SUBMIT STRONGER CLIMATE PLANS (NDCs). WHO'S NEXT? Countries pledged as part of the 2015 Paris Agreement to update their national climate plans (NDCs) every five years. This year is the first test of their intent to strengthen their commitments and reduce emissions enough to limit global temperature rise to 1.5-2 degrees C. This long-term vision cannot happen without setting ambitious climate plans now. [Noémie Leprince-Rinquet, WRI, 11 March 2020.](#)

ESG GAINING PROMINENCE IN SA, BUT MORE TO BE DONE Environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) is gaining prominence in South Africa, but is still not at the level it should be, a panel of speakers at FTI Consulting's ESG breakfast discussion, held in Johannesburg on Tuesday, agreed. [Tasneem Bulbulia, Engineering News, 10 March 2020.](#)

HOW CAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DELIVER ON THE PARIS AGREEMENT? This is a critical year for climate action. Five years after the landmark Paris Agreement, world governments will convene in Glasgow this November to put more ambitious national climate action plans on the table. [Cynthia Cummins, Responsible Investor/WRI, 9 March 2020.](#)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS NEED A FINAL PUSH WITH JUST 10 YEARS TO GO Since their adoption by 193 countries in 2015, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals have been hailed as the "most ambitious" and "transformative" agenda for fixing the world's biggest challenges to date. [The Conversation, 8 March 2020.](#)

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

EXXARO LIFTS DIVIDEND, CREATES 746 JOBS, SUPPORTS 30 ENTERPRISES Black-controlled diversified resources group Exxaro, which created 746 jobs and supported 30 small, medium-sized and microenterprises in the twelve months to December 31, reported a R235-million top-line 2019 increase, raised its dividend payout and lifted headline earnings a share. [Engineering News, 12 March 2020.](#)

GIBS ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY TAKING TOWNSHIP ENTREPRENEURS TO THE NEXT LEVEL The Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) Entrepreneurship Development Academy (EDA) has pledged its continued support to capacitating township entrepreneurs following the successful implementation of their Khulisanani/Godisanang and GrowYourBiz initiatives that were aimed at assisting retail entrepreneurs in township businesses across South Africa. [BizCommunity, 11 March 2020.](#)

STANDARD BANK FUNDING MODEL HELPS GROWTHPOINT INVESTEC AFRICAN PROPERTIES EXPANSION A funding solution from Standard Bank's Real Estate Financing division has helped Growthpoint Investec African Properties Limited (GIAP) expand its sub-Saharan footprint, following the acquisition of properties from the RMB Westport Fund I (RMBW). [IOL Business, 11 March 2020.](#)

ABSA REPORTS 3% RISE IN FULL-YEAR PROFIT South African lender Absa posted a 3% increase in full-year profit on Wednesday, but warned it would take longer to achieve its 18% to 20% return on equity (ROE) target as the economy splutters. [IOL Business, 11 March 2020.](#)

MTN NIGERIA, GHANA LIFT GROUP YEAR-END EARNINGS Telecommunications giant MTN on Wednesday reported an increase in earnings for the year ended December 31, 2019, on the back of strong performance in Nigeria and Ghana. [Engineering News, 11 March 2020.](#)

FIRSTRAND REPORTS 5% HALF-YEAR PROFIT RISE FirstRand reported a 5% rise in normalised half-year profits on Tuesday, lifting its shares even as it warned the impact of a rapidly deteriorating economy in South Africa was becoming evident across its customer base. [Moneyweb, 10 March 2020.](#)

VODACOM TO CUT ITS DATA PRICES Vodacom has agreed to cut headline data prices and will expand its zero-rating of certain websites in an agreement with the Competition Commission. [Moneyweb, 10 March 2020.](#)

NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

FIRST STANDARDIZED GUIDELINES TO MEASURE PLASTIC POLLUTION ACROSS CORPORATE VALUE CHAINS PUBLISHED BY THE PLASTIC LEAK PROJECT The Plastic Leak Project recently released the [Plastic Leak Project \(PLP\) Guidelines](#) which provide businesses at all stages of the value chain with a robust, standardized method for calculating and reporting estimates of plastic and microplastic leakage at both the corporate and product level. These insights will provide businesses with a strong foundation to define meaningful and effective strategies and actions for eliminating plastic pollution.

UN REACHES 90:90 GENDER PARITY IN SENIOR LEADERSHIP TRANSFORMING ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE The United Nations claims it has reached one of its primary goals relating to women's rights in the world body: gender parity at senior levels of management and in the highest echelons of the Organization. [Inter Press Service, 11 March 2020.](#)

FORBES WOMAN AFRICA 2020 AWARDS AFRICA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN Following a day's engagement with the continent's most dynamic women, the illustrious awards' ceremony which honoured women for breaking ground in a number of key categories at the 2020 FORBES WOMAN AFRICA Gala Dinner was held at Inkosi Albert Luthuli ICC Complex in Durban on Friday, 6 March 2020. [BizNis, 8 March 2020.](#)

KEEP THE LIGHTS ON THIS EARTH HOUR WWF South Africa is turning this year's Earth Hour celebration upside down by urging its supporters to "shine a light" on the issue of the day – how to keep our lights on in a way that is good for both people and the planet. [WWF-SA, 4 March 2020.](#)

JOIN SOUTH AFRICA'S TOP GENDER EMPOWERED NETWORK Nominations for the 17th annual Standard Bank Top Women awards celebration are now open. [Further information.](#)

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. [Further information.](#)

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 [press release](#) entitled: "[Annual ranking reveals best equity funds for climate performance](#)", [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 [February 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. Watch their latest [Blog Article](#), entitled: "[Zero-Carbon Transition: Latest signals of change](#)", [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 **Insights Article** entitled, “**The role of business in the global road safety agenda**”, [here](#).

NBI EVENTS/WORSHOPS | 2020

BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION - UNLOCKING PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND PROJECTS IN SOUTH AFRICA | Tuesday, 24 March 2020 | FutureSpace, Sandton | The NBI and SANBI have launched this 3-phase project designed to help identify areas of vulnerability, areas where our member companies are working on adaptation projects already and where, through collaboration, we can scale up these projects to enhance impact and to attract climate finance. **Event 4** will focus on nature-based solutions anchored in biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation that address the drivers and impacts of climate change, while securing the flow of ecosystem services that support economic growth and human well-being. Please contact: [Reitumetse Molotsoane](#) for further information or [RSVP here](#).

SOUTH AFRICAN EVENTS/WORKSHOPS | 2020

SUSTAINABILITY PRACTITIONER PROGRAMME | 15 to 18 March 2020 | Diemersfontein Wine Estate, Wellington, Cape Town | The [Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership's](#) Sustainability Practitioner Programme enables managers in the private or public sector to influence and guide their organisation to take an integrated approach to sustainability across all functions. The programme is widely regarded as the most effective of its kind. Designed for those specifically charged with driving sustainability in their organisation, this programme provides access to the latest data on the global challenges facing us, tools and frameworks for action, and bold business responses from around the world. Participants explore the strategic implications for their own business, and effective approaches to engage all levels of the organisation. Applications are made via the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership [online application form](#) - all applicants are subject to selection panel approval.

SEED SOUTH AFRICA SYMPOSIUM 2020 INVITATION | 17 to 18 March 2020 | CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria | The theme for this year is: “**Water Wise and Climate Smart Entrepreneurship for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilient Communities**”. The symposium is a flagship event implemented through the “Reaping the potential of Entrepreneurship for a Climate- Smart Inclusive Green Economy in South Africa (ECSIGE) Project which is funded by The Government of Flanders and implemented in partnership with the Climate Innovation Centre SA and Adelphi Research. To register for participation in the symposium (use the promotional code “**SSAS20!@20**”), kindly [click here](#).

PROUDLY SA BUY LOCAL SUMMIT & EXPO | 23 to 24 March 2020 | Sandton Convention Centre | The 9th annual Buy Local Summit & Expo comprises 2 days of conferencing, a Business Solutions Hub and Expo. Over 200 exclusively Proudly South African companies from large corporations to small artisanal crafters will be exhibiting. Visit the Expo to source new buyers and suppliers for your entire supply and value chain and increase your company’s levels of local procurement. [Register here](#).

CLIMATE RISK IS HIGH BUSINESS RISK | 24 March 2020 | GIBS, Illovo | It is no longer good enough to play on the side-lines, businesses around the world need to take a stand on sustainability and lead by example. Businesses need to question their purpose, connect with the world, the needs of society and our common humanity. They need to act, rather than react. [GIBS Website](#).

TRIALOGUE BUSINESS IN SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2020 | 21 to 22 April 2020 | Wanderers Club, Melrose | Responsible Business Consultancy Triologue in collaboration with corporate partners and sponsors, will present the 13th annual Triologue Business in Society Conference, themed 20/20 vision in April. This industry-leading annual event promotes

thought leadership, cross-sector collaboration and innovation for more effective development, and brings together more than 400 corporate, non-profit, government, media and academic delegates. Visit the [Triologue Website](#) for more information and to register.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS | 2019

THE RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS SUMMIT NEW YORK 2020 | 17 to 18 March 2020 | NY, USA | The Responsible Business Summit New York 2020 will convene 750+ leaders from across the globe to share their latest strategies, and more importantly, tangible insights into how they are helping deliver the required transformation of business. How they're delivering a sustainable economy. [Further information and registration.](#)

CDP WEBINAR: A GUIDE TO BEST PRACTICE CDP DISCLOSURES IN 2020 | 19 March 2020 | 16:00 GMT | Alongside special guest, Camilla Gori from CDP, we will be exploring the important influences shaping the CDP Questionnaires, the significance of climate reporting on our journey to Net Zero, as well as providing practical guidance on how to improve your company's score and reach for that A list! Register [here](#).

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.

AFRICA CLIMATE WEEK 2020 | Kampala, Uganda | 20 to 24 April 2020 | Africa Climate Week 2020 will convene under the theme, 'Partnering for Transformation towards a Low-carbon Climate-resilient and Prosperous Africa: Managing Risks, Seizing Opportunities'. The event aims to mobilize and enhance partnerships and collaborative approaches, including to respond to the urgent need to understand the risks and impacts of climate change and integrate this knowledge in planning at all levels and in all sectors. [Further details.](#)



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