

ON A CLEAR DAY 2020



On A Clear Day: Issue 749, 2 April 2020

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

THE NBI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 [View here](#). If you are an NBI member company and would like to be profiled on this website page, please contact: [Gillian Hutchings](#).

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE recently cut its assessment of South Africa to sub-investment grade, stating that constrained and unreliable electricity supply, persistently weak business confidence & investment, and limited structural reform continue to constrain the economy. Read the CEO Initiative's reaction on to this, [here](#).

WASH IS OUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE AGAINST COVID-19 Water access is at the centre of the South African COVID-19 response. South Africa's densely populated areas that lack piped water or adequate handwashing facilities are at increased risk of COVID-19 transmission. Reducing transmission requires adhering to WASH (water, sanitation & hygiene) principles while urgently increasing water access nationally. Read about WRC's dialogue on water quality, sanitation and hygiene in light of COVID-19, [here](#).

THE NBI AND BUSA COVID-19 WATER TASK TEAM The NBI and BUSA COVID-19 Water Task Team has commenced with an emergency water response to combat the coronavirus. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has identified about 2 000 communities that have no water services to facilitate hand washing to reduce the risk of infection and has implemented a programme of action to fast track the provision of rudimentary water systems. [Read here](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

ORCHESTRATING THE ENERGY TRANSITION: TUNING INTO BUILDINGS The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has declared that this transition must occur within the next 10 years to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avert a global climate catastrophe. [Seth Coan, GreenBiz, 2 April 2020](#).

GOOD NEWS ON BLACK RHINO CONSERVATION Nearly two decades of hard work on behalf of black rhinos is paying off. WWF's Black Rhino Range Expansion Project (BRREP) was started in 2003 by far-sighted conservationists who saw the need to create new black rhino populations on large areas of good habitat. [WWF, 2 April 2020.](#)

CORONAVIRUS FORCES POSTPONEMENT OF UN'S COP26 CLIMATE SUMMIT The UN climate talks due to be held in Glasgow later this year have been postponed as governments around the world struggle to halt the spread of coronavirus. [Jillian Ambrose and Fiona Harvey, The Guardian, 1 April 2020.](#)

UN CLIMATE CHANGE SECRETARIAT HAS NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE Effective today, the UN Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat is operating according to a new structure, as part of an organizational change initiative to overhaul the secretariat as the UN lead entity supporting the intergovernmental Climate Change process and to mobilize Climate Action towards global transformation to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement in an effective, efficient manner. [UN Climate Change News, 1 April 2020.](#)

OCEANS CAN BE RESTORED TO FORMER GLORY WITHIN 30 YEARS, SAY SCIENTISTS The glory of the world's oceans could be restored within a generation, according to a major new scientific review. It reports rebounding sea life, from humpback whales off Australia to elephant seals in the US and green turtles in Japan. [Damian Carrington, The Guardian, 1 April 2020.](#)

THESE SIX INTELLIGENCES WILL DRIVE SMART LEADERSHIP IN DISRUPTED TIMES Sometimes it takes a crisis to reveal gaps and discontinuities. The coronavirus pandemic has revealed how some leaders are challenged by the unexpected and the need to innovate "ahead of the curve." [Johan Kao, The European Sting/WEF, 31 March 2020.](#)

AI CAN HELP WITH THE COVID-19 CRISIS – BUT THE RIGHT HUMAN INPUT IS KEY Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to help us tackle the pressing issues raised by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is not the technology itself, though, that will make the difference but rather the knowledge and creativity of the humans who use it. [Matissa Hollister, The European Sting/WEF, 30 March 2020.](#)

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

WHAT NBI MEMBER COMPANIES ARE DOING IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 [View here.](#)

FNB HAS ANNOUNCED A NEW EBUCKS PARTNER, CLICKS FNB's partnership with Clicks will allow eBucks customers to earn and spend eBucks at Clicks stores and online. [IOL Business, 2 April 2020.](#)

VODACOM LOWERS DATA PRICES BY UP TO 40% IN LINE WITH COMPETITION AUTHORITY AGREEMENT Vodacom has cut more mobile data prices by up to 40% from April 1. In March, the network operator said it had reached an agreement with competition authorities to reduce prices across all of its data bundles starting from April. [Business Day, 1 April 2020.](#)

SANLAM APPOINTS NEW CEO, TO TAKE OVER BY JULY South Africa's largest insurer Sanlam announced new faces to its top three jobs on Tuesday, naming non-executive director Paul Hanratty as new CEO from July to succeed Ian Kirk who said earlier this month he would step down. [Moneyweb, 31 March 2020.](#)

MTN MAKES STRIDES WITH ITS BRIGHT STRATEGY Telecommunications group MTN has made strides in implementing its Bright strategy, with social and economic impact reported across its markets in Africa and the Middle East during the year ended December 31, 2019. [Engineering News, 31 March 2020.](#)

NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

THE GREEN BOOK PROVIDES ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF THE COVID-19 RESPONSE In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa, the Green Book is providing access to information to assist with risk

and vulnerability mapping and analysis. The team has created vulnerability indicators in support of identifying high-risk areas in our country, considering health susceptibility and transmission potential. [Further information.](#)

COMETH THE HOUR, COMETH THE CALL FOR COLLABORATIVE ACTION AGAINST COVID-19 Facing unprecedented times globally, this COVID-19 challenge calls for focus, creative thinking, cooperation and collaborative action. COVID-19 is impacting us all, in all walks of life, to the core and dramatically demonstrates our inter-connectivity and interdependence. It is profoundly challenging human health and the human spirit. From a business point of view, this is a defining moment for leadership and action. [Sue Atkins, LinkedIn, 1 April 2020.](#)

VICTIMS OF ABUSE CAN TURN TO THE GBV COMMAND CENTRE DURING LOCKDOWN Vulnerable women and children who are at risk of abuse can turn to the Gender-Based Violence Command Centre for help during the 21-day national lockdown. [News24, 25 March 2020.](#)

COVID-19 MACRO-ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES “Just when developing countries need to manage the pandemic, most have seen their fiscal space evaporate,” says **Professor Ricardo Hausmann**, one of the world’s leading experts on what drives economic growth, especially in developing countries. Hausmann provides an excellent analysis of the macro-economic implications of COVID-19 as well as recommendations for developing countries and international institutions. View presentation [here](#) or watch recording [here](#).

AFRICAN VENTURE PHILANTHROPY ALLIANCE (AVPA), a pan African network of social investors whose aim is to increase the flow of capital into social challenges on the continent, is stepping up to assist in co-ordinating players to support the countrywide and continental efforts against CORVID 19, more so where it concerns the most vulnerable in our communities. This initiative has further been driven by lessons from our sister networks in Europe and Asia whose members wish that they had not only been better prepared, but also more aggressive in their response to what they’ve just experienced with CORVID 19. Kindly urgently contact [Dr. Frank Aswani](#) to get involved with this Initiative or **register your Project/Company/Organisation, [here](#).**

WE ARE JUST A FEW SHORT MONTHS AWAY FROM THE 17TH ANNUAL STANDARD BANK TOP WOMEN AWARDS. This collaborative platform is dedicated to recognising organisations and individuals who are shaping women’s roles in the private and public sectors. With these awards, we honour those with unfailing vision and whose innovative leadership has had a significant impact in their communities and broader society. [Enter now.](#)

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 15 years CDP has created a system that has resulted in unparalleled engagement on environmental issues. Read their latest **News Article** entitled: **“Helping companies use data to drive down forest loss”**, [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 **March 2020 Latest 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 Insight** from interim CEO, Dr María Mendiluce, entitled: "**COVID-19 stimulus should address health, the economy and climate together**", [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, "**Business response to COVID-19: Business as unusual, reshaping the present and the future**", [here](#).

NBI EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS | 2020

Due to concerns of COVID-19 the NBI has taken the decision to postpone our Thought Leadership Dialogues and Events, while simultaneously ascertaining which can be run remotely. Details will be communicated in due course.

WEBINARS | 2020

SA CITIES NETWORK URBAN GOVERNANCE PAPER SERIES – WEBINAR | 8 April 2020 | The South African Cities Network (SACN) invites you to participate in a webinar to launch the Urban Governance Paper Series. The papers explore different issues that affect the ability of cities to deliver on their mandate. Join us and the paper authors to discuss urban governance across four themes: positive rights and service delivery; accountability, democracy and participation; administration, finance and governance; and the private sector and innovation. [Register here](#).

BSR WEBINAR: REDUCING VALUE CHAIN EMISSIONS TO ACHIEVE SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS | 22 April 2020 | Business has a vital role to play in the effort to limit global warming to 1.5°C in line with the Paris Agreement targets—and ambition is rising. To date, more than 1,200 companies, with a market capitalization of more than USD\$20 trillion, have committed to setting science-based targets (SBTs) to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in line with climate science. [Further details](#).

GREENBIZ WEBINAR | STATE OF THE PROFESSION 2020 | 28 April 2020 | GreenBiz Group's sixth State of the Profession report once again takes a look at the evolution of the role of the sustainability leader in today's business world. [Register here](#).

PODCAST: ADJUSTING TO REMOTE WORK DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS Tsedal Neeley, a professor at Harvard Business School, says that there are simple ways leaders can help their employees stay productive, focused, and psychologically healthy as they work from home during the current global pandemic. [HBR, March 2020](#).

WEBINAR RECORDING: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2020: NOW IS THE MOMENT TO #BIASCORRECT International Women's Day (IWD) is an annual day of awareness-building and celebration, dedicated to accelerating the progress of women's social, economic, cultural, and political achievements globally. IWD also marks a call to action for accelerating gender equality throughout workplaces globally. [Access webinar here](#).



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