

# ON A CLEAR DAY 2020



On A Clear Day: Issue 755, 14 May 2020

## NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

**THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE'S (NBI'S) RESPONSE TO COVID-19** [View here.](#)

**REPORT LAUNCH: UNDERSTANDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S APPROACH TO ANTI-CORRUPTION** The National Business Initiative (NBI) is excited to announce the launch, on 11 May 2020, of our **[Benchmark Report: Understanding the Private Sector's Approach to Anti-Corruption](#)**. Read NBI's latest NewsFlash, [here](#).

**CDP ORS IS OPEN AND CDP DEADLINE EXTENDED TO 26 AUGUST 2020** Environmental data is a crucial lever for informed decision-making, long-term economic resilience and competitiveness. CDP, as the leading global platform for the measurement and reporting of corporate climate change information, is once again working with companies to track corporate leadership and progress towards a thriving, low carbon and resilient future. **[NBI NewsFlash, 8 May 2020.](#)**

## INDUSTRY NEWS

**THE EFFORT TO PRIORITIZE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN UN PANDEMIC RESPONSE** The introduction of lockdowns due to the coronavirus around the world was immediately met with concerns that women would experience higher levels of violence during this time and be unable to seek help. [Emma Smith, Devex, 13 May 2020.](#)

**HOW TO HARNESS THE POWER OF SUPPLY CHAIN IN YOUR CIRCULARITY MAKE-OVER** Ultimately, the circular economy is about inventory — extending its life, reusing it, repurposing it or eliminating the need for it altogether. Supply chain is responsible for inventory, and a global, circular economy requires supply chain innovation beyond its current scope in the linear economy. [Deborah Dull, GreenBiz, 13 May 2020.](#)

**WEF WARNS OF INCREASING THREATS TO WORLD'S CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION** The World Economic Forum (WEF) says unprecedented disruptions from Covid-19 threaten the transition to clean energy, globally. [Marleny Arnoldi, Engineering News, 13 May 2020.](#)

**UK ENJOYS A MONTH WITHOUT COAL POWER FOR FIRST TIME FOR 138 YEARS** The United Kingdom's rapid decarbonisation of its electricity grid has achieved another significant milestone – completing a whole month (30 days) without coal power for the first time in 138 years. [Renew Economy, 12 May 2020.](#)

**'URGENCY TO ACT' FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, GREATER THAN EVER AS CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC CONTINUES** As COVID-19 upends lives and livelihoods across the planet, the UN on Monday held a wide-ranging policy discussion stressing a range of multilateral solutions to ease the pandemic, while also getting back on track towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [UN News, 11 May 2020.](#)

**HOW THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION CAN HELP US BEAT COVID-19** The Fourth Industrial Revolution gives us the tools we need to battle this global threat [David Alexander Walcott, The European Sting/WEF, 11 May 2020.](#)

**AFTER COVID-19: HOW WE CAN IMPROVE THE GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEM** The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted major reflection and attention on the global food system. [Edward Davey and Andrew Steer, WRI, 8 May 2020.](#)

## NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

**WHAT NBI MEMBER COMPANIES ARE DOING IN 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.](#)

**PWC FINDS MOST BUSINESSES ARE CONSIDERING OPERATIONAL CHANGES AS THEY REOPEN** A Covid-19 CFO Pulse survey conducted by consultancy PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has revealed a sense of optimism among finance leaders about their companies' ability to safely reopen, as Covid-19 restrictions slowly start to lift in some countries. [Engineering News, 13 May 2020.](#)

**ABSA IS FIRST MAJOR SA BANK TO INVEST IN START-UP BOURSE A2X** Absa has become the first major South African bank to invest in start-up stock exchange A2X which began trading in late 2017. [IOL Business, 13 May 2020.](#)

**STANDARD BANK LAUNCHES ESCROW SERVICE** Standard Bank has launched a digitised escrow service designed to protect individuals from risks associated with buying or selling goods or services from unknown individuals. [BusinessTech, 13 May 2020.](#)

**EXXARO HEAD OFFICE AWARDED FIRST WELL CERTIFICATION IN AFRICA** Developed by Growthpoint Properties, the Exxaro head office in Centurion is the first building in South Africa to achieve Silver Level WELL certification for Core and Shell by the International WELL Building Institute (IWBI). [BizCommunity, 12 May 2020.](#)

**NEDBANK TABLES CLIMATE RISK RESOLUTIONS FOR MAY 22 SHAREHOLDER MEETING** In a first for a South African company, Nedbank's board has tabled its own shareholder resolution on climate risk. [Engineering News, 12 May 2020.](#)

**FIRSTSTRAND'S VUMELA FUND AND PROFITSHARE PARTNERS ASSIST SMES IN SUPPLYING ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR COVID-19** The Edge Growth-managed Vumela Fund recently invested a R25-million funding line in ProfitShare Partners, a fintech business that provides short-term capital solutions, to specifically help SMEs who supply and deliver essentials in the fight against Covid-19. [BizCommunity, 11 May 2020.](#)

## NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

**OPINION | THE ROAD TO SA'S RECOVERY IS GREEN** Covid-19 has inflicted unprecedented upheaval on societies and economies worldwide. [Candice Stevens and Cerin Maduray, FIN24, 14 May 2020.](#)

**WE MEAN BUSINESS COALITION APPOINTS NEW PERMANENT CEO** We are delighted to announce that **María Mendiluce**, has been appointed the permanent CEO of the We Mean Business coalition. [WMB, 13 May 2020.](#)

**EMBEDDING THE SDGS INTO THE CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH: Lessons From The Gordon Institute of Business Sciences in South Africa** [GIBS, 11 May 2020.](#)

## WBCSD RELEASES INSIGHTS INTO MACROTRENDS AND DISRUPTIONS IMPACTING BUSINESSES OVER THE NEXT DECADE

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is pleased to share the first Vision 2050 issue briefs – Macrotrends & Disruptions shaping 2020-2030 and The consequences of COVID-19 for the decade ahead. [WBCSD, 7 May 2020](#).

**NEW WHATSAPP LINE LAUNCHED TO HELP ADDRESS SPIKE IN GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE** [BizCommunity, 5 May 2020](#).

**SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS FOR NATURE ARE BEING DEVELOPED BY THE SCIENCE BASED TARGETS NETWORK** The Network is developing methods and resources to enable companies and cities to set science-based targets for the interrelated “systems” of freshwater, biodiversity, land and the ocean across their value chains. These will be informed by current science along with reports to be produced by the newly formed Earth Commission. The Science Based Targets Network is part of the Global Commons Alliance. Please contact: [jess@sbtnetwork.org](mailto:jess@sbtnetwork.org) for more 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 **Insights**, [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 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 **Media Article**, entitled: “More than 330 Major Businesses Call on U.S. Congress to Build Back a More Resilient, Sustainable Economy from COVID-19”, [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 recently published **WBCSD Sustain Newsletter**, [here](#).

## NBI EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS | 2020

**NBI WEBINAR EVENTS** | The National Business Initiative (NBI) will be running on-line events starting on the **26 May 2020**. Details to be published shortly.

**NBI ACES WEBINAR | 26 May 2020 | 10:00 to 13:00** | In the light of the ongoing lockdown, the NBI has decided to host the next ACES meetings on-line. Kindly note that we will postpone the Cape Town ACES meeting from the 14<sup>th</sup> May to the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and will combine this meeting with the Johannesburg one, to allow for an in-depth engagement and the opportunity for interaction. Please contact [Sibusiso Nxumalo](#) for further information.

## WEBINARS | 2020

**CERES 2020 DIGITAL PROGRAMME | 7 April to 18 June 2020** | We are very excited to announce the virtual sessions within our reimagined Ceres 2020 digital programme! | View full details [here](#).

**WBCSD: JOIN OUR NEW VIRTUAL MEETING SERIES: BUSINESS AS UNUSUAL, RESHAPING THE PRESENT AND FUTURE.**

Fully complimentary and held from April through July, these meetings will highlight innovative and collaborative solutions to face current and future challenges. Consult our [virtual meeting calendar](#) and register to the desired session to access the latest insights, exchange with leaders and actively engage. For any inquiries, please contact: [events@wbcSD.org](mailto:events@wbcSD.org).

**THE SCIENCE BASED TARGETS NETWORK: SCIENCE BASED TARGETS FOR NATURE: INTRODUCTORY WEBINAR**

Companies are now able to find out more about how they can get involved with the development of science-based targets for nature with this recorded webinar. [Listen here](#).

**DAILY MAVERICK WEBINAR: THE IMPACT OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ON COVID-19**

Daily Maverick's Associate Editor Ferial Haffajee in conversation with Busisiwe Mavuso, Chief Executive Officer at Business Leadership South Africa, and Dr Petrus de Kock, General Manager: Research at Brand SA. [Listen here](#).

**JHB BUSINESS SCHOOL: THE FUTURE SERIES | Friday 15, 22 & 29 May 2020 |**

The JBS Future Of: is a series of lively and engaging masterclasses that will be hosted each Friday throughout the month of May. The series explores the many ways in which certain sectors will be transformed through the passage of time. Each week will focus on one out of the four industries which were chosen for their commercial importance and for the critical role that each plays in supporting the economic inclusion and well-being of people across the world. [View details here](#).

**WRI: SCIENCE BASED TARGETS CRITERIA FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS - SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK |**

**Tuesday, 19 May 2020 | 09:00 EDT |** The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) is developing a framework for financial institutions to set science-based climate targets in line with the ambition of the Paris Agreement. During this webinar, we will share a summary of feedback on the SBTi's draft target validation criteria, a central component of the framework. [WRI Website](#).

**GIBS: TRENDS, FAKE NEWS, CONNECTED LEADERSHIP AND DIGITAL DISRUPTION IN A COVID-19 WORLD | Tuesday, 19**

**May 2020 | 14:00 |** Ronak Gopaldas, director, Signal Risk; Marina Bidoli, Brunswick partner and office head, Johannesburg; and Jonathan Cole, Brunswick digital director and global lead of the firm's SEO Practice. | [Register here](#).

**HBR WEBINAR: WHAT RESILIENT COMPANIES DO DIFFERENTLY | Thursday, 11 June 2020 | 12:00 EDT | [Register here](#).**

**WEBINAR: 8<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONGRESS AND EXPO ON GREEN ENERGY | Monday 15 to Tuesday 16 June 2020 |**

Green Energy Webinar 2020 is the integration of new technologies in the field of environmental science to help Environmental Professionals harness the full potential of their practice. It involves the use of tools and technologies to achieve a certain degree of publicity and broaden the reach of the practice and the practitioner. For more information click [here](#).



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