

ON A CLEAR DAY 2020



On A Clear Day: Issue 770, 3 September 2020

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

NBI SURVEY: A SCOPING STUDY OF PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA Building the momentum to enhance private sector participation in climate change and green investment in Africa: A scoping study of private sector investment in South Africa. [Survey link and further information.](#)

NBI REQUEST FOR QUOTES (RFQ): DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL LEARNING MATERIALS – SCENARIOS AND SIMULATIONS View detailed RFQ [here.](#)

SHADOW PANDEMIC: COVID-19, GENDER INEQUALITY & THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR - The Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women: COVID-19 has a disproportionate effect on women and their economic status. This is because women are more at risk due to existing gender inequalities. **Read NBI's latest Quick Brief, [here.](#)**

INDUSTRY NEWS

HOW SHOULD WE FUTURE-PROOF OUR SUPPLY CHAINS? Seven months into the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses of all kinds are devising ways to protect themselves from future shocks by making their supply chains more resilient. [Chris Price, WEF, 3 September 2020.](#)

HOW TO MEASURE A COMPANY'S REAL IMPACT In recent years, most major international airlines have reported healthy profitability. But our calculations show this to be a mirage. [Ronald Cohen and George Serafeim, HBR, 3 September 2020.](#)

HOW TO SOLVE WATER-RELATED CONFLICTS Water-related conflict and political instability are on the rise across the globe. [Charles Iceland, WRI, 2 September 2020.](#)

RECOVERY PLAN ADVANCING AMID 'UNPRECEDENTED' COLLABORATION, KINGSTON REPORTS Business for South Africa's (B4SA's) Martin Kingston has described the current level of cooperation and collaboration between labour, government, civil society and business as "unprecedented" and reports that the social partners are making good progress in their attempts to reach agreement on a post-Covid-19 economic recovery plan. [Terence Creamer, Engineering News, 2 September 2020.](#)

DIGITALIZATION OF ECONOMY COULD TRANSFORM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: UN TASK FORCE A widespread shift to digital finance could provide the means to meet the costs of achieving the 2030 Agenda, according to a UN task force. [Faye Leone, IISD, 1 September 2020.](#)

MAVUSO STRESSES NEED TO CLAMP DOWN ON INDEBTEDNESS, CORRUPTION ONCE AND FOR ALL Business Leadership South Africa CEO Busi Mavuso says corruption is accelerating South Africa's indebtedness and will continue to counter any economic revival efforts if it is not stopped. [Marleny Arnoldi, Engineering News, 31 August 2020.](#)

SWITCHING TO GREEN ECONOMY A HOLISTIC SHIFT ACROSS ENTIRE SOCIETY A just transition must be at the core of the process and sustainability embedded in the state's industrial policy [Gaylor Montmasson-Clair, BusinessLIVE, 31 August 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.](#)

BCG TO ACHIEVE NET-ZERO CLIMATE IMPACT BY 2030 Rich Lesser, CEO of Boston Consulting Group (BCG), today announced a major new climate commitment for the firm that will deliver net-zero climate impact by 2030. To reach this goal, BCG will take significant action to reduce its footprint and neutralize its remaining climate impact by investing in leading-edge carbon removal projects. [WBCSD, 2 September 2020.](#)

SASOL SECUNDA | MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND SUPPORTING FENCE-LINE COMMUNITIES DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC South Africa has high socio-economic disparities with a great number of vulnerable communities. As a caring and responsible corporate citizen, Sasol recognises its duty to step up and show support for those in need. [Sasol, 1 September 2020.](#)

VODACOM GROUP BECOMES THE FIRST TELCO IN SA TO INTRODUCE NEW GENDER-NEUTRAL LEAVE POLICY Today, Vodacom is announcing that all its employees, regardless of their gender and sexual orientation, will be offered 16 weeks (four months) of fully paid parental leave. [Vodacom, 1 September 2020.](#)

FNB CUTS THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF ITS BRANCHES BY 50% OVER FIVE YEARS After the adoption of carbon-cutting measures to drive energy efficiency across a network of more than 600 branches in South Africa, financial services provider First National Bank (FNB) has reduced the carbon dioxide (CO₂) footprint of its branches by nearly 50% over a period of five years. [Engineering News, 1 September 2020.](#)

EXXARO GIVES LAND TO EMERGING FARMERS, HELPS BUILD AGRI-ECONOMY As part of its support for South Africa's land distribution policy, JSE-listed diversified miner Exxaro Resources has embarked on a minerals succession programme that maps the potential agri-economies in communities surrounding its mines. [Engineering News, 28 August 2020.](#)

NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR SAB FOUNDATION THOLOANA ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME An entrepreneur's journey has enormous potential to create jobs, build the economy and uplift communities [BizCommunity, 2 September 2020.](#)

NEW REPORT JUST RELEASED FINDS EVEN THE TOUGHEST WATER SECURITY PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED Ending Conflicts Over Water solutions to Water and Security Challenges [WRI, 2 September 2020.](#)

FINBIZ2030 is a global collaboration between Chartered Accountants Worldwide and One Young World - its aim is to drive systemic change to enable companies to align with sustainable development. As the Climate Action team in the South African cohort, our vision is to first create awareness about the two-way impact between industries and climate change. We are building a 'high-tech, high-touch' approach to target all levels of knowledge which includes: interactive resources;

access to measurement capabilities and engaging forums. Please provide your insights in order for us to create the best solution for you by completing the following survey: [FinBiz2030 - SDG13: Climate Action - Application Survey](#).

LIVING PLANET AWARD WINNER 2020 WWF has announced that the winner of its prestigious Living Planet Award is leading arid zone ecologist Professor Timm Hoffman, for his contribution to both conservation and helping the people who are dependent on the land to make a living in some of the driest parts of South Africa. [WWF-SA, 1 September 2020](#).

GENDER NORMS STILL DEFINE POLITICS AS MASCULINE SPACE, RESEARCHERS FIND The Advancing Learning and Innovation on Gender Norms (ALIGN) platform released a guide on gender norms and women in politics, in the lead-up to the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform of Action. [Faye Leone, IISD, 1 September 2020](#).

DEPARTMENT INVITES COMMENT ON GUIDELINES FOR GHG VERIFICATION The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) has invited public comment on the Technical Guidelines for Validation and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions by September 24. [Engineering News, 31 August 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 15 years CDP has created a system that has resulted in unparalleled engagement on environmental issues. Read their latest **Newsletter**, entitled: *"Why water is key to building resiliency"*, [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 **Newsletter**, [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 News Article entitled: *"PRI and WBCSD join forces to drive corporate-investor action on sustainable development"*, [here](#).

WEBINARS | 2020

SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY: ESG VALUES AND OUR RESILIENT FUTURE | 15 September 2020 | 13:00 ET | This one-hour webcast will focus on the principles of sustainable recovery and how ESG-led strategies help organizations successfully navigate the trials of COVID-19 and today's other complex challenges. [GreenBiz Website](#).

CLIMATE WEEK NYC | 21 to 27 September 2020 | Run in coordination with the United Nations and the City of New York, Climate Week NYC continues to grow as the time and place for the world to showcase amazing climate action and discuss how to do more. The number of events is increasing, and Climate Week NYC 2020 is on track to surpass last year's record of 150 events. Find out more about [Climate Week 2020](#).

SDG BUSINESS FORUM | 23 September 2020 | The 2020 SDG Business Forum aims to generate a Compendium of SDG Acceleration Actions for the decade of action and delivery from its participants as one of the outcome documents. [Website and further information.](#)

ONLINE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT | 28 to 30 September 2020 | The Skills Development Summit 2020 will provide a much-needed discussion on the state of our rapidly changing world. The Fourth Industrial Revolution promises to change the way that we conduct business and industry, especially in manufacturing and agriculture, but also threatens many jobs. The Skills Development Summit will be presenting a vision of how skills development and jobs can be retained in this shifting world, especially in the context of rural and urban development. [Registration and website.](#)

SA INNOVATION SUMMIT VIRTUAL 365 EDITION | 30 September to 1 October 2020 | The SA Innovation Summit is the largest start-up event in Africa bringing together top entrepreneurs, investors, corporates, policy makers and thought leaders to support start-ups and inspire sustained economic growth across Africa. [Buy tickets here.](#)

CAMBRIDGE INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP SA | ONLINE SUSTAINABILITY PRACTITIONER PROGRAMME | 5 to 8 October 2020 | This programme is designed for middle to senior managers in organisations from the private or public sector to equip them with a high-level understanding of role of sustainability in future proofing their organisations. Sustainability rests on a simple premise - the inter-connectedness of all things. It requires re-generative thinking. It is something that must become deeply embedded in the day-to-day operations of an organisation to guide it to a different future, particularly in a developing world context. Apply [here](#) or email: [Alice Cropper](mailto:Alice.Cropper@cambridgeinstitute.org) for more information.

TRIALOGUE BUSINESS IN SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2020 | 13 to 14 October 2020 | Responsible business consultancy Trialogue, in collaboration with corporate partners and sponsors, will present the 13th annual [Trialogue Business in Society Conference 2020](#) on an exciting **virtual platform**. This industry-leading annual event promotes thought leadership, cross-sector collaboration, and innovation for more effective development, and brings together corporate, non-profit, government, media and academic delegates. Visit the Trialogue [conference page](#) to view the sessions and speakers, purchase tickets, obtain a group discount and download the [draft programme](#).

VIRTUAL BSR CONFERENCE 2020 | 20 to 23 October 2020 | This year with our theme, “Meet the Moment. Build the Future,” we will build on the growing momentum our members and partners have achieved together over the last decade, while delving deep into the considerable work ahead of us. Our agenda will highlight how companies have shifted into high gear, and what we must do to ensure these efforts are strengthened and taken to scale. [BSR Website.](#)



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