

ON A CLEAR DAY 2020



On A Clear Day: Issue 775, 22 October 2020

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

Please note that On A Clear Day will be published bi-monthly until mid-December 2020.

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

THE NBI'S 25TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY The NBI was formed 25 years ago at the request of former president Nelson Mandela. To celebrate our 25th anniversary we are taking a trip down memory lane with some of our milestones over the years. [#NBI25YEARS](#)

IRM PILOT PROMISING INTERVENTION TO EXPANDING ARTISANAL EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS Despite significant investments in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development, the pathways for technical occupations are blocked for large numbers of young people in South Africa. [Saide Newsletter Vol. 26 No. 4, 2020](#).

GREAT STRIDES MADE PREPARING GROUND FOR GREEN FINANCE [Gray Maguire, Business Day, 20 October 2020](#).

ADDRESSING RACISM IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR An important saying has emerged in the recent global and local commentary surrounding protests against racial injustice – “silence is complicity.” [Read NBI's latest Quick Brief, here](#).

5 000 HANDWASHING UNITS TO BE ROLLED OUT IN CITY OF CAPE TOWN COVID-19 HOTSPOTS Today, Global Handwashing Day, saw the commencement of 5 000 plastic bottle handwash units being rolled out across Cape Town's informal settlements by the National Business Initiative (NBI) and Business for South Africa (B4SA) COVID-19 Water Working Group, in partnership with Astron Energy, local NGOs and the City of Cape Town. [NBI Quick Brief, 15 October 2020](#).

RESILIENCE, GENDER AND GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION Women are disproportionately affected by climate change, just as they were and are affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. [Mail & Guardian, 9 October 2020](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

CAPE TOWN LIFTS WATER RESTRICTIONS The City of Cape Town has lifted its strict water restrictions after several years of drought conditions and a close call with a “day zero” scenario where the taps could have run dry. [Natasha Odendaal, Engineering News, 21 October 2020.](#)

7 WAYS TO BRIDGE THE BLUE FINANCE GAP The ocean is a cornerstone of the global economy and a critical source of resources for the world’s growing population. [Rashid Sumaila, Mansi Konar, Ben Hart and Melissa Walsh, WRI, 21 October 2020.](#)

OVER 40 COUNTRIES TO PRESENT SDG PLANS DURING HLPF 2021 To date, 41 countries have expressed an interest in presenting a voluntary national review of SDG progress to the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2021. [IISD, 20 October 2020.](#)

ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN SETS GOOD BLUEPRINT FOR SOUTH AFRICA, SAYS BLSA The economic recovery plan announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa last week does a good job of setting out the issues that are constraining the economy, from a lack of infrastructure to visa rules, says business organisation Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA) CEO Busi Mavuso. [Tasneem Bulbulia, Engineering News, 19 October 2020.](#)

THE GREAT RESET: HARNESSING THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION While interest in Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies has spiked as a result of COVID-19, fewer than 9% of companies currently use advanced technologies such as machine learning, robotics or even touch screens. [Beatrice Di Caro, WEF, 15 October 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.](#)

WOOLWORTHS INVESTING R1BN TO MAKE PRODUCTS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO LOW-INCOME CONSUMERS Woolworths is investing R1 billion over the next two to three years to make food and fashion products more accessible to low-income consumers. [IOL Business, 21 October 2020.](#)

STANDARD BANK GROUP TAKES MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN CLIMATE RISK-MANAGEMENT DRIVE Standard Bank Group, Africa’s largest bank by assets, has published its first climate-related financial disclosure report – a significant milestone for the group as it seeks to better understand and manage environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks. [Cover, 20 October 2020.](#)

EXXARO CONTINUES ITS ROLE IN ENSURING FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION IN COMMUNITIES JSE-listed miner Exxaro Resources’ executive head of sustainability Mongezi Vetti has reiterated the company’s commitment to transferring its rehabilitated land to communities toward establishing agro-economies. [Engineering News, 19 October 2020.](#)

ERM’S SUPPORT ON RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC The COVID-19 virus is affecting communities and businesses on multiple continents, having a profound impact on people, markets and the global economy. [Read here.](#)

SAPPI FORESTS ACKNOWLEDGES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN With around 4,000 women employed directly or indirectly by Sappi Forests nationwide– through its own personnel in its nurseries, and sub-contracted to its harvesting and silviculture contractors – the company is very aware of the crucial role that rural women play in the agricultural labour force. [Media Release, 15 October 2020.](#)

NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

CARBON FOOTPRINTING COURSE Imagine being able to look at the environmental disclosure of a company and gaining insight about the company's strategy and pitfalls in the same sense that you would have gained when looking at the company's financial statements. This is indeed possible. [Sustainability Institute Website](#).

PUSHING THE NEEDLE FORWARD AMIDST DISRUPTION: NEW REPORT SHOWCASES MORE ROBUST SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) highlights the importance of maintaining sustainability ambitions amidst unprecedented disruption in the eighth edition of *Reporting matters* – WBCSD's annual review of its member companies' sustainability and integrated reports in partnership with Radley Yeldar (RY). [WBCSD, 21 October 2020](#).

TCFD REPORTING PLAYBOOK FOR MORE CONSISTENT CLIMATE DISCLOSURES The Institute of International Finance and the UN Environment Programme published a how-to guide to help financial institutions produce more uniform and comprehensive disclosures on climate risks. [FM Magazine, 20 October 2020](#).

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS CAN STIMULATE GREEN JOBS RECOVERY A new report by WWF and the International Labour Organization (ILO) compiles international evidence through case studies and confirms the potential of nature-based solutions to drive a sustainable, job-intensive economic recovery in the wake of the pandemic. [WWF-SA, 20 October 2020](#).

CDP PARTNERSHIPS LAUNCHES ITS DIVERSITY & EQUITY INITIATIVE The events of 2020 have made it abundantly clear - the effects of climate change and environmental destruction cannot be separated from the systemic social injustices and inequalities that are present in our world. [CDP, 19 October 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 **Media Release** entitled: *"Investors urge companies producing 25% of global emissions to set science-based targets"*, [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 **Blog Article** entitled: *"Make Way for the Future of Sanitation (2020)"*, [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 **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 **Insight Article** entitled: *"Global Handwashing Day: Driving business action through the WASH Pledge"*, [here](#)

NBI WEBINARS | 2020

6 ONLINE WORKSHOPS IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020: DEVELOPING A GREEN FINANCE TAXONOMY FOR SOUTH AFRICA | Under the leadership of National Treasury, and with support from IFC (part of the World Bank Group), the National Business Initiative (NBI) and the Carbon Trust are working to develop a national Green Finance Taxonomy. [Detailed information and registration links to all 6 workshops](#).

TLS: ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE DRIVEN BY A VALUES-BASED LEADERSHIP WEBINAR | Friday, 23 October 2020 | 14:00 to 15:30 | This TLS will draw on experiences from different sectors around the concept of a Values-Based

Leadership and how this translates into tangible organisational aspects of behaviour and examine how the wrong values can manifest into unethical corporate behaviours. [Detailed information and registration link.](#)

NBI MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL ONLINE MEETING | Tuesday, 27 October 2020 | 10:00 to 12:30 | After a year unlike any other, it is with pleasure that we are hosting a meeting of the NBI Membership Council for key insights into what the 2021 NBI Strategy has in store for you as our members. [Detailed information and RSVP.](#)

ADAPTATION FINANCE PHASE 2 EVENT 2020 | Tuesday, 3 November 2020 | 10:00 to 12:30 | The National Business Initiative (NBI) and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) are hosting phase 2 launch of Unlocking Private Sector Involvement in the Green Climate Fund Projects in South Africa. [Detailed information and registration link.](#)

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: WBCSD VISION 2050 REFRESH WEBINAR | Wednesday, 4 November 2020 | 11:00 to 13:00 | The National Business Initiative (NBI), as the local network partner of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), is hosting an update session from the WBCSD on the refresh of [Vision 2050](#). Please click [here](#) should you wish to attend this event.

CEO THOUGHT LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE - Gender-Based Violence – How Leadership Can Make a Difference? | Thursday, 5 November 2020 | 10:00 to 11:30 | The NBI is hosting the CEO Dialogue Series as an important virtual engagement for business leaders to explore both the challenges and opportunities which are central to an economic recovery from COVID-19. [Detailed information and registration link.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: VIRTUAL ANNUAL WATER STEWARDSHIP EVENT 2020 | Tuesday, 17 November 2020 | Good Governance for Green Recovery – Stewardship in a Post COVID Water Sector. Details to follow. For enquiries, please contact: [Mmaphefo Thwala.](#)

WEBINARS | 2020

BRICS BUSINESS FORUM | 20, 22, 26 & 28 October 2020 | 13:00 to 15:00 | The BRICS Business Forum is an annual gathering of international business leaders addressed by expert speakers from all five BRICS nations on key economic themes. The 2020 edition of the BRICS Business Forum will span over four days with three sessions that will run concurrently per day for the first three days, and a plenary session on the last day. [BRICS Business Council website.](#)

WBCSD VIRTUAL EVENT SERIES | October to December 2020 | [View here.](#)

SA UBUNTU FOUNDATION - THE POST-COVID ECONOMY: THE WAY FORWARD | 23 October 2020 | 08:00 | Live Webinar with Isaac Matshego, an Economist in the Nedbank Group and one of the top economists in South Africa. [Book tickets here.](#)

VERGE 2020 ONLINE CONFERENCE | 26 to 30 October 2020 | Join WBCSD at [VERGE 20](#) — the leading platform for accelerating the clean economy — where more than 10,000 leaders will virtually convene to address the climate crisis through five key markets: clean energy, electrified transportation, the circular economy, carbon removal and sustainable food systems. [WBCSD Website.](#)



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