

On A Clear Day: Issue 783, 25 February 2021

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

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

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE OF ENERGY FOR AFRICA LOOK LIKE? JOIN US AT THE 13TH AFRICA ENERGY INDABA TO FIND OUT The National Business Initiative (NBI) will be moderating a specialist panel of prominent experts, unpacking the inherent opportunities for a renewable energy dominant electricity system in South Africa, as part of the EU Day set of conference side events. [NBI Quick Brief, 25 February 2021](#).

HOW RESILIENT ARE WE TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND HOW CAN WE UNLOCK PRIVATE SECTOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTION IN RESPONSE? With climate change set to have profound impacts for our economy and the way we do business, the National Business Initiative (NBI) and South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) set out to answer these questions by building an Adaptation Project Pipeline. Watch eminent Climatologist, **Prof. Francois Engelbrecht**, provide an overview of the latest available evidence on projected climate change to gain insights into regional impacts and implications of climate change for southern Africa, [here](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

3 PRINCIPLES TO REINFORCE DIGITAL TRUST IN SUPPLY CHAINS Cyber-threats are increasing with the transformation of digital life in the wake of the pandemic. [Georges de Moura & Christophe Blassiau, WEF, 24 February 2021](#).

ZERO-CARBON TRANSITION – FEBRUARY SIGNALS OF CHANGE Here are just some of the signals of change from the past month across transport, energy, industry, land use and the whole economy, demonstrating the transition to a resilient and inclusive zero-carbon future is accelerating. [We Mean Business coalition, 23 February 2021](#).

WE NOW TREAT HALF THE WORLD'S WASTEWATER – AND WE CAN MAKE INROADS INTO THE OTHER HALF Humans flush away vast amounts of water every day. When managed correctly, this wastewater is collected and undergoes treatment to remove pollutants that can otherwise threaten human and environmental health. [Edward Jones, The Conversation, 23 February 2021](#).

COVID-19 IS FORCING US TO RETHINK RESPONSIBLE APPROACHES TO BUSINESS The pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in the working conditions that companies provide for employees. [Xavier Rolet, WEF, 22 February 2021.](#)

2021: CRITICAL YEAR TO 'RESET OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE' – UN CHIEF During this time of “crisis and fragility”, the UN chief told the United Nations Environment Assembly on Monday that human well-being and prosperity can be vastly improved by prioritizing nature-based solutions. [UN News, 22 February 2021.](#)

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.](#)

FNB RECOGNISED AS AFRICA'S MOST VALUABLE BANK BRAND FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW FNB has retained its position as Africa's Most Valuable Bank Brand for the second year in a row in the 2021 Brand Finance Global 500 Banking report. [BUSINESSTECH, 25 February 2021.](#)

SUPPORT FOR SMES CRITICAL FOR POST COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY As Finance Minister Tito Mboweni grapples with the near-impossible task of balancing the country's books following the economic devastation of COVID-19 lockdowns on an already ailing economy, Old Mutual Insure has identified practical steps that are making a positive difference to the survival and long-term growth of small and medium enterprises. [Old Mutual, 23 February 2021.](#)

ERM RECEIVES MULTIPLE BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS FOR PERFORMANCE AND INNOVATION ERM has once again been recognized by two leading sources of business intelligence in the environmental industry for industry leadership, use of technology, and social contribution. [ERM, 22 February 2021.](#)

SPACE-AGE CHALLENGE FOR CONCOR AT MEERKAT Scientists will soon gain even further insights into the evolution of galaxies in the universe as the MeerKAT telescope array is expanded. This is an exciting project presenting some unique challenges for leading South African contractor Concor. [Concor, 22 February 2021.](#)

SASOL UPSCALES RENEWABLES ROLL-OUT AMBITION TO 900 MW, STARTS PLOTTING BIG GREEN-HYDROGEN ROLE JSE-listed Sasol announced on Monday that it would pursue a 900 MW renewable-energy roll-out at its Secunda and Sasolburg complexes by 2030, raising its initial deployment target of 600 MW by 50%. [Engineering News, 22 February 2021.](#)

FOOD & TREES FOR AFRICA, PROMETHIUM INTRODUCING NEW CARBON STANDARD Development organisation Food & Trees for Africa and carbon and climate change adviser Promethium Carbon on February 17 introduced the new Inclusive Carbon Standard that they are developing. [Engineering News, 17 February 2021.](#)

STANDARD BANK SOUTH AFRICA RECOGNISED GLOBALLY AS THE TOP BANK FOR SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES DURING COVID-19 Standard Bank is proud to announce that it has received global recognition for its efforts and best practice in delivering critical financial relief and support to its small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) clients since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. [Standard Bank, 16 February 2021.](#)

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2021 HIGHLIGHTS OUR CROSS-BORDER STRENGTHS Norton Rose Fulbright ranked first among all law firms with 18 ranked lawyers in the *Chambers Global 2021* global-wide practice rankings, as well as standing in the top 10 for total number of global-wide departmental practice rankings, practice rankings across all categories and lawyers ranked overall. [Norton Rose Fulbright, February 2021.](#)

NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

17 ROOMS: A NEW APPROACH TO SPURRING ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS This report released on Tuesday, describes a new approach to stimulating cooperative action toward the Sustainable Development Goals. [Download here.](#)

SOUTH AFRICA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE JUMPS TO NEW RECORD HIGH South Africa's unemployment rate jumped to a record high in the fourth quarter of last year, the statistics agency said on Tuesday, as the economy was further battered by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Reuters, 23 February 2021.](#)

SA WORLD'S 47TH MOST INNOVATIVE ECONOMY South Africa ranks 47 in the world in terms of innovation, according to the latest Bloomberg Innovation Index. [Catalyst Solutions, 19 February 2021.](#)

NEW GUIDE ON LEGAL AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR AROUND MARINE WILDLIFE While there is nothing quite like the thrill of encountering a whale or a pod of dolphins at sea, many seagoers are unaware that their attempts to get close to these mammals are probably not only illegal but also potentially damaging to the animals. [WWF-SA, 19 February 2021.](#)

MAKING PEACE WITH NATURE The first **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** synthesis report is titled: *"Making Peace With Nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies"* and is based on evidence from global environmental assessments. [Download here.](#)

EV100 PROGRESS AND INSIGHTS REPORT 2021 Despite a turbulent year, major companies from around the world have doubled down on their commitments and action on electric mobility. [The Climate Group, 17 February 2021.](#)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SEED AWARDS 2021 OFFERS SUPPORT, VISIBILITY AND FUNDING UP TO €15,000 FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SMES SEED Awards 2021 is on the search for innovative small and growing businesses delivering environmental, social and economic impacts. Applications are now open. [SEED, 1 February 2021.](#)

THE WE VALUE NATURE 10-DAY CHALLENGE - 11 to 24 March 2021 There has never been a better time for businesses to assess their impacts and dependencies on nature. Through understanding and considering the risks and opportunities created by nature, businesses can make better decisions that benefit themselves, society and the planet as a whole. [We Value Nature Website.](#)

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 20 years CDP has created a system that has resulted in unparalleled engagement on environmental issues. Read their latest **Article**, entitled: *"Why environmental progress must be explicitly anti-racist: a conversation with Marilyn Waite"*, [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 **News Update**, published this week, [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 February 2021 **News Update** published today, [here.](#)

WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD) WBCSD is an international, 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 **Member Spotlight Article** entitled, *"Anheuser-BuschInBev announces USD 10.1 Billion sustainability-linked revolving credit facility"*, [here.](#)

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2021

NBI ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY (ACES) ONLINE MEETING FOR NBI MEMBER COMPANIES ONLY | Monday, 1 March 2021 | [Click here](#) to view details, to find out what ACES is all about and why your company should participate.

GENDER PAY GAP REPORT LAUNCH | Friday, 12 March 2021 | 11:00 to 13:00 | **What would it mean to pay women fairly for the value of their work?** This is a question the National Business Initiative (NBI) has set out to answer together with the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies (SCIS) at the University of Witwatersrand and with the support of the South African Rewards Association (SARA). [Full details and registration link.](#)

VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKHOPS | 2021

CDP BITESIZE WEBINARS: HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS | March 2021 | Join a series of 30-minute webinars with CDP's gold accredited solutions providers on a range of sustainability topics throughout March. [Sign-up here.](#)

ONLINE CARBON-RELATED COURSES | 1 to 4 March 2021 | **SA GHG Reporting Regulations:** 1 March; **SA Carbon Tax Requirements:** 2 March; **GHG Emissions Inventory (ISO 14064-1) and Carbon Projects, Trading and Offsetting (ISO 14064-2):** 3 to 4 March. Offered jointly by ESS and Nexus Energy. For more information visit: www.ess-sustainability.co.za, e-mail: seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za or phone: 082 395 7582.

13TH AFRICA ENERGY INDABA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE | 1 to 5 March 2021 | This year's Africa Energy Indaba Conference will discuss, debate and seek solutions to enable adequate energy generation across Africa. A diverse group of luminaries and high-profile speakers will share their real-world insights about the changing energy landscape in Africa. [Africa Energy Indaba Website.](#)

STATE OF CITY FINANCES 2020 ONLINE REPORT LAUNCH | 2 March 2021 | The South African Cities Network [SACN] invites you to join them for the launch of The State of City Finances 2020 Report. This is one of their flagship publications, reporting on the finances of the nine largest cities in South Africa. [Register here.](#)

RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT FORUM: NEW YORK – VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE 2021 | 3 to 4 March 2021 | The Responsible Investment Forum returns for its fifth year as a virtual event to bring together the most sophisticated institutional investors, fund managers, consultants and highly recognized associations to discuss why, when, and how your firm should be implementing an effective ESG strategy. [Website and further details.](#)

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR LAUNCH EVENTS OF 2021 REGIONAL CLIMATE WEEKS | 3 to 4 March 2021 | Registration is now open for a series of regional events 3-4 March that will launch and set the scene for the 2021 edition of the Regional Climate Weeks. [UN Climate Change News, 22 February 2021.](#)

WEBINAR: HOW TO IDENTIFY AND ACCOUNT FOR THE BENEFITS OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR WATERSHEDS | 4 March 2021 | 11:00 to 12:00 ET | This webinar is the first in a three-part series and aims to inform those looking to invest in NBS on how to identify and account for the NBS benefits accrued. For more information, contact [Gregg Brill](#), Senior Research (Pacific Institute) and Project Lead or click [here](#) to register.

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PROTOCOL (BD PROTOCOL) LAUNCH | 4 March 2021 | 11:00 SAST | While there has been substantial progress in developing quantitative metrics to assess biodiversity impacts at the site, project, supply chain and even corporate level, reporting on these elements remains a challenge. The BD Protocol aims to help fill this critical gap by providing an accounting framework to consolidate biodiversity impact data across a whole business, from direct operations to its supply chains and clients. Developed through extensive stakeholder consultations from 2018 until early 2020, the BD Protocol enables companies to account for, manage and disclose their net impacts on ecosystems and species. This webinar will introduce the BD Protocol and presents two case studies. [Register here.](#)

GIBS SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME | 15 March to 25 November 2021 | Social entrepreneurship offers the potential to shift our civil society into a different way of doing things. Within the context of COVID-19, this is becoming increasingly important. [GIBS Website.](#)

INTEGRATING THE SDGS IN YOUR BUSINESS STRATEGY COURSE | 17 March 2021 | For more information visit: www.ess-sustainability.co.za, e-mail: seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za or phone: 082 395 7582.

CAMBRIDGE INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP SA - ONLINE SUSTAINABILITY PRACTITIONER PROGRAMME | 22 to 26 March 2021 | 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 the 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: elspeth.donovan@cisl.cam.ac.uk for more information.

WBCSD VISION 2050 VIRTUAL LAUNCH EVENT | 25 March 2021 | 09:00 to 10:00 or 17:00 to 18:00 CET | This public virtual event will see the global launch of WBCSD's refreshed Vision 2050, providing business with a holistic narrative and ambitious agenda with the intent to drive change in company strategies and sustainability planning in line with the urgency and roadmap for action illustrated in the final product. [Click here.](#)

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