

ON A CLEAR DAY 2021

NBI
National Business Initiative



On A Clear Day: Issue 788, 1 April 2021

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

Please note that as of 1 April 2021, On A Clear Day will be published bi-monthly.

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

COP26: CREDIBILITY AND OUR NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC) The National Business Initiative (NBI) believes there is a real opportunity for South Africa to access long-term trade and capital as the global economy transitions to net-zero by 2050. [NBI Quick Brief Series, 31 March 2021](#).

STATEMENT TO NBI MEMBERS ON DEFENDING SOUTH AFRICA'S CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY By now you are likely to have heard of the [Defend Our Democracy](#) Campaign and the platform that has been created around this in defence of our hard-earned democracy. [NBI, 31 March 2021](#).

NBI GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WORKING GROUP CALL-FOR-PARTICIPATION The National Business Initiative (NBI) would like to extend an invitation to interested NBI member organisations to participate in our **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Working Group**. The Working Group will develop a deep understanding of the systemic challenges that contribute to GBV with the aim of implementing collective action responses that will contribute to the eradication of GBV. To participate or for more information please contact: [Bridgette Mdangayi](#).

CLIMATE SMART AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURE: *"Climate smart and resilient agriculture can reduce our carbon footprint, draw-down carbon and cool the earth by regenerating the natural bio-system."* ~**Dr Hendrik Smith: Conservation Agriculture Facilitator, Grain SA**. Some of the most promising climate change solutions lie beneath our feet. Watch Dr Hendrik Smith explain how climate proofing South Africa's agricultural systems and restoring soil health can achieve significant improvements in natural resource status and quality, allowing sustained crop production intensification, [here](#).

ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE, A POLICY PERSPECTIVE: *"Africa is warming much faster than any other continent in the world. This alone starts to tell you about the greater frequency of extreme events."* ~**Tlou Ramaru: Chief Director, Climate Change Adaptation at DFFE**. Tlou Ramaru shares insights into the Government's adaptation focal areas from a policy and planning perspective in this [video](#) from our Adaptation Pipeline series. Also watch the National Business Initiative (NBI) and

South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI) "[Adaptation Project Pipeline](#)" summary video to understand what action is needed to achieve a climate resilient South Africa: [View video here.](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

DATA-DRIVEN TRANSFORMATION TOWARD RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY Digitalization has re-shaped mobility in the last decade. Many services have emerged, allowing people to locate, track, share, pay, rent and use different modes of transport in a more convenient and user-centric way. [Thomas Deloison, WBCSD, 31 March 2021.](#)

G7 SHOULD DOUBLE HELP FOR POORER COUNTRIES TO CUT CO2 EMISSIONS, SAYS UN The world's richest G7 group of countries must double the amount of finance they are offering to poor countries to help them cut greenhouse gas emissions and cope with the impacts of climate breakdown to make vital climate talks this year a success, the UN has said. [Fiona Harvey, The Guardian, 31 March 2021.](#)

THIS IS A WATERSHED MOMENT FOR GENDER EQUALITY: IF COMPANIES ACT NOW The [Global Gender Gap Report 2021](#) highlights the disproportionate hit the pandemic has had on working women. [Sue Duke, WEF, 31 March 2021.](#)

GLOBAL ENERGY LEADERS SAY JOBS MUST BE AT HEART OF PEOPLE-CENTRED ENERGY TRANSITION Employment creation for workers and communities at the highest risk of disruption as a result of the shift to greater climate-resiliency was identified during a gathering of global energy leaders on Wednesday as essential to ensuring that the transition was not only people-centred but also secured popular support. [Terence Creamer, Engineering News, 31 March 2021.](#)

POLICY BRIEF DESCRIBES NEW MINDSET NEEDED TO ACCELERATE GENDER EQUALITY A policy brief published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development offers a "formula" for accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda – enabling women's participation and decision-making at all levels and increasing women's access to and control over natural resources. [IISD, 31 March 2021.](#)

PRESIDENT BIDEN INVITES 40 WORLD LEADERS TO LEADERS SUMMIT ON CLIMATE Today, President Biden invited 40 world leaders to the Leaders Summit on Climate he will host on April 22 and 23. The virtual Leaders' Summit will be live streamed for public viewing. [The White House, 26 March 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.](#)

NBI MEMBER COMPANY, AECI, is committed to creating "a better world." They have shown this commitment through the release of their first dedicated **Sustainability Report** this month, in line with the company's new strategy that has Sustainability and Zero Harm at its core. This is only the beginning for AECI which intends pushing much further over the next five years and beyond. Read more [here.](#)

ENGEN STEPS UP AGAIN TO SUPPORT GUGULETHU SCHOOL Engen has again stepped up to support Tembalethu School for Learners with Special Education Needs, this time by contributing to the renovation of the school's play area and soccer field. [Women on Top, 31 March 2021.](#)

ANGLO COLLABORATING ON FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S 'HYDROGEN VALLEY' Diversified mining and marketing company Anglo American on Wednesday announced a collaboration agreement to complete a feasibility study to develop a 'hydrogen valley' anchored in South Africa's platinum group metals- (PGMs-) rich Bushveld geological area. [Mining Weekly, 31 March 2021.](#)

FNB XERO PROGRAMME FOR ACCOUNTING PRACTICES TO CAPACITATE SMALL BLACK-OWNED ACCOUNTING PRACTICES FIRST National Bank (FNB), in partnership with Xero and Edge Growth, yesterday announced the launch of the FNB Xero Programme for Accounting Practices (FXP), a developmental initiative that will capacitate small black-owned accounting practices and by extension the small, medium and micro enterprise (SMME) sector. [IOL Business, 30 March 2021.](#)

PARETO LIMITED HEAD OFFICE RECEIVES GREEN STAR RATINGS Pareto has achieved a five-star Green Star SA Interiors V1 certification issued by the Green Building Council of South Africa, which demonstrates leadership and commitment in the sustainability programme. [BizCommunity, 29 March 2021.](#)

TONGAAT, SEFA PARTNERSHIP HAS BENEFITTED 68 SUGARCANE GROWERS A six-year service level agreement between sugar manufacturer Tongaat Hulett and the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (Sefa) has benefitted 68 growers and contractors, with 652 jobs created in KwaZulu-Natal. [Engineering News, 29 March 2021.](#)

FNB & CLICKS CLIENTS EARN R79 MILLION IN EBUCKS IN 12 MONTHS Since the launch of the partnership between FNB and leading health and beauty retailer Clicks, the Bank confirmed that its customers have earned over R79 million back in eBucks at Clicks. [IOL Business, 29 March 2021.](#)

MANAGING RISK AND BUILDING RESILIENCE WITH HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE Nine practical steps financial services firms can leverage to identify and manage human rights risk. [KPMG, 26 March 2021.](#)

THE TABLE BAY HOTEL IS 'LOVED BY GUESTS' Sun International's five-star hotel Table Bay Hotel in Cape Town's V&A Waterfront has been rated highly by guests in the 2021 The Hotels.com 'Loved by Guests' Awards. [Sun International, March 2021.](#)

NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

WEF SAYS CLOSING SA'S GENDER PAY GAP WILL TAKE AN EXTRA GENERATION DUE TO COVID-19 Lockdowns and rapid digitalisation have most affected industries in which women are predominantly employed, according to a WEF report. [Business Day, 31 March 2021.](#)

LSE: SAVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS: THE BENEFITS OF INVESTMENTS IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE Adaptation to and resilience against the impacts of climate change are urgent and growing priorities around the world as levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere continue to increase. This report highlights six case studies of successful climate change adaptation and resilience, mostly in developing countries. [Download here.](#)

MINISTER BARBARA CREECY LAUNCHES SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Ms Barbara Creecy, today officially launched South Africa's updated draft Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for public consultation during a virtual stakeholder session. [SA Government, 30 March 2021.](#)

SOUTH AFRICA MUST SCALE UP INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING, EMPHASISES BLSA'S MAVUSO A report released by business organisation Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA) last week indicates that the country is failing to get infrastructure investment to play a critical role in driving the economy, CEO Busi Mavuso says in her weekly newsletter. [Engineering News, 29 March 2021.](#)

WIND ENERGY NEEDS TO TRIPLE TO REACH NET ZERO BY 2050 With 93GW - a 53% year-on-year increase - of new capacity installed, 2020 was the best year in history for the global wind industry, but a new [report](#) published by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) warns that this growth is not sufficient to ensure the world achieves net zero by 2050. [BizCommunity, 29 March 2021.](#)

VISION 2050: TIME TO TRANSFORM sets a shared vision of a world in which more than 9 billion people are able to live well, within planetary boundaries, by 2050. To achieve this vision, we need transformation at scale, and business needs to focus its actions on the areas through which it can best lead the systems transformations. [WBCSD, 25 March 2021.](#)

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 **Newsletter** published this week, [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 **Newsletter** 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 **March 2021 Newsletter** just published, [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 **News Article** entitled: "Ireland: Over 60 companies sign up to BITCI's new Low Carbon Pledge and commit to setting science-based carbon emission reduction targets", [here](#).

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2021

UNPACKING THE JUST TRANSITION FROM DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY PERSPECTIVES WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR AND BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES | Monday, 19 April 2021 | 10:00 to 11:30 SAST | **The National Business Initiative (NBI)** in partnership with **The B Team** are hosting an exciting new event where we will unpack and compare interpretations and understandings of the 'Just Transition' in developed and developing country contexts. [Full details and Zoom registration link here.](#)

UWASP: VIRTUAL PARTNERS PLATFORM MEETING | Thursday, 22 April 2021 | 09:30 to 12:00 via Zoom | 2021 marks the 5th anniversary of the uMhlathuze Water Stewardship Partnership (UWASP), a collaboration that works to improve water security across the uMhlathuze region of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. [Full details and Zoom registration link here.](#)

VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKHOPS | 2021

BUILDING STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE SERIES | 30 March to 31 December 2021 | Building Strategic Intelligence is a series of interactive virtual sessions where experts and innovators associated with the World Economic Forum's Strategic Intelligence platform share their insights on some of the most pressing global issues. [Find out more.](#)

COP26: EUROPEAN CLIMATE AMBITION SUMMIT | 13 April 2021 | 10:00 BST | This webinar will be part of a series of meetings held that will enable businesses to showcase their progress towards, and commitments to, net zero. [Climate Group Website.](#)

GREENFIN 21: THE PREMIER ESG ONLINE EVENT ALIGNING THE SUSTAINABILITY, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMUNITIES | 13 to 14 April 2021 | Investors are increasingly utilizing ESG data to inform investment decisions, but a lack of standardization and communication with corporations is leading to confusion and limiting the acceleration of corporate sustainability initiatives. [Request an invitation.](#)

VIRTUAL: SOUTH AFRICA GREEN JOBS DIALOGUE SERIES: GREEN JOBS FOR A BETTER FUTURE | 15 April to 10 June 2021 | In 5 webinars that will take place from mid-April to mid-June 2021, different stakeholders from the national and provincial level in South Africa will debate, exchange good practices and raise awareness on enabling policies, job opportunities in specific sectors and prevalent skills gaps and discuss approaches to advance green jobs creation. [Details and registration.](#)

3RD POWER WEEK AFRICA INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE | 20 to 23 April 2021 | Power Week Africa promises valuable insights on a diverse range of topics critical to the African electric power & energy industry today. [Website and details.](#)

INTERNATIONALLY CERTIFIED GRI SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING STANDARDS COURSE (earning 2 SACNASP CPD credits), followed by the course on GRI DISCLOSURES (PERFORMANCE INDICATORS) (ONLINE) | 4 to 6 May 2021 | For more information visit: www.ess-sustainability.co.za, e-mail: seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za or phone: **082 395 7582**.

INTERNATIONALLY CERTIFIED IIRC COURSE ON INTEGRATED REPORTING FOR PRACTITIONERS (ONLINE) | 11 to 12 May 2021 | Offered jointly by ESS and ENACT. For more information visit: www.ess-sustainability.co.za, e-mail: seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za or phone: **082 395 7582**.

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