



6 June 2022

World Environment Day 2022: Sustainable Finance in Support of Only One Earth

The theme for Environment Day 2022 is 'Only One Earth', a call to action for “Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature.” This theme highlights the urgent need for collective and transformative action on a global scale to celebrate, protect and restore our planet.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the primary agency behind this important day, celebrated annually on June 5 to encourage people to take action and protect the environment.

For Environment Day this Year, the **National Business Initiative (NBI)** is highlighting our Climate and Sustainable Investment work, in partnership with WWF and Just Share. Funded by the Lewis Foundation, this project aims to enhance the South African financial sector’s Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) analytical services. Sustainable finance is a key enabler for South Africa to shift to a zero-carbon economy, in the fight against climate change, thus protecting our one earth.

**The threat of climate change
is undeniable.**

**The consequences for failing
to transition now will be severe.**

**The finance sector MUST
be part of the solution.**

The Lewis Project aims to improve the governance, skills, and awareness of the financial sector in terms of Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) as well as climate risks. There is increasing recognition that climate change is not only a massive environmental crisis but an emerging financial crisis as well.

By providing access to tools and data that lead to better investment decision-making, the finance sector is equipped to make greener investment choices, and therefore create sustainable value over time. Making these choices today will ensure a more sustainable, equitable, inclusive and just tomorrow, where both economies and people thrive.

The consequences of inaction will be severe, but forward-thinking financial institutions can and must be part of the solutions needed. This World Environment Day is a good reminder, especially to the Finance Sector, that our collective decisions matter and can make a difference in creating a sustainable future for both people and planet.

“Climate change is an existential threat...

**But the converse is, if you are making investments,
coming up with new technologies, changing
the way you do business,**

**all in service of reducing and
eliminating that threat, you are creating value...**

**Companies, and those who invest in them
and lend to them, and who are part of the solution,
will be rewarded.**

**Those who are lagging behind and
are still part of the problem will be punished.”**
Mark Carney (Former governor of the Bank of England)

For a brief introduction on the impact of this important work for the finance sector – please watch our welcome video [here](#):



For more information, please visit the Climate and Sustainable Finance website [here](#).

To find out more about our Climate and Sustainable Investment work, please contact Alex McNamara - Programme Manager: Environmental Sustainability (AlexM@nbi.org.za)



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The National Business Initiative (NBI) is an independent and voluntary coalition of South African and multinational businesses launched in 1995 by the then President, Nelson Mandela.

NBI Website: www.nbi.org.za

Email: info@nbi.org.za

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