



On A Clear Day: Issue 822, 22 September 2022

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

WHY JOIN THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE (NBI)? South Africa continues to face major challenges underpinned by the fact that we are one of the most unequal societies in the world, with more than half of our population living in poverty, accompanied by escalating unemployment levels. Additionally, climate change threatens to further exacerbate these pressing economic and social issues. The NBI's purpose is to effect change in South Africa in the areas of **Economic Inclusion, Social Transformation, Environmental Sustainability** and **Institutional Capacity**. We believe a thriving society, economy and environment are possible, through the collective action of business, government and civil society. Please contact: **Gillian Hutchings** - Head: Membership & Communications for further information about our work and how to become an NBI Member Company.

THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE (NBI) WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER COMPANY: GENESIS ANALYTICS. We celebrate your decision to join us in building a South African society and economy that is inclusive, resilient, sustainable, and based on trust.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP: THE SHADOW PANDEMIC OF GBV | GALVANISING THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S COMMITMENT TO CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA Reflecting on the past two years since the Covid-19 pandemic began, and more recently with South Africa's annual observation of Women's Month in August, gender-based violence (GBV) remains a profound and widespread problem across the country. GBV impacts almost every aspect of life, disproportionately affecting women, gender diverse persons and girls. Often referred to as the Shadow Pandemic in the context of Covid-19, this scourge is systemic, as well as deeply entrenched in institutions, cultures, and traditions in South Africa. Read more [here](#).

QUICK BRIEF: CLIMATE WEEK NEW YORK 2022 (CWNYC): 19 – 25 SEPTEMBER 2022 Climate Week New York City 2022 (CWNYC) marks its fourteenth year as the largest climate event of its kind. CWNYC, hosted at different venues throughout New York City, brings together some of the most influential leaders invested in collective solutions to climate change, from businesses, government as well as the broader climate change community. Read more [here](#).

BUSINESS UNITY SA (BUSA) ON ESKOM LOADSHEDDING Business Unity SA (BUSA) is extremely concerned by the recent spate of loadshedding, which has, yet again, reached stage 6. We recognise and appreciate that good progress has been made in implementing the Energy Plan announced by the President a few weeks ago, but the economic damage of the ongoing loadshedding is severe and there must be an immediate intervention to deal with the crisis to at least manage loadshedding better. Stage 6 load shedding is a major blow to an economy that is already battling to achieve growth, because of some global headwinds, but primarily because government is still not taking the tough decisions on structural reforms and priority interventions to increase investment and stimulate growth. [BUSA, 21 September 2022](#).

SA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY AMBITIONS NOT THE WORST AMONG G20 COUNTRIES – REPORT South Africa outranks Canada in terms of its ambitions to rollout renewables in the future, a new report shows. The nonprofit Climate Group in partnership with REN21 – a global network of renewable energy industry stakeholders - on Tuesday released its report, Ambition on renewables in the G20. The release of the report coincides with Climate Week NYC, currently under way. [News24, 20 September 2022](#).

SOUTH AFRICA ANNOUNCES 4 DAY WEEK PILOT The four-day week is being adopted all over the world in a bid to improve productivity and wellness in the workplace. Now South Africans can try it too. In a joint initiative between 4 Day Week Global and the 4 Day Week SA Coalition, South African businesses are invited to join a pilot, with planning starting in November this year. [IAfrica, 15 September 2022](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN LEADING CHANGE IN THE LONGEVITY SECTOR IN SOUTH AFRICA Longevity is changing the way we need to think about our life journey. Women on average outlive men. In South Africa at age fifty, women are 50% of the population growing to 70% beyond the age of 80. It is time for women to take a more active role in creating the future of the longevity industry, both personally and collectively. Ruth Troskie, Unit Head Technical Assistance, Mentorship & Development at NBI, was nominated as part of the *'Women Leading Change'* campaign. Read more [here](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

GREEN ENERGY AFRICA SUMMIT SELECTS TEN GREEN TECH STARTUPS AS FINALISTS The Green Energy Africa Summit (GEAS) has announced ten green technology start-up companies as finalists that will have the opportunity to present to potential investors at a pitching event in October. [Engineering News, 21 September 2022](#).

LDC MINISTERS DISCUSS COP27 STRATEGY TO MATCH CLIMATE CRISIS URGENCY Ministers from the 46 least developed countries (LDCs) have met in Dakar, Senegal, ahead of the United Nations international climate meeting the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties (COP27) that will take place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in November, to coordinate the bloc's strategy for securing more tangible and ambitious outcomes that match the urgency of the climate crisis. [Engineering News, 21 September 2022](#).

NEW PLATFORM HIGHLIGHTS WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN TACKLING GLOBAL CHALLENGES The newly established UNGA Platform of Women Leaders held an event where they discussed global issues under the theme of Transformative Solutions by Women Leaders to Today's Interlinked Challenges. Recent global crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate emergency, and conflicts, have shown the positive difference women's leadership and decision-making can make in executive positions, parliaments, and public administration. [United Nations, 20 September 2022](#).

BREAKING DOWN THE GENDER GAP – BALANCE IS THE KEY The fact that there is a gender gap problem at an international level is by now well-known and unfortunately too often accepted. Specifically, in South Africa, according to a recent statement by UASA, it is estimated that the average difference in pay between men and women in South Africa is between 23% and 25%.

It is not only a question of pay, however, as the presence of women in companies is still much smaller compared to that of men. [Engineering News, 20 September 2022.](#)

RESCUING THE SDGS: GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS ‘WORLD’S TO-DO LIST’ The 2022 SDG Moment, which places an annual spotlight on the 17 Global Goals agreed by countries in December 2015, took place as the world faces a deepening cost-of-living crisis against the backdrop of the Ukraine war and the COVID-19 pandemic, which have halted development, especially in low-income countries. “The world has a long ‘to do’ list”, António Guterres told world leaders, asking for more finance and investment from the public and private sectors, to meet growing needs. [United Nations, 19 September 2022.](#)

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

EXXARO’S ZELMIA BOTHA, BREAKS BARRIERS AS SAIMM’S NEW FEMALE PRESIDENT Exxaro Resources applauds its Commissioning Manager, Zelmia Botha, who was recently announced as the new President of the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM). Zelmia’s appointment is a proud moment for Exxaro as she is only the fourth woman to head this prestigious 125-year-old organisation since its inception in 1894. [Exxaro, 20 September 2022.](#)

MONDI INVESTS IN NEW RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE AT MONDI STEINFELD Mondi, a global leader in packaging and paper, is investing around €5 million in a new research and development (R&D) facility at Mondi Steinfeld, in Germany. This investment will support customers by helping them to develop solutions that achieve their sustainability goals. [Mondi, 20 September 2022.](#)

ABSA FUNDS SOUTH AFRICA’S FIRST UTILITY SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPTIVE POWER PROJECT Absa acted as joint mandated lead arranger and lender for South Africa’s first utility scale renewable energy captive power project, comprising 200MW of solar power, which will be built in the North West province in South Africa, at an estimated cost of approximately R4.1bn. [Absa, 16 September 2022.](#)

ONE AECI, FOR A BETTER WORLD Securing water sustainability in the mining industry. UN global goal 6 aims to ensure clean water and sanitation for all by 2030. One of AECI Water’s five-year goals is to reduce and/or replace more than two-billion litres of potable water used in the mining industry’s process streams. Several impressive successes have already been recorded and many more are in the pipeline. [Engineering News, 15 September 2022.](#)

QUANTIS TO JOIN BCG TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION Boston Consulting Group (BCG), the leading global strategy consultancy has announced a deal to acquire Quantis, a pioneering environmental sustainability consultancy guiding many of the world’s largest organizations on their sustainability transformation. The parties expect the acquisition to close later this month. [Boston Consulting Group, 15 September 2022.](#)

PEPSICO, ADM ANNOUNCE GROUNDBREAKING AGREEMENT AIMING TO REDUCE CARBON INTENSITY BY SUPPORTING REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES ON UP TO 2 MILLION ACRES OF FARMLAND This strategic partnership is expected to reach up to 2 million acres by 2030 and represents a trailblazing effort by two global companies that share ambitious carbon reduction goals. The companies’ capabilities span the food and agriculture value chains, creating a unique, large-scale platform to support farmers’ transition to regenerative agriculture, while building their resilience to climate change. [PepsiCo, 14 September 2022.](#)

ANGLO AMERICAN LAUNCHES €745 MILLION SUSTAINABILITY-LINKED BOND Anglo American plc (“Anglo American” or the “company”) has issued its first sustainability-linked bond, including performance targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and freshwater abstraction, and to support job creation in host communities. [Anglo American, 14 September 2022.](#)

ERM NAMED AS A LEADER IN DIGITAL EHS TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ERM, the world’s largest pure play sustainability consultancy, has been named as a leader in the Digital Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Technology Implementation, according to new independent research. [ERM, 12 September 2022.](#)

THE OLD MUTUAL FOUNDATION RECOGNISED FOR ITS EFFORTS IN UPROOTING THE SCOURGE OF GBVF Old Mutual Foundation has been awarded a Certificate of Recognition for Social Cohesion Intervention Programmes by the Deputy Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Ms Nocawe Mafu. This is for their contribution to uprooting the scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape. [Old Mutual, 8 September 2022.](#)

INVESTING IN A GREENER CONTINENT Predicting the future involves a lot of educated guessing. When it comes to investing in Africa, most of the guessing is based on a common set of indicators that are often used to characterise the health and stability of an economy. These include Gross Domestic Product, a country's predicted growth, its population size, and measures related to the business environment and governance. [**Genesis Analytics**](#), read more [here.](#)

NOTICES/REPORTS/OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

TENDER: PROCUREMENT OF 7MW SOLAR PLANT FOR CITY OF CAPE TOWN The City of Cape Town has issued the tender for the engineering, procurement, and construction of its planned 7MW Atlantis solar photovoltaic (PV) plant. Closing date: 25 October 2022, 10am (SAST). [ESI Africa, 22 September 2022.](#)

CREATING SNAPSHOT OF GLOBAL FOSSIL FUEL RESERVES AND PRODUCTION This is the gap the Carbon Tracker Initiative stepped into, with data support from Global Energy Monitor to create the *Global Registry of Fossil Fuels* – a public database of the world's fossil fuel production and reserves, which tracks their impact on the carbon budget. [ESI Africa, 21 September 2022.](#)

FORESTS FOR CLIMATE: SCALING UP FOREST CONSERVATION TO REACH NET ZERO There is no tackling climate change without forests. Preserving them in the face of today's climate and biodiversity crises is vital as they are one of the main reasons why our planet supports life. Deforestation is putting at risks our climate, nature, and livelihoods with almost 1.6 billion people depend on forests for food, water, wood, and employment. [World Economic Forum, 20 September 2022.](#)

WORLD BANK: SAHEL WILL BE POORER WITHOUT CLIMATE ADAPTATION The newly released *Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR)* for the G5 Sahel region estimates that up to 13.5 million people across the Sahel could fall into poverty due to climate change-related shocks by 2050 if urgent climate adaptation measures are not taken. [ESI Africa, 20 September 2022.](#)

STOCKHOLM SYNTHESIS REPORT LAUNCHED DURING CLIMATE WEEK NYC The synthesis report released on 20 September 2022, serves as the evidence base for the *Stockholm Action Agenda: Transforming Global Value Chains* which was released during Stockholm+50. WBCSD, in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), called for enhanced collaboration between the public and private sector to explore the potential for a new global corporate accountability and transparency mechanism. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 20 September 2022.](#)

DECENTRALISED RENEWABLE ENERGY IS CREATING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF JOBS Power for All, the global campaign to end energy poverty, recently released its second (DRE) jobs report; supported by GET.invest, Good Energies Foundation, and The Rockefeller Foundation. The industry's most comprehensive emerging markets employment report, *Powering Jobs Census 2022*, shows that increased demand for DRE solutions is creating hundreds of thousands of formal and informal jobs. [ESI Africa, 20 September 2022.](#)

MANPOWERGROUP RELEASES ITS ANNUAL WORKING TO CHANGE THE WORLD REPORT ManpowerGroup's recently released its latest Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) report—*Working to Change the World* reinforces its values around people and purpose – that meaningful work has the power to change the world. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 19 September 2022.](#)

CLOSING GENDER PAY GAPS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER On average, women globally are paid about 20 per cent less than men, the International Labour (ILO) Organization said on Sunday, International Equal Pay Day. While individual characteristics such as education, working time, occupational segregation, skills, or experience explain part of the gender pay

gap, ILO says that a large part is due to discrimination based on one's gender or sex. Further building on the UN's commitment against all forms of discrimination, including that against women and girls, Equal Pay Day represents longstanding efforts towards achieving the same wage for work of equal value. [United Nations, 18 September 2022.](#)

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. Since their inception in 2000, CDP has played a transformational role in driving climate disclosure and action from businesses, investors, cities, and governments around the world. Read their latest **Press Release**, entitled: **“CDP's comment on The European Parliament's vote in favour of a new EU Anti-deforestation law,”** [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 **July 2022 Newsletter**, [here.](#)

WE MEAN BUSINESS COALITION (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 **“Net-Zero Transition – Latest Signals Of Change (16.09.22)”** [here.](#)

WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD) WBCSD is an international, CEO-led organization of almost 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 recently published **Insight Article**, entitled: **“Time to think and act differently to create a ‘just and regenerative’ future and tackle inequality”**, [here.](#)

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2022

The importance of partnerships to solve pressing climate and Just Transition related challenges in Africa: Exploring case studies of partnerships and investment opportunities emerging from Just Transition plans and projects in each participating country| Thursday, 29 September 2022 via Zoom | 10:00 to 11:30 SAST| The National Business Initiative (NBI) has partnered with the African Climate Foundation (ACF) to deliver a series of dialogues between African business across the continent, including South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, and Nigeria. The dialogues provide an opportunity to better understand the broader African climate context and challenges, as well as to unpack climate responses and to share learnings on the different approaches to achieving Just Transitions across the continent. We invite you to this three-part series of events to engage and share learning between business and decision makers building on Africa Climate Week, Climate Week New York, and other key global moments as we head towards COP27| [Further details & registration link.](#)

Green Finance Taxonomy Expansion Webinar Series: Developing and Applying the GFT| Friday, 30 September 2022 via Zoom | 10:00 to 11:00 SAST| In April 2022, the South African National Treasury launched the Green Finance Taxonomy (GFT) version 1 for South Africa, which serves as a catalogue that defines a minimum set of assets, projects, and sectors as eligible to be defined as “green” or environmentally friendly. The Taxonomy also includes the listing of standards that define economic activities as green, based on conformance to specific criteria. The aim of the webinar series is to share insights from a diverse set of speakers and panellists on national sustainability and financial reporting and also launch a set of knowledge products and tools on how to deepen GFT implementation and integration at a macro-scale. | [Further details & registration link.](#)

ONLINE & HYBRID EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKHOPS/CONFERENCES | 2022

GLOBAL CLEAN ENERGY ACTION FORUM| 21-23 September 2022| Pittsburgh, PA, United States | The Global Clean Energy Action Forum comes at a pivotal time. We are on the cusp of the most important transition human society has ever seen, and we need to look back at 2022 as the year the world took giant steps to build a new energy economy that benefits all, improves energy security, tackles climate change, and reaps the rewards of a clean energy market that will exceed \$23 trillion by the end of this decade. | [Website & further details.](#)

ACCELERATING E-INFRASTRUCTURE: DEMAND-DRIVEN DECARBONIZATION| 22 September 2022| 13:00 - 14:00 CEST| Organizations across the globe are facing multiple crises simultaneously. The climate emergency requires aggressive decarbonization to limit global warming, and at the same time, the energy crisis poses urgent challenges around affordability, security and resilience. | [Website & further details.](#)

NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: THE ROLE OF NATURE AND PEOPLE IN DELIVERING POSITIVE CLIMATE MITIGATION IMPACTS| 23 September 2022| New York, United States| In the current set up, the carbon credits generated from NCS projects/programs are traded and sold only based on their climate mitigation impacts; however, Natural Climate Solutions can be much more than climate mitigation projects. The NCS Alliance aims to promote the need for positive nature and people goals be part of any NCS project and program as they are effectively the pillars of successful NCS. | [Website & further details.](#)

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN ENERGY EFFICIENCY CONFEDERATION (SAEEC)| 28-29 September 2022| Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa | South Africa is in the process of rebuilding after the damage sustained as a result of riots and the coronavirus pandemic. At the same time, the threat of climate change continues to loom large. As such, the focus of this year's SAEEC conference is the way we rebuild. That theme is: ENERGY EFFICIENCY, Building the Nation to a Cleaner, Brighter and Self-Sustaining Future. | [Website & further details.](#)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION SUMMIT 2022| 29-30 September 2022| Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa | The summit will cover African Perspectives, featuring local, regional, and global thought leaders and will bring together key stakeholders in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion sector. | To attend the summit, email: dei@africa-insights.com

ESG AFRICA CONFERENCE| 25-26 October 2022| Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, Gauteng| The ESG Africa conference aims to create a platform for industry leaders and experts across Africa to discuss, debate and find solutions to some of the common challenges faced in embedding ESG practices within organisations. The main theme of the conference is a 'Sustainable Future Through Leadership'; highlighting the significant role leaders can and should play in ensuring their organisations better integrate ESG principles into their value system and overall organisational strategy. **Please note:** NBI member companies receive a **10% discount** on the ticket price using the discount code: **VXQG4JWT** | [Website & further details.](#)

INCITE PRACTITIONER DIALOGUE AND RETREAT | 27-29 October 2022, In-person | Senior Practitioners will explore sustainability / ESG integration, innovation, and disclosure, with opportunity to reflect or work on current challenges. Please note this is not an introductory course. | **Enquiries and reservations: Nicola Robins at nicola@incite.co.za**

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