

ON A CLEAR DAY 2023



On A Clear Day: Issue 830, 23 February 2023

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.

VACANCY: ECONOMIC INCLUSION, PROJECT MANAGER The National Business Initiative (NBI) is excited to share that we are accepting applications for a Project Manager to join our dynamic Economic Inclusion Unit. The successful incumbent will support the implementation of the youth employability programme, under the Installation, Repair and Maintenance (IRM) Initiative. The Economic Inclusion Unit is responsible for developing innovative and impactful interventions to address the systemic and structural exclusion that impacts the ability of young people to access opportunities within the economy. For more information, click [here](#).

EU CARBON BORDER TARIFFS COULD KNOCK \$16BN OFF AFRICA'S YEARLY GDP Concern is growing in South Africa and across Africa about the implications of the European Union's (EU's) decision to proceed with the implementation of a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) as a way of preventing so-called 'carbon leakage' by imposing a tariff on imports equivalent to the carbon prices being paid by European companies. The National Business Initiative's (NBI) Reitumetse Molotsoane called for

greater policy coordination and cohesion on the issue to position South Africa “to respond nimbly and effectively” both to the threats and the opportunities associated with instruments such as CBAM. [Engineering News, 15 February 2023.](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

SOUTH AFRICAN HUB ENABLES POLICYMAKERS TO ACCESS ESSENTIAL SDG RESEARCH The South African SDG Hub introduced a new search feature that simplifies the process of finding the information needed to inform sustainable development policy decisions. Intelligent Search enables users to receive literature recommendations based on a PDF file scan performed by a machine-learning algorithm. Hosted by the University of Pretoria, the South African SDG Hub is a digital platform that hosts more than 150,000 research articles. It uses machine learning to classify these articles in terms of one or several SDGs. [SDG Knowledge Hub, 22 February 2023.](#)

GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESSES UNITE TO ADVANCE ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLE ADOPTION IN INDIA On 21 February 2023, the governments of India, the United Kingdom and the United States joined with business, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and multilateral funding organization to launch the first dialogue of the Partnership to Support an Accelerated Transition to Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEV) in India. The meeting comes just after the announcement of the Union Budget 2023, which has provided a boost for 'Green Growth', including electric mobility adoption in India. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 21 February 2023.](#)

ON WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, DEEPER DIALOGUE ACROSS ‘REAL ECONOMY’ CAN DRIVE PROGRESS, UN DEPUTY CHIEF SAYS Social progress must move into the spotlight, flanked by policies that can drive meaningful change for millions of currently struggling people, the UN deputy chief said, marking the World Day of Social Justice on Monday. *“We must develop fairer, more balanced policies that generate the political buy-in to drive change,”* Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said in a video message. *“What is also needed is a deeper social dialogue with actors across the real economy.”* The day’s theme focuses on strengthening global solidarity and re-building trust in government by overcoming barriers and unleashing opportunities for social justice. This approach comes from recommendations in Our Common Agenda, the UN’s plan for realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals. [United Nations, 20 February 2023.](#)

PUBLIC-PRIVATE COOPERATION CAN ADDRESS SYSTEMIC INEQUALITY AND BUILD A JUST, INCLUSIVE SOCIETY. HERE'S HOW A just society ensures that all people have access to equal economic, political, and social rights and opportunities. In this time of polycrisis, the burdens and impacts of global challenges are not distributed equally. The Forum’s Young Global Leaders believe that building a just society requires public-private sector cooperation to craft inclusive solutions to collective challenges. [World Economic Forum, 20 February 2023.](#)

MUNICIPAL SUPPORT REQUIRED FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS For municipalities to thrive in serving their communities, stakeholder involvement is required. Stakeholders have diverse interests in the provision of public services; hence, they support municipalities in responding to communities’ basic needs by engaging them in decision-making and in offering development support. This article will highlight the support required from public and private sectors. Read more, [here.](#)

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

LEADERSHIP THAT PRIORITIZES INCLUSION IN THE WORKPLACE CAN SLASH ATTRITION RISK BY 50% BCG’s BLISS Index draws upon survey data from more than 27,000 employees across 16 countries to identify the feelings of inclusion that matter to retention decisions and the workplace factors that drive those feelings. [Boston Consulting Group, 22 February 2023.](#)

SASOL AND AIR LIQUIDE SIGN NEW SET OF LONG-TERM CONTRACTS TO SUPPLY AN ADDITIONAL 260 MW OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TO THE SECUNDA SITE Sasol and Air Liquide have signed two Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with TotalEnergies and its partner Mulilo, for the long-term supply of a total capacity of 260 MW of renewable power to Sasol’s Secunda site, in

South Africa, where Air Liquide operates the biggest oxygen production site in the world. This is the second set of PPAs signed by Sasol and Air Liquide, after the PPAs were announced in January. Together, these PPAs represent a total of 480 MW of the joint commitment by Sasol and Air Liquide to pursue the procurement of renewable energy. This will significantly contribute to the decarbonization of the Secunda site. [Sasol, 21 February 2023.](#)

RESULTS OF A HYDROGEN ENERGY RESEARCH SUPPORTED BY THE TOYOTA MOBILITY FOUNDATION PUBLISHED IN THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HYDROGEN ENERGY A review article by a team of researchers supported by the Toyota Mobility Foundation (TMF) has been published in the International Journal of Hydrogen Energy, a world-renowned scientific journal issued by the Dutch academic publisher Elsevier. To realise a decarbonised society, the introduction of a large amount of renewable energy is essential. However, renewable energy is characterised by the fact that its ability to generate power fluctuates depending on the weather and the time of day. There is hope that hydrogen can serve as a regulating force to adjust such fluctuations in power, and water electrolysis is a key technology for converting that energy. [Toyota, 21 February 2023.](#)

SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM RANKED BY CHAMBERS & PARTNERS Chambers and Partners released their rankings for 2023 on 16 February 2023, applauding Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa (NRFSA) for their global reach and reputation expertise in mining and project financing, noting that they regularly work alongside local financial institutions on significant transactions. Chambers and Partners ranks the top lawyers and law firms in over 200 jurisdictions. NRFSA's expertise was recognised in nine practice areas. [Norton Rose Fulbright, 17 February 2023.](#)

ECOVADIS CONFIRMS MONDI'S LEADING SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES WITH PLATINUM RATING Mondi, a global packaging and paper manufacturer, has maintained its Platinum status in EcoVadis' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) ratings. The Group's overall score of 84% places Mondi among the top 1% of global companies assessed. EcoVadis is a recognised business sustainability ratings organisation covering 200+ industry categories, 175 countries, and more than 100,000 companies worldwide. Every year the organisation assesses companies' performance in terms of how well they have integrated the principles of sustainability into their businesses and management systems. [Mondi, 16 February 2023](#)

ERM ESTABLISHES PARTNERSHIP WITH SALESFORCE TO HELP ORGANIZATIONS ACHIEVE NET ZERO ERM, the world's largest pure play sustainability consultancy, has announced that the company is establishing a partnership with Salesforce, the global leader in CRM, to help organizations accelerate their decarbonization journeys and deliver on their sustainability goals. Salesforce and ERM will work together to bring clients decarbonization services and Net Zero Cloud to help organizations establish operational excellence to track and report on ESG goals. [ERM, 15 February 2023.](#)

EXXARO EXEMPLIFIES REMARKABLE PROGRESS TOWARDS A GREEN ECONOMY THROUGH IMPROVED ESG RATINGS Exxaro's robust commitment towards a Just Transition has resulted in the organisation becoming the only basic resources company with an improved Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) rating of Level 4.0 in December 2022. According to the FTSE Russell ESG Index Ratings, Exxaro's rating increased from 3.7 in December 2021 and 3.8 in June 2022. The FTSE Russell ESG Index Rating's provides investors with an understanding of the company's exposure to, and management of environmental, social and governance issues. [Exxaro, 14 February 2023.](#)

NEW APAC GENERAL MANAGER SEES ELECTRIC ECONOMY AS DRIVER FOR REGION'S ENERGY TRANSITION Mainstream's newly appointed General Manager in Asia Pacific, and latest addition to the company's Leadership Team, has set out why the growth trajectory of renewable energy, both in his region and globally, is unstoppable, during an in-depth podcast interview for the clean energy consultants, DNV. [Mainstream Renewable Power, 14 February 2023.](#)

PEPSICO EXCEEDS YEAR ONE GOALS IN WORKFORCE READINESS INVESTMENT INITIATIVES FOR YOUTH ON SOUTH AND WEST SIDES One year into PepsiCo's workforce readiness investment initiative focused on reaching Black and Hispanic youth on the South and West Sides, the company reports strong progress on all fronts and the need for additional investment in community-based organizations that directly impact workforce development. Launched in October 2021, Pathways to Readiness and Empowerment Program (PREP) is PepsiCo's commitment to invest more than \$5 million in local nonprofits with

the aim to put nearly 3,000 young people from Chicago's South and West Sides on the path to high-quality careers by 2026. [PepsiCo, 14 February 2023.](#)

ARE THE PLANETS ALIGNING FOR A RESURGENCE IN AFRICAN MINING INVESTMENT? The global energy transition imperative has understandably had a massive impact on the vast majority of industries and sectors. It could be argued that this impact has been felt the most intensely in the mining sector, where mines and other industry participants have had to comprehensively rethink how they utilise resources to power their operations. While this has been a global mining paradigm shift, mines in Africa have had to make the biggest changes given the still immense dependency that most have had on fossil fuel-based energy sources. As such, Nedbank CIB remains 'open for business' in terms of partnering with mining companies, particularly with respect to their sustainable development and growth aspirations. The financial institution is actively involved in many such mining finance transactions in the sustainability and renewable energy space. The positive outcomes that these are already delivering validates Nedbank's belief that mining can, and will, return to a position of prominence as a key driver of economic growth on the continent; only this time around, that contribution will be more sustainable, more inclusive, and more transformative than it has ever been in the past. [Nedbank, 12 February 2023.](#)

NOTICES/REPORTS/OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

CONSULTATION ON THE NATIONAL WATER RESOURCE INFRASTRUCTURE AGENCY DRAFT BILL Kindly note that the date of invitation for public comments on the *National Water Resource Infrastructure Agency (NWRIA) Draft Bill* has been extended to the **17 March 2023**. Please submit written comments to: nwria@dws.gov.za, for attention of: Ms. T Masevhe. Click [here](#) for more information.

AFRICA LOW ON CARBON EMISSION LIST DUE TO UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH, ENERGY-REPORT A new report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) says the world's top 1% of emitters produce more than 1000 times more carbon dioxide than the bottom 1%, with South Africa the only African nation on the list. [ESI Africa, 23 February 2023.](#)

#BUDGET2023: RENEWABLE ENERGY, SOLAR TAX INCENTIVE INTRODUCED FOR BUSINESSES, INDIVIDUALS Government is introducing a R9bn tax relief programme to support the country's clean energy transition, increase electricity supply and limit the impact of consistently high fuel prices. The programme on Wednesday, 22 February 2023, unveiled by finance minister Enoch Godongwana while delivering the 2023 Budget Speech. The 2023 Budget Review report indicates that while R4bn in relief was provided for households that install solar panels, R5bn was provided to companies through an expansion of the renewable energy incentive. [Bizcommunity, 22 February 2023.](#)

AFRICA'S GREEN ECONOMY POTENTIAL OUTWEIGHS NEGATIVE STEREOTYPES Welcoming the audience to the opening of Africa's Green Economy Summit (AGES), Ian Banner, co-founder of E Movement, said he believed Africa's biggest asset is not its people minerals but the sun exposure. *"It's an incredibly powerful resource that we're starting to understand how to harness through renewable energy,"* said Banner. [ESI Africa, 22 February 2023.](#)

A COMPULSORY 100% BLACK WOMEN SCORE ON THE B-BBEE SCORECARD IS THE PANACEA TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CHALLENGES Achieving sustainable development goals of promoting gender equality in all facets of life, decent work for men and women, and reducing inequality is a challenge that has mainly affected women across the globe. Many policies and programmes have been implemented to empower women, strengthen their societal position, and contribute to economic development. [IOL, 22 February 2023.](#)

PARTNERSHIP FOR CARBON TRANSPARENCY RELEASES UPDATED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR STANDARDIZED EXCHANGE OF EMISSIONS DATA The Partnership for Carbon Transparency (PACT), hosted by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), has released updated technical specifications to help organizations exchange Product Carbon Footprint (PCF) information. Technology solutions, ranging from procurement and supplier management systems to carbon management software, can now exchange product-related carbon emissions data using the same standardized

technical language. Enabling such data sharing represents a significant step towards carbon transparency and supply chain decarbonization at scale. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 21 February 2023.](#)

5 WAYS BUSINESSES CAN IMPLEMENT THE NEW GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK The Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) sets ambitious targets to conserve nature and ensure its sustainable use and businesses are essential to its implementation. A key step for businesses to successfully contribute to the GBF is transparency and awareness of their impact on nature, reducing their adverse effects while ramping up good practices. Businesses would do well to collaborate with others and ensure they include indigenous people and local communities within decision-making. [World Economic Forum, 21 February 2023.](#)

TALK ON ESG FOR ALL SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AT WORLD ESG SUMMIT IN DUBAI *“As the world has grown more concerned with combatting widespread issues like climate change and social injustice, the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) movement has gained momentum to ensure businesses are doing their part, by transparently reporting to investors and stakeholders their positive and negative impacts on the environment and society,”* says KBS CEO Marc DeLuca. The World Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Summit will magnify the ground reality and allow all stakeholders to urge for methodologies to minimize or evade carbon emissions through a practical approach. Focusing on insightful sessions, valuable discussions, and fruitful networking to redefine the current approach and adopt the most impactful ways of incorporating ESG on priority. [Tech Bullion, 21 February 2023.](#)

TENDER: REA NIGERIA INVITES BIDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR MINI-GRIDS The Rural Electrification Agency of Nigeria now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders to provide services for the development of solar hybrid mini-grids for rural economic development of 150 unserved rural communities. [ESI Africa, 20 February 2023.](#)

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: **“New CDP data shows companies are recognizing the need for climate transition plans but are not moving fast enough amidst incoming mandatory disclosure.”**, [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 [January 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 – The Latest Signals Of Change (17.02.23)”**, [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: **“The era of interconnected challenges: holistic approach needed for addressing inequality, the climate crisis and biodiversity loss”** [here](#).

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2023

There are no events to share.

ONLINE & HYBRID EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKHOPS/CONFERENCES | 2023

AFRICA'S GREEN ECONOMY SUMMIT 2023 | 22 - 24 February 2023 | Century City, Cape Town, South Africa | Africa's Green Economy Summit is a deal-making platform that marries global capital with green economy projects from across the continent, focusing on e-mobility. The theme in 2023 is Driving the E-mobility & Infrastructure Investment Strategy. Connecting people and organisations to information and each other, the Summit brings together senior officials from African governments, cities, and policymakers together with the global investor community, project developers and business executives, to pave the way for an inclusive green economy and sustainable mobility. The Summit's overarching theme is e-mobility complemented by two interdependent green economy pillars: renewable energy and clean technologies. | [Website & further details.](#)

TWO YEARS OF JUSTICE40: HOW THE INITIATIVE IS DELIVERING SOLUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS | 28 February 2023 | Virtual | The Justice40 initiative put a new spotlight on the historic inequities faced by frontline communities, the impact the climate crisis has on their future, and the opportunity to create a transformational clean energy economy that is inclusive of all Americans. Join World Resources Institute on 28 February 2023, as they discuss how the Justice40 Initiative is transforming the climate landscape and the environmental justice movement, discuss how benefits are reaching disadvantaged and historically marginalized communities, and explore what more can be done to fully realize an equitable clean energy economy for all | [Further details.](#)

SYSTEMS CHANGE FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW | 2 March 2023 | Virtual | To limit global temperature rise, conserve nature, and build a fairer economy that benefits everyone, we will need deep change across every aspect of our economies at a pace and scale we have not yet seen. Because our world is complex and interconnected - small changes in one system can have unforeseen consequences in others - spurring transformative action requires a systemic approach. | [Further details.](#)

SUSTAINABILITY PRACTITIONER PROGRAMME | 6 - 10 March 2023 | Virtual | The Sustainability Practitioner Programme (SPP) is designed for middle to senior managers in organisations from the private or public sector. The SPP equips delegates with a high-level understanding of sustainability, which rests on a simple premise – the interconnectedness of all things. It requires us to reframe our thinking by asking different questions. | [Further details.](#)

THE AFRICA ENERGY INDABA 2023 | 7-9 March 2023 | Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa | The Africa Energy Indaba Conference will discuss, debate, and seek solutions to enable adequate energy generation across the continent. Delegates, drawn from all continents, represent an unrivalled combination of industry experts, project developers, financiers, energy users, government officials and manufacturers. | [Website & further details.](#)

UNLOCKING CLEAN ENERGY DEPLOYMENT: A CONVERSATION WITH SEN. BRIAN SCHATZ ABOUT THE FUTURE OF TRANSMISSION PERMITTING REFORM ON CAPITOL HILL | 14 March 2023 | Virtual | Join World Resources Institute on 14 March 2023 for a conversation with Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii, a champion for the clean energy future and committed advocate for climate-smart legislation in the U.S. Senate. The discussion will center around federal transmission permitting reform and the growing need to rapidly deploy clean energy infrastructure. | [Further details.](#)

CONNECTING GREEN HYDROGEN MENA 2023 | 14-16 March 2023 | Palazzo Versace Dubai, UAE | Connecting Green Hydrogen MENA 2023 (CGHM2023) is at the forefront of expediting the development of green hydrogen in the Middle East and North Africa, gathering policymakers, power producers, investors, suppliers, and technical service providers internationally to build business partnerships. | [Website & further details.](#)

BOTSWANA MINING & ENERGY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION (BME) | 22-23 March 2023 | Gaborone Fairgrounds Botswana | BME is the region's latest international mining, renewables, power & construction expo and gathering of top mining, power & energy executives, representatives of regional executive authorities, investors, banks, industry associations, service companies and equipment producers for two days of networking, knowledge sharing and business matching. The event has

separate 2 days conference, with free-to-attend exhibition, hosting the region's leading mining, energy & technology providers.

| [Website & further details.](#)

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