

# ON A CLEAR DAY 2023

**NBI**  
National Business Initiative



On A Clear Day: Issue 846, 12 October 2023

## NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

**ARE YOU READY TO BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION?** In a nation grappling with staggering inequality and mounting economic challenges, the National Business Initiative (NBI) offers you a unique opportunity to make a lasting impact. With over half of our population living in poverty and unemployment on the rise, the stakes couldn't be higher. Add to this the looming threat of climate change, and the need for immediate action becomes undeniable. The NBI is your gateway to transformation, with a focused mission encompassing Economic Inclusion, Social Transformation, Environmental Sustainability, and Institutional Capacity. Join us today and be a catalyst for change. For more information, contact [Gillian Hutchings](#), Head of Membership & Communications, and unlock your potential to create a thriving society, economy, and environment.

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS** The National Business Initiative (NBI) is thrilled to announce the launch of the Climate Finance Accelerator South Africa Phase 3 call for proposals. CFA offers a wide range of support to help climate mitigation projects access the finances they need to grow and thrive. CFA's mission is to improve the flow of climate finance in South Africa and drive positive change for our planet as a result. The call for proposals is now open. [Apply today!](#)

**VODACOM, ESKOM'S VIRTUAL WHEELING POWER GENERATION PILOT COULD SEE A BROAD LAUNCH BY THE END OF 2024** At an event on 6 October 2023 at Vodacom's main offices in Johannesburg, the mobile services provider, in conjunction with Eskom and the National Business Initiative, gave us an overview of the company's progress toward a new product. Following a keynote address by SA's Minister of Electricity Dr. Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, Vodacom and various stakeholders explained more about how virtual wheeling might work. Read more, [here](#).

**2023 P4G COLOMBIA SUMMIT ACCELERATES CLIMATE SOLUTIONS** The 2023 P4G Colombia Summit brought together more than 1,100 government leaders, CEOs, entrepreneurs, NGOs and investors from more than 24 countries to accelerate climate finance for just transitions. With more than 23 sessions, the summit helped businesses access

financing and overcome policy barriers. Hosted by the Government of Colombia, City of Bogotá and the National Business Association of Colombia (ANDI) in Bogotá, Colombia on September 22-23, 2023, the Summit covered climate finance challenges and solutions across three main tracks: biodiversity, energy transition and sustainable cities. Shameela Soobramoney, CEO of South Africa's National Business Initiative, underscored that the just transition must center people by making sure resources are adequately distributed, and that in South Africa, businesses are pioneering ways to make that happen. [World Resources Institute, 5 October 2023.](#)

## INDUSTRY NEWS

**AFRICA CAN AND SHOULD HARNESS ITS HYDROGEN POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT** Harnessing the potential for renewable energy and green hydrogen production, or replacing carbon atoms with hydrogen atoms in the energy value chain, can build peace and stability in Africa, petroleum company Conex Liberia MD **Amitahb Prasad** has said. "By 2035, Africa can produce 50-million tons of competitively priced green hydrogen. The expected global demand for green hydrogen is 607-million tons by 2050. In comparison, Africa's demand for green hydrogen and its derivatives is expected to reach 10-million to 18-million tons a year by 2050, but with a production potential much above that. [Engineering News, 11 October 2023.](#)

**UN SECRETARY-GENERAL BRIEFS MEMBER STATES ON PROGRESS ON OUR COMMON AGENDA** Briefing Member States on progress under OCA, the Secretary-General said he was encouraged by the discussions during the SDG Summit, the Climate Ambition Summit, and other events of the UNGA High-level Week, noting that the common themes that emerged are the themes of OCA. He said engagement around the 2024 Summit of the Future will draw on the activities and advocacy around the SDG Summit, the OCA policy brief series, and the report of the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism. [SDG Knowledge Hub, 11 October 2023.](#)

**CITY OF JOBURG OUTLINES AMBITIOUS PLANS TO MITIGATE WATER SHORTAGES** Joburg Water networks senior manager **Logan Munsamy** on Tuesday laid out a range of plans that the municipality would undertake as it deals with critical water supply challenges across various districts. Between August and September, bulk water supplier Rand Water experienced various challenges with its infrastructure which negatively impacted the various water supply systems in the City of Johannesburg and other municipalities in Gauteng. On September 27, Water and Sanitation Minister **Senzo Mchunu** announced that water shifting would be implemented in some areas to deal with the water shortages in the City. [Engineering News, 10 October 2023.](#)

**WORLD HABITAT DAY FOCUSES ON CITIES AS DRIVERS OF GROWTH** Priming cities to become drivers of economic growth and recovery in the aftermath of the crises such as conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic is the focus of World Habitat Day. Global economic growth is declining to about 2.5 per cent this year, the UN said. Apart from the initial COVID-19 crisis three years ago, and the global financial crisis in 2009, this represents the weakest level since 2001. Given the size of the contribution of cities to national economies, the future of many countries will be determined by their productivity. Urban areas can promote inclusive, green, and sustainable growth, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in his message for the Day. [United Nations, 2 October 2023.](#)

## NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

**NDZONDELELO HIGH YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS MENTORSHIP AND INCUBATION PROGRAMME AWARD AT ESKOM EXPO ISF** Mpho Mketso, 16, a learner at Ndzonelelo High School in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth), has achieved a remarkable feat at the Eskom Expo International Science Fair (ISF), being among the ten learners selected to receive a highly sought-after 12-month mentorship and incubation programme, generously sponsored by the Durban University of Technology. Eskom Development Foundation Acting CEO, Mologadi Motshela, said: "At the Eskom Expo, young scientists are given the platform to apply their logical thinking, creativity, and innovation

to address pressing problems within their communities. Eskom Development Foundation wholeheartedly provides support to these learners who are not only finding solutions but are emerging as inspirational figures among their peers. As they navigate the intricate landscape of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and innovation (STEMI), the Expo strives to ignite a lasting passion for innovation and steer them toward promising careers in these fields". [Eskom, 12 October 2023.](#)

**JSE COLLABORATES WITH XPANSIV TO LAUNCH VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET TO ADVANCE SOUTH AFRICA'S CARBON CREDIT CAPABILITIES** The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) is proud to launch a new carbon market in collaboration Xpansiv, the premier infrastructure provider for global environmental markets under a separate legal entity called JSE Ventures. This groundbreaking sustainability initiative will allow local participants to buy or sell carbon credits and renewable energy certificates that are held in either local or global registries. Customers will be able to advance their sustainability goals as they will have full access to the functionality of the global Xpansiv platform for spot trading, auctions, or requests for quotes for both carbon offsets and renewable energy certificates. [Johannesburg Stock Exchange, 12 October 2023.](#)

**ANGLO AMERICAN AND MITSUBISHI MATERIALS TO COLLABORATE ON RESPONSIBLE COPPER VALUE CHAIN** Anglo American announces the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Mitsubishi Materials Corporation ("Mitsubishi Materials"), to collaborate on the creation of a copper product offering that responds to growing demand for metals with demonstrably strong provenance credentials. Anglo American and Mitsubishi Materials will also explore decarbonisation opportunities to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the metal provided to customers. [Anglo American, 11 October 2023.](#)

**ERM'S VISVESH SRIDHARAN RECOGNIZED AS SUSTAINABILITY RISING STAR BY GREENBIZ 30 UNDER 30 RMB** ERM's ESG Integration Lead for ESG Fusion, Visvesh Sridharan, has been recognized in the annual GreenBiz 30 Under 30, which showcases the achievements of young professionals making an impact in corporate sustainability, climate tech, and other efforts to mitigate the climate crisis. Visvesh, a sustainable finance expert based in Frankfurt, Germany, won particular recognition for his role in the development and rollout of ERM's ESG Fusion, an AI-enabled service that provides on-demand ESG rating assessments and insights to help private market investor clients make informed decisions. [ERM, 11 October 2023.](#)

**NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT ASSISTS CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL IN BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION** Global law firm Norton Rose Fulbright announced today that it will partner with Conservation International, a nonprofit environmental organization working to protect forests, oceans and other living ecosystems, for its 2023 Global Charitable Initiative (GCI). This year's GCI theme is "protecting our planet's biodiversity." The firm's 2023 GCI theme is an extension of the 2022 GCI focus – "building sustainable communities" – with an increased commitment to reversing environmental degradation. Along with worldwide fundraising, volunteering and pro bono activities, Norton Rose Fulbright intends to collaborate with clients and other private and public sector organizations to support biodiversity protection. [Norton Rose Fulbright, 9 October 2023.](#)

**MONDI GRUNBURG HAS PARTNERED WITH NKE TO CREATE A NEW PACKAGING SOLUTION FOR WIND POWER COMPONENTS** Mondi Grünburg has partnered with NKE, a prominent manufacturer of bearing solutions for wind, railway and industrial applications, to create a new packaging solution for wind power components. With the rising demand for renewable energy sources, the wind power sector has gained significant attention. The challenging operating conditions of wind turbines necessitate components that deliver exceptional efficiency and uncompromising reliability. [Mondi Group, 6 October 2023.](#)

**CLICKS GROUP MAKES A CLEAN SWEEP AT RECENT GENDER AWARDS** Clicks Group CEO Bertina Engelbrecht won three awards and Clicks Group was a finalist in two categories at the 2023 Gender Mainstreaming Awards which acknowledge and celebrate meaningful representation of women in mainstream business across Africa. Engelbrecht, who is the first woman to have been appointed as Clicks Group CEO, won the RMB Fearless Thinker Award, the Positive Role Model Award, and the Inclusive Leader Award. RMB's Africa's Fearless Thinker award, now in its second year, identifies an

individual who is recognised among their colleagues or community for their ground-breaking, innovative thought leadership on tackling gender mainstreaming issues. [Click Group, 6 October 2023.](#)

**RMB'S AFRICA'S FEARLESS THINKER AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED** Bertina Engelbrecht is the 2023 winner in RMB's Africa's Fearless Thinker category, announced at the 11th Accenture Gender Mainstreaming Awards (GMAs) on 5 October. The GMAs were developed by Business Engage to acknowledge and celebrate meaningful representation of women in mainstream business across Africa. RMB's Africa's Fearless Thinker award, now in its second year, identifies an individual who is recognised among their colleagues or community for their ground-breaking, innovative thought leadership on tackling gender mainstreaming issues.

**LIBERTY IS OFFERING ITS STRUCTURED GLOBAL PERFORMER PORTFOLIO FOR 2023** Liberty is opening up a further tranche of its popular Structured Global Performer portfolio for investors looking to gain yield from global markets with a measure of capital protection in place while being shielded from currency swings. Two portfolios are on offer - one that focuses on the powerhouse economies of Europe and the US - while the other focuses on global companies with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) credentials for the investor who seeks a more sustainable option for their money. [Liberty, 5 October 2023.](#)

**JUICY CITRUS BRINGS HEALTH AND INCOME TO NORTH WEST SCHOOLS THROUGH SUN CITY PROJECT** Sun City continues to create jobs for youth in the North West Province through the cultivation of juicy local citrus, using National Arbor Month as a springboard to further ignite their learnership and schools programme. To expand upon the project which was started last year by the Resort's Social-Economic Development Programme, Sun City purchased a further 550 citrus trees, of which 250 were planted to establish a mini-orchard to be used for training purposes for unemployed youth. Read more, [here.](#)

## NOTICES/REPORTS/OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

**COP28 NATURE POSITIVE BASELINING SURVEY FOR ORGANIZATIONS** Together with climate change, the degradation of nature is one of the biggest challenges currently facing the global community. Nature and climate are two sides of the same coin: while nature is one of the most effective levers against climate change, climate change is a principal threat to ecosystem health. We cannot meet the goals of the Paris Agreement without nature. One of the flagship outcomes around Nature at COP28 will be a call to action to mobilize business to advance Nature Positive for Climate Action call to action. The COP28 Presidency along with the Climate Champions Team urges you and all businesses to drive climate action by accelerating your journey to nature positive. This survey will help us understand how businesses are moving this agenda forward. Click [here](#) to complete the survey.

**STANDARD BANK TOP WOMEN LEADERS PUBLICATION LAUNCHES ITS 18TH EDITION** Standard Bank Top Women Leaders publication proudly announces the release of its 18th edition, a comprehensive guide dedicated to celebrating women-led business success and championing gender empowerment in South Africa. This milestone edition spans nearly three hundred pages, featuring captivating insights into almost eighty gender empowered organisations, making it the most extensive publication since 2018. [Bizcommunity, 12 October 2023.](#)

**WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE: HOW CLOSING THE GENDER GAPS CAN ACCELERATE ECONOMIC GROWTH** Closing gender gaps can help countries recover from the global economic crisis, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Emerging economies and developing countries, the IMF says, have the most to gain. The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report urges public and private sector action on gender gaps. [World Economic Forum, 9 October 2023.](#)

**THESE COUNTRIES ARE MAKING UNEXPECTED GAINS IN THEIR ENERGY TRANSITIONS. HERE'S WHY** Despite the singular global goal of net zero emissions, countries will have to find their own paths to reach it, and the routes are many and varied. While some nations have been leading the Forum's Energy Transition Index score for a decade, others are now

seeing seismic changes to their score. So which countries are making unexpected progress in their energy transitions, and what's behind this improvement? [World Economic Forum, 9 October 2023.](#)

**STATEMENT: GREEN CLIMATE FUND'S SECOND REPLENISHMENT SHOWS FAR MORE FINANCE NEEDED FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES** 25 nations gathered at the Green Climate Fund's pledging conference to announce \$9.3 billion in new contributions to the fund's second replenishment. Formally established in 2010, the Green Climate Fund is central to the cooperative international effort on climate change. Capitalized by 37 developed countries, with voluntary additional contributions by 9 developing countries, it provides finance to developing countries towards mitigation, adaptation and resilience efforts. Its first round of funding (2015) and first replenishment (2019) both comprised roughly \$10 billion. New executive director Mafalda Duarte aims to grow the fund to \$50 billion by 2030. The Green Climate Fund plays an important role in catalysing transformational change toward a low-emissions and climate-resilient future. It already disburses its funds with a balance between adaptation- and mitigation-focused projects. [World Resources Institute, 5 October 2023.](#)

**WBCSD JOINS THE RACE TO ZERO AS ACCELERATOR** The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) has officially joined the Race to Zero as an Accelerator, bolstering the global effort to combat climate change and achieve a net-zero carbon future by 2050. Led by the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions, the Race to Zero is one of the world's largest net-zero campaigns, brings together a diverse array of non-state actors, including businesses, cities, regions, financial institutions, healthcare providers, and educational institutions, with a shared goal of halving global emissions by 2030. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 4 October 2023.](#)

**HOW WOMEN IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH ARE LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE** Leaving women out when working on environmental solutions puts them in more vulnerable positions. Historically, women have played a bit part in protecting the environment in Asian and South American countries. Women are working to conserve forests, protect water quality, and stop the expansion of fossil fuel extraction. [World Economic Forum, 4 October 2023.](#)

**WHITE PAPER: CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY: A PRIMER FOR BOARDS** The transition to circular business models is a critical lever for organisations to achieve climate commitments and reach net-zero emissions. Since board directors play a pivotal role in steering companies, they must be prepared to champion and drive the circular agenda. [World Economic Forum, 3 October 2023.](#)

**BALANCING ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE AMBITIONS IN INDONESIA** In the heart of Southeast Asia, Indonesia is gearing up to become the world's fourth-largest economy by 2045. The nation's growth story is fueled by a burgeoning population, rising middle class, and continued economic growth. However, Indonesia faces a crucial challenge: how to harmonize its economic ambitions with its commitment to combat climate change and ensure long-term sustainable growth. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 3 October 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. In 2023, 7,000 companies have been requested to disclose on plastics for the first time through CDP's water security questionnaire. The new plastics module consists of five to nine unscored questions that cover plastics-related business risks, targets, value chain mapping, and raw material content, among other topics. Read their latest Press Release, entitled "[CDP's response to the launch of the UK Transition Plan Taskforce's Disclosure Framework](#)" [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 mobilises business leaders for water stewardship. Read their **March 2023 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: July 21, 2023**" [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: "**Building a global action agenda for built environment market transformation**" [here](#).

## NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2023

**INTERGENERATIONAL LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE | 19 October 2023, via Zoom** | The energy sector has been widely recognised as one of the least diverse industries. Fostering active and inclusionary engagement and participation with communities regarding the social, economic, and technical facets of our economy is essential for facilitating a fair and equitable transition towards a more sustainable energy landscape. **The National Business Initiative (NBI) invites you to join us for the upcoming Intergenerational Leadership Dialogue, "Bridging the Gender Energy Gap for Youth and Women"**. This important dialogue creates a platform to explore how a collaborative approach between the government and the private sector can co-create sustainable solutions. | [Website & further details](#).

## ONLINE & HYBRID EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES | 2023

**AFRICAN ENERGY WEEK | 16-20 October 2023 | Cape Town, South Africa** | African Energy Week (AEW) is the African Energy Chamber's annual event, uniting African energy leaders, global investors and executives from across the public and private sector for four days of intense dialogue on the future of the African energy industry. In 2023, the event returns bigger and better than ever before, serving as the official meeting place for Africa's energy elite. At the forefront of the African energy industry, AEW promotes the role Africa plays in global energy matters, centered around African-led dialogue and decision making. Covering the entire energy sector and value chain, AEW represents the only conference on the continent representative of the entire sector. | [Website & further details](#).

**A PATH ACROSS THE RIFT: FROM RESEARCH TO DIALOGUE TO ACTION | 18 October 2023 | Online** | Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are uniquely positioned in the journey to a clean energy system, with the fastest growing energy demand and lowest rates of access to reliable, clean energy. While the opportunity to enhance people's lives and national economies is substantial, there are flaws in the way we think and talk about energy in the region, and a lack of connection between stakeholders, which are blocking necessary change. A new Policy Brief from WRI and the Energy Transitions Commission (ETC), *A Path Across the Rift*, has identified the common misconceptions and gaps in research which need to be addressed for policy makers and investors to move forward with energy planning. Common myths of a uniform African continent and simplistic ideas of abundant natural resources should be replaced by country-specific energy plans, informed by place-specific evidence from the granular level right up to the supporting ecosystem of infrastructure, policy and finance. | [Register](#)

**BLOOM 23 | 24 October 2023 | San Jose Convention Center** | While climate change has been front and center for today's business world, an equally existential crisis is confronting the global economy: the accelerating loss of biodiversity and ecosystems. WRI is pleased to be a Community Partner with GreenBiz for Bloom 23 (Oct. 24-25, San Jose, CA) -- the leading event for professionals advancing strategies to protect and regenerate nature. Over the course of two interactive days, the event creates essential connections between companies, innovators and experts from leading organizations and Indigenous groups. | [Website & further details](#).

**MORAL MONEY SUMMIT AMERICAS 2023 | 24 - 25 October 2023 | In-Person & Digital | Convene, 1 Liberty Plaza | New York** | The environmental and social agenda is at a critical juncture with businesses and investors under increasing pressure to demonstrate progress on their goals. The demand for transparency and accountability is growing louder as many companies fail to fulfil their climate, governance and societal pledges, while concerns over greenwashing multiply. To make progress towards a more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive economy, the implementation strategies and the oversight of how they are being executed must be bulletproof. | [Website & further details.](#)

**NET ZERO FESTIVAL 2023 | 31 October- 1 November 2023 | London, UK** | Hosted by BusinessGreen, the UK's leading green business media brand and a source of news and analysis for the green business community that reaches over a million readers a year, the Net Zero Festival will bring together over 1,000 senior business executives, investors, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and campaigners over two days to explore how to navigate the defining economic, political, and technological trend of the age and work together to accelerate the net zero transition. This year's Festival will build on the success of last year's event, which brought together a host of leading experts in the net zero transition, including Chris Skidmore (who used the event to formally launch the Net Zero Review), head of the UN's High Level Expert Group on Net Zero Catherine McKenna, the CBI's Rain Newton-Smith, and the CCC's Chris Stark, among many others. | [Website & further details.](#)

**AFRICA'S GREEN ECONOMY SUMMIT | 21-23 February 2023 | Cape Town, South Africa** | Governments in Africa are developing national plans and laying strategies to adapt their growth models as climate change is accelerating the need for a green economy transition. This new era presents massive opportunities which will have a significant impact on environmental sustainability and economic growth. From entrepreneurial start-ups to national scale infrastructure projects, Africa's Green Economy Summit connects project owners with a network of global investors who fund opportunities that will accelerate Africa's journey to a just and inclusive green economy. The summit forms part of a week-long series of special events and entertainment to showcase sustainability, e-mobility and renewable energy solutions which is underpinned by the Cape Town E-Prix. | [Website & further details.](#)

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