

# ON A CLEAR DAY 2023



Clear Day: Issue 848, 17 November 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 (CFA) 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 deadline for submissions is 17 November 2023. **Apply today!**

**CONSCIENTIZING A CULTURE OF ETHICAL LEADERSHIP AMONGST THE YOUTH: MIRRORING MANDELA'S LEADERSHIP VALUES (QUICK BRIEF)** Corruption is the antithesis of ethical leadership, and it thrives in the shadows of apathy and indifference. Over the past decade, we have witnessed communities across South Africa falling victim to the effects of corruption. The Zondo Commission unearthed several cases of corruption across the public and private sector, highlighting the urgent need for leaders who embody principles of democracy, social justice, and ethical leadership. The National Business Initiative (NBI) has developed key pathways that focus on engaging in Ethical Leadership and Anti-

Corruption strategies for society, the workplace, and the broader economy. Our focus on building trust and accountability within the private sector supports the practical implementation of ethics, anti-corruption, and corporate governance. Through our carefully designed Ethical Leadership and Anti-Corruption (ELAC) training we facilitate, support, and explore culture change within the private and public sectors. Read more, [here](#).

**PRIDE SIGNIFICANCE, THE PINK ECONOMY, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR: THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN ENSURING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION OF THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY IN SOUTH AFRICA (QUICK BRIEF)** Pride Month in South Africa commemorates a milestone moment in African history- where the first pride march on the African continent took place in Johannesburg, South Africa on 13 October 1990. It occurred during the apartheid regime- a period where it was illegal to be lesbian or gay in South Africa. Resultantly, the first pride march was used as a political advocacy protesting platform to emphasise the legal discrimination against the LGBT group. Those who self-identify as LGBTQIA+ are particularly vulnerable to common forms of discrimination relative to cisgender and heterosexual individuals due to their gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation. These include barriers to employment; realisation of certain rights; access to services; mistreatment; judgement and bullying as well as emotional, psychological, and physical abuse. Companies need to continuously engage with the nuances of belonging in the workplace, as this has a direct correlation to an organisation's ability to attract and retain talent, extend support, and foster an environment which recognises that diversity and equity are inextricably connected to the bottom-line. Read more, [here](#).

**CLIMATE CHANGE EMBROIDERED ARTWORK, CRAFTED BY 43 ARTISTS, UNVEILED IN CAPE TOWN** Ahead of the next global climate meeting, COP28, in Dubai next month, an intricate piece of artwork has been unveiled in Cape Town to highlight the existential threat that climate change poses to human life – particularly for rural people. The enormous embroidered artwork is the handiwork of 43 artists, mainly women, who live in the vicinity of the tiny coastal town of Hamburg close to the mouth of the Keiskamma River in the Eastern Cape. [IOL, 9 November 2023.](#)

**AMID THE COP28 FRENZY, DEVELOPMENT BANKS CAN BE GAME-CHANGERS** Those who have been following the global environmental, social & governance (ESG) framework debate would be forgiven for being a little dizzy and unable to make sense of it all. Of late, the debate has been particularly frenzied. In early October the International Energy Agency released a sobering report. In summary, it said global demand for fossil fuels must fall by a quarter by 2030 if the world is to have any chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C by 2050. [Business Day, 8 November 2023.](#)

**UCT HOSTING HIGH-PROFILE GATHERING ON INTERACTIONS BETWEEN INEQUALITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE** The African Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research (ACEIR) at the University of Cape Town (UCT) was one of the organisers of the international research-for-policy conference on Inequality, Work, and Nature: Strategic Dilemmas and Policy Resolution on 8–9 November 2023 in Cape Town. Speakers from South Africa's National Business Initiative, the environmental non-profits groundWork and the Global Energy Alliance for the Planet and the People, AFD and European Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the International Labour Organisation shared perspectives from the civil society, private, and developmental sectors. One of these, a climate activist from the African Climate Alliance, is currently completing his undergraduate studies at UCT. [UCT, 8 November 2023.](#)

## INDUSTRY NEWS

**WOMEN ARE LEADING THE FIGHT TO STOP CLIMATE CHANGE** Over the past few years, international climate policy has been shaped largely by a close-knit group of politicians in the twilight of their careers. Now leaders from beyond the traditional US-Europe-China powercenter—some new to the international stage, others already veterans—are emerging. And women are at the forefront. *"Women are now the decision makers that can increase the likelihood of impactful decisions that actually stick,"* says Jennifer Morgan, Germany's special climate envoy. [Engineering News, 16 November 2023.](#)

**HALFWAY TOWARDS 2030 CLIMATE TARGETS, WHAT TO EXPECT FROM COP28** COP28 sees the first five-yearly Global Stocktake, conducted by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Global Stocktake urges more action on all fronts, noting that the world is not on track to meet the Paris Agreement's long-term goals. The Global Stocktake gives us a better sense of the gap between what we should be doing and what we are managing to achieve. [World Economic Forum, 13 November 2023.](#)

**SOUTH AFRICAN UNIONS TO LAUNCH JUST TRANSITION LABOUR RESEARCH CENTRE** Four South African trade union federations have come together to launch a just transition research centre to develop the technical expertise to help the labour movement in addressing the potential risks posed to workers as a result of the restructuring that will accompany the transition to greater climate resiliency. The centre will initially be housed at Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS) and will be supported by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the Federation of Unions of South Africa, the National Council of Trade Unions and the South African Federation of Trade Unions. [Engineering News, 10 November 2023.](#)

**CORRUPTION THREATENS DEMOCRACY ITSELF, RAMAPHOSA SAYS** President Cyril Ramaphosa has said the "*rampant and unbridled corruption*" that has gutted the South African economy over the past few decades is not just a threat to the economy, but also to the very concept of democracy in South Africa. "*If corruption is not arrested or stopped, the greatest damage will not be in the funds that are stolen . . . or the jobs that are lost, it will be in the damaging of our democracy. It will be in making our people have less confidence and have less trust in our democracy,*" Ramaphosa told delegates at the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council's (NACAC's) National Anti-Corruption Dialogue, in Johannesburg, on November 8. He commended the efforts of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud in the Public Sector including Organs of State, better known as the Zondo Commission or the State Capture Commission, saying that the State capture enquiry was a watershed moment in South African history. The President further committed to adequately resourcing the NACAC going forward. [Engineering News, 8 November 2023.](#)

**CLIMATE COMMISSION NAMES WINNERS OF GREEN SOLUTIONS PITCH CHALLENGE** The Presidential Climate Commission (PCC), the British High Commission to South Africa and other organisations have crowned Samanjalo and Green Guru as the winners of the first Green Solutions Pitch Challenge focused on Mpumalanga. The other organisations on the judging panel included development programme Grindstone; tech financier Untapped Global; diversified miner Anglo American support programme the Anglo American Foundation; and mining company Seriti Resources' renewable energy arm Seriti Green. The winners were chosen during a pitch event hosted in Emalahleni on November 1. The Green Solutions Pitch Challenge provided the opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase their innovative efforts and transformative ideas for sustainable solutions. [Engineering News, 7 November 2023.](#)

## NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

**DESPITE CLIMATE CONCERNS, JUST 14% OF COMPANIES REDUCED CARBON EMISSIONS IN LINE WITH AMBITIONS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS** CO2 AI and BCG's Third Annual Carbon Emissions Survey Indicates Companies Are Falling Short on Reduction Ambitions, Citing a Wide Array of Challenges. [BCG, 16 November 2023.](#)

**ERM AND SWEEP JOIN FORCES TO ACCELERATE AND SCALE DATA-DRIVEN CLIMATE PROGRAMS** ERM, the world's largest pure play sustainability consultancy, has announced a strategic partnership with Sweep, a rapidly expanding software platform for carbon and sustainability data management. The partnership blends ERM's advisory capabilities and Sweep's advanced digital platform to help businesses develop and implement robust data-driven climate and ESG strategies. [ERM, 15 November 2023.](#)

**SA YOUNG SCIENTISTS TO PRESENT RESEARCH AT TURKEY SCIENCE FAIR** Two South African young scientists have been awarded opportunities to present their scientific research at this year's Buca International Music, Science, Engineering



Energy Fair (IMSEF) in Turkey. The Buca IMSEF is an international conference which is held in Izmir, Turkey annually from 20 to 25 November 2023. It is aimed at school learners, with projects being accepted in all fields of science, engineering and music. Inge Higgins, a Grade 9 learner at Hoërskool Menlopark in Pretoria, and Vera van der Merwe, a Grade 10 learner at Bloemhof Hoër Meisieskool in Stellenbosch, were awarded at the Eskom Expo International Science Fair (ISF) after impressing judges with their pioneering research projects. [Eskom, 15 November 2023.](#)

**DOLPHIN BAY NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER** In this issue: Taking a strong stand on quality, new regulations cause concern, NEMA amendment act stokes uncertainty, Dolphin Bay assists with Merensky Timber's Cape Town relocation, taking fun (a little) seriously. Access the full newsletter [here](#).

**CONCOR CLINCHES CONSTRUCTION WORLD BEST PROJECTS AWARDS FOR TWO PROJECTS** Concor's name has long been associated with Construction World's Best Projects with numerous of the company's projects, both in infrastructure and the built environment, winning accolades over the past 22 years since the inception of this prestigious awards platform. This year has been no different with two of the three projects entered by the company securing podium finishes. The Eastgate Sustainability Project was awarded a Highly Commended award in the AfriSam Innovation Award for Sustainable Construction category and a Special Mention award in the Building Contractors category. This project involves the extension of the solar energy generation plant, the installation of rainwater harvesting, storage and treatment facilities and the upgrading of the heating, cooling and ventilation (HVAC) system. [Concor, 10 November 2023.](#)

**THE INAUGURATION OF AIR LIQUIDE AND SIEMENS ENERGY GIGAWATT ELECTROLYZER FACTORY PAVES THE WAY TO RENEWABLE HYDROGEN DEVELOPMENT AT SCALE** Air Liquide and Siemens Energy officially inaugurated their joint venture gigawatt electrolyzer factory today in Berlin. The mass production of electrolyzer components will allow the manufacturing of low-carbon hydrogen at industrial scale and competitive cost, and foster an innovative European ecosystem. The state-of-the-art gigawatt factory will ramp-up to an annual production capacity of three gigawatts by 2025. With two global leading companies in their field combining their expertises, this Franco-German partnership plays a pivotal role in the emergence of a sustainable hydrogen economy needed to forge the energy transition. [Air Liquide, 8 November 2023.](#)

**SOPHIE ROSS AND RACHEL ROSENBLATT NAMED TO CONSULTING MAGAZINE'S WOMEN LEADERS IN CONSULTING LIST** FTI Consulting, Inc. (NYSE: FCN) announced that two professionals have been named to Consulting magazine's 2023 Women Leaders in Consulting list, which recognizes women who have had a profound impact on their firms, clients and future women leaders in the industry. [FTI Consulting, 6 November 2023.](#)

**ABSA GROUP COMES ON BOARD AS NAMING SPONSOR FOR BEN-AFRICA CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS ETHICS** Absa Group proudly announced its sponsorship of the Business Ethics (BEN) Africa Conference, on 1 to 3 November 2023 in Gqeberha, formerly Port Elizabeth. This year's edition of the BEN-Africa Conference takes place at the Nelson Mandela University under the theme "Corruption: Ubuntu and the opportunity for change". It brought together organisations, leaders and other stakeholders from private, public and non-profit organisations who have a shared passion for ensuring ethical decision-making is applied in all corners of business practices in Africa. [Absa, 30 October 2023.](#)

## NOTICES/REPORTS/OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

**FINANCE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT PRIMER: ACCELERATING THE DECARBONIZATION OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT THROUGH FINANCE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT** Real estate is the world's most valuable asset class, representing two-thirds of global wealth. With construction-related activities making up more than 13% of global GDP and 12% of employment, its size means it contributes to over one-third of final energy use globally, generates nearly 40% of global energy-related carbon emissions and consumes 40% of raw materials globally. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 15 November 2023.](#)

**ADVISORY: WRI PRESS CALL ON EXPECTATIONS FOR COP28 CLIMATE SUMMIT** On November 21st, 2023 at 8:30am EST/2:30pm CET, join World Resources Institute (WRI) for a press call where experts will set expectations for a successful outcome at the COP28 climate summit. [World Resources Institute, 15 November 2023.](#)

**NET-ZERO OPERATIONAL CARBON BUILDINGS: STATE OF THE ART** We are seeing increasing demand for net-zero emissions buildings – from building owners looking to align their property portfolio to corporate commitments, from tenants searching for space that meets their corporate requirements, and from investors looking to deploy sustainable finance in the property market. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 14 November 2023.](#)

**THE STATE OF CLIMATE ACTION: MAJOR COURSE CORRECTION NEEDED FROM +1.5% TO –7% ANNUAL EMISSIONS** As COP28 approaches, humanity is still far from solving its biggest challenge. Following years of insufficient action, the ambition agreed upon in Paris in 2015 may be slipping out of reach, less than ten years after its formulation. To retain any chance of limiting global warming below 1.5°C by the end of this century, global emissions must decrease by around 7% annually until 2030 – but they are still increasing by 1.5% today. [World Economic Forum, 8 November 2023.](#)

**EMISSIONS MEASUREMENT IN SUPPLY CHAINS: BUSINESS REALITIES AND CHALLENGES** This paper provides an overview of the measurement of supply chain emissions in three key sectors, focusing on businesses’ challenges and preparedness, and flags some important issues for policy action. [World Economic Forum, 7 November 2023.](#)

**UPROOTING ENTRENCHED GENDER BIASES IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE** This paper discusses the barriers to and enabling conditions for designing and implementing gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture (CSA) initiatives. Through examples, the paper identifies lessons and promising practices for addressing gender issues across the range of CSA interventions from farm level practices and systems approaches to the enabling environment. Through two deep dive case studies, the paper showcases the potential for CSA to contribute to gender-transformative results and offers recommendations for doing so. [World Resources Institute, 6 November 2023.](#)

**ETHIOPIA’S PATH TO NET ZERO AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT: POLICIES, COSTS, AND CO-BENEFITS** This Working Paper is part of New Climate Economy within Climate and Economics. Reach out to [Abiyot Dagne Belay](#) for more information. [World Resources Institute, 30 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 “ **As COP28 approaches, research shows key electric utilities companies are progressing towards a renewable energy transition but pace of change is too slow**” [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: November, 6, 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: “Empowering Businesses: Shifting to Long-Term Decision-Making for Climate Resilience” [here](#).

## NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2023

No events to share

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

**MORAL MONEY SUMMIT AFRICA 2023 | 21 November 2023 | Hybrid | Johannesburg, Marriot Hotel, Melrose Arch** | The National Business Initiative (NBI) is proud to announce our dynamic CEO, Shameela Soobramoney, will be speaking at the upcoming Moral Money Summit Africa. Uncover the path to a sustainable future for Africa at the Moral Money Summit Africa! With estimates indicating a need for US\$1.6tn this decade to fulfil the continent's Paris Agreement commitments, the question looms large: Where will this funding come from? Africa, bursting with potential, emits only a fraction of the carbon compared to developed nations, houses the world's fastest-growing population, and offers a promising carbon offset market. However, this unique landscape demands complex solutions and rapid action. | [Website & further details.](#)

**A Year in Review: Africa's Climate Agenda | 27 November 2023 | Webinar** | Join us at this webinar to reflect on the climate events of the year and the promises they hold for the continent. Speakers will talk about what we must do to seize this opportunity to chart an inclusive path that yields lasting wealth, eliminates poverty and protects nature. | [Website & further details.](#)

**The Climate Entrepreneurs' Journey to Investment: Successful Strategies for Directing Climate Finance to Businesses in Emerging Economies | 2 December 2023 | Danish Pavilion at COP28** | Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) play a pivotal role in driving change, constituting approximately 90% of all businesses. Particularly in emerging markets, they are responsible for generating 7 out of every 10 jobs. It is imperative to acknowledge that achieving global climate targets is contingent on mobilizing financial resources for SMEs. Access to finance remains a critical impediment to the growth and development of SMEs. This session aims to share insights between start-ups, policymakers, and investors, on the successes and challenges climate entrepreneurs face on their journey to scale. | [Website & further details.](#)

**WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING | 15-19 January 2024 | Davos-Klosters, Switzerland** | The 54th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum will primarily focus on exploring the opportunities enabled by the new technologies and their implications on decision-making and global partnership. As in previous years, the upcoming Annual Meeting will be the foremost platform to drive public-private cooperation at the highest level, convening over 100 governments, all major international organizations, the 1000 most important global companies, relevant civil society and academic institutions, as well as the global media. | [Website & further details.](#)

**AFRICA'S GREEN ECONOMY SUMMIT | 21-23 February 2024 | 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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