



On A Clear Day: Issue 847, 30 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 (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 call for proposals is now open. [Apply today!](#)

2023 P4G COLOMBIA SUMMIT 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 (NBI), underscored that the just transition must centre people by making sure resources are adequately distributed, and that in South Africa, businesses are pioneering ways to make that happen. Watch more [here](#).

PEPSICO SOUTH AFRICA IS DRIVING WATER CONSERVATION Food and beverage leader, PepsiCo South Africa continues to drive its commitment to water stewardship in South Africa, signifying its dedication to sustainable growth, community well-being, and environmental responsibility. Recognising the critical role water plays in the food system and its broader impact on the environment and communities, PepsiCo South Africa continues to make significant strides in its water stewardship efforts. Read more, [here](#).

MORAL MONEY SUMMIT AFRICA 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. Are key stakeholders stepping up to the plate? Read more, [here](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND YOUTH FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE FUTURE The 20th annual Standard Bank Top Women Conference brought together influential voices from various sectors to address the pressing issues of gender equality, economic empowerment, and women's leadership. With insightful keynotes and thought-provoking discussions, the event emphasised action over discourse. [BizCommunity, 26 October 2023](#).

\$1BN WORLD BANK LOAN TO SUPPORT SOUTH AFRICA'S ENERGY REFORMS AND DECARBONISATION The World Bank has approved a \$1-billion development policy loan to support electricity market reforms under way in the country, as well as South Africa's low-carbon transition. As a development policy loan, the funding will be directed to the National Treasury, which immediately indicated the timing of the loan to be opportune, although no details were immediately provided regarding the loan's terms or its concessionality. [Engineering News, 25 October 2023](#).

UN REPORT ISSUES WAKE-UP CALL FOR ACTION ON PEACE, JUSTICE, AND INCLUSION The UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have published an analysis of the latest data on SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) indicators. The Global Progress Report on SDG 16 Indicators warns that progress on Goal 16 "is moving in the wrong direction" and calls for action to reverse the current trend. [SDG Knowledge Hub, 18 October 2023](#).

CLIMATE FINANCE ACCELERATOR CALLS FOR CLIMATE PROJECT CAPACITY BUILDING PROPOSALS The UK government-funded technical assistance programme Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA) South Africa has launched a call for proposals to identify projects combatting climate change that would benefit from capacity-building support to help them attract investment. The accelerator is looking for projects that are at least in the prefeasibility stage and require a minimum of \$4 million. Selected projects will receive advice and support from a range of technical and financial experts to help them find investment. [Engineering News, 17 October 2023](#).

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

GETTING ENDORPHINS PUMPING FOR MENTAL HEALTH Sun City Resort is raising awareness about mental health within its doorstep communities with their second annual event dedicated to getting endorphins pumping, the Sun City GM's Kasi Ride. Sun City staff and neighbouring communities will join forces with hotel residents and representatives from partners such as the Department of Health and the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, to run, walk or

cycle to draw attention to the issue of mental health, which can include depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders and addictive behaviours. Last year's event was attended by 1 500 participants. Read more, [here](#).

AIR LIQUIDE RECEIVES RECOGNITION ON ITS BIODIVERSITY COMMITMENTS BY ACT4NATURE INTERNATIONAL Air Liquide's biodiversity commitments, made in 2022, have been recognized and validated by the Act4nature International initiative. This validation marks a new milestone for the Group and illustrates its attachment to biodiversity preservation and conservation. The Act4nature international initiative validated Air Liquide's commitment (a) to reinforce biodiversity assessment criteria in the investment process for all new projects by 2024; (b) to develop and implement an aggregated biodiversity indicator by 2025; (c) to raise awareness amongst employees on biodiversity and (d) to reaffirm the Group's climate and water ambitions. These commitments demonstrate the Group's recognition of the importance of biodiversity in maintaining ecological balance, preserving natural resources and ensuring the well-being of communities and wildlife. [Air Liquide, 23 October 2023.](#)

COUNCIL FOR GEOSCIENCE AND SASOL COLLABORATE TO ADVANCE CCUS RESEARCH IN SOUTH AFRICA The Council for Geoscience (CGS) and Sasol have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate, explore and develop carbon capture and utilisation and storage (CCUS) potential in South Africa. This collaboration marks another step in accelerating the trajectory towards achieving a low-carbon economy through strategic and cooperative initiatives. This agreement will leverage on the expertise and experience of both the public and private sectors and deploy CCUS research and innovation towards commercial viability and scalability in South African conditions. The CCUS project is one of the climate change mitigation programmes co-funded by the South African government and World Bank in South Africa. [Sasol, 20 October 2023.](#)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS Genesis Analytics annual Value Unlocked competition showcases the best work done in the firm over the past year that highlights their purpose of Unlocking Value for their clients and communities. The standard this year was as exceptional as always and the firm had a hard time voting for the winners. [Genesis, 17 October 2023.](#)

PUTTING THE BATTERY POWER INTO RENEWABLE ENERGY SEES 'ELECTRIC GROWTH' FOR LOCAL MANUFACTURER The renewable energy sector may be booming, but the high cost of materials and hardware generally pushes the business beyond the reach of many entrepreneurs. The one thing all installations need, however, is batteries. For some brave businesspeople, this has been enough to take on the world of imports and develop local alternatives. [Standard Bank, 17 October 2023.](#)

GRINDROD TOUCHING THE LIVES OF COMMUNITIES IN WHICH IT OPERATES As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility, Grindrod donated 177 bicycles to schools in Namaacha and Boane in the province of Maputo. This project will directly impact 77 teachers, school staff, five mechanics, and 95 students from 5 schools in the region. This initiative carried out in partnership with Mozambikes, aims to transform lives and communities and encourage education and development in the communities where it operates. In addition to providing bicycles, lectures were held on traffic safety, and a workshop will be made available, which will be managed by the schools for maintenance. [Grindrod, 13 October 2023.](#)

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 the 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.

FLEXIBLE WORKING IS HELPING WOMEN IN WORK – BUT THEY ARE STILL STRUGGLING TO REACH SENIOR ROLES Flexible working is helping women remain in their jobs, but despite some progress, many are still struggling to reach senior roles, research suggests. A fifth of women say that flexibility has helped them keep their roles or avoid reducing their hours,

according to analysis by McKinsey and LeanIn.Org, which also found that women who work flexibly are just as committed to their careers as women in office-based roles. However, while there are more women represented in the C-suite than ever before, progress for women lower down the ranks is far slower. [World Economic Forum, 26 October 2023.](#)

LIVING NEAR GREEN SPACE LINKED TO BETTER CELLULAR HEALTH IN A NEW STUDY A new study by an international team of researchers has found that green space — the vegetation in parks, public spaces and gardens — has a positive effect on an important genetic marker related to exposure to stress, a press release from North Carolina State University (NC State) said. The study also found that green space’s positive impact is not enough to make up for other environmental challenges. [World Economic Forum, 25 October 2023.](#)

LAUNCHING A CLIMATE COALITION? LEARN FROM EXISTING ONES FIRST A recent evaluation in the context of the United Nations’s first-ever Global Stocktake — an assessment of our climate action to date and a roadmap for where the world needs to be — finds that climate action is woefully insufficient. Crucially, the report underscores the urgent need for greater cooperation among governments on policy, finance, technology and other areas to get us there. [World Resources Institute, 24 October 2023](#)

HUMAN RIGHT TO FOOD NEEDS ‘MASSIVE INVESTMENT’: GUTERRES With 735 million people going hungry last year and three billion unable to afford a healthy diet, the world is “going backwards on our goal of zero hunger by 2030”, the UN chief told the Committee on World Food Security. Addressing the UN-backed body meeting in Rome, António Guterres underscored that the session was taking place “at a moment of crisis for global food security” and provided some sobering statistics. [United Nations, 23 October 2023.](#)

ENERGY STORAGE: HOW BUSINESSES CAN SUPPORT POWER SYSTEM FLEXIBILITY FOR A RENEWABLE-POWERED FUTURE WBCSD has been at the forefront of supporting companies in accelerating the deployment of renewable power solutions through power purchase agreements (PPAs). As the world continues its transition to renewable power sources, the imperative for adaptable supply and demand within power grids is becoming the next key area of focus. This article delves into the future of an electricity grid with high shares of renewable power, and particularly looks at the role of businesses in integrating energy storage solutions (ESS) to increase grid flexibility. It offers valuable insights learned from our work in India to illustrate their commercial viability. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 23 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: “ **Accelerating carbon accounting in Asia**” [here](#).

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2023

No events to share

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

RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY: A CLARION CALL FOR CLIMATE LEADERSHIP | 09 November 2023 | Webinar | The Global Stocktake at COP28 will evaluate how much progress has been made in the fight against the climate crisis and what more is needed. But global climate efforts are currently way off track, and no one is at more risk than the vulnerable communities who are facing a mounting debt crisis and have few resources to respond to escalating impacts. The Global Stocktake at COP28 will evaluate how much progress has been made in the fight against the climate crisis and what more is needed. But global climate efforts are currently way off track, and no one is at more risk than the vulnerable communities who are facing a mounting debt crisis and have few resources to respond to escalating impacts. | [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](#).

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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