

ON A CLEAR DAY 2023



On A Clear Day: Issue 843, 31 August 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.

NEWSFLASH: NBI WINS NPO AWARDS: "SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR 2023" The National Business Initiative (NBI) is thrilled to announce that we have been honoured with the prestigious "Social Transformation Initiative of the Year 2023" award by Acquisition International, under their Non-Profit Organisation Awards. This recognition, which is based on the reach and impact achieved by NBI's various programmes in 2023, celebrates our unwavering commitment to driving and inspiring business action for sustainable growth in South Africa. Read more, [here](#).

NEWSFLASH: NBI WELCOMES NEW CO-CHAIR FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY (ACES) The National Business Initiative (NBI) is thrilled to announce the appointment of Justine Bolton as the new co-chair of our esteemed Advisory Committee for Environment and Society (ACES). ACES, one of NBI's primary engagement platforms, plays a pivotal role as the key advisory body to the NBI's Environment & Society Unit. Recognising the significance of staying informed and engaged on the nation's socio-economic and environmental challenges, including the crucial transition to a net-zero carbon economy by 2050, ACES serves as a vibrant platform for in-depth discussions. The committee focuses on

building the business case and fostering collaborative strategies to address systemic challenges effectively. Read more, [here](#).

QUICK BRIEF: GENDER EQUITY IS AT THE CORE OF ACHIEVING AN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY Gender equity is critical for socio-economic transformation. According to UN Women, women's economic empowerment boosts productivity and increases economic diversification and income equality, in addition to other positive social and developmental outcomes. While important strides have been made in addressing gender equity, many women continue to be marginalised and excluded from the economy. This exclusion has significant ramifications for our economy and society broadly as it exacerbates already existing challenges of poverty, inequality, and unemployment. The achievement of women's economic inclusion requires an in-depth understanding of the systemic and structural barriers that inhibit women from accessing opportunities. Collaboration across sectors is crucial in dismantling these blockages through co-creating and designing approaches, interventions and programmes that intentionally drive transformation and inclusion. Read more, [here](#).

EOH CORRUPTION STUDY HOLDS LESSONS FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S FINANCIAL SYSTEM A study of the corruption that took place at JSE-listed information and communications technology company EOH from 2001 and its subsequent recovery from the damaging impact showed that there were multiple institutional failures across South Africa's financial ecosystem to detect and stem corrupt activities. [Engineering News, 30 August 2023](#).

BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTION SECTOR REQUIRES TWO-PRONGED APPROACH TO DECARBONISE – REPORT South Africa's buildings and construction sector, which includes the operation of residential and commercial buildings, in addition to construction, accounts for about 7% of South Africa's direct emissions. This is according to the 'Decarbonising South Africa's Buildings and Construction Sector' report, the final report from the Climate Pathways and Just Transition Project run by the National Business Initiative, in partnership with Business Unity South Africa and Boston Consulting Group. [Engineering News, 23 August 2023](#).

ENTREPRENEUR BUILDS A LASTING LEGACY The road to success is always under construction" – These are the words of Vandy Cloete, co-founder and director of WVC Konstruksie. Vandy is an entrepreneur whose journey is a reflection of resilience, tenacity and embodying a strong will to learn and put in the work, in order to achieve success. As part of my work in supporting the Economic Inclusion Unit at the National Business Initiative (NBI), I have had the privilege and honour of witnessing her journey, through NBI's flagship programme, the Installation, Repair and Maintenance (IRM) Initiative. [Sentinel News, 23 August 2023](#).

SAB IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ESG AFRICA EVENTS LAUNCHES THE BEYOND AWARDS The South African Breweries (SAB) will host its first ever Beyond Awards, a sustainability recognition platform, in partnership with ESG Africa events, taking place on 3 October 2023. In addition to this, the brewer will also be a gold sponsor of the ESG Africa Conference taking place from 4-5 October at the Sandton Convention Centre. This aims to bring business leaders from across Africa together to discuss, debate and find solutions to some of the most pressing issues faced in driving the adoption of sustainable practices. [Mail & Guardian, 21 August 2023](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

BRICS COUNTRIES EXPAND PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT The BRICS bloc of developing countries, comprising Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China, and South Africa, decided to expand their alliance to include Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). In a summit declaration, the BRICS leaders commit to strengthening cooperation to promote peace, a more representative international order, a reinvigorated and reformed multilateral system, sustainable development, and inclusive growth. [SDG Knowledge Hub, 30 August 2023](#).

AGRICULTURE DEPT LAUNCHES R1.2BN BLENDED FINANCE INSTRUMENT FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) has, together with the Land Bank, launched a blended financing instrument to aid farmers in accessing alternative energy solutions amid the electricity supply crisis. [Engineering News, 29 August 2023.](#)

AFREXIMBANK, CDB SIGN \$400M LOAN TO SUPPORT SMES State-owned development finance institution the China Development Bank (CDB) on August 29 signed a development-focused agreement to provide private banking company the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) with a \$400-million term loan facility to support the financing of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Africa. [Engineering News, 29 August 2023.](#)

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY IRELAND RELEASES ITS SUSTAINABILITY HANDBOOK Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI), the Irish Global Network partner of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), published its Sustainability Handbook. Sustainability is the most important change management project of our time. Transformational change is needed if we are to deliver to global commitments on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, restoring nature, and working towards a more equal society. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 25 August 2023.](#)

TRANSITION WILL BE NOT ONLY IN ENERGY, BUT IN THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE The just energy transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy that South Africa wants to pursue will also be a transition for the whole economy and presents opportunities for South Africa to address its triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality, said Presidential Climate Commission head of mitigation Steve Nicholls. [Engineering News, 25 August 2023.](#)

BI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

ERM TO SUPPORT CORNISH LITHIUM WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR UK LITHIUM MINE ERM, the world's largest pure play sustainability consultancy, has been appointed by Cornish Lithium to lead the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Trelavour hard rock mine project in Cornwall. The project is a key step towards developing a domestic supply of lithium that will accelerate the UK's path to net-zero. [ERM, 31 August 2023.](#)

SUSTAINABILITY WITH SUBSTANCE: WHY SUSTAINABILITY DRIVES STRATEGY AT SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC Stephanie Niven, Global Sustainable Equity Portfolio Manager, and Amit Bhalla, Head of Investor Relations at Schneider Electric, discuss why the industrial company has put sustainability at the core of its business strategy. [Ninety One, 31 August 2023.](#)

VODACOM, ESKOM SIGN HISTORIC FIRST VIRTUAL WHEELING AGREEMENT Telecommunications giant Vodacom and South African State-owned power utility Eskom on Wednesday signed a first-of-its-kind virtual wheeling agreement that moves the JSE-listed firm closer to its goal of sourcing 100% of its electricity demand from renewable energy sources by 2025 while adding capacity to the strained national grid. [Engineering News, 30 August 2023.](#)

PLANTING FOOD GARDENS AT ECD CENTRES Old Mutual has partnered with the Nelson Mandela Foundation to establish food gardens at ten Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Limpopo, the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, and Gauteng. This is part of the Nelson Mandela Foundation's Mandela Day campaign this year, focusing on Climate, Food, and Solidarity. The climate crisis, along with pre-existing challenges of poverty and inequality, places food security at risk for many regions and neighbourhoods. "Through this partnership, we aim to take action against the climate crisis and create food-resilient environments," says Gushwell Brooks, Head of Mandela Day, and Public Outreach, from the Nelson Mandela Foundation. [Old Mutual, 30 August 2023.](#)

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO LOOK AFTER OUR WATER Charcoal entrepreneurs are helping to restore these grazing areas by removing the wattle, after which it returns to indigenous grass species, increasing the land available for livestock grazing and restoring ecosystem function. Springs in the area that have been dormant for years are reappearing, there is a noticeable recovery of the wetlands and grasslands, and a reduction in soil erosion. 'These are the people who are looking

after South African's strategic water source areas (SWSAs) that provide more than 50% of our entire country's surface water, including a significant proportion of the supply to all our major cities,' says WWF-SA's Water Source Areas Manager, Samir Randera-Rees, who works closely with the WWF Nedbank Green Trust on several projects in SWSAs. [Nedbank, 25 August 2023.](#)

PEPSICO BEVERAGES NORTH AMERICA ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR SALT RIVER PROJECT'S RESILIENT WATER AND FOREST PROJECT IN THE VERDE RIVER WATERSHED PepsiCo Beverages North America (PBNA) announced a commitment of funds to the Salt River Project (SRP) Resilient Water and Forest Restoration Project in the Verde River watershed, one of Arizona's most important waterways. The project focuses on restoring forest structure, composition, and function in a 1,450-acre area of the watershed that supplies water to the Phoenix metropolitan area. Many parts of the watershed are at high risk of wildfire, the occurrence of which would harm SRP's ability to provide resilient water to the Phoenix community. [Pepsico, 24 August 2023.](#)

CATALYSING TOWNSHIP REVIVAL THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT Community development in a growing country, such as South Africa, entails changes to the social, political, and economic environment. This report was compiled in collaboration with UNICEF in support of Generation Unlimited (GenU) together with the University of Pretoria. Through the PwC/UNICEF collaboration, the University of Pretoria established the Mamelodi Business Hub (MBH), an Entrepreneurship Community Hub. The main goal of the hub is to put community development initiatives into place that support entrepreneurship growth and foster social innovation. [PwC, 24 August 2023.](#)

IDC EMPOWERS YOUNG FARMERS THROUGH MARKET ACCESS PROJECT The IDC's corporate social investment arm continuously looks to collaborate with small businesses that aim to empower communities within South Africa. Identifying viable projects and supporting these projects through grant funding, opens doors for the small business entrepreneur, whilst also providing sought after economic upliftment for the communities themselves. Through the Corporate Social Investment division, the IDC recently approved grant funding of R2,000,000 towards Khula App, which provides a digital ecosystem of platforms connecting and enabling role players in the agricultural and food value chain to grow their businesses. The project aims to benefit 25 young farmers in Limpopo, North West, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu Natal and Free State. [IDC, 21 August 2023.](#)

NOTICES/REPORTS/OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

WHAT TO WATCH AT THE FIRST AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT Climate change is already having a significant impact on Africa's ecosystems, economy and society. This year alone, 1.8 million Africans were displaced during a prolonged drought, the Democratic Republic of Congo experienced catastrophic flooding, and Cyclone Freddy left a trail of destruction in Malawi and Mozambique. And these kinds of devastating events are expected to worsen as temperatures rise. [World Resources Institute, 30 August 2023.](#)

6 CONVERSATIONS WE NEED TO HAVE ON THE ENERGY TRANSITION The anticipation of a world powered by clean, reliable affordable energy is palpable. But what will it take to move beyond rhetoric into real action? Energy and economic planning policymakers are having conversations about upgrading our homes and equipment, the use of renewables-based electricity and the rapid phase-down of fossil fuels. The promise of emerging technologies like energy storage and green hydrogen are capturing investor and entrepreneurial attention. Yet we also must navigate important societal issues about long-term policy and strategy, obtaining critical data for decision-making and tracking, the social acceptance of energy transition and, most important, putting people at the center of the energy transition. [World Resources Institute, 30 August 2023.](#)

REPORT: AGRICULTURE 2023: SURGING COSTS THREATEN SUSTAINABILITY Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Minister Thoko Didiza tabled a R17.20-billion budget for her department in the 2023/24 financial year in May 2023, including transfers to provincial agriculture departments and relevant entities. [Engineering News, 29 August 2023.](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNING CARBON REMOVAL IN LONG-TERM CLIMATE PLANNING Over the last several years, a growing number of countries have expressed plans to use, or intentions to explore the use of technological carbon dioxide removal methods to reach their long-term climate change mitigation targets. This includes carbon removal approaches like direct air capture and carbon mineralization that are not providing large-scale removal today. [World Resources Institute, 29 August 2023.](#)

REPORT: FINDING PATHWAYS, FINANCING INNOVATION: TACKLING THE BRAZILIAN TRANSITION CHALLENGE Brazil, the fifth largest country in the world and the largest economy in Latin America, plays a critical role in the global fight against climate change. As well as being a key supplier of agricultural, mineral and oil and gas resources, it is also the largest greenhouse gas emitter in Latin America and the Caribbean and home to 60% of the Amazon basin. The paper highlights that in addition to these instruments, the country must also mobilize private funding and develop a national taxonomy. Such developments must inform sectoral decarbonization pathways that establish specific goals and guidelines for each sector, taking into account the nation's unique features. Download the report [here](#).

THREE TIPS FOR INTEGRATING ESG INTO CORPORATE STRATEGY Corporate responsibility is not just a buzzword; it is a guiding principle that shapes the foundation of a company's identity. Corporations have a profound responsibility to positively affect their employees, society and the environment. Embracing corporate responsibility means recognizing that a business's success is intertwined with the well-being of its stakeholders and the communities it serves. [Greenbiz, 28 August 2023.](#)

EU GREEN TAXONOMY IN PRACTICE: WHITE PAPER 2023 The EU Green Taxonomy is currently being rolled out, and it aims to define which of a company's activities are 'green', thereby making it easier for financial companies to funnel capital towards green companies/projects while minimizing their risks of greenwashing. The idea is a good one – but how is the implementation going in practice? We Mean Business Coalition has in this white paper sought greater insights into what the EU Green Taxonomy reporting practice is for both financial and non-financial companies. We have done so, because the legislation has been criticized for not being accurate, and at times not being relevant for those companies that are requested to report. [We Mean Business, 23 August 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 "**New data reveals US\$2.3 trillion investment opportunity from valuing water**" [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: "**Navigating**

internal carbon pricing to drive decision-making and emissions reduction: three strategies for effective implementation” [here](#).

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2023

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP SESSION (TLS) – INNOVATION AND IMPLEMENTATION THAT IS SHIFTING ELECTRICITY MARKETS | 6 October 2023 | The National Business Initiative (NBI), Climate Group, Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), have partnered to establish RAiSE (Renewables Ambition in South African Electricity) to unlock the power of corporate procurement and generation of renewable electricity in South Africa. RAiSE is excited to invite you to a thought-provoking dialogue on “Innovation and Implementation that is Shifting Electricity Markets”, hosted in partnership with the Vodacom Group | [Website and further information](#).

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

WRI AT AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT AND AFRICA CLIMATE WEEK | 4-8 September 2023 | **Kenyatta International Conference Centre, Nairobi, Kenya** | Africa Climate Summit and Africa Climate Week will take place from 4–8 September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. The inaugural Africa Climate Summit, championed by HE President Ruto, presents a critical opportunity to galvanize Africa’s voice on climate solutions in preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in November. The Summit focuses on investment in solutions for sustainable economy that Africa offers to the world. It will serve as a platform to inform, frame, and influence commitments, pledges, and outcomes, ultimately leading to the development of the Nairobi Declaration | [Website & further details](#).

SPRINGBOARD FOR ACTION: UNPACKING THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE SYNTHESIS REPORT | 12 September 2023 | **Online** | Oppressive heat, choking wildfires, record rainfalls and raging floods have gripped the world in recent months, taking lives, unravelling ecosystems and depleting energy and water supplies. This summer of unparalleled extremes comes ahead of a major UN report offering a global stocktake of climate action which will undoubtedly confirm that major emitters’ efforts are falling woefully short of what is needed. Join on September 12 at 9:30am EDT / 3:30pm CEST where climate experts will unpack the main findings from the United Nations’ synthesis report on climate action as well as outline concrete opportunities for how the Global Stocktake at the COP28 climate summit can serve as a springboard for bold steps to rapidly decarbonize economies, boost resilience and deliver much more financial support to accelerate the green transition. | [Website & further details](#).

BRICS FUTURE SKILLS CHALLENGE SEPTEMBER 2023 | 12-15 September 2023 | **Nasrec - Johannesburg Expo Center** | This event is a multi-day competition or hackathon where teams from BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and SA) compete on real-world problems. As an attendee, you can observe and learn from the various Future Skills challenges and “Lions Dens” pitches and network with industry professionals. We are expecting 100’s of BRICS competitors as well as 100’s of attendees from business, government, universities and the public. | [Website & further details](#).

CLIMATE WEEK NYC 2023 | 17-24 September 2023 | Climate Week NYC is a pivotal milestone in our collective journey toward COP28. This year being held September 17th-24th alongside the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), it is the largest annual climate event of its kind. The centerpiece of the High-Level Week of the General Assembly is the SDG Summit on September 18th-19th — marking a midpoint for the deadline set for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The decisions made and actions taken during these key moments will shape the trajectory and success of global sustainability initiatives. WBCSD will once again bring the progressive voice of business to the week’s events, creating engagement opportunities for leading CEOs and senior executives. Here is an overview of our activities for the week. Please continue to consult this [page](#) for updated information.

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.**](#)

ESG AFRICA CONFERENCE | 04 – 05 October 2023 | Sandton, South Africa | ESG Africa Conference has partnered with the NBI to convene the most impactful and forward-thinking minds across Africa, as we empower leaders to drive a more sustainable future at the ESG Africa Conference. This highly anticipated event provides an unparalleled platform for industry pioneers and experts to come together and tackle the common challenges associated with embedding ESG practices within organisations. Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to reshape the future and become a catalyst for change. Early bird tickets are available until 30 July 2023: [**Website & further details.**](#)

National Business Initiative (NBI)

5th Floor, 61 Katherine Street, Dennehof, Sandton, 2196
+27 11 544 6000

The National Business Initiative (NBI) respects your right to privacy - if you do not wish to receive any further On A Clear Day's from the NBI, please click [**UNSUBSCRIBE**](#) and your name will be removed from the mailing list.

