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Sustainability Legal Specialists (Pty) Ltd



DECEMBER 2018 SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

For a copy of the Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) Legislation Update, please go to:

<http://imbewu.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Monthly-Sustainability-Legislation-Update-December-2018.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL

GENERAL

CLIMATE CHANGE: Chile will host the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) 25th Conference of the Parties (COP25) after Brazil withdrew from hosting the conference. This followed Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro's announcement that Brazil may withdraw from the Paris Climate Change Agreement (reached at COP21). **Source: Climate Action Programme dated 18 December 2018.** http://www.climateaction.org/news/chile-to-host-cop25?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=UK+Government+announces+new+waste+strategy+for+a+circular+economy+-+Climate+Action+News&utm_campaign=CA+Newsletter+18th+December+2018 At COP24, which was held in Katowice, Poland in late 2018, over 200 countries agreed on certain rules and guidelines for implementing the Paris Agreement entitled the "Katowice Climate Package". **Source: Climate Change News dated 15 December 2018.** <http://www.climatechangenews.com/2018/12/15/countries-breathe-life-paris-climate-agreement/> The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has released a report entitled "Zero carbon London: A 1.5°C compatible plan" which aims to combat climate change in London. **Source: Climate Action Programme dated 14 December 2018.** http://www.climateaction.org/news/mayor-of-london-unveils-1.5c-climate-action-plan?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=UK+Government+announces+new+waste+strategy+for+a+cir

[cular+economy+-+Climate+Action+News&utm_campaign=CA+Newsletter+18th+December+2018](#)

PLASTIC: The European Union (EU) has agreed to ban certain single-use plastics to reduce marine litter. The ban will target the 10 plastic products most often found on beaches as well as abandoned fishing gear. **Source: Climate Action Programme dated 21 December 2018.**

http://www.climateaction.org/news/eu-agrees-deal-on-single-use-plastic-ban?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=EU+agrees+deal+on+single-use+plastic+ban+-+Climate+Action+News&utm_campaign=21st+December+2018

GREAT BARRIER REEF: A group of scientists has launched the largest reseeded project to regenerate coral on the Great Barrier Reef by harvesting eggs and sperm, growing coral larvae from the harvested eggs and then returning these to areas of the Reef which have been damaged by climate-related coral bleaching. **Source: News24 dated 28 November 2018.**

<https://www.news24.com/Green/News/biggest-coral-reseeding-project-launches-on-great-barrier-reef-20181128>

MASS WHALE STRANDING: More than 50 beached pilot whales have died off the coast of New Zealand. Experts have linked this to rising ocean temperatures. **Source: News24 dated 30 November 2018.**

<https://www.news24.com/Green/News/new-zealand-whale-strandings-linked-to-ocean-warming-20181130>

IVORY BAN: The United Kingdom (UK) has passed a law which will impose a total ban on dealing with items containing elephant ivory, including export from or import into the country. **Source: Climate Action Programme dated 20 December 2018.**

http://www.climateaction.org/news/world-leading-ivory-ban-becomes-law-in-the-uk?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=EU+agrees+deal+on+single-use+plastic+ban+-+Climate+Action+News&utm_campaign=21st+December+2018

PUBLICATIONS

CARBON EMISSIONS: The Global Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Institute released a report entitled "*The Carbon Capture and Storage Readiness Index 2018: Is the world ready for carbon capture and storage?*" **Source: Global CCS Institute dated 16 October 2018.**

<http://decarboni.se/sites/default/files/publications/202108/ccs-readiness-index-2018global-ccs-institute-2018digital.pdf> The Energy Transitions Commission, a group of planners, corporations and government advisors, have released a report entitled "*Mission Impossible: Reaching Net-zero Carbon Emissions from Harder-to-abate Sectors by Mid-century*" which shows how the six biggest carbon polluting sectors (cement, steel, plastics, shipping, aviation and heavy road transport) could reduce their carbon emissions to zero as well as the costs related thereto. **Source: Mail & Guardian dated 7 December 2018.**

<https://mg.co.za/article/2018-12-07-00-mission-possible-polluters-can-change>

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: The United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, released the first-ever report on the state of international environmental law entitled "*Gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments: towards a global pact for the environment*". **Source: Environmental Law Association (ELA) Newsletter 48 dated 7 December 2018.**

<https://www.iucn.org/news/world-commission-environmental-law/201812/united-nations-secretary-general-promotes-global-pact>

ARCTIC REINDEER: According to an annual report released by the Arctic National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) entitled "The Arctic Report Card", the population of the arctic reindeer has decreased by half. **Source: Climate Action Programme dated 14 December 2018.** http://www.climateaction.org/news/population-of-arctic-reindeer-has-declined-by-over-half?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=UK+puts+in+bid+to+host+COP26+in+2020+-+Climate+Action+News&utm_campaign=CA+Newsletter+14th+December+2018

NATIONAL

GENERAL

MINING: A parliamentary investigation has found that the clean-up funds for a recently liquidated Australian-owned mining company based in South Africa are inadequate. The investigation also found that the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) did not manage the company's mine closure for its operations near Krugersdorp properly. Documents made public during the liquidation proceedings show that it is unlikely that there will be money for employees or the mine's rehabilitation fund. **Source: Business Day dated 11 December 2018.** <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2018-12-11-mintails-directors-may-face-criminal-charges/> The Minister of Mineral Resources, Gwede Mantashe, announced that his Department will appeal the Pretoria High Court's Xolobeni judgment. **Source: Mining Weekly dated 12 December 2018.** http://www.miningweekly.com/article/xolobeni-judgment-to-be-appealed-2018-12-12/rep_id:3650

WATER: The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Gugile Nkwinti, announced that his Department will release the 2017 Green Drop Progress Assessment Tool Report once the quality assurance process has been completed (anticipated in June 2019). He also noted that the 2016 Blue Drop Progress Assessment Tool Report should be completed by the end of January 2019. **Source: Engineering News dated 4 December 2018.** http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/nkwinti-shares-update-on-blue-green-drop-progress-assessment-tool-reports-2018-12-04/rep_id:4136 The Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA) and Water Shortage South Africa (WSSA) believe that the establishment of an independent national water regulator is crucial in order to protect South Africa's scarce water supplies. They have set up a steering committee with representatives from each organisation and technical and policy specialists to engage with all interested and affected parties over the next two years before presenting this to the appropriate state institutions. **Source: Engineering News dated 11 December 2018.** http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/outa-wssa-call-for-establishment-of-an-independent-water-regulator-2018-12-11/rep_id:4136 The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has instituted court proceedings against the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality for the malfunction of four wastewater treatment plants, which the DWS alleges has caused water pollution. **Source: Engineering News dated 21 December 2018.** http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/water-affairs-takes-tshwane-metro-to-court-over-malfunctioning-waste-water-plants-2018-12-21/rep_id:4136

SULPHUR DIOXIDE: The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) announced that they will set up a panel of experts to provide strategic and technical guidance on the effective regulation of sulphur dioxide emissions from power generation plants as energy companies have been unable to effectively and adequately adhere to these emission limits. **Source: Engineering News dated 5 December 2018.** <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/dea-to-appoint-sulphur-dioxide-emissions-expert-panel-2018-12-05>

RECYCLING AWARDS: The Kgadime Matsepe Secondary School and Tshiluvhi Primary School (both based in Pretoria) have won the Coca-Cola Beverages SA Schools Recycling Awards after collecting a total of 44.2 tonnes and 64.8 tonnes respectively in a record-breaking waste collection campaign. **Source: The Green Times dated 10 December 2018.** <http://thegreentimes.co.za/pretoria-sweeps-clean-in-record-breaking-school-recycling-programme/>

PUBLICATIONS

BIRDS: BirdLife South Africa has published the first "State of South Africa's Birds Report 2018". **Source: ELA Newsletter 50 dated 21 December 2018.** <https://www.birdlife.org.za/publications/state-of-south-africas-birds-report>

CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

IMBEWU WORKSHOPS

CLIMATE CHANGE LAW WORKSHOP: 29 January 2019 in Johannesburg. R2500 per delegate, excluding VAT. Please contact Lulu Lewis on 011 214 0660 or at lulu@imbewu.co.za for more information or go to: <http://imbewu.co.za/services/>.

NATIONAL

AFRICAN MINING INDABA: 4-7 February 2019 in Cape Town.

FIRST ANNUAL INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT LEKGOTLA (ICMSA 2019): 6-8 February 2019 in Cape Town.

AFRICA ENERGY INDABA: 19-20 February 2019 in Johannesburg.

ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE AND LANDFILL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE: 27-28 March 2019 in Johannesburg.

INTERNATIONAL

UNITED NATIONS 28TH WATER MEETING: 1-2 February 2019 in Rome, Italy.

WORLD WETLANDS DAY: 2 February 2019.

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY: 3 March 2019.

IAIA19: 29 April – 2 May 2019 in Brisbane, Australia.

IMBEWU's environmental tip: how to reduce your water usage:

https://planetark.org/water/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Planet%20Ark%20News%20December%202018&utm_content=Planet%20Ark%20News%20December%202018+CID_81b386910068252eff2d8c72f66c5521&utm_source=Campaign%20Emails&utm_term=Find%20out%20more

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