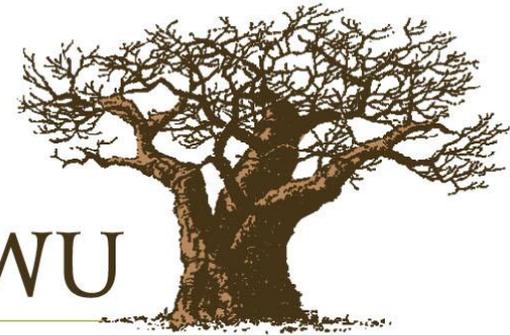




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## JANUARY 2020 SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

*For a copy of the Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) Legislation Update, please go to:*  
<https://imbewu.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Monthly-SHE-Legislation-Update-January-2020.pdf>

### INTERNATIONAL

### GENERAL

**AUSTRALIA'S WILD FIRES:** The ongoing wildfires in Australia have emitted more than 400 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) (more than the total combined annual emissions of the 116 lowest-emitting countries and nine times the amount produced during California's record-setting 2018 fire season). **Source: MIT Technology Review dated 10 January 2020.** <https://www.technologyreview.com/s/615035/australias-fires-have-pumped-out-more-emissions-than-100-nations-combined/> Hundreds of thousands of native fish in the Australian state of New South Wales have died after rains have washed ash and sludge from the bush fires into the Macleay River. **Source: The Guardian dated 17 January 2020.** <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/17/hundreds-of-thousands-of-fish-dead-in-nsw-as-bushfire-ash-washed-into-river>

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** The Climate Assembly UK was formed in response to the United Kingdom (UK) government's commitment to meet net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In November 2019 invitations were sent to 30 000 households randomly selected from across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and thereafter 110 members of the Assembly were selected and are representative of the UK

population. **Source: Climate Action News dated 10 January 2020.** [http://www.climateaction.org/news/business-leaders-appointed-for-climate-assembly-uk?utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=Business+leaders+appointed+for+Climate+Assembly+UK+-+Climate+Action+News&utm\\_campaign=CA+Newsletter+10th+January+2020](http://www.climateaction.org/news/business-leaders-appointed-for-climate-assembly-uk?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Business+leaders+appointed+for+Climate+Assembly+UK+-+Climate+Action+News&utm_campaign=CA+Newsletter+10th+January+2020)

**LANDMARK RULING:** The UN Human Rights Committee has ruled that governments need to take into account the climate change crisis when considering whether or not to deport asylum seekers. The ruling is not binding but it has set a global precedent. **Source: The Daily Maverick dated 21 January 2020.** <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-01-21-sending-back-climate-refugees-may-violate-right-to-life-u-n-body/>

**PLASTICS:** The Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment, National Development and Reform Commission announced that they will be implementing a series of measures to reduce the amount of single-use plastic in the country. **Source: Climate Action News dated 21 January 2020.** [http://www.climateaction.org/news/china-to-phase-out-single-use-plastics?utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=IEA+warns+oil+and+gas+industry+must+act+fast+-+Climate+Action+News&utm\\_campaign=CA+Newsletter+21st+January+2020](http://www.climateaction.org/news/china-to-phase-out-single-use-plastics?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=IEA+warns+oil+and+gas+industry+must+act+fast+-+Climate+Action+News&utm_campaign=CA+Newsletter+21st+January+2020)

**GLOBAL ACTION:** The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO) have launched an initiative entitled "*Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control*" which aims to invest \$500 million from 2020 to 2022 in order to take radical, direct and coordinated measures to fight Fall Armyworm at a global level. **Source: BizCommunity dated December 2019.** <https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/1/358/199204.html>

**GREEN ECONOMY:** The Green Economy Coalition (GEC) have launched a new programme called the "*Green Economy Tracker*" which is a tool to benchmark how countries are transitioning towards greener and fairer economic systems. **Source: Engineering News dated 23 January 2020.** [http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/gec-launches-programme-to-accelerate-reform-for-a-green-economy-2020-01-23/rep\\_id:4136](http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/gec-launches-programme-to-accelerate-reform-for-a-green-economy-2020-01-23/rep_id:4136)

**HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION:** The Indian Forest, Environment and Climate Change Ministry issued a notification stating that offshore and onshore hydrocarbon exploration projects would no longer require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report, nor for public consultations to be conducted. **Source: Mining Weekly dated 20 January 2020.** <https://www.miningweekly.com/article/india-scrap-green-clearances-for-hydrocarbon-exploratory-projects-2020-01-20>

## PUBLICATIONS

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** The Bank of International Settlements (BIS) has released a report entitled "*The Green Swan - Central banking and financial stability in the age of climate change*" which considers the role of central banks, regulators and supervisors in 'preserving financial stability' in the 'age of climate change'. **Source: BIS dated 23 January 2020.** <https://www.bis.org/publ/othp31.pdf> The UK Committee on Climate Change has released a report entitled "*Land use: Policies for a Net Zero UK*". **Source: The Committee on Climate Change dated 23 January 2020.** <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/land-use-policies-for-a-net-zero-uk/>

**RENEWABLE ENERGY:** The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) have published a report entitled “10 years – Progress to Action” which looks at the global advances in the renewable energy sector over the last decade and outlines the key objectives for the new decade. **Source: IRENA dated 10 January 2020.** <https://www.irena.org/publications/2020/Jan/10-Years-Progress-to-Action>

**WARMING OCEANS:** According to research published in the Advances of Atmospheric Sciences entitled “Record-Setting Ocean Warmth Continued in 2019” the world's oceans are now heating at the same rate as if five Hiroshima atomic bombs were dropped into the water every second. **Source: CNN dated 13 January 2020.** <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/01/13/world/climate-change-oceans-heat-intl/index.html>

**HUMAN RIGHTS:** Human Rights Watch has released their annual review of human rights across the world entitled “World Report 2020”. **Source: Environmental Law Association (ELA) Newsletter 4 dated 24 January 2020.** <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020>

**GLOBAL RISKS:** The Global Economic Forum has released the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of “The Global Risks Report 2020”. **Source: Environmental Law Association (ELA) Newsletter 4 dated 24 January 2020.** <https://www.weforum.org/global-risks/reports>

**TAILINGS DAMS:** GRID-Arendal has launched the world's first publicly-accessible global database of mine tailings storage facilities called the Global Tailings Portal (GTP). The database forms part of the Investor Mining and Tailings Safety Initiative and allows users to view detailed information on more than 1900 tailings dams, categorised by company, location, dam type, height, volume and risk as well as other factors. **Source: Mining Weekly dated 24 January 2020.** <https://www.miningweekly.com/article/norwegian-enviro-company-launches-global-tailings-database-2020-01-24>

## NATIONAL

## GENERAL

**WILDLIFE:** The South African Tourism Services Association (SATSA) have drafted new guidelines which will ban all infant wildlife interaction, walking with predators or elephants, interacting with predators or riding wildlife activities in the country. The guidelines should be implemented by July 2020. **Source: Getaway dated 27 January 2020.** <https://www.getaway.co.za/travel-news/south-africa-to-ban-captive-wildlife-interactions/> The Department of Agriculture has redefined 32 wild species as farm animals under the Animal Improvement Act (AIA) even though a scientific report on wildlife breeding (which was called for by the former Minister of Environmental Affairs and authored by 14 of the country's top wildlife scientists) warned that the listing of indigenous game animals under the AIA would “*entrench and exacerbate many of the risks highlighted in this report... It is strongly recommended that no further indigenous species are listed*”. A review process has been independently filed by the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and the South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association to have the amended listing rescinded. **Source: The Daily Maverick dated 28 January 2020.** <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-01-28-government-ignored-its-own-science-task-team-by-redefining-32-wild-species-as-farm-animals/>

**WATER:** The Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs will work together to ensure that government's war-on-leaks programme is implemented properly this year. The Departments aim to

fund and train the youth to assist local government to reduce non-revenue water from malfunctioning infrastructure. **Source: Engineering News dated 17 January 2020.** <https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/government-to-renew-efforts-on-war-on-leaks-programme-2020-01-17> The Managing Director of the East Rand Water Care Company (ERWAT), Tumelo Gopane, believes that steady progress is being made in the Vaal River clean-up project due to a lot of waste water networks in Vereeniging being cleared which has resulted in the increase of water flow to waste water treatment plants. **Source: South African Government News dated 23 January 2020.** <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/good-progress-made-vaal-river-clean> The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has withdrawn its personnel and equipment deployed to the Vaal River clean-up project. The Defence Department's head of communications, Sipiwe Dlamini, said that "during the term of deployment, the SANDF managed to unblock a sewage system that was clogged up resulting in spillage, and to date a total of seven pump stations are now operational with another 24 pump stations functioning, but still requiring some attention." **Source: Engineering News dated 27 January 2020.** [http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/sandf-to-withdraw-from-vaal-river-intervention-project-by-friday-2020-01-27/rep\\_id:4136](http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/sandf-to-withdraw-from-vaal-river-intervention-project-by-friday-2020-01-27/rep_id:4136) The Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Lindiwe Sisulu, has requested approval for her department to intervene and assist the Emfuleni Local Municipality to manage water services infrastructure. This means that the Department of Water and Sanitation will be responsible for the management of water within the municipality. **Source: South African Government News dated 29 January 2020.** <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/department-seeks-cabinet-approval-emfuleni-water-services>

**CLIMATE EMISSIONS:** The Centre for Environmental Rights (CER) has appealed the decision by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) to refuse access to crucial climate change data for several of South Africa's largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters. In February 2019, the CER used the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) to request DEFF to provide them with access to 16 companies' GHG emission reports. DEFF provided certain requested reports but blacked out crucial information for verification of GHG emissions. DEFF stated that redacted information was commercially confidential and if made public, it would harm companies' commercial and competitive interests. The CER disputes this and therefore lodged the appeal. **Source: CER dated 28 January 2020.** <https://cer.org.za/news> The Environmental Management Inspectorate (EMIs / Green Scorpions) issued Eskom's Kendal Power Station with a compliance notice in December 2019 for failing to comply with the country's minimum emission standards. Eskom immediately requested an extension to comply with the timeframes contained in the compliance notice. **Source: M&G dated 10 January 2020.** <https://mg.co.za/article/2020-01-10-00-polluting-power-plant-faces-closure/>

**CLIMATE CHANGE DISCLOSURE:** Sibanye-Stillwater has announced that it is the only South African company to have achieved an "A" rating for its climate change disclosure under the Carbon Disclosure Programme (CDP) platform (over 8400 companies participated in the most recent CPD process). **Source: Mining Weekly dated 20 January 2020.** <https://www.miningweekly.com/article/sibanye-obtains-a-rating-for-climate-change-disclosure-2020-01-20>

**ENERGY:** The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy held a briefing session for potential respondents to the request for information (RFI) for power generation solutions that will be used to inform a "Risk Mitigation Power Purchase Programme" which aims to procure between 2 000 MW and 3 000 MW of near-term capacity from independent power producers (IPPs) as part of efforts to alleviate South Africa's current electricity supply constraints. The deadline for the RFI was 31 January 2020. A full month has been allocated to review the submissions after which an emergency procurement process is expected to be initiated. The South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA) as well as the South African Photovoltaic Industry Association (SAPVIA) have urged the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede

Mantashe, to urgently publish the ministerial determinations required to allow for individuals, companies and municipalities to self-generate their own electricity. Minerals Council South Africa President, Mxolisi Mgojo, has described the country's prevailing inadequate electricity supply as the "biggest risk" to the mining industry and business. **Source: Mining Weekly dated 7, 14 and 28 January 2020.** [http://www.miningweekly.com/article/dmre-hosts-briefing-ahead-of-launch-of-emergency-power-programme-2020-01-07/rep\\_id:3650](http://www.miningweekly.com/article/dmre-hosts-briefing-ahead-of-launch-of-emergency-power-programme-2020-01-07/rep_id:3650) and [http://www.miningweekly.com/article/ramaphosa-proclaims-new-era-of-self-generation-as-power-shortages-deepen-economic-crisis-2020-01-14/rep\\_id:3650](http://www.miningweekly.com/article/ramaphosa-proclaims-new-era-of-self-generation-as-power-shortages-deepen-economic-crisis-2020-01-14/rep_id:3650) and [http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/wind-and-solar-bodies-urge-minister-to-publish-determinations-needed-to-kick-start-power-procurement-2020-01-28/rep\\_id:4136](http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/wind-and-solar-bodies-urge-minister-to-publish-determinations-needed-to-kick-start-power-procurement-2020-01-28/rep_id:4136)

**ECO AWARDS:** The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Eco-Logic Awards, hosted by The Enviropaedia, will take place on World Environment Day, 5 June 2020. Entries are now open for individuals, companies and communities that are making a difference through environmentally sustainable initiatives. **Source: BizCommunity dated 3 February 2020.** <https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/628/200222.html>

## PUBLICATIONS

**ELECTRICITY:** The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has released a report entitled "Setting up for the 2020s: Addressing South Africa's electricity crises and getting ready for the next decade." **Source: ELA Newsletter 4 dated 24 January 2020.** <http://researchspace.csir.co.za/dspace/handle/10204/11282>

**ANTI-POACHING:** DEFF has released a guideline entitled "Guideline to Inform Decisions on the Establishment of Anti-Poaching Related Systems and Services". **Source: ELA Newsletter 4 dated 24 January 2020.** [https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/legislations/guidelinesforantipoaching\\_systemsestablishment.pdf](https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/legislations/guidelinesforantipoaching_systemsestablishment.pdf)

**MINE HEALTH & SAFETY STATISTICS:** The Minister of Mineral and Energy Resources has released the statistics of the 2019 occupational health and safety statistics for the mining industry. The sector recorded 51 fatalities in 2019 (the lowest number of fatalities in a year ever on record). **Source: South African Government dated 24 January 2020.** <https://www.gov.za/speeches/2019-mine-health-and-safety-statistics-24-jan-2020-0000>

## CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

### NATIONAL

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** 27 – 28 February 2020 in Pretoria.

**WOMEN IN ENERGY CONFERENCE:** 3 March 2020 in Cape Town.

**AFRICA ENERGY INDABA:** 3 – 4 March 2020 in Cape Town.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN MARINE WASTE NETWORK:** 20-23 April 2020 in Port Elizabeth.

## INTERNATIONAL

**15<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONVENTION ON WASTE RECYCLING AND REUSE:** 20 – 21 February 2020 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**7<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POLLUTION CONTROL AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT:** 2 – 3 March 2020 in Rome, Italy.

**WORLD WILDLIFE DAY:** 3 March 2020.

**WORLD OCEAN SUMMIT:** 9 – 10 March 2020 in Tokyo, Japan.

**SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT FORUM EUROPE 2020:** 10 March 2020 in Paris, France.

**GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY:** 18 March 2020.

**WORLD WATER DAY:** 22 March 2020.

**EARTH HOUR 2020:** 28 March 2020.

**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY:** 22 April 2020.

**IMBEWU's environmental note: 9 ways in which climate change will directly affect you:**

<https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/702/199339.html#more>

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