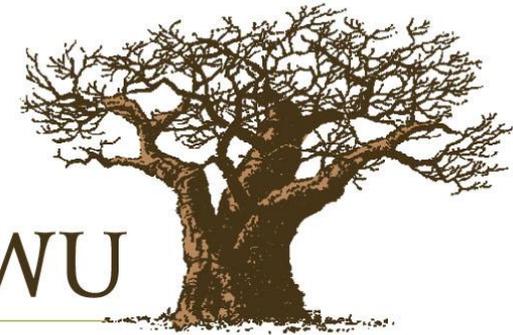




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Sustainability Legal Specialists (Pty) Ltd



AUGUST 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/2020/09/Monthly-SHE-Legislation-Update-August-2020.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL

GENERAL

LAST DECADE HOTTEST ON RECORD: A new report has found that the past decade has been the hottest on record, with 2019 being one of the warmest years recorded. **Source: CNN dated 14 August 2020.** <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/08/13/world/state-of-climate-report-2019-intl-hnk-scn/index.html>

COVID-19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE: A new study has found that although there has been a significant decrease in CO₂ emissions this year because of the global COVID-19 lockdown, "this [decrease] will have "negligible" impact on the climate crisis, with global heating cut by just 0.01C by 2030". **Source: The Guardian dated 7 August 2020.** https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/07/covid-19-lockdown-will-have-negligible-impact-on-climate-crisis-study?utm_term=b8a1a9312d0d43445ee7e6efe9a52ff7&utm_campaign=GreenLight&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=greenlight_email

ARCTIC CIRCLE CO₂ EMISSIONS: An increase in CO₂ emissions in the Arctic Circle has been recorded this year, with scientists reporting that this is due to the devastating wildfires in the region. The wildfires have increased the region's "CO₂ emissions from 208 megatonnes in 2019 to 395 megatonnes in 2020". **Source: WWF dated 3 September 2020.** https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?747951/Summer-Wildfires-in-the-Arctic-Circle-Set-New-Emissions-Record

MAURITIAN OIL SPILL: On 25 July 2020, a Japanese ship named MV Wakashio collided with a coral reef offshore of Mauritius. It consequently spilled in excess of 1000 tonnes of fuel into the surrounding lagoons and coastal areas. Although the oil spill was small compared to others, there is concern that it will have a significant and long-lasting negative impact on the environment due to the high biodiversity in the area. **Source: BBC dated 12 August 2020.** <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53754751>

PUBLICATIONS

LAST DECADE HOTTEST ON RECORD: The abovementioned report is titled "State of the Climate in 2019" and was published by the American Meteorological Society. **Source: American Meteorological Society dated 8 August 2020.** <https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/publications/bulletin-of-the-american-meteorological-society-bams/state-of-the-climate/>

COVID-19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE: The abovementioned study was published in Nature Climate Change and is titled "Current and future global climate impacts resulting from COVID-19". **Source: Nature Climate Change dated 7 August 2020.** <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0883-0>

NATIONAL

GENERAL

OIL AND GAS DRILLING OFF COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA: On 19 August 2020, an oil and gas drilling rig named "DeepSea Stavanger" arrived off the coast of Cape Town. According to Extractives Baraza: "The rig has been commissioned by petroleum giant Total and its partners to drill the Brulpadda prospect in Block 11B/12B off the Mossel Bay coast". Environmentalists have raised their concerns regarding the project, with some suggesting that it potentially poses a threat to South Africa's coastal environment. **Source: Extractives Baraza dated 19 August 2020.** <https://www.extractives-baraza.com/oil-and-gas-drilling-rig-off-cape-town-coast-sparks-pollution-fears/>

PROTECTION OF CARNIVORES IN SOUTH AFRICA: Recent research has "confirmed the value of privately-owned nature reserves and game farms in conserving free-ranging carnivorous animals but also highlighted the fundamental role of formal (national and provincial) parks." **Source: Engineering News dated 28 August 2020.** https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/private-reserves-in-sa-contribute-to-protection-of-carnivores-but-formal-parks-remain-key-2020-08-28/rep_id:4136

ENVIROSERV PERSONNEL CHARGED: Enviroserv's CEO as well as several senior managers have been charged with contravening provisions of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act 39 of 2004 and the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008.

The charges relate to the emission of foul-smelling odours from its Shongweni landfill between 2015 and 2017. Enviroserv are applying for the charges to be set aside. **Source: IOL dated 12 August 2020.** <https://www.iol.co.za/mercury/news/enviroserv-in-court-bid-to-have-environmental-violation-charges-set-aside-ca2cd87d-3d1e-4ba2-b4b8-40e992d19cd0>

PUBLICATIONS

WIND ENERGY WAKE EFFECTS: A recent article by Alistair Young and Nicole Kruger of Warburton Attorneys and IMBEWU titled “*The Wake Effect*” has been published in Without Prejudice. The article provides insight regarding decisions concerned with the consideration of potential wake effects of proposed wind farms on down-wind wind farms and suggests certain steps that competent authorities could consider in order to reduce potential disputes on this issue. **Source: Without Prejudice dated September 2020.** <https://www.withoutprejudice.co.za/free/article/7078/view>

COVID-19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSES: A new policy titled “*Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for global climate change responses*” has been published by the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). **Source: SAIIA dated July 2020.** <https://saiia.org.za/research/implications-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-for-global-climate-change-responses/>

CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

ONLINE COURSES

IMBEWU is offering an online training workshop on the environmental legal processes applicable to renewable energy projects (accredited with 0.6 SACNASP CPD points). For more information, please see: <https://imbewu.co.za/services/> or email: admin@imbewu.co.za.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

WORLD OZONE DAY: 16 September 2020.

WORLD RHINO DAY: 22 September 2020.

NATIONAL MARINE MONTH: 1-31 October 2020.

WORLD HABITAT DAY: 5 October 2020.

INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA) INNOVATION WEEK: 5 – 8 October 2020.

CLIMATE ACTION AND THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION (UNFAO) DIGITAL EVENTS ENTITLED “THE GREAT FOOD

CHALLENGE”: Part 2 on 16 October 2020 (World Food Day) and Part 3 on 3 December 2020.

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP26): Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, COP26 will not be held in 2020 but has been postponed until 1-12 November 2021 (Glasgow, Scotland, in partnership with Italy).

IMBEWU has developed a new electronic audit program which improves the efficiency, output and cost effectiveness of our environmental legal compliance audits. For a list of key features of this program to be utilised by our sustainability legal consultants conducting an audit at your operation, please see: <https://imbewu.co.za/she-legal-compliance-evaluations/>

IMBEWU's environmental note: *“Plastics could help build a sustainable future – here's how”:*
<https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/701/207189.html>

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in IMBEWU's Sustainability Newsletter and Legislation Update has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. IMBEWU does not warrant the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of such information.

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