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JULY 2021 SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

For a copy of the Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) Legislation Update, please go to:
<https://imbewu.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Monthly-SHE-legislation-update-July2021.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL

SCIENTISTS WARN OF CLIMATE TIPPING POINTS BEING MORE IMMINENT – In Greenland and Antarctica, research has recently shown an all-time low level of ice mass and glaciers as they are melting 31 % faster than they did 15 years ago. In addition, despite the dip in pollution linked to COVID-19 worldwide lockdowns, the levels of atmospheric CO₂ and methane hit an all-time high in 2021. Research scientists and authors of the report, Ripple and colleagues, warned of untold suffering in 2019, and together with more than 11 000 scientist signatories from 153 countries, they declared this a climate emergency. Since the article's publication, more than 2,800 additional scientists have signed the declaration of a climate emergency.

Source: DW dated 28 July 2021.

<https://www.dw.com/en/climate-tipping-points-are-now-imminent-scientists-warn/a-58665256>

FLOODS, WILDFIRES SIGNAL NEW ERA IN CLIMATE CRISIS – A report compiled by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ("IPCC") analyses physical changes due to climate change. The report also assesses projected changes such as harsher extreme weather and rising sea levels. The report is expected to confirm that the world is not on track to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change. **Source: Sowetan Live dated 22 July 2021**

<https://www.sowetanlive.co.za/s-mag/2021-07-22-report-wake-up-call-as-floods-wildfires-signal-new-era-in-climate-crisis/>

INDIA DITCHES KEY CLIMATE MEETING – Global efforts to tackle climate change suffered another setback this week as India, the world's third-biggest emitter, failed to attend a pivotal diplomatic gathering in London. India was the only one of 51 invited countries that did not join the two-day ministerial meeting in the UK. All of the Group of Seven nations have committed to eliminating their greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The presidency of the COP26 United Nations now seeks to put pressure on emerging economies such as China and India.

Source: Bloomberg dated 27 July 2021

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-07-27/india-ditches-key-climate-meeting-after-disrupting-g-20-summit>

CLIMATE-DRIVEN OCEAN CHANGES CAN THREATEN HUMAN HEALTH – Associate professors at Université Laval explored the five ongoing threats to oceans, human health, and food security. The five threats are hydrologic disasters, migration and displacement, sea ice declines, seafood declines, and hazards in ocean waters, air and seafood. Some findings include that, ocean waters have become warmer, more acidic, and hold less oxygen, which stresses the ocean ecosystem. The ocean ecosystem is already facing overfishing and pollution, and degradation. Coastal populations now face a threat to their wellbeing.

Source: The Conversation dated 29 July 2021

<https://theconversation.com/5-ways-climate-driven-ocean-change-can-threaten-human-health-162341>

IS AMERICA'S OIL INDUSTRY TOO LUCRATIVE TO GO GREEN? – President Biden's administration has been trying to reduce US dependence on fossil fuels for its energy needs. The administration's plans include billions in financing for renewable energy and electric vehicle projects. In contrast, the American Petroleum Institute's report states that the oil and gas industry is critical to US employment rates and labour income. For instance, in 2019, the oil and gas industry employed 11.3 million Americans. In addition, the oil and gas industry have more operations and maintenance systems in place, which creates employment. However, renewable energy initiatives are said to require less labour.

Source: Markets Insider dated 29 July 2021

<https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/is-americas-oil-industry-too-big-to-fail-1030665020>

GREENPEACE WARNS OF CHINA CLIMATE RISK – In a recent study, Greenpeace has warned of an increase in heatwaves in Beijing and floods in Shanghai and has also called for increased measures to mitigate risks. The study found that Beijing is experiencing the “*greatest increase*” in average temperature, rising at a rate of 0.32 °C every 10 years, with the frequency of heatwaves increasing “*considerably*” since 2020. The study also factored in the expected peak of global emissions by 2040, and the increase in temperature in some parts of Beijing could exceed 2.6C, and summer days would be 28 days longer. This rise means more exposure to heat waves.

Source: Aljazeera dated 14 July 2021.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/14/greenpeace-maps-climate-risk-from-extreme-weather-in-china>

NATIONAL

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA OPTIMISTIC ABOUT BIG GREEN ECONOMY OPPORTUNITIES – President Ramaphosa, speaking at the formal meeting of the Presidential Climate Commission (“PCC”), stated that with the current climate change crisis, South Africa cannot afford to debate whether or not it should

transition into a low emissions society. In addition, a transformative path toward a climate-resilient society will fulfill South Africa's moral obligation but also create economic and employment opportunities. The PCC confirmed its attendance of the COP26 UN meeting and the President supported the need for South Africa to take a clear stance on its trajectory to zero emissions, to attract funding to assist with the transition from fossil fuels.

Source: Engineering News dated 30 July 2021

<https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/ramaphosa-sees-big-green-economy-opportunity-in-bold-climate-commitment-2021-07-30>

SOUTH AFRICA: \$750 BILLION A YEAR IS NEEDED FOR CLIMATE GOALS – The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Ms. Barbara Creecy stated that at the COP26 UN meeting for climate change in November, a target of \$750 billion per year post-2025 should be set. The \$750 billion per year would be expected from developed countries to help poorer nations transition to greener energy. The goal is significantly higher than the \$100 billion per year that was set for 2020, but which developed countries have still failed to meet. Ms. Creecy said that the \$100 billion should be honoured to create trust. In addition, she has stressed that to reduce South Africa's reliance on fossil fuels, access to international finance is needed and post-2025 a move must be made from a floor of \$100 billion per year.

Source: News24 dated 31 July 2021

<https://www.news24.com/fin24/economy/south-africa-says-750bn-a-year-needed-for-climate-goals-20210731>

SOUTH AFRICA'S ROAD TO A JUST TRANSITION – At the Presidential Climate Commission meeting, discussions centered around South Africa's objectives to combat climate change. In addition, the need to adapt to the consequences of climate change was highlighted. Other considerations included that South Africa will need to increase its climate finance to implement its climate crisis policies towards a just transition. The cost of a just transition estimates at R146 billion.

Source: Daily Maverick dated 1 August 2021

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-08-01-climate-crisis-policy-south-africas-rocky-and-expensive-road-to-a-just-transition/>

NEDBANK SUGGESTS THAT CLIENTS FUND HOME SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (“PV”) SYSTEMS VIA THEIR HOME LOANS – Nedbank's clients now have the option of installing solar PV systems by using their Nedbank home loan. The installation of a solar PV system can be sustainable because it is more affordable to pay off the home loan repayment installments than see to an ever-increasing electricity bill from the municipality or Eskom. The South African Photovoltaic Industry Association has suggested that consumers consider other power alternatives as South Africa's unreliable electricity supply and costliness continue.

Source: Engineering News dated 30 July 2021

<https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/nedbank-clients-can-fund-home-solar-pv-system-through-their-home-loan-2021-07-30>

WHERE IS THE 100MW NOTICE? – Independent power producers are waiting for the government to publish the 100MW notice. On 10 June 2021, President Ramaphosa announced that the limit for electricity generation by companies without a license would increase from 1MW to 100MW however this has not yet been formally gazetted. With load shedding looming, the release of the notice would create more reliable electricity supplies and lessen the pressure on the national grid.

Source: The Citizen dated 12 July 2021

<https://citizen.co.za/business/business-news/2560957/with-loadshedding-looming-where-is-the-100mw-notice/>

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS (“CER”) LAUNCHES ITS ONLINE PORTAL FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS – The online platform provides guidelines for residents to report environmental violations occurring in their communities to the Departments of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment, Mineral Resources and Energy, and Water and Sanitation. The CER's online platform aims to contribute to better compliance monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws by each relevant government department. The online platform is also an easily accessible way for residents to report environmental violations taking place within their communities.

Source: Life After Coal dated 12 July 2021

<https://lifeaftercoal.org.za/media/news/cer-launches-new-online-portal-for-reporting-of-violations-to-authorities>

KARPOWERSHIP STILL IN THE RACE TO MAKE BID DEADLINE – In 2016 Karpowership developed the world's largest floating power plant, with a capacity of at least 470MW. In March 2021, Karpowership was selected as one of the preferred bidders to provide much of the 2 000 MW emergency power for a government scheme that would alleviate South Africa's electricity crisis. On 13 July 2021, Karpowership appealed against the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment's ("DFFE") refusal to grant it the necessary environmental authorisation. Karpowership refutes the claim that the public participation process was improper, as nearly 48 local organisations came out in support of its projects. It has also denied the claim that no thorough study was done on the impact the ships' underwater noise would have on the marine environment.

Source: Argus dated 23 July 2021

<https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news/2237403-karpowership-races-to-make-south-african-bid-deadline>

CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

ONLINE COURSES

IMBEWU is offering an **ONLINE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW UPDATE** training course. For more information visit our website: <https://imbewu.co.za/services/> or email: sam@imbewu.co.za.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

AFRICAN ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS – YOUTH DAY WEBINAR: 12 AUGUST 2021

more information visit: <https://naturaljustice.org/african-environmental-defenders-youth-day-webinar/>

CLES ONLINE COLLOQUIUM – THE POTENTIAL OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION TOWARDS REALISING SOUTH AFRICA'S CONSTITUTIONAL WATER RIGHT: 20 August 2021

more information visit:

http://law.nwu.ac.za/sites/law.nwu.ac.za/files/files/Law/CLES%20CHAIR/Events/Programme_Colloquium_20%20August%202021_Final.pdf

THE PRIVATE SIDE OF TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD – UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AND THE ROLE OF PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW: 9 – 11 September 2021

more information visit: <https://www.mpipriv.de/sdg2030>

IMBEWU'S NEW ONLINE Safety, Health & Environmental (SHE) Legal Register Platform. This new SHE Legal Register offering is contemporary and streamlined for easy access with secure passwords, regular updates, easy navigation, explanations of SHE legislation relevant to your operation, access to a comprehensive searchable SHE legislation database and user-specific functions such as bookmarks.

For more information contact sam@imbewu.co.za or visit <https://imbewu.co.za/she-electronic-legal-registers/>

IMBEWU's environmental note: Ideas for Taking Plastic Free July Beyond Reducing Single-Use Plastic
<https://www.greenmatters.com/p/plastic-free-july-ideas>

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