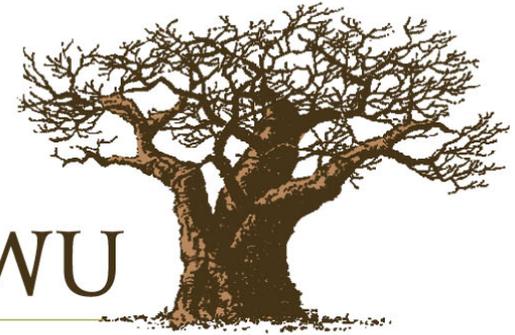




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Sustainability Legal Specialists (Pty) Ltd

AUGUST 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/2021/09/Monthly-SHE-legislation-update-August2021.pdf>

NATIONAL

GENERAL

Chemical explosion during the civil unrest has major environmental consequences: A fire started by looters at a warehouse in Cornubia, Kwa-Zulu Natal burned for ten days releasing thick clouds of poisonous fumes into the surrounding areas. Firefighting efforts resulted in chemicals being washed into the nearby river and water system. Thousands of marine creatures washed up dead from the affected estuaries up to 9km away in Umhlanga. The long-term effects on human health and the environment have yet to be determined.

Source: Mongabay dated 23 August 2021

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/08/nature-takes-a-beating-after-chemical-explosion-in-south-africa-civil-unrest/>

Lockdown leads to an increase in succulent poaching: The increase in demand for succulents resulting from the COVID-19 lockdowns has resulted in a staggering increase in the poaching of rare succulent species putting ecosystems at risk. South Africa is home to one third of the world's succulents and the increase in poaching is putting this biodiversity at risk.

Source: SA People News dated 15 August 2021

<https://www.sapeople.com/2021/08/15/plant-poaching-now-sas-succulents-are-being-poached-and-under-severe-threat-to-species/>

Sibanye Stillwater supports the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits): An agreement of understanding was signed between Sibanye Stillwater and Wits outlining a sponsorship of roughly R52 million over a ten-year period. The sponsorship is to be used for, among other projects, refurbishing the bridge over the M1 highway connecting the Wits East and West Campuses while the remainder of sponsorship funds will be used in the Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment's (FEBE) endowment fund and for scholarships for disadvantaged students.

Source: Mining Weekly dated 19 August 2021

<https://www.miningweekly.com/article/sibanye-donates-r52m-to-wits-for-bridge-refurbishment-scholarships-2021-08-19>

Electricity Regulation Act (ERA) Schedule 2 Amendments: Recent amendments have been published in respect of Schedule 2 of the ERA, increasing the licensing threshold for embedded generation projects from 1MW to 100MW and thereby creating energy security by reducing the reliance on Eskom and decreasing loadshedding. The most recent amendments clarify that the amended Exemption is final and specifically confirm that electricity generators may sell to multiple customers. However, some new issues relating to the amended exemption have now arisen and these issues have yet to be addressed.

Source: ESI Africa dated 25 August 2021

<https://www.esi-africa.com/industry-sectors/generation/new-issues-with-amended-schedule-2-of-the-era-for-private-generation/>

ABSA and African Rainbow Energy and Power (AREP) launch new renewable energy entity: African Rainbow Energy will receive R6.5 billion in investment from ABSA and AREP, making it the largest independently owned energy business in South Africa. The collaboration is aligned with AREP's objectives to "use modern and renewable-energy technologies to provide affordable electricity in South Africa and on the African continent."

Source: Engineering News dated 6 August 2021

<https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/renewable-energy-focused-entity-launched-to-advance-uptake-in-africa-2021-08-06>

PUBLICATIONS

SA would need R3 trillion over the next 30 years to become a net zero emissions economy: The Power Sector Decarbonisation Report by the National Business Initiative (NBI), Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) and the Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

Source: IOL dated 16 August 2021

<https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/companies/sa-needs-r3-trillion-to-become-a-net-zero-emissions-economy-c1477606-4fde-4324-a99e-bfea3d52dc4e>

Report: <https://www.nbi.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/NBI-Transition-Chapter-Decarbonising-SA-power-11-Aug-2021.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL

GENERAL

China on the verge of testing technology that will allow them to harness large amounts of solar energy from space: China aims to build a 1MW solar power station in space by 2030 that will be capable of collecting solar energy day and night. The construction of the testing facility was placed on hold three years ago but was restarted in June this year and construction is expected to be finished by the end of 2021.

Source: Interesting Engineering dated 18 August 2021

https://interestingengineering.com/china-wants-a-huge-orbital-solar-power-station-in-space?_source=newsletter&_campaign=XMWR91Q9n878&_uid=MYer0KwBbO&_h=0c449af79075e17ce54c4618655445d7f4f5cd77&utm_source=newsletter

[&utm_medium=mailing&utm_campaign=Newsletter-18-08-2021](#)

Shell loses oil licence in Abuja Court of Appeals ruling: The Court of Appeals in Abuja overturned a 2019 ruling which saw Shell Petroleum Development Co. losing the right to operate an oil site. Those rights were transferred to the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. Shell has subsequently filed an appeal.

Source: Bloomberg.com dated 20 August 2021

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-08-20/shell-loses-nigeria-oil-license-to-state-company-in-court-ruling>

NYK Line sending additional workers to assist with clean-up of oil spill: NYK Line, a Japanese shipping company, is sending additional teams to assist with the clean-up of the Crimson Polaris oil spill just off the coast of Japan. It is unclear exactly how much oil leaked and how much oil remains in the ship's tanks but the vessel was reported to be carrying 1,550 metric tons of heavy fuel oil and about 130 metric tons of diesel oil at the time of the accident. All crew members were rescued.

Source: gCaptain.com dated 24 August 2021

<https://gcaptain.com/nyk-to-send-more-teams-to-assist-with-crimson-polaris-oil-spill-clean-up/>

Artificial Intelligence used to monitor environmental conditions: A 30ft tower built by the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON), has been erected at the edge of the Ohio State University Airport. This tower uses several sensors that will monitor environmental conditions on a minute-to-minute basis and utilises learning technology to interpret the data as it is collected. Tanya Berger-Wolf, director of Ohio State's Translation Data Analytics Institute said, *"This is a unique opportunity for our researchers to help understand environmental conditions in urban areas, such as carbon emissions, noise and air pollution, and how it changes in real time"*.

Source: Ohio State News dated 17 August 2021

<https://news.osu.edu/new-project-brings-ai-to-environmental-research-in-the-field/>

PUBLICATIONS

New study applies global Earth system model to estimate the impacts of emissions reductions by sector: Report by Yiqi Zheng and Nadine Unger

Source: GeoHealth dated 23 June 2021

<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2021GH000422>

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report: The past 5 years have been the hottest on record since 1850 and Prof Hawkins has said *"The consequences will continue to get worse for every bit of warming, and for many of these consequences, there's no going back."*

Source: BBC News dated 9 August 2021

<https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

VACANCIES

CANDIDATE ATTORNEY AND JUNIOR ASSOCIATE: Warburton Attorneys Inc, a Johannesburg based law firm specialising in environmental law, is expanding and is inviting suitable applicants to submit their CVs for positions that are currently available at the candidate attorney and junior associate levels. The ideal applicants should already have a Master's degree in environmental law; however, we will consider applicants who are in the process of obtaining their Master's degree in environmental law. Consideration will also be given to applicants who can readily demonstrate that they have extensive

experience in the application of environmental law in the South African context. Excellent written and verbal communication skills and a keen interest in environmental law are absolute requirements.

If you meet the above requirements, then please submit a CV together with a short cover letter and your academic record to sam@warburtons.co.za

PARALEGAL SECRETARY: IMBEWU Sustainability Legal Specialists (Pty) Ltd, a Johannesburg based environmental law consultancy, is looking for a para-legal with excellent IT skills and a keen and demonstrable interest in environmental law. Excellent written and verbal communication skills are an absolute requirement for the role.

If you meet the above requirements, then please submit a CV together with a short cover letter and your academic record to admin@imbewu.co.za.

CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

1st Annual Conference for Carbon Removal Law and Policy: Exploring Ocean Based Approaches to CDR

Date: 21-22 September 2021

For more information: <https://edspace.american.edu/icrlpoceanscdrconference/1st-annual-conference-agenda/>

ELA Mpumalanga Branch Webinar with Lyndon de Meillon, MSc: The Amazing Alluvial Diamond Deposits of South Africa

Date: 9 September 2021

For more information: https://www.google.com/url?sa=D&q=https://elasa.co.za/ela-events/lyndon-de-meillon-webinar/&ust=1629967980000000&usg=AOvVaw3c7So_TJszeRHmbN3acgds&hl=en&source=gmail

Normandie Chair for Peace, International Council of Environmental Law and World Commission on Environmental Law Peace with Nature: Laws for Ecological Resilience

Dates: 2-3 September 2021

For more information: <https://peace-nature.sciencesconf.org/>

IMBEWU'S NEW ONLINE Safety, Health & Environmental (SHE) Legal Register Platform. This new SHE Legal Register offering is contemporary and streamlined for easy online 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: Ten things you can do now to save the planet

<https://www.cntraveller.com/article/how-to-to-save-the-planet>

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