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NOVEMBER 2023

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NATIONAL

GENERAL

SA LAUNCHES FIRST TAX INCENTIVE FOR THREATENED ANIMAL AND PLANT SPECIES – The incentive for Threatened Species and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), launched by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), together with the Sustainable Finance Coalition allows any SA taxpayer (private landowners, as well as individual trusts or companies) who are safeguarding threatened ecosystems or species to deduct all expenses related to their conservation efforts from their taxable income. The tax incentive comes at a time when 60% (around 8,000) of SA's national rhino population is in private hands, according to estimates by the Private Rhino Owners Association. The tax incentive was first trialed by the Coalition in 2020 and piloted by implementing partner, Wilderness Foundation Africa through funding from the Rhino Recovery Fund in 2021 and 2022. The incentive has now been activated, with DFFE Minister Barbara Creecy signing Biodiversity Management Agreements (BMAs) with three private rhino and lion owners in Limpopo, that are valid for five years. The DFFE explained that these BMAs allow for a person, organisation or organ of state to manage a species or ecosystem through approved biodiversity management plans in accordance with the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Agreement.

Source: Daily Maverick dated 13 November 2023

GREEN ENERGY BOOM SURGES JOB CREATION - In 2023, SA experienced a significant increase in vacancies for green energy related jobs, reflecting a notable shift towards sustainable energy alternatives in response to the ongoing energy crisis. Paul Byrne, the Head of Insights at Career Junction explained that he anticipates continued growth as new jobs are born out of the demand to service the growing green energy sector. The growth is also

being forced by the need to find sustainable energy alternatives because of the failings of Eskom. New jobs within the sector range from maintenance, repair, and manufacturing of energy systems to research and development aimed at enhancing the efficiency of solar technologies. The green energy sector is destined to drive multifaceted growth. The transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources aligns with broader global sustainability goals. While the momentum towards a greener economy is accelerated by necessity, the government is gradually joining the movement. However, their heavy reliance on fossil fuels to maintain the current power supply complicates achieving sustainability targets.

[Source: BizCommunity dated 22 November 2023](#)

AUSTRALIAN MINING COMPANY SLAPP SUIT AGAINST SA ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS REACHES AGREEMENT – Six SA defendants have reached an out-of-court agreement in a long-running R14.25-million “SLAPP” defamation case brought by Australian mining company Mineral Commodities Ltd (MRC) and its SA subsidiary, Mineral Sands Resources (MSR) as well as then MRC Executive Chairman Mark Caruso, and MRC black empowerment partner Zamilwe Qunya. The terms of the settlement have been kept confidential but the former head of the company, Mark Caruso, is continuing his personal R7-million damages claim against three of the defendants. The defendants, which include environmental lawyers, social workers and community activists, are alleged to have defamed the mining interests of the Company in various books, interviews and presentations relating to the miners’ controversial activities on the Pondoland coast at Xolobeni and at the Tormin mineral sands mine on the West Coast. The summonses in the action were served more than seven years ago, in August 2016. The case made local legal history earlier this year by being the first SLAPP suit to reach the Constitutional Court. The Court made several rulings relating to legal principles involved in instituting and defending SLAPP and other defamation suits but it did not consider the merits of the alleged defamations in this particular action. SLAPP suits (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation) describe a legal strategy typically employed by wealthy individuals or large corporations to sue critics for large defamation damages in order to discourage, censor, intimidate and silence them or to tie them up in lengthy and very expensive court action.

[Source: GroundUp dated 22 November 2023](#)

INTERNATIONAL

GENERAL

GLOBAL LEADERS CONVENE FOR COP28 SUMMIT – Dubai plays host to the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) which will take place from 30 November – 12 December 2023. Delegates hope to seal an early victory on a disaster fund before the Summit turns its focus to fossil fuels and other divisive topics. With finance also high on the meeting agenda, the United Arab Emirates’ COP28 presidency published a proposal on the eve of the Summit for countries to formally adopt the outlines of a new U.N. fund to cover losses and damages in poor countries being hit by climate disasters such as extreme flooding or persistent drought. Establishing the fund allows rich countries to begin pledging money for it, and nations including Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands are expected to announce contributions over the next few days, European diplomats told Reuters. Countries are split between European nations and climate-vulnerable states demanding an agreement to replace fossil fuels with clean energy, and oil and gas producers seeking to preserve a role for traditional energy sources. Many developing countries are also reluctant to quit fossil fuels, which they say are necessary to grow their economies. Another major task at this year’s Summit will be for countries to assess their progress in meeting global climate goals – most importantly, the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius. This process, known as the Global Stocktake, should yield a high-level plan telling countries what they need to do.

[Source: Reuters dated 30 November 2023](#)

PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES EVOLVING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE – As temperatures rise and habitats change, climate change is threatening the survival of plants and animals around the world. Some species have been able to meet the challenge with rapid evolutionary adaptation and other changes in behavior or physiology. For example, dark-colored dragonflies are getting paler in order to reduce the amount of heat they absorb from the sun. Mustard

plants are flowering earlier to take advantage of earlier snowmelt. Lizards are becoming more cold-tolerant to handle the extreme variability of our new climate. However, scientific studies show that climate change is occurring much faster than species are changing. Cold-blooded species, such as lizards, frogs and fish, are especially vulnerable to climate change because they have a limited capacity to regulate their own body temperatures. Their ability to evolve in response to climate change is expected to be critical for their survival. Overall, evolutionary adaptation appears to help lessen the impacts of global warming, but the evidence thus far shows that it is insufficient to overcome current rates of climate change. Species acclimation and migration provide faster solutions, but research shows that those may not be enough, either.

[Source: The Conversation dated 21 November 2023](#)

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

World Wildlife Conservation Day – 4 December 2023:

<https://nationaltoday.com/world-wildlife-conservation-day/#::~:~:text=World%20Wildlife%20Conservation%20Day%20is,Catfish%3F>

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