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SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

For a copy of the Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) Legislation Update, please go to:

<https://imbewu.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Monthly-SHE-leg-update-Sept2024.pdf>

For copies of the last three Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) Legislation Updates, please go to:

<https://imbewu.co.za/publications/>

NATIONAL

SOUTH AFRICA'S GREEN HYDROGEN AGENDA TAKES OFF- South Africa has joined forces with the European Union to contribute to SA's just energy transition initiatives. South Africa has received R628 million from the European Union to assist the country in reaching its green hydrogen goals. Of this R628 million, R490 million is expected to attract a substantial R10 billion in additional funding from both the private and public sectors. This funding will support various aspects of the hydrogen industry, including production, transportation, storage, and downstream industries. The remaining R138 million will be dedicated to assisting Transnet in reaching its net zero carbon emissions goal by 2040. Transnet is one of South Africa's leading transport companies, this grant will enable Transnet to develop studies and projects that will promote the storage of low-carbon hydrogen and will provide the company with technical assistance to comply with its green hydrogen strategy.

There has been speculation over the fact that green hydrogen infrastructure requires a lot of energy and land. Sceptics also argue that green hydrogen, unless renewable, cannot be declared as a "clean" form of energy. Despite this speculation, South Africa's Electricity and Energy Minister, Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, is optimistic about the country's green hydrogen future and believes that this form of energy has the ability to rapidly decrease its greenhouse gas emissions. The European commissioner for energy, Kadri Simson stated that the grant intends to boost South Africa's socio-economic commitments and

contribute to the country's sustainable future. The South African government intends to receive further investments that contribute to the country's green hydrogen infrastructure for the purpose of reducing carbon emissions and complying with its international obligations.

Source: <https://mg.co.za/the-green-guardian/2024-09-10-eus-r628m-deal-to-boost-south-africas-green-hydrogen-programme/>

COSATU DEMANDS JUSTICE FOR THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF ELEVEN SEA HARVEST WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN LOST AT SEA - On 17 May 2024, eleven Sea Harvest workers were reported lost at sea as a result of Sea Harvest's deepsea trawler vessel, FV Lepanto, sinking. This vessel sank 30-35 nautical miles off the coast of Hout Bay. Only nine workers survived this tragic accident. The South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) assisted with search and rescue missions to retrieve the bodies of eleven Sea Harvest crew workers. It was reported that the Congress of South Africa Trade Unions (Cosatu) is dissatisfied with the outcome of this matter, and that it is of the firm belief that SAMSA, as well as Sea Harvest, failed to make further attempts in actively searching for the remaining crew members. Cosatu referred to the protest that had taken place at the Sea Harvest office in July, which had been held to draw attention to the company's negligence in respect of health and safety in the workplace.

Source: [Cosatu to take more action over Sea Harvest fatal tragedy \(iol.co.za\)](https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/cosatu-to-take-more-action-over-sea-harvest-fatal-tragedy-20240517)

THE VAAL RIVER DECLARES ITS BANKS FREE FROM WATER HYACINTH - The Vaal River is one of South Africa's biggest water resources, and is the main source of water for the greater Witwatersrand area. Over the past few months, the Vaal River has been infested with water hyacinth, a fast-growing aquatic plant that invades freshwater bodies, impacting on the various ecosystems that rely on the waterbody for survival. The Vaal River also supports many businesses in respect of tourism and recreational activities. These businesses have been experiencing financial strain as the water hyacinth has negatively impacted the ability of residents, and holidaymakers, to safely enjoy recreational activities without being disrupted by the obnoxious growth of these plants. The contamination of the water by hyacinth in the Vaal River has worsened on account of pollution being discharged into the river. This has altered the ecological structure of the river and has caused the invasive plant to spread, posing a bigger threat to the environment. Many community members have decided to approach the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to eradicate the problem.

The DWS, Rand Water and the Vaal community have joined forces to remove this plant for the purposes of restoring and preserving the Vaal River's aquatic life and water quality. Over the first weekend of September, community members gathered along the banks of the Vaal River to celebrate the declaration of the Vaal River as being free of water hyacinth. This is a significant accomplishment as the Vaal River is one of the most cherished resources in the country, flowing through several provinces including Mpumalanga, Gauteng, North-West, Free State, and the Northern Cape. The DWS aims to maintain the health of the Vaal River system and has appointed and funded Rand Water to implement a strategy to prevent the river from being plagued with water hyacinth in the future. This news serves as proof that environmental impacts can be addressed and mitigated through cooperation and commitment from various stakeholders.

Source: [Vaal River free of water lettuce and water hyacinth - SA People](https://www.sapeople.com/news/2024/09/01/val-iver-free-of-water-lettuce-and-water-hyacinth/)

INTERNATIONAL

THE HAGUE: A GLOBAL LEADER IN THE PROHIBITION OF FOSSIL FUEL ADVERTISING - From 1 January 2025, the Hague will become the first city in the world to legally prohibit fossil fuel advertisements. The Hague is the Netherland's third largest city and is on its way to becoming a global leader in the fight against climate change. On 13 September 2024, the Dutch city published a notice on the Hague's website informing the public of its intentions to legally ban street advertising for fossil fuels. This particular ban was influenced by the ban on tobacco advertisements. Many countries around the world have legally banned advertising tobacco products in the hope that people will abstain from buying them. With a similar intention in mind, the Dutch city argues that fossil fuels are harmful to the planet and advertisements related to them should be done away with as well. This ban acts as a prompt response to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' request for all countries to prohibit fossil fuel advertisements. This new ban on fossil fuel advertisements aligns with the Hague's

long-term goal of becoming a climate-neutral city by 2030. When the ban takes effect in January of 2025, all billboards and freestanding advertising screens will be prohibited from displaying any content related to fossil fuels. One of the Hague's council members, Leonie Gerritsen, expresses the council's thoughts around the potentially controversial by-law, stating, "We believe that adopting binding laws to ban fossil fuel advertising through local legislation is a world first. We hope that this law will also give a signal to other cities to do the same to fight climate change."

Source: <https://www.climateaction.org/news/the-hague-becomes-first-city-in-the-world-to-ban-advertisements-for-fossil>

200 ELEPHANTS CULLED AT THE HAND OF EL NINŌ DROUGHT - The El NinŌ drought has severely impacted Southern Africa, with Zimbabwe's food supply taking a massive toll. The term "El Nino" can be used to describe an extreme weather condition that negatively impacts on sea and coastal air temperatures. As a result of these intense weather conditions, Southern Africa has been experiencing one of the regions worst draughts in decades. In April of this year, the Zimbabwean government had declared the drought to be a national disaster and has recently confirmed that the country has been forced to resort to Elephant meat as a food alternative. The country intends to issue out permits which will authorize its citizens to cull elephants in order to address the countries potential famine. The elephant meat will be distributed to the Hwange, Mbire, Tsholotsho and Chiredzi districts, these districts have been severely impacted by the El NinŌ draught. Tinashe Farawo, a spokesperson for the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, has informed the public that 200 elephants will be culled. Farawo has further stated that the park is currently sitting with an elephant population of 84 000, the rapid increase in Zimbabwe's elephant population has been an ongoing concern. Farawo further states that the country's biodiversity is unable to sustain its citizens and animals, and Zimbabwean citizens have been competing with elephant populations for natural resources for years. Farawo believes that the culling of these elephants serves as a viable solution to two of the country's problems.

Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/zimbabwe-to-cull-wild-elephants-to-feed-struggling-communities-during-drought/ar-AA1qLIAC?ocid=BingNewsVerp>

IMBEWU'S ONLINE Safety, Health & Environmental (SHE) Legal Registers serve to link environmental and health & safety legal requirements, not only to clients' specific activities, aspects and risks, but also to legislative provisions and legal commentaries. Our state-of-the-art online electronic SHE Legal Registers are cost effective, contemporary and streamlined for easy access with secure passwords, easy navigation, explanations of SHE legislation relevant to specific operations, access to a comprehensive searchable SHE legislation database (which is updated monthly) and include site-specific documentation.

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

A banner for Warburton Attorneys Inc Sustainability Law Specialists. The banner features a green background with a close-up image of green leaves on the left. In the center, there is a stylized green gear icon. To the right of the gear, the text reads "Warburton Attorneys Inc" in a large, bold, white font, followed by "Sustainability Law Specialists" in a smaller white font. Below this, the contact information "011 447 6848 | admin@warburtons.co.za" and the website "www.warburtons.co.za" are listed in white text.

Warburton Attorneys Inc
Sustainability Law Specialists
011 447 6848 | admin@warburtons.co.za
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23 October 2024- Sustainability Day <https://biotrux.com/sustainability-day/>

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