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**SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER**

**APRIL 2025**

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**NATIONAL**

**ENERGY REGULATOR PUBLISHES REPORT ON FUTURE ROLE OF GAS IN SOUTH AFRICA** - The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) has published a strategy report outlining the role of gas in the country's evolving energy landscape. This strategy addresses challenges in the domestic gas industry, particularly the declining gas supply from Mozambique, which poses a significant threat to South Africa. As the country transitions toward renewable energy and hydrogen development, the strategy serves as a guideline for integrating gas into the energy economy, ensuring environmental and social responsibility. Its key objectives include diversifying and securing gas sources and infrastructure, enhancing gas competitiveness, and supporting renewable energy integration. The strategy explores various options to mitigate the decline of gas supplies from Mozambique and stresses the need for increased investments in gas infrastructure, particularly in liquefied natural gas. It emphasises finalising critical policy frameworks like the Gas Master Plan and Gas Amendment Bill to foster investment in the sector. Additionally, strengthening bilateral cooperation with Mozambique and partnerships with countries such as Tanzania, Namibia, and Angola are crucial for securing additional gas supplies. The strategy highlights the increased use of gas in key sectors—power, industry, and transport—and the importance of policy coordination across gas, renewable energy, and hydrogen sectors to achieve integrated development. Developed through extensive stakeholder engagement, the report sets clear targets for enhancing gas supply security in South Africa.

**Source:** <https://www.greenbuildingafrica.co.za/energy-regulator-publishes-report-on-future-role-of-gas-in-south-africa/>

**ESKOM ATTEMPTS TO ENTER THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR** – Eskom, known for its significant role in South Africa's coal industry and its contributions to the country's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, is exploring opportunities in the renewable energy sector through a planned new entity. Recently, Eskom presented its vision to Parliament's portfolio committee on energy and electricity. The chairperson of the Eskom board, Mtelo Nyati, highlighted that one of the utility's four strategic objectives is to facilitate a competitive future energy industry. To this end, Eskom is committed to enhancing its renewable energy portfolio with plans for approximately 5.90 GW of clean energy projects by 2030.

As part of its transition to a greener approach, Eskom has established a renewable energy business called Green Co. This entity will be one of four unbundled companies under the Eskom holding company, alongside the National Transmission Company of South Africa, the National Electricity Distribution Company of South Africa, and Eskom Generation. The National Electricity Distribution Company already exists as its own legal entity, while the other firms will be separated soon.

Eskom's main goal for Green Co is to operate independently from the parent company. This separation aims to enhance governance agility, improve competitive positioning, and foster stronger Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). Eskom detailed its initial pipeline, targeting at least 2 GW of low and zero-carbon projects by 2026, with the development of over 20 GW of such projects to diversify its energy mix. The utility plans to realise about 5.9 GW of renewable energy initiatives by the end of the decade.

Dan Marokane, the CEO of Eskom, articulated that the decision to separate these green entities aligns with Eskom's strategic intent. By doing so, Eskom can better monitor and evaluate the roles of each entity within the value chain, ensuring they can effectively meet their objectives.

**Source:** <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2025-04-28-eskom-bets-big-on-renewables-with-new-green>

**OUR POWER, OUR PLANET** – On 22 April 2025, the Minister responsible for Environmental Affairs, Dr. Dion George, celebrated Earth Day while reflecting on South Africa's progress in protecting the environment and promoting a sustainable future. In a statement, Dr. George highlighted his commitment to advancing policies and initiatives that safeguard the environment while fostering resilience and prosperity. The theme for Earth Day 2025 was "Our Power, Our Planet," designed to inspire global reflection on renewable energy and the initiative to triple clean electricity by 2030, as agreed at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Dr. George elaborated on the country's efforts to accelerate its energy transition towards renewables, emphasising the expansion of solar photovoltaic and wind energy to meet South Africa's electricity needs and advance climate goals in line with the Paris Agreement. He noted that the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) is working to hold Eskom accountable for emissions through rigorous conditions, ensuring compliance with environmental standards and supporting energy reliability.

Moreover, the DFFE aims to develop carbon markets to leverage South Africa's biodiversity potential, creating economic opportunities while promoting conservation and climate resilience. A landmark court case aimed at saving the iconic African Penguin from extinction exemplifies their commitment to protecting the country's rich fauna and flora. Additionally, the DFFE plans to enhance efforts in combating environmental crime, focusing on the poaching of endangered species such as rhinos, pangolins, abalone, and various plants. The department also prioritises sustainable water management to secure the country's water resources.

Dr. George urged all South African citizens to contribute to the fight against environmental degradation, advocating for actions such as reducing waste, conserving water, and supporting sustainable policies, underscoring that every small action counts.

Source: <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-reflects-work-done-protect-environment>

## INTERNATIONAL

**NAMIBIA'S HYIRON LEADS THE WORLD WITH FIRST-EVER ZERO-EMISSION IRON PLANT** – Namibia is constructing the world's first industrial facility to produce iron with zero pollution. Known as the Hylron Oshivela project, this pioneering initiative uses green hydrogen—a clean, renewable gas—to extract oxygen from iron ore. The result is a type of low-emission iron that's essential for producing sustainable steel in the future. This marks the first time green hydrogen is being used at scale for this purpose anywhere in the world.

The Oshivela plant is located on Bloemhof farm, with financial support from Germany amounting to €13 million. The project is a collaboration between a group of German companies and the Namibian firm Hylron Green Technologies, with construction beginning in 2024. In just six months, the team installed a vast solar farm with 44,000 panels, capable of generating 25 megawatts of clean energy. The facility also includes large battery storage systems. At this stage, the factory operates only when solar energy is available, relying on the solar panels and batteries for power.

The technology was initially tested in Germany under the GEiSt project, involving major companies like RWE and Benteler. The Oshivela facility is currently scaling that innovation to a full industrial level. In its first phase, the factory will produce 15,000 tons of low-emission iron annually, demonstrating both the technical viability and economic potential of clean iron production.

Johannes Michels, managing director of Hylron Namibia and a co-founder of the company, explains that this initial plant will serve as a learning platform. It will allow the team to optimise the production process and test various types of iron ore. Currently, the plant can produce around 5,000 kilograms of iron per hour, with plans to increase capacity to 25,000 kilograms per hour by the end of 2027. The goal is to eventually run the factory continuously, 24/7.

The plant also produces its own green hydrogen using a large electrolyser supplied by a Chinese manufacturer. It is the largest of its kind in Southern Africa. This system functions independently of the national power grid and only produces hydrogen when sufficient solar energy is available, making it a smart and sustainable energy solution.

Source: <https://www.businesslive.co.za/fm/features/2025-04-10-namibias-hyiron-achieves-worlds-first-zero-emission-iron-breakthrough/>

**POACHING AND TRAFFICKING RISKS HEIGHTENED BY USAID FUNDING REDUCTIONS** - Gorongosa National Park, located in Mozambique, is a vital sanctuary for wildlife. The park faced a severe crisis during the civil war times when poaching for meat and ivory posed significant threats. As a result, leopards, wild dogs, and spotted hyenas vanished, and populations of zebras, buffalo and other herbivores drastically declined. However, in collaboration with philanthropist Gregory Carr, the Mozambique government has dedicated significant efforts in recent years to restore the park. Thanks to support from USAID over the last two decades, various species—including elephants, lions, hippos, antelope, painted wolves, hyenas, and leopards—have begun to thrive once more.

Regrettably, with the budget cuts to USAID initiated by President Donald Trump, the future of Gorongosa National Park has become uncertain. Experts warn that these cuts could lead to an increase in wildlife trafficking and poaching, as vital conservation programs for critically endangered species are now in jeopardy. The US government has historically been a major player in global conservation, contributing an average of 12.1% of the world's biodiversity funding from 2015 to 2022, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The reductions implemented by the Trump administration have left many vulnerable species with less protection. The scaling back of ranger patrols and essential restoration efforts has caused concern among conservation organisations, which have reported job losses and an immediate decrease in project support, ultimately threatening the survival of the species they aim to protect.

**Source:** <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/01/trump-cuts-wildlife-conservation-usaid-aoe>

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



**20 May 2025- World Bee Day** <https://www.un.org/en/observances/bee-day>

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