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SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025

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[IMBEWU August Legislation Update](#)

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NATIONAL

ESKOM LAUNCHES RENEWABLE ENERGY OFFTAKE PROGRAMME – South Africa's state-owned power utility, Eskom, has officially launched its first Renewable Energy Offtake Programme, offering commercial and industrial users the opportunity to procure 291 megawatts of solar power through long-term contracts.

This marks a significant step in Eskom's strategy to shift from a coal-heavy energy portfolio to a cleaner, more diversified mix by 2040. The programme is being rolled out via a request for proposal, targeting large-scale consumers interested in securing renewable energy through power purchase agreements ranging from 5 to 25 years.

The solar energy will be sourced from Eskom-owned photovoltaic sites, with phased delivery starting in December 2027. This initiative supports Eskom's broader commitment to innovation, resilience and customer-focused energy solutions that enable low-carbon operations. As part of its long-term energy

roadmap, Eskom plans to deploy 2GW of construction-ready renewable capacity by 2026, scaling up to 32GW, including green hydrogen projects, by 2040. The utility's future energy mix will include coal, nuclear, gas, renewables and storage technologies.

Source: https://apanews.net/eskom-launches-solar-offtake-plan-for-big-power-users/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

CIVIL SOCIETY PUSHES FOR REFORM IN GLOBAL FINANCE AND CLIMATE GOVERNANCE – Under South Africa's G20 presidency, civil society organisations are advocating for transformative changes in global financial governance and climate transition strategies. There are concerns that ongoing inequalities may undermine the credibility and effectiveness of the G20 process. This week, draft policy proposals from the Civil Society 20 (C20) working groups were released, laying the groundwork for a final declaration to be presented at the G20 Leaders' Summit in November. These proposals will be refined in September, ahead of the C20 Summit, which precedes the G20 Social Summit.

The proposals also call for updates to the G20's debt treatment framework, with the goal of making debt relief faster and more inclusive. Suggested measures include swapping debt for investments in public health and ending severe budget cuts that often negatively impact vulnerable communities. In the climate and innovation sector, recommendations include the development of sovereign digital public infrastructure, reforms to global climate finance mechanisms, and the establishment of dedicated loss-and-damage funding that does not increase debt burdens for low- and middle-income countries. Additional priorities encompass gender-responsive climate solutions, inclusive digital services, and local processing technologies to build resilient communities.

The proposals highlight the interconnected nature of today's global challenges, linking climate change to food security, labour, health, and education. They emphasise the need for integrated approaches that address issues like rural digital exclusion, early childhood nutrition, and the inclusion of healthcare workers in green recovery plans.

Source: <https://bd.pressreader.com/1106/20250821/281582361728247>

TRANSITION MINERALS IN AFRICA: BALANCING CLEAN ENERGY DEMAND WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - Africa's transition minerals are critical for the global clean energy shift, but their extraction must avoid repeating past patterns of exploitation that left behind environmental damage, social disruption and limited local benefits. Minerals such as lithium, cobalt, graphite and platinum-group metals are in high demand, yet their mining poses serious risks, including water stress, biodiversity loss, deforestation, carbon emissions, food insecurity, human rights abuses and weak governance. Many projects are located in areas already facing water scarcity, food insecurity and land rights challenges for local and indigenous communities.

Global demand for transition minerals is expected to surge by 2050, driven largely by consumption in the Global North and China, while much of the supply comes from Africa and other parts of the Global South. These dynamic risks perpetuate unequal benefit-sharing and externalise environmental costs onto African countries.

To address this, emphasis is being placed on developing circular economies that reclaim minerals from waste streams and reduce the need for new mining. There is also growing recognition of the importance of beneficiation and value addition within Africa to capture more economic benefit locally. At the same time, stronger governance, transparency and accountability are needed to ensure mining does not undermine water security, agriculture, biodiversity or carbon sinks. Safeguarding communities through secure land rights, fair compensation and sustainable livelihoods remains essential.

As South Africa prepares to host the G20 later this year, the moment presents an opportunity to help shape a new framework for transition minerals, one that supports ecosystems, water security, human rights and livelihoods alongside economic growth.

Source: <https://mg.co.za/the-green-guardian/2025-08-21-africa-must-avoid-resource-curse-in-green-minerals-boom-wwf-south-africa/>

INTERNATIONAL

GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY TALKS COLLAPSE, BUT MOMENTUM REMAINS – After over three years of negotiations, the United Nations' efforts to establish a legally binding global treaty to combat plastic pollution ended in failure. Delegates from 183 countries convened in Geneva for the sixth round of talks, but were unable to reconcile differences over key issues, particularly the scope of the treaty and whether to include measures aimed at curbing plastic production.

The primary points of contention centred on whether to impose limits on plastic production, regulate the use of harmful chemicals in plastics and establish binding commitments for recycling and waste management. While many nations and environmental organisations advocated for stringent measures to address the full lifecycle of plastic pollution, others, including major oil-producing countries, opposed such provisions, favouring voluntary recycling efforts instead.

The collapse of these negotiations has left the global community grappling with the escalating plastic pollution crisis. Experts emphasise the urgent need for coordinated action to address this environmental challenge.

Source: <https://plasticfree.org.uk/2025/08/26/why-the-2025-global-plastics-treaty-collapsed-in-geneva/>

COMBATING DEFORESTATION, WILDFIRES, AND THE URGENT NEED TO ADDRESS WORKER HEAT STRESS – Global environmental challenges are intensifying. The latest Amazon Cooperation Treaty summit produced the Bogotá Declaration, stressing the need to tackle deforestation and biodiversity loss, but lacking clear targets. Indigenous participation was strengthened through a co-governance mechanism, and countries were invited to fund the Tropical Forests Forever Facility, though forests still receive only a small share of climate finance.

Wildfires have devastated over one million hectares in the EU this year, with Spain, Cyprus, Germany and Slovakia hardest hit. In the US, California and Oregon faced mass evacuations amid extreme heat. Overgrown vegetation, insufficient preventive measures and climate change are worsening fire risks worldwide. Policy and economic updates highlight gaps in environmental action. New US restrictions limit large solar and wind projects on farmland, while Ghana and the Philippines introduced reforms to protect fisheries and forests, raising concerns about sustainability and Indigenous rights. In Paraguay, carbon credits linked to harmful agrochemical use pose environmental and community risks.

A UN report from the World Health Organisation and World Meteorological Organisation warns that rising temperatures are already affecting manual labourers, particularly in agriculture and fishing. Projected heat stress could reduce global work capacity by up to 11% by the century's end. The report underscores the urgent need for adaptation measures to protect workers, livelihoods and productivity.

Source: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/cropped-27-august-2025-frustrating-amazon-summit-workplace-heat-hazards-record-european-wildfires/>

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effective, contemporary and streamlined for easy access with secure passwords, easy navigation and a search engine. Access to a comprehensive searchable SHE legislation database (which is updated monthly), is included as well as site-specific documentation.

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



26 September 2025- International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer <https://www.un.org/en/observances/ozone-day>

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