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**SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 2025**

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[IMBEWU December Legislation Update](#)

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**NATIONAL**

**ESKOM INITIATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS FOR THIRD NUCLEAR POWER STATION** – Eskom Holdings has commenced an EIA process to identify and approve a site for South Africa's proposed third nuclear power station. This follows the recent authorisation of a second nuclear facility at Duvnefontein, home to the existing 1,940 MW Koeberg Nuclear Power Station.

The proposed plant would have an estimated capacity of 5,200 MW and may be developed at either Thyspunt on the Eastern Cape coast or Bantamsklip on the Overberg coast near Dyer Island. Both sites were previously assessed for nuclear development but were not selected, largely due to environmental, social and heritage concerns raised during earlier processes.

The initiative is aligned with the Integrated Resource Plan 2025, which calls for over 105 GW of new electricity generation capacity by 2039. It also supports the Nuclear Industrial Plan, which aims to strengthen South Africa's nuclear skills base and industrial capability.

The EIA is currently in a pre-application phase, with formal proceedings expected to follow. Eskom has indicated that it aims to obtain environmental authorisation by February 2027, with any appeal processes finalised by May 2027. In addition to the EIA, the project will require a range of further approvals, including heritage and water use authorisations, coastal discharge permits and nuclear site and operating licences from the National Nuclear Regulator.

Environmental sensitivity remains a key consideration, particularly at Bantamsklip, which is adjacent to the ecologically significant Dyer Island. Specialist studies will assess impacts related to seismic risk, biodiversity, climate change, radioactive waste management and heritage resources. Project costs and funding arrangements have not yet been disclosed and environmental and community organisations have indicated their intention to closely monitor the process.

**Source:** <https://groundup.org.za/article/eskom-starts-environmental-assessment-for-a-third-nuclear-power-station/>

**SOUTH AFRICA AND MOZAMBIQUE ADVANCE STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND INVESTMENT INITIATIVES** - South Africa and Mozambique have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation following discussions held at the Bi-National Commission meeting in Maputo. The engagement emphasised the need to implement existing decisions, identify new opportunities and explore investment avenues that offer mutual economic benefit.

A key highlight of the discussions was the launch of the \$1 billion Integrated Processing Facility at Temane in Mozambique's Inhambane province. The project was cited as an example of effective regional collaboration and a successful public-private sector partnership. Gas produced from the facility will supply the Temane Thermal Power Plant, which has a generation capacity of 450 MW and is expected to contribute meaningfully to regional energy security.

During the meeting, the two countries signed memoranda of understanding aimed at advancing cooperation and translating policy commitments into practical outcomes. Areas identified for enhanced collaboration include energy, mining, infrastructure development, agriculture, financial services, telecommunications, health, tourism and hospitality. Cooperation in defence and security, including border management, was also identified as a priority, given the shared strategic interests of both countries.

Mozambique remains South Africa's largest trading partner on the African continent and one of its most significant global trading partners. The economic relationship continues to expand, supported by substantial South African investment across various sectors in Mozambique. The meeting further reviewed progress made since the previous Bi-National Commission session held in Pretoria in 2022. A comprehensive report by the Council of Ministers outlined tangible outcomes achieved through structured engagement between senior officials and technical experts, highlighting steady advancement in bilateral initiatives and cooperation frameworks.

**Source:** <https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/ramaphosa-leaves-bi-national-with-mozambique-with-new-gas-facility-2025-12-03>

**GAUTENG INCINERATION HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS AND SETBACKS IN CAPTIVE LION BREEDING PHASE-OUT** - The incineration of nearly half a tonne of captive-bred lion remains in Gauteng has drawn renewed attention to the ethical, environmental and political challenges surrounding South Africa's captive lion breeding industry. The destruction of the remains of 42 lions was both a practical disposal measure and a symbolic statement underscoring that lions should have no commercial value in death.

The event took place against a backdrop of ongoing uncertainty around government efforts to phase out the industry. While a multi-year reform process had been developed through expert panels, parliamentary engagement and cross-sector collaboration, recent political changes have raised concerns about the stability and continuation of these reforms. The process included a voluntary exit pathway for breeders, legislative amendments to incorporate animal wellbeing into biodiversity law, and draft prohibition measures aimed at formally closing the industry.

The captive lion breeding sector has long been criticised for its lack of conservation value and for posing ethical, welfare and safety risks. Although the export quota for lion bones was halted in 2019 following a High Court ruling, stockpiles of remains have persisted, creating enforcement, security and illegal trade risks.

The incineration highlighted both the progress made in dismantling the industry and the fragility of recent gains. Environmental organisations, civil society and former industry participants have signalled that continued public scrutiny and pressure will be essential to prevent a reversal of policy direction and to ensure that the phase-out of captive lion breeding is fully implemented.

**Source:** <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2025-12-14-as-23-lion-carcasses-turned-to-ash-sas-ccommitment-to-end-captive-breeding-hangs/>

## INTERNATIONAL

**UNEA-7 CHARTS PATH FOR A RESILIENT PLANET** - The 17th session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) concluded in Nairobi on 12 December 2025, with Member States adopting 11 resolutions and a Ministerial Declaration aimed at accelerating global action for a sustainable future. Central to the outcomes was the approval of UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy for 2026–2029, which prioritises tackling the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The strategy underscores the need for integrated solutions that strengthen resilience, promote circular economies and advance nature-based approaches to restore ecosystems.

UNEA-7 reaffirmed the Assembly's role as the world's highest-level decision-making body on environmental issues, bringing together governments, civil society and the private sector to shape policies that safeguard planetary health. The resolutions adopted address critical areas such as sustainable resource management, financing for environmental action and enhanced cooperation to meet global commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

By setting a clear roadmap for the next 4 years, UNEA-7 signals a renewed commitment to multilateralism and collective action in the face of escalating environmental challenges. The decisions taken in Nairobi will guide UNEP's efforts to deliver transformative change and support countries in achieving a resilient, pollution-free and climate-safe future.

**Source:** <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/seventh-un-environment-assembly-commits-multilateral-solutions-more>

**AI DATA CENTERS DRIVE ENERGY DEMAND AND CARBON CAPTURE SOLUTIONS** - As AI data centres expand across the U.S., their soaring energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions are raising concerns. These facilities, which house thousands of servers and energy-intensive cooling systems, can

require anywhere from a few megawatts for smaller operations to over 100 megawatts for hyperscale centres, comparable to the output of a large power plant. When powered by fossil fuels, they risk becoming significant sources of climate-warming emissions unless mitigation measures are in place.

To address this challenge, Google recently entered a groundbreaking agreement to support the construction of a natural gas power plant in Illinois equipped with carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology. CCS works by capturing carbon dioxide produced during electricity generation and transporting it, often via pipelines, to secure underground storage sites. These sites include depleted oil and gas reservoirs, volcanic basalt formations and deep saline aquifers. The latter, which Google plans to use, offers vast storage potential and is considered one of the most promising options for long-term CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration.

Currently, 21 industrial facilities in the U.S. employ CCS, with several more under construction. Google's initiative stands out for integrating CCS into a power purchase agreement, signalling a new approach to balancing energy demand with climate responsibility.

**Source:** <https://theconversation.com/google-plans-to-power-a-new-data-center-with-fossil-fuels-yet-release-almost-no-emissions-heres-how-its-carbon-capture-tech-works-270425>

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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/>



5 January 2026- National Bird Day <https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/national-day/national-bird-day-january-5>

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