

# SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Institute for Sustainability Africa

'Advancing Sustainability Initiatives for Africa'

## AFRICA

Carbon finance in agriculture helps build sustainable future in Africa: World Bank

## Gas Emission

Reducing feed emissions is critical to advancing sustainability



## BIODIVERSITY

Mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture key to sustainable agrifood systems in Zimbabwe



Reducing feed emissions is critical to advancing sustainability

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# SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

PAGE	TOPIC
3	Reducing feed emissions is critical to advancing sustainability
3	New Treatment Process Can Improve Biorefinery Sustainability
3	The predicted 2023 sustainability trends you should know about
3	13 sustainability trends driving business in 2023
3	Sustainability
4	The Sustainability Imperative in Emerging Markets
4	Green Intelligence: Why Data And AI Must Become More Sustainable
4	Sustainability Legislation Drives Packaging Innovation
4	Accelerating logistics and industrial sector sustainability
4	Making space more sustainable, one rating at a time
5	Carbon finance in agriculture helps build sustainable future in Africa: World Bank
5	Africa: Working Towards Doing More Sustainable, Constructive Journalism Grounded in Africa.
5	The relationship between climate change induced natural disasters and selected nutrition outcomes: A case study of Cyclone Idai in Zimbabwe
5	AFRICA: Faced with water stress, sustainable management of groundwater is essential
5	Africa's first green institution leading the way for the future of sustainability in Africa.
6	Cultivating co-existence through sustainable waste management in Zimbabwe
6	NEW: Zimbabwe, Nigeria lead in sustainability disclosure standards
6	Three things Africa can learn from West Property Zimbabwe
6	Mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture key to sustainable agrifood systems in Zimbabwe
7	About INSAF
8	Contact details

## Sustainability

Sustainability is about meeting the world's needs of today and tomorrow by creating systems that allow us to live well and within the limits of our planet. Building a sustainable Europe isn't an easy task. Without a rapid and fundamental transformation of Europe's production and consumption systems, it will not be possible. Europe needs to find ways to change the key systems of food, energy, mobility and buildings that drive environmental and climate pressures. This means rethinking technologies, production processes, consumption patterns and our way of life. The EU has committed to ambitious, long-term environmental and climate goals. Despite some progress, much more needs to be done to achieve these. We must take immediate, decisive and coherent action across diverse policy areas and engage society to create the changes needed for a truly sustainable future.. **Read more:** <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/topics/at-a-glance/sustainability>

## The Sustainability Imperative in Emerging Markets

The sustainability movement that began sweeping the corporate world in advanced economies decades ago is now hitting emerging market companies' full force. From China to the United Arab Emirates to Brazil, companies are finding that mere pledges to go green and be socially responsible and transparent are not enough. They're under intensifying pressure at home and abroad from consumers, trading partners, investors, regulators, and employees to back their commitments with verifiable action—and they're being punished for shortcomings. CEOs also realize that sustainability is becoming increasingly important for their overall performance—and to building the resilience needed to manage risk and disruption in today's rapidly evolving international business landscape. **Read more:** <https://www.bcg.com/publications/2023/the-importance-of-sustainability-in-business>

## Reducing feed emissions is critical to advancing sustainability



As the world faces increasing pressure to tackle climate change, farmers face a particular challenge to produce more food supply and at the same time reduce emissions and improve sustainability. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), average annual global greenhouse gas emissions were at their highest levels in human history from 2010 to 2019. **Read more:**

<https://www.allaboutfeed.net/animal-feed/feed-additives/reducing-feed-emissions-is-critical-to-advancing-sustainability/>

## New Treatment Process Can Improve Biorefinery Sustainability



Wastewater from biorefineries that convert plants into fuel is full of organic materials that cannot be efficiently treated with conventional wastewater systems, making it costly and energy-intensive to manage. However, those rich organic materials are an untapped source of chemical energy that can be recovered as valuable products, including biogas, a clean-burning renewable fuel. A study by researchers at the Department of Energy's Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation (CABBI) found that recovering resources from wastewater can substantially improve the

economic and environmental sustainability of second-generation biorefineries, supporting the transition to a sustainable, plant-based biofuels and bioproducts industry. **Read more:** <https://www.labmanager.com/news/new-treatment-process-can-improve-biorefinery-sustainability-30035>

## The predicted 2023 sustainability trends you should know about

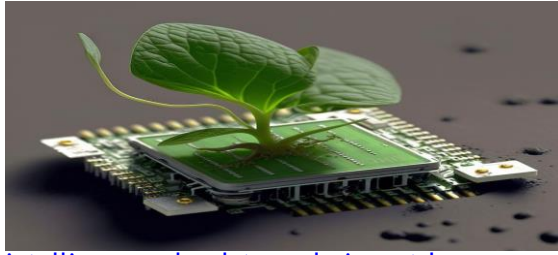


Embracing sustainability is the most important step a business can take to secure its long-term future, but these days, it involves a lot more than just reducing carbon emissions. Here are the major trends set to explode in 2023. Committing to sustainability has suddenly become the biggest and most reliable predictor of long-term business success. Far from jeopardizing the bottom line, the unstoppable momentum of the net zero bandwagon careering through every major global industry is proving to be an unexpected opportunity for those who've happily hopped aboard. **Read more:**

<https://www.theceomagazine.com/business/management-leadership/sustainability-trends/>



## Green Intelligence: Why Data And AI Must Become More Sustainable



As big data, machine learning, and artificial intelligence continue to gain prominence in information technology, experts are raising concerns about the environmental costs of computation – primarily data and AI's carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions. The problem is showing no signs of slowing down. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, data and AI deployment increased exponentially as the demand for digital transformation increased. **Read more:**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2023/03/22/green-intelligence-why-data-and-ai-must-become-more-sustainable/?sh=78fc37187658>

## Sustainability Legislation Drives Packaging Innovation



Regulations and pacts are changing the landscape for packaging innovation, from groups as large as the United Nations and down to the state and municipal level. Global sustainability legislation drives the packaging industry's current landscape and future outlook. In PMMI Business Intelligence's 2022 report, "Future of Packaging and Sustainability," PMMI researchers compiled a list of key legislation that changes how the packaging industry approaches production, lifespan, and waste management. **Read more:**

<https://www.packworld.com/news/business-intelligence/article/22780278/key-sustainability-legislation-in-packaging>

## Accelerating logistics and industrial sector sustainability

The focus on climate change and decarbonisation has accelerated following revisions to government policy, however the industrial and logistics sector has been traditionally slow to transition. In recent months, developers and occupiers particularly those who have Scope 3 within their net zero targets have begun to recognise the need to act. JLL have identified 53% of Australia's top 100 industrial and logistics occupiers have net zero targets which vary in commitment but will be driven by date deadlines through to 2050 and new legislation standards. This report assess' the current footprints of major industrial occupiers and proposed pathways to reach committed targets alongside existing climate regulatory framework, consumer consciousness, biodiversity and social factors. **Read more:**

<https://www.jll.com.au/en/trends-and-insights/research/accelerating-logistics-and-industrial-sector-sustainability>

## Making space more sustainable, one rating at a time

Last year humanity broke an impressive record: worldwide, space operators successfully launched a whopping 180 rockets into space. A big chunk of these sent up objects to orbit our planet in a low-Earth orbit, what we call LEO. These objects stay at an altitude of less than 2000 km and help us with tasks like Earth observation and telecommunications. But because lower orbits are so useful, they can get quite crowded. ESA estimates that currently around 20 000 objects are drifting through these lower orbits. Consequently, close encounters between objects, also known as 'conjunctions', are at an all-time high, meaning satellites and other spacecraft or debris fragments are increasingly at risk of colliding with each other. **Read more:**

[https://www.esa.int/Enabling\\_Support/Preparing\\_for\\_the\\_Future/Space\\_for\\_Earth/Making\\_space\\_more\\_sustainable\\_one\\_rating\\_at\\_a\\_time](https://www.esa.int/Enabling_Support/Preparing_for_the_Future/Space_for_Earth/Making_space_more_sustainable_one_rating_at_a_time)

## Biodiversity and the future of food served by the cloud

Biodiversity, the variety of life in an ecosystem, forms the foundation for the world's food systems. Biodiversity supports global food security, as well as the ability of our agricultural systems to defend against pests and pathogens. As just one example, more than 75 percent of food crop types around the world depend on animal pollination – this includes fruits, vegetables and coffee, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Research from the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) outlines how ensuring biodiversity in diets also supports human health. As climate change and population levels continue to increase, there's an even greater need to protect biodiversity and produce food sustainably. And with nearly 800 million people undernourished today and food demand projected to be 70 percent higher by 2050, according to the World Economic Forum, ensuring agriculture technology is founded on science is critical. **Read more:** <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/biodiversity-and-future-food-served-cloud>

## Carbon finance in agriculture helps build sustainable future in Africa: World Bank

Growing enough food for the rapidly increasing global population while mitigating climate change and its impact on landscapes and natural habitats are two urgent challenges many countries are facing, the World Bank has said. It said tackling these issues through carbon finance could provide the funds to ensure the production of agriculture can be done in a low carbon and resilient way. “Every time a natural forest or grassland is converted into farmed crop land, the communities living off that land are resigned to losses in ecosystem services from the forest landscape, including water quality and accessibility, biodiversity, soil erosion and nutrient loss, and exposure to climate risks due to decreased resilience,” the World Bank said. **Read more:** <https://farmersreviewafrica.com/carbon-finance-in-agriculture-helps-build-sustainable-future-in-africa-world-bank/>

## Africa: Working Towards Doing More Sustainable, Constructive Journalism Grounded in Africa.

A new understanding of the role of journalism in society is needed to raise awareness of the challenges and also help protect lives and livelihoods. Sustainable journalism that focuses on creating long-term financial and environmental sustainability for the industry and produces high-quality, reliable, and informative news content that serves the public interest. It recognises the importance of social responsibility, diversity, and ethical reporting practices in producing journalism that reflects the values of the communities it serves, according to Fojo Media Institute. Trying to fight off widespread fake news, clickbait articles, disinformation, and misinformation can make it hard to differentiate fact and myth. **Read more:** <https://allafrica.com/stories/202303250091.html>

## AFRICA: Faced with water stress, sustainable management of groundwater is essential

To meet the daily water needs of the world's populations, groundwater would be the best alternative. According to the non-governmental organization (NGO) WaterAid, the resource is available, especially in Africa where there is one of the largest aquifer reservoirs in the world, located in the northern Sahara, with an area of over one million km<sup>2</sup>. On the occasion of the UN Conference on Water to be held from 22 to 24 March 2023 in New York in the United States of America, AFRIK 21 zooms in on the most endowed regions of the African continent, as well as sustainable exploitation initiatives for an effective response to water stress. **Read more:** <https://www.afrik21.africa/en/africa-faced-with-water-stress-sustainable-management-of-groundwater-is-essential/>

## Africa's first green institution leading the way for the future of sustainability in Africa.

Africa has been making headlines recently for its impressive efforts toward sustainability. From renewable energy projects to reforestation efforts, countries across the continent are stepping up to create a more sustainable future for their citizens. The newest development in Africa's sustainability journey is the Ibadan Business school in Nigeria. The school is set to become the first training and development institute to embrace green strategies, innovations, and technologies in Africa. As the first training institute in Africa to embrace sustainability, IBS is not just adding to the continent's trail of half-motivated projects on sustainability, they are actually empowering the future leaders to take action toward a greener continent. But why is sustainability so important for Africa, and how can education help implement sustainable policies and efforts? **Read more:** <https://venturesafrica.com/africas-first-green-institution-leading-the-way-for-the-future-of-sustainability-in-africa/>

## Aviation Industry Efforts Continue To Promote Intra-Africa Travel

The African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) is continuing its efforts to implement the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), which could hold the key to a golden age of aviation development in Africa. In an interview with AviaDev, AFCAC Secretary General (SG) Adefunke Adeyemi gave us an insight into developments from the last six months and the commission's progress in executing SAATM. The commission is also spearheading the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) liberalization. Adeyemi has been making great efforts to ensure that AFCAC is more visible and that stakeholders understand its role in developing civil aviation in Africa. **Read more:** <https://simpleflying.com/aviation-industry-continues-intra-africa-travel-promotion/>

### Cultivating co-existence through sustainable waste management in Zimbabwe

Do you think humans and monkeys can co-exist in the same place without harming each other? For Marymount Teachers College, a teachers training college located in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe, the answer would be “yes”. That is because Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) workshops and training sessions have allowed members of the community to learn how to preserve and respect their environment. One of Marymount Teachers College’s most pressing challenges is its production of excessive waste. Given that the College is located in a mountainous area with a significant population of baboons and monkeys, these primates have frequently visited the campus in search of leftover food. **Read more:** <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/cultivating-co-existence-through-sustainable-waste-management-zimbabwe>

### NEW: Zimbabwe, Nigeria lead in sustainability disclosure standards

Zimbabwe and Nigeria are the African countries leading the way in the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Sustainability Disclosure Standards. In essence, Sustainability-related disclosure standards that provide investors and other capital market participants with information about companies’ sustainability related risks and opportunities. In November last year, Government and the Public Accountants and Auditors Board of Zimbabwe (PAAB) committed to be the first movers in adopting the disclosure. IFRS Foundation chairperson Mr Erkki Liikanen, who was in the country last week, said adoption of the standards, which are expected to be finalised soon, will help attract more foreign direct investment. Mr Liikanen was speaking as a guest of honour at a breakfast meeting on international sustainability reporting standards, which was hosted by Stanbic Bank Zimbabwe. **Read more:** <https://www.sundaymail.co.zw/new-zimbabwe-nigeria-lead-in-sustainability-disclosure-standards>

### Three things Africa can learn from West Property Zimbabwe



West Property has prioritized sustainable initiatives in all their property development projects, including green spaces, energy efficiency, waste management, water conservation, and sustainable building practices. These initiatives help minimize the company’s environmental impact, promote eco-friendliness in the property sector, and enhance the quality of life for the people who inhabit these properties. Africa can learn from West Property’s sustainable initiatives and prioritize sustainable development in all property development projects. Provide premium luxury housing at an

affordable price: West Property has contributed massively to premium luxury housing in Zimbabwe at an affordable price. **Read more:** <https://www.africa.com/three-things-africa-can-learn-from-west-property-zimbabwe/>

### Mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture key to sustainable agrifood systems in Zimbabwe



HARARE, Zimbabwe, /APO Group/ – It is no longer possible to look at food, livelihoods, health and the management of natural resources separately. The agenda to mainstream biodiversity in agriculture seeks to balance the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment and advance the need for socially equitable food systems within which people can exercise choice over what they eat, how and where it is produced. Zimbabwe is not spared from the global ecological, economic and social shocks affecting agriculture, and agroecology is a panacea to transform and drive sustainable agrifood systems. In response, through the Ministries responsible for Agriculture

and Environment, the Government of Zimbabwe convened a one-day coordination workshop to evaluate, learn and develop integrated approaches to mainstream biodiversity into agriculture. **Read more:** <https://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/farming-environment/agriculture-environment/mainstreaming-biodiversity-in-agriculture-key-to-sustainable-agrifood-systems-in-zimbabwe/>

## ABOUT INSAF

INSAF is an independent multi-disciplinary independent think tank and research organization working towards a sustainable Africa. The Institute is a registered Independent Trust (MA1218/2012) in Zimbabwe.

## OUR VISION

Advance Sustainability Initiatives for Africa

## OUR MISSION

Foster Sustainability Initiatives and innovations towards Green Economy, Sustainable Development and Sustainable Living through applied research, programs and technical support services and across sectors.

## OUR VALUES

- ✧ A non-partisan research institute
- ✧ An agent for change that promote transformation towards sustainability
- ✧ Committed to rigorous and objective research and analysis to support policy and decision making across sectors
- ✧ Capable of handling complex economic, environmental, developmental, and social issues honestly
- ✧ Committed to environmental sustainability principle, practices and values







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