

# SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

 **insaf**

Institute for Sustainability Africa

'Advancing Sustainability Initiatives for Africa'

## ZIMBABWE

Sustainable green finance  
in African real estate  
sector

## AFRICA

Tackling domestic debt  
sustainability challenges  
in Africa



## GLOBAL

Driving sustainable futures  
through green finance  
initiatives



Research to drive agricultural  
sustainability in Zimbabwe –  
FAO

## Driving sustainable futures through green finance initiatives



Students at Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) have the opportunity to be at the forefront of research and teaching in sustainable and green finance, with initiatives at the university promoting awareness of green banking and sustainable stock market practices. Green finance encompasses the funding of projects aimed at generating positive environmental effects, including the advancement of renewable energy sources. Similarly, sustainable finance integrates environmental, social

and governance factors into investment strategies to foster enduring economic expansion, social progress and environmental well-being. Bassem Nasri, chair of PMU's College of Business **Read more:** <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/hub/p/driving-sustainable-futures-through-green-finance-initiatives>

## Tackling domestic debt sustainability challenges in Africa



3 April 2024 - Public debt levels are growing in Africa, with many countries already in or at risk of debt distress. Impacts of global shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and spillover effects of high interest rates in many developed countries have further exacerbated debt vulnerability. This is also weighing on delivery of health, education and other public services. Policy dialogue on debt in Africa has been largely focused on external debt. **Read more:** [https://www.un.org/en/desa/tackling-](https://www.un.org/en/desa/tackling-domestic-debt-sustainability-challenges-africa)

[domestic-debt-sustainability-challenges-africa](https://www.un.org/en/desa/tackling-domestic-debt-sustainability-challenges-africa)

## Sustainable green finance in African real estate sector

THE real estate sector plays a pivotal role in the economic development of nations, providing shelter, infrastructure, and employment opportunities. However, with growing concerns over environmental degradation and climate change, the industry is under increasing pressure to adopt sustainable practices. Financial mechanisms, such as sustainable and green finance have emerged, aiming to channel investments towards environmentally friendly and socially responsible projects. This article critically examines the distinctions between sustainable finance and green finance, their origins, and their implications for the real estate sector in Africa, focusing on Zimbabwe and the Southern African Development Community (Sadc) nations. Sustainable and green finance have roots in the broader sustainable development agenda and the recognition of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors in financial decision-making. **Read more:** <https://www.newsday.co.zw/theindependent/opinion/article/200026129/sustainable-green-finance-in-african-real-estate-sector>

## Research to drive agricultural sustainability in Zimbabwe - FAO



As Zimbabwe continues to seek ways to maximise its agriculture production, agencies are calling for more research to assist farmers to adopt sustainable practices. In a recent update, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said sustainable farming practices will help promote agricultural biodiversity. In a press briefing, FAO said research conducted across the country looked at the emergence of new plant pests, poor agronomic practices, toxification of pollinators and the death of livestock due

to what the agency says are highly hazardous pesticides. It is common practice among farmers in Zimbabwe to use pesticides in crops in areas where livestock is also kept resulting in the loss of valuable cattle and other animals. Pesticides have been used near open water sources, further exposing humans to harm. FAO says these practices severely limit efforts by farmers to reach agricultural production targets for the country to achieve sustainable development goals. Zimbabwe has routinely struggled to meet its grain production targets despite pouring millions of dollars into the sector. **Read more:** <https://proagri.co.za/research-to-drive-agricultural-sustainability-in-zimbabwe-fao/>

## 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





## CONTACT DETAILS

Institute for Sustainability Africa (INSAF)  
Address: 65 Whitewell, Borrowdale West, Harare, Zimbabwe  
Telephone: +263 242 796 501/ 0778 357 714  
Website: [www.instforsustainafrica.org](http://www.instforsustainafrica.org)  
Email: [admin@insafrica.org.zw](mailto:admin@insafrica.org.zw)