

# SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

 **insaf**

Institute for Sustainability Africa

'Advancing Sustainability Initiatives for Africa'

## ZIMBABWE

Role of legumes in sustainable agriculture

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change mitigation in Zimbabwe and links to sustainable development



## SUSTAINABILITY

The future of sustainability: 4 fast-emerging trends



Sustainable development: balancing profitability and environmental sustainability in Africa

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## Increasing farm sustainability and profitability in Sligo



How the Hunt family has increased their dairy farm's sustainability and profitability was a key part of their farm walk this week. John and Evan Hunt from near Tubbercurry in Co. Sligo hosted their final farm walk as part of the Teagasc and Aurivo joint programme on Thursday (July 27). The farm, over the last number of years, has seen considerable changes, which have, and will continue to, result in increased sustainability and profitability on the farm. [Read more:](#)

<https://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/increasing-farm-sustainability-and-profitability-in-sligo/>

## The mindset for sustainable business



When sustainability is implemented correctly, it often generates positive results for companies such as reduced costs, increased sales, higher customer loyalty, and attracting talent. The right mind-set is crucial because it determines what you see, how you react, and the opportunities you can spot. By upgrading your mindset about sustainability and business, you significantly increase your chances of creating a successful business that also makes the world a better place.

There are many misconceptions that hinder most companies from truly

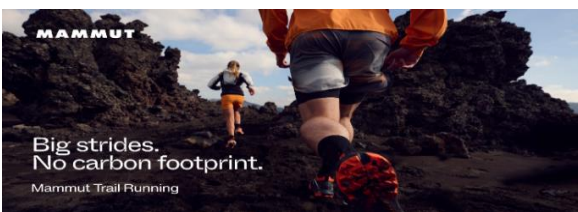
succeeding with sustainability - both in business terms and in making the world a better place. [Read more:](#) <https://www.maddyness.com/uk/2023/07/31/the-mindset-for-sustainable-business/>

## The Stories We Tell to Tell Other Stories: Remember People in Sustainability Reporting

All this diligent measurement, often seen in hundreds of pages of meticulous reporting, removes sustainability from the realm of common interest. Sustainability is for everyone and should be understood by everyone; shared understanding is the first step for shared action. Language is an underappreciated factor in sustainability reporting, despite the lexicon continually running into trouble. A decade ago, fearing a tarnished reputation, it seemed that "green" was out and "blue" was in. Around the same time, even the word "sustainability" was on the chopping block, a change that Patagonia continues to embrace. Nowadays, savvy grocery shoppers know that "cage free" is meaningless but "pasture raised" actually describes the eggs they want to buy. "Regenerative" is the latest promising term that may become meaningless before it's properly understood. [Read more:](#)

<https://sustainablebrands.com/read/marketing-and-comms/stories-remember-people-sustainability-reporting>

## 10 SUSTAINABILITY PIONEERS



On the way to a sustainable outdoor industry, companies are needed that blaze new routes to unexplored heights and then help lead the way there for others. Meet the most recognized sustainability leaders and find out what sets their efforts apart. When it comes to sustainability, this Canadian producer of top-in-class performance wear takes the long view. Products are first to be made responsibly, using preferred materials, and as durable as

possible. Once made, the trick is to keep the product in circulation as long as possible. This is where its ReBIRD circularity program comes in, which through a combination of its ReCARE, RePAIR and ReGEAR second-hand platform can see a product go from season-to-season and user-to-user, for a very long time. [Read more:](#)

<https://sustonmagazine.com/2023/07/31/10-outdoor-brands-pioneering-sustainability/>

## Are sustainability claims in aviation valid? Or just 'greenwashing'?



The effects of climate change are becoming increasingly visible. Weather phenomena such as intense storms, rising sea levels, and heatwaves continue to make headlines. In the past few months alone, there have been reports of wildfires in the Greek islands, flooding in Canada, record-breaking temperatures in Europe and the United States. The need for more sustainable travel has turned into a demand. One study has found that 50% of global travelers admit recent news about climate change has influenced their travel

behavior, and 81% citing sustainability as an important factor when planning a trip. [Read more:](#)

<https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/are-sustainability-claims-in-aviation-greenwashing>



## What is Sustainability? How Sustainabilities Work, Benefits, and Example

In the broadest sense, sustainability refers to the ability to maintain or support a process continuously over time. In business and policy contexts, sustainability seeks to prevent the depletion of natural or physical resources, so that they will remain available for the long term. Accordingly, sustainable policies emphasize the future effect of any given policy or business practice on humans, ecosystems, and the wider economy. The concept often corresponds to the belief that without major changes to the way the planet is run, it will suffer irreparable damage. As concerns about anthropogenic climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution have become more widespread, the world has shifted to embrace sustainable practices and policies, primarily through the implementation of sustainable business practices and increased investments in green technology. **Read more:** <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/sustainability.asp>

## The future of sustainability: 4 fast-emerging trends

Every July, a portal into the future opens. The near future. Say, one to three years out. During this time of year, we look into that near-future-portal – the database of more than 500 proposed speakers to our February GreenBiz conference – and patterns, distinct from prior years, emerge. We see what the corporate sustainability ecosystem will be talking more and more about next. I don't mean decarbonisation, data or climate tech, and I don't mean supply chain issues, nature, Scope 3 emissions or DEI. Those make up the current canon of corporate sustainability priorities, whether your company has a sophisticated sustainability strategy or is just getting started. Combined, they were mentioned more than 1,500 times throughout proposed session descriptions – I ran the write-ups through an online word-frequency counter. **Read more:** <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/future-sustainability-4-fast-emerging-trends>

## Sustainability

Clarkson University is committed to "sustainability in all we do." We value our natural environment. If you value it too -- and want to be involved in its protection -- we offer incredible opportunities to learn and develop your capacity to work toward a sustainable future for us all. Through our Institute for a Sustainable Environment (ISE), faculty experts in relevant disciplines -- from biology and business to philosophy and political science -- help students meet the environmental and sustainability challenges of a swiftly changing world. Clarkson has a major climate action goal: to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2025. Students are at the heart of our initiatives, learning and acting through classes, clubs and volunteer efforts. We offer sustainability-related majors, minors and research opportunities that take students out of the classroom and into the field. And campus clubs bring together students who share a passion for our planet. **Read more:** <https://www.clarkson.edu/academics/research/labs-centers/ise/sustainability-0>

## Sustainability and Transportation: Navigating the Road Ahead

In our conversations, we challenge the conventional wisdom surrounding transportation and delve into the frustrations of the planning industry. Our insightful guests, including experienced planners, engineers, and experts, shed light on the inherent trade-offs and overlooked aspects that contribute to our car-dependent society. We examine the impact on the environment, fiscal sustainability, and the social fabric of our communities. Unveiling the need for a systems approach, we uncover how thoughtful design can transform our streets, making them safer and more inviting for pedestrians and cyclists. We discuss the financial implications of accidents and the true cost of human lives affected by our current transportation systems. From the emergence of electric scooters and autonomous delivery robots to the surprising dynamics of street design, we analyze the rapidly evolving landscape of transportation. Our conversations challenge established norms and envision a future where sustainable transportation practices are at the forefront. **Read more:** <https://www.arcweb.com/blog/sustainability-transportation-navigating-road-ahead>

## IT Sustainability Think Tank: Preparing the enterprise for tightening green regulations

As regulatory scrutiny intensifies, organisations must prepare for closer monitoring of their sustainability practices. Navigating the expanding landscape of rules and regulations concerning Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 emissions poses a pressing challenge. Enterprises must ensure they have the necessary capabilities to report emissions as accurately as possible. Additionally, as environmental sustainability takes the spotlight, Scope 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data has garnered significant attention. Public cloud market leader Amazon Web Services (AWS) has previously faced severe criticism for its delays in providing Scope 3 GHG emissions data to enterprises and governments, serving as an example of the challenges businesses may encounter in the future. This raises important considerations: Should they re-evaluate hiring practices or provide workforce upskilling to manage these responsibilities internally? Is it crucial to invest in monitoring tools and technologies for comprehensive insights into their environmental impact? **Read more:** <https://www.computerweekly.com/opinion/IT-Sustainability-Think-Tank-Preparing-the-enterprise-for-tightening-green-regulations>

## Sustainable development: balancing profitability and environmental sustainability in Africa

In recent years, the concept of sustainable development has gained significant traction across the globe, with a growing recognition that economic growth and environmental stewardship must go hand in hand. Africa, a continent rich in natural resources and brimming with untapped potential, faces a unique opportunity to chart a sustainable development path that balances profitability and environmental sustainability. The Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF), through its approach to empowering young African and its demonstrated impact, has emerged as a catalyst for change, empowering entrepreneurs and driving sustainable development across Africa. **Read more:** <https://www.tonyelumelufoundation.org/research-publications/sustainable-development-balancing-profitability-and-environmental-sustainability-in-africa>

## Sustainable Energy For South African School With Sun Exchange Solar Project



Solar leasing platform Sun Exchange and independent power producer CVE South Africa recently announced that the French renewable energy firm has funded a large solar-plus-battery project that will provide clean power and load shedding relief to one of the oldest and largest technical high schools in South Africa. By using the Sun Exchange platform to fund the entire project for High Technical School (HTS) Drostdy, valued at over ZAR 20 million (\$1.16 million), CVE is unlocking sustainable energy for education in South Africa while creating an alternative income stream for its business over the 20-year lifespan of the solar project. **Read more:** <https://cleantechnica.com/2023/07/28/sustainable-energy-for-south-african-education-with-sun-exchange-solar-project/>

## African Airlines: Sustainability Comes After Survivability

Aviation stakeholders have been working together for several years to reduce the impact of air travel on the environment. Sustainability has been the top priority, with airlines, airports, and manufacturers investing millions in research, new aircraft technology, sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), and other emission reduction initiatives. Although it is a top priority, not every airline can afford to invest the same funds to implement these environmental solutions. It is even more difficult in Africa, where carriers face significantly high operating costs due to insufficient infrastructure and a weakening economic climate. The cost of operating an airline in Africa is much higher than in any other region, with fuel and maintenance being the most expensive costs. Charges for airlines are also 8% higher on the continent, which is weighing them down and preventing them from growing. **Read more:** <https://simpleflying.com/african-airlines-sustainability-aviadev/>

## Climate change single biggest threat to Africa 2063 targets



As Africa drives towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives of its own Agenda 2063, the climate crisis and its impact on the continent, is proving to be an increasingly formidable obstacle. Urgent action to combat this threat is no longer a matter of choice but of existential necessity. Despite its limited recourses, Africa has already undertaken considerable work in mitigation and resilience building but a global effort, including large scale donor contribution is essential if this battle is to be won. The string of violent and expensive weather-induced events that are plaguing Africa is a massive threat to the hard-earned development gains that African countries have achieved. Not only do these events divert much-needed resources away from key projects and towards mitigation and resilience-building, but have long-lasting impacts on the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities and even the economies of whole regions. Climate-induced events have increased in frequency and intensity, resulting in the loss of precious lives, massive damage to property and key infrastructure, and excessive economic losses. **Read more:** <https://newafricanmagazine.com/29753/>

## Role of legumes in sustainable agriculture

LEGUMES are popular for what they do with nitrogen gas. Nitrogen is essential for all living organisms, as it is a key component of amino acids, proteins and DNA. However, the availability of nitrogen in the environment is often limited. This is where legumes come into play. Leguminous plants form symbiotic relationships with nitrogen-fixing bacteria, allowing them to convert atmospheric nitrogen into a form other plants and organisms use. Nitrogen gas is abundantly present in the air, unfortunately, most plants cannot use this form of nitrogen directly. Legumes, however, establish a mutualistic relationship with nitrogen-fixing bacteria known as rhizobia. These bacteria reside in the root nodules of leguminous plants and convert atmospheric nitrogen into ammonia through nitrogen fixation. The ammonia is then transformed to nitrate, a more readily available form of nitrogen, which the legume and neighbouring plants can utilise. **Read more:** [https://www.newsday.co.zw/opinion-analysis/article/200014156/role-of-legumes-in-sustainable-agriculture#google\\_vignette](https://www.newsday.co.zw/opinion-analysis/article/200014156/role-of-legumes-in-sustainable-agriculture#google_vignette)

## Modernise sustainable economic growth



AS the country heads towards national elections on August 23 2023, economic development cannot be parked. The economy is currently characterised by high inflation, currency fatigue, struggling infrastructure, poor service delivery in cities and towns, and the list goes on. While there has been a few signs of economic progress, to reach levels of Morocco, South Africa, Rwanda, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, and Seychelles, the country needs serious economic reconfiguration and modernisation. Zimbabwe has great potential to be the Singapore, Dubai, and Switzerland of Africa. The country

remains a virgin of vast economic opportunities in agriculture, mining, tourism, manufacturing, and services etc. **Read more:** <https://www.newsday.co.zw/theindependent/business-digest/article/200013989/modernise-sustainable-economic-growth>

## Overfishing depletes the Zambezi

Since quitting her post as a teacher about six years ago, 33-year-old Hazel Svinurai has made numerous break-of-dawn trips to the edges of the Zambezi River, about 500km from her home in Zimbabwe's second city of Bulawayo, to buy fish for resale. The poor rural outpost of Binga, on the banks of the giant water body which is the fourth-longest river in Africa, provided Svinurai with a steady source of income. But in recent years, supply has waned. "It was never like this when I was first introduced to buying fish in Binga, long before the Covid-19 pandemic," she told the Mail & Guardian. "I used to go to Binga for no more than two days as I would find ready fish in abundance." "Now my sources say the catch is low and the last time I was there early this year I stayed for more than a week waiting to have enough to take back to Bulawayo." In recent years, as Zimbabwe's economy has taken a relentless battering, informal traders have turned to the fish trade. Binga and the Zambezi River have played host to hundreds of people seeking a livelihood from one of the country's least protected natural resources. Siluzile Mudimba is a 50-something fishmonger who has lived all her life on the edges of the Zambezi and has watched the fish hauls decline. **Read more:** <https://www.newzimbabwe.com/https-www-newzimbabwe-com-overfishing-depletes-the-zambezi/>

## Climate change mitigation in Zimbabwe and links to sustainable development

This journal article seeks to demonstrate how implementing the actions identified in Zimbabwe's Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement can achieve both greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and key development aims. The authors argue that the work in Zimbabwe illustrates how methods to assess priorities for both climate mitigation and economic development can be integrated within climate change mitigation target-setting assessments. In 2021, Zimbabwe updated its target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, moving from seeking to achieve a 33% reduction in per capita energy-sector emissions towards a more ambitious aim to achieve a 40% reduction from all sectors (compared to 2030 baseline emission scenarios). This research paper details how implementing the actions identified in Zimbabwe's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) can achieve two aims: meeting the country's updated target for greater reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and bringing about benefits for the country's economic development. **Read more:** <https://www.sei.org/publications/climate-development-links-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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