



Institute for Sustainability Africa

*'Advancing Sustainability Initiatives for Africa'*

## SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS

May 2023: ISSUE



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## Urgent action needed to tackle stalled progress on health-related Sustainable Development Goals

WHO is releasing the 2023 edition of its annual World Health Statistics report with new figures on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the latest statistics on progress towards the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report with data up to 2022 underscores a stagnation of health progress on key health indicators in recent years compared with trends seen during 2000-2015. It also alerts us to the growing threat of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and climate change, and calls for a coordinated and strengthened response. The report documents updated statistics on the toll of the pandemic on global health, contributing to the ongoing decline in progress towards the SDGs. During 2020-2021, COVID-19 resulted in a staggering 336.8 million years of life lost globally. **Read more:** <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-05-2023-urgent-action-needed-to-tackle-stalled-progress-on-health-related-sustainable-development-goals>

## How markets and consumers can drive sustainability



Ensuring responsible consumption and production patterns - as outlined in the UN Sustainable Development Goal 12 - requires minimizing environmental impacts, enhancing resource efficiency and reducing waste. In this regard, experts point out that competition and consumer protection policies are uniquely placed to help. The UN General Assembly has entrusted UNCTAD as the focal point within the UN system for competition and consumer protection. **Read more:** <https://unctad.org/news/how-markets-and-consumers-can-drive-sustainability>

## Healthy Planet, Healthy You: May 2023 Climate News To Know



**Read more:** <https://www.mindbodygreen.com/articles/healthy-planet-healthy-you-may-2023>

Our series Healthy Planet, Healthy You explores just how tightly human health and environmental health are intertwined—for better and for worse. Each month, we'll share the latest news on how nature can rejuvenate us on one hand and damage our health when it's not cared for on the other. We'll end with timely tips and tools to help you care for your environment so it can care for you. **Read**

## UNESCO Launches a Global Consultation on Culture and Sustainable Development



From climate action to social inclusion, culture is an enabler and driver of sustainable development. In recent years, culture has been progressively recognized for its undisputed contribution in development strategies and prospects. Progressively, culture's role has been manifested by its multifaceted impact to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development across its 17 Goals. In the framework of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 76/214 on "Culture and Sustainable Development" adopted in December 2021, **Read more:** <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-launches-global-consultation-culture-and-sustainable-development>

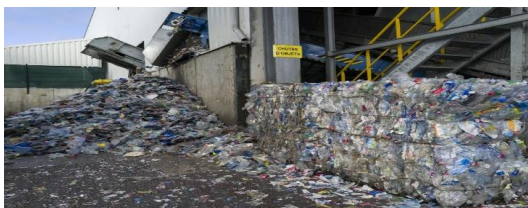
## Global forum spotlights actions to make trade more sustainable and inclusive



UNCTAD will host the third UN Trade Forum on 8 and 9 May 2023 to identify trade policies that can help countries grow their economies while tackling pressing global challenges and accelerating progress towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The forum will give particular attention to developing countries, which have been hit hardest by multiple global crises including the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine

and the climate emergency. **Read more:** <https://unctad.org/news/global-forum-spotlights-actions-make-trade-more-sustainable-and-inclusive>

## Circular economy: Faster progress needed to meet EU resource-efficiency targets, ensure sustainable use of materials and enhance strategic autonomy



The EU must continue its efforts to reduce consumption of materials and generation of waste to achieve a more circular economy according to the European Commission's revised Circular Economy monitoring framework published today. The EU must continue its efforts to reduce consumption of materials and generation of waste to achieve a more circular economy according to the European Commission's revised Circular Economy

monitoring framework published today. **Read more:** [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/circular-economy-faster-progress-needed-meet-eu-resource-efficiency-targets-ensure-sustainable-use-2023-05-15\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/circular-economy-faster-progress-needed-meet-eu-resource-efficiency-targets-ensure-sustainable-use-2023-05-15_en)

## Global 'Blue Deal' urgently needed to protect and invest in our ocean



The ocean holds vast opportunities for developing countries to build more innovative and resilient economies. But climate change, pollution and overfishing threaten those opportunities and the livelihoods of about 3 billion people who rely on the ocean for food and income. UNCTAD's Trade and Environment Review 2023, published on 8 May, analyzes the world's ocean economy - worth

an estimated \$3-6 trillion - and assesses how human activity and multiple global crises have significantly affected different sectors, including fishing, seafood, shipping and coastal tourism. The report, presented at the 3rd UN Trade Forum. **Read more:** <https://unctad.org/news/global-blue-deal-urgently-needed-protect-and-invest-our-ocean>

## EU, Latin America and Caribbean step up cooperation on environment and climate action policies

The EU and Latin American and Caribbean countries pledge to collaborate on policies to tackle climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. Joint commitment to transition to low-carbon, circular, clean and nature-positive economies and societies. Topics discussed: the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement; deforestation-free supply chains; global agreement to tackle plastics pollution; sustainable finance and redirecting investments towards sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economies; pathways to decarbonised economies. **Read more:** [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-latin-america-and-caribbean-step-cooperation-environment-and-climate-action-policies-2023-05-05\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-latin-america-and-caribbean-step-cooperation-environment-and-climate-action-policies-2023-05-05_en)

## Workshop on Achieving Quality and Sustainable Local Vaccine Production in Africa to Improve Access

Many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in Africa face challenges in achieving quality and sustainable production of vaccines. These challenges include weak understanding and/or implementation of good manufacturing practices (GMP) for vaccine production, insufficient infrastructure or an inconducive ecosystem. To address these challenges, the Local Production and Assistance (LPA) Unit in the Regulation and Prequalification Department (RPQ), at the Access to Medicines and Health Products Division (MHP) at WHO headquarters. **Read more:** <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/05/02/default-calendar/workshop-on-achieving-quality-and-sustainable-local-vaccine-production-in-africa-to-improve-access>

## African ministers of finance join forces to highlight the importance of financial sustainability in the response to HIV

Although great strides have been made in tackling HIV in recent years, Africa remains the continent most affected by HIV and progress towards ending AIDS is stalling. The COVID-19 pandemic, global inflation, growing debt levels, and a retreat from overseas development assistance by some donors are hampering Africa's efforts to ramp up national HIV responses and are jeopardizing broader outcomes for health, social development and economic growth. UNAIDS estimates that globally, low and middle-income countries will need investments of US\$ 29 billion annually to meet targets of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. In 2021, only US\$ 21.4 billion was spent on HIV responses low and middle-income countries. **Read more:** [https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2023/may/20230501\\_african-ministers-finance-response-hiv](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2023/may/20230501_african-ministers-finance-response-hiv)

## African Development Bank Group Report 2023: Africa remains resilient to new shocks, but progress and financing must be accelerated



In its latest annual report released on 25 May 2023, the African Development Bank Group highlights its critical contributions to the continent's development and the wellbeing of its people in 2022. The Annual Development Effectiveness Review published yearly since 2011, assesses the Bank's support to the sustainable development of African countries. **Read more:**

<https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-report-2023-africa-remains-resilient-new-shocks-progress-and-financing-must-be-accelerated-61446>

## How can Africa attract more green hydrogen investment?

Green hydrogen production is becoming established as one of those new industries with a seemingly assured future in which African countries and their copious renewable energy resources are well positioned to play a significant role. More than 50 projects have been proposed across the continent to supply an expected surge in global demand for green hydrogen and products that depend on it. Leading the way in North Africa are Egypt, Morocco and Mauritania, all well located to serve European markets. In sub-Saharan Africa, South Africa can count on local demand, as well as looking to export markets, with countries such as Angola, Namibia, Kenya and Djibouti also seeking to put their green hydrogen plans in train. **Read more:** <https://african.business/2023/07/resources/with-e1trn-at-stake-how-can-africa-attract-green-hydrogen-investment>

## How companies can ride on sustainability marketing



SUSTAINABILITY has been at the forefront of public consciousness in the past three decades, with good reason. Large and small companies have been taking note of this trend and have started embedding sustainable practices into their business models, strategy and business development. Green marketing has been rising, in terms of appeal, to customers who have become environmentally conscious about packaging and the products that they buy. In this article, we explore the

business value of sustainability, or green marketing, as a strategy. According to a survey by Unilever, 33% of consumers are choosing to buy from brands they believe are doing social or environmental good. **Read more:** [https://www.newsday.co.zw/theindependent/opinion/article/200010790/how-companies-can-ride-on-sustainability-marketing#google\\_vignette](https://www.newsday.co.zw/theindependent/opinion/article/200010790/how-companies-can-ride-on-sustainability-marketing#google_vignette)

## Zimbabwe to regulate carbon credit market to curb greenwashing

HARARE, May 23 (Reuters) - Zimbabwe's government will closely regulate voluntary carbon offset trading in a bid to curb greenwashing and ensure benefits for local communities, its environment minister has said. The global \$2 billion voluntary carbon offset market involves companies buying credits from emission reducing projects such as renewable energy or planting trees to offset their own emissions. Zimbabwe says organisations operating carbon credit projects in the country were largely unregulated as they were only registered with local councils and traditional community leaders -- a result of which there is no reliable data on the size of Zimbabwe's carbon market. **Read more:** <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/zimbabwe-regulate-carbon-credit-market-curb-greenwashing-2023-05-23/>

## How to make small businesses in developing countries more competitive



Sitshengisiwe Ndlovu found her calling in supporting women small traders during her previous work as a customs officer in her native Zimbabwe. She met many women who made a living out of small-scale cross-border trade and came to understand their challenges first-hand. For example, they often lack knowledge in trade

procedures and applicable duties and taxes, exposing them to fines and confiscation of goods. **Read more:** <https://unctad.org/news/how-make-small-businesses-developing-countries-more-competitive>

## Zimbabwe starts developing its 2.0 One Health AMR National Action Plan

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe - The Government of Zimbabwe has commenced updating its antimicrobial resistance (AMR) National Action Plan (NAP) 2023-2027, to replace the previous NAP (2017-2021) which had lapsed. The process is being led by the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC), Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Climate and Rural Development and the Ministry of Environment with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The review provides an opportunity to assess the impact of activities carried out during the last five years and assist with developing evidence-based policies and decisions and evaluate procedures and indicators that could be adopted to achieve strategic objectives within the new plan. **Read more:** <https://www.afro.who.int/countries/zimbabwe/news/zimbabwe-starts-developing-its-20-one-health-amr-national-action-plan>



## About The Institute

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, programmes and technical support services 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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