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SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS

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inśaf

Institute for Sustainability Africa

'Advancing Sustainability Initiatives for Africa'

Sustainability Highlights September 2023

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SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

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How to Use Vertical Farming for Sustainable Living

Increasing in both size and number, cities worldwide are experiencing accelerated growth. With green land regularly lost to either urbanization or its effects - such as rising sea levels or natural disasters - and expanding populations meaning more mouths to feed, the farming and agricultural industries are in crisis. Viewed by many as the solution, vertical farming is the practice of stacking layers of crops atop each other, using humanity's latest design and engineering tech to grow more with less space. More traditional horizontal farmland, however, does more for the environment than simply growing our food. The open-air green spaces often serve as natural habitats, air filtration, and temperature control for the surrounding area. By stepping up the concept of vertical farming into the world of architecture, we can bring all the goodness of the farm, straight to our doorstep. Absorbing and re-emitting the sun's heat, urban infrastructure such as roads and buildings create a heat island effect. In order to address and reduce this, many new buildings tend to employ green facades. The Urban Farming Office building by VTN Architects, for example, aims to reverse the divergence of Ho Chi Minh City from its origins as a sprawling tropical forest. 'Demonstrating the possibility of vertical urban farming,' introduces VTN Architects, its facade creates a 'comfortable microclimate throughout the building, filtering sunlight and purifying the air.' **Read more:** <https://www.archdaily.com/1007303/how-to-use-vertical-farming-for-sustainable-living>

Sustainability in sport: 'Water companies need to be held accountable'

Proven, when he broke the record for swimming the length of Windermere this month. Smashed it, in fact, by eight minutes, after it stood for 26 years. But then Pardoe is an Olympic marathon swimmer - and hoping to compete at the Paris Games next year. Preferably without getting very ill trying to get there. "I'm not a water connoisseur, but if it's bad quality you can kind of tell from the colour. In the UK, 30% of people get sick after wild swimming - it's a huge issue." Pardoe's reason for swimming a 17km lake without a wetsuit (as the rules prevent you above 18.1 degrees) is to raise money for charity to help treat Windermere and the district's 15 other lakes. He wants to swim those other 15 in the future "and I don't want to experience poor water quality and sewage". The water in Windermere did not cause Pardoe any problems during his record-breaking swim, even if the exertion did - he became hyperglycaemic with 5km to go. But raising awareness of water quality is something that is very important to Pardoe, and to many in his community. At the Sunderland triathlon in July, 88 competitors fell ill after competing in the water. An interim report said the majority of sickness was caused by norovirus, of which the source was unknown. British Triathlon and the local water company confirmed the water had tested safe on the day of competition and no sewage was released. The issue of pollution has also been raised by athletes including windsurfer Sarah Jackson, who said England's south coast was like "surfing through sewage", and several competitors at the Henley Regatta complained of sewage in the River Thames. **Read more:** <https://www.bbc.com/sport/66886505>

Is Sustainability Reaching the Tipping Point?



The researchers defined humanity as "an organization's values and respect for everyone, regardless of identity, background, or beliefs. It takes care of its employees and puts the good of society and the environment above pure profit-making." Transparency was defined as "making it easy for consumers to find straightforward information about a brand's impact on communities and the environment. "But according to Steve Ashkin, the leading advocate for sustainability in the professional cleaning industry: "I don't see this as a tipping point

but more of a milestone. Every two or three years, we see sustainability and all its components become more important in our lives. The big change I see is that it is happening faster and faster." **Read more:** <https://www.cleanlink.com/news/article/Is-Sustainability-Reaching-the-Tipping-Point--30179>

2023 Sustainability In Manufacturing: We've Got Work To Do



Climate change represents the biggest challenge humanity has ever faced, and every industry – especially manufacturing – must reckon with its impacts around the world. We created the Sustainability in Manufacturing Report to better understand how our industry is tackling the problem and gain insight into how we can move towards a more sustainable future. This inaugural report on sustainability builds on Fictiv's 8th annual State of Manufacturing Report which has findings and analysis from hundreds of senior leaders in engineering,

production manufacturing, supply chain, and research and development (R&D). The report revealed an industry focused on navigating a tough macroeconomic climate, which is shifting individual company priorities and impacting sustainability initiatives. **Read more:** <https://www.forbes.com/sites/daveevans/2023/09/27/2023-sustainability-in-manufacturing-weve-got-work-to-do/?sh=23012b543ec9>

Dakuku Canvasses African Maritime Sector Development Sustainability

Turnaround expert and an independent maritime consultant, Dr Dakuku Peterside, says sustainable development of the African maritime sector is crucial to unlocking the potential of the continent and making it a huge contributor to the world economy. Peterside made this submission at the Agenda For African Development Senior Managers Forum on Environmental Management System in African Seaports at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport in Alexandria, Egypt. Participants were drawn from 15 African countries, with funding from the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD). Revealing statistics that Africa accounts for less than 3% of global trade and just about 15% of intra-African trade compared to Europe (68%), Asia (58%), North America (48%), and Latin America (20%), he argued that African leaders under the auspices of Africa Union (AU) must quickly activate the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aimed at boosting intra African trade. **Read more:** <https://dailytrust.com/dakuku-canvasses-african-maritime-sector-development-sustainability/>

Africa needs peace to hit sustainable development goals



The new academic year is underway in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – but dozen of schools in the territory of Nyiragongo, near the North Kivu capital of Goma, have become makeshift homes to internally displaced persons (IDPs). Antoinette Gahizi is one of the IDPs, who every morning has to pack up her belongings and carry them out of the classroom she calls home. She needs to make way for the school children who will use the same space for their lessons. "After classes, we head back to the classrooms," Gahizi told DW. "But we're hit by the rain here, our things get wet and there's no way

to shelter our children. We are suffering a lot." **Read more:** <https://www.dw.com/en/africa-needs-peace-to-hit-sustainable-development-goals/a-66813011>

Climate change will affect hydropower in Africa



Hydropower provides clean electricity to millions in Africa. It's the largest source of renewable energy on the continent and accounts for nearly one quarter of total electricity generation in sub-Saharan Africa. Some countries, however, have a much heavier reliance on it than others. For instance, hydropower accounts for at least 80% of electricity generation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia. The continent has a lot more hydropower potential too. With relatively abundant water resources, sub-Saharan Africa is estimated

to have 1.4 petawatt hours a year of untapped, low cost potential. To put this into perspective, 1 PWh of energy could power about half a billion households for one year, assuming each household consumes an average of about 5.5 kWh per day. However, there are political and environmental concerns that planners must consider if they want to expand hydropower. **Read more:** <https://www.sustainability-times.com/low-carbon-energy/climate-change-will-affect-hydropower-in-africa/>

Africa presents challenges, solutions in clean energy transition



LONDON, Sept 7 (Reuters) - Africa's role in the global energy transition is at a key turning point, finance and business leaders said in London on Thursday, with the potential to leapfrog ahead in green energy with the right funding and support. The continent is rich in the commodities needed for the green energy transition and has abundant solar power, but many governments are also burdened with crippling high debts. "I think, for the first time, it's not about Africa going to a COP with an ask, it's Africa going to a COP with an offer," Bezos Earth Fund CEO Andrew Steer said at the Reuters IMPACT conference in London,

referring to the COP28 climate summit in November. Africa is responsible for just 4% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, but suffers from some of the biggest impacts of climate change. Five consecutive rainy seasons have failed in the Horn of Africa, leading to the worst drought in decades, while Cyclone Freddy, one of the deadliest storms to hit Africa in the last twenty years, ripped through Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar in late February. **Read more:** <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/reuters-impact-africa-presents-challenges-solutions-clean-energy-transition-2023-09-07/>

Zimbabwe's climate action plan: a win for the environment, health and energy



The dumping of billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere yearly is already having a devastating impact around the world. This includes widespread flooding and droughts, raging wildfires, heatwaves and record temperatures. Africa is particularly hard hit, with temperatures and sea levels rising faster across the continent than the global average. In Zimbabwe, unreliable rainfalls and extended droughts are affecting hydro electricity generation, resulting in rolling blackouts. Food production is also affected.

A large fraction of Zimbabwe's population is at risk of severe hunger. In 2015, almost all countries signed the Paris Agreement, a commitment to tackle climate change. **Read more:** <https://theconversation.com/zimbabwes-climate-action-plan-a-win-for-the-environment-health-and-energy-210655>

Climate impact in Zimbabwe: Elephants, other wildlife begin early mass migration to escape drought conditions

Climate change-induced drought has triggered a mass-movement of elephants from Zimbabwe's biggest national park into neighboring Botswana in a search for water and food. Elephants and other animals such as buffaloes, wildebeests and zebras are leaving Hwange National Park in their droves, crossing into Botswana to escape the prevailing drought conditions in the southern African nation, said Tinashe Farawo, the spokesperson for the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority (Zimparks). Although seasonal migrations are common, this year the migration has started much earlier because of the arid conditions in Hwange National Park caused by poor rains in the preceding rainy season, Farawo told this reporter. "By August, most water sources had run dry, which is unusual because we experience this after the hottest period of October-November," Farawo explained. The elephants return to the park around December, when the dry season is over and food and water are plentiful. The 14,600 square kilometres Hwange National Park is home to half of Zimbabwe's 100,000 elephants. **Read more:** <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/world/climate-impact-in-zimbabwe-elephants-other-wildlife-begin-early-mass-migration-to-escape-drought-conditions-91926>

Curtain comes down on Climate Change Exhibition



THE curtain came down yesterday on the Art and Climate Change Exhibition held at Bulawayo National Art Gallery. The exhibition, by curatorial artist Fisani Nkomo, roared to life on September 16 to provide a platform for expression and collaboration against climate change. Nkomo told NewsDay Life & Style that the exhibition was meant to provoke thoughts, share ideas and challenge action. Recalling how he had to endure sleepless nights for three weeks preparing for the exhibition, he said: "The environment is under threat from electronic waste, plastics,

metal waste and sound pollution and they are all impacting our planet negatively. "We have become more carefree, more careless, and more selfish and continue to advance technologically to our detriment. This way of 'rethinking the future', featured sculptures, installations, video and art performances from a number of contemporary artists gave artists (the opportunity) to go through junk, picking out pieces to creatively, intelligently and meaningfully communicate environmental issues and climate change in a unique manner." **Read more:** https://www.newsday.co.zw/life-amp-style/article/200017194/curtain-comes-down-on-climate-change-exhibition#google_vignette

How climate change is disrupting food, nutritional security in Zim

ZIMBABWE this week celebrates National Nutrition Week. Every year, the week from September 1-7 is dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of nutrition in socio-economic development. This year the commemorations will run under the theme "Healthy Diet, Going Affordable for All". National Nutrition Week has become an annual ritual to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and to promote healthy eating habits worldwide. It serves as a platform for stakeholders to come together and discuss strategies to address pressing issues relating to nutrition and food security. The week-long event typically includes conferences, workshops, seminars and campaigns focused on conscientising members of the public on nutrition-related issues. During the week, experts from different fields come together and share knowledge and experiences, highlighting the significance of proper nutrition in maintaining good health and preventing diseases. **Read more:** <https://www.newsday.co.zw/theindependent/opinion/article/200016931/how-climate-change-is-disrupting-food-nutritional-security-in-zim>

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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