

DECEMBER 2023 EDITION

SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



inśaf

Institute for Sustainability Africa

'Advancing Sustainability Initiatives for Africa'

Sustainability Highlights December 2023

A

SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

PAGE	TOPIC
3	Safety and sustainability - the move to non-powered access
3	Curbing the digital economy's growing environmental footprint
3	COP28 Healthy and sustainable diets for nurturing people and planet
3	York's Sustainability Clinic scoops Green Gown award
3	Global Green Bond Initiative joins with African Development Bank to strengthen green bond markets in Africa
4	Sustainable fashion on show at Dakar Fashion Week
4	IFC Partners with FEI Fund to Boost Access to Clean and Reliable Energy in Africa
4	COP28 - Africa Day: African leaders emphasize need for significantly increased climate action and green growth financing
4	SPAR Zimbabwe recognised for long-standing monthly community clean-ups
4	When media is polarized, our audiences are the ones who suffer': The rise and impact of Zimbabwe's participative media
5	FCB joins sustainability initiative
5	Dozens of Zimbabwe elephants die as climate change dries up Hwange park
7	About INSAF
8	Contact details

Safety and sustainability - the move to non-powered access

Access equipment manufacturers of conventional equipment like scissors and boom lifts have been showing a greater interest in the pusharound and low level access sectors in recent times. For example, JLG has placed significant prominence on its Power Towers brand and Haulotte has announced its launch into the sector. Looking at the trends of pusharounds, Baptiste Roland, Haulotte product marketing manager, says more companies that require working at height below 6m are taking measures to limit the use of ladders and scaffolding in the workplace, to reduce accident-related costs. “Demands from customers of low level access and pusharound products are for lighter units and an even greater reduction in the need for maintenance, as well as a standardisation of AGM batteries, with the possibility of the lifting movements being carried out manually too”. **Read more:** <https://www.accessbriefing.com/news/safety-and-sustainability-the-move-to-non-powered-access/8034166.article>

Curbing the digital economy’s growing environmental footprint



With global attention on the COP28 climate summit, UNCTAD’s eWeek 2023 highlighted digitalization’s potential to accelerate climate action but also its environmental costs. Data-driven technologies like the Internet of Things, robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) can enhance climate change monitoring, optimize energy use and production processes, and promote low-emissions technology adoption. But the digital transformation has left its mark on the planet through raw material depletion, energy and water use, pollution and waste. “The ‘cloud’ has a very real impact on the ground,” World Wide Waste author Gerry McGovern said on 7 December at the eWeek high-level session “The digital economy and environmental sustainability”, organized by UNCTAD and the UN Environment Programme. Torbjorn Fredriksson, head of UNCTAD’s e-commerce and digital economy branch, added: “We are at a crucial juncture, where the path we choose in digitalization will significantly impact our environment and, ultimately, the future of our planet.” **Read more:** <https://unctad.org/news/curbing-digital-economys-growing-environmental-footprint>

COP28 Healthy and sustainable diets for nurturing people and planet

The Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN) launched at COP27 in Egypt catalyzes, mobilizes, connects, and advocates to address the critical climate change and nutrition nexus. I-CAN lays out strong scientific, programmatic, and policy links between climate and nutrition. There are numerous policy options to incentivize dietary shifts and support innovative, sustainable practices at every stage of our food systems to support both nutrition and environmental goals. Policymakers and other food systems actors should work collaboratively to develop a coherent and bold mix of policies adapted to local contexts. WHO EURO, in collaboration with experts, has developed a Diet Impact Assessment (DIA) modelling tool that will enable Member States to analyze user-specific scenarios of dietary change to estimate the health, environmental, and cost burden of each scenario in terms of diet costs, avoidable deaths, changes in resource use and compatibility with global environmental targets, including those related to food-related greenhouse gas emissions, land use, water use, and fertilizer application. This tool was developed following countries’ requests at an expert meeting on healthy diets and sustainable food systems in the WHO EURO region. It brings together environmental and health parameters; practically demonstrating the integration of environment and health systems. **Read more:** <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20240108715254/en/Chakra-Growth-Fund-Launched-and-Completed-Its-First-Close-in-December-2023-With-a-Vision-to-Drive-Sustainable-Change>

York’s Sustainability Clinic scoops Green Gown award

The Clinic, which forms part of York’s suite of interdisciplinary modules and is available to students from across the University, was recognised for its work in student engagement. The University was up against 14 other finalists and triumphed at an awards ceremony in Liverpool, with guests from across education and sustainability sectors celebrating the exceptional stories and achievements of colleges and universities this year. To date, 300 students and 51 partner organisations have participated in Clinic projects, which brings together students and the local community to tackle pressing sustainability issues. Working in teams, students are given a project brief that has been co-produced with a community organisation, charity, SME or local government, focusing on a sustainability challenge faced by the organisation. All projects are designed to develop students’ employability skills while adding capacity to local organisations to tackle the challenges of environmental sustainability. **Read more:** <https://www.york.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/quality/green-gown-award/>

Global Green Bond Initiative joins with African Development Bank to strengthen green bond markets in Africa



The African Development Bank Group signed a joint partnership agreement with the coalition of development finance institutions of the Global Green Bond Initiative to collaborate on technical assistance to promote green bond markets in Africa. Africa's engagement in the green bond market currently represents less than 1 percent of more than \$2.2 trillion in community green bond issuance in 2022. The Global Green Bond Initiative coalition comprises the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Italy's Cassa di Risparmio di Roma, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, Germany's KfW development bank, PROPARGO of the AFD Group, acting as a consortium of European development finance institutions. **Read more:** <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/global-green-bond-initiative-joins-african-development-bank-strengthen-green-bond-markets-africa-66491>

Sustainable fashion on show at Dakar Fashion Week

Sustainable fashion took centre stage at this year's Dakar Fashion Week. It is the 21st edition of the annual showcase of African fashion. The launch took place in the presence of a dozen designers from Senegal and the sub-region. Adama Amanda Ndiaye, better known as Adama Paris, Senegalese fashion designer and founder of Dakar Fashion Week, said that sustainability was their agenda in this year's event. "What's new this year is that for four or five years now during Dakar Fashion Week we've been helping designers who make sustainable, recycled fashion. And this year, their collective will be taking part in the main fashion show, so I'm very proud of them. And then, of course, innovation, it's always the designers, they're always innovative and new. We've got Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, Congo, we've got lots of nationalities. I'm very happy with this diversity," said Adama Ndiaye, the organizer of Dakar Fashion Week. Adama Paris spoke of the importance of Dakar Fashion Week as a platform for promoting and celebrating African creativity in fashion. **Read more:** <https://www.africanews.com/2023/12/10/sustainable-fashion-on-show-at-dakar-fashion-week/>

IFC Partners with FEI Fund to Boost Access to Clean and Reliable Energy in Africa

Johannesburg, South Africa, December 22, 2023 – To boost access to clean and reliable energy across Africa, IFC today signed a financing package for the Facility for Energy Inclusion (FEI), a pan-African fund that supports small-scale decentralized renewable energy (DRE) projects, bringing power to Africa's commercial and industrial sectors and supporting economic activity. IFC's financing will help fund the addition of about 115 MW of generation capacity in about 15 African countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, and Kenya. FEI provides debt financing for small-scale renewable energy generation and storage projects to power commercial and industrial companies, telecom infrastructure as well as mini grids. The \$80 million financing package comprises a loan of \$30 million from IFC; a loan of \$20 million mobilized from the Managed Co-Lending Portfolio Program (MCP), which will enable longer-term financing that is not readily available in the market; and up to \$30 million in blended finance. **Read more:** <https://pressroom.ifc.org/all/pages/PressDetail.aspx?ID=27959>

COP28 - Africa Day: African leaders emphasize need for significantly increased climate action and green growth financing



Amplify the voice of African countries globally and provide a space and platform to highlight the continent's challenges, opportunities and responses -- this was the focus of Africa Day on 2 December 2023. The day opened with a high-level session at which several African leaders called for "increasing climate finance and green growth in Africa", the theme of the event. Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Commission for Africa, emphasized key areas for leveraging resources and strategic collaborations to finance climate action and green growth: "Let's make our priority investing in the deployment of the continent's abundant renewable resources and processing its essential minerals. Let's concentrate on developing innovative financing mechanisms such as the initiatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (Editor's note: Sustainable Development Goal 7: "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy"), which have enabled South Africa to issue three billion Rand in green bonds for renewable energy investments. **Read more:** <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/cop28-africa-day-african-leaders-emphasize-need-significantly-increased-climate-action-and-green-growth-financing-66625>

SPAR Zimbabwe recognised for long-standing monthly community clean-ups



SPAR Zimbabwe proudly received an environmental award in recognition of their long-lasting monthly community clean-ups initiative. SPAR Zimbabwe is a retailer with roots embedded in the local community, running several sustainable initiatives in local communities. One particular initiative comes in the form of monthly clean-ups in local communities on the first Friday of every month. At the end of each clean-up, the number of bags filled are counted and the volume is tracked throughout the year.

Read more: <https://spar-international.com/news/spar-zimbabwe-recognised-for-long-standing-monthly-community-clean-ups/>

When media is polarized, our audiences are the ones who suffer': The rise and impact of Zimbabwe's participative media



Zimbabwe's media is divided along partisan lines, with the largest dailies closely controlled by the government. Disinformation spreads easily in the resulting confusion, and debunking it is particularly challenging in rural areas with few local media and limited internet access. "Our audiences are the ones who suffer the most," explains media founder Mary Mundeya. "The media have given priority to political parties, to political leaders, even to advertisers." The 2023 elections brought these challenges to the fore, with independent media

aiming to support voters to make informed choices amid government crackdowns on the press. Reaching marginalized audiences in Zimbabwe, including the nine in ten who live in rural areas and the two thirds who do not use the internet, is essential to strengthening civic participation. This engagement must happen before, during and after key moments like elections. Read more: <https://ipi.media/when-media-is-polarized-our-audiences-are-the-ones-who-suffer-the-rise-and-impact-of-zimbabwes-participative-media/>

FCB joins sustainability initiative



FIRST Capital Bank Zimbabwe (FCBZ) has officially joined the international Sustainability Standards and Certification Initiative (SSCI) in a bid to unlock new funding through implementing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards. SSCI is an initiative from the European Organisation for Sustainability Development (EOSD). The initiative delivers a holistic, robust, evolving, and locally sensitive set of standards to make value-driven financial institutions more resilient and

profitable. According to EOSD, SSCI enables institutions to create new income streams and thrive for the long-term in an ever more volatile world, providing new opportunities for mobilising funds to finance businesses and projects creating high social and environmental impact. Read more: <https://www.newsday.co.zw/theindependent/business-digest/article/200021231/fcb-joins-sustainability-initiative>

Dozens of Zimbabwe elephants die as climate change dries up Hwange park



Dozens of elephants have died of thirst in Zimbabwe's popular Hwange National Park, and conservationists fear losing more as a drought caused by climate change and the El Nino global weather pattern dries up watering holes. The seasonal El Nino, which causes hotter, drier weather throughout the year, has been exacerbated by climate breakdown, scientists say, a cause of concern at the ongoing COP28 discussions on climate action in Dubai. Hwange has no

major river running through it, and animals rely on solar-powered boreholes, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authorities (Zimparks) official said. Read more: <https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/628/244509.html>

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 Whitwell, Borrowdale West, Harare, Zimbabwe
Telephone: +263 242 796 501/ 0778 357 714
Website: www.instforsustainafrica.org
Email: admin@insafrica.org.zw