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Institute for Sustainability Africa
'Advancing Sustainability Initiatives for Africa'

THE SUSTAINABILITY PULSE

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

From awareness to action: Rethinking sustainability, responsibility and the future of business.

EDITORIAL:

Sustainability is changing. Are our organizations changing with it?

The sustainability conversation is evolving rapidly. Across the world, businesses, governments, investors and development institutions are increasingly recognizing that environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations are central to long-term economic development and organizational resilience.

June 2026 offered several important developments that deserve the attention of African organizations, particularly those operating in emerging economies.

From the release of an updated corporate net-zero standard to renewed attention to biodiversity, international climate negotiations, responsible mineral value chains and Zimbabwe's carbon market accountability, the developments demonstrate that sustainability is becoming increasingly connected to how organizations operate, invest, govern and create value.

For Africa, this conversation is particularly important.

Our continent has significant natural resources, growing economies, expanding industries and considerable development opportunities. However, these opportunities must be pursued responsibly, with due consideration for environmental protection, social wellbeing, good governance and economic inclusion.

At the Institute for Sustainability Africa (INSAF), we believe the time has come for organizations to move beyond merely discussing sustainability and begin integrating it into their everyday decisions.

This edition explores six developments from June 2026 and considers what they mean for organizations and the sectors that drive our economies.



Global developments, African perspectives and Zimbabwean opportunities.

CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY: FROM COMMITMENTS TO MEASURABLE ACTION

The Science Based Targets initiative releases Corporate Net-Zero Standard Version 2.0



What happened?

- On 11 June 2026, the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTI) published Version 2.0 of its Corporate Net-Zero Standard.
- The updated standard seeks to help companies translate climate ambitions into practical business transformation.
- It strengthens the integration of science-based climate targets into corporate decision-making, including operations, value chains and capital allocation.
- Importantly, the revised framework recognizes that businesses operate in different circumstances and provides different target-setting approaches.
- The new standard was published in June, but validation against Version 2.0 is scheduled to begin in February 2027.

What does this mean for organizations?

- This development reinforces the need for organizations to move beyond making general environmental commitments.
- Businesses need to understand their emissions, identify opportunities to reduce their environmental footprint, establish measurable targets and develop credible transition plans.
- Sustainability must increasingly become part of strategic planning, investment decisions, procurement and operational management.

Our encouragement to the business community

- Organizations should begin examining their current environmental performance and identifying practical opportunities to improve.
- You do not need to be a multinational corporation to begin your sustainability journey.
- Whether you operate a small business, manufacturing company, financial institution or large industrial enterprise, you can start by measuring your environmental impact, identifying priorities and establishing achievable targets.

INSAF perspective: Let sustainability become a measurable business objective rather than a statement in a corporate mission document.

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NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY: WHY BUSINESS MUST LOOK BEYOND CARBON



TNFD and Accounting for Sustainability release a guide for Chief Financial Officers

What happened?

On 2 June 2026, the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), in partnership with Accounting for Sustainability (A4S), released a guide entitled *Asking Better Questions on Nature for CFOs.*

The guide encourages finance leaders to examine how their organizations depend on nature, how their activities affect ecosystems and how nature-related risks and opportunities influence financial performance. This is an important development because it brings nature and biodiversity considerations directly into financial management and corporate decision-making.

What does this mean for organizations?

For a long time, many organizations have approached sustainability primarily through carbon emissions, energy consumption and waste management. However, businesses also depend on healthy ecosystems, reliable water supplies, productive soils, biodiversity and natural resources.

For example:

- Agricultural businesses depend on healthy soils, rainfall and water availability.
- Mining companies depend on responsible land and water management.
- Banks need to understand the environmental risks associated with the businesses they finance.
- Manufacturing companies depend on natural resources and reliable supply chains.

Nature-related risks can ultimately become operational, financial and reputational risks.

Our encouragement to the business community

Organizations should begin asking an important question:

How dependent is our business on nature, and what happens to our business if the natural systems we depend on deteriorate?

Finance directors, sustainability managers and board members should work together to incorporate nature-related considerations into risk assessments and business planning.

INSAF perspective: Sustainability is not just about reducing what we emit. It is also about protecting the natural systems that make economic activity possible.

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GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION: THE IMPORTANCE OF A JUST TRANSITION

UN June Climate Meetings take place in Bonn, Germany



What happened?

Between 8 and 18 June 2026, the United Nations climate negotiations known as SB64 took place in Bonn, Germany.

The meetings bring together governments and other stakeholders to advance discussions on climate action, adaptation, finance, technology and implementation of commitments under the Paris Agreement.

The closing statement from the UNFCCC Executive Secretary highlighted progress on the just transition mechanism and the review of the just transition work programme.

Although significant differences between countries remained, the discussions demonstrated the continuing importance of international cooperation.

What does this mean for organizations?

One of the most important lessons from the just transition conversation is that environmental sustainability must also consider people.

As economies transition towards cleaner energy and lower-carbon production, organizations must consider the implications for employees, communities, livelihoods and economic inclusion. A company cannot pursue environmental improvements while overlooking the social consequences of its decisions.

For example, organizations introducing new technologies should consider worker retraining, employment opportunities and the impact on surrounding communities.

Our encouragement to the business community

Organizations should embrace sustainability in a way that creates shared value.

Investing in cleaner production, improving working conditions, supporting skills development and engaging communities are all part of responsible business.

Sustainability should not leave people behind.

INSAF perspective: A successful sustainability transition must be environmentally responsible, economically viable and socially inclusive.

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AFRICA'S MINERAL WEALTH: CAN THE GREEN TRANSITION BE SUSTAINABLE?

SADC launches a five-year initiative for responsible energy-transition mineral value chains



What happened?

- On 2 June 2026, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) announced the launch of a five-year regional initiative in Lusaka, Zambia.
- The initiative focuses on developing environmentally and socially responsible, decarbonized, inclusive and transformative value chains for energy-transition minerals in the SADC region. It covers the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbawe.
- The programme recognizes the importance of minerals such as lithium, cobalt, manganese, nickel and platinum group metals in the global energy transition.
- It also seeks to promote local value addition, industrialization, livelihoods and more responsible mineral development.

What does this mean for organizations?

- Africa has an important role to play in the global transition towards cleaner energy.
- However, the sustainability of that transition depends on how the minerals required for it are extracted, processed, transported and traded.
- The mining sector therefore has an important responsibility to ensure that mineral wealth contributes to long-term development.
- This requires more than production and export revenues.
- It requires environmental rehabilitation, responsible water management, occupational health and safety, community participation, transparency and good governance.

Our encouragement to the mining sector

- Mining companies should recognize ESG as an opportunity to improve their operations, strengthen investor confidence and contribute meaningfully to the communities in which they operate.
- The same opportunity exists for suppliers, contractors, logistics companies and financial institutions supporting the mining industry.

INSAF perspective: Africa should not only supply the minerals that power the global green transition. It should demonstrate that those minerals can be produced responsibly and sustainably.

ZIMBABWE'S MINING SECTOR: ESG IS BECOMING A BUSINESS IMPERATIVE

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Sustainability and ESG discussions at the Chamber of Mines Annual Conference



What happened?

During the Chamber of Mines Annual Conference in Victoria Falls in June 2026, ESG featured prominently in discussions about the future competitiveness of Zimbabwe's mining industry.

A report published on 19 June by Business Daily News Zimbabwe highlighted remarks by Chief Director of Mining Development, Engineer Leon Godza, at the conference's Sustainability and ESG Symposium.

The message was that ESG compliance is increasingly important for companies seeking international market access and investment. The discussions reflected changing international expectations, including developments in carbon regulation and corporate sustainability disclosures.

What does this mean for Zimbabwean organizations?

This development should attract attention beyond the mining industry. Zimbabwean businesses operate in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

Companies that export products, seek international investment or participate in multinational supply chains need to understand how environmental performance, social responsibility and corporate governance affect their competitiveness.

ESG considerations are relevant to:

- **Mining and mineral processing.**
- **Agriculture and food production.**
- **Banking and financial services.**
- **Manufacturing and industrial production.**
- **Construction and infrastructure.**
- **Energy and utilities.**

Our encouragement to organizations:

Organizations should not wait until they face regulatory pressure, lose investment opportunities or encounter difficulties accessing international markets before taking sustainability seriously.

Start assessing your ESG position today. Understand your environmental impacts, review your labour practices, strengthen governance systems and introduce appropriate monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

INSAF perspective: ESG is not exclusively a mining-sector conversation. It is a national business conversation that every sector should participate in.



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MAKE SUSTAINABILITY A PRIORITY

Is your organisation ready to strengthen its sustainability strategy, manage ESG risks, improve disclosures and demonstrate meaningful impact?

Have your organisation's sustainability journey assessed, managed and advanced with INSA. Partner with us to move beyond commitments and translate sustainability ambitions into practical action.

LET'S MOVE FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION.

YOUR SUSTAINABILITY & ESG PARTNER

Turn sustainability commitments into measurable action.

OUR SERVICES

Sustainability Governance and Management Systems
Sustainability Risk Management and Evaluations
ESG Due Diligence
Stakeholder Engagement Systems and Assessments
Responsible Investing Practices
Sustainability Disclosure (GRI, IFRS Sustainability Disclosures (S1 & S2), ESRS)
Climate Disclosures and Management Systems
Sustainability Impact Assessments
Sustainability Assurance
Public Sector Sustainability

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