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From: Shelley Lizzio <shelleyl@ewt.org.za>
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To: Shelley Lizzio
Subject: National Biodiversity and Business Network Newsletter - April 2018



Welcome to the April 2018 issue of the National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN) newsletter

To distribute any biodiversity and business relevant information to the network in the next newsletter, please forward the information to Shelley Lizzio (shelleyl@ewt.org.za) by 14 May 2018.



ONGOING HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2017 NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY & BUSINESS INDABA

DAY 1: Lessons from the mainstreaming of climate change and water into business. Alex McNamara, Programme Manager: Climate Change & Water, National Business Initiative.

How do we replicate examples from water and climate change into biodiversity? The key lessons are:

1. Company governance is very important. South African companies continue to lead on climate change, in large part due to strong governance.
 - Embed climate change into their business strategies.
 - Integrate climate change into broader risk management.
 - Board level oversight for climate change.
 - Monetary incentives for climate performance.
2. Underlying strong governance is a well-articulated business case.
3. Create safe spaces for company engagement and knowledge sharing as this can be very valuable. For example in the last five years NBI has focused a lot on water - there is a process of relationship and capacity building, and knowledge sharing.
4. Companies are at different stages along the journey, therefore multiple entry points are required.
5. International collaboration can be powerful.
6. There is a need to interlink different social, economic and environmental agendas. Interlinking strengthens the business case and work in one area can be designed to benefit others.
7. Peer pressure in transparency and action can be an important catalyst for change.
8. Public education is important, but is a long-term play.

9. Follow the money. There is a reason why CDP is an investor-led initiative. Behind every company is a set of shareholders and investors and this is where the market and the demand is.

This event was proudly brought to you by:



National events, publications & news



The elephant in the eco-crisis of conservation...

David Parry-Davies, editor of Enviropaedia, gives insight into the pressing issues surrounding conservation and a look into the Eco-logic awards. To read more [click here](#).



South African wheat production under spotlight.

Wheat production in South Africa is one of the segments worst affected by the economic realities faced by the industry. Crucial plans have therefore been put into practice to elevate wheat's status as a competitive crop, not only to solidify its position as a

staple food, but also to strengthen food security in the country. To read more [click here](#).



Golf and Giggles for a Good Cause. Please join us at the Endangered Wildlife Trust's annual golf day, taking place on 1 June 2018, at the Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Course. Enjoy a round of golf, and, afterwards, a good laugh with one of SA's top comedians, Hannes Brummer! All proceeds go towards the critical conservation work of the EWT. To enter or find out more, please contact Frank at frankj@ewt.org.za

International events, publications & news



The World Economic Forum (WEF) has published its annual global risks report, 'The Global Risks Report 2018'. The report cites the different types of risks the world faces. These include extreme weather events, natural disasters, water crisis and biodiversity loss. To read more [click here](#).



Net Impact Approaches 2018 conference will be taking place in London on 22 May. The content will cover all forms of approaches that identify, measure, value and compare environmental, social and economic impacts, in particular within a business context. For registration and further information [click here](#).



State of Green Business Index 2018 published.

The corporate environmental performance of the world's 1,200 largest companies and the 500 largest firms in the US was assessed by Trucost. More Companies engage in Natural Capital Activities. To read more [click here](#).



New report helps business navigate global sustainability reporting trends.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB) released a new report that maps global and regional Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting trends. To read more



Easy Guide for Biodiversity Criteria in Standards and Labels for the Food Sector.

The EU LIFE Food & Biodiversity initiative launched an Easy Guide which is particularly designed for quality and procurement managers of companies that are responsible for purchasing food products. The guide provides insights into the status quo of biodiversity criteria and measures in policies of standards and company requirements. To read more [click here](#).



Recommendations to improve biodiversity protection. The EU LIFE Food & Biodiversity project released its "Recommendations to improve biodiversity protection in policy and criteria of food standards and sourcing requirements of food companies and retailers". They support the management of standards and companies in the efforts to improve biodiversity performance. To read more [click here](#).



The “one” biodiversity indicator to rule them all: an impossible quest? Many businesses seek to develop biodiversity indicators to inform business decision-making. However, nature is complex, and serious challenges exist to develop indicators that can cut through this complexity and display clear and simple measures of biodiversity through space and time that are relevant to business needs. To read more [click here](#).



IUCN Blog: Crossroads. As part of 70th Anniversary celebrations this year, IUCN has launched a new blog. Yolanda Kakabadse, a former IUCN President and now chair of the independent Rio Doce Panel in Brazil argues that it pays for business to use natural resources in a way that benefits all of society and that the rehabilitation efforts underway in the Rio Doce watershed are a case in point. To read more [click here](#).



Water stress threatens nearly half the world's thermal power plant capacity. Thermal power plants in areas that lack water are vulnerable to power disruptions due to drought and competition amongst water users. As the world's demand for water and power increase, what can be done to solve this growing concern? To read more [click here](#).



Green bonds and landscape initiatives. Green bonds are a potential new tool that can be used to scale up benefits and capital in integrated landscapes. While the report warns that green bonds are not a "silver bullet," it concludes that they can be a bridge between investors and landscape initiatives when they are designed correctly. To access the document [click here](#).



Why is biodiversity important for your business? Using a business case model the European Business & Biodiversity Campaign explains how companies benefit from biodiversity and how they can contribute to the protection of species and ecosystems. The animated video demonstrates, on the one hand, the effects that companies have on the environment and illustrates, on the other, the dependencies of companies on ecosystems. To watch, [click here](#).



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From Tree-Planting Drones to Shade-Grown Tea: Businesses Are Making Money by Reforesting the Planet. An estimated 15 billion trees are cut down each year—more than 41 million per day. BioCarbon Engineering provides an alternative to forest restoration initiatives, more [here](#).



Shell Sky Scenario Outlines Pathway to Well Below 2°C. Shell has issued a report titled, 'Sky: Meeting the Goals of the Paris Agreement.' The report introduces a scenario that aims to hold the global average temperature increase to well below 2°C through a combination of “mutually reinforcing drivers being rapidly accelerated by society, markets and governments.” To read more [click here](#).



New study highlights the need for impact-focused biodiversity indicators for extractive companies

A study published by UN Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) explores how progress might be made within the extractive sector in creating effective indicators to establish corporate biodiversity performance. To read more [click here](#) or to access the publication, [click here](#).

For further information on the NBBN or related activities please contact:

Shelley Lizzio

Manager: National Biodiversity and Business Network

Endangered Wildlife Trust

W + 27 11 372 3600 | Ext 64 |

F + 27 11 608 4682 |

C + 27 72 210 2085

Email: shelleyl@ewt.org.za | Web: www.ewt.org.za