

**From:** Shelley Lizzio <shelleyl@ewt.org.za>  
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**To:** Shelley Lizzio  
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**Welcome to the January 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](mailto:shelleyl@ewt.org.za)) by the 9 February 2018.



## **ONGOING HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2017 NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY & BUSINESS INDABA**

*DAY 1: Keynote address by Shameela Soobramoney, Senior Strategist, Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE)*

1. The key barriers to the mainstreaming of sustainability into business include:
  - a. Language;
  - b. A silo mentality; and
  - c. A lack of easily understandable measures.
2. The collective efforts of companies can have a meaningful impact in terms of sustainability.
3. The JSE strives to create an enabling environment for the integration of ESG considerations into capital markets by working in the following areas:
  - a. Governance and transparency – the JSE ensures that the governance standards it requires of its listed companies are world class. For example, it has recommended the adoption of the King Codes;
  - b. Advocacy – the JSE engages with relevant fora on responsible investing, integrated reporting and the like, and takes on leadership roles in industry groups; and
  - c. Tools – the JSE aims to provide tools that are relevant to furthering the aims of integrating ESG into business practice as well into investment decision-making e.g. FTSE/JSE Responsible Investment Index;
4. Asset managers have highlighted a disconnect between the amount of information reported by companies and the usefulness of this information to decision-making. This represents a big opportunity for engagement between issuers and investors.

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## National events, publications & news



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It is essential that organisations take stock of their water usage: where it is used, how much is used and how it is reused, recycled, or returned to the environment. One of the most effective and immediate things that organisations can do to begin to understand their vulnerability to the environmental crises and the changing climate is to begin publicly reporting on their water usage. The Institute of Directors of Southern Africa (IoDSA), through its Sustainable Development Forum, issued a paper on Water scarcity and its impact on business in 2016. To view the IoDSA's paper [click here](#).



**Enter your organisation or nominate another worthy eco-champion for an Eco-Logic Award.** The Eco-Logic Awards, hosted by The EnviroPaedia, recognise and promote those individuals, organisations, products and services that are helping to create a sustainable environment and society. To read more [click here](#)



**UN Environment Free Online Course "Global framework for a pollution-free planet"**. This 4-hour self-paced course covers the impact and cost of pollution on the planet and on your own life. It describes the international response to the challenges posed by pollution, including the role of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and the opportunity offered by the Sustainable Development Goals. For more information [click here](#). To register [click here](#).



**Guide to help business leaders understand the SDGs and the role that businesses can play in achieving them.** The report, published by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), is based on the premise that since the SDGs are relatively new, many business leaders are still trying to figure out what the SDGs mean for their companies. The publication titled, 'The UN SDGs: A Why, When and How Guide for Business,' aims to increase discussions among businesses about the SDGs and help companies implement plans that contribute to the SDGs. To read more [click here](#). To download the guide [click here](#).



**Science body of UN Biodiversity Convention meets to lay foundation for post-2020 global biodiversity targets.** Some 600 delegates from around the world met in Montreal in December last year to provide input to the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework; Governments will look at mainstreaming of biodiversity into mining, infrastructure and other key sectors. To read more [click here.](#)



**Special symposium: Mainstreaming the mitigation hierarchy in impact assessments.**

The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and IUCN held a two-day special symposium on Mainstreaming the Mitigation Hierarchy in Impact Assessment in Washington, D.C., in November. Experts came together to share the latest practices in mitigation hierarchy implementation for biodiversity and ecosystem services to improve outcomes for society, conservation, business and finance. To read more [click here.](#)



**COP23 (23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) took place in Bonn, Germany, from 6-17 November.** At the event the 197 Parties made important progress on implementing the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. To read more [click here.](#)



**World Economic Forum Annual Meeting.** The 48th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting will be taking place in Davos from 23 – 26 January 2018. The event aims to rededicate leaders from all walks of life to developing a shared narrative to improve the state of the world. The programme, initiatives and projects of the meeting are focused on Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World. To read more [click here.](#)



**3<sup>rd</sup> World Forum on Natural Capital.** More than 700 people from 60 countries came together at the 3rd World Forum on Natural Capital in Edinburgh in November last year, with the common goal to advance global action on natural capital. “Better Decisions for a Better World” was the theme of the two-day Forum, which focused on natural capital strategies, policies and tools to help business and government measure and value natural capital. To read more [click here.](#)



**WBCSD releases short film underscoring how important it is for companies to value their relationship with nature.** At the World Forum on Natural Capital in Edinburgh, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) released a short film series, designed to underscore how important it is for companies to value their relationship with nature. The film illustrates what happens when businesses don’t take the sustainability warning seriously. Check out the film [here](#) and explore cutting-edge business examples from nearly 40 member companies who are leading the way in natural capital.



**Natural Capital Coalition (NCC) Releases 'This Is Natural Capital'.** At The World Forum on Natural Capital the NCC released their new Report 'This Is Natural Capital'. The report provides an overview on what experts are saying about natural capital. To download the brochure [click here](#).



**The first-ever public Global Inventory of Biodiversity Offset Policies - recently launched by IUCN and The Biodiversity Consultancy (TBC).** Shows that government policies from more than 198 countries have doubled in the last 15 years. Preliminary analysis in partnership with the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development also indicates that most mining-dependent and biodiversity-rich countries studied tend to have advanced offset policies. To read more [click here](#).



**Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) launches Certification program.** ASI members can now seek Certification against ASI's Standards. The ASI's Performance Standard covers critical issues for the entire aluminium value chain including greenhouse gas emissions, waste management, material stewardship, biodiversity and human rights. To read more [click here](#).



**UNDP-IFC-IPIECA webinar: Mapping the oil and gas industry to the Sustainable Development Goals.** The 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a common global framework for navigating the world's most urgent economic, social, and environmental challenges. While governments have the primary responsibility to prioritize, coordinate and implement efforts to meet the SDGs, there is wide recognition that the private sector and civil society will play critical roles in the implementation of national plans. As a key pillar of the global energy system, the oil and gas industry is, and will continue to be a driver of economic and social development. You are invited to join this webinar will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> January 15h00 – 16h30 GMT. To register [click here](#).



**Pilot studies: Natural Capital Accounting.** In two pilot studies the Global Nature Fund (GNF) and its project partners have gained initial experience in carrying out natural capital assessments. The first pilot study compares the environmental impacts of trenchless pipe laying to those of open construction. The second pilot study describes the procedure for the natural capital assessment for tourism on the island of Juist. To read more [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](mailto:shelleyl@ewt.org.za) | Web: [www.ewt.org.za](http://www.ewt.org.za)