

AUGUST 2024 EDITION

SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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Institute for Sustainability Africa

'Advancing Sustainability Initiatives for Africa'

Sustainability Highlights August 2024

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“We make sustainability happen”

SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

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How digitalization can drive sustainable supply chains in the least developed countries



Digitalization has the potential to transform the way businesses achieve a triple bottom line - economic, social and environmental - to address the rising concerns of shareholders. One way to achieve this objective is to enhance transparency and meaningful integration of these dimensions into the entire supply chain, for which digitalization can be a powerful tool. While there is little doubt that the digitalization of supply chains helps reduce inventory, waste and the environmental footprint, saves time and

cut costs, digitalization does not help almost two-thirds of the population of the least developed countries (LDCs) that are still offline. **Read more:** <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/09/digitalization-sustainable-supply-chains-least-developed-countries/>

Making trade work better for the planet



As UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) celebrates its 60th anniversary, it's crucial to examine issues that will shape the future of trade and development. The "Forward together" series explores pivotal topics for developing countries, such as aligning trade policies with environmental and climate goals. The global production and distribution of goods contribute to about a quarter of all carbon dioxide emissions and to a significant share of biodiversity loss and global pollution. UN estimates

show that agricultural expansion alone drives 88% of global deforestation. **Read more:** <https://unctad.org/news/making-trade-work-better-planet>.

Tackling domestic debt sustainability challenges in Africa



3 April 2024 - Public debt levels are growing in Africa, with many countries already in or at risk of debt distress. Impacts of global shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and spillover effects of high interest rates in many developed countries have further exacerbated debt vulnerability. This is also weighing on delivery of health, education and other public services. Policy dialogue on debt in Africa has been largely focused on external debt. **Read more:**

<https://www.un.org/en/desa/tackling-domestic-debt-sustainability-challenges-africa>

Global standards on sustainability and climate-related disclosure launched

In June 2023, the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) launched the inaugural standards, International Financial Reporting Standards S1 and S2. As we have previously reported here, these standards require entities to disclose information about their sustainability-related financial information (IFRS S1) and climate-related risks and opportunities (IFRS S2). The launch of the IFRS S1 and S2 is expected to have a significant impact on the reporting obligations of an entity, and its board of directors and senior management that will be responsible for such reporting. Entities that are already reporting voluntarily under the Taskforce for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) framework will now be able to rely on clear guidance in order to properly prepare and meet their disclosure obligations. **Read more:** <https://www.nortonrosefulbright.com/en-zw/knowledge/publications/bedb913e/global-standards-on-sustainability-and-climate-related-disclosure-launched>

Zimbabwe: Network for Environmental and Climate Justice lauds riverbed mining ban



Riverbed mining is also among the factors contributing to displacements in some communities living along rivers and has also affected local economies dependent on eg fishing and tourism. The move is a right step in terms of addressing the environmental, social and economic impacts associated with riverbed mining. The practice has mostly led to the destruction of aquatic plants and animals, water scarcity and pollution, increased risks of waterborne diseases, increased erosion and the collapsing of riverbanks as well as biodiversity loss. Riverbed mining is also among the factors contributing to displacements in some

communities living along rivers and has also affected local economies dependent on eg fishing and tourism.. **Read more:** <https://www.zawya.com/en/economy/africa/zimbabwe-network-for-environmental-and-climate-justice-lauds-riverbed-mining-ban-w2h8q0pt>

ABOUT INSAF

INSAF is an independent multi-disciplinary independent sustainability think tank organisation 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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