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SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS

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Institute for Sustainability Africa

'Advancing Sustainability Initiatives for Africa'

Sustainability Highlights October 2024

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“We make sustainability happen”

SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

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Sustainability leadership in a time of crisis and despair



Aligning a company with meaningful sustainability goals has never been easy, despite some stakeholders' assumptions that it's merely a matter of snapping one's corporate fingers and making it happen. But today, as we face a new era of reactionary, strongman leadership – in the United States and elsewhere – the mountain sustainability leaders must climb seems steeper than ever. Consider what lies ahead: a newly resurgent fossil-fuel industry with unfettered access to the corridors of power. An

already-shaky regulatory regime aimed at reducing emissions and supporting much-needed accountability on corporate behavior, now ripe for dismantling. **Read more:** <https://trellis.net/article/sustainability-leadership-in-a-time-of-crisis-and-despair/>

Asset managers face growing scrutiny over sustainability claims



Asset managers have not always crowned themselves in glory when it comes to sustainable investing. At best, they have been accused by environmental campaigners of an indifference towards using their influence as investors to save the planet. And, at worst, they have been called out for falsely marketing their funds as 'green' to tap into the burgeoning demand for sustainable investing when, in truth, many of those products were stuffed full

of companies that pollute. This became such a problem that financial regulators around the world had to step in to protect consumers from being misled. In 2023, for example, DWS, the investment arm of Deutsche Bank, was forced to pay \$25mn to the US Securities and Exchange Commission in relation to "misstatements" over its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investment processes. **Read more:** <https://www.ft.com/content/9ff5adff-0af5-4a61-b008-d56e31f72f76>

How Africa is making sustainable finance matter



Integrating environmental, social and governance principles into its financial markets is an ambitious yet urgent mission for Africa. The paradox is stark: although Africa contributes only 5% of global emissions, the continent faces disproportionate impacts from climate change, including intensifying droughts and rising sea levels. Yet, the 2024 Absa Africa Financial Markets Index highlights how African nations are advancing sustainable finance despite shallow market depth, high debt levels and data scarcity.

Panellists at a recent OMFIF roundtable on sustainable investment emphasised the continent's specific hurdles as well as its steady progress. **Read more:** <https://www.omfif.org/2024/11/how-africa-is-making-sustainable-finance-matter/>

From cyclone to drought, Zimbabwe's climate victims struggle to adapt



As Cyclone Idai tore through Chimanimani, her hometown in Zimbabwe's eastern highlands, it unleashed floods that swept away her house and claimed the life of her eldest daughter. Chikweya was rescued only after spending the night pinned between a wardrobe and a bed, unable to free herself from the mud. More than five years later, water again stands in the way of Chikweya's attempts to build a new life for herself and her family. But this time, the problem is that there isn't enough of

it. The mother-of-three has been resettled in Runyararo, a vast expanse of sun-baked semi-arid land where the Zimbabwe government has been building brick homes for hundreds of people displaced by the cyclone, on the site of a former colonial farm more than 60 kilometres away from Chimanimani. **Read more:** <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/11/07/from-cyclone-to-drought-zimbabwes-climate-victims-struggle-to-adapt/>

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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