

Sustainability Practitioner Programme (SPP)

Intundla Game Lodge, South Africa

2nd to 5th June 2024

Additional Reading

Welcome to the programme! We think you might find the following readings and other content stimulating in preparation for the thinking we will do together at the seminar.

https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2024-04-17-lifting-the-veil-on-corporate-climate-lobbying/?utm_source=Sailthru

<https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2024/04/heres-what-record-breaking-temperatures-looked-like-around-the-globe/>

This article unpacks what record-breaking temperatures look like around the globe. The 2023 trend is continuing into 2024. If it wasn't obvious already, the whole planet's climate is under stress.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/apr/26/un-led-panel-tackle-abuses-mining-critical-minerals?>

UN-led panel of nearly 100 countries is to draw up new guidelines to prevent some of the environmental damage and human rights abuses associated with mining for “critical minerals”. Mining for some of the key raw materials used in low-carbon technology, such as solar panels and electric vehicles, has been associated with human rights abuses, child labour and violence, as well as grave environmental damage.

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2024-04-30-global-carbon-tax-urgently-needed-to-manage-worsening-climate-crisis/>

Carbon pricing is a crucial tool in addressing climate change. However, it must be part of a comprehensive strategy that includes investments in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and adaptation measures to build resilience to climate change's impacts.

Implementing a global carbon tax framework has its challenges. Potential social and economic effects on vulnerable communities of shifting to a low-carbon economy must be addressed. However, by embedding fairness and efficiency, a global carbon tax can become a cornerstone of effective climate governance — as long as Africa is active and the world's top polluters pay their bills.

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2024-05-02-business-unity-a-catalyst-for-sa-stability-and-growth-in-an-election-year-in-the-most-unequal-society-on-earth/?>

Corporate business has a critical role to play in building investor confidence, attracting foreign investment and convincing our peers that South Africa is a worthwhile investment.

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/fm/opinion/on-my-mind/2024-05-02-tracey-davies-corporates-climate-talk-is-hypocrisy-of-the-highest-order/?>

There's a yawning chasm between what large companies say about climate change and what they are doing about it

<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/climate-policies-public-investments-will-increase-incomes-productivity-growth-by-mariana-mazzucato-2024-01>

Although many countries have the means to direct new investment toward decarbonization and other socially and environmentally beneficial outcomes, many voters still regard such efforts as economically harmful. For the green transition to get off the ground, it will need a more compelling narrative.

CISL Sustainability Leadership: Linking Theory & Practice: <https://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/resources/sustainability-leadership/sustainability-leadership-linking-theory-and-practice>

Change Management for Sustainable Development: <https://www.iema.net/resources/reading-room/2017/12/13/change-management-for-sustainable-development>

Workbook: <https://www.iema.net/preview-document/sustainability-in-practice-vol-2-change-management>

UN Global Compact Leadership in the Decade of Action:
<https://unglobalcompact.org/library/5745>

Financial institutions must wake up

A survey of more than 2,000 bank customers in the UK has found that more than one in ten would switch banks if they thought their choice of company was investing heavily in fossil fuels. The impact could be significant for big high-street brands, that could lose millions of customers each.

<https://www.edie.net/news/7/Survey--UK-banks-could-lose-millions-of-customers-unless-they-get-tougher-on-climate/>

Mark Carney is the UN Special Envoy on Climate Action and Finance, coming from a distinguished career in finance that included serving as Governor of the Bank of England. In a recent interview, he spoke about how private finance is increasingly aligned behind achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, where emissions produced equal those removed from the atmosphere. He underlined that people everywhere should keep up the pressure in calling for climate action.

[https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/mark-carney-investing-netzero-climate-solutions-creates-value-and-rewards](https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/mark-carney-investing-net-zero-climate-solutions-creates-value-and-rewards)

If the financial services community does not prioritize and immediately address sustainability issues, they will face increased scrutiny from governments responding to societal pressure.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/09/how-banks-can-be-more-sustainable/>

In only 6 years the TCFD has become the go-to framework for climate reporting among large corporations and financial institutions globally. Even some governments, like the UK, are making it mandatory

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-joint-regulator-and-government-tcfd-taskforce-interim-report-and-roadmap>

Climate change is urgent

Collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society is critical if we are to act in time to avert the climate crisis. To inform the role that business must take as part of the climate solution, Business in the Community (BITC) and YouGov conducted research with members of the public and businesses. The Right Climate For Business: leading a just transition, shares insights from this research and recommendations to deliver a fair and inclusive transition to a net-zero, resilient future where people and nature thrive.

<https://www.bitc.org.uk/report/the-right-climate-for-business-leading-a-just-transition/>

A new report looking at the potential disruption caused by the ongoing net-zero transition has claimed that delivering climate-aligned decarbonisation across countries could deliver a net gain in jobs, if corporates, investors and governments can raise efforts over a decade that will "decide the nature of the transition".

<https://www.edie.net/news/6/McKinsey---9trn-needed-annually-to-deliver-global-net-zero-transition/>

No McKinsey, it will not cost \$9 trillion per year to solve climate change. (Karl Burkart)

<https://medium.com/oneearth/no-mckinsey-it-will-not-cost-9-trillion-per-year-to-solve-climate-change-3d0e20af52a>

President Gabriel Boric has brought renowned climate scientist Maisa Rojas into government to help ensure a greener future

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/05/we-need-politicians-and-experts-maisa-rojas-how-chile-putting-climate-crisis-first?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Many parts of the Earth's climate system have been destabilised by warming, from ice sheets and ocean currents to the Amazon rainforest – and scientists believe that if one collapses others could follow.

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/sep/19/the-tipping-points-at-the-heart-of-the-climate-crisis>

The world has failed to meet a single target to stem the destruction of wildlife and life-sustaining ecosystems in the last decade, according to a devastating new report from the UN on the state of nature.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/15/every-global-target-to-stem-destruction-of-nature-by-2020-missed-un-report-aoe>

Recent modelling data suggests the climate is considerably more sensitive to carbon emissions than previously believed, and experts said the projections had the potential to be “incredibly alarming”, though they stressed further research would be needed to validate the new numbers.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/13/climate-worst-case-scenarios-clouds-scientists-global-heating>

The human development challenge is real

Have a read through the latest International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report published in 2023

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/>

Johan Rockström doesn't like our chances. “It's difficult to see how we could accommodate a billion people or even half of that,” he says. “There will be a rich minority of people who survive with modern lifestyles, no doubt, but it will be a turbulent, conflict-ridden world.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/18/climate-crisis-heat-is-on-global-heating-four-degrees-2100-change-way-we-live>

Paul Gilding, Fellow of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership refers to our lack of preparedness for future disruptive events

<https://paulgilding.com/2020/05/26/it-will-get-darker-before-the-dawn/#more-3869>

Business response

The 100 most sustainable corporations of 2022

Which companies earned a spot on Corporate Knights' index of the world's greenest firms?

<https://www.corporatenet.com/rankings/global-100-rankings/2022-global-100-rankings/100-most-sustainable-corporations-of-2022/>

Volans Tomorrow's Capitalism The 2020s Leadership Agenda - Today, globalised capitalism is contested in a way that it hasn't been since the end of the Cold War. Even arch-capitalists like Ray Dalio, founder of Bridgewater, a hedge fund, and Larry Fink of BlackRock, the world's largest asset management firm, have issued stark warnings that capitalism-as-usual is no longer fit for purpose.

<https://volans.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/TC-2020s-Leadership-Agenda.pdf>

Stakeholder capitalism is not new, and it is good for the bottom line

<https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-and-social-sector/our-insights/stakeholder-capitalism-a-conversation-with-vivian-hunt-and-paul-polman?cid=podcast-eml-alt-mip-mck&hdpid=a52e5a03-e697-4883-a263-9a6b62dc786b&hctky=2711830&hlkid=1a0cf38404564a2a83fb7230b7aca9a2>

Leadership required

Businesses need to lead this change, not just adapt to it. They need to shape the future we want. <https://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/resources/sustainability-leadership/rewiring-leadership-report>

The Dawn of System Leadership by Peter Senge, Hal Hamilton, & John Kania
https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_dawn_of_system_leadership#

Emmanuel Faber (ex-CEO of Danone) will enter history as one of the leading executives promoting stakeholder capitalism and centring core business units around ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) objectives. Could a more purpose-driven market environment have saved CEO Faber and other business leaders in the future?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/frankvangansbeke/2021/03/20/sustainability-and-the-downfall-of-danone-ceo-faber-22/?sh=1ca59d5f4038>

Many executives are surprised when previously successful leadership approaches fail in new situations, but different contexts call for different kinds of responses. Before addressing a situation, leaders need to recognize which context governs it—and tailor their actions accordingly. A Leader's Framework for Decision Making, by David J. Snowden and Mary E. Boone.

A fascinating read...

<https://www.organizationalmusings.com/2021/06/womens-work-firms-may-penalize-social.html>

But wait... there's more!

Here are a few more readings and video clips, which we encourage you to at least browse through. Enjoy the journey, and where it may lead you...

Shared Value in Emerging Markets – Discovering better ways to solve social problems (2013) at: <http://www.fsg.org/publications/shared-value-emerging-markets>

In the UK, many leading businesses are embarking on a circular economy approach:
<https://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/resources/low-carbon-transformation-publications/resource-productivity-and-the-circular-economy-the-opportunities-for-the-uk-economy>

Muhammad Yunus talks about his work & book on The World of Three Zeros:
<https://youtu.be/L0pTlWiUn3A>

Leadership principles inspired by Yvon Chouinard from Patagonia. From the setting of the business mission, driving commercial success and ultimately living and breathing the brand purpose, highlights that “doing good by doing good” is an option in the business world.

https://youtu.be/9hqAr8fkZ_0

Southern Africa is a climate hotspot and, without global efforts to slash planet-heating gases, parts of the region may become “unliveable”, webinar “The Climate Risks We Face” – The late Professor Bob Scholes with panellists Kevin Bloom, a senior investigative journalist and grassroots environmental activist, Makoma Lekalakala.
<https://youtu.be/4KQJFLGB6os>

Radicle Civics – Unconstituting Society 141221 (PDF)

[Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things](#)

[The Minimalists: Less Is Now](#)