

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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TNFD Releases Final Beta Framework

"The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) released [29th March] its fourth and final beta framework for nature-related risk management and disclosure with the TNFD on track to publish its final recommendations in September 2023. For the first time, market participants can view a full representation of the framework, including the Taskforce's proposed approach to disclosure metrics.

"Since the start of its work in October 2021, the TNFD's open and iterative approach to the design and development of the framework has garnered the support of over 1,000 organisations of the TNFD Forum, and 200 organisations now pilot testing aspects of the draft framework around the world and across sectors. The draft framework, available on the TNFD website, has been viewed over 90,000 times from market participants across more than 150 countries and territories.

"Feedback from market participants and other stakeholders has broadly endorsed the three core elements of the draft framework:

"Like the TCFD, the TNFD is developing a global framework for risk management and disclosure, not a standard. The final draft draws from, and is designed to inform, relevant standards including those from the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), both knowledge partners to the TNFD

"Following a final 60-day consultation process, from 30th March to 1st June 2023, the TNFD's final recommendations based on final feedback and pilot testing (v1.0) will be published in September 2023. ...

More: <https://tnfd.global/news/tnfd-releases-fourth-final-beta-framework-v0-4/> plus <https://tnfd.global/> NOTE: The draft framework is not a single document, rather a series of web pages and <https://kpmg.com/xx/en/home/insights/2023/03/towards-integrated-climate-nature-risk-disclosures.htm>


Source: Debbie Kandauw, Climate & Sustainability Group, CA ANZ, 6th April 2023

Editor: The 'land' category contains almost no mention of subterranean minerals, gasses, fluids and heat yet are part of nature. Focus seems to be on the 'living world' yet their definition of natural capital includes these. See <https://framework.tnfd.global/framework-and-guidance/concepts-and-definitions/definitions-of-nature/>

TNFD Threatens To be the New Frontier in Corporate Greenwashing

Concerns are being raised by the NGO sector about the appropriateness of the proposed framework.

More: www.banktrack.org/article/you_ve_probably_never_heard_about_tnfd_but_it_threatens_to_be_the_new_frontier_in_corporate_greenwashing plus <https://forestsandfinance.org/tnfd/#1-5> and <https://www.ran.org/press-releases/the-taskforce-for-nature-related-financial-disclosures-tnfd-why-its-important-to-global-environmental-policy-and-why-csos-are-raising-concerns/> among others.

Source: Rainforest Action Network, 12th April 2023. 

Right to a Healthy Environment; Pushback from US, Some Abstentions

"The UN Human Rights Council has encouraged governments to adopt policies and an effective legal framework to implement the right to a healthy environment, a resolution that sparked tensions between proponent countries and the US.

"The resolution passed today [4th April], led by Costa Rica, the Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia, and Switzerland, reaffirms the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and called on states to protect environmental defenders trying to uphold it. It also calls on UN treaty bodies to promote its implementation.

"John Knox, professor of international law at Wake Forest University School of Law and the UN's former special rapporteur on human rights and the environment, said it marks a turning point from recognising the right 'to actually starting to take steps to implement it'

"It identifies concrete steps to make this right a reality, beginning with protecting environmental defenders and communities facing the deadly impacts of the ongoing triple planetary crisis', agreed Sébastien Duyck, human rights and climate campaign manager at the Center for International Environmental Law.....

More: <https://climatechangenews.com/2023/04/04/moves-to-crystallise-right-to-a-healthy-environment-spark-tension-at-un/>

Source: *Climate Home News*, 7th April 2023. 


The Gray Rhino: How to Recognise and Act on the Obvious Dangers We Ignore

"A 'gray rhino' is a highly probable, high impact yet neglected threat: kin to both the elephant in the room and the improbable and unforeseeable black swan. Gray rhinos are not random surprises, but occur after a series of warnings and visible evidence. The bursting of the housing bubble in 2008, the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters, the new digital technologies which upended the media world, the fall of the Soviet Union all were evident well in advance.

"Why do leaders and decision makers keep failing to address obvious dangers before they spiral out of control? Drawing on her extensive background in policy formation and crisis management, as well as in-depth interviews with leaders from around the world, Michele Wucker shows in *The Gray Rhino* how to recognise and strategically counter looming high impact threats. Filled with persuasive stories, real-world examples, and practical advice, *The Gray Rhino* is essential reading for managers, investors, planners, policy makers, and anyone who wants to understand how to profit by avoiding getting trampled.

More: www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/23848071 plus <https://blogs.cfainstitute.org/investor/2017/10/23/do-gray-rhinos-pose-a-greater-threat-than-black-swans/> Long article

Source: Carbon Tracker 31st March 2023

Editor: Climate change is a grey rhino. 

Insurer Quits Climate Alliance; Legal Fears

“German insurer Munich Re said on Friday [31st March] it was withdrawing from an industry-wide alliance of insurers focused on reducing carbon emissions, a blow to the group from a prominent founding member.

“Munich Re, the world’s largest reinsurer, pledged to stick to its own climate targets but said it would exit the Net-Zero Insurance Alliance to avoid antitrust risks.

“Antitrust concerns are at the centre of a growing sustainability backlash in the United States, as Republican politicians push back on group efforts linked to climate and other so-called ESG issues.

“There are no known cases of a company targeted by an antitrust lawsuit over its policies, but actions by some Republican politicians in the United States have made many financial firms wary of that risk.

“The world’s second-largest fund manager Vanguard in December pulled out of a similar alliance for the industry.

“It is more effective to pursue our climate ambition to reduce global warming individually’, said Joachim Wenning, CEO of Munich Re.

“The UN-convened alliance’s website says it is a group of 30 insurers and reinsurers, including Allianz and Axa, which collectively represent about 15% of world insurance premium volume globally.

“Munich Re was a founding member of the alliance, which was established in 2021.

More: <https://climatechangenews.com/2023/04/03/insurer-quits-climate-alliance-citing-legal-fears/>

Source: *Climate Home News*, 7th April 2023. 

For The Blue

“Our film titled *For The Blue*, created and funded by a group of young ocean loving Kiwis details how plastic pollution is damaging our environment, whilst showing the real world solutions on how to fix it. We have spent the last 3 years documenting our journey, spending time in places like Hawaii, Malaysia and at home here in New Zealand, seeing the consequences of our waste ending up in our environment.

“We speak to people who are leading the plastic free movement, whilst documenting how we can all be part of the solution, rather than the problem.

“Our goal is to inspire the next generation of change makers, to think big about the issues we face, and to act.

More: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/fortheblue/733523252> 1hr 6 min.2021, plus <https://projectblue.co.nz/> Small charge.

Source: Kaipatki Project, 5th April 2023. 

Make Your Business’ Buying More Sustainable


“New Zealand businesses can reduce their environmental impact through changes in procurement – what they buy, who from and how. This workshop covers what best practice looks like and provides support around the tools, resources and solutions available to help transition to best practice.

“The workshop will cover:

- An introduction to supply chain collaboration including what best practice looks like for your business.
- A look at the different tools, resources, and solutions available to help you transition to best practice.
- Ideas around how to influence the change you want to see at a leadership and organisational level.

When/Where: Wed. 3rd May, 9:00–11:00am. Online

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/learn/events/make-your-business-buying-more-sustainable/>

Source: SBN, 5th April 2023. 

Plastic Items to be Banned or Restricted From 1st July 2023

The following groups of items are to be banned. or restricted in New Zealand from 1st July 2023;

- Single-use plastic produce bags
- Single-use plastic drinking straws
- Single-use plastic tableware and cutlery
- Plastic produce labels

All other PVC and polystyrene food and drink packaging to be phased out from mid-2025 ...

More: <https://environment.govt.nz/what-you-can-do/campaigns/bans-on-single-use-and-hard-to-recycle-plastic-items/>

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 6th April 2023. 

UN Water Conference Needs to Kickstart a Revolution

“The UN 2023 Water Conference from two weeks ago [as of 4th April] was a long time coming. It had been 46 years to be precise since world leaders gathered in Mar del Plata to discuss concerns about water. One of the central observations from the 1977 conference was ‘the conservation and rational use of water resources is an unavoidable responsibility.’

“Fast forward half a century and the weight of that responsibility could not be felt more acutely. The world has not valued freshwater in the intervening years, and to the contrary water stress is now experienced by billions of people across all continents.

“The 2023 conference in New York should represent a launch pad for stronger collective action on the water crisis. However, only 12 heads of state turned up in person, favouring instead to send their environment ministers. There was also no negotiated agreement, no horse-trading between member states, no gavel coming down to signal the moment a historic deal was signed.

“In its place, the main outcome was the Water Action Agenda – a set of voluntary commitments made by governments, businesses, investors, and more, to value water. The final total of commitments reached 600 by the end of the conference, an important first step which showed the strength of feeling across the global economy. But these commitments need to be supported by a strong regulatory environment which only governments can create.

“Another recommendation from the Global Commission, we need to mandate water disclosure to accelerate action and ensure a level playing field across the economy. It was encouraging to see the European Commission and the Government of Singapore intervene to call for mandatory water disclosure during the conference.

“Water is a global commons and its depletion has significant knock-on effects for nature, climate, food, energy, and our economic health. Many member states are starting to realise this fact. What’s needed now are strategies which reflect this interdependence.

More: www.edie.net/un-water-conference-needs-to-kickstart-a-revolution plus www.ceres.org/water/valuing-water-finance-initiative “Stakeholders’ commitments to these goals are captured in the Water Action Agenda, the key outcome of the conference. Among the most important commitments from the private sector is a pledge from 89 investor signatories representing more than \$16 trillion in assets which have signed on with Ceres’ Valuing Water Finance Initiative to engage with companies with a high water footprint to improve their water stewardship and mitigate their water risk.”

Source: edie, 5th April, plus Ceres 7th April 2023. 

Everyone is Accountable

"Earth Day is the perfect time to consider the growing risks to the planet and to us all, and to plan for a better future.

"On 22nd April, a billion people in 193 countries will commemorate Earth Day. It's been observed for more than 50 years to highlight threats to the environment and demonstrate support for environmental protections. At first Earth Day focused on pollution, but in recent years this has shifted to climate change and biodiversity. The aim is to engage governments, institutions, businesses and people worldwide on taking action: 'Everyone accounted for, everyone accountable'.


"Small-to-medium size enterprises comprise 97% of all Kiwi businesses and 98% of all Australian businesses. While they may not be the biggest emitters individually, collectively the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) estimates SMEs generate 60–70% of all industrial emissions. So, any climate action they take can have a huge impact. ...

- Festival producer Adelaide Fringe Inc,
- Chia Sisters – a NZ-based natural drinks company
- Phoenix Metal Recyclers, working in a challenging industry,
- Port Nelson, a NZ marine cargo company

"While challenges are significant, there are many practical steps CAs can take to act on climate change:

- Learn about the issues, solutions and our roles in them.
- Think globally, act locally. Huge changes are needed worldwide, but they start in our own companies and communities.
- Measure, starting with the carbon footprint of our own businesses, to build knowledge and understand the challenges that others might have.
- Plan to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and to reach net zero by 2050. This applies in our own lives – in the businesses where we work.
- Don't rely too much on carbon offsets (the use of emission reductions or carbon storage elsewhere, such as planting trees) to offset business emissions. Offsets may be useful as an interim measure,
- Promote collaboration, with supply chains, industry or professional bodies and customers.
- Start now, even if you're not quite ready. ...
- Report on progress, as well as failures.

More: www.acuitymag.com/opinion/everyone-is-accountable-earth-day-2023

Source: *Acuity Magazine*, April/May 2023, pages 46-49. 


Organic Products and Production Bill Passed

"New Zealand's Parliament passed the Organic Products and Production Act, on Thursday 30th March 2023, signalling the end of ten years work and the beginning of a new period which will enable the organic sector in Aotearoa New Zealand to flourish and prosper.

"The term organic is now protected. This means investments to help construct a future which makes a positive contribution to New Zealand's economy and wider environment now have greater assurance and security. It marks a great opportunity to simultaneously 'get in behind' farmers, sequester carbon, enhance biodiversity, make farming fun again and tap into the world's fastest growing multi food-food sector.'

More: www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU2303/S00445/new-organic-products-and-production-act-a-foundation-for-our-future.htm plus www.beehive.govt.nz/release/next-steps-new-zealand%E2%80%99s-organic-regulations and www.mpi.govt.nz/agriculture/organic-product-requirements-in-nz/changes-to-organic-products-law/

"The new legislation will be applied when a national standard and regulations are developed."

Source: Go Well Consulting, 4th April 2023. 


NZ Environmental Hero of the Year 2023

"Camden Howitt has spent the past 14 years devoted to ending ocean pollution and regenerating nature. As Co-Founder of national charity Sustainable Coastlines, new recruit on PwC's Sustainability and Climate Change team, member of the Aotearoa Plastic Pollution Alliance, and Edmund Hillary Fellow, Camden is an inspiring leader and a driving force for collaborative and scaleable solutions for te taiao.

"He has designed and delivered community environmental programmes around Aotearoa and the South Pacific; engaging 150,000 volunteers in protecting the places they love. Alongside his everyday mahi, Camden is also a regular contributor to national and global sustainability dialogue who consistently pushes for innovation and collaboration; twice addressing the United Nations in New York and presenting at the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya.

"Most importantly, his dedication is making an impact. To date, the charity team has removed a staggering 1.7 million litres of litter from our coastlines; planted 330,000 trees to restore waterways; provided education for ocean action for 250,000 school students and businesses, and contributed data to inform several of Aotearoa's single-use plastic product bans.


More: <https://nzawards.org.nz/awards/new-zealand-environmental-hero-year/2023/> plus www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/300843317/new-zealander-of-the-year-how-a-swim-with-whales-led-to-environmental-hero-of-the-year

Source: LinkedIn, 3rd April 2023. 

'Rewilding' Could Have Big Climate Benefits

"Restoring animals in key regions is possible without risking food supplies, and could remove nearly 500 gigatons of CO₂ from the atmosphere by 2100.

More: <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/27032023/rewilding-animals-carbon-storage/>

Source: Orion, 31st March 2023. 

Climate Club

"High-impact climate actions in 5/15/30+ minutes.

"We're a newsletter for anyone who's ever wanted to do something about climate change in Aotearoa New Zealand.

"Most people care about climate change. However, not everyone is an expert, nor do they have heaps of spare time or energy. We want to help, but to feel at a loss of how to most effectively make change.

"We want to make it easier for busy people to take meaningful climate action. Our weekly newsletter sends action items distilled from current campaigns around NZ and the world in 5, 15, and 30+ minute categories.

"By amplifying the mahi of climate experts, scientists, and activists, we help you maximise your impact in those spare minutes of your week.

"We endeavour to fill a niche around mobilisation, campaigning, and policy change, to lower the barrier for the general public to demand top-down change. We try not to overlap with the many great communities out there serving other needs in the sustainability/climate change space. Therefore, we are not:

- A source of climate news
- Climate educators
- A sustainable lifestyle blog
- Affiliated with any political party,

More: <https://climateclubnz.substack.com/about>

Source: Silvia Purdie, 4th April 2023

Editor: Hosted on 'Substack'. For more about it visit <https://substack.com/> 

Unheralded Environmentalist: Jimmy Carter's Green Legacy

"Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Kai Bird reflects on the environmental legacy of Jimmy Carter, who is now in hospice care. Like much about his presidency, Bird writes, Carter's environmental initiatives have been largely underappreciated.

"He oversaw the largest single expansion of protected lands in U.S. history, released a prophetic report on climate change, and set a goal of sourcing 20% of the nation's energy from renewables by 2000.

"Carter was always annoyed when pundits proclaimed him a 'model' ex-president, but a failed president'. Bird writes. 'And he was right to be annoyed because his was actually a quite consequential presidency, and no more so than on questions of conservation and the environment.'

More: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/jimmy-carter-environmental-legacy>

Source: *Yale Environment 360*, 31st March 2023. 

Two New Books for Accountants

❖ *Handbook of Accounting and Sustainability*. Edited by Carol A. Adams, Professor of Accounting, Durham University Business School, UK. Published 2022.

This Handbook provides a comprehensive study of research, practice and policy at the nexus of accounting and sustainability, or sustainable development. Chapters explain key drivers of developments at the nexus, critique those developments, summarise the findings of research on key themes in the field, and suggest areas for further research, offering evidence-based practice and policy solutions.

❖ *Research Handbook on Accounting and Ethics*. Edited by Marion Brivot, Faculty of Business Administration, Université Laval and Charles H. Cho, Schulich School of Business, York University, Canada. Published 2023.

This invigorating Research Handbook focuses on collective ethical issues facing the accounting profession as a whole, as well as the users of the services provided by accountants. Providing an overview of contemporary accounting and ethics issues around the world, it discusses the ethical considerations involved in accounting, including external and internal auditing, tax, forensic accounting, and governance, as well as new areas of research relating to accounting and ethics, through cross-fertilisation with other disciplines and presenting multiple innovative perspectives. NOTE: Discount of 50% available until 30th April 2023. Code = BRIV50.

More: www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/handbook-of-accounting-and-sustainability-9781800373501.html plus www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/research-handbook-on-accounting-and-ethics-9781800881013.html

Source: Charles Cho, 5th April 2023 


An Environmental Disaster Was Waiting to Happen: No One Listened**

"When forestry waste caused widespread devastation in summer cyclones [2023], the Government commissioned an inquiry.

"But records show experts had been raising the alarm of pending disaster for decades. Why did no one hear them? Kirsty Johnston reports. [Long article. Tolaga Bay.]

More: www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/300837641/an-environmental-disaster-was-waiting-to-happen-in-tolaga-bay-no-one-listened

Source: Forever Project, 31st March 2023

Editor: ** A grey rhino event if ever there was. 

Coping with the Climate Crisis

"The Auckland floods and Cyclone Gabrielle have shattered the illusion the climate crisis is a long way off and not our problem. But this is not a pleasant experience. For some it may be an overwhelming experience, tracking with some strong emotions which are hard to live with. Those whose homes are full of mud or who have lost a loved one will have their own difficult journey ahead. But how is it for those of us who have only watched the disasters on our screens? How does it make us feel? How does the climate crisis affect our mental and emotional wellbeing?

"Eco-anxiety' is when you're worried about the planet

More: <https://climateclubnz.substack.com/p/guest-post-coping-with-the-climate>

Source: Silvia Purdie, 4th April 2023. [Very useful guidance] 

Teaching with Cases: Impact in the Classroom

"Join us for an interactive session on teaching with cases, led by Nadine de Gannes, at Ivey Business School.

"This session will begin with a discussion on what makes good cases and why we teach with cases. Drawing from research in the classroom and generating future ideas, Nadine will lead participants in a first exercise to identify their triad (practice, research, and teaching) for case writing. The second exercise will focus on mapping the space to identify motivations, expertise, and space to teach and write cases.

"Nadine is an assistant professor of Managerial Accounting and Control & Sustainability, as well as a case author, teacher, and reviewer. She brings a wealth of expertise and knowledge to this session. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of what makes great cases, as well as practical ideas and strategies for teaching and writing cases in their own areas of expertise.

When/Where: 10th May 9:00 –10:30 am EST [Canada]. Online

More: www.accountingforimpact.org/events

Source: Charles Cho, 30th March 2023. 

The Business of Nature: Emerging Expectations on Directors to Manage Nature-Related Risk

"A new legal opinion by Chapman Tripp for The Aotearoa Circle advises prudent directors and businesses should be starting on the path to identify, assess and manage nature-related risks, particularly if they depend on the environment for their business model.

"Partners Nicola Swan and Alana Lampitt were engaged to provide the legal advisory opinion on director duties to manage nature-related risk by The Aotearoa Circle, which is a unique partnership of public and private sector leaders, formed to restore natural resources and ensure sustainable prosperity for future generations.

"The opinion seeks to highlight current and anticipated regulatory and market trends to allow directors on the boards of New Zealand businesses which are particularly reliant on natural capital to stay 'ahead of the curve' as new frameworks, regulations and expectations emerge globally and locally.

"Globally, the threat to nature (particularly biodiversity loss) is an emerging crisis – one that has the potential to outstrip the impact of the climate crisis.

More: <https://chapmantripp.com/trends-insights/the-business-of-nature-emerging-expectations-on-directors-to-manage-nature-related-risk/> Link to full opinion 36 pages 1.41Mb plus summary 1 page 981kb

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 30th March 2023. 