

Amplats achieves highest SA company rating in CDP Global 500 Report

Anglo American Platinum (Amplats) has come second in the Materials Category of the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) Global 500 Climate Change Report – the highest-rated South African company.

Robbie Louw, a director of local carbon advisory firm Promethium Carbon, which assisted the company, says Amplats significantly increased its score from 85% last year to 96% in 2012.

“This is indicative of the progress made by Amplats in positioning itself in the low-carbon economy,” he says.

“It is the result of implementing strategic low-carbon initiatives that are in line with the direction of government’s National Development Plan. These initiatives include energy-efficient programmes and platinum-based fuel cells that Amplats has used in electrodes to convert this fuel source into electricity.”

Other South African companies participating in the project were Standard Bank (74%), Vodacom (69%), Sasol (81%), MTN (69%), Kumba Iron Ore (88%) and AngloGold Ashanti (78%).

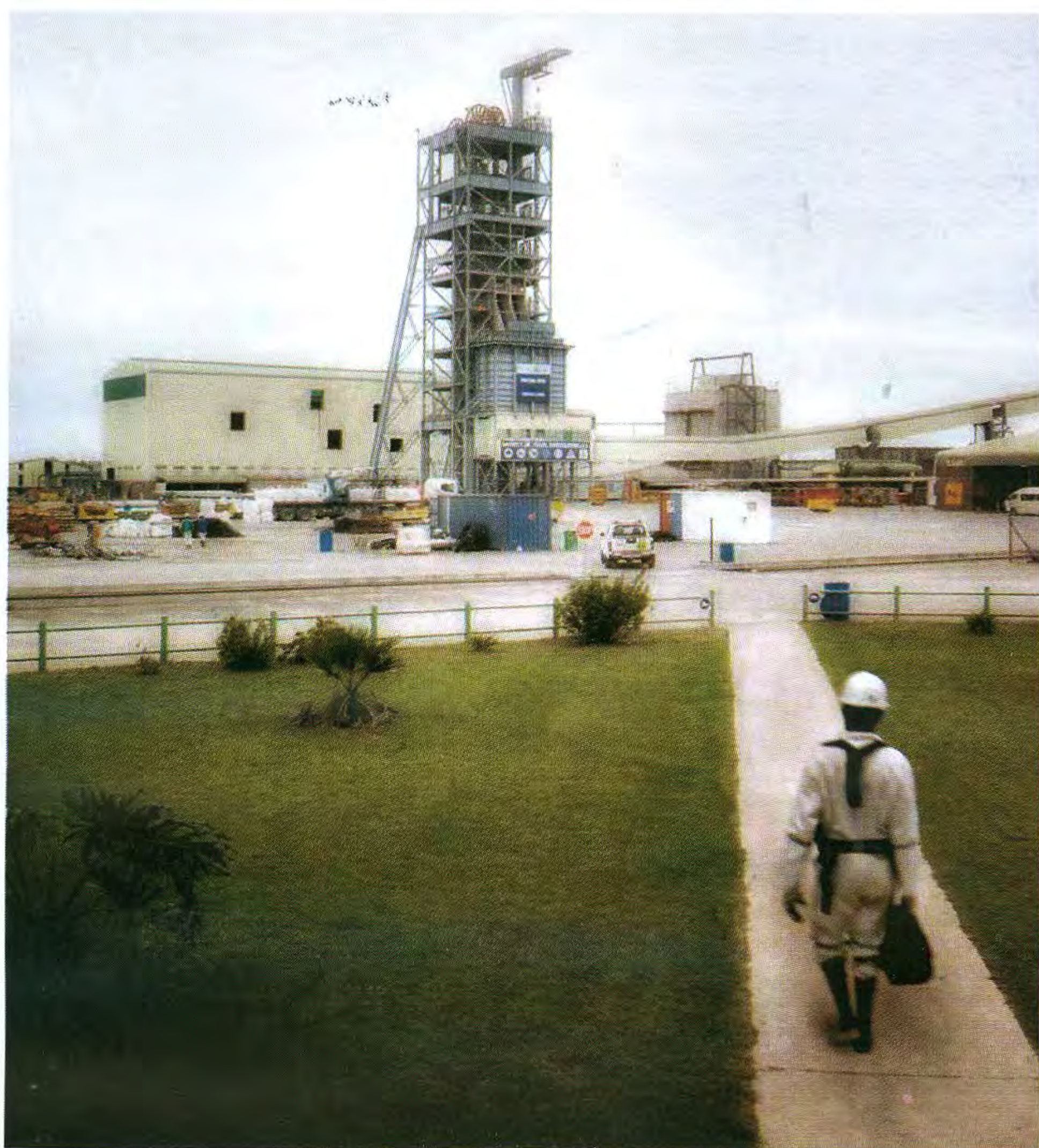
Louw says the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) last year concluded with an agreement to launch a new process called the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

This will aim “to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force”

and is expected to increase mitigation ambition with a view to limiting global warming to 2°C or 1,5°C above pre-industrial levels. According to this roadmap, all countries are expected to sign up to targets.

CEO of the CDP, Paul Simpson, says his organisation has pioneered the only global system

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that collects information about corporate behaviour on climate change and water scarcity.

The report notes that recent extreme weather and natural events have tested companies’ business resilience and increased their level of

understanding of the timeframes of the physical risks they associate with climate change. Physical risks are viewed as tangible and present, impacting companies’

operations, supply chains and business planning.

This year 81% (405) of corporations from the Global 500 responded to the CDP questionnaire. The majority of companies (81%) report physical risks, and the percentage of companies that view these risks as current has nearly quadrupled from 10% in 2010 to 37% in 2012. □