BEST SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS AWARDS 2021

HANDOUT

Sustainability is both the business challenge and the business opportunity of the 21st century. Innovative, fast-growing and resilient businesses will be those that adapt efficiently to and capitalize effectively on this new operating environment. This environment acknowledges that making sustained, continuous profit has to go hand in hand with preserving the planet and serving people.

A company can do this by adopting environmentally and socially sustainable good practices that go beyond the ad hoc to something more systemic in its approach i.e. transparently and well-embedded across a company from top to bottom. This requires integration into a company's capacities, strategy, systems and operations rather than being a separate strategic initiative.

The dividends of doing so are potentially significant in terms of reduced costs and risks to the operation / business continuity increasing revenues and profit, productivity and brand value.

Sustainability definitions can be found at:
1) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmQby7adocM and
2) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5r4loXPyx8

Evaluation Criteria for a Good Sustainability Project:

Projects, by definition, have a start date and an end date, with stated measurable outputs, outcomes and impacts (qualitative and/or quantitative) are to be achieved via clear activities. We expect a project to have a significant proportion of the expected outcomes to have been achieved to apply for these Awards.

1. A **clear Sustainability Vision** for the company.

2. The **Project is logically linked with the corporate vision** and how it is responding to needs, and context by relating to one or several of the 3Ps. Do reference UN Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, key National Policies on sustainable development that demonstrate a response to these goals and national priorities.

3. Demonstrate a **strong understanding of Sustainability** - how does it contributes to a company's overall sustainability vision? What corporate sustainability goals and KPIs does the project contribute towards? What data shows evidence of progress and impact? This may include activities addressing sustainability related opportunities and mitigating risks and improving organizational and business resilience.

4. A **clear and sound project rationale** based on a needs assessment and/or to demonstrate a national need. Also, evidence of having prioritized, on some basis, implementing project activities.

5. Demonstration of good **criteria-based targeting** (geographic or other).

6. A clear and detailed **assessment of project stakeholders and beneficiaries**.

7. A **robust monitoring system** to track differences between pre- and post- project impact including baseline information i.e. how do you measure outcomes with KPIs, metrics etc. and what are the systems in place to do so? This includes details on project activities, expenditure, benefits, and impacts. A mix of quantitative and qualitative evidence, including case studies, is best.

8. Evidence of **external and independent periodic evaluations** of the project is an added bonus. N.B. This is NOT the same as a Sustainability Report.

9. Demonstrate **inclusiveness in including collaboration and partnerships** with other stakeholders, especially across sectors including public and non-profit at national, regional and/or local levels.

10. Demonstrate that the project has a **well thought out exit strategy.** This may include plans to scale up a pilot project initiative, transfer project activities to others, integrate with national or other initiatives in future, etc.

Bonus Points for Projects

Further bonus points will be allocated on the following aspects;

a. *The project provides evidence of making social, governance[1] and/or environmental impacts that are material to the company sustainability strategy and plan.*

b. *The project provides evidence it addresses all aspects of sustainability; economic, environmental and social.*

c. *Innovativeness of the project and its implementation*
   Sustainability is linked to innovation - spell out what is innovative about the project.

d. *Failures as Lessons learned and necessitating changes in project design and implementation.*
   Failures need to be recognized as active learnings that are incorporated by the project team into their activities.

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[1] Governance includes gender empowerment and sensitivity, data disaggregation by gender and stakeholder groups, diversity, transparency, anti-corruption and graft, etc.

e. *Previous Awards won by the project are useful to know as background.*

f. *Project is included in the company's GRI or other Sustainability reporting framework.*
Useful to note if the project has been published in a sustainability / annual report and also if this report has been externally verified.

g. *Alignment of company's sustainability initiatives with specific SDGs and their respective Targets and Indicators.*

h. *The project seeks to empower women and increase their participation in the labour force.*

i. *The project is by a Small & Medium Enterprise (SMEs)/ Social Enterprise or seeks to support SMEs and Social Enterprises.*

Please Note:

a) Companies are asked to strictly adhere to page limit for submissions with risk of a penalty levied on those not doing so.

b) No attachments will be allowed <u>except of one scanned PDF copy of an independent evaluations or monitoring report on the project.</u>

c) No further printed information will be received at interviews.

BEST SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS MARKING SCHEME

Weight (1-5)	Project Characteristic	Score (0-5 best)	Total Weighted Score
1	1. Sustainability Vision		5
2	2. Project is logically linked with the Vision and as a response to needs and context - Project goals / objectives - Project objective in line with sustainability vision - Measured impact in line with project objectives - Clear project achievements or outcomes expected in terms of sustainability related opportunities, and / or mitigating risks and strengthening resilience		10
2	3. Demonstrates a strong understanding of Sustainability - and contribution of project towards company's overall sustainability vision, goals, & KPIs		10
3	4. Sound project rationale - why? Also prioritization. SDG's, National context & needs		15
3	5. Demonstration of good criteria based targeting (geographic or other).		15
3	6. Stakeholders & beneficiaries assessment		15
3	7. Good monitoring system (qualitative & quantitative including financials) with project KPIs for outputs and outcomes		15
1	8. External and / or independent project evaluation(s).		5
2	9. Inclusiveness, Collaboration & Partnerships		10
1	10. Well thought out Exit Strategy.		5
	BONUS POINTS (5)		**105**
1	Evidence of significant impacts		5
1	Project addresses all three aspects of Sustainability		5
1	Innovativeness		5
1	Failures as lessons learned & changes necessitated		5
1	Previous Awards won		5
1	Reported under GRI Framework		5
1	Linkage with SDG's and Targets		5
1	Empowers Women or Increases Women's Participation		5
1	SME / Social Enterprise or seeks to support these		5
	TOTAL SCORE =		**150**