



COMPANY PROFILE



Table of Contents

Our Purpose	3
Vision	3
Mission.....	3
Goals.....	3
Our Services	4
Expertise	5
Code of Conduct.....	5
Partnerships	6
Publications	6
Locations	6
Annexure: Concept Note	7
Contact Us	14



Our Purpose



Vision

To be a at the fore-front at providing innovative and sustainable solutions that drive positive sustainable impact, across industries and communities, always in tune with the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Mission

Our mission is to empower organizations (early-stage, growth & established) to integrate sustainable solutions into their business strategies, operations, and decision-making processes. We strive to facilitate positive change, promote responsible business practices for a better and more sustainable future, and contribute to a healthier planet.

Goals

Tailored Sustainability Consulting

- To develop and implement **customized sustainability strategies** for companies, integrating sustainability frameworks that align with business objectives and stakeholder expectations to enhance performance and impact.
- To conduct **baseline sustainability assessments** using adapted BSAT tools, which includes identifying **ESG risks and opportunities** and customizing an **ESG Maturity Framework** to inform and analyse the root causes and effects driving systems change within organizations.

Capacity Strengthening

- To strengthen organizational capacity through a **Sustainable Business Transformation workshop** that equips established organizations to influence system-wide change across their supply chain, utilizing a participatory Systems Practice methodology.
- To facilitate **stakeholder engagement workshops** aimed at building the capacity of internal organizational teams to independently deliver stakeholder engagement workshops with communities and supply chain partners.
- To **identify points of leverage** for maximized output within an organization's ecosystem.
- To explore driving forces, analyse cause and effects, and develop **feedback loops** for system understanding and change, contributing to qualitative data and evidence that tells a comprehensive story beyond quantitative metrics.

Our Services

- **Tailored Sustainability Consulting Services:** We provide customized consulting services to assist companies enhance their Sustainability performance and impact in the following areas:
 - **Strategy development, planning and implementation** – We work with organizations to develop, integrate sustainability frameworks that align with business objectives and stakeholder expectations using Strategic Architecture Map that combines system thinking tools and organizational design principles
 - **Baseline Sustainability Assessment** – We use BSAT excel-based tools designed by Sustainable Advantage and customize the tool for Baseline assessment as part of our contextual analysis to inform and analyze cause and effects driving systems change.

- Includes identifying ESG risks & opportunities
- Customizing ESG Maturity Framework
- **Capacity Strengthening:** We have designed a Sustainable Business Transformation workshop for established organizations that seek to influence system-wide change across its supply chain. The workshop adopts Systems Practice methodology and is highly participatory and inclusive of all stakeholders operating in the organizations ecosystem. Details of the workshop can provided link [here](#).
 - Includes stakeholder engagement workshops around
 - Building capacity in internal organizational teams to deliver stakeholder engagement workshops with communities and supply chain partners
 - Identify points of leverage for maximized output
 - Explore driving forces and analyze cause and effects and develop feedback loops as part of system understanding towards system change for sustainable impact. This forms part of qualitative data & evidence building that tells a story beyond quantitative data metrics

Expertise

We are start-up partner with experienced independent professionals. Therefore, the team are project-based staff with specialized expertise in areas such as environmental science, sustainability, project management, research, supply chain management and private sector development. Our collective expertise enables us to provide comprehensive sustainable solutions that cater to the unique needs of our clients.

Code of Conduct

At SustainWise Strategies, we are committed to integrity, professionalism, and excellence in all aspects of our work.

Partnerships

We partner with leading organizations in the environmental sector to stay at the forefront of sustainability best practices and emerging technologies.

Publications

1. Sustain Wise Strategies on [LinkedIn](#)
2. [Significance of ESG principles](#)
3. [Implications of seed retention on ecosystems Part I](#)
4. [Implications of seed retention on ecosystems Part II](#)
5. [Implications of seed retention on ecosystems Part III](#)

Locations

SustainWise Strategies has remote offices in Johannesburg and Harare allowing us to serve clients cross-border.

Annexure: Concept Note

INTRODUCTION

South Africa, like many countries around the world, is facing the pressing need to transition towards an environmentally friendly supply of energy to combat climate change and ensure energy security. While renewable energy technologies present promising solutions, organizations operating in this sector are confronted with various sustainability and environmental challenges that hinder their progress. COP26 climate conference



in Glasgow in 2021 unveiled “The Just Energy Transition Partnership” between South Africa and funding partners — the US, the UK, Germany, France and the European Union to the value of approximately USD\$8.5 billion. In return for reducing its reliance on coal for electricity generation, South Africa would be provided with grants, concessional finance and loans to help close old power plants and replace them with renewable energy.

Despite efforts for South Africa through a series of policy reforms and programs such as the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) program to accelerate renewable energy penetration they still face political, technical, social and economic barriers that hinders the rollout.

This concept note seeks to launch and establish a Practice anchored on innovative and sustainable solutions that drive environmental, social and governance (ESG) impact across private and public sectors. The Practice is called SustainWise Strategies (SWS) and its mission is to empower organizations to integrate ESG impact assessments into their business strategies, operations, and decision-making processes.

Problem Statement

South Africa has a target of expanding the share of renewables in its energy mix to 41% by 2030. There are five major barriers that would need to be addressed:

1. **Policy and Regulatory Framework:** According to various reports including the [University of Johannesburg](#); centralized decision making structure of the national

utility, Eskom from accelerating renewables roll-out and discourages the participation of private sector in mobilizing funds and technologies that are required for the country to become the hub of green energy. Inconsistent policies and regulatory frameworks in South Africa create uncertainty for private sector players in the renewable energy sector. This affects their ability to plan and invest in long-term projects. By liberalisation of the market to attract private sector players, South Africa can accelerate renewable energy adoption.

2. **Funding and Investment:** The Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy in 2021 announced the lifting of the licensing threshold for embedded power generation from 1MW to 100MW enabling organisations and stakeholders to deploy renewable projects across a variety of industries. As a result, Shoprite group announced 22 new solar pants; Ford the vehicle manufacturer installed 30,226 solar panels at its Silverton Assembly Plant carport; and the [mining industry](#) announced plans to introduce up to 3,900 MW solar, wind and battery energy projects, with companies already implementing plans to develop 585 MW Solar projects. Limited access to finance and high upfront costs hinder the development and expansion of renewable energy projects in the country. Furthermore, whilst the REIPPP has made a case for private investment the lack of financial, technical, and procurement planning serves as a deterrent. Therefore, favourable fiscal terms and rapid roll-out of bid windows may accelerate renewable energy adoption, according to [Energy Capital Power](#) report.
3. **Grid Integration:** There's lack of open-access to energy infrastructure such as the national electricity grid which is centralized by the nationality utility, Eskom, that presents challenges for REIPP. The intermittent nature of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind poses challenges for grid integration and stability, requiring advanced technologies and infrastructure upgrades. In Gauteng, the City Power in Johannesburg is currently restructuring the system by integrating smart meters, much needs to be done to decentralise the grid, strengthen management approach and significant investment is required to modernize the structure of the national grid.
4. **Skills Shortage:** There is a shortage of skilled professionals in the renewable energy sector, impacting the development and operation of projects. This is because the power sector workforce is skilled in coal and nuclear mainly. As the

demand of renewable energy increases and transition of coal accelerates over time there is a risk of job loss unless the existing workforce is up-skilled in the area of renewable energy. Thereby increases the demand for workshops and skills and technology transfer interventions.

5. **Environmental Impact:** Despite being a cleaner alternative to fossil fuels, renewable energy projects can still have environmental impacts, such as habitat disruption and land use conflicts. Large-scale renewable energy projects may require significant land areas, potentially displacing local communities and wildlife habitats. In addition, renewable energy technologies require materials like metals, minerals, and rare earth elements which can have environmental and social impacts associated with extraction and processing. Therefore, sustainable and responsible implementation practices would need to be considered.



PROPOSED INTERVENTION






There are many proposed interventions from national policy and regulation alignment, financial support by government and financial institutions; investment in training and education programs for upskilling workforce; to technological innovation that support efficient and reliable renewable energy technologies as well as grid integration solutions and implementing comprehensive environmental impact assessments and mitigation measures to minimize ecological footprint of renewable energy projects.

Therefore, SWS's key objectives for establishing a Sustainability and Environmental Practice is anchored on four strategic pillars as outlined below:

Strategic Pillar 1: Integrating Sustainability into the Strategy Development Process:

To support the Just Transition Energy development intervention, the practice aims to promote sustainable development by providing guidance on setting sustainability

targets, monitoring progress, and reporting on sustainability performance. This includes helping organizations develop and implement sustainability strategies that align with their business goals and stakeholder expectations. SWS is guided by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards, a framework for Sustainability Reporting as a global best practice for sustainability reporting. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) support the role of sustainability reporting as an enabler for Sustainable Development. SWS is supported by South Africa's Long term Low-Emissions Development Strategy and its updated Nationally Determined Contribution; the Just Energy Transition Investment Plan (JET IP) 2022 - 2027 as well as the following UNSDGs:

-  UNSDG6: Clean Water & Sanitations
-  UNSDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy
-  UNSDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
-  UNSDG12: Responsible consumption and production
-  UNSDG13: Climate Action.

Strategic Pillar 2: Enhancing Environmental Impact Assessments is an economic development and business management tool that assesses the environmental, social, and economic impacts of a company's activities. It's about gaining a clear understanding of the full scope of a company operation's influence and consequences by translating data into quantifiable values to gauge the true cost and benefit of these impacts. SWS strives to assist firms in complying with environmental regulations and standards. Therefore, conducting comprehensive environmental impact assessments to identify potential risks and impacts associated with mining and power generation activities, and implementing effective mitigation measures to minimize negative impacts on the ecosystem is an essential service.

Strategic Pillar 3: Regulatory Compliance Services: Assist coal mining companies and Eskom in understanding and complying with relevant environmental regulations and industry standards. In addition, conduct regular audits and assessments to ensure that operations meet legal requirements.

Strategic Pillar 4: Facilitating Technology Innovation: The practice would focus on facilitating technology innovation within the renewable energy sector by providing insights into cutting-edge technologies, best practices for efficient energy production, storage, and grid integration, and supporting research and development initiatives to drive technological advancements. Our access to the DANIDA Alumni network enables us to access Danish firms that would partner with local companies to transfer skills and knowledge in the Renewable Energy Technology (RETs) space.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The drivers of success to support the above-mentioned strategic pillars will be translated into the following proposed activities:

1. **Environmental Impact Assessment:** Conduct comprehensive impact assessments, identify key sustainability risks and opportunities, and develop customized sustainable strategies aligned with clients' values and goals. This includes:
 - Conducting environmental, social and economic impact assessments to identify potential environmental risks, and develop mitigation strategies to minimize negative impacts.
 - Conducting EIAs for new projects; mitigation planning and impact reduction strategies.
2. **Technical Assistance:** We support clients in achieving measurable progress towards their ESG goals and targets, maximizing positive impact and value creation as follows:
 - Advise companies on specific sustainable development challenges to inform strategy and sustainability plans. Act as sustainability reporting assurance practitioner using GRI guidelines, AA1000 principles and ISAE3000.
 - Assist organizations in integrating ESG metrics into core business operations, strengthen governance structures, and drive long-term sustainability and value creation
 - Provide guidance on compliance with environmental regulations, permits, and reporting requirements

3. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Conduct extensive senior leadership consultation and partner wide consultation to integrate sustainability into the strategic plans and/or sustainability plans. Engage with stakeholders to understand their sustainability plans, enhance transparency, and produce meaningful sustainability reports using ESG and GRI frameworks that communicate performance and progress.
4. **Education & Awareness:** SWS to participate in panel discussions at GRI bi-annual international conference and drive member participation with key organizations UNGC Regional Group and GRI Africa Region.
5. **Evidence-Building:** Stay at the forefront of environmental issues by conducting evidence-based research on emerging trends and best practices in sustainability. It also supports and strengths evidence-based education and awareness interventions/advocacy.

Figure 1. Mining & Metals Industry must address ESG risks and opportunities



Sources: MSCI Materiality Matrix, Company Press Releases, Sustainability Reports

CONCLUSION

SWS's practice focused on Sustainability practices presents significant opportunities for economic growth. By addressing the challenges faced by energy security, affordability of energy supply and the environmental impact of energy supply through targeted interventions, stakeholders can support the growth and development of the renewable energy sector while ensuring a sustainable and environmentally responsible energy future for the country.



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