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Institute for Sustainability Africa

'Advancing Sustainability Initiatives for Africa'

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2026

Sustainability in Action



Advancing ESG, Sustanaible Finance and Responsible Business Across Africa

INSAF Sustainability Reporting Conference

THEME

Where Sustainability Meets Finance

DATES

26-27 March 2026

VENUE

Great Zimbabwe Hotel, Masvingo, Zimbabwe



The INSAF Sustainability Reporting Conference brought together finance professionals, sustainability practitioners, regulators and business leaders for meaningful discussions on how transparent sustainability reporting contributes to informed decision-making and the development of resilient organisations.

The programme explored key areas including sustainability reporting frameworks, ESG integration strategies, the role of finance in sustainable value creation, and the practical application of emerging sustainability standards.

Through insightful presentations, engaging discussions and the sharing of professional experiences, the conference provided a platform for participants to exchange knowledge, strengthen their understanding of sustainability reporting and explore practical ways of embedding sustainability into financial and strategic decision-making.

CEO'S PERSPECTIVE



Rodney Ndamba, INSAF CEO

Sustainability reporting and finance are inseparable drivers of Africa's future. Effective reporting provides the transparency and decision-useful information that financiers, investors and other stakeholders require to understand risks, opportunities and long-term value.

When reporting and finance work together, capital flows to where it is needed most and where it can create lasting impact. High-quality, comparable and timely sustainability information strengthens trust, lowers the cost of capital, and supports responsible growth across sectors.

Finance brings discipline to how sustainability priorities are integrated and measured. Embedding ESG considerations into investment analysis, lending, and stewardship aligns financial decisions with broader development objectives and helps manage material risks more effectively.

Africa's sustainability journey requires stronger standards and consistent implementation. Closer alignment between sustainability reporting and finance will build more resilient institutions, deepen markets and support inclusive, long-term prosperity for people and the planet.



CONFERENCE DISCUSSION

Beyond Financial Statements: Advancing Sustainability Reporting and ESG Integration

One of the central areas of focus at the INSAF Sustainability Reporting Conference was the growing importance of sustainability reporting in shaping how organisations measure, communicate and manage their broader impact. Held under the theme Where Sustainability Meets Finance, the conference explored how businesses can move beyond traditional financial disclosures to provide a more comprehensive account of their environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance.

As sustainability considerations increasingly influence investment decisions, stakeholder expectations and corporate strategy, organisations are being challenged to demonstrate not only their financial performance but also how they manage sustainability-related risks and opportunities. Transparent and credible reporting therefore emerged as an important element in strengthening organisational accountability and building stakeholder confidence.

Understanding Emerging Sustainability Reporting Standards

Discussions examined the evolving sustainability reporting landscape and the importance of adopting recognised reporting frameworks and standards. Particular attention was given to the practical application of emerging sustainability disclosure requirements and the need for organisations to produce information that is consistent, comparable, reliable and relevant to decision-making.

The discussions highlighted the importance of preparing organisations to respond to changing disclosure expectations. This involves identifying material sustainability issues, establishing appropriate reporting processes and ensuring that sustainability information is supported by reliable data and effective internal controls.

Embedding ESG into Organisational Strategy

The conference also explored the integration of environmental, social and governance considerations into organizational strategy and everyday business operations. ESG integration goes beyond producing a sustainability report. It requires organizations to consider how environmental and social impacts, governance practices and sustainability-related risks influence their operations, competitiveness and long-term performance.

For businesses operating across Africa, this presents an opportunity to strengthen resilience, improve risk management and align corporate priorities with broader sustainable development objectives.

The Evolving Role of Finance Professionals

An important dimension of the discussions was the changing role of accountants and finance professionals in the sustainability reporting ecosystem. Traditionally associated with financial measurement, reporting and accountability, finance professionals are increasingly required to understand sustainability information and its implications for organizational performance. Their expertise in governance, internal controls, assurance and financial analysis can contribute significantly to the credibility and reliability of sustainability disclosures.

The conference reinforced the importance of building professional capacity to support this transition, ensuring that sustainability information receives the same level of attention, discipline and scrutiny as traditional financial information.

The broader message: Sustainability reporting is no longer simply about communicating an organisation's impact. It is increasingly about improving the quality of decisions, strengthening accountability and embedding sustainability into the way organisations create and protect long-term value.



CONFERENCE DISCUSSION

Financing a Sustainable Future: Connecting Capital, Climate Action and Business Resilience

Connecting capital, climate action and business intelligence

The conference highlighted the relationship between financial decisions and sustainable development. Finance influences which activities receive capital, how organizations assess risk and whether investment supports durable value. Bringing sustainability considerations into financial thinking helps organizations look beyond immediate costs and returns to consider resilience, resource use, social outcomes and the long-term effects of business decisions.

Sustainable Finance as a Driver of Development

The conference highlighted the importance of sustainable finance instruments in mobilising resources towards projects and initiatives that contribute to sustainable development.
Green bonds and other sustainable finance mechanisms provide opportunities to direct investment towards environmentally beneficial activities. Discussions also highlighted the financing of circular-economy initiatives, demonstrating the importance of rethinking how resources are used, recovered and reintegrated into economic activity.

For African markets, these instruments present opportunities to connect investment with development priorities while encouraging greater transparency around how funds are raised, allocated and used.

However, effective sustainable finance depends on credible sustainability information. Investors need reliable disclosures to assess environmental and social performance, understand associated risks and evaluate the sustainability credentials of projects and organizations.

Understanding Climate Risk in Financial Decision-Making

Climate change is increasingly relevant to business continuity, investment planning and financial stability. The conference's broader discussions considered the importance of climate-risk tools and the need for organisations to understand how climate-related developments can affect their operations and financial prospects.
Integrating climate considerations into financial and strategic planning enables organisations to better anticipate emerging risks, assess potential vulnerabilities and identify opportunities associated with the transition towards more sustainable economic models.

For businesses and financial institutions, climate risk is therefore not solely an environmental concern. It is also a strategic and financial consideration.

Decarbonisation and the Transition to Net Zero

The transition towards lower-carbon operations was another important theme within the conference programme.
Net-zero planning and decarbonisation require organisations to understand their emissions, identify opportunities to reduce their environmental footprint and develop practical approaches to managing the transition.
These efforts involve more than setting ambitious targets. They require credible planning, appropriate measurement, investment decisions and ongoing monitoring of progress.

For African organisations, the transition also presents an opportunity to explore cleaner technologies, improve resource efficiency and build business models that are better positioned for a changing economic and environmental landscape.

Visit Our Services

INSAF partners with organisations to embed sustainability into strategy and operations — creating long-term value for people, business and the planet.

Sustainability Advisory

Strategic guidance to integrate sustainability into decision-making, operations and growth.

ESG Integration

Support to embed environmental, social and governance factors into strategy, risk and performance.

Sustainability Reporting

Practical support to prepare clear, credible and decision-useful sustainability reports.

Net-Zero Planning and Decarbonisation

Roadmaps and solutions to reduce emissions and build a low-carbon future.

Capacity Building and Training

Skills development for teams to strengthen sustainability knowledge and capabilities.

Sustainability Assurance Support

Independent review support to enhance the quality and credibility of sustainability disclosures.



Contact INSAF to discuss your sustainability priorities.

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