


	TITLE	SUSTAINABILITY POLICY	
	TCTA ISO 9001: 2008	DOC NO:	PMI-P-AD-1

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## 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The TCTA Sustainability Policy (the Policy) seeks to support the realisation of TCTA's business strategy which commits to improving livelihoods and contributing to sustainability and transformation whilst being a centre of excellence in the water sector.

The Policy objective is to raise organisational consciousness and performance in this regard, to become more effective in the execution of our role in promoting the delivery of government's developmental agenda.

The Policy guides TCTA on a journey of improving sustainability across all spheres of organisational operations. The policy and the principles expressed herein underpin all related operational policies, the corporate plan, balanced score card and organisational procedures. **Annexure A** demonstrates the range of specific disciplines and their related key performance areas which are drawn together under the Policy.

## 2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

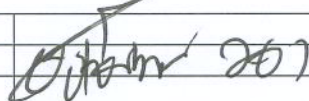
TCTA is an organisation established to raise finance, implement water infrastructure developmental programmes and thereafter manage the associated debt of projects as directed by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

To date, the primary focus has been on the securing of funding and physical construction of the projects infrastructure, without a systematic, well-defined and co-ordinated sustainability management strategy. This Policy has been developed for implementation in light of the growing need to understand TCTA's role in furthering sustainability and demonstrating sound governance and accountability in the protection of natural resources and people, as well as supporting the developing economy.

## 3. POLICY

TCTA acknowledges that sustainability is achieved through sustainable development, defined as the selection and implementation of development options, which allow for the achievement of appropriate and justifiable economic and social goals without compromising the natural system upon which it is based.

TCTA's contribution to sustainable development within the country is through the development of infrastructure that enables the Department of Water and Sanitation to provide improved access to water and enables sound management of water resources, without which, economic growth and social well-being would be unattainable in many parts of southern Africa.

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TCTA's sustainability journey unfolds in response to the trends and developments in the operating environment, specifically related to the growing stakeholders' sustainability consciousness, including perspectives from government, water off-takers, lenders and affected communities.

TCTA recognises that water off-takers make use of non-renewable resources for the meeting of their economic and social deliverables, but also, embraces the role of water in meeting basic human needs, promoting cleaner technologies and treatment of potential pollution.

### 3.1 SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

TCTA upholds the constitutional right to an environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through the prioritisation of protecting natural environments and resources, human rights, and by facilitating socio-economic transformation in receiving environments.

The establishment of sustainability as core value and management imperative for TCTA is indicated by the evolution from financial reporting towards comprehensive triple bottom line reporting of performance in terms of impacts on people, the planet and financial performance.

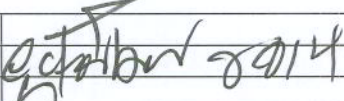
### 3.2 SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLE

The following sustainability principles form the foundation for the planning and implementation of activities across TCTA operations:

- **Minimum Negative Impact:** TCTA water infrastructure projects will not result in avoidable and non-essential changes to the environment, its natural resources and productivity or negative impacts on people, most especially poor and vulnerable communities;
- **Maximum Positive Impact:** TCTA will seek to maximise the positive development impacts of its operations on the affected biophysical environments, their diversity and people, with a special focus on empowering women and the youth;
- **Minimal Wastage & Pollution:** TCTA will promote the efficient and effective use of resources to maximise the utility gained from these whilst minimising or preventing pollution and waste.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** TCTA upholds the rights of people to be properly informed, about the organisational and the direct and indirect activities and impacts associated with the implementation of project, through active stakeholder engagement;
- **Governance:** Finally but importantly, TCTA believes in, prioritises and drives good governance within the organisation and for all project partners and service providers.

## 4. PROCEDURE

TCTA's commitments expressed as the objectives of the Policy are to be achieved through the systematic **implementation of a suite of aligned sustainability-related operational policies and strategies (Annexure A and B)** such as the Corporate Communication Strategy, Transformation Strategy, Health and Safety Policy, Environmental Policy and Social Policy.

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An internal evaluation of practice is to be conducted to **establish indicators and associated targets aligned with the organisational sustainability objectives and demonstrating performance with regard to the upholding of the sustainability principles.**

The implementation of **action plans for each of the relevant operational policies** is to be clearly aligned to the monitoring, management and reporting of performance against indicators and targets.

**Risks and opportunities** relevant to the achievement of the sustainability objectives and associated principles are to be **reviewed and reported** on a quarterly basis or as frequently as may be **required to optimise opportunities and manage risks.**

**Evaluations of practice, performance and progress** are to be **captured and evaluated** in a manner that promotes informed decision making and the incorporation of lessons learned into future business practice and planning.

**Progress and performance are to be communicated** to the working group that can further guide and advise on the integration of the data and information in terms of its application for sustainability evaluation.

**Internal and external reporting and communication of performance** is to be transparent in demonstrating areas for improvement as well as achievements that can be celebrated.

**Business processes and the associated costs** are presently aligned with existing deliverables and disciplines. As such, costs will not significantly increase. It is anticipated that **the mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and reporting will require review to align with sustainability reporting standards** such as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standard.

**Working sustainability indicators and related targets are to be detailed in operational implementation plans.** These align with internal reporting including to relevant board committees (such as Technical Committees, HR & Transformation and, Audit & Risk) and external reporting to the Department of Water and Sanitation and other stakeholders.

To give effect to the above process, TCTA makes use of the following mechanisms:

- **Recognition and Alignment of Requirements:** Recognise and aligns organisational actions with government initiatives to advance sustainability, such as the National Framework for Sustainable Development and the sustainability objectives of Lenders, such as the Equator Principles.
- **Activity and Aspect Identification and Management:** Identifies and manages the activities required for organisational operation and project implementation, and the resultant impacts on resources, biodiversity, health and safety and the rights of employees, stakeholders and other people.

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- **Extension of Commitments:** Extend these commitments to our project partners, by mandating our professional service providers and construction contractors to align themselves with our sustainability objectives for the implementation of their contracts with TCTA
- **Baseline and Impact Assessment:** Ensure that environmental and social assessments are appropriate to the scale of the projects are conducted. Such assessments must comply with national and local legal requirements, lender requirements and good practice.
- **Risk Identification and Management:** Use the outcomes of the environmental and social assessments to determine and rank the risks that may be associated with TCTA projects and corporate activities; with the purpose of identifying and ensuring the appropriate mitigation and management measures and outcomes.
- **Quantification of Long-term / Global Impacts:** In due course, quantify the organisational carbon footprint and implement measures to reduce the risk of climate change by aligning TCTA actions with global efforts;
- **Systematic Pro-active Management:** As an organisation implement and maintain an effective sustainability management system that enables TCTA to:
  - Take the right actions at the right time to reduce and/or prevent the risks, and to enhance the benefits that are associated with direct and indirect activities;
  - Know and understand TCTA’s environmental and social management performance to demonstrate progress and improvement through an effective and efficient management and reporting regime.
  - Capture and apply lessons learned to ensure positive growth; and
  - Report on TCTA’s sustainability performance to external stakeholders accurately, honestly and timeously in alignment with King III and the GRI.
- **Effective Direct and Indirect Resourcing:** Ensure that TCTA activities are undertaken by suitably skilled staff, resourced to conduct their work effectively. This commitment is extended to project partners through contractual requirements for the management and reporting of sustainability requirements including social, economic, health, safety and natural environmental matters.
- **Reporting:** Undertaking meaningful management reporting and Corporate Sustainability Reporting on achievement of the policy objectives, target and setting priority actions:
  - Build environmental sustainability into business planning
  - Promote corporate sustainability practices
  - Build environmental sustainability into project implementation; and
  - Draw all elements of sustainability together within a management system.

## 5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board provides leadership in the implementation of the Sustainability Policy in the interest of ensuring that TCTA is and is recognised to be a responsible corporate citizen.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the champion of the Sustainability Policy.

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Duties and responsibilities for the implementation, administration of the policy shall be delegated by the CEO to the Executive Management for implementation within their divisional functions.

A working group comprised of champions from key contributing disciplines will drive, monitor and communicate progress and performance related to the achievement of the sustainability objectives. The recommendations of the working group will be made to the CEO and Executive Committee as appropriate.

Senior Managers are to ensure that monitoring and reporting practices align with sustainability reporting standards.

TCTA's Sustainability journey will impact all TCTA employees as sustainability deliverables are dispersed throughout all areas of TCTA's operations. Raised awareness of individual contributions to the achievement of the sustainability objectives is anticipated to highlight the role and responsibility that each and every employee has in contributing to sustainable development.

**6. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

Policy commitments are to be included in the Annual Management reviews to ensure that the policy remains in line with the organisational growth, commitments and needs. A full policy revision is to be conducted at least every 5 years with interim revisions when the management review identifies the need.

**7. EFFECTIVE DATE**

The policy shall become effective on the date of approval.

**8. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that this policy be approved and adopted for implementation as the foundation of TCTA's sustainability journey, thus link the cross organisational efforts to achieve and demonstrate TCTA's commitments to the achievement of sustainable development.

Annexure C is proposed as a summary of the Sustainability Policy for use when a more succinct statement is required.

**8.1 APPROVED BY:**

Name	Designation	Signature	Date

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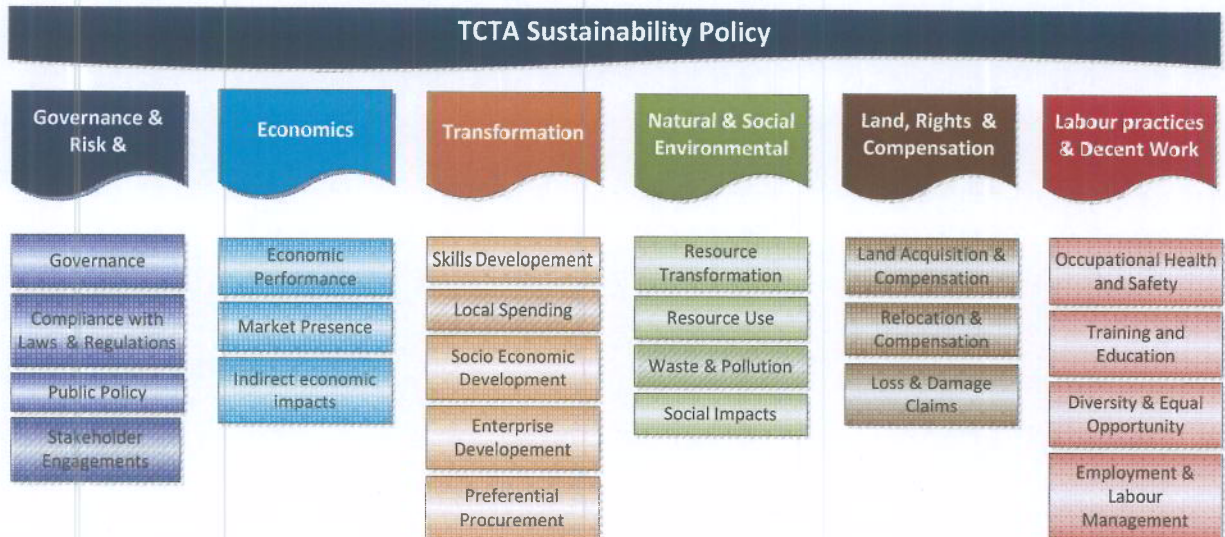
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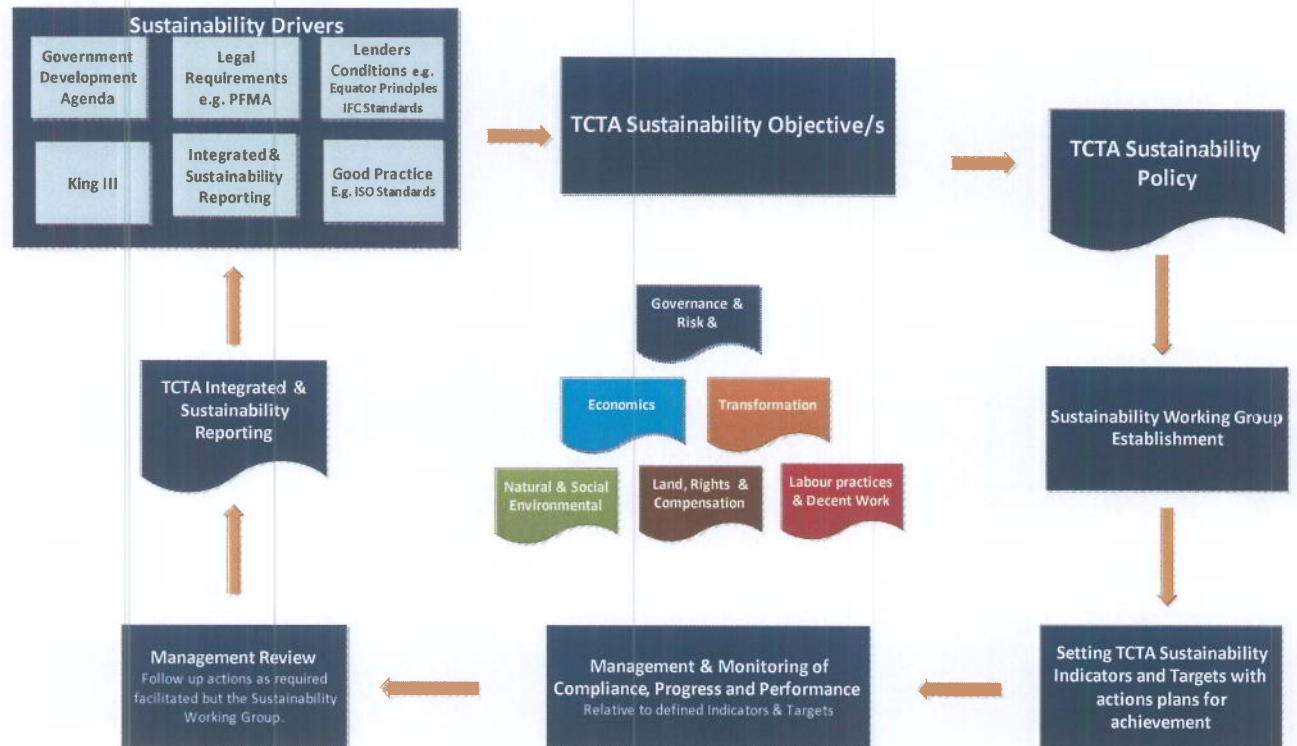
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**Annexure A: A Conceptual TCTA Sustainability Framework.**



**Annexure B: Sustainability Drivers and Policy implementation and management process**



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### Annexure C: Proposed summary TCTA Sustainability Policy Statement

TCTA, directed by the Department of Water and Sanitation, funds and implement bulk water supply infrastructure projects. The establishment of sustainability as core value and management imperative for TCTA commits to uphold the constitutional rights to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

Applying the listed Sustainability Principles, TCTA prioritises the protection of the natural environment, human rights, health, safety whilst facilitating transformation and social economic development initiatives within the receiving environments.

#### TCTA Sustainability Principles

- **Minimum Negative Impact:** TCTA water infrastructure projects will not result in avoidable and non-essential changes to the environment, its natural resources and productivity or negative impacts on people, most especially poor and vulnerable communities;
- **Maximum Positive Impact:** TCTA will seek to maximise the positive development impacts of TCTA operations on the affected biophysical environments, their diversity and people, with a special focus on empowering women and the youth;
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- **Governance:** Finally but importantly, TCTA believes in, prioritises and drives good governance within the organisation and for all projects partners and service providers.

Mechanisms for fostering improved sustainability include *inter alia*:

- The alignment of TCTA operations with Government initiatives and commitments.
- The use of appropriately scaled and detailed environmental and social assessments to inform planning, design and implementation of TCTA mandates.
- TCTA's development, implementation and maintenance of an effective sustainability management system to promote ongoing improvement; and
- The contractual alignment of Professional Service Providers and Construction Contractors activities with the TCTA Sustainability Policy.

TCTA's growth is indicated by the evolution from financial reporting towards comprehensive triple bottom line reporting of performance in terms of impacts on people, the planet and financial performance.

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