

/REPORT PREPARED FOR: Claesson, Joel 24/Jan/2024 Welcome to your Personalized Report. This Report is based on your selections on the SMI. It is meant to be a personal development tool, to highlight aspects of your understanding, behaviors and feelings related to your Sustainability Mindset (SM).

You will find observations that you may identify with, others that you vaguely recognize, and others that perhaps don't resonate with you. Keep what you need and what makes sense to you.

You will also find questions to consider, suggestions for things you can try, and information related to the aspects covered in this report, and how these are related to the Sustainability Mindset.

Take your time reading your Report. Pause, take notes, and reflect. It is all about you, and for you. There were no wrong answers in the survey. Only good options and perhaps some that you hadn't thought of.

# WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES

This Personalized Report is organized into several sections. The first section contains a graph, displaying how the different aspects assessed compare to each other, according to your choices in the survey. Those that occupy a larger area are your stronger ones and the narrower or missing ones are aspects of the Sustainability Mindset that are less developed or absent for you, as inferred from the combination of your answers.

The next section presents personalized descriptions of where you find yourself on your journey towards a Sustainability Mindset, in four clusters: Ecological Worldview, Systems Perspective, Emotional Intelligence, and Spiritual Intelligence.

Within each of these clusters you will find what aspects were assessed, and a graph for each aspect displaying how you connect to this topic, whether intellectually, through your actions and behaviors and/or by engaging your emotions.

If you see some areas missing within the graph, it means that either you selected "neither" for that question and therefore we don't have information to report on, or your answers suggest you don't engage in one or more particular areas (cognitive, behavioral or affective). Similarly, if you selected "neither" for all the questions within one aspect, we don't include a graph, since we don't have information to report on.

Each graph is accompanied by a box with a brief explanation, and you will find much more information in the text to include what your choices suggest, why this particular aspect is key for a sustainability mindset, and questions to ponder and suggestions to try.

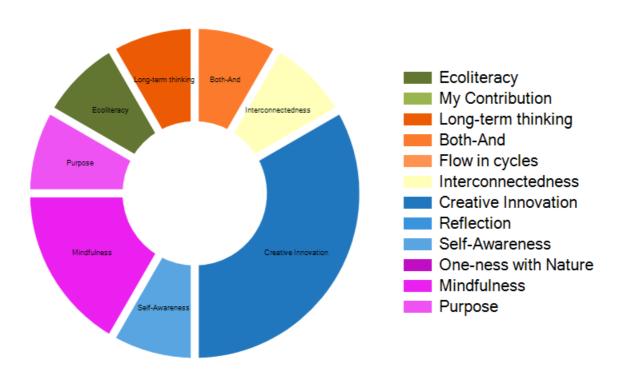
Enjoy your journey into the realm of the Sustainability Mindset - a place where you can be your best, for yourself and for the World.

The SMI Team

# Your overall SUSTAINABILITY MINDSET PROFILE

The graph below shows your personal profile, indicating how – relatively to each other – you have developed your Sustainability Mindset. The wider sections indicate your stronger areas, and vice versa.

If you see some aspects listed in the side box that are not included in the graph, it means that these are areas to be considered more closely. It may be that you didn't feel represented by any of the statements to choose from, or it might be that your reality, context, and/or habits prompt you to think, act or feel differently. You will find further comments in this report about these aspects, exploring their up- and downsides.

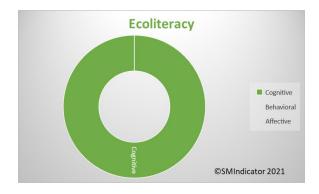




# /ECOLOGICAL WORLDVIEW

An ECOLOGICAL WORLDVIEW is the result of having an intellectual and affective broad understanding of the planetary challenges, how they are interrelated, and how we are contributing to them.

HOW YOU UNDERSTAND THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES, AND HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT, AND THE IMPACT ON YOUR BEHAVIORS.



#### What this tells you:

This graph shows only one dimension – cognitive - indicating that you have knowledge about this aspect, without necessarily engaging your feelings. You might use this information to explore your emotions.

We don't have enough data to report on your behaviors related to this topic.

#### YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE

**THAT** you have a good understanding of the complexity of the planetary challenges we are facing, and how they are interrelated.

This appears, however, to be an intellectual understanding and not necessarily connected to your personal life.

We cannot comment on your behaviors, since you indicated (by choosing "neither") that you did not feel represented by either of the available options.

**YOU ARE COMFORTABLE** distancing yourself from a challenging reality, which allows you to avoid disturbing feelings about the state of our planet, the ecosystem, or social injustice. The benefit is that the emotional distance helps you stay focused on your daily reality.

#### /THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN FURTHER LEVERAGE THOSE STRENGTHS AND MANAGE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK:

The downside is that you may miss engaging from the heart, and connecting with your deeper values and with others suffering or in need, which can be a very powerful experience. You are present with your head, but not necessarily with your heart and soul.

You may also miss an opportunity to make a difference with modest decisions and actions that could impact your future, your loved ones or the next generation.

# /THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SM:

We are definitely living in a time of information overload. It is challenging to stay on top of all that is happening, while keeping up with our own obligations and activities. Furthermore, sustainability news tends to be on the negative side, creating doomsday scenarios and scary prophecies that can trigger anxiety, and not precisely inspiring us to act. We may avoid the news because it makes us feel bad, sad, or concerned.

Yet we tend to underestimate our own power and influence in shaping a better world.

As a matter of fact, if the challenges we are currently experiencing are a product of past problematic behaviors, then we are also positively shaping the future of the planet with our current mindful decisions and restorative actions. That opens up one interesting path.

#### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

The other powerful path is in our emotions. When we allow ourselves to connect from the heart with the reality of the news and find small ways to change our behavior, we are more present and don't need to live with our divided selves. This can be very fulfilling.



Understanding the state of the planet allows us to be more fully aware of the challenges, the complexity of how they are linked to each other, and to explore what it means to us.

HOW YOU SEE THE RELATION
BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL DECISIONS
AND PLANETARY CHALLENGES, HOW
YOU FEEL ABOUT IT AND THE
IMPACT ON YOUR PERSONAL
BEHAVIORS.

YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE THAT you have a pragmatic approach to the world.

You are comfortable when you can distance yourself from distressing information about sustainability problems to avoid getting emotionally entangled. You are aware of the many environmental and social challenges, but you aim to keep them separated from your personal life. After all, you didn't cause them!

This can be a useful coping strategy. Perhaps you sense that you would be overwhelmed by emotions while feeling powerless to solve the problems, and you count on those responsible to fix them.

#### /THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN FURTHER LEVERAGE THOSE STRENGTHS AND MANAGE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK:

We cannot comment on how those feelings and thinking impact your behaviors, since you indicated (by choosing "neither") that you did not feel represented by either of the available options.

However we want to offer another way to look at this: What if you could identify small ways in which you realize that you are contributing to a problem, and then, begin to explore changes that are within your control? Certainly you will not solve the bigger problems, but it may make you feel more empowered, less at the mercy of others, and

playing an active role that you may actually enjoy. Food for thought.

### /THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SM:

Thinking of how we are personally contributing to the planetary challenges may not be something we do daily. Our demanding lives have many obligations and don't leave much time for reflecting on this. We are busy getting things done!

Yet when analyzing the current un-sustainability of our planet, science has clearly established a link between human behaviors in past decisions and the current problems we face. Much attention is now focused on how to repair the damage done, and how to restore damaged, depleted or endangered resources. Scientists and entrepreneurs study how to minimize current or future problems at the environmental or social level, and how to innovate to avoid negative impacts into the future.

If we collectively influenced the place we find ourselves in now (with all of its problems), that means we also hold the key to influence where we will collectively be in the future – we meaning humankind at large, or, from a closer perspective, our families, children and grandchildren.

#### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

What if you could develop the habit of asking yourself periodically: how am I contributing to this problem? This question opens a path of inquiry, which automatically leads to expansion of your consciousness. You become more alert to take notice, and thus more open to try out new behaviors.

This same question, by the way, is also a powerful tool that can improve your relationships and interactions with others! So often we focus on what others are doing unto us, which leaves us powerless. When we learn to pay attention to

what is our role in the problems we endure, we regain control and can actually do something.

Actively thinking about how we might be contributing to environmental or social problems makes us better planetary citizens. At the same time, this enhanced awareness is an important milestone in our broader personal development.



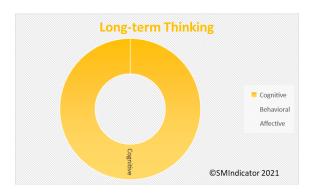
When we identify the ways in which we are unintentionally contributing to the problems, we have a chance to do something about them. It also expands our consciousness, and develops social sensitivity.



# /SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE

When analyzing information and making decisions a SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE has a major impact on the sustainability of our actions.

/WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE:
HOW YOU THINK ABOUT THE LONGTERM IMPACT WHEN ANALYZING
AND MAKING DECISIONS,
COMPLEMENTING SHORT-TERM
THINKING; HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT
IT, AND THE IMPACT ON YOUR
BEHAVIORS.



#### What this tells you:

This graph shows only one dimension – cognitive - indicating that you have knowledge about this aspect, without necessarily connecting it with your behaviors. You might use this information to seek ways to convert your understanding into action.

We don't have enough data to report about your feelings on this topic.

#### YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE

**THAT** you have a good understanding of the long-term sustainability impacts that our decisions may have, even the simple and daily ones, not to mention behaviors commonly accepted in our society.

At the same time, you are pragmatic and prefer to focus on the short term when trying to solve a problem, because it seems more tangible, concrete and functional. It saves time, or so it seems.

**/YOU ARE COMFORTABLE** looking for quick and efficient ways to address a situation and seeking to simplify matters. You are a good problem solver. Acting promptly is important for you, and it provides you and others with a sense of control and direction.

We cannot comment on your feelings related to this topic, since you indicated (by choosing "neither") that you did not feel represented by either of the available options.

### /THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SM:

There is a tacit pressure to act promptly and focus on that which needs immediate attention. This is very important, and there are many circumstances where this way of responding is the optimal, or even the only one that matters. A fire in the house, for example. We can sense the urgency and it is not a good idea to pause and reflect on the long-term implications of the fire.

But for many daily decisions, the context is different, and yet we still prioritize short term thinking, often without even pondering any medium- or long-term impacts of what we are doing. The stream of life, our colleagues, perhaps everyone with whom we interact takes for granted that we "all" act this way.

On the other hand, with greater understanding of the social and environmental problems we are facing, it has become clear that the law of cause-and-effect is always at play, even if not immediately obvious. In other words, the consequences of our daily actions do have impacts - some over time, some just in a different geography, and many on both.

As with other aspects which are key for a sustainability mindset, it is not a question of choosing one over the other, but a matter of balancing both views and taking both time horizons into account.

#### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

This mental habit expands our consciousness, as we become more aware of the way we are impacting others and the world. Not thinking about this doesn't stop it from happening. Stretching our imagination to consider potential impacts across time helps us make better decisions, and play a more active role in shaping a better world.

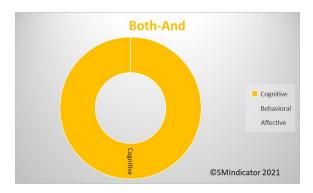
For example, what might be some long-term consequences for sustainability of a purchasing decision you recently made? What would your latest decision look like if you had considered these potential long-term impacts?

It takes practice to develop new mental habits, but they too, can have long term impacts - for the better.



Every action has consequences that are not immediately visible. Considering the long-term when analyzing situations and making decisions has a positive impact on global sustainability.

# /WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE: HOW YOU THINK ABOUT AND DEAL WITH AMBIGUITY AND PARADOXES, HOW YOU RECOGNIZE DIVERSITY, FEEL ABOUT IT AND ACT TOWARDS IT.



#### What this tells you:

This graph shows only one dimension – cognitive - indicating that you have knowledge about this aspect, without necessarily engaging your feelings. You might use this information to explore your emotions.

We don't have enough data to report on your behaviors related to this topic.

#### YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE

**THAT** you know that it is important to listen to others' perspectives, and to find solutions that can accommodate diverse needs, even compromising what is important to one or the other.

At the same time, you are most comfortable when your heart remains true to values you were taught and respect.

#### /THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN FURTHER LEVERAGE YOUR STRENGTHS AND MANAGE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK:

Because much of the world is changing, you may feel compelled to be understanding with others' perspectives, but this doesn't come easy to you and you may feel frustrated or impatient. Of course you wish there would be a solution that might make everyone happy, but you wonder if this may be realistic. Do you sometimes ask yourself if you may be perceived as not being very inclusive?

We cannot comment further on how your thinking and feelings connect with your behaviors, since you indicated (by choosing "neither") that you did not find yourself represented by either of the available options.

#### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

Here is a question to consider: Can you think of an event or situation, however minor, where someone with a different opinion was able to step into your shoes? How did it make you feel? How did it impact your attitude and your behavior?

What if we could shape a world that makes room for different perspectives? Where you acknowledge others' points of view, and yours are also included by others?

Since we cannot control what others think or do, but do have control over our own way of thinking, there may be an interesting path worth exploring here.

### /THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SM:

It seems that today, more than ever, we are collectively being confronted with paradoxes and ambiguity. Increased transparency and access to information from around the world makes us aware of very different ways of thinking, being and acting with which we may not agree or be comfortable.

Challenging as this may be, there is a benefit to it: We are becoming aware of our own worldviews just by realizing that there are other ways of seeing and feeling. This is an evolutionary insight of great value, the foundation for more peaceful societies. In a way, life is prompting us to expand our understanding and our scope of caring, which go hand in hand.

When we understand something, we can begin caring. This is the start of a better world for all.



Both+and thinking allows us to understand paradoxes, and calls for creative solutions that are inclusive of all stakeholders.

/WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE:
HOW YOU BALANCE YOUR CAPACITY
TO ANALYZE AND PLAN WITH THE
UNDERSTANDING OF NATURAL
CYCLES, AND MAKE THEM PART OF
YOUR MINDSET.

#### YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE

**THAT** you are a person who is profoundly committed to actions, who enjoys the challenges life offers, and looks at them as opportunities to find intelligent solutions. Indeed, intellectual abilities are important for you, as they permit you to control difficult situations.

**/YOU ARE COMFORTABLE** crafting plans and setting goals to measure your progress. And if a problem is beyond your control, as many sustainability-related problems are, you rely on those who are capable of solving them. You strongly believe and trust in human ingenuity to figure out solutions for our environmental or social problems.

This allows you to feel empowered and in control, which is a nice feeling, particularly as it avoids the stress of uncertainty. You seem to enjoy making plans and implementing them, and derive a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction when you achieve the goals you set for yourself.

/THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN FURTHER LEVERAGE THOSE STRENGTHS AND MANAGE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK:

While planning is a way to feel in control of situations, it is constantly challenged since life -

with its countless variables - is too complex to be managed.

Do you experience frustration at times when things don't work out as you planned, or expected? How do you react? Do you let go of your plans and observe what the events are telling you, or do you use persistence and incremental efforts to stay on top of your planned course?

### /THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SM:

You may be wondering why planning is related to several key aspects for a sustainability mindset. The connection is not in the planning as an activity per se, but in the way we think and process information when we plan. Planning is about organizing and structuring in order to control outcomes. Planning is linear by definition -one step after the other - and it assumes cause-effect relationships. But what about multi-effects, multicauses, and feedback loops?

Contrast this with the sustainability problems we are facing. To begin with, they are complex and multidimensional by their very nature. Many are the result of our linear thinking, for example we believe that we can pursue unlimited growth, yet depletion of natural resources shows us this is not possible.

Our reliance on the human mind can create a collective assumption that we are in control, but a "small" manifestation like Covid-19 arrives as a surprise to debunk the myth of our own superiority.

#### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

Planning in itself is not the problem but rather, excessive reliance on carefully crafted steps. How do you incorporate the cycles of nature into your planning? As an example, do you accept phases of

growth and decline - aging and impermanence, along with endings and mortality followed by new beginnings and birth? How do you incorporate humanity as part of Nature, rather than its controller?

Many implications, indeed.

Here a few thoughts to ponder. Do you see yourself balanced in terms of making and letting go of plans? How do you balance structure and flow, organization and flexibility?

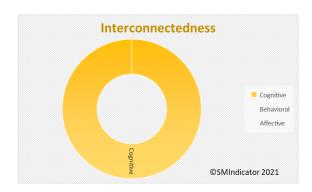
Relaxing your grip on plans may cause uncertainty, yet like swimming along with the river's current, it can also increase your speed, and reduce the stress of resisting obstacles. Worth a try.

There are no linear processes in Nature: Everything flows in cycles of birth, growth, death, and rebirth.

Many aspects of man-made unsustainability of the planet are a result of the misconception that we are not governed by this law of Nature.



# /WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE: HOW YOU UNDERSTAND AND EXPERIENCE INTERCONNECTEDNESS, VERSUS VALUES LIKE AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE.



#### What this tells you:

This graph shows only one dimension – cognitive - meaning that you have an intellectual understanding about this aspect. You are not necessarily engaging your feelings nor converting them into actions. You might use this information to explore your emotions related to this aspect of the sustainability mindset, and perhaps find ways to convert your understanding into actions.

#### YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE

**THAT** you thrive in contexts where you can compete and work towards being your personal best.

You believe independence and autonomy are very important aspects of human life, perhaps as a combination of a given right, a personal goal and a precious virtue to cultivate. They signify ownership and accountability to you. You like to be faced with challenges. In fact, you enjoy the adrenaline that motivates you.

At the same time, you have a clear understanding that we are all interconnected, even in non-obvious ways, and that no one is really fully independent.

#### /THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN FURTHER LEVERAGE YOUR STRENGTHS AND MANAGE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK:

The excitement of seeking to be successful, to win or to outperform others is a great feeling for you. Recognition may be a reward, but it is not always external: it can also be for your personal satisfaction and sense of accomplishment. You feel proud of your achievements and perceive them as a validation of your autonomy and personal capabilities in action. It is important for you to be self-sufficient as much as possible. This may come at a price.

It is not always possible to live up to other people's expectations, not to mention our own, which often are even higher!

Furthermore, in many settings where teamwork or collaboration is expected, it may be challenging to balance your individual performance with the collective contributions, and your personal efforts, gifts or skills may go unrecognized, or possibly even unappreciated.

### /THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SM:

You may not have given it much thought, but the polarities of independence vs. interconnectedness and competition vs. collaboration are of particular relevance when focusing on sustainability. To begin with, the environmental and social challenges are complex and multidimensional, making it impossible for any one person to solve

on their own. It is only through collective thinking, action and the collaboration of multiple stakeholders that we will be able to develop alternatives. (This, by the way, makes sustainability a great opportunity for contributing personal skills to a larger cause).

While certain cultures have a collectivistic framework, most of the western-northern culture - widely exported and globalized - is individualistic and celebrates personal achievement. However, is this realistic and even feasible?

#### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

We invite you to explore what autonomy means for you. What are the roots of this value for you, perhaps in your upbringing or in your current context? Is this authentically a priority for you, or is it something automatically inherited, or adopted without giving it much thought?

If you have identified an accomplishment that you consider authentically your merit, make a list of who may have played a role in it. Rank them, in order of relevance or impact on your success. What does this exercise tell you about the polarity of autonomy versus interconnectedness?

When we see interconnectedness, we understand the importance of diversity, and our decisions and actions become more inclusive, which contributes to the sustainability of the whole.





# /EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Understanding ourselves through the anchors of our identity, the pace of our life, and how we consider our intuitive wisdom are key for a sustainability mindset.

HOW YOU INCORPORATE NON-RATIONAL INFORMATION, INTUITIVE KNOWING, CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION IN ORDER TO BALANCE RATIONAL THINKING, AND HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT.



#### What this tells you:

When the graph is well balanced, it means that you have a good understanding of the aspect of the Sustainability Mindset being assessed, that you are able to connect with your feelings about it, and that you tend to act upon what you know and feel. This is a good start, and you might want to think about circumstances or contexts in which you would like to act more, understand better or further explore your feelings.

#### YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE

**THAT** you have a clear understanding of the value of combining your logical and analytical thinking abilities with creative imagination.

You know that the human mind is capable of great accomplishments, as history has shown, when intuition and creative ideas are coupled with rational thinking and good strategies. You may

even trust that our sustainability problems could be addressed with a good balance of these abilities.

**/YOU ARE COMFORTABLE WHEN** reality presents you with plenty of unknowns. You actually enjoy it and find uncertainty exciting.

It seems that you often find yourself in situations where you make great contributions by putting your "creative hat" on, being playful by not preemptively censoring your ideas. You have a good tolerance of the uncertainty of not knowing how something can work out. You are able to live with a certain degree of risk-taking. What a valuable asset for these times!

# /THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN FURTHER LEVERAGE YOUR STRENGTHS AND MANAGE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK:

Are you happy with how you listen to and consider your own intuition, this non-verbal wisdom? Is your imagination and creativity nurtured and well expressed, or do you think you could do more? What do you see as your next developmental frontiers in this aspect?

# /THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SM:

You know that the sustainability challenges we are facing are largely new, and as COVID-19 taught us, increasingly situations arise for which we don't have previous experience or science on which to rely. We have become more aware of this

complexity of our challenges, and we are skeptical of simplistic solutions.

However this also requires entry into uncharted territories. Resilience calls for flexibility in adapting to new situations, and this entails innovating and experimenting, as you indicate you sometimes do. Definitely having no clear blueprints to follow may be disturbing, yet there are no choices but to take some risks. And fortunately you can handle them.

It seems that you have a reservoir of imagination, even intuitive wisdom, available to tap into. This helps you complement your strategic thinking, and maximize your achievements. For the benefit of all.

Resilience is based on constant creativity, innovation, and experimentation. When we neglect the non-rational wisdom we have in us, our solutions are missing critical information, and may create negative impacts on the ecosystem and society.



#### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

Our world is certainly giving preference to rational and logical thinking, so you have a much-needed perspective to contribute. In what new ways could you envision doing this?

HOW YOU NOTICE YOUR OWN PACE, AND HOW YOU BALANCE RAPID RESPONSE WITH MAKING TIME TO PONDER AND REFLECT BEFORE ACTING. AND HOW THIS MAKES YOU FEEL.

#### **/YOUR SMI CHOICES INDICATE THAT**

you are a quick thinker!

You indicate that you have no concerns about making a quick assessment of a situation and acting promptly, and while you may overlook some details, you consider that your decisiveness also helps stimulate those that are more hesitant. Speed is justified.

We cannot comment on your thinking or feelings about this topic, since you indicated (by choosing "neither") that you did not find yourself represented by either of the available options.

#### /THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN LEVERAGE YOUR STRENGTHS AND MANAGE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK:

Questions for reflection: Does it ever happen that you wish you could relax, slow down and do nothing? Does your body, your mind or perhaps your soul call for less stress, or even a break? What message might be there for you, waiting to be heard?

# /THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SM:

Since we are looking at these aspects from the perspective of a sustainability mindset, let's pause and think about what behaviors might be most effective as well as much needed.

While there is a call for urgent action about climate change and the related social and environmental problems, many modern sustainability challenges are actually the result of overlooked potential impacts.

For decades, well-intended decisions were largely made by quickly identifying the best option. But today we are understanding better that problems are complex, that solutions impact a multiplicity of future stakeholders, and that there are always consequences. Of course, it is not possible to anticipate all scenarios, but pausing and checking assumptions as you do it can be very useful to avoid future problems.

#### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

For example, what can you learn to avoid or repeat from past experiences? Can you identify in hindsight, what was at stake? When we have more information we can better weigh alternatives. All of this, however, is at odds with speed. We cannot both act fast and ponder carefully.

The question becomes: Is decisiveness and fast action coming at an expensive price for you and others, us, the next generations, and the ecosystem?

Food for thought!

Reflective practices help to pause, and to ponder the situation and its implications before jumping into action.



HOW AWARE YOU ARE ABOUT THE ANCHORS OF YOUR IDENTITY AND YOUR VALUES; HOW YOU FEEL AND ACT IN CONSEQUENCE.



#### What this tells you:

This graph shows only one dimension – behavioral indicating that you are action -oriented without necessarily connecting to your understanding about this aspect. You might use this information to seek ways to expand your comprehension of this topic. We don't have enough data to report on how you feel about this aspect.

#### YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE

**THAT** you see the world through a precise lens that is, and has for a long time been, the most widely shared paradigm.

In the world as you (and so many others) see it, you recognize the immense progress that humanity has made, particularly accelerated over the last century. You realize that competition has driven individuals to seek to be better than and outperform others, and the resulting inventions have vastly improved the quality of life for people on this planet.

This progress may have come at a price that we now see, particularly at the environmental or social level, but from your perspective the fallout was not intentional and was justified by the benefits. Human "can-do" spirit and individual ambition will continue developing new solutions.

#### **/HERE COMES A SURPRISE:**

The choices you made in the survey, however, provide a surprising insight: You have been noticing that many of your automatic behaviors are not very environmentally friendly, or perhaps have some kind of negative social impact. This seems to have motivated you to try to make some changes, although it might not have been easy.

Nevertheless, this is a very important moment of awareness: change starts with our noticing some discomfort about something, and wanting to do something about it to feel better (or at least less bad). In this case, you seem to have achieved this very important step.

Of course it can be overwhelming to think of the complex problems. But what if you start small?

We cannot comment on your feelings related to this topic, since you indicated (by choosing "neither") that you did not find yourself represented by either of the available options. But let's pause for a moment.

# /THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SM:

This survey was designed around the Sustainability Mindset, which is a way of thinking and being, to optimally adapt to the moment in which we are living. This Mindset focuses on using our natural gifts to shape a better future, for ourselves and for all, the ecosystem included. Research has proven that what may sound overwhelming, actually can

be broken down into small, realistic ways to contribute to the greater good, and feel great at the same time. The first step is taking a fresh look at what surrounds us. Undoubtedly, there are social and environment related challenges everywhere. Some happen locally, others across borders.

Science has been linking many of these issues to human behaviors, such as consumption of unhealthy foods, depletion of natural resources, pollution or contamination of air, soil and water. And we are left to deal with the consequences today, trapped in a paradigm that prioritizes values that have a negative impact, such as thoughtless consumption.

But what if we would realize that some our habits today are (unintentionally) contributing to more of these problems in the future? And vice versa: What if a change in a small habit today could do its part to shape a better future?

When we explore our personal values, beliefs, assumptions and motivations, we gain greater control over our actions and we can see new alternative behaviors.



#### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

Can you think of another habit of yours that might qualify? We don't know what we can until we try. And when we put aside cynicism for a moment, we actually may feel a deep sense of joy. Sometimes we shift our values as a result of a new experience. Worth trying, right?



# /SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE

The spiritual orientation to Nature, to ourselves and to others are key factors for a Sustainability Mindset, as they impact the quality of our actions.

HOW YOU EXPERIENCE NATURE, HOW YOU UNDERSTAND THE HUMAN RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE, AND YOUR RELATED FEELINGS AND BEHAVIORS.

#### YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE

**THAT** you see yourself as a rational individual.

You are comfortable opting for an intellectual approach to Nature and you value efforts to build scientific and objective knowledge about it. This is certainly how our understanding of the natural world, including our bodies, has advanced over time!

We cannot comment on your feelings about this topic, since you indicated (by choosing "neither") that you did not find yourself represented by either of the available options.

#### /THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN LEVERAGE YOUR STRENGTHS AND MANAGE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK:

That said, the evolution of science has also shown that findings are made within the constraints of available instruments, paradigms or assumptions and many myopic or biased conclusions have been revealed with the passage of time, the development of more precise measurement techniques and revolutionary thinking.

Biomimicry, a discipline studying how Nature solves problems, has been highlighting the wisdom of billions of years of evolution, and suggesting that we may find more answers in Nature than through our human intellect.

In fact, indigenous people have demonstrated a more resilient lifestyle, based on an intuitive connection to Nature.

Have you ever reflected upon some moments when you connected with Nature, perhaps in a non-verbal but memorable experience?

### /EXPLORING BELIEFS AND ASSUMPTIONS:

According to your choices in the questionnaire, your behaviors are based on a worldview in which humans are the most evolved and intelligent species, proven through many achievements and improvements in our quality of life.

Yet we are increasingly aware that some betterments have come at a cost for the environment or society, and we are collectively paying the price, for example, soil erosion or waterway contamination from chemical crop fertilizers meant to enhance soil productivity.

The human-centric paradigm that we collectively adopted and believe has begun to show some shortcomings, inviting us to revisit our place and role in the larger ecosystem.

What are some undesirable consequences of human progress that you have personally experienced? What message may be in this for you?

# /THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SM:

According to a 2018 United Nations study, over 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 68% by 2050. As a result, for many of us, the disconnection from Nature is rather "natural." Hectic life in large cities makes it difficult for us to remember that we are more than individuals

moving through traffic and buildings. The common associations with the word "Nature" may be vacation time, a park or a documentary. What about our food? Our body? The materials of every object we use? This disconnection from Nature leads to a utilitarian relationship: Nature is reduced to instrumental resources for human needs and wants.

What consequences do you see from having a utilitarian relationship with Nature?

Here is a thought to ponder: The artificial separation of the individual from the ecosystem has been found as causing not only spiritual alienation, but is the root cause for many unsustainability behaviors. When we understand something we start caring for it.

Understanding that we are one with Nature is a sensorial, intuitive experience. It is not something to be learned, but rather something that we allow to occur, and which makes us remember the sense of oneness we have always known, but had forgotten.

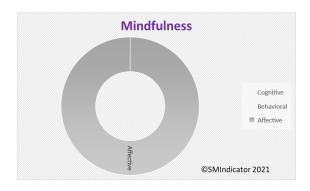
Understanding that we are one with Nature, a species within species, is a powerful spiritual experience that can shape behaviors leading to a more harmonious relationship with each other and all beings.



#### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

It is impossible to guess your particular context, and your current priorities. But we invite you to give yourself an unusual gift: Spend an hour in Nature, on your own, without looking at your phone, and with no books, pets or other people. If you have never experienced this, you are up for a very special treat!

HOW YOU THINK ABOUT THE MEANING, ROLE AND VALUE OF MINDFULNESS AND ITS PRACTICE, AND HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT.



What this tells you:

This graph shows the affective dimension, meaning that you connect emotionally with this aspect, without necessarily having full understanding about it. We don't have enough data to report if or how your feelings impact your behaviors related to this aspect.

#### YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE

**THAT YOU** are very aware that society rewards action and its ensuing achievements, rather than inaction and passivity, which is kind of what mindfulness practice seems to you. As a consequence, you do not see particular value in the concept of mindfulness, or perhaps it is just not a part of your life at this time.

YOU ARE COMFORTABLE adapting to the culture to which you belong. As the saying goes, "when in Rome do as the Romans do". You may be

aware that other cultures have different behavioral patterns from the one in which you live, but you are cognizant of the importance of adapting to reality.

We cannot comment on how this thinking reflects on your behaviors, since you indicated (by choosing "neither") that you did not feel represented by either of the available options. Yet, according to your other selections in the questionnaire, when your reality is challenging and poses a high demand on your physical, emotional and psychological systems, you try to manage the best you can and seek to gain inner peace.

It is not clear from the information you shared what, if any, strategies you have found that work to help you lower your stress or find some balance.

#### /THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN LEVERAGE YOUR STRENGTHS AND MANAGE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK:

So here are some questions for you to contemplate. Has it ever occurred to you that the fact that "everyone lives like this" may not necessarily make it ideal? Studies show the physical and emotional consequences of a constant focus on doing while overlooking the more profound dimensions of 'being," such as reflection, spiritual or religious practices, time to recharge and find ourselves, and time to connect with our deeper self.

Have you ever reflected on the high value our world gives to consumption, linking "who we are" with "what we have or own"? Have you ever felt like being trapped in a race to pursue a perhaps elusive and short-lived happiness?

Sometimes we hear people say "you should do less, you should relax, you should take time for yourself, etc.," and from your perspective, their suggestions may sound somewhere between unreal and ridiculous, since you are the one living with the

challenges. They don't always realize that we are all doing our best all of the time.

#### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

Being very concentrated on our obligations rarely leaves time or space to look around, yet oftentimes information is available "out there" that could facilitate our task, but we just don't see it. For example, perseverance is an important virtue, except when it makes us miss easier or better ways to achieve our goal.

Pausing and stepping away from our task clears our mind, and we can return to it with renewed energy and sharper vision. Is this something you remember to do when you need it? If not, how could you help yourself remember it just in time?

Individuals that balance their tasks with contemplative practices realize the positive impact this has on their peace of mind, how they relate to others and even on their health. It may be as simple as going for a walk, listening to your preferred music dancing, practicing a sport, playing with children or your pet, gardening or creating art.

If these are some of the activities that help you unwind, you are on the right path already. They are called "contemplative practices" because they engage a different part of our brain, creating a "buffer zone" that permits the release of tensions, after which, often we end up seeing our challenges in a different light.

### /THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SM:

From the perspective of a sustainability mindset, mindfulness is both a key practice and an amazing result. Research has shown a direct link between individuals that have some contemplative

practices not just with their physical and psychological health, but also with the emergence of feelings of empathy and compassion.

This creates a disposition towards positive social and environmental actions, and the resulting satisfaction feeds a positive reinforcing loop. In other words, the better we feel about something we've done, the more we seek to repeat the experience.

When we access and display a more balanced version of ourselves, we convey an unspoken message to the people with whom we interact, not just by what we say or how we behave, but through our attitude and energy. This has a proven positive influence on others, as science has identified with the phenomenon of "emotional contagion."

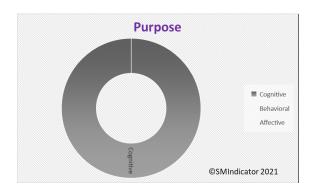
In other words, when we develop a sense of peace for ourselves, we are also radiating a gift of peace to the world.

What are some ideas to try out?

Mindfulness is being fully present, experiencing connectedness with all that is. Mindfulness enhances awareness and compassion, and predisposes to social and environmental actions.



WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT HAVING A PURPOSE IN LIFE, PARTICULARLY SOMETHING THAT IS IN SERVICE TO OTHERS; HOW THIS FITS YOUR REALITY AND HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT.



#### What this tells you:

This graph shows only one dimension – cognitive - meaning that you have an intellectual understanding about this aspect. We don't have enough data to report on your behaviors or feelings about this topic.

#### YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE

**THAT** you think it is important to find a purpose in life, to identify something that, by making a difference, makes our life meaningful.

We cannot comment on how these thoughts impact your behaviors and feelings, since you indicated (by choosing "neither") that you did not feel represented by either of the available options.

# /THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN LEVERAGE YOUR STRENGTHS AND MANAGE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK:

Research has shown that individuals who engage in activities of service to the community, volunteering or some kind of initiative for the greater good have a higher sense of wellbeing than those who do not. This includes benefits to health, feelings of joy, increased self-esteem, and personal satisfaction.

In contrast, you may have personally experienced that focusing on the extreme demands of your life sometimes takes a toll on your health, your mood, creating tension or anxiety, disrupts your sleep or impacts how you interact with others. Perhaps sometimes you don't feel happy with yourself or with others. Have you asked yourself what you could do to feel better, to lower your stress? Perhaps you have, but the answer you found may have been that as long as your demands remain high, there is not much you can do.

### So here, again, are some questions to evaluate:

Which of the activities that you engage in are a necessity, a "must-do," and which ones represent a choice? Who would do these activities if it were not you? What would it take to let go of some activities, or perhaps of "how" you do them?

These questions have an agenda: to help you free up some time and space to try out a different experience, one that consists of something you do for others outside your inner circle.

### /THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SM:

The research regarding core aspects for a sustainability mindset identified the role of activities intentionally done for the "greater good." The state of our planet is such that it requires each of us to step up and play an active role in shaping a better world.

The actions needed, whether large or small, share a similar result: they provide us with a feeling of joy, which then we want to replicate in order to feel good again, thus creating a reinforcing loop. Interestingly, we tend to think that we need to take care of ourselves first, before helping others, but the facts show that when we do small acts of kindness for others, we feel much better ourselves.

Defining our purpose provides an unconscious compass, and when it is grounded in values of our higher self, we actively shape a better world.



#### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

With this in mind, what are some experiments you are willing to try? What are some things for the greater good that you have already done, and perhaps could repeat, do regularly, or improve?

Don't be intimidated by lofty phrases like "changing the world" or having a life's mission or purpose. In fact, each small act of kindness comes with an impact that we may never be able to imagine. That also changes the world, one positive interaction at a time.

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and provide us with a brief (1 min) Feedback.

Thank vou!

