



Sustainability  
Mindset  
Indicator®

**/REPORT  
PREPARED FOR:  
Anand  
01/Feb/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.

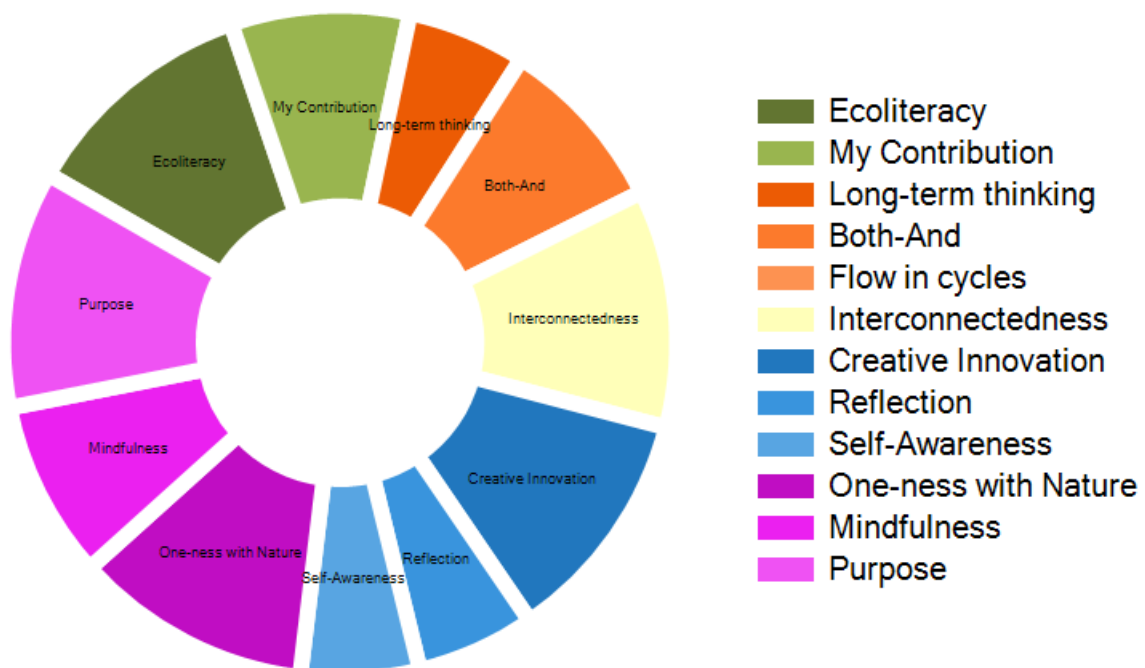
***Enjoy your journey into the realm of the Sustainability Mindset - a place where you can be your best, for yourself and for the World.***

*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.

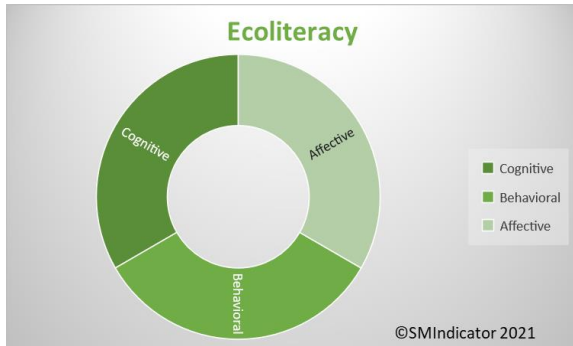




# /ECOLOGICAL WORLDVIEW

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.

**/WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE:  
HOW YOU UNDERSTAND THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL  
CHALLENGES, AND HOW YOU FEEL  
ABOUT IT, AND THE IMPACT ON  
YOUR BEHAVIORS.**



**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 good understanding of the complexity of the planetary challenges we are facing, and how they are interrelated. In addition, you seem to be socially sensitive and have empathy for the suffering of others.

This may be an important motivation for you to act in your daily decisions in ways that can minimize your ecological or social footprint, and/or help the sustainability of our planet.

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

This is a great foundation so, where do you think your next challenge is? Maybe to understand more about what is happening, and connect more through your heart and your feelings? Perhaps you can imagine ways in which you can use your skills and unique gifts to contribute and make personal changes for the greater good.

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

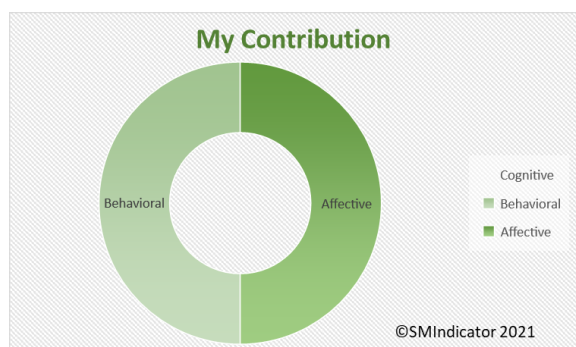
We tend to underestimate our own power and influence in shaping a better world. As a matter of fact, if the challenges we are currently experiencing are a product of past problematic behaviors, then we are also positively shaping the future of the planet with our current mindful decisions and restorative actions. That opens an interesting path.

Here are some suggestions to consider: What are things you are good at that you aren't incorporating into your sustainability contributions? Who could benefit and where from your gifts and talents and possibly your passion?



*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.*

**/WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE:**  
**HOW YOU SEE THE RELATION**  
**BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL DECISIONS**  
**AND PLANETARY CHALLENGES, HOW**  
**YOU FEEL ABOUT IT AND THE**  
**IMPACT ON YOUR PERSONAL**  
**BEHAVIORS.**



**What this tells you:**

**This graph shows the two dimensions of affective and behavioral, meaning that you have an emotional connection with this aspect, and you also act upon it. We don't have enough data to report whether or how your knowledge and understanding is related to or might support this aspect.**

**YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE THAT** you are a very sensitive person, with an open heart.

You have a skill to connect with your emotions, and also feel for others, with empathy and compassion for their suffering. This is a precious quality, although at times it can be difficult to live with it.

**/YOU ARE COMFORTABLE** when you can convert the emotional energy into actions, taking a proactive role. Instead of remaining "the victim," you act. We cannot comment how this impacts your thinking, since you indicated (by choosing "neither") that you did not feel represented by either of the available options.

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

You find small ways in which you are contributing to the problems and seek out those changes you could make to be less a "part of the problem" and become part of the solution. This is a wonderful start.

The more you observe, the more opportunities you will find to make a real difference with a few simple changes to your behavior and habits.

You can practice asking the question: How may I be contributing to this? A simple, yet empowering question.

**/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.

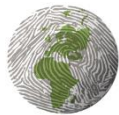


## /HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:

What if we could develop the habit of asking ourselves periodically: *how am I contributing to this problem?* This question opens a path of inquiry, which automatically leads to expansion of our consciousness. We 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 our 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 your contribution is definitely an important milestone in your personal development, with planetary implications.



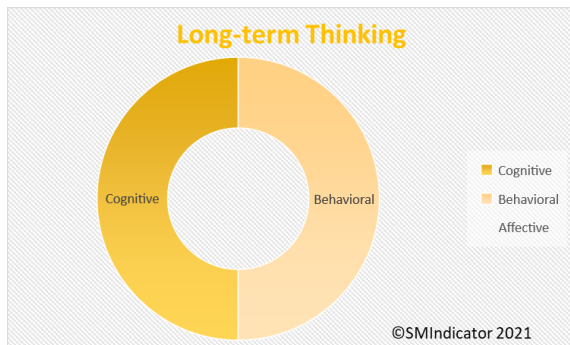
*When we identify the ways in which we are unintentionally contributing to the problems, we have a chance to do something about them. It also expands our consciousness, and develops social sensitivity.*



# /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 LONG-TERM 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 the two dimensions of cognitive and behavioral, meaning that you have an intellectual understanding of this aspect, and you also act upon it. We don't have enough data to report if or how you connect with your feelings related to this item.

**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.

**/YOU ARE COMFORTABLE** thinking of "what ifs" and the long-term consequences of possible decisions before taking them. This may not always be welcome in a team setting, but from the perspective of shaping a sustainable world, this

contribution is a great asset to yourself and to your working groups. Your perspective will likely enrich actions, as they result from considering potential impacts in the longer term.

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

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

So how do you relate to others, who don't see it like you? Does it happen sometimes to you that you cannot understand why others passionately resist your long-term thinking?

If that is the case you might want to remember the emotional weight of uncertainty. You might feel a bit of anxiety or fear of the unknown yourself, if you would check on your feelings.

**/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.

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.

This is something about which you seem to know quite a lot.

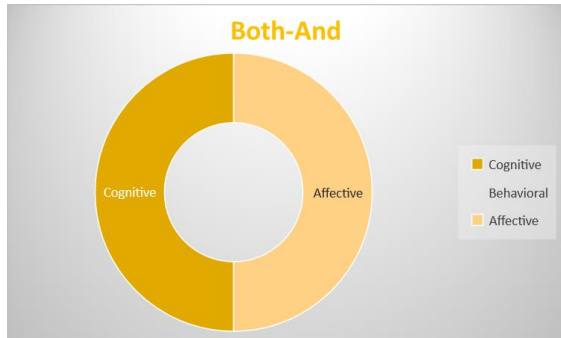
### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

Empathy and understanding go hand in hand, and smooth out our interactions. Is this something you remember when you are in a conversation? Or something you would like to keep in mind?



*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 that your approach to the assessed topic is both cognitive and affective, but you are not necessarily translating what you know and feel into actions. You might use this information to explore new habits and daily changes for a sustainability purpose.**

**YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE THAT** you are an empathic person who knows how important it is to listen to other perspectives, and to find solutions that can accommodate diverse needs.

Not being inclusive may also make you feel guilty, selfish, righteous, or irresponsible. This is your internal compass!

At the same time, you are a pragmatic person that likes clarity in life. **You are most comfortable** with clear choices - black and white options - and find a sense of stability and reassurance in holding onto your values and your worldview. When faced

with a new situation, you seek to rapidly frame it within what you have learned is "right" or "wrong."

This may be useful for avoiding gray areas, although it may also create a tension: is it possible to balance honoring your values, what "feels right", with accepting very opposite positions?

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

Welcome to life! You are not alone in the struggle. You already have come far in your personal journey, as you can empathize with others and take a glance into their world.

What are the boundaries? In what areas is inclusive thinking and acting easy for you, and which situations are more challenging? This is your work.

You have a very valuable characteristic, particularly in our sustainability-challenged times, where the solutions to our environmental or social problems have to be found considering a wide array of interests and needs.

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

Many of our world's sustainability challenges originate in choices such as: "either the planet or the economy" and "either protect the wolves or the farmer." Yet, *either-or* choices can be misleading, and have us believe there are win-lose solutions that work.

But do they really? If the cost is high, do they still work? When we find ourselves in a situation where

we see it the right way, and others are wrong, what may we be missing that these others are seeing? How could we all benefit from having a fuller picture?

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.

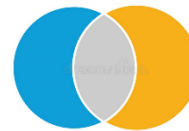
In a way, life is prompting us to expand our understanding and our scope of caring, which go hand in hand. When we understand something, we can begin caring. This is the start of a better world for all.

It is wonderful to experience our perspective included by others. Since we cannot control what others think or do, but have control over our own way of thinking, there may be an interesting path worth exploring here.

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

Which are situations where either-or thinking is appropriate, and when do we need a creative both-and solution?

There are multiple daily opportunities to convert your natural empathy into inclusive behaviors. Any thoughts?



*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, multi-causes, 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:**

**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 that we are all interconnected, even in non-obvious ways, and that no one is really fully independent.

**You are comfortable** seeing yourself as part of a larger whole, and you pay attention to the input of stakeholders when analyzing a problem and seeking effective solutions. In addition, you are appreciative about other people's input and support. You thrive in collaborative environments,

welcome participatory solutions and feel grateful for the help of others.

This is a precious combination in the current times! While certain cultures have a collectivistic framework, most of the western-northern culture - widely exported and globalized - is individualistic and celebrates personal achievement. But you know this is neither realistic nor feasible.

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

Do you experience an unspoken expectation in your daily life - to be independent, to outperform others, to be self-reliant or perhaps to demonstrate your value in competitive settings? Have you sensed the contradiction between these two paradigms, one valuing competition and self-reliance, the other promoting collaboration and inclusion? How do you manage the tension, and are you able to share your perspective with others, perhaps helping to expand their thinking horizons?

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

The polarities of independence vs. interconnectedness and competition vs. collaboration are of particular relevance when focusing on sustainability. The environmental and social challenges are complex and multidimensional, making it impossible for any person to solve on their own. It is only through collective thinking, action and 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).

## /HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:

With your valuable perspective, how do you handle situations when others don't see the urgency of collaboration but rather respond from the old paradigm of autonomy and competition?

Here is a tip that may come handy. Invite them to name one achievement that was purely, authentically, their own, without any other person playing a role in it.

*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.

**/WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE:  
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.

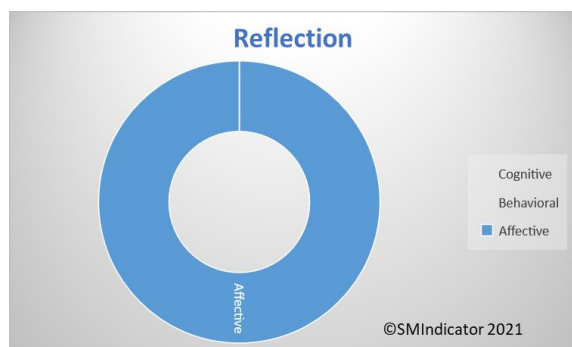
### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

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?

*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.*



## **/WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE: 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.**



### **What this tells you:**

**This graph shows the affective dimension, meaning that you connect emotionally with this aspect, without necessarily engaging into action. We don't have enough data to report on your understanding of this topic.**

## **YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE THAT** you are a quick thinker.

You know how to make quick assessments of a situation and act promptly, and while you may overlook some details, you consider that your decisiveness also helps stimulate those that are more hesitant. Speed is justified.

At the same time, *certain choices in your questionnaire point at something noteworthy*. It seems that when you are reminded to slow down,

you are really appreciative. It makes you feel better, more relaxed or lowers your stress levels. If this is the case, it is a valuable experience that may be the portal to a more peaceful pace!

We cannot comment on your thinking 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 FURTHER LEVERAGE YOUR STRENGTHS AND MANAGE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK:**

According to your answers, you seem to be gifted with an intuition that something is not quite right. Do you ever wish you could relax more, slow down and do nothing? Does your body, your mind or perhaps your soul call for less stress, or even a break? What message may be there for you, waiting to be heard and acted upon?

## **/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 prior 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 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.*



**/WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE:  
HOW AWARE YOU ARE ABOUT THE  
ANCHORS OF YOUR IDENTITY AND  
YOUR VALUES; HOW YOU FEEL AND  
ACT IN CONSEQUENCE.**



**What this tells you:**

**If a graph shows the two dimensions - cognitive and behavioral - it means that your tendency is to distance yourself from your feelings, particularly in the aspect assessed here. You have a good understanding about it, and are acting upon it, but you might want to further explore your emotions in relation to it.**

**YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE THAT** you believe the paradigm we have long been living with is due for a revision.

You realize that values like growth and progress may be linked to an assumption of unlimited resources, which may not be realistic. You have been noticing that many of your automatic behaviors are actually not very environmentally friendly, or perhaps have some kind of negative social impact.

**You are comfortable** trying to make some changes, which probably was somewhat challenging and may have not left you satisfied with yourself.

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

Could it be that these failed attempts discouraged you to continue doing more? You selected answers in this survey that describe a disenchantment of sorts. For example, you are aware that there is an increasing trend to highlight the negative consequences of progress, of capitalism, or of society in general, and this seems to make you feel uncomfortable, even upset.

It is possible that you, yourself, sense a personal tension between the gravity of what we are facing as humanity, and your individual bewilderment about what you might actually do to help prevent or solve the problems. For instance, you may feel that climate change is too complex to be attributed to our mere daily behaviors.

In addition, the tension may put into question the values with which you were raised or grew up, and this is likely an uncomfortable experience, particularly if these values are important for you, or have been an important part of your identity.

Achievement, competition, being a winner, not being a not a loser, and success may be important foundations of who you are. You may wonder what makes them suddenly feel wrong. These may be difficult dilemmas for you right now.

*And yet this is a very important moment of awareness:* change starts with our noticing some discomfort about something, and we want 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 about the complex problems. But what if you start small?

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

Let's pause for a moment. 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, as you well know, 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?

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

Can you think of a few habits 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. That alone is worth trying.

Another suggestion is that you explore the roots of some values that are important for you, such as success, winning, and outperforming others. Where can you trace their origins? Perhaps in your upbringing, or in your current context? What do they represent for you, which makes them important? Are they authentically yours, or are they perhaps inherited, adopted without giving much thought to it?

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





# /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.

**/WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE:  
HOW YOU EXPERIENCE NATURE,  
HOW YOU UNDERSTAND THE  
HUMAN RELATIONSHIP WITH  
NATURE, AND YOUR RELATED  
FEELINGS AND BEHAVIORS.**



**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 think of Nature as an experience that offers more wisdom than we can intellectually grasp.

You see the limitations of pure rationality, and realize that the intellectual capability is valuable for building scientific knowledge, but also frequently overstated. It is clear to you that over

time, the development of more precise measurement techniques or revolutionary thinking has revealed the myopic or biased conclusions of the past!

**You are comfortable** acting in ways that acknowledge a relationship characterized by respect and sensitivity toward other beings. Human achievements and improvements of our quality of life are worthy, yet in your behaviors you keep in mind that many have come at a cost for the environment or society, for which we are collectively paying that price.

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

The human-centric paradigm that we collectively adopted and believe has begun to show some shortcomings, and you are frequently rethinking your place and role in the larger ecosystem before acting.

How do you manage the tensions of living in a context that mostly rewards rational thinking and intellectual capabilities?

Your caring behaviors for other beings or the ecosystem may be the result of some special moments, when you stood in awe admiring Nature, your heart perhaps filled with joy and some kind of wordless experience of beauty. The combination of your choices in this instrument seem to show that those powerful moments created an empathic disposition, which manifests in how you act, or at least try to act, in your day to day.

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

Research has indicated that the experience of oneness with Nature has a direct connection to shaping a more sustainable society and planet. However you know this is not yet mainstream.

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.

Your heart knows the message: We need to re-connect with Nature and re-establish the experience of oneness that has been lost, causing not only spiritual alienation but also the artificial separation from the ecosystem. It has been found related not only to 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.

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

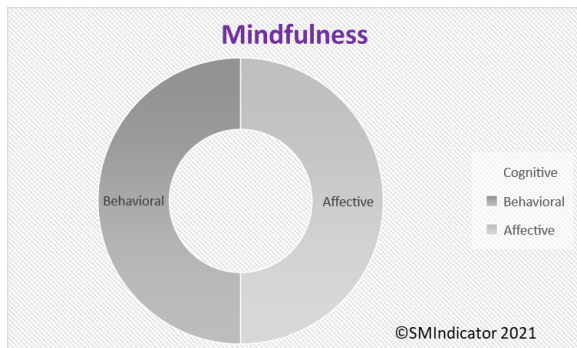
Do you realize that you are an ambassador of this worldview, perhaps not through what you say, but may be in your lifestyle decisions?

What are some areas in which you would like to express the sense of oneness a bit more? You can list a few goals that help you work towards them.

*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.*



**/WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE:  
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 two dimensions, the behavioral and affective. This means that you connect emotionally with this aspect, and act upon it, perhaps without a full understanding of why it is important. You may find it interesting to deepen your understanding of this principle.**

**YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE THAT** you have a pragmatic approach to life.

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. 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 the culture to which you belong. As the saying goes, “when in Rome do as the Romans do”.

You realize there may be an impact on our health and wellness, like being in a race to pursue the moving targets of our goals.

You indicate that you have discovered activities that quiet your mind, and help you gain some inner peace. You may not make these a regular practice, but when you engage in them, you can recognize the positive effect they have on your wellbeing. At the same time, it seems quite challenging for you to make the time and space for these moments.

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

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.

You have experienced it firsthand: When you allow some time to nurture this neglected part of yourself, you experience a positive impact on how you feel about yourself, and how you interact with others. At the same time, it seems quite challenging to make the time and space for those moments.

Sometimes you hear people say “you should do less, you should relax, you should take time for yourself”, and these suggestions may sound anywhere from unreal to ridiculous from your perspective, since you are the one living with the challenges. Of course you know what you ‘should’ do, but you are doing your best all the time.

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

## /HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:

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? Have you ever reflected on the high value our world gives to consumption, linking “who we are” with “what we have or own”? How do these thoughts align with your experience, and with your values? Does your reality reflect the priorities that are important for you? If not, what are some small changes you can make?

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

## /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?



**/WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE:  
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:**

**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 think it is important to find a purpose in life, to identify something that, by making a difference, makes our life meaningful. You actually state that you may have found it, through actions that serve others.

It is possible that part of your obligations and responsibilities are to serve others, to attend to their needs or expectations. Your work, family, perhaps relationships, form part of your reality

and use up your available energy – and you perceive this as your service. Or you may have found a cause where you can contribute your unique skills and talents, for the greater good.

Your choices in the questionnaire indicate that it is not a good feeling for you not to have a meaningful life. And you wonder if we are on journey of seeking and finding answers to the question of “Why am I here?”

Indeed, for some the answer is clear and endures over time. For others, it changes and makes us seek renewed answers. When what you are doing no longer satisfies you, it is actually a great signal. The tension we feel indicates that something has already begun to shift and we are on a path of further growth and transformation.

**/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.

**/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

With this in mind, what are some new experiments you can try? What are some different things for

the greater good that you already did, and perhaps could repeat, do regularly, or improve? Which of your natural gifts and skills could you put into service for the greater good, in a cause for which you have a passion?

Don't get intimidated by grandiose words like 'changing the world' or having a life mission or purpose. In fact, each small action of kindness has already an impact that we may never be able to imagine. That is also changing the world, one interaction at a time.

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



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

*Thank you!*

