



Sustainability  
Mindset  
Indicator®

# PERSONAL REPORT

PREPARED FOR:  
Erika McNaughton  
07/Jan/2026

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If for every dollar in minute that we invest in AI, we invest another dollar in developing our own consciousness, our own mind, we will be ok.

**Yuval Noah Harari**

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

How ready do you feel you are to deal with the complexity we are living in? How do you respond to the increasing polarization, to the need to expand our attention to stakeholders impacted by our daily decisions? How comfortable are you planning and yet letting go of your plans as you consider the feedback that reality is giving you? How easy is it for you to adapt, revisit your assumptions, unleash your creativity, and innovate? **These are some of the key indicators of resilience.**

We find comfort in our plans, in the 'known and tried out' ways of doing things. Yet this may also be the obstacle that slows us down when we need to find new ways of acting that have a better impact on the world. While much is talked about the future that awaits us, it's easy to forget that it is us, each one of us, who is shaping this future with our daily decisions and actions. Yet, rushed as we all live in these demanding times, we may not take the moment to pause, observe where we are, what our most precious goals and values are, and how our day, today, is reflecting those values, leading us to those goals. And what course corrections we may want to do!

**This is the Era of Purpose.** How mindful are you of your larger purpose? Setting a purpose becomes the compass offering certainty in a world filled with uncertainty. Are you giving yourself the gift of a pause, to ask yourself what your larger, higher purpose could be?

You may recognize in these lines some aspects that were addressed in the statements offered to you in the Sustainability Mindset Indicator, as you were invited to reflect and choose which best represented you. This report constitutes a picture, a map of your personal journey towards a resilient, purposeful, creative mindset for flourishing as an individual that is making a difference in the world. Which is sustainability at its best.

# 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.**

## SUSTAINABILITY MINDSET INDICATOR



Sustainability  
Mindset  
Indicator

# / YOUR OVERALL **SUSTAINABILITY MINDSET PROFILE**

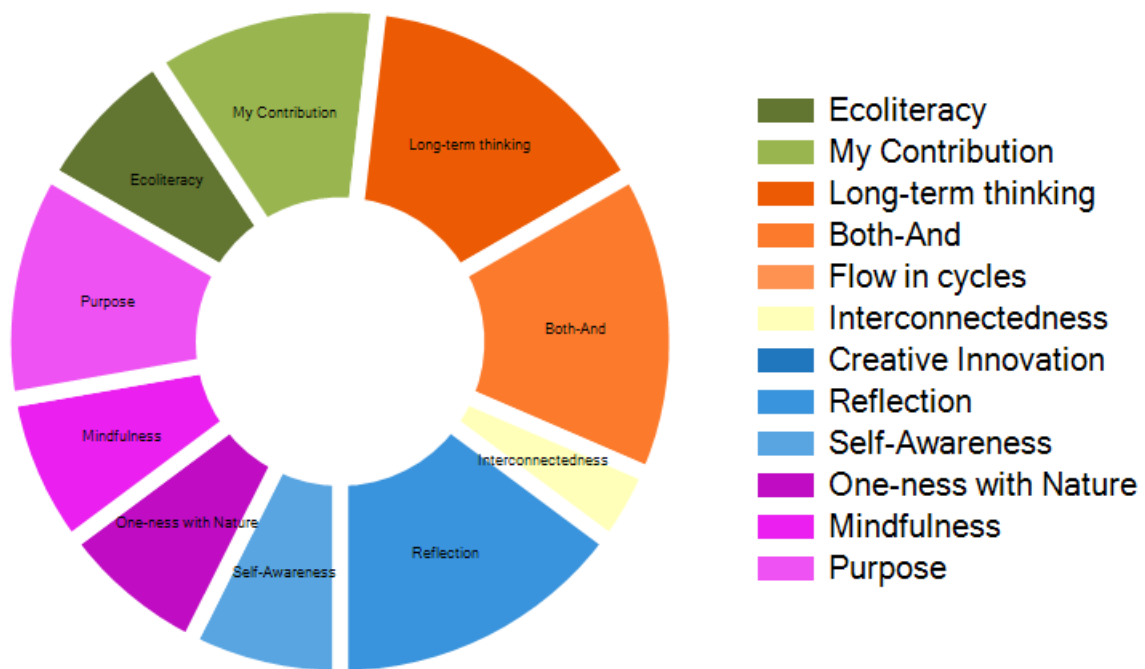
## **SUSTAINABILITY MINDSET INDICATOR**

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**THIS PAGE IS HERE FOR YOU TO  
NOTE YOUR REFLECTIONS,  
INSIGHTS, AND QUESTIONS.**

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.





# /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:

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

Furthermore, in your daily decisions **you are comfortable** acting in ways that can minimize your ecological or social footprint, and/or help the sustainability of our planet.

That said, you seem to be emotionally distanced from negative feelings related to the state of our society or our planet.

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

The benefit is that this saves you from stress, and may help you stay focused on your daily reality. 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.

## /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 tend to avoid the news because they make 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. Understanding the scope of the sustainability challenges, from the environmental and social perspective, allows us to start noticing linkages, relationships and connections.

The other powerful path is in our emotions.

## /HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:

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 more 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.*

**/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 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 are a very sensitive person, with an open heart, and you have a skill to connect with your emotions, and 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.

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

Particularly, it may collide with your pragmatic approach to the world. You seek to distance

yourself from distressing information about sustainability problems to avoid getting too 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!

**/YOU ARE COMFORTABLE WHEN** you can take a proactive role. Instead of remaining "the victim," you choose to act. 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.

**/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 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 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:**

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 long-term sustainability impacts that our decisions may have, even the simple and daily ones, not to mention behaviors commonly accepted in our society.

In addition, this understanding is not indifferent to you: You are a sensitive person who seems to get worried about the long-term impact that your decisions or lifestyle may be having on the planet. It is difficult to live with this feeling!

**/YOU ARE COMFORTABLE WHEN** you convert the emotional motivation into actions. In this case, you seem to have a natural tendency to think 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.

You probably sense that the world around demands a fast pace, decisiveness, focusing just on the tangible short term and continues as if no such thing as a long-term impact would be realistic. But change never starts as mainstream, and you may be showing a new way of doing things – for the sustainability of the whole.

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

There is definitely 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 weighing 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.



*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.*

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

How comfortable are you bringing the long-term perspective into the conversation? Do you sense that sometimes you hold back, because it is not so popular? Are you fully aware that your perspective, by not being culturally mainstream, is what we all need more? Is this something that may encourage you further to speak up?

**/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:**

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

**/YOU ARE COMFORTABLE** putting yourself into another person's shoes, trying to see life from their point of view, as puzzling at it might be. It makes you feel really good when you do so, in a

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

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

You have a very valuable characteristic, particularly in our sustainability-challenged times, where the solutions to our environmental or social problems must be found considering a wide array of interests and needs. Your empathy and understanding of the importance of the inclusion of all stakeholders lead you to frequently wonder how other people arrive at their opinions and perspectives, engaging with a sincere curiosity in conversations to understand them.

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

Certainly, your life is not exempt from dilemmas and hesitations, as you ponder the boundaries of inclusion and acceptance.

When is it appropriate to invest time in finding both-and solutions? When are you faced with a clear either-or choice? When and how is it important to stand up for your values, and when is the moment to understand how they are relative - contextual perhaps, and we need to step into other people's shoes to understand better their perspective?

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

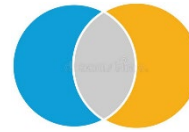


aware of very different ways of thinking, being and acting with which we may not agree or be comfortable.

Challenging as this may be, there is a silver lining: 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.*

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

Here are a couple of questions to consider:

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

What are your next developmental goals? What do you want to become better at, related to inclusion and Both-And thinking?

**/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 you, crafting plans and setting goals to measure your progress. This allows you to feel empowered and in control, which is a nice feeling, particularly as it avoids the stress of uncertainty.

**/YOU ARE COMFORTABLE** making plans and implementing them, and derive a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction when you achieve the goals you set for yourself. We cannot comment on how you think about this, 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 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, you also may have noticed that it is frequently 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 to think about, indeed.

*Here are 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?*

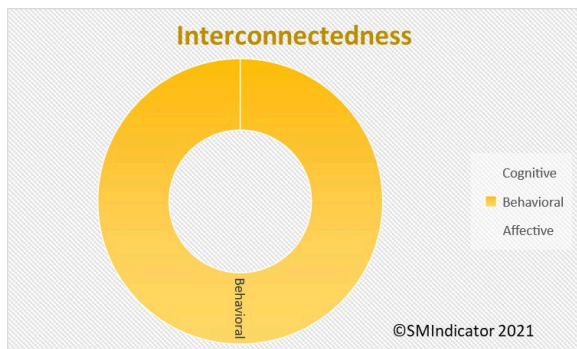
Relaxing your grip on plans may cause uncertainty, yet like swimming along with the river's current, it can also increase your speed, and reduce the stress of resisting obstacles. Worth a try.

*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 – behavioral - meaning that you are action- oriented, without much engagement of your feelings and without necessarily thinking about this aspect intellectually. You might use this information to seek ways to expand your understanding and explore your emotions.

**YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE THAT** 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.

Additionally, you enjoy the adrenaline of the challenges that motivate you. The excitement of seeking to be successful, to win or to outperform others is a pleasant 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.

**Interestingly though,** your choices in this questionnaire indicate that, in your actions, you actually see yourself as part of a larger whole, which may mean that you pay attention to the impact of your behaviors on others. This may create a certain tension, for example when you want to make progress on something, yet you also have to consult with others, for example stakeholders. How do you handle this tension?

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

This combination of aspects 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:

Let's pause for a moment: Can you name one achievement that was purely and authentically your own without another person playing any role in it?

We invite you to explore what success and autonomy mean for you. What are the roots of these values for you, perhaps in your upbringing or in your current context? Are they authentically a priority for you, or are they something automatically inherited, or adopted without giving it much thought?

*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.**

**YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE THAT** you have a clear understanding of the value of your logical and analytical thinking abilities.

You know that the human mind is capable of great accomplishments, as history has shown. And you trust that our sustainability problems might be addressed with rational thinking and good strategies.

**You feel most comfortable when** you can think things through, following proven steps and organizing reality into priorities. You enjoy order and dislike the uncertainty of chaotic situations. These preferences make you a great contributor of rational thinking when analyzing a problem. You may find yourself in the role of the defender of structure and stability, and the keeper of the status quo. You are careful to avoid what you consider as unnecessary risks.

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

That said, 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 the complexity of our challenges, and we are skeptical of the effectiveness 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. Having no plans or blueprints to follow may be unsettling, and the only choice is to take some risks.

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

These seem to be your current challenges: How can you feel more comfortable trying and experimenting without knowing?

Here is a thought to consider: What are some situations in which you are creative, relaxed and playful? Perhaps cooking or gardening? Playing some team sports? Or around small children? Maybe planning a party?

If you can identify some of these creative and playful moments, in them you have a reservoir of imagination available to tap into. This can help 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.*





*This page is here for you to note your reflections, insights, and questions.*



**/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:**

**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 sense that we are collectively trapped in an accelerated pace.

Perhaps you notice your own speed, or see it in others. The fact is that you observe and seem to think about this phenomenon, and may be asking yourself about the cost of this upon you or others. How is it possible to contemplate the future

implications of decisions taken under the pressure of speed?

**You are comfortable** seeking a slower pace of life. It makes you feel better, more relaxed or lowers your stress levels.

Furthermore, it seems that you frequently pause and explore what might be at stake in a decision, or check the assumptions at play before acting. This behavior, seemingly at odds with how the world works these days, must have given you good results in the past, which reinforced it and now keeps you decelerating in critical moments.

Congratulations if this is the case, since you are helping to avoid many problems in the future. A valuable and timely contribution!

**/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.

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

For example, what can we learn to avoid or repeat from past experiences? Can we identify, in hindsight, something that was at stake and overlooked because we were trying to act fast? 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.

What might be new ways of combining urgently needed actions with careful exploration of their impacts? *What role could you see there for you?* Do you think you could be more vocal and perhaps find more courage to offer a perspective that certainly is not mainstream?

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

According to your answers, you seem to be gifted with the understanding that something is not right. *In what areas do you see your next developmental horizon?* Perhaps it is to more confidently share a different way of being and living with others?

And at a personal level, does it happen to you that you wish you could relax more, slow down or do nothing? Does your body, your mind or perhaps your soul call for a break, less stress? What message may be there for you, waiting to be heard and acted upon?

A lot of 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 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 not have 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 from continuing to do 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 environmentally 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 realized that some of 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 do 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:

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** 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.

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

This said, have you noticed that some betterments have come at a cost for the environment or society, and we are collectively paying that price? For

example, soil erosion or waterways contamination from chemical crop fertilizers meant to enhance soil productivity.

It seems that 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?

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

Your answers to the survey also indicate that you have actually experienced some special moments when you stood in awe, admiring nature, your heart perhaps filled with joy and a wordless experience of beauty.

What memories did that moment leave you with? Do you long to replicate, repeat or experience this again? Does something hold you back?

The combination of your chosen responses seems to show that those powerful moments may remain encapsulated, disconnected from your more rational daily manner of being. This may be your functional way of operating in a society that rewards rational thinking and intellectual capabilities, and that encourages a utilitarian or instrumental approach to the natural world and its resources.

There is a buried treasure here for you, though! Having had an experience of oneness with Nature, you have the possibility to reach back into it and honor it, reintegrating it into who you are.

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

We rely on and praise scientific progress, but history has demonstrated that scientific findings are always 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.

Research has indicated that the experience of oneness with Nature, albeit rare, has a direct connection to shaping a more sustainable society and planet. Unfortunately, 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. 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?*

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.

## /HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:

You seem to have experienced it: a sensorial, intuitive understanding. It is not something to be learned, but rather an experience that we allow to happen, and

which makes us remember something we have always known but had forgotten.

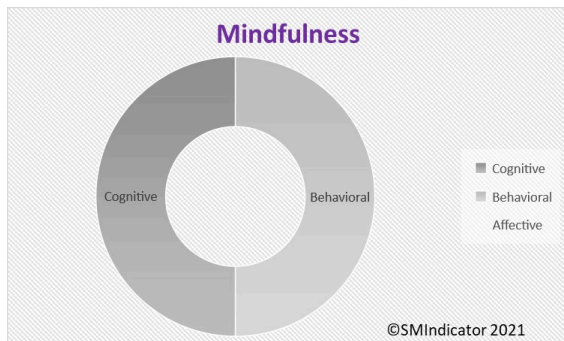
How can you plan to have more of these moments? Your being, your soul will welcome it, and the nourishment may help heal a perhaps currently divided self.

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!

*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:**

**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 observe that we live in a world that rewards consumption, linking “who we are” with “what we do, have, or own”.

You see this materialistic pattern in society, with its consequences on how we have to keep busy doing things, seeking to make money to be able to belong, feel respected and valued. You realize the unfortunate impact that this implicit message has on our health and well-being. It's like being

trapped in a race to pursue an elusive and short-lived happiness.

This seems to be part of your world at this time, according to your choices in the questionnaire, and there are many challenges that you need to attend to. When our reality is challenging, it poses a high demand on our physical, emotional and psychological well-being, which we all try to manage in the best way we can.

You seem, at times, to experience the tension and stress that comes with your demanding reality. You may notice it in your health, sleeping patterns, moods, or in how you relate to others as a result.

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

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.

Sometimes you hear people say “you should do less, you should relax, you should take time for yourself”, etc., 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.

## **/IT'S TIME TO PAUSE.**

How can you better listen to what your body tells you, both through the tension and through the release when you allow yourself some of those activities that give you a moment of peace? Would you like to find



a way to make your life easier, more satisfying or less stressful, perhaps?

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 yourself: when you allow some time to nurture this neglected part of yourself you realize the positive impact that small practices of slowing down have on your peace of mind, how you relate to others and even on your 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.

### **/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. Do you want to give it a try?

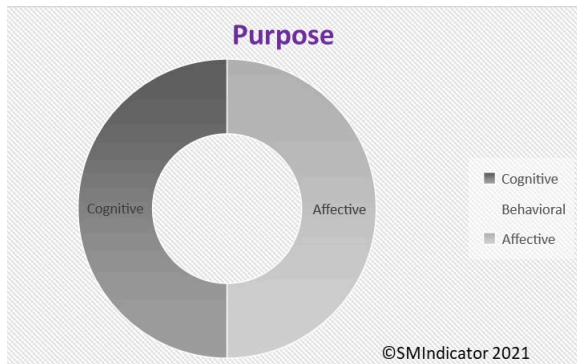
### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

There are certain words that, just by thinking of them create an expansion in our heart, bringing positive feelings. From a biological perspective, they cause our system to release dopamine, the so-called happiness hormone. Can you think of some of these words? How do they make you feel? For starters, a small but powerful gift that you well deserve!

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



**/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:**

**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 think it is important to find a purpose in life, to identify something that, by making a difference, makes our life meaningful. It is not a good feeling for you not to have a meaningful life. And you wonder if you are on journey of seeking and finding answers to the question of “Why am I here?” This is a great question!

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.

At the same time, you sense that you need to set priorities, and what is urgent needs attention before what sounds important, like thinking about what our purpose in life is.

Focusing is an important skill in times when there seem to be more obligations and things we are expected to take care of, than hours in a day. Work, family, relationships, career or health issues can use up all your available energy, often even leaving you with the feeling that nothing you do is enough.

When topics arise like contributing to society, you believe this may be something to do once your other obligations diminish and you free up some time, hopefully in retirement.

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

This resolution doesn’t fully satisfy you, which is actually a great start. When we sense a tension between what we are doing and what we would like, something has already started to shift, and we are on a path of growth and transformation.

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 at times, 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 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!*

