

**Call for Book Chapters**

**Book title: Corporate Sustainability in Africa: Responsible Leadership, Opportunities, and Challenges**

**Editors:**

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**Submission Deadline: March 1, 2022**

**Overview and Motivation**

Corporate sustainability has captured the attention of popular press, environmental activists, policy makers and business practitioners for decades. Yet, despite the importance of sustainability practices in ensuring sustainable business and competitive advantage, the challenges (financial and non-financial) surrounding sustainability and its implementation continue to be one of the biggest barriers to firms operating in developing countries (Boso et al, 2017; Danso et al, 2020). With poor institutional and technical capabilities to tackle sustainability and environmental management issues by African nations, firms operating in this context often find it difficult to cooperate with stakeholders, and governments to address environmental sustainability problems. For example, challenges of environmental pollution, increasing population and poor water accessibility are difficult to handle by governments alone. Several cases of environmental and public health problems have been reported on the continent including oil spillage in the Niger Delta in Nigeria and Angola and, malnutrition in Somalia. In addition, with the promotion of industrialization to achieve economic development in Africa, carbon emissions have quadrupled in the last decade (Adekunle, 2020). This has put pressure on firms across Africa to improve their sustainability practices. Specifically, the environmental challenges have amplified the expectations of firms operating in developing countries of being visible in integrating sustainable business practices for their employees and business partners along their global supply chains (Gardiner, 2020). However, these challenges remain consistently under-researched in the African context in comparison to developed countries.

Given the critical role that both indigenous African firms and foreign subsidiaries in Africa play in contributing to economic growth across the continent, there is a great societal expectation of these firms towards enhancing environmental stewardship and social responsibility. In fact, ignoring sustainability and social responsibility could be detrimental (Adomako et al, 2019; Adomako, Ning, and Adu-Ameyaw, 2020) for the enterprising effort of these firms because societal expectations for them to be more sustainable to continue to grow.

In the main, sustainability, social responsibility, society, and ethics motivate scholarship from diverse disciplines - e.g., management, finance, accounting, marketing, operations, supply chain, political science, sociology, psychology, and economics (Danso, et al., 2019; 2020). Each discipline makes significant contributions to this topical area, and most researchers agree that inter-disciplinary research can be highly revelatory. Surprisingly, and perhaps regrettably, the limited number of truly inter-disciplinary studies, including in special issues, suggests that the more can and should be done to intensify cross-boundary sustainability research, especially, in Africa (Amankwah-Amoah, Danso, & Adomako, 2019).

Thus, key questions that remain unanswered in the literature concern the nature of sustainability/social activities of indigenous African firms and foreign subsidiaries in Africa. Specifically, despite the attention by scholars and practitioners towards indigenous African firms and foreign subsidiaries in Africa and given their critical role in various economies, the contributions of these firms to sustainability/social activities have been underestimated. We believe that - given the complexity and overlap of and interrelations between sustainability, society, and business ethics - it is even more important to feature manuscripts that are dedicated to exemplary cross-disciplinary studies on this multilateral topic.

The call seeks to provide a contribution to the development of sustainability management of firms in Africa, addressing empirical, theoretical and policy perspectives. We aim to document cases of sustainability activities across Africa and to accelerate knowledge about the opportunities and challenges facing firms operating in Africa. This is likely to highlight innovative, responsible consumption, entrepreneurship, and production activities in African firms. Indeed, this call presents a unique opportunity for scholars and practitioners to examine these issues in greater detail. Therefore, we aim to attract book chapters that examine various aspects of sustainability and sustainable entrepreneurship/innovations in the African context.

### **Illustrative topics**

The editors do not have any methodological preference. Chapters submitted to this call will undergo a rigorous peer review procedure. We invite theoretical, empirical, historical, and policy-oriented contributions from different traditions in business and management that advance the state of knowledge on corporate sustainability in Africa.

Topics include, but not limited to:

- Entrepreneurial solutions to environmental and social problems in Africa
- Foreign subsidiaries' relationship with indigenous private sector organizations in Africa to generate sustainable innovation.
- Multinational enterprises, sustainability activities, and SDGs implementation in Africa
- Mechanisms of promoting sustainability practices in indigenous African firms
- Inter-firm collaboration and sustainable innovation/sustainable activities.
- Business models, Fair Trade, and green entrepreneurship in Africa
- Sustainability activities and the transformation of African firms
- Government involvement and sustainability in African firms.
- Sustainability programmes: challenges and opportunities
- Stakeholder management and sustainability strategy.
- Government support and SMEs or new ventures' sustainability strategy.
- Sustainability/social strategies to supporting underserved rural community businesses in Africa
- Sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems in Africa
- Bribery, corruption, and sustainability activities
- African response to SDGs: Barriers and challenges
- Corporate governance and sustainability in Africa
- Organisational culture and corporate sustainability in Africa
- Gold mining and sustainable practices: Challenges and Solutions
- Sustainable agriculture in Africa
- Knowledge transfer and sustainability activities within MNEs
- Sustainability activities and business model innovation
- Leadership and sustainability in Africa
- Gender and sustainability in Africa

**Paper Submission Schedule:**

Full chapter submission: **August 1, 2021, and March 1, 2022**

Review process and feedback: **June 30, 2022**

Revised chapter submission: **August 30, 2022**

Final notification: **October 30, 2022**

**Questions concerning and submissions may be addressed to all the editors of the book. Manuscripts should be submitted to any of the editors below:**

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**Short Biography:**

**Dr Samuel Adomako** is an Associate Professor of Strategy at the Birmingham Business School, University of Birmingham, UK. Prior to joining the University of Birmingham, Dr Adomako held teaching and research positions in King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia and the University of Bradford, UK. His research work has been published or forthcoming in leading scholarly journals such as *British Journal of Management*, *International Small Business Journal*, *Journal of Business Research*, *International Business Review*, *Journal of International Management*, *R&D Management Journal*, *International Review of Financial Analysis*, *Business Strategy*, and *the Environment*. He received his Ph.D. from Warwick Business School, University of Warwick (AACSB, EQUIS and AMBA Accredited) and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, United Kingdom.

**Dr Albert Danso** is an Associate Professor and a Deputy Head (Research and Enterprise) of the Accounting and Finance Department within the Leicester Castle Business School at the De Montfort University. Albert joined Leicester Business School in November 2016 from Richmond, The American University in London, where he was an Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Economics. Prior to joining Richmond, Albert was a Lecturer at Leeds Beckett University. Albert has a PhD in Finance from The University of York Management School - UK. Albert has published extensively in several internationally recognised journals, such as *Journal of Financial Research*, *International Journal of Finance and Economics*, *International Review of Financial Analysis*, *Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting*, *Managerial Finance*, *Journal of Business Research*, *International Business Review*, *Industrial Marketing Management*, *International Small Business Journal* and *Venture Capital*.

**Professor Agyenim Boateng** is Professor in Finance and Director of Finance & Banking Research Centre, Faculty of Business & Law, De Montfort University, Leicester. He has served in senior management positions including Head of Internal Audit, Senior Postgraduate Research Tutor/Chair of the Doctoral Progression Committee, and Founding Director of Doctoral Programme, University of Nottingham Campus in China. Agyenim has ongoing research interests in corporate finance, firm

governance and more recently blockchain technology. He has published over 70 academic papers and books. His work has received national and international awards such as 2009 British Academy Management Conference Best Paper Award; 2013 Best Elsevier Paper; and 2015 Emerald Citations of Excellence Award. He has also managed research projects in China and the UK.

### Full-length chapter submission

Please follow the instructions provided by Palgrave Macmillan's guidelines.

**Length of the chapter:** 4500-6000 words, single-spaced, 12-point font size, Times New Roman. Pages should be numbered consecutively.

*Note. Authors are responsible for professional copy-editing of submitted manuscripts.*

Chapter abstracts are strongly encouraged. These will appear online at Springer Link and other sites and will be available with unrestricted access to facilitate online searching and allow unregistered users to read the abstract as a teaser for the complete chapter. Begin each chapter with an abstract that summarizes the content of the chapter in no more than 200 words.

**Keywords:** up to 5

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