

AFRICA SUSTAINABLE INSURANCE SUMMIT 2026

ESG AWARDS

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR NOMINEES

Below are the category-specific terms of reference and nomination guidelines for each ESG Award category at the Africa Sustainable Insurance Summit 2026 (ASIS 2026). Each section outlines the award's purpose, who is eligible, what information nominees are expected to submit, and how submissions will be evaluated.

Nominees should refer to the relevant category for detailed guidance and ensure their submission addresses all criteria.

CATEGORY 1: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE AWARD

Category Description:

This award **recognises outstanding efforts in environmental stewardship and climate risk management** within the insurance industry. It honours a project or programme that has demonstrably **reduced environmental impact, enhanced climate resilience, or promoted green practices** through insurance.

Examples of eligible initiatives include innovative climate risk insurance products (e.g. drought or flood microinsurance schemes), “green” claims management processes that reduce waste, or internal sustainability programmes to cut the insurer’s own carbon footprint.

The winning entry will exemplify leadership in **addressing environmental challenges through insurance solutions.**

Eligibility & Scope:

Organisations operating in Africa’s insurance sector are eligible (insurers, reinsurers, brokers, industry associations, NGOs partnering on insurance initiatives, etc.). The initiative should be primarily implemented



in African markets or communities and have achieved significant milestones or results in the **last 1–3 years (approximately 2023–2025)**.

Older projects can be considered if they have recent, measurable outcomes or scaling in this period.

Each nomination should pertain to **one specific initiative** (an organisation may submit different projects to different categories, but **the same project cannot be nominated in multiple categories**). Ensure that the initiative aligns with high ethical standards (projects will be disqualified if associated with unethical conduct or regulatory breaches).

Nomination Submission Requirements:

Each nomination for this category should include the following key information:

- **Overview of the Initiative:** A clear summary of the project or programme, including its name, timeline, and objectives. Explain the environmental issue or opportunity it addresses and how it is embedded in the insurance business (e.g. product line, operations, partnership).
- **Environmental Impact Achieved:** Provide concrete evidence of the initiative's impact on environmental outcomes or climate resilience. Include measurable results where possible (e.g. *reduction in carbon emissions, number of farmers insured against drought, area of habitat protected via insurance incentives, etc.*). Highlight how the initiative contributes to environmental sustainability or disaster risk reduction for communities.
- **Innovation and Uniqueness:** Describe what is innovative about this initiative. How does it differ from business-as-usual in the insurance industry? For instance, mention any new technologies, insurance products, or business models introduced. Explain why this approach is pioneering or creative in tackling environmental challenges.
- **Scalability and Replicability:** Discuss the potential for expanding or replicating this initiative. Could it be scaled up to benefit more people or rolled out in other regions? Provide any evidence of growth plans, scaling successes, or interest from other markets. If the initiative began as a pilot, outline the roadmap for scaling to a larger programme.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Outline how stakeholders were involved in the initiative's design and implementation. Identify key partners (e.g. government agencies, NGOs, community organisations, clients) and describe collaboration efforts. Also mention how customers or community members were engaged or consulted, and any steps taken to ensure transparency, ethics, and inclusivity in the project's rollout.
- **Alignment with Sustainability Goals:** Briefly explain how the initiative supports broader sustainability objectives such as the **Nairobi Declaration on Sustainable Insurance, Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI)** or relevant **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Describe any internal commitment by your leadership or organisation to ESG values (for example, if the initiative is part of a larger sustainability strategy or if policies/culture were changed to enable it).



- **Supporting Evidence:** You may attach or reference supporting materials that strengthen your nomination. This could include reports, press releases, data charts, testimonials from beneficiaries or partners, awards or certifications, etc. (Ensure any claims of impact are verifiable, as the organizers may request evidence for validation.)

Evaluation Criteria:

Nominees should ensure their entry addresses each of these points clearly:

- **Impact:** The **measurable environmental impact** and resilience benefits achieved by the initiative. Evidence of tangible outcomes, for example, reduction in pollution or carbon emissions, increased climate risk coverage for vulnerable populations, improvements in ecological indicators, or other sustainability benefits directly linked to the project.
- **Innovation:** The level of **innovation and originality** demonstrated. How creative or groundbreaking is the initiative within the insurance industry? Whether the project introduces new ideas, products, or processes that represent a departure from traditional insurance practice.
- **Scalability & Replicability:** The potential for the initiative to **expand or be replicated** across other regions or by other organisations. Is the model financially and operationally sustainable such that it could grow in scope? A strong nomination will demonstrate that the project's impact is not one-off: it has longevity and wider applicability in the future.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The extent to which the initiative involved **stakeholders and partnerships**, and how well it addressed the needs of those stakeholders. Entries should illustrate collaboration with relevant parties (e.g. working with government on climate policy, partnering with community organisations, or engaging clients in product design).
- **Alignment with ESG Goals:** How well the initiative aligns with the overarching **sustainable insurance mission** (such as the Principles for Sustainable Insurance, UN Global Compact and SDGs) and the commitment shown by the organisation's leadership.

CATEGORY 2: SOCIAL IMPACT & INCLUSION AWARD

Category Description:

This award **celebrates initiatives that advance social responsibility and financial inclusion** in the insurance sector. It honours projects or programmes that have significantly **improved access to insurance for underserved or vulnerable populations** or otherwise delivered tangible social benefits through insurance.



Examples of qualifying initiatives include: microinsurance schemes for low-income communities or informal workers, insurance products that support health, education or livelihoods, partnerships that extend insurance to rural areas, or internal corporate programmes that promote diversity, equity and inclusion or consumer education.

The winning initiative will demonstrate **measurable social impact** such as closing the insurance protection gap, empowering communities with risk protection, or upholding social justice and welfare – achieved via an insurance-related project.

Eligibility & Scope:

As with the environmental category, this award is open to **organisations across Africa's insurance industry** (insurers, reinsurers, intermediaries, NGOs or social enterprises involved in insurance, etc.). The project should be focused on African beneficiaries or markets and should have been implemented or reached key milestones in roughly the **past 1–3 years**.

It must specifically address social needs or inclusion in the context of insurance services. Nominees should only submit a given initiative to one category if your project has both environmental and social elements, choose the category that best fits its primary impact. All nominations are expected to adhere to high ethical and governance standards; any initiative associated with unethical practices or violations of regulations will be disqualified.

Nomination Submission Requirements:

Nominations for the Social Impact & Inclusion Award should include detailed information as follows:

- **Overview of the Initiative:** Provide a summary of the project, including its name, duration, and main goals. Explain the social challenge or opportunity it targets (e.g. low insurance penetration in a segment, gender gap in insurance, lack of healthcare coverage, etc.), and how the initiative was designed to address it through insurance or risk management solutions.
- **Social Impact and Results:** Describe the **tangible social benefits or outcomes** of the initiative, backed by data if available. For instance, include metrics like *number of people insured or assisted*, *demographic details of the community reached* (e.g. women, farmers, low-income families), *claims paid or financial relief provided*, or specific improvements in quality of life (health outcomes, financial stability, etc.) attributable to the programme. Emphasise how the project has **closed an insurance protection gap or improved inclusion** in a meaningful way.
- **Innovation in Approach:** Explain what is novel or especially effective about the approach taken. Did the initiative employ an innovative distribution model (for example, mobile technology or community networks for microinsurance)? Does it involve a new product design tailored to a marginalised group's needs, or a creative partnership (maybe with NGOs, governments, or digital platforms) that made the project successful? Highlight any unique features that distinguish it from standard insurance offerings.



- **Scalability and Future Outlook:** Discuss the potential for the initiative to grow or be replicated elsewhere. If the project started as a pilot, what are the plans for scaling up to reach more people or new regions? Is the model financially sustainable and operationally feasible at a larger scale? Provide any evidence of uptake, such as additional funding, more partners joining, or expansion to new areas. If other organisations could replicate this model, mention how it could serve as a blueprint for broader industry adoption.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Identify key stakeholders involved and describe how you engaged them. This may include the target community (and how their feedback shaped the product), local organisations or cooperatives, regulators or policymakers who supported enabling conditions, and any co-funders or delivery partners. Explain how these collaborations made the project more effective (for example, trust-building in communities, or premium subsidies from government) and how you ensured the initiative was **inclusive, culturally sensitive, and transparent**.
- **Alignment with ESG and Inclusion Goals:** Articulate how the initiative aligns with wider sustainability and inclusion commitments. For example, link it to the Nairobi Declaration's aims of inclusive insurance, or relevant SDGs (such as **No Poverty, Good Health & Well-being, Gender Equality**, etc. depending on the project's nature). Mention any corporate policy or strategy emphasising social responsibility that gave rise to this project. Show that the organisation's leadership supports the initiative, indicating a durable commitment to its success and to ESG values.
- **Supporting Materials:** You may include additional documentation or media to support your nomination. This might be beneficiary testimonials, case studies, videos or photos of programme activities, published articles, or impact evaluation reports. Such evidence can substantiate the claims of social impact and provide a richer understanding of the project's significance.

Evaluation Criteria:

Nominees should ensure their entry addresses each of these points clearly:

- **Impact:** The **depth and extent of social impact** achieved. How significantly the initiative has improved lives or increased insurance inclusion. The impact should be well-substantiated with data or credible qualitative evidence.
- **Innovation:** The degree of **innovation in solving social/inclusion challenges** through insurance. It should consider whether the project introduced creative solutions to overcome barriers (such as affordability, awareness, or distribution issues that traditionally limit insurance uptake among certain groups). Essentially, how creatively does the initiative address the identified social needs?
- **Scalability & Replicability:** The **potential for broader application** of the initiative. Whether the project is scalable to a larger population or replicable across different contexts (e.g., other countries or communities).

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The quality of **stakeholder and community engagement** in the project. It should demonstrate that the initiative was not developed in isolation, it involved those it seeks to help and earned their trust, and it collaborated with partners to leverage complementary strengths.
- **Alignment with ESG Goals:** How well the project supports the **broader goals of sustainable and inclusive development** in Africa's insurance industry. It should reflect a genuine commitment to ESG principles, such as reducing inequalities, empowering communities, and ensuring ethical conduct. This criterion also covers the organisation's overall dedication to sustainability (e.g. does it treat this project as part of a long-term strategy or just a one-off?).

CATEGORY 3: EMERGING SUSTAINABLE INSURANCE LEADER (UNDER 40) AWARD

Category Description:

This award honours a **young individual (age 40 or under)** who has shown exceptional leadership in advancing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles within the African insurance sector. It spotlights **up-and-coming talent**, for example, an emerging executive, entrepreneur, or programme manager who has been a driving force for sustainability and innovation in their organisation or the industry at large.

The nominee's contributions might include launching successful ESG-oriented projects, championing sustainable business practices, or inspiring colleagues and industry peers to adopt more sustainable and inclusive approaches. By highlighting a role model from the younger generation, this award aims to encourage the next wave of insurance leaders to continue innovating for sustainability.

Eligibility & Scope:

Nominees must be **40 years old or younger** as of the cutoff date for the 2026 awards (exact date to be specified, e.g., **born on or after 1 January 1985** for a 1 January 2026 cutoff).

They should be professionals working in or closely with the insurance sector in Africa this could be within an insurance/reinsurance company, brokerage, regulatory body, insurtech startup, industry association, or NGO working on insurance initiatives.

The individual should have a **track record of accomplishments in the past few years** specifically related to integrating ESG/sustainability in insurance. They can be nominated by others or self-nominated, but in either case, the nomination should have the consent of the individual.

Note that one person cannot be nominated for both individual categories; if eligible by age, they belong in the Emerging Leader category (whereas the Lifetime award is meant for a distinguished long career).

Nomination Submission Requirements:

To nominate an Emerging Sustainable Insurance Leader, please prepare a submission that includes:

- **Candidate Profile:** The nominee's name, current job title, organisation, and age/date of birth (to confirm the age criteria). Also provide a brief background of their career (e.g. years in the industry, key roles or areas of expertise).
- **Summary of Sustainability Contributions:** A narrative describing **what the nominee has done to advance ESG and sustainability in insurance**. Focus on specific initiatives or projects the individual led or significantly contributed to. For example, did they design a new sustainable insurance product? Implement a green strategy internally? Lead a community outreach or financial inclusion programme? Outline the context and goals of these efforts.
- **Impact and Results:** Detail the **outcomes** of the nominee's contributions. How have their actions made a difference? Provide evidence or metrics if possible e.g., *“Under [Nominee]’s leadership, the company launched a crop insurance product for 5,000 smallholder farmers, resulting in 70% of those farmers reporting improved resilience after climate-related losses.”* or *“The nominee led a task force to reduce the insurer’s carbon footprint by 30% over two years,”* etc. Quantify results or illustrate impact through a concrete example or testimonial.
- **Leadership and Innovation:** Describe **how the nominee demonstrated leadership qualities and innovative thinking**. This could include taking initiative beyond their formal job scope, overcoming challenges to implement sustainability projects, rallying a team or department around ESG goals, or introducing new ideas that challenged the status quo. Highlight instances where the nominee showed vision, creativity, and the ability to drive change.
- **Influence and Advocacy:** Explain the nominee's influence on others and on the broader insurance community. For instance, mention if the individual has mentored colleagues in sustainable practices, championed ESG in industry forums, contributed to policy dialogues, or formed partnerships to advance sustainability. If they have spoken at events, written articles, or led training related to ESG, include that as evidence of thought leadership. Any recognition the nominee has already received (awards, certifications, media features) can also be noted here to demonstrate industry acknowledgement of their work.
- **Supporting References:** You can include letters of recommendation or brief testimonials from supervisors, peers, or beneficiaries who can vouch for the nominee's contributions. You may also attach relevant articles, project reports, or other documentation that corroborates the achievements mentioned. These can provide the jury with third-party perspectives on the nominee's leadership and impact.

Evaluation Criteria:

Nominees should ensure their entry addresses each of these points clearly:

- **Impact of Achievements:** The significance of the nominee's contributions to sustainability in insurance. It should consider the **real-world impact** of projects the nominee has led or influenced,

how many people benefited, what change was affected in the organisation or market, or what problems were solved.

- **Innovative Leadership:** The nominee's capacity for **leadership and innovation**. This includes their ability to envision and execute new ideas or improvements. Creativity in approach and persistence in driving sustainable change are valued traits under this criterion.
- **Influence & Advocacy:** The breadth and depth of the nominee's **influence** within their sphere. The nominee has gone beyond their own role influencing company policy, shaping industry discussions, or mentoring others in sustainability. Essentially, how has the candidate served as a **champion for sustainable insurance**, and what ripple effects have they created?
- **Growth & Potential:** While this award primarily recognises current achievements, it may also consider the nominee's **potential for future leadership** in sustainable insurance. An emerging leader who has accomplished a lot at a young age is expected to continue on this path. Additionally, personal attributes like integrity, passion, and resilience in the face of challenges can factor into deliberations as they speak to the quality of leadership the person embodies.

CATEGORY 4: LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN SUSTAINABLE INSURANCE AWARD

Category Description:

This prestigious award honours an **individual with a distinguished, decades-spanning career** dedicated to advancing sustainable insurance and ESG excellence in Africa. It is the highest accolade of the programme, celebrating a veteran leader whose long-term contributions have **fundamentally transformed the insurance sector's approach to environmental, social, and governance issues**.

The recipient might be a CEO or executive, a regulator or policymaker, an academic or thought leader, or a leader from civil society. Over their career, they may have championed climate risk solutions, promoted financial inclusion and customer welfare, improved industry governance and ethics, and mentored the next generation.

This award acknowledges **their lifetime of leadership, impact, and commitment** to aligning insurance with sustainable development goals.

Eligibility & Scope:

Nominees should have an extensive career (we suggest **15+ years of experience** in the insurance sector or related risk management field) with a significant portion of their work focused on or consistently integrating ESG principles. They may be still active in the field or recently retired.

Importantly, their influence should be evident at a broad industry or societal level, not just within a single company for example, through initiatives that have been widely adopted, policies influenced, institutions built, or generations of professionals inspired.



As this is an Africa-focused award, the individual's work should have substantially benefited African markets or populations. There is no age restriction (unlike the Emerging Leader category), but typically the nominee will be a senior professional.

Nomination can be by peers, organisations, or by self, but if nominating someone else, ensure you have enough information about their career to submit a strong entry (and ideally their consent/knowledge of the nomination).

Nomination Submission Requirements:

A nomination for the Lifetime Achievement Award should provide a comprehensive overview of the nominee's career and contributions. Key elements to include are:

- **Professional Background:** Start with the nominee's name, current (or last held) title/position, and affiliation(s). Give a summary of their career trajectory – major positions held, organisations served, and total years of involvement in the industry. If relevant, note any particular areas of specialisation (e.g. reinsurance, regulation, microinsurance, academia) to set context.
- **Sustainability Contributions and Milestones:** Detail the **major initiatives, projects, or reforms** that the nominee has led or played a pivotal role in, specifically those related to sustainability/ESG in insurance. This could include founding or scaling important programmes (for example, establishing a pioneering microinsurance scheme or climate risk pool), influencing national or industry-wide policy (such as integrating ESG criteria into insurance regulation or market practice), driving a company's transformation towards sustainability, or significant research/advocacy that shaped industry understanding. Organise this narrative either chronologically or by theme, highlighting a few key milestones that illustrate how the nominee consistently pushed the envelope on sustainable insurance.
- **Impact on Industry and Society:** For each major contribution mentioned, describe the **impact and lasting changes** that resulted. Quantify or qualify the outcomes: for instance, "*Under [Nominee]'s leadership as CEO, insurance access in rural areas increased by X%, reaching Y million new clients over a decade*", or "*The nominee's advocacy led to the adoption of a climate risk underwriting guideline now used industry-wide, fundamentally changing how insurers assess environmental risk.*" Think in terms of legacy: how is the African insurance landscape better today because of this person's efforts? Include any data, accolades, or external acknowledgements that underscore these impacts (e.g. awards the nominee received, positions on international committees, publications or influential reports authored, etc.).
- **Leadership and Mentorship:** Describe the nominee's **leadership style and influence on others** in the industry. This might involve mentoring programmes they initiated, talent they have nurtured (many proteges or colleagues who are now leaders themselves may credit this person), or an organisational culture of sustainability they instilled. If the nominee has been known as an ethical leader or a champion of good governance, mention examples of how they upheld these principles. Also note any roles in capacity-building or knowledge-sharing (for example, did they help establish training institutes, write books, speak frequently at conferences to propagate ESG knowledge?).

- **Enduring Commitment to ESG Values:** Convey how the nominee has **demonstrated unwavering commitment to sustainability and ESG** throughout their career. For instance, highlight whether they were among the early adopters of concepts like microinsurance or climate risk coverage before these were mainstream, or whether they took bold stances on social issues (such as customer fairness, gender inclusion, etc.), setting precedents for others. Show that this individual didn't treat sustainability as a buzzword, but rather it has been a guiding principle of their work over many years. Any long-term involvement in initiatives such as the Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI), the UN Global Compact, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Nairobi Declaration on Sustainable Insurance, or other global collaborations can be noted as evidence of their dedication to the cause.
- **Supporting Documentation:** Given the breadth of a lifetime of work, it can strengthen the nomination to attach a **curriculum vitae (CV)** or a timeline of achievements, if available. Additionally, letters of support from colleagues or institutions, media articles profiling their work, or links to keynote speeches/publications can provide valuable external perspectives on the nominee's stature and influence. These are optional but encouraged to paint a fuller picture of the nominee's legacy.

Evaluation Criteria:

Nominees should ensure their entry addresses each of these points clearly:

- **Cumulative Impact:** The **overall impact of the nominee's work on sustainable insurance and society**. Scale and significance of improvements attributable to the nominee over their career – for example, how many lives were touched or protected through their initiatives, or how their ideas and leadership changed industry practices on a broad level. A lifetime of smaller contributions can be as meaningful as one or two big changes, so the emphasis is on the aggregate positive change effected by the individual.
- **Sustained ESG Leadership:** The nominee's **consistent commitment to ESG principles** and leadership in promoting them. Evidence that the individual has been ahead of the curve in pushing for environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and good governance in insurance, and that they maintained this focus over many years (not just a single project or role). Endurance, consistency, and the courage to champion sustainability even at times it was not popular are qualities that will be recognised.
- **Industry Influence & Legacy:** How the nominee influenced peers, institutions, and the next generation – essentially, their **legacy**. Whether the nominee's ideas or practices have been widely adopted by others, if they helped shape policies or standards, and if they have mentees or followers continuing their work. An exemplary nominee likely inspired or enabled others to pursue sustainability, leaving a lasting imprint on the industry culture or structure. The presence of external recognition (awards, honours, leadership positions in industry bodies) can serve as one indicator of their influence, though the substance of their contributions is paramount.
- **Integrity and Inspiration:** While harder to measure, the **integrity with which the nominee conducted their work** and the inspiration they provided to others are important qualitative factors. Whether the individual is widely respected for ethical conduct, if they have built trust and credibility in the market, and if their career story serves as an inspiration. A winner of this award will typically



embody the highest standards of professionalism and ethical leadership, alongside their technical contributions to sustainability.

Nominees (and nominators) should strive to give a compelling, comprehensive narrative of the individual's career and impact, supported by concrete examples. The award will be bestowed on someone whose career stands as a beacon for what it means to drive sustainable development in insurance over a lifetime.

Note: For all categories, please ensure nominations are submitted by the stated deadline and that they follow any word limits or format requirements indicated on the nomination form.

By submitting a nomination, you agree to the awards' rules and criteria as outlined.

For any inquiries regarding these guidelines or the eligibility of a nomination, please get in touch with the Secretariat of the Nairobi Declaration on Sustainable Insurance for clarification and support.

Contact details:

- info@sustainableinsurancedeclaration.org
- iara@fsdafrica.org

Good luck to all nominees and thank you for your contributions to sustainable insurance in Africa!