



GREEN COMMUNITIES INTERNATIONAL
The Premier Pan-African Organization Driving ESGs Across the Globe



ICESDA 2026

Global ESGs & Green Recognition Awards



“The Africa We Want: Driving Africa’s Green Transformational Inclusive Growth through ESGs and Digital Transformation”



October
21-23, 2026



Pentecost University,
Accra, Ghana

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Deadline: August 31, 2026



ICESDA 2026
Global ESGs & Green Recognition Awards



A CALL TO AFRICA'S BOLDEST MINDS

Across every corner of the African continent, an extraordinary story is being written. It is a story of resilience in the face of climate crisis, of ingenuity born from constraint, and of an unyielding belief that a sustainable, prosperous, and just Africa is not only possible—it is already being built.

The ICESDA Global ESGs and Green Recognition Awards exist to find these stories, honour their authors, and amplify their impact across the world. These are among the most distinguished accolades dedicated to excellence, innovation, and transformative leadership in sustainable development across Africa and the Global South.

“When we honour those who dare to reimagine the possible, we ignite a chain reaction of hope that no crisis can extinguish.”

Convened under the banner of the 3rd International Conference on Environment, Social, Governance and Sustainable Development of Africa (ICESDA), in collaboration with leading institutions including KNUST, GIMPA, Wisconsin International University College, the African Corporate Governance Network, and the AfCFTA Secretariat, the awards spotlight individuals, organizations, and initiatives that are boldly shaping the future of academic scholarship, ethical governance, climate resilience, and inclusive green growth.

From the young entrepreneur transforming waste into opportunity, to the researcher whose evidence reshapes national policy, to the community leader building climate resilience from the ground up—these awards declare with conviction: the future of sustainable development will be written in Africa, and it will be written by Africans.

14 AWARDS

3 CATEGORIES

1 MISSION: THE AFRICA WE WANT



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ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Honouring the minds that illuminate new frontiers of sustainability knowledge

The pursuit of knowledge has always been Africa's quiet revolution. Today, a new generation of researchers is combining rigorous scientific inquiry with deep contextual understanding to produce scholarship that is globally relevant and locally transformative. These awards celebrate the full spectrum of academic excellence—because every breakthrough begins with a question.

1.1 Best Scientific and Industry Papers Awards

Recognizes the highest quality research papers demonstrating exceptional academic rigour, originality, and practical relevance to sustainable development in Africa. Awards are presented for 1st Place, 2nd Runner-up, and 3rd Runner-up—honouring research that refuses to sit on library shelves but demands to be read, debated, and acted upon. Scientific and industry-technical papers are judged separately.

1.2 Best Scientific and Industry Presentations Awards

Honours exceptional oral presentations that effectively communicate research findings, captivate the audience, and demonstrate presentation excellence. This award recognizes that the ability to translate complex ideas into compelling narratives is itself a vital contribution—the moment when data becomes story and findings become a call to action.

1.3 Best ICESDA Scientific Researcher Contributor (Quantum Category) Award

Celebrates researchers who have made transformative, sustained contributions to the ICESDA community through consistently high-quality research, active participation across multiple conferences, and significant impact on sustainable development discourse. The Quantum Category honours the patient construction of a body of work that reshapes how we understand sustainability on the continent.

1.4 Best Student Paper and Presentation Award

Recognizes outstanding research and presentation by students—undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral—who demonstrate exceptional academic potential and commitment to sustainable development. This award celebrates young scholars who are not waiting for the future to arrive but are actively creating it through the power of original inquiry.

1.5 Best Poster Presentation and Exhibition Award

Honours the most effective poster presentation combining visual excellence, clear communication of research findings, and engaging interaction with conference participants. The best posters distil complexity into clarity, transforming corridors into classrooms and passersby into collaborators.

1.6 Best PhD Thesis of the Year Award

Celebrates the doctoral thesis that makes the most significant original contribution to sustainability knowledge in Africa. This award honours the years of intellectual courage, methodological rigour, and personal sacrifice that define the doctoral journey—recognizing PhD graduates whose research transcends the academy to offer transformative insights for policy, practice, and community impact. Eligible theses must have been successfully defended within the past two years and demonstrate clear relevance to ESGs and sustainable development in the African context.



ICESDA GREEN AMBASSADORIAL AWARDS

Celebrating the champions who carry sustainability into communities, classrooms, and corridors of influence

Sustainability is not only forged in laboratories and legislative chambers. It is cultivated in classrooms, market squares, and village assemblies by individuals who refuse to accept that the way things are is the way they must remain. Across Africa, a remarkable cadre of green ambassadors is emerging—leaders whose influence flows from the authenticity of their commitment and the tangible change they create.

2.1 Green Societal Impact and Sustainability Ambassadorial (GSISA) Award

Recognizes individuals or organizations that have championed sustainability at the grassroots level, creating measurable positive environmental and social impact within communities. The GSISA Award honours those whose work demonstrates that lasting change is built from the ground up—through trust, inclusion, and shared ownership of solutions. Nominees must show a minimum of two years of sustained community engagement with documented outcomes.

2.2 Green Leadership and Sustainability Ambassadorial (GLSA) Award

Honours visionary leaders who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to advancing green development through strategic leadership, policy influence, and institutional transformation. This award recognizes that systemic change requires champions at the highest levels—senior executives, policymakers, and institutional leaders who embed sustainability into the DNA of the organizations, sectors, and systems they oversee, with advocacy that extends well beyond their own institutions.

2.3 Green Education and Sustainability Ambassadorial (GESA) Award

Celebrates educators and educational institutions that have demonstrated excellence in sustainability education, curriculum innovation, and capacity building for green development. The GESA Award recognizes that the educators of today are shaping the leaders, innovators, and citizens of tomorrow. Nominees are evaluated on curriculum originality, student learning outcomes, institutional integration of sustainability, and the potential to scale and replicate their educational models across Africa.

“An ambassador does not merely speak for a cause—they embody it. They carry sustainability in their actions, their relationships, and their unwavering belief that one person can set a continent in motion.”



GLOBAL ESGS IMPACT & GREEN LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Recognizing visionaries whose courage, innovation, and resilience have achieved transformative continental impact

There are achievements that transcend any single organization, sector, or border. The Global Impact Awards represent the highest tier of ICESDA recognition, conferred upon those whose contributions have reshaped entire systems. To receive this award is to join a distinguished fellowship of change-makers demonstrating that Africa's sustainable development is a reality being realized, one bold initiative at a time.

3.1 Green Leadership Excellence Award

Honours individuals or institutions that have demonstrated transformational leadership in driving green development, influencing policy, and inspiring widespread sustainability action. This award recognizes leaders with a minimum of five years of documented impact whose vision has not only changed their own organizations but reshaped the expectations and possibilities of entire sectors at national or international scale.

3.2 Sustainability Innovation Award

Recognizes groundbreaking innovations in products, services, technologies, or processes that significantly advance sustainable development in Africa. This award celebrates inventors and entrepreneurs who turn constraint into creativity—proving that African solutions to African challenges can lead the world. Innovations must be implemented or piloted in Africa with demonstrated environmental or social benefits and scalability potential.

3.3 ESG Champion of the Year

Honours organizations that have demonstrated exemplary commitment to Environmental, Social, and Governance principles through comprehensive integration, transparent reporting, and measurable impact. Nominees must have published ESG strategies, a minimum of two years of documented implementation, and alignment with international ESG frameworks—serving as beacons of what responsible enterprise looks like in 21st-century Africa.

3.4 Community Impact & Climate Resilience Award

Celebrates initiatives that have strengthened community resilience to climate change through innovative adaptation strategies, disaster risk reduction, or climate-smart development. This award recognizes that the frontlines of climate action are in communities, and the most enduring solutions are those designed and owned by the people they serve—with sustainability that extends well beyond any single project period.

3.5 Youth-Led Sustainability Initiative Award

Recognizes exceptional sustainability initiatives led by young people (under 35) that demonstrate innovation, impact, and potential for transformational change. Africa is the world's youngest continent, and this award affirms that its youth are not merely the “leaders of tomorrow”—they are the change-makers of today whose energy, creativity, and courage are indispensable to the future we seek.

WHY NOMINATE?

Recognition that resonates far beyond the ceremony

Continental Recognition

Trophy, certificate, and public recognition at the ICESDA 2026 ceremony

Publication & Visibility

Feature in conference proceedings and media that amplifies your impact to a global audience

Cross-Sector Partnerships

Forge partnerships that accelerate your sustainability mission beyond borders

Global Networking

Connect with sustainability leaders, policymakers, and innovators across Africa

Legacy Building

Join a distinguished fellowship of change-makers shaping The Africa We Want

Movement Building

Become part of a growing continental movement for Africa's green transformation

HOW TO NOMINATE

1. Identify Your Nominee

Self-nominations and third-party nominations are both welcome. Identify the individual, organization, or initiative whose sustainability contribution deserves continental recognition.

2. Complete the Nomination Form

Download the official nomination form for the relevant award category. Provide a detailed description of achievements (max 2,000 words) with supporting evidence.

3. Compile Documentation

Gather reports, publications, testimonials, impact data, two references minimum, high-resolution photographs, and a nominee biography (500 words max).

4. Submit by Deadline

Send your complete nomination to info@greencommunitiesgh.com by August 31, 2026. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by the Awards Committee.

NOMINATIONS
NOW OPEN

DEADLINE
August 31,
2026

AWARDS CEREMONY
October 21-23,
2026



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Nominate Now

<https://greencommunitiesgh.com/nomination-forms/>

THE AFRICA WE WANT

Celebrating Excellence in Sustainable Development



NOMINATE TODAY

Be part of the movement building The Africa We Want

ICESDA 2026 Awards Committee

**Green Communities
International**

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In collaboration with KNUST, GIMPA, Wisconsin International University College, Global Institute of Planning and Sustainable Development (USA), African Corporate Governance Network, IET-Ghana, SIGA, and the AfCFTA Secretariat.



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