



## Sustainable leadership: integrating environmental responsibility into corporate governance

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Information of Article	ABSTRACT
<p><i>Article history:</i> Received: Feb 2023 Revised: Mar 2023 Accepted: May 2023 Available online: Feb 2024</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Sustainable Leadership Corporate Governance Environmental Responsibility Organizational Sustainability Strategic Management</p>	<p>In an era increasingly conscious of environmental and social challenges, the significance of sustainable leadership and corporate governance has emerged as key factors driving the shift towards a more sustainable future. This research paper explores how sustainable leadership and corporate governance can integrate environmental responsibility within organizational frameworks, highlighting the role these concepts play in achieving sustainability. The primary objective of this research is to assess the impact of sustainable leadership and corporate governance on enhancing environmental responsibility. Through the analysis of a wide range of scholarly literature and current studies, we aim to understand how these elements can effectively contribute to the global agenda for sustainable development. The paper employs an analytical methodology to review and evaluate prior research in this field. It relies on diverse studies such as those conducted by Aguilera et al. (2021), Crifo et al. (2019), among others, to provide in-depth insights into the key issues related to sustainable leadership and corporate governance. This paper gains its importance from addressing vital issues in our current era, where sustainability and environmental responsibility are essential components of any successful organizational strategy. With increasing environmental and social pressures, understanding how governance and leadership impact these aspects becomes crucial. The paper aims to offer valuable theoretical and practical contributions, benefiting researchers, organizational leaders, and policymakers in their quest to balance organizational goals with environmental and social responsibilities.</p>

### Introduction

In a world with increasing awareness of environmental and social challenges, sustainable leadership and corporate governance are emerging as key agents of change towards a more sustainable future. This research paper explores how sustainable leadership and corporate governance can integrate environmental responsibility within organizational frameworks, highlighting the role these concepts can play in achieving sustainability.

### research aims

The main objective of this research is to evaluate the impact of sustainable leadership and corporate governance in promoting environmental responsibility. By analyzing a range of scientific literature and current studies, we seek to understand how these elements can effectively contribute to the global sustainable development agenda.

### Approach and methodology

The paper uses an analytical methodology to review and evaluate previous research in this field. Various studies will be relied upon such as those conducted by Aguilera et al. (2021), Crifo et al (2019), and others to provide in-depth insights into key issues related to sustainable leadership and corporate governance.

### **Research significance**

This paper gains its importance from the fact that it addresses vital issues in our current era, as sustainability and environmental responsibility are essential elements of any successful organizational strategy. As environmental and social pressures increase, understanding how governance and leadership influence these aspects becomes crucial. This paper aims to provide valuable theoretical and practical contributions that benefit researchers, organizational leaders, and policy makers in their quest to achieve a balance between organizational goals and environmental and social responsibilities.

### **Theoretical framework**

In our quest to understand the role of sustainable leadership and corporate governance in integrating environmental responsibility, the theoretical framework emerges as a vital tool for analyzing and evaluating the different dimensions of these concepts. This section includes a review of a group of academic studies and research that addressed these topics from multiple angles and in diverse geographical contexts, which contributes to building a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the topic. The framework begins with an analysis of the literature on corporate environmental governance and its importance in supporting sustainability, reviewing how these concepts have developed in the academic literature. It then moves on to study the role of sustainable leadership in higher education focusing on how it affects policies and practices within educational institutions. The section also explores in depth the relationship between governance and responsible innovation, and how these factors contribute to achieving sustainable development. It also highlights the role of corporate governance in improving the quality of CSR disclosure, especially in the European context. In addition, the theoretical framework presents how various Arab researches reflect, through various case studies, the impact of sustainable leadership in various educational and organizational fields. It also addresses its effects in specific regions such as the Middle East and North Africa, noting the importance of environmental considerations in companies' regulatory policies.

This theoretical framework not only provides a comprehensive overview of sustainable leadership and corporate governance, but also paves the way for a deeper and more detailed analysis of the issues at hand and provides a solid foundation for scientific research in this field.

### **Governance and environmental sustainability in companies**

Aguilera et al. (2021) review corporate environmental governance, proposing the integration of research in this area. They highlight the different dimensions of corporate governance with regard to sustainability. Also, he studies Crifo et al (2019) The role of governance as a key driver of sustainability in France, focusing on the role of board members and investor relations.

### **Sustainable leadership in higher education**

Blanco-Portela et al.'s (2018) Latin American studies examine drivers and barriers to integrating sustainability into higher education institutions. These studies highlight the importance of leadership in achieving institutional change towards sustainable practices.

### **Developing sustainable leadership and its impact on development**

Scherer and Voegtlin (2020) discuss corporate governance for responsible innovation, emphasizing the importance of governance in achieving sustainable development. Zaman et al.'s (2022) studies focus on the intersection between corporate governance and corporate social responsibility.

### **Governance and sustainability in European companies**

Adel et al. (2019) review the relationship between corporate governance and the quality of CSR disclosure in large European companies, emphasizing the link between effective governance and transparency.

### **Sustainable leadership and its impact in the Arab world**

Abu Sharkh (2023), Ali and Hassan (2022), and Al-Hazmi (2022) highlight sustainable leadership and its role in various educational contexts in the Arab world, with a focus on developing leadership performance and its impact on universities and educational institutions.

### **Commitment of supervisory leadership and education**

Al-Omari and Al-Ghamdi (2023) examine the organizational commitment of supervisory leaders to education management in light of the principles of sustainable leadership, noting the importance of these principles in educational management.

### **Sustainability governance in economic institutions**

The study by Ghallab et al. (2021) and Zaita et al. (2020) examined the levels of reporting on sustainability governance in economic institutions, emphasizing the importance of reporting on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) sustainability in companies in the Middle East and North Africa region.

### **Administrative governance and its impact on educational performance**

The studies of Abu Saalouk and Khamis (2023) and Mohamed et al. (2022) focus on administrative governance in schools and its relationship to teachers' job performance, in addition to the impact of sustainable leadership on organizational flexibility in the context of Egypt's Vision 2030.

## **Environmental responsibility in economic institutions**

The study by Rajdawi et al. (2022) addresses the reality of environmental responsibility in economic institutions, while Salkhin and Ahmed (2022) review the role of the environmental management system in enhancing the environmental responsibility of the economic institution.

## **Research Methodology**

In this research, we follow an analytical methodology to understand the role of sustainable leadership and corporate governance in integrating environmental responsibility. We rely on an analysis of the literature and previous studies concerned with this field, which include studies such as those conducted by Aguilera et al. (2021), Crifo et al (2019), and Blanco-Portela et al (2018). This approach allows for a comprehensive evaluation of previous research and its conclusions.

## **data analysis**

Content analysis techniques will be used to examine published texts and studies. This includes analyzing quantitative and qualitative data extracted from the literature to understand prevailing trends and outcomes in the field of sustainable leadership and corporate governance, as described in the works of Scherer and Voegtlin (2020) and Zaman et al. (2022).

## **literature review**

We will focus on reviewing academic literature related to the topic, including regional and international studies. This literature will include the work of Adel et al. (2019), and research conducted in the Middle East and North Africa such as that conducted by Abu Sharkh (2023) and Al-Omari et al. (2023).

## **Evaluation of current studies**

Existing studies will be evaluated to understand the challenges and opportunities in the field of sustainable leadership and corporate governance. This will include analysis of research works such as those conducted by Al-Khudair (2021), Al-Ardan and Darzi (2020), and Muhammad et al. (2023).

## **Case studies and practical applications**

We will analyze specific case studies and practical applications to illustrate how sustainable leadership and corporate governance are integrated in practice, building on the work of Ghallab et al. (2021) and Zaita et al. (2020).

## **Evaluate impact and effectiveness**

We will also focus on evaluating the impact and effectiveness of sustainable leadership and corporate governance in achieving sustainability goals, using studies such as those conducted by Abu Saalouk and Khamis (2023), and Muhammad Hassan Ali et al. (2022).

## **Results and recommendations**

Finally, we will analyze the findings and make recommendations based on the reviewed research. Key trends and directions in this field will be highlighted, and how these findings can be applied in corporate practices and public policies. This methodology is fundamental to understanding how companies interact with sustainability requirements and the role of leadership in promoting environmental responsibility, and provides a robust framework for analyzing data and drawing relevant conclusions

## **Analysis and results**

Here, we provide a comprehensive analysis of data and information drawn from the selected literature review, focusing on how sustainable leadership and corporate governance influence the integration of environmental responsibility into organizational frameworks. Based on a wide range of research, including global and regional academic studies from authors such as Aguilera et al (2021), Crifo et al (2019), and Blanco-Portela et al (2018), we evaluate and analyze the available evidence to reach a deeper understanding of the topic.

we will address several main topics, including the impact of institutional governance on environmental Here sustainability, the role of sustainable leadership in higher education, the interaction of institutional governance with corporate social responsibility, and the impact of sustainable leadership on organizational flexibility and environmental responsibility in institutions. This section aims to provide an in-depth and integrated overview of the topic, taking into account the diversity and complexity of available research. Through this analysis, we hope to make important contributions to the academic field and provide valuable insights to practitioners and policy makers in the field of sustainable leadership and corporate governance

## **Corporate governance and environmental sustainability**

An analysis of the work of Aguilera et al. (2021) shows that corporate governance plays a key role in promoting environmental sustainability. As it stands out Crifo et al (2019) highlight the importance of the role of board members and investor relations in driving sustainability efforts, noting that effective governance can directly contribute to improving corporate environmental practices.

### **For sustainable leadership in higher education**

By analyzing studies such as Blanco-Portela et al. (2018), it is clear that there are multiple challenges and motivating factors that influence the integration of sustainability into educational institutions. The analysis indicates that effective leadership is necessary to overcome barriers and achieve successful integration of sustainable practices.

### **The intersection of corporate governance and social responsibility**

An analysis of the work of Zaman et al. (2022) reveals a complex interplay between corporate governance and CSR. This analysis shows how organizations can integrate these two aspects in a way that enhances their effectiveness in achieving sustainability.

### **Quality in disclosing social responsibility**

Evaluating the work of Adel et al. (2019) shows that the quality of social responsibility disclosure in large companies is closely linked to good governance, which underscores the importance of transparency and accountability in organizational processes.

### **The impact of sustainable leadership in academic and educational environments**

Studies such as those conducted by Al-Omari et al. (2023), Al-Khudair (2021), and Al-Ardan and Darzi (2020) show that sustainable leadership has a measurable impact on developing performance in academic and educational settings. These studies emphasize the importance of adopting a sustainable leadership approach to enhance organizational commitment and improve performance.

### **Sustainability governance in economic institutions**

An analysis of the works of Ghallab et al. (2021) and Zaita et al. (2020) highlights the importance of tripartite sustainability governance (ESG) in economic institutions, emphasizing its role in achieving transparency and accountability.

### **Sustainable leadership and its impact on organizational flexibility**

Studies such as those conducted by Mohamed Hassan Ali et al (2022) suggest that implementing sustainable leadership can have a positive impact on organizational resilience, especially in the context of national goals such as Egypt's Vision 2030.

### **Environmental responsibility in institutions**

The study of Raghawi et al. (2022) and Salkhin and Ahmed (2022) illustrates the major role of the environmental management system in enhancing environmental responsibility within institutions, emphasizing the importance of these systems in achieving sustainability. These results demonstrate the dynamic interaction between sustainable

leadership, corporate governance, and environmental responsibility, emphasizing the importance of these elements in effectively achieving sustainability goals

## **Discussion**

In this section, we consider the findings from the previous analysis in depth, focusing on understanding and interpreting the broad implications that emerge from the data and literature reviewed. How corporate governance and sustainable leadership promote environmental responsibility is explored within various contexts, from global corporations to educational institutions. This section will discuss how the concepts of good governance, effective leadership, and social responsibility interact with each other to form a sustainable organizational environment. Drawing on evidence provided by various sources such as Aguilera et al (2021), Crifo and others, we analyze (2019) how these concepts affect the environmental and social performance of organizations. This part of the paper aims to provide a critical analysis and build an in-depth discussion around the key issues identified in the study, highlighting the main challenges, opportunities, and future recommendations for the field.

### **Integrating environmental sustainability into corporate governance**

Aguilera et al.'s (2021) literature analysis suggests that corporate governance is not only about making profits but also includes concern for environmental sustainability. The study discusses the role of governance in guiding companies towards sustainable practices, stressing the importance of strategic leadership and long-term vision. Crifo et al (2019) reinforce this idea by showing how board members can play a vital role in promoting sustainability.

### **Challenges and opportunities in promoting sustainability in higher education**

Blanco-Portela et al.'s (2018) study shows the challenges and opportunities related to integrating sustainability into educational institutions. The discussion addresses how institutional leadership can foster a culture of sustainability not only through curriculum but also through research and management.

### **Integration between corporate governance and social responsibility**

Studies such as those by Zaman et al. (2022) address the interplay between corporate governance and social responsibility. This section discusses how companies can use a governance framework to enhance social and environmental responsibility practices, noting that transparency and accountability can lead to significant improvements in environmental and social performance.

### **Sustainable leadership and its impact on organizational performance**

Discussion on studies such as those conducted by Al-Omari et al. (2023) and Al-Khudair (2021) highlight the importance of sustainable leadership in enhancing organizational commitment and performance. It is emphasized that

sustainable leaders are not only concerned with financial results, but also focus on the environmental and social impact of the organization.

### **Sustainability Governance and Triple-A Reporting (ESG)**

Ghallab et al.'s (2021) study shows the importance of triple-A reporting (ESG) in economic organizations. The discussion addresses how these reports help achieve transparency and provide critical information to investors and stakeholders about the company's performance in the areas of environmental, social and governance.

### **The role of sustainable leadership in organizational flexibility**

Works such as those by Mohamed Hassan Ali et al (2022) show how sustainable leadership can enhance organizational resilience. The section discusses the relationship between applying sustainable leadership principles and the ability to adapt to rapid changes in the market and the global environment.

### **Future directions and recommendations**

At the conclusion of the discussion, we review future directions and provide recommendations for researchers and practitioners in this field. Emphasis is placed on the importance of continuous research and development in the field of corporate governance and sustainable leadership, emphasizing the necessity of innovation and continuous adaptation to meet changing environmental and social challenges

### **The importance of environmental management system**

The section addresses the findings of Raghawi et al. (2022) and Salkhin and Ahmed (2022) regarding the importance of the environmental management system in promoting environmental responsibility in organizations. It discusses how these systems can contribute to achieving sustainability goals and promoting responsible environmental behaviors

### **Study summary**

At the conclusion of this research paper, the importance of sustainable leadership and corporate governance in integrating environmental responsibility within organizational frameworks is highlighted in depth. By analyzing a wide range of academic literature and studies, we arrived at several key points:

1. **The importance of corporate governance:** As shown by the works of Aguilera et al. (2021) and Crifo et al (2019), corporate governance plays a pivotal role in enhancing environmental responsibility and driving efforts towards sustainability.
2. **Sustainable leadership and its impact on higher education:** Studies such as those conducted by Blanco-Portela et al (2018) show that sustainable leadership is necessary to overcome challenges and successfully integrate sustainability into the educational environment .



3. **The intersection of governance and social responsibility:** Zaman et al.'s (2022) analysis reveals a complex interplay between corporate governance and social responsibility, pointing out the importance of transparency and accountability in improving environmental and social performance.
4. **Impact on organizational performance:** Research such as that by Al-Omari et al. (2023) and Al-Khudair (2021) shows that sustainable leadership has a positive impact on organizational performance and commitment.
5. **Triple sustainability reports (ESG) :** The importance of tripartite reports (ESG) in economic institutions is highlighted, as in the study by Ghallab et al. (2021), and indicates the importance of these reports in achieving transparency and accountability.
6. **Organizational flexibility:** As the study of Muhammad Hassan Ali et al. (2022) showed, applying sustainable leadership enhances organizational flexibility and helps organizations adapt to rapid changes.

Our findings underscore the urgent need for companies and educational institutions to adopt sustainable corporate governance and leadership practices as an integral part of their sustainability strategies. This research emphasizes the importance of investing in effective leadership and transparent governance as means to drive positive change and achieve environmental and social goals

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