



ESG and Sustainability

We understand that ESG and sustainability should be an integral part of your business' strategy and vision for the future. Now more than ever, your business needs a partner that understands the sustainability landscape.

About us

PKF Octagon is a proud member of PKF International, a global family of legally independent firms bound together by a shared commitment to quality, integrity and the creation of clarity in a complex regulatory environment.

The PKF family consists of over 400 offices, operating in 150 countries across five regions. Our worldwide network enables the sharing of knowledge and experience, and underpins our ability to offer you globally relevant advice grounded with local insight.

With a presence in every major city in South Africa, we have the dexterity and capacity to enable large, complex transactions. We service clients ranging from entrepreneurial start-ups to JSE listed companies – all who trust us to partner with them and support their future.

Our services

We offer a range of services and solutions that are backed by our experience, expertise and sound business judgement.

While our individual solutions are designed to help you grow your business, the real advantage of our offering lies in our ability to deliver a wide variety of specialist skills to support your ultimate bigger picture.

Our strength lies in our ability to tailor our services with focused attention on offering technical expertise and industry-specific knowledge and experience.

Put bluntly, we don't believe that one size fits all. Certainly not when it comes to chartered accountancy services.

Our services include

- > Audit and Assurance
- > ESG & Sustainability
- > Tax and Tax Planning
- > Bookkeeping & Preparation of Financial Statements
- > Company Secretarial Services
- > Business Advisory Services
- > Actuarial Services
- > Corporate Finance
- > BEE Accreditation and Advisory Services

ESG offering

There are key aspects to consider in the ESG landscape.

Our team of experts guides and supports you while making your journey towards sustainable business practices smooth and rewarding.

Our key offering includes:

ESG data, resource management, and governance

- > Greenhouse Gas emission (GHGe) and energy accounting
- > ESG and sustainability data collection and reporting
- > ESG reporting system implementation
- > ESG governance and capacity building

ESG Reporting, Disclosure and Strategy

- > ESG and sustainability disclosure, voluntary, and statutory reporting
- > ESG and sustainability strategy
- > Sustainability risk identification and management

Finance and due diligence

- > ESG due diligence
- > Green, climate, or concessional* finance support
- > Funding applications
- > Financial modelling – to help inform business investment and decision-making
- > Renewable energy tariff modelling

Assurance

- > ESG assurance – assurance over non-financial information including ESG and sustainability
- > Assurance in line with IFRS S1 and S2
- > Assurance over latest ESG framework disclosure requirements including IFRS S1 and S2, and ESRS

* Concessional finance – capital with terms more favourable than commercial terms, including lower interest rates or longer repayment periods.

Industries that we lend our expertise to include:

- › Advertising & Marketing
- › Agriculture
- › Auditor General
- › Automotive
- › Aviation
- › Capital Markets
- › Engineering & Manufacturing
- › Film Production
- › Financial Services
- › Freight & Logistics
- › Hospitality & Tourism
- › Medical & Healthcare
- › Not-for-profit
- › Petroleum
- › Professional firms
- › Property development & investment
- › Real Estate
- › Retail & FMCG
- › Technology & Biotech
- › Telecoms
- › Wholesale

Our difference

Our clients are not moved by the fact that we rank in the Top 10 accounting and audit firms in South Africa. Being backed by an international brand and a trusted network of firms that cross-pollinate to deliver geographically unique solutions, does not buy their loyalty either.

Name-dropping our list of clients will certainly impress you, but that would take too long.

We could boast about our knack for attracting and nurturing talent in this competitive field of professionals, but we would rather show you.

With a legacy dating back over 50 years, we have mastered partner-led relationships to ensure that every client receives expert attention. We get and keep our clients by leveraging our entrepreneurial culture to serve our enterprising clients.

We are independent thinkers who thrive on adding value to our clients by plugging into our global networks.

Like our current clients, you will love us because we understand that you need advisors who take the time to truly grasp your business challenges and provide customised solutions backed by local knowledge and global resources.

You will choose us because we comprise an agile team of professionals led by a dedicated team of Partners. Our deep roots in Johannesburg and our rich history of delivering personalised customer service allows us to sustain our long-standing relationships.

The real advantage of our offering lies in our ability to authentically understand you, our client, and show you support through all of your enterprising endeavours.

Meet Zack Fineberg



Zack Fineberg leads the ESG and Sustainability division at PKF Octagon with dynamic vision. He has a strong background as a Chartered Accountant and holds a Master's in Development Finance. He excels in crafting strategies and integrating ESG and sustainability principles into organisations and business practices. Driven by a passion for bridging the private and public sectors, Zack is dedicated to unlocking the power of business for impactful growth and development.

His impressive portfolio includes establishing the Blue-Green Bank of Barbados, shaping Rwanda's climate finance strategy, and designing an innovative impact bond to enable nature-based solutions in South Africa's water catchments. Zack's expertise extends to public health, where he managed programme finance and fund management for a South African non-profit. In his current role, he is pivotal in developing PKF Octagon's ESG reporting capabilities, overseeing client engagements, and identifying opportunities for private sector clients to secure development funding.

Qualifications

Academic

- > Mcom Development Finance – UCT GSB
- > CA(SA) – SAICA
- > PGDA – UCT
- > Bcom Accounting – UCT

2024 – current	Head – PKF Octagon ESG
2022 – 2024	Engagement Manager – Pegasys Strategy and Development
2022 – current	Finance Expert and Thought Leader – Nature for Water Facility
2021 – 2022	Financial Manager – TBHIVcare NPO
2017 – 2021	Article Associate – EY



Today's businesses face unprecedented challenges as financial risk is inherently tied to sustainability, calling for a more proactive approach.

- > The impacts of climate change and extreme weather-related events have been ranked the top 10 global risks by the WEF since 2015.
- > Global and national commitments to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHGe) to minimise global warming to 2°C (relative to pre-industrial levels) mean that business and supply chains will have to transition. This will see a major shift in South Africa's key economic sectors and will necessitate strategies to ensure businesses remain competitive and compliant with GHG regulations.
- > International and national regulations on ESG and non-financial reporting are rapidly evolving, requiring businesses to adapt to increased reporting requirements to meet regulatory expectations and demonstrate transparency.
- > Constrained economic growth and dwindling resources can lead to increased civil unrest, which in turn impacts business operations. Companies need to develop robust strategies to navigate these challenges and ensure operational resilience.
- > A more socially conscious customer base is emerging, with consumers favouring businesses that demonstrate value beyond financial performance. Companies that effectively communicate their commitment to social and environmental responsibility are more likely to attract and retain customers.

What is ESG?

ESG is a strategic framework that integrates environmental, social, and governance considerations into business strategy, investment decisions, operational practices, and overall decision-making.

- > It enables you to better understand and manage your sustainability-linked risk and opportunities.
- > Communicate the true value your business creates for its employees, shareholders, investors and customers.
- > Improve the management of key resources such as energy, water, and human capital, enhancing operational efficiency and sustainability.
- > Meet and exceed international and national standards and regulatory requirements, staying ahead of compliance obligations.
- > Strategically plan for a world in which reducing your business carbon footprint and improving sustainability is a competitive advantage.

Environment

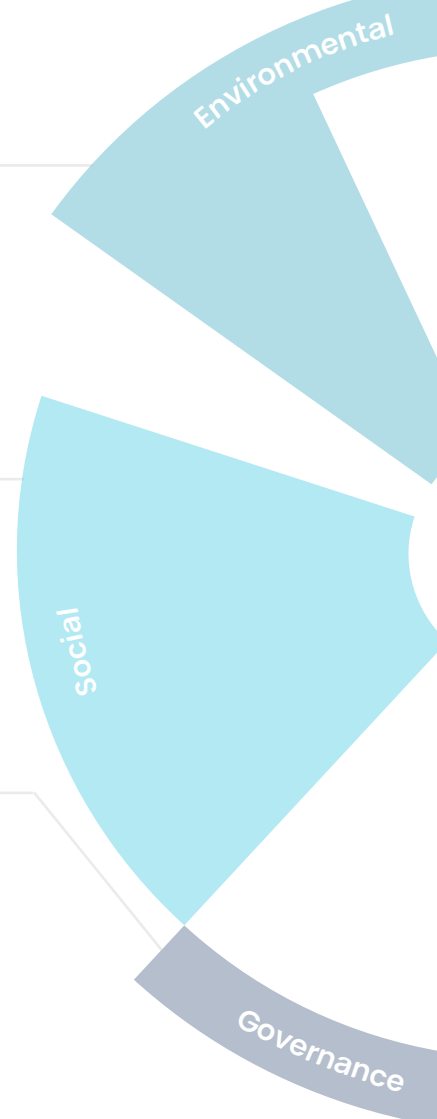
- > Climate change
- > Resource management
- > Ecological footprint
- > Pollution

Social

- > Community impact
- > Diversity, inclusion, race, and gender
- > Labour standards
- > Health and safety

Governance

- > Business ethics
- > Risk management
- > Compliance
- > Board independence and diversity



The sustainability landscape is evolving rapidly as regulations race against the realities of climate change

2015

Paris Agreement – governments from around the world agree to work together to minimise global warming to 2°C (relative to pre-industrial levels).

2018

Cape Town's Water Crisis peaks – Dam levels hover between 14% and 29%. The agricultural sector cuts production by 60%.

EU Green Deal is announced – with the overarching objective of making the EU carbon neutral by 2050.

2017

National Greenhouse Gas emission Reporting Regulation – comes into effect requiring gazetted companies to report their GHGe.

2019

SA Carbon Tax Act comes into effect – requiring the imposition of tax for GHG-emitting industries above a certain threshold.

Energy Regulation Act amended – allowing operation of electricity generation facility without licenses, opening up SA's power sector for private investment.

2021

Coca-Cola and Sasol commit to Net Zero – eliminating carbon emissions by 2040, and 2050 respectively.

JSE Climate Disclosure Guidance – JSE publishes climate disclosure guidance.

EU Carbon Border Adjustment Regulations (CBAM) published – requiring GHG reporting on selected exports to the EU.

IFRS S1 and S2 – the first sustainability disclosure standards are published by the ISSB.

2022

Severe flooding in KZN – results in an estimated cost to infrastructure and business of \$2 billion.

Warmest year on record – since records began in 1850, with an average temperature 1.18C above the 20th century average.

2023

66% of world's 2000 largest companies commit to net zero – according to Net Zero Tracker.

ESG data, resource management, and governance

Whether your business is looking to drive efficiency or comply with regulatory requirements, we specialise in providing you with the tools and systems to track, manage, and understand its sustainability impact, and natural and human capital.

Service areas:

- › Greenhouse Gas emission (GHGe) and energy accounting
- › ESG and sustainability data collection and reporting – collect and account for any ESG-related data
- › ESG reporting system implementation – advise and implement ESG reporting software solutions
- › ESG governance and capacity building – set up governance structures to manage, report and improve ESG in your organisation

Did you know?

Under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Regulation, 2017, your entity may be required to account for, and report its GHGe. Failure to comply could attract a fine of R5 million in year 1 and R10 million every subsequent year.

If you are an exporter of cement, fertiliser, iron, aluminium, or hydrogen to the EU, you are required to account for and provide your GHGe to your customer under CBAM* Regulation (EU) 2023/956

Under the Companies Act, 2008, if you are a listed company or a private company with a public interest score >500 you are required to have a social and ethics committee.

*Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

ESG reporting and disclosure

Your business generates far more value than is often obvious to you or your customers. By applying internationally recognised frameworks, we can assist you in communicating and reporting that value and understanding the risks and opportunities posed by environmental, economic, political, and social factors.

Service areas:

- > ESG and sustainability disclosure, voluntary, and statutory reporting
- > ESG and sustainability strategy
- > Sustainability risk identification and management

Finance and due diligence

If your business is contributing positively to the environment and society, or aims to improve, it deserves recognition. International climate goals have seen cheaper finance made available. Global climate objectives have led to the availability of more affordable financing options. We can guide you in accessing this financing through South Africa's commercial banking channels.

Service areas:

- > ESG due diligence
- > Green, climate, or concessional* finance support
- > Funding applications
- > Financial modelling – to help inform business investment and decision-making.
- > Renewable energy tariff modelling

*Concessional finance – capital with terms more favourable than commercial terms, including lower interest rates or longer repayment periods.

Assurance

Ensuring that your ESG reporting is accurate not only allows you to make informed strategic decisions but also builds trust with all your stakeholders. As we have done for years, we apply our financial audit quality and expertise to your non-financial data.

Service areas:

- › ESG assurance – assurance over non-financial information including ESG and sustainability
- › Assurance in line with IFRS S1 and S2
- › Assurance over latest ESG framework disclosure requirements including IFRS S1 and S2, and ESRS

Every company is entwined with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) concerns.

Your ESG policy is more than a declaration of intent – it is a clear picture of the direction and progress your business is making towards its goals. A strong ESG strategy maps out the pathway to progress and delivers significant value.



Your vision is our ambition.

Contact us

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