



**Strathmore**  
UNIVERSITY

**UN Principles for  
Responsible  
Management  
Education**

**SHARING  
INFORMATION  
ON PROGRESS  
(SIP) REPORT  
FOR THE  
PERIOD  
2020/2021**

# Table of Contents

- Strathmore University Commitment to UN-PRME..... 2
- 1.1 PRINCIPLE 1: PURPOSE..... 3
- 1.2 PRINCIPLE 2: VALUES ..... 4
- 1.3 PRINCIPLE 3: METHOD ..... 6
  - 1.3.1 Service Based Learning..... 6
  - 1.3.2 Sustainability Leadership Programs ..... 7
    - 1.3.2.1 Absa Suppliers Sustainability Program ..... 7
    - 1.3.2.2 Sisters’ Blended Value Project ..... 8
  - 1.3.3 Centre for Teaching Excellence ..... 8
- 1.4. PRINCIPLE 4: RESEARCH ..... 9
- 1.5 PRINCIPLE 5: PARTNERSHIP..... 10
  - 1.5.1 Open Africa Power: Partnership in Education towards Africa’s Clean Energy Future ..... 10
  - 1.5.2 SBS Partnership with Tallin Tech University, Estonia..... 10
  - 1.5.3 Launch of the Kenya 2050 Calculator ..... 11
- 1.6 Principle 6: Dialogue ..... 12
- Conclusion..... 13

# **PRME** Principles for Responsible Management Education

*an initiative of the*



## **Strathmore University Commitment to UN-PRME**

Strathmore University is committed to implementing the Principles for Responsible Management Education. We are also committed to reporting frequently on our progress to all our stakeholders and to exchange best practices aligned to these principles with other academic institutions, specifically those in our region. We are cognizant that our own organizational practices should serve as an example of the values and attitudes we convey to all our stakeholders. In this report, we describe the progress we have made across the six principles for the period 2020 and 2021. While we have made the necessary steps in aligning our activities and strategies to the Sustainable Development Goals, we see several opportunities for growth in partnership and collaboration with local universities to scale our contributions to the development goals. Moving forward, we seek to continuously work to embed education for sustainable development (ESD) across all our programs intentionally and at pace. We recognize the profound potential education has in driving forward the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prof. Izael Da Silva  
Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation  
Strathmore University

## 1.1 PRINCIPLE 1: PURPOSE

“We will develop capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.”

On 25th November 2020, Strathmore University launched its Mid-Term Strategic Plan 2021-2025 after carrying out an in-depth review of the 2015-2025 university strategy. The updated strategic plan builds on the foundation set at the beginning of the strategic plan period in 2015 and emphasizes an enduring focus on *transformational student experience and academic excellence, service to society, research and innovation, and our people*. It describes the strong connection between its mission, vision, core values and the pillars that continue to define the university’s role in society and, in particular, its commitment towards contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Figure 1 provides an overview of the university’s vision, mission and strategic focus areas for the next 3 years.

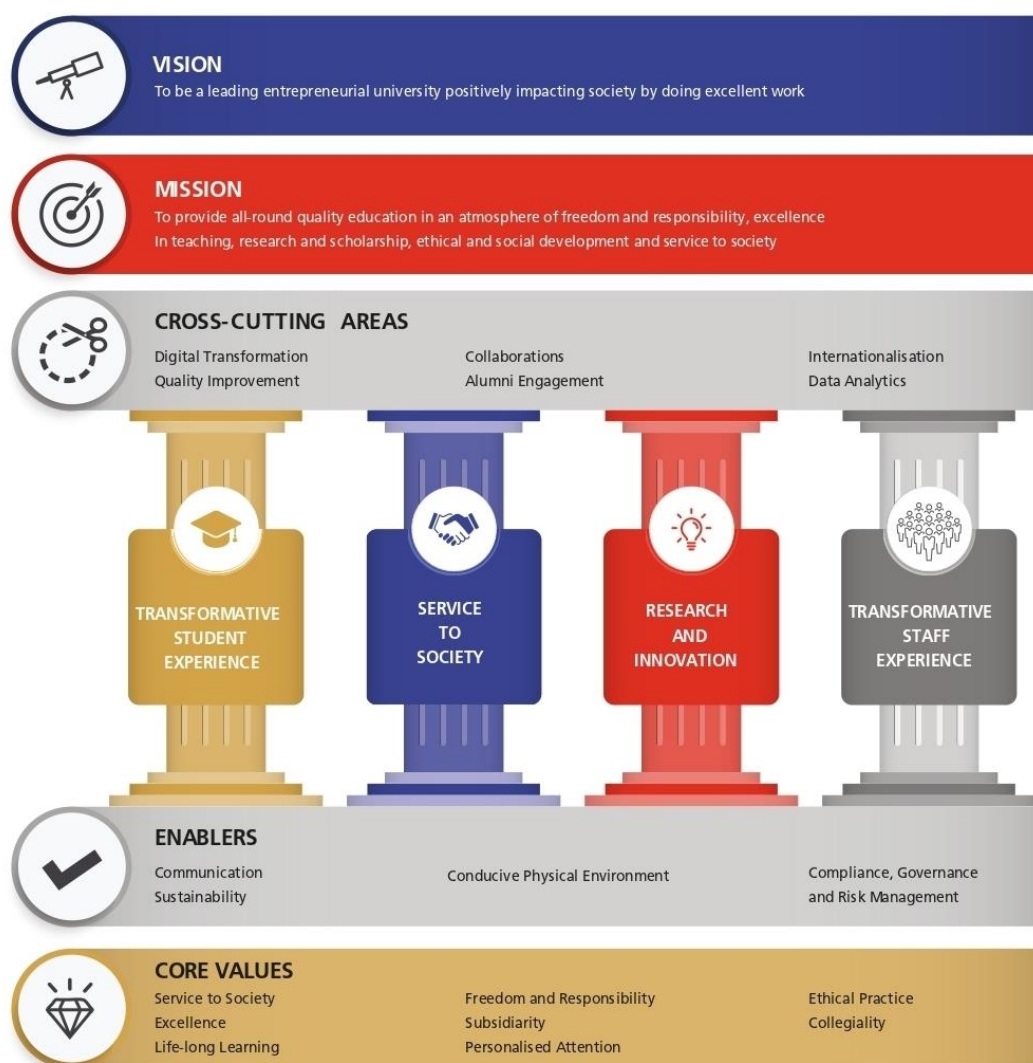


Figure 1: Strathmore University Strategy 2021-2025

In line with PRME's first principle, our leading strategic pillar: Transformative Student Experience demonstrates our commitment to creating future leaders who place societal and ecological wellbeing at the core of what they do. Strathmore University continues to provide students with a continuum of diverse opportunities for intellectual, spiritual, and personal development extending well beyond the classroom to ensure that students develop their current skills and abilities and learn new ones to help both their future careers and their role within society. Some specific activities aligned with PRME principle 1 are as follows:

- a) Provide our students with an internationally outstanding teaching and learning experience across their entire lifecycle at Strathmore University<sup>1</sup>
- b) Broaden our students' horizons and attitudes, develop their current skills and abilities and learn new ones, not only to help in their studies and future careers, but also support their role within society
- c) Assess all applicants individually in order to attract the top students in Kenya through our rigorous admission process
- d) Continue to offer a wide range of bursaries and scholarships to support a thriving community of students in the region
- e) Maintain high visibility in all our extracurricular activities
- f) The introduction of new programs which are linked to new labor opportunities and shifting demands in the professional sector and industry

## **1.2 PRINCIPLE 2: VALUES**

"We will incorporate into our academic activities, curricula, and organizational practices the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact."

Strathmore University embodies eight core values that create and foster a culture where members of the university community feel supported, valued, respected and inspired. Our values form the acronym SELF-SPEC and are elaborated further in Figure 2. The UN Global Compact's values center on Integrity, Respect for Diversity and Professionalism.<sup>2</sup> In our view, our values align closely to the aspirations of the global compact. For example, our values of Excellence, and Subsidiarity are closely allied to the compact's Professionalism. Additionally, Integrity matches Strathmore's values of Ethical Practice and Freedom and Responsibility. Finally, the university's emphasis on Collegiality among colleagues correlates closely with the Compact's Respect for Diversity.

---

<sup>1</sup> To accomplish this, the university has several partnerships with regional and international universities and a diverse range of institutions. See <https://strathmore.edu/about-strathmore/partnerships/> for more information about the university's partners.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/about/the-un-global-compact-way#:~:text=The%20UN%20Global%20Compact%20Way&text=Based%20on%20the%20three%20core,at%20the%20UN%20Global%20Compact.>



**Figure 2: Strathmore University Values**

The university also works to ensure that values are imparted across the entire community. For example, in order to impart the importance of Ethical Practice and Freedom and Responsibility across the student body, the university has integrated courses on Ethics, Philosophical Anthropology and Critical Thinking among other units across all degree programmes.

For the last 2 years, the university has focused on one of the values as an overarching theme for the year. For 2022, the chosen theme is: Freedom and Responsibility: A quest for meaning. This year therefore, is time to explore diverse aspects of freedom through the activities organized by schools, departments, clubs, etc.<sup>3</sup> In March 2022 for instance, an Academic Staff Workshop for

<sup>3</sup> <https://strathmore.edu/news/so-are-you-free/>



all faculty was organized by the university's Office of Faculty Affairs incorporated panel discussions and keynote addresses on what freedom and responsibility means for faculty.

### 1.3 PRINCIPLE 3: METHOD

"We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership."

Strathmore University uses various methods to orient students towards responsible leadership. The next sub-sections provide detailed examples on some of the initiatives undertaken:

#### 1.3.1 Service Based Learning

All of Strathmore University's undergraduate students are required to complete a community based attachment before graduating.<sup>4</sup> The attachment may last anything from eight to twelve weeks, culminating in at least 200 hours of voluntary work per student. This experience complements the lessons they receive in ethics and the principle of pursuit of the common good at the University.

The university partners with disadvantaged schools in the countryside, hospitals, orphanages, and prisons, among other institutions, where students can work during their attachment period. As part of the program, each student on attachment is supervised and evaluated by faculty from the University. The system has changed the lives of many students, who learn about complex social problems prevalent in the region.



Figure 3: Strathmore University Business School students during their Service Based Learning

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://sbs.strathmore.edu/service-based-learning-going-beyond-academics/>

### 1.3.2 Sustainability Leadership Programs

Strathmore University Business School (SBS) has a Center for Sustainability Leadership (CSL) that supports regional stakeholders in understanding and developing initiatives that contribute to the sustainable development goals (SDGs). CSL carries out capacity building and research to develop innovative knowledge-based solutions for sustainable development in Africa. CSL runs the African Sustainability Executive Program which was offered in 2021 and the Shared Value Executive Program offered in 2020. These programs are practical, executive courses aimed at skilling professionals and key decision-makers across various sectors on sustainability concepts and strategies. Major corporates have thus established sustainability strategies within their companies. An example is provided in section 1.3.2.1.

#### 1.3.2.1 Absa Suppliers Sustainability Program

SBS also provides a custom program with the main aim of enabling Absa Bank Kenya's network of suppliers to align their businesses to a select set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>5</sup> The course uses a self-paced mode of learning, enabling participants to work on real case studies and action learning activities, in order to understand the core concepts presented. The learning materials consist of videos, texts, assessments and presentations prepared by faculty from Strathmore University. In 2021, the university also partnered with the bank to secure internships for 11 undergraduate students within this program. The program to date has trained over 200 SMEs on business sustainability practices and strategies.



Figure 4: Networking Event for Absa Suppliers Learning Cohort

<sup>5</sup> <https://sbs.strathmore.edu/absa-bank-kenya-sustainability-supplier-training-programme/>



### 1.3.2.2 Sisters' Blended Value Project

The Conrad N. Hilton-funded project aims to train 600 Sisters in over 40 congregations in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia through six individual and institutional courses. Many of the participants are involved in income generating activities in their congregations and wish to upskill to provide greater value to their communities. The Project Management Program facilitated by Strathmore University Business School (SBS) is designed to provide guidance and appreciation to the Association of Consecrated Women of Eastern and Central Africa (ACWECA) with the capabilities of how to design and implement effective social enterprises in their respective congregations guided by their charisms and mandates. Effective implementation of social enterprises has several obstacles: lack of funding, lack of business skills, support, understanding, and rapid changes in technology & business environment all play a role in stifling the growth and development of social enterprises. The Project Management Program's objective is to equip the Sisters with knowledge and skills that challenge them to strategize and visualize successful delivery as a project manager.



**Figure 5: Sisters' Blended Value Program Planning Session**

### 1.3.3 Centre for Teaching Excellence

Strathmore University has a Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE) which assists SU faculty and departments in quality teaching and learning through diverse trainings and related support. One popular initiative is the Coffee in One Gulp weekly series which is a peer-learning meet that provides faculty with an opportunity to share best practices on teaching and curriculum development. CTE also organizes capacity building programs for faculty on course design, use of educational technologies (technology enhanced learning), and facilitates the university's participation and engagement in the Partnership for Enhanced and Blended Learning (PEBL).<sup>6</sup> CTE also carries out outreach activities targeted at high school teachers through the Teacher Enhancement Program. Transitioning to Inquiry Based Teaching. For example, the Transitioning to Inquiry Based Teaching (TIBT) course is suited for classroom teachers equipping them with the necessary instructional skills to improve their teaching skills and delivery mode. Some of the key issues tackled include; Approaches to Teaching and Learning, Learning Disabilities, Curriculum Planning and Effective Schemes of Work, Differentiation of Learners, and Assessment

---

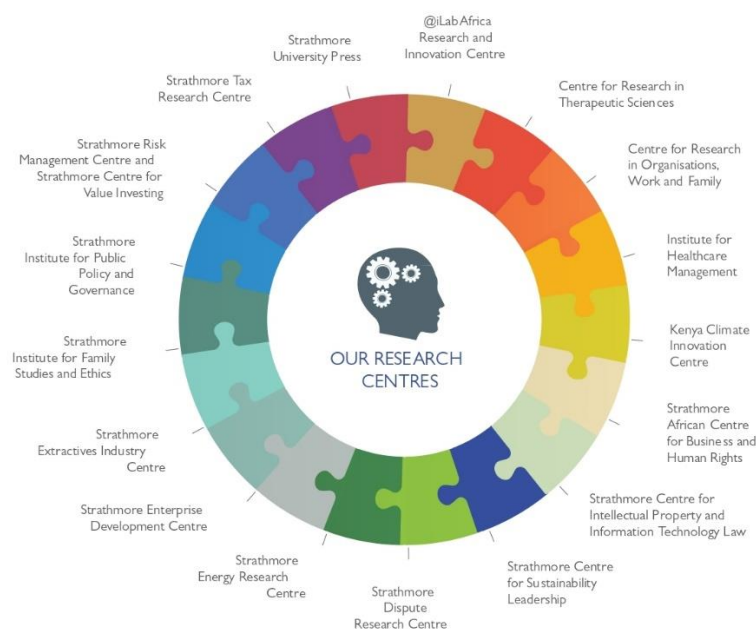
<sup>6</sup> <https://www.spheir.org.uk/partnership-profiles/partnership-enhanced-and-blended-learning>

Strategies. TIBT is a 3-day training, which includes a classroom improvement project to be done within a school term.

#### 1.4. PRINCIPLE 4: RESEARCH

“We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.”

Research and Innovation is another strategic pillar at Strathmore University. Build an appropriate ecosystem to support research activities. The research office invests in funding for building research capability and for research activities to revitalize research and scholarship in the university. There are several research centers within the university with diverse mandates that collectively promote research leadership as shown in Figure 5. The Research Office (RO) has also organized several workshops and initiatives aligned with the SDGs. With the support of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), RO hosted the Climate Diplomacy Academy on 27th October 2021. Among those trained in climate change and security were 30 students from Strathmore University. The office also has a running contract with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) to run a project called “African Universities Race to Net Zero,” A report from this project was presented at the recently-concluded COP26 conference in Glasgow. The university also hosted the 2021 edition of DAAD’s annual Falling Walls Lab Nairobi on 9th September 2021. The event saw several students pitch innovative ideas “showcasing breakthroughs that would create a positive impact on science and society.” A student from Strathmore Law School won the competition and received a ticket to Berlin to participate in the upcoming global finals.



**Figure 6: Research Centers at Strathmore University**

## 1.5 PRINCIPLE 5: PARTNERSHIP

“We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.”

The university leverages on several collaborations with policy makers, industry, government and higher education institutions among other stakeholders. The next sections provide examples of ongoing engagements.

### 1.5.1 Open Africa Power: Partnership in Education towards Africa’s Clean Energy Future

Enel Foundation is joining forces with Academia in Italy and Africa to establish a training venture, dubbed ‘Open Africa Power’, which combines in-depth, disciplinary knowledge with a holistic know-how in the electricity sector. The program is targeted at young and exceptionally talented MSc and PhD students, as well as alumni of Engineering, Law and Business from African universities. Strathmore University, in cooperation with University of Nairobi, will host the first module of the training. Successful students will then access training courses from Politecnico of Turin and SDA Bocconi University.

### 1.5.2 SBS Partnership with Tallin Tech University, Estonia

In 2021, SBS and Tallin Tech University signed a partnership agreement resulting in a three-day training workshop on e-governance and digital transformation. The workshop brought together experts in e-governance and digital transformation from Tallin Tech University, government stakeholders and academia. The goal of the workshop was dissemination of e-governance best practices and broad overview on how to secure information in the modern digital state.



**Figure 7: H.E. Mrs. Kersti Kaljulaid, President of Estonia, is introduced to Hon. Lady Justice Martha Koome, Chief Justice of Kenya at Strathmore University**

### 1.5.3 Launch of the Kenya 2050 Calculator

On November 16, 2021, The Ministry of Energy-Kenya and the British High Commission, Nairobi, in collaboration with the Strathmore University, launched the Kenya 2050 Calculator (Kenya Carbon Emission Reduction Tool – KCERT 2050) to help Kenya tackle climate change and meet its net zero emissions targets. The UK International 2050 Calculator program supports developing countries in accelerating their sustainability and de-carbonization agenda through the development of country specific versions of the 2050 Calculators. The Kenya 2050 Calculator will allow policy makers and other end-users answer fundamental questions on how far various sectors of the economy can decarbonize by reducing emissions whilst meeting energy needs.



**Figure 8: Mike Foster, Head of Prosperity and Climate at the British High Commission Nairobi during the launch of Kenya 2050 Calculator**



## 1.6 Principle 6: Dialogue

“We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organizations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.”

In line with the 6<sup>th</sup> principle of PRME, Strathmore University regularly hosts representatives from government, industry, international organizations and civil society among several influential actors. A key event for policy dialogue is the annual SMEs Presidential Roundtable. In 2019, President Uhuru Kenyatta and The Deputy president William Ruto attended the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Presidential Roundtable held at Strathmore University. SME delegates from agro-processing, aquaculture, construction, livestock, textile and trade value chains had an opportunity to discuss growth opportunities, areas of collaboration and the vision for each of the sectors. The forum provides an opportunity for SMEs to share their experiences with lead policy makers in government.



**Figure 9: H.E Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, addressing the Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SMEs) owners at the SME Presidential Round table hosted by Strathmore University.**

The university also regularly organizes guest lectures, fireside chats and panel discussions on a variety of topics that align with development and the SDGs. In April 2022 for example, the university hosted Dr. Susan Lund, Vice President for Economics and Private Sector Development at the International Finance Corporation (IFC). During the visit, she held a talk with undergraduate and graduate students on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the IFC’s role in private sector development in Africa. Additionally, SBS also hosted Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations Global Compact. The visit included key note addresses



and panel discussions on the role of higher education in driving forward sustainable development outcomes.

## Conclusion

In recognition of the vital role that universities must play in achieving a sustainable future through teaching, research environmental and technical solutions to global challenges, the university continues to support and promote the principles of the Sustainable Development goals (SDGs). Figure 10 demonstrates the varied ways we see our contribution to the SDGs and consequently to the principles of PRME.

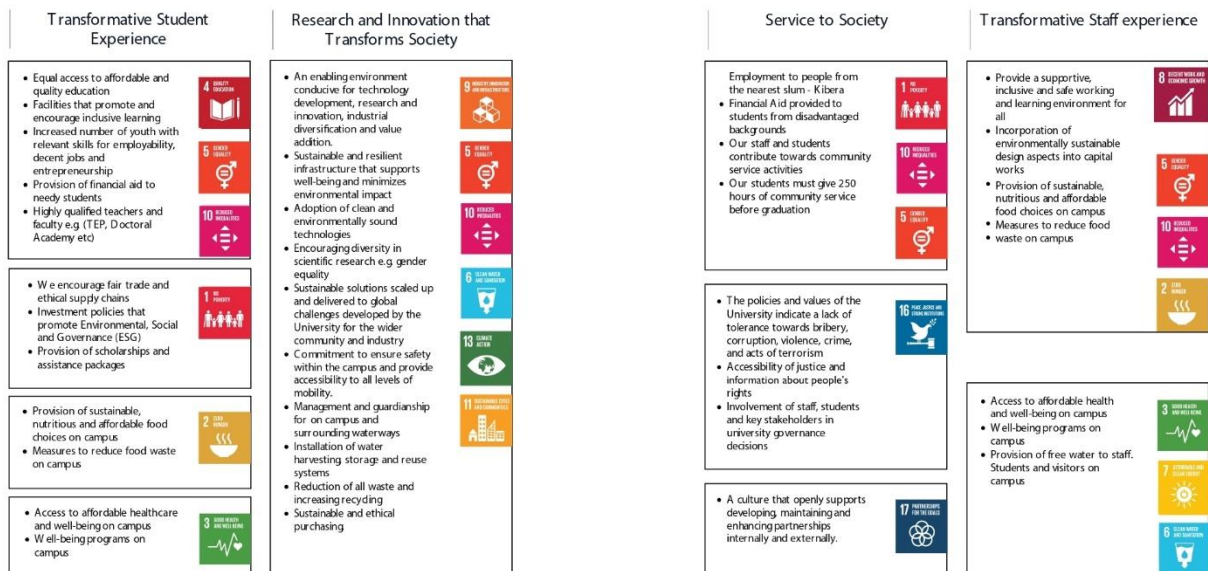


Figure 10: Strathmore University's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)