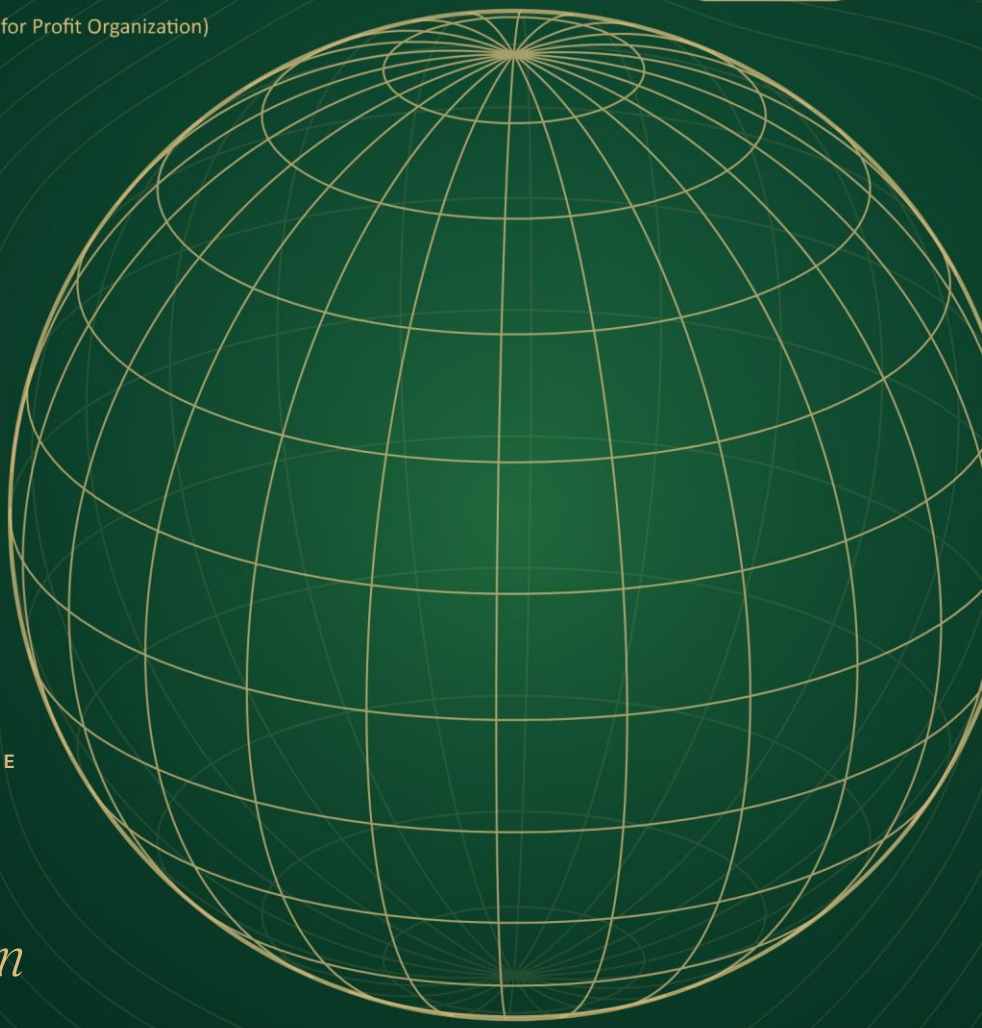
ESG Research Foundation
(Section 8 Registered not for Profit Organization)

LEVEL I



ONLINE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME

Basic Level Global Certificate Program on

ESG & Sustainability

ESG for Everyone — Become a Force for a Better Tomorrow

A Global Course in Environmental, Social and Governance principles for corporate learners, students, ESG professionals, training institutes and everyone ready to lead the change.

CERTIFIED ISO 21001:2025 CERTIFIED

CERTIFIED ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

60
Video lectures,
MCQ based assessment

1 *month*
Flexible Schedule
Learn at your own pace

Live
Expert-led
case-study sessions

QR
Verifiable digital
certificate

02 — ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Building an ESG-literate workforce for India and the world.

ESG Research Foundation (ERF) is a not-for-profit organisation incorporated in 2021 to increase awareness and adoption of Environmental, Social and Governance principles across the public and private sectors.

ERF was set up by leading chartered accountants from India and the UK with over 70 years of combined experience advising Indian and global multinationals. The team has worked extensively with PSUs, state and local government bodies, and has collaborated with the World Bank and IFC to deliver social-impact projects such as affordable housing.

2021
Year of incorporation

70+
Years of combined advisory experience

41+
Countries in our AGSP member network

700+
Sustainability professionals in AGSP

OUR VISION

Promoting innovation to achieve sustainable development globally — advocating for a greener, better future.

OUR MISSION

To educate society on ESG and sustainability, and work alongside government, businesses and communities in their transition to sustainable operations — enabling ESG and climate goals.

WHAT WE DO

01
Capacity Building & Education
Recognised certificate courses and executive programmes for corporates, PSUs and professionals.

02
Online Learning (LMS)
A dedicated learning platform that makes ESG education accessible and scalable.

03
Students & Young Professionals
Career counselling that builds the next generation of sustainability talent.

04
Awareness & Pledge Campaigns
Free sessions in schools and colleges, and the Sustainability Warrior pledge.

05
ESG Preparedness Assessment
The GreenSkills Survey helps organisations find gaps and areas to improve.

06
Prithvi Awards & Global Conference
ERF's annual awards recognising leadership in ESG and sustainability.

07
AGSP
The Association of Global Sustainability Professionals — a global practitioner network.

08
Global Partnerships
Partner of GASP New York; Knowledge Partner of Ramanujan College, University of Delhi.

RECOGNITIONS & PARTNERS

CSR Reg. CSR00080480 (MCA) · 80G: AAGCE6189D23CD02 · ISO 9001:2015 Cert. No. QMS/BE95/1026

Regd. for CSR activities Regn. No. CSR00080480, Office of ROC — Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India

Partner - GASP New York — Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet

NITI Aayog

Regd. With NGO DARPAN

Knowledge Partner

ISO 9001:2015 Certified

ISO 21001:2025 Certified

03 — LEADERSHIP

Guided by leaders from India's accounting, finance and public-policy institutions.

MANAGEMENT TEAM



CA (Dr.) Atul Kumar Gupta
FOUNDER DIRECTOR

President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (2020–21). Serves on the Boards of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and XBRL International.



CA Deepak Batra
FOUNDER DIRECTOR

Specialist in policy formulation, project financing, smart-city advisory, forensic audit and risk management. Has worked across China, Europe, South-East Asia, Mauritius and the Gulf with PSUs, banks and Indian Railways.



CA Spandan Shah
DIRECTOR

ESG consultant and value-chain management expert with Big 4 experience in India, London and Dublin. Advises companies on ESG strategy, circular economy and sustainability reporting.



Dr. Rajesh Kumar Bhalla
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Former Additional Secretary of ICAI, a statutory body under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Over 38 years of leadership in administration, compliance and regulation.

ESG COUNCIL



Sh. Ajay Mittal, IAS (Retd.)
Former Secretary, Ministry of I&B, Govt. of India



Sh. Mahesh Bajaj
Former Executive Director, Indian Bank



Dr. S.P. Aggarwal
Emeritus Professor, South Asian University (SAU)



Dr. (CA) Ankur Aggarwal
Chairman & Founder, BNW Developments, Dubai



Ms. Priyanka Jain
Director & CBO, OHI (Outsourcing Hub of India)



CA Sandeep Agarwal
Executive Director – Finance and Group CFO, ELAN Group



Maheshwar Dutt Sharma
Director & CEO, Allround India



Mr. Persanjit Singh
CEO, LinenGrass, Singapore



Mr. Vinay Chataraju
Co-founder & CEO, Kritsnam Technologies Pvt. Ltd.



Ms. Ayse Ariak Tunaboylu
Co-Founder, Sustainable Journey · Consultant, World Bank

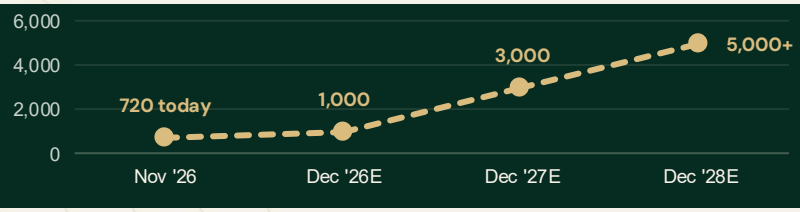
OUR GLOBAL AGSP MEMBER NETWORK –42 COUNTRIES

India
Afghanistan
Australia
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Benin
Bhutan
Botswana
Canada
Chile
Denmark
Egypt
Germany
Greece
Indonesia
Iraq
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Liberia
Malaysia
Mongolia
Namibia
Nepal
Nigeria
Oman
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
South Africa
Turkey
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States
Uzbekistan
Zambia
Zimbabwe

OUR VISION

5,000+

members by December 2028



04 — WHY ESG, WHY NOW

Sustainability is now the language of business

Climate change, social inequality and corporate accountability are redefining how organisations operate and grow. ESG has emerged as the critical framework for sustainable development and ethical business — and understanding it is no longer optional for professionals at any level.

2050

The global goal of achieving net-zero emissions — driving demand for ESG skills across industries.

Environmental E

A company's performance in environmental stewardship.

- Carbon accounting (Scope 1, 2, 3)
- Energy efficiency
- Resource usage
- Pollution & waste management

Social S

The relationships a company builds with people and institutions.

- Product liability
- Labour & human rights
- Health & safety
- Diversity, equity & inclusion

Governance G

How a company is directed, controlled and held to account.

- Structured audits
- Ethical standards
- Board diversity & governance
- Stakeholder engagement & rights

Understanding emissions: the GHG Protocol

Lectures 03 and 20 explore emission scopes and value-chain decarbonisation in depth.

UPSTREAM ACTIVITIES

Scope 3 · Indirect

Purchased goods & services · Capital goods · Fuel & energy-related activities · Transportation & distribution · Waste from operations · Business travel · Employee commuting · Leased assets

REPORTING COMPANY

Scope 1 · Direct

Company facilities and vehicles

Scope 2 · Indirect

Purchased electricity, steam, heating & cooling for own use

DOWNSTREAM ACTIVITIES

Scope 3 · Indirect

Transportation & distribution · Processing of sold products · Use of sold products · End-of-life treatment · Leased assets · Franchises · Investments

CO_2 CH_4 N_2O HFCs PFCs SF_6

The six greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol

OUR PLANET, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Climate change and resource depletion make sustainability a necessity, not a choice.

A GLOBAL ESG JOURNEY

Worldwide, businesses are aligning rapid growth with responsible practice.

WHY ESG MATTERS TO YOU

Enables leaders to grow ethically and sustainably. This course empowers you to lead that change.

05 — THE PROGRAMME

ESG for everyone — a foundation you can build a career on.

Through 60 concise, structured lectures, learners develop a solid understanding of ESG, explore how environmental, social and governance factors shape business performance and decision-making, and gain insight into ESG measurement, assessment and reporting.

The course also explores the ESG reporting ecosystem — including BRSR in India, ISSB Standards and the EU's CSRD framework — enabling learners to connect ESG principles with practical reporting requirements.

60	60	6	1
VIDEO LECTURES	LECTURE QUIZZES	MONTHS OF ACCESS	VERIFIABLE CERTIFICATE

HOW YOU'LL LEARN

1 **Enrol**
Pay securely via Razorpay and log in to our dedicated LMS.

2 **Watch**
Each lecture opens with a concise, expert-designed video module.

3 **Assess**
Pass a short MCQ quiz to unlock the next lecture. Retries allowed.

4 **Engage**
Join live, expert-led case-study sessions and interactive Q&A on weekends.

5 **Certify**
Earn a certificate with a unique ID and QR code, verifiable online.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Students
Undergraduates, graduates, postgraduates and research scholars

Academia
Faculty members from every discipline

Corporate Sector
Professionals from corporates, banks, PSUs and other institutions

Government
Employees of government organisations and regulatory bodies

Changemakers
Anyone driving sustainability in their organisation or community

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Understand the key Environmental, Social & Governance factors
- ✓ Curated modules designed by ESG experts
- ✓ Gain insight into sustainable and responsible business practices
- ✓ Built on Indian and global frameworks: BRSR, ISSB, CSRD
- ✓ Enhance your professional credentials
- ✓ Free AGSP membership: a network of 700+ ESG professionals

> *This course equips participants with foundational ESG knowledge — and the confidence to contribute to their organisation's ESG journey and drive meaningful impact.*

06 — CURRICULUM

60 lectures. Five modules. *One complete foundation.*

M01 Foundations: Environment & Society
M02 Environmental Deep Dive
M03 The Social Pillar
M04 The Governance Pillar
M05 Reporting, Ratings & Integration

MODULE 01 — Lectures 01–17

Foundations: Environment & Society

01 Introduction to ESG and Materiality
02 Introduction to Climate Change and Financial Risk
03 The GHG Protocol and Emissions Scopes
04 Decarbonization and Net-Zero Targets
05 Carbon Offsets, Sequestration, and Greenwashing
06 Renewable Energy and Procurement Strategies
07 Climate Scenario Analysis (TCFD)
08 Water Scarcity and Water Stewardship
09 Waste, Pollution, and the Circular Economy
10 Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and ISO 14001
11 Introduction to the Social (S) Pillar
12 Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD)
13 Labor Standards and the ILO
14 Health and Safety (OHS) and LTIFR
15 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)
16 Supply Chain Due Diligence and Ethical Sourcing
17 Sustainable Agriculture and Deforestation

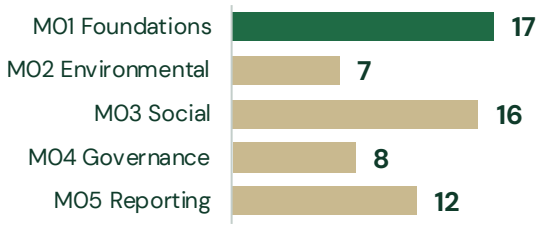
MODULE 02 — Lectures 18–24

Environmental Deep Dive

18 Climate Accounting and Financial Impact
19 Energy Efficiency and Operational Emissions Reduction
20 Scope 3: The Value Chain Decarbonization Challenge
21 Climate Adaptation and Resilience
22 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
23 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
24 E-Pillar Conclusion: Integrated Risk Management

COURSE AT A GLANCE

Lectures per module



Modules 01 and 03 make up more than half the course

BY THE END OF THE COURSE

What you'll be able to do

- Explain ESG, materiality and why they matter to business value
- Read emissions data using the GHG Protocol and Scopes 1, 2 & 3
- Navigate BRSR, ISSB, CSRD and other disclosure frameworks
- Contribute with confidence to your organisation's ESG strategy

07 — CURRICULUM, CONTINUED

From people and policy *to practice.*

M01 Foundations: Environment & Society
M02 Environmental Deep Dive
M03 The Social Pillar
M04 The Governance Pillar
M05 Reporting, Ratings & Integration

MODULE 03 — Lectures 25–40

The Social Pillar

25 Social License to Operate (SLO)
26 Human Capital Management (HCM)
27 Stakeholder Engagement and Materiality
28 Ethical Supply Chain and Responsible Sourcing
29 Diversity and Inclusion Metrics (Beyond the Board)
30 Anti-Harassment and Whistleblower Protection
31 Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Algorithmic Bias
32 Product Safety and Customer Health
33 Community Relations and Local Impact
34 Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)
35 Customer Welfare, Product Safety, and Data Security
36 Access to Essential Services (Digital Inclusion, Healthcare)
37 Philanthropy and Corporate Social Investment (CSI)
38 Social Return on Investment (SROI) Measurement
39 Gender Equality and the Gender Pay Gap
40 Workforce Training, Upskilling, and Future of Work

BEYOND THE VIDEOS

Expert-led live sessions & case studies

Interactive sessions with experienced faculty and industry practitioners bring real-world case studies, regulatory insight and best practice into the course — bridging theory and application.

Mandatory participation. Attendance and active participation in the live case-study sessions are part of the course completion requirements.

MODULE 04 — Lectures 41–48

The Governance Pillar

41 Corporate Governance Fundamentals and Board Structure
42 Board Independence, Competence, and Diversity
43 Board Committees and Their ESG Responsibilities
44 Executive Compensation and ESG Incentivization
45 Shareholder Rights and Engagement (Active Ownership)
46 Business Ethics, Anti-Corruption, and Anti-Bribery
47 Tax Transparency and Responsible Tax Strategy
48 Political Spending and Lobbying Transparency

MODULE 05 — Lectures 49–60

Reporting, Ratings & Integration

49 Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)
50 The Role of the ISSB and Global Baseline Standards
51 ESG Ratings, Data Providers, and Benchmarking
52 Integrating ESG into Corporate Strategy
53 Greenwashing and the Risk of Misrepresentation
54 The Global Convergence: CSRD, ISSB, and SEC
55 The Circular Economy and Regenerative Business Models
56 Stakeholder Capitalism and the Purpose of the Corporation
57 Private Equity, Venture Capital, and ESG Integration
58 The Role of Technology in ESG Data and Compliance
59 Future Trends: Just Transition, Biodiversity, and Nature
60 Course Conclusion: The Future ESG Professional

08 — ENROL

Begin your ESG journey *today.*

COURSE FEE

₹2,000 + GST

International learners: USD 29 + applicable taxes

One-time payment · Secure checkout via Razorpay

Scan to enrol

esgresearchfoundation.dynamicpixel.co.in

Enrolling a team? Corporate enrolment is available — write to info@esgworldwide.org.



Every certificate carries a unique ID and QR code, publicly verifiable at esgworldwide.org/verify — and remains valid permanently.

HOW TO ENROL

01 Scan & enrol	QR code or course link
02 Pay securely	One-time fee via Razorpay
03 Start learning	Log in, start Module 01

INTERNATIONAL LEARNERS · PAY USD 29 BY BANK TRANSFER

BENEFICIARY NAME
Astrazure Management Consultants LLC

ACCOUNT NUMBER
14450542920001

SWIFT CODE
ADCBAEAA060

BANK & BRANCH
ADCB Bank, Al Riggah Road

BENEFICIARY ADDRESS
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

AGSP · FREE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Join the Association of Global Sustainability Professionals — 700+ members across 41+ countries, connecting experts, CXOs, academics and policymakers.

TAKE THE PLEDGE

Become a Sustainability Warrior at esgworldwide.org/oath

"Imparting sustainability education is the key to a better tomorrow."

ESG Research Foundation
(Section 8 Registered not for Profit Organization)

CONTACT OR WHATSAPP
Mr. Kamaldeep · +91 87961 02911
Dr. Rajesh Kr. Bhalla (CEO) · +91 93507 99936

EMAIL
info@esgworldwide.org
ceo@esgworldwide.org

HEADQUARTERS · INDIA
ESG Research Foundation
C-9, Block-C, Sushant Lok Phase-1,
Sector-43, Gurugram 122002,
Haryana, India

DUBAI OFFICE · UAE
Astrazure Management Consultants LLC
Property Investment Office 4-F1-0637
Dubai Investment Park,
Land DM No: 598-676, Dubai, UAE