Sustainability in ÅF

From a soft idea to mandatory routine
Introduction

ÅF – the company

- 5000 technical consultants
- Project operations in 40 countries
- Energy and Infrastructure focus
Introduction

Key words for sustainability in ÅF

- "Get familiar with risks"
- "Talk to people"
- "Speak out about wrong doings"
The soft idea...

Development in ÅF

- Strong interests behind development (E.g. Owners/investors, clients, co-workers)

- Three Sustainability goals
  - By 2015 ÅF will have halved its direct impact on the climate
  - By 2015 a proposal shall be included in every offer or tender that ÅF submits, to enhance the sustainability aspect of the project
  - By 2015, ÅF will have the best reputation among technical consulting companies for using its expertise and experience to solve the challenges of the future

- Strategic positioning & sustainability branding
- Establishment of a sustainability manager
- ÅF Green Advisor Report
A more sustainable ÅF...

New perspective and new processes

- Broadened perspectives
- New solutions = New opportunities
- New revised processes
Sustainability integration

...in ÅF project/assignment process

Screening and Bidding phase

Project implementation phase

Compliance check

Sustainability assessment towards three sustainability criterias

Stakeholder identification, analysis and dialogue

Whistleblowing
UN Global Compact

The base for ÅF’s new sustainability policy

- **Human Rights**
  1. Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
  2. make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

- **Working conditions**
  3. Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and support the right to collective bargaining;
  4. the elimination of all forms of forced labour;
  5. the abolition of child labour; and
  6. the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

- **Environment**
  7. Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
  8. undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
  9. encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

- **Anti-Corruption**
  10. Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.
Bid – No bid and screening decisions

Assessment towards sustainability criteria when we get an inquiry to tender

- A sanction in some form or other has been imposed by the international community (UN, EU, EFTA, relevant financial institute) against our counterpart in the project.

- There is a risk of public criticism, the involvement of voluntary organisations, riot, civil disobedience, criminal activity (organised or otherwise) or any other unwelcome attention or action that may delay or prevent the performance of the project as planned at the tendering stage.
When criteria are breached...

Screening/Project risk assessment - Industry division
Screening/Project risk assessment - Infrastructure division
Screening/Project risk assessment - Technology division
Screening/Project risk assessment - Energy division

Uncertainties when addressing sustainability criteria

Additional sustainability risk assessment (Corporate Sustainability/Quality Management)

Decision
Stakeholder analysis

...and stakeholder dialogue

- A tool for increasing sustainability
- Stakeholders depending on the project
- A potential business case
Whistle blowing

A new channel for enhanced transparency

- Employees are free to speak out about serious wrongdoings
- Criminal behavior
- Environmental hazards
- Danger to peoples lives and health
Result

- ÅF has got their first catch in the screening net
- Volumes as expected – so far…

- "Get familiar with risks"
- "Talk to people"
- "Speak out about wrong doings"
Thank you!

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