

## **Developing Skilled Accounting Graduates through Sustainability Accounting Education for Improved Sustainability Reporting in South Africa: Challenges and Prospects**

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**ABSTRACT** This study, rather than attempting to outline a grand curriculum design or plan for implementing a sustainability accounting education for South African universities, identifies key issues inhibiting its inclusion in the accounting programmes. Nonetheless, the study discusses efforts by the University of Limpopo accounting school to promoting sustainability accounting education, including the challenges inhibiting its development and acceptance among academics and students alike. Findings revealed that developing skilled accounting graduates to sustain the provision of sustainability reporting in South Africa is at its lowest ebb. One major reason is the very few accounting academics involved in sustainability accounting discourse. Developing future accounting graduates with relevant skills to provide sustainability financial and non-financial information will have great influence on how social, economic and environmental issues are reported in companies' annual integrated reports in South Africa. This is also relevant to countries that have either implemented sustainability reporting or plans to implement it in the near future. Developing skilled accounting professionals is the key to ensuring credibility and reliability of sustainability reports for the sustenance of the King III Sustainability Reporting Code of Governance in South Africa.