



Sahara Group

The Sahara Group is a Nigerian conglomerate with long-standing experience in the oil and gas sector, and more recently in the wider energy and infrastructure sector. It is made up of 20 operating companies and currently maintains offices and operations on four continents.

With the publishing of its first sustainability report in 2014, the Sahara Group reaffirms its commitment to accountability and sustainability and is working to more closely align its numerous CSR initiatives with the SDGs. It sees these initiatives and its wider work towards attaining the SDGs as a “business safety net and trampoline for our core business and the society at large”.

In accordance with their commitment to productive partnerships with local communities and reducing the impact of their activities on the environment, the Sahara Group established the Sahara Foundation which in 2015 alone had over 50,000 direct beneficiaries.

In the words of Babatomiwa Adesida, manager of the Sahara Foundation:

“Our commitment is to promote activities that create positive business footprints through sustainable partnerships in line with our Extrapreneurship concept. This concept involves creating value through leveraging internal and external strengths to drive cross-sectoral collaboration by connecting the right people and organizations towards providing sustainable solutions to global social problems. The core of the extrapreneurship framework is ‘to create a platform that finds, creates and connects young extrapreneurs in emerging markets’. This will be achieved by leveraging on Sahara Foundation’s key strength to bring together various committed stakeholders through our platform that has the capacity to create and preserve wealth for our target beneficiaries”.

Case Study: Light Up Nigeria Challenge

The Sahara Group, in conjunction with ENACTUS Nigeria, hosts a yearly event to encourage innovation in alternative and renewable energy resources. The competition brings together students from tertiary education institutions from around the country who present projects showcasing alternative energy sources and innovations to help ensure sustainable electricity supply in Nigeria.

The 2015 competition, which attracted entries from 28 different schools, involved developing simple models to reduce energy production costs and encourage the use of alternative energy sources in communities, small

businesses and schools. The winning group then had the opportunity to present their ideas in front of a global audience in South Africa.

This competition provides a national and international platform for young people to present their ideas and empowers them to make real change in their communities. It also serves to power innovation in the energy sector where the Sahara Group conducts most of its business, helping develop more efficient and environmentally-friendly solutions while contributing to sustainability.