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Are Sustainability Management Systems (SMS) really promising?

Javier Esquer-Peralta ^{a*}, Luis Velazquez ^a, and Nora Munguia ^a

^a University of Sonora, Industrial Engineering Department.
Blvd. Rosales y Luis Encinas, C.P. 83000. Hermosillo, Sonora, México.
* e-mail: javierep@rtn.uson.mx

Abstract

The concepts of Sustainable Development (SD) and Management Systems (MS) are finding increasing acceptance in a variety of fields, including academy, politics, and non-governmental organizations. These concepts are also being used by the general population. This paper describes the perception of different experts by discussing about the usefulness of Sustainability Management Systems (SMS) as holistic systems that might integrate environmental, social, and economic elements. Fourteen interviews have been conducted with several experts around the world. Some of them are professionals in Sustainability issues in general, and some of them in environmental, health and safety (EHS) issues in particular. The results have shown that, although there is a continuous debate on the sustainability approach, several core elements can be addressed through Sustainability Management Systems (SMS).

Keywords: Sustainability Management System (SMS), Performance-based approach, Sustainable Development.
