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GREEN HRM AS A MEDIATOR: STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE IN THE JORDANIAN INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

Amid escalating global environmental pressures, this study examines how Strategic Management Accounting Practices (SMAPs) enhance environmental performance in Jordan's industrial sector. Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) serves as a crucial mediator. Drawing on contingency theory, we propose that SMAPs—including environmental cost analysis and lifecycle budgeting-require complementary GHRM mechanisms to transform technical accounting data into sustainable outcomes. Data from 180 professionals across 53 manufacturing firms, analysed via Smart PLS-SEM, reveal that GHRM fully mediates the relationship between SMAPs and environmental performance. Green policy alignment emerged as the most influential mediator, while diminishing returns in green adaptability and employee involvement at lower levels of SMAP adoption suggest threshold effects. This study advances contingency theory by empirically validating GHRM's role as a sociotechnical bridge between accounting systems and ecological outcomes. For practitioners, the results necessitate the integration of SMAPs with targeted HR interventions, such as sustainability-linked training and cross-functional green teams. This alignment enhances compliance and operational efficiency for Jordan—a water-scarce economy facing stringent environmental regulations. While the use of cross-sectional data and perceptual measures limits causal claims, this research provides a validated framework for emerging economies. Future studies should employ longitudinal designs to assess GHRM's evolving impact during sustainability transitions and explore cultural moderators in Arab collectivist contexts. Overall, this work bridges environmental accounting and HRM scholarship, demonstrating that technical systems require human-centric mechanisms to operationalise sustainability.

Keywords: Environmental Sustainability, Strategic Management Accounting Practices, Green Human Resource Management, Contingency Theory, Jordanian Industrial Sector

1. INTRODUCTION

Escalating environmental degradation has elevated Sustainability to a strategic priority for industries worldwide. This imperative is driven by the urgent need to mitigate ecological harm while maintaining economic viability, a challenge intensified by regulatory pressures and shifting stakeholder expectations (Kagzi et al., 2024; Bebbington & Unerman, 2018; Schaltegger

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et al., 2017). Developing economies such as Jordan face acute sustainability challenges due to resource-intensive industrial activities in the manufacturing, mining, and energy sectors. These industries strain limited natural resources, particularly water and energy, while contributing disproportionately to pollution and carbon emissions (Al-Abdallah, 2021; Al-Shaer & Zaman, 2018). Jordan's arid climate, rapid urbanisation, and population growth further exacerbate these pressures, making environmental Sustainability a critical determinant of industrial resilience (Abdallah & Al-Ghwayeen, 2020; Rawashdeh, 2018; Paillé et al., 2020).

Strategic Management Accounting Practices (SMAPs) provide firms with tools to integrate Sustainability into decision-making, including environmental cost analysis, lifecycle budgeting, and sustainability performance measurement (Ojra et al., 2021; Nik Abdullah et al., 2022; Burritt & Schaltegger, 2010; Christ & Burritt, 2013). However, the effectiveness of SMAPs in driving environmental outcomes remains inconsistent, particularly in developing economies where organisational capabilities and resource constraints limit implementation (Majuri & Halonen, 2020; Gond et al., 2012; Latan et al., 2018). This study proposes Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) as a critical mediator to address this gap. GHRM—encompassing green recruitment, environmental training, and sustainability-linked incentives—directly aligns employee competencies and behaviours with ecological objectives, offering a targeted mechanism to operationalise SMAPs (Sun et al., 2024; Renwick et al., 2013; Yusliza et al., 2017).

In Jordan's industrial sector, GHRM holds particular promise. Firms operate under stringent environmental regulations and resource scarcity, yet often lack the human capital to translate accounting data into actionable strategies (Abu Afifa & Saleh, 2021; Jabbour & Jabbour, 2016; Rawashdeh, 2018). For instance, environmental training enhances employees' ability to interpret cost-benefit analyses of sustainable technologies, while green performance metrics incentivise waste reduction and energy efficiency (Sun et al., 2024; Paillé et al., 2014; Guerci et al., 2016). By bridging the gap between technical accounting systems and on-the-ground execution, GHRM enables firms to achieve compliance, reduce operational risks, and capitalise on sustainability-driven market opportunities (Ren et al., 2018; Al Hashem & Al Shaar, 2022; He et al., 2024; O'Donohue & Torugsa, 2016).

This study investigates how GHRM mediates the relationship between SMAPs and environmental sustainability performance in Jordanian industrial firms. Its contributions are threefold. First, it advances theoretical models of sustainability accounting by empirically testing and extending contingency theory (Chenhall, 2003; Otley, 2016). Specifically, we test the theoretical proposition that GHRM serves as a critical contingency factor mediating the effectiveness of SMAPs, offering a more precise and actionable framework than prior studies focused on broader organisational factors (Bade et al., 2024; Latan et al., 2018; Wijethilake, 2017). Second, it provides empirical insights into sustainability challenges in a Middle Eastern context, a region underrepresented in environmental management research. Third, it offers practical guidance for firms that align accounting systems with human resource strategies to achieve ecological and economic objectives.

The study's primary theoretical contribution lies in testing and validating the application of contingency theory to sustainability accounting by demonstrating that the relationship between SMAPs and environmental performance is contingent upon GHRM practices. This extends contingency theory beyond its traditional focus on external factors by empirically verifying that internal organisational capabilities—particularly human resource practices (Renwick et al., 2013; Dumont et al., 2017)—are essential contingent variables that determine when and how sustainability accounting mechanisms translate to tangible environmental improvements (Wijethilake et al., 2018; Latan et al., 2018).

2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND AND HYPOTHESIS DEVELOP-MENT

2. 1. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: CONTINGENCY THEORY

Contingency theory posits that organisational success depends on aligning practices with contextual variables such as regulatory environments, resource availability, and workforce capabilities (Chenhall, 2003; Otley, 2016). In Jordan's resource-constrained industrial sector, GHRM serves as a pivotal contingency factor, ensuring SMAPs adapt to local operational realities (Bade et al., 2024; Latan et al., 2018; Wijethilake, 2017). For instance, green recruitment strategies prioritise hiring employees with sustainability expertise, addressing skill gaps that hinder SMAP implementation (Renwick et al., 2013; Dumont et al., 2017).

Empirical studies affirm that SMAPs yield optimal environmental outcomes when paired with GHRM practices tailored to workforce readiness. Wijethilake et al. (2018) demonstrated that firms combining life-cycle costing with green training achieved 30% faster adoption of eco-innovations. Similarly, Latan et al. (2018) found that performance-based green incentives strengthened employee commitment to sustainability metrics, reducing deviations from environmental budgets. This theoretical alignment underscores GHRM's role as a linchpin, connecting technical accounting systems to tangible ecological improvements in Jordanian industries.

2. 2. SMAPS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Strategic Management Accounting Practices (SMAPs) integrate financial and non-financial data to align organisational strategies with environmental sustainability goals (Cadez & Guilding, 2008; Wijethilake et al., 2018; Dang et al., 2021; Nik Abdullah et al., 2022). Key practices—such as lifecycle costing, environmental budgeting, and sustainability performance measurement—enable firms to quantify ecological impacts and allocate resources efficiently (Appiagyei & Donkor, 2024; Burritt et al., 2002; Schaltegger et al., 2017). Empirical evidence highlights SMAPs' role in reducing waste and fostering eco-innovation, particularly in manufacturing sectors (Henri & Journeault, 2010; Qian et al., 2018; Adams & Larrinaga, 2019). For instance, structured environmental cost accounting frameworks have improved energy efficiency and compliance with regulatory standards (Guenther et al., 2016; Latan et al., 2018).

However, SMAPs' effectiveness is contingent on organisational factors such as management commitment, stakeholder engagement, and technological readiness (Pumiviset & Suttipun, 2024; Schaltegger & Zvezdov, 2015; Pondeville et al., 2013). Studies emphasise that technical tools alone are insufficient without supportive governance. For example, Latan et al. (2018) demonstrated that firms with strong top-management advocacy achieved higher returns on sustainability investments. This underscores the need for SMAPs to be embedded within broader strategic frameworks to drive measurable environmental outcomes (Alnaim & Metwally, 2024; Chenhall, 2003; Otley, 2016).

2. 3. GREEN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (GHRM) AND ITS STRATEGIC ROLE

Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) aligns HR practices with environmental objectives through green recruitment, training, and performance management (Joshi et al., 2023; Al-Romeedy & Alharethi, 2025; Renwick et al., 2013; Dumont et al., 2017). By fostering employee eco-consciousness, GHRM directly enhances operational outcomes such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, and compliance with environmental standards (Tang et al., 2018; Pham et al., 2020). For instance, firms adopting green training programs report higher employee engagement in sustainability initiatives, translating into measurable reductions in carbon

footprints (Humairah et al., 2023; Masri & Jaaron, 2017; Singh et al., 2020).

Emerging research positions GHRM as a mediator between accounting systems and sustainability outcomes. Singh et al. (2020) found that GHRM amplifies the impact of environmental management accounting on employee green behaviours, while Latan et al. (2018) linked GHRM practices to improved returns on sustainability investments. These studies highlight GHRM's role in translating technical data from SMAPs into actionable employee-driven initiatives, such as eco-innovation and resource conservation (Jabbour et al., 2013; Yong et al., 2020). Moreover, GHRM's emphasis on skill development ensures workforce readiness to implement advanced sustainability frameworks, addressing gaps in technological adoption (Nik Abdullah et al., 2022; Al-Ghwayeen & Abdallah, 2020; Pham et al., 2019).

2. 4. JORDANIAN INDUSTRIAL CONTEXT AND SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES

Jordan's industrial sector faces mounting pressure from environmental regulations, resource scarcity, and global market demands (Abu Afifa & Saleh, 2021). The government's National Environmental Strategy (2020) mandates emission reductions and water conservation, compelling firms to adopt SMAPs for compliance and competitive advantage. However, barriers such as limited technological infrastructure and workforce skill gaps hinder effective implementation (Al-Ghwayeen & Abdallah, 2020; Masri & Jaaron, 2017).

GHRM emerges as a critical enabler in this context, bridging gaps between regulatory requirements and operational capabilities. For example, green training programs enhance employees' technical proficiency in using environmental accounting tools, while performance incentives align individual goals with corporate sustainability targets (Pham et al., 2020; Yong et al., 2020). Case studies from Jordanian manufacturing firms demonstrate that integrating GHRM with SMAPs improves compliance with water conservation policies and reduces energy consumption by up to 22% (Mansour, 2023; Al Hashem & Al Shaar, 2022).

2. 5. HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

2. 5. 1. SMAPS AND GHRM PRACTICES

SMAPs provide the analytical frameworks and data-driven insights necessary to identify, design, and implement targeted GHRM practices (Singh et al., 2020; Roscoe et al., 2019). For instance, environmental cost accounting systems reveal gaps in employee competencies, enabling firms to prioritise green recruitment criteria or develop tailored sustainability training programs (Sult et al., 2024; Masri & Jaaron, 2017). Similarly, lifecycle costing and sustainability performance metrics inform HR departments about critical areas for behavioural change, such as aligning incentive structures with waste reduction targets (Pham et al., 2020; Hauashdh et al., 2024). Empirical studies confirm that SMAPs act as enablers of GHRM by translating abstract environmental goals into actionable HR policies (He et al., 2024; Guerci et al., 2016). This hypothesis aligns with contingency theory, which emphasises the alignment of technical systems (SMAPs) with human resource practices (GHRM) to address contextual challenges (Chenhall, 2003; Wijethilake et al., 2018; Al-Romeedy & Alharethi, 2025). Based on the theoretical arguments and empirical evidence discussed above, we propose the following hypothesis:

Hypothesis 1: SMAPs have a significant positive effect on GHRM practices in Jordanian industrial firms.

2. 5. 2. GHRM PRACTICES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE.

GHRM fosters environmental Sustainability by equipping employees with the skills (ability), motivation, and opportunities to execute eco-initiatives (Renwick et al., 2013; Dumont et al., 2017; Sarmad et al., 2023). Green training programs enhance employees' technical proficiency in energy conservation and waste management, directly reducing resource inefficiencies (Jabbour, 2011; Yusliza et al., 2017). Sustainability-linked performance appraisals and rewards align individual behaviours with organisational eco-targets, as evidenced by a 22% reduction in manufacturing waste following the adoption of GHRM (Tang et al., 2018; O'Donohue & Torugsa, 2016; Kutaula et al., 2024). Furthermore, participatory practices, such as green teams, empower employees to innovate, driving eco-friendly process redesigns (Paillé et al., 2020; Irawan et al., 2023). These findings underscore GHRM's role in operationalising human capital into measurable environmental outcomes, particularly in resource-constrained settings (Arulrajah et al., 2015; Rawashdeh, 2018). Given the strong theoretical foundation and empirical support for GHRM's role in enhancing environmental sustainability, we hypothesise that:

Hypothesis 2: *GHRM practices have a significant positive effect on environmental sustainability performance in Jordanian industrial firms.*

2. 5. 3. INDIRECT EFFECTS OF GHRM PRACTICES

GHRM bridges the gap between SMAPs' technical outputs and on-the-ground environmental actions by institutionalising Sustainability into daily employee practices (Singh et al., 2020; Alam et al., 2020). For example, carbon footprint analyses generated through SMAPs can inform the design of green training modules, while sustainability performance dashboards enable HR managers to track progress toward eco-goals (Giama & Papadopoulos, 2016; Saetang et al., 2024). This mediation is rooted in the ability-motivation-opportunity (AMO) framework, where GHRM provides the ability (via training), motivation (via incentives), and opportunity (via participatory mechanisms) for employees to act on SMAP-derived insights (Renwick et al., 2016; Adu Sarfo et al., 2024). Empirical studies affirm that GHRM amplifies the impact of accounting systems, with mediated models explaining 35%–48% of the variance in environmental performance (Jabbour et al., 2019; Yusliza et al., 2019). In Jordan's industrial context, where workforce readiness and regulatory compliance are critical, GHRM's mediation is likely to be even more pronounced (Masri & Jaaron, 2017; Freihat et al., 2024). Drawing upon the theoretical rationale and empirical evidence presented above, we formulate the following mediation hypothesis:

Hypothesis 3: GHRM practices mediate the relationship between SMAPs and environmental sustainability performance in Jordanian industrial firms.

3. METHODOLOGY

3. 1. RESEARCH DESIGN

This study adopts a quantitative, cross-sectional survey approach to investigate the relationship between Strategic Management Accounting Practices (SMAPs), Green Human Resource Management (GHRM), and environmental sustainability outcomes in Jordanian industrial firms. The research design aligns with established frameworks for examining sustainability-oriented organisational practices (Journeault, 2016; Wijethilake et al., 2018). While the original data collection (November 2024) did not explicitly measure GHRM constructs, the survey captured critical organisational factors, such as employee engagement and training systems, which are

integral to GHRM frameworks (Dumont et al., 2017; Gupta & Jangra, 2024). These factors are reinterpreted through a GHRM lens, consistent with methodological precedents in sustainability accounting research (Okunhon & Ige-Olaobaju, 2024); Hajj Hussein & Bou Zakhem, 2024).

3. 2. SAMPLE AND DATA COLLECTION

The target population comprised managerial and accounting employees from 53 Jordanian industrial firms listed on the Amman Stock Exchange, spanning the manufacturing, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and engineering sectors. A stratified random sampling technique ensured proportional industry representation (Taherdoost, 2016). Data were collected from 180 employees via a structured questionnaire, achieving a response rate of 73%.

Sample Adequacy: The sample size meets PLS-SEM requirements, satisfying the "10 times rule" ($10 \times \text{maximum}$ number of structural paths = $10 \times 4 = 40$) and exceeding the minimum threshold of 100 cases for stable estimates (Hair & Alamer, 2022; Kock & Hadaya, 2018). A post-hoc power analysis using G*Power 3.1 (Aberson, 2019) confirmed 85% power ($\alpha = 0.05$, effect size = 0.15), aligning with similar studies in sustainability accounting (Ortiz-Martínez et al., 2023; Cohen, 1988).

Ethical considerations: This study received ethical approval from the Research Ethics Committee of The Hashemite University (approval reference number: 5/2024/2025). Written informed consent was obtained from all participants. A cover letter was provided at the beginning of the survey that explained the purpose of the research, assured participants of anonymity, and clarified that data would be used for research purposes only. Submission of the completed survey was taken as confirmation of written consent.

Demographics:

- **Age**: 55% aged 25–35 years
- Education: 70% of bachelor's degree holders
- Roles: 61.1% accounting professionals; 38.9% managers
- Experience: 84.4% with <5 years of experience

While the early-career dominance may reflect evolving sustainability practices in Jordan (Issa, 2023), it captures perspectives from professionals trained in contemporary sustainability curricula (Alkhawaldeh, 2017; Gerged et al., 2021).

3. 3. MEASUREMENT INSTRUMENTS

The questionnaire assessed three latent constructs using validated scales:

1. Strategic Management Accounting Practices (SMAPs):

- Measured adoption of environmental cost analysis, lifecycle budgeting, and sustainability performance measurement (Nik Abdullah et al., 2022; al-Nimer, 2010; Ojra et al., 2021; Alsharari, 2024).
- 5-point Likert scale (1 = Never, 5 = Very Often); Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.950$.

2. Green Human Resource Management (GHRM):

- Employee engagement, green training, and performance incentives were reinterpreted as proxies for GHRM, supported by established linkages between these practices and GHRM frameworks (Adu Sarfo et al., 2024; Veerasamy et al., 2023; Ercantan & Eyupoglu, 2022).
- Example item: "My organisation provides training on environmental compliance."
- 5-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree); Cronbach's α = 0.893.

3. Environmental Sustainability:

- Assessed waste reduction, emissions control, and regulatory compliance (Maas et al., 2016; Qian et al., 2018; Bade et al., 2024).
- 5-point Likert scale (1 = Poor, 5 = Excellent); Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.907$.

3. 4. LIMITATIONS AND INTERPRETATIVE RIGOR

Key Limitations:

- 1. Indirect GHRM Measurement: The original survey did not explicitly measure GHRM but inferred it through employee engagement and training systems. This reinterpretation, while methodologically sound (Aguinis et al., 2019), requires validation through future studies with direct GHRM scales (Perez et al., 2024).
- 2. Sample Size: Though adequate for PLS-SEM, larger samples could enhance generalisability (Hair & Alamer, 2022).

Mitigation Strategies:

• Explicitly framed findings as exploratory, emphasising theoretical rather than causal claims (Aguinis & Solarino, 2019). Anchored interpretations in established GHRM literature (e.g., Ren et al., 2018; Kamboj & Anthonysamy, 2024).

4. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

4. 1. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

Data screening confirmed multivariate normality, with skewness (-0.714 to -0.470) and kurtosis (-0.564 to 1.066) values within acceptable thresholds (Kline, 2016). Five outliers identified via Mahalanobis distance (p < .001) were retained, as they reflected genuine organisational diversity rather than measurement anomalies, aligning with recommendations for preserving ecological validity in field research (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2019). Common method bias was negligible, as Harman's single-factor test revealed that the first factor accounted for only 28.7% of the variance, well below the 50% threshold (Podsakoff et al., 2003). This strengthens confidence in the validity of self-reported measures, particularly when examining latent constructs like GHRM (Conway & Lance, 2010). We also assessed potential multicollinearity concerns given the high correlations observed among GHRM dimensions (0.830, 0.899, and 0.911, as shown in Table 1). Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) analysis revealed values ranging from 1.24 to 3.42 across all predictor variables, well below the critical threshold of 5 (Hair & Alamer, 2022) indicating that multicollinearity does not substantially affect the study regression estimates. In addition, a second-order measurement model for GHRM further addresses these high correlations by acknowledging the shared variance among these theoretically related subdimensions while preserving their unique contributions (Becker et al., 2012). This approach is consistent with recent GHRM studies that conceptualise GHRM as a multidimensional yet unified construct (Yusliza et al., 2020; Renwick et al., 2016).

4. 2. DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS AND CORRELATIONS

Table 1 summarises the descriptive statistics and Pearson correlations. GHRM dimensions demonstrated moderate to high implementation levels, with Green Policy Consistency (M = 3.747) scoring the highest, followed by Green Adaptability (M = 3.680) and Green Employee Involvement (M = 3.587). SMAPs showed moderate adoption (M = 3.589), suggesting room for improvement in integrating Sustainability into accounting frameworks. Environmental Sustainability performance was similarly moderate (M = 3.572), consistent with prior studies in

emerging economies (Jabbour et al., 2017; Dasinapa, 2024; Appiagyei & Donkor, 2024).

Correlation analysis revealed strong positive associations between GHRM and Environmental Sustainability (r = 0.738, p < 0.01), surpassing the SMAPs-Sustainability relationship (r = 0.509, p < 0.01). This aligns with the resource-based view theory, which posits that human capital mechanisms like GHRM are critical for translating technical systems (e.g., SMAPs) into sustainable outcomes (Barney et al., 2021). The strong SMAPs-GHRM correlation (r = 0.697, p < 0.01) further supports the conceptual model's premise that accounting practices enable HR systems to align with sustainability goals (Pumiviset & Suttipun, 2024; Dasanayaka et al., 2021).

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics and Correlations for Main Study Variables

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	Mean	SD
1. Environmental Sustainability	1.000						3.572	0.796
2. SMAPs	0.509**	1.000					3.589	0.561
3. GHRM	0.738**	0.697**	1.000				3.671	0.636
4. Green Employee Involvement	0.653**	0.612**	0.830**	1.000			3.587	0.540
5. Green Policy Consistency	0.694**	0.638**	0.899**	0.659**	1.000		3.747	0.705
6. Green Adaptability	0.679**	0.628**	0.911**	0.672**	0.753**	1.000	3.680	0.662

Note: ** Correlation significant at p < 0.01

Note: The high correlations among GHRM dimensions were addressed through VIF analysis and second-order construct modelling, as discussed in the Preliminary Analysis section.

Source: Author's calculation

4. 3. MEASUREMENT MODEL ASSESSMENT

4. 3. 1. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY ANALYSIS

Table 2 confirms the measurement model's robustness. Composite reliability (CR) exceeded 0.90 for all constructs, surpassing the 0.70 threshold (Hair & Alamer, 2022). While GHRM (AVE = 0.486) and SMAPs (AVE = 0.405) fell slightly below the 0.50 AVE benchmark, their high CR values (0.907 and 0.959, respectively) justify retaining these constructs, as CR prioritises internal consistency over variance extraction (Fornell & Larcker, 1981). Discriminant validity was established via the Fornell-Larcker criterion, with $\sqrt{\text{AVE}}$ exceeding inter-construct correlations. HTMT ratios (all < 0.85) further validated discriminant validity (Henseler et al., 2015), mitigating concerns about multicollinearity.

Table 2. Measurement Model Assessment

Construct	CR	AVE	MSV	√AVE	GHRM	SMAPs	Env. Sustainability
GHRM	0.907	0.486	0.544	0.697	0.697		
SMAPs	0.959	0.405	0.486	0.636	0.697	0.636	
Env. Sustainability	0.921	0.700	0.544	0.837	0.738	0.509	0.837

Note: CR = Composite Reliability; AVE = Average Variance Extracted; MSV = Maximum Shared Variance; Diagonal elements (bold) are the square root of AVE; Off-diagonal elements are correlations between constructs

Source: Author's calculation

4. 3. 2. SECOND-ORDER FACTOR ANALYSIS FOR GHRM

Table 3 validates GHRM's hierarchical structure. All first-order dimensions loaded significantly on the second-order construct (loadings: 0.830-0.911, p < 0.001), reinforcing GHRM as a multidimensional system integrating policies, employee engagement, and adaptive practices (Renwick et al., 2016). The second-order AVE (0.780) and CR (0.914) indicate strong conver-

gent validity and reliability, consistent with recent studies treating GHRM as a higher-order construct (Roscoe et al., 2019). Model fit indices (SRMR = 0.063, NFI = 0.928) align with benchmarks for partial least squares models (Wang et al., 2024).

Table 3. Second-order Factor Structure of GHRM

First-Order Dimension	Loading to Second-Order GHRM	t-value	AVE	CR
Green Employee Involvement	0.830	32.57***	0.559	0.863
Green Policy Consistency	0.899	48.34***	0.578	0.845
Green Adaptability	0.911	53.19***	0.541	0.854
Second-Order GHRM	-	-	0.780	0.914

Note: *** p < 0.001; Model fit: SRMR = 0.063; NFI = 0.928

Source: Author's calculation

4. 4. STRUCTURAL MODEL AND HYPOTHESIS TESTING

4. 4. 1. DIRECT EFFECTS AND HYPOTHESIS TESTING

The structural model analysis (Table 4) confirms all hypothesised relationships. Hypothesis 1 (H₁) is strongly supported, with Strategic Management Accounting Practices (SMAPs) exerting a significant positive influence on Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) ($\beta = 0.733$, p < 0.001, $f^2 = 1.159$). This aligns with institutional theory, which posits that formal accounting systems institutionalise sustainability-oriented norms, thereby shaping HR policies and practices (Alnaim & Metwally, 2024). Hypothesis 2 (H₂) is also validated, as GHRM demonstrates a robust direct effect on environmental Sustainability ($\beta = 0.763$, p < 0.001, f² = 0.829), reinforcing the strategic role of HRM in operationalising sustainability objectives through employee engagement, policy alignment, and adaptive organisational structures (Ren et al., 2023). Hypothesis 3 (H₃) is confirmed by the non-significant direct path between SMAPs and Environmental Sustainability ($\beta = -0.043$, p = 0.505), underscoring GHRM's critical mediating role. This finding addresses the "black box" critique of accounting systems, emphasising that technical tools like SMAPs require human-centric implementation mechanisms to translate into tangible sustainability outcomes (Adewale et al., 2021; Contini et al., 2025). Collectively, the model explains 54.5% of the variance in environmental sustainability performance ($R^2 = 0.545$), with Stone-Geisser's Q² value of 0.386 confirming its high predictive relevance (Hair & Alamer, 2022). These results highlight GHRM as the linchpin connecting strategic accounting practices to ecological outcomes, bridging technical and human systems in sustainability management.

Table 4. Structural Model Results

Hypothesis/Path	Path Coefficient (β)	t-value	p-value	95% CI	Effect Size (f²)	Decision
H₁: SMAPs → GHRM	0.733	32.312	< 0.001	[0.689, 0.777]	1.159 (Large)	Supported
H ₂ : GHRM → Env. Sustainability	0.763	13.098	<0.001	[0.648, 0.878]	0.829 (Large)	Supported
H₃: SMAPs → Env. Sustainability	-0.043	0.666	0.505	[-0.169, 0.083]	0.002 (None)	Supported

Note: CI = Confidence Interval; Effect size (f²) values: small = 0.02, medium = 0.15, large = 0.35 (Cohen, 1988)

Source: Author's calculation

4. 4. 2. POLYNOMIAL REGRESSION ANALYSIS

The study conducted a polynomial regression analysis to explore potential non-linear relationships between SMAPs and GHRM dimensions. The results are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Polynomial Effects of SMAPs on GHRM Dimensions

Predictor	Green Employee Involvement	Green Policy Consistency	Green Adaptability
SMAPs (linear)	0.589***	0.624***	0.617***
SMAPs ² (quadratic)	0.113*	0.087	0.104*
R ²	0.397	0.414	0.405
ΔR^2 due to quadratic term	0.012*	0.007	0.010*

Note: * p < 0.05, *** p < 0.001

Source: Author's calculation

Table 5 reveals non-linear relationships between SMAPs and two GHRM dimensions: Green Employee Involvement (β = 0.113, p < 0.05) and Green Adaptability (β = 0.104, p < 0.05). This suggests diminishing returns at lower SMAPs implementation levels, with accelerated effects as practices mature—a pattern observed in innovation adoption curves (Ojra, et al., 2021; Dang et al., 2021). Green Policy Consistency's linear relationship (β = 0.087, p > 0.05) implies that policy formalisation depends more on baseline SMAPs adoption than incremental improvements.

4. 5. MEDIATION ANALYSIS

4. 5. 1. OVERALL MEDIATION EFFECT

Table 6 demonstrates full mediation (VAF = 108.3%), with SMAPs' total Effect on Sustainability fully channelled through GHRM (indirect $\beta = 0.559$, p < 0.001). The VAF exceeding 100% arises from covariance among GHRM dimensions, a known phenomenon in multilevel mediation models (Preacher & Hayes, 2008). This aligns with sociotechnical systems theory, wherein technical systems (SMAPs) and social systems (GHRM) interact holistically to achieve Sustainability (Appannan et al., 2023; Hadi et al., 2018; Chaudhuri & Jayaram, 2019).

Table 6. Mediation Analysis Results

Effect	Path Coefficient (β)	t-value	p-value	95% CI	Decision
Direct Effect (SMAPs → Env. Sustainability)	-0.043	0.666	0.505	[-0.169, 0.083]	Non-significant
Indirect Effect (SMAPs → GHRM → Env. Sustainability)	0.559	12.097	<0.001	[0.479, 0.662]	Significant
Total Effect (Direct + Indirect)	0.516	10.862	<0.001	[0.421, 0.610]	Significant
VAF (Indirect Effect / Total Effect)	1.083	-	-	-	Full Mediation

Note: CI = Confidence Interval; VAF = Variance Accounted For; VAF > 80% indicates full mediation (Hair & Alamer, 2022)

Source: Author's calculation

4. 5. 2. MEDIATION EFFECT SIZE ANALYSIS

The study calculated standardised effect size metrics to quantify the magnitude of the mediation effect. The results of this analysis are presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Mediation Effect Size Assessment

Relationship	Indirect Effect	95% CI	PM	κ²	Interpretation
$SMAPs \rightarrow GHRM \rightarrow$	0.550	[0.470.0.662]	1.00	0.527	Large mediation
Env. Sustainability	0.559 [0.479,	[0.479, 0.662]	1.08	0.537	effect

Note: PM = Proportion Mediated (ratio of indirect Effect to total Effect); κ^2 = Kappa-squared (standardised mediation effect size); κ^2 values: small = 0.01, medium = 0.09, large = 0.25 (Preacher & Kelley, 2011)

Source: Author's calculation

The mediation effect size analysis yielded a κ^2 value of 0.537, indicating a significant mediation effect according to Preacher and Kelley's (2011) guidelines. The Proportion mediated (PM) value of 1.08 confirms full mediation, with the indirect Effect accounting for effectively all of the relationships between SMAPs and Environmental Sustainability.

4. 5. 3. DIMENSION-LEVEL MEDIATION ANALYSIS

The study conducted a dimension-level mediation analysis to provide deeper insights into the specific mechanisms through which GHRM mediates the SMAPs-Sustainability relationship. The results are presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Dimension-Level Mediation Analysis

Mediating Pathway	Path a (SMAPs → Dimension)	Path b (Dimension → Sustainability)	Indirect Effect (a × b)	% of Total Ef- fect
SMAPs → Green Employee Involvement → Sustainability	0.612**	0.387**	0.237**	45.9%
SMAPs → Green Policy Consistency → Sustainability	0.638**	0.455**	0.290**	56.2%
SMAPs → Green Adaptability → Sustainability	0.628**	0.422**	0.265**	51.4%

Note: ** p < 0.01

Source: Author's calculation

Table 8 highlights Green Policy Consistency as the strongest mediator (56.2% of the Total Effect), emphasising the need for coherent policies to translate accounting metrics into actionable HR practices (Jackson et al., 2014). Green Adaptability (51.4%) and Employee Involvement (45.9%) further illustrate the synergistic roles of flexibility and participation in sustainability implementation (Paillé et al., 2020; Elshaer et al., 2024; Rumman & Alqudah, 2024).

4. 6. ROBUSTNESS ANALYSES

4. 6. 1. MULTI-GROUP ANALYSIS

To assess the stability of the study findings across different organisational contexts, the study conducted a multi-group analysis comparing path coefficients across different firm sizes and ages. No significant differences in path coefficients were found between small and large firms or between younger and older firms (all p > 0.05), supporting the robustness of findings across organisational contexts.

4. 6. 2. ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATION METHODS

To further establish the robustness of the study findings, the study compared results across alternative estimation methods. Table 9 presents this comparison.

Table 9. Robustness Analysis with Alternative Estimation Methods
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Estimation Method	$SMAPs \rightarrow$	$GHRM \rightarrow Env.$	Indirect Effect	Model Fit
	GHRM	Sustainability		
PLS-SEM (Primary)	0.733***	0.763***	0.559***	SRMR = 0.072
CB-SEM (Maximum	0.718***	0.741***	0.532***	CFI = 0.924, RMSEA = 0.058
Likelihood)				KMSEA = 0.038
Bootstrap (BCa, 10,000 resamples)	0.733***	0.763***	0.559*** [0.472, 0.657]	-

Note: *** p < 0.001; BCa = Bias-Corrected and Accelerated bootstrap; CFI = Comparative Fit Index; RMSEA = Root Mean Square Error of Approximation

Source: Author's calculation

The comparison of results across estimation methods confirmed the stability of the study findings. Both Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) and Covariance-Based Structural Equation Modeling (CB-SEM) yielded similar path coefficients and indirect effects, with only minor differences in magnitude. The bootstrap analysis with 10,000 resamples produced a bias-corrected confidence interval for the indirect Effect [0.472, 0.657] that closely matched the study primary analysis.

4. 6. 3. CONDITIONAL PROCESS ANALYSIS

The study conducted a conditional process analysis to examine potential boundary conditions of the mediation effect. Table 10 presents the conditional indirect effects of firm size.

Table 10. Conditional Indirect Effects by Firm Size

Firm Size	Indirect Effect of SMAPs on Env. Sustainability	95% CI	Index of Moderated Mediation
Small Firms	0.532	[0.427, 0.637]	0.065
Medium Firms	0.559	[0.479, 0.662]	[-0.042, 0.172]
Large Firms	0.597	[0.478, 0.716]	

Note: Small firms < 150 employees; Medium firms = 150-300 employees; Large firms > 300 employees

Source: Author's calculation

The stability of the results was confirmed across estimation methods (PLS-SEM, CB-SEM) and firm sizes. The non-significant moderated mediation index (95% CI [-0.042, 0.172]) suggests the model's generalisability, consistent with the contingency theory's premise that core HR-accounting linkages transcend contextual differences (Harney, 2016; Donaldson, 2001).

Accordingly, the analysis robustly supports all hypotheses, establishing GHRM as the critical conduit through which SMAPs enhance Sustainability. Green Policy Consistency emerges as the linchpin, while the non-linear effects in Employee Involvement and Adaptability suggest targeted SMAPs investments yield disproportionate gains. The full mediation effect underscores the necessity of aligning technical and human systems for sustainability success.

5. DISCUSSION

The empirical findings offer critical insights into the potential mediating role of Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) in translating Strategic Management Accounting Practices (SMAPs) into environmental sustainability outcomes. The robust mediation effect (β = 0.559, p < 0.001; Table 6) aligns with sociotechnical systems theory, which emphasises the interdependence of technical systems (SMAPs) and social systems (GHRM) in achieving Sustainability (Contini et al., 2025; Ren et al., 2023). Although GHRM was not directly measured, the cultural

dimensions analysed—employee involvement, policy consistency, and adaptability—closely mirror established GHRM constructs in the literature (Alam et al., 2021; Jabbour et al., 2020; Ercantan & Eyupoglu, 2022). For instance, the high score for Green Policy Consistency (M = 3.747; Table 1) reflects the integration of Sustainability into HR policies, a hallmark of mature GHRM systems (Papademetriou et al., 2025; Banga & Gobind, 2025). Similarly, the non-linear effects observed in Green Employee Involvement and Adaptability (Table 5) suggest threshold effects in GHRM implementation, where incremental SMAPs investments yield disproportionate gains in employee engagement and organisational flexibility—a pattern consistent with innovation diffusion theory (Humairah et al., 2023; Chali & Lakatos, 2024).

However, direct measurement of HR practices (e.g., green training, sustainability-linked performance appraisal) would strengthen causal claims (Jackson et al., 2011; Aboramadan, 2022). The absence of a direct SMAPs-sustainability path underscores that technical accounting tools alone are insufficient; they require complementary HR systems to mobilise human capital toward environmental goals (Latan et al., 2018; Akankunda et al., 2024). This aligns with the resource-based view, where GHRM acts as a "human infrastructure" that converts SMAPs' technical inputs into sustainable outputs (Joshi et al., 2023; Gerhart & Feng, 2021; Wright et al., 2001). Future studies should explicitly measure GHRM practices to validate these linkages.

5. 1. THEORETICAL IMPLICATIONS

This study advances sustainability accounting and HRM theory in three key ways. First, it extends contingency theory by identifying GHRM as a critical mediator between SMAPs and environmental performance. The study findings suggest that targeted HR practices—such as green policy alignment and adaptive capability-building—are more precise mechanisms through which accounting systems influence Sustainability (Ren et al., 2018; Majuri & Halonen, 2020). Second, it bridges the gap between technical and social sustainability research. By positioning GHRM as the conduit for SMAPs' effects, the study integrates traditionally siloed literature, offering a holistic framework that reflects the interplay of financial and human systems (Gond et al., 2012; Esho & Verhoef, 2020; Garg et al., 2024). Third, the full mediation effect challenges the prevailing assumption in environmental accounting literature that technical tools directly drive performance (Hasan et al., 2024; Wu & Tham, 2023). Instead, the study results support a "sequential integration" model, where SMAPs enable GHRM, operationalising Sustainability—a nuance absent in prior mediation studies (Ateeq et al., 2024; Wijethilake et al., 2018).

The dimension-level mediation analysis (Table 8) further refines the theory. Green Policy Consistency's dominant role (56.2% of Total Effect) highlights the centrality of formalised HR policies in sustainability implementation, resonating with institutional theory's focus on rule-based systems (Banga & Gobind, 2025; Campos-García et al., 2024). Conversely, Green Adaptability's strong mediation (51.4%) underscores dynamic capability theory, where HR flexibility enables firms to respond to evolving environmental demands (Mohammad et al., 2024; Adabenege, 2025). These dual pathways suggest that GHRM's effectiveness lies in balancing structural formalisation with operational agility—a theoretical insight with implications for sustainability governance models.

5. 2. PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

For Jordanian industrial firms, the findings underscore the necessity of integrating SMAPs with GHRM systems. First, firms should prioritise green policy integration by aligning HR practices—such as recruitment, training, and performance appraisal—with sustainability accounting metrics. For example, linking carbon accounting data to department-level KPIs could incentivise managers to adopt greener practices supported by HR-led training programs on environmen-

tal compliance (Tahir et al., 2024; Jerónimo et al., 2020; Jabbour, 2011). Second, the moderate SMAPs adoption indicates untapped potential. Firms could implement annual green training workshops to enhance employees' ability to interpret and act on sustainability accounting data, fostering a culture of eco-literacy (Sun et al., 2024). Third, the lower score for Green Employee Involvement (M = 3.587) suggests opportunities for participatory initiatives, such as cross-functional "green teams" that use SMAPs data to propose efficiency improvements—a practice shown to boost engagement in Jordanian manufacturing contexts (Masri & Jaaron, 2017).

These insights highlight the risks of deploying standardised sustainability accounting tools without localising HR practices for multinational corporations operating in Jordan. For instance, a global SMAPs system tracking water usage must be paired with region-specific HR interventions, such as training programs addressing Jordan's acute water scarcity (Abu Afifa & Saleh, 2021). Such contextualisation ensures that technical systems resonate with local ecological and cultural realities.

5. 3. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Aligning with Jordan's National Green Growth Plan (2021–2025), which prioritises sustainable industrialisation, the study proposes four evidence-based policies:

- 1. Green Skills Certification Programs: Partnering with vocational institutes, the government could mandate certification in environmental management accounting and GHRM for industrial managers. This would address the skills gap identified in SMAPs adoption (M = 3.589) while fostering HR practices that translate accounting data into action (Jackson et al., 2011).
- 2. Tax Incentives for Integrated Systems: Firms demonstrating synergy between SMAPs and GHRM may receive tax rebates, such as utilising carbon accounting to guide green recruitment. This aligns with the plan's focus on "eco-industrial parks" and rewards the mediation pathways identified in the study analysis.
- 3. Sustainability Reporting Expansion: Requiring firms to disclose both environmental metrics (e.g., emissions) and HR initiatives (e.g., green training hours) in annual reports would mirror the dual focus of the study findings. Chile's 2022 sustainability reporting regulations offer a viable template (Wagenhofer, 2023).
- 4. Industry-Academia Partnerships: Establishing research consortia between Jordanian universities and industrial firms could co-develop GHRM frameworks tailored to Arab business contexts. For example, adapting Western-based SMAPs tools to Jordan's collectivist culture through HR practices that emphasise communal environmental responsibility (Ahmed et al., 2022).

These recommendations recognise that Jordan's path to Sustainability hinges on synchronising technical innovations with human capital development—a lesson with broader relevance for emerging economies.

6. CONCLUSION, LIMITATIONS, AND FUTURE RESEARCH

6. 1. CONCLUSION

This study advances the understanding of sustainability implementation by demonstrating that Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) serves as the critical linchpin connecting Strategic Management Accounting Practices (SMAPs) to environmental outcomes in Jordanian industrial firms. The full mediation effect ($\beta = 0.559$, p < 0.001) challenges conventional assumptions that technical accounting systems directly drive Sustainability, revealing that

their efficacy hinges on human resource mechanisms. The study findings redefine the interplay between technical and social systems in sustainability research by positioning GHRM as the operational conduit through which SMAPs translate into measurable ecological improvements. The dominance of Green Policy Consistency (56.2% of the Total Effect) underscores the necessity of formalised HR frameworks to institutionalise environmental goals. At the same time, the non-linear relationships in Adaptability and employee involvement highlight the dynamic thresholds at which SMAPs investments yield exponential gains.

These insights mandate a paradigm shift for practitioners: Sustainability accounting must be coupled with targeted HR interventions, such as green training programs aligned with carbon metrics or cross-departmental teams empowered to act on waste reduction data. Policy-wise, the study results validate Jordan's National Green Growth Plan's emphasis on integrated systems, advocating for regulatory frameworks that incentivise SMAPs-GHRM synergy, such as tax rebates for firms demonstrating HR-accounting alignment. Theoretically, this study bridges the long-standing divide between environmental accounting and HRM literature, offering a sociotechnical model where human capital mechanisms operationalise technical data—a framework applicable beyond emerging economies to global sustainability challenges. Future research must now prioritise validating these linkages through direct GHRM measurement, but the implications are clear: accounting systems cannot "go green" without human resources turning data into action.

6. 2. LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

While this study offers critical insights, four limitations warrant consideration. First, the cross-sectional design precludes causal claims. Although the temporal sequence of SMA-Ps—GHRM—Sustainability is theoretically justified, longitudinal data tracking GHRM implementation alongside accounting changes is needed to confirm mediation dynamics (Ployhart & Vandenberg, 2010). Second, though validated through Harman's test, self-reported data may inflate relationships through common method bias; multi-source data linking managerial SMAPs reports to external sustainability audits would enhance robustness (Podsakoff et al., 2012). Third, despite the study VIF analysis showing acceptable values, the high correlations among GHRM dimensions represent a potential limitation that future studies should address through refined measurement scales. Fourth, omitted variables—particularly leadership commitment and supply chain pressures—may influence both GHRM adoption and sustainability outcomes. For instance, CEOs' environmental values could drive both HR policies and accounting innovations, a confounder requiring control in future models (Haddock-Millar et al., 2016).

Future research should prioritise four directions: (1) Longitudinal studies tracking how SMAPs-GHRM alignment evolves during sustainability certification processes (e.g., ISO 14001 adoption), (2) Comparative analyses of GHRM's mediating role in differing regulatory regimes (e.g., Jordan vs. EU contexts), (3) Intervention-based designs testing training programs that enhance employees' ability to operationalise SMAPs data, and (4) Multilevel models examining how national culture moderates SMAPs-GHRM linkages—particularly in collectivist Arab contexts where communal norms may amplify green HR practices' impact (Carballo-Penela et al., 2023; Hofstede et al., 2010). Expanding beyond industrial sectors to service industries (e.g., tourism) could reveal context-specific mediation pathways, further refining the sociotechnical framework proposed here.

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