*ESG Investing Awards 2023 - NESsT*

*Submission requirements*

* Nominated company type (select one: bank, investment manager, hedge fund, private equity, wealth manager, vendor)
  + Investment Manager
* Award category
  + Best ESG Investment Fund: Impact
* Name of company
  + NESsT
* Primary contact for correspondence
  + Calli Haramaras, Client Manager, Milk & Honey PR
  + 847 502 4063
* Do you want your submission to remain confidential (Y/N)
  + Y
* Describe in 300 words (max.) why your company is deserving of your chosen award category (297/300 words)

Local businesses are the foundation of community - creating culture and building opportunities. In emerging market countries, local businesses provide dignified employment, help support families and contribute to the community. And yet, resources are scarce – 25% of workers live in extreme or moderate poverty, 46.8% workers face low incomes and difficult working conditions.

NESsT – a pioneer in the impact investing industry – is on a mission to change that. For 25 years, NESsT has incubated and financed 235 enterprises to sustain more than 77,000 formal jobs targeting vulnerable women, at-risk youth, smallholder farmers, and minorities.

NESsT’s “invest, incubate, transform” investment model is uniquely designed to drive maximum – and measurable – impact. NESsT operates two businesses: 1- Impact funds that provide debt financing to small and growing businesses; and 2- Incubators that accelerate early-stage enterprises towards investment readiness.

Examples of the enterprises impacted by NESsT’s investments include:

* **Ecocitex**: A social enterprise that sells 100% recycled textile products through more than 250 women-led businesses across Chile. Ecocitex’s recycling process extends textile lifetimes to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. NESsT and IKEA Social Entrepreneurship invested in Ecocitex to support the enterprise in employing more women and low-income communities to reach its ability to process 110 tons of textile waste per year.
* **Greenbox:** Greenbox is a social enterprise that transforms regions in the Amazon Andes of Peru from harvesting coca plants for use in drug trafficking, to harvesting organic fruit for use in value-add products. Farmers in this region are smallholders who practice subsistence agriculture and use limited technology. NESsT’s investment supports Greenbox to increase production and improve operational efficiency.

To date, NESsT has impacted more than 24,000 entrepreneurs and improved 900,000 lives across 50 countries. NESsT is working towards a dream to ensure that no one is left behind.