

World Sustainability Organization SDG Assessment

Direct positive	1	2		4		6	7	8	9		11	12		14	15		17
Indirect positive			3		5					10			13			16	
No impact																	
Indirect negative																	
Direct negative																	
Don't know - more knowledge needed																	

Description

World Sustainability Organization SDG Assessment

Strategic choices

These are our prioritised SDGs that we will take action on.



- ✓ Positive impacts we can strengthen even further
- ✓ Negative impacts we can eliminate or minimise
- ✓ How we will fill our knowledge gaps

Strategy

- While some WSO's Standards account for biodiversity protection and maintaining local breeds, WSO engages in including additional requirements for genetic diversity of seeds and it will support in 2022 NGOs involved in this mission. - WSO engages in offering, by the end of 2022 and in the following years, accessible low cost consultancy to small scale operators in agriculture and fisheries. - WSO engages in lobbying throughout 2022 and will continue doing so in the following years, aiming to correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions.



NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(1.1) & (1.2) WSO donates to Verified international NGOs supporting poor families and children worldwide. Moreover, all WSO's Certification Standards include Social Accountability requirement ensuring, among the others, compliance with national minimum wages for the sector. (1.3) All WSO's Standards include Social Accountability requirements which contain, among others, a requirement to guarantee employees access to health care and freedom of association and collective bargain. Furthermore, WSO's Standards for Fisheries in particular require appropriate working conditions on board. (1.4) WSO's Standards include requirements, where applicable, to ensure that the rights of the small scale fishing communities are granted. (1.5) WSO supports and donates to projects aiming to end hunger. At the same time WSO's mission is to promote sustainable production practices. Furthermore, WSO consequently works to reduce the impact of environmental and economic crises on the poorest. (1.A) & (1.B) WSO is mostly active in the developing world and its certification standards have proven to be more accessible than others on the market, particularly in the developing countries and for small scale producers. WSO is active in Africa aiming to promote sustainability in collaboration with local Governments. All WSO's certification standards, including the ones for Ethical Model Agencies include requirements for gender equality. WSO itself has a gender equality and no harassment policy. Moreover, WSO and WSF carry out fundraising activity to mobilize funds from the industry to support local communities in the developing world. Some of the WSO and WSF conservation projects, such as the one in Madagascar aiming to protect lemurs, engage local communities directly in activities to protect their land.



ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(2.1), (2.2) & (2.3) WSO supports and donates to Humanitarian and Hunger relief NGOs worldwide. This way WSO helps also more vulnerable parts of societies, children and mothers. Furthermore, WSO's Standards requirements are accessible to small scale producers in the developing world. By promoting sustainable practices WSO helps ensuring food for future generations and also local communities (2.4) WSO Standard for Sustainable Agriculture and Farming, aims at promoting sustainable practices, thus reducing soil erosion, maintaining ecosystem and at the same time increase production by practices similar to integrated pest management, precision agriculture, hydroponics etc. (2.5) While some of the WSO's Standards account for biodiversity protection and maintaining local breeds, WSO engages at including additional requirements for genetic diversity of seeds and it will support in 2022 NGOs involved in this mission. (2.A) WSO is offering accessible low cost consultancy to small scale operators in agriculture and fisheries (2.B) WSO engages in lobbying activities throughout 2022 and will continue in the following years in order to correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions. (2.C) Not applicable to WSO's activities.



GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Impact

INDIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(3.1), (3.2), (3.3), (3.4), (3.5) & (3.6) Not applicable to WSO's activities. However, WSO's donations to NGOs and Institutions preventing poverty, hunger and supporting children and their education, can in the long term indirectly help implementation of these objectives. (3.7) & (3.8) WSO indirectly helps promoting access to universal health coverage by its Standards' social accountability requirements related to health coverage, safety, training, handling of hazardous substances in fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, farming and fashion. (3.9) WSO indirectly helps promote prevention of air, water and soil pollution by means of its Standards' on pollution prevention, handling of hazardous substances, training, safe drinking water and personnel protection equipment in agriculture, farming, fisheries and aquaculture. (3-A), (3-B), (3-C) & (3-D) Not applicable to WSO's activities.





QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(4.1) & (4.2) By means of WSO's donation to support children and poor families, it also helps in making it affordable to access schools and education in general. (4.3) WSO engages at launching a scholarship program by the end of 2022. Additionally, by means of accessible online technical information, courses, school awareness programs and consultancies, WSO supports equal access to affordable technical, vocational and higher education. (4.4) WSO engages in hiring of qualified personnel from developing countries as many as possible. Additionally, by means of accessible online technical information, courses and consultancies, WSO helps increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success. (4.5) & (4.6) By means of WSO's donation to support children and poor families, it also helps in making it affordable to access school and education in general. (4.7) WSO engages at launching a scholarship program by the end of 2022. Additionally, by means of accessible online technical information, courses and consultancies, WSO supports education for sustainable development across the globe. (4-A) Currently not applicable to WSO's activities. (4-B) & (4-C) WSO engages at launching a scholarship program for developing countries by the end of 2022. Additionally, by means of accessible online technical information, courses and consultancies, WSO supports equal access to affordable technical, vocational and higher education in developing countries.





GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Impact

INDIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(5.1) WSO mainstreams its Social Accountability policy which includes no discrimination towards girls and women. As evidence, its advisory board, its employees and external collaborators' team is composed of over 50% women. (5.2) WSO's Standards' Social Accountability requires no gender discrimination. The Standard for Sustainable and Ethical Models Agencies aims at eliminating gender discrimination, harassment and sexual abuses. (5.3), (5.4), (5.5), (5.6) Not Applicable to WSO activities. However, WSO aims to support NGOs working in this field by 2023. (5-A), (5-B) Currently not Applicable to WSO activities. However, WSO aims to support NGOs working in this field by 2023. (5-C) WSO contributes to gender equality legislation and woman empowerment at all levels through its Standards' Social Accountability which requires no gender discrimination.





CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(6.1) & (6.2) Not applicable to WSO's activities. However, WSO engages to support NGOs involved in water conservation by 2023. (6.3), (6.4), (6.5) & (6.6) WSO's Standards for Sustainable Aquaculture and Agriculture, as well as Shipping, Salt production, Mining, Textiles and Fashion all require water pollution prevention, water recycling, authorized water sourcing, water management practices. WSO's conservation programs mitigate adverse human impacts on endangered aquatic species and habitats, such as mangroves, wetlands and forests, which play a fundamental role in water conservation. Beach cleaning events are organized by WSO, to reduce the human impact on coastal marine ecosystems. River cleaning systems are also certified and promoted. (6-A) & (6-B) Not applicable to WSO's activities. However, WSO is committed to support NGOs involved in water and sanitation management by 2023.





AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

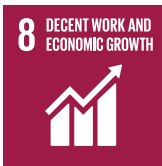
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(7.1) Not applicable to WSO's activities. However, WSO engages to donate by 2023 to NGOs which dedicate to provide and ensure universal access to modern energy. (7.2) & (7.3) WSO's Standards for Fisheries, Aquaculture, Agriculture, Farming, Shipping, Textiles, Smart Working Companies, Mining, Sport, Salt, all include requirements to improve energy efficiency, calculate energy balance, increase sourcing from renewable or lower impact energy sources, offset greenhouse gases. Conservation projects to protect Whales and whale sharks also contribute to offsetting carbon equivalent emissions as whales are known to be a carbon sink. By being a Smart Working company itself, WSO greatly reduced its energy consumption. (7-A) & (7-B) WSO offers low cost consultancies to small scale producers in developing world, also on matters related to energy efficiency and use of more renewable, lower impact energy sources. WSO engages to donate by 2023 to NGOs which dedicate to expand and upgrade energy services for developing countries .



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(8-1), (8-2) & (8-3) Not applicable to WSO activities. (8-4) Friend of the Earth developed certification for Smart Working companies that demonstrates resource efficiency in production and consumption, given that Smart Working companies reduce polluting emissions, traffic, as well as risk and stress for its workers. WSO does its part in implementation of targets (8-5) & (8-6) by mainstreaming inclusion and diversity in its team, bridging gender pay gap and employing young professionals across the globe, reflecting objectives of ILO's Global Jobs Pact. (8-B) (8-8) & (8-7) FoS & FoE Certification Standards include requirements to avoid child labour, to end modern slavery, to protect labour rights and promote safe working environments conditions. These requirements are listed in the specific section of the standards called Social Accountability and companies that are applying to our certification process need to undergo against an audit (made by a third party society) and demonstrate to the auditors that they are in line with these requirements, otherwise they cannot achieve the certification. Moreover, these requirements are in line with what has been proposed and requested by ILO (International Labour Organization - <https://www.ilo.org/global/lang-en/index.htm>). (8-9) Our Certification Standards also include standards to promote sustainable tourism practices. The aim is to reduce as much as possible the impact of tourists on the marine ecosystems and to promote local businesses for a sustainable growth. The list of sustainable tourism standards includes: 1. dolphin and whale watching 2. manta ray watching 3. whale shark watching 4. sea turtle watching 5. sustainable snorkeling 6. sustainable scuba diving 7. sustainable beaches. (8-10) & (8-A) Not applicable to WSO activities.



INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(9-1) Not applicable to WSO activities. (9-2) & (9-4) In its efforts to promote sustainable policies, WSO contributes also to sustainable industrialisation, showcasing best practices. (9-3) Integration into value chains and markets for producers is made easier for small scale producers, thanks to increased value given by on shore and off shore certifications. (9-5) WSO has started a scientific project on DNA "barcoding" of seafood products, an important tool to assess the sustainability of the seafood that comes to our table. (9-A) & (9-B) WSO is dedicated to facilitation of know-how sharing, innovative policies and demonstrating best practices of transformation in sustainable industries, particularly in developing countries. For example, "Africa Sustainability Hub" that is to be open in Zambia, aims to provide knowledge transfer on sustainability technical solutions, coordinating networking among African sustainability experts. (9-C) Not applicable to WSO activities.



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Impact

INDIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(10-1) Not applicable to WSO activities. (10-2) & (10-3) WSO ensures equal opportunities, mainstreams inclusion and does not make any discrimination among its staff. (10-4) In order to adopt fiscal and social policies that promotes equality, WSO has fair pricelist for the use of its logo, based on the annual revenue of companies. This means that our certification is achievable by all the companies, even the smallest in terms of revenue. (10-5) Not applicable to WSO activities. (10-6) WSO ensures enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in its governance decision-making processes by having half of the members of FOS' advisory board coming from developing countries. The organisation is investing in several conservation and awareness project in developing countries in Africa and not only. For example, one of the main project is on lemurs in Madagascar, in order to protect the local environment but also by providing the local community with an income. (10-B) (10-7) & (10-C) By allowing fully flexible and remote working, including the preferred location of its collaborators, WSO contributes to sound migration policies, reducing relocation costs and elimination of remittances corridors.





SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(11-1) Not applicable to WSO activities. (11-A) & (11-B) The first Friend of the Sea sustainable city award aiming to promote sustainable communities was recently given to Pula, Croatia for its merits in environmental awareness and sustainability that includes among others, sustainable public transport options, waste management system, green model of stormwater drainage in urban areas and rainwater generation gardens with underground retentions. (11-2, 11-3 & 11-6) (11-4) Friend of the Sea and Friend of the Earth standards promote biodiversity conservation, which is a fundamental natural heritage without which, food production and all other environmental services would be largely jeopardized. (11-7) Not applicable not applicable to WSO activities. By promoting best-practices in environmental awareness and facilitating scientific knowledge-sharing, WSO indirectly contributes to the target (11-C) as well as to (11-5) through its conservation projects that aim to reduce the devastating impact of environmental degradation and related disasters.



RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(12-1) Sustainable management and use of natural resources is fundamental in this historical moment to allow our generation, but especially the future ones, to survive in a decent way. For this reason, since 2008 we have been committed to protecting and preserving natural resources such as fish, molluscs and crustaceans subject to fishing and farming and agricultural products through the creation of sustainability standards always in line with the best scientific evidence available. (12-2) Companies that decide to get certified with us undergo third-party audits to verify that they are in line with our sustainability requirements and to improve where necessary to be able to use our logos (FOS and FOE). (12-4) Within these certification standards we have developed sections on responsible management of chemicals and waste, as key topics in terms of environmental sustainability. In addition, our certification standards include standards to promote sustainable tourism practices. The aim is to reduce as much as possible the impact of tourist on the marine ecosystems and to develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable tourism. The list of our sustainable tourism standards includes: 1. dolphin and whale watching 2. manta ray watching 3. whale shark watching 4. sea turtle watching 5. sustainable snorkeling 6. sustainable scuba diving 7. sustainable beaches. (12-B) Aside from encouraging consumers to make environmentally wiser choices and companies to opt for sustainable practices (12-6), WSO is also contributing to promotion of better understanding of sustainable lifestyles through its campaigns. (12-8) From these stem also indirect contributions to targets (12-3) & (12-5). (12-7) The city of Pula received the first FOS sustainability award for its merits in environmental awareness, that included among others, procurement of new eco-buses, (12-A) Opening of WSO's first "Sustainability Hub" on the African continent demonstrates its commitment to capacity-building of developing countries and promotion of sustainable technical solutions. (12-C) Not applicable to WSO activities.



CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Impact

INDIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(13-1) WSO aims to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related disasters by supporting international projects about reforestation (such as tropical trees and mangroves). Moreover, we integrated climate change measures into policies and planning (in our certification standards) to promote the use of renewable energy sources and disallowing the use of refrigerants such as CFC, HCFC, HFC or other that cause ozone depletion on board tourist and commercial fishing vessels. In this way, companies that wish to be certified with Friend of the Sea have to be in compliance with the requirements about energy sources and refrigerants. (13-2) (13-3) Through diffusion of scientific knowledge via webinars and courses that bring renovated global experts and raise awareness of environmental topics, WSO contributes to building knowledge and capacity to combat the climate change. (13-A) Not applicable to WSO activities. (13-B) Social accountability and inclusion is one of the Friend of the Earth certification scheme for sustainable agriculture main pillars including correct waste management and minimization of environmental impact, applicable both to developed and least developed countries.



LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

Protecting life below water has always been the goal of Friend of the Sea. Since 2008, Friend of the Sea has been committed to preserving and protecting marine ecosystems, mainly as regards the management of commercial fishing. In fact, several commercial fisheries certification standards (including aquaculture) have been created over the years which include sustainability requirements whose goal is to make these commercial activities sustainable. Numerous topics are considered in the standards, including promote sustainable fishing activities (14-4), reduce marine pollution (14-1), protect marine ecosystems (14-2), conserve coastal and marine areas (14-5), support small scale fishers (14-B) and others. By combating unsustainable fishing and human misconduct related to maritime trade, Friend of the Sea contributes to reducing marine habitat destruction, pollution and ocean acidification (14-3). By raising awareness of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, FoE also contributes to diminishing support for subsidies contributing to overfishing. (14-6) In addition, as indirect effect, we increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources of the local communities and companies that adhere to our certifications. (14-7) Scientific knowledge transfer is facilitated through improvement programs and webinars (14-A), while commitment to protect and restore oceans and marine ecosystems and sustainably manage activities impacting marine environment in accordance with international law is reflected in all FoE certifications. (14-C)



LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

Friend of the Earth certification, promoted by the World Sustainability Organization, prescribes a thorough verification by the auditing teams the presence of active measures for conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems (15-1), (15-4) & (15-5). To obtain Friend Of the Earth certification no natural ecosystem must have been altered or damaged by the applicant, and restoration actions must be undertaken in any case this has happened before their takeover (15-2 & 15-3). Furthermore, World Sustainability Organization runs conservation projects that address at least 18 different fields of intervention connected to inland issues. (15-6) & (15-8) Not applicable to WSO activities. (15-7) & (15-C) WSO has also developed a number of wildlife conservation volunteer projects and wildlife conservation programmes and campaigns aimed at protecting endangered species. (15-9) WSO recognised that possible solutions for sustainable ecosystems can be achieved from local to global level, including governmental initiatives and has resorted to activation of several Change.org campaigns to pressure local governments and culpable companies to initiate necessary policy changes. (15-A) WSO has donated a significant part of its revenue over the years to several conservation initiatives in order to increase public awareness of the importance of environmental and wildlife issues. (15-B) Recognising the importance of sustainable forest management, Friend of the Earth has launched Save the Forests campaign.



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Impact

INDIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(16-1) Not applicable to WSO activities. (16-2) Friend Of the Sea and Friend Of the Earth standards include protection of children against child labour, and all operational aspects of audited companies must fall within the frame of legality (16-3), as defined by local institutions; (16-4) All audited fleets must be totally free from IUU (Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated) vessels, which perpetrate environmental crimes, to obtain Friend of the Sea certification; (16-5) & (16-6) Audit process is strict and objective, done by independent and competent certification bodies, guaranteeing impartiality and accountability; If not posted on the website, audit reports are available upon request ensuring transparency and public availability of information. (16-10) (16-7) & (16-8) The decision-making and decision implementation processes are participatory, transparent and consensus-driven. A wide range of stakeholders is invited to participate in public consultations on WSO certification standards and they are encouraged to provide their inputs at any time. (16-9) & (16-A) Not applicable to WSO activities. (16-B) Through the WSO Academy and Model Agency, WSO makes sure all models are treated in accordance with national laws on employment and fair compensation, ensuring also also its clients adhere to strict rules against discrimination and sexual harassment.





PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(17-1) & (17-2) Not applicable to WSO activities. (17-3) WSO conducts fundraising from multiple sources; an individual can donate simply by clicking button "donate" on the webpage, as well as companies adhering to the certifications. (17-4) not applicable to WSO activities. (17-5) WSO is investing in several conservation and awareness projects in developed countries in Africa and not only. For example, one of main projects is on lemurs in Madagascar, in order to protect the local environment but also by providing the local community with a salary. (17-6) WSO is facilitating knowledge sharing and technical cooperations partnering with global experts in its webinars, online courses, round tables and projects. (17-7), (17-8) & (17-9) WSO is directly contributing to diffusion of environmentally sound technologies in developing countries through its certifications and initiatives and thus help them to implement Agenda 2030, i.e. high-level visit to Africa highlighted stories of sustainable transformations or river cleaning sustainable solution certified by FOS for no environmental impacts that removes plastic waste and can be easily distributed anywhere. (17-10) in alignment with WTO US-Mexico dispute that ruled against the use of dolphin nets, Dolphin Safe certification is mandatory for FOS tuna companies making FOS is now the only sustainability certification which requires also Dolphin-Safe. (17-11), (17-12) & (17-13) Not applicable to WSO activities. (17-14), (17-15), (17-16) & (17-17) WSO forges cross-sectorial and interdisciplinary partnerships across the globe aiming to promote sustainable development, sharing know-how, scientific expertise and best practices, providing recommendations and playing the role of knowledge hub in policy discussions. However, in its efforts to foster the change towards sustainable practices, WSO is always leaving the space for national decision-makers, i.e. Change.org petitions raise the awareness and advocate for necessary policies rather than seeking to impose them. (17-18) & (17-19) Not applicable to WSO activities.

