

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 prioritized SDGs that we will take action on.

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

Strategy

- While some WSO's Standards account for biodiversity protection and maintaining local breeds, WSO includes additional requirements for the genetic diversity of seeds and it will support NGOs involved in this mission in 2022. - WSO engages in offering, by the end of 2022 and in the years that follow, 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 future years, with the aim of correcting and preventing 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 in support of poor families and children worldwide. Moreover, all WSO's certification standards include social accountability requirements that ensure, among other things, compliance with national minimum wages for the sector. (1.3) All WSO's Standards include social accountability requirements that contain, among other things, a requirement guaranteeing employees access to health care, freedom of association, and collective bargaining. Furthermore, WSO's Standards for Fisheries contain particular requirements about appropriate working conditions on board. (1.4) WSO's Standards include requirements, where applicable, to ensure that Small-scale fishing communities' rights 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. Consequently, 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 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 those for Ethical model agencies include requirements related to gender equality. WSO itself has a gender equality and no harassment policy. Moreover, WSO and WSF carry out fundraising activities 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 in activities to protect their land.





ZERO HUNGER

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

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(2.1), (2.2) & (2.3) WSO supports and donates to Humanitarian and Hunger relief NGOs worldwide. In this way WSO helps 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 ensure food for future generations and local communities (2.4) WSO standard for sustainable agriculture and farming, aims at promoting sustainable practices, thus reducing soil erosion, maintaining ecosystems and while increasing production through 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 includes additional requirements for genetic diversity of seeds and it will support NGOs involved in this mission in 2022. (2.A) WSO is offering accessible low-cost consultancy to small-scale operators in agriculture and fisheries (2.B) WSO engaged in lobbying activities throughout 2022 and will continue doing so in future 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 which prevent poverty, hunger and support children and their education, can indirectly help with the implementation of these objectives. (3.7) & (3.8) WSO indirectly helps promote access to universal health coverage through its Standards' social accountability requirements that relate to health coverage, safety, training, and 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' related to pollution prevention. The 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) Through its donations that support children and poor families, it also helps in making it affordable to access schools and education in general. (4.3) WSO will launch 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 does not discriminate against girls and women. As evidence, its advisory board, its employees and its team of external collaborators are composed of over 50% women. (5.2) WSO's Standards' social accountability restrict gender discrimination. The Standard for sustainable and ethical models agencies aim to eliminate gender discrimination, harassment and sexual abuses. (5.3), (5.4), (5.5), (5.6) Not Applicable to WSO's 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 women's empowerment at all levels through its standards for social accountability which restrict 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 will 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 humans' adverse impacts on endangered aquatic species and habitats, such as mangroves, wetlands and forests, which plays a fundamental role in water conservation. The WSO organizes beach cleaning events to reduce humans' 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 supporting NGOs involved in water and sanitation management by 2023.





AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

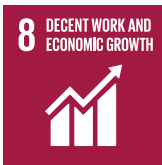
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(7.1) Not applicable to WSO's activities. However, WSO will donate by 2023 to NGOs dedicated to providing and ensuring 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 for improving energy efficiency, calculating energy balance, increasing sourcing from renewable or lower impact energy sources, offsetting 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 sinks. As being a smart working company itself, WSO greatly reduces its energy consumption. (7-A) & (7-B) WSO offers low-cost consulting to small-scale producers in the developing countries on matters related to energy efficiency and the use of more renewable, lower impact energy sources. WSO will donate by 2023 to NGOs dedicated to expanding and upgrading 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 a certification program that the WSO developed for smart working companies that demonstrates resource efficiency in production and consumption, given that smart working companies reduce the emission of pollutants, traffic, as well as risk and stress for its workers. WSO does its part in implementing targets (8-5) & (8-6) by mainstreaming inclusion and diversity in its team, bridging gender pay gaps and employing young professionals across the globe, reflecting the objectives of ILO's Global Jobs Pact. (8-B) (8-8) & (8-7) FoS & FoE Certification Standards include requirements for avoiding child labour, ending modern slavery, protecting labour rights and promoting safe working environment conditions. These requirements are listed in the specific section of the standards called Social Accountability and companies that are applying for our certification process need to undergo an audit (made by a third-party society) and demonstrate to the auditors that they are in line with these requirements, otherwise they cannot become certified. Moreover, these requirements are in line with what the ILO (International Labour Organization) has proposed and requested (<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 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 Also contributes to sustainable industrialization, showcasing best practices. (9-3) Integration into value chains and markets for producers is made easier for small-scale producers, thanks to the increased value given by onshore and offshore certifications. (9-5) WSO has started a scientific project on DNA "barcoding" of seafood products, an important tool for assessing the sustainability of the seafood that comes to our table. (9-A) & (9-B) WSO is dedicated to facilitating know-how sharing, innovative policies and the demonstration of best practices of transformation in sustainable industries, particularly in developing countries. For example, "Africa Sustainability Hub" which is to be open in Zambia, aims to provide knowledge transfer on sustainable 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 support any discrimination amongst its staff. (10-4) To adopt fiscal and social policies that promote equality, WSO has fair pricelist for the use of its logo, based on companies' annual revenue. This means that our certification is achievable by all companies, even those with the smallest revenues. (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 come from developing countries. The organization is investing in several conservation and awareness projects in developing countries in Africa For example, one of the main projects is on lemurs in Madagascar, to protect the local environment 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 eliminating remittances corridors.





SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Impact

DIRECT POSITIVE

Motivation

(11-1) Not applicable to WSO activities. (11-A) & (11-B) The first Friend of the Sea sustainable city award which aims to promote sustainable communities was recently given to Pula, Croatia for its merits in environmental awareness and sustainability that includes, among other things, sustainable public transportation options, waste management system, a green model for 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 to WSO activities. 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, as well as future generations, to survive in a decent way. For this reason, since 2008 we have been committed to protecting and preserving natural resources such as fish, mollusks and crustaceans subject to fishing and farming and agricultural products through the creation of sustainability standards that are 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 tourist impact on marine ecosystems and develop and implement tools for monitoring 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 also uses its campaigns to promote a better understanding of sustainable lifestyles. (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, which included among others, procurement of new eco-buses, (12-A) The Opening of WSO's first "Sustainability Hub" on the African continent demonstrates its commitment to building of developing countries and promoting 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 related to 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 disallow the use of refrigerants such as CFC, HCFC, HFC or others 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 that relate to 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 and includes correct waste management practices and the minimization of environmental impact which are 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 with regard to the management of commercial fishing. In fact, several commercial fishery certification standards (including aquaculture) have been created over the years that include sustainability requirements focused on making these commercial activities sustainable. Numerous topics are considered in the standards, including the promotion of sustainable fishing activities (14-4), the reduction of marine pollution (14-1), the protection of marine ecosystems (14-2), the conservation of coastal and marine areas (14-5), the support of small scale fishers (14-B) and others. By combating unsustainable fishing and human misconduct related to maritime trade, Friend of the Sea reduces 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 that contribute 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 protecting and restoring oceans and marine ecosystems and sustainably managing activities that impact 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



Motivation

Friend of the Earth certification, promoted by the World Sustainability Organization, prescribes a thorough verification of the presence of active measures for conservation and restoring 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 cases when 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 programs and campaigns aimed at protecting endangered species. (15-9) WSO recognized that possible solutions for sustainable ecosystems can be achieved from local to global level, including government initiatives and has resorted to activating 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 to increase public awareness of the importance of environmental and wildlife issues. (15-B) Recognizing 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

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) The audit process is strict and objective, done by independent and competent certification bodies to guarantee 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 input 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, also ensuring that 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 the 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 the main projects is on lemurs in Madagascar, to protect the local environment but also by providing the local community with a salary. (17-6) WSO facilitates knowledge sharing and technical cooperation partnering with global experts in its webinars, online courses, round tables and projects. (17-7), (17-8) & (17-9) WSO is directly contributes to diffusion of environmentally sound technologies in developing countries through its certifications and initiatives and thus helping 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 remove plastic waste which 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. FOS is now the only sustainability certification that also requires 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, share know-how, scientific expertise and best practices, provide recommendations and play the role of knowledge hub in policy discussions. However, in its efforts to foster changes related to sustainable practices, WSO always leaves space for national decision-makers, i.e. Change.org petitions raise awareness and advocate for necessary policies rather than seeking to impose them. (17-18) & (17-19) Not applicable to WSO activities.

