

EARTHCHECK CERTIFICATION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



EARTHCHECK

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The purpose of the EarthCheck Certification programs are to provide organisations with a framework for environmental and social sustainability. The EarthCheck Company Standard can apply to all travel and tourism related organisations, and the systems and processes can be applied to any organisation. The EarthCheck Company Standard is aligned to a number of international standards including ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 50001, ISO 26000, the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria (GSTC), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the CDP (formally the Carbon Disclosure Project) to maximise integrated certification and corporate reporting opportunities.

The EarthCheck Destination Standard is designed to empower local communities to take ownership of sustainability goals, built on local initiatives. The Standard provides a centralised and consistent platform for compliance and reporting to a number of sector based international standards including Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) criteria.

The purpose of the EarthCheck Design Standards facilitate environmentally, socially and economically sustainable design and construction management of individual buildings and associated infrastructure. The Standards set out the requirements to undertake an integrated assessment of the expected environmental, social and economic performance of a project. The Design Standards are also aligned to ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 50001, ISO 26000, including the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

The United Nations (UNs) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to encourage all countries to mobilise efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Hundreds of organisations in more than 70 countries participate in EarthCheck Certification programs from Resorts and Hotels, to Convention Centres, Tour Operators, Destinations and new development projects. We have now mapped the EarthCheck Certification programs to the 17 SDGs to encourage environmental, social and cultural best practices and allow our members to understand what they are doing to contribute to achieving the UN's goals.

EarthCheck Certification programs address the SDG's with qualitative criteria and also assess the quantitative progress towards achieving the SDG's with benchmarking indicators, which speak directly to the certified standard's criteria.

EarthCheck Certification programs focus on 16 Key Performance Areas (KPA's) over three main standards, Company, Destination and Design. The KPA's cover social, cultural and environmental sustainability. These KPA's have been mapped to the SDGs are summarised below. Every KPA fits within one or more SDG, showing that EarthCheck's holistic approach to certification helps achieve the UN's SDGs.

EARTHCHECK CERTIFICATION KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

	EARTHCHECK KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS															
	Economic Management	GHG emissions	Air quality protection	Wastewater management	Ecosystem Conservation & Management	Environmentally Harmful Substances	Energy Efficiency, Conservation & Management	Management of Freshwater Resources	Social & Cultural Management	Land Use Planning and Management	Solid Waste Management	Transport	Sustainability Approach	Sustainable Materials and Resource Consumption	Indoor Environmental Health & Pollution Control	Innovation
1. No poverty	✓							✓				✓				
2. Zero hunger	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓							
3. Good health & well-being		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
4. Quality education								✓								✓
5. Gender equality								✓								
6. Clean water & sanitation				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
7. Affordable & clean energy	✓	✓				✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Decent work & economic growth	✓							✓								
9. Industry, innovation & infrastructure	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓				✓
10. Reduced Inequalities	✓							✓								
11. Sustainable cities & communities		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
12. Responsible consumption and production		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
13. Climate action		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
14. Life below water				✓	✓	✓	✓									
15. Life on land		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
16. Peace, justice & strong institutions	✓							✓	✓							✓
17. Partnerships for the goals								✓	✓							✓
EARTHCHECK Certification STANDARDS	COMPANY STANDARD															
	DESTINATION STANDARD															
	DESIGN STANDARD															

1 NO POVERTY

END POVERTY IN ALL FORMS EVERYWHERE



EarthCheck Certification programs promote Social, Cultural and Economic Management. They do this by requiring an organisation or destination to address land use planning and management and ensuring environmental impacts do not inhibit access to public goods such as water. The Standards require that the organisation have a policy to hire local employees, purchase local goods and services, sell local products through their operations, promote social mobility through training and capacity building and to provide all employees a living wage.

EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS

- Local employment opportunities
- Local goods and services
- Minimum wage & retirement fund
- Land Use Planning & Habitat Protection
- Ecological & Biodiversity Values
- Capacity building for staff and the community

2 ZERO HUNGER

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Water conservation and sustainable sourcing, land use planning and management and ecosystems conservation management is encouraged in the EarthCheck Certification programs, to minimise the impact on local agriculture and improve productive practices and natural systems' health. Policies to hire local employees, purchase local goods and services and to label locally sourced food on menus are encouraged, improving food security of those in the surrounding areas. Waste reduction strategies are mandatory and food donation schemes are encouraged. All reductions in waste are measured through the *MyEarthCheck* software and audited annually to ensure verified, quantitative savings are reported. This multi faceted approach helps to benefit local economies, support agriculture and help provide food security.

EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS

- Local employment opportunities
- Local perishable goods
- Minimum wage & retirement fund
- Water conservation
- Avoid waste sent to landfill

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES



All companies certified under the EarthCheck Standards have a commitment to ethical and non-exploitative arrangements with staff, suppliers and clients and there is no sexual commercial exploitation of minors. Sustainably sourced fresh local produce is encouraged to be purchased and used on the menu where applicable. Reducing emissions, pollution and encouraging the use of eco-labelled and biodegradable products through the *MyEarthCheck* software, ensures measurable improvements and the promotion of health and well-being for stakeholders of all ages. Indoor environmental health and enhancement of local community infrastructure is a required under the Design Standard. Communication is key to promoting successes and initiatives and is a requirement of the EarthCheck Company Standard, audited annually to ensure compliance.

EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS

- Local employment opportunities
- Local goods and services
- Minimum wage & retirement fund
- Dental & medical benefits for staff
- Paid leave for staff
- Local perishable goods
- Income spent on sustainability programs
- Sustainability & vocation training for staff
- Eco-labelled paper, cleaning & pesticide products

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



The EarthCheck Training Academy provides mandatory training and webinars to all coordinators, 'Green Teams' and participants in EarthCheck Certification and other products. This knowledge is encouraged to be passed on to staff within the organisation. The Company Standard requires education programs for staff, and stakeholder and community consultation. Education programs with guests are also encouraged which promote environmental and ecological improvements and potential impacts and social and cultural awareness. These programs and initiatives can be entered and measured through the *MyEarthCheck* software to ensure continuous improvement.

EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS



Local employment opportunities



Sustainability & vocation training for staff



Income spent on sustainability programs

5 GENDER EQUALITY

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS



The EarthCheck Company standard encourages organisations to have equitable hiring of women and all Certification Programs can report their Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives through the *MyEarthCheck* software, which includes hiring ratios, ratio of salaries, training programs and anti-discrimination reporting. All companies certified have an understanding of the rights and needs of all employees regardless of minority status or vulnerability, including women. By providing equal opportunities and salaries for women, EarthCheck Certified organisations empower women and girls in an economically and socially sustainable way.

EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS



Minimum wage for male and female staff



Male VS. Female staff percentage



Percentage of female managers



Demonstrated commitment in gender equity & equality

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL



EarthCheck's Certification programs require potable water consumption and water saving data is accurately recorded through the *MyEarthCheck* software and annually audited. This encourages participating organisations in making continuous improvements to ensure sustainable water usage and consumption. Potable water sources are required to be from a sustainable source. Management of freshwater resources area required which covers conservation, maintenance, collection and recycling of water and stormwater management. Waste water management is required to treat wastewater and manage discharge effluents in accordance with recognised international standards, in a manner which will cause no ecological harm or impacts to human health. During audits, best practices are encouraged to be recorded and shared within the EarthCheck community.

EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS



Potable Water Consumption



Check for leaks



Recycled / Captured Water Sources



Water efficient taps, showers, toilets



Water sprinklers used after dark



Plants requiring minimal irrigation



Wastewater Treatment



Data collection on energy consumption is required to be entered into the *MyEarthCheck* software and comprehensive records are required to accurately calculate Scope 1, 2 and 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The data and records are audited annually to ensure verified accurate data to base future sustainability decisions on. All companies certified under the EarthCheck Certification programs must have a sustainable energy supply and commitment to the reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Energy efficiency and carbon offset programs are encouraged along with the purchase of 'green' electricity. Ozone depleting substances such as refrigerants gases are discouraged. Best practices for energy efficiency, conservation and management are recorded and shared during audits.

EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS

-  Energy Consumption
-  Greenhouse Gas Emissions
-  Green Power Agreement
-  Renewable Energy Generation



All organisations certified under the EarthCheck Standards must implement a policy to ensure labour arrangements, employment terms and conditions and business practices are ethical and not exploitative, particularly of children, adolescents, women and local minorities including commercial and sexual exploitation. Employment of locals must be prioritised for all positions including management, which is recorded through the *MyEarthCheck* software. Organisations are encouraged to promote and sell local artisan crafts and other goods and services. These policies are audited annually to ensure organisations are upholding their agreements.

EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS

-  Local employment opportunities
-  Local goods and services
-  Minimum wage for male and female staff
-  Sustainability & vocation training for staff



The EarthCheck Design Standards promote the development of innovative and resilient infrastructure by adopting best practice measures in risk management with a focus on climate change adaptation. Sustainable building design, building materials use and inclusive infrastructure that supports community needs are encouraged through the EarthCheck Sustainable Building Planning and Design Standard. Innovation is encouraged throughout all Key Performance Areas of the EarthCheck Standards. Members have the opportunity to record personalised indicators through the *MyEarthCheck* software if they have implemented an innovative practice that EarthCheck does not yet measure. Auditors are trained and encouraged to record all innovative best practices and share knowledge from other experiences in their field.

EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE & QUALITATIVE INDICATORS

-  Climate Smart Resilient Development
-  Sustainable Materials & Resource Use
-  Sustainable Design Innovation
-  Regenerative Design
-  Lifecycle Analysis
-  Inclusive Community Infrastructure



EarthCheck Certification promotes sustainable Management of Social and Cultural Issues. Organisations must manage the social and cultural impacts of its operations as well as actively support initiatives for social and community development including, among others, education, health and sanitation. The EarthCheck Certification Standards require equitable hiring of women and local minorities and legal protection of employees is respected and all employees are paid a living wage. Management are required to encourage staff input to approaches and directions for the organisation and communities and other key stakeholders should be consulted.

EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS

-  Local employment opportunities
-  Local goods and services
-  Minimum wage & retirement fund for all staff
-  Male VS. Female staff percentage
-  Percentage of female managers
-  Sustainability & vocation training for staff
-  Income spent on sustainability programs



Companies and Destinations certified by EarthCheck help create cities and human settlements that are inclusive safe, resilient and sustainable by focusing on environmental, social and cultural elements. Stakeholder engagement and communications are encouraged. Community initiatives are encouraged including cultural engagement and awareness. All audits focus on health and safety and emergency planning and response procedures, including risk assessments, storage and handling of dangerous chemicals and training programs. A Sustainability Approach, by way of mandatory Risk Assessments and Environmental Action Plans, ensures that all Key Performance Areas of the organisation are met for the benefit of the environment and the surrounding communities. The EarthCheck Design standard requires projects must demonstrate stakeholder inclusion, consideration of community needs and enhancement of community infrastructure to strengthen community social fibre.

EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS

-  Local employment opportunities
-  Income spent on sustainability programs
-  Local goods and services
-  Inclusive Community Infrastructure



Under all EarthCheck Certification programs; organisations must implement an energy efficiency, conservation and management, freshwater management, wastewater management, waste management plan in order to minimise the consumption and production of excess energy, water and resources (waste), to avoid an adverse environmental impact. Companies are encouraged to use alternative or biodegradable packaging on any products provided. By monitoring and measuring consumption and production trends through the *MyEarthCheck* software, an organisation is able to identify areas in which improvements should be made. Reduction in consumption has benefits for the environment and provides economic returns. Each EarthCheck Certified member is provided an annual Performance Report which shows annual comparisons in performance of all indicators measured. These performance reports also show how the member is performing when compared with the same type of organisations in the same climate zone to ensure any decisions made to change behaviours are informed with accurate data. Organisations certified through EarthCheck programs must consider responsible procurement of goods and services, promoting good practices through their supply chain.

EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS

-  Greenhouse gas emissions
-  Eco-labelled paper, cleaning & pesticide products
-  Potable water consumption
-  Waste sent to landfill
-  Energy consumption



The EarthCheck Company and Destination Standard requires that companies monitor and measure their energy consumption and their Scope 1, 2 and 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions through the *MyEarthCheck* Software. The EarthCheck Design standard allows projects to predict their energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions for monitoring and measurement. Organisations are also encouraged to consider natural and environmental disasters to their Risk Management Plans which are audited annually. Organisations who prepare themselves for an adverse external impacts, provide a more resilient approach to climate change and its impacts, which supports local economies and provides security to its key stakeholders. Participating in the EarthCheck Certificated programs demonstrates organisations who have decided to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. All members are provided with an annual Performance Report to demonstrate how many resources a member has saved through participating, such as energy, water, waste and carbon emissions. Projects certified under the EarthCheck Design Standards must demonstrate implementation of regenerative design principles which enhance local ecosystem health, minimise consumption and adopt renewable energy technology where viable.

----- EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS -----

-  Energy consumption
-  Scope 1 & Scope 2 GHG emissions from energy use
-  Scope 3 Transport Emissions
-  Scope 3 Waste disposal emissions



CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Companies must establish the efficient use of the freshwater supply and minimise the consumption of fresh water resources. Stormwater management is mandatory to avoid contamination, erosion and siltation and maintain catchment integrity. Solid waste management and waste water management should be implemented to avoid adverse environmental impacts, the pollution of the marine environment. Usage of freshwater resources and solid waste disposal is all required to be recorded in the *MyEarthCheck* software to ensure the member can monitor their improvements through participating in the EarthCheck program. All foods are encouraged to be sourced sustainably, with a particular focus on avoidance of vulnerable species and procurement of sustainably certified seafood.

----- EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS -----

-  Onsite wastewater treatment
-  Potable water consumption
-  Recycled / Captured Water Sources
-  Avoid waste sent to landfill



PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

A commitment to and support for habitat conservation through a Land use planning and management plan, which includes design and construction of buildings and infrastructure is required. Organisations must comply with all lands rights, property acquisition, local zoning and protected or heritage area requirements and have a regard for cultural and heritage considerations. All designs and construction of building and infrastructure must have respect for the surrounding environment and appropriate principles of sustainable conservation are applied. Projects certified under the EarthCheck Design Standards must demonstrate implementation of regenerative design principles, ensuring there is no net biodiversity loss and that natural habitats, ecosystem health and biodiversity values are enhanced.

----- EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS -----

-  Ecological & Biodiversity Values
-  Land Use Planning & Habitat Protection
-  Eco-labelled paper, cleaning & pesticide products



PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

Companies that are EarthCheck Certified are encouraged to communicate with all key stakeholders, including local communities, suppliers and guests in regards to their efforts in Sustainable Development. This communication promotes inclusiveness and holds organisations accountable for their intentions and actions at all levels. By requesting that organisations have policies on equitable hiring, fair work conditions, upholding human rights, providing legal protection and living wages to all employees at all levels, this provides access to justice for all and builds effective institutions where the benefits are felt throughout the community.

EARTHCHECK QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS

-  Local employment opportunities
-  Paid leave for staff
-  Minimum wage & retirement fund
-  Dental & medical benefits for staff
-  Male VS. Female staff percentage
-  Income spent on sustainability programs
-  Sustainability & vocation training for staff
-  Percentage of female managers



STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALISE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

EarthCheck operates in over 70 countries around the world and encourages strengthened partnerships with our members. Best practices and case studies are shared regularly between members and learnings are encouraged to be shared throughout all levels of each organisation. Communication of efforts towards Sustainable Development are required which covers all key stakeholders such as guests, staff, suppliers, contractors and the surrounding communities. All organisations certified under any of the EarthCheck Certification products clearly demonstrate their environmental, social and cultural performance and provide confidence to consumers they are building strong partnerships towards sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Global Sustainable Tourism Dashboard was designed to complement the efforts to promote sustainable development and is underpinned by the third party verified data collected from the EarthCheck Certification programs.

EARTHCHECK AND THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DASHBOARD



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT
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SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**