



## **Sustainability Policy**

### **Voyages C. Mathez**

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Our company wants to contribute in a positive way to its environment. Therefore we are committed to promoting sustainability. Concern for the environment and promoting a broader sustainability agenda are integral to our company's professional activities and management.

We aim to contribute to economic, environmental and social progress with a view to achieving sustainable development, and to help our clients achieve responsible trips. Therefore, we follow and promote good sustainability practice, to reduce the environmental impacts of all our activities and to help our clients and partners to do the same.

Our Sustainability Policy is based upon the following principles:

- To comply with, and exceed where practicable, all applicable national legislation, regulations and codes of practice.
- To integrate sustainability considerations into all our business decisions.
- To ensure that all staff are fully aware of our Sustainability Policy and are committed to implementing and improving it.
- To minimize the impact of all our office and travel operation activities.
- To make clients and suppliers aware of our sustainability commitments, and encourage them to adopt sound sustainable management practices.
- To review, annually report, and to continually strive to improve our sustainability performance.
- To ensure accountability and transparency in our sustainability performance.

This Sustainability Policy identifies 4 core values and 5 areas of sustainable practices throughout our business operations.

## **Core Values**

### **Human Rights**

Our company respects and promotes human rights as described in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, and we request our suppliers to do the same.

### **Labour Standards**

Our company respects and follows national labour standards across our operations. We have a Human Resource policy that describes our internal employment standards in detail.

### **Environment**

Our company will take into account our potential impact on the environment and seek to avoid or, where avoidance is not possible, minimize these impacts. Respective policies in this document are put in place to prevent and mitigate adverse impacts.

### **Anti Corruption**

Our company is committed to applying high standards of honesty and integrity consistently across our operations. We operate according to our corporate values and are committed to preventing corruption and bribery in all its forms and do not tolerate it in our business or in those with whom we do business.

## **1. Sustainability in the Company Structure**

Our company considers sustainability as part of its structure.

### **Sustainability Coordination**

The company has appointed a Sustainability Coordinator, who actively oversees the implementation of this policy and the action plan, and regularly communicates with colleagues and management on the effect of the implemented policies and actions, the status of the objectives and formulates recommendations for next steps.

Name: Gerard Schluter

Job title: Cruise operations manager

Contact: Gerard.schluter@matheztravel.com

### **Task description**

- Coordinate Travelife reporting and certification;
- Ensure a general understanding of sustainability and our Company policy among all staff;
- Oversee our Company action plan and gain input and support from colleagues for its implementation;
- Improve sustainability of product offerings and supply chain;
- Report regularly (at least twice a year) on sustainability progress and challenges within the Company to the management;
- Support internal and external communication regarding our Company's Sustainability Policy and actions.

## **Access to the Policy**

The corporate sustainability policy is accessible to all employees, suppliers as well as the general public.

- Sustainability is a standard topic on the agenda of our office meetings.
- We are developing standard communication tools for reaching out to our suppliers, requesting them to follow sustainability standards in whichever way they can.
- A summary of our sustainability principles and actions are communicated on our website.

## **Action Planning**

The company has a sustainability action plan with clear targets, actions, measures, responsibilities and time planning. Action plans are developed on an annual basis, with the input of all employees.

Staff members can take responsibility for the implementation of specific actions, and the company acknowledges them as driving force for successful and continuous sustainability improvements.

## **Monitoring**

Periodically our company holds a meeting with all (available) office staff, at least once a semester. Sustainability is a standard item on the agenda for this meeting; to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the sustainability policy and action plan and discuss any new ideas. We take notes of any key updates and decisions made during the meeting.

## **Corrective measures**

In case we identify any discrepancies between planned targets and actions, such as delays or obstacles, we will discuss with our team what measures we can take to overcome these and achieve the desired result. We will make an alternative plan and continue accordingly.

If we identify that the target or action cannot be achieved for any concrete reason that is out of our hands, we will:

- Put the target or action on our “potential actions for the future” list, so that we could try again at a later stage
- Replace the uncompleted target or action with a new idea.

## **2. Sustainable Office Operations**

Starting with those aspects that are directly under our control, our company has established sustainable office operations. Happy staff means happy clients.

### **Energy**

- Our office follows strict “switch off” policy and all staff is responsible for switching off any lights and equipment that is not in use.
- We use energy saving light bulbs (CFL / LED) across the whole office by the end of the year 2019 and only switch on lights when really necessary.

## **Water**

### Drinking water

- The office supplies with water machines connected to the public water network for office staff and clients. (no plastic bottles)
- Cups, glasses and are available at the office or brought by the staff themselves.

### Waste water

- Our toilets are equipped with limiting water consumption.

## **Paper**

- Our company only works with ecolabel certified paper (easily available).
- Paper is always used on two sides; either by printing on two sides or by using one side as scrap paper.

## **Waste**

- Our office minimizes waste in all possible ways.
- We use special bins (one for paper, one for plastic and one for the other waste)
- Usage of batteries is kept to a minimum.

## **Health & Safety**

- First aid kit is available in the office in a place accessible to all staff.

## **Transportation**

- We minimize official travel for office staff. When travelling abroad, flights are offset where possible.

## **Food**

- Preference is given to locally produced food, where possible organically grown.
- Catering is selected based on varied, nutritious and hygienically prepared food.

## **Cleaning**

- Necessary detergents are used to ensure hygiene and sanitation in the office.
- We do not use any harmful substances, including pesticides, paints, and cleaning materials by harmless products and processes.

## **Office environment**

- Our office is decorated with plants (where possible, oxygen generating plants are preferred).
- Sustainability signs in our office help remind our staff about our policies.
- We minimize pollution from noise, light, runoff, erosion, ozone-depleting compounds; and air, water and soil contaminants from our building, if any.

### **3. Sustainability and Public Relations**

Our company aims to properly communicate its sustainable practices and achievements to partners, suppliers, clients and the general public.

#### **Sustainability questions**

The company enables and facilitates sustainability related questions from customers and other stakeholders.

- The contact details of our Sustainability Coordinator are clearly communicated on our website.
- Sales staff is properly trained to respond to sustainability questions or refer them to the Sustainability Coordinator.

### **4. Areas of Sustainable Practice**

Our company is developing specific policy guidelines for five main areas where we integrate sustainable practices. These policies fall under the scope of this general Sustainability Policy and are available as separate documents.

**Sustainable Accommodation Policy**

**Sustainable Procurement Policy**

**Sustainable Transportation Policy**

**Sustainable Excursion Policy**

**Sustainable HR policy**