

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

20
24


Responsible TravelTM
Reconnect with life

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For any inquiries or to obtain more information about our initiatives, please contact us at the following email address: **mariapaula@egt.ec**. We will be happy to provide you with all the details and address your concerns.

ABOUT US

Responsible Travel, Operadora de Tours Cia. Ltda., is a German-Ecuadorian venture that offers tailor-made tour services throughout South America, specializing in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. For 14 years, Responsible Travel has been an expert in fascinating cultural and adventure tours in the Andes, relaxing beach vacations on the Pacific coast's sands, trips to the mysterious green world of the Amazon jungle, comfortable hotel accommodation in the main cities, and cruises that sail the enchanted Galapagos Islands. Furthermore, it operates in major South American destinations such as Chile, Colombia, and Peru.

Currently, Responsible Travel has achieved membership in the German-Ecuadorian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK Ecuador), has been certified for several consecutive years with the 'Distintivo Q' for Tourism Quality (awarded by Quito Turismo), has obtained the AHK-Prevention certificate in prevention of violence against women, is part of the LGBT+ Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and the IGLTA (International LGBT+ Travel Association). In addition, since December 2023, we have held the Travelife Certified certification as a sustainable Tour Operator and since 2024 it is a company recognized as TourCert Qualified.

LETTER FROM MANAGEMENT



At Responsible Travel, sustainability is not just a goal, but a principle that guides every one of our actions. Since our foundation, we have worked with the conviction that tourism can and should generate a positive impact on communities, on the environment, and on people.

As manager, I reaffirm our commitment to continue developing and strengthening responsible practices that guarantee authentic experiences for our travelers, while simultaneously contributing to biodiversity conservation, the reforestation of degraded ecosystems, support for the education of vulnerable youth, and the promotion of diversity and inclusion at all levels of our organization.

CARTA DE LA GERENCIA

Our certifications reflect our team's constant effort to comply with the highest international sustainability standards. These achievements are not a finish line, but rather a driving force to continue improving, innovating, and collaborating with strategic partners, responsible suppliers, and local communities.

We know that every step counts. For this reason, we will continue to drive projects and foster a corporate culture where respect for people and the planet is a non-negotiable priority.

Flor María Gaona
General Manager



GREEN PROJECTS


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A person wearing a white lab coat and white gloves is holding a small tree seedling. The seedling has a small green canopy and a dense network of roots exposed at the base. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage. A large, semi-transparent olive-green circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'ADOPT A TREE'.

ADOPT A **TREE**


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ADOPT A TREE

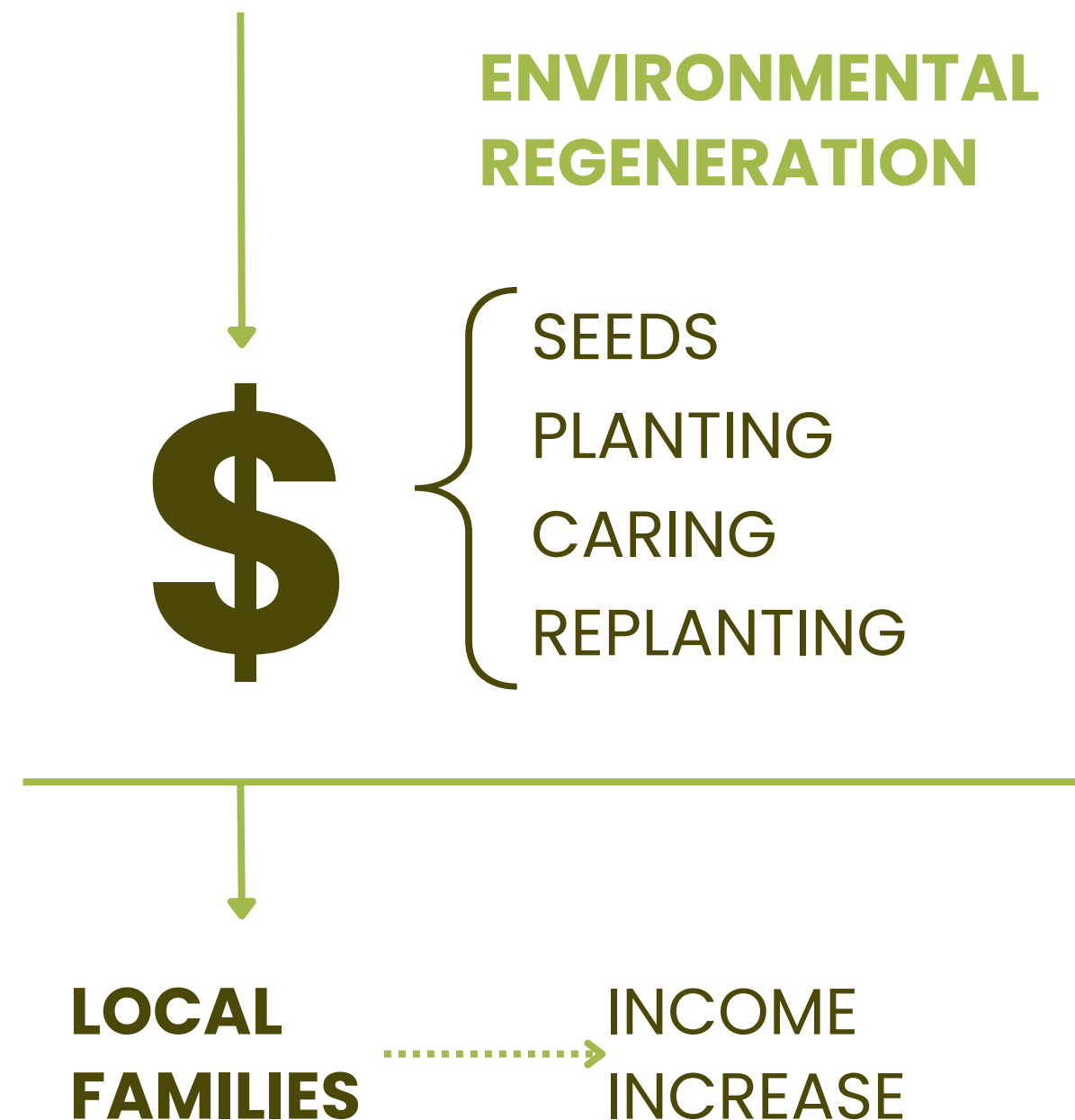
A Climate Action Initiative

We are currently planting trees in the province of Loja, in southern Ecuador. This area has suffered severe deforestation problems over the years, the six main causes of which have been the conversion of forests into agricultural or livestock areas and forest fires. The largest fire occurred on September 5, 2019, affecting the parishes (smallest administrative division) of Fundochamba and San Antonio de las Aradas in the canton (a subdivision similar to a county or municipality) of Quilanga, consuming around 4,411 hectares, according to the report from the National Risk and Emergency Management Service, the fire was extinguished.

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PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

ADOPT A TREE



As the diagram shows, each tree planted has a price, which depends on the number of trees to be planted. This money is allocated to seed collection, germination and cultivation in a nursery, as well as the transfer, replanting, and care of each tree. This work is carried out by people from the surrounding communities with the sole objective of boosting their economy by increasing their income.

In San Antonio de las Aradas, the majority of the population is engaged in agriculture, livestock farming, or tourism. However, these sectors have low productivity and offer limited employment opportunities. Therefore, this project serves as a means for residents to diversify their income by creating new employment opportunities.

Objectives Achieved

RESULTS OBTAINED AS OF DECEMBER 2024

7000



Planted Trees

2310



Estimated tCO_2 compensated over the lifetime of the planted trees.

At Fundación Amazonía Productiva (Productive Amazon Foundation), we are proud to have a 20-hectare plot in San Antonio de las Aradas dedicated to reforestation and conservation. This area is a testament to our unwavering commitment to environmental preservation and the promotion of sustainable practices.





OTHER **GREEN** ACTIONS

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BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

About our responsibility regarding local biodiversity

We are aware that Ecuador is a megadiverse country, with an extraordinary natural and cultural wealth that deserves to be protected. Its biodiversity is one of the planet's greatest treasures and the foundation of the country's main tourist destinations, where experiences focus on the responsible sighting of flora and fauna in protected areas.

At Responsible Travel, we promote tourism that cares for and respects ecosystems. For this reason, we work with specialized guides who guarantee safe, educational, and sustainable experiences. Furthermore, 100% of our travelers receive a good practices guide, which establishes basic rules for reducing environmental impact during each activity.

In this way, we actively contribute to the conservation of Ecuador's natural heritage, fostering conscious tourism that protects life in all its forms.

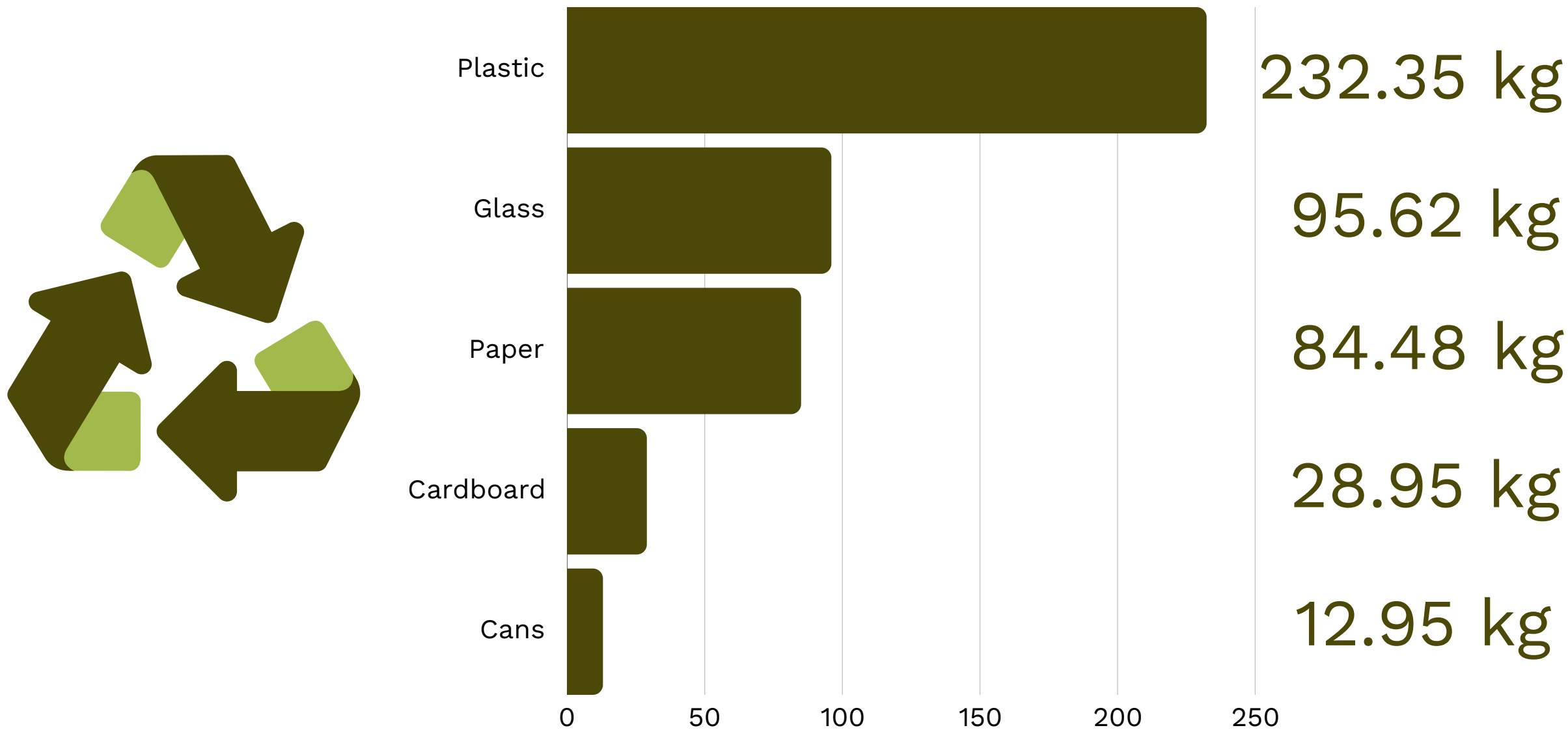
GENERAL
GUIDE

GOOD PRACTICES FOR
SENSITIVE ACTIVITIES

GOOD PRACTICES FOR
SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Recycling Goals Achieved

RESULTS OBTAINED WITH OTHER GREEN ACTIONS



WHO DO WE RECYCLE WITH?

Impact across all our actions

In line with our commitment to reducing our environmental impact and promoting responsible waste management, we work alongside the Hermano Miguel Foundation through the “Yo Reciclo” (“I Recycle”) program. This initiative promotes the collection and utilization of recyclable materials, combining environmental awareness with solidarity towards people with disabilities.

The program seeks to generate a recycling culture within the community, encouraging the active participation of children and adults. All collected material is sent to the Foundation’s Collection Center, where it is classified, compacted, and channeled to authorized waste managers for processing.

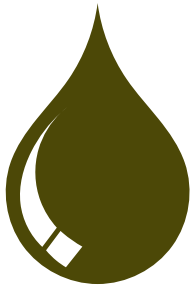
The economic resources obtained from this management are allocated to supporting the comprehensive rehabilitation programs offered by the Foundation, contributing to improving the quality of life and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Thus, through this alliance, we transform our recycling efforts into a doubly positive action: we protect the environment and support a social cause of great impact.

Other Green Data

Water consumption per person was reduced by

5.43%



compared to 2023

Electricity consumption per person increased by

16.48%



compared to 2023

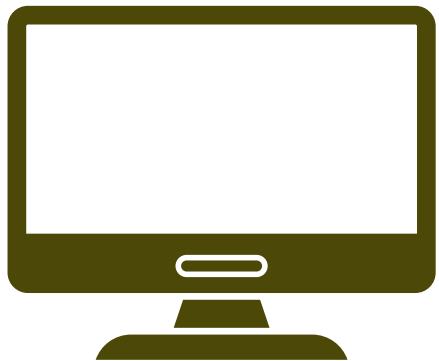
Hydroelectric power is the main source of electricity in Ecuador.

80%



LED light bulbs and energy-efficient certified computers.

100%



SOCIAL PROJECTS


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CHAKA-SUCUA

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CHAKA-SUCÚA

To Improve the Quality of Education

The Chaka Sucúa project provides comprehensive educational support to 11 young people with limited economic resources and at risk of school dropout at the Unidad Educativa (Educational Unit/School) Julio Padilla in the Sucúa canton (municipality) during the school year (September - June).

The main objective is to reduce school dropout and absenteeism at the higher education level by providing direct support to the adolescents.

According to the institution's statistics, 12% of students dropped out each year. The main causes are low academic performance, emotional problems, pedagogical and methodological factors, economic situation, and early pregnancies. According to the Ministry of Education, the highest school dropout rate in Ecuador is recorded in Morona Santiago (where Sucúa is located), at 12.42%.

CHAKA-SUCÚA

To Improve the Quality of Education

The activities carried out in the project from Monday to Friday for 3 hours are:

- Nutritious lunch
- Academic support
- Teaching and practice of values



Objectives Achieved

Para Diciembre 2024, actualmente estamos apoyando

We are currently supporting

12



We have helped adolescents to obtain their high school diplomas

15



As of December 2024, we have donated

311





**HELP US
HELP**

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HELP US HELP

To promote local initiatives with real impact

At Responsible Travel, we believe in the transformative power of conscious and responsible tourism. For this reason, we have developed “Help us Help,” an initiative that promotes and supports projects with a positive impact in Ecuador, both socially and environmentally.

Through this program, we seek to give back and strengthen the connection with the territories and organizations that develop high-impact projects locally, fostering solidarity and sustainable development.

Help us Help is not just an initiative, but an invitation to act. We invite every traveler, ally, and collaborator to be part of the change, actively contributing to building a future where tourism is a force for good, capable of transforming lives and leaving a positive footprint for future generations.

Every contribution channeled through Help us Help translates into direct support for projects that strengthen the social fabric and protect the country’s ecosystems. Thus, together, we move towards more conscious, supportive, and sustainable tourism.

PROJECTS WE PROMOTE

We promote 8 nationwide initiatives in Ecuador:



A mano manaba



Adopt a tree



Chaka Sucúa



Great Leaf



Hogar de Niños San
Vicente De Paúl



Inti Sisa



Lucky Bienestar Animal



Río Muchacho

Learn about them
on our website



RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL SUPPORT

To promote local initiatives with real impact

Within the framework of the Help Us to Help initiative, Responsible Travel and Fundación Amazonía Productiva delivered donations to the Hogar del Niño San Vicente de Paúl (San Vicente de Paúl Children's Home) in Quito on May 24, 2024.



Summary of Results:

- **Medicines delivered:** 26 distinct types, including antibiotics, serums, pediatric syrups, and vitamins.
- **Clothing delivered:** 6 children's pajamas, 38 packages of socks, and 38 packages of underwear.
- **Groceries delivered:** 1 quintal (approx. 100 lbs/46 kg) of rice, 5 kg of lentils, 1 box of tuna, salt, and sugar.
- **Other contributions:** 3 large bags of toys, 1 bag of clothes, and 60 ice creams shared with the children during the delivery.

These contributions directly benefited 55 children and adolescents in a vulnerable situation who are housed by this institution.

[Full Report](#)

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www.responsibletravel.ec

LOCAL BUSINESSES


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SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

To promote local initiatives with real impact

As an essential part of our commitment to sustainability and inclusive development, at Responsible Travel we actively promote support for local businesses. As an inbound tourism company, our tours generate a direct economic impact on Ecuadorian entrepreneurs and suppliers, strengthening regional economies and promoting responsible consumption.

Beyond this, we prioritize working with partners who meet high quality standards and integrate sustainable practices into their operations. This careful selection allows us to ensure that every tourist experience contributes to the well-being of the communities and respect for the environment.



SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

To promote local initiatives with real impact

Furthermore, the welcome gifts we give to our travelers are a tangible reflection of this commitment:

- Natural soaps made by a single mother who runs her own sustainable beauty and hygiene product venture.
- Woven bags made by women from Andean communities who, through their sewing workshop, find employment, autonomy, and a safe space.
- Loja coffee purchased directly from a producers' cooperative, eliminating intermediaries and guaranteeing higher profitability for the farmers.
- Ecuadorian artisanal chocolates, reusable water bottles (tomatodos), and other products sourced from small national businesses.
-

During 2024, purchases totaling USD \$2,455 were made from these local ventures for the acquisition of souvenirs for our passengers.



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROJECTS

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OUR POLICIES



WORKPLACE INCLUSION

At Responsible Travel, we believe that diversity enriches our organization and that all people deserve equal employment opportunities, regardless of their gender, disability, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, or any other condition. Our Workplace Inclusion Policy promotes a barrier-free environment based on respect, integration, and continuous development, guaranteeing an inclusive and dignified workplace for everyone.

Official Document

OUR POLICIES



ANTI-HARASSMENT AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Responsible Travel guarantees a safe, respectful, and inclusive work environment, free from harassment, discrimination, or retaliation. It reinforces our commitment to equal opportunities and prohibits any form of discrimination based on ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or other characteristics. We promote a culture of empathy, understanding, and mutual support, and we take all infractions very seriously to protect everyone's rights.

Official Document



OUR
TEAM

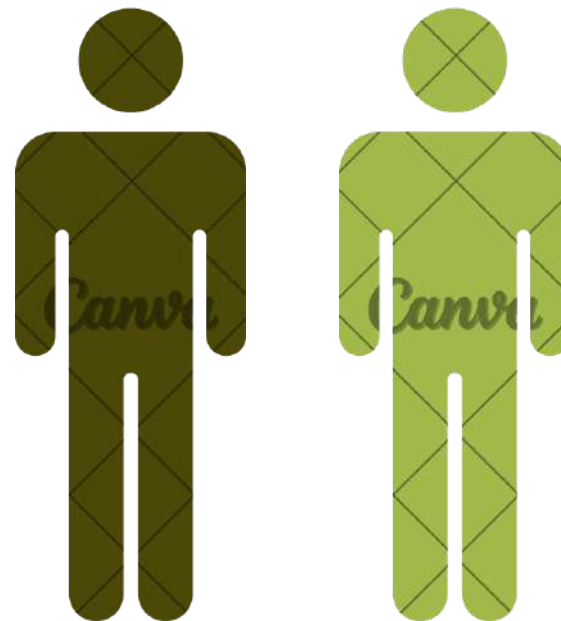
OUR TEAM

By December 2024, the company was comprised of:

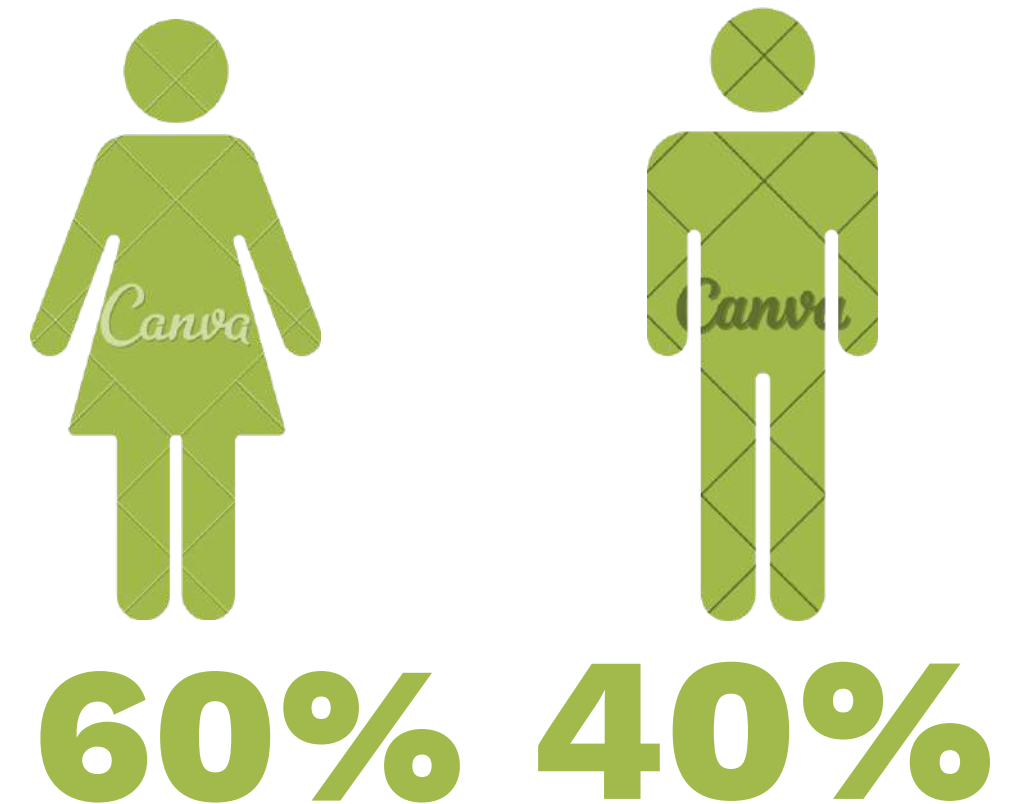
51

TEAM
MEMBERS

Based on the base salaries of our employees, there is no gender pay gap.

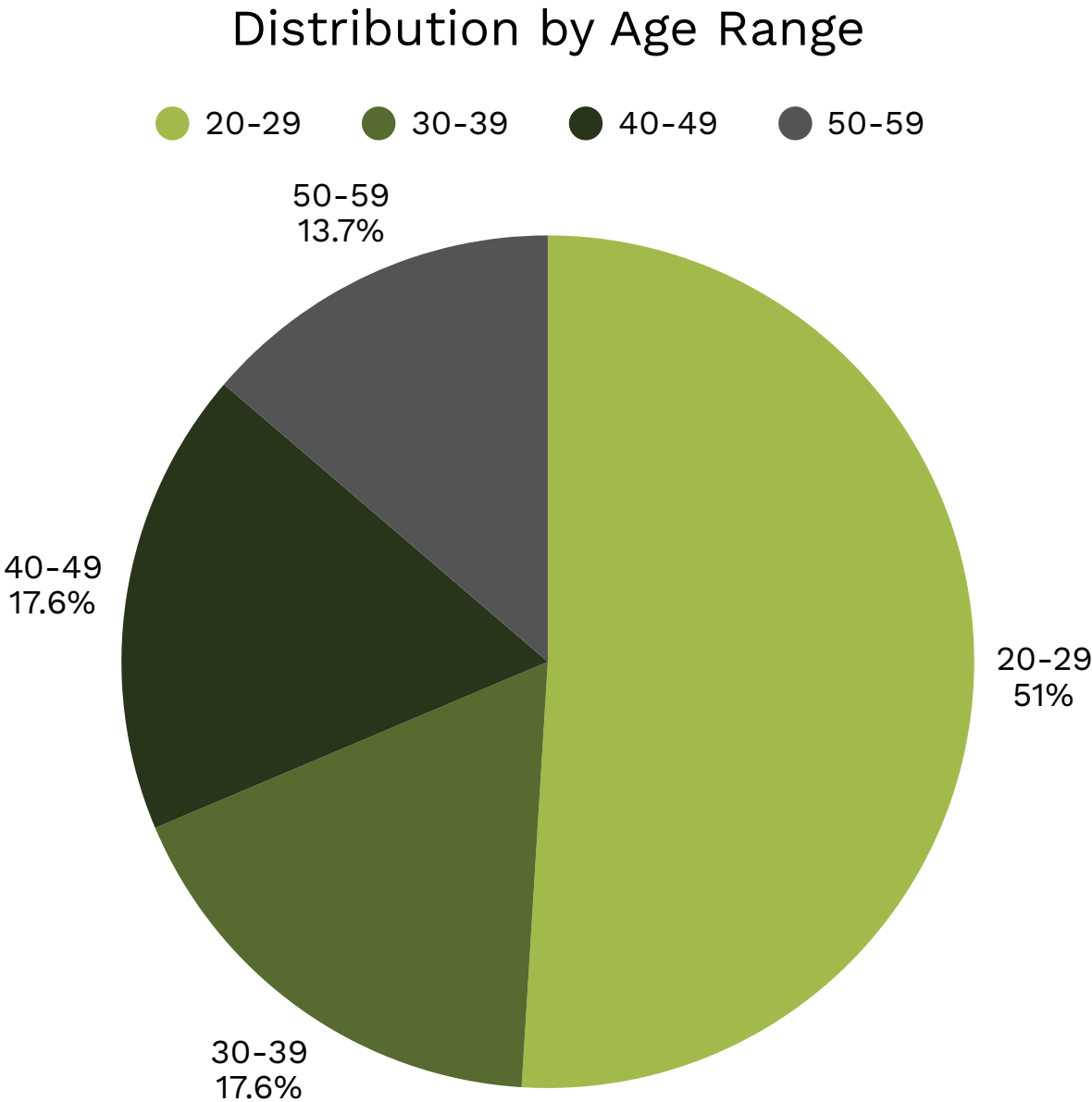


Our team is comprised of 60% women and 40% men.



OUR TEAM

Data as of December 31, 2024:



In our selection processes, we prioritize the objective evaluation of each applicant’s capabilities, skills, and potential, setting aside any type of bias or external condition. Our philosophy is based on promoting equal opportunities and supporting the development of young talent, even when individuals have little or no previous work experience.

This vision is reflected in our own organizational structure, where more than 50% of our employees are under 30 years old, demonstrating our commitment to training new generations and to creating spaces that boost their professional growth.

Other Actions and Their Impact

RESULTS OBTAINED

140
**Training
Hours**

100%

of our employees are
trained in inclusion
and sustainable
tourism.

180

Direct Beneficiaries of
our Compensation
Projects

10%

of our employees
are openly
members of the
LGBTQ+
community.

95%

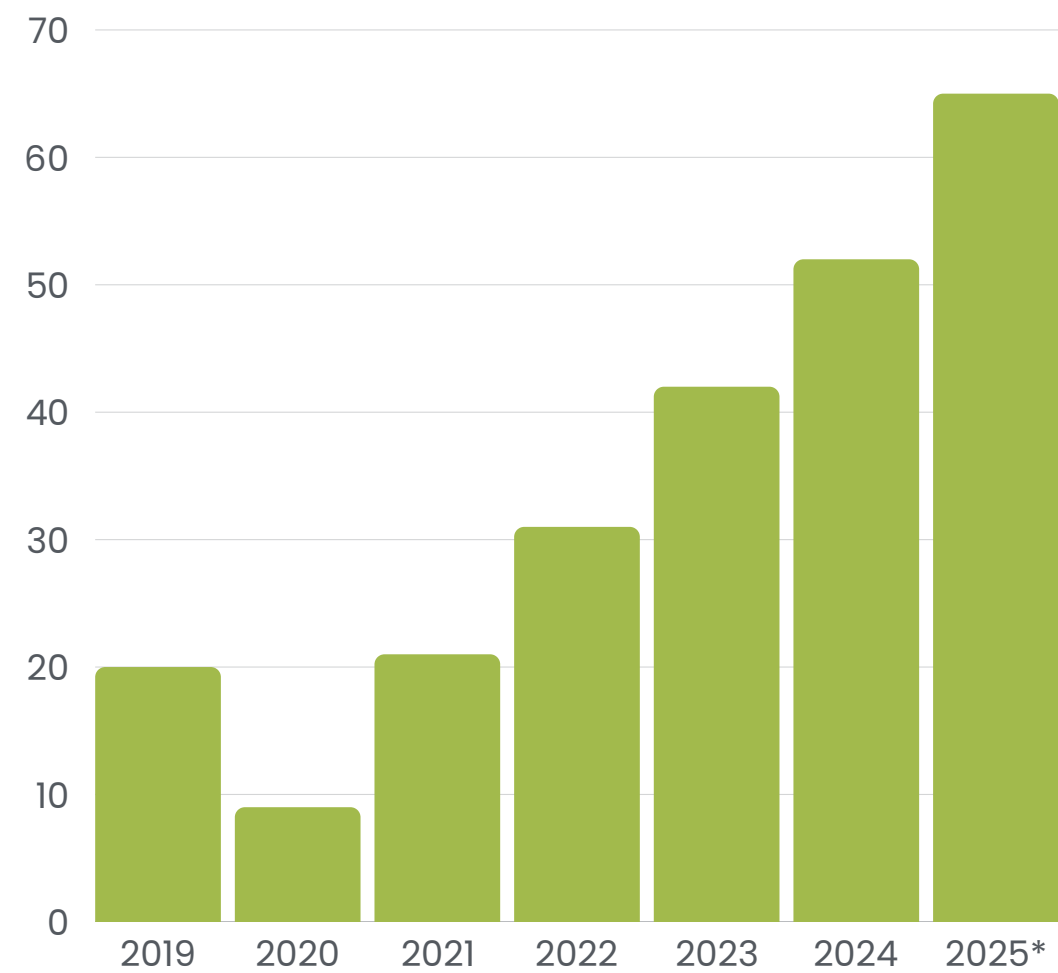
of our employees
satisfied with the
work environment



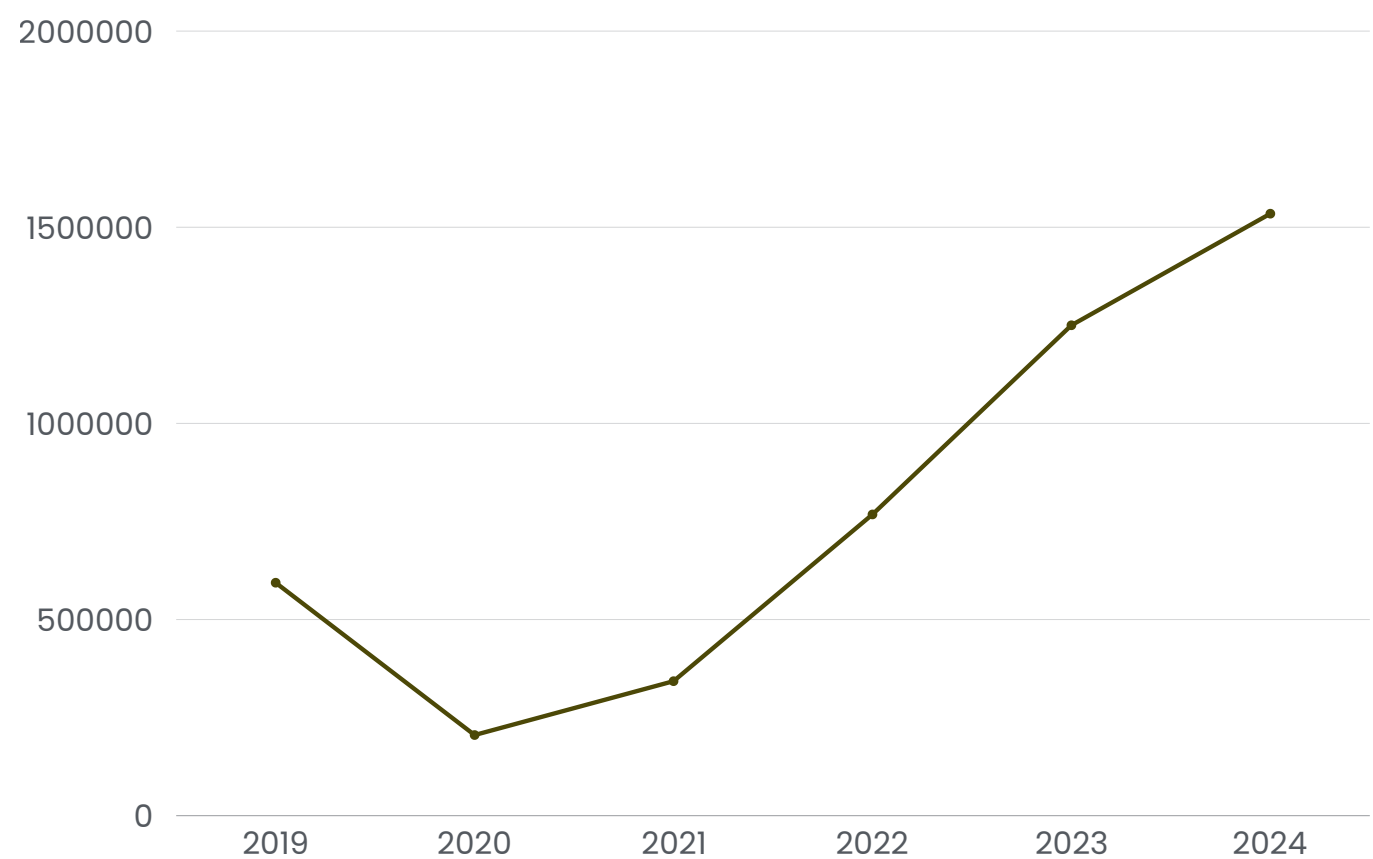
Furthermore, we are part of a dual training program that allows university students from the University of the Americas (Universidad de Las Américas) to gain real, practical experience while pursuing their academic studies.

This, along with other actions, has boosted our growth...

Total Employment



Incomes





CERTIFICATIONS & **RECOGNITIONS**

Certifications & Recognitions



SOMOS PARTE DE:



Glasgow Declaration
Climate Action in Tourism

**"TOGETHER, WE
BUILD A
SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE STEP
BY STEP,**

planting the seeds of
change for generations to
come."

Frank Alte
President





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