

Protecting the world's wild places

IMPACT REPORT | 2022-2023



Acknowledgement of country

We are honoured to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, which Aurora Expeditions' headquarters is situated on. We recognise their continuing cultures, their strong connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Elders both past and present, and we extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia. We recognise their culture as among the oldest in human history. We thank them for their knowledge and protection of Australia's coastlines, arid lands and diverse ecosystems since time immemorial.

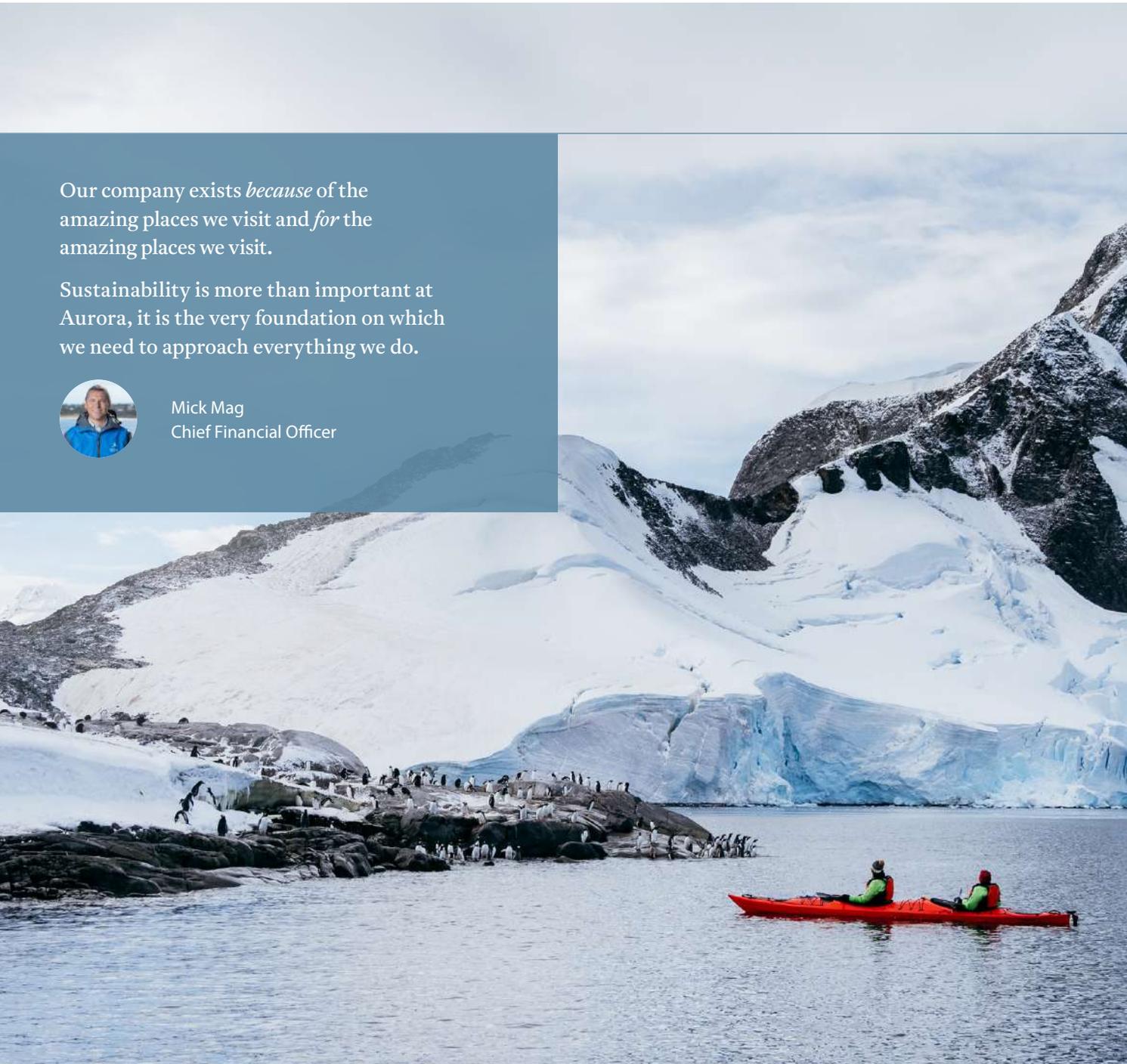


Our company exists *because* of the amazing places we visit and *for* the amazing places we visit.

Sustainability is more than important at Aurora, it is the very foundation on which we need to approach everything we do.



Mick Mag
Chief Financial Officer



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Dear adventurers

I am delighted to welcome you to our first Impact Report.

This inaugural report marks the first comprehensive review of our company purpose, vision and values and the many initiatives we are doing to care for our extraordinary planet.

As a business, we have found the process of writing this report to be immensely valuable. It has supported us in identifying areas requiring improvement, challenged us to think deeply about the kind of business we strive to be and has allowed us to recognise and celebrate the outstanding efforts of our employees who work tirelessly to embed sustainability across all business operations and activities.

As an Australian-owned and operated business that takes travellers to some of the most fragile and remote ecosystems, from Antarctica to the Arctic and beyond, we acknowledge our profound responsibility to protect and preserve these unique natural environments for future generations.

We recognise the significant environmental, social and economic challenges facing our business, our industry and the destinations we visit, and we are acutely aware of the planet's rapidly evolving climate crisis and the urgency with which we must all play a part in addressing our environmental footprint.

We have an ongoing commitment to responsible travel, and we are proud that sustainability is at the heart of our ethos.

Together with our passengers, we care about the protection and conservation of wild, untouched ecosystems, and are dedicated to taking action to support this.

Along with many new and ongoing initiatives outlined in this report, we are 100% climate neutral, offer participative Citizen Science programs and our purpose is to inspire all passengers who join our expeditions to become passionate lifelong ambassadors for the planet.

Expedition travel holds a unique opportunity to educate and inspire people, key attributes which we believe are pivotal in helping to safeguard the wild and awe-inspiring places we visit.

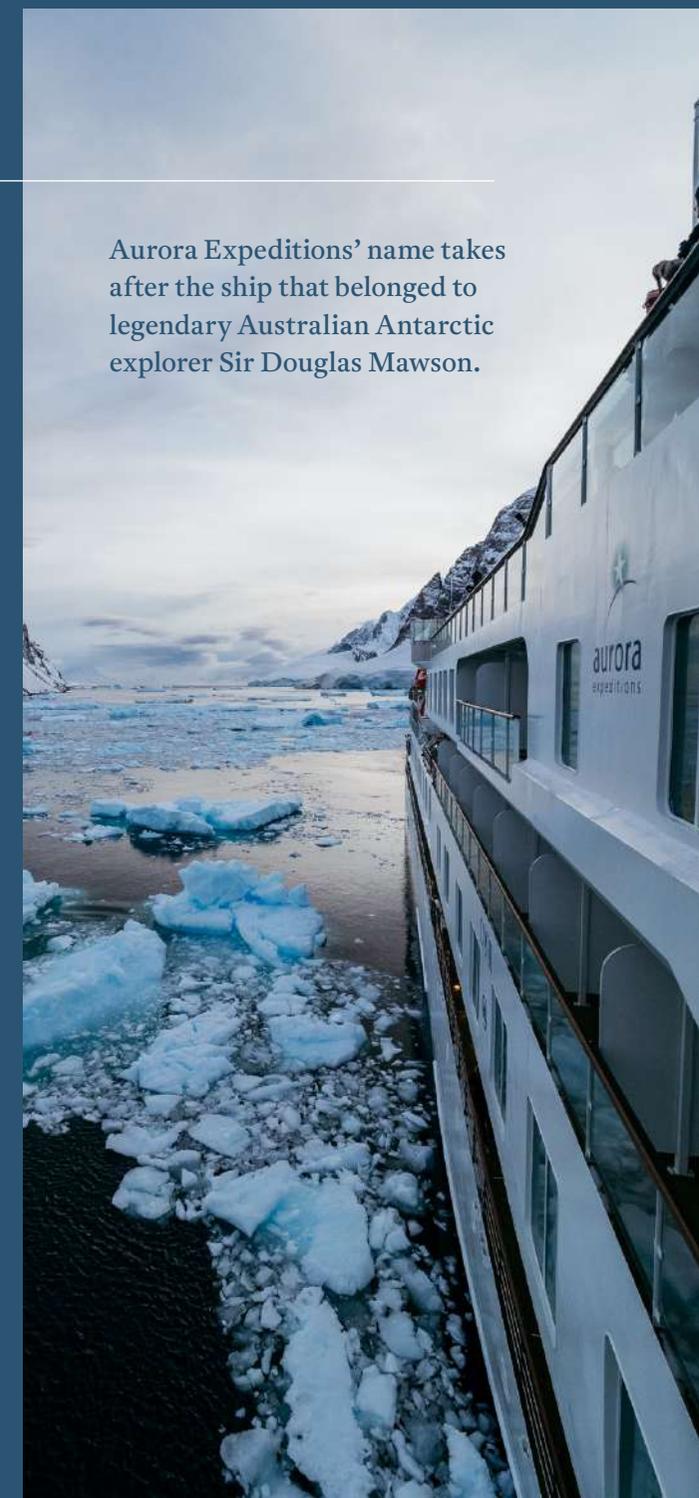
To protect and regenerate our shared planet, we must all work together. We remain resolute in our commitment to sustainability and persist in our efforts to embed sustainable practices across all areas of our business. We will continue to consider sustainability in every decision we make.

We hope you gain valuable insights from this Impact Report and look forward to sharing more of our learnings, progress and achievements with you in years to come.



Michael Heath
Chief Executive Officer

Aurora Expeditions' name takes after the ship that belonged to legendary Australian Antarctic explorer Sir Douglas Mawson.



Sustainability highlights

100%

Climate neutral

7

Citizen Science projects supported

3

Major clean ups supported

7

SDGs supported

22

Native languages in our workforce

61%

Females in our workforce

It is abundantly clear that the world needs an environmental management plan led by governments and private organisations that are the decision-makers and thought leaders. It's imperative we shift the dial to ensure the future of Earth remains as biodiverse as possible, and that future generations are not only able to thrive, but also enjoy and care for the incredible planet that we know.



Justin Ewin
Global Head of Product



We recognise that by taking passengers to some of the world's most fragile and untouched ecosystems, we have a responsibility to inspire, educate and advocate for the protection and preservation of the places we visit and regeneration of wilderness across the globe.



Founded in sustainability

Sustainability has inspired our expeditions since the beginning.

In 1991, mountaineering expert Greg Mortimer, and avid adventurer wife Margaret Mortimer, co-founded the Australia-based expedition cruise operator Aurora Expeditions.

As two passionate and committed environmentalists, Greg and Margaret set out with a mission to take nature-driven travellers to some of the world's most remote, wild and pristine locations.

During these first expeditions, passengers experienced the unique strength and beauty these environments give first-hand.

Throughout their lives Greg and Margaret have been determined to make a difference. Their purpose-driven goal is to inspire a global community of ambassadors for the places visited and for all biodiversity on Earth.

Today, Aurora Expeditions is still an Australian-owned and operated company.

Specialising in small-group expeditions, we take passengers to diverse places around the world, exploring some of the most remote, pristine and spectacular wilderness regions.

We operate two innovative, state-of-the-art ships: the *Greg Mortimer*, named after our co-founder, and the *Sylvia Earle*, named after the world-renowned marine biologist, oceanographer, conservationist, author, activist and educator.

Our global adventures are created and delivered by our highly experienced expedition teams – all specialists in their chosen fields – from scuba-diving, mountaineering and snorkelling to natural history, environmental science, marine biology, glaciology, and many more.

Our expert team observe and interpret the planet's unique landscapes and ecosystems in real time, sharing with passengers their knowledge, passion and care for the wild and extraordinary places we explore.

We recognise that by taking passengers to some of the world's most fragile and untouched ecosystems, we have a responsibility to inspire, educate and advocate for the protection and preservation of the places we visit and regeneration of wilderness across the globe.

2 State of the art
exploration ships

186 Adventure destinations
across the world

200+ Expert explorers,
scientists and guides
in our teams

3000 Adventurers supported
to experience the
wild world, annually



Our purpose

Create lifelong
ambassadors
for the planet

Our vision

Be the global leader
in sustainable
expedition travel

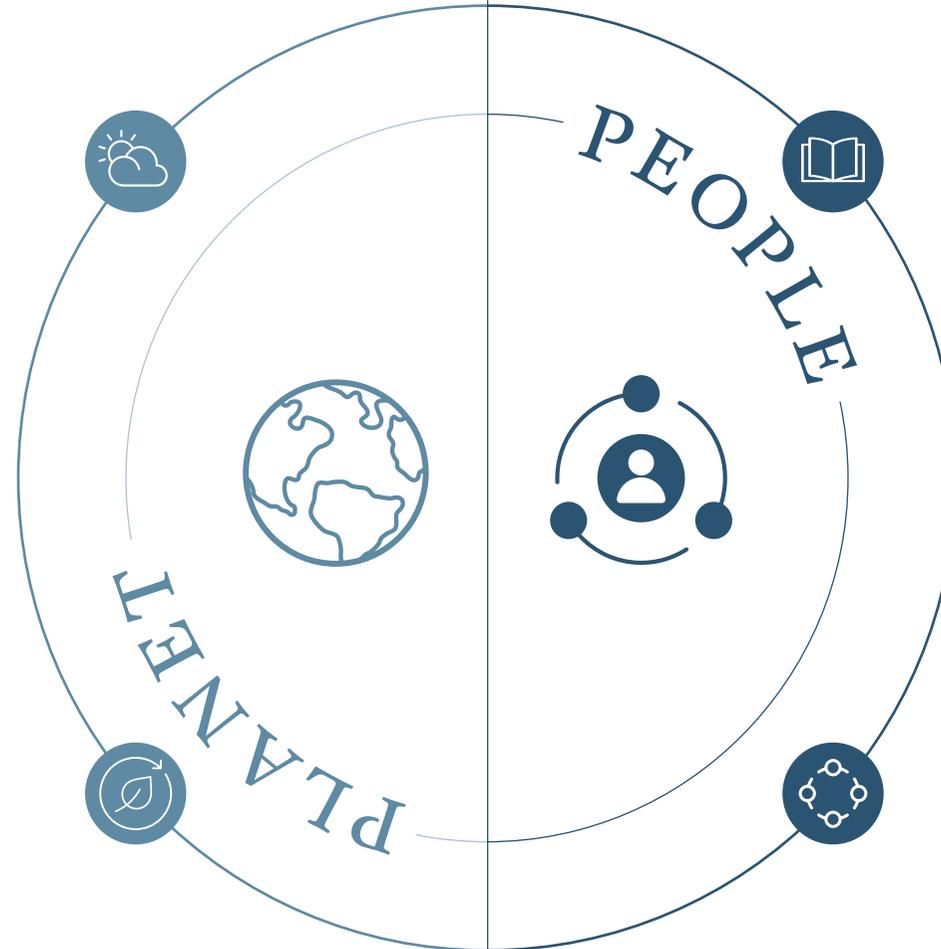
Our focus

Care for climate

As a 100% climate neutral company, we recognise the urgent need to reduce our environmental footprint. Reflected in our annual GHG reporting, the burning of fuel accounts for the majority of our GHG emissions. To minimise emissions, we have set reduction strategies in line with Science-Based Targets.

Leave a lighter footprint

We have implemented initiatives to reduce plastics use, conserve water and ensure proper waste management. Adopting effective and efficient environmental management systems is fundamental to our efforts to reduce our environmental impact. We are committed to continuously learning, advancing and improving these systems.



Educate and enrich

We are committed to education, enrichment and conservation efforts in polar regions and beyond. We engage passengers and our teams in citizen science projects, honour female conservationists on our decks and support global access to climate change education. These initiatives facilitate a greater understanding and protection of these remote regions and support our purpose of creating lifelong ambassadors for the planet.

Collaborate for change

We place a high value on collaboration. By building and strengthening partnerships with organisations and individuals who share our purpose, vision and ambition, we know we can contribute to, and build upon, inspiring work to achieve meaningful impact.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- ▲ Onboard lectures from specialist expedition teams
- ▲ Library full of resources
- ▲ Citizen Science Program
- ▲ Women in Conservation Champions Program
- ▲ Partnership with Upschool to bring purposeful education



- ▲ Building a sustainable food program
- ▲ Building sustainable supply chains



- ▲ Ulstein X-BOW® ship hull design
- ▲ Shore-to-power optimisation
- ▲ Dynamic anchoring system



- ▲ Reducing food waste
- ▲ Annual greenhouse gas (GHG) analysis
- ▲ Reducing single-use plastic
- ▲ Waste management



- ▲ Climate neutrality
- ▲ GHG emissions reduction plans in line with Science-Based Targets
- ▲ Supply chain management



- ▲ Sustainable seafood consumption
- ▲ Water management systems onboard our ships



- ▲ AECO & IAATO memberships
- ▲ Other key global partnerships, including Dr. Sylvia Earle's Mission Blue and Deep Hope initiatives, among many others

Supporting the SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a series of 17 goals, underpinned by 169 targets, designed to improve health and education, reduce inequality, spur economic growth, tackle climate change and regenerate our oceans and lands.

Adopted by the United Nations in 2015, the SDGs are a global call-to-action for all countries and businesses to make powerful public commitments to sustainability. Focusing on action and impact, the SDGs act as a strong blueprint to achieving a more sustainable future for all.

We care about our impact on the natural environments and local communities we visit, as well as on our customers, our industry, supply chain partners, employees and the global community of leaders doing pioneering work in the sustainability movement. We refer to the SDGs as a crucial framework to identify our impacts and to drive our creative and innovative actions to tackle sustainable development challenges. We are driven to play an active role in making a real difference for future generations.

Our activities – directly and indirectly – impact on many SDGs; and we have identified seven key areas to focus on.

To learn more about the SDGs, click below.

[Learn more](#)



Planet

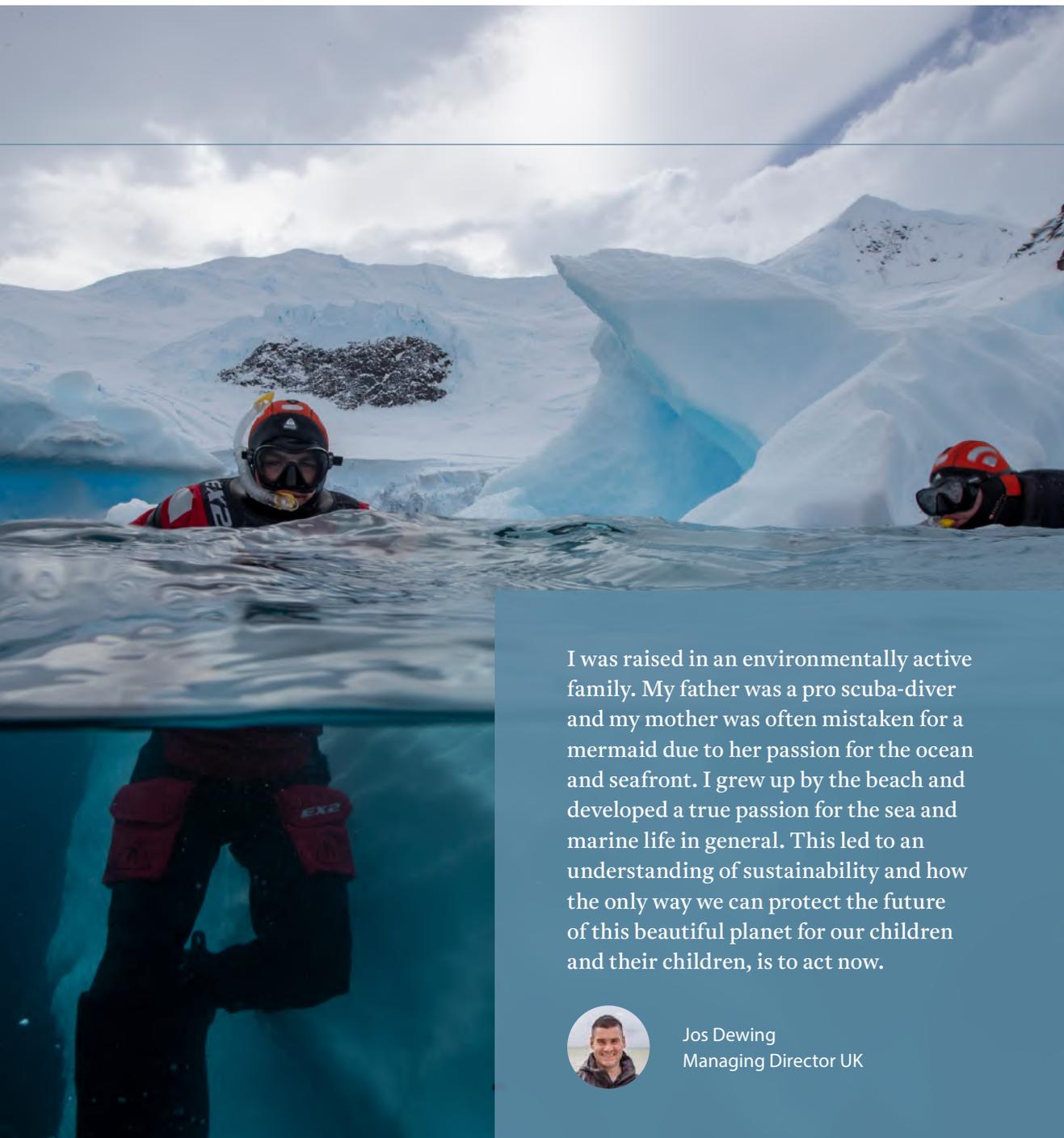


Having worked in the polar regions since 1991, I have gained a unique, albeit unfortunate, view of the effects of climate change on our planet. The retreat of glaciers and the increase in annual average temperatures are not just a “tale” anymore, but an everyday reality that affects not only the polar regions but our planet as a whole.

Sustainably allowing travel to different regions contributes to broadening the awareness of the environmental challenges that our world is facing and is a small contribution to the changes that need to be made for future generations.



Tomas Holik
Vice President of Operations



I was raised in an environmentally active family. My father was a pro scuba-diver and my mother was often mistaken for a mermaid due to her passion for the ocean and seafront. I grew up by the beach and developed a true passion for the sea and marine life in general. This led to an understanding of sustainability and how the only way we can protect the future of this beautiful planet for our children and their children, is to act now.



Jos Dewing
Managing Director UK

Care for climate

Aurora Expeditions recognises the planet's ongoing climate crisis and the urgency with which we must all play a part in addressing our global environmental footprint.

We understand that as a business that takes passengers to fragile, vulnerable and remote destinations, we have a profound responsibility to take action and join climate leaders in the fight to protect, preserve and regenerate our unique natural environments now and for the future of our planet.

In alignment with the United Nations' SDGs and the Paris Agreement (an international treaty on climate change adopted in 2015), Aurora Expeditions has responded to the urgent call for climate action – to lower GHG emissions and to secure a habitable planet for future generations – by achieving a climate neutral company certification from leading climate experts, South Pole.

This certification involves measuring Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, compensating for all direct and indirect GHG emissions and implementing an emissions reduction plan in line with Science Based Targets.

Aurora Expeditions' climate neutral program is just the beginning of our ambitious goals to address and reduce our environmental footprint. We are proud to be taking actionable steps towards tackling climate change and we recognise these measures are pivotal in safeguarding the wild and awe-inspiring places we visit.

Climate neutral

since 2021

We are committed to maintaining our 100% climate neutral company certification with our climate partner South Pole, a global leader in climate solutions and a certified B Corp company.

While we recognise that climate neutral is an interim step to reaching net zero emissions, it is an important immediate way to act on climate while we decarbonise our operations.

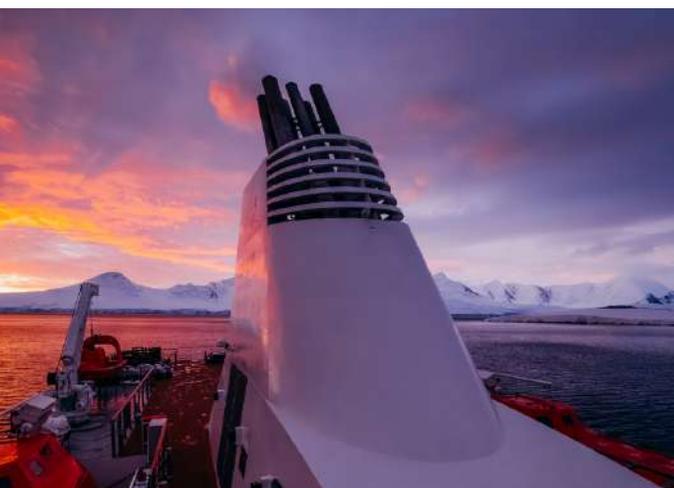


Our climate action

Measuring our emissions

We divide our GHG emissions into Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions - as set out by the GHG Protocol – the most widely recognised international accounting tools for understanding, quantifying and managing GHG emissions.

This data includes direct and indirect emissions resulting from business activities. The boundaries of our GHG accounting cover activities across the business from commuting to our headquarters in Sydney, Australia, to business travel, fuel usage, waste generation, freight, consumables, and more.



Reuse heat

By reusing heat from the engines' coolant and exhaust systems on both vessels, we can provide heating to cabins and warm onboard water tanks in a more sustainable way.

Reducing our impact

We recognise that shipping is among the largest contributors to GHG emissions globally, realising the negative impact our operations have on the environment.

While our climate neutral commitment is a big step forward in the industry, we know that calculating and offsetting our emissions annually is only the start of our ambitious plans to take climate action and to have a more positive impact on the planet.

In partnership with climate experts South Pole, we have set out emission reduction strategies that align with Science Based Targets.

Our GHG accounting reveals that the majority of emissions are a direct result of mobile combustion – the burning of Marine Gas Oil to drive the ship.

Over the last three years, we have transitioned to operating two new innovative and state-of-the-art ships that feature more sustainable technologies and designs, some of which are shown to the right of this page.

We appreciate and recognise that our climate neutral and emissions reduction journey is ongoing. Aurora Expeditions endeavours to be part of the movement of innovative thought leaders exploring ways to make the expedition cruise industry more sustainable. We are advocates for new technology that mitigates the GHG emissions associated with operating a ship; we hope to explore more opportunities in this area in years to come.



X-BOW® hull design

Aurora Expeditions was the first to use Ulstein's X-BOW® design on an expedition passenger ship. The inverted bow penetrates waves gently, splitting the waves' energy and reducing impact and slamming loads. By piercing waves with more stability, the vessel can better maintain its speed and absorb the waves' force more evenly across its surface. By enabling ships to reduce impact, slamming and wave-induced vibrations, the X-BOW® supports vessels to achieve better energy efficiency, lower speed loss and acceleration levels, ultimately improving fuel efficiency and reducing atmospheric emissions.



Shore-power connectivity

We equip the *Greg Mortimer* and the *Sylvia Earle* vessels with technology that enables them to utilise shore-based power while in port. When using shore-based electricity, fuel consumption is significantly reduced, and greater opportunities arise in geographical regions where renewable energy is harnessed through the grid. The challenge remains that many remote location ports we visit during our expeditions need to be equipped with the necessary technology to support this type of connectivity. We advocate for the implementation of these technologies, and we hope to see more opportunities to utilise this system in the destinations we visit.

Compensating for the emissions we create

To compensate annually for Aurora Expeditions' direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions, we purchase verified carbon credits from climate action projects.

Some of the projects we have supported through this program include EcoAustralia credits, which combine two Gold Standard verified projects – the highest international standard on carbon project development.



Infravest Tongyan Wind Farm, Taiwan

A renewable energy project harnessing the prevailing coastal winds of north-western Taiwan, reducing GHG emissions by displacing fossil fuel-based power. This project delivers renewable energy to the power grid. It boosts the development of the wind energy sector through the transferral of technology and expertise from operational, maintenance and safety training.

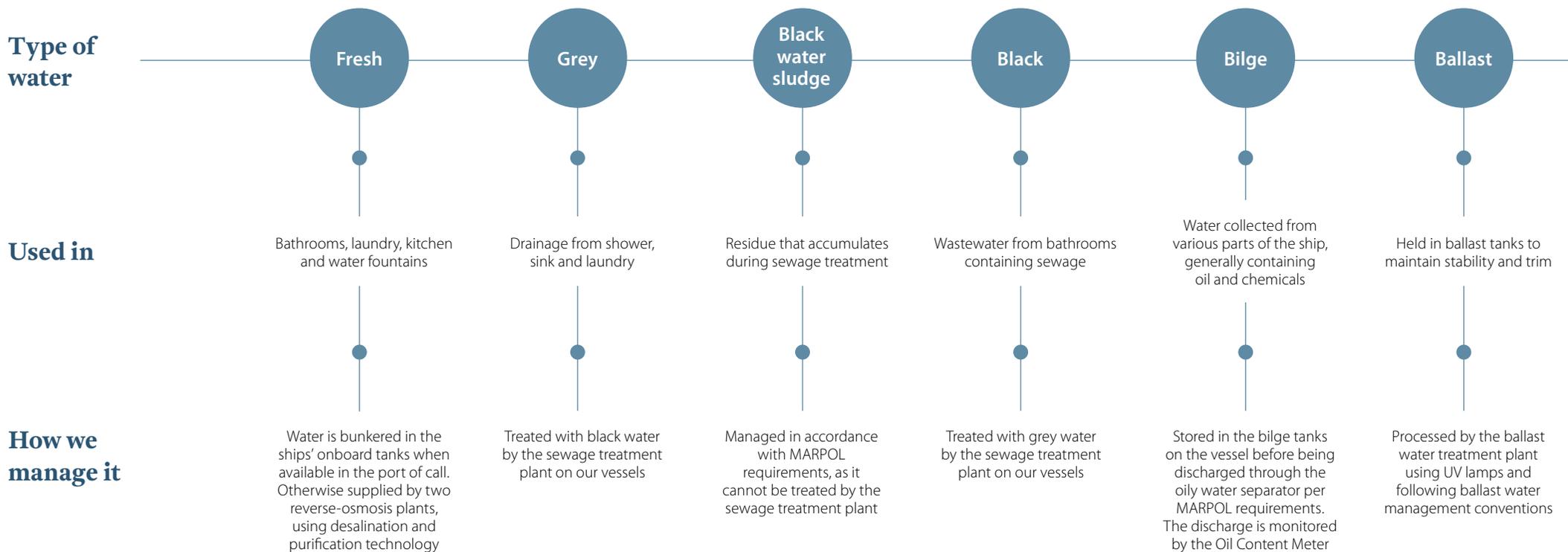


Mount Sandy, Australia

Mount Sandy is a biodiversity conservation project on South Australia's Limestone Coast. The project promotes partnerships between the Ngarrindjeri people, Traditional Custodians of this Coorong region, and non-Indigenous Australians through vital conservation work. The land surrounding this site has been largely cleared for agricultural purposes. This project ensures the permanent protection of 200 hectares of environmentally and culturally important land, which features rich, native vegetation and provides a habitat for native wildlife. Native plants required for revegetation are supplied by the local nursery at Raukkan Aboriginal Community, a self-governed Indigenous community 50 kilometres north-west of the project site. Raukkan community members are also employed for onsite works, including vegetation monitoring, fencing, and pest and weed control.

Water management

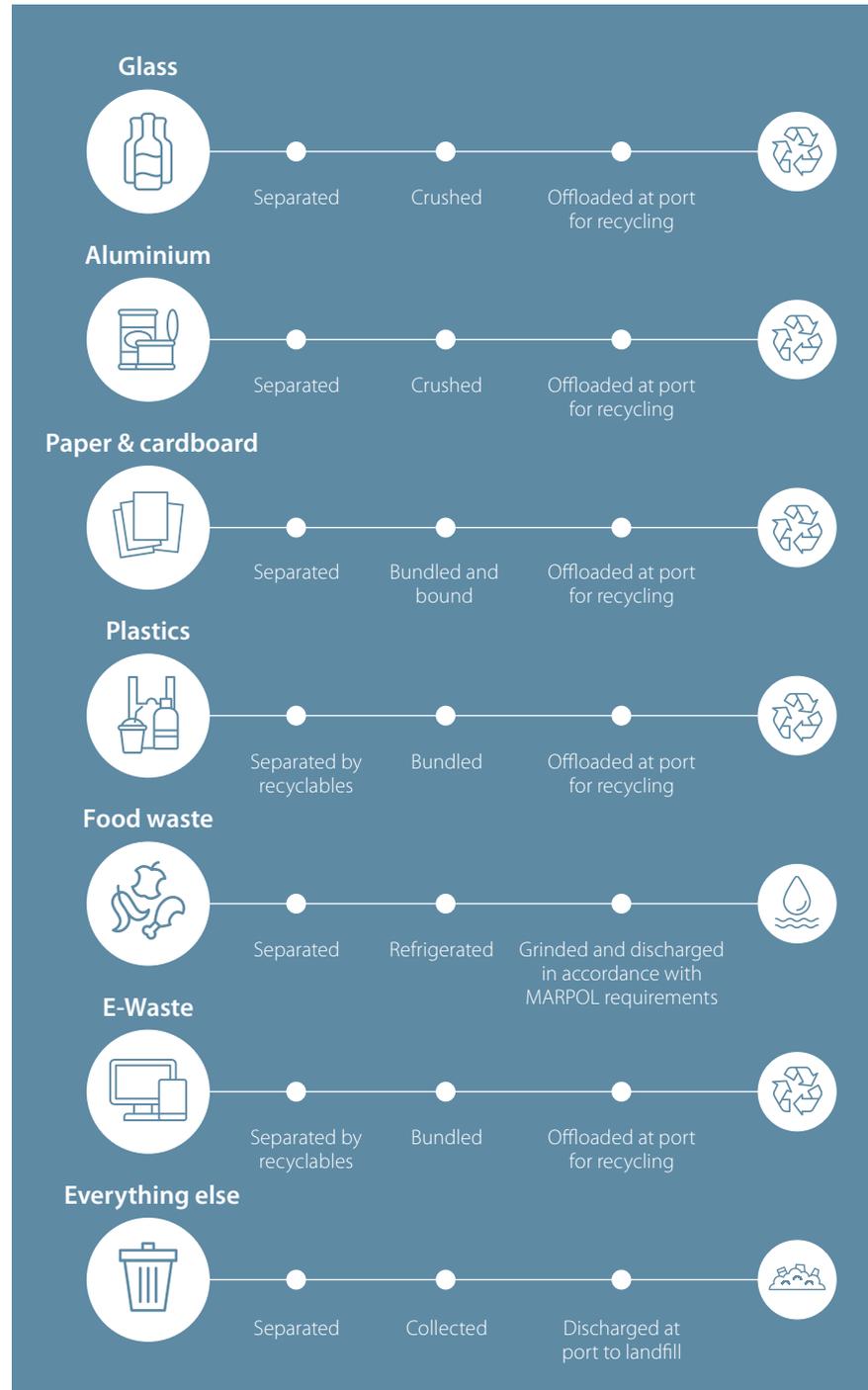
Water management on ships worldwide is managed per the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution (MARPOL), which is the primary international convention covering the prevention of marine pollution.



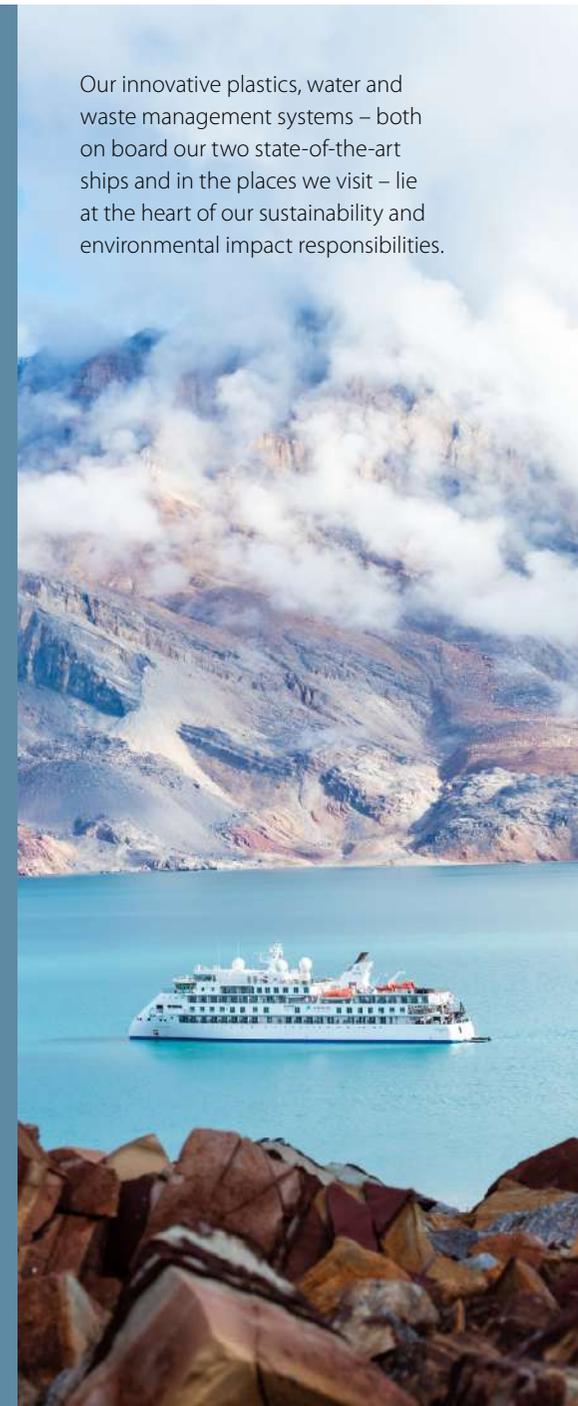
Reducing waste

We take our responsibility to waste management very seriously, both on board our two ships and in the places we visit, to ensure that all waste is handled and disposed of in the correct manner and in strict accordance with MARPOL requirements.

We take great care in separating our waste on board, however we face challenges when offloading waste at ports depending on the recycling infrastructure available in the country we are visiting. While some countries have recycling solutions available, others may not have the necessary facilities to support recycling efforts. We endeavour to explore alternative solutions to responsible waste disposal so that we can ensure waste is managed properly in all of the destinations we visit. We advocate for better waste management and recycling systems in the more remote regions we explore and we welcome collaboration to find effective solutions to these challenges.



Our innovative plastics, water and waste management systems – both on board our two state-of-the-art ships and in the places we visit – lie at the heart of our sustainability and environmental impact responsibilities.



Eliminating single use plastics

We have put in place and continue to improve systems that design out single use plastics in our operations.



Dining

- ▲ Refillable shared stations for condiments in dining settings
- ▲ Upon request, wooden or paper toothpicks, stirrers and straws
- ▲ Still and sparkling water is served in refillable jugs
- ▲ Only crockery is used for cups, mugs, plates and cutlery, even in outdoor BBQ settings



Bathroom

- ▲ Wall-mounted dispensers are filled with biodegradable products sourced in bulk



Laundry

- ▲ Laundry is stored in reusable laundry bags
- ▲ Eco-certified cleaning products are sourced in bulk and stored in reusable containers



Water bottles

- ▲ Passengers are provided with complimentary reusable water bottles
- ▲ Water-refilling stations are fitted across our two vessels



Responsible travel

We guide our expeditions with a commitment to protect and conserve the delicate ecosystems, local communities and cultural heritage of the places we visit.

We place utmost consideration on safety while ensuring our passengers and staff adhere to all local requirements.

These requirements include a range of measures to minimise our impact on the environment and promote responsible and sustainable practices on land and at sea.

Aurora's ability to educate and inspire our 'expeditioners' is, in my mind, one of our greatest strengths. We can and do enrol true ambassadors through our programs and I am pleased so many of our passengers return to spread their newfound knowledge. Being a part of this feeds my desire to help clients choose their next holiday.



Steve McLaughlin
Sales Director, APAC

Some of these actions include, but are not limited to:

Environmental considerations

- ✓ Washing boots before and after landings to avoid spreading diseases and ensure clothing is clear of any foreign seeds or soil
- ✓ Checking and vacuuming clothing to avoid introducing foreign flora between important ecosystems
- ✓ Monitoring plant life and avoiding stepping on vegetation
- ✗ Picking flowers and plants is prohibited
- ✗ Food is prohibited from going ashore
- ✗ Any refuse from the expedition is removed from on shore

Wildlife protection

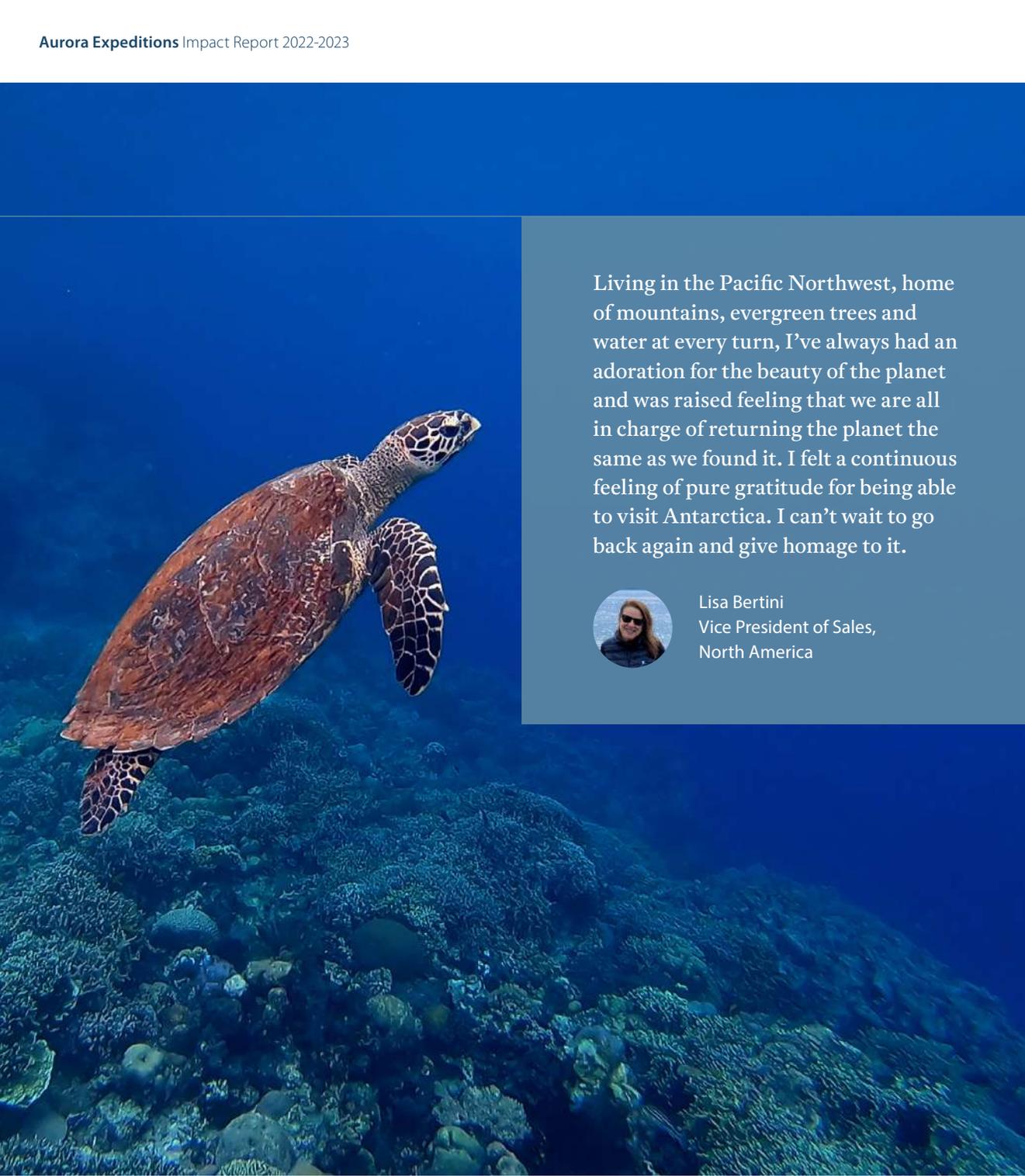
- ✓ Keeping a minimum of five metres away from all wildlife, including birds
- ✓ Special care is taken during breeding or moulting seasons
- ✓ Reducing noise to ensure minimal disturbance to wildlife

Respect for research

- ✗ Some areas have ongoing scientific programs. These are strictly out of bounds
- ✗ Interfering with, or removing, scientific equipment or marker posts is prohibited
- ✗ Disturbing experimental study sites, field camps, or supplies is prohibited

Respect for heritage

- ✓ Respectful of historic and cultural sites and monuments
- ✗ Touching or removing any culturally important items is prohibited



Living in the Pacific Northwest, home of mountains, evergreen trees and water at every turn, I've always had an adoration for the beauty of the planet and was raised feeling that we are all in charge of returning the planet the same as we found it. I felt a continuous feeling of pure gratitude for being able to visit Antarctica. I can't wait to go back again and give homage to it.



Lisa Bertini
Vice President of Sales,
North America

Reducing anchor use

We have implemented a dynamic anchoring system on both ships that allows us to remain in a set position without dropping an anchor.

The benefit of this system is that we can minimise environmental impacts in areas with fragile seabeds. The challenge is that while utilising a dynamic anchoring system, we need to use the main engine to provide propeller and bow thruster power, as the ship retains its position by using those two features. Using the engine whilst in a set position increases the amount of fuel used, therefore releasing additional GHG emissions. Dropping a physical anchor allows us to turn off the main engine, only using the auxiliary generator, which is a much smaller engine. This approach uses less marine gas oil (MGO) and emits less GHG emissions. However, this option comes with its own challenges, as it poses a risk to coral and other life on the seabed.

We recognise the trade-off between minimising any harm to the seabed and reducing GHG emissions, so our team always strives to balance between the two approaches in our operations. When operating in areas with fragile seabeds or in more shallow waters with a higher risk of anchoring on coral, we will ensure virtual anchoring is utilised. In regions where the seabed is made up of sand and rock, we drop a physical anchor and reduce our overall GHG emissions.

We are committed to continually assessing and improving our practices while ensuring safe and responsible operations. We continue exploring alternative technologies and solutions to enhance our sustainability performance, including evaluating new anchoring methods, understanding the risks and ensuring our operational decisions have a minimal impact on the environment.

Minimising fuel impacts

Marine gas oil

Our vessels run on MGO, which is a better alternative to heavy fuel oil (HFO) because of its lower sulphur content, nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions and particulate matter (commonly referred to as soot).

Sulphur, NOx and particulate matter are major contributors to air pollution and can harm both human health and the environment. Using MGO, we can reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality overall.

We recognise that using MGO is only the beginning of our efforts to operate our ships more sustainably. We are committed to improving our practices on board and remaining at the forefront of sustainable expedition cruising technology. We will continue to monitor opportunities for alternate fuel options. As technologies evolve, we are dedicated to using a multifaceted approach to improve the impact of our operations on air quality and the climate.

Air emissions

NOx are a significant environmental and health concern due to the high concentration of NOx emissions produced by diesel engine ships.

The combustion of diesel fuel generates high temperatures that form NOx, which are then released into the atmosphere. The negative impacts of these emissions include the deterioration of air quality, the exacerbation of respiratory illness and an overall contribution to climate change.

We have taken action to address this issue by implementing Wärtsilä's NOx Reducer system on both of our ships. This system is designed to reduce NOx emissions from our four-stroke diesel-electric propulsion engines – the main engines fitted on both the *Greg Mortimer* and the *Sylvia Earle* – by using Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR).

The SCR process involves mixing the engine's exhaust gases with a reducing agent in the presence of a catalyst to break down the harmful NOx into safe compounds. The result is a significant reduction in NOx emissions, contributing to better air quality and a healthier environment.



I am deeply connected to the ocean and passionate about working for purpose-driven companies committed to respecting the majestic beauty of our planet. I believe the best outcomes in expedition travel are best achieved with an ongoing commitment to bold, dynamic and active environmental initiatives. I am incredibly proud to work for Aurora, who not only delivers perspective-altering experiences that change people's lives but importantly is active in sustainability. Aurora is really doing more to help have a positive impact on people, our ocean and our planet.



Hayley Peacock-Gower
Chief Marketing Officer

Mitigating bird strikes

Ensuring the protection of wild birds is an essential aspect of our responsible and sustainable travel, particularly in areas with a higher risk of collisions, such as in South Georgia.

Bird strikes occur when birds collide with a vessel or its structures and we take great care to minimise the risk of bird strikes during our expeditions.

We have implemented several measures to protect wild birds and to promote greater protection in polar regions.

Our strategies include reducing the intensity of deck lights at night, closing windows and portholes with blackout curtains, and turning off lights in areas without curtains, such as the library and Citizen Science Centre on board the *Sylvia Earle*.

On top of this, our expedition team monitors open decks for any birds that may have landed on our vessels. If a bird does land, our teams assess the bird's health and take any measures necessary to encourage and ensure the bird is led back to safety.





People 

Education & enrichment

Perhaps our biggest opportunity for impact is to help awaken the people of the world to the beauty of nature and the need to protect it. We seek to ensure everyone who joins us becomes a lifelong ambassador for the planet.

At Aurora, our mission is to teach our staff and passengers how vulnerable the poles are and convert them into ambassadors for these fragile regions. The more you learn about the places you visit, the more you appreciate them. As a child, I always felt intrigued listening to the stories about the far and unknown Svalbard and polar bears that my grandmother, who had once lived there, used to tell me. I am proud that working for Aurora I have an opportunity to contribute to the sustainability of the polar regions.



Elena Prenner
Global Head of Inside Sales & Reservations



Participative citizen science

Aurora Expeditions are partners with the Polar Citizen Science Collective. This charitable organisation aims to meet the needs of the polar science community by engaging travellers in data collection projects.

This collaborative and community-focused program creates essential opportunities for data collection. Research in the polar regions is challenging due to remoteness and limited seasonal access, with the scientific community often grappling with data scarcity.

Our expeditions provide a unique platform to help collect high-quality data. With extended access to these remote regions and our expedition teams equipped with scientific backgrounds, we have the potential to participate and engage our passengers in citizen science projects to provide valuable data to the global scientific community.

Aurora Expeditions' participative citizen science program facilitates a greater understanding of the polar regions. Through increased understanding comes increased protection of these pristine regions.

To ensure the most accurate data is collected, we provide passengers with instructional guidelines and training materials that communicate the scientific and project protocols important to collecting accurate data.

Whales (Happywhale)

We participate in this project worldwide by taking good identification photographs of whales – notably humpbacks in Antarctica – and a variety of marine mammals. Using software that compares unique markings on animals, Happywhale can track marine life globally, which, over time helps scientists learn about migratory and home-range movements, population growth and decline, and even an individual whale's survival rates.

[Learn more](#)

Seabirds (eBird)

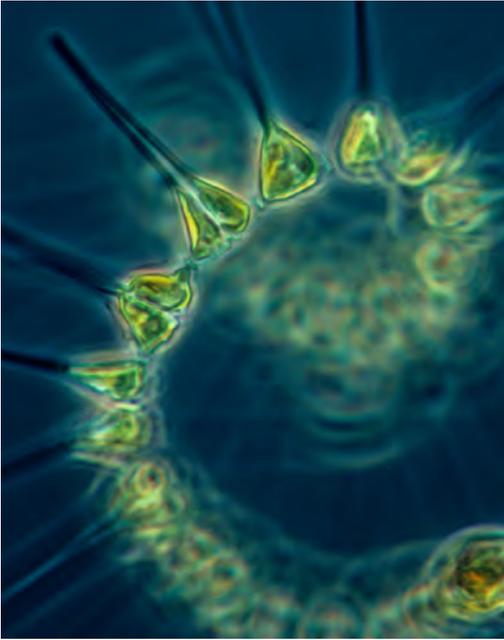
Seabird surveys provide data for long-term monitoring of seabirds in the Southern Ocean and Antarctic Peninsula that is recorded through eBird. Guided by our expert ornithologists and naturalists, you can be actively involved in spotting birds at sea, counting while ashore, or scribing for those observing differences in bird species, ages and breeding cycles while contributing valuable data to science.

[Learn more](#)

Weather patterns (GLOBE Observer)

This international science and education app from The GLOBE Program is an opportunity to participate in cloud data collection and contribute meaningfully to our global understanding of Earth's weather systems and environments. Cloud observations by photographs and written notes are entered directly into the app under the guidance of a trained expedition team member.

[Learn more](#)



Phytoplankton (Secchi Disk Study)

Launched in 2013, the Secchi Disk study helps to map phytoplankton in the world's oceans. Phytoplankton accounts for over half of all photosynthesis on the planet and underpins the marine food chain. Our measurements can be done from a Zodiac or our two ships when stationary by lowering a Secchi disk (one of the oldest and simplest marine scientific tools) into the water to record the depth at which it disappears amid the phytoplankton, with data entered into a monitoring app.

[Learn more](#)


Polar Fjordlands (FjordPhyto)

Researchers are discovering that fjords along the west Antarctic Peninsula are biological activity and biodiversity hotspots. Monitoring changes within polar regions requires long-term observations. With the help of our polar passengers, FjordPhyto can monitor changes in fjord phytoplankton communities from year to year. The FjordPhyto project is a hands-on and engaging Zodiac fieldwork activity that takes anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes each time.

[Learn more](#)


Marine Biodiversity (iNaturalist)

This global online community allows us to share observations about the animals and plants we see on our expedition voyages and to discuss, identify and create research-quality Citizen Science data for science and conservation. iNaturalist's identification model provides initial suggestions, but other people in the iNaturalist community can help to identify and confirm our observations.

[Learn more](#)


Microplastics (The Big Microplastic Survey)

Microplastics are one of our oceans' biggest issues, impacting marine animals, ecosystems and even human health. To tackle this problem, we need to know where the microplastics are, how much there is, and what type of plastic is present. On shore excursions, we scoop the surface of small sample areas using scientific protocols, place them in a bucket and sieve off any residual microplastics. These are then returned to the ship for sorting, recording, and packaging to be sent for further scientific analysis with The Big Microplastic Survey.

[Learn more](#)

Women in Conservation Champions Program

Historically, women have made extraordinary contributions to science and have not always received the recognition they deserved.

The Women in Conservation Champions Program is the dedication of our new ship, the *Sylvia Earle*, to women conservationists.

These scientists are inspiring leaders in their fields. As part of our deck theming, we will educate our expeditioners on the impressive and important conservation work they continue to do around the world. Female scientists are leading the way in global conservation initiatives. We honour these women who work tirelessly to make the world a better place through their innovation, education and activism.

In a world-first initiative, our new ship and each of its public decks bear the names of pioneering female conservationists, each deck featuring a curated gallery experience honouring these women and, importantly, shining a light on their personal environmental causes and sharing ways our passengers can support their pivotal work.

Women we celebrate

Dr. Sylvia Earle

Hero of the Planet



Dr. Earle was the first female chief scientist of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; a National Geographic explorer-in-residence since 1998; and was named by Time Magazine as its first 'Hero of the Planet'. Her conservation initiative Mission Blue is creating a global network of marine protected areas known as Hope Spots, and her new Deep Hope project aims to deliver two deep-dive submersibles to collect crucial scientific data of as-yet-unseen ocean depths.

Hanli Prinsloo

Freediver and Ocean Conservationist



Hanli Prinsloo is the founder and executive director of I AM WATER, an ocean conservation foundation based in Cape Town, South Africa. Dedicated to protecting oceans through human experience, I AM WATER helps children in underserved South African communities experience the ocean's transformative beauty for the first time. A champion freediver, Hanli co-founded I AM WATER Ocean Travel with husband Peter Marshall, offering intimate wildlife encounters with the ocean's most majestic creatures.

Dr. Asha de Vos

Marine Biologist and Ocean Educator



Internationally acclaimed Sri Lankan marine biologist, ocean educator and pioneer of blue whale research in the northern Indian Ocean, Dr. Asha de Vos founded Oceanswell, Sri Lanka's first marine conservation research and education organisation. Her flagship initiative, The Sri Lankan Blue Whale Project, has led to many key research publications and informs policy on whale conservation at a local and global level. Asha's award-winning work has been showcased by the BBC, National Geographic, The New York Times and TED, among many others, and in 2018 she was named one of the 100 most inspirational and influential women in the world by the BBC.



Women we celebrate (continued)

Bernadette Demientieff

Arctic Wildlife Guardian



Bernadette is a passionate mother/advocate for the rights of Alaska and the Gwich'in people in northeast Alaska and northwest Canada. As Executive Director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee, she speaks for the protection of the calving grounds of the porcupine caribou herd, known as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, against destruction from oil and gas companies.

Dr. Carden Wallace AM

Coral Conservation Champion



Principal Scientist Emeritus at the Queensland Museum since 2014, Dr. Wallace is a preeminent Australian scientist and the first curator/director of the Museum of Tropical Queensland from 1987 to 2003. She is an expert on corals and was part of a team that discovered the mass spawning of coral in 1984. In recognition of her contribution to marine science, Dr. Wallace was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2021.

Joanna Ruxton

Plastic-Free Pioneer



Joanna has the rare distinction of being hailed as 'the person responsible for the plastic-free movement' by Sir David Attenborough himself. She spent many years at the BBC Natural History Unit working on the first Blue Planet documentary series. Her award-winning film A Plastic Ocean, released in 2016, shows the devastating impact of plastic waste on ocean ecosystems and has helped to turn the tide against single-use plastics. In 2009, Joanna co-founded Plastic Oceans UK (now known as Ocean Generation), to inspire an inclusive global movement to restore a sustainable relationship between humanity and oceans.

Sharon Kwok

Future Generation Educator



In 2013, Sharon founded the AquaMeridian Conservation & Education Foundation to promote marine education and inspire the next generation to protect and preserve ocean biodiversity. Sharon continues her advocacy as a Mission Blue and WildAid board member and Executive Director of the AquaMeridian Conservation & Education Foundation.

People and partnerships

Aurora Expeditions values a collaborative approach to sustainability by building and strengthening partnerships with organisations and individuals that align with our purpose and values.

We recognise that we can achieve substantially more by sharing knowledge, resources and strategies. We identify value and efficiency in contributing to, and building upon, the inspiring work of organisations that share our goals and values.

Our expedition team sees first-hand the impact of climate change, and they are advocates for the protection of the places we visit. There is a big desire for our expedition team to leave as small a footprint as possible when they are working for Aurora. Our sustainability initiatives are one of the reasons why they work for us.



Carolyn Wiseman
Head of People, Culture & Expedition Team



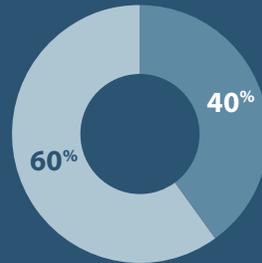


A diverse team

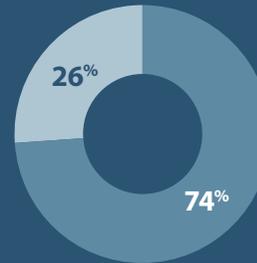
As a global expedition company, we seek to create a diverse workforce that represents the people of the world.

HQ

Leadership

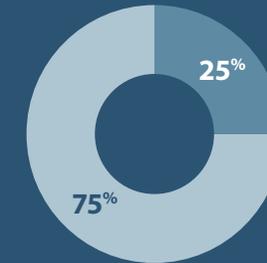


Employees

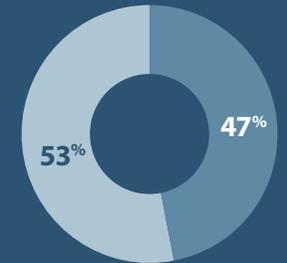


Expedition team

Leaders



Team



● Female ● Male

Languages spoken

- ▲ Afrikaans
- ▲ Cantonese
- ▲ English
- ▲ Estonian
- ▲ French
- ▲ German
- ▲ Hindi
- ▲ Italian
- ▲ Japanese
- ▲ Polish
- ▲ Portuguese
- ▲ Punjabi
- ▲ Russian
- ▲ Spanish
- ▲ Ukrainian
- ▲ Urdu

Native languages spoken

- ▲ Afrikaans
- ▲ Danish
- ▲ Dutch
- ▲ English
- ▲ Faeroese
- ▲ French
- ▲ German
- ▲ Inupiaq
- ▲ Lithuanian
- ▲ Norwegian
- ▲ Polish
- ▲ Portuguese
- ▲ Russian
- ▲ Spanish
- ▲ Swedish

Global partners

Aurora Expeditions is a proud and long-standing member of the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) and the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO).



AECO Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators

Founded in 2003, AECO aims to ensure that expedition cruise operators in the Arctic consider vulnerable natural environments, local cultures, cultural remains and challenging safety hazards on land and at sea. AECO provides specific standards and guidelines that stimulate and encourage coordination between expedition cruise operators and serve as a contact and advisory to agencies responsible for managing and regulating lands, marine waters and human activities in the Arctic. In doing so, AECO educates members and interested people about the Arctic and its unique environment, culture and natural history.



IAATO The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators

Founded in 1991, IAATO advocates for safe and environmentally responsible expedition travel to the Antarctic region. Operating within the parameters of the Antarctic Treaty System, along with International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions and other similar international and national laws and agreements, IAATO fosters collaboration among members and creates ambassadors for the continued protection of Antarctica.





Ocean Geographic Society & Antarctic Climate Expedition

Aurora Expeditions' mission is not only to participate in climate change initiatives but lead them. In pursuit of this goal, we have worked closely with the Ocean Geographic Society (OGS)— an organisation founded by wildlife photographer and explorer Michael Aw, and whose editorial board is chaired by Dr. Sylvia Earle – on a variety of projects.

OGS explores the dynamics of our ocean environment and works to raise awareness of the beauty and importance of preserving the health of our ocean environment, both via scientific research and imagery from the world's leading underwater artists and photographers.

Notably, Aurora Expeditions partnered with OGS on the Antarctic Climate Expedition (ACE) of February 2023, taking change-makers to Antarctica on a world-first expedition. A project two years in the making, ACE successfully united climate change leaders, conservationists, celebrities, and thought leaders (including plastics pioneer Jo Ruxton and Dr. Sylvia Earle herself), aboard our new purpose-built *Sylvia Earle* ship.

With a clear mission, we wanted to raise awareness for governments and the public to highlight that change is needed now to reverse the loss of ice to the region and the ongoing dangers of our warming climate.

Those aboard conducted important research into the state of the Antarctic environment including microplastic assessments and captured imagery and footage revealing the effects of the rising air and ocean temperatures. Together, the 117 Climate Ambassadors onboard, aged 12-88, also formulated eight Climate Resolutions designed to achieve net zero emissions by 2035.

Currently in planning is a second mission to the Arctic in 2025, with Dr. Earle.



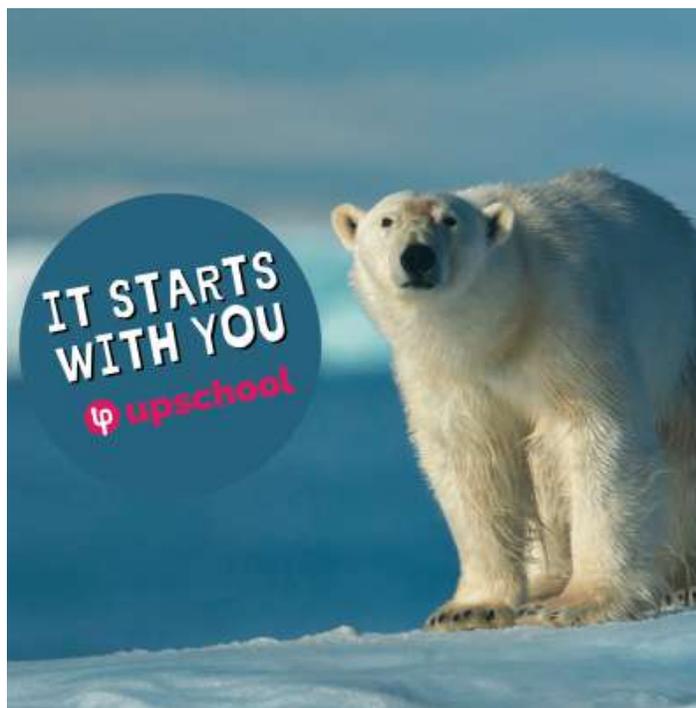
Upschool

We are proud to have joined the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA), Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) and Canva in partnering with Upschool to support climate change education.

Upschool is an Australian start-up education platform that provides free courses and resources for children and teachers. It is currently being used by over 1,000 teachers in 171 different countries including Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, Yemen and Ukraine, with around 80,000 children attending class each week.

Enrichment, education, deepening connections to the remote regions we visit, and creating ambassadors for the protection of the environment are all of huge importance to our company, and this partnership is one of many actions we are taking as part of our far-reaching sustainability-in-action plan.

Aurora Expeditions has partnered with Upschool on two of its latest projects.



Arctic It Starts with You

It Starts with You is a free online course developed to bring the magic of the Arctic and the wonders of the natural world to children all around the globe. The course explores how the Arctic region plays a role in the lives of every human being on Earth and educates students on how everyday choices we make put pressure on the health of our planet. Children participating in the course are encouraged to design a plan to change how their community lives and to help contribute to positive environmental change.



Antarctica The Power of One

The Power of One is a free 10-week online course to bring together students worldwide to learn about the vital role of the ocean and its inhabitants in shaping our planet. Through a series of lessons covering weather, climate, wildlife, and history, recorded live from the Antarctic region, including the Falklands and South Georgia, students will gain a deeper understanding of the ocean's significance and will learn how to make sustainable choices that benefit the ocean and the global community. As they learn from the creatures of the Antarctic, they will also recognise their agency and the impact they can have as individuals, ultimately understanding that they hold the key to securing a better future for our world.



Clean ups

Clean Up Svalbard

As part of an AECO initiative aimed at clearing the coastline of marine debris, Aurora Expeditions, along with other travel companies, is cleaning up sites visited in the Svalbard archipelago. Cleaning years of accumulated and washed-up debris, Aurora Expeditions teams and passengers take large bags ashore and steadily fill them with bits of plastic including bottles, bottle caps, bags, ropes, etc. We also recover larger items, such as the time in Hamiltonbukta where we filled an entire Zodiac with an almost-full trawl net, taking up to six people to pull up off the rocks to carry back. We deposit all rubbish collected in large yellow 'Clean Up Svalbard' bins provided beside the wharf at Longyearbyen. Through this vital initiative, we hope to see a reduction in the amount of plastic debris along these remote and near-pristine coastlines.

Clean Up for Sarah

Our clean-up efforts extend to our headquarters in Sydney and global remote teams as we participate in the Clean Up for Sarah initiative in June each year. The initiative is in honour of Sarah Auffret, a beloved environmental warrior, polar guide, expedition leader and Antarctic base leader. As a passionate environmentalist and environmental agent at AECO, Sarah led the expedition cruise industry's efforts to combat marine plastic litter.

Take 3 CEO Clean Up

Since Take 3's inaugural CEO Clean Up in 2019, Aurora Expeditions has been one of 170 CEOs and business leaders who have collectively removed more than 56,000 pieces of rubbish from the environment. This annual event takes place in Sydney, Australia. It allows for CEOs and business leaders to make a positive change in their community by cleaning up local environments, fundraising to support clean oceans and raising awareness of the global plastic pollution problem.

Clean Up Iceland

Along with other AECO members, we have participated in Clean Up Iceland. Our clean-up initiatives aim to do more than remove litter from our local environments. Our goal is to promote environmental awareness, bring greater attention to the importance of keeping our oceans and lands clean, and inspire meaningful action towards a more sustainable future. We will continue expanding our clean-up initiatives to other locations around the world in future years.



Future →

Becoming a B Corp

Our journey towards becoming a B Corporation (B Corp) started from the day Greg and Margaret Mortimer co-founded the business in 1991 – we just didn't know it at the time.

B Corps are businesses that meet the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance, public transparency and legal accountability. They balance profitability with purpose, people and the planet to ensure their positive impact on the world. B Corps are accelerating a global culture shift to redefine success in business and build a more inclusive and sustainable economy.

The work involved in securing B Corp certification is long and comprehensive, covering all areas of a company's activities. We have made great strides towards achieving B Corp status, having implemented various initiatives across the business. We continuously work to improve our reporting and strive for full transparency, particularly throughout B Labs' evaluation and verification processes. Achieving B Corp certification will attest to the dedication and care of every employee at Aurora Expeditions, who all work tirelessly to ensure that our business operates as ethically, sustainably and transparently as possible.



A feast of sustainable food

Aurora Expeditions' sustainable food program aims to create a sustainable 'farm-to-table' style experience on board our two ships, serving food sourced from regional and local farms that align with our passion for sustainable, regenerative practices and overall care for the planet.

Working collaboratively with Anglo-Eastern Leisure Management, our long-time supplier and ship hospitality experts, we are developing a comprehensive program designed to evolve and grow throughout our sustainable food journey. We are exploring regional suppliers in Chile, Argentina, the United States and the Netherlands, where we are having conversations about how we can utilise these relationships to ensure that the way we source our food takes the sustainability of ecosystems and climate into account.

On the menu

Biodynamic wines

We offer award-winning biodynamic wines that harness organic farming methods, employing compost as fertiliser and avoiding chemical pesticides in an enclosed environment. Soil supplements are prepared according to Rudolf Steiner's formulas and follow a planting calendar that depends upon astrological confirmations. Treating the earth as 'a living and receptive organism' has resulted in the exceptional quality of their wines.

Vegan options

We have increased the number of vegan options on board to include a range of flavourful plant-based dishes that will provide our passengers with more environmentally conscious and ethical menu options on our expeditions.

Sustainable Sea Day

Dr. Sylvia Earle is a long-time and passionate advocate for protecting and regenerating our oceans, noting the sharp decline in many marine populations and the importance of ocean and marine health for our planet.

In honour of the ship's namesake and her abiding commitment to the conservation of our oceans, we have committed to a 'Sustainable Sea Day' on the sixth day of each voyage, when seafood will not be available on the menu on that day.



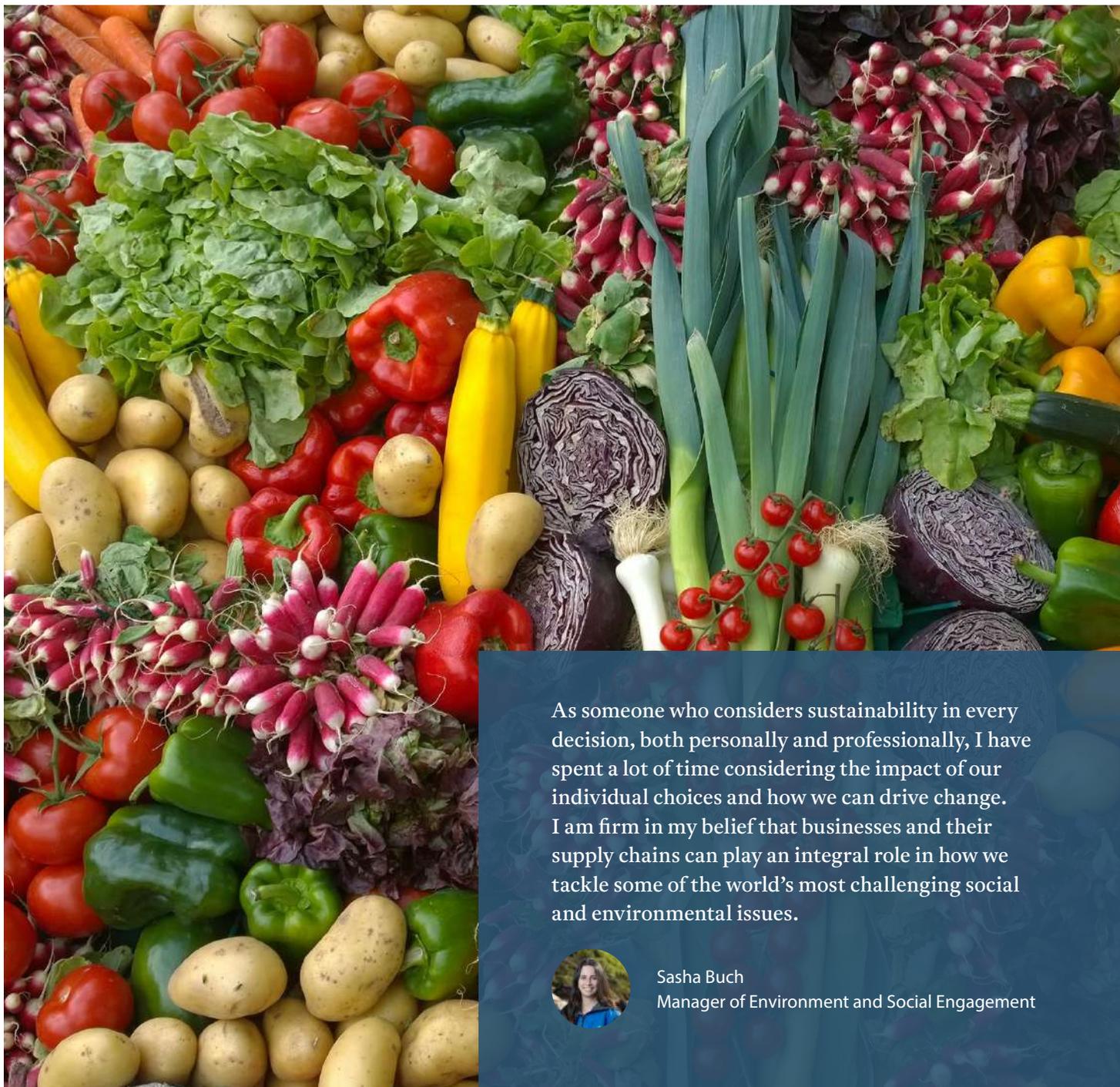
Improving our supply chain

We are proud to work with supply chain partners that closely align with our purpose, vision, values and passion for sustainability.

We value partnerships with businesses that share our adventurous spirit and care for the future of our shared planet. Our greatest impact occurs when we address our own activities and look into the effects on our entire supply chain.

We have developed a supplier code of conduct and implemented processes to collect social and environmental performance data along our value chains. We recognise that this will be a journey, and we are committed to learning, growing and evolving with our existing supply chain partners and any new partnerships we forge along the way.

We will continue to have important sustainability conversations and foster relationships that inspire purpose-driven conservation activities.



As someone who considers sustainability in every decision, both personally and professionally, I have spent a lot of time considering the impact of our individual choices and how we can drive change. I am firm in my belief that businesses and their supply chains can play an integral role in how we tackle some of the world's most challenging social and environmental issues.



Sasha Buch
Manager of Environment and Social Engagement

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make.

Jane Goodall





Thanks for reading,
thanks for caring.

