

For Climate Resilient Impact-Travel

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) stand as one of the great achievements of our time – the culmination of more than half a century of increasing collective commitment to a fairer more equitable world, based on economic, social and environmental sustainability. An evolving, 15 years, locally linked, framework, of 17 global SDGs, with 169 targets and 304 Indicators, addressing every aspect of life and the planet.

The SDGs have been cleverly designed to galvanize regional, national, and local stakeholders to make their own responses – for air, oceans, land, cities, industries, rural communities, indigenous people etc. Each with their own vision of the priorities, and version of the action needed. That means trillions of personal, corporate, NGO and government actions must start changing all over the planet: each calibrated to its own circumstance, ambition, and pace of change. Ultimately it will transform all production, consumption, and investment. With 5 yearly checks, a 2030 SDG transition and a 2050 Climate transformation.

Climate stands out from the rest, for the simple reason that it is eXistential. Simply put this means that life on the planet is fundamentally threatened, and without a fix, future generations will freeze or fry. And the intensifying impacts of extreme climate will severely aggravate many other SDG challenges. This is why the Paris Agreement, with its 2050 national carbon reduction targets must be fully implemented, and intensified every 5 years for several decades.

In 2017, the world's largest industrial activity, Travel & Tourism, formally embraced the SDGs, engaging public, private and civil society stakeholders in an International Year of Sustainable Development. The entire year has been conceived and constructed to intensify and accelerate intersect with all the SDGs. And rightly so - to be a real force for good, we must be up with the mainstream curve on building sustainability into all growth and development aspirations.

Yet there is a major challenge – how to keep Climate Resilience front and centre when Travel is such a popular activity and where all of humanity's agenda is shifting to all the SDGs. And how to make sure, going forward, that our sectoral approach to climate response tracks the ever-increasing demands of the Paris Accords, as well as bridging the gaps between national/ international, global/local, and science/operational, that must be blended for real change.

The Strong Universal Network, SUN^x (a legacy program for Maurice Strong one of the great architects of Sustainable Development) has been built to help, by its total focus on the intersect of Climate Change with the response and resilience of the Travel & Tourism Sector.

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Its goal is to promote and encourage Climate Resilient, *Impact-Travel* with good & bad SDG effects measured and managed coherently: with Green Growth at the core and, 2050-proof in line with the Paris Accords and the W.E.F. 4th Industrial Revolution.

SUN^x has been developing a weather resistant system for *Impact-Travel* Learning, Innovation and Resilience. It is based on a network of cloud connected, solar powered, pre-fabricated Centres for local Community focus. Shipped in a single container, they can be set up rapidly, without extensive machinery.

They will bring together the rapidly expanding global climate resilience knowledge and response, with local conditions, requirements and practice. This is an ongoing need, given the extensive research, massive databases and constant innovation. They will be operated by smart, next generation, climate change curators, with graduate trainee support through **Maurice Strong Legacy Scholarships**, provided by industry CSR support.

The Centres will primarily be focal points to help Communities and Travel Stakeholders progressively transform to the evolving 2030/2050 SDG and Paris Accords. They will help advance *Impact-Travel*. They will help turn global and national targets into measurable action on the ground, help to develop green growth patterns that accentuate the positive impacts of the sector and keep pace with dynamically evolving technology. They will be a unique new permanent network for emergency response and recovery.

SUN^x is co-founded by Professor Geoffrey Lipman and Felix Dodds long-time friends and collaborators of Maurice Strong. Management and Advisory Council are multidisciplinary and global, with lifetimes of commitment to Sustainability, Mobility, Tourism, Parks, Conservation and Infrastructure development - they have operational, policy and academic experience, from government, industry and civil society. It is a stand-alone program of an EU based not for profit Green Growth & Travelism Institute.

The proof of concept SUN Centre is being established in Belgium's National Park in Q4 2017. It's linked to the University of Hasselt Field Research Centre with its "Ecotron" Climate Analysis Program, and supported by provincial and local community stakeholders.

It's planned as the European hub of a global network – focused on community climate resilience and *Impact-Travel*; with a progressive roll-out, for UN regions and Belt & Road states after that. Our game-plan calls for a major thrust in 2020 linked to the International Expo with at least one in every country by 2030, geared to the SDG and Paris Accord programs.

If we don't act now and keep acting, one day soon it will be too late.