



ERM's contribution to the SDGs

ERM Sustainability Report 2022



ERM's support for the SDGs

The United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, designed to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.

The 17 goals reside within the key document, [Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), and reaching these goals will take everyone's contribution – including government, civil society and business. ERM has been involved with the SDGs since the start of their development in 2012. We contribute to the SDGs in three ways.

Through our work for clients

We use the SDGs to help our clients develop and implement their strategy for contributing to sustainable development. To meet growing client demand, we are strengthening our capabilities in this area through acquisitions and ongoing engagement with our account and technical teams. We also conduct research and publish insights that are of interest to our clients.

In our operations

ERM strives to operate sustainably in support of the SDGs. We have adopted several policies and programs that directly contribute to them, as do our sustainability targets and goals. Of particular note, we have adopted ambitious net-zero and science-based targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In addition, the ERM Foundation is committed to making a measurable contribution to the SDGs, and we have identified 10 intersecting SDGs where the Foundation can have the greatest impact.

In collaboration with others

Through our partnerships with leading organizations, we are committed to making a meaningful contribution to the SDGs. ERM participates in SDG panels at leading conferences and convenes SDG workshops and webinars with companies across geographies and sectors sharing our own experiences of contributing to the SDGs.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The SDG goals and targets provide a framework for ERM to measure our progress in supporting the global sustainable development agenda.

3 ERM contributes to the SDGs in three ways:

- 1 Through our work for clients
- 2 In our operations
- 3 In collaboration with others



ERM's contribution for the SDGs

The following table provides a snapshot of ERM's contributions to the SDGs through our work with clients, within our own operations and in collaborating with others.

SDG	SDG 2030 TARGETS	ERM'S IMPACTS IN FY22
	<p>1.5 Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.</p>	<p>ERM's projects across services can have a positive impact on the poor and vulnerable by reducing exposures to environmental, health and safety risks, from our work with clients to support business resilience and low carbon economy transition to social and environmental assessments and health, safety and wellbeing programs.</p>
	<p>3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.</p>	<p>ERM's Air Quality Technical Community provides innovative solutions to challenges related to air permitting and compliance, air quality impact assessment, health risk assessment, air monitoring and measurement, and air pollution control engineering.</p> <p>ERM's liability portfolio management and remediation services support the mitigation and remediation of potential risks to human health and the environment.</p> <p>ERM's human health and ecological risk assessment community provide toxicological studies, statistical studies, and bioaccumulation studies.</p> <p>ERM seconded ERM Partner Karen Aitchison to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) wellbeing program.</p> <p>The SustainAbility Institute published <i>Protecting Human Capital: Making workforces resilient to Climate Change Impacts on Health</i> and <i>Everyone Benefits: Connecting health and safety and human capital</i>.</p>

SDG



SDG 2030 TARGETS

4.7
 Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

ERM'S IMPACTS IN FY22

ERM projects can include a sustainability-related educational component for our clients' employees and other stakeholders, including members of local communities, suppliers and contractors, among others. We also provide environmental education through the ERM Foundation.

Through our policies, we prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, veteran status or any other category protected by the laws of the communities in which we do business.

We include training and skill development across our global operations at all levels within the company. We also offer voluntary training and awareness on diversity, equity, equality and inclusion (DE&I), wellbeing, and a broad range of sustainability topics.



5.5
 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

5.a.
 Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

5.c.
 Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

ERM is a signatory of the Women's Empowerment Principles. The ERM Foundation includes "empowering women and girls" as an area of focus for funding projects reflecting the SDGs. ERM supports the Asian University for Women (AUW) through mentoring, workshops and internships.

Environment, health and safety (EHS) strategy and social consulting experts integrate social, legal and other requirements into core business processes, including DE&I and policies that promote sustainable development.

Through the ERM Foundation, more than 1,200 women's livelihoods have been improved or created through initiatives designed to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy.

SDG



SDG 2030 TARGETS

- 6.1
By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.
- 6.2
By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.
- 6.3
By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially.
- 6.5
By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

ERM'S IMPACTS IN FY22

Regulatory experts promote best management practices and compliance with air, water and waste regulations and permits, including integrated water management projects.

In FY22, the ERM Foundation, provided more than 23,500 people with improved access to clean water and sanitation, including menstrual health and hygiene education.

ERM has been involved with the WBCSD WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Pledge for a number of years. At the end of 2021 the WASH Pledge transitioned to the WASH4Work initiative and ERM remains engaged in these efforts.



- 7.1
By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.
- 7.2
By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

Our Energy and Climate Change technical community supports renewable energy projects across sectors and geographies.

We are experts in wind energy and other renewable energy sources, and we actively help companies build and operate more renewable projects and transition to purchasing more renewables. ERM has pledged to develop 4GW ultra low carbon hydrogen by 2035 through [ERM Dolphyn](#) and support the wider growth of the industry.

Through WBCSD's Hydrogen program, ERM is working with the Hydrogen Council's SDG initiative.

The ERM Foundation provided more than 9,000 people with improved access to renewable energy.

The ERM Foundation Future Fund was raised in FY22 and will launch in FY23. It will invest in nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that are driving progress towards the SDGs at the intersection between biodiversity, low-carbon livelihoods and access to renewable energy.

SDG



SDG 2030 TARGETS

- 8.2
Achieve higher levels of productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation.
- 8.3
Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.
- 8.5
By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.
- 8.8
Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

ERM'S IMPACTS IN FY22

Our business strategy focuses on providing innovative solutions to our clients on the full range of sustainability issues. In particular, we are focusing on leveraging technological advances across our core services and within our own business to drive productivity.

Impact assessment services include development of sustainable infrastructure and job creation through project feasibility, siting, routing and planning.

Compliance experts help businesses maintain compliance and remain viable employers. Our health and safety consultants help clients move beyond traditional compliance and corrective programs to safeguard lives, protect assets and strengthen reputation.

ERM's programs focus on the health, safety and wellbeing of everyone involved in and impacted by our work, including ERM employees, clients, contractors, as well as communities and the public local to our program sites.

Over 1,200 women's livelihoods were improved or created in the low-carbon economy through the ERM Foundation.



- 9.1
Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human wellbeing, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.
- 9.5
Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending.

We are a signatory of the Race at Work Charter and committed to taking practical steps to tackle barriers that racial and ethnic minority people face in recruitment and progression, and to make ERM representative of the societies in which we operate.

We encourage involvement in our Employee Resource Groups supporting Women, Disability, LGBTQ+, Working Parents and Carers, and EmbRACE.

ERM prepares an annual Modern Slavery Statement in accordance with UK requirements. During FY22, we published thought leadership reports, including Why diversity is the new safety imperative and Corporate progress and action on DE&I.

SDG	SDG 2030 TARGETS	ERM'S IMPACTS IN FY22
	<p>10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.</p>	<p>We are a signatory of the Race at Work Charter and committed to taking practical steps to tackle barriers that racial and ethnic minority people face in recruitment and progression, and to make ERM representative of the societies in which we operate.</p> <p>We encourage involvement in our ERGs supporting Women, Disability, LGBTQ+, Working Parents and Carers, and EmbRACE.</p> <p>ERM prepares an annual Modern Slavery Statement in accordance with UK requirements.</p> <p>During FY22, we published thought leadership reports, including Why diversity is the new safety imperative and Corporate progress and action on diversity, equity and inclusion.</p>
	<p>11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.</p>	<p>ERM's regulatory experts promote compliance with air, water and waste regulations and permits.</p>
	<p>12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.</p> <p>12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.</p> <p>12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.</p>	<p>ERM's product sustainability services can give companies a competitive advantage. Innovation to incorporate green chemistry satisfies customer demands for safer materials, and participation in the circular economy helps improve stewardship of natural resources, reduce waste generation and promote reuse and recycling.</p> <p>ERM works with leading organizations to address complex sustainability challenges and create long-term value by clarifying strategic direction, driving organizational change and enhancing transparency and the robustness of public disclosures.</p> <p>The SustainAbility Institute published Circularity: From Theory to Practice – a tool for business on the road to circularity.</p>

SDG



SDG 2030 TARGETS

13.1
Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

13.3
Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

ERM'S IMPACTS IN FY22

Air quality permitting and compliance, carbon management, energy and operational efficiency, and climate risk are increasingly important to the world and our clients' business objectives.

We collaborate with industry, nonprofit organizations and thought leaders to raise awareness and take action to address climate change.

The SustainAbility Institute published the Promise to Action series of interviews, webinars and reports to provide examples of climate action and collaboration. A number of tools were published to support benchmarking for air emissions, methane and other GHG emissions as well as evaluations of electric vehicle infrastructure.

This year, we strengthened our science-based targets to a 1.5-degree Celsius target. This target underpins our commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2025.



14.1
By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

As a signatory of the [Sustainable Oceans Principles](#), we recognize the urgency and global importance of a healthy, sustainable ocean and pledge to take action to promote the wellbeing of our oceans for current and future generations.

Our global team of natural resource practitioners, including terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecologists and scientists, provide expertise in conducting marine, freshwater and terrestrial biodiversity field studies, conducting ecological impact assessments, developing species and habitat management plans, designing ecological restoration plans, and developing strategies for ecological offsets.

ERM's Marine Systems Technical Community provides expertise related to our client's activities on the coast or in the world's seas and oceans.



15.2
Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

Biodiversity experts identify and develop measures to reduce potential impacts on aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

ERM has made biodiversity commitments for action through [act4nature international](#).

ERM is an active member of the Natural Climate Solutions Alliance (NCSA) and is preparing the CEO Guide to Nature-based Solutions due for release in mid-2022.

More than 35,000 native trees and seedlings were planted, and over 14,500 hectares of forest were protected or restored through the ERM Foundation.

SDG



SDG 2030 TARGETS

- 16.5
Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.
- 16.b
Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

ERM'S IMPACTS IN FY22

Our commitment to combat bribery and corruption is fundamental to how we operate and is embedded into our key systems and programs. For more on the location of anti-bribery and corruption-related disclosures in this report, see our [UN Global Compact Index](#), which includes details of our reporting on Principle 10 – Anti-Corruption.

The SustainAbility Institute published [Business and the pursuit of Environmental Justice](#) – exploring the intersection of social justice and environmental movements.

EHS strategy and social consulting experts integrate social, legal and other requirements into core business processes, including DE&I and policies that promote sustainable development.



- 17.16
Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships.

ERM engages in many multi-stakeholder partnerships including the UN Global Compact and a number of its initiatives, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and many other entities at a global, regional, national and local level.

[Further details can be found in our Impact and influence section in the ERM Sustainability Report.](#)



© Copyright 2022 by The ERM International Group Limited and/or its affiliates ('ERM'). All Rights Reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, without prior written permission of ERM