



# Seizing Opportunities, Shaping the Future

Sustainability at the IB



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## **What does sustainability mean?**

We understand sustainability as a model for the future development of mankind. This means that we base our actions on the principle that future generations will have the same opportunities to enjoy a good life as we do today.

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# Future-oriented Thinking Means Sustainable Action

With almost 14,000 employees, the Internationaler Bund (IB) is one of the large service providers in youth, social and educational work in Europe. With the motto "Strengthening Being Human", it supports children, youth and adults of all ages in leading a self-responsible life. Social and ecological responsibility are firmly anchored in the IB's corporate culture.

## Social and ecological commitment belong together

With its commitment to education and social development, the IB always considers itself to be committed to sustainable action. Because what we do or do not do today has an impact on the way we and future generations will live - here and worldwide.

Sustainability is frequently equated with environmental and climate protection, but as a general principle of action it goes far beyond this.

The issue of sustainability is present in all fields of action at the Internationaler Bund (IB).

The aim is to act in a comprehensively sustainable manner in line with the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030.

**What lies behind us and what  
lies before us are small matters  
compared to what lies within  
us. And when we bring what is  
within us out into the world,  
miracles happen.**

Henry Stanley Haskins



In 2015 the Agenda 2030 was adopted by the Member States of the UN. With the help of 17 Agenda Goals, the global community aims to tackle major challenges such as poverty, hunger and climate change.

The IB sees itself as part of the global community and makes its contribution to a future worth living! It carries the model of sustainable development into all areas of work: for example, in day-care centres, schools and universities as well as in integration projects, in multi-generational houses and facilities and services for people with disabilities.



# Education for Sustainable Development

Through its educational work, the IB wants to support people in developing their talents and shaping their lives in a self-determined way. Sustainable education promotes important key competences in a variety of ways, in particular the ability to help shape the world in a way that is fit for the future.

For the IB, Education for Sustainable Development means that everyone should have the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to contribute to a more just, peaceful and sustainable society. This includes the knowledge that ecology, economy, culture and social issues are closely interrelated. This understanding enables people to assess how their actions impact on life in other regions of the world and on future generations.

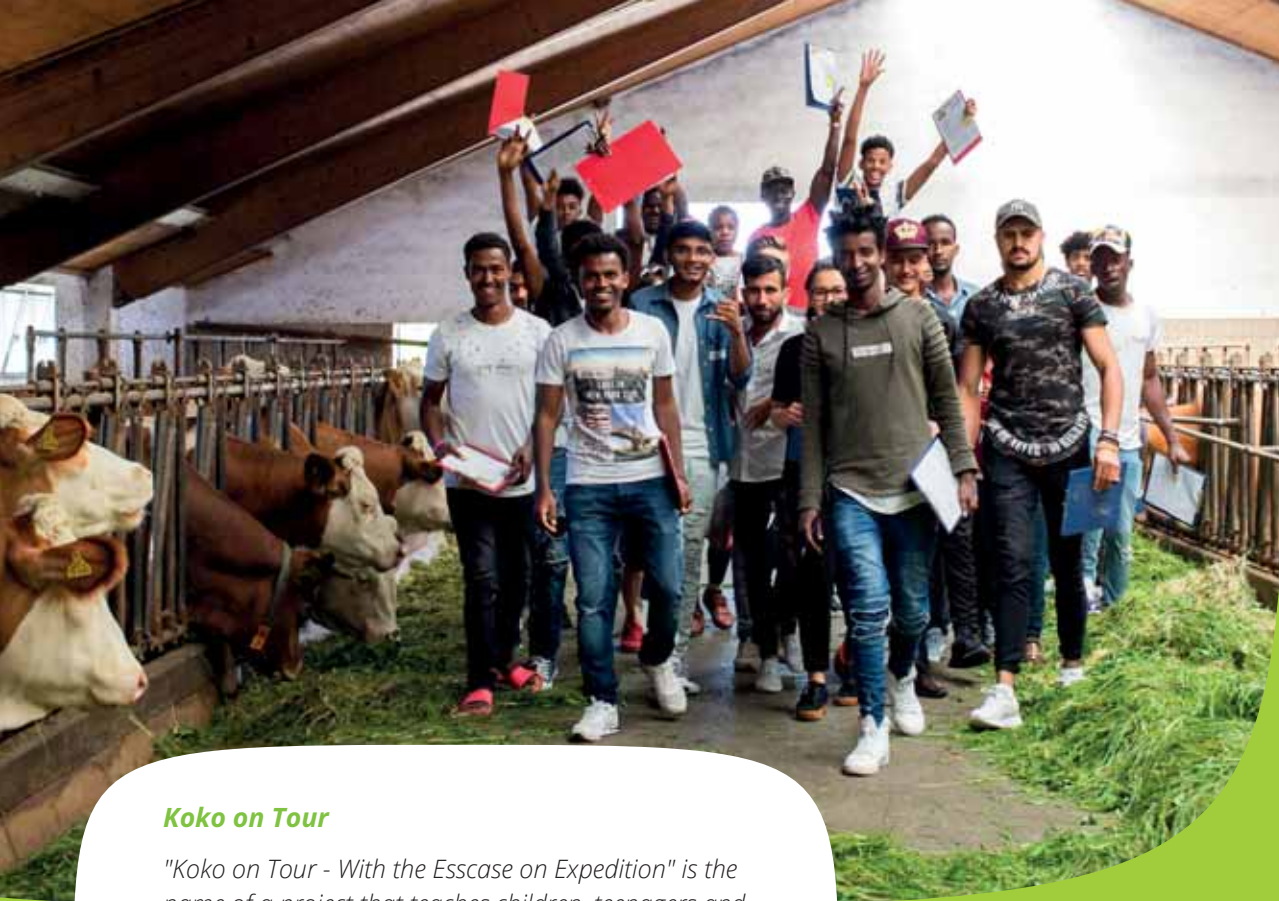
Our society must overcome many problems if we want a world worth living in for all people. The IB wants to be part of the solution. Therefore, sustainability is an important aspect of its educational concepts in day-care centres and schools, universities and seminars for participants in voluntary services. And, of course, this also applies to the further training opportunities for its own employees.

Thus, for example, pedagogical staff learn which methods they can use to integrate Education for Sustainable Development into their work.



**The one who plants trees,  
knowing that he will never sit  
in their shade, has at least  
started to understand the  
meaning of life.**

Rabindranath Tagore



### **Koko on Tour**

*"Koko on Tour - With the Esscase on Expedition" is the name of a project that teaches children, teenagers and young adults about healthy and sustainable nutrition in an exciting way. The concept was tested for the first time in the facility of the IB South "Youth Aid & Migration".*

*Practical everyday experiences are added with cooking campaigns, visits to markets and organic farms and the joint harvesting of potatoes and fruit. Sustainability is fun!*

**Further projects  
and suggestions  
can be found at  
[ib.international](https://ib.international)**



## Learning from indigenous peoples

How to successfully introduce children to the topic of sustainability at an early age, the IB-Kita "TraumBaum" presented. There, the pre-school children got to know each other in the context of a pilot project entitled "Indigenous Nature Teaching".

In workshops lasting several days with an expert, the teachers taught them the virtues of the North American Native Americans. The stories about modesty, love, courage, truth, respect, wisdom and honesty inspired the children to create collages and a play for which they made the sets and costumes themselves.

The integration of ancient indigenous knowledge into modern educational concepts allows children to learn important basic values and skills through play. They learn how important it is to live in harmony with nature, of which they are a part. The project will now also be carried to other IB-Kitas.

The concept takes all five core messages of Agenda 2030 into account as principles guiding action: People, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.





### *Clean solar power*

*Since the end of 2012, there has been a photovoltaic system on the roof of the IB education centre Asperg. It not only produces clean solar power - it also allows the pupils to experience on site how green electricity is produced.*





# Conserve Resources: That's the way to do it!

Sustainability is a cross-cutting issue in the IB's day-to-day work, both at headquarters and in the 1,000 facilities around the world. Since the beginning of 2019, all IB facilities have been supplied with 100 percent nuclear-free and ecological electricity. This electricity comes from renewable sources: hydropower, wind and solar energy.

By doing without fossil combustibles, the IB ensures that almost 7,000 tonnes of climate-damaging CO<sub>2</sub> are blown into the air less each year. Of course, smart energy management is also a must. This includes, on the one hand, finding ways to save energy, for example by replacing conventional light sources with LED lights. On the other hand, the optimisation of operating processes makes it possible in many facilities to reduce peak electricity consumption. One example: In the domestic sector, washing machines can run at times when electricity is otherwise low

This consumption management is not only ecologically sound. Together with a clever purchasing policy for energy supply, it also helps to save costs considerably.

The IB cooperates with municipal companies within the framework of the Ecoprofit programme. The aim is to reduce operating costs and at the same time conserve natural resources.



**No future can  
make up for  
what you did  
in the present.**

Albert Schweitzer

# Sustainable Consumption

## Reduce consumption, go easy on resources

Office supplies, the food in the kindergarten or school canteen, the coffee or tea in the office and at seminars - also as consumers, the IB is called upon to act responsibly. This means: we attach great importance to products that are ecologically sound, correctly produced and fairly traded. This includes for example recycled paper with the "Blue Angel", environmentally friendly ballpoint pens and organic food. And the menus of the IB facilities naturally offer a wide range of alternatives to meat dishes. It is also important to the IB that its suppliers act in the spirit of sustainability.



### ***Organic eggs from our own chickens***

*The Resocialization Dormitory Cologne Brück, a facility for homeless men, relies partly on self-sufficiency:*

*For a long time now, vegetables have been grown in the garden for the company's own catering. And a flock of chickens lays organic eggs. The chickens are supplied by residents of the facility and participants in the work project.*

# Move and Preserve

## Sustainable mobility instead of higher, faster, further

The IB is committed to sustainable mobility concepts. It calls for the expansion of local and long-distance transport and prices that enable even people with low incomes to be mobile. Wherever possible, the IB employees use available means of public transport.

In addition, the IB uses modern communication technology to avoid long journeys. A pilot project is testing vehicles that run without fossil fuels.



It is good for the environment and health: the IB also uses company bicycles!



# Green IT

## Digitisation in the service of sustainability

Digital change also poses major challenges for the IB. The aim must be to put digitisation at the service of sustainability. For this reason, opportunities and risks must be carefully weighed up in modern developments.

The IB's staff use a wide range of computers and notebooks. They all consume energy. The same applies to the processing of the data. There is a great potential here to act in a resource-saving manner. This applies not only to saving electricity, but also to the environmentally conscious use of PCs, notebooks, monitors and smartphones.

### **Social and green**

*Together with its cooperation partner, the AfB gGmbH Social and green IT, the IB is committed to the reuse of discarded equipment. Because every device that can be reused after a general overhaul saves resources. Reconditioning is much more environmentally friendly than new production.*







## Digital learning

Digital forms of learning are becoming increasingly important in the education sector. For example, the IB University is developing a "Virtual University Hospital". Medical students learn disease patterns and treatment techniques with digital simulations in a very practical way. And there is also a virtual classroom for further training in metal professions. Further internet-based training courses are offered by the IB Online Academy. Together with the bfw - Enterprise for Education, the IB has also developed further training to promote education in new media. Employees can qualify as "media tutor digital" and "media arranger digital".

The background of the entire page is a vibrant green. It features silhouettes of two people climbing a rope wall. One person is at the top right, reaching up, while the other is at the bottom left, looking up. The wall is marked with several blue, irregularly shaped handholds, each with a small black dot in the center. Thin black lines represent the ropes of the climbing wall. The overall style is modern and energetic.

## **Sustainability is social!**

Sustainability is a living process, in which we all participate. Only together can we make a difference.

The IB sees itself as part of the sustainable movement, which thinks and lives ecology, economy, social affairs and culture together.

You will find more  
information here:

**ib.international**

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Location: Frankfurt, Germany, VR 5259  
Issued by  
Thiemo Fojkar, Chairman of the Board

Contact person:  
Jo Otte, Speaker of the Executive Board for  
Environmental Management  
F +49 69 94545 473  
E josef.otte@ib.de

Thomas Bierbaum  
Environmental Management  
T +49 69 94545 276  
E thomas.bierbaum@ib.de

**ib.international**



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