

# CERTIFICATION BIOSPHERE FOR COMPANIES

Complete guide



BIOSPHERE





# Manage your business sustainability with Biosphere<sup>®</sup> ESG software

Improving the management and performance of sustainability data is key to developing and implementing more sustainable business strategies. Biosphere<sup>®</sup> provides **a scalable solution** for self-employed, small, medium and large organisations: with a **know-how and 100% online continuous improvement platform**, it allows you to design a **solid business sustainability strategy** where you will **create your own business sustainability plan**. A technology tool designed to help companies **manage, monitor and report sustainable practices and performance by SDGs and sustainability scope (ESG)**.

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# Develop your business plan

## Define and assign your company’s initial sustainability objectives.

The first step is to **identify and assign** the sustainable initiatives and efforts you carry out in your business model on basic sustainability issues we call *Biosphere Starters*. Let’s look at some examples:

- « Having non-discriminatory hiring policies »
- « Promoting healthy practices among customers and employees »
- « Reducing the use of paper by digitising the entity’s processes »

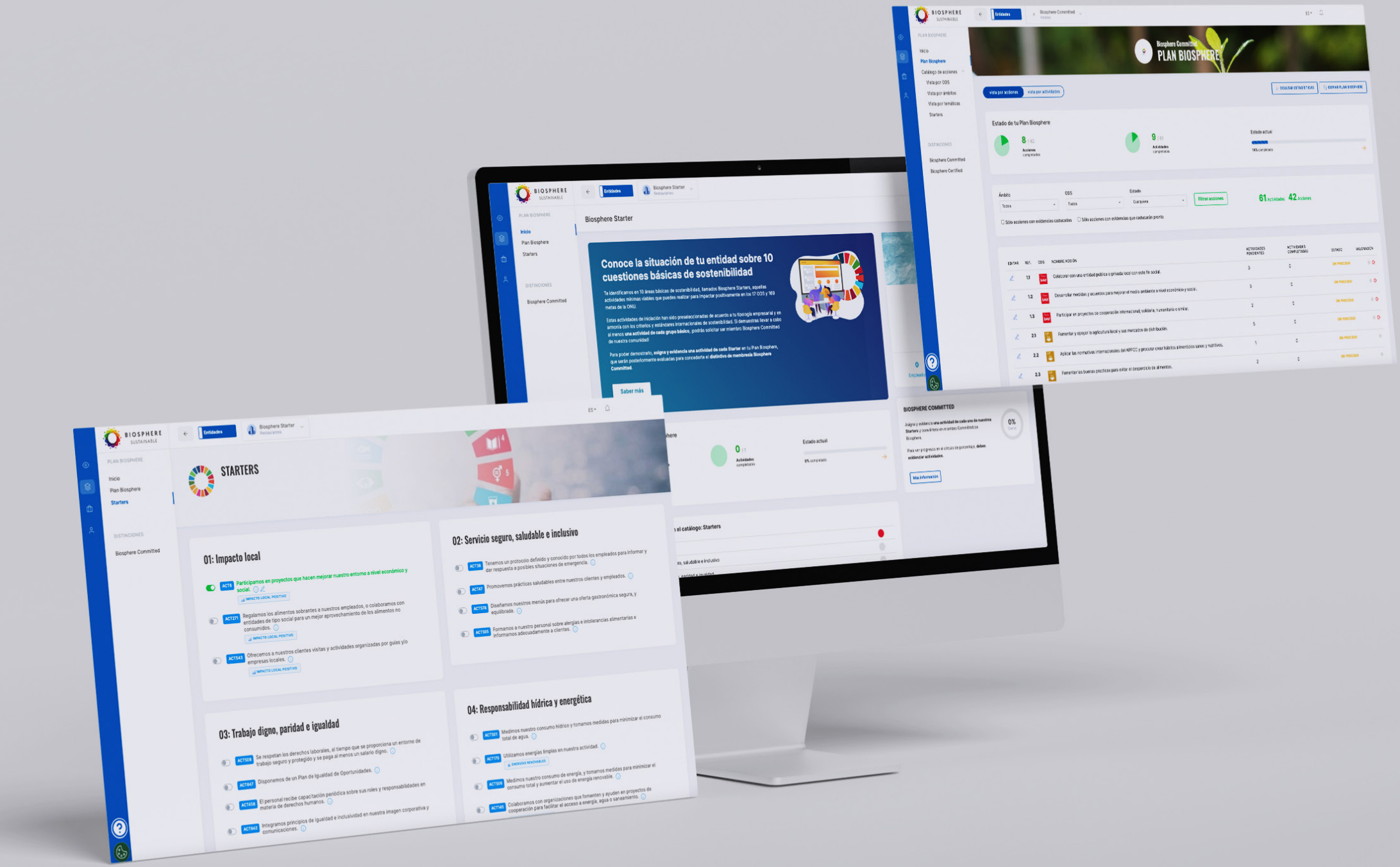
## Upload evidence of your good practices

As you assign activities to your business “Biosphere Plan”, you will be able to demonstrate how they are carried out in your company, providing evidence (documents, pictures, videos...) that validate their compliance. **A process that is carried out 100% online:**

- **From your computer, mobile or tablet**, upload the evidence that corresponds to each activity to demonstrate your good practices
- In each activity you will find **a help box** to know what kind of evidences (documents and proofs) will be valid to demonstrate that particular effort.
- **Each evidence file will have a determined validity** by default. The platform’s notification system will alert you in advance to update your files, making your continuous improvement process **easy and automated**.

## Invite as many users as you need without limit.

Give **access and permissions to an unlimited number of users** at no additional cost, so that the sustainability of your company involves all your teams!





## Pass an initial assessment and progress to certification

Assign and evidence at least **1 activity from each Starter** and pass **an initial 100% online assessment**. Once you pass the initial assessment, your entity will be recognised as a **Biosphere Committed member**, unlocking access to Biosphere’s full catalogue of sustainable initiatives and activities, so you can continue working on your action plan by SDG and sustainability area (ESG).

Assign and evidence activities in each of the **17 UN Sustainable Development Goals**, balanced across the three sustainability domains (environment and climate change, society and culture, governance and economy).

Cover an optimal level of effort and receive a **100% online third-party audit** to obtain the international **sustainability certification Biosphere Certified**:

- More **dynamic and faster**. Forget about static questionnaires and excel sheets.
- A real digital system of **centralisation and automation** of information.
- A **database** with real-time **monitoring dashboards**.

## Finish the process in 3 months or less!

The duration of the entire certification process will depend on the time it takes for the company’s team to certify, upload their information and evidence on the Biosphere® platform; as long as the assigned and evidenced activities cover the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, in the minimum required by the Biosphere® standard, for a balance between the three ESG areas.

With a maximum time of 15 working days for an initial online assessment of the Starters initiatives, and 25 working days for the 100% online external thrid-party audit process, **the entity can achieve its certification in a record time of 3 months!**





# Certification and communication

## Unlock a public web profile and communication materials

By successfully passing the initial assessment of your Starters, your Biosphere Committed entity status will unlock a **web profile** to which you can refer your clients, collaborators, stakeholders and potential consumers to learn about your company's sustainable efforts. Your Biosphere profile will allow users to learn more about your best practices:

- **In an adapted and understandable language**, informing about your commitment and certification in real time, without sharing confidential information or data.
- With **searches that will improve your visibility and positioning**: a website with SEO and SEM traffic without commissions for your business. Biosphere will refer consumers aware of sustainability-aligned business models to your official booking page **without any commission or cost** for your company.
- **With smart certification materials**: You will be able to download an HTML plugin, QR code, badge and certification diploma to share your sustainability achievements and best practice information as a secure, metadata-driven way for traceability and security of information to the end user.

## Connect your sustainability website

You can hyperlink your sustainability web section to give a major boost to your company's efforts, recognising your company's commitment and certification status in Biosphere. A website with **verified and updated information in real time**:

- **Add value** to your sustainability data and reports.
- Connect your sustainability statements with your certification information for **greater assurance and transparency** in your communication channels.
- **Reduce work time** by leveraging **automated reporting channels** to keep communication of your ESG practices **up to date**.





# Why Biosphere?

The Biosphere® methodology, created by the **Responsible Tourism Institute (RTI)**, provides a unified, global and international system for collecting, analyzing and visualizing company progress and sustainable efforts by **SDG and ESG sustainability scope**, facilitating data-driven decision-making and promoting the adoption of sustainable practices.

## Pioneers and harmonizers

Biosphere® has been the **first system in the world to incorporate socio-cultural aspects**, in addition to environmental and economic aspects, in sustainability management and certification processes. Likewise, it has been the **first sustainability methodology to certify sustainability in its three ESG areas** - environment and climate change; society and culture; governance and economy - in the hotel sector (since 1997). So much so that the criteria of the Biosphere® methodology since 1997, set the basis and precedent for the creation, in 2010, of the global criteria of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), along with others.

Years later, the 2015 United Nations guidelines on sustainability, propitiated the close collaboration of **RTI with UN-SDSN** (Sustainable Development Solutions Network) to adopt the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 targets and indicators of the UN in the Biosphere® methodology; becoming the **first and only certification in the world that allows to evaluate the contribution of tourism to the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs of the United Nations**.

Currently, Biosphere® is a **founding member of the TSCA**, international alliance of certification bodies in sustainability for the tourism industry, whose criteria serve as a **basis and harmonized standard worldwide**. Furthermore, **Biosphere® certification is valid for national sustainability programs** such as **Swisstainable** or **Sustainable Travel Finland**, among others, and sustainable label monitoring systems such as **Travalyst**.

## Easy, intuitive and 100% online

The Biosphere® methodology and platform make working on sustainability strategies and plans **easy and fast** for all staff, inviting interdepartmental collaboration, regardless of whether they have never used it or have done other processes and certification systems.

Its language and functions **simplify the processes to identify the good practices of the company**, as well as to demonstrate them in **external third-party audit processes 100% online**.

And as **Biosphere® criteria cover all international sustainability standards**, under the framework of the **17 SDGs and 169 UN targets**, creating and demonstrating your sustainable initiatives for any responsible declaration with Biosphere® is **easier, centralized and global** than ever, with criteria:

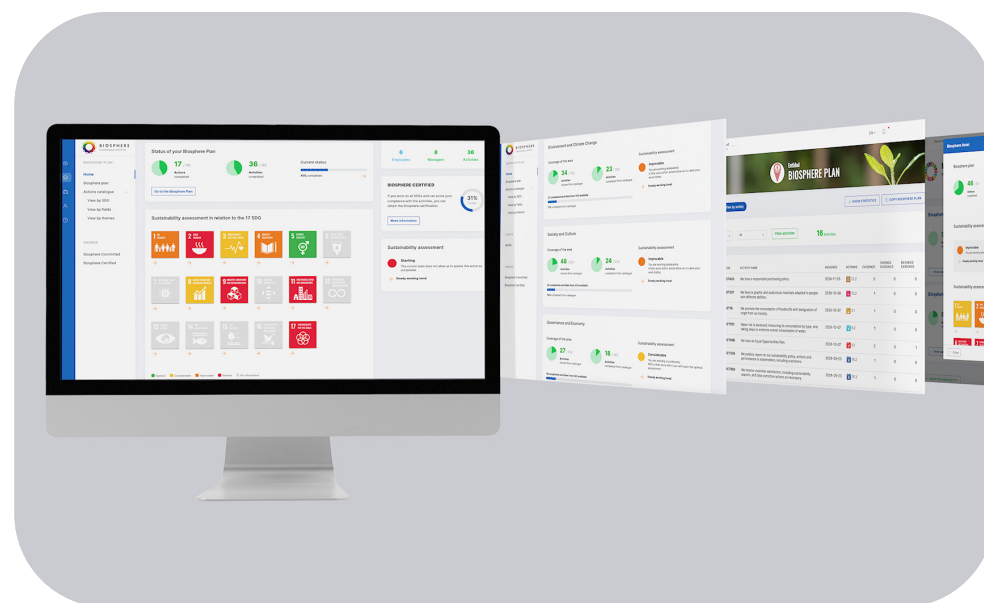
- Standardized according to **TSCA** (Tourism Sustainability Certifications Alliance) guidelines, in compliance with European and national directives.
- That give coverage to independent standards such as: **Travalyst, WTTC Basics, World Sustainable Hospitality Alliance, GSTC...**
- **Viable, scalable and adapted to the reality of your company**, according to your typology, size, resources and outreach capacity. You can even create and recognize your own innovative initiatives, and share them with the rest of members!



# Price and system features

The Biosphere® continuous improvement system is an ally for the sustainability of any organization, which combines a **know-how methodology with digital tools** to help companies to **manage, monitor and report their sustainable practices and performance by Sustainable Development Goal and ESG sustainability scope**.

Its knowledge, criteria and certification methodology are the result of the work of **more than 25 years of experience** of the Responsible Tourism Institute and in collaboration with the **UN-SDSN** [Sustainable Development Solutions Network] with its Spanish antenna, REDS; in continuous evolution and adaptation to the changes and tendencies of the sector and the **European and international regulations in certification and sustainability**.



## Software 100% online

A **100% online platform** to collect, monitor, visualize and demonstrate sustainability efforts. Facilitates control and ESG decision making for your business. **Centralize information and automate processes** with our alerts and **evidence expiration system**.

## Intuitive dashboards

With our monitoring dashboards your ESG data will always be available for you to consult in real time. **Easy-to-understand dashboards** with the information you need about your **progress and impacts by SDG and sustainability area**.

## External 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit

With an **annual external audit process 100% online!** Easier, more efficient and much more economical. Recognize your ESG sustainability practices with the Biosphere® certification seal. **An indispensable requirement of European directives, among others.**

## API integration

In Biosphere **we inform in real time the certification status** of your entity. We use **API integration for information traceability**, positioning your certification in the **main OTAS and booking portals** such as **Google, Booking.com** and **Expedia**, among others.



## Teamwork

With **unlimited user accesses**, promote the adoption of more sustainable and responsible practices by inviting as many people as necessary to participate. Make the creation and adoption of **your sustainability plan shared by the entire organization**.

## Diffusion and valuation

The Biosphere® services and platform, as well as the materials and communication channels of your efforts are available in **7 different languages**. Recognize your sustainable practices **digitally, without barriers** and in an **understandable and adapted language**.

## Secure process

Manage and demonstrate your sustainable practices with the confidence of knowing that our **platform and audit systems are secure**, robust and **compliant with data protection and privacy policies**, on any information and evidence you provide in the process.

## 360° connection

The Biosphere® methodology allows to **connect all the actors involved**. You can benefit from incredible **discounts and advantages in Biosphere Destinations**, by tourism-territorial management administrations that support our systems in their territories.



## Prices with discount of up to 100% in Biosphere® Destinations

Biosphere is contracted on an **annual subscription** basis. With **a single payment per year of 359€/entity**, you will have all the services of this management tool to create and work your business sustainability plan, as well as all the evaluation and audit services 100% online for the certification of your efforts included without any additional cost. You will receive **365 days of uninterrupted services** to recognize your sustainability.

And if your company is located and operates in a Biosphere® destination, you can benefit from a **discount of up to 100% on your annual subscription!** [Visit our website](#) and discover all the available bonuses of our services.



## Experiences and testimonies of some members of our large community



“I realized that Biosphere was a system that valued small businesses. It helped us a lot in terms of structuring, organization. It’s not always easy to have someone to rely on and give us advice and guidance in the process. Biosphere has become a great support and I have only positive things to say. It has helped us a lot from the beginning, no doubt!”

Catarina Isabel da Cruz Vieira  
Founder and Manager at Chão do Rio, 2025

[Check the sustainability of Chão do Rio ›](#)





## Experiences and testimonies of some members of our large community



“Biosphere certification is a good starting point, as it is a trusted continuous improvement program that makes it easy to achieve a sustainable benchmark to share with all stakeholders and provides valuable verification when choosing a company to do business with.”

Trina White  
General Manager at The Parkside Hotel & Spa, 2025

[Check the sustainability of The Parkside Hotel & Spa ›](#)



General Manager  
**Trina White**



## Experiences and testimonies of some members of our large community



AIYANNA  
IBIZA

“The Biosphere certification and its methodology of continuous improvement gives us a magnificent opportunity to inspire the people around us in terms of sustainability, with a 360° vision. It requires us to be committed to continue working towards our goals, with a long way to go to achieve a more sustainable world.”

Carlos Monter

Founder of AIYANNA Ibiza Restaurant, 2025

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## Experiences and testimonies of some members of our large community



“Working with Biosphere was a very important step. We had the full support of their entire team of professionals at all times. Thanks to this system, we have been able to improve many of our processes, being viable and sustainable for our hotel. We know that customers are increasingly aware of sustainability and recognize the added value that this certification brings.”

Ricardo Abreu  
General Director at Belmonte Sinai Hotel, 2025

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