PRESS RELEASE



SOCOTEC CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL USES A STANDARD THAT HAS ACHIEVED A "GSTC-RECOGNITION" FOR ITS SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION DEDICATED TO THE HOTEL INDUSTRY

Paris, October 17th, 2022

The Global Sustainable Tourism Council® (GSTC®) has just announced that SOCOTEC Certification International, the Certification-specialized subsidiary of the SOCOTEC group uses a standard that has achieved « Recognition » status for its Sustainability Management System Certification for Hotels.

The Sustainability Management System provided by SOCOTEC Certification International helps organizations and tourism businesses (travel companies, hotels, tour operators, NGOs and communities) to achieve best practices in sustainable tourism. The Certification scheme of SOCOTEC Certification International improves their performance by documenting the processes necessary to achieve their goals and objectives and to create a culture focusing on the continuous cycle of self-evaluation, correction and improvement of operations and processes, through heightened employee awareness and management leadership and commitment.

The GSTC-Recognized status refers to the standard itself, indicating that a sustainable tourism standard or system has been reviewed by GSTC technical experts and the GSTC Assurance Panel and deemed the standard or system equivalent to the GSTC Criteria for sustainable tourism. The GSTC Criteria are global standards for sustainability in travel and tourism. It provides a comprehensive definition of sustainable travel and tourism, arranged to support four pillars of sustainability: Ethics and Governance, Social principles, Culture and Communities, Environment.

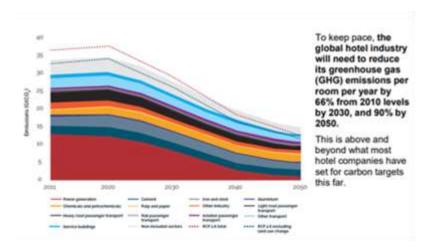
For Xavier DANIEL, SOCOTEC Certification International General Manager:

"As an internationally recognized and independent third-party certification body, we are very pleased to achieve this important pillar in our mission to build a safer and more sustainable world. Result of few months of workshops preparation and on-the-field research with hotel groups, our standard is fully designed and adapted to elevate and recognize the significant efforts of the Hotel sector to contribute to the CSR and Sustainability challenges of today. Based on our worldwide auditing 25-year experience in various sectors for more than 15,000 clients on 40 different accredited certifications, we are convinced that our teams of experts and accredited auditors will bring a real added value to the Hotel sector on sustainability challenges. "

« We all have a role to play in limiting impact on environment and in ensuring social responsibility. Adopting a sustainable approach in the hotel industry can bring many benefits to the hotels: improved visibility on travel platforms and credibility towards customers looking for better qualified hotels on sustainable goals, develop recruitment attractiveness of the sector and staff retention on values commitment, obtain better aids, subsidies and loans conditions as sustainability goals are clearly achieved and the hotel's sustainability management system is clearly certified by an independent trusted third-party, and last but not least, get a better hotel's ranking at the end. There is today no sector that can avoid sustainability challenges. It's just a long-term commitment that every hotel shall embrace. The study below shows the gap and we are here to support the transition towards a more sustainable world. »



Hotel Global Decarbonization Report Sustainable Hospitality Alliance – Nov2017



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ABOUT SOCOTEC

SOCOTEC Certification International is a subsidiary of the SOCOTEC group. Headed by Xavier Daniel, SCI provides management system assessments and accredited ISO certification services to organizations around the world since 1995.

Accompanying companies for 70 years, the SOCOTEC Group, chaired by Hervé Montjotin, has built its reputation as an independent trusted third party in the fields of risk management, compliance, safety, health and environment in the Building, Real Estate, Infrastructure and Industry sectors.

As a guarantor of the integrity, sustainability and performance of built assets, SOCOTEC is developing a range of services in testing, inspection and certification, from technical control, the group's historical expertise, to technical consulting and risk management services related to construction, infrastructure and industrial facilities. Its expertise enables it to support its private and public sector clients throughout the life cycle of their buildings and equipments in order to strengthen their sustainability.

No. 1 in construction inspection in France, No. 1 in geotechnical services and construction quality control in the United Kingdom and Italy, the group is a major player in TIC (Testing Inspection Certification) services in the Construction and Infrastructure sectors in Europe and the United States. The SOCOTEC group has consolidated revenues of €1 billion in 2021 (50% of which generated outside France) with 200,000 clients. With a presence in 25 countries and 10,000 employees, it has more than 250 external accreditations, enabling it to act as a trusted third party in many projects.

More information on www.socotec.com and www.socotec.com/services-sectors/certification

About the GSTC

The Global Sustainable Tourism Council® (GSTC®) establishes and manages global sustainable standards, known as the GSTC Criteria. There are two sets: Destination Criteria for public policy-makers and destination managers, and Industry Criteria for hotels and tour operators. These are the guiding principles and minimum requirements that any tourism business or destination should aspire to reach in order to protect and sustain the world's natural and cultural resources while ensuring tourism meets its potential as a tool for conservation and poverty alleviation.

The GSTC Criteria form the foundation for Accreditation of Certification Bodies that certify hotels/accommodations, tour operators, and destinations as having sustainable policies and practices in



place. The GSTC does not directly certify any products or services, but it accredits those that do. The GSTC is an independent and neutral USA-registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization that represents a <u>diverse and global membership</u>, including national and provincial governments, leading travel companies, hotels, tour operators, NGOs, individuals and communities – all striving to achieve best practices in sustainable tourism.

Currently, 11 destination standards, 36 hotel standards, and 15 tour operator standards have achieved GSTC-Recognized status. The status offers the market proof that these standards adhere to international norms. GSTC Recognition does not ensure that a certification process is reliable, only that the set of standards used to certify are equivalent to the GSTC Criteria. GSTC-Recognized standard owners are encouraged to follow and complete the accreditation process, which assures that the certification process used to apply the standard meets international best practices, transparency, and rigour. A list of GSTC-Accredited certification bodies is available here.

Information for media and the press: https://www.gstcouncil.org/about/for-the-press/