





THE NEED FOR OUTWARD BOUND MESSAGE FROM DAVID KONG & IAIN PETER

On behalf of the Outward Bound International Board of Directors, I am delighted to present the 2023 Global Impact Report.

Back in 2019, OBI committed to collecting impact data on a global basis and, in our last two Strategic Plans, we made a commitment to demonstrate the power and effectiveness of Outward Bound programs through "working with our members to collect evidence that proves the effectiveness of Outward Bound programs. We will use research and impact studies to help Schools demonstrate the effectiveness of their programs to clients, funders and stakeholders." We think this Global Impact Report makes a compelling case!

The last few years have been difficult for everyone, and Outward Bound Schools are no exception. The Global Pandemic has made huge demands on society and on young people in particular. Teachers report poor levels of engagement in the classroom and students with poor attention spans. Even more worryingly, teachers agree that schools being closed to students over the period of lockdown has had a negative impact on the mental health of young people.

As societies move on in the post pandemic landscape, we are absolutely convinced that Outward Bound has a crucial role to play in helping young people to be more resilient, to be better connected, to have improved social competence, to be more confident and to learn about compassion.

Outward Bound started in 1941 as an authentic, rigorous, and adventurous "training for life" program. Today, in the face of increasingly complex and always-evolving challenges, Outward Bound programs are more relevant than ever.

As this Global Impact Report clearly demonstrates, Outward Bound has an increasingly important role to play in preparing and supporting people to successfully navigate the massive social, economic and environmental shifts being experienced around the world.

Now, more than ever, the world needs Outward Bound.

DAVID KONG Obi Board Chair



IAIN PETER OBI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





AUTHENTIC ADVENTURE AUTHENTIC LEARNING

Since 1941 Outward Bound has inspired millions of people across the globe to discover their potential and in doing so, contribute to a better, bolder, more compassionate and more resilient society.

WE CHANGE LIVES

Our expert instructors, using our proven learning model, facilitate authentic learning adventures in the outdoors for over 150,000 participants every year; adventures that connect individuals to their self, to others and to the natural world.

An Outward Bound program is an immersive, life changing experience that is carefully designed to take participants out of their familiar comfort zones and into an area of growth. It pushes them to the limits of what they think they're capable of, and shows them that there is "more in them than they think."

People return home, or back to school, college or work empowered with the attitudes, skills and behaviours they need to make positive changes to their lives and their performance, able to engage more productively with others, and to face life's challenges with increased resilience.

Working with individuals and also in close partnership with schools, colleges and employers, Outward Bound Schools deliver challenging and inspiring courses that provide an authentic and relevant learning environment in which to grow the leaders of today and develop the leaders of tomorrow, something which is more vital than ever in the complex societies of the 21st century.

CORE VALUES



ADVENTUROUS LEARNING

A belief in the power and intensity of learning through adventure in the outdoors - as a means of bringing out the best in people.



TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

A deep appreciation of the balance between risk, reward and responsibility. We facilitate authentic learning through purposeful and intense experiences with real consequences and powerful, positive and memorable outcomes.



RESPECT & COMPASSION

Our Schools aim to stretch people both physically and mentally. In doing so they act with care, concern and generosity towards people and the natural environment.





OUTWARD BOUND COUNTRIES

COUNTRIES

CONTINENTS

OB SCHOOLS

34

37



PARTICIPANTS SERVED

CHANGING LIVES FOR

PARTICIPANTS



YEARS

OUTWARD BOUND'S

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

An Outward Bound program is all about learning and the impact this has on the individual. This is achieved through skillful people working in an inspiring and challenging environment and applying an effective process.



OUR PEOPLE



- Expert outdoor practitioners
- A pool of creative talent which enables development of solutions focused and innovative programs
- Experienced educators who facilitate learning
- Educators who challenge and impel participants to perform

OUR PROCESS



- Experiential learning and development using the outdoors
- Practical application of theoretical models with continuous reviewing and reflection
- Instillation of new behaviours and skills that transfer to the participant's home, school and work environments and that improve performance
- Focus on personal journeys
- Focus on continuous reviewing and reflection

OUR PLACES



- Real adventures in the natural environment
- Inspiring locations provide limitless opportunities
- Scale of experience and journeys is unique and challenging

DEVELOPING CONNECTIONS

Outward Bound's distinctive features of **People, Places and Process** support the development of meaningful connections to Self, Others and to the Natural World.





GLOBAL OUTCOMES MODEL

Outward Bound programs develop Connections to Self, Others and the Natural World resulting in the following core outcomes: Resilience, Self-Confidence, Social Competence, Compassion and Environmental Responsibility.

COMPASSION:

Ability to sense the emotions and needs of others and the motivation and initiative to act

SOCIAL COMPETENCE:

Social, emotional, and cognitive skills and behaviors needed to succeed as a member of society



RESILIENCE:

Ability to "bounce back" from and adjust to adversity and challenges

SELF-CONFIDENCE:

Belief in one's ability to be successful

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:

Awareness of connection to nature and demonstrating a sense of consciousness and stewardship for the natural world

ALIGNMENT WITH UN SDGS

Outward Bound programs develop Connections to Self, Others and the Natural World and result in the core outcomes of Resilience, Self-Confidence, Social Competence, Compassion and Environmental Responsibility.

These outcomes align with and support the UN Sustainable Development Goals, specifically: Good Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Climate Action and Peace and Justice.



NO16. PEACE AND JUSTICE, STRONG INSTITUTIONS:

Outward Bound programs promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies by placing emphasis on developing compassionate leadership, promoting cooperative learning, and inspiring creative action



NO8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH:

Outward Bound programs develop the employability skills, resilience and work ethics of young people and provide an authentic and relevant learning environment in which to grow the leaders of today and develop the leaders of tomorrow





NO3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING:

Outward Bound programs build the social and emotional skills, behaviours, and resilience needed to thrive in our rapidly changing world



NO4. QUALITY EDUCATION:

Outward Bound programs are about learning; they develop the social and emotional skills and behaviours that underpin self-confidence and engagement in lifelong learning



NO13. CLIMATE ACTION:

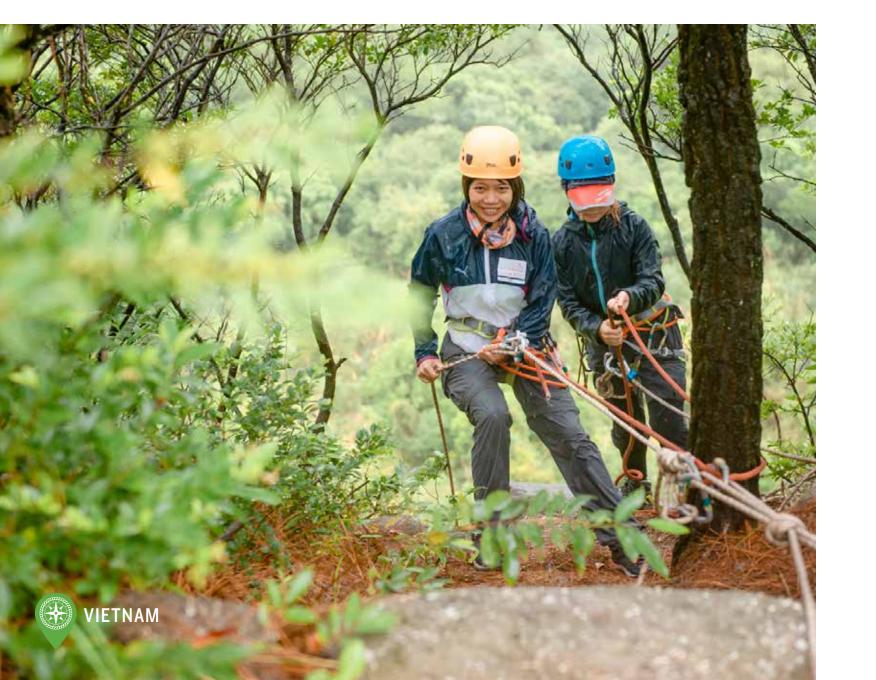
Developing connections to the natural world and fostering respect and responsibility for the environment is an essential part of the Outward Bound learning process and outcomes model

OUTWARD BOUND'S

OUTCOMES SURVEY

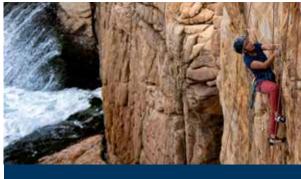
This Global Impact report aims to share the collective impact of Outward Bound programs around the world with a wider global audience and represents a summary of outcomes data collected from member Schools using the Outward Bound Outcomes Survey during 2021 – 2022.

The Outward Bound Outcomes Survey is a statistically validated and reliable measurement tool which OBI has developed with assistance from the OBI Research Advisory Committee. Ongoing analysis of the data collected shows statistically significant evidence of growth in the following outcomes: resilience, self-confidence, compassion, social competence and environmental responsibility.



SELF:





- RESILIENCE

2 - SELF-CONFIDENCE

OTHERS:





THE NATURAL WORLD:



WHY THIS MATTERS

OBI is committed to making our member Schools more effective and resilient. The collection and analysis of data from across the network that proves the effectiveness of Outward Bound programs will support our members and OBI in communicating the impact and relevance of our programs. It will also support OBI and Schools to identify aspects of the Outward Bound delivery model that are producing best results and areas where further work is required.

A SNAPSHOT

GLOBAL OUTCOMES COLLECTION DATA

NUMBER OF SURVEYS BY OB SCHOOL / COUNTRY

SCHOOLS SURVEYED LANGUAGES

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES

20+

30+

5000+





OVERALL EVALUATION RESULTS

GLOBAL EFFECT SIZE BY OUTCOME 2021-2022



The Outward Bound Outcomes Survey (OBOS) measures the magnitude of growth in each outcome as a result of the Outward Bound program. This is called **Effect Size**.

The global average effect size for outdoor education programs is calculated to be 0.34*. The average effect size calculated by the Outward Bound Outcomes Survey for all outcomes is 0.63. **This is a significant effect size and indicates that Outward Bound programs have a significant measurable effect on participant growth in all five outcomes.** The OB Outcomes Survey revealed that the magnitude of growth/effect size was largest for:



*Hattie, J; Marsh, H; Neill, J; & Richards, G. (1997). Adventure education and Outward Bound: Out-of-class experiences that make a lasting difference. Review of Educational Research (67: I, pp. 43-87).

A CLOSER LOOK

AT PARTICIPANT LEARNING

AVERAGES BEFORE AND AFTER COURSE



^{*}The Outward Bound Outcomes Survey uses an 8 point Likert Scale.

KEY FINDINGS

Outward Bound Courses have a significant effect on participants for all 5 constructs with significant improvements in the mean (average) score at a 95% confidence level. This means that the increase in scores is unlikely to be due to chance, and there is strong statistical evidence to support the claim that the Outward Bound courses had a positive effect on the participants.

Self-Confidence has the highest effect size and % gain and is rated the highest together with **Compassion for Others** in the post course results.

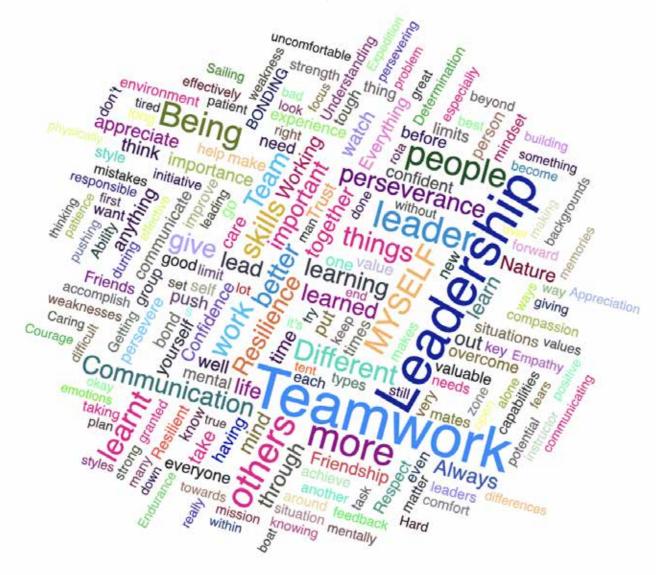
Compassion for Others is rated highest in both the pre and post course data. Participants that take an Outward Bound course appear to have high "Compassion for Others" before the course which is further developed during the course.





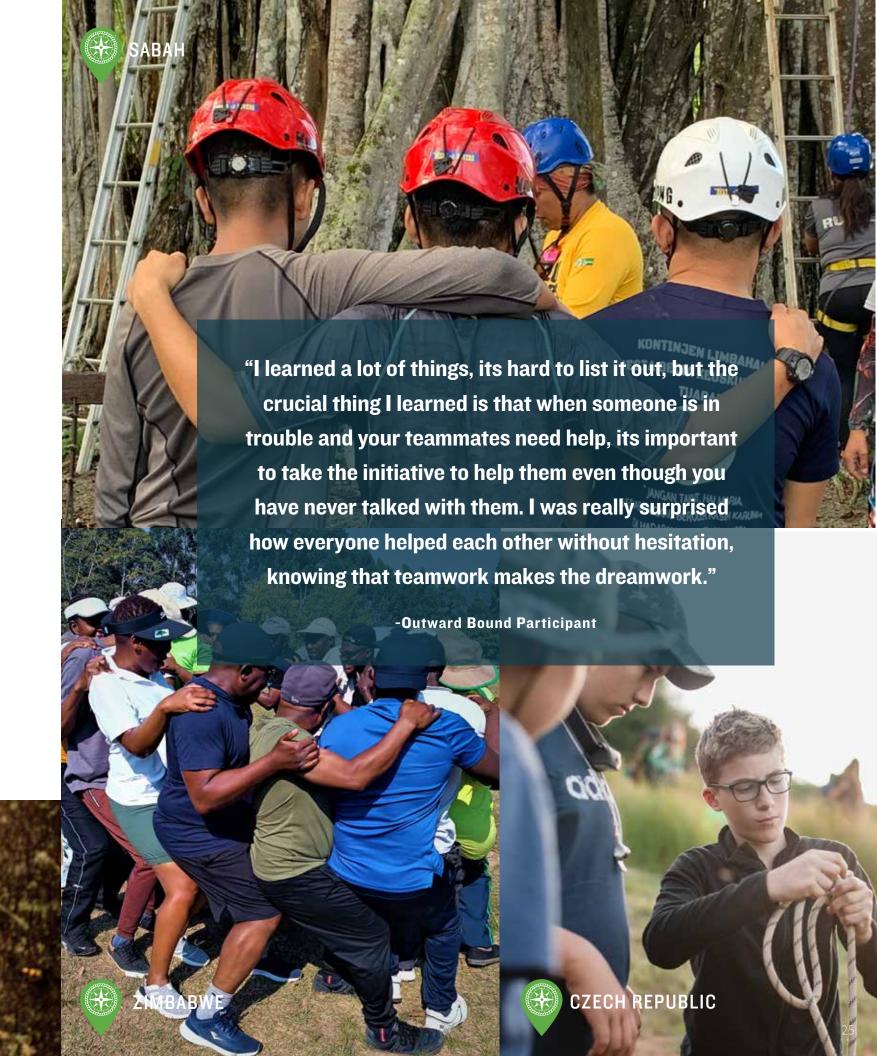
MOST VALUABLE LEARNING

What was the most valuable thing you learned on your course?



Participants that went through an Outward Bound course learned valuable lessons particularly in terms of teamwork, developing leadership skills, communication skills, connecting with different people, perseverance, and fostering a greater connection to nature.

FINLAND



CONNECTION TO SELF:

RESILIENCE > The ability to "bounce back" from and adjust to adversity and challenges.

"The wilderness is unpredictable, and Outward Bound taught me how to adapt to change and uncertainty. It was a transformative experience that helped me develop resilience and a sense of inner strength."

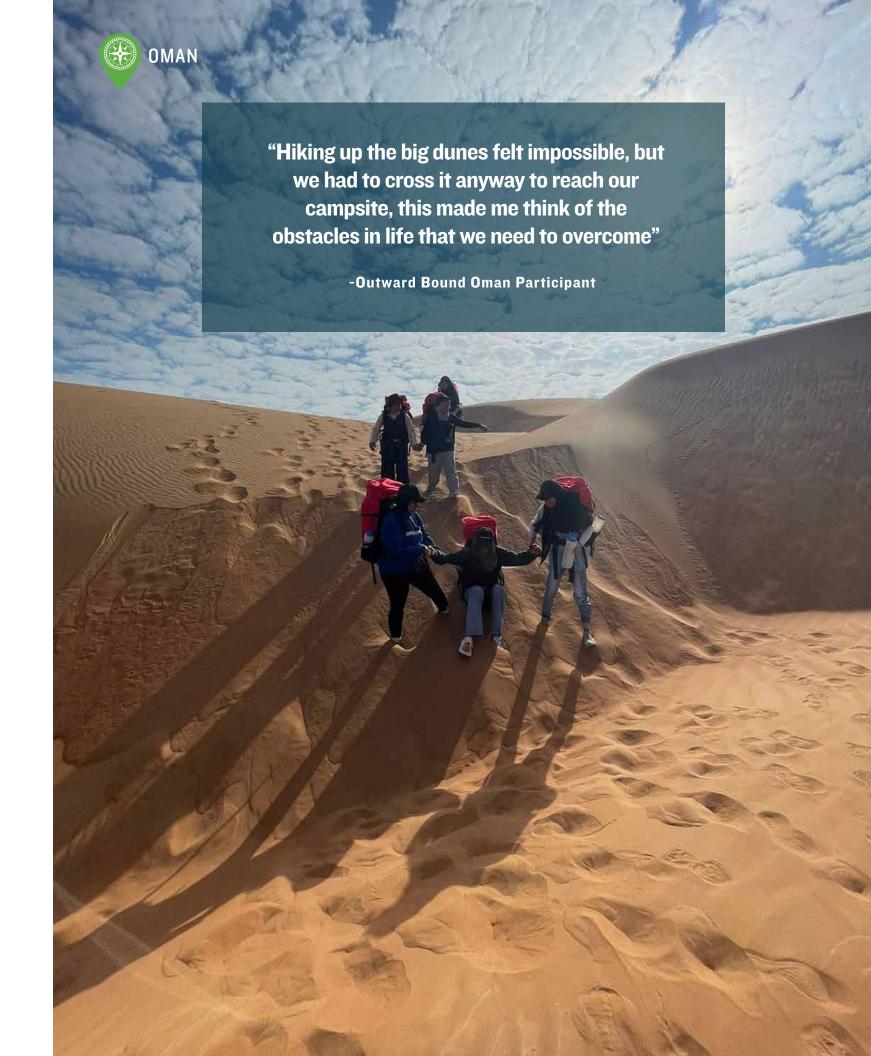
- Outward Bound participant

- > I am able to recover from stressful events
- > I am able to get over set-backs in my life
- > I am able to snap back when something bad happens

of all participants surveyed identified an increase in Resilience



RESILIENCE - Often described as the "ability to bounce back," resilience is a common outcome of Outward Bound courses. Outward Bound programs can help develop resilience by providing participants with challenging and unfamiliar experiences that require them to adapt, problem-solve, and persevere through difficulty. Resilience is an essential trait in today's world, where young people face increasing levels of stress and uncertainty.



CONNECTION TO SELF:

SELF-CONFIDENCE > **Belief** in one's ability to be successful.

"Outward Bound challenged me in ways that I never imagined, but it also helped me to develop a deep sense of self-confidence. I now feel more capable and empowered to take on new challenges and to achieve my goals."

- Outward Bound participant

- > I know I have the ability to do anything I want to do
- > When I apply myself to something I am confident I will succeed
- > I believe I can do it

of all participants surveyed identified increased Self-Confidence



SELF-CONFIDENCE - Outward Bound gives people a different experience of challenge and achievement – one they may never have felt before. It pushes them to the limits of what they think they're capable of and shows them that there is more in them than they think. Outward Bound programs can help develop self-confidence by providing participants with challenging and unfamiliar experiences that require them to push beyond their comfort zones, take on new roles and responsibilities, and achieve personal goals.



CONNECTION TO OTHERS:

COMPASSION > The ability to sense the emotions and needs of others and the motivation and initiative to act.

"Outward Bound helped me to develop a sense of community and a deeper appreciation for the people around me. It taught me to listen, to support others, and to be more compassionate in my interactions with others."

- Outward Bound participant

- > I am able to help others when they need it, without being interested in anything in return
- > Being sensitive to other's needs and helping others contribute to my well-being
- > I treat others always as I want to be treated
- > I have a responsibility to help others in need

of all participants surveyed identified an increase in Compassion



Compassion - Compassion is "empathy in action" and encompasses the ability to feel the emotions of another and the motivation to help. Outward Bound programs can help develop compassion by providing participants with experiences that challenge their assumptions, encourage empathy, promote cultural awareness, and promote a greater understanding of the challenges faced by others. This is particularly important in today's interconnected world, where individuals are increasingly exposed to different cultures and perspectives.



CONNECTION TO OTHERS:

SOCIAL COMPETENCE > Social, emotional, and cognitive skills and behaviors needed to succeed as a member of society.

"At Outward Bound, I discovered new things about myself, such as the ability to communicate with others. Before, I did not have the courage to speak in front of an audience, to express my point of view so openly, and I can say that I have now developed this ability." - Outward Bound participant

- > I am successful in social situations
- > I am competent in social situations
- > I communicate well with people

77%

of all participants surveyed identified an increase in Social Competence



SOCIAL COMPETENCE - refers to getting along with others, being able to form and maintain close relationships, and being able to function peacefully and creatively in community and social environments. Outward Bound courses are uniquely crafted to create opportunities in which participants, many from diverse backgrounds, are compelled to connect on a daily basis, through team-building activities, outdoor journeys, reflection and feedback. These experiences can help participants develop important social skills and competencies that are essential for success in school, work, and life.



CONNECTION TO NATURE:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY > Awareness of connection to nature and demonstrating a sense of consciousness and stewardship for the natural world.

"One of the most valuable things I learned on my Outward Bound course was that we, humans, and nature are not two separate or unrelated things, in fact we are part of it and it is part of us. Being in nature in an immersive and intense way, as we were on our Outward Bound course, has a great capacity for transformation and that is the path I want to follow and serve."

- Outward Bound participant

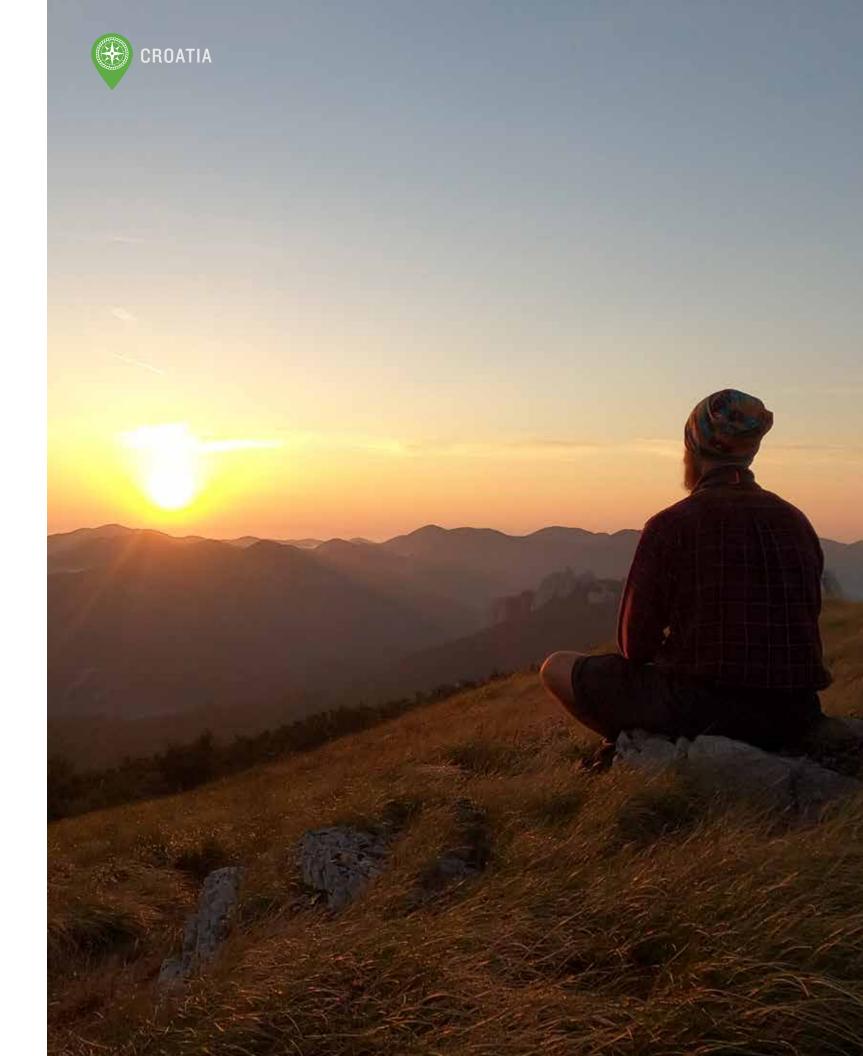
- > I think about the environment in my daily life
- > I take responsibility for caring for the environment
- > I have a connection to nature
- > Spending time in nature is very important to me
- > I always treat nature with respect

84%

of all participants surveyed identified an increase in Connection to and Responsibility for Nature



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY - Outward Bound's classroom is the outdoors. Developing connections to the natural world and fostering respect and responsibility for the environment is an essential part of all Outward Bound courses around the world. In a time of increasing environmental degradation across the globe, when people are spending more time interacting with media and technology and less time participating in activities in nature, developing this is connection is more crucial than ever for the well-being of individuals, society and the planet.



30 YEARS OF IMPACT

ADAM HORVATH-KOVACS - OUTWARD BOUND ROMANIA



Adam Horvath-Kovacs is the founding Executive Director of Outward Bound Romania, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. As the longest standing Outward Bound leader, Adam has had a significant impact locally and globally. In addition to leading OB Romania, Adam has also been very involved with Outward Bound International, participating in reviews of Schools, and sitting on Outward Bound International's Operations Committee, a sub-committee of the Board, since 2011.

According to Adam "Outward Bound found me." At the start of his teaching career, he was approached by a colleague who was inspired by the movement and by the Outward Bound School in Germany to start the organization in Romania. In 1993 he was nominated Executive Director of the non-existent penniless organization! Adam worked as the ED for 6 years as volunteer and then in 1998 left his teaching job to become the full time, paid, ED. Passion for Outward Bound runs in the family; Adam's wife Iringo was the very first OB Romania employee and his son has also worked at the School.



Today, OB Romania serves an average of 2000 participants annually and over 50,000 students in 30 years of operation. For the past 20 years, OB Romania has also been running "Train the Trainers" programs which have contributed largely to the spread of outdoor education in Eastern Europe and has supported the development and growth of new Outward Bound Schools in the region.

Highlights for Adam have been the joint programs run in collaboration with other OB schools. Funds from the European Union have helped OB Romania to cooperate with a lot of countries, and not only from Europe. Most recently,OB Romania coordinated a multi-year youth capacity building project in collaboration with OB India, OB Brazil and OB Belgium.

Adam believes that in this digital post-Covid era, when almost everything can be accessed and organized online, Outward Bound is more relevant than ever. Taking young people out into nature, out of their comfort zones and having them authentically socialize with their peers, is of upmost importance to their healthy development and overall wellbeing. Of most importance to Adam is fidelity – having a team which works together for a common goal and he is grateful to his team at OB Romania who have worked alongside him to ensure impactful programs that make a difference in the lives of youth in this region and around the world. Outward Bound International is immensely grateful to Adam for his longstanding leadership and commitment to Outward Bound.

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OUTWARD BOUND STAFF







Within the international network of Outward Bound Schools and wider social, cultural, and ecological communities in which they operate, we recognise the natural world and future generations as key stakeholders. As such we are committed to:

- I. (Re)connecting students to nature, to themselves, to each other, and to places; developing ecological awareness and understanding; and fostering environmental stewardship and empowerment.
- 2. Improving our environmental performance; reducing our energy use and carbon emissions across our operations.
- 3. Integrating environmental education across our operations, teaching and instructional practice.
- 4. Action and education for the climate crisis.



Outward Bound International is an international member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.



We will reduce our impact through careful measurement and analysis, behavioural change, and innovative practice in the following areas:

I. Education

Strengthen participants' understanding of and connection to themselves, each other, and the natural world. Empower students towards positive behavioural change.

2. Field operations

Evolve our "Nature Bound" principles to ensure our field operations are environmentally and culturally sustainable.

3. Carbon

Reduce and where possible offset carbon emissions.

4. Energy

Explore opportunities for energy efficiency and reduce overall consumption across operations.

5. Waste

Reduce, re-use and re-cycle as much waste material as possible across our operations. Look to integrate circular economy principles where possible.

6. Water

Conserve water and adopt geographically appropriate/ responsible methods of waste water discharge.

7. Supply chains

Work with our partners and suppliers to help us achieve the above goals, and to promote sustainable practice in relation to their operations.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

80 YEARS OF BUILDING CHARACTER OUTDOORS



New funding will allow researchers to explore how Outward Bound has promoted character around the world for decades.

A new, \$1.4 million award from the John Templeton Foundation will enable researchers from Penn State, the University of Utah, Outward Bound International, and Clemson University to study the commonalities and differences in Outward Bound Schools around the world. This three-year project aims to reveal how outdoor experiential education can most effectively build character and how to develop character in a multicultural setting while remaining sensitive to the communities they serve and participants in their programs.

"As we live in an increasingly globalized world and work in increasingly diverse communities, understanding the cultural influences on character becomes more important, but incorporating lessons from other cultures is complex. How do we maintain and respect different cultures while building global citizens? This project will help answer that question." - Dr. Pete Allison, Principal Researcher on the Project.

Angela Duckworth, Professor of Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, is one of the pre-eminent character scholars in the world. She serves as an advisor to this project.

"Outward Bound is one of the only programs whose benefits on psychological development seem to last-or even grow-for years," said Duckworth. "I cannot think of a worthier pursuit than figuring out the magic of Outward Bound. The implications for

RESEARCH ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our Global Research Advisory Committee (RAC) that has been instrumental in working with Outward Bound International to develop our global outcomes measurement tool, to validate the tool and to advise and assist on data analysis.

The Global Research Advisory Committee is comprised of researchers from across the globe who are experts in the field of adventure and experiential education. All of the members of the committee are connected to at least one Outward Bound School and through volunteering their time and expertise on the committee demonstrate their passion for and commitment to the work of Outward Bound.

GLOBAL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ELEANOR BOOTH - AUSTRALIA NEVIN HARPER - CANADA SUSANNA HO – SINGAPORE THAIS MORENO – BRASIL THERESA MELTON – USA

PETE ALLISON – UNITED KINGDOM/USA JIM SIBTHORP - USA **ROB WALLIS - CANADA AARON FUNNELL – VIETNAM** JAMES NEILL – AUSTRALIA



OUR SUPPORTERS

GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

Outward Bound Global Ambassadors are a distinguished and dedicated group of Outward Bound champions who have been involved in a significant way with Outward Bound either regionally or globally, and continue to support and inspire the global Outward Bound movement. The support of the OB Global Ambassadors means a sustainable future for not only Outward Bound International but also the growing global network of member Schools.

OUTWARD BOUND GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

JAMIE ANDERSON - CANADA

DAVID KONG - HONG KONG

COLIN MAUND - UK

GRANT FABER - NEW ZEALAND

HENRY MORSE - USA

JOHN ATKIN - AUSTRALIA

DAVID REEVE - CANADA

PETER NEUMARK - UK

SIR DAVID LEVENE - NEW ZEALAND

BART MACDOUGALL - CANADA

GUY WILLIAMS - UNITED KINGDOM

SARAH WENDT - USA

PETER KYLE - USA/NEW ZEALAND

MARY THOMSON - CANADA

PETER MORTIFEE - CANADA

CHIEN LEE - HONG KONG

WINSTON LO - HONG KONG

ROY CHUNG - HONG KONG

CHARLES PHILIPPS - UK

ANDREW SMITH - NEW ZEALAND

LORI SMITH SPARROW - USA

RICHARD WINTER - HONG KONG

GLOBAL PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Global partners and funders are crucial to building the capacity of Outward Bound International and the global network of Outward Bound Schools. OBI is enormously grateful for the support in 2022 from the following Foundations, Corporations & Organizations:



















RELEVANT THEN, EVEN MORE RELEVANT NOW...

"Outward Bound transcends individual differences and kindles within each of us a sense of community. The wilderness environment allows one's veneers to slip away, and each person can grow through daring to risk, to care, and to share with others. As an educational forum, Outward Bound offers true learning, involving heart, mind and body, in a way that will last a lifetime."



Kurt Hahn, Co-founder of Outward Bound

