



GALAVANTA
COLOMBIA TAILORED TRAVEL

IMPACT REPORT 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our Vision	3 – 4
Our 2023 Impact in Numbers	5
Office, Employees, Guides, Suppliers, Donations, Carbon Footprint Offsets, Ground Transfer Services, Boat Transfer Services, Domestic Flights, Plane Charters	6
How We Measure Our Impact	7
Environmental Footprint	
• Waste Footprint	8
• Water Footprint	10
• Carbon Footprint	12
• Social Footprint	14
• 2023 Projects	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	23
Our 2024 Objectives	24



OUR VISION

At Galavanta, sustainability is more than just a word: it's the constant measurement and offsetting of our socio-environmental impact, which is generated by our business activities and our travelers' itineraries. This impact is carefully evaluated to make decisions aimed at improving the lives of local communities and protecting our ecosystems, thereby generating a positive footprint.

Our strategic impact lines focus on two pillars: the environment and communities. We seek to thoroughly understand the issues and needs to which we can contribute to support the conservation of these assets.

We chose our two pillars because we know how important they are for tourism. Travelers seek transformative and memorable experiences, valuing authenticity and ethics, and they are increasingly interested in supporting the communities they visit during their journeys and environmental challenges.

For Galavanta, tourism has a unique potential to transform the country. Through tourism, a connection is created among industry actors, whether they are employees, travelers, clients, suppliers, or local communities. This connection enables social, cultural, and economic growth, benefiting all involved parties. Sustainability must be a fundamental axis of this great objective of transformation.



OUR VISION

At the environmental level, we focus on impact that can generate a multiplier effect, such as carbon footprint compensation, restoration of strategic ecosystems, environmental education, and strengthening tourism infrastructure.

Socially, we believe the best way to help is to dignify the quality of life of the most vulnerable communities in the destinations we visit, ensuring access to quality education, clean water, and decent work with fair compensation. We especially want to focus our aid on youth and women, as we are confident they will be future community leaders.

Finally, we ought to be part of the conservation of Colombia's culture and biodiversity so that local communities can live sustainably off their land and, in the future, foment a tourism industry that generates a positive impact. Such commitment to sustainability requires stability. In 2023 we formalized this endeavor with the creation of a sustainability area within our organizational structure. From now on, this area will be responsible for verifying that our impact is organized and systematized in order to monitor and mitigate it, ensuring that the environmental education tool is present throughout our supply chain.



OUR 2023 IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Seeing our impact in numbers helps us understand what we're doing well and what opportunities we have for improvement.

Environmental education is the overarching tool throughout our operation and the most powerful in transforming our impact. The planet needs new ways of living and with that, new conscious beings who understand that every decision we make has an impact on nature and the communities that inhabit it.

Our sustainability motto is: EVERY ACTION COUNTS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL.

We believe we can contribute to the challenges of the most vulnerable communities and the larger issue of global warming with small local actions. From our offices, we promote conscious and committed employees who develop good habits and share them in their homes and neighborhoods, hence generating multipliers of socio-environmental solutions.



OUR 2023 IMPACT IN NUMBERS



Office: 1



Employees: 35



Nationwide Guides: 61



Nationwide Suppliers: + 500



Donations in COP: \$42,343,000



Carbon Footprint Offsets: 123 tons
offset through certified projects



Ground Transfer Services: 3,455



Boat Transfer Services: 229



Domestic Flights: 270

Plane Charters: 48

PANAMA

Caribe

VENEZUELA

Pacífico

Llanos

Andes

Amazonas

ECUADOR

PERU

BRAZIL



HOW WE MEASURE OUR IMPACT

Environmental Footprint



Waste footprint



Water footprint



Carbon footprint

Social Footprint



Education



Economic footprint

We measure our footprint to understand how we can mitigate our impact and create processes that are regenerative by design, capable of restoring and renewing the life cycles on which human beings depend. We established our baseline year as 2023 to have a clear understanding of our impact in numbers and to be able to declare real and transparent objectives.



ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Waste Footprint

We have control over our organizational operation and our clients' itineraries. As such, we have mapped out our operation to identify points where we can reduce waste.

In our office, we found that the waste we produce the most is plastic wrappers for food and other products. We have developed a program where we collect all plastic wrappers in "bottles of love" that are collected by a company responsible for turning them into raw materials through proper waste sorting.

For our clients' itineraries, we identified which products could be switched to more sustainable ones and then identified which actors could ensure that the recyclable waste could be properly sorted, all the while ensuring an impeccable quality of service for our clients.

We have reached out to guides, hosts, and drivers working with Galavanta to discuss how to improve our processes. This way, we ensure that waste is being adequately sorted before sending it to relevant organizations that guarantee its transformation into raw materials for new products.

Finally, hotels are a key actor, as they have the infrastructure to receive, store, and deliver waste properly, also allowing guides, hosts, and drivers access to these disposal sites.

In our first year, we have managed to align a chain of actors with the purpose of taking increasingly sustainable actions at each of the cities we visit. This generates a conscious commitment from each individual, helping to transform our habits and visualize new alternatives to our consumption patterns.



TABLE: SOLID WASTE CONSUMPTION

DATA MITIGATION		2023												
Waste Footprint		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
1	WASTE Total kg sent to landfill (Ordinary waste)						17	9	9	8	12	7	8	71
2	WASTE Total kg diverted from landfill (Recycled plastics and metals)				3	8	3	2	2	1	2	0	0	20
3	WASTE Recycled paper and cardboard (kgs)				1	4	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	13
4	WASTE Recycled electronic waste (kgs)				9	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	11
5	WASTE Total kg diverted from landfill (Organic)	47	44	41	74	89	92	95	56	54	91	91	81	855
6	WASTE Total kg diverted from landfill (Glass)				12	8	0	13	7	0	6	9	0	55

Monitoring Indicator: This year, we aim to reduce our indicators of solid waste consumption (2.1 kg/employee), recycled plastics (0.57 kg/employee), paper and cardboard (0.38 kg/employee), recycled electronics (0.3 kg/employee), organic waste generation (24 kg/employee), and glass consumption (1 kg/employee).

ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Water Footprint

This important resource is becoming increasingly difficult to access, especially for communities in the destinations to which we take our clients.

Through Galavanta, we want to help ensure access to clean water and remind our employees, suppliers, and clients of the importance of using this resource appropriately whenever necessary.

We believe that environmental education is the best tool for transforming habits that are the turning point for excessive consumption of any resource.

At Galavanta, we have an environmental program called *Guardianes Comprometidos* (Committed Guardians), which is a group of 4 individuals that rotates every three months and lead initiatives to raise awareness about the use of water resources, asking questions such as:

- Is it necessary to leave the tap running while brushing my teeth?
- Can daily showers be reduced to 3 minutes?
- How can I reuse greywater in my home?
- How can I collect rainwater at my home?

This creates a vanguard and regenerative environment for teamwork. Additionally, we systematize the monitoring of our office consumption and use biodegradable soaps to mitigate our impact on wastewater discharge at a corporate level.

Since July 2023, we have contributed \$10 per client so that a community in La Guajira, in northern Colombia, can have access to clean water. This is a region where access to this resource is very limited.



MONTHLY WATER CONSUMPTION IN THE GALAVANTA OFFICE

DATA MITIGATION		2023												
Water Footprint		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
1	WATER Total M3 used from the municipal/network systems (Second Floor)	14	22	15	14	22	23	17	19	16	15	16	12	205
2	WATER Total M3 used from the municipal/network systems (Third Floor)	3	3	4	4	2	3	2	3	4	4	3	3	38
3	Use of Biodegradable Soap Liters				100	40	40	40	20	20	20	20	20	320

Monitoring Indicator: This year, we aim to reduce our water consumption indicator in the office from the 2023 level, which was 6.94 m3 per collaborator.

ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Carbon Footprint

To determine the carbon emissions produced by our operation, Galavanta uses the measurement methodology of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol). This protocol is recognized worldwide and provides a clear framework for quantifying a company's GHG emissions.

Scope 1 emissions: 0

Scope 2 emissions: 4.72 tons of CO₂e

Scope 3 emissions: 118 tons of CO₂e.

Calculated from August 2023

Through the Committed Guardians program, we have helped Galavanta's collaborators understand the primary cause of climate change and how, throughout our lives, we contribute to the emission of these greenhouse gasses. We have shared the necessary knowledge to make positive structural changes and we succeeded in teaching that the way we dress, how we eat and how we consume energy directly contribute to global warming.

After identifying where we can reduce our consumption, we understood that the key lies in how we measure our energy consumption. We switched energy providers to one that offers an APP where we can monitor our consumption easily and securely. Thanks to this new technology, we discovered that we should turn off and unplug our electronic devices when we finish our workday.

In 2022, with an average of 24 employees, the monthly consumption averaged 1,392 kWh. In 2023, with an average of 32 collaborators, the consumption was 2,348 kWh.

This means that in 2022, the average consumption was 58 kWh/month per collaborator, and in 2023, the average consumption per collaborator was 66 kWh/month. This indicates that our energy consumption per collaborator continues to increase, and we must continue to review how to mitigate our consumption.



MONTHLY ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN THE GALAVANTA OFFICE

DATA MITIGATION		2023												
Carbon Footprint		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
1	1 ENERGY Total consumption kWh (Second Floor)	960	1.325	1.048	1.130	1.419	1.382	1.470	1.591	1.602	1.575	1.690	1.378	16.570
2	2 ENERGY Total consumption kWh (Third Floor)	736	772	680	1.106	836	1.130	1.035	1.106	1.129	865	1.120	1.100	11.615
3	3 ENERGY Total generated from clean energy sources					1.419	1.382	1.470	1.591	1.602	1.575	2.810	2.478	14.327
4	4 Office Carbon Footprint (gr CO2e)*	278.144	343.908	283.392	366.704	369.820	411.968	410.820	442.308	447.884	400.160	460.840	406.392	4.622.340
5	5 Travelers' Carbon Footprint (kg CO2e)								4.949	23.802	18.747	25.154	45.362	118.014

Monitoring Indicator: This year, we aim to reduce our energy consumption indicator from 2023, which was 803 kWh per collaborator.

SOCIAL FOOTPRINT

ORIKA @orikaecoturismo

COMMUNITY ECOTOURISM ROSARIO ISLANDS

Impact: Environmental Footprint and Social Footprint

Issue: The Orika community is located on Isla Grande, one of the islands that make up the Islas del Rosario archipelago. Around 800 people reside there, living off the agricultural activities the island offers and the ecotourism they strive to promote. In Orika, there is no potable water system or basic sanitation, nor is there electricity, and access to education is complex.

Contribution: We contribute to enabling young people in the community to have paid employment as coral guardians, carrying out monitoring tasks and restoration activities. In May 2023 there was a recorded increase in sea temperatures to 32 degrees Celsius, leading to coral bleaching and consequent mortality. This year, thanks to constant monitoring by the coral gardeners group of the Islas del Rosario community council, 500 fragments of coral were installed, including *piste porites*, *posites asteroides*, *acropora cervicornis*, *acropora palmata*, and *orbicella faveolata*. With this contribution, a new dome was built to be installed as a nursery in the Gran Edén sector of the Northern Barrier of Isla Grande.

[Report](#)



SOCIAL FOOTPRINT

FUNDACIÓN AMIGOS DEL MAR @amigosdelmar TIERRA BOMBA ISLAND

Impact: Social footprint

Issue: Tierra Bomba Island has four villages with a total population of 11,000 people. An analysis of the multidimensional poverty index shows that over 50% of households on Tierra Bomba Island are in conditions of extreme poverty, with a smaller proportion in moderate poverty.

Although Tierra Bomba Island is located next to the continental part of Cartagena and opposite the Bocagrande neighborhood, it lacks basic services such as water supply, natural gas, sewage, and experiences instability in electricity supply. This situation, along with other historical and social deficiencies, affects the quality of life of the population. The economy is primarily based on informal and subsistence activities (fishing, boat transportation, tourism, and street vending). There are identified dysfunctional households and instances of parental abandonment.

The population generally has low levels of education, and state education provision is inadequate. A high percentage of children do not attend school regularly, are irregular attendees, or are overage for their grade level due to delayed progression. Lack of economic and social resources often leads them to abandon school to assume labor roles, particularly in the absence of parental supervision at home. They are also often responsible for caring for younger siblings.

Lack of school attendance leaves these children and adolescents with ample free time, which often leads to engagement in unproductive leisure activities and early involvement in substance abuse, drug trafficking, alcohol consumption, and gang participation. Early pregnancies are also present in the community.

Contributions: This foundation offers development opportunities through sports, education, and entrepreneurship. By providing young people with a solid education, additional training, discipline, and other values through water sports, they open up new perspectives and increase their opportunities for a better future.

[Report](#)



SOCIAL FOOTPRINT

GIVE POWER FOUNDATION

@givepower
LA GUAJIRA

Impact: Social footprint

Issue: The region of La Guajira faces social and environmental challenges including access to clean water, since this department has the highest cases of child mortality due to dehydration in Colombia. Cabo de la Vela, with a population of 1,500 Wayuu people, lacks a water supply system, and there is no consistent distribution of water.

Compared to a person in Bogotá, who consumes around 150 liters of water per day, a person in La Guajira consumes only about 20 liters per day. Give Power utilizes solar energy to power the basic necessities in communities that need it most, providing solutions for hundreds of thousands of people worldwide through innovation in clean energy. These solar energy systems power villages, schools, health clinics, food production, wildlife conservation centers, and desalination systems.

Contribution: Currently, the Give Power foundation has a desalination plant in Cabo de la Vela benefiting 100 people daily. With the new plant upgrade, it aims to benefit 800 people daily. The plant will be relocated to a site where a deeper well can be accessed further from the sea, reducing the water salinity. Galavanta's commitment to this cause includes a donation of \$10 for every client who visits Colombia.

[Report](#)



SOCIAL FOOTPRINT

GRANITOS DE PAZ FOUNDATION

@granitosdepaz
CARTAGENA

Impact: Environmental and Social Footprint

Issue: Cartagena faces significant inequalities in terms of income, access to education, healthcare, and job opportunities.

Rapid urban growth and lack of adequate planning have resulted in the proliferation of informal settlements and marginalized neighborhoods. Many residents face issues of precarious housing, lack of access to basic services, and vulnerability to natural disasters.

There are also challenges such as inadequate school infrastructure, variable educational quality, and school dropout rates, which create further fundamental problems for the city's most vulnerable communities.

Contributions: In October 2004, a group of Colombian entrepreneurs came together with the aim of joining forces to impact the comprehensive recovery of families in vulnerable areas of Cartagena, starting their work in the Rafael Núñez sector of the Olaya Herrera neighborhood.

Galavanta's contributions support the comprehensive recovery of vulnerable areas in Cartagena, aiming to provide the necessary tools for hundreds of low-income families to escape poverty and access a dignified standard of living and a promising future.

[Report](#)





SOCIAL FOOTPRINT

ANIMAL BANK

@animalbank_

COLOMBIA

Impact: Environmental Footprint

Issue: The use of fossil fuels, our dietary habits, and energy consumption generate greenhouse gas emissions that, by trapping heat in the atmosphere, contribute to climate change. As a consequence, there are environmental disasters, lack of water resources, poor waste management, and new challenges for vulnerable communities.

Communities inhabiting strategic ecosystems for carbon sequestration require assistance to enable them to live sustainably and dignified lives, where the best contribution is to create jobs focused on conserving these ecosystems.

Contribution: At Galavanta, we are working to raise awareness among collaborators and suppliers about the impacts of everyday activities and the potential to reduce carbon emissions if we become committed and conscious individuals. We aim to generate the knowledge and capacity necessary to bring about positive change in how humanity lives, works, and behaves in response to climate change.

Through the purchase of certified carbon credits, we offset the carbon footprint of our office and each of the emissions from the itineraries of our travelers in Colombia. From August 2023 to December 2023, we purchased 434 tons and have been able to offset 130 tons of CO₂ from our clients' travels.

[Report](#)



SOCIAL FOOTPRINT

GREEN APPLE

@greenapplectg

CARTAGENA

Impact: Environmental and Social Footprint

Issue: The sheer volume of waste generated by a bustling metropolis such as Cartagena is staggering. Developing a community that recognizes the critical significance of efficiently segregating and handling waste is indispensable for forging a sustainable future. Efforts toward this goal are pivotal in ensuring environmental responsibility and long-term ecological balance.

Contribution: At Galavanta we are working to raise awareness among employees and suppliers about the environment and social impacts of our everyday activities, and the potential to reduce our waste and if we transform into committed and conscious individuals. Our aim is to share knowledge and bring about positive change in how society lives, works, and behaves in response to climate change.

Thanks to the Green Apple Foundation, we can make sure that our is correctly classified and that it is recycled or reused. Green Apple promotes long-lasting impact in the way waste and natural resources are managed by the hospitality industry in Cartagena, while creating long-term, dignified employment opportunities for native communities.



SOCIAL FOOTPRINT

THE CODE

@thecodeorg

CARTAGENA

Impact: Social Footprint

Issue: The sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in travel and tourism encompasses a wide spectrum, including prostitution, pornography for the production of abusive material online, and trafficking in all its forms. In the context of travel and tourism, traveling sex offenders take advantage of travel and tourism infrastructure to commit crimes.

Colombia, especially Cartagena, is a destination where sexual tourism is increasingly prevalent. The vulnerability of children from low-income populations makes them easy targets for this sad industry.

Contribution: As the travel and tourism industry evolves, measures must be implemented to ensure child protection. Boys, girls and adolescents are at risk from traveling sex offenders who exploit poverty, social exclusion, and vulnerability to abuse and exploitation.

This organization is helping to create policies to prevent and address the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the destinations we visit with our travelers. We first train our staff and suppliers to identify cases of sexual exploitation so that they can take action and prevent such actions in our operation by any client.

SOCIAL FOOTPRINT

THE CONSCIOUS TRAVEL FOUNDATION

@theconscioustravelfoundation

ENGLAND

Impact: Social Footprint

Issue: The growth of tourism can present a series of challenges associated with environmental impact, displacement of residents, cultural preservation, congestion, saturation of local infrastructure, and labor exploitation.

The Conscious Travel Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes travel with a significant and positive impact. Through education, collaboration, and reflective leadership, it empowers members to make positive changes in their travel businesses while raising funds for local projects worldwide.

Contribution: We undergo training to help shape a travel industry that prioritizes the purpose of generating positive impact on cultures and communities, wildlife, and habitats in Colombia. Additionally, we ensure that throughout the year, we make donations to socio-environmental projects.



SOCIAL FOOTPRINT

LA AURORA

@reservalaaurora

LLANOS ORIENTALES

Impact: Environmental footprint

Issue: The Orinoquía region faces a series of socio-environmental challenges in a strategic location for Colombian biodiversity and culture. The expansion of agricultural and livestock frontiers has led to deforestation in the Llanos, resulting in the loss of natural habitats and associated biodiversity. Additionally, the intensification of agriculture and livestock farming, as well as oil exploitation, can contribute to water pollution. Overexploitation of natural resources, soil degradation, and loss of ecosystems important for climate regulation and biodiversity conservation are threats to this region, which represents one of the most important assets for nature tourism in Colombia.

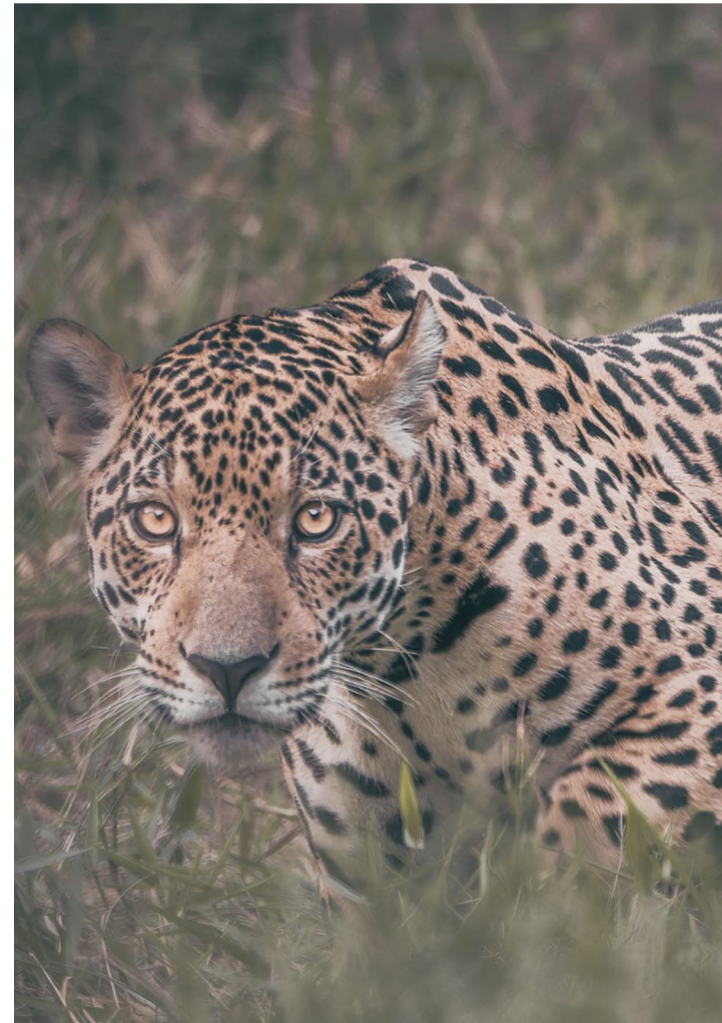
One of the most relevant species in the Llanos is the jaguar. This species is classified as an umbrella species that helps protect other species of fauna and flora and is currently endangered. In Hato La Aurora, the largest civil society natural reserve in Colombia, efforts focus on conserving threatened species such as jaguars, capybaras, and deer.

Contribution in 2023: Responsible tourism is a productive economic alternative that allows for the preservation of ecosystems and the species that inhabit them. The Barragan family, owners of the reserve, have come to understand that the best ally in this land is the jaguar. To date, their efforts have allowed the registration of up to 70 different jaguars. This indicates that the ecosystem is in good health and that it is worth supporting the conservation of this species.

We firmly believe that tourism is an industry that can focus resources on protecting the biodiversity and culture of the Llanos. By supporting a project like La Aurora, we are ensuring that our impact is multiplied, contributing to the benefit of an umbrella species like the jaguar, which can in turn benefit other fauna and flora in the only region in Colombia that does not have a protected area.

[Report](#)

[Pictures](#) (with a trap camera donated by a client).



IN SYNC WITH THE SDGs

On September 25, 2015, world leaders adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to protect the planet, combat poverty, and aim to eradicate it to build a more prosperous, just, and sustainable world for future generations. These goals were set within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"OUR DECISIONS MATTER, HOWEVER SMALL THEY MAY BE."

SDGs icons: United Nations Department of Global Communications



OUR GOALS FOR 2024

We have defined certain objectives for 2024

- To be a company with increasingly conscious and committed employees, suppliers, and travelers
- Improve our communications in order to give more visibility to the projects we're helping, and increase voluntary donations from our clients
- Achieve certification as a B Corporation
- Maintain our support for projects that:
 - Assist vulnerable communities in gaining access to clean water
 - Help children and women have a more dignified life
 - Contribute to the conservation of strategic ecosystems in Colombia
 - Create more dignified employment in Colombia focused on conservation activities

In the long term, we aim to fulfill more ambitious goals:

- Become a Carbon Neutral company by 2027
- Reduce our waste footprint by 3% by 2027
- Reduce our water footprint by 2% by 2027



- GRACIAS -

