



# **UN Global Compact**

## Communication on Progress

CoP report 2020

**mater**



**LAYOUT**

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All The Way To Paris

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# Statement on continued support

I am pleased to confirm that Mater reaffirms its support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. Further we have chosen to incorporate elements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) in our Communication on Progress report. To make sure that our report is relevant, and we can make a difference, we have chosen to identify the most important SDG's to Mater and our stakeholders. We do not identify all the SDG's and their underlying goals as

equally important to our company, but we do believe all of the Sustainable Development Goals encompasses extremely important issues that need to be dealt with. It is important for us as a company that our sustainable strategy and business conduct is aligned and we acknowledge that focusing on the areas where we can make a difference is how we best contribute to the global tasks that the SDG's put forward. In this annual Communication on Progress, we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the SDG's and the United Nations

Global Compact its principles into our business strategy, culture and daily operations. We also commit to share this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.



**Henrik Marstrand**  
CEO & Founder of Mater

## What does Mater mean?

Mater means *Mother* in Latin. The name is the daily reminder of our small contribution to preventing the challenges Mother Earth faces.

Design influences how we as humans live our lives; it shapes values, culture and society. Unfortunately, we are increasingly aware that the

choices made during design processes often have environmental consequences. However, as a manufacturer, we have the opportunity to rethink dubious practices and create ethical and sustainable design that minimises adverse social and environmental impacts.



**“Through aligning  
our CSR strategy  
and our  
production to the  
UN Global Goals we  
are now  
contributing to  
8 key Sustainable  
Development  
Goals.”**

**Henrik Marstrand**

Founder and CEO



THE GLOBAL GOALS

# United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals

At Mater we wish to make an impact in the design- and business industry, by aligning our commitments within our production and our CSR strategy with the UN Global Goals for sustainable development — a framework agreed by 193 nations organized in 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all, as part of a new sustainable development agenda.

Through aligning our CSR strategy and our production to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we are now contributing to eight key sustainable development goals. As a manufacturer of both furniture and lighting we have committed to support the goal of Affordable and Clean Energy by only manufacturing LED lighting (SDG 7) and support-

ing Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8) while preserving Life on Land (SDG 15). As part of our new groundbreaking production methods, we strive to honour a sustainable Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9). We have embedded Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) in every level of our manufacturing and we have also directly contributed to preserving Life Below Water (SDG 14) with the recent design by Nanna Ditzel and ARDE in recycled fishnets collected from the oceans across the world. To take urgent Climate Action (SDG 13) has been at heart from the very beginning and we keep pushing the boundaries for sustainability and aesthetics by exploring new production partners to join our mission with Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17).

Mater CoP 2020





# Affordable and Clean Energy

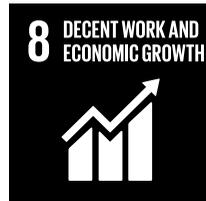
All lighting in the Mater Collection are made of materials that have sustainable elements – from recycled aluminium to certified wood.

Common for all our collections is that the light sources are the newest LED technology which is the most sustainable source of lighting we have today. The LED we use saves up to 85 percent energy compared to old energy sources

and can last up to twenty years. It is Mater's policy to conduct business in compliance with both national and international laws.

Together with our core values we comply with internationally recognized standards. We have a zero tolerance towards corruption and are committed to work proactively to prevent bribes and eliminate facilitation payments.





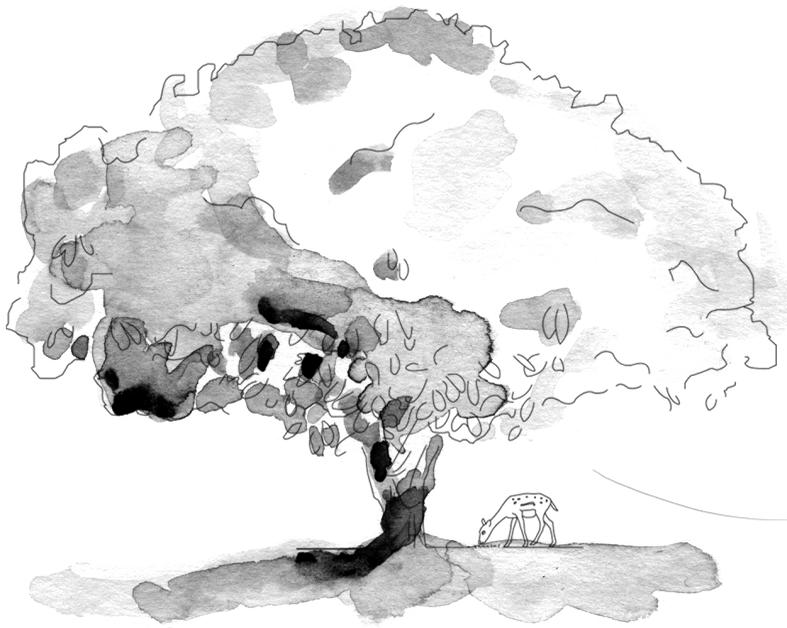
# Decent Work and Economic Growth

Mater supports the Human Right in all its forms and recognizes its importance in an increasingly globalized work environment.

We acknowledge the potential risks for not focusing on these important rights, both for the company, suppliers and employees. We wish to provide all humans the rights and freedoms they deserve to enjoy. We have developed a strategy where people and the planet are in the center of all our actions. With our suppliers we always try to engage in dialogue and we try to teach

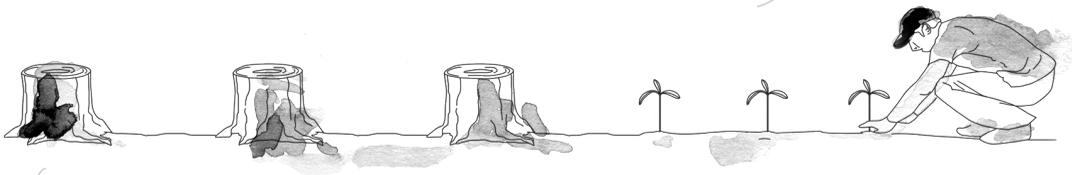
them about the importance of safety and health. Further it is important to Mater that those who work on our designs are paid a fair wage. This is particularly important to ensure when we work with smaller suppliers.

Through our Code of Conduct we make sure that we work towards better standards and more secure working environments and we believe that this is the best way to obtain results and help reach set targets or SDG eight.



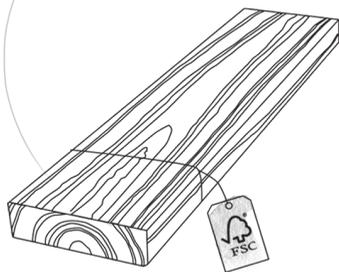
FSC protects the local population, forests workers and natives living there. FSC also makes sure that wood is traded on fair market terms.

All European woods are certified according to the global FSC standards — FSC Stewardship Council approved forests benefits our environment, our climate, the wild life and the plantation.



FSC makes sure that a new tree is planted every time a tree is harvested.

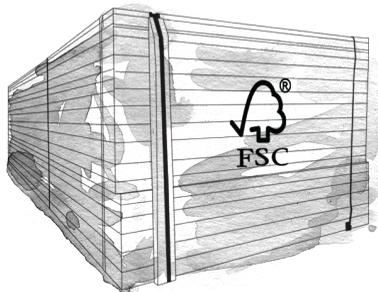
NEW PLANTS

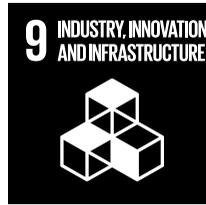


FSC links directly to United Nations Global Goals supported by global leaders all over.

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

FSC certification allows us to trace every wood product back to its source.





# Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Today all our products are characterized by some sort of sustainability. We work with new fast-growing wood sources and grasses. This applies to some of our designs with upcycled mango wood, wicker made of cane – a strong grass species which we use braided in daybeds and a new chair series.

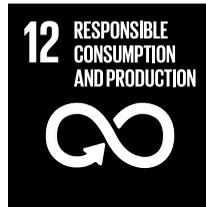
All of our products produced in the EU and made of wooden materials are certified according to FSC, and all products can be traced back to their origin. Furthermore the FSC scheme ensures that whatever wood is used will be replanted. Not all is and can be certified materials and it is more important that we work towards close supplier relationships. In connection with

SDG nine we wish to increase the access of small-scale industrial manufactures. Hence many of our products are made from small suppliers with local craftsmanship.

However, there are pros and cons of this ideology since we have to accept that their production facilities do not have the capacity or resources to become certified to the extent we might wish. In the end it is more important to Mater to have transparency.

With every important supplier we make time to see the production sites, talk to our partners around the world and make sure that materials are being processed and sourced properly.





# Responsible Consumption and Production

As an example, Mater created the Mask stool - the result of a new groundbreaking and innovative production method allowing Mater to use the biproducts from Carlsberg's' beer production – the spent grain – and turn it into useful and unique interior design solutions. In collaboration with Technological Institute we have developed a new technology to process biproducts, e.g. spent grain from beer production along with other fiber-based waste materials.

After months of research and tests, we managed to process the fiber-based waste into a composite suitable for press moulding

and combine the waste into a material with the intensity and durability fit for furniture design.

With the Mask stool, we demonstrate a waste-to-value technique and solution for reusing companies' resources more efficient, caring for Mother Earth and the next generations. The method behind the Mask stool enables companies to create their next interior solution based on their own waste streams; Carlsberg saves large disposal costs but more importantly, they save tons on co2 emissions when upcycling their own waste into interior solutions for own use.





# Climate Action

Mater has pledged to take urgent climate action and tackle climate change. We contribute to this mission by minimizing carbon emissions using circular and up-cycled materials in our furniture design.

Mater has partnered with large Danish corporations in order to remedy the companies waste streams and create valuable and functional interior solutions with a new groundbreaking techniques. Mater continually develop new production methods with the purpose of increas-

ing the types of waste streams possible for transformation into valuable design solutions and in order to find new ways of minimizing use of virgin material.

We launched the Mater Ocean Chair in 2019 and it uses some 960g of ocean plastic waste. While 1 kilo of recycled plastics raw material saves some 1.7 kilos of CO<sub>2</sub>, one single Ocean Chair saves 1.6 kilos CO<sub>2</sub> emissions savings compared to virgin equivalents — demonstrating a CO<sub>2</sub> emissions saving up to 82%.





# Life Below Water

We contribute to support Life Below Water with our collections of chairs and tables made of ocean plastic waste.

Our latest design is called Nova Sea, and contains 96 % discarded, polluting fishnets created in collaboration with the Danish cleantech company, Plastix and Letbæk Plast. Plastix strives to contribute to the sustainable development of society through manufacturing of sustainable solutions, provision of innovative and quality products.

Plastix deliver the high quality recycled raw materials that we use in our designs. The materials are collected from input streams

from the maritime industry and our first collection is called "Ocean" - which combines innovative solutions to prevent pollution of the world's oceans with one of the 20th century's most renowned designers, Nanna Ditzel. "Ocean" is a reissue and originally designed in 1955 realised in timber veneer.

We are proud that these products contribute to further closing the material loops, reducing landfilling, marine pollution and loss of valuable resources. Today the designs in ocean plastic waste complies to SDG fourteen, twelve and seventeen.



**“All our products must be designed to address one or more of the sustainable development goals. If this is not possible we will not produce it.”**

**Henrik Marstrand**

Founder and CEO





# Life on Land

Another example is the Nova Chair. Nova means 'new' and refers to the innovative and sustainable technique of molding 3D veneer. The chair is made of recycled excess pieces of beech veneer, sliced and glued together in a delicate and patented process - thus creating a textural and organic looking surface.

The result ensures a beautiful exploitation of raw materials and minimises the amount of

waste in veneer production. The 3D veneer allows for the design to shape the wooden chair in a comfortable, light and organic shape.

The design also complies to goal number 12, 14 and 17 under the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development





# Partnerships for the Goals

All our suppliers undergo an initial screening where we make an assessment in regards of relevant CSR-elements. When we have established that the basics are in place in regards of Labour and Human Rights (working conditions, safety, working hours, child labour etc.) we establish a basis for remodeling their current setups, so that we see progress in regards of sustainability year after year.

Our mindset and business model are structured around long-term perspectives focused on trust-based partnerships. This accounts for both suppliers and our design partners. We strive

to find partners that share our goals and thinking and who desire to create long lasting, beautiful designs that are sustainable in materials and ideas. This mindset is also in accordance to SDG seventeen.

Mater has partnered with local and innovative production facilities as Letbek Plast, Plastix and Danish Technological Institute, and produce furniture design from discarded fishnets and fiber-based waste materials collected and processed locally.

**Considering  
the planet,  
its resources  
and its people.**

**mater**

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