

World Economic Forum and Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) – The Importance of Private-Public Corporation

Written by Matthew Tsoutsouvas – HOPE volunteer researcher (Vic)



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. is an organisation that advocates for actively engaged leadership, that embraces the social and environmental challenges facing communities on both local and global levels. Taking inspiration from major sustainability advocacy organisations is an important foundation for the operations of HOPE. However, this must not come without firstly critically analysing and engaging with the positions of such influential organisations, to ensure it aligns with our values and vision.

One major global organisation that operates in the sustainability, environmental and social justice space is the World Economic Forum (WEF). Established in 1971 by German Economist Klaus Schwab, the WEF is an International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation. Having first been centred on Europe, the WEF now aims to bring in global leaders and decision-makers across a diverse range of organisations, nations and backgrounds, to address and discuss global social and environmental challenges.

Established through [11 Centres](#) that cover a wide range of industries, from AI and Cybersecurity, to urban transformation, through to Nature and Climate, the WEF strives to ensure we are equipped and ready to face the challenges of the future and harness the innovation rapidly occurring globally.

Keynote speakers of high influence such as Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, U.S. President Donald Trump and NVIDIA CEO, Jensen Huang, have recently addressed the forum, highlighting global issues such as Global Warming, Inadequate Mitigation and Adaptation, AI Security and Global Trading & Energy Security as major global challenges. With great influence and lobbying power, the WEF has been able to [lead strategic partnerships](#) with other organisations such as the United Nations to accelerate and further sustainability policies such as the 2016 UN Sustainability Development Goals.

HOPE has established itself as an organisation with similar aims and achievements, albeit at a smaller scale. The [2024-29 Strategic Plan](#) has key focus areas such as Climate Change, Deforestation and fragmentation, Water security and contamination. Raising awareness to these issues through research and promotion of publications through its communication channels, paired with partnerships and alliances for advocacy, HOPE aims to achieve sustainability and necessary legislative reform when required, such as its [partnership with Boomerang Alliance](#) and the promotion of campaigns including the Container Deposit Scheme.



The flagship function of the WEF is the major annual gathering in Davos, Switzerland, as well as a 'summer gathering' in Dalian, China. Here is where major government officials, NGOs and academics congregate to partake in critical information sharing and discussions. The product of this collaboration is initiatives and dialogues that develop into actionable change. For example, the development of the [Centre for Nature and Climate Change](#)

which through industry and government engagement has secured 12 billion trees pledged for conservation, restoration and growth across 100 countries; \$16 billion in purchasing commitments for low-emission technologies; and \$3.3 billion in mobilised funding to tackle plastic pollution.

WEF and its collaborations also produce publications such as news articles, industry playbooks, long-form research and reports. Collaborations with major industry partners such as McKinsey & Company have produced reports on global cooperation and sustainability challenges, including the annual [Global Cooperation Barometer](#), as well as with academic institutions such as Yale University which produced interactive academic webpages on [our climate crisis](#).

These publications create value and are important as they are factual and crafted by world-leading authorities on global sustainability and social issues. However, like most major organisations, the WEF isn't without its criticisms. The main criticism that surrounds the WEF is its [lack of accountability](#), or specifically its input



legitimacy. As the WEF's membership and funding consist entirely of private firms, there is no meaningful democratic mandate or representative accountability built into its structure. Participants such as Presidents, Prime Ministers and CEO's attend as influential individuals rather than formal representatives of the governments or organisations they lead. The main tension is the WEF has significant real-world influence on global health, markets and sustainability, but its legitimacy, transparency and impact markers rest entirely on advancing an agenda it has defined for itself, which is an important aspect to note.

At its core, the WEF is an advocacy organisation, that presents its publications and reports through the principle of scientific research rigour, and the transparent dialogue and communication that follows, all in the name of building trust, influence and educated awareness.

HOPE believes these principles to be non-negotiables for organisational-level climate and social action. As such, it prides itself on its 2024-29 strategic plan, that responds to its [8 focus areas](#), through an integrated stewardship approach that actions Public Advocacy, Community Education, Research & Engagement, and Partnerships.

These same principles are what the WEF has used to achieve great influence and outcomes for sustainability and social action, through its own Private-Public relations.

The stewardship approach intends to achieve similar impacts such as Stronger Environmental Legislation, Healthier Ecosystems, Protected Biodiversity, and Informed & Engaged Communities.

To achieve this, HOPE is continuing to act through its [current initiatives](#) such as the surveying of State and Territory 'Local Government Associations' regarding their environmental policies and practices, as well as the "A preferred future by 2050 – credible paths to life-enhancing development in S.E. Queensland" podcast series.

The WEF and HOPE share a common mission to view environmental problems in their social, economic and global context and local action to achieve social and environmental justice.

To explore the work and publications of the WEF, please follow the link to their website: <https://www.weforum.org/>

To see how you can get involved with HOPE, please continue to visit their [website](#), or follow their socials: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)
