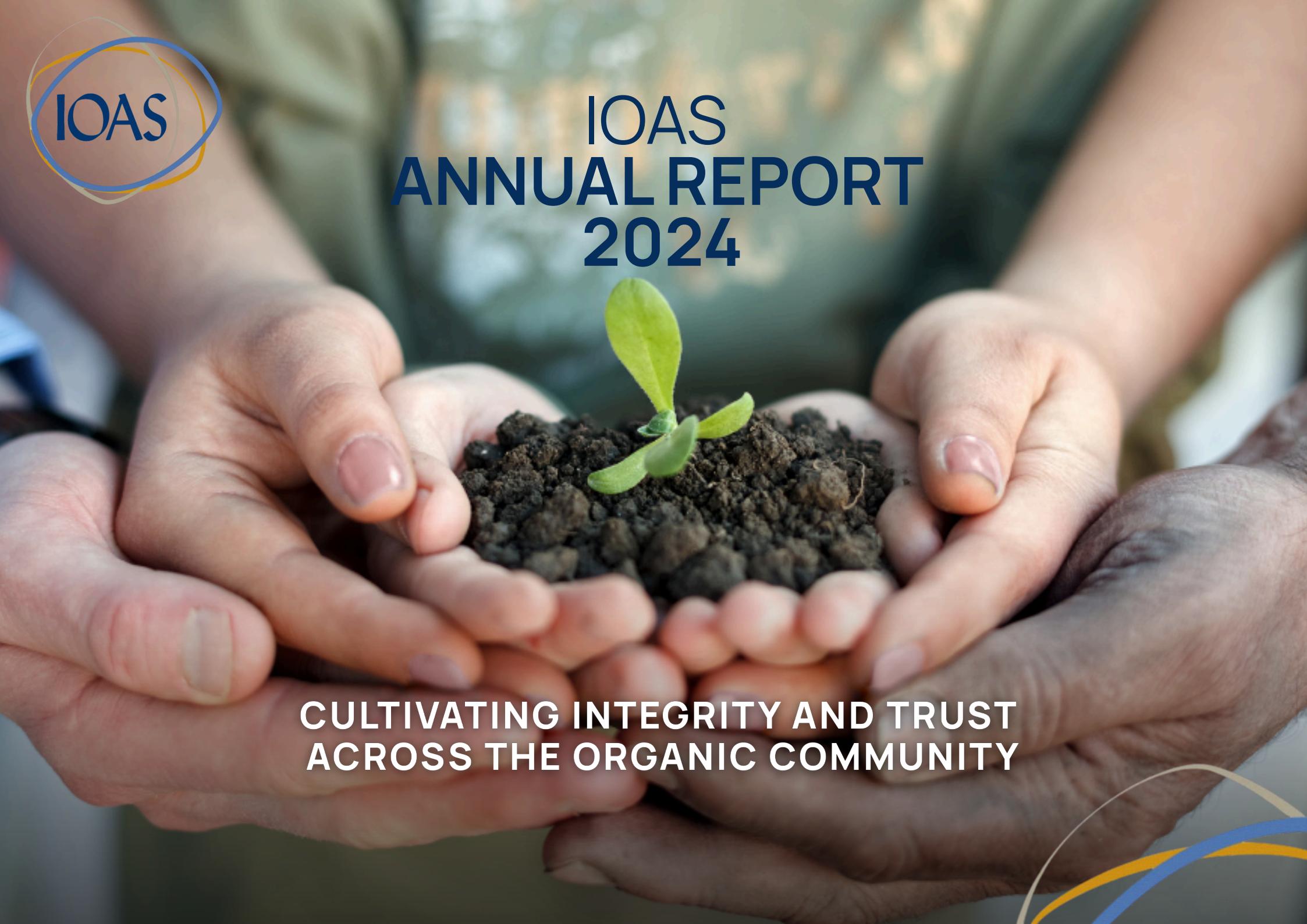




IOAS

# IOAS ANNUAL REPORT 2024



CULTIVATING INTEGRITY AND TRUST  
ACROSS THE ORGANIC COMMUNITY

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Michael Sligh, USA - President  
Francis Blake, UK - Vice-President  
Peggy Miars, USA - Treasurer  
Dr. Flor Mónica Gutiérrez Alcántara, Mexico  
Vitoon Panyakul, Thailand  
Sarah Compson, UK  
Herman Van Boxem, Belgium  
Kathryn Lockyer, New Zealand

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North Dakota  
58104  
USA

**US REGISTRATION**

SOS Control  
ID number:  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C.  
207 East Broadway Avenue  
Bismarck  
North Dakota  
58502-1297  
USA



# CONTENTS

**Message from the Board**

**Executive Director's Message**

**Our Core Values**

**International Presence**

Our Global Footprint

Investing in a Strong International Team

Our Range of Expertise

International Recognition

**Organizational Developments**

Operations Update

EU Transition to Compliance

Delivering Efficiencies through Digitalization

Marketing and Collaboration

**Integrity & Quality**

**Financial Overview**

**Our Clients**

What our Clients Say

**Alliance For Organic Integrity – an Update**

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As Executive Committee members, we are standing in for our President, Michael Sligh, whilst he focuses on an urgent personal health matter. We send him and his family our love and best wishes.

In January, we were delighted to welcome Lauren Carlyle as our new Executive Director, having stepped up from her former role as Business Director. This change came as David Crucifix retired after 25 years of dedicated service to IOAS in various roles. However, we are pleased that we will continue to benefit from his wide experience as he is staying on as Business Development Advisor.

In other respects, it has to be said that the last year has been challenging. The changing regulatory environment, particularly in the EU, is affecting the world of accreditation. This is stimulating us to review our activities, concentrate our resources and seek complementary opportunities to fulfil our mission and vision.

Challenge provides the impetus for transformation and progression. The organic market is continuing to grow, and organic production is increasingly recognized in policy decisions. The expertise and excellence that we bring to our work is highly valued by the authorities, our colleagues, and stakeholders. With all of this, plus our wonderful team, our dedicated Board and Committee members, our organic-leading clients and partners, we are well placed to meet these challenges.

We thank you all, as we work together towards "strengthening trust in organic and complementary claims, and in facilitating best practices to address global challenges".



**FRANCIS BLAKE**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**PEGGY MIARS**  
TREASURER

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is a great honor to assume the role of Executive Director at IOAS Inc. Having served as Business Director for the past two years, I am proud to now lead our exceptional organization. Operating remotely across 24 countries, our dedicated team is comprised of experts in their respective fields, united by a shared commitment to our mission: strengthening trust in organic and complementary claims.

2024 was a noteworthy year for IOAS. We launched a successful webinar series, with our first two sessions 'Root Cause Analysis' and 'Overview of TraceBack and Volume Reconciliation' receiving excellent participation and feedback. These webinars are intended to support Certification Bodies in strengthening the effectiveness of their systems and in developing a thorough understanding of critical operational and compliance-related challenges.

We also undertook a comprehensive brand refresh, which included the launch of our new website. Featuring a modern look and improved navigation and usability, the site highlights the full scope of our schemes and services while showcasing the global impact of our work.

We further digitalized our platforms, aiming to streamline and expedite key elements of the assessment and application processes as much as possible. This is part of our ongoing effort to improve service delivery and client experience.

We successfully underwent two external evaluations in 2024, by the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) and by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Many thanks to the CBs that were involved, the evaluators and our team for participating in these reviews.

We continue to operate in a rapidly evolving global landscape, shaped by challenges such as climate change, regulatory shifts, and emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence.

Our strategy is designed to ensure we remain at the forefront of these changes, while maintaining our unwavering commitment to rigorous standards and operational excellence. In line with our strategy and in response to market demand, global trends and client feedback, we are exploring opportunities to expand into new schemes and standards that align with our mission to promote environmentally-sound and socially-responsible production.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our Certification Bodies for their dedication to continuous improvement and the advancement of the organic and sustainability sectors over the past 25 years.

I also wish to acknowledge the schemes and regulatory authorities who collaborate with us to enhance and uphold robust standards and requirements.

A special thank you goes to our Board and Committee members, many of whom have contributed their expertise to IOAS for many years. Their strategic guidance and steadfast support ensure the integrity and independence of our organization, and our decisions. I would like to thank Roberto Setti and Alexandra Thoring for their years of service and invaluable contributions to IOAS.

To our dedicated team all over the world: thank you for your professionalism, integrity, and unwavering commitment to IOAS and our mission. The organization is what it is today because of your efforts.

It is a privilege to succeed David Crucefix, who has marked a remarkable milestone of 25 years with IOAS. Under David's leadership, IOAS grew from accrediting a single standard in 1997 (IFOAM Organics) to nine organic and sustainability schemes, accrediting over 70 certification bodies operating across 75 countries. This is a significant legacy, and we are deeply grateful for David's vision and dedication.

Thank you, David, for your contribution to organic integrity and for shaping IOAS into the respected organization it is today.

With appreciation and commitment,

**LAUREN CARLYLE**  
Executive Director  
IOAS Inc.





## OUR MISSION

Cultivating Integrity and  
Trust across the Organic  
Community.

## OUR VISION

Strengthening trust in  
Organic and  
Complementary Claims,  
Facilitating Best Practices  
to Address Global  
Challenges.

## OUR VALUES

Improving the Life of  
Planet and People, Quality,  
Integrity, Innovation,  
Respect for people.

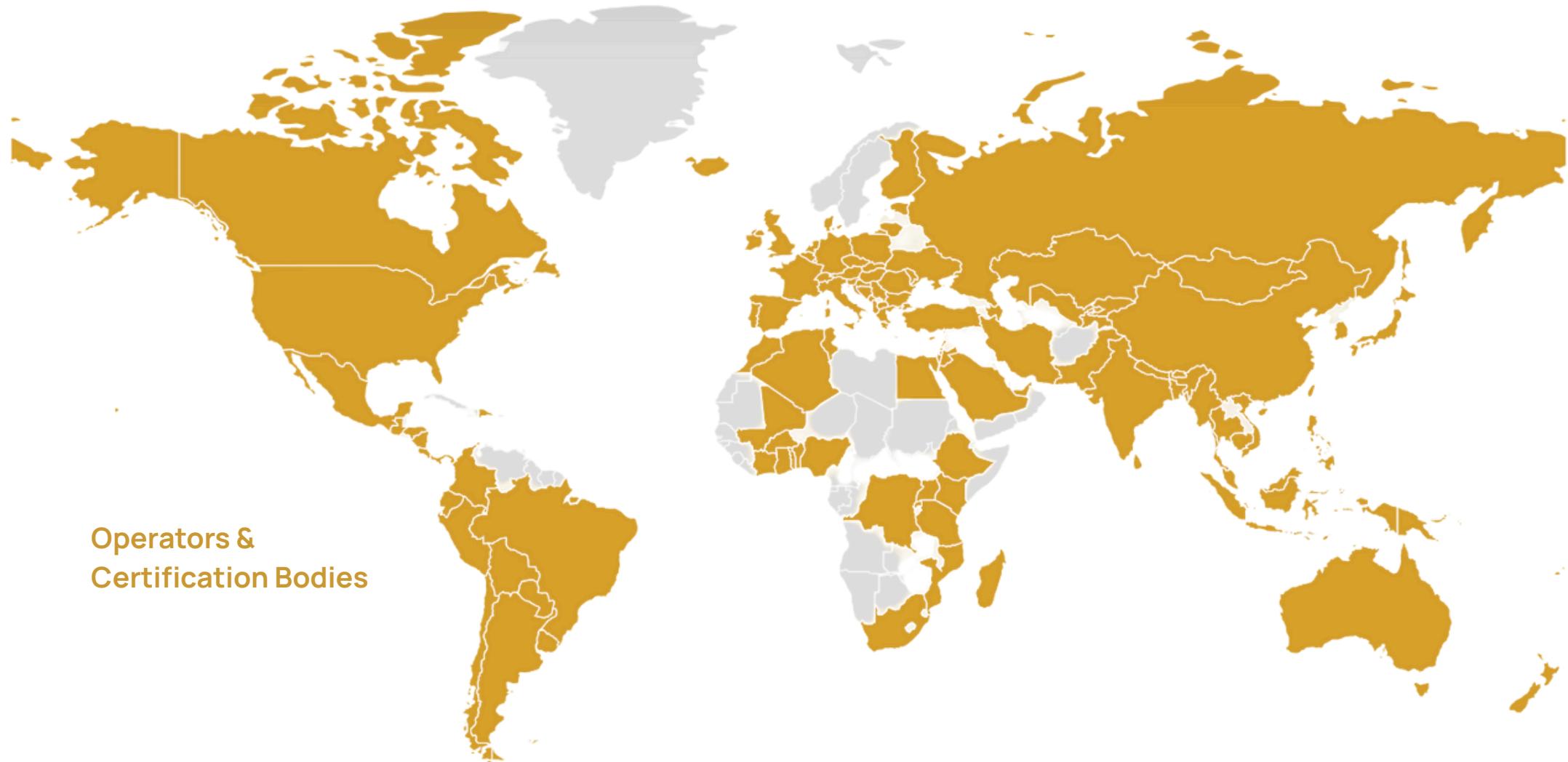
# INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE: OUR GLOBAL FOOTPRINT



At IOAS, we are proud to be an international organization with a diverse and dedicated team operating across **24 countries**. Our global presence strengthens our ability to deliver trusted assurance services that support sustainability standards around the world.

We monitor the performance and competence of over **73 certification bodies operating in 75 countries**, ensuring their adherence to the highest standards in sustainability certification.

Our services encompass best-practice assurance solutions, including full accreditation, assessments, monitoring and oversight, training, and advisory services for both regulators and scheme owners.



# INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE: INVESTING IN A STRONG INTERNATIONAL TEAM



## Welcoming New Team Members

In 2024, we were pleased to welcome three new colleagues to the IOAS family, bolstering our expertise and further enhancing the global diversity of our team. Their expertise and global perspectives are invaluable to our continued growth and effectiveness.



**MICHELA COLI, ITALY**  
JOINED AS A NEW MEMBER OF THE  
IMPARTIALITY COMMITTEE



**RICHARD DAVIDSON, SOUTH AFRICA**  
JOINED AS FINANCE MANAGER



**SASHIKA RAJAPAKSE, SRI LANKA**  
JOINED AS AN AGRICULTURE ASSESSOR



# OUR COMPETENCE



We believe that high-quality accreditation starts with a skilled and well-supported team.

Each year, we invest significantly in enhancing the skills and competence of our technical personnel.

**Our 2024 Annual Training Week took place in Istanbul** in January and brought together our Client Service Managers and Assessors. This in-person training provided an essential opportunity to connect, share knowledge, and deepen both technical understanding and practical capabilities.

**To support continuous learning** throughout the year, we also delivered 22 web-based training sessions, totaling over 40 hours of instruction across a range of specialized topics.

These training courses ensure that our team remains current with scheme-specific requirements, including updates on COR, COSMOS, EU Organic, Freshcare, GLOBALG.A.P., GOTS, IFOAM and Textile Exchange.

Our Assessors also participated in internal procedural sessions designed to reinforce calibration, consistency, and quality in our work.

# COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

The continual development of our team's knowledge and skills reflects our ongoing commitment to keeping our team competent, agile, adaptable, and fully equipped to meet the evolving demands of sustainability accreditation. Investing in our team directly enhances the quality and credibility of the services we provide worldwide.

A screenshot of a Microsoft Teams meeting interface. The top bar shows the title 'COR refresher training' and the date 'May 30, 2024'. Below the title, a list of participants is displayed in a grid format. The participants are: Paul Esp... (blue), Andreas ... (blue), Joyce Ford (blue), Dániel S... (blue), Rekha Si... (blue), Sashika ... (blue), Amaia Al... (blue), and Bo Elzak... (blue). Each participant has a small circular profile picture and a small gear icon next to their name.

# ACKNOWLEDGING TRANSITIONS

2024 saw the departure of valued members from our governance team as they pursued additional opportunities in their personal and professional lives.



**ALEXANDRA THÖRING**  
FROM THE IMPARTIALITY COMMITTEE



**ROBERTO SETTI**  
FROM THE ACCREDITATION  
COMMITTEE

We extend our sincere thanks for their years of dedicated service and meaningful contributions to IOAS.



# OUR RANGE OF EXPERTISE: WHO WE WORK WITH

Over the past 25 years we have expanded the range of schemes and standards that we accredit. These include ISO international standards as well as schemes developed by regulators and private standard setters.

## AGRICULTURE



National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce - Australia

## TEXTILES



## COSMETICS



As part of our strategy we are committed to expanding our oversight to a broader range of sustainability-related schemes. This includes proactively engaging with emerging frameworks and aligning our efforts with upcoming global standards to ensure comprehensive assurance in line with our mission.



# OUR RANGE OF EXPERTISE: DIVERSE COMPETENCIES

With **over 27 years of experience**, IOAS has built a strong foundation in delivering a broad range of services—including full accreditation and assessments, monitoring and oversight, as well as advisory and training support. This depth of expertise enables us to respond effectively to the evolving needs of the conformity assessment sector.

IOAS remains firmly committed to delivering high-integrity, high-quality accreditation and assurance services, while maintaining a focus on cost-efficiency for Certification Bodies. Our extensive experience spans a diverse range of sectors, reflecting the depth and adaptability of our accreditation and oversight capabilities. These sectors include:



AGRICULTURE



ANIMAL WELFARE



AQUACULTURE &  
SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES



CHAIN OF CUSTODY



COSMETICS &  
HEALTHCARE



FAIR TRADE



FOOD & FEED SAFETY



INPUTS



NATURAL CLEANING  
PRODUCTS



RECYCLING



SOCIAL JUSTICE



TEXTILES



WILD HARVEST



## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND COLLABORATION

IOAS is a Multi-Lateral Agreement (MLA) signatory of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and its regional group, the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC). We regularly sit on IAF and APAC committees aimed at harmonizing the work of accreditation bodies and certification bodies across the world.



# ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

## BUILDING CONFIDENCE THROUGH INTEGRITY AND TRUST

We are proud of and deeply encouraged by the trust our Certification Bodies continue to place in IOAS. In our 2024 client survey, respondents identified our expertise, responsiveness, adaptability and human-centered approach as key strengths. Notably, several clients expressed that working with IOAS fosters a sense of continuous improvement, with one remarking, **'we can improve ourselves with you'**.

Our Technical team, led by Amaia Aldana, applies deep expertise and objectivity to every assessment and technical decision. These decisions are further reinforced by the Accreditation Committee, comprised of eight seasoned experts who provide invaluable guidance and oversight.

Led by Mafalda Carneiro, our Operations team is responsible for the careful planning and coordination of each assessment, ensuring a seamless process.

Our Client Service Managers serve as the primary liaison between IOAS and our client Certification Bodies, delivering consistent, personalized support throughout the assessment process. They manage all client communications, ensure clients are regularly updated on their process status and next steps, and coordinate the planning and administrative aspects of assessment activities.

As a team we strive to embody professionalism, flexibility, and empathy. We offer unwavering support while maintaining the highest standards of impartiality and objectivity.



AMAIA ALDANA  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR



MAFALDA CARNEIRO  
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



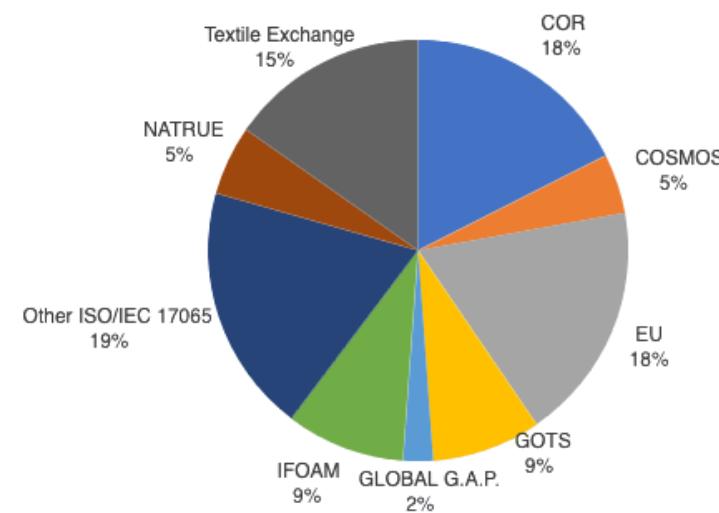
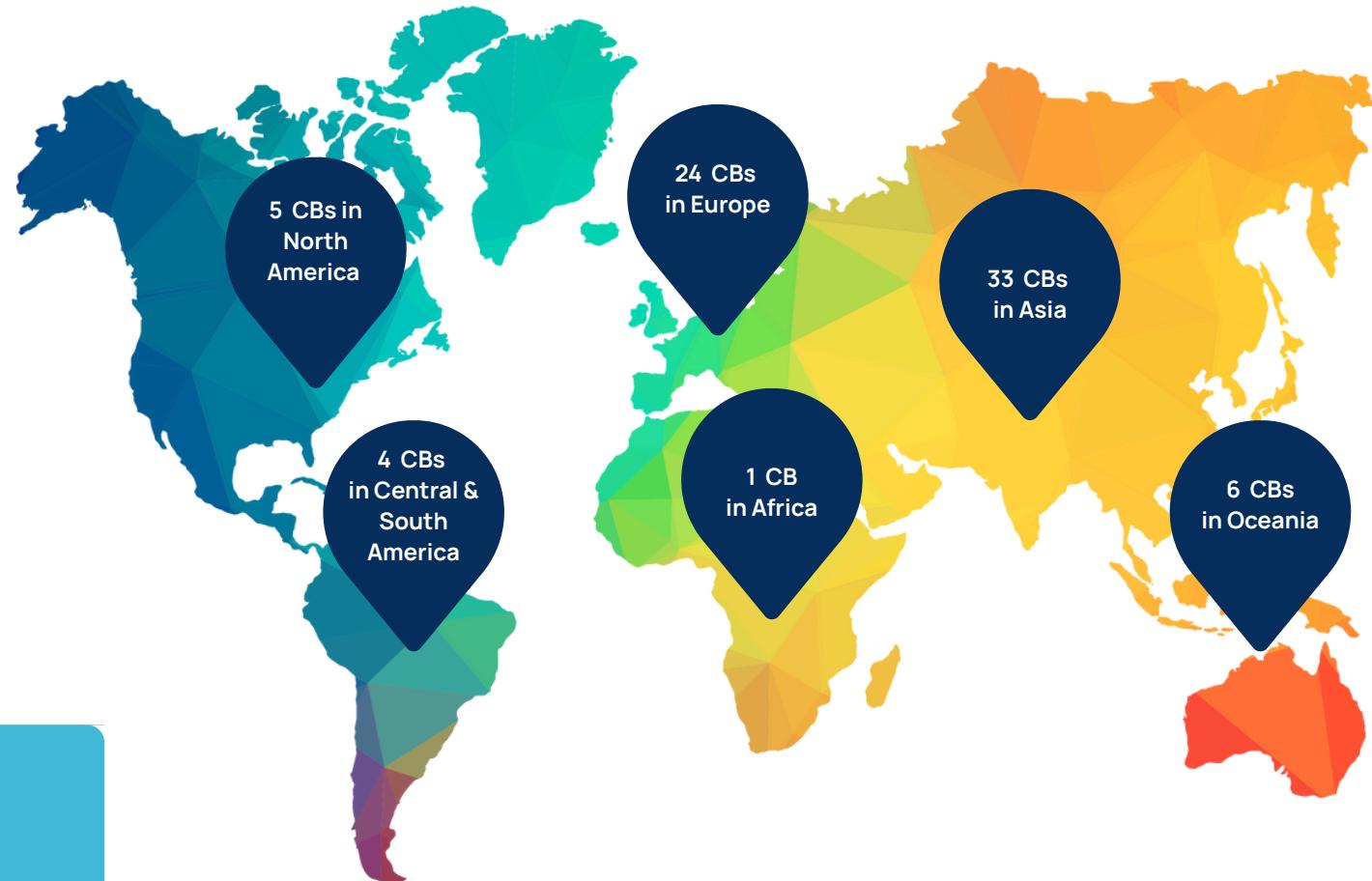
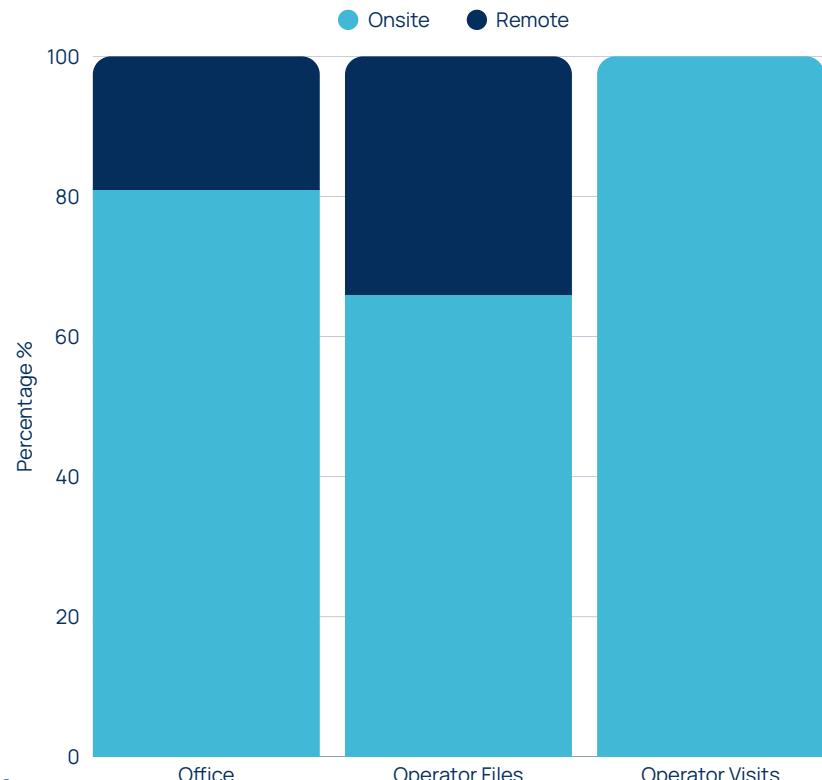
# OPERATIONS UPDATE

## IOAS CLIENTS BY HOME CONTINENT:

During 2024, IOAS worked with a total of 73 Certification Bodies, 6 applicants, and 67 with accredited status. Our CBs are located worldwide.

In July 2024, our Certification Bodies had 40,796 active issued certificates for their operators worldwide.

Our monitoring and assessment of these Certification Bodies involves a combination of file reviews and visits, which can take place either onsite or remotely. The breakdown for 2024 is as follows:



PROPORTION OF OFFERED ACCREDITATIONS



# EU TRANSITION TO COMPLIANCE

The intensive transition work initiated in 2023 continued in 2024, allowing IOAS to support the transition of Certification Bodies from equivalence to compliance under EU Regulation 2018/848.

Although the main assessment activities for transitioning CBs had been conducted in 2023, throughout 2024 IOAS closely supported CBs getting through the last requests from DG AGRI before successful recognition to compliance.

In addition, IOAS conducted first assessments to 9 new applicant Certification Bodies seeking compliance-based recognition.

During 2024, the European Commission recognized a total of **46 Certification Bodies** under the compliance framework of Regulation (EU) 2018/848. **Of these, 20 were accredited by IOAS**, reaffirming IOAS's central role in ensuring that global organic certification aligns with EU standards.



# DELIVERING EFFICIENCIES THROUGH DIGITALIZATION

The years 2023 and 2024 marked a significant period of digital transformation for IOAS, driven by our commitment to improving operational efficiency, reducing assessment costs, and enhancing the value delivered to our clients. A major milestone was the launch of our Accreditation Management System in 2023.

This comprehensive system centralizes all client and assessment data, streamlining workflows for both IOAS Assessors and other members of our team. Assessment forms are completed directly within the system, with data instantly available for internal review. The system also enables the efficient generation of client-facing reports in PDF format, significantly reducing administrative effort and turnaround times.

The secure client portal, introduced alongside the system, enhances transparency and communication. It supports the submission and tracking of non-conformity findings and corrective actions and provides clients with real-time access to their approved scopes, the current status of their accreditation assessments, and downloadable reports and certificates. According to client survey feedback received in 2024, 74% of respondents rated the portal as "Easy" or "Very easy" to use.

The system also features robust, built-in reporting capabilities, supporting both scheduled and on-demand reporting to meet various internal and external requirements.

Since the system's launch, IOAS has remained committed to continuous improvement. Ongoing development efforts are focused on further enhancing client experience and optimizing both accreditation and operational processes.



# MARKETING AND COLLABORATION: OUR NEW WEBSITE

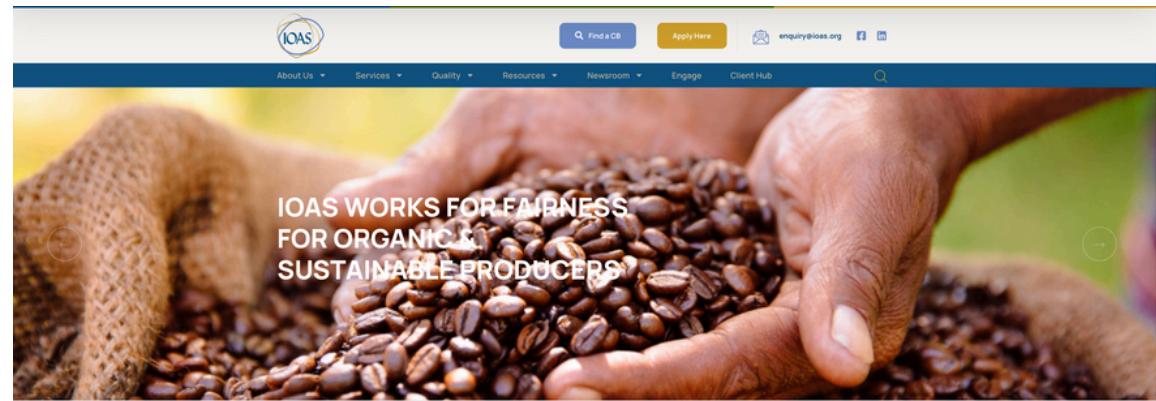
In 2024, we unveiled a redesign of our corporate branding and communications.

A key part of this transformation was the launch of our **newly redesigned, modern and user-friendly website**. The new site offers streamlined navigation, enhanced functionality, and quick access to essential information about our Certification Bodies.

It also provides a comprehensive overview of the sectors we currently support and the full scope of our global services.

Whether you're a Certification Body, regulator, or engaged in any part of the organic and sustainability sectors, we invite you to explore the new site and discover a range of tools, resources, and insights:

 [www.ioas.org](http://www.ioas.org)



IOAS WORKS FOR FAIRNESS,  
FOR ORGANIC &  
SUSTAINABLE PRODUCERS

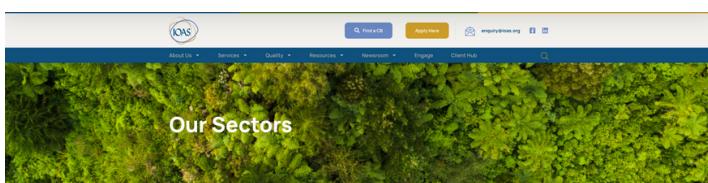


Why Accreditation  
matters

*Enabling trust in Organic and Sustainability Claims*

Accreditation of certification bodies is an independent assessment of competence against agreed rules set by private or government schemes. IOAS is a specialist and leader in this role for organic and sustainability standards, providing confidence to buyers and consumers.

[Find out more](#)



**Our Sectors**

We collaborate with leading voluntary sustainability standards and initiatives to help you advance both your business objectives and sustainability goals. By aligning our expertise with your vision, we ensure that your sustainability commitments are met with the highest level of assurance and integrity.

IOAS is currently looking to provide accreditation and/or assessment services across additional sectors and schemes. We invite Certification Bodies or Scheme Owners to contact us to discuss your needs. Please email us at [enquiries@ioas.org](mailto:enquiries@ioas.org)



AGRICULTURE    ANIMAL WELFARE    AQUACULTURE & SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES    CHAIN OF CUSTODY



**Programs**

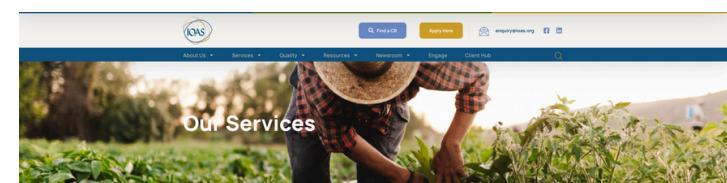
IOAS is a specialist in the provision of product certification accreditation. Many organic and sustainability schemes we work with are based on, or refer to, ISO/IEC 17065. This standard is the generic baseline requirement for certification bodies that want to demonstrate their competence to scheme owners and regulators.

Standard setters and regulators define sector-specific requirements to formulate scheme requirements to meet their needs. IOAS can assist scheme owners in defining such requirements or provide feedback to ensure the requirements are suitable.

The sectors IOAS is currently active in relate to organic and sustainability and cover the following sectors:

■ Agriculture	■ Inputs
■ Animal Welfare	■ Natural Cleaning Products
■ Aquaculture and Fisheries	■ Recycling
■ Chain of Custody	■ Social Justice
■ Cosmetics & Healthcare	■ Textiles
■ Fair Trade	■ Wild Harvest
■ Food & Feed	

[Product Certification](#)



**Our Services**

The assurance partner of choice for leading voluntary sustainability standards and initiatives.

IOAS has been delivering accreditation and assurance services worldwide for over 27 years. Our reputation for high standards and integrity has earned us the respect of private and regulatory scheme owners alike. We take pride in being a trusted authority across the organic and sustainability sectors.

We offer a comprehensive suite of services, including full accreditation, assessments, monitoring and oversight, advisory services and training – all designed to build trust and facilitate trade. IOAS is committed to providing quality accreditation and assurance services of high integrity at the lowest possible cost to certification bodies and other partners.

We ourselves are continuously supervised by various government and international agencies.

IOAS is proud of the recognition we've achieved, which affirms our position as the accreditation provider of choice and underscores our unwavering commitment to excellence.



PRE-ASSESSMENT    ACCREDITATION    ASSESSMENT

# STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

## Biofach Nuremberg 2024

IOAS was proud to participate in Biofach 2024, the world's leading trade fair for organic products, held in Nuremberg, Germany. Our stand served as a vibrant hub where we welcomed our clients, explored new collaborations, and held constructive meetings with scheme owners and stakeholders.

These in-person interactions proved invaluable, offering opportunities to deepen relationships, address emerging needs, and explore new avenues for collaboration.

As part of the Biofach Congress, IOAS Technical Director, Amaia Aldana, contributed to a high-level panel discussion, sharing insights on our approach to EU recognition for compliance, highlighting our expertise and commitment to global integrity in organic certification.



## IFOAM Organics International Organic World Congress 2024

IOAS Executive Director, Lauren Carlyle, attended the Organic World Congress 2024 held in Taiwan. The event serves as an inspiring and impactful gathering of global stakeholders in the organic agriculture movement. Featuring dynamic plenary sessions and topical workshops, the Organic World Congress 2024 provided a valuable platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration aimed at advancing organic practices worldwide.



## Biofach India 2024

IOAS proudly participated in Biofach India 2024 for the first time, an event organized by NürnbergMesse and APEDA, with IFOAM - Organics International serving as the international patron.

The event provided an excellent platform for meaningful engagement—yielding productive meetings, encouraging feedback from Certification Bodies, and forging promising new connections.

Our presence at Biofach India highlights the strategic importance of our global reach and demonstrates the growing relevance of the Asian market in the organic and sustainability sectors. The experience confirmed Biofach India's potential as a key hub for ongoing regional collaboration.



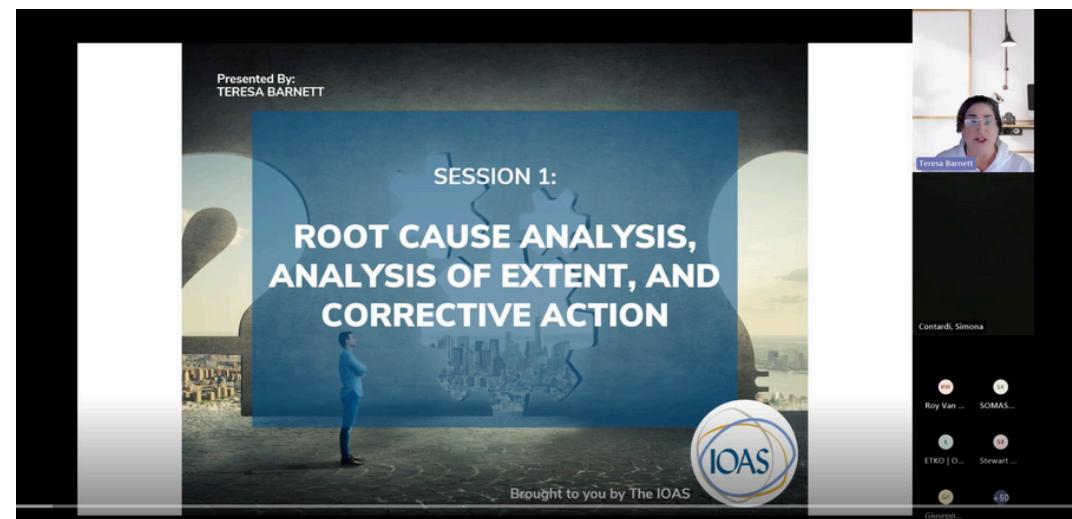
# STRENGTHENING SUPPORT THROUGH CLIENT WEBINARS

In 2024 we launched a new series of **complimentary webinars** designed to inform and support our clients more effectively. These sessions address key topics relevant to maintaining compliance and improving operational practices.

In June, we debuted the webinar **“Root Cause Analysis, Analysis of Extent, and Corrective Action,”** which drew an impressive number of participants. To complement the session, IOAS also published a detailed **guidance document** on the same topic. Clients are regularly encouraged to view the webinar or consult the guidance prior to preparing their corrective action responses following an IOAS assessment.

In November, IOAS hosted a second webinar titled **“Overview of Traceability & Volume Reconciliation”**—a critical area frequently associated with non-conformities. Once again, attendance exceeded expectations, highlighting the relevance of the subject matter.

Due to strong engagement and ongoing demand, **additional sessions** have continued into 2025, reinforcing our commitment to supporting our clients proactively.



# INTEGRITY & QUALITY

IOAS plays a crucial role in ensuring the credibility and integrity of Certification Bodies that operate in organic and sustainability-related sectors. Our quality and integrity initiatives are structured around robust accreditation systems, global standards, and rigorous oversight.

## ENHANCEMENTS IN OUR QUALITY SYSTEM

Our quality and integrity initiatives are strategically designed to uphold confidence in organic and sustainability claims across global markets. Through rigorous evaluations, ongoing monitoring, and transparent governance, IOAS safeguards the credibility of certified products, ensuring they meet established standards. These efforts contribute to consumer protection, support equitable trade practices, and advance the global commitment to sustainable agriculture.

2024 saw significant enhancements and new initiatives in several areas.

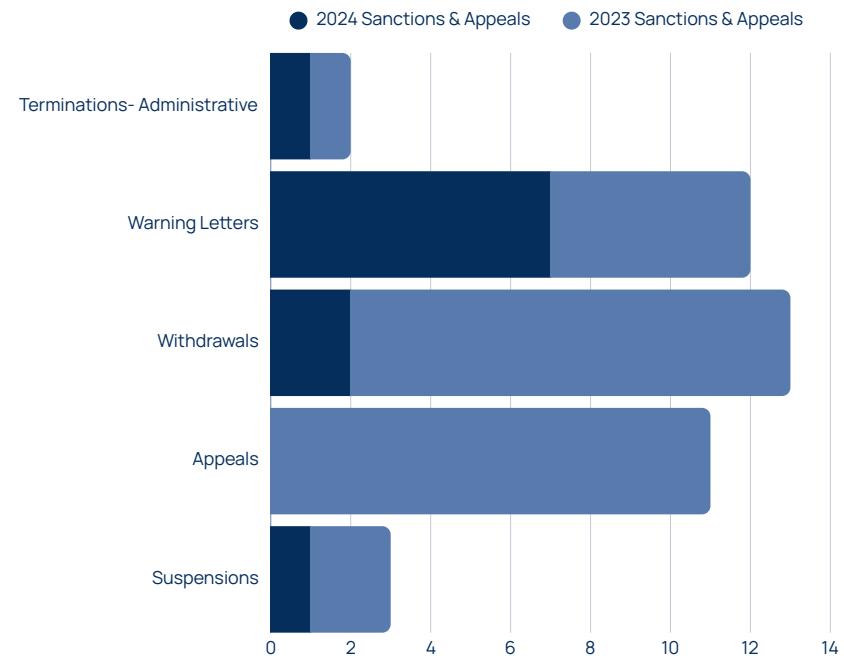
We improved our accreditation decision-making process by transitioning from full Accreditation Committee reviews to a streamlined three-member Accreditation Panel. This change has enhanced efficiency, enabling more timely decisions and an improved experience for our clients.

IOAS also introduced a series of complimentary informational webinars for our clients, a practice that will continue into 2025 and beyond. These sessions are designed to provide targeted guidance on common areas of non-compliance and recurring challenges faced by clients. By addressing these issues proactively, the webinars aim to support clients in reducing the number of findings during assessments and to promote a more efficient and effective corrective action process.



# INTEGRITY AND QUALITY: FEWER SANCTIONS

In 2024, IOAS imposed significantly fewer sanctions compared to previous years, resulting in a corresponding decline in the number of appeals. Notably, 2024 marked the first year in many that no appeals were filed.



# INTEGRITY AND QUALITY: FEWER COMPLAINTS

Notable improvements were achieved in the area of complaints management in 2024, reflected both in a reduction in the number of complaints received and in significantly shorter resolution times. The average time to fully resolve all types of complaints **decreased to 47 days**, compared to 81 days in 2023—demonstrating our continued commitment to timely and effective issue resolution.



**Complaints from External  
Parties regarding Client CBs: 18  
in 2024 (compared to 45 in 2023)**



**Complaints regarding  
IOAS: 4 in 2024  
(compared to 14 in 2023)**

## SUCCESSFUL EVALUATIONS AND REVIEWS

IOAS also underwent two important external evaluations in 2024:

In March, the **Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC)** conducted its routine peer evaluation of IOAS, including the observation of two on-site assessments in March and April. Four comments were noted and only one non-conformity was cited. IOAS's corrective action response was accepted and approved on the first submission. As a result, IOAS remains an MLA signatory in good standing with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

In June, the **Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)** conducted a witness audit of IOAS to confirm our ongoing compliance with accreditation body requirements under the Canada Organic Regime (COR). Although one area for improvement was identified, no non-conformities were cited.



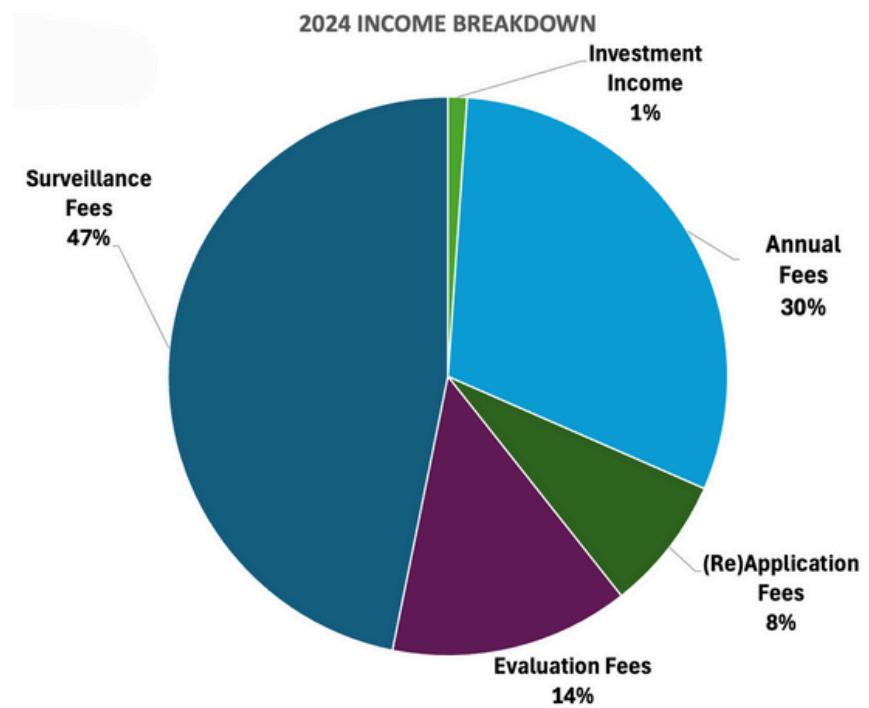


## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The recruitment of a new Finance Manager in 2024 marked a key step forward in strengthening IOAS's financial governance. Enhancements were made across financial planning, budgeting, reporting, and internal controls, aligning our financial management practices with evolving organizational needs and best practices.

We continued to see steady growth in the invested portion of our strategic reserves, reflecting our commitment to responsible financial stewardship. In addition, capital investments in the digitalization of our accreditation system were completed during the year, positioning IOAS for greater operational efficiency. Our seed funding commitment to the Alliance for Organic Integrity also concluded in 2024, which will positively impact future cash flow.

Total revenue for 2024 was \$1,810,933, with over 98% generated from assessments of Certification Bodies. The remaining income was derived from investment returns. Assessment income is categorized into Annual Fees and Assessment Income, which includes both reassessments and annual surveillance activities.



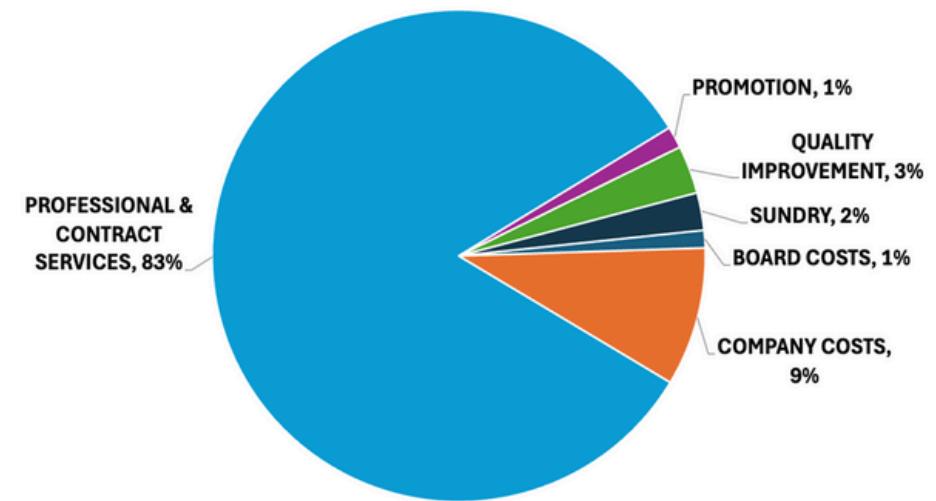


## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

We take pride in maintaining a highly specialized in-house team of assessors and support personnel, which remains central to the quality and consistency of our services. Staff costs thereby account for 83% of total expenditure.

The remaining 17% of expenditure was allocated to essential operational areas, including general company overheads, Board activities, quality improvement and training initiatives, and promotional efforts.

### 2024 EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



## OUR CLIENTS



# WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY



## IOAS Accreditation Helps OFDC Improve Competence

Since 2003, when we were first accredited by IFOAM, we have been receiving IOAS accreditation services for more than 20 years. During this period, with the help of IOAS, as a small certification body established in 1994 in China, OFDC has gradually brought its certification system and personnel competence up to international standards and have successfully obtained official accreditation from the European Union and Canada. Through these accreditations, OFDC have been able to carry out certification to EU equivalence standard, Canadian organic standards, and its own standard, helping Chinese producers to promote their products on the international market, and establishing OFDC's leading position in the field of organic certification in China.

Over the past 20 years, we have come into contact with IOAS assessors from different cultural backgrounds, who are professional, rigorous, intensive and patient, and whose findings provide good opportunities for OFDC to improve and open up OFDC's vision. Even during the 2000-2022 pandemic, IOAS did not stop its accreditation service, and ensured the quality of accreditation through online file audits, staff interviews, and online witnessing of OFDC's onsite inspections. IOAS also keeps OFDC up to date with information on organic regulations and standards, and provides timely feedback on our questions, so that we can follow the latest developments in the industry.

(testimonial provided by OFDC in May, 2024)

Firstly, we would like to commend IOAS for its esteemed reputation among accreditation bodies. Your organization has built a solid foundation in the industry, and it is well-regarded for its rigorous standards and dedication to maintaining the integrity of the accreditation process. IOAS's expertise in the organic and recycling sectors is particularly noteworthy, and we have always been impressed with the depth of knowledge and professionalism demonstrated by your team.

One of the aspects we appreciate most about IOAS is your commitment to transparency. The detailed information you provide to your clients helps us stay informed and confident in the accreditation process. This level of transparency fosters trust and ensures that all stakeholders are aligned with the high standards set by IOAS.

Despite the challenges, we at USB Certification firmly stand by stringent regulations and appreciate IOAS's commitment to maintaining high standards. We believe that rigorous scrutiny is essential for ensuring the credibility of certifications and upholding the values of the industry. We have consistently found that the detailed evaluations and thorough audits conducted by IOAS significantly enhance the quality and reliability of our certification processes.

As highlighted in the 2023 Annual Report, we noted IOAS's continued efforts to enhance its services and adapt to the evolving needs of the industry. Your focus on sustainability, ethical practices, and continuous improvement aligns perfectly with our values at USB Certification. We particularly appreciate the initiatives aimed at supporting organic integrity and promoting ethical practices in the industry.

As a responsible player in the certification sector, we fully support IOAS's efforts to maintain high standards of accreditation. We believe that your independent, impartial, and transparent management sets a benchmark for the industry, and we are proud to be associated with an organization that prioritizes these values.

In conclusion, we are grateful for the support and services provided by IOAS. Your dedication to excellence and integrity greatly contributes to the credibility and trust in the certification processes. We look forward to continuing our partnership and supporting your mission to uphold the highest standards in the industry.

(testimonial provided by USB in May, 2024)



# ALLIANCE FOR ORGANIC INTEGRITY

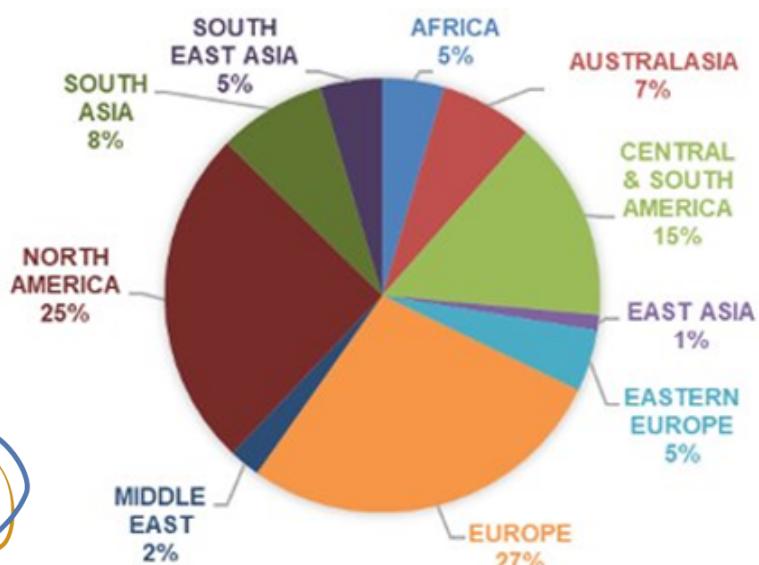
## – AN UPDATE

Following the 20th Anniversary IOAS Seminar in Delhi in 2017, IOAS established the Alliance for Organic Integrity (AOI) to address integrity issues within the organic guarantee system that fall outside the scope of accreditation.

AOI's mission is "to be the global multistakeholder Alliance that delivers the education, tools, and resources needed to enhance quality in organic control, uphold the integrity of organic certification, and maintain consumer confidence in the organic label." The Alliance collaborates with partners who share the goal of strengthening organic assurance globally.

Recently joined partners include the Accredited Certifiers Association (ACA), IFOAM Asia, AFOUA development services limited (Uganda) and Parthavi Organic Vision Pvt. Ltd. (India), bringing the total number of partners to 18. At the end of 2024, Francis Blake stepped down as chair.

At the end of 2024, we launched the Organic Integrity Mapping project with a report becoming available end of 2024. It is the first ever global mapping, situation analysis of the organic integrity landscape. 87 respondents. Apart from asking them what they do, we triggered them to identify gaps, recent initiatives to address them, and ways to communicate and collaborate to work on deficiencies, which the Alliance for Organic Integrity could facilitate. Since then the Alliance has looked for support to follow up.



In 2024/25, the Alliance continued to deliver training to organic professionals, including with the International Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA) and Accredited Certifiers Association (ACA). It maintains an ongoing collaboration with IOIA to develop a credentialing system for inspectors and CB personnel such as inspection planners, report reviewers and certification decision makers.

The Alliance participated in Biofach 2025, using the IOAS stand as a base. Even though the AOI was not directly involved in any events itself, our presence was good to maintain contact with a variety of actors in the organic world. The Alliance's Organic Observatory continues to work on one or two case studies of fraudulent commodity supply chains, but this is sensitive information, under NDA.

The Organic Standard has published issue number 200 on July 1, 2025. A survey was launched to evaluate-modernize its format and subscriber strategy, and we appreciate your responses to help improve this valuable educational and communication resource. For more information or to subscribe, please visit: [www.organicstandard.com](http://www.organicstandard.com).

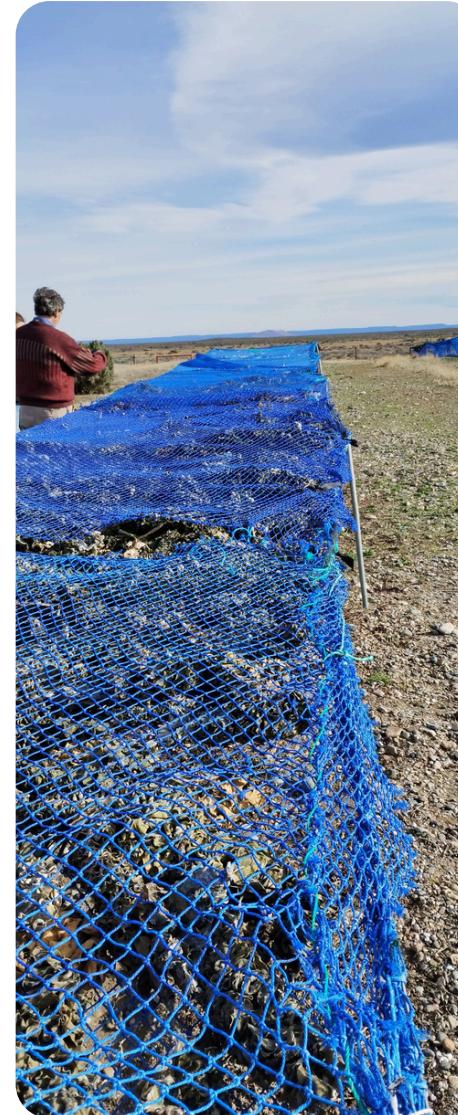
Bo van Elzakker  
Secretary - Treasurer

# ASSESSOR STORIES

## ARGENTINA: SEAWEED PROCESSING



- **Assessor:** Jennyfer Karall
- **Witness Audit:** EU; operation: collection and processing of different types of seaweed
- **Photos courtesy of:** Jennyfer Karall



# ASSESSOR STORIES

## KENYA: TEA

- **Assessor:** Dániel Szalai
- **Witness Audit:** EU; operation: tea leaf processing
- **Photo courtesy of:** Dániel Szalai





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