



# IMPACT REPORT 2021

## PART 1

La Luce was officially born on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2021. But in our heads, Marco's and mine, it came to life years ago, when I fell in love with creating jewellery and he pushed and believed in my potential. It started when we discussed names that would roll nicely on the tongue, it started when we spent all our time dreaming about it. Working alone, having to face all the decisions in my overachieving and overthinking mind, isolated, wasn't ideal for me just like a corporate job wasn't for him. And so, in June, we jumped.

While only six months have passed since then, we want to create strong foundations to build our company, so this will be our first impact assessment.

La Luce was never about money, there are many easier ways to make money. La Luce is a necessity for me, it's my language, it's our values, it's our way to feel like our daily job has a purpose beyond mere consumerism. We don't live in a vacuum, each of our actions has an impact and we should be held responsible for them. Our purpose is to share some of the value we can create with the rest of our supply chain. Jewellery presents a unique opportunity to bring together artisans and small business owners from every corner of the world: from miners in Peru and Madagascar to cutters in Sri Lanka and Italian casemakers.

We are outsiders in this world, we don't come from a goldsmith family, we don't have secret and established suppliers, and everything we do comes from a place of learning, understanding, and doing the best we can within our reach. We will grow and our policies will grow with us, but our values are the invisible strings that sway our decisions. The most fundamental one is that our creations shouldn't come at the expense of others.

## GOAL

To become a benefit corporation and start our journey of transforming into a B-corp. This is part of our effort to be a well-rounded, responsible company. Being a benefit corporation means every year we are not only accountable for our financial balance but also for the overall impact we have on all our stakeholders.



## PART 2

In the first 6 months of our company, we haven't hired any employee. Since our items are one-of-a-kind pieces and my passion is the creation of the jewels itself, we don't plan to hire any employees in the near future. This year we collaborated with other companies and workers, such as an accountant, an electrician, or the company that supplied our machines. That being said, we cherish all the workers along our supply chain, but we focus on those in more vulnerable positions. Specifically, our focus is on the conditions of workers coming from underserved areas in the world. We try to reduce this problem by buying our materials from suppliers like Francesco Belloni who sells Fairmined gold and silver or Wennick-Lefevre who is our sapphire supplier, both pay a premium to the miners and the cutters.

NAME	MATERIAL	PREMIUM	TRACEABILITY	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
Altro Carato	Fairmined gold and silver	4000USD/Kg gold and 100 USD/kg silver.	Yes, mostly Peru and Colombia.	High, controlled use of chemicals, land restoration required.
Wennick-Lefevre	Untreated sapphires	Between 30-50% higher than the market price for rough and 50% higher for cutting.	Yes, rough from Illakaka and cut at Sunrise Facets in Sri Lanka.	Low, mining done by shovel in shallow pits. One tree is planted per purchased gemstone.
Stuller	Canadamark diamonds	No premium neither in Canada (mining) nor in India (cutting).	Yes, rough from northern Canada, no disclosure on cutting facilities in India.	High, large open pit mine in northern Canada, land restoration projects and water protection.
Aurhen Ecofair	Untreated tourmalines	No premium, but wages above average for miners and cutters.	Yes, mined and cut in Brazil, from the Soares Family.	Low, small pits, small impact on the landscape, no significant impact on the soil, water and air.

## GOAL

To gather more knowledge on every step of our supply chain, especially the cutting conditions for our Canadamark diamonds in India. Also, we would like to use our purchases to empower communities more in need than Canadian ones. Buying Canadian diamonds insures us they are conflict free and don't exploit communities but doesn't help those communities that depend on diamonds and whose life depends on this trade.



## PART 3

Our supply chain is a fundamental part of our narrative, not only because our gems and metals are the building blocks of our creations but because of the humans who discovered them. Humans that depend on the riches of their land to support their families and communities. We want their life stories to be an integral part of the story of our jewels. The Jewellery industry is not known for its transparency and honesty. Some large corporations have destroyed the land of native populations, and these materials still fuel conflicts to this day. This is why knowing our sources and having a genuine and personal relationship with our suppliers is very important for us. Establishing fair and long-lived bonds with our suppliers gives us the chance to ask questions and get to know the whole supply chain they engage in. Moreover, having chosen mostly small to mid-size businesses we have the chance to shorten our supply chain, speak directly with the owners, and understand their values and stories.

At the moment, our suppliers are divided into two categories, the first category regards materials that are mined in historically exploited areas, and the second category regards working with small local businesses.

NAME	MATERIAL	TYPE OF CORPORATION	BENEFITING COMMUNITY	LOCATION	CONS
Altro carato	Fairmined gold and silver	Small, family-owned company, part of the Fairmined circuit.	Mining communities through fair wages and the Fairmined premium	Shop Milan, mines mostly Peru and Colombia	Gold mining still has a significant carbon footprint. ASM uses more human labour and less machines, in smaller family run mines, this lowers the carbon footprint. The gold has to travel from South America to Europe.
Wennick-Lefevre	Untreated sapphires	Small, family-owned company.	Mining communities and cutting communities through fair wages and premium	Shop Copenhagen, Rough from Illakaka (Madagascar) and cut at Sunrise Facets in Sri Lanka	Mining still has a carbon footprint, but this kind of mining has a very low carbon footprint as it is mostly done by hand. The gems travel from Madagascar to Sri Lanka to Copenhagen to Italy.
Stuller	Canadamark diamonds	Large enterprise	Mining communities in Canada through fair wages. We have no assurances on the wages in India.	Northern Canada, cutting facilities in India.	Diamond mining has a large carbon footprint associated with the vast amount of land needed to mine diamonds. The diamonds are shipped from Canada to India and then to the USA and then to Italy.

Aurhen Ecofair	Untreated tourmalines	Small, family-owned company.	Mining and cutting communities through above average wages.	Brazil	Mining still has a carbon footprint, but this kind of mining has a very low carbon footprint at it is mostly done by hand. The gems travel from Brazil to Germany and then Italy.
Floriani Astucci	Jewellery boxes	Small, family-owned company.	Sponsoring handmade goods, made by hand in Italy, fair wages and local artisans employed.	Bologna, Italy	We don't have 100% control on all of the components that make up the jewellery boxes, the white velvet however was supplied by us, and it is organic cotton velvet.
Mastri cartai	Outer jewellery boxes	Small local shop	Local artisans own the shop that sells handmade paper, boxes and books.	Bologna, Italy	As far as we know the cardboard used isn't recycled or FSC certified.
Mealli	Jewellery supplies	Small, family-run shop.	Local communities	Firenze, Italy	We don't have control over where the supplies come from, we generally prefer files made in Italy or Switzerland and burrs made in Japan, but we don't have always the chance to choose.
Lampa	Non certified metals and jewellery supplies	Small, family-run shop.	Local communities	Firenze, Italy	We don't have any control over the provenance of copper and palladium. We don't have control over where the supplies come from, we generally prefer files made in Italy or Switzerland and burrs made in Japan, but we don't have always the chance to choose.

## GOAL

Our goal for 2022 is to gain knowledge on who are the beneficiaries of our supply chain and find other smaller enterprises that we can support.



## PART 4

As much as we would love to concentrate only on our jewels and let the chips fall where they may, the world is burning and even a small-sized company like ours has a carbon footprint and we should be held accountable for it. Our first decision was to work with a cooperative that produces and shares renewable energy with its members. We became partners of “è nostra” in 2020 when our company wasn’t even legal yet. “È nostra” fuels our machines, lights, and electronic equipment. We don’t have any kind of gas heating system, but our heating is centralised, making us unable to control the supplier of the whole building. This is why, when calculating our carbon footprint, we considered the average national mix.

That being said, our tiny workshop doesn’t have a very high electricity expenditure. Heating and cooling demand much more energy, and we have calculated that because of it we have emitted around 1800 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.

This year, thanks to COVID, we haven’t been able to travel a lot, and although we are sorry for it, that also means we haven’t emitted any CO<sub>2</sub> due to flights, we have however travelled by car and by train.

In our carbon footprint report, we also listed the travels the various materials need to embark on to reach us, (within the best of our knowledge), and our shipping.

We also decided to use hydrogen and oxygen to fuel our flame, this means that the combustion creates water rather than CO<sub>2</sub>, but we don’t have any control over the source of the hydrogen, and often hydrogen is derived from methane, which is oxidised to give hydrogen gas and CO<sub>2</sub>. We don’t know if this is true for our suppliers.

2021 total calculated emissions: 2030kg. \*

Of these we decided to compensate for the first part, which we had calculated early in the year when we didn’t have the data on heating with Climeworks, and then another 2 tons with goclimate, which is an offset program. We decided to invest in the Greenko renewable energy project in India. We know that this is not a solution, but we need to establish a baseline for our carbon footprint in order to reduce it and since we are not close to 0, we believe it’s still better to offset rather than not. Throughout every decision we make we keep in mind how much we consume; we keep the heating low and the air conditioning to the minimum, we turn on the lights only when they are necessary, and we turn off the machines and the computers when we are not using them.

\*Even though we established the company in 2021 I had already been working in our workshop starting from 2020, so we calculated the emissions from the beginning of the year.

## GOAL

Our goal for 2022 is to establish a yearly baseline, and then possibly to bring in a professional carbon footprint measuring company.

One of the perks of working with precious metals and gems is that, (unless broken) they are 100% recyclable without compromising the quality. This means that every jewel can be forever recycled. This is one of the features we love the most about jewellery and it is what has given life to our “circle of life” program. Even though we know this is not as disruptive as it would be in other sectors, giving our clients the chance to bring back their jewels and have them modified or remade, for a fraction of the price, lets us shorten the chain and send less material to the refineries. In this

way we hope our clients will buy less jewellery and use more the pieces they own as they can change and grow with them.

With this idea in mind, we can build our jewels minimising, whenever possible, the parts that will need refining when the jewel is disassembled. Moreover, working with our own alloys gives us complete control over the kind and percentage of metal and colour we have used, and this helps us to reuse the metal without having to necessarily go to the refiner.

## GOAL

Find a way to also change the boxes so that they can be remade and not thrown away.

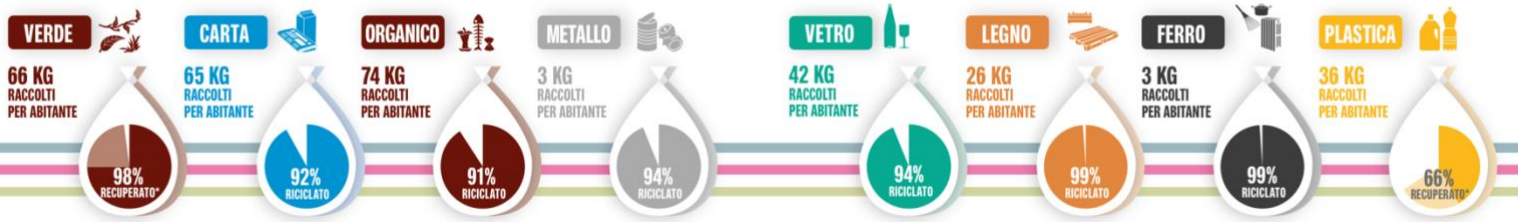
As we have stated before, we understand the impact mining has on the environment. Unfortunately, there aren't any studies we are aware of, that state the impact of the specific mines we are currently working with, but we have some general ideas on the impact of mines. Diamond mining is the biggest polluter out of the raw materials we buy. Diamonds are found quite deep under the surface, a lot of ore has to be dug out to find diamonds, and this creates a huge open-air pit. The pits in Canada are regulated and have programs to restore the land after the mine has been extinguished. Gold mines also have a big impact on the environment, but since we have decided to use only Fairmined gold, these mines are smaller, require more workforce, and have a lower carbon footprint than "regular" mines. Gold mining often requires the use of mercury and cyanide, but in Fairmined certified mines when these chemicals are used, they are used with all the necessary health and safety measures, and none of it is dispersed in the environment. Coloured gemstones have less invasive mines as the gemstones are found in shallower pits and most of the work is done with a shovel.

## GOAL

Find new suppliers, especially for diamonds, that will bring a bigger positive impact on the community and less to big companies.

Our region in Italy fortunately offers a good recycling system and most plastics used are recyclable. We are recycle-obsessed people and we religiously recycle: paper, plastics, wood, iron, glass, electronics and organic waste (since we mostly eat at the workshop a plant-based diet). We haven't yet disposed of any harmful chemical that might be used to power our micro-flame and pickle solution, but since I am a chemist, we are going to analyse the liquids and only then have them disposed by the appropriate company (as Italian regulations require). In this way we can control what happens to the few chemicals we use. The scheme below is a representation of recycling in our region by the company in charge of disposing of our waste.

### QUANTO È STATO RECUPERATO?



■ \*75% RICICLATO  
■ \*23% A RECUPERO ENERGETICO



■ \*43% RICICLATO  
■ \*23% A RECUPERO ENERGETICO



The most disappointing data is the one concerning plastics, and even if we religiously divide all the different plastics, we hope in the coming years the percentage of recycled plastic will grow. This data however is higher than the 2025 EU goal. Our company as such doesn't produce much plastic, occasionally packaging of very delicate items comes in bubble wrap but we reuse it. Most of the waste we produce comes from living every day in our workshop.

## GOAL

Have our own compost bin to avoid organic waste going into the region's incinerator. Analyse all the liquids we are disposing of that have been chemically altered from their original state and dispose of them in best possible way.



## PART 5

Since our company comprises only 2 people at the moment, we are fully aware of the limited impact we can have on our supply chain and stakeholders. That being said we fully believe that this company needs to be founded on very strong and important values so that we can grow without losing our roots.

Our goals for 2022:

- Our main goal is to become a Benefit Corporation, to do so we have to change the “statuto” of our company and change our legal structure. Once we become a Benefit Corporation, we will be held accountable not only for our financial situation but also for the impact we have on all our stakeholders. This is also the first step to becoming a B-Corp-certified company.
- Learning as much as we can on our supply chain and, if we can, find better ways to support mining communities through the purchase of gemstones and diamonds that come from small artisanal miners and cutters.
- Establish a yearly baseline for our CO2 footprint in a year where we are able to travel.
- Finding a company that would third-party certify our carbon footprint.
- Gathering more knowledge on carbon offsetting and finding trusted suppliers to offset our carbon footprint.
- Find a way to incorporate the boxes in the “circle of life” program.
- Buy a welder that will work with oxygen and hydrogen through electrolysis in order to avoid the possible use of methane as a source of Hydrogen.
- Purchase a composting bin and analyse the little waste that we have produced to dispose of it in the appropriate manner.





## PART 6

Here are the links to the websites of all the suppliers we have listed in our impact report.

- <https://fairmined.org> <http://www.altrocarato.it/it/>
- <https://www.stuller.com>
- <https://www.wennicklefevre.com>
- <https://aurhen.de>
- <https://www.enostra.it>
- <https://lampafirenze.com>
- <https://shop.mealli.it/index.php>
- <https://www.floriani-astucci.it/it/>
- <https://mastricartai.it>
- <https://www.gruppohera.it/documents/688182/0/Guarda+il+Report+Sulle+tracce+dei+rifiuti+2021.pdf/cb768b99-13f6-1c79-a950-a3e4cec297e1?t=1666617050646>
- <https://www.ratioform.it/searchresult/?searchQuery=terra>
- <https://climeworks.com>
- <https://www.goclimat.com>