



GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report

The Club at Nine Bridges

Prepared by independent verifier YS Baek

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2025
Recertification due: 2028

GEO Certified®

 **GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“Nine Bridges is in UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites, so it was planned very carefully at the beginning of the project. There is a preserved stream in the middle of the course so lots of species are observed by golfers. Nine Bridges has been renovating for several years to host the CJ Cup with playability and sustainability as key objectives. Non-maintenance areas have increased while fairways have been reduced. Nine Bridges also started using drones to predict grass condition and prevent disease in advance. I really value Nine Bridges’ efforts on sustainability. As a result of these efforts, I’m sure Nine Bridges will become a positive asset for Cheju Island.”

YS Baek

(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that The Club at Nine Bridges has successfully achieved GEO Certified® status for its outstanding work to foster nature, conserve resources and support the community.

GEO Certified® is the most respected certification for golf, based on a credibly and transparently developed modern sustainability Standard of best practice.

The Club at Nine Bridges has:

1. Met the required certification criteria for sustainable golf operations
2. Successfully completed the official third-party verification process
3. Successfully passed the final evaluation by GEO Certification Ltd. (autonomous subsidiary of GEO Foundation)

GEO agreed with the conclusions of the official verification report, that, having achieved all mandatory criteria; and with specific Continual Improvement Points (CIP) set for the future and Critical CIP's (CCIPs) to be reviewed at recertification, The Club at Nine Bridges should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, The Club at Nine Bridges can therefore claim a position as a leader in advancing sustainability in golf – making important contributions in protecting nature, conserving resources and strengthening communities.

The GEO Certified® Report that follows comments on the actions undertaken against the criteria, as observed by the independent verifier during the assurance process.

Certification is nearly always the result of a dedicated team effort resulting in many practical and valuable social and environmental results around the golf course, maintenance facility and clubhouse. These dedication and leadership qualities are an important part of ensuring the resilience of the golf facility and the golf industry into the future and also as part of society's wider effort to pull together for people and planet.

We congratulate all involved.

Jonathan Smith
Founder and Executive Director, GEO Foundation
GEO Certification Ltd. Board Member

Kelli Jerome
Executive Director, GEO Foundation

Carole Kerrey
Director, Certification and Credibility,
GEO Certification Ltd.



Verification and Certification

Verification

The official third-party audit was carried out by an independent verifier, accredited by GEO to undertake verifications of golf facilities applying for certification.

Verification involves reviewing practices and data, using the International Voluntary Standard for Sustainable Golf Operations as the guide to ensure comprehensive and consistent evaluation of performance. A detailed verification report is submitted for evaluation by GEO Certification Ltd, a subsidiary of GEO Foundation.

Certification

GEO Certification Ltd, an autonomous subsidiary of GEO Foundation [both not-for-profit entities], undertook a full review of all content submitted through the OnCourse® online platform and the report submitted by the verifier, ensuring:

- Comprehensiveness – that activities undertaken touched on all elements of the Standard
- Consistency – that the verification approach was balanced, well weighted and with consistent depth of evaluation across each theme
- Accuracy - matching the verification report with evidence submitted by the golf facility to ensure statements and claims were accurate

GEO Foundation is an international not-for-profit founded to advocate, support and reward sustainability in and through golf. Over more than ten years, the group has worked collaboratively with dozens of golf industry associations and government and non-government organisations around the world, to help golf become a sustainability leader, striving for a net positive social and environmental impact. In addition to managing and assuring GEO Certified®, GEO Foundation also provides a suite of credible, practical programmes for golf facility management, new golf developments and golf tournaments called OnCourse®, often delivered in partnership with national golf bodies. Find out more at www.sustainable.golf

Credibility

GEO Certified® is part of the ISEAL Alliance, a group of the world's foremost credible certification systems including Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Forest Stewardship Council, Marine Stewardship Council and many others. GEO Foundation earned and retains full membership of the ISEAL Alliance global association following a rigorous evaluation against the ISEAL Codes of Credibility in Sustainability Standards and Certification. The ISEAL Codes cover standard-setting, assurance, and monitoring and evaluation. Find out more at www.isealliance.org



Verifier's Report

The Sustainability Agenda for golf covers the following themes and action areas:

THEMES	ACTION AREAS
Nature	• Habitats & Biodiversity • Turfgrass management • Pollution prevention
Resources	• Water • Energy • Materials
Community	• Partnerships & Outreach • Golfing & Employment • Advocacy & Communications

Included below are the observations made by the Independent Verifier against each item in the Standard.

NATURE			
N1 Habitats and Biodiversity			
Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
N1.1 Understand the site and surroundings	N1.1.1 Sound understanding of the nature and landscape value of the site	Understand all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity knowledge and records	There is 31.4ha Native Woodland, 2ha Wildflower meadow and 1ha Wetland. There is 58.75ha total area of habitat. New environmental effect evaluation carried out in 2021 for StarVill project. 1,091 species were identified.
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or rare species found on the site	A creek is in the middle of the NB golf course which was designated as a protect stream by Cheju-Si. The Creek between No 3 hole and No 8 hole is preserved well. Lots of habitats are found around it. NB course maintenance team is taking care of the Creek. Roe deer are often seen on the course. Cheju island is one of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites, so every natural habitat in and out of the NB course must be taken care of very well.
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	N.A.
N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the course	N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass	Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play	CIP: Please use the new drone data to minimise maintained area i.e., identifying underutilised areas with scope for naturalisation.
N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife	N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf	Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping	NB have made a habitat management plan manually. This will be improved with the new drone data. CIP: Please monitor roe deer habitat regularly, potentially making a habitat map with the new drone.

N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		CIP: Please discuss roe deer conservation activities and action plans.
N2 Turfgrass			
N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health	N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors	Select appropriate grass species for climate	Cool Season Bent Grass was introduced due to Cheju Island's unique weather condition. Average temperature for the year(°C): 16.9>17.5 Lowest temperature(°C): -6>-3.4 (Jan.) Highest temperature(°C): 26.6>37.5°C(Aug) Annual precipitation(ml): 1,688>1,597ml The highest temperature raised and the annual precipitation in this area decreased so Bent Grass greens suffered much more than before on Cheju Island golf courses. Green Turfgrass : 1.22ha Tee Turfgrass :1.78ha Fairway Turfgrass :13.96ha Rough Turfgrass : 19.89ha Practice: 2.14ha NB started to interseed a new Bent Brass variety (SR1020) on the green from 2024m, which is more tolerant to hot weather.
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		Scarifying, aeration, verti-cutting and topdressing to improve soil structure and boost grass condition. Soil tests to understand soil ph.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	Soil tests and nutrient analysis were executed, and the result was informed to Seogwipo-Si every 6 months.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture;	Sharpening of mowing blades and changing mowing patterns periodically. Removal of surface moisture manually before introducing the drone. CIP: Please use the drone data to control surface moisture effectively.

N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly	N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues	Establish patterns and levels of risk for pests and diseases; Scout the course daily for early signs of pests and disease; Accurate pest and disease identification; Map and track pest and disease hotspots; Establish pest and disease thresholds	Maintained turfgrass area: 38.99ha DURA bunkers which were renovated by NB course maintenance team have reduced costs. NB adopted drones to predict grass condition in 2025. A lot of data has been accumulated, and they are using this for course maintenance now. CIP: Please use the drone data to minimize the weight of chemical applications to turf.
	N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	Use only legally registered and approved products; Ensure staff are fully qualified and licenced to use pesticides; Regularly calibrate and test applicators; Use appropriate protective equipment; Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of turf	Total weight of pesticides increased in 2023 due to hot weather.
N3 Pollution Prevention			
N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site	N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations	Procedures for emergency spill responses; Maintain mowing buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas; Maintain spraying and spreading buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas;	Several cascades are made through the creek to purify water. CCIP: Please use drone data to maintain spraying and spreading buffer zones around water, protecting all ecologically sensitive areas after careful review of playing quality.
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and wastewater discharge	All hazardous waste is safely stored and collected periodically by a licenced local collection company.

	N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations	Ensure wash areas are on impermeable, leak-free surfaces; Mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	All wash areas are on impermeable, leak-free surfaces. The maintenance facility has appropriate infrastructure and safeguards.
N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances	Maintain a register of hazardous materials available to authorised staff; Safe storage in secure and ventilated concrete or metal building; Sufficient storage capacity; Impermeable flooring; Spill containment kits present; Emergency wash area; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	A chemical/product log was reviewed and organized well. A sign board is attached next to the storage building gate. This confirms who is the authority. All materials are placed neatly on each shelf. All wash areas are on impermeable, leak-free surfaces. Fuel storage tanks are installed in the safety area and on an impermeable, leak-free surface.
N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water	N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage and discharge licences	Wastewater discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)	Licensed wastewater discharge and proper treatment. All treated wastewater is sent to the 18th lake (5.4ha) and recycled for irrigation.

RESOURCES

R1 Water

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
R1.1 Minimise water demand	R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water	Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only Appropriate grass species for the climate e.g., drought and disease tolerance	Groundwater is abstracted from the permitted 3 holes, one is for drinking (C/H, Condo) and the second and third are for irrigation of the course. However, the main irrigation water resource is rainfall and treated wastewater. All treated wastewater and rainfall water are captured and sent to the No. 18th hole lake (5.4ha) and recycled for irrigation. Drones were used to survey players and predict grass condition in 2025, so golf course maintenance will be more sustainable. CIP: As per N1.2.1 - please use the new drone data to minimise maintained area i.e., identifying underutilised areas with scope for naturalisation.
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course	Conduct regular irrigation performance checks; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Ensure effective application of water to target areas; Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture levels	Groundwater: 178,502(2022)-152,189(2023)-147,122(2024) Rain: 228,760(2022)-150,392(2023)-135,503(2024) Water consumption has been reduced. Course maintenance staff scout every morning to confirm grass and soil moisture condition. Manual irrigation for essential area, not using automatic irrigation system according to the above data. Categorised sprinkler heads and efficient irrigation prevent over watering.
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Audit water use regularly; Review bills frequently and look for irregularities; Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors;	Drinking water (C/H, Condo) is abstracted from the 3rd hole. CCIP: Please categorise and track water consumption in greater detail.

		Categorise and track water consumption	
R1.3 Source water responsibly	R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water	Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required	Groundwater abstracted from the permitted 3 holes - one is for drinking and the second and third are for irrigation. NB pays groundwater cost to Seogwipo –Si according to the amount of abstraction. The cost is more expensive than other local areas in Korea, so NB depends more on rainfall and treated water for irrigation. They only have abstracted groundwater in the dry season.
R2 Energy			
R2.1 Reduce energy demand	R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in course maintenance	Minimise areas of managed turf to reduce mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs	Electricity Consumption: 6,032,657(2022)-6302575(2023)-6355694(2024) Total amount of electricity consumption increased significantly due to Starvill, which was opened in 2022. CIP: As per N1.2.1 - Please use the new drone data to minimise maintained area i.e., identifying underutilised areas with scope for naturalisation. CIP: Please calculate, monitor and record the amount of electricity consumption without Starvill.
R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings	Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills; Categorise and track energy consumption	The roof of the Forum building is covered with grass for energy saving.
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy	Determine potential sources of renewable energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers	CIP: Please explore more renewable energy sources and look for more locations for the installation of solar panels.
R3 Materials			
R3.1 Reduce materials demand	R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled,	Undertake a review of materials consumed	Materials and products are identified and stored in different bins. Total amount of waste: 172,857(2022)-253686(2023)-365041(2024)

	reused and locally sourced alternatives		There was different waste material regulation between Seogwipo –Si and Ministry of Environment, so the total amount of waste increased significantly. NB and Haesley have purchased course maintenance materials together to reduce costs.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy	Adopt a sustainable, or ethical / environmental purchasing policy to maximise the use of locally sourced goods and goods made from recycled, recyclable and certified materials	NB has more than 50% of local suppliers. Total number of suppliers is 196, which increased due to StarVill project.
R3.3 Reuse and recycle	R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity	Demonstrate waste separation, reuse and recycling; Track how much waste goes to landfill, or is reused / recycled	Bins are installed separately according to the Cheju-Si waste using credit regulation.
R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations	Use authorised waste and recycling contractor for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste	Waste material labels, which are attached on the waste material collection boxes. They were collected based on the Cheju-Si waste using credit regulation. Water and soil quality were tested every 6 months and reported to the Seogwipo-Si environmental department.

COMMUNITY

C1 Outreach

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality	C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility		NB hosted three championship events for members and the local community - Bridges Cup, Grand Challenge Cup, and Community Invitational. Some participants raised money for charity in those events and sent them to several organizations for social welfare.

C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		NB hosted some volunteering events, making presents for Children's Day, Christmas Party, and making Kimch. NB hosted some charity bazaar and raised money. It donated to the local community.
C1.3 Establish active community partnerships	C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups	Inform and include staff, members, and committees in sustainability efforts	CIP: Please invite local environment group members to the NB internal sustainability team and share NB environment results and GEO Certification.
C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		CIP: Please add more walking trails around the golf course for members and visitors to further experience the nature and landscape.
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	Total number of members: 499(2022), 500(2023),497(2024) Total number of visitors: 24,465(2022), 21,771(2023),20,128(2024) Total number of visitors has decreased since 2022 due to the depression of the Korean golf market. NB hosted the Community Invitational twice a year and 1,100~1,200 of Cheju citizen participated.
C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities	C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development	Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health & safety etc	Managed engineering team by subcontracting, but it was judged inefficient, so NB employed experienced engineers for direct control in 2025. NB follows all relevant legislation and best practice for hiring and employment. NB follows all relevant legislation and best practice for worker safety. All NB members are offered a medical check-up annually.
C3 Communications			
C3.1 Engage golfers and members	C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors	Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements	NB publishes a member's magazine every 3 months and uses the club's website to raise awareness and understanding what NB is working on e.g., GEO, renovations etc.

			CIP: Please add sustainability signs on the 18th Hole green entrance where all golfers and visitors can see them.
C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community	Provide evidence of external communications and community engagement	CIP: Please use GEO Certified marketing materials to promote GEO Certification both inside and outside NB. CIP: Inform the CJ Logistics group companies that carbon emission reduction as an ESG performance improvement of CJ Logistics.

Golf and Sustainability

Among all sports, golf has a particularly close relationship with the environment and communities, golf facilities can bring many benefits to people and nature - from the protection of greenspace and conservation of biodiversity; healthy recreation for all ages; local supply chains; and jobs, tourism and other forms of economic value.

Adopting a more sustainable approach is also good for golf. It's about presenting a high-quality golf course and providing a memorable experience in natural surroundings. It's about being as efficient as possible. And it's about supporting the community in a range of ways that bring increased recognition, respect and contact.

At a broader level, it's important that golf credibly demonstrates its commitment, and its social and environmental value – strengthening the sport's image and reputation for the long term.

Golf facilities that participate in OnCourse®, an international sustainability initiative assured by the non-profit GEO Foundation, are taking a comprehensive approach and striving to be leaders in the community.

Find out more at www.sustainable.golf