



GEO Certified® Report

The Singapore Island Country Club - Bukit Course

Prepared by independent verifier Brad Revill

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2025
Recertification due: 2028

“The Bukit Course at The Singapore Island Country Club is the most naturally beautiful out of all of their courses, with large heritage trees and serene jungle encompassing the property. The club loves their course and the natural environment surrounding it, which is evident in how the members are actively involved. It is always a pleasure to visit here and see the commitment to the environment, and I look forward to seeing them continue to progress”

Brad Revill
(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that The Singapore Island Country Club - The Bukit Course 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 Singapore Island Country Club - The Bukit Course 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 Singapore Island Country Club - The Bukit Course should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, The Singapore Island Country Club - The Bukit Course 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 – 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	General knowledge of the wildlife and habitats on the site	A habitat map had been completed with detailed habitat identification. They also highlight specific areas of the property with photos and descriptions, detailing plant and animal species on site. A wildlife survey had been completed with a number of different species identified and presented in a folder.
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	Identify rare, protected or endangered species found on the golf course; Understand legal responsibilities for landscape protection and special area designations, if applicable	The club fully understands the legal responsibilities to protect the wildlife and natural habitats surrounding the property. The course is located next to a national reservoir and so they get audited regularly. 1 critically endangered species has been identified on site (Malayan Pangolin - <i>Manis javanica</i>) and 1 protected species (Purple Heron - <i>Ardea purpurea</i>).
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	A WW2 bunker is located on the property and is protected and maintained by the club. Signage also provides information to guests about the history of the site.
N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the golf course	N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass	Monitor patterns of play to identify underutilised areas of turfgrass	Regular internal meetings are undertaken to discuss and identify any out of play areas that can be transitioned to native areas.
N1.3 Actively create and manage habitats for wildlife	N1.3.1 Projects to create and manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf	Prioritise native species of varying size and structure when planting Prioritise native trees and shrubs when planting Prioritise native aquatic species of varying size and structure when planting	The new project to create a large forest and wetland habitat on adjoining holes 17, 18, 9 and 3 has been completed. The project encourages more bird and insect life onto the course while reducing maintenance. It has been received positively from members. The established buffer zones are quite wide and encompass all of the rough. No fertiliser or chemical application occurs in any rough areas.

		Establish mowing buffer zones next to water bodies and wetlands	The informal policy is to utilise native Singaporean or plants from Peninsula Malaysia as well as low maintenance plants in all new projects.
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species	Follow local best practice to protect or attract endangered, protected or rare species found on site	A habitat map had been completed with detailed habitat identification. They also highlight specific areas of the property with photos and descriptions, detailing plant and animal species on site. Buffer zones encompass the whole rough area, and the team are always looking to reduce out-of-play areas and transition them to native/jungle areas that require no maintenance.
N2 Turfgrass			
N2.1 Maintain optimum turfgrass and soil health	N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors	Select appropriate grass species for the climate	The turf species on the greens is "Serangoon" (<i>Digitaria didactyla</i>); the tees are <i>Zoysia matrella</i>; and the fairways and rough are predominantly "Cow Grass" (<i>Axonopus compressus</i>). All turf species present are well suited to the climate and are some of the most low input species available.
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition	No specific international requirement, however, identify course management and agronomic activities and look for continual improvements	Regular solid and hollow tine coring and topdressing practices are in place to maintain soil structure and bulk density. The team conducts regular soil nutrient testing. They have also conducted a soil moisture curve analysis in many areas of the property in order to better understand the structure and performance of the soil and how best to manage it.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Test and monitor soil pH; Follow legal requirements when timing fertiliser applications Ensure staff are fully qualified to use fertilisers Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment Regularly calibrate and test applicators	The strategy for fertilisation is based on the turf visual appearance as well as the current growth rate to avoid over-fertilisation. All PPE equipment is in stock and in date and good condition. All team members are required to use PPE for all applications. Equipment is regularly calibrated every six months and looks to be in good working order.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture;	The team utilise large fans to improve air movement around problem greens, to reduce fungicide use.

		Change hole locations frequently	They also employ hand weeding to reduce herbicide use as well as diligent hand-watering to reduce over-watering and reduce the chance of disease.
N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly	N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues	Identify and track pest and disease hotspots, including sensitive areas Scout the course daily for early signs and symptoms Accurately diagnose to determine the cause of weeds, pests and diseases	The main diseases that the team have to deal with are dollar spot and any insect activity could be some worms or mole cricket. No chemicals would be applied without symptoms in place for at least three days. Primarily a reactive chemical application rather than preventative. CCIP: Please formalise pest and disease thresholds in a document to be added to your integrated pest management plan. Please also start scouting the course and adding scouting reports and disease identification reports to this same folder.
	N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	Use legally registered and approved products; Prefer products for the specific weed, pest or disease; Follow legal requirements; Ensure staff are fully qualified to use pesticides; Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment; Regularly calibrate and test applicators; Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of amenity turfgrass	Equipment calibration checks are scheduled regularly. Any leftover product in the spray tank is sprayed on higher profile areas for an additional boost. All appropriate PPE is provided and used by the team.
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	Document procedures for emergency spill responses ; Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer areas next to water bodies and wetlands;	Emergency spill response plan in place. Buffer zones are identified, mapped, and communicated to the team. The entire rough area of the golf course is a no-spray zone. No chemical or fertiliser applications are required on any rough area.

		Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer zones in and around ecologically sensitive areas	
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	Wastewater is discharged into the sewer system. Oil and water separators are used to prevent contamination. Hazardous substance storage is in good condition, and all hazardous substances are located within the storage facility. Emergency spill response plan is in place.
	N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations	Wash machinery over an impermeable, leak-free surface; Mix and load pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable, leak-free surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	Impermeable concrete surface. There is a solids filter in place to trap sand, grass clippings and other debris. There is no oil and water separator in place, but the wastewater flows directly into a holding tank which is regularly pumped out and disposed of by certified contractors. All used chemical containers are triple rinsed and punched before being disposed of.
N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances	List of hazardous substances, made available to authorised staff; Product and material data safety sheets; Well ventilated concrete or metal building; Impermeable, leak-free flooring; Sufficient storage capacity; Spill containment kits; Secondary containment e.g., bunds or drip trays; Emergency wash area, as per local requirements (body shower and / or eye wash station); Hazardous substances safely collected by a registered company or body ; Follow any additional legal requirements	Highlight: A big improvement to the Chemical Safety Storage Facility has been made. • All shelving is steel. • There is also bundling to prevent spills. • All MSDS records are in place. • Fire extinguisher is in place. • Emergency eye wash and shower has been installed. • Flooring is concrete. • Ventilation and lighting are adequate. • A spill containment kit is in place.

	N3.2.2 Legal compliance in the storage and handling of fuels and gases	Tank secured to a horizontal, flat, non-combustible surface; Secondary containment of fuel in the event of spills e.g. bunds and drip trays; Inspection of storage tank(s) at least quarterly, if required; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area	Fuel storage is on an impermeable concrete base with bunding. Fire extinguishers and spill containment kit in place. Fuel storage tanks are checked every year and re-certified every 2-years by government authorities. A containment tray has been installed underneath the oil drum storage to prevent spills. Concrete bunding has been installed around the refuelling area, and any stormwater drains have been covered with steel to prevent contamination.
N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water	N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage, treatment and discharge	Impermeable, leak-free surface; Treatment as per local requirements (oil, grease and / or clipping separation); Formal discharge agreement, if applicable	The wash bay is concrete and has clipping catchment installed as well as an oil water separator. A wastewater discharge agreement is in place.

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	Select appropriate grass species for the climate e.g., drought and disease tolerance; Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces; Prioritise native, drought tolerant species for landscaping and planting	The irrigation system design does not allow irrigation of out of play areas. The club is in a difficult situation where they have to share their irrigation infrastructure with the neighbouring golf course. That includes irrigation main lines and pump stations. While their golf course is maintaining sustainable irrigation practises, they have no control over the water consumption of their neighbour. All turfgrass and landscape species are best suited to the climate.
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course	Schedule irrigation based on informed assessment of soil moisture and weather forecasts;	No permanent soil moisture probe present, but portable soil moisture probes are used on a regular basis. Toro Site Pro irrigation software in place.

		Evaluate new irrigation technologies e.g., central control, precision sprinklers etc.; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Adjust sprinklers to playing surfaces only	Nighttime irrigation programs are rarely used. Instead, a focus has been placed on hand-watering with portable soil moisture probes as the climate provides regular rainfall to take care of most irrigation requirements.
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Monitor and record water consumption (bills, flow meter etc.); Encourage water conservation practices amongst players and staff	Water usage is tracked; however water use cannot be accurately tracked for their golf course as they share the irrigation pumps and irrigation system with another golf club. No water/system auditing is taking place due to their inability to make changes while sharing the irrigation infrastructure with their neighbour. Clubhouse and facility mains water usage is tracked and reviewed monthly.
R1.3 Source water responsibly	R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water	Water abstraction permit, if required; Report water consumption to environment agency, if required	There is a water extraction permit in place with a cap on the amount of water they are able to use. Price per unit is also increasing this year, and their water usage is tracked very closely by the local government.
R2 Energy			
R2.1 Reduce energy demand	R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in golf course maintenance	Naturalise non-playing areas to reduce mowing and other energy intensive inputs	Several naturalisation projects have been completed and are also in process, including areas that are being converted to the natural jungle. All projects so far have been received positively by members.
R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings	Monitor and record energy consumption (bills, meters etc.)	Energy consumption is being tracked and audited monthly. All appliances are brand new and they plan to replace them every four to five years. The motion sensor lights in place back of house to fully reduce electrical consumption.
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy	Understand the energy mix of your electricity supplier;	The club has installed solar panels on its roofs with plans to investigate installation on other roof structures.

		Explore possible greener energy providers	CIP: Please research the electrical source from Singapore grid power.
R3 Materials			
R3.1 Reduce materials demand	R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to reduce the demand for materials and look for continual improvements	Waste is audited monthly and separated by stream. All single-use plastics have been removed and are not used at the facility.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices	Favour responsible, lower impact products	The club has received a Farm to Table Recognition from the Singapore Food Authority for at least 15% of ingredients from Singapore in one food category.
R3.3 Reuse and recycle	R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity	Put in place a recycling separation system, according to local rules and availability; Clear, simple and visible bin signage; Monitor and record weight of waste for each stream e.g. invoices, bills etc.	Waste is audited monthly and separated by stream. Labelled and colour-coded bins are in place in public spaces. The waste storage area is also clearly labelled, which helps to prevent contamination.
R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations	Authorised waste collector for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste, if required	Licence is in place and up to date.

COMMUNITY			
C1 Health & Wellbeing			
Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes

C1.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C1.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities	Plans in place to respond to incidents and emergencies	Health and safety policy and risk assessments are in place. An emergency response plan is also in place. The playing environment and working conditions in the back of house at the clubhouse and also the maintenance facility appear to be good and free from obvious hazards.
C1.2 Be open and inclusive	C1.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Membership policies free from discrimination across age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and ethnic background	Anybody is able to join as a member. No discriminatory barriers are in place.
C1.3 Employ fairly, safely and provide career opportunities	C1.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development	Adopt an equal opportunity recruitment and hiring policy; Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for hiring and employment; Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for worker safety	The working environment looks to be clean and free from hazards, with ample safety and protective equipment available for all employees. The club tries to hire local Singaporeans for its on-site leadership while choosing to outsource maintenance for the ground staff. Staff in leadership or managerial positions are given regular industry training and participate at regional seminars.
<u>C2 Outreach & Inclusion</u>			
C2.1 Diversify access and provide multifunctionality	C2.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility	No specific international requirement, however, identify multifunctional activities and look for continual improvements	Unfortunately, community access is limited as it is a private members' club.
C2.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C2.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to support volunteering and charity and look for continual improvements	The club regularly holds charity events where they raise multiple millions of dollars each year for their partner charities.
C2.3 Establish active community partnerships	C2.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups	No specific international requirement, however, identify partnerships and community activities and look for continual improvements	The club has a close partnership with local environmental authorities. Public groups have limited access as it is a private club.
C3 Communications & Advocacy			

C3.1 Engage staff and golfers	C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors	Involve staff and committees in sustainability efforts; Involve golfers in sustainability efforts; Post sustainability information in the clubhouse and / or on the golf course	The club has a monthly newsletter which does include information regarding their sustainability initiatives. The biweekly team meetings include sustainability talks. There is a sustainability committee in place. CIP: Please record meeting minutes from team meetings and sustainability committee meetings.
C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community	Share at least 3 Highlights on sustainable.golf	Three highlights have been shared for 2025, but no highlights are present between 2022 and 2025. CIP: Please aim to share highlights each year or at the time of a new initiative.
C3.3 Follow a journey of continuous improvement	C3.3.1 Measures to help track, review and improve sustainability and climate action	Put measures in place to ensure that OnCourse can be updated annually	The club has a sustainability support team in place, and there is a dedicated sustainability executive working to update Oncourse regularly and spearhead all sustainability initiatives.

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