GEO Certified® Report
Tanah Merah Country Club - Tampines Course

Prepared by independent verifier Brad Revill

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2025
Recertification due: 2028

GEO Foundation
Sustainability in and through golf

“The Tampines course at Tanah Merah Country Club is an impressive facility that is maintained to a very high standard. The front and back of house facilities accommodate everything that the staff and guests need, and the smooth-running operation complements the exceptional leadership in place. The huge solar installation that was installed since my last visit is very impressive. I look forward to seeing the continued results of their sustainability initiatives.”

Brad Revill
(GEO accredited independent verifier)

Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Tanah Merah Country Club - Tampines 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.

Tanah Merah Country Club - Tampines 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, Tanah Merah Country Club - Tampines Course should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Tanah Merah Country Club - Tampines 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.isealalliance.org**

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	**Highlight**: **A map of the property is in place and details all of the specific tree species on site.** A very detailed wildlife survey of all the bird species on site was conducted in 2025.
	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 smooth-coated otter was identified on site and is listed as a vulnerable species and protected under Singapore law. All team members fully understand the legal requirements for protected species identified on site. Restrictions from the government include no trimming of trees along the waterways that run through the property.
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	N/A
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	The footprint and layout of the golf course is quite tight, so there are not many opportunities identified for naturalisation. In saying that, the course has pockets of natural forest, particularly around the perimeter, that are treated as natural or naturalised 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	Approximately 30% of the trees and plants planted on the property are native to the area. Around 70% are from other parts of the world. The club is actively trying to plant more native species as part of its tree management plan. No formal buffer zones have been established, but we discussed what is entailed in maintaining a buffer zone and how to map it accurately. **CCIP: Please identify and map buffer zones and no-spray zones.**

		Establish mowing buffer zones next to water bodies and wetlands	
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	The club has a detailed map of all tree species found on site and updates it regularly. **Highlight: The club has begun installation of bird boxes around the property to encourage local bird nesting and breeding.**
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 grass species selected for use on the golf course are very suitable to the geographic area and climate. The grass species on the property are Paspalum and Zoysia, which are moderately drought-tolerant and requires low to moderate amounts of fertilisation. This grass species is well suited to low light conditions often experienced in Singapore.
	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	The agronomy plan is focused on maintaining the highest quality turf surfaces. Regular aeration of greens and high traffic areas in fairways and roughs is carried out throughout the year to relieve compaction and promote gaseous exchange. Regular sand top dressing on greens is to dilute organic matter and promote a healthy root zone. Soil nutrient and plant tissue analysis are carried out twice per year. The club will also look into soil organic matter testing.
	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	Soil pH is tested and monitored twice per year with the soil nutrient tests. All staff wear appropriate protective equipment when applying chemicals and fertilisers. The application equipment looked to be in good order, and there was a stock of protective equipment available.

		Regularly calibrate and test applicators	
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	**N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management**	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Change hole locations frequently	The team mostly utilise hand weeding as a weed control method except on weeds with extensive rhizomes or that are not conducive to hand weeding. Mowing blades are kept very sharp through regular grinding of blades. This helps provide a high quality of cut and prevent disease infection.
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	Scouting of all surfaces is performed on a regular basis, but no formal scouting reports are created. Weed, pest, and disease thresholds are clearly established and documented. **CIP: Please create scouting reports for any pests and diseases identified on site, including time, date and location.**
	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	All legal requirements are being followed, and products specific to the targeted weed, pest, or disease are being used. Equipment is regularly calibrated, and staff are using the appropriate protective equipment during application. There is an SOP in place for chemical mixing, application, and disposal of leftover product, including rinsing out old containers.
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;	There is an emergency response plan in place. While there are no formal buffer zones established, no applications are made surrounding water bodies or other sensitive areas.

		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 Discharge Agreement confirmed. All hazardous materials are safely and securely stored.
	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	There is an SOP in place for the mixing of chemicals, application of those products, and the wash down of the equipment after the application, including the rinsing of chemical containers. Washing and mixing are performed over a concrete surface with isolated drainage, which flows into a storage tank that can be pumped out and disposed of safely.
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	List of all chemical MSDS is confirmed. An emergency response plan is in place. The chemical storage facility is well ventilated, with concrete flooring and metal storage racks, and looks to be of sufficient storage capacity for the products they use. The fertiliser storage area is also well ventilated and has concrete flooring, but the size is not adequate for the amount of product that they have in store. Some products are being stored outside the storage room. An emergency shower and eyewash station has been installed. **CCIP: Please look to reduce the quantity of fertiliser being ordered and increase the frequency, or investigate options to increase fertiliser storage room capacity.**
	N3.2.2 Legal compliance in the storage and handling of fuels and	Tank secured to a horizontal, flat, non-combustible surface;	The diesel storage tank is above ground and surrounded by concrete walls and bunding. The petrol tank is a below ground storage tank. There is an oil-water separator in place.

	gases	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	Spill kits and fire extinguishers are installed.
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	Wastewater Discharge Agreement is confirmed. The wash bay is isolated and runs through an oil-water separator and grass clipping catchment.

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 grass species selected, both Paspalum and Zoysia, are moderately drought-tolerant. They are adequately suitable for the climate and average rainfall received in Singapore. Tree species are chosen based on their suitability to the climate, ease of maintenance, and whether they are native to that part of Asia. Irrigation is targeted to essential playing surfaces, and programmes are scheduled based on the daily evapotranspiration.
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; Evaluate new irrigation technologies e.g., central control, precision sprinklers etc.; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices;	Rainbird weather station confirmed. Rainbird irrigation software installed. Portable soil moisture probes are used on the property and are used to identify areas for hand watering. Irrigation schedules are determined by the weather, but the quantity is determined by experience, not ET.

		Adjust sprinklers to playing surfaces only	**CIP: Please adopt an ET based watering strategy which applies irrigation based on a percentage of the daily ET. This is an easy-to-use strategy that can lead to large savings in water use.**
	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	Monthly internal auditing procedures are in place with sub-meters installed for individual outlets. Utility bills and data tracking reports confirmed.
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	No permit required. Irrigation water is sourced from lakes located on the property.
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	The course layout and property footprint is quite tight and does not allow for large areas of naturalised area. There are pockets of naturalised forest around the property perimeters, and we discussed some out-of-play areas that could be converted to landscaping or naturalisation.
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.)	Regular electrical efficiency training provided. Monthly internal auditing procedures are in place with sub-meters installed for individual outlets. Utility bills and data tracking reports confirmed.
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	**R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy**	Understand the energy mix of your electricity supplier; Explore possible greener energy providers	The energy source of the supplier is not known. Approximately 32% of energy consumption comes from on-site solar.
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	The club has removed plastic bags, offering re-usable bags to members and guests. They are also utilising biodegradable takeaway food containers. Waste separation and recycling is performed by a third party off site after collection. Reports on waste separation and quantities are then forwarded to the golf club. This practise has only just begun, so data is limited.

R3.2 Purchase responsibly	**R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices**	Favour responsible, lower impact products	Most ingredients are sourced from nearby Malaysia which could be identified as “local” due to the proximity of the border. Due to the size of Singapore, most products need to be imported into the country as they are not produced here.
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.	Labelled bins are in place in public areas, but waste separation and recycling is performed by a third party off site after collection. Reports on waste separation and quantities are then forwarded to the golf club. This practise has only just begun, so data is limited.
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	Confirmed.

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	All risk assessments are in place and reviewed regularly. Both front-of-house and back-of-house areas are free from any obvious hazards. Both playing and working conditions look good. There is an emergency evacuation plan and spill response plan in place.
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	Open membership policies with no restrictions. It is a member only club with visitors needing a member to sign them in.

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	All working environments look safe and free from obvious hazards. They have adequate safety and protective equipment in store, and it is being used regularly by the team. Training is provided for all that require it. Managers and supervisory positions receive additional training specific to their needs in order to grow as a leader and manager.
C2 Outreach & Inclusion			
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	As part of the outreach program, they partner and work with Angsana primary school, who visited the club for golf lessons with their golf coaches.
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	40% of the corporate golf days at the club are for charities including Fathers of Singapore and Children in Need.
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	As part of the outreach program, they partner and work with Angsana primary school, who visited the club for golf lessons with their golf coaches.
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	There is Geo Sustainability signage and logos posted on TV screens and signboards around the clubhouse that also highlights their sustainable initiatives. Sustainability initiatives are also shared in their club magazine.
C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	**C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and**	Share at least 3 Highlights on sustainable.golf	Two highlights have been shared in 2024.

		engage people in the wider community		**CIP: Please share more of your achievements and initiatives as Highlights.**
	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 leadership is well invested in the sustainability initiatives and the GEO program. Multiple members of the management team are involved in the process.

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