

# GEO Certified® Independent Verification Report



Golf Facility: Emirates Golf Club  
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## NATURE

Objective	Requirement	International Mandatory Practice	Key Evidence	Verifier Notes
<b><u>N1 Habitats &amp; Biodiversity</u></b>				
<b>N1.1 Understand the site and surroundings</b>	<b>N1.1.1 Sound understanding of the nature and landscape value of the site</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity surveys	<b>Confirm</b> map(s), aerial visual reproductions, drawings etc and / or images; <b>Confirm</b> survey documents; <b>Observe</b> habitats and vegetation types	There is a green team committee at Dubai Golf, which looks after the preservation of the nature & landscape value of the site.
	<b>N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or	<b>Confirm</b> documentation, if available, and / or images; <b>Observe</b> site(s); <b>Discuss</b> with facility representative(s) what the designation is, who the authority is, restricted or	There are 2 main habitats at the course: i) the desert habitat at Majlis hole 8 (right side); and ii) the lake at hole 5 in the Faldo course. Both habitats are zero maintenance. The native camel grass is present in the desert habitat, as well as many other

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		rare species found on the site	informed management practices, other responsibilities or legal requirements etc	flora autochthonous species which have not yet been identified by the Green Team. Regarding fauna, 3 Arab foxes live at the desert habitat and birdlife (cormorant, heron) is established in lake 5. 2 owls have been brought to the property for pest control. The club is looking for the installation of beehives in the next weeks. No legal designations known or have been identified by the Green Team.
	<b>N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	<b>Observe</b> site(s) and / or feature(s); <b>Confirm</b> documentation, if available, and / or image(s); <b>Discuss</b> as above	The cultural heritage is understood and preserved thanks to the clubhouse, which represents a traditional Arab camp tent.  This symbol is also present on the course furniture, bulletins, communications, etc.
<b>N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the course</b>	<b>N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass</b>	<b>(Course / club management)</b> Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play	<b>Discuss</b> how this is undertaken, i.e. GPS player tracking, visual / anecdotal, surveying players etc	Turf removal was projected and executed at the Faldo course. Because of its bigger area, there are still opportunities for turf removal at the Faldo. GPS golfer tracking is being

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				evaluated as a potential tool in the close future. The flushing fairways overseeding at the Majlis have been suppressed. Now only roughs & tees are overseeded for traffic tolerance & definition.
<b>N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife</b>	<b>N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping	<b>Confirm</b> document(s) and / or action plan(s); <b>Observe</b> habitat project(s) and / or view images; <b>Discuss</b> management plans if no formal written documentation	Both native grasses, camel grass and pennisetum, are currently propagated though the course in non-playing areas.
<b>N1.4 Conserve key species</b>	<b>N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species</b>		<i>No specific international requirements, however, <b>discuss</b> management conservation activities, as appropriate</i>	Zero maintenance on the main habitats of the course (desert habitat and open lake).
<b><u>N2 Turfgrass</u></b>				
<b>N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health</b>	<b>N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Select appropriate grass species for climate	<b>Discuss</b> how cool season or warm season varieties are informed by climate zone;	Bermudagrass 419 on fairways and roughs, Tif Eagle in greens and tees.

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	and other geomorphological factors		<p><b>Observe</b> projects to transition grass species i.e. trial plots, practice areas etc;</p> <p><i>Note: 'Transitional' climates to explain justification and extent of cool season species present</i></p>	<p>Warm season grasses: drought &amp; poor water quality tolerant species. In the future, new ultradwarf bermudagrass greens are to be constructed with improved salinity, drought and traffic tolerance and also winter performance. Trials with different species / varieties are taking place now.</p>
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		<p><i>No specific international requirements, however, <b>discuss</b> course management and agronomic activities, as appropriate</i></p>	<p>In the last year, the air injection machine Air 2G2 has been introduced in the maintenance plan in order to promote a fracturing effect of the compacted rootzone, with no surface disruption. Needle tine &amp; hollow coring is also carried out depending on aeration needs.</p>
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	<p><b>(Course management)</b> Soil tests and nutrient analysis</p>	<p><b>Confirm</b> test / report document(s); <b>Discuss</b> the informed basis and approach to fertilisation</p>	<p>Leaf tissue analysis 3 times per year in order to determine if fertilization program is correct and in order to adjust fertilization applications. 4 soil tests per year in order to evaluate nutrient availability. Foliar applications only.</p>

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<p><b>N2.2 Prioritise cultural management</b></p>	<p><b>N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management</b></p>	<p><b>(Course management)</b> Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding</p>	<p><b>Discuss</b> the informed cultural / mechanical (non-chemical) basis and approach to turf management</p>	<p>Outstanding quality of cut (grinding every 3 weeks) allows clean leaf cuts, which reduces pest incidence thus allowing less pesticide use. Rolling is organized 3 times per week on average, helping to prevent certain diseases. Dew is removed on non-mowing days in order to prevent diseases. Hand weed removal is always a priority above chemical treatment.</p>
<p><b>N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly</b></p>	<p><b>N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues</b></p>	<p><b>(Course management)</b> 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</p>	<p><b>Confirm</b> management policy / plan document(s); <b>Confirm</b> map(s) and / or images; <b>Discuss</b> the informed assessment of chemical applications to turf i.e. preventative / curative / combination approach</p>	<p>Pesticide use is only preventive.</p>

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	<p><b>N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions</b></p>	<p><b>(Course management)</b> 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</p>	<p><b>Confirm</b> chemical / product log; <b>Confirm</b> applicator licences; <b>Observe</b> spraying and protective equipment; <b>Observe</b> turf areas for disposal of leftovers; <b>Discuss</b> as above</p>	<p>In UAE, no licence is currently needed and no certification is available. Dealers are supposed to fulfill the requirements. Yearly audit is carried out in order to guarantee both legal compliance &amp; expiry date. Calibrations are carried out monthly. Certain greenkeepers hold the European certification for pesticide applications.</p>
<p><b><u>N3 Pollution Prevention</u></b></p>				
<p><b>N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site</b></p>	<p><b>N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations</b></p>	<p><b>(Course management)</b> Document 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;</p>	<p><b>Confirm</b> emergency spill response plan; <b>Confirm</b> map(s) and/or images; <b>Observe</b> buffer zones and no-spray areas</p>	<p>1m buffer perimeter surrounding lakes is left during treatments. Hybrid technology in greens mowers to avoid fuel leakage. Spraying is avoided near water bodies, desert habitats. There are no plans for spill responses, although procedures undertaken at Jumeirah Golf Estates (managed by same parent company Dubai Golf) result in</p>

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		Create a map / aerial visual reproduction, drawing etc of the course showing buffer zones and no-spray, no-spread areas		satisfactory cross-organisation management.
	<b>N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and waste water discharge	<b>Confirm</b> licences and / or contracts for disposal of hazardous waste; <b>Confirm</b> waste water discharge licence	Dubai Golf supports the compliance of all legal regulations.
	<b>N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> 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	<b>Confirm</b> licences and / or contracts for disposal of hazardous waste; <b>Confirm</b> waste water discharge licence; <b>Observe</b> hazardous materials storage and infrastructure; <b>Observe</b> washing and preparation areas	Chemicals are stored in a specific tank, retired by Dubai Municipality from the property. Clippings are removed from water prior to enter on the sewage network. Hydrocarbon separator is not installed.

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<p><b>N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances</b></p>	<p><b>N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances</b></p>	<p><b>(Course management)</b>          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</p>	<p><b>Confirm</b> chemical / product log, as above;  <b>Confirm</b> local authority inspection report for storage tanks, if applicable;  <b>Observe</b> hazardous materials storage and infrastructure (as above);  <b>Observe</b> emergency response and safety devices;  <b>Observe</b> washing areas (as above);  <b>Observe</b> fuel storage tanks and surroundings</p>	<p>Dubai Golf supports the compliance of all legal regulations.</p>
<p><b>N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water</b></p>	<p><b>N3.3.1 Appropriate waste water usage and discharge licences</b></p>	<p><b>(Course management)</b>          Waste water discharge licence;          Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil /</p>	<p><b>Confirm</b> waste water discharge licence / sewerage agreement;  <b>Observe</b> wash bay with impermeable surface;</p>	<p>100% local Treated Sewage Effluent water.          Waste water is recycled by Dubai Municipality. The club has the</p>



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		grease / clipping separation)	<b>Discuss</b> on-site treatment of waste water, as applicable	appropriate licences and water is then recycled for re-use.
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## RESOURCES

Objective	Requirement	International Mandatory Practice	Key Evidence	Verifier Notes
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### R1 Water

<b>R1.1 Minimise water demand</b>	<b>R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only	<b>Discuss</b> irrigation policies, practices and considerations	New irrigation system has improved uniformity thanks to current triangular pattern, short spacing & nozzle configuration. New central control allows irrigation per second thus reducing the irrigation water window. New hydraulic network has suppressed leakages on the old pipes. 4 acres of turf have been reduced at the Faldo course.
<b>R1.2 Maximise water efficiency</b>	<b>R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Conduct regular irrigation performance checks; Provide staff training on	<b>Confirm</b> TDR soil moisture sensor;	Evapotranspiration (ET) based irrigation scheduling & soil moisture is measured for high efficiency irrigation.

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		efficient irrigation practices; Ensure effective application of water to target areas; Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis	<b>Confirm</b> irrigation software; <b>Discuss</b> irrigation hardware and maintenance	50% water consumption reduction has been achieved since the previous certification.
	<b>R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Audit water use regularly; Review bills frequently and look for irregularities; Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors; Categorise and track water consumption	<b>Confirm</b> water auditing procedures; <b>Confirm</b> internal record keeping, utility bills and invoices, data management	Old inefficient water fixtures replaced by efficient water saving devices: water saving nozzle for water taps + water saving device on toilets flushers. (4-5 liters of water saving per device).
<b>R1.3 Source water responsibly</b>	<b>R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water</b>	<b>(Course / club management)</b> Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required	<b>Confirm</b> water abstraction permit and reports to regulating authority, if applicable	100% irrigation water is TSE treated effluent water
<b><u>R2 Energy</u></b>				

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<p><b>R2.1 Reduce energy demand</b></p>	<p><b>R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in course maintenance</b></p>	<p><b>(Course management)</b> Minimise areas of managed turf to reduce mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs</p>	<p><b>Observe</b> areas removed from intensive maintenance; <b>Discuss</b> areas identified for ongoing naturalisation</p>	<p>State-of-the-art pump station allows irrigation of 45 holes in 3 hours. This allows energy savings. Irrigation software has been upgraded to Toro Lynx in order to irrigate per seconds instead of minutes. That will lead to shorter water window and energy efficiency. Hybrid technology is used on greens mowers. Lithium batteries on the buggy fleet is to be installed, thus reducing the charging time and saving energy. Mowing days have been reduced from 7 days per week to 5.</p>
<p><b>R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency</b></p>	<p><b>R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings</b></p>	<p><b>(Club management)</b> Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills; Categorise and track energy consumption</p>	<p><b>Confirm</b> energy auditing procedures; <b>Confirm</b> internal record keeping, utility bills and invoices, data management</p>	<p>Dubai Golf Retrofit Project has been developed and today is a reality. Carbon emissions to be reduced by 3700 ton per year (EGC+DCGYC). Overall energy consumption to be reduced by 27% (EGC+DCGYC). 574 new efficient split AC installed. 4 new efficient chillers installed. New control for the existing HVAC systems.</p>

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				<p>New LED fixture in 7720 old inefficient light fixtures.</p> <p>New heat pumps instead of water heaters.</p>
<b>R2.3 Source energy responsibly</b>	<b>R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy</b>	<p><b>(Club management)</b> Determine potential sources of renewable energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers</p>	<p><b>Discuss</b> research into renewable energy provision / generation</p>	<p>On-Grid solar PV panels installed (472 kWp).</p> <p>No fuel propelled buggies - 170 electrical chargers on site.</p> <p>Lithium batteries are being evaluated now under high temperatures in order to reduce energy consumption.</p>
<b><u>R3 Materials</u></b>				
<b>R3.1 Reduce materials demand</b>	<b>R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives</b>	<p><b>(Club management)</b> Undertake a review of materials consumed</p>	<p><b>Confirm</b> waste auditing procedures;</p> <p><b>Discuss</b> materials and products that have been identified, reduced or eliminated</p>	<p>Urea and ammonium sulphate are brought from Abu Dhabi producing plant.</p> <p>Red dune native sand brought from the desert for topdressing &amp; construction purposes.</p> <p>Doubled-washed native marine sand for bunkers.</p> <p>Bunker rakes sealed with plastic in order to extend their lifespan.</p>

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				Compost produced (made from recycled food waste) used as landscaping topsoil.
<b>R3.2 Purchase responsibly</b>	<b>R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> 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	<b>Confirm</b> policy document / statement; <b>Observe</b> specific items used or consumed	Purchasing policy is established for Dubai Golf for the 3 courses (JGE, DCGYC, EGC) following both all ethical & environmental requirements in UAE. Cutting out plastic policy.
<b>R3.3 Reuse and recycle</b>	<b>R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Demonstrate waste separation, reuse and recycling; Track how much waste goes to landfill, or is reused / recycled	<b>Confirm</b> waste auditing procedures (as above), utility bills and invoices, data management; <b>Observe</b> bins around the facility and main waste area	Use of flask, metallic bottles for water instead of plastic bottles. Each player / visitor can recycle the flask refilling it with water instead of opening a new plastic bottle. Around 200,000 plastic bottles per year can be saved. Course furniture such as potable water towers are being manufactured by local supplier. 60% cheaper than standard golf distributor. Separation of: green waste / scrap / oils / cardboards / batteries. Green waste is taken by Dubai Municipality Green Waste Department.

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No more plastic bags are being used for clippings transport / removal.

				No more plastic bags are being used for clippings transport / removal.
<b>R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance</b>	<b>R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Use authorised waste and recycling contractor for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste;	<b>Confirm</b> invoices, trade waste licences, if available	Dubai Golf supports the compliance of all legal regulations.

## COMMUNITY

Objective	Requirement	International Mandatory Practice	Key Evidence	Verifier Notes
<b>C1 Outreach</b>				
<b>C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality</b>	<b>C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility</b>		<i>No specific international requirement, however, <b>discuss</b> activities as appropriate and look for continual improvements</i>	The aim is to bring the family to the club, all together.
<b>C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity</b>	<b>C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes</b>		<i>No specific international requirement, however, <b>discuss</b> activities as</i>	Autism and Down's syndrome help with members participation. Charity Day (promoted by the Ladies Captain) with members participation.

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			<i>appropriate and look for continual improvements</i>	3 club volunteers helping on the Special Olympics golf event at Abu Dhabi.
<b>C1.3 Establish active community partnerships</b>	<b>C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Create a 'sustainability working group'	<b>Confirm</b> meeting minutes and agendas, if available; <b>Discuss</b> composition and roles of group, frequency of meetings etc	Open doors policy towards Dubai Community. Family friendly club restaurant hosts around 80% non-golfers clients. Christmas carnival, New Year's Eve, Ramadan praying season, live sporting events on TV, etc. Non-smoking areas for families.
<b><u>C2 Golfers &amp; Employees</u></b>				
<b>C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing</b>	<b>C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities</b>		<i>No specific international requirement, however, <b>discuss</b> as appropriate</i>	EGC is a parkland and vital green space between the crowded city and the desert. Clubhouse bar and restaurant with golf views is a valuable feature. Walking / playing around the course is a promenade between trees, flora and fauna. Birdsong can be heard from the very first hole until the last one. Prayer room for workers.

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<p><b>C2.2 Be open and inclusive</b></p>	<p><b>C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies</b></p>	<p><b>(Club management)</b> Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors</p>	<p><b>Confirm</b> policy statement / document, if available; <b>Discuss</b> if no formal documentation</p>	<p>3 main activities: i) more flexible dress code policy; ii) members area reduced to a small room and more space for non-members; and iii) known restaurant brand at the clubhouse acts as magnet for bringing people and families to the club. Top Golf new driving range is being constructed and is willing to bring 60 – 75% of non-golfers for practicing. Special discount for Dubai residents.</p>
<p><b>C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development</b></p>	<p><b>(Club management)</b> Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health &amp; safety etc</p>	<p><b>Confirm</b> employee induction procedures, health &amp; safety, risk assessment reports, if available; <b>Discuss</b> if no formal documentation</p>	<p>Every worker knows the company value &amp; missions. Hiring is done based on that value &amp; mission principles. 3 day induction is provided to new employees. All employees belong to “The Dubai Golf Family”, under a colleague treatment. Dubai Golf provides with a fantastic training program for individual professional development. Rest room, restaurant &amp; prayer room for workers on site. Health &amp; Safety officer asses every worker. Training on first aid, fire management, etc. is provided.</p>



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Every worker reports risk that might be present on their area of responsibility. EGC is a source of creating jobs opportunities in Dubai. Accommodation on site for 60 workers, who live at the club for saving money. Golf classes are free for them. Greenkeeper is achieving CMA Europe for professional development.

### C3 Communications

**C3.1 Engage golfers and members**

**C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors**

**(Club management)**  
Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements

**Confirm** club's website, social media activity, awareness raising materials, internal notices, on course educational signage, mailing campaigns, links with external PR agencies, other awards or certifications, newspaper / magazine articles etc

Open day yearly – free to come and walk around the course. Sports day celebration for work mates, residences inhabitants, etc. Club Life magazine on a monthly basis includes a section for agronomy purposes.

**C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability**

**C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage**

**(Club management)**  
Provide evidence of external communications

**Discuss** relations and partnership work with stakeholders, other

European Tour event celebration.

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	<b>people in the wider community</b>	and community engagement	businesses, suppliers / contractors, organisations, charities, educational establishments etc; open access to facilities; event hosting etc, which extend the reach and awareness of the club	
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