



GEO Certified[®]

GEO Certified[®] Report Campo de Golfe da Batalha

Prepared by independent verifier Alexandra Almeida

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2024
Recertification due: 2027

GEO Certified[®]

 **GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“The Batalha Golf Course covers an impressive area of approximately 120 hectares, with 18 hectares of dedicated turf areas, allowing for the incorporation of various natural habitats, contributing to the rich biodiversity of the region. This area not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of the course, but also supports local wildlife, making it a vibrant ecosystem.

I look forward to seeing how the management continues to balance the turf areas with ecological initiatives, promoting both an enjoyable golfing experience and environmental sustainability.”

*Alexandra Almeida
(GEO accredited independent verifier)*



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Campo de Golfe da Batalha 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.

Campo de Golfe da Batalha 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 Campo de Golfe da Batalha should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Campo de Golfe da Batalha 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
Manager, Data and Reporting, 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.isealalliance.org



Verifier's Report

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

THEMES	ACTION AREAS
Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitats & Biodiversity• Turfgrass management• Pollution prevention
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water• Energy• Materials
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
<p>N1.1 Understand the site and surroundings</p>	<p>N1.1.1 Sound understanding of the nature and landscape value of the site</p>	<p>Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity surveys</p>	<p>Documents and data relating to biodiversity issues were reviewed on site.</p> <p>The Batalha Golf Course is located on the north coast of São Miguel Island. The 27-hole course, designed by Cameron Powell in 1986, is considered one of the longest courses in Portugal, with three 9-hole courses that can be played in any combination. The design integrates old stone walls and fairways are flanked by a diverse array of trees, including eucalyptus, bay trees (<i>Laurus azorica</i>), and Japanese cedar (<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>), with hedges of hydrangeas.</p> <p>The golf facility occupies an area of approx. 120 hectares, with a dedicated turfgrass area of 18 hectares.</p> <p>While no formal survey has been conducted, the evidence suggests that the Batalha Golf Course is likely to support a diverse array of migratory bird species. The region's rich habitats provide ample opportunities for various birds to thrive, as indicated by the numerous migratory species already recorded in the area. For instance, the combination of open fairways, wooded areas, and water features creates an inviting environment for birds like the Eurasian curlew and the common Redshank. Additionally, the presence of local flora, such as the eucalyptus and hydrangeas, offers both nesting sites and food sources.</p> <p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping of the site (location map, geographical map, layout map). - Documented information of fauna and flora occurring on site (list of flora and fauna). <p>CCIP: Please engage a specialist ecologist to carry out a baseline survey of the flora and fauna on the site. For instance, if the golf course is home to endangered species, the ecologist can help identify critical habitats and recommend conservation strategies.</p>

	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	Practices implemented and confirmed: - The greenkeeper has a good knowledge of the local species and the club's woodland nature is balanced against the playability of the course through strategic maintenance of the under storey.
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	Not applicable.
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	Practices implemented and confirmed: - A turf reduction programme has been implemented to convert sections of the golf course into low-maintenance natural areas, such as the areas between tees and fairways. The greenkeeper estimates that approximately 1ha have already been converted to low maintenance natural areas.
N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife	N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf	Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping	Practices implemented and confirmed: - Non-native species are removed. - To tackle turf health challenges such as root encroachment, excessive shade, and litter buildup, the greenkeeping team employs proactive and strategic measures. They prioritize root pruning to prevent invasive roots from competing with the turfgrass for nutrients and water, ensuring the turf remains healthy and vibrant. - In addition, when shade becomes an issue due to overgrown trees, the team may carry out canopy thinning. This not only improves the quality of the turf but also enhances overall playability. - The greenkeeping team places a strong emphasis on monitoring critical conditions like disease outbreaks, invasive species, and the structural integrity of the course. - Additionally, the team assesses the health and stability of trees on the course, looking for any that may pose a risk to players, such as those with dead branches or signs of disease. This proactive approach ensures the safety of golfers while maintaining the aesthetic and ecological integrity of the course.

			<p>CCIP: Please conduct a comprehensive habitat survey to map all on-site ecosystems. This will empower the greenkeeping team to develop a targeted management plan dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of these habitats. It is essential to identify key species, including rare species that require protection and invasive species that need control, to effectively manage and sustain the biodiversity of the area.</p>
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		<p>The water bodies on site are interesting stopovers for migratory birds as well as other types of wildlife (amphibians).</p> <p>CIP: Please try to establish wildlife sanctuaries in the out-of-play areas. Implementing signage to educate golfers about these sanctuaries can also foster a deeper appreciation of the wildlife present.</p>
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	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both cool-season and warm-season turfgrasses are present in the golf course. Greens are predominantly cold-season grasses (<i>Pennlinks</i>) and bermudagrass is the primary feature on tees and fairways. - The climate of the Azores Islands is subtropical oceanic, pleasantly warm in summer yet cool, rainy and windy for several months. <p>Cold-season grasses are adapted to mild summers and cool to cold winters where rainfall is plentiful.</p>
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The soil management program incorporates physical maintenance techniques, including topdressing, scarifying, hollow coring, and verticutting. These practices are essential for alleviating soil compaction, maintaining a low thatch layer, and enhancing the turf's overall resilience to stressors such as foot traffic and mowing.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular soil testing is conducted annually to assess the need for inputs and other necessary interventions.

	the year to avoid over-fertilisation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The superintendent prioritizes the use of organic fertilizers, aligning applications on greens and tees with the specific needs identified through soil analyses. - Fertilizer applications are strategically planned based on environmental conditions and water monitoring results to optimize nutrient uptake and minimize environmental impact.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The superintendent's commitment to environmentally friendly practices, such as daily course scouting, allows for early detection of potential issues like pests or diseases. This proactive approach enables the implementation of preventative measures that are less invasive and often more successful. Furthermore, the superintendent combines cultural operations with chemical methods to create a balanced approach to golf course maintenance.
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	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pesticides are applied exclusively to greens and only in response to specific issues, such as dollar spot or fusarium patch. - Pesticides are only used on the greens and only when specific problems arise. An agronomist advises on pesticide selection and application methods and all treatments are pre-approved.
	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 .	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pesticides use records are kept for a period of 3 years following the pesticide use. - Pesticides are applied in accordance with label instructions, under appropriate environmental conditions, by qualified personnel using good practice and appropriate equipment. - Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is used by qualified personnel and procedures are followed. <p>CCIP: Please establish a procedure for regular inspection and replenishment of stocks of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, goggles, masks and others.</p>

			<p>CCIP: Please ensure that PPE is in good condition and suitable for the specific risks associated with the products being used.</p> <p>CCIP: Please implement a standardized Pesticide Log Form, similar to the one used at Terceira Golf, to ensure uniformity in pesticide application records across all Ilhas Valor, S.A. golf courses.</p>
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	<p>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; Create a map / aerial visual reproduction, drawing etc of the course showing buffer zones and no-spray, no-spread areas.</p>	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Batalha Golf Course carried out a risk assessment (February 2024) and a H&S audit (January 2024) to ensure that staff were following health and safety procedures. - Although the management team has not yet formalized an emergency spill response procedure, the greenkeeper is knowledgeable about essential spill control measures. This ensures prompt action to mitigate risks and protect staff and the environment in the event of a chemical incident - The Emergency Action Plan for the golf facilities, addressing scenarios like fires and hazardous chemical spills, is scheduled for 2025. This will improve preparedness and ensure consistent response efforts. <p>CCIP: Please formalise the Emergency Action Plan and spill response procedures as soon as possible.</p> <p>CCIP: Please establish a procedure for the regular inspection and replenishment of emergency kits for spills.</p> <p>CIP: Please consider the use of visual aids, such as posters, signs and symbols, for safety communication. Ongoing communication with employees is the best way to emphasise the importance of safety practices.</p> <p>CIP: Please consider conducting at least one safety drill per year at the maintenance facility and record the results.</p> <p>CIP: Please consider producing maps of the course showing buffer zones and no-spray, no-spread areas.</p>

	<p>N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations</p>	<p>Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and wastewater discharge</p>	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The maintenance facility at Batalha Golf Course is a roofed structure with impervious flooring. The presence of spill containment materials, such as sand, allows for quick and efficient clean up of any chemical spills. In addition, the presence of fire extinguishers ensures that staff can respond quickly to fire hazards, further enhancing the overall safety of the facility. This setup demonstrates a proactive approach to maintaining health and safety standards. - The maintenance facility features designated areas for repairs, routine maintenance, staff operations, storage, and breakout spaces. - Hazardous wastes, including pesticide containers, are properly disposed of using certified waste treatment operators, ensuring compliance with local regulations.
	<p>N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mixing and loading area is located close to the maintenance facility. The mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilisers is carried out on an impermeable surface. - The management team plans to install a fully autonomous wastewater collection system for the mixing and loading area by 2025. - Containers are sent to recycling, after triple-rinsing. Diluted rinse material is sprayed onto an untreated part of the turf area or other green area. - Flushing instructions on the pesticide container label are followed. - All pesticide safety data sheets are available. <p>CIP: It is recommended that a completely self-contained system is installed to collect run-off from the mixing and loading areas. Floor drains should include a sump and pump to transfer wash water or rinse water to a waste tank. The wastewater can be diluted to label concentrations and applied to turf areas or collected for proper disposal, using certified waste treatment operators and transporters.</p>

<p>N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances</p>	<p>N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances</p>	<p>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>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The management team keeps an organized register of hazardous materials used in the maintenance facility. This systematic documentation helps in training staff on the safe use of these materials and ensures that everyone is aware of potential hazards - Oil and fuel containers are stored in a well-ventilated, dry area, with impermeable flooring in the maintenance facility. - Installation of a secondary containment planned for 2025. - A portable eye wash kit is available should the need arise to flush materials from the eyes. <p>CCIP: Please keep the portable eye wash kit in a clearly marked location, ensuring that this is visible and easily accessible. Everyone should know where to find it when seconds count. Regular checks to ensure the kit is stocked and functional will further enhance safety in the facility.</p> <p>CCIP: Please conduct regular inspections of storage tanks and secondary containment systems in all areas where hazardous substances are stored. Proactively replacing any damaged systems will help manage any potential leaks or spills more effectively.</p> <p>CIP: Please consider the use of a digital platform to track and keep an up-to-date list of all pesticides and chemicals. The use of a digital platform can facilitate quick updates and improve compliance with safety regulations, ensuring that staff are always informed about the materials they're working with.</p> <p>CIP: While the maintenance facility has an impervious floor and is equipped with spill containment (sand) and fire extinguishers, please consider conducting a structural assessment to identify any potential weaknesses due to its age.</p>
<p>N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water</p>	<p>N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage and discharge licences</p>	<p>Wastewater discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)</p>	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wastewater is collected and sent to the municipal sewage system and wastewater treatment plant. - The wash pad is strategically located near the maintenance facility to ensure easy accessibility. The wash pad was constructed with impermeable paving and is situated adjacent to a landscaped area featuring water-tolerant native plants. These

			<p>plants play a vital role in filtering and breaking down runoff, effectively mitigating the impact of oil and fuel contaminants before they reach nearby watercourses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The planned installation of an Oil Separator System in 2025 is an excellent upgrade that will greatly improve environmental performance. This system works by separating oil from water, enabling cleaner runoff and reducing the risk of oil pollution in nearby waterways. <p>CIP: Please consider using leaf blowers to blow excess grass clippings off of machines. This will remove around 90 per cent of the clippings before the equipment is washed, reducing the amount of water needed to clean the machines and reducing the amount of organic matter entering the wash pad.</p> <p>CIP: Please consider further staff training on proper disposal methods. This can further minimize the risks associated with hazardous materials entering the wastewater system.</p>
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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	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Irrigation targets only essential areas, like greens. - Use of adapted turfgrasses. - Conversion to partial circle sprinklers where possible. - Use of wetting agents.
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;	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff receive consistent training on adjusting sprinkler nozzles and optimizing irrigation schedules based on weather forecasts.

		Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The greenkeeper conducts regular and preventive inspections of the irrigation and drainage systems, leading to the timely identification and repair of leaks and clogged sprayers. This proactive maintenance has been shown to decrease water wastage and improve overall system efficiency by ensuring even water distribution across all essential areas. <p>CIP: Please consider a throughout audit of the irrigation system's performance and condition.</p>
	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; Categorise and track water consumption	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water use is recorded and monitored. - The management team regularly reviews bills for irregularities.
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	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water consumption for irrigation of the turf is monitored by the superintendent and management team. - The golf course holds a valid water abstraction permit issued by environmental authorities. <p>CIP: Please consider installing a flow meter. This can be strategically placed within the irrigation system to enhance water management efficiency, promote sustainability, and facilitate better decision-making for the golf course's irrigation practices.</p>
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	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The turf reduction program led by the greenkeeping team not only minimizes high-maintenance areas but also promotes sustainability, reduces costs, enhances biodiversity, and improves the overall golfing experience.
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	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The main source of energy consumed is electricity from the local grid. Renewable energy accounted for 34.9% of the total energy supplied to the local grid. This shift towards renewable energy

			<p>underlines the commitment to sustainability and positions the region favourably in the transition to a greener energy future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy bills are reviewed monthly and energy consumption in the golf facility is monitored and recorded.
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	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The management team is in the process of analysing government financial support for the implementation of solar energy solutions.
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	Undertake a review of materials consumed	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The management team is trying to reduce the use of single-use plastics and plastic water bottles. - Recycling bins are in place. <p>CIP: Please consider installing composting machines or bins to effectively manage organic waste and food leftovers.</p>
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	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The management team prioritizes purchasing from local suppliers to support the regional economy and reduce transportation emissions. - Topdressing sand is sourced locally (local quarry).
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	<p>Practices implemented and confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Clubhouse staff has implemented a recycling program for paper, plastics, and glass. - Grass clippings from regular mowing are left on the turf to be recycled as a top-dressing compost. <p>CCIP: Please try to improve the clarity of the labels on the recycling bins. For example, a bin labelled with a bright graphic of accepted items, like aluminium cans and paper, alongside a 'no food waste' symbol, can guide users effectively.</p>

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	Practices implemented and confirmed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waste such as paper and cardboard, glass, metal and plastic packaging, used cooking oils, waste oils, batteries and pesticides containers are collected by authorized waste transport and disposal companies and sent for recycling and recovery.
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<h2 style="margin: 0;">COMMUNITY</h2>			
<h3 style="margin: 0;">C1 Outreach</h3>			
Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality	C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility		Practices implemented and confirmed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The clubhouse is available for meetings, events, and parties. - The golf facility has also held several events of the Expresso BPI Golf Cup, European PGA Tour, the Seniors Tour and the Azores Ladies Open.
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		Practices implemented and confirmed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Batalha Golf Course has partnered with the Cerebral Palsy Association of São Miguel and ARRISCA - Regional Association for Rehabilitation and Socio-Cultural Integration of the Azores - to develop inclusive leisure programmes. For example, organizing accessible sports days that allow individuals with cerebral palsy to engage in activities like adapted golf.
C1.3 Establish active community partnerships	C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with	Create a 'sustainability working group'	CIP: Please consider setting up a 'sustainability working group' to discuss, plan and implement sustainable practices.

	neighbours, the local community and other groups		CIP: Please consider encouraging the members of the Verdegolf Country Club, especially the youth, to participate in outdoor activities such as bird watching and nature walks.
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 try to collaborate with the Portuguese Golf Federation and the Verdegolf Country Club to implement a comprehensive Golf Academy Certification Program aimed at elevating coaching standards and promoting youth engagement in the sport. CIP: Please try to launch youth golf clinics and outreach programs in local schools in partnership with the Verdegolf Country Club.
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	Practices implemented and confirmed: - Friendly, family-oriented facility that welcomes golfers and non-golfers alike.
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	Practices implemented and confirmed: - Detailed H&S procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant national legislation.
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	CIP: Please consider updating the Course Website with a Sustainability Page. A dedicated sustainability section can highlight your eco-friendly practices, such as water conservation, waste management, and habitat preservation. Please try to include specific initiatives like native plant landscaping or partnerships with local environmental organizations. CIP: Please consider publishing a Species List featuring a comprehensive list of local flora and fauna on the website. This could include descriptions and photos of key species found on the course, fostering appreciation for the natural environment and enhancing visitor engagement. CIP: Please consider offering Guided Walks on topics such as the history of the course, the development of golf or local wildlife. These tours can provide a unique experience that connects visitors to the

			<p>course's heritage and biodiversity, while raising awareness of conservation efforts.</p> <p>CIP: Please consider revising the noticeboards to include not only access information, but also interesting facts about local wildlife and the history of the site. For example, one section could highlight how the course has developed over the years, alongside photos and stories of native species found in the area.</p> <p>CIP: Please consider launching a Bird of the month initiative, such as a monthly campaign featuring a particular resident or migratory bird. Provide information about its habits and other interesting facts. This could include a photo spot for members and visitors to share their own birding experiences, encouraging community involvement and education.</p> <p>CIP: Please consider installing informative signs at tee markers that identify local flora and fauna. For example, a sign next to the first tee could explain the significance of a nearby native tree or bird species. This would not only educate golfers of all ages, but also increase their appreciation of the environment while they play.</p>
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	<p>Batalha Golf Course has partnered with the Cerebral Palsy Association of São Miguel and ARRISCA - Regional Association for Rehabilitation and Socio-Cultural Integration of the Azores - to develop inclusive leisure programs.</p> <p>The Expresso BPI Golf Cup, one of the biggest golf events for companies, is organized by Media Golf.</p>

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