



**GEO Certified<sup>®</sup>**

# **GEO Certified<sup>®</sup> Report Lumine Golf Club**

Prepared by Independent Verifier, Pablo Muñoz Vega

Certified by GEO Foundation: April 2021  
Valid until: April 2024

**GEO Certified<sup>®</sup>**



**GEO  
Foundation**  
Sustainability in and through golf

*“Lumine Golf Club represents an example of sustainability. The development of the project allowed the restoration of the existing wetland of the Sequia Major, included in the European Red Natura 2000. Today, the Sequia (17 hectares) is a protected habitat for birdlife travelling between Europe and Africa; and for protected species such as the fartet and Leper Galápagos turtle. Besides, the club enhances and protects the cultural heritage of the Tarraco Roman Ruins. The club is making great efforts and investing in sustainability through maintained turf area reduction (up to 40 hectares), renewable energy (up to 175 kW of solar power for the water desalinization plant), recycling (irrigation water is 100% wastewater), and community values for tourism in the Costa.”*

*Pablo Muñoz Vega*

*GEO accredited Independent Verifier*





## Introduction

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GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Lumine Golf Club 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.

Lumine Golf Club 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 set for the future, Lumine Golf Club should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Lumine Golf Club 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

Richard Allison  
Manager, GEO Certified Facilities



# Verification and Certification

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## 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](http://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](http://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"> <li>• Habitats &amp; Biodiversity</li> <li>• Turfgrass management</li> <li>• Pollution prevention</li> </ul>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Materials</li> </ul>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships &amp; Outreach</li> <li>• Golfing &amp; Employment</li> <li>• Advocacy &amp; Communications</li> </ul>

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	Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main habitats (Sequia major wetland, old roman quarries, and pine forest at Hills course) were visited and mapped.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sequia Major (17 has) is included in the Red Natura network; and considered Common interest space for the Catalonian authorities.</li> <li>• Audits &amp; surveys are carried out several times every year in the Sequia major wetland by the Main Catalonian Authority (Generalitat).</li> <li>• There is a habitat plan for the Sequia Major, including the cleaning of the corridors and margins.</li> <li>• The “Institut Catalá d’ornitologia” develops a year census of all the bird hibernating at the Sequia Major.</li> </ul>
	<b>N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species</b>	Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or rare species found on the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Generalitat &amp; Local Government have legal authority in both the water &amp; habitat management of the site.</li> <li>• Water analysis (pH, CE, level) is periodically carried out at the Sequia by the Agencia catalana del Agua (ACA).</li> </ul> <p><i>*The menace of the Florida turtle (Trachemys scripta) in the Sequia should be address in the future. Today, there are traps installed but they are probably not enough to control their increase in number.</i></p>
	<b>N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage</b>	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old Roman Ruins from the ancient establishment of Tarraco (Tarragona) during the II century BC are protected and conserved in the Hills course (quarries in holes 13, 17 and 18) and the Ruins course (old trade pathway, wheat storage building).</li> <li>• An old tower, called “Torre del Telégrafo” (S.XIX), which was used to send and watch light signals from and to another towers as advertising signals is also kept and conserved.</li> </ul>
<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>	Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintained turf areas to be removed where chosen by a decision making group formed by the General Manager, the Head Greenkeeper and the Club Professional.</li> <li>• Criteria was based on the daily basis experience plus evident facts, such as removing turf from tee complex areas &amp; carries or out of play areas.</li> </ul>
<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>	Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An external company (Urbaser) is hired externally by the authorities yearly for the Sequia wetland cleaning of corridors &amp; margins.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are approx.. 100 bird &amp; bat houses which are maintained yearly as habitats for those species.</li> <li>• Wood bridges allow animal crossing below.</li> <li>• There is no written plan for this habitat management; however, the Club produces an annual record document including the main aspects regarding environmental issues including the habitats.</li> </ul>
<b>N1.4 Conserve key species</b>	<b>N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 2 key species, the “Galápago Europeo“ (Emys orbicularis), a protected turtle that is being monitored once per year and that can be up to 80 years old; and the fish “fartet” (Aphanius iberus), but there is no conservation measure to conserve this last one.</li> <li>• Endotherapy treatments are being applied yearly to specific, priority trees on the course.</li> </ul>
<b>N2 Turfgrass</b>			
<b>N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health</b>	<b>N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors</b>	Select appropriate grass species for climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original established turf included only C-3 grasses (perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue).</li> <li>• An outstanding trial has been recently put in place in order to evaluate new warm season, C-4 varieties performance in a cool – transition zone weather with traditional cool season grasses.</li> <li>• Plots have been established on Ruins course (hole 4) and are being evaluated, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bermudagrass (Tahoma, Latitude 36, 419, Celebration).</li> <li>○ Zoysiagrass (Zeon)</li> <li>○ Overseeded bermudagrass (with annual ryegrass).</li> <li>○ Bluemuda (bermudagrass overseeded with Kentucky bluegrass).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The strategic plan includes a conversion of the current fairways species (Kentucky bluegrass &amp; perennial ryegrass) into these grasses, aiming for improved heat, disease, poor water quality and wear tolerance.</li> <li>• Paspalum vaginatum was tested in a tee platform (hole 16, lakes course), with undesirable results.</li> <li>• However, a native paspalum that was growing and performing well on wetland lakes edges, has been promoted by growing it in a nursery and then planting it</li> </ul>



			back on the lake banks. This grass has shown to be the only one standing the water table changes in its level.
	<b>N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An organic amendment, made from biocompost coming from Vila Seca water treatment plan, is used on the hollow coring process that is held on a yearly basis on tees &amp; fairways.</li> <li>• Clipping volumes are not being measured, but its control is planned to start this year.</li> <li>• Organic matter content at different depths is being evaluated and analysed in accredited laboratory (ETL) to plan aeration &amp; topdressing.</li> </ul>
	<b>N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation</b>	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil analysis are monitored yearly, testing soil pH and other physical &amp; chemical properties.</li> <li>• Foliar analysis are not being monitored.</li> <li>• The approach to fertilization includes 100% organic fertilisers for granular fertilization (low doses several times per year) plus foliar spraying for spoonfeeding), thus avoiding over fertilization.</li> </ul>
<b>N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance</b>	<b>N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management</b>	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an outstanding maintenance &amp; management of the reel units, with a <i>0 contact</i> policy held by the mechanic which ensures minimum fuel &amp; energy demand thanks to a quality cut without contact between the reel and the bedknife. An intense daily work on the bedknives &amp; reels is being held with both Bernhard &amp; Foley grinding devices.</li> <li>• Moisture is always removed form greens. On non-mowing days, brush and / or rolling is performed.</li> <li>• Poa annua control in greens has been achieved and local spots of new weeds are removed by hand.</li> <li>• The use of organic fertilizers promotes the microbial life in the soil, thus reducing the incidence of diseases.</li> <li>• UV screen treatments are being applied to turf aiming to provide extra protection to turfgrass against diseases &amp; stress.</li> </ul>
<b>N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly</b>	<b>N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues</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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curative strategy for all chemicals applications, when brown patch and dollar spot (greens) and Gray leaf spot (fairways) attacks are severe.</li> <li>• Samples of diseased turf are sent to accredited laboratory (Turf Disease Centre) for identification &amp; diagnose.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disease hotspots, which are normally poor ventilated areas, are tracked daily.</li> <li>• 1 of the 2 greenkeepers assistants scouts the courses daily looking for pest and / or diseases.</li> </ul>
	<b>N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions</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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff is in possession of the required licenses for treatments (2 qualified + 1 basic license).</li> <li>• Outstanding chemical control reported thanks to the purchase of a brand-new GPS controlled sprayer (<i>Smithco Spraystar</i>). The sprayer never applies product in areas that have been already sprayed. Additionally, the area to be treated (i.e., greens) can be selected on the sprayer, that will not spray areas outside it. A 15% product use rate reduction has been reported thanks to this technology.</li> <li>• Protective equipment is used, and leftover product is disposed on a specific area on the Ruins course.</li> </ul>
<b>N3 Pollution Prevention</b>			
<b>N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site</b>	<b>N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations</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; Create a map / aerial visual reproduction, drawing etc of the course showing buffer zones and no-spray, no-spread areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency spill response plans are put in place and there have been simulations on the Club to ensure that the staff is aware of all the process.</li> <li>• Buffer zones are not established around all water areas due to playing requirements, but just in some of them.</li> <li>• Existing buffer areas are not mapped; and are 3 meters away approx. of the water body.</li> <li>• Sand areas surround certain water bodies. Those beaches are not sprayed, and weeds are managed through raking.</li> </ul>
	<b>N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations</b>	Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and wastewater discharge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 2<sup>nd</sup> maintenance facility was constructed in the lakes course, where storage of hazardous materials, fuels, chemicals, and other wastes is achieved.</li> <li>• There is a contract with an external waste management company (GRINYO), which collects and removes all the separated wastes every 15 days.</li> <li>• Wastewater discharge license was reviewed during the visit.</li> </ul>
	<b>N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure</b>	Ensure wash areas are on impermeable, leak-free surfaces;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washing pad surface is impervious.</li> <li>• Pesticides are loaded over an impermeable surface.</li> </ul>

	<b>pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations</b>	Mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both pesticide containers &amp; sprayer are triple rinsed and washed.</li> </ul>
<b>N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances</b>	<b>N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances</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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The hazardous material record was reviewed and checked. It is sent yearly to the authorized agency (Generalitat). It is very complete and includes all the different hazardous materials grouped by type.</li> <li>Chemicals room with adequate ventilation, security files, spill containers, impervious flooring.</li> <li>Inspections are carried out every 3 years by local agency.</li> <li>Fuels are kept in double-wall, buried containers, all accordingly to current legislation. Containers are serviced and inspected annually by a specialized company. Containers are registered accordingly to legal compliances.</li> <li>Fire extinguishers are available close to compartments and containers of hazardous materials.</li> <li>Spill containment kits &amp; emergency wash showers are available and easily accessible for the staff operating the hazardous materials.</li> </ul>
<b>N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water</b>	<b>N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage and discharge licences</b>	Wastewater discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Wastewater license and sewerage agreement was available, and it was checked. Invoices and payment records of the sewerage fees were also supervised.</li> <li>Washing areas include a triple phase cleaning: 1) grass &amp; clippings filter, 2) sand filter and 3) hydrocarbons &amp; fats separator.</li> <li>Wastewater treatment onsite includes desalinization of a variable % of the total volume (30% approx..) depending upon de quality of the incoming water.</li> </ul>

# RESOURCES

## R1 Water

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
<b>R1.1 Minimise water demand</b>	<b>R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water</b>	Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 360° sprinklers in the outer limits of the property has been changed to 180° sprinklers, in order to irrigate just the playing area and thus providing a hard line definition between rough &amp; outrough.</li> <li>• Carries between tee platforms and fairways; tee complex areas and zones far away from the landing area have been left without irrigation.</li> <li>• Approx. 400 sprinkler heads and 40 hectares of maintained turf have been removed.</li> <li>• Wetting agents are included in the maintenance plan on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
<b>R1.2 Maximise water efficiency</b>	<b>R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course</b>	Conduct regular irrigation performance checks; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Ensure effective application of water to target areas; Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An external audit is carried out yearly by a specialized company to check and service central irrigation computer, irrigation satellites and communication between them. The visit includes staff training.</li> <li>• An external audit is carried out yearly by a specialized company to check the desalinization plant and the pump station. Pump's performance is checked to evaluate available flow &amp; pressure. The visit includes staff training.</li> <li>• All sprinkler main nozzles were changed in 2020, due to excessive wear promoted by the wastewater, for new ones.</li> <li>• Soil moisture sensors (TDR 350) is used daily for volumetric water content (VWC%) monitoring. VWC of 12% is targeted, thus providing optimum playing conditions whilst using water efficiently.</li> <li>• A SCADA for pump station monitoring (including pressure &amp; flow records, graphs, etc.) is available for both pump stations and desalinization plants.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Weather station installed on site reports daily with ET data, which is used for adjusting daily runtimes. % adjustments are done station by station in the irrigation software.</li> <li>• 3 x vertidrain solid tine in fairways for water infiltration promotion.</li> </ul>
	<b>R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings</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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rains &amp; water consumption records are available.</li> <li>• 3 &amp; 6 litres devices have been installed on toilets.</li> <li>• The ISO 14001 includes the water auditing procedure that the Club's follows.</li> </ul>
<b>R1.3 Source water responsibly</b>	<b>R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water</b>	Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The resort is irrigated with 100% wastewater produced in the Vila Seca water treatment plant.</li> <li>• 70% of the incoming water is additionally desalted in a state of the art desal plant.</li> <li>• Final 30% wastewater + 70% desalted wastewater is used for irrigation.</li> <li>• The wastewater production is higher during the summer months (due to the increase in population -tourism), when the irrigation demand is also higher.</li> <li>• Prior to the golf course being irrigated with wastewater, the wastewater stream was discharged to the beach, provoking bad smells and bad perception from the beach users. Thus, the golf course has helped to a better community experience though wastewater recycling.</li> <li>• The resort has invested in the wate water treatment plant to achieve a better wastewater quality.</li> <li>• The <i>Agencia Catalana del Agua</i> documents including the wastewater abstraction permit was checked and evaluated.</li> </ul>
<b>R2 Energy</b>			
<b>R2.1 Reduce energy demand</b>	<b>R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in course maintenance</b>	Minimise areas of managed turf to reduce mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approx. 40 hectares of maintained turf have been removed. This work, going from 120 to 80 has of intensive maintenance, has been developed in the last 3 years and has not many more room for space.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing naturalisation is to be focused on the establishment of native's species on those already low maintenance areas.</li> <li>• The current machinery inventory accounts with 12 electric gators + 4 hybrid fairway mowers.</li> <li>• A future refurbishment of the Club design plans to reduce the number of existing bunkers close to a 50%.</li> </ul>
<b>R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency</b>	<b>R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings</b>	Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills; Categorise and track energy consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a year energy audit in the 1) the pump stations, 2) the Clubhouse; and 3) The maintenance facility.</li> <li>• All lights in the Club have been changed to LED technology.</li> <li>• Energy consumption is categorised and tracked by an external company (OPYCE) which submits reports and conclusions for the Property, including opportunities for improvement.</li> </ul>
<b>R2.3 Source energy responsibly</b>	<b>R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy</b>	Determine potential sources of renewable energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 533 solar panels are to be installed over the desalinization plant roof in 2021 (already purchased) in order to reduce the energy demand for irrigation purposes through the day, when the energy costs are more expensive.</li> <li>• The panels will be able to provide with 175 kW in peak hours.</li> <li>• A total of 263 MW are expected to be produced on year 1; and 225 MW in year 2.</li> <li>• Golf course toilets with solar panel for its energy requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>R3 Materials</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>	Undertake a review of materials consumed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All materials consumed and produced wastes are recorder on a sheet, separately and including the quantities produced each week.</li> <li>• There is a "<i>0 paper policy</i>" put into place by the Club. All documentation, procedures, communications, etc. are being produced and shared electronically, in electronic format. All previously printed documentation is being scanned for having all the Club's documentation in electronic format.</li> <li>• The Club is now planning to introduce soon the "<i>No more plastic</i>" policy through the suppression of plastic</li> </ul>

			<p>cups, bags, and water bottles. A metal water bottle with the Club's logo will be submitted to visitors for refilling; and carton bags are already available on the shop.</p>
<b>R3.2 Purchase responsibly</b>	<b>R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy</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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the sands used for topdressing purposes are produced in local quarries.</li> <li>• Restoration in the Clubhouse is founded upon local products.</li> </ul>
<b>R3.3 Reuse and recycle</b>	<b>R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity</b>	Demonstrate waste separation, reuse and recycling; Track how much waste goes to landfill, or is reused / recycled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The creation of new native, non-irrigated areas opened a new opportunity for recycling: the sod that was extracted from the new non turfing areas was used to repair damaged, naked areas.</li> <li>• Bio compost produced in the water treatment plan (Vila Seca) is used as soil amendment. Thus, the subproduct produced to treat the irrigation water is recycled and reused to growth turf.</li> <li>• Reuse of drainage water is achieved in the Ruins course.</li> <li>• Cores produced in the hollow coring of fairways are recycled for damaged areas recovering.</li> <li>• Grass clippings return are recycled and return to the playing surface.</li> <li>• Recycling bins stations (3 stations per course) have been installed (green / blue / yellow).</li> <li>• An external company provides a shredder service inside the property for all the green waste produced after the pine trees pruning. Approx. 60-80 tons of pine wood &amp; needles mulch are produced every year.</li> </ul>
<b>R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance</b>	<b>R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations</b>	Use authorised waste and recycling contractor for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste	An authorised external contractor manages all the hazardous waste produced on site.



# COMMUNITY

## C1 Outreach

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality	C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birdwatching and School visits to the Sequia major observatory within the property are promoted (except during reproduction periods).</li> <li>Walks around and biking is available on the Hills course (forest area). Almost 3km of promenade are available, with pedestrian access from outside the course.</li> <li>A local marathon is promoted every year, crossing through the course.</li> <li>External companies and distributors, such as cars dealers, promote events and activities in the Clubhouse.</li> </ul>
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IRONWOLF: An event in which the golfer must play 45 holes walking is promoted. All incomes are donated for environmental purposes. Last year the incomes were donated to the "Asociación Tortugas del Mediterráneo", which monitors the protected turtle existing in the Sequia major.</li> <li>Christmas: The Club donates presents to the children in the local hospital.</li> </ul>
C1.3 Establish active community partnerships	C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups	Create a 'sustainability working group'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no sustainability working group.</li> <li>Periodically, there are meetings between the local town hall and tourist responsible of the Costa Dorada aiming to establish common policies regarding tourists.</li> </ul>
<b>C2 Golfers &amp; Employees</b>			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70% of the players play the course walking.</li> <li>The Club users are usually looking for sport and mental health, enjoying a mediterranean landscape with stunning views of the sea, the wetland, and the forest. The Golf and the habitats make a perfect pairing constituting a human benefit.</li> </ul>



<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>Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer school: Golf, swimming pool and languages are offered in the Club for the players &amp; members children.</li> <li>• Golf course Academy attracts many players (Top Tracer technology) and visitors who have their first experience with golf or that want to improve their capacities and abilities.</li> <li>• Fitting centre available.</li> <li>• Junior events are being promoted on Saturdays with great success and attendance.</li> <li>• Open doors day is held yearly. The Club's professional shares free golf classes for attendants.</li> <li>• All the infrastructures are ready for handicapped.</li> </ul>
<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>Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health &amp; safety etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethical employment was demonstrated.</li> <li>• Women hiring is being promoted from the Club to compensate current balance. Part time jobs (4 hours /day) are being offered to women who can conciliate its professional work with their personal duties.</li> <li>• Career plans are available for employees accordingly to job's description done by the Club.</li> <li>• Facilities are tidy &amp; clean, with lunchroom, rest rooms, and nice areas for employees. Employees can also play golf for free.</li> </ul>
<p><b>C3 Communications</b></p>			
<p><b>C3.1 Engage golfers and members</b></p>	<p><b>C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors</b></p>	<p>Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication in June 2020 – The Golf Business. Article explaining the sustainability policies of the Club.</li> <li>• Ornithologist Website available where all the migratory bird's species crossing the Sequia Major can be checked and users can upload images, videos, etc. of the birds they are watching from the Club's observatory.</li> <li>• Oncourse signage showing info of the Sequia Major is present all around.</li> <li>• Newsletter are sent periodically.</li> <li>• The Club is also promoting its activities and services on the radio and in industry events.</li> </ul>
<p><b>C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability</b></p>	<p><b>C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community</b></p>	<p>Provide evidence of external communications and community engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The resort already has been recognized by ISO 14001, EMAS and Audubon, which deserves the recognition "<i>Audubon International Signature Sanctuary</i>".</li> </ul>

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|  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current contract with the European Tour Q school for the next 4 years.</li></ul> |
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## 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](http://www.sustainable.golf)