



GEO Certification

> INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA



Introduction

The GEO Certification International Criteria are the framework against which:

1. The sustainability performance of applicant facilities is evaluated
2. Governments, environmental NGOs and the general public can understand the levels of sustainability performance that GEO Certified sites are expected to achieve and maintain

These core criteria are soon to be supported by **Regional Priority** annexes, established on a region by region, country by country basis.

All criteria are weighted. The '**must**' requirements are mandatory, and facilities are expected to demonstrate credible activity across '**should**' criteria.

Across all issues legal compliance is mandatory to achieve GEO Certified status.

One of the key principles of GEO Certification is positive, proactive participation. All golf facilities are encouraged to make an OnCourse™ declaration, no matter the sophistication of their sustainability work to date.

GEO expects continual long-term improvement from all OnCourse™ and Certified sites.

1.4 Conservation & Enhancement

Facility **should** be undertaking practical activities to enhance the landscape character of the site, in a way that is harmonious with the facility surroundings.

Facility **should** demonstrate significant efforts towards maximise the ecological value of the site, in ways that are appropriate to the ecological potential of the site.

Facility **should** demonstrate practical measures to enhance biodiversity through species conservation measures.

Facility **should** be able to demonstrate patch enlargement, improved connectivity, and the creation of corridors and links between habitats.

notes

6.4 Legal Disputes

Facility **must** not have any legal disputes affecting the site, and must openly declare any controversy and / or community conflict pertaining to the facility and other facility related business activities.

6.5 Communications

Facility **should** be able to demonstrate multiple internal communications actions relating to environmental, community and sustainability issues.

Facility **should** be able to demonstrate multiple external communications and advocacy actions within the community, or at national to international level.

notes

> END

