RESOURCE EFFICIENCY Using less, living better

Golf and biodiversity

Steve Isaac

European Golf Association Golf Course Committee



EGA Golf Course Committee





















Why the EGA?

• 6 million golfers in Europe (60 million globally)

Golf Economy

- 400,000 jobs
- €50 billion total annual economic value





Golf course land use

• 6,800 golf courses in Europe

×

• All small to medium size enterprises



Golf course land use

- Caring for 400,000 ha
- 25 times the size of Brussels!

×





Golf course land use

- Average size 60 ha
- 50% of land not mown for play and therefore areas for enhancing local biodiversity
- 1 ha of putting green

×

• Potential to support and enrich biodiversity



Golf working with the EU

- Biodiversity
- Water

×

• Agrochemicals



Business & Biodiversity Platform

- Share experiences and best practices, learn from peers, and voice their needs and concerns to the European Commission
- EGA GCC in the tourism sector group
- Sector group's guidance document:
- Ljunghusen Golf Club in Sweden is a case study
- EGA Golf Course Committee 10 step-guideline is cited





The EGA 10-Step Guideline

- The EGA GCC proposes a 10-step guideline designed to provide an overarching framework complementing and facilitating access to existing guidance on best practice
- Encourages its national members to incorporate these guidelines into their work
- Encourages to seek endorsement by local third parties in order to begin implementing sustainable practices for biodiversity in golf course management





5 Case studies

- Encouraging wildlife (Centro Nacional, Spain)
- Protecting flora (Ljunghusen, Sweden)
- Increasing biodiversity (Golf National, France)
- Preserving biodiversity (Mainzer, Germany)
- Enhancing habitat (England)

×



Centro Nacional, Madrid (Encouraging wildlife)

• Former waste tip







- Owls, kestrels and other birds (feeders, vegetation and boxes)
- Bats boxes



- Reptiles and amphibians
- Native vegetation







Ljunghusen, Sweden

(Protecting flora)

European
Commission
B&B Platform
case study

×





• 377 plant species on the course

×





• Rare plant, Marsh gentian (*Gentiana pneumonanthe*)





 And with plenty of other wildlife, including the rare Natterjack toad (Epidalea calamita)





Golf National, Paris

(Increasing biodiversity)

- Former arable fields
- Course foundations developed using spoil from Paris building sites

- Variety of habitats increased
- 2008 biodiversity audit by French National Natural History Museum to be repeated every 5 years

×





Golf National, Paris (2008 Audit)

- 782 species of flora and fauna
- 72 species of bird (60% more)
- 107 plant species (50% more)
- 10 rare plant species

×



Mainzer Golf Club, Germany

(Preserving biodiversity)

- Former dump and quarry
- Plans to enlarge dump

×





Mainzer Golf Club, Germany

- Creation of golf course saved habitats
- Preserved rare species, e.g. owls and orchids

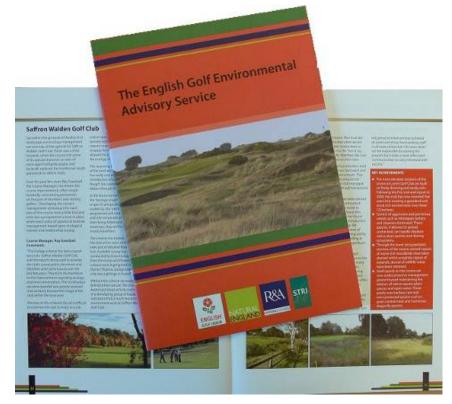






EGU Environmental Advisory Service, UK (Enhancing habitat)

- 220 golf facilities given professional advice
- All set targets for habitat enhancement
- 75% of targets achieved







EGU Environmental Advisory Service, UK

- 19,470 native trees planted
- 119.9 ha of woodland thinned
- 3,858 non-native trees removed
- 10,127 m of hedgerow introduced
- 544 ecopile (dead wood) stacks created
- 467 bird/owl/bat boxes erected
- 151.6 ha of fairway or semi-rough converted to deep rough grassland





EGU Environmental Advisory Service, UK

- 31 wild flower areas to encourage bumblebees
- 22.05 ha of heather restored or created
- 20 new ponds created, 126 existing ponds improved
- 8,200 m of grassland buffer zones around ponds and ditches created
- 2,580 m2 of invasive species cleared
- 14 compost facilities created

×



Certification for sustainability

Golf Environment Organization 'On Course'™

- International, non-profit
- Independent verification
- Transparent

×



- Recognition of environmental and social programmes
- Recognised by UNEP and WWF



Summary

- Golf has potential to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity
- Golf is open to work with other stakeholders to improve its performance and contribute to the EU goals on biodiversity and ecosystem preservation
- 10-step guideline
- Case studies
- Certification

×

