

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY
Using less, living better

Golf and biodiversity

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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'TM

- 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