



IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress
Hawai'i 2016

Towards a Sustainable World Conservation Congress



Towards a sustainable World Conservation Congress

Overall objective

As noted in their agreement, the Host Country and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (“IUCN”) aim to avoid, minimize and compensate any direct and indirect negative impacts associated with all aspects of the Congress. To meet this objective, IUCN and the Host Committee will put into place procedures and practices with regards to the following: waste minimization, recycling, energy consumption, CO₂ emissions, use of renewable resources, conservation of non-renewable resources, minimizing consumption and minimizing negative impacts to biodiversity.

Vision

The IUCN World Conservation Congress becomes a leading example in event sustainability and leaves a lasting legacy for the local event and tourism industry, including guidelines for future green events in Honolulu.

Process

This document contains an overall sustainability framework of 8 principles based on those developed in a range of international organizations¹ and events² that have been run sustainably. They are based on the premise to *avoid*, *minimize* and *offset* negative impacts and *enhance* the sustainability and duration of positive impacts.

For each principle in the framework, examples of the types of issues/actions are listed that would need to be targeted for different parties. The proposed next steps are to:

1. Understand how the international principles can be made relevant in both a national and local context, specifically regarding the venue and area around.
2. Discuss and agree what actions/issues can be included under each principle
3. Decide on realistic targets (based on existing situation locally, and compared to the other events) under each sustainability aims
4. Identify performance indicators for the targets to aid future reporting
5. Develop an action plan for how to succeed in each principle, divided per party

A specific timeline is suggested in the Annex.

¹ As per definition by the Sustainable United Nations (SUN) unit in UNEP – see http://www.ecoprocura.eu/fileadmin/editor_files/Sustainable_Events_Guide_May_30_2012_FINAL.pdf, page 9. And the Global Reporting Initiative's sector supplement for Sustainable Event management.

² The 2009 UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Copenhagen and the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

Proposed sustainability action plan

	Example actions/issues for different parties				
SUSTAINABILITY AIM	Venue	IUCN Secretariat	Host Country/Green Team/ Suppliers	Hotels	Delegates
1. Emissions of greenhouse gases, such as CO ₂ , are minimized, and unavoidable emissions are compensated for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoid energy loss from the building and minimize energy consumption within (e.g. fixed temperatures, decentralized and energy-efficient lighting and A/C) - architecture of building minimizes needs for A/C (allowing winds to circulate throughout the building and vent off heat) - source equipment locally - source food locally; seasonal food as much as possible - provide many vegetarian/vegan options on menu - electronic equipment (printers, photocopiers, computers, AV etc.) should be ENERGY STAR® certified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - limit emissions from travel to Congress (e.g. compensating air travel emissions of sponsored delegates and staff through offsets, economy class travel for delegates and staff, limiting IUCN staff delegation size) - limit emissions from shipment of publications and materials (e.g. maximum cost center quota on weight/volume, favoring boat mail instead of air mail, etc.) - offset all emissions linked to shipment - estimate travel emissions to and from Congress and local emissions for all participants before Congress and validate actual emissions after Congress through independent CO₂ emission assessment - provide mechanism for delegates to voluntarily contribute to carbon offsetting (Congress Carbon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - encourage sustainable transport on site (e.g. use of Speedi Shuttles for airport transfers, free bus passes, free bike use, electric cars/buses, biodiesel, etc.) - no Congress Shuttle services provided to participants within 20 min walking distance - source equipment and food locally as much as possible - compensate Congress-related CO₂ emissions for Host Country staff via Congress Carbon Offset Fund, if applicable - contract hotels in walking distance or with good public transport connection to venue - provide support onsite to increase Congress Carbon Offset Fund to fully offset Congress emissions, as necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enroll in the Hawaii Green Business Program's - Hotels and resorts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - local participants to travel by public transport to venue, as much as possible - non-local participants to choose the most direct economy (rather than business class) flights - pack light - do not bring printed material - offset emissions through the Congress Carbon Offset Fund - choose hotel close to venue - walk to venue as much as possible and commute locally by public transport

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		Offset Fund) - invest funds raised with Congress Carbon Offset Fund in offsetting project (project selection in line with IUCN Carbon Offset Policy) - electronic equipment brought by staff should be ENERGY STAR® certified			
2. Water consumption is minimized and demand is adapted to available local resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - automatic dispensers for sink faucets, hand towels, hand soap and hand sanitizer in all restrooms have been installed to save on water and dispensing towels and cleansing product. - low-flush toilets and urinals and low-flow aerators in sinks and showers are used throughout the building to reduce water use. - Xeriscape planting and drip irrigation are incorporated in the landscaping to minimize water use. - assure that the waste water is treated in the best way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -ensure adequate measures are implemented - adopt water-saving conduct (e.g. use towels and linen several times.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -ensure adequate measures are implemented - adopt water-saving conduct (e.g. use towels and linen several times.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -enroll in the Hawaii Green Business Program's - Hotels and resorts (include water -saving measures and waste management targets) - provide information to guests about how to contribute to water saving measures - assure that the waste water is treated in the best way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -reduce water consumption -adopt water-saving conduct (e.g. use towels and linen several times.)

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<p>3. Zero-Waste Event: residual waste generation is avoided where possible and remaining waste is reused, recycled and/or composted</p> <p>Plastic-free Congress Paperlow Congress</p>	<p>-plastic bottles are not sold or distributed at the venue (e.g. tap water encouraged and water fountains available throughout the venue; refillable jugs used instead of bottled water for speakers)</p> <p>- no plastic items such as plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic cups, straws, and plastic packaging/wrapping are distributed or sold at the venue</p> <p>- food/catering waste is minimized (redistribution to local charities, reuse of cutlery, recyclable/compostable cutlery)</p> <p>- composting of organic waste (to produce soil fertilizer, or supplying to farmers for livestock feed),</p> <p>- recycling and composting scheme is in place throughout the venue</p> <p>- printing and use of paper is minimized (e.g. optimal use of Congress Mobile app', all printers on double-sided default printing, etc.)</p> <p>- no packaging (e.g. condiments in bulk, no individual wrapping)</p>	<p>-printing and use of paper is minimized (e.g. Mobile App' has all key functionalities, electronic distribution of publications, QR codes etc.)</p> <p>- develop education campaign for staff, exhibitors and event's organizers and offer e-solutions for marketing.</p> <p>-have exhibitors and event organizers sign sustainability commitments</p> <p>- minimize hand-out of promotional material and giveaways</p> <p>- refillable bottles provided to all delegates free of charge or at a competitive selling rate</p>	<p>- electronic means are available onsite to replace paper distribution (flat screens, tablets, charging stations and excellent WIFI etc.)</p> <p>-waste from exhibition materials is minimized (e.g. sustainable and ideally locally sourced materials such as organic or recycled long-lasting material)</p> <p>- re-use materials from other meetings (e.g. carpet, exhibition stands)</p> <p>- if applicable consider giveaways that convey a green and/or socially responsible message, are reusable and which have been produced ethically, using environmentally-friendly materials (such as organic unbleached natural fibers, recycled, nontoxic or biodegradable materials)</p>	<p>-Enroll in the Hawaii Green Business Program's - Hotels and resorts (including food/catering waste minimization)</p> <p>-a recycling scheme is in place</p> <p>- bath room products in refillable bulk dispensers and consumable amenities minimized/not replaced daily</p> <p>- tap water encouraged or water fountains; reusable cups or refillable bottles or jugs given</p>	<p>-adopt appropriate conduct to reduce Waste</p> <p>- Bring your refillable bottle</p> <p>-Exhibitors adhere to the "My Green Congress Exhibition Guidebook"</p> <p>-Event Organizers adhere to the "My Green Congress Event Guidebook"</p>

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4. Biodiversity and natural resources are conserved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no threatened species on menus - vegetarian/vegan options available - locally sourced, seasonal and sustainable food provided as much as possible (e.g. only seafood from local sustainable fishing programmes) - only endemic, non-endangered potted plants are used for decoration within venue - environmental-friendly cleaning products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prepare and disseminate information about minimizing risk of introducing invasive species to/from Host Country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disseminate information to suppliers and ensure guidelines are respected - only endemic, non-endangered potted plants are used for decoration - promote local conservation projects via special excursions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Enroll in the Hawaii Green Business Program's - Hotels and resorts- no threatened species on menus (e.g. only seafood from local sustainable fishing programmes) - source sustainable and recyclable or reusable products where possible (FSC, SFI, PEFC certified paper, etc.) - only endemic, non-endangered plants are used for decoration - environmentally responsible cleaning products for carpets, floors, kitchens and bathrooms are used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - respect guidelines about minimizing risk of invasive species - book tours certified as sustainable - adopt responsible conduct when visiting, especially in parks and reserves

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5. The local community benefits economically, socially and environmentally both during and after the meeting, with local sustainable development encouraged to the extent achievable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - source suppliers/products and food locally and offer fair-trade products where possible - donate surplus food and any other reusable leftover items to local charities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - achieve eco-certification for the event, e.g. ISO 20121 and/or HGBP - provide appropriate conference gifts/merchandise sourced locally from community groups, if applicable - Produce a green guide for events in Honolulu, post Congress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract local sustainable suppliers - create tours programme engaging with local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -achieve eco-certification for the local hotels (e.g. developing a self-audit system, standards of HGBP etc.) - donate surplus food and any other reusable leftover items to local charities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - delegates engage in local community, e.g. tours, local restaurants, facilities to visit etc.) - respect guide to local customs so as not to offend community
6. The above principles are applied in purchasing goods and services for the meeting, transportation, catering and accommodation arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -sustainably sourced decorations (e.g. indigenous plants and flowers) - sustainably sourced food (e.g. local, seasonal and, fair trade, vegetarian/vegan options) - source sustainable, recyclable or reusable products where possible (e.g. FSC SFI, PEFC paper, natural ink, environmental-friendly non-toxic cleaning products, stands, temporary structures etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sustainability criteria included in all tenders documents and contracts with venue and suppliers - source sustainable, recyclable or reusable products where possible (e.g. FSC SFI, PEFC paper, natural ink, environmental-friendly non-toxic cleaning products, stands, temporary structures etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sustainability criteria included in all tender documents and contracts with venue and suppliers - source sustainable, recyclable or reusable products where possible (e.g. FSC SFI, PEFC paper, natural ink, environmental-friendly non-toxic cleaning products, stands, temporary structures etc.) - energy-efficient vehicles for local/VIP transport provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -sustainably sourced decorations (e.g. indigenous plants and flowers) - sustainably sourced food e.g. local, seasonal and sustainably grown, fair trade, vegetarian/vegan options) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adopt responsible conduct - select local and sustainable restaurants - support communities by shopping local

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7. The awareness of participants, staff service providers and the local community in sustainability issues is increased, with the greening aims and measures communicated clearly to all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -an environmental policy and action Plan exists, covering: sustainable procurement, energy saving, catering services, transportation, water and waste management with clear targets on awareness raising - ensure sustainability commitments from suppliers/contractors - venue staff are trained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -provide incentives for sustainable behavior (e.g. residual waste volume contest, Green Exhibition Contest, prize for smallest environmental impact etc.) - “My Green Congress Guidebook” with useful local information for delegates to be published online and on the Mobile App’ - outreach to local hosts, regional and national authorities, sponsors, citizens groups, NGOs, business and technical experts in order to comply with and support the above-stated principles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “My Green Congress Guidebook” with useful local information for delegates to be produced - “My Green Congress” booth set up with relevant information and qualified staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -training courses for staff on environmental duties -provide information in guest rooms about the green aspects - ensure sustainability commitments from suppliers/contractors -hotels certified with a recognized Ecolabel or another recognized environmental management system -hotels have an environmental policy and action plan, ideally covering green procurement, energy saving, catering services, transportation, waste, and communication to guests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delegates adopt sustainability guidelines and make use of them at their own events - in case of non-compliance with the Hawaii Green Business Program’s Green Hotel Programme (relevant level), notify Hotel Management and Green Team

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8. Health, safety, and human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -first aid and prevention from accidents/ fatalities in place - appropriate fire regulations and emergency exits - accessibility of venue - workload and work conditions of staff during the event (e.g. quota on maximum amount of hours) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -gender and cultural balance, diversity (e.g. quota on women participation in panels, regional representation) -awareness raising and measures to recognize prevent and mitigate stress-related health issues before and during Congress -workload of staff during the event is monitored and compensated (e.g. quota on maximum amount of hours, deployment system, staff relief and wellbeing - staff trained on Health & Safety in venue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -gender and cultural balance, diversity (e.g. quota on women participation in panels) -workload of staff, hostesses and volunteers during the event (e.g. quota on maximum amount of hours) - hostesses and volunteers trained on Health & Safety in venue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -first aid and prevention from accidents/fatalities in place - workload of staff during the event (e.g. quota on maximum amount of hours) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information on Health & Safety is made available to delegates - gender balance is promoted/encouraged for Members (Heads of delegation, delegation composition) - gender and cultural balance of speakers is promoted/encouraged for event organizers