



# **GSTC MICE Criteria for Venues**

**with  
Performance Indicators and SDGs**

**Version 1.0  
29 February 2024**

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## Preamble

Demand for more sustainable travel options has been rising in recent years and continues to increase, from the business travel community, leisure travel, regulators, and the public in general. The MICE (Meetings, Incentive Travel, Conferences/Conventions, and Events/Exhibitions) industry has a significant impact on the environment and communities, as companies organize events and exhibitions for the promotion of the local region as well as the marketing of their products.

Further, as many buyers and travelers show concern over sustainable travel, higher levels of sustainability are increasingly viewed as imperative for many travel and meetings professionals,

The sustainability of MICE activities relates directly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN General Assembly. All versions of GSTC Criteria map well to the SDGs. In addition to serving as good guidance for the internal operations of a business, requiring GSTC Criteria compliance by suppliers serves as an efficient filter in contracting to make products and services more compliant with SDG Goal 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production.

The GSTC MICE Criteria continue a proud heritage of the GSTC as the keeper of a highly inclusive, global process to develop and manage sustainable travel and tourism standards that are truly globally relevant. The MICE Criteria were developed with the same rigorous, methodical, and inclusive process as the GSTC Industry Criteria and the GSTC Destination Criteria, which cause them to be widely recognized and adopted as global standards by countless government bodies and businesses, regardless of political systems and cultural orientation. They are universal concepts developed without bias.

Some of the uses of the Criteria include the following:

- Help define sustainability in a holistic manner
- Raise awareness of the breadth and nature of sustainability
- Serve as the basis for certification for sustainability
- Serve as basic guidelines for MICE businesses to become more sustainable which includes guidance for identifying more sustainable suppliers and service providers
- Provide greater market access in the growing market for sustainable businesses, serving as guidance for the MICE businesses in choosing suppliers and partners
- Help consumers identify sound sustainable MICE businesses
- Serve as a common denominator for information media to recognize sustainable MICE businesses
- Offer both the public and private sectors a starting point for developing sustainable MICE business requirements
- Serve as basic guidelines for education and training on sustainable MICE by universities, hospitality schools, or associations
- Demonstrate leadership that inspires others to act

The GSTC MICE Criteria have been developed for the following sectors: Venues, Event Organizers, Events/Exhibitions.

The Criteria have been developed and revised using the Standard-Setting Code of the ISEAL Alliance as a guide, and by following the GSTC Standard-Setting Manual version 3.0. Learn more about the inclusive development process of the Criteria at [www.gstc.org](http://www.gstc.org).

## **Criteria Application**

The criteria set out in this document shall be applied to the greatest extent possible unless the criterion is not applicable to a specific situation and circumstances, and this is justified. Specific circumstances may include local (regional or national) regulations and environmental, social, economic, or cultural conditions of the region, among others. Limited resources may also prevent the comprehensive application of all criteria.

Further guidance on these criteria may be found in the supporting indicators and definitions set out in the publication.

## **Criteria Revision**

The Criteria will be revised approximately every 5 years. Plans for revisions will be available on the GSTC Website. At present, the GSTC Criteria Team is the focal point for receiving communications regarding the Criteria. The history of the Criteria development is also available on the website. Please see [here](#).

This document will be updated periodically as new information is developed. If you would like to suggest new indicators or other improvements, please send your suggestion to [criteria@gstcouncil.org](mailto:criteria@gstcouncil.org). Your suggestions will be taken into account during the next criteria revision process.

## **Performance Indicators**

The performance indicators presented here are designed to provide guidance in measuring compliance with the GSTC MICE Criteria.



## Definitions of Terms Used in the MICE Criteria







TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Venue</b>	A closed or open place, operated or owned by a person or institution, which is designated or has the ability to host events and exhibitions.
<b>Event Organizer</b>	An individual, team, business, or organization who organizes an event on behalf of an event owner or other clients. Job titles for event organizers vary greatly throughout the MICE industry and may include event planners, meeting planners, incentive planners, professional conference organizers, and others. They may or may not be the same entity as the event owner.
<b>Event/Exhibition</b>	<p>A specific occasion for which people are convened for a limited duration (usually days or weeks) for a specific purpose. The Event/Exhibition is owned by a person, business, organization, committee, institution, or government entity, which is ultimately responsible for its management. This term encompasses all events in the MICE sector: meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions.</p> <p><i>Note: The GSTC MICE Criteria are designed to apply to recurring events/exhibitions and not to one-time events/exhibitions. The recurring events/exhibitions in the same venue also apply.</i></p>
<b>Event owner</b> <b>Relevant criterion:</b> <b>A1</b>	The entity that commissions the Event/Exhibition. The event owner can be a person, business, organization, committee, institution, or government entity and is ultimately responsible for its management.
<b>Risk analysis</b> <b>Relevant criterion:</b> <b>A2</b>	A process of identifying and analyzing circumstances that may pose a hazard to the health and safety of people on-site during events, the local environment, or the local community and economy.
<b>Staff</b> <b>Relevant criteria:</b> <b>A2, A5, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, C1, D1.1, D1.2, D2.2, D2.4, D2.5</b>	Full-time, part-time, and temporary staff, including volunteers, employed or contracted by the venue and/or event organizer/owner.
<b>Stakeholders of an Event / Exhibition</b> <b>Relevant criteria:</b> <b>A2, A4, A6, B4, B6, C1, D1.1, D1.2, D3.2</b>	All individuals, groups, or entities that play a significant role in the execution of an Event/Exhibition or are affected by its planning, execution, and outcomes, including the event owner, event organizers, clients, sponsors, suppliers, exhibitors, and attendees.

<b>Temporary structures</b> <b>Relevant criteria:</b> <b>A3, A8, A9</b>	Any indoor or outdoor structures that are temporarily constructed for an event or exhibition, including tents, modular exhibits, exhibition booths, pop-up canopies, and pavilions.
<b>Green buildings certification</b> <b>Relevant criterion:</b> <b>A8</b>	Any green building certification standards administered by a member of the World Green Building Council or listed as one of the Green Building Standards and Certification Systems by the Whole Building Design Guide.  <a href="https://worldgbc.org/sustainable-building-certifications/">(https://worldgbc.org/sustainable-building-certifications/</a> <a href="https://www.wbdg.org/resources/green-building-standards-and-certification-systems">https://www.wbdg.org/resources/green-building-standards-and-certification-systems)</a>
<b>Sustainable suppliers and products</b> <b>Relevant criterion:</b> <b>A9</b>	A supplier or product certified or verified by a credible third-party audited certification program that identifies suppliers or products with a reduced impact on the planet and humans based on factors such as practices, ingredients, methods of extraction, and production, or circular design. When certified suppliers and products are not available, sustainable suppliers and products are defined as those that have documented sustainable practices or methods of production.
<b>Water risk</b> <b>Relevant criterion:</b> <b>D1.2</b>	The probability and severity of an entity experiencing a deleterious water-related event, including water scarcity, water stress, water quality, seasonal variability, pollution, access to water, floods, droughts, and water-borne diseases.  For the purposes of the GSTC MICE standards, water risk may be assessed using the Aqueduct tool of the World Resources Institute ( <a href="https://www.wri.org/aqueduct">https://www.wri.org/aqueduct</a> ).
<b>People with disabilities</b> <b>Relevant criteria:</b> <b>A2, A5, B5, B6, B7, B8</b>	Those who have physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.  Source: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 1 ( <a href="https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-2.html">https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-2.html</a> )
<b>Scope 1 GHG emissions</b> <b>Relevant criterion:</b> <b>D2.1</b>	Greenhouse gas emissions occurring from sources that are owned or controlled by the organization, for example, emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces, vehicles, etc., emissions from chemical production in owned or controlled process equipment. Source: GHG Protocol Corporate Standard ( <a href="https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard">https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard</a> )






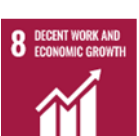

<b>Scope 2 GHG emissions</b> <b>Relevant criterion: D2.1</b>	<p>Greenhouse gas emissions from the generation of acquired and consumed electricity, steam, heat, or cooling.</p> <p><i>Source: GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance (<a href="https://ghgprotocol.org/scope-2-guidance">https://ghgprotocol.org/scope-2-guidance</a>)</i></p>
<b>Scope 3 GHG emissions</b> <b>Relevant criterion: D2.1</b>	<p>All indirect emissions (not included in scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions, for example, the production of purchased products, transportation of purchased products, or use of sold products.</p> <p><i>Source: GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard (<a href="https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-value-chain-scope-3-standard">https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-value-chain-scope-3-standard</a>)</i></p>
<b>Harmful substances</b> <b>Relevant criterion: D2.5</b>	<p>Chemical substances that could pose a threat to the environment and/or human health.</p>
<b>Local products (including food)</b> <b>Relevant criteria: A8, A9</b>	<p>Products that are defined as local according to relevant authorities in the event destination, such as local governments or associations focused on promoting local procurement. If no definition exists in the event destination, define local products as those produced within a radius of 50 km (31 miles) to 400 km (250 miles) from the business operation, depending on the geographical characteristics and business rationale.</p>
<b>Local suppliers</b> <b>Relevant criterion: A9</b>	<p>Suppliers that are defined as local according to relevant authorities in the event destination, such as local governments or associations focused on promoting local businesses. If no definition exists in the event destination, define local suppliers as those whose operations are conducted within a radius of 50 km (31 miles) to 400 km (250 miles) from the venue/event operation, depending on the geographical characteristics and business rationale. If no relevant local suppliers exist within the radius, define local suppliers as those that provide significant local employment.</p>
<b>Local employment</b> <b>Relevant criterion: B2</b>	<p>Staff whose primary residence is in the host country and in the city or region of the Event/Exhibition or the venue.</p>
<b>Local culture</b> <b>Relevant criteria: A1, B1, C3</b>	<p>One or more cultures that are significantly represented in the city or region of the event location. May include dominant, Indigenous, and minority cultures.</p>







## GSTC MICE CRITERIA







Criteria	Indicators	SDGs
<b>SECTION A: Demonstrate effective sustainable management</b>		
<p><b>A1. Sustainability policy and plan</b></p> <p>The venue has a sustainability policy and plan that applies to all events they host. A person or group is responsible for implementing the policy and plan and reviewing it periodically. The policy and plan drive continuous improvement.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue has a sustainability policy and a multi-year sustainability plan.</li> <li>2. Venues that are part of a multi-location brand have a sustainability plan specific to the individual property (not just an overarching corporate policy).</li> <li>3. The policy and plan are being actively implemented. A person or group is responsible for implementing and monitoring the policy and plan.</li> <li>4. The policy and plan address the environment; the local community, economy, and culture; human rights; and health and safety.</li> <li>5. The policy and plan include measurable goals.</li> <li>6. The policy and plan include a process for monitoring continuous improvement in sustainability performance.</li> <li>7. The policy is reviewed at least every three years, and the plan is reviewed annually.</li> <li>8. The sustainability policy is approved by the general manager, a senior executive, or an equivalent position.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>A2. Risk management</b></p> <p>The venue manages risks and has contingency plans for unexpected situations during the event.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue conducts a documented analysis of risks that may affect the health and safety of people on-site during events.</li> <li>2. The venue conducts a documented analysis of risks that the events it hosts may pose to the environment and the local community and economy. The venue consults local stakeholders during the analysis.</li> <li>3. The venue has a plan to prevent and mitigate identified risks during events.</li> <li>4. A person or group is responsible for conducting risk analyses, implementing prevention and mitigation plans, and communicating the plan to the relevant staff and stakeholders.</li> <li>5. The venue has an emergency and/or crisis management plan, including staff roles and consideration of people with disabilities. A person or group is responsible for maintaining and communicating the plan and facilitating its implementation when needed.</li> <li>6. All plans for preventing and mitigating risks or responding to emergencies include steps for collaborating with local authorities and stakeholders if a risk or crisis escalates beyond the event venue.</li> </ol>	


<p><b>A3. Legal compliance</b></p> <p>The venue is in compliance with all applicable local and national laws and regulations.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue is in compliance with all applicable local and national laws and regulations in all countries of operation, including, among others, health, safety, labor, and environmental aspects.</li> <li>2. The venue possesses up-to-date versions of all necessary official documents, such as permits, licenses, and certificates.</li> <li>3. All permanent and temporary structures constituting the venue comply with zoning requirements and laws related to protected and sensitive areas and heritage considerations.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>A4. Reporting and communication</b></p> <p>The venue communicates its sustainability policy, actions, and performance to stakeholders, including the local community, and seeks to engage their support.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue makes its sustainability policy available to stakeholders and the local community.</li> <li>2. The venue publishes an annual sustainability performance report online, shares it with all stakeholders, and makes the report available in an offline format upon request.</li> <li>3. All communications about the venue, including promotions and marketing, are accurate with regard to its sustainability claims.</li> <li>4. Sustainability actions and policies relevant to attendees are visible during the event via methods that adhere to sustainable best practices for displays and communications (see A9.7).</li> <li>5. The venue provides a post-event sustainability report to each event client containing data for sustainability functions operated by the venue, such as waste disposal, energy consumption, and water consumption.</li> </ol>	 
<p><b>A5. Staff engagement</b></p> <p>Staff are engaged with the development and implementation of the sustainability policy and plan. Staff receive guidance and training regarding their roles and responsibilities in their delivery.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Staff are included in the development and engaged with the implementation of the sustainability policy and plan.</li> <li>2. Staff and volunteers receive guidance and training regarding their roles and responsibilities with respect to sustainability policies, plans, and practices. Records of training or guidance are available.</li> <li>3. Staff training and guidance materials are available for reference, including in multiple languages and formats accessible to people with disabilities as needed, to train all relevant staff.</li> <li>4. The venue seeks feedback from staff on the sustainability policy, plan, and practices. This feedback is taken into consideration for continuous improvement.</li> <li>5. Staff have the option to submit feedback anonymously and are protected from retaliation.</li> </ol>	 
<p><b>A6. Stakeholder collaboration</b></p> <p>Stakeholder feedback, including aspects of sustainability, is monitored and corrective action is taken.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stakeholder feedback, including aspects of sustainability, is monitored, analyzed, and used for continuous improvement.</li> </ol>	



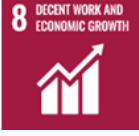








	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The venue communicates ways that stakeholders and attendees can support or submit feedback about the sustainability policy, plan, and implementation.</li> <li>The venue takes corrective action where appropriate, documents it, and consults the affected stakeholders for feedback.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>A7. Destination sustainability</b></p> <p>The venue aligns its activities to the destination’s sustainable tourism plans and goals and contributes to their development.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The venue is involved with sustainable tourism planning and management in the destination.</li> </ol>	 
<p><b>A8. Sustainable practices and materials in buildings and infrastructure</b></p> <p>The venue uses local and sustainable practices and materials.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The venue uses local materials, practices, and crafts in buildings, temporary structures, and designs where practical and appropriate.</li> <li>For any temporary structures provided or sourced by the venue, the venue chooses materials that are rented or can otherwise be diverted from landfills and incinerators according to its solid waste management plan (see D2.4).</li> <li>The venue pursues a third-party audited green building certification for any currently planned or in-progress construction or significant renovations.</li> </ol>	  
<p><b>A9. Purchasing and contracting</b></p> <p>The venue’s purchasing policies favor sustainable, local and fair-trade suppliers and products. Purchasing procedures are managed to minimize impact on the environment.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The venue has a written sustainable purchasing policy that prefers sustainable, local, and/or fair-trade suppliers and products when available.</li> <li>The sustainable purchasing policy includes event displays and decorations, food &amp; beverage, building materials, temporary structures, promotional items, and consumables purchased directly by the venue.</li> <li>The venue’s sustainable purchasing policy prefers reusable or rented goods over consumable or disposable goods when available.</li> <li>The venue’s sustainable purchasing policy favors recyclable or recycled-content products when the purchase of consumable or disposable goods is unavoidable.</li> <li>The sustainable purchasing policy is being actively implemented.</li> <li>Contracts with suppliers include environmental sustainability requirements relevant to each supplier, including a target percentage of sustainability-certified products as applicable.</li> <li>Signs, banners, and other on-site displays and communications posted by the venue are displayed electronically, saved for future reuse, or printed on locally recyclable materials.</li> </ol>	  



Criteria	Indicators	SDGs
<b>SECTION B: Maximize social and economic benefits and minimize negative impacts</b>		
<p><b>B1. Community support</b></p> <p>The venue supports the local community.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The venue supports the local community financially or in-kind in areas of need identified by the local community. Examples of support include contributions to projects led by local partners relating to the local infrastructure, environment, culture, education, training, small business development, health, or sanitation.</li> <li>The level and nature of contributions made to schemes in the local community are recorded.</li> </ol>	  
<p><b>B2. Local employment</b></p> <p>Local residents are given opportunities for employment, including temporary and management positions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The venue has a policy to prefer local residents from the event destination for permanent and temporary positions.</li> <li>The policy is being actively implemented.</li> <li>Local residents are given equal opportunity for advancement and employment in management positions.</li> <li>The venue monitors the number and proportion of permanent employment it provides for local residents.</li> </ol>	 
<p><b>B3. Community services</b></p> <p>The activities of the venue do not jeopardize the provision of basic services. A feedback mechanism is in place for communities in the event destination, and any reduction in the availability of basic services caused by the venue is addressed.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The venue has assessed the capacity of the local infrastructure and environment when determining its maximum per event attendee capacity.</li> <li>The activities of the venue do not jeopardize the provision of basic food and water, energy, health, and sanitation services to neighboring communities in the event destination.</li> <li>A communication mechanism is in place for local communities to report any reductions in the availability of basic food and water, energy, health, and sanitation services in the areas of venue operations.</li> <li>The venue takes corrective action where appropriate, documents it, and consults the affected stakeholders for feedback.</li> </ol>	  

<p><b>B4. Local livelihoods</b></p> <p>The activities of the venue do not restrict local access to livelihoods. A communication mechanism is in place for local communities to report instances of restricted access, and corrective action is taken where appropriate.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The activities of the venue do not restrict local access to livelihoods, including land and aquatic resource use.</li> <li>2. The activities of the venue do not restrict access to rights-of-way and transport.</li> <li>3. The activities of the venue do not restrict access to local residences.</li> <li>4. A communication mechanism is in place for local communities to report any instance of restricted access to transport, local residences, and local livelihoods in the areas of venue operations.</li> <li>5. The venue takes corrective action where appropriate, documents it, and consults the affected stakeholders for feedback.</li> </ol>	 
<p><b>B5. Code of conduct</b></p> <p>The venue has a code of conduct to guide the behavior of staff, suppliers, and clients.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The code of conduct reflects the venue’s policies regarding exploitation, harassment, and human trafficking (see B6).</li> <li>2. The code of conduct encourages respectful treatment toward all people regardless of race, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, parental status, national origin, age, disability, or political affiliation.</li> <li>3. The code of conduct includes guidelines for interactions with children, including guidance on appropriate physical contact. In particular, taking photos or videos of children, giving gifts to children, and accepting gifts from children are discouraged without the permission of the child and the child's parent or legal guardian.</li> <li>4. The code of conduct includes guidelines for interactions with vulnerable and marginalized groups, including people with disabilities. In particular, taking photos or videos of adults in the local community is discouraged without the subject's permission.</li> <li>5. The venue communicates the code of conduct to staff, suppliers, and clients.</li> <li>6. The venue provides staff guidance and training about the code of conduct. Records or evidence of training or guidance are available.</li> </ol>	   

<p><b>B6. Exploitation, harassment, and human trafficking</b></p> <p>The venue has implemented a policy against sexual or any other form of exploitation, harassment, and human trafficking, including forced labor, particularly for children, adolescents, women, Indigenous people, minorities, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue has a written policy against sexual or any other form of exploitation, harassment, human trafficking, including forced labor.</li> <li>2. The policy includes procedures for monitoring event activities for exploitation, harassment, and human trafficking, including forced labor as well as procedures for reporting and responding to incidents.</li> <li>3. The policy covers children, adolescents, women, and other vulnerable groups such as minorities, Indigenous people, people with disabilities, etc.</li> <li>4. The policy is communicated internally and to the stakeholders.</li> <li>5. The policy is being actively implemented.</li> <li>6. The venue is engaged with initiatives and efforts against exploitation, harassment, and human trafficking, including forced labor.</li> <li>7. Supplier contracts include a zero-tolerance clause for exploitation, harassment, human trafficking including forced labor.</li> <li>8. The venue provides staff with guidance and training relevant to their roles in recognizing and reporting incidents of exploitation or harassment. Records or evidence of training or guidance is available.</li> </ol>	  
<p><b>B7. Access for all</b></p> <p>The venue provides access and information for people with disabilities, pregnant and nursing mothers, people with allergies, and the elderly.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue provides access for people with disabilities, pregnant and nursing mothers, people with allergies, and the elderly.</li> <li>2. Upon request, the venue consults clients and provides additional accessibility services or equipment when feasible.</li> <li>3. The venue seeks feedback from clients, staff, and attendees about accessibility and inclusion practices. This feedback is used for continuous improvement.</li> <li>4. The venue provides staff with guidance and training regarding their roles and responsibilities related to accessibility and inclusion. Records of training or guidance are available.</li> </ol>	 
<p><b>B8. Employment inclusion and equality</b></p> <p>The venue promotes inclusion and equal opportunities, including in management positions, without discrimination.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The employees of the venue have been trained in recognizing bias and discrimination and have identified groups at risk of discrimination, including women, local minorities, Indigenous people, and people with disabilities.</li> <li>2. The venue offers employment and advancement opportunities, including in management positions, without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, parental status, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, or other non-merit-based factors.</li> </ol>	 

<p><b>B9. Decent work</b></p> <p>Labor rights are respected, a safe and secure working environment is provided, and staff are compensated appropriately. Staff are offered appropriate training.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue complies with International Labor Organization (ILO) standards and regulations.</li> <li>2. The venue provides a safe and secure working environment for all staff.</li> <li>3. Water, sanitation, first aid access, and hygiene facilities are provided for all on-site staff and volunteers.</li> <li>4. The venue pays staff no less than the legal minimum wage in the venue location. If there is no local minimum wage, the venue pays staff a wage that is comparable to local wages for similar work.</li> <li>5. The venue provides full-time staff with health insurance (if healthcare is not provided universally in the country where the venue is based) and participates in the national social security program, if available. The venue has a program to cover costs for staff for job-related injuries and illnesses.</li> <li>6. The venue monitors staff job satisfaction.</li> <li>7. The venue offers staff training appropriate to their roles and relevant advancement opportunities.</li> </ol>	  
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Criteria	Indicators	SDGs
<b>SECTION C: Maximize benefits to cultural heritage and minimize negative impacts</b>		
<p><b>C1. Cultural interactions</b></p> <p>The venue provides information about local culture to clients and staff as needed. A communication mechanism is in place for local communities to report adverse impacts from visitors, and corrective action is taken where appropriate.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the venue's clients plan visits to Indigenous communities or sites of cultural or historical significance to Indigenous groups, the venue provides relevant information from Indigenous groups to the clients.</li> <li>When the venue's clients plan visits to culturally or historically sensitive sites, the venue provides relevant information about local regulations and guidance from impacted local communities.</li> <li>The venue provides staff that are not local with guidance about appropriate behavior in light of local customs, traditions, and etiquette.</li> <li>A communication mechanism is in place for local communities and Indigenous people to report adverse impacts from visitors.</li> <li>The venue takes corrective action where appropriate, documents it, and consults the affected stakeholders for feedback.</li> </ol>	  
<p><b>C2. Protecting cultural heritage</b></p> <p>The venue supports the protection, preservation, and enhancement of local properties, sites, artifacts, and traditions of historical, archaeological, cultural, and spiritual significance and does not impede access to them by local residents.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The venue provides financial or in-kind support for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of local properties, sites, and traditions of historical, archaeological, cultural, and spiritual significance.</li> <li>Venues that include sites of historical, archaeological, cultural, and spiritual significance do not fully restrict access to those sites by local residents.</li> <li>The venue takes necessary actions to prevent damage to or theft of any historical and archaeological artifacts on display.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>C3. Presenting culture and heritage</b></p> <p>The venue incorporates authentic elements of traditional and contemporary local culture. The venue consults with local and Indigenous groups as applicable about its presentations of culture and respects intellectual property rights.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The venue incorporates authentic elements of traditional and/or contemporary local culture in its operations, design, decoration, cuisine, or shops.</li> <li>The venue respects intellectual property rights, including those of local and Indigenous communities.</li> <li>The venue consults with local and Indigenous communities as applicable about the presentation of local cultural heritage.</li> </ol>	 

Criteria	Indicators	SDGs
<b>SECTION D: Maximize benefits to the environment and minimize negative impacts</b>		
<b>D1 Conserving resources</b>		
<p><b>D1.1. Energy conservation</b></p> <p>Energy consumption is measured by type, and steps are taken to minimize overall consumption. The venue makes efforts to increase its use of renewable energy.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue has a written energy conservation/efficiency policy.</li> <li>2. The venue measures the energy used in its operations and the energy use over which it has direct influence or control. Energy is measured by type, such as gas, electricity, transportation fuel, etc. Data may be measured directly by the venue or collected from relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>3. The venue uses renewable energy sources when available and measures the share of renewable energy in the total energy supply.</li> <li>4. The venue takes steps to minimize the overall consumption of energy. For example, the venue may use energy-efficient lighting, heating, and cooling equipment and/or turn off equipment and vehicles that are not in use.</li> <li>5. The venue has specific annual energy consumption reduction targets.</li> <li>6. The venue provides guidance to suppliers, clients, and staff on minimizing energy use.</li> </ol>	 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>
<p><b>D1.2. Water conservation</b></p> <p>Water risk is assessed, water consumption is measured, and steps are taken to minimize overall consumption. Water sourcing is sustainable and does not adversely affect environmental flows. In areas of high water risk, context-based water stewardship goals are identified and pursued.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue has a written water conservation policy.</li> <li>2. The venue has assessed and documented its water risk in the venue location.</li> <li>3. In destinations where water risk has been assessed as high, the venue identifies and pursues water stewardship goals.</li> <li>4. The venue measures the water used in its operations and the uses over which it has direct influence/control. Data may be measured directly by the venue or collected from relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>5. The venue takes steps to minimize overall water consumption.</li> <li>6. The venue has annual water consumption reduction targets.</li> <li>7. The venue provides guidance to suppliers, clients, and staff on minimizing water use.</li> <li>8. The venue's water originates from a legal source.</li> </ol>	 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>

**SECTION D: Maximize benefits to the environment and minimize negative impacts**

**D2 Reducing pollution**

**D2.1. Greenhouse gas emissions**

The venue measures its greenhouse gas emissions, has specific reduction targets, and has a plan to avoid and reduce emissions. The remaining emissions are offset.

1. The venue measures greenhouse gas emissions in Scope 1, Scope 2, and areas of significant influence in Scope 3.
2. The venue has specific greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets aligned with recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance.
3. The venue has a written plan to avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its operations and areas of influence.
4. The plan is being actively implemented.
5. The venue encourages and collaborates with suppliers to avoid and reduce significant greenhouse gas emissions.
6. The venue offsets some or all of its greenhouse gas emissions that remain after avoidance and reduction efforts.
7. The venue has a policy to prefer offsets that remove carbon rather than offsets that avoid emissions and to select carbon offsets that are additional, permanent, and verified by a credible organization.



**D2.2. Transport**



The venue seeks to reduce transportation requirements and actively encourages the use of cleaner and more resource-efficient alternatives.

1. The venue actively encourages staff to use the cleanest and most resource-efficient transport alternatives available, including public mass transit, for commuting and event operations.
2. The venue actively encourages clients and suppliers to use the cleanest and most resource-efficient transport and freight alternatives available and practical, including public mass transit.
3. The venue implements strategies for minimizing single-occupancy vehicle use for transfers between the destination's primary arrival points and the event venue.











<p><b>D2.3. Wastewater</b></p> <p>Wastewater has no adverse effects on the local population and the environment.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue has documentation of the treatment arrangements for wastewater generated by the venue.</li> <li>2. Wastewater resulting from the event is disposed of to a municipal or government-approved treatment system, if available.</li> <li>3. If suitable municipal wastewater treatment is not available, the venue works with local authorities to ensure that wastewater has no adverse impacts on people and the environment.</li> </ol>	 
<p><b>D2.4. Solid waste</b></p> <p>The venue measures its waste and has mechanisms in place to reduce waste and reuse, donate, or recycle materials. Any residual waste disposal has no adverse effect on the local population or environment.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue measures solid waste by relevant waste types, such as food waste, recyclables, waste to landfill, and waste to incinerator, as applicable.</li> <li>2. The venue has goals in place to reduce annual overall solid waste.</li> <li>3. The venue has an active solid waste management plan. The plan includes actions to reduce overall waste as well as reuse, donate, or recycle materials. The plan addresses food waste and construction materials where applicable.</li> <li>4. The venue has a program in place to collect and divert waste from landfills and incinerators (including waste-to-energy facilities).</li> <li>5. The venue's waste diversion rate is equal to or greater than the national or municipal average recycling rate of the venue location, whichever is greater, if available.</li> <li>6. The venue has measures in place to prevent event waste from entering the local environment.</li> <li>7. The venue has a recycling program for batteries and electronic waste, such as computers, peripherals, printer cartridges, and appliances. Electronics that are still usable are reused or donated rather than recycled.</li> <li>8. The venue gives guidance on minimizing waste to clients, suppliers, and staff.</li> </ol>	 
<p><b>D2.5. Harmful substances</b></p> <p>The venue minimizes the use of harmful substances and substitutes when available with innocuous products or processes. All storage, use, handling, and disposal of chemicals are properly managed.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue keeps an inventory and safety data sheets (SDS) for all harmful substances, including pesticides, paints, disinfectants, and cleaning materials.</li> <li>2. The venue requests from the event organizer the safety data sheets (SDS) for all harmful substances brought on-site for the event, including pesticides, paints, disinfectants, and cleaning materials.</li> <li>3. The venue substitutes the use of harmful substances with sustainability-certified alternatives when available.</li> <li>4. The venue stores, handles, and disposes of chemicals in accordance with appropriate standards and applicable regulations.</li> </ol>	 

	<p>5. The venue posts relevant safety warnings about harmful substances for attendees and staff.</p>	
<p><b>D2.6. Minimize pollution</b></p> <p>The venue implements practices to minimize pollution from noise, light, runoff, erosion, ozone-depleting substances, and air, water, and soil contaminants.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue reviews and identifies potential sources of pollution from its activities, including noise, light, runoff, erosion, ozone-depleting substances, and air, water, and soil contaminants.</li> <li>2. The venue monitors potential sources of pollution covered in the criterion.</li> <li>3. The venue takes action to minimize and, where possible, eliminate pollution from sources listed in the criterion.</li> </ol>	 

**SECTION D: Maximize benefits to the environment and minimize negative impacts**

**D3 Conserving biodiversity, ecosystems, and landscapes**

<p><b>D3.1. Biodiversity conservation</b></p> <p>The venue supports biodiversity conservation and minimizes disturbances to natural ecosystems.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue works with local conservation bodies to identify natural protected areas, areas of high biodiversity value, and wildlife and habitats that are adjacent to its facilities or may be impacted by its operations.</li> <li>2. The venue has a written plan to support biodiversity on its properties as well as avoid and mitigate activities with the potential to disturb the areas identified above.</li> <li>3. The venue provides and records monetary or in-kind support for local biodiversity conservation.</li> <li>4. If the activities of the venue have disturbed or damaged local natural ecosystems, the venue provides funding for restoration.</li> </ol>	 
<p><b>D3.2. Invasive species</b></p> <p>The venue takes measures to avoid the introduction of invasive species.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The venue provides guidelines to relevant stakeholders to avoid the introduction of invasive species.</li> <li>2. When using live plants for landscaping and decoration, the venue procures native or endemic plants and avoids invasive species.</li> </ol>	 

<p><b>D3.3. Natural sites and wildlife interactions</b></p> <p>The venue manages visits to natural sites, wildlife interactions, and procurement from the wild in order to minimize adverse impacts.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When the venue’s clients plan visits to natural sites or wildlife interactions, the venue provides guidelines from local conservation bodies or relevant local authorities to minimize adverse impacts on the environment and wildlife, if available.</li> <li>2. The venue conducts due diligence to ensure suppliers that provide products from the wild are in compliance with local and national regulations concerning wildlife harvesting and trade.</li> <li>3. Upon request, venues provide information to clients about regulations concerning wildlife harvesting, consumption, and trade and the need to avoid buying illegal products/souvenirs derived from threatened species of wildlife notified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) or Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).</li> </ol>	 
<p><b>D3.4. Animal welfare</b></p> <p>The venue supports the welfare of any on-site animals.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If any wild or domestic animals are temporarily or permanently located at the venue, their housing, care, and handling comply with local and national regulations regarding animal welfare. Personnel responsible for animal care regularly inspect the conditions of animals and their housing.</li> <li>2. Personnel responsible for animal care have appropriate qualifications and experience and are fully licensed, if applicable.</li> <li>3. The venue does not participate in the acquisition, breeding, or captivity of wild animals except by authorized and suitably equipped persons in compliance with local and international law.</li> <li>4. If working with suppliers to provide or care for on-site animals, the venue conducts due diligence to ensure suppliers are in compliance with local and national regulations concerning animal welfare and captive wildlife, if applicable.</li> </ol>	