



Sustainability Check

- Instructions -

What is the Sustainability Check?

- ▶ **A testing tool** for the sustainability of tourism projects
- ▶ **An application form** to avoid the granting of projects with negative impacts on society, environment and/or economy
- ▶ **A tool** to stem the arbitrary use of the term 'sustainability'
- ▶ **A guideline** to stimulate sustainable tourism projects

Who should use the Sustainability Check?

- ▶ **Public and other bodies** on all levels providing financial subsidies or other support to the tourism sector
- ▶ **Applicants** to these bodies to prove that their project is sustainable
- ▶ **Anyone** who wants to ensure that a certain project is sustainable

What documentation is available?

- ▶ The '**Checklist**' itself
- ▶ The '**Instructions**' with all necessary information for filling in the Sustainability Check
- ▶ An '**Implementation Manual**' for supporting bodies who want to use the Sustainability Check for their purposes

All these documents are available on the agora website (see below, click on 'Results' and 'WP 2.2 SusCheck').

How has the Sustainability Check been developed?

The Sustainability Check has been developed as part of the agora project which aims to promote sustainable tourism development in the Baltic Sea Region. For more information about the agora project, the development of the tool (see file '**Development of the agora Sustainability Check**') and the instrument itself see:

www.agora-tourism.net



Coalition Clean Baltic



The agora project is approved as a Baltic 21 Lighthouse project and part-financed by the EU programme INTERREG III B.

The concept of the Sustainability Check was developed in cooperation with Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA) and Social Hansa.

Contents of this document

| | page |
|---|-------------|
| Instructions | 3 |
| Assessment process | 3 |
| Checklist structure | 3 |
| Guideline for professional statements | 5 |
| Use of cover sheet | 5 |
| Project example - Introduction | 5 |
| Cover Sheet (for project example) | 6 |
| Checklist (for project example) | 7 |
| Professional statement (for project example) | 14 |

Instructions

The following instructions are for **both applicants and examiners**. Please read these before filling in the Sustainability Check.

Assessment process

The assessment process for the Sustainability Check is designed as a **two-step process**:

Step 1:

- A) Initial application:** The applicant completes the checklist by filling in lines 4 and 5 of each aspect (see next page) and submitting it to the supporting body.
- B) First assessment:** The supporting body checks whether the applicant's justifications are convincing and satisfy the assessment criteria. The examiner does this by filling in lines 6 and 7 of each aspect in relation to the applicant's answers. At the end, the examiner makes an overall assessment, i.e. decides whether the application has already satisfied the assessment criteria or not. **If so**, the application has passed the Sustainability Check. **If not**, the checklist is sent back to the applicant for improvement.

Step 2:

- A) Resubmission:** Based on the comments of the examiner, i.e. those aspects which he has rated with 'no', the applicant should make improvements to his application where required and/or provide further information which justifies his first own rating. For this, he should use lines 8 and 9 for each aspect of the checklist. He should then resubmit the application.
- B) Final assessment:** The examiner assesses the critical aspect(s) again, i.e. those which the applicant was asked to improve on, and rate them the same way as in the first round. If this final assessment satisfies the assessment criteria, the application has finally passed the Sustainability Check. If not, it should be returned to the applicant with a justification for the final decision.

Checklist structure

Altogether, the checklist contains 27 aspects which belong to the economic, social or environmental dimension of sustainability. Each aspect is structured in the same way as shown on the next page.

In each assessment round, only two lines (i.e. 4/5, 6/7, 8/9 or 10/11) have to be filled in!

| | | Content explanations |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Dimension | Economy, society or environment |
| 2 | Sustainability Objective | Key objectives for sustainable tourism development |
| 3 | Aspect | Key aspects/questions to determine whether the project meets the respective sustainability objective defined in line 2 |
| 4 | Applicant's rating: | <p>The applicant should tick one of the following answer options for each question:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project</p> <p>'Not relevant for the project' should be ticked in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Aspect is not relevant for project. ▶ Aspect is not relevant for the assessing body. ▶ Aspect is not relevant for the project region. ▶ No information is available on this aspect, therefore no assessment can be made. |
| 5 | Justification: | The applicant should provide a justification for ticking one of the boxes in line 4. If possible, he should give reasons for his assessment, i.e. what in the application supports his answer or why an aspect is 'not relevant'. |
| 6 | 1. Assessment: | <p>In this line, the examiner assesses whether the rating and justification provided by the applicant is satisfactory or not. He should indicate his assessment by ticking the respective box:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 'Yes' means that the respective aspect has been fulfilled.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 'No' means that the respective aspect has not been fulfilled.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 'Not relevant for the project' means that the examiner considers the respective aspect as not relevant.</p> |
| 7 | Justification: | <p>If the examiner has ticked 'no', he should specify this, possibly in the following form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The application lacks some information, please explain the following aspects: ... ▶ The present project set up only partly meets this requirement. The following is missing: ... ▶ The present project set up is not appropriate to meet this requirement at all because: ... <p>This will allow the applicant to improve on this issue.</p> |
| 8 | Applicant's rework: | If the applicant has not yet satisfied the requirements of the supporting body, he should improve on those issues which the examiner has rated with 'no'. For this, lines 8 and 9 need to be filled in as in the first round. |
| 9 | Justification: | |
| 10 | Final assessment: | For this final assessment, the examiner rates those aspects again which the applicant was asked to improve on. For this, lines 10 and 11 need to be filled in as before. |
| 11 | Justification: | |
| 12 | Possible info/indicators for illustration: | <p>This line provides examples for possible information/indicators which can illustrate the applicant's and examiner's argumentation. The given examples are meant as suggestions and therefore do not represent a complete list of all possible supporting information or indicators. Moreover, the examples will not fit all situations. Additional space is also provided to add indicators if required.</p> <p>Examiners may require the applicant to provide additional information e.g. in form of a certain indicator. However, in order to keep the checking process slim and feasible, the request of comprehensive data compilations should be avoided. The check is meant primarily to provide guidance to more sustainable projects and should not hinder but promote the project development as such.</p> |

Guideline for professional statements

In order to help applicants and to increase the quality of projects, the Sustainability Check includes three aspects which concern the **consultation of experts** for the economic, social and environmental outcomes of the project. These experts can either be **internal or external specialists**. Internal experts are those working for the project; external specialists could either be representatives of environmental, social or economic organisations/associations or experts working in private companies, i.e. consultants. In order to qualify as an expert in the respective field, **these experts must have been educated and/or have professional experience in their particular field.**

Applicants have two different options to fulfil these three aspects:

- ▶ The application is accompanied by three different professional statements, one for each impact type. The documents should demonstrate that specialists have been consulted and how their expertise has been integrated into the project. A **brief guideline** for the required content and extent of the statements should be provided by the supporting body.
- ▶ Alternatively, applicants can state the names, positions and addresses of the involved experts, so that the supporting body can contact these persons to check their consultation and to obtain further information on his/her expertise.

Use of cover sheet

The checklist document contains a cover sheet (see p. 6 for an example) which is designed to lead the project through the application process. It contains the most important facts about the project, its present status of assessment and the assessment results.

Applicants need to fill in the following sections:

- ▶ Section A: address details of the applicant and the supporting body.
- ▶ Section B: the project stage, i.e. whether it is at the beginning/planning stage (application), up and running (midterm evaluation) or completed (final execution check).
- ▶ Section C: line 1 or 3, depending on the stage of the assessment process.

Examiners need to fill in the following sections:

- ▶ Section C: line 2 or 4, depending on the stage of the assessment process.
- ▶ Section D: this only needs to be filled in after the first assessment.
- ▶ Section E: this only needs to be filled after the final assessment.

Project example - Introduction

The remainder of this document contains a filled-in Sustainability Check for a fictitious project example. This is to illustrate how the Sustainability Check works and to give exemplary answers to the different aspects contained in the checklist.

The project described in the example is an international cooperation between several national parks in cooperation with the respective surrounding local tourism actors. The aim of the project is to develop and build visitor information centres in the national parks as well as to develop package offers (including transfers, accommodation etc.) which incorporate one of the national parks and the respective surrounding local tourism suppliers. The project is only at the application stage.

Cover sheet (for project example)

A) Please fill in the following details:

| | |
|---|---|
| Project title: <Project title> | Name of supporting body: <Name of supporting body> |
| Name of applicant: <Name of applicant> | Name of examiner: <Name of examiner> |
| Address of applicant: <Address of applicant> | Address of supporting body: <Address of supporting body> |

B) Project stage (please tick only one box):

- Application
- Midterm evaluation
- Final execution check

C) This checklist has been completed for the following assessment stage:

| Assessment stage: | Date: | Responsible person: |
|---------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| 1. Initial application (by applicant) | <Date> | <Name of responsible person> |
| 2. First assessment (by examiner) | | |
| 3. Resubmission (by applicant) | | |
| 4. Final assessment (by examiner) | | |

D) Rework is required for the following aspects:

(only to be filled in **after the first assessment** by the examiner)

| Economic dimension: | Social dimension: | Environmental dimension: |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1a <input type="checkbox"/> 2b | <input type="checkbox"/> 5a <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9a <input type="checkbox"/> 10c |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1b <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5b <input type="checkbox"/> 7a | <input type="checkbox"/> 9b <input type="checkbox"/> 11a |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1c <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5c <input type="checkbox"/> 7b | <input type="checkbox"/> 9c <input type="checkbox"/> 11b |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2a | <input type="checkbox"/> 5d <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9d <input type="checkbox"/> 12 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 5e | <input type="checkbox"/> 10a <input type="checkbox"/> 13 |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> 10b |

E) Results:

(only to be filled by the examiner)

| | |
|--|--|
| First assessment: <input type="checkbox"/> Project has passed <input type="checkbox"/> Project has not passed | Final assessment: <input type="checkbox"/> Project has passed <input type="checkbox"/> Project has not passed |
|--|--|

Checklist (for project example)

| | |
|---|--|
| Dimension: | Economy |
| Sustainability objective: | Strengthen local/regional economy |
| Aspect: 1a | Added value: Does the project create added value for the local/regional economy? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | The packages created by the project will incorporate local suppliers as far as possible (for accommodation, services, etc.). Furthermore, through creating the visitor information centres in the national parks, the project should also attract individual tourists (i.e. those not buying a package tour) which will provide additional spending for the local economy. A careful estimation would be that approximately 50 package tours overall will be sold in the first year. Moreover, each national park should be able to attract ca. 500 visitors to its information centre in the first year as a result of the project. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Preferable consideration of local/regional companies and/or ▶ Local ownership of the project and/or ▶ Estimated reinvestment of profits made into local economy and/or ▶ Estimated revenues generated by the project in the project area and/or ▶ Innovative aspects of the project and/or ▶ Amount of additional tourist spending at the destination catalysed by project and/or ▶ Estimated additional tourist arrivals/overnights caused by project and/or ▶ Attraction of external capital into the region by the project and/or ▶ ... |
| Aspect: 1b | Diversity: Does the project protect or enhance the diversity of the local/regional economy? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | Through the creation of the package offers and the visitor information centres, the tourism and nature bases of the local economy are strengthened; this also makes a contribution to enhancing the diversity of the local economy. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Avoidance of mono-structures and/or ▶ Avoidance of sole reliance on tourism and/or ▶ Use of local suppliers and/or ▶ ... |
| Aspect: 1c | Stability: Does the project contribute to a stable basis for the local/regional economy? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | Through the creation of the visitor information centres, the project automatically has a long-term perspective as these structures remain and can be used purposefully regardless of any project activities. Furthermore, the attraction of additional visitors (see Aspect 1a) should support the maintenance of basic public facilities in the surrounding areas as visitors and the local population can use these. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Contribution to maintenance/introduction of basic public facilities in rural areas, e.g. shops, post office and/or ▶ Stimulation of balanced tourism demand over the year and/or ▶ Consideration of how the project can provide a lasting contribution to the regional/local economy and/or ▶ Convincing concept for maintaining the structures introduced by the project after the project terminates and/or ▶ |

| | |
|---|--|
| | |
| Sustainability objective: | Employment of local people |
| Aspect: 2a | Employment: Does the project contribute to local/regional job creation and preservation? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | Local personnel will be needed for staffing the visitor information centres (2 to 4 per centre) and the project will also help to preserve jobs in the local tourism industries through bringing more tourists into the areas around the national parks. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Estimation of number of new jobs generated by the project (in general/in high season/in off-season) and/or ▶ Estimation of number of new jobs maintained by the project (in general/in high season/in off-season) and/or ▶ ... |
| Aspect: 2b | Qualification: Does the project contribute to the professional qualification of people employed in tourism and/or other related sectors? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | Apart from staffing the visitor centres with local personnel (see Aspect 2a), no further qualification measures are planned at the moment. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provision of apprenticeships/training courses and/or ▶ Opportunities and educational information for life-long learning and/or ▶ Identification of skill shortages in the local labour market and skill needs of local people and/or ▶ Appointment of local people into key positions and/or ▶ ... |
| | |
| Sustainability objective: | Sustainable capacity planning |
| Aspect: 3 | Meeting market requirements: Is the project in line with market requirements, i.e. are relevant market trends taken into consideration? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | Demand analyses show that nature plays an important role for people when going on holiday (as a holiday motive, holiday type and in their holiday activities). Hence, providing package offers with the topic of nature tourism should meet the general market demand. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Analysis of demand, supply, competitors and trends undertaken and/or ▶ ... |
| Supplemental aspects | |
| Aspect: 4 | Professional expertise: Is the project examined by an internal/external expert in the field of economic impacts of tourism? (please see the instructions for more information) |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | Internal expert: <Name, address and position of internal expert> |
| Alternative options: | Please provide one of the following proofs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Statement of professional expertise by internal/external economic expert which demonstrates consultation and integration of results into the project setup or ▶ Name, function and address of economic expert involved |

| | |
|---|--|
| Dimension: Society | |
| Sustainability objective: | Satisfaction of most stakeholders impacted by project |
| Aspect 5a | Access for the disabled/elderly: Is the accessibility for disabled/elderly people taken into consideration for any infrastructure in relation to the project (e.g. buildings)? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | The information centres will be designed in such a way as to allow for the access of disabled people. However, it is up to the local suppliers to design their infrastructure in the same way. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Implementation of measures concerning accessibility for disabled/elderly people and/or ▶ Disabled/elderly people are asked for comments in the planning stage of the project and/or ▶ Estimated percentage of infrastructure accessible for disabled/elderly people and/or ▶ Trainings/seminars on possible measures to improve the accessibility of tourism products for disabled/elderly people and/or ▶ ... |
| Aspect 5b | Gender equality: Does the project contribute to gender equality? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | The aim of the project is to develop nature tourism in the respective regions and as this does not involve very intensive staff use, equal opportunities do not play a role in the project set up. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Equal opportunities and provision of equal career opportunities for women and men and/or ▶ ... |
| Aspect 5c | Capacity limits: Is there a defined limit for the maximum number of visitors in relation to the social carrying capacity of the local population? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | For each national park there are defined capacity limits, based on the local situation. These can be provided upon request. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Social carrying capacity is identified and considered in the project set up and/or ▶ Fixed limits defined in advance and/or ▶ Number of tourists in relation to the number of local inhabitants during high season and/or ▶ The project enhances or at least does not endanger a balanced social structure on and around the site and/or ▶ ... |
| Aspect 5d | Access: Are measures undertaken to enable as many social groups as possible to benefit from the project output? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | The project output, i.e. the packages and the visitor information centres are open to anyone wanting to use them without restrictions. Clearly, the packages have a certain price, but this is necessary in order to provide them. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ No financial or timely restrictions in terms of too high admission costs or only short opening hours and/or ▶ Use of tourist infrastructure by locals and/or ▶ Family-friendliness and/or ▶ ... |

| | |
|---|---|
| Aspect 5e | Satisfaction: Do the people affected by the project have a positive or at least no negative opinion about it? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | Initially, there was some resistance against the visitor information centres being built in some of the national parks, but meetings with the local population were held in which the plans for these buildings were discussed in detail and all major concerns could be dispelled. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ No negative changes of landscape by project infrastructure (if built) from the local people's perspective and/or ▶ No local resistance against the project and/or ▶ The project enhances or at least does not endanger a balanced social structure on the site and/or ▶ Influence of the project on the satisfaction of the local population is analysed by a survey and/or ▶ ... |
| Sustainability objective: | Participation of local people in decisions |
| Aspect 6 | Local opinion and transparency: Are local people and stakeholders likely to be affected well informed and consulted? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | As mentioned in Aspect 5e, meetings with the local population were already held. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Round tables with different interest groups and/or ▶ Consideration of minorities (e.g. due to unemployment, ethnicity, religion) in participation and decision-making and/or ▶ Information services for local population and/or ▶ Planned measures to identify requirements of local people and/or ▶ Existence of communication strategy and/or ▶ Personal/financial resources dedicated to communication and public awareness and/or ▶ Linkage to other projects/initiatives in the area and/or ▶ Planned measures for the dissemination of project results and/or ▶ ... |
| Sustainability objective: | Respect for local/regional culture |
| Aspect 7a | Culture: Does the project preserve, enhance or at least respect cultural objects? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | Cultural objects do not play a role in this project, therefore this aspect is not relevant. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Cultural experts are asked for comments in the planning stage of the project and/or ▶ The influence on architecture of cultural importance is addressed and considered and/or ▶ Avoidance of actions that do not fit in with religious rules/traditions of both hosts and guests and/or ▶ The project contributes to the long-term preservation of cultural assets and/or ▶ ... |
| Aspect 7b | Tradition: Does the project preserve, enhance or at least respect local/regional traditions? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | Local/regional traditions do not play a role in this project, therefore this aspect is not relevant. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The influence on local/regional traditions is addressed in the project and considered in project set up and/or ▶ ... |

| Supplemental aspects | |
|---|--|
| Aspect 8 | Professional expertise: Is the project examined by an internal/external expert in the field of social impacts of tourism? (please see the instructions for more information) |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | External expert: <Name, address and position of external expert> |
| Alternative options: | Please provide one of the following proofs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Statement of professional expertise by internal/external social expert which demonstrates consultation and integration of results into the project setup or ▶ Name, function and address of social expert involved |
| Dimension: | Environment |
| Sustainability objective: | Minimise resource use |
| Aspect 9a | Land: Are measures undertaken to reuse existing infrastructure and/or to minimise the use of land? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | Where possible, existing infrastructure will be reused for building the visitor centres, although this is not possible in all national parks. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Change of use for land or existing infrastructure and/or ▶ Compensation through unsealing of other areas and/or ▶ Area sealed/additional land used for the project and/or ▶ ... |
| Aspect 9b | Water: Are measures undertaken to minimise the use of water? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | All visitor centres will be equipped with water saving installations. Furthermore, participating suppliers (those supplying parts of the packages) are asked to undertake measures to minimise the use of water in their operations as far as possible. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Use of water saving devices such as 'grey' water use or water butts (rain water collection) and/or ▶ Water saving concept (reduction, recapture or recycling) and/or ▶ Added/reduced water consumption due to project and/or ▶ ... |
| Aspect 9c | Energy: Are measures undertaken to minimise the use of energy? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | Energy saving devices will be used for heating and electricity in all visitor centres. Furthermore, participating suppliers are asked to undertake measures to minimise the use of energy in their operations as far as possible. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Energy saving concept for infrastructure and/or ▶ (Estimated) additional/reduced energy consumption through the project and/or ▶ ... |
| Aspect 9d | Renewable energy: Are measures undertaken to incorporate the use of renewable energy sources? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | All visitor centres will be equipped with solar panels on the roofs. Furthermore, participating suppliers are asked to undertake measures to incorporate the use of renewable energy sources into their operations as far as possible. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ (Estimated) share of renewable energy in relation to total energy supply (with respect to heating, electricity and fuel) and/or ▶ Sunlight orientation of buildings and/or ▶ ... |

| | |
|---|--|
| Sustainability objective: | Reduce environmental load |
| Aspect 10a | Waste: Are measures undertaken to avoid or minimise waste? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | Waste baskets and recycling systems will be installed in all national parks. Furthermore, participating suppliers are asked to undertake measures to avoid or minimise waste on their own operations. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ (Estimated) additional/reduced waste volume due to the project and/or ▶ Waste separation concept and/or ▶ Recycling and/or ▶ Use of recycled materials and/or ▶ ... |
| Aspect 10b | Emissions: Are measures undertaken to minimise emissions? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | As far as possible, all packages offered will include means of transport that are more environmentally friendly. Details of planned packages can be provided upon request. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Measures to minimise air pollution, noise, light pollution, CO² emissions and/or ▶ Application of catalyser and filter technologies and/or ▶ Incentives for using public transport services and/or ▶ High density buildings (insulating walls) and/or ▶ Application of low noise technologies and/or ▶ ... |
| Aspect 10c | Water pollution: Are measures undertaken to avoid water pollution? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | The sewage water from the visitor centres will be collected separately and transferred into the communal canalisation. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sewage water treatment plants with international potable standards are used or constructed in connection with the project and/or ▶ ... |
| Sustainability objective: | Preserve biodiversity |
| Aspect 11a | Number of species: Does the project ensure that no loss of local/regional and migrating species occurs through the project activities? |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | For each national park, an environmental impact assessment has been carried out prior to further planning. Details can be provided upon request. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Existence of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or ▶ Expert evaluation of project influence on number and composition of species and/or ▶ Ecological carrying capacity is identified and considered in the project set up and/or ▶ Possible impact on protected areas and/or ▶ Continual monitoring of project impacts on species and/or ▶ ... |

| | |
|---|--|
| Aspect 11b | <p>Composition of species: Does the project ensure that no undesirable changes in the composition of species occur through the project activities?</p> |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | For each national park, an environmental impact assessment has been carried out prior to further planning. Details can be provided upon request. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Existence of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or ▶ Expert evaluation of project influence on number and composition of species and/or ▶ Ecological carrying capacity is identified and considered in the project set up and/or ▶ Possible impact on protected areas and/or ▶ Continual monitoring of project impacts on species and/or ▶ ... |
| Supplemental aspects | |
| Aspect 12 | <p>Public awareness: Does the project increase the public's general understanding and awareness of environmental issues?</p> |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | The exhibitions and available information at the visitor centres will help to increase the visitors' awareness of environmental issues. |
| Examples of info/indicators for illustration: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ (Estimated) Number of people reached by project information about environmental issues and/or ▶ Production of suitable information means about environmental issues and/or ▶ Personnel/financial resources dedicated to communication and public awareness of environmental issues and/or ▶ ... |
| Aspect 13 | <p>Professional expertise: Is the project examined by an internal/external expert in the field of environmental impacts of tourism? (please see the instructions for more information)</p> |
| Applicant's rating: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant for the project |
| Justification: | External expert: <Name, address and position of external expert> |
| Alternative options: | <p>Please provide one of the following proofs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Statement of professional expertise by internal/external environmental expert which demonstrates consultation and integration of results into the project setup or ▶ Name, function and address of environmental expert involved |

Professional statement (for project example)

A professional statement for the Sustainability Check could look like the following example:

<Name of expert>
<Address of expert>

Professional statement

To whom it may concern,

Herewith I confirm that the economic impacts of the proposed project <Name of project> have been assessed and that the results have been integrated into the project set up.

This has been done through a consultation process which was supervised by me during the set up of the project.

If you should have any questions regarding the consultation process or my qualification as an internal expert, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

<Name of expert>