Sustainability Report

Delivered in partnership with GDS-Movement
Agenda

- Sustainability Approach
- KPIs and Objectives
- Results
- Offsetting Approach
- Key Learnings and Recommendations
Sustainability Approach

Delivered in partnership with GDS-Movement
Creating a sustainable Forum requires commitment and collective action from participants, sponsors, organisers, and suppliers. Our approach is to engage, inspire, and catalyse action to ensure a zero-negative impact event.

**Plan**
- Co-create strategy.
- Define vision, objectives and targets.
- Develop action plan.

**Assess**
- Assess suppliers.
- Calculate estimated carbon footprint of the Forum.

**Engage**
- Engage suppliers, participants and sponsors.
- Educate suppliers, the team and improve operational processes.
- Engage participants and communicate about the initiatives.

**Measure**
- Collect data and calculate CO2 emissions of the Forum.
- Avoid, offset and remove carbon emissions through a portfolio of certified carbon offset projects.

**Improve**
- Evaluate and improve approach and processes.
IUCN Leaders Forum - Sustainable Event Strategy

**Activator**
Inspire the IUCN community to improve environmental and social sustainability within their areas of influence.

**Model**
Demonstrate leadership through innovation and the enhancement of sustainability practices within the IUCN events portfolio, highlighting the Forum as a prime example.

**Our goals**
- **Content**
  - Dialogue and action through the global goals for nature
- **Climate Action**
  - Net Zero Carbon Emissions
- **Circular Economy**
  - Zero Waste to Landfill
- **Social Responsibility**
  - Inclusivity, Gender Equity, Transparency

**Our Principles**
- Follow principles of the draft IUCN sustainable convenings and events policy to be published in 2024
- Transition to more sustainable materials
- Reduce waste, increase recycling
- Design for inclusiveness and diversity according to IUCN’s Gender Mainstreaming Strategy
- Support local communities and business

**Aligned to UN SDG**

IUCN Leaders Forum 2023
### Strategic Objectives, Operational Sustainability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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| **Content**      | • Dedicate 100% of sessions to sustainability topics  
                  • Increase awareness and engagement to enable behaviour change                                                                          |
| **Climate Action**| • Measure Forum’s CO2 emissions  
                    • Eliminate red meat from the menu  
                    • Serve 60% vegetarian food  
                    • Source 80% of food locally (160 km radius)  
                    • Offset 100% of unavoidable carbon emissions                                                                                     |
| **Circular Economy** | • Eliminate 90% of single-use plastic, polystyrene and PVC  
                      • Send only 20% of event waste to landfill  
                      • Recycle 50% of event waste  
                      • Ensure 80% of all signage is made from sustainable materials                                                                          |
| **Social Responsibility** | • Achieve a 50/50 balance of male to female speakers  
                                      • Integrate at least 1 community / charity partnership at the Forum  
                                      • Integrate at least 1 social enterprise at the Forum                                                                                   |
Results

Delivered in partnership with GDS-Movement
Offsetting Carbon Emissions

We have calculated the Forum’s carbon and waste footprint using industry best practice methodologies as well as an advanced measurement tool called TRACE. The emissions from local event production, delegate and team travel, accommodation, food & beverages, venue and online participation are included in the scope of our measurements. Where data was not available, impact data was estimated using the GDS-Movements database of sustainable events.

Carbon Footprint

**841.88 tCO2e**
Total carbon footprint

**1830.18 kgCO2e**
Average carbon footprint per attendee

Energy – 0.7%
Catering – 0.5%
Travel – 98.7%
Waste and graphics – 0.1%

The carbon sequestered by 4209.4 tree seedlings grown for 10 years.
CO2 equivalent from 420.9 cars on the road for one year.*

* The calculations are made by GDS-Movement, using Trace. The calculation is based on the average km per year with passenger cars using gasoline: 9,994 km, source CBS, Dutch National Statistics) This is based on the Green House Gas Protocol and Trace’s up-to-date emission factors, Dutch National emission factors, excl. flying (UK BEIS, formerly DEFRA).
Breakdown of Streaming (Hybrid / Virtual) Elements

- Computers (participants)
- Network data transfer (participants)
- Server emissions
- Rehearsal and testing
- Search engine query
- Monitor usage
- Desk lamp usage

Streaming/online Energy emissions per attendee

0.03 kgCO2e
Waste Footprint

Total waste: 0.23 tonnes

Total Waste emissions: 0.01 tCO2e

Waste emissions per attendee: 0.02 kgCO2e

Where did waste come from? (by weight)
- Built items: 0.0%
- Graphics: 0.1%
- Food waste: 13.9%
- Serveware and drinks: 86.0%
- Everything else: 0.0%

Where did waste go? (by weight)
- Landfill: 3.5%
- Incinerated: 9.0%
- Recycled: 52.8%
- AD/Compost: 34.6%
- Re-used: 0.0%
Graphics and Materials

**Lanyards and badges:**
The lanyards were made from 100% recycled polyester. The badges were made from paper and are fully recyclable, with all shipping emissions being offset by the DHL GoGreen Services.

**Reusable staff badges are made of bambou**

**Reusable water bottles were distributed at the Forum**

**Graphics**
0.49 kg of foamboard – PVC – was used for this event resulting 0.002 tCO2e.

**Positive aspects:**
A relatively little amount of signage was used then sent to waste/recycling stream. Estimated 80.8% of the graphics were recycled.

**Negative aspects:**
The manufacturing of PVC involves the use of chlorine, which can release harmful dioxins into the environment. Additionally, the production process may involve the use of other toxic chemicals.

PVC is not biodegradable, and if improperly disposed of, it can persist in the environment for a long time.

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Food and Beverage

We worked with the Compass Group – a dedicated team at CICG – to offer healthier and climate-friendlier menu for the attendees of the Leaders Forum:

- Red meat wasn’t on the menu
- 89% of food served was vegetarian
- Only reusable serveware used
- 75% of food was sourced locally (within a 160 km radius)
- Water stations at the venue were used widely, paired with the reusable water bottles gifted to each attendee

**Total F&B emissions**

4.58 tCO2e

**Contribution to overall emissions**

0.5%
Attendee Communication

Sustainability communications initiative, outlining the strategic approach around sustainability on the event’s website.

A sustainable Forum

Sustainable events at IUCN

IUCN is dedicated to leading by example and committed to organising events more sustainably. The IUCN World Conservation Congresses in 2016 (Hawaii, USA) and 2021 (Marseille, France) achieved ISO 20121 for the event sustainability and management system, an international recognition for efforts to minimise their environmental impacts. To ensure that best standard practices are aligned across IUCN events, IUCN is currently drafting a best-in-class global sustainability policy. This policy will cover travel, venue operations, catering, waste, digital waste, among other topics.
Offsetting Approach

Delivered in partnership with UNFCCC
Offsetting Carbon Emissions

• For the IUCN Leaders Forum, all participants were invited to become actors in nature conservation and carbon removal by offsetting the carbon emissions associated with their participation in the event. This includes the emissions generated by travel as well as those generated by the event itself onsite.

• The calculation is based on the average Carbon Footprint per person from the previous IUCN Leaders Forum held at the International Convention Centre Jeju in October 2022 as well as on the city of departure and the means of transportation of each delegate.

• During the registration process, each delegate is required to contribute to one of the selected UNFCCC or Gold Standard certified projects.

Bauminvest Mixed Reforestation in Costa Rica
Sustainable Composting Facility in Delhi
Water Filters and high efficiency cookstoves project in Eastern Africa
Certificates of Offsetting

Following the closing of the IUCN Leaders Forum Geneva 2023, IUCN has transferred all funds collected through the registration process to each selected project. Unfortunately, the DelAgua Public Health Programme in Eastern Africa was not available anymore and IUCN has selected another project in the same region with similar goals, the Biomass Energy Conservation Programme in Malawi.

100% of CO2e linked to the organisation and the attendance to the event have been offset for a total of 842 tCO2.
Certificates of Offsetting

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

**Voluntary Cancellation Certificate**

**Presented to**
IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature

**Project**
Upgradation, Operation and Maintenance of 200 TPD Composting facility at Okhla, Delhi

**Reason for cancellation**
I am offsetting greenhouse gas emissions for an event I am organizing

**Number of units cancelled**
363 CERs  
Equivalent to 363 tonne(s) of CO₂

**Certificate Details**
- Serial number: 609-5-45224-2-2-8-1502
- Issued serial number: 609-5-45224-2-2-8-1502
- Monitoring period: 01-01-2014 - 31-12-2013

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**Voluntary Cancellation Certificate**

**Presented to**
IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature

**Project**
Biomas Energy Conservation Programme

**Reason for cancellation**
I am offsetting greenhouse gas emissions for an event I am organizing

**Number of units cancelled**
300 CERs  
Equivalent to 300 tonne(s) of CO₂

**Certificate Details**
- Serial number: 609-5-45224-2-2-8-1502
- Issued serial number: 609-5-45224-2-2-8-1502
- The certificate is issued in accordance with the procedures for voluntary cancellation in the CDM Registry. The reasons included in this certificate are provided for information.

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**Provider:** UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)  
Projects hold Gold Standard certifications.
Key Learnings and Recommendations

Delivered in partnership with GDS-Movement
## Performance Against Key Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KPIs</th>
<th>Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content</strong></td>
<td>100% of sessions addressed topics related to nature conservation, biodiversity and/or sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedicate 100% of sessions to sustainability topics</td>
<td>81% of onsite participants found the event valuable for discussing key issues, while 86% saw it as a platform for nature-related initiatives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase awareness and engagement to enable behaviour change</td>
<td>Measured by GDS-Movement using Trace as a measurement tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate Action</strong></td>
<td>Red meat was eliminated from the menu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measure Forum's CO2 emissions</td>
<td>Measured by GDS-Movement using Trace as a measurement tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliminate red meat from the menu</td>
<td>89% of food served was vegetarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serve 60% vegetarian food</td>
<td>75% of food was sourced locally (within a 160 km radius)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Source 80% of food locally (160 km radius)</td>
<td>Single-use plastic was eliminated from catering, 0.49kg of signage used was from foamboard (PVC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliminate 90% of single-use plastic, polystyrene and PVC</td>
<td>6% of waste sent to landfill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Send only 20% of event waste to landfill</td>
<td>58.2% waste was recycled post-event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recycle 50% of event waste</td>
<td>The majority of signage used was digital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure 80% of all signage is made from sustainable materials</td>
<td>0.49kg of signage used was from foamboard (PVC)</td>
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<td><strong>Circular Economy</strong></td>
<td>56% of female / 44% male speakers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Achieve a 50/50 balance of male to female speakers</td>
<td>No community / charity partnerships were formed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrate at least 1 community / charity partnership at the Forum</td>
<td>Sponsored 10 young leaders and entrepreneurs who showcased their nature conservation/biodiversity/sustainability-linked social enterprises and start-ups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrate at least 1 social enterprise at the Forum</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social Responsibility</strong></td>
<td></td>
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# Recommendations

## Planning
- Create Sustainability Strategy and Policy covering all aspects on the event
- Create a Green Team with key stakeholders who will be implementing the strategy together with the event owner

## Procurement
- Communicate sustainability requirements with all suppliers well in advance, starting with the RFP process
- Create a Sustainable Procurement Policy, integrate it as part of the procurement process

## Measurement
- Ensure each supplier and the internal team are coached, equipped, and can provide measurement data timely
- Ensure that sustainability measurement requirements are part of the contract

## Food and Beverage
- Offer 100% vegetarian or vegan food for the next event
- Work with the supplier making sure to eliminate surplus food or donate it to the local organisations

## Production
- Fully eliminate plastics, use reclaimed and upcycled materials or design out bespoke graphics items altogether

## Social Responsibility
- Integrate community/charity and social enterprises in the delivery of the Leaders Forum
Thank you for your collaboration!

This report was prepared by the GDS-Movement with valuable data and editorial support provided by the IUCN team.

Event carbon and waste footprint data was measured using industry best practice methodologies as well as an advanced measurement tool called TRACE. The emissions from local event production, delegate and team travel, accommodation, food and beverages, venue and online participation are measured. Where data was not available, impact data was estimated using the GDS-Movement’s database of sustainable events.

GDS-Movement unites and enables tourism and event professionals to create flourishing and resilient places to visit, meet and live in. Our mission is to co-create sustainable and circular strategies, mindsets and skill sets that will enable destinations of the future to thrive, and society and nature to regenerate.

www.gds.earth