

Project Title

Biodiversity and Multifunctionality of Golf Landscapes

Project Duration

2023-2025

Description

Golf courses are often established in highly fragmented and, at least partially degraded, landscapes. They can therefore, when managed well, result in positive effects on biodiversity and ecosystem functionality.

This project seeks to undertake an ecological analysis of 40 courses in peri-urban and rural landscapes in several countries. It will document contributions to biodiversity and provide knowledge of how golf courses can be designed and managed to improve their contributions to biodiversity and ecological functions at the landscape scale.

The project will:

- Identify approaches to assess and document existing qualities and potential of golf courses.
- Provide simple indicators of golf course contributions to landscape function such as connectivity, species pool and structural habitat diversity.
- Provide methods to estimate the multifunctionality of courses and their landscapes.
- Outline principles for design and improvement of biodiversity and ecological function of golf courses, whilst retaining the playability and quality of the game.

Project Led By

Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environment Research Foundation (STERF)

Project Supported By

Deutscher Golf Verband

Swedish Golf Federation

Norwegian Golf Federation

Danish Golf Union

Norwegian Institute of bioeconomy research (NIBIO)

Swedish Biodiversity Centre

Technical University Munich

UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

The project is aligned with the GC2030 theme(s) of:
Biodiversity