



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
AND TOURISM



Environmental and Cultural Sustainability

tga.gov.tr/en



Türkiye Environmental and Cultural Sustainability Program was developed under the leadership of the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Culture and Tourism

PROGRAM

About the Program

Türkiye, for the purpose of utilizing the supply resources of tourism including natural, cultural and social aspects by considering the balance of protection-utilization and developing and globally promoting these aspects without jeopardizing any of them, has been improving national sustainable tourism standards in cooperation with its domestic and international stakeholders. Türkiye Sustainable Tourism Industry Criteria (TR-I) have been built to ensure sustainable growth of the Turkish tourism industry and to develop a common understanding about Turkish tourism with the participation of all tourism stakeholders. TR-I was developed to be implemented by accommodation facilities and tour operators. In this respect, TR-I includes both criteria that comply with the social and cultural structure of Türkiye and globally recognized sustainable tourism criteria.

The process of developing the TR-I was designed to adhere to the criteria of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), the international body providing guidance for the development of sustainability standards for tourism. In this context, TR-I have adopted all GSTC criteria for Industry as they have been introduced by GSTC. TR-I will be revised every 3-5 years to comply with the updating period of the GSTC criteria. More details on revision plans and signing up to allow anyone interested to comment on future revisions are available at the website tga.gov.tr. This website also includes information about the criteria development process and its historical progress.

GSTC and Environmental and Cultural Sustainability Program



It is used for training and awareness raising, basis for policy making, assessment and evaluation, and certification for businesses and government agencies and other types of organizations.

Who is **GSTC**?

Consisting of 32 partners and established in 2007, GSTC is a coalition which was initiated by the Rainforest Alliance, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Foundation (UN Foundation) and the United Nations.

To provide international accreditation for Sustainable Tourism Certification Bodies

A structure that shapes sustainable development policies

An independent and impartial, U.S. - registered non-profit organization

GSTC Criteria



- The highest standard of sustainable tourism in the world.
- Decades of work and experience around the world
- Applicable to all countries (small or large businesses and destinations/countryside, urban and natural areas)
- Takes into account a large number of directives and standards for sustainable tourism from every continent

What is Sustainable Hotel Certification?



The demand for sustainable practices is increasing.

As guests' concerns about the harmful effects of travel and tourism grow, certification offers a safe solution.

GSTC-accredited certificates are the primary preference.

Environmental and Cultural Sustainability Program

Criterion Studies and Implementation Plan

Being the first program that has been developed with GSTC at the government level, Environmental and Cultural Sustainability Program consists of 42 criteria and 3 stages:

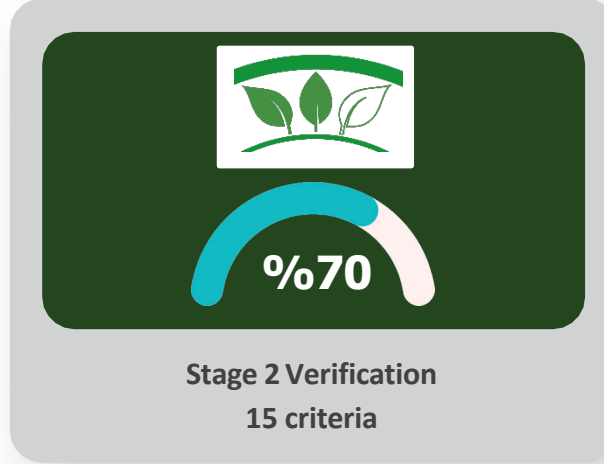
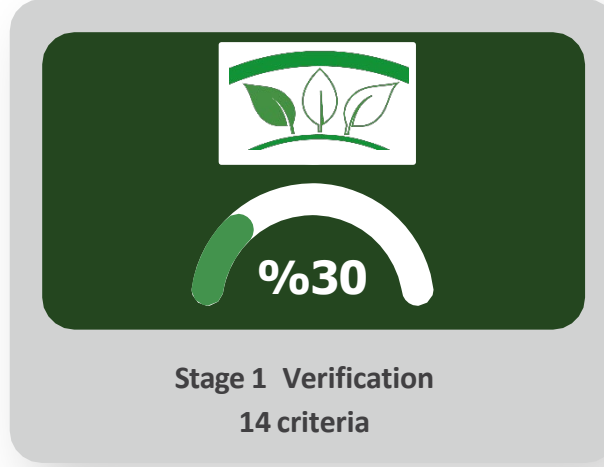


Table Definitions

Environmental and Cultural Sustainability Program Certificate consists of 3 stages:

GROUPS	1.st Stage		2.nd Stage		Sustainable		Total	
	Criteria	Indicator	Criteria	Indicator	Criteria	Indicator	Criteria	Indicator
GROUP A 13 Criteria (Demonstrating Effective Sustainable Management)(A1,A2,A3, A4, A5, A6,A7.1,A7.2,A7.3, A7.4,A8, A9, A10)	6	20	2	8	5	20	13	48
GROUP B 9 Criteria (Maximize social and economic benefits to the local community and minimize negative impacts)(B1, B2,B3,B4,B5, B6, B7, B8,B9,)	1	3	5	18	3	11	9	32
GROUP C 4 Criteria (Maximize benefits to cultural heritage and minimize negative impacts) (C1,C2,C3, C4)	1	4	1	3	2	7	4	14
GROUP D 16 Criteria (Maximize benefits to the environment and minimize negative impacts), (D1.1,D1.2, D1.3, D1.4, D2.1,D2.2,D2.3, D2.4, D2.5, D2.6,D3.1,D3.2,D3.3, D3.4, D3.5, D3.6)	6	29	7	31	3	13	16	73
Total (4 GROUPS)	14	56	15	60	13	51	42	167 Indicators

%30 Compliance with the Criteria	%70 Compliance with the Criteria	%100 Compliance with the Criteria
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Criterion: Condition that must be met in order to adhere to the principle.

Indicator: Measurable states that allow the evaluation of the suitability of the associated criteria.



Environmental and Cultural Sustainability Program Details

Owner of the Program	Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Culture and Tourism & Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA)
Audit Frequency and Validity	3 Year)
Audit Model	According to the GSTC Guidelines, the processes regarding the compliance of accommodation facilities with the program consist of the Initial Certification Audit (together with a follow-up audit, if deemed necessary), the 1st Surveillance Audit, and the 2nd Surveillance Audit periods.
Audit Types	Stage 2 Verification is granted following a Certification Audit. Sustainability Certificate is granted following a Certification Audit conducted in accordance with the GSTC Certification Manual. During the certificate's validity period, a First Surveillance Audit and a Second Surveillance Audit are conducted.
Auditor Criteria	- Fulfil the general criteria and auditor criteria specified in the GSTC Guidelines. - Successfully complete the Auditor Training provided by the GSTC, which is the sole authorized institution for auditor training. - Be a lead auditor or an auditor with at least two years of experience in tourism-related sectors under any internationally recognized certification program (such as IRCA, ASQ, etc.). - Provide a declaration undertaking that they will not engage in any commercial, consultancy, or similar activities related to the Türkiye Environmental and Cultural Sustainability Program outside of auditing activities, and that they will keep confidential all information and documents shared with or obtained by them within the scope of the program. - Provide a declaration undertaking that no additional inquiries will be made and no additional information or documents will be requested beyond the indicators and evidence included within the scope of all documents and criteria determined and announced by the Agency under the Türkiye Environmental and Cultural Sustainability Program. - Submit the Auditor Code of Ethics Declaration.
Fees	<i>The pricing structure is determined by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye and the Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA).</i>
Authorized Accreditation Body	Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC)

