

GCLSI Biodiversity Strategy

1. GCLSI and Sustainability

GCLSI is committed to consider the full environmental and social components and impacts of its activities. It is committed to strict compliance with all environmental legislation applicable to its activities, as well as to further obligations which it undertakes and commits to on a voluntary basis. Through these activities GCLSI makes a special effort to prevent and minimize as much as possible the potential environmental impacts generated by its supply chain, both on natural resources and in the community.

GCLSI is continuously identifying potential sources of environmental risks which may arise from its activity in order to prevent and/ or repair them in the hypothetical case that an unforeseen event should occur.

2. Purpose and Motivation

Biodiversity refers to the variety of living species on Earth, including plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi. The world is currently facing a climate and biodiversity crisis, driven by human activities which pose a threat to our nature, society, and economy.

With regards to solar, the construction and operation of solar power plants can lead to the loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat, resulting in the displacement and disruption of wildlife populations.

As organisations, we can ensure the measurement and reporting of indicators such as: water quality, emissions and use of resources, which have a direct impact biodiversity. We can also influence the impacts we have on biodiversity through our suppliers, and report on the number of projects for biodiversity conservation or restoration that we either directly participate in or fund.

Biodiversity is complex and multifaceted, therefore GCLSI is working with its stakeholders at many levels to attain the most effective approach to protect biodiversity locally and globally.

3. Our Strategy

Our framework strategy for 2030 sets out our dynamic approach and aims to protect, preserve and develop biodiversity affected by our or our partners' business processes. GCLSI has devised its objectives following the principles outlined in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

GCLSI and its stakeholders - suppliers, clients, employees, thought leaders, NGO's, etc.- are all part of a thriving learning network through which knowledge and experience provide the optimal feedback which assists us in adapting and improving our strategy and practices, taking into account the protection, the preservation, and the development of biodiversity.

We will act with integrity and accountability as stewards of the environment by enhancing biodiversity and habitats for others, ourselves, and future generations.

Strategic Goals and Missions:

3.1 Increase the awareness level on the importance and value of biodiversity. The future of biodiversity will depend on the global collective action of an educated society, including efforts to promote local and indigenous knowledge of biodiversity. GCLSI will contribute to raising awareness and mainstreaming biodiversity in educational conversations through training, internal and external education, awards, publications, and sponsorship, and internal and external communication of the impact of the organisations activities in this area.

3.2 Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use. (when impacts cannot be avoided) GCLSI strives to promote sustainable use and end of life of products through working with consumers and the collecting and recycling industries, in addition to reducing our direct business pressures on biodiversity.

3.3 Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. GCLSI will work with external partners to enhance biodiversity through sustainable management of land, measures to promote genetic diversity and reduce fragmentation of ecosystems.

4. Actions

4.1 Bilateral Collaboration with Companies and other Social Agents

GCLSI works to establish a network of bilateral relations with likeminded companies holding similar goals on biodiversity. Additionally, we believe it is important to share and discuss our biodiversity related policies and activities with organizations that might be affected by them at the local level.

4.2 Funding for Biodiversity Research and Conservation Projects

Projects funded by GCLSI are selected by a sustainability committee on a case by case basis taking into account the biodiversity strategy framework.

4.3 Requiring Suppliers to fulfil environmental responsibilities

GCLSI will incorporate environmental protection into the Business Partner Code of Conduct, requiring the business partners to implement a consistent environmental protection management program and comply with environmental standards to continuously minimize resource consumption and environmental impact.

4.4 Photovoltaics for Ecological Restoration

GCL SI will consistently advance "PV+" application solutions, integrating PV technology nature. Innovative solutions like Agri-PV and Floating PV integrate renewable energy production with nature, promoting harmony between solar installations and the ecosystems they occupy.

5. Transparency and Evaluation

5.1 Monitoring Procedures

GCLSI will be fully transparent around our actions and impacts on Biodiversity. Our annual Sustainability / ESG report, prepared in line with the GRI and TNFD frameworks, will include details about the progress of our biodiversity program.

5.2 Dissemination

For the strategy to be successful, it is important that the message is spread across stakeholders. We will work to make sure the strategy and subsequent action plans are shared amongst our employees, suppliers and other stakeholders. This should increase the awareness and knowledge about our Biodiversity Strategy and generate a positive attitude to solve the problems surrounding the use of natural resources and the stakeholder involvement required from all sides. The Biodiversity Strategy has been developed as a dynamic framework which will evolve with time as new projects become apparent and potential collaborations arise.



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