



Sustainability Indicators for Trail Running

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1. Final indicators list

The GTC certification scheme offers a systematic and measurable approach to assessing the impacts of trail running events through the development of environmental, social, and economic indicators; pre, during and post event.

By employing these indicators, event organizers can pinpoint areas for improvement and implement effective mitigation measures. This proactive approach ensures that trail running events can coexist harmoniously with nature and communities, promoting the long-term sustainability of the sport while protecting natural heritage.

To develop these indicators, research and the findings from workshops have been considered to ensure their reliability, usability, and applicability for a wide range of trail running organizations.

1.1. Environmental pillar

Considering all the insights gathered from research and workshops, several key categories have emerged as particularly relevant for the environmental pillar. These categories serve as a basis for organizing the indicators:

- **TRANSPORTATION** is a significant contributor to the environmental impact of event organization and a key challenge to address. Both literature review and stakeholder feedback emphasize the importance of considering this category and exploring alternative options to promote sustainability.
- Obtaining the necessary **PERMITS** for event celebrations poses various challenges. However, it also presents an opportunity to bring together different stakeholders such as protected area managers and municipalities. By collaborating, best practices aligned with environmental sustainability can be identified and implemented.
- Effective **MANAGEMENT** that focuses on aligning the actions of the audience and participants with nature preservation is essential for generating a positive impact from the event. Various measures and guidelines need to be implemented before, during, and after the event to raise awareness about the potential impacts of the trail running event.
- The **USE OF RESOURCES** is another key driver of the environmental impact of the event. Based on the findings, the project has identified the following key topics to address: waste management, water usage, and energy consumption and management.
- Trail running events, regardless of their size, require **INFRASTRUCTURE**, the management of which is crucial for minimizing their environmental impact. Also,

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how the track is marked is a key potential driver of environmental impact, so this should be taken into account and analysed.

- Considering the nature of these events, they are held in natural areas where the FLORA AND FAUNA could be directly impacted. Biodiversity loss, exacerbated by climate change, is a significant threat today, making these areas particularly vulnerable. Therefore, there is an urgent need to protect these areas and implement best practices more than ever before.
- The literature review has highlighted the importance of tracking and MONITORING the resources used for the event. This provides historical data to the race organizer, enabling them to progressively reduce resource consumption year by year. Additionally, calculating CO2 emissions has emerged as a key point for evaluation.

Category I: TRANSPORT

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
1. Having a mobility plan	4. Providing specific parking location for cars	
2. Collaboration with public transport companies		
3. Provide incentives on any innovative options for transport		

TABLE 1: TRANSPORT CATEGORY INDICATORS

Category II: PERMITS

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
5. Obtention of a permit from the Protected area manager		
6. Guidelines from protected area managers		
7. Obtention of a permit form landowner		

TABLE 2: PERMITS CATEGORY INDICATORS

Category III: MANAGEMENT

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
8. Plan in action to reduce the environmental impact	13. Identifying zones along the track in races that traverse potential erosion or high humidity areas	16. Hold a post-race debrief
9. Stakeholders awareness of the sustainability goals and pitfalls	14. Presence of guidelines to respect environment	17. Platform for review and feedback for event audience
10. Communication strategy	15. Monitoring that spectators stay within the designated areas	
11. Awareness among runners and spectators regarding waste		

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collection, recycling, and reducing the use of single-use items		
12. Procurement of local good/services		

TABLE 3: MANAGEMENT CATEGORY INDICATORS

Category IV: USE OF RESOURCES

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
18. Partnership with brands or sponsors aligned with the sustainable development goals	25. Event audience awareness of resource use	31. Water: evaluation of event's water consumption
19. Renting any equipment instead of buying it	26. Water: Availability of water fountains to refill bottles	32. Energy: evaluation of the event's energy use
20. Re-use of products in order to promote equipment circularity for subsequent events	27. Use recycled materials for the event	33. Ensure proper disposal of sorted waste
21. Water management plan	28. Using reusable items instead of single used ones	34. Conducting a waste assessment
22. Energy: Electricity management plan	29. Provide sorting waste bins	
23. Waste: Incentives for participants to bring their own glass and plate	30. Use ecological friendly toilets	
24. Give away plan for food surplus		

TABLE 4: USE OF RESOURCES CATEGORY INDICATORS

Category V: INFRASTRUCTURE

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
35. Access to renewable energy	38. Use of helicopters or any other fuel transport for media coverage	39. Employ and follow a detailed deconstruction plan
36. Use of existing infrastructure		40. Recovering the signs/marks used to mark the track after the race and reuse them next year
37. Prevent use of plastic or paint used to mark the track		

TABLE 5: INFRASTRUCTURE CATEGORY INDICATORS

Category VI: FLORA & FAUNA

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
41. Wildlife reproduction cycle	43. Interaction with wetland areas	46. Supporting initiatives that contribute towards protecting flora and fauna
42. Race track designed within existing trails	44. Minimize noise in Protected Areas	

TABLE 6: FLORA & FAUNA CATEGORY INDICATORS

Category VII: LOOKOUT: POST EVENT MONITORING

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
	46. Use of a carbon calculator tool to measure overall event CO2 emissions	49. Organizing any conservation event or trail works after the race
	47. A plan to reduce its emissions	50. Organizing any cleaning event after the race
	48. Offsetting carbon emissions	51. Donation organized for any equipment that organizers will not use anymore
		52. Assessment of a land erosion and wildlife impact
		53. Written report of the environmental plans, strategies, difficulties, lessons

TABLE 7: LOOKOUT POST EVENT MONITORING CATEGORY INDICATORS

1.2. Social Pillar

These indicators capture the broader social impacts and benefits of events, guiding decision-making, planning, and stakeholder engagement. They ensure that sporting events contribute positively to the well-being and development of individuals and communities:

- INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY encompass key actions that aim to make these events more accessible to everyone, regardless of economic or social barriers. This includes addressing gender, mobility, other physical limitations, and economic constraints within this category.
- The impact of the event on LOCAL COMMUNITIES is crucial for its sustainability. Key indicators include community quality of life, community pride, and community capacity enhancement.
- PHILANTHROPY has been identified as a key category to consider when assessing the event's potential to positively allocate resources to areas and actions in need.
- Effective COMMUNICATION of all the event's actions is essential to contribute to a positive social impact. Communicating about inclusion, accessibility, local communities, and philanthropy strengthens the overall impact of these actions.
- SOCIAL JUSTICE is vital as it guarantees fairness, equality, and opportunity for all individuals in society, regardless of their background, identity, or circumstances.

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Category I: INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
54. Offer reduced prices for low-income individuals to sign up for the race	59. Inclusive race options like Joelette for individuals with mobility limitations	65. Platform for stakeholder to provide reviews and comments regarding their perception on inclusion and accessibility
55. Donating free tickets to people with low to zero income	60. Gender diversity (non-binary) in the event's rankings and other classifications	
56. Accessibility to low mobility people	61. Ensure an inclusive experience for all participants	
57. Incentivise gender equality	62. Limited mobility access for the event's audience	
58. Formulate actionable protocols addressing any forms of abuse, harassment, discrimination and violence at the event	63. Activities for kids during the race	
	64. Provide spaces for breastfeeding	

TABLE 8: INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY CATEGORY INDICATORS

Category II: LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
66. Interaction with all external stakeholders involved in the event	70. Prioritizing the collaboration with local voluntary staff	71. Meeting/debrief after the event with the local authorities
67. Involving any other municipality in the planning stages		72. Ceremony/speech to thank the volunteers who helped during the event for their contribution
68. Strategy regarding empowering community action and building networks		73. Use of survey to assess the local perception of the event
69. Engaging the local community		

TABLE 9: LOCAL COMMUNITIES CATEGORY INDICATORS

Category III: PHILANTHROPY

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
74. Strategy in place to allow for donations	75. Possibility to make and receive donations in order to work towards environmental projects, social inclusion or any charity program	76. Partnership with a brand/public administration where you can donate equipment

TABLE 10: PHILANTHROPY CATEGORY INDICATORS

Category IV: COMMUNICATION/MEDIA

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
77. Communicate about sustainability efforts on the website	79. Awareness raising side events	83. Report sent to participants by mail regarding the sustainability of the race
78. Environmental training sessions provided to volunteers and staff	80. Equal opportunities in terms of coverage and ranking visibility both for all genders	
	81. Visibility to all genders through social media channels and communication materials	
	82. Equal visibility all people including minorities on social media and communication mediums	

TABLE 11: COMMUNICATION/MEDIA CATEGORY INDICATORS

Category V: SOCIAL JUSTICE

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
	84. Promoting social justice within the organization team	

TABLE 12: SOCIAL JUSTICE CATEGORY INDICATORS

1.3. Economic Pillar

Trail running events are often held in rural areas, presenting an opportunity for significant economic impact on the local economy. Various indicators have been considered to positively address this impact:

- A detailed financial strategy, resource planning, and monitoring lead to STRATEGIC ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DECISIONS, ultimately creating a positive impact.
- Procuring from local suppliers is integrated across all three sustainability pillars, highlighting the importance of partnering with a supply chain that aligns with sustainability targets and SDG goals.
- Based on the stakeholders' workshop, engaging with LOCAL BUSINESSES is crucial for promoting social impact and social justice at a local level, while also addressing their economic impact on the community.

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Category I: STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DECISIONS

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
85. Detailed financial strategy in place		90. Develop a detailed financial balance sheet after the event
86. Detailed plan regarding the procurement of resources needed		91. Survey local businesses, residents, and municipality officials regarding the economic impact of the event
87. Timing of the event in regards to economic opportunities		
88. Prioritizing employing residents of the communities in which the event occurs		
89. Incentive to participants and the public to come back where the race is organized		

TABLE 13: STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DECISIONS CATEGORY INDICATORS

Category II: PROCUREMENT

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
92. Partnering with 50% or more of local suppliers		
93. Use local organic products		
94. Merchandising from local companies and local products		
95. Monitoring its purchasing operations		

TABLE 14: PROCUREMENT CATEGORY INDICATORS

Category III: LOCAL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

Pre-event	During the event	Post-event
96. Strategy for involving local businesses	98. Work closely with the tourism administration	102. Provide any discount to use in local businesses
97. Prioritizing engaging with local sponsors	99. Provide suggestions of local business	
	100. Decentralized bib collection throughout local business	
	101. Suggestions of local accommodation	

TABLE 15: LOCAL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT CATEGORY INDICATORS

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