

Certification Process

Global Ecosphere Retreats (G.E.R.) are privately managed natural areas of conservation value with identified and valued biodiversity that are dedicated to achieving the highest standards of sustainability through achieving ecosphere safety—the balance of conservation, community, culture and commerce (4Cs)—in tourist and non-tourist sectors. For G.E.R., achieving sustainability means promoting, living, and working with a new perspective of inclusion that involves all of the needs of the land and people, and all the species and diverse interests that interconnect them.

G.E.R. are guided by the 4keys—being fair, honest, positive, and creative—in all decisions and actions taken. As members of a global network, G.E.R. are connecting across the globe and, as a collective, contribute to safeguarding the ecosphere. As a requirement for applying for G.E.R. certification, applicants must meet the criteria as follows:

Criteria for Becoming a G.E.R. Certified Long Run Destination

1. Whereas a G.E.R. is a privately managed natural area of conservation value with identified and valued biodiversity and defined geographical boundaries that is dedicated to achieving sustainability across the 4Cs in accordance with the G.E.R. certification system.
2. Whereas a G.E.R. may be located in any part of the world, may be of any size and may be situated in different ecosystems such as terrestrial, marine or coastal areas.
3. Whereas a G.E.R. complies with national laws and regulations, such as laws regarding land ownership, labor and environmental laws, regulations about conservation and community interaction, or permits to undertake responsible and ecologically sustainable commercial activities including tourism.
4. Whereas a G.E.R. respects the principles enshrined in international laws and treaties that are relevant to the particular location and always include the following:
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
 - Core Conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO)
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
 - Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria (GSTC)
 - World Anti-Doping Code of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
 - Conventions of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) regarding the preservation and promotion of creative diversity
 - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The G.E.R. certification system is transparent, relies on independent experts and follows procedures that are common in other international certifications such as in sustainable tourism. The system will continue to evolve in line with global developments and will undergo regular updates. It builds upon and reflects the principles established in multilateral agreements and other relevant international programs on sustainable development and should be interpreted in light of these documents, which are available on The Long Run website.



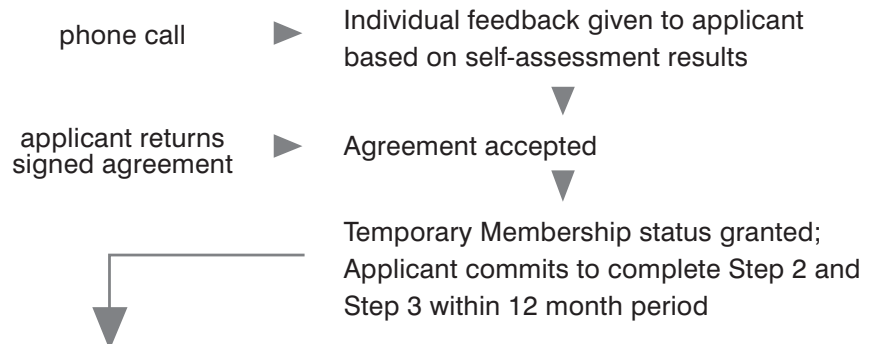
The certification is based on the following assumptions:

- Activities undertaken by a G.E.R. to obtain certification are voluntary and, for the most part, go beyond national legal obligations.
- The certification covers activities in all four dimensions (conservation, community, culture and commerce) that are an integral part of a G.E.R.
- G.E.R. are engaged in a constant and systematic process of improvement and learning.

The application procedure involves four main steps outlined below:

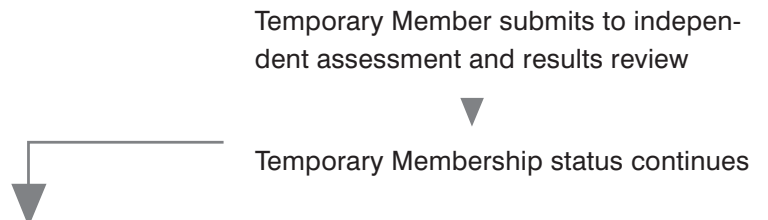
STEP 1

- A. Acceptance of Terms and Conditions
- B. Self-Assessment
- C. Results Review
- D. Supplementary Agreement



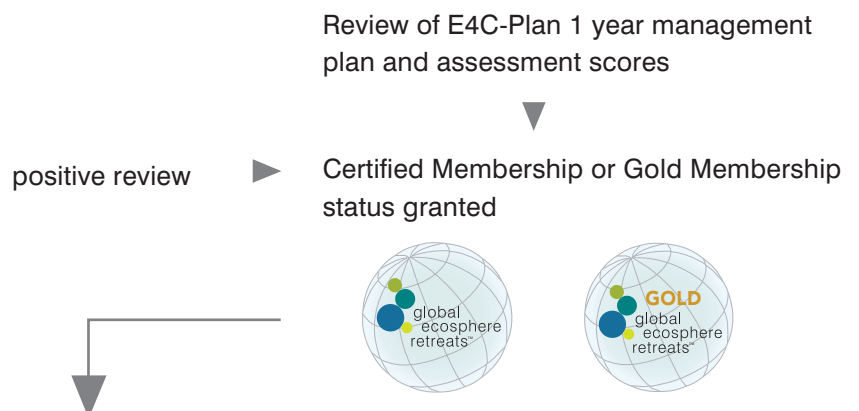
STEP 2

- A. Independent Third-party Assessment
- B. Feedback Session



STEP 3

- A. E4C Plan
- B. Review



STEP 4

- Annual E4C Plan Updates and Follow-up Reviews

