



Certification scheme GreenCert – GreenScent – Professional Level

GreenCert – Professional Level – Biodiversity

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1 Scope

This certification scheme specifies the procedure of how the competence of persons in the field of GreenCert – Professional Level, is being certified by ECQA GmbH.

The certification organization ECQA GmbH is an Austrian company, which is 60% owned by the non-profit organization European Certification and Qualification Association (ECQA).

The object of certification is exclusively / solely the competence of natural persons.

The certification is largely based on the principles of the International Standard ISO/IEC 17024:2012-07 Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies certifying persons.

2 Requirements for competence

2.1 Competence Profile

Individuals certified in accordance with this certification scheme are competent to independently plan and deliver GreenCert – Professional Level as a service, using appropriate technical tools and applications.

2.2 Knowledge and skill requirements

The European Green Deal's focus on biodiversity aims to protect, conserve, and enhance the natural ecosystems upon which life depends, addressing urgent environmental challenges like habitat degradation, species extinction, and ecological imbalance. This priority area requires a multidisciplinary approach that encompasses ecological knowledge, conservation techniques, and policy advocacy. Key competencies for professionals in biodiversity include deep ecological knowledge to understand the complex interactions within ecosystems and the factors that threaten biodiversity. This includes expertise in species identification, habitat assessment, and ecological monitoring to track the health of ecosystems and the effectiveness of conservation measures. Skills in environmental impact assessment and habitat restoration are crucial for mitigating the effects of human activity and restoring natural landscapes and wildlife populations. Policy development and implementation skills are also essential, as biodiversity conservation often requires navigating and shaping international, national, and local regulations and agreements to protect endangered species and habitats. Attitudes of stewardship, resilience, and collaboration are fundamental. These attitudes encourage a commitment to long-term ecological health and foster partnerships across governmental, non-profit, and private sectors to implement effective biodiversity strategies. Ultimately, the focus on biodiversity within the Green Deal seeks to reverse the decline in the natural world and lay the foundation for ecosystems that are resilient to climate change and other environmental pressures, ensuring the sustainability of the planet for future generations.

Individuals performing GreenCert – Professional Level Biodiversity must demonstrate competencies as specified in Sections 2.2.1 through 2.2.6.

2.2.1 Unit 1 (Abbrev.U1)

- E1: Deal with uncertainty in the context of biodiversity loss (EQF5)

- E2: Open-minded perception towards living species (EQF5)
- E3: Capacity to one-self motivation in sustaining a thriving ecosystem (EQF5)

2.2.2 Unit 2 (Abbrev.U2)

- E1: Understanding the impact of diverse natural environment empirically (EQF5)
- E2: Implemented personal relation with nature/animals (EQF5)
- E3: Ability to collaborate for slowing down the flora and fauna extinction (EQF5)

2.2.3 Unit 3 (Abbrev. U3)

- E1: Ability to identify and quantify the features of biodiversity (EQF5)
- E2: Ability to conduct the most recent literature review and lifelong learning (EQF5)

2.2.4 Unit 4 (Abbrev. U4)

- E1: Accepting the coexisting with nature in urban and rural areas (EQF5)
- E2: Understanding the importance of every action on biodiversity (EQF5)

2.2.5 Unit 5 (Abbrev. U5)

- E1: Regenerative agriculture and sustainable aquaculture (EQF4)
- E2: Soil quantity, health and resilience (EQF4)
- E3: Regenerative agriculture and sustainable aquaculture (EQF5)

2.2.6 Unit 6 (Abbrev. U6)

- E1: Linking the human action with biodiversity (EQF5)
- E2: Biodiversity as a resource for new jobs (EQF5)
- E3: Return of investments in biodiversity (EQF5)

3 Requirements for admission to the examination

Prerequisite for admission to the examination is

- None (although the completion of a recommended training is suggested)

4 Multiple-Choice Exam

The examination is done in writing as a multiple-choice test online. The exam consists of 48 questions, from a pool of more than 85 questions in total, from the six subject areas as per section 2.2.1 to 2.2.6.

The maximum duration of the written exam is set at 60min.

5 Evaluation Criteria

5.1 Multiple-Choice Exam

Each question is scored with a maximum of one point each. There are several answer options per question. For each the complete exam at least 50% of the total score must be achieved.

5.2 Overall assessment and examination repetition

To pass the overall examination, at least 50% must be achieved.

6 Issue and validity of certificates

The successful evaluation of the initial certification examination, according to section 5, is a prerequisite for the issuance of a certificate.

The certificates are valid for 3 years.

7 Recertification

7.1 Criteria for renewal of the certificate

To renew the certificate, the certificate holder must fulfil one of the following criteria:

7.1.1 The certificate holder must retake the exam.

7.1.2 The certificate holder must hand in a written report stating the use of the skills in a project/work environment proven by the school/university/company.

7.2 Issue of the certificate

After fulfilling all the criteria, according to 7.1, the certificate is renewed for 2 years.

7.3 Deadlines

Recertification must take place before the certificate expires. In exceptional cases, recertification may also take place after expiry of the certificate. In this case, the following conditions apply:

7.3.1 If the recertification takes place after the expiration of the validity of a certificate within a period of maximum 6 months, the recertification shall be carried out in accordance with the criteria and process specified in Section 7.1. Otherwise, an audit to the extent of the initial certification shall be performed in accordance with Section 5.

7.3.2 The validity of the certificate is always based on the date of initial certification. This means that the date of the initial certification is always taken as the starting point, regardless of the recertification date.