

Company Profile

Headquarters: Eschborn, Germany
Major products: Capacity building for sustainable development
Further information: www.giz.de/en

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH operates in more than 130 countries worldwide. In Germany, GIZ maintains a presence in nearly all the federal states. Its registered offices are in Bonn and Eschborn. The services delivered by GIZ draw on a wealth of regional and technical expertise and tried and tested management know-how.

On 1 January 2011, the GIZ was established by combining the long-standing expertise of the German Development Service (DED), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH and InWEnt – Capacity Building International. As a federally owned enterprise, GIZ supports the German Federal Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. GIZ is also engaged in international education activities around the globe.

Challenges and How GIZ Takes Responsibility

Conserving the diversity of ecosystems, genes, and plant and animal species is one of the major challenges worldwide. GIZ helps its partner countries implement the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. To this end sustainable strategies for the conservation of biodiversity must be developed, which promote economic development without endangering biological diversity.

GIZ wants to implement this aim in its own company as well. Therefore, GIZ takes environmental and biodiversity aspects into account for its facility management, staff restaurants and procurement.



Solar Geyser at
GIZ Office in Pakistan



Fields of Action

- Sites and facilities
- Supply chains, commodities and materials
- Product
- Production and manufacturing processes
- Transport and logistics
- Personnel



Best Practice: GIZ Environmental Strategy

The Issue

The protection and promotion of biodiversity is of great importance for GIZ facilities in Germany and as part of the GIZ counseling services alike. In 2010 the energy consumption in the German GIZ offices amounted to 22,000 MWh. In addition, the staff had a paper consumption of about 15 million sheets and travelled 62 million miles on business trips through flying alone. Both have a great impact on biodiversity. Mobility (commuters and business trips) and energy consumption are the main environmental impacts of office operations. The climate impact caused hereby has an indirect influence on biodiversity. Whereas the canteen, paper consumption and furniture as well as the facility management can have a direct impact on biodiversity.

The Response

The GIZ has developed a strategy for carbon neutrality in order to keep the direct environmental impacts as low as possible. Avoidance (e.g. energy efficiency), substitution (use of renewable energies) and compensation through its own Gold Standard CDM project are the essential elements of this strategy.

As an administrative operation the GIZ has developed a location-related environmental concept. The Environmental Strategy includes, amongst others, the procurement of office supplies, the procurement of furniture, the cafeteria and maintenance of outdoor facilities.

The Results

The GIZ Environmental Strategy has already resulted in some positive outcomes.

Only FSC-certified office furniture is used in the GIZ. In addition, the paper used in its offices is from recycled paper certified with the Blue Angel (a German certification for products and services that have environmentally friendly aspects) or labeled by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). In its canteens, the GIZ ensures agricultural biodiversity by offering regional and seasonal dishes as well as a selection of traditional crop varieties.

For outdoor installations, GIZ has developed a concept that foresees implementing a programme of planting native trees, establishing beehives and utilising urban gardening practiced by employees. This allows the employees to take matters into their own hands and actively customize their surroundings to suit personal preferences by planting seeds brought from home.

Also, at major events it is important to pay attention to environmental impact and especially biodiversity aspects. When considering the Eschborn Dialogue in 2011 for example, the external catering was chosen according to the GIZ internal food standards and the emissions caused by the arrival of guests were compensated by climate certificates from a Ugandan forest project.

Supporting the abovementioned Ugandan reforestation project offsets emissions by combining climate, environmental and social benefits and by serving as an example for sustainable development in the heart of East Africa. To protect rare species and regenerate natural habitats the project has set aside over 20% of its area for conservation purposes. Animals such as antelopes, monkeys and countless bird species have found a refuge there. It also provides timber for local markets, thereby playing a role in reducing illegal cross-border logging activities in natural forest areas in Uganda, Congo and Sudan.