

The road to
resilience is
paved with tough
**questions and
honest answers.**

CASE STUDY
SUN INTERNATIONAL

CASE STUDY



Overview

Sun International is a leading hospitality and entertainment group with a diverse footprint spanning eight countries, including South Africa, Chile, Panama, and Nigeria.

Known for delivering world-class experiences, the Group is also fiercely committed to embedding sustainability across operations — making long-term environmental and social impact a core business driver.

In 2015 GCX partnered with Sun International to co-develop a robust climate change response strategy, rooted in data confidence and powered by GCX's suite of sustainability solutions.

Together, we built a platform to empower smarter decisions, real-time tracking, and measurable impact.



Locations

Sun International has operations across South Africa, Africa, and South America.



Size

Sun International employs approximately 9,000 people across 16 sites.



Sector

Hospitality & Tourism – with core operations in luxury hotels, resorts, gaming, and entertainment.



Assets

In 2017 the company boasts considerable economic resources, with total asset value of annual revenue of R24.436 billion.



Footprint

Sun International is responsible for 988,120 m² across South Africa alone.

Challenges

Sun International needed to address several key sustainability challenges:

- #1 No consolidated, real-time environmental data across all sites.
- #2 Manual data processes prone to inefficiencies and missed opportunities.
- #3 Limited visibility into waste, water, and carbon outputs.
- #4 Urgent need to align operations with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- #5 An ambitious "Zero Waste to Landfill" target, requiring strategic and tactical support.

Solutions

GCX provided a suite of integrated services to bring Sun International's sustainability strategy to life:



Data Management Platform

We provided real-time tracking of carbon, water, waste, and energy data and automated data flow from internal and external sources. Through monthly analysis we conducted anomaly detection and provided operational support.



Zero Waste Strategy

Through detailed site assessments, GCX developed tailored waste strategies across Sun International's South African properties. These plans supported the Group's Zero Waste to Landfill goal and were backed by data insights from the GCX platform.



Carbon & Climate Solutions

GCX conducted a full assessment of Sun International's emissions sources, including electricity use, fuel consumption, refrigerants, business travel, and water systems. This established a clear emissions baseline to guide reduction strategies and reporting.



SDG Integration

Following a full review of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Sun International prioritised six that aligned with their operations. These goals now guide sustainability initiatives and reinforce the company's commitment to the 2030 agenda.

Results

The collaborative efforts of Sun International and GCX have yielded significant results:



Certifications & Awards

In 2019, the Wild Coast Sun became the first commercial facility in Africa to receive Net Zero Waste certification from the Green Building Council of South Africa. This milestone marked a significant shift in the region's hospitality sector and showcased the success of Sun International's waste diversion strategy.



Time & Efficiency Gains

Automating the carbon footprint monitoring process saved Sun International the equivalent of three months of full-time staff time annually. This shift not only improved efficiency but also enhanced internal focus on higher-impact sustainability actions.



Operational Impact

With GCX's platform in place, Sun International was able to identify billing errors, track utility under-recoveries, and spot water usage anomalies. These insights resulted in direct cost savings and improved operational oversight across the Group's properties.



CDP Score Improvements

Between 2013 and 2016, Sun International improved its Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) score from 58D to A-.

This steady climb reflects stronger data accuracy, disclosure practices, and alignment with global climate benchmarks.



Feasibility & Design

To further support their environmental commitments, GCX conducted a comprehensive waste-to-energy feasibility and design study for Sun City. The goal of the study was to explore alternatives to the resort's on-site landfill and transition to a more circular waste system, highlighting the Group's proactive approach to innovation in sustainability.



Raveshni Maharaj
Group Environmental
Specialist
Sun International

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“The team at GCX are passionate and innovative in their service offerings and have successfully assisted Sun International in our sustainability journey.”

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