

## **COP23 – EMAS Briefing for external service providers**

### **What is the COP?**

Strictly speaking, the climate summit comprises three conferences under one roof, each having different compositions. Representatives from all the states that have signed and ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) gather together. This international Conference of the Parties (COP) is convening in Bonn for the 23rd time and is therefore called "COP 23" for short. The annual contracting member state conference is the highest body of the Climate Framework Convention - UNFCCC. In this international convention, all industrial countries have committed to reduce their greenhouse gas emission.

COP23 is being held in Germany under the presidency of the Fiji Islands. Diplomats, politicians and representatives of civil society from around the world will gather in Bonn from 6 to 17 November. Some 20,000 to 25,000 delegates are expected.

### **What does EMAS mean?**

EMAS is the Eco Management and Audit Scheme and is based on the principles of a Directive of the European Community. As a management tool for companies, public administrations and events, it serves to assess, report and improve environmental performance. EMAS can be used to promote the sustainable orientation of events.

EMAS stands for:

**Environmental performance**

**Transparency**

**Credibility**

### **EMAS as part of COP23**

COP23 is to be held in the most environmentally-friendly and sustainable manner possible. EMAS will be used as a framework for sustainable organisation, for achieving stated goals and for assessing the environmental performance of the conference. EMAS also effectively creates a particular credibility of all associated endeavours.

In applying EMAS, the organisers of COP23 commit to the following:

- Comply with all relevant laws and regulations (including the Federal Emissions Protection Act (BImSchG))



COP23 FIJI

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

BONN 2017

- Set goals for continuous improvement of their own environmental performance and reduce environmental burden with respect to all relevant direct and indirect aspects, such as energy, use of resources, waste, water, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, catering, mobility of visitors, conduct of suppliers
- Measures for achieving these goals
- Creating an official report about these goals and measures, the "Environmental Declaration"

**The EMAS Certificate is based on the following key indicators:**

Energy efficiency	Material efficiency	Water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event-related total energy consumption in MWh or GJ</li> <li>• Event-related total energy consumption of renewable energies:</li> <li>• Proportion of energy from renewable sources of the annual total consumption (power and heat)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event-related mass flow rate of the various consumables (excluding energy sources and water) in tons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event-related water consumption in m<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
Waste	Biological diversity	Emissions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event-related waste generation according to waste type in tons</li> <li>• Event-related generation of hazardous waste in kilograms or tons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area usage in m<sup>2</sup> of developed area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event-related total emissions of greenhouse gases (at least emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and SF<sub>6</sub>, in tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent</li> <li>• Event-related total emissions into the air at least the emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and PM, in kilograms or tons</li> </ul>



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**BONN 2017**

## What does this mean for you?

All delegates are to be made aware of the importance of environmental protection and sustainability. You ought to know,

- ✓ that EMAS is primarily an environmental management system,
- ✓ that EMAS is long-lasting and sustainable by constantly improving environmental performance
- ✓ that an "Environmental Declaration" is created,
- ✓ that an external review is conducted by an environmental auditor (review in-situ and validation of the statements on the Environmental Declaration)
- ✓ that a successful audit leads to an entry in the EMAS Register and use of the EMAS logo is permitted.
- ✓ that self-stated goals and measures, which are to be achieved using this management system, should be developed

## These goals and measures include:

- use of sustainable and eco-friendly materials (avoid plastic)
- use of recyclable materials wherever possible
- avoidance of disposable drinks beakers and crockery
- having attending employees travel to and fro by public transport wherever possible
- resource-conserving transport logistics
- avoiding waste and careful waste separation
- lawful handling of hazardous waste
- printing only when necessary
- economical use of water and power
- using a regional, seasonal catering service
- controlling and evaluating environmental impacts (including surveys for external representatives)

## Audit in-situ and EMAS certification

As part of the EMAS certification process, an environmental auditor reviews the event in-situ. This may involve interviewing employees and delegates in order to establish whether the EMAS measures are known and are being effectively implemented.

Essentially, the sustainable orientation of the conference is not regarded as something extra, but instead as a tangible, responsible way of how a conference ought to be organised.



**COP23 | FIJI**

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

**BONN 2017**

The result is an ongoing improvement process to which the organiser and partners contribute on a reciprocal basis. On completion of the audit, the event closes with the "EMAS Certification". The environmental auditor validates the Environmental Declaration, in which all goals and measures are truthfully set out.

## **EMAS ambassadors**

All delegates can actively contribute to a successful, sustainable orientation of COP23 by familiarizing themselves with the goals and measures and becoming involved in their implementation.

Help to keep the environmental impacts of the COP23 as low as possible!  
Act in a sustainable manner!

Everybody is an ambassador and can make a positive contribution to the environmentally friendly and sustainable orientation of the Climate Conference.

## **Further Information:**

- Specific information about environmentally-friendly products and services is contained in "[Guidelines for the sustainable organisation of events](#)" published by the Federal Environment Agency and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
- [EMAS Information Sheet - Indicators](#)
- [www.emas.de](http://www.emas.de)