

# Sustainable, climate-neutral FATA



The 2018 conference (FATA) on biodiversity, forestry, climate and environment, which was held from 18 to 22 June, set new sustainability standards. The organisational team resolved to take on board the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainability, and organised the entire conference, from the concept of travelling to and from the venue, catering and procurement, decoration and recreation to be sustainable and climate friendly.

Participants were particularly enthusiastic about the **vegetarian/vegan catering** services offered throughout the conference. Divisional directors Vera Scholz and Lorenz Petersen were given a standing ovation when they announced at the start that no meat would be served.

As far as possible, all the food served was locally grown and seasonal. Food waste was prevented, by giving the kitchen staff explicit instructions not to keep replenishing the buffet and to allow the dishes to run out near closing. During coffee breaks, fruit was generally served, rather than the cakes and pastries that are more usual fare.

Colleagues with children were able to attend the conference, too: **professional childcare** was available throughout the conference. The venue, the Dorint Tagungshotel in Bad Neuenahr is designed to be barrier-free with the conference room, restaurant, group working spaces and several of the hotel rooms guaranteeing access and usability for participants with impairments. Individual requests for assistance could be registered in advance.

The conference was also much lauded for the decision to make it a **paper- and giveaway-free event**. Participants were not given written programmes. This and much more information was available in the form of an **event app**. Moreover, all essential information was displayed in the foyer of the venue for all to see.

The sustainability of the conference was not only theoretically realised, it was also a tangible and visible experience for participants. An **upcycling decoration concept**, for instance, was a highly visible illustration. A seating corner made from wood planks, rented by the hotel for the duration of the conference, with rag rugs and comfy cushions, offered a meeting point and lounge in the foyer.

With a great deal of attention to detail, flowers were planted in no-deposit bottles that had been collected, in line with the tenets of vertical gardening. At the end of the conference they were given to the participants to take home. In the ClimateTech Pavilion participants could **enjoy an ice cream refrigerated using natural coolants**, while a **clothing exchange** was available at the Circular Economy Pavilion.



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Transport-related and other CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that could not be prevented or reduced are to be offset.

**Emissions are offset via myclimate: FATA participants were free to vote for one of four selected projects** (see photo). The majority voted for the project 'Less rainforest deforestation thanks to efficient cookstoves in Kenya'.

The 2018 conference on biodiversity, forestry, climate and environment was one of five lighthouse events on sustainable event management staged by GIZ in 2018.

But there is always scope for improvement. For FATA 2019 'Just Transition' we have booked a **certified sustainable hotel**. This guarantees us green power, fair-trade coffee, waste segregation, tap water instead of bottled water, locally sourced food, etc. ...

But let's be honest. All events put a strain on the environment, especially when they involve travel. To reduce the transport-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as far as possible, a number of steps were taken. A **barrier-free** venue was selected that could easily be reached using **public transport** and a **car sharing scheme was set up on IDA** for participants. Nevertheless, participants flew a total of 1,700,000 km to get to Bad Neuenahr.



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