

Österreichisches  
Umweltzeichen

**Prüfprotokoll UZ 76**

# **Green Producing – In Film und Fernsehen**

# THE HIPPO KING – Green Strategy

(Based on the report and test protocol of the Austrian Ecolabel for Sustainable Productions UZ76)

## General Explanation given by the Austrian Ecolabel for Sustainable Productions - UZ76:

1. The test protocol is primarily intended for assessors and label users and represents a specification of the requirements stated in the guideline. It aims to standardize the testing within the scope of an eco-label application. The protocol is to be regarded as a practical guideline for carrying out the test, in which all the requirements of the directive are presented in the form of test steps together with documents suitable as evidence.

2. Existing test results can be included in the overall report, provided that they cover the requirements of the directive in terms of content.

3. If the eco-label is applied for different products, please prepare a separate test report for each.

4. The test report is created as a form and can be filled out electronically. Please send one copy of the test report with original signature as a PDF file or by mail to VKI.

The relevant laws and ordinances of the federal government, the federal states and the responsible municipalities have been complied with (especially copyrights and filming permits), as has employee protection. This applies to the applying company as well as the production to be awarded. – YES

All employment relationships are governed by service or work contracts. – YES

The legal provisions regarding minimum wages and maximum working hours according to the collective agreement (for filmmakers/non-filmmakers) are observed. – YES

## Green Producing in Film and TV:

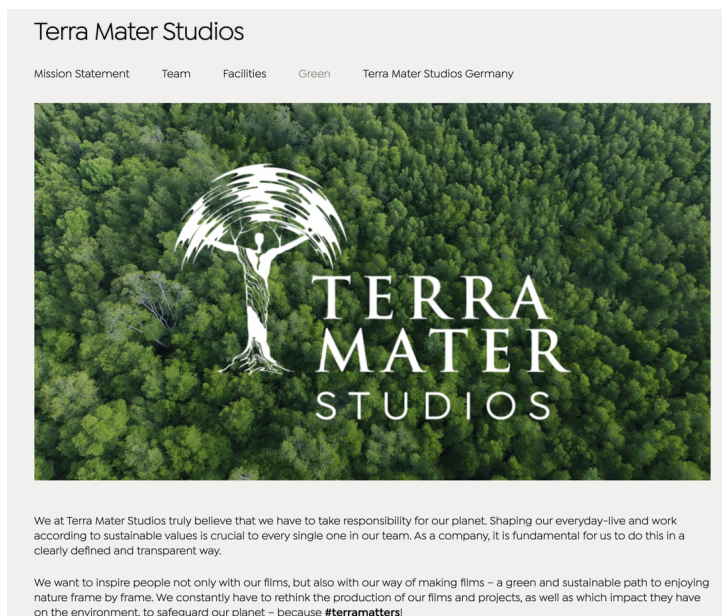
The eco-label is awarded to a film production that saves resources and acts in a climate-friendly manner. Transport, waste and catering are viewed particularly critically. A prerequisite for film production according to UZ76 is the appointment of a Green Producing Officer in the production company. This person has an overview of all measures and is the interface for everyone involved.

The criteria of the Ecolabel Guideline 76 are divided into two areas:  
Criteria that the production company has to meet as a company:

Mission statement, mobility, office management, waste management, information and criteria that apply to a specific film production:  
mobility, location requirements, waste and sewage, power supply, lighting, consumables, props, costumes and effects, catering, accommodation, communication and planet placement, CO2 emissions.  
In principle, all the criteria listed in both areas must be met.

#### 4.1. Mission Statement

Since June 2021, there has been a dedicated Green Producing subsection of the Terra Mater Studios (TMS) corporate website, which can be found at: [www.terramater.com/factual-studios/green](http://www.terramater.com/factual-studios/green). This includes a mission statement and further information on the topics of emissions calculation, green producing and reduction measures, which have also been communicated internally and are updated regularly.



#### 4.2. Green Producing Representative

After attending a 4-day "Green Producing" training led by Philip Gassmann and initiated by the Lower Austrian Film Commission, Nina Holler has been working as Sustainability Manager at Terra Mater Studios (TMS) since the beginning of 2020 and has since completed additional training on the topic of "Sustainability Management". Her job title "Sustainability Manager" and her tasks are communicated internally through dedicated Green Channels on Microsoft Teams and Green Updates at the monthly Jour Fixe events, as well as externally on the website and in the email signature. In January, Josepha Andras began supporting Nina Holler in the Sustainability Department and subsequently completed her training at the HDM (Hochschule der Medien) in Stuttgart to be a certified Green Consultant.

#### 4.3. Information Management

The Ecolabel and its criteria have been communicated several times in internal meetings in preparation for the certification and its basics have been explained. In addition, Green Office and Business Trip Guidelines for all employees already exist, and "Green" updates take place in the monthly Jour Fixes with all employees of TMS, keeping everyone up to date on the environmental measures (such as Ökobusiness Zertifizierung 2020 or the targeted eco-label).

#### **5.1.1. Green Production – Hippo King**

Before the production took place, Nina Holler, Sustainability Manager, Will and Lianne Steenkamp and producer Roman Landauer created a checklist for the film shooting based the requirements of the Austrian eco-label, which included:

- Communication
- Storytelling
- Mobility
- Location
- Production Office
- Equipment
- Food/Catering
- Accommodation
- Post Production
- Emission Calculation

The production team of "Hippo King" on location in Zambia, Africa was only the filmmaker couple, Will and Lianne Steenkamp. More about them and their projects can be found on their website: <https://intonatureproductions.com/about/>.

They were informed about the Green Producing measures and the Ecolabel via e-mail, phone and provided with details about necessary measures using a checklist specially created by TMS in English and based on the UZ76 criteria.

In Austria, in addition to the TMS team, a sound engineer, composer and post production house worked on the production. These people were also informed about the Green Producing measures and sustainability efforts via telephone. Nina Holler was the Green Producing Officer at TMS from the start of the project.

#### **5.1.2. Sustainability communication in a film context**

At first glance, "Hippo King" is a story about a hippo bull, from birth to adulthood, as well as about the beauty of Zambia's nature. However, it aims to create additional awareness about the Luangwa River ecosystem and support the protection of this area. Since a few years ago, there has been a WWF campaign to stop the government of Zambia from damming the Luangwa River, which is planned in this specific area.

More about this can be found on the WWF website: [https://wwf.panda.org/wwf\\_news/?324171/Keep-the-Luangwa-Flowing](https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?324171/Keep-the-Luangwa-Flowing).

Therefore, it is the aim of this film not only to portray the natural beauty of the Luangwa area and the life of hippos, but to make the viewers aware that this area should be protected. At the same time, it is a way to support the groups and



individuals who are fighting against the dam construction in this untouched natural wonder.

## 5.2. Mobility

### 5.2.1. Passenger transport

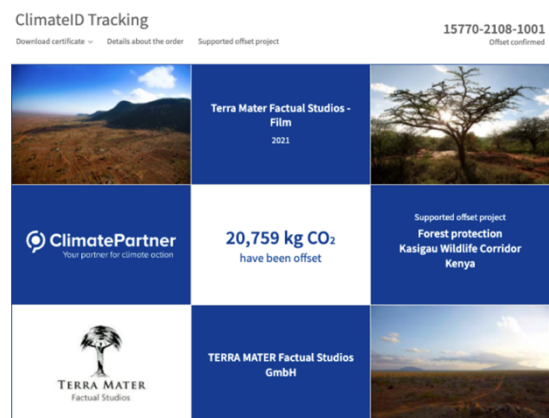
For the production "Hippo King" no flights with a total flight distance below 500km took place.

For the shoot in Zambia, Africa, only two cars were used for the entire crew: a Landcruiser 4500EFI Diesel 2007 with built-in camera and a spare production car (Landcruiser GX 1998). In this remote location in the middle of the South Luangwa National Park, there were unfortunately no other transportation options available.



### 5.2.2 Vehicles used for the specific film production

As mentioned in point 5.2.1, due to the circumstances in Zambia, Africa, no vehicles without combustion engines could be procured. However, the kilometers driven during the shoot were recorded and the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> generated for the mobility of the entire production was offset in a compensation project of Climate Partner. The details can be found at the following link: [https://fpm.climatepartner.com/tracking/15770-2108-1001/en?utm\\_source=cloud.climatepartner.com&utm\\_medium=api](https://fpm.climatepartner.com/tracking/15770-2108-1001/en?utm_source=cloud.climatepartner.com&utm_medium=api)



## 5.3 Shooting Location

### 5.3.1 Choice of the filming location

The filmmakers spent the entire shoot for "Hippo King" in the middle of the South Luangwa National Park in Zambia, Africa. In addition to the filming permit, the crew received a list of rules of conduct in the national park. These included the following measures, which were adhered to during the shoot: small production team, movement only on paved roads, distance to the wildlife must be maintained, no disturbance of the animals by noise, no pollution/garbage collection, no campfires.

### 5.3.2 Power supply on location: connections and aggregates

No generators were used during the entire shoot. Only equipment with rechargeable batteries was used. The batteries were charged in the evening at the Robin Pope Safaris Nsefu Camp accommodations. Due to the remoteness of the filming locations, a Ryobi generator 2000W was carried at almost all times, in case of emergencies.

### 5.3.3 Consumables on set

No documents/posters etc. were printed during the shoot.

### 5.3.4 Lighting and camera technology

No illuminants were applied in this production, because a completely sustainable solution was chosen: namely, to use only natural light.

Based on the equipment list, it is visible that the equipment is as good as new. It was unfortunately not possible to obtain exact data on energy efficiency or certification. For aerial photography, drones (Mavic Pro2, Inspire II) were used instead of helicopters (on the one hand to save resources, and on the other hand, when used correctly, they are less likely to disturb wildlife in their natural habitat).



Due to the size of the team, the amount of waste remained manageable. Robin Pope Safaris' Nsefu Camp accommodation separates its waste into glass, paper, cans, plastic and organic waste. The film crew also separated their waste and disposed of it later at the accommodation.

### **5.3.5 Flights**

Since the crew themselves live in South Africa and lived in Zambia during the shoot, where filming also took place, any travel was minimized and long-distance flights to Europe only took place for post-production. A local crew (more than 50%) for the shoot on location was recruited.

### **5.3.6 Catering**

No catering was commissioned for the shoot, as the crew provided for themselves by going shopping to the nearest village. A well which runs on a solar system was used for water. The water is filtered on site, and reusable aluminum water bottles were used.

## **5.7. Accommodation**

During the entire filming for "Hippo King", the crew stayed in the middle of the South Luangwa National Park at Nsefu Camp. See more details here: <https://www.southluangwa.com/nsefu-camp.html>, as well as a photo of one of the huts below. After inquiry about the environmental standards in this secluded camp, we received more details about electricity supply, water extraction and waste disposal.



As already mentioned, there was only one accommodation during the shooting. Due to the remoteness of the filming location in the middle of the South Luangwa National Park in Zambia, Africa, there is no proof of a European comparable environmental certification. However, we were informed that the entire camp is powered by solar energy and that a generator is only used in emergencies. In addition, water is drawn from a well and wastewater is disposed of in a compliant manner. Hot water is produced by the heat of a fire and cooking is done with gas.



### **5.8 Digital Production**

In order to save resources and equipment, Skyland Productions shipped the edit including iMac and Samsung 17 inch monitor and raid to Holland (see set up on figure hereunder). Since the filmmakers are originally from Holland, the post production took place mainly in Holland and the filmmakers did not have to be flown to Vienna, but only a long-distance flight from Africa to the Netherlands and back was needed. All preparations with the composer and for the fine cut took place remotely via video call. Six Lacie 96TB hard drives were used to store the project and permanent storage is on LTO at TMFS. Since the edit is owned by Skyland Productions, screensavers were disabled in advance.



The checklist (which was created during the pre-production) developed throughout the entire shooting, including the post-production, to involve all important steps that Terra Mater Studios included for a Green Production. Based on the production knowledge of a more climate-friendly and sustainable way of film shooting, the final TMS-Green Report was created. Furthermore, the experience of the filmmakers and the help of green consulting-experts allowed Terra Mater to define Green Guidelines.

## BINDING BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR GREEN PRODUCTIONS

### 1. Green Consultant

The whole production process from Pre-Production to Post-Production is accompanied by an educated Green Consultant or another qualified person in consultation with Terra Mater Studios (TMS).

Field of work of a Green Consultant:

- Information & Communication of the Green Guidelines
- Advice
- Development of an Environmental Management System
- Incentivizing the team
- Development of possible savings by involving the whole crew
- Support/Coaching of the responsible persons of the team
- Evaluation
- Control
- Final Green Report

### 2. Emissions- & Data Collection

Continuous Emission and Data Collection with the help of a CO<sub>2</sub> Calculator (start of entry before shooting (Initial Carbon Emissions Plan) and evaluation of the emissions at the end of the production or the services).

For that reason, our production partner should use the CO<sub>2</sub> calculator of ClimatePartner GmbH. We can provide access to the calculator for the named project. Exceptional cases are to be discussed with TMFS.

*Reduction before compensation!*

After the calculation the final determined emissions will be compensated by means of a Gold Standard or Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) certified compensation project. This compensation is mandatory to achieve a climate-neutral final balance.

### 3. Green Report after determination of the production

After completion of the production or services a Green Report is created. It should include explanations in the event that the production could not meet the criteria. The Green Report is approved by Terra Mater Studios and by an external independent Green Consultant.



## FURTHER CRITERIA

If these criteria are not complied with, arguments must be given in the Green Report as to why they could not be carried out. In addition, these guidelines can differ slightly depending on the genre, as not all criteria can be used for all productions.

TMFS is fostering circular economy because it provides us with the tools to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss together, while also addressing important social needs. Circular economy is based on three principles: eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials, regenerate nature. So wherever possible demand circular designed products and revamp your routines.

### 4. Criteria of the production company

Should the production company have their own office, point 5 has to be taken into special consideration. Moreover, the following measures must be taken into account; informing the team about the green measurements, sustainable office management, green mission statement, preference for sustainable transport companies, etc.



## ENERGY

### 5. Electricity

Conversion to green electricity at all production sites\*, as this represents one of the greatest savings in emissions. For example, ask your providers whether they are using green electricity on location and in their server farms and whether they are reusing the server heat.

### 6. Generators

Use energy via a power supply line whenever possible. Hybrid-Generators or Battery Units must be preferred. If these are not available, the generator must have an exhaust gas cleaning system of at least stage 3A. In general, the use of diesel generators should be limited. When using a small generator, it should be a gas generator. Moreover, the output of each generator must be tailored to requirements (no oversizing, no idle times).

### 7. Battery

Disposable batteries should be avoided on all production sites\*; in favor of rechargeable batteries. However, if disposable batteries are used, they must be recycled.

### 8. Lighting

Reduction of energy consumption through the appropriate location selection according to the availability of light, as well as the choice of energy-efficient light sources, e.g.: LED headlights or alternative lighting concepts such as reflector systems, or the use of daylight.



## TRAVEL/TRANSPORT

### 9. Travel

Train travel should be preferred as it is one of the most sustainable modes of transport. If the journey by train exceeds 5 hours or if the distance is more than 500 km, air travel is permitted.

Tip: Think about online meetings instead of air travel.

### 10. Truck & Car

At least 50% of the production cars should use CO<sub>2</sub>-reducing fuels or be EURO6 certified vehicles: hybrid, electric, LPG, CNC.

For trucks, only CO<sub>2</sub>-reducing fuels or EURO6 certified vehicles should be used, examples are hybrid, electric, LPG, CNC.

For short trips, 100% CO<sub>2</sub>-reducing vehicles must be used.

Tip: If possible, carpool and offer green transport alternatives on set: e.g. bicycles, e-scooters, golf carts, etc.

### 11. Accommodation

At least 30% of the overnight stays should be in hotels with an environmental program (measurement examples: usage of renewable energy, energy and water saving initiatives, separation of waste) or in apartments/holiday homes.

Tip: Pay attention to the EU Environmental Ecolabel or other comparable certification (Green Global, GreenKey, Leed, etc.). Choose accommodation as near as possible to the filming locations.

## CATERING/MEALS

Tip: Regional, seasonal, and organic are the best options.

### 12. Catering/Meals

Catering companies that work according to ecological criteria must be given preference. All products used should – as far as possible – be regional, seasonal, and ideally organic. Reusable crockery should be used for catering. Compliance with criteria 17 and 18 also applies here.

For smaller groups, restaurant catering is preferable to catering companies, as restaurant catering is a more sustainable alternative. In areas without drinking water, canisters should be preferred rather than many individual containers.

In the case of self-catering, it is the personal responsibility of the individual to comply with the criteria mentioned.



## RESSOURCES

### 13. Paper

Digital before printout: where a printout cannot be avoided save paper by reducing the number of printouts and preferring double-sided printing. Recycled paper must be used, this also applies to office paper, toilet paper, etc.

Talking about digital: Devices produced under fair and decent conditions are the best choice and can ideally be dismantled, upgraded, or repaired easily.

### 14. Wood

All natural wood products, as well as chipboard etc., must be FSC or PEFC certified or regional. Tip: Avoid creating fixed connections in constructions to make them dismountable and, ideally, reusable.

### 15. Costume & Make Up

This includes reuse/upcycling/stock for costume, sustainable cleaning, sustainably certified make-up products, microplastic issues both for textiles (fleece) and for cosmetics, etc.



## ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTANT

### 16. Environmental pollution is generally to be avoided

If harmful substances are released, measures to eliminate them must be taken immediately. In case of paints and varnishes, preference should be given to products with the Ecolabel or the 'Blue Angel' label.

The use of the following is only permitted in exceptional cases; PVC, solvent-based paints, styrofoam, isocyanates, and other environmentally harmful substances. The Green Report must explain why these substances were used.



## ACQUISITION & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

**MORE VALUE, LESS WASTE** - Recycling is important, but it is even better to stop waste being created in the first place. Therefore, rather rent than buy, ask for products and devices designed to be reused, repaired, or remanufactured.

### 17. Plastic

Disposable plastic must be avoided as far as possible at all production sites\*; instead reusable bottles and cups or other environmentally friendly solutions (e.g., filling station or bio plastic etc.) should be used.

### 18. Recycling

Separation of waste at all production sites\* into the following categories (fractions):  
Paper – Glass – Plastic – Metal – Organic– Residual

\* "all production sites" includes production offices, studios, sets, as well as locations.