

By accessing or registering on the Global Plastics Hub, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to be bound by the [Terms of Use and Privacy Policy](#). You acknowledge that all content is subject to moderation and that UNEP bears no responsibility for user-contributed materials.

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# The Global Plastics Hub

## Terms of Use and Privacy Policy

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### A. Introduction

1. The Global Plastics Hub (accessible at [www.globalplasticshub.org](http://www.globalplasticshub.org)) is an open-source, crowd-sourced, multi-stakeholder platform developed by UNEP who provides the secretariat service to the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML). The Platform compiles a wide range of resources, connects stakeholders, and integrates data to support evidence-based action on plastic pollution and marine litter.
2. These Terms of Use and Privacy Policy establish the framework governing:
  - a. The collection, storage, and use of data by the Global Plastics Hub;
  - b. The security measures implemented to protect personal data; and,
  - c. The rights of users in relation to their personal data and how those rights can be exercised.
3. These Terms and Conditions constitute a binding agreement between the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and users of the Global Plastics Hub. Users must accept these Terms prior to accessing or using the Platform and are required to comply with them throughout their use of the Platform. The Privacy Policy and Terms of Use are developed in alignment with the **United Nations Personal Data Protection and Privacy Principles**, the **UNEP Access-to-Information Policy**, and applicable UN administrative issuances.
4. For the purposes of this Privacy Policy and Terms of Use, unless otherwise specified, the term “**users**” refers to both registered and non-registered users, including organizations that are members of the GPML.

### B. Terms of Use

#### B.1 Introduction

5. These Terms of Use govern access to and use of the Global Plastics Hub platform by all users, including GPML member organizations. By accepting these Terms, users acknowledge and agree to enter into a binding agreement with UNEP. Focal point of the organizations that register and join the GPML via the Global Plastics Hub

shall be considered registered users. Non-registered users are also bound by these Terms of Use but will have access only to limited features of the platform. Registered users will be notified of any updates or amendments to these Terms of Use.

## **B.2 User Roles and Obligations**

6. Registered users agree to:
  - a. Maintain the security of their account by using a strong, confidential password and ensuring it is not disclosed to others;
  - b. Refrain from transferring or sharing access to any part of their account with third parties;
  - c. Make their user profile visible to other registered users of the platform;
  - d. Make submitted resources accessible to both registered and non-registered users, subject to applicable licensing and usage terms; and,
  - e. Receive platform-wide notifications, updates, and administrative messages related to the use and functionality of the Global Plastics Hub.

## **B.3 Rights and Responsibilities**

### **B.3.1 Service Availability**

7. UNEP reserves the right to modify, suspend, or discontinue any part of the Global Plastics Hub platform or its services at any time. Registered users will be provided with immediate notice of such changes where feasible. UNEP shall not be liable for any loss or inconvenience resulting from the unavailability or modification of the platform.

### **B.3.2 Content Ownership and Attribution**

8. All content displayed on the Global Plastics Hub is provided by registered users and does not represent the views, beliefs, or opinions of UNEP. Ownership of submitted resources remains with the original rights holders. Regardless of any license or terms applicable to the content, users must provide proper attribution to the organization(s) or individual(s) that own the resource when reusing or sharing it.
9. Registered users are solely responsible for ensuring that any content they upload is in the public domain or appropriately licensed for reuse in accordance with open data principles. By submitting content to the platform, users confirm that they hold the necessary rights or permissions to share the resource and that its publication will not infringe upon any third-party rights.

### **B.3.3 Intellectual Property Rights**

10. UNEP respects the intellectual property rights of all users and third parties. Accordingly, UNEP requires that all content submitted to or shared through the Global Plastics Hub by registered users be accurate, lawful, and not

infringe upon the intellectual property rights or other legal rights of any third party.

11. Registered users are encouraged to utilize the Global Plastics Hub to support their work and collaboration. Users may access and use openly available data and resources on the platform in accordance with the applicable open data licenses, these Terms of Use, and the platform's Privacy Policy.

12. Copyright and other intellectual property rights in all resources shared on the Global Plastics Hub remain with the organization(s) or individual(s) that originally created or own those resources. The inclusion of any resource on the platform does not transfer any ownership rights to UNEP or to other users of the platform.

13. Users are solely responsible for ensuring that they have the legal authority to upload and share any content, and that such content complies with all applicable intellectual property laws. UNEP reserves the right to remove any content that is alleged or determined to infringe upon the rights of others.

### **B.3.4 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the platform**

14. This platform features an AI-powered search function designed to assist users in locating relevant resources related to plastic pollution and marine litter. The AI has been specifically trained on the curated content available within the platform and does not retrieve or reference external sources.

15. While intended to enhance user experience and streamline access to information, AI-generated responses may occasionally be inaccurate, outdated, or incomplete. Users are advised to critically evaluate and verify any AI-generated outputs before relying on them for decision-making or dissemination.

16. UNEP assumes no responsibility for any consequences arising from the reliance on AI-generated content and strongly encourages users to cross-check information with original sources or expert guidance.

### **B.3.5 Platform Misuse, Abuse, and Access Control**

17. Users of the Global Plastics Hub are expected to engage with the platform in a responsible and respectful manner, in full compliance with applicable laws and these Terms of Use. Any form of misuse or abuse is strictly prohibited and may result in corrective action.

### **B.3.6 Prohibited Activities**

18. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to:
- a. Submitting false, misleading, or inappropriate content
  - b. Uploading or linking to malicious software or harmful content (e.g., viruses, phishing links)
  - c. Attempting to disrupt or compromise the platform's functionality, security, or integrity
  - d. Harassing, impersonating, or abusing other users
  - e. Using the platform for unauthorized commercial purposes, spam, or solicitation

### **B.3.7 Content Validation and Moderation**

19. To maintain the integrity of the platform, all uploaded content is subject to review before being published.

This validation process ensures that submissions are appropriate, accurate, and aligned with the platform's objectives. UNEP reserves the right to reject or remove any content that violates these standards.

### **B.3.8 Access Control and Enforcement**

20. UNEP reserves the right to take appropriate action in response to any misuse or abuse of the platform. Such action may include:

- a. Temporary or permanent suspension of user accounts
- b. Revocation of access for individuals or organizations
- c. Removal of submitted content
- d. Reporting of serious violations to relevant authorities
- e. Legal action where applicable

### **B.3.9 Steps for Withdrawing Access**

21. UNEP will take the following actions prior to withdrawing access from a registered user:

- a. Identification of Violation – A suspected breach is reported or detected.
- b. Review and Verification – The platform team reviews the case and validates the violation.
- c. Notification – The user or organization is notified of the issue and may be given an opportunity to respond.
- d. Action Taken – Depending on the severity, access may be suspended or permanently revoked.
- e. Documentation – All actions are logged for accountability and future reference.

22. UNEP also reserves the right to take preventive or corrective measures without prior notice to protect the platform and its users.

## **C. Privacy Policy**

### **C.1 Data We Collect**

23. The Global Plastics Hub captures four main types of data:

- a. Knowledge Hub data;
- b. Community Hub Data (i.e. personal data for individuals registered to the Global Plastics Hub and organizational data of GPML members);
- c. Usage data; and,
- d. Cookies and Similar Technologies.

### **C.2 Knowledge Hub Data**

24. Knowledge hub data comprises of knowledge resources<sup>1</sup> uploaded by registered users. The information

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions of Knowledge Hub resource types (projects, initiatives, action plans, legislations, financing resources, technical resources, technologies, events, datasets, and case studies) are provided in the glossary section and incorporated herein by reference.

published under the Knowledge Hub shall not be construed as representing the views, beliefs, or opinions of UNEP. The information collected is detailed in Annex 1.

## **C.3 Community Hub Data**

### **C.3.1 Personal Data**

25. Community Hub data comprises of personal data uploaded by registered users.<sup>2</sup> Some of the data may be accessible to non-registered users. The Hub provides an option for registered users to sign up using social logins, specifically Google and LinkedIn. If users opt for a quick sign up via Google or LinkedIn, they will be required to grant permission to access their personal information from the API provided by the social login provider necessary to prefill the GPML Sign Up form. Registered users' profiles will only be accessible to other registered users. The information collected is detailed in Annex 2. Organisations Data

26. Organisations that register on the Hub will be automatically included in a publicly accessible database hosted on the Global Plastics Hub platform. Only a registered user who has been authorized by their organisation may complete the registration process on its behalf and will act as the organisation's designated focal point for all communications and activities related to the GPML. Organisations shall register using the [Join the Partnership](#) page on the Global Plastics Hub platform.

### **C.3.2 Usage Data**

27. Usage Data is data collected anonymously from the usage of the platform by registered and non-registered users for the purpose of improving the Global Plastics Hub's performance, enhance user experience, and inform strategic decisions related to content and technical optimization. By accessing this platform, certain information such as, but not limited to, Internet protocol (IP) addresses, navigation through the platform(s), software used, and time spent may be captured. This data will enable monitoring of the platform's usage patterns, helping to identify which pages are the most and least popular.

### **C.3.3 Cookies and Similar technologies**

28. The Global Plastics Hub uses cookies and similar technologies to enhance user experience, ensure the platform functions effectively, and gather analytics on how users interact with the platform. Cookies are small text files placed on the user's device that help remember preferences and improve navigation across the platform. By using the Global Plastics Hub, all users consent to the use of these technologies as described. Users may manage their cookie preferences through their browser settings. UNEP does not use cookies to track users for advertising purposes and does not share cookie data with third parties. All data collected through cookies is used exclusively for internal analysis and improvement of the platform.

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<sup>2</sup> Definitions of relevant terms are provided in the glossary section, and the specific data fields collected are detailed in Annex 2

## **C.4 Data Handling and Processing**

29. Data handling and processing of the Global Plastics Hub is governed by the following principles:
- Data is collected, stored, and processed on a lawful basis; users are fully informed of the data sources, data use and exposure.
  - Data is collected and used only for those purposes and duration that have been transmitted to the data subject and about which the consent has been received. No data shall be shared with third parties for marketing or unrelated purposes.
  - Personal Data collected is adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is processed.
  - Personal Data is kept accurate and where necessary kept up to date, and old and outdated and/or inaccurate personal data is erased without delay.
  - Personal Data is not kept longer than necessary.
  - Individuals may request the deletion of their personal data at any time, subject to legal obligations and legitimate business needs
30. Handling of Personal Data is conducted in a manner ensuring appropriate security, which includes protection against unlawful processing or accidental loss, destruction, or damage.

## **C.5 Data Use**

31. The following principles will govern the data collected through the Global Plastics Hub.

### **C.5.1 Knowledge Hub Data**

32. Resources submitted by users to the Knowledge Hub will be made publicly available under an Open Data access policy. By submitting resources, users acknowledge and agree that their contributions may be accessed, used, and shared by others in accordance with open data principles.
33. In addition, users acknowledge and agree that UNEP may process and analyze any user-submitted data hosted on the Knowledge Hub to improve user experience and to extract meta knowledge to inform national, regional, and global policies and actions in relation to plastic pollution.

### **C.5.2 Country Dashboard Data**

34. Data processed through the Country Dashboard is derived from the Global Plastics Hub and is used to generate country-specific insights. This data may be analyzed to support evidence-based decision-making and policy development at national and regional levels.

### **C.5.3 Community Hub Data**

35. Registered users, including Organizations, acknowledge and agree that their registered email addresses will be used to send out relevant notifications. Where applicable and at any time, registered users may opt out from

certain notifications.

#### **C.5.4 Usage Data**

36. All usage data, including but not limited to page visits, device types, browser details, and anonymized IP addresses, will be used internally for the sole purpose of improving service delivery and will not be made publicly available.

### **C.6 Data Sharing**

#### **C.6.1 Knowledge Hub Data**

37. Once a registered user submits a resource through Add Content form, the resource will undergo an approval/verification process and once approved, it will be fully visible to all registered and non-registered users. Registered users may submit resource data that is available and/or hosted on external websites.

38. The platform does not store or republish any linked content. Registered users are responsible for ensuring that all resources uploaded to the platform are publicly available and appropriately licensed for reuse, in alignment with open data principles. By using the platform, all registered users agree to indemnify and hold UNEP harmless from any claims, liabilities, damages, or expenses arising from the use, publication, or distribution of copyrighted or otherwise protected material uploaded by them.

#### **C.6.2 Community Hub Data**

39. Registered users acknowledge and agree that their profile will be fully visible to all registered users on the platform. In particular, the personal data of registered users may be shared with:

40. Service Providers: UNEP uses external providers to help provide our services (e.g., maintenance, analysis, audit, fraud detection, and development). Service Providers will have access to Personal Data as is reasonably necessary to perform these tasks on UNEP's behalf and are obligated not to disclose or use it for other purposes.

41. Legal Authorities: UNEP might disclose Personal Data if there is a good faith belief that disclosure is reasonably necessary to:

- a. investigate, prevent, or act regarding suspected or actual illegal activities or assist government enforcement agencies that UNEP has accepted to assist;
- b. investigate and defend UNEP against any third-party claims or allegations;
- c. protect the security and/or integrity of UNEP's services; and,
- d. exercise or protect the rights and safety of UNEP personnel, or others.

#### **C.6.3 Usage Data**

42. Users of the platform acknowledge and agree that the platform will collect basic usage data to monitor and improve the performance, security, and usability of the platform. Usage data will not be shared with third parties or used for advertising, profiling, or commercial purposes.

## **C.7 Data Security**

43. UNEP will make every effort to ensure that security safeguards designed to protect users' data are implemented and systems are regularly monitored for possible vulnerabilities and attacks. However, UNEP cannot warrant the security of any information that is uploaded on the platform. Users acknowledge and agree that there is no guarantee that data held on the platform may not be accessed, disclosed, altered, or destroyed by breach of any of UNEP's physical, technical, or managerial safeguards.

## **C.8 Registered User Choices and Obligations**

### **C.8.1 Data Retention**

44. UNEP shall retain registered users' data only for the period that a user retains an account open or for the period required to provide the user with any other services. Once an account is closed, or upon request, user data will be securely deleted or anonymized, unless retention is required for legal, regulatory, or legitimate operational purposes.

### **C.8.2 Rights to Access and Control Registered Users' Personal Data**

45. Registered users may request the following:
- a. To have access to their Personal Data;
  - b. To change or correct their Personal Data;
  - c. To object to, limit or restrict use of their Personal Data; and,
  - d. To have their Personal Data deleted from the Global Plastics Hub.

## **D. Indemnity**

46. By using the Global Plastics Hub, all registered and non-registered users agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless UNEP, its officials, employees, and agents from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, costs, or expenses (including reasonable legal fees) arising out of or in connection with:

- a. any content uploaded, submitted, or shared by the user on the platform, including but not limited to claims of infringement of intellectual property rights, privacy rights, or other third-party rights;
- b. any violation of these Terms of Use or the Privacy Policy by the user; or
- c. any misuse of the platform by the user.

47. This indemnity obligation shall survive the termination or suspension of the user's access to the platform.

## **E. Disclaimer**

48. The Global Plastics Hub is a collaborative, open-source platform dedicated to sharing information and connecting stakeholders to combat plastic pollution and marine litter. The views, data, and resources shared on the



platform are those of the individual contributors and do not reflect the official position of UNEP or GPML.

49. The United Nations bears no responsibility for content provided by external contributors and expressly disclaims any liability arising from the use or misuse of such content. Users are solely responsible for the legality, accuracy, and appropriateness of the materials they share. This includes compliance with intellectual property laws, as outlined in Section B.3.3, and any third-party rights.

50. UNEP retains the right to remove, or to request the removal of, any content at its discretion, including but not limited to material that is inaccurate, misuses UN affiliations, raises legal concerns, or violates these Terms of Use or the platform's content guidelines.

51. Use of this platform constitutes acceptance of these conditions and agreement to indemnify and hold UNEP harmless from any claims arising from the content shared by users, as set out in Section E.

## **F. Contact Information**

52. For all enquiries on the Terms of Use and/or the privacy policy contact email: [unep-gpmarinelitter@un.org](mailto:unep-gpmarinelitter@un.org)

## Glossary

### A

**Action Plans:** structured frameworks that outline specific steps, resources, and timelines required to achieve defined goals. These plans are supported by guidance documents that assist in their development and are informed by a comprehensive inventory of international, regional, national, and local examples to ensure relevance and effectiveness across different contexts.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI):** The platform uses AI technologies to assist users in locating relevant resources through automated search and recommendation systems. Additional functionalities may be introduced in the future, including the ability to suggest policy options.

### C

**Case Studies:** detailed examinations of specific initiatives, projects, or policies that address environmental challenges, such as plastic pollution, within a defined context. They provide practical insights into implementation strategies, stakeholder engagement, outcomes, and lessons learned.

**Cookies:** Small text files stored on a user's device to enhance platform functionality and user experience by remembering preferences and tracking usage patterns.

### D

**Data Portal:** curated section within the Global Plastics Hub's knowledge library. It provides structured access to existing plastics-related datasets

**Data Subject:** The individual to whom personal data relates.

**Dataset:** A structured collection of data submitted to the Knowledge Hub, often used for analysis or visualization.

**Donor:** An entity that provides financial support for projects or initiatives listed on the platform.

### E

**Events:** feature information on upcoming capacity building activities and events on marine litter, plastic pollution and related topic

### F

**Financial Resources:** Information related to funding opportunities, including amount, currency, donor, and validity period.

### G

**Geo-Coverage:** The geographical area that a resource, organisation, or initiative covers or impacts.

**Global Plastics Hub:** An open-source platform developed by UNEP under GPML to share knowledge, connect stakeholders, and guide action on plastic pollution and marine litter.

### I

**Initiatives:** document a wide range of actions ranging from legislation advocacy to behaviour change initiatives, and including education, training, events, new technologies, and monitoring and analysis tools. Existing initiatives aim to reduce marine litter and plastic pollution towards long-term elimination of discharge into the oceans.

### K

**Knowledge Hub Data:** Open data submitted by users, including resources such as projects, initiatives, events, and

case studies.

## L

**Legislations:** include those sourced from the UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform (UNEP-LEAP). They have been collected by the UNEP Law Division as part of their effort to create a toolkit for the newly launched UNEAP-LEAP platform.

**Lifecycle Tags:** Labels that indicate the stage of a resource or initiative in the plastic lifecycle (e.g., production, consumption, waste management).

## O

**Open Data:** Publicly accessible data submitted to the platform, intended to promote transparency and collaboration.

## P

**Personal Data:** Information that identifies an individual, such as name, email, job title, and country, collected during registration.

**Platform:** Refers to the Global Plastics Hub website and its associated services and functionalities.

**Projects:** Structured efforts submitted to the Knowledge Hub aimed at addressing plastic pollution through specific goals and outcomes.

## R

**Resource:** Any content submitted to the Knowledge Hub, including documents, links, datasets, and multimedia related to plastic pollution.

## S

**Service Provider:** External entities contracted by UNEP to support platform operations, such as maintenance and analytics.

## T

**Tags:** Keywords used to categorize and describe resources for easier search and filtering.

**Technical Resources:** include scientific and technical resources and mechanisms collected through research that is based on publicly available information. Examples of technical resources on marine litter and plastic pollution range from guidance resources, assessments, calculation model and tools policy recommendations, operational and technical guidelines, toolkits for decision-makers, best practices, manuals and more.

**Terms of Use:** The rules and conditions that govern user behavior and access to the Global Plastics Hub.

## U

**UNEP:** United Nations Environment Programme, the organisation responsible for developing and managing the Global Plastics Hub.

**Usage Data:** Anonymous data collected about how users interact with the platform, used for performance monitoring and improvement.

## Annex 1: Knowledge Hub data

The following information will be collected through the 'Add Content' form, depending on the type of resource submitted by registered users

Action Plans	
Title	Mandatory
Link	Mandatory
Description	Mandatory
Images/videos	Mandatory
Location	Mandatory
Lifecycle tags	Mandatory
Tags	Mandatory for minimum of 1
Owner	Mandatory
Partner	Optional
Publication Year	Mandatory
Duration	Mandatory
Related documents	Optional
Info and Docs	Optional

Case Studies	
Title	Mandatory
Image	Mandatory
Location	Mandatory
Location	Optional
Lifecycle tags	Mandatory
Tags	Mandatory
Year	Optional
Plastic Pollution Challenges	Mandatory
Interventions	Mandatory
Success Stories	Mandatory
Lessons Learned	Mandatory
Related documents	Optional
Info and Docs	Optional

Dataset	
Title	Mandatory

Link	Mandatory
Description	Mandatory
Images/videos	Mandatory
Location	Mandatory
Lifecycle tags	Mandatory
Tags	Mandatory for minimum of 1
Owner	Mandatory
Partner	Optional
Related documents	Optional
Info and Docs	Optional

Events	
Title	Mandatory
Link	Mandatory
Description	Mandatory
Images/videos	Mandatory
Location	Mandatory
Lifecycle tags	Mandatory
Tags	Mandatory for minimum of 1
Organiser	Mandatory
Partner	Optional
Start Date	Mandatory
End Date	Optional
Time	Mandatory
Event Type	Mandatory
Registration	Optional
Recording	Optional
Related documents	Optional
Info and Docs	Optional

Financial resources	
Title	Mandatory
Link	Mandatory
Description	Mandatory
Images/videos	Mandatory
Location	Mandatory

Lifecycle tags	Mandatory
Tags	Mandatory
Donor	Mandatory
Partner	Optional
Amount	Mandatory
Currency	Mandatory
Valid From	Optional
Valid To	Optional
Related documents	Optional
Info and Docs	Optional
Link	Mandatory
Description	Mandatory
Images/videos	Mandatory
Location	Mandatory
Lifecycle tags	Mandatory
Tags	Mandatory for minimum of 1
Related documents	Optional
Info and Docs	Optional

Initiatives	
Title	Mandatory
Link	Mandatory
Description	Mandatory
Images/videos	Mandatory
Location	Mandatory
Lifecycle tags	Mandatory
Tags	Mandatory
Duration	Mandatory
Implementer	Mandatory
Donor(s)	Optional
Partners	Optional
Related documents	Optional
Info and Docs	Optional

Legislations	
Title	Mandatory

Link	Mandatory
Description	Mandatory
Images/videos	Mandatory
Location	Mandatory
Lifecycle tags	Mandatory
Tags	Mandatory for minimum of 1
Related documents	Optional
Info and Docs	Optional

Projects	
Title	Mandatory
Link	Optional
Images/videos	Mandatory
Location	Mandatory
Lifecycle tags	Mandatory
Tags	Mandatory
Duration	Mandatory
Background	Mandatory
Purpose	Mandatory
Expected outcomes	Mandatory
Key highlights	Optional
Implementer	Mandatory
Donor(s)	Mandatory
Partners	Optional
Related documents	Optional
Info and Docs	Optional

Technical resources	
Title	Mandatory
Link	Mandatory
Description	Mandatory
Images/videos	Mandatory
Location	Mandatory
Lifecycle tags	Mandatory
Tags	Mandatory
Owner	Mandatory

Partner	Optional
Publication Year	Mandatory
Related documents	Optional
Info and Docs	Optional

Technologies	
Title	Mandatory
Link	Mandatory
Description	Mandatory
Images/videos	Mandatory
Location	Mandatory
Lifecycle tags	Mandatory
Tags	Mandatory
Owner	Mandatory
Partner	Optional
Year Founded	Mandatory
Patent Owner	Optional
Related documents	Optional
Info and Docs	Optional



## Annex 2: Community Hub data

The following personal data will be collected when users register for the Global Plastics Hub. This data is primarily gathered during the registration process.

Attribute	Cardinality
Title	Optional
Gender (Male, Female and Other)	Mandatory
Age (Above or below 35)	Mandatory
First name	Mandatory
Last name	Mandatory
Email	Mandatory
LinkedIn	Optional
Photo	Optional
Country	Mandatory
Job Title	Optional
GPML Entity	Optional
Non-Member Entity	Optional

The following organizational data will be collected when users register for the Global Plastics Hub. This data is primarily gathered during the registration process and will be made publicly available.

Attribute	Cardinality
Organisation Name	Mandatory
Representative Group	Mandatory
Description	Mandatory
Website	Mandatory
Logo	Mandatory
Geo-coverage	Mandatory