

Airport Name: Aeropuerto Internacional de Cancún

Airport Group: ASUR – Aeropuertos del Sureste

Responsible: Alistair McCreddie, Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator

Project Name: Circular economy and sustainable processes at Cancun International Airport

Executive Summary

Grupo Aeroportuario del Sureste operates 9 airports in the southeast of Mexico, including Cancún International Airport. In 2022, we developed our sustainability strategy, which was approved by our Sustainability Committee and includes an axis related to the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity, particularly, regarding the issue of waste, our strategic objective is to send zero waste to landfill by 2050. In pursuit of this strategy, we know that Cancun International Airport represents more than 60% of our operation and, therefore, of our environmental impact, which is why we have begun the implementation of the circular economy project at this airport, subsequently, we will seek to replicate the project in the rest of our airports.

To meet this environmental objective related to waste, we have proposed the circular economy as the center of our strategy. For this reason, in collaboration with Lyrba (a Mexican environmental company dedicated to the comprehensive management of recyclable waste), we implemented a project based on the revaluation of our waste, we made investments in the improvement of our waste separation plant as well as tools throughout the airport that facilitate the collection, separation and transportation of this waste. Thanks to this project, we have increased the amount of waste not sent to landfills. In the last year (2023), 970,844 kg of recyclable materials were recovered and given a second life, which is equivalent to the recovery of 2,823 m³ of landfill space.

In this same year, 100% of the low-density plastic generated as waste at the Cancun Airport was recycled and new products were manufactured that we use again in the airport facilities.

This project promotes the following lines of action:

- Extension of the lifecycle: Prolong the useful life of products and materials.
- Waste minimization: Reduce the amount of waste that goes to final disposal.

It is aligned with the following principles of the circular economy:

- Reduce: Minimize resource consumption and waste generation.
- Recycle: Process materials to convert them into new products or raw materials.

Results and Benefits of the Project

As a result, in 2023, at the Cancun Airport, 970,844 kg of recyclable materials were recovered and given a second life (11% more than the previous year). These recovered materials represent 12.8% of the total waste production at the Airport and are equivalent to the conservation of the following resources:

- 8,041 trees: This represents enough saved wood resources equivalent to producing 136,697,000 sheets of printing paper
- 16,938 m3 of water: Water saved equivalent to that needed to meet the daily needs of 59,660 people
- 5,969,708 kWh of electricity: This saving represents the annual electricity needs of 572 homes
- 2,538 m3 of landfills: The annual landfill space needed by 4,740 people is recovered

In addition to the environmental benefits, the project also generates socioeconomic benefits such as job creation, and we are currently calculating the return on investment from the revaluation of our waste.

We also carried out a benchmarking with two airport groups in Mexico to learn about their practices regarding the management and disposal of their waste, finding the following:

	Waste management	% recycled waste	Source
Grupo Aeroportuario del Centro Norte	In accordance with national legislation and currently implementing circular economy principles	10%	Annual Sustainability Report 2023
Grupo Aeroportuario del Pacifico	In accordance with national legislation	Not available	Annual Sustainability Report 2023
Grupo Aeroportuario del Sureste	In accordance with national legislation and the circular economy project implemented at Cancun Airport	13%	Annual Sustainability Report 2023

*Percentage of recycled waste in 2023 at Group level (Mexican airports only)



The waste separation plant at Cancun Airport with the project's new investments

