

# Sports for Nature

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December 2022

**Today, our planet is experiencing a nature crisis. Habitat destruction, invasive species, climate change and pollution are having an unprecedented impact on nature worldwide.**

Urgent action is needed by all of society, including the sports community, to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and the damage to the natural world on which we all depend to sustain our health and well-being, and provide clean air, fresh water and food.

The Sports for Nature Framework aims to deliver transformative nature-positive action across sports by 2030 and beyond, enabling sports to champion nature and contribute to its protection and restoration.

The Framework has been developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Olympic Committee (IOC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and in collaboration with sports organisations. It provides a game plan for sports – at all levels – to accelerate their action for nature.

Biodiversity is the part of nature that is alive, the plants, animals and microorganisms that give us healthy ecosystems, clean air and water.

Nature is all life on Earth (i.e. biodiversity), together with the geology, water, climate and all other inanimate components that comprise our planet.





By taking action for nature, the sports community can significantly contribute to global efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its 2030 Agenda, which recognises sport as “an important enabler of sustainable development”. Such actions will support the agreed Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and its SDG-linked targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

Acting for nature can help address climate change, one of the biggest drivers of nature loss. By protecting and restoring nature, sports organisations can play a vital role in climate mitigation and adaptation. Nature-based Solutions – focused on conservation, restoration and management of ecosystems – can provide up to 30% of the carbon uptake and storage required to keep the global temperature rise to 1.5°C by 2030.

The Sports for Nature Framework is designed to complement the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework, and will help create synergies in its implementation, including efforts to build sustainable supply chains.

The 2022 UNEP Sports for Nature report, supported by the International Olympic Committee, offers insight into what sports need to engage on nature and it sets a baseline to benchmark sports’ progress going forward.

Sports have a unique opportunity to address this nature crisis both in the outdoor and indoor environments where they play, and through their enormous influence with the wider public.

“A nature-positive future means that we, as a global society, halt and reverse the loss of nature measured from its current status, reducing future negative impacts alongside restoring and renewing nature, to put both living and non-living nature measurably on the path to recovery.” (IUCN)

## The Sports for Nature Framework

The Sports for Nature Framework has one overall objective: to deliver transformative nature-positive action across sports by 2030 and beyond.

It supports sports to make measurable contributions for nature and asks sports organisations to work towards four principles and linked goals that will help them advance their nature journey.

The Sports for Nature principles are:

- 1) Protect nature and avoid damage to natural habitats and species;
- 2) Restore and regenerate nature wherever possible;
- 3) Understand and reduce risks to nature in your supply chains; and
- 4) Educate and inspire positive action for nature across and beyond sport.

Customised guidance, tools and training will be available to help sport organisations on their nature journey, including how to identify the risks and opportunities.



## PROTECT NATURE AND AVOID DAMAGE TO NATURAL HABITATS AND SPECIES

**GOAL ▶▶▶** Our organisation is committed to protecting and avoiding damage to natural habitats and species, including respecting protected areas.

### We will

**assess** the ways in which our organisation impacts and depends on nature, including natural habitats and species, avoid the introduction of invasive species, and identify significant environmental impacts and opportunities.

**avoid** building permanent infrastructure in protected areas and other important areas for nature conservation and biodiversity, as well as temporary infrastructure in these areas if it will lead to negative impacts on nature.

**ensure** appropriate and effective measures are put in place and monitored throughout the lifecycle of infrastructure projects and major events, to avoid potential damage and deliver overall positive results for nature.

**use** relevant information and guidance to avoid impacts on nature, and share this with all stakeholders, including our athletes, teams, staff, volunteers, contractors, sponsors, spectators and delivery partners.



## RESTORE AND REGENERATE NATURE WHEREVER POSSIBLE

**GOAL ▶▶▶** Our organisation takes positive action to restore and regenerate nature in and around the indoor and outdoor environments where we operate.

### We will

**assess** the ways we can restore and regenerate nature, evaluating options that could include allowing natural regeneration and rewilding, native tree planting, coral rehabilitation, invasive species removal, tackling litter and pollution, water management and wetland or green space creation.

**act** to restore and regenerate nature, including by building opportunities into the planning and implementation of infrastructure and events, restoring nature on any land or facilities we manage, and creating community plans and projects with nature partners and specialist institutions to restore degraded areas and create new natural spaces.

**use** relevant information and guidance to restore and regenerate nature, and share this with our staff, athletes, teams and other key stakeholders.



PRINCIPLE

# 3

## UNDERSTAND AND REDUCE RISKS TO NATURE IN YOUR SUPPLY CHAINS

**GOAL ▶▶** Our organisation will reduce risks to nature and enable opportunities to conserve and restore nature in our supply chains, linking wherever possible to climate goals.

### We will

**assess** our supply chains in order to understand the positive and negative impacts our procurement decisions are having on nature.

**create** a sustainable sourcing approach or policy, which addresses nature risks and opportunities, prioritising actions with the greatest impact and especially actions linked to climate.

**work** with our chosen suppliers to implement our agreed approach or policy.

**share** best practice and learning within the sporting community.





## EDUCATE AND INSPIRE POSITIVE ACTION FOR NATURE ACROSS AND BEYOND SPORT

**GOAL ▶▶▶** Our organisation will educate and inspire greater awareness and action for nature within our sport and our wider communities and stakeholders.

### We will

**assess** and track the awareness and understanding of the importance of nature with our stakeholders, including our athletes, teams, staff, volunteers, contractors, sponsors, spectators, advertisers and media partners.

**create** an engaging and wide-ranging education, communications and outreach plan that is relevant to our organisation's relationship to nature.

**implement** the plan to engage our stakeholders on nature.

**engage** and support athletes and sport organisations to be champions for a nature-positive future.

**promote** Sports for Nature and encourage others to join and take positive action for nature across their sports.



# Joining Sports for Nature

To join Sports for Nature, sports organisations sign the Sports for Nature Declaration, and commit to develop and implement action plans to support the Framework's four principles and goals. Signatories must report on their progress annually.

A panel of experts reviews the annual progress reports to ensure the actions undertaken are advancing each sport organisation's nature-positive journey.

Signatories to the Framework have access to technical assistance, tools and training as required. In addition, they are invited to participate in working groups focused on common themes and issues to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and good practice.

All the signatories' declarations and actions are shared with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and will be officially reported as contributions to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.



# Recognising sports' contributions

All of the Sports for Nature Framework signatories that submit measureable progress reports annually will receive a 'Sports for Nature' certificate and access to communication support. The certificate will demonstrate the sport's commitment to take action in relation to the Framework's principles and linked goals during the one-year period.

It is understood that it will not be possible for all sports organisations to advance on all four principles at once, nor that all aspects of the principles will be applicable to each organisation. However, all sports organisations can continuously improve their current practices and report on their progress.

The actions taken by all signatories will be recognised and communicated, to show how collective action across sports can have a positive impact on the future of our planet.

The Sports for Nature Framework signatories are also encouraged to share their nature-positive commitments and progress in their communications with their stakeholders, to help inspire others to take action for nature.

In conclusion, by signing the Sports for Nature Framework, sports are demonstrating their leadership on sustainability as well as their responsibility to athletes and the broader sporting community.

# The Sports for Nature Declaration

Our organisation recognises that protecting and restoring nature is critical for ensuring a healthy environment, which athletes and the whole of society need to thrive.

We also understand that to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and support the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, it is imperative to take action that will deliver transformative change to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

Therefore, we commit to undertake ambitious and measurable action for nature by upholding Sports for Nature's four principles to:

- 1) Protect nature and avoid damage to natural habitats and species;
- 2) Restore and regenerate nature wherever possible;
- 3) Understand and reduce risks to nature in our supply chains; and
- 4) Educate and inspire positive action for nature across and beyond sport.

Our organisation also commits to engage actively in the Sports for Nature community. This includes providing an annual progress report on our results, and communicating this work to assist and inspire others to take action for nature.

Signature:

Name:

Position:

Organisation:

Date:



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