

A woman wearing a red cap, sunglasses, and a red and blue life vest is kayaking on a green kayak. She is holding a black and white paddle. The background shows a tropical bay with limestone cliffs and lush greenery under a bright sky.

SPORTS FOR NATURE

Sports for Nature Framework **INFORMATION PACK**

July 2023

About the Sports for Nature Framework

Imagine a future where we can all practice sport in a clean environment and thriving nature; where sport venues and events do not compromise nature's well-being but instead support and help it flourish; and where, through sports, nature is fully respected and part of local communities.

Our planet is experiencing a nature crisis. Habitat destruction, invasive species, climate change and pollution are having an unprecedented impact on nature worldwide – and this is affecting our ability to sustain our health and well-being, including the enjoyment of sport and physical activity.

Sport, like other sectors, not only relies on nature but also contributes to the nature crisis through its events and activities. Today, sports have a distinct opportunity to address this crisis, both in the outdoor and indoor environments where it is practised, and through its enormous influence with the wider public. By committing to help safeguard nature, sports can make a real difference both locally and globally by inspiring the broader community to act.

Sports for Nature Framework principles

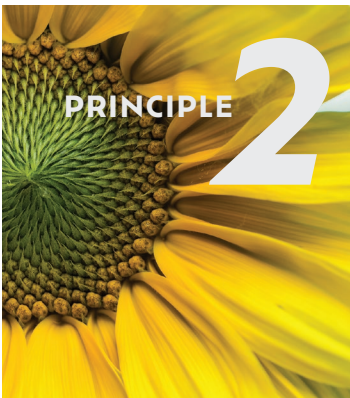
The Sports for Nature Framework was created to tap into sports' enormous potential to take on ambitious goals and drive positive change. The Framework aims to deliver transformative, nature positive action across sports by 2030 and beyond, enabling sports to champion nature and contribute to its protection and restoration.

The Framework calls on sports organisations to make measurable contributions to nature and asks them to work towards four principles and linked goals that will help them advance their nature journey.



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.



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.



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.



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.



Contributing to the bigger picture

By acting for nature, sports can:

- ▶ Contribute to the [UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and its 2030 Agenda.
- ▶ Advance the implementation of the [Global Biodiversity Framework](#).
- ▶ Accelerate climate mitigation and adaptation efforts by protecting and restoring nature.

Acting together as a team

The Framework was developed as a collaborative effort between the following organisations: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in collaboration with the Sails of Change Foundation. Together, these organisations are helping to promote the global uptake of the Framework, which is coordinated by IUCN.

The Framework strives to build on and complement existing initiatives and efforts, including the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework. It aims to bring together the sports and nature conservation communities at all levels and in all regions of the world, from local clubs to global sport organisations.



Join the Team!

Current [signatories](#) include sports organisations of all sizes, disciplines and levels, from grassroots clubs to international sport federations.¹

Who can become a signatory?

Sport organisations of all sizes, levels, sports, capacities or geographies, which have sport at the very core of their operations and activities – and are ready to make measurable contributions to nature under the four principles of the [Sports for Nature Framework](#) – are welcome to become a signatory.

The following are examples of organisations that are eligible to join: sport clubs; leagues; sport events' organisers; local organising committees; international, regional, national, or local sport governing bodies, including National Olympic Committees and sports confederations, in Olympic and non-Olympic sports; university sports; traditional/local sports; masters sports, and sports for people with disabilities and impairments, among others.

Please contact the [Sports for Nature team](#) to check whether your organisation is eligible to become a signatory or if you wish to support this initiative in another way, for example, as a supporter.

Although individuals cannot become signatories, they are encouraged to work with signatories and potential signatories to help champion Sports for Nature.

¹ As of 1 July 2023, the following organisations have signed the Sports for Nature Declaration: International Olympic Committee; The Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024; Brazilian Olympic Committee; Danish Olympic Committee; Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee; Spanish Olympic Committee; International Canoe Federation (ICF); International Floorball Federation (IFF); International Powerboating Union (UIM); International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF); Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI); World Rowing (FISA); World Rugby; World Sailing; World Skate Federation; World Surf League; International Orienteering Federation (IOF); International University Sports Federation (FISU); International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation (IWWF); SAMBO International Federation (FIAS); World Squash Federation (WSF); AIUla Sports Club; Ecuador Surf Federation; England Squash; Forest Green Rovers; Hungarian Swimming Federation; Jadir Taekwondo Association (AJTKD); San Cristobal Surf Club; Spindrift; We Play Green; E1 Series; Extreme E; The Ocean Race; Ultra Swim 33.3; Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc (UTMB).



Why become a signatory?

By becoming a signatory of the Sports for Nature Framework, your organisation will:

DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP ON SUSTAINABILITY

- ▶ Showcase your leadership on environmental sustainability and responsibility to athletes, fans and the broader sporting community.
- ▶ Contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- ▶ Access the Sports for Nature logo and other communications assets reserved only for signatories.

BE PART OF A FORWARD-THINKING AND COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY

- ▶ Join a group of like-minded peers from various parts of the world that want to foster an environmentally sustainable and responsible sports community.
- ▶ Share success stories and challenges at key events and on a designated online platform for signatories.
- ▶ Participate in working groups, webinars and online training.

RECEIVE TAILORED GUIDANCE TO HELP ADVANCE YOUR NATURE JOURNEY

- ▶ Obtain practical resources, including a Sports for Nature 'Starter Toolkit'
- ▶ Access to a dedicated 'helpdesk' for expert assistance and scientific knowledge.
- ▶ Be regularly informed of relevant featured articles and published case studies.

IMPROVE YOUR ORGANISATION'S OPERATIONS

- ▶ Identify efficiencies in your operation, for example, whether they are linked to energy and water use that can help cut costs.
- ▶ Enhance your strategic advantage and attract new partnerships and funding.
- ▶ Engage staff and volunteers in projects to protect and restore nature, fostering a purpose-driven work environment.



What is expected from signatories?

COMMIT TO TAKE MEASURABLE ACTION FOR NATURE

- ▶ Prepare a motivation statement of approximately 200 words.
- ▶ Sign the Sports for Nature Declaration.
- ▶ Communicate that you have become a signatory to the Framework.

ACT UPON THE COMMITMENT

- ▶ Create a plan and prioritise your actions.
- ▶ Implement your action plan.
- ▶ Evaluate your results and adapt your action plan, where necessary.

REPORT ANNUALLY ON YOUR PROGRESS

- ▶ Use the Sports for Nature reporting guide and template.
- ▶ Attend training and seek assistance from the helpdesk, when needed.
- ▶ Return the template to the [Sports for Nature team at IUCN](#), where the report will be reviewed by a panel of experts for further insights and suggestions.

ENGAGE ACTIVELY IN THE SPORTS FOR NATURE COMMUNITY

- ▶ Attend the quarterly webinars offered to the Sports for Nature signatories.
- ▶ Contact the [Sports for Nature helpdesk](#), should you require further information or assistance.
- ▶ Actively participate in signatory activities, such as working groups, training and special events.
- ▶ Promote your commitments and progress on the Sports for Nature Framework with your stakeholders and in your communications channels.



Are you ready to join the Sports for Nature Framework?

- ▶ Write a short motivation statement (maximum 200 words) outlining why your organisation wants to join the Framework, what it would like to achieve and how the Sports for Nature team can support you.
- ▶ Sign the Sports for Nature Declaration, which you can find on the last page of the [Sports for Nature Framework](#). You are encouraged to have your top management/leadership sign on behalf of your organisation.
- ▶ Send the signed Declaration and motivation statement to sportsfornature@iucn.org.