

## Principle 3 of the Sports for Nature Framework

### Understand and reduce risks to nature in supply chains

Sourcing is one of the most important areas where sports organisations can make a real difference when it comes to environmental sustainability, regardless of size, infrastructure, equipment used, or environment in which they are played. The goods and services sport organisations buy, rent, or licence matter to such an extent that for many, it may be where most of their indirect impacts on nature stems from. By embracing Principle 3 of the [Sports for Nature Framework](#), sports organisations have a great opportunity to drive positive change.

#### Importance of reducing risks in supply chains

Sustainability-related challenges and risks in supply chains are numerous and deeply interconnected. They range from governance-related issues, such as corruption, to challenges of workers' labour and human rights, environmental challenges connected to the extraction and use of natural resources, and management of waste, transport or pollution.

When it comes to nature, specifically, goods, materials or services known to have negative impacts are derived, for example, from unsustainable forestry operations (timber, wood or rubber), unsustainable agricultural or fisheries production (food, drinks, and materials such as cotton), or from the production and use of plastics.<sup>1</sup> To reduce such impacts, it is important to carefully consider the supply chain as a whole and not just the (end) use of products and services.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For further information, please see *Mitigating biodiversity impacts of sports events*: <https://sportsfornature.org>

<sup>2</sup> For further information, please see: <https://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/education/graduate-study/pgcerts/value-chain-defs>

#### Relevance to sports organisations

Sustainable sourcing unlocks numerous opportunities to achieve greater efficiencies and maximise positive outcomes. By doing more with less, such as questioning whether a purchase is really needed and applying the full suite of 'r's' (refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle, and so forth) or by working with forward-looking suppliers on more sustainable equipment, sports can contribute to the enhancement of nature and, at the same time, increase their organisational performance and brand value.

#### Full text of Principle 3

##### Understand and reduce risks to nature in 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.

## How to put Principle 3 into practice

### 1. Identify risks and opportunities:

- Make a list of goods and services purchased or acquired (from partners/sponsors), for events and day-to-day operations, starting with the most expensive, then use, for example, the [IOC Sustainability issues list and risks matrix](#) to identify potential risks to nature that are linked to those goods and services. It should then be easy to see which goods and services have the greatest impact and develop priorities.

### 2. Re-think 'sourcing baseline' by asking:

- What is really required/necessary? Can quantities be reduced? Could it be done/acquired differently (repaired, shared, rented, leased)?
- Where does it come from, how is it delivered, and who made it?
- What is it made from? What natural resources are used?
- What is it packed/wrapped in?
- What will happen to it afterwards?

### 3. Define rules

- Develop a general rulebook (sustainable sourcing code) for purchases, licencing and acquisitions, in which main principles and requirements will be defined. Check the [IOC Sustainable Sourcing Code Template](#), [The Toolbox Sustainable Sourcing Code Template](#), and other existing codes for inspiration (see Box 1).
- For specific materials, products and services, refer to the respective Sustainable Sourcing Factsheets (see Box 2).

### 4. Establish a clear internal process

- Use the answers to the questions from step 2 and the [Sustainable Procurement Hierarchy](#) to set up a sourcing process 'playbook' that will serve as a basis for all sourcing-related decision making.

### 5. Train the team

- To successfully implement a sustainable sourcing policy, all relevant staff members (anybody who deals with procurement, such as project and event managers, financial managers, and others) need to know the rules; additional training may be needed (organise webinars, workshops, discussions, and others).

### 6. Get suppliers and partners on-side

- Publish (on your website) and share the rulebook with existing and potential suppliers, sponsors and licensees, and make reference to it in contracts. Select some initial categories and suppliers to focus on, and progressively add others.

### 7. Share and learn

- Be proactive, share knowledge and best practices with your peers, but also be open to learning from others in, and outside, the sports sector.
- Team up with other sports organisations, universities, public institutions, and other stakeholders to address the top risks and opportunities in your supply chains. Cross-sectoral and multi-level cooperation and coalition building can lead to important innovations and breakthroughs.

#### Box 1 Examples of existing sourcing codes in sports

- [International Olympic Committee \(IOC\) Supplier Code](#)
- [2023 UCI Cycling World Championships Sustainable Procurement Code](#)
- [International Orienteering Federation \(IOF\) Sustainable Sourcing Policy](#)

#### Box 2 Sustainable sourcing factsheets

- [Catering Services](#)
- [Gifts and Promotional Products](#)
- [Rubber and Rubber-Containing Products](#)
- [Sport Equipment](#)
- [Textiles and Textiles-Based Products](#)
- [Wood and Wood-Based Products](#)

## Collective action

Everyone has the ability to make a difference and contribute to change. Yet, change rarely comes without its challenges. Establishing and implementing a sustainable sourcing process questions the status quo and challenges established ways of going about business, which is not always easy. Therefore, the more sports organisations

embark on this journey and the more cooperation there is between them, the better the chances will be for the necessary changes to succeed.

With its Principle 3, Sports for Nature taps into this space and provides the support and platform for a collective drive forward.



Kunming - Montreal

## GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Principle 3 strongly aligns with the targets of the [Biodiversity Plan](#), a UN-led global landmark agreement for nature to safeguard and sustainably use biodiversity with global goals and targets to be achieved by 2030 and beyond.

Principle 3 relates to the Biodiversity Plan targets, in particular:

- Target 5: Ensure sustainable, safe and legal harvesting and trade of wild species
- Target 8: Minimize the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and build resilience
- Target 15: Businesses assess, disclose and reduce biodiversity-related risks and negative impacts
- Target 16: Enable sustainable consumption choices to reduce waste and overconsumption

## Join the Sports for Nature community

By committing to the Sports for Nature Framework, sport organisations join a community dedicated to leveraging sports towards the protection and restoration of nature. Contact the Sports for Nature team to learn more about the Framework and discuss how you can get involved.

[sportsfornature@iucn.org](mailto:sportsfornature@iucn.org)  
[www.sportsfornature.org](http://www.sportsfornature.org)

Dani Sainey/Uppsaah

Institutional partners



International  
Olympic  
Committee



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

Supported by



DONA BERTARELLI  
PHILANTHROPY