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Sports for Nature

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Sourcing Framework

Founding partners

IUCN

International Olympic Committee

UN environment programme

Convention on Biological Diversity

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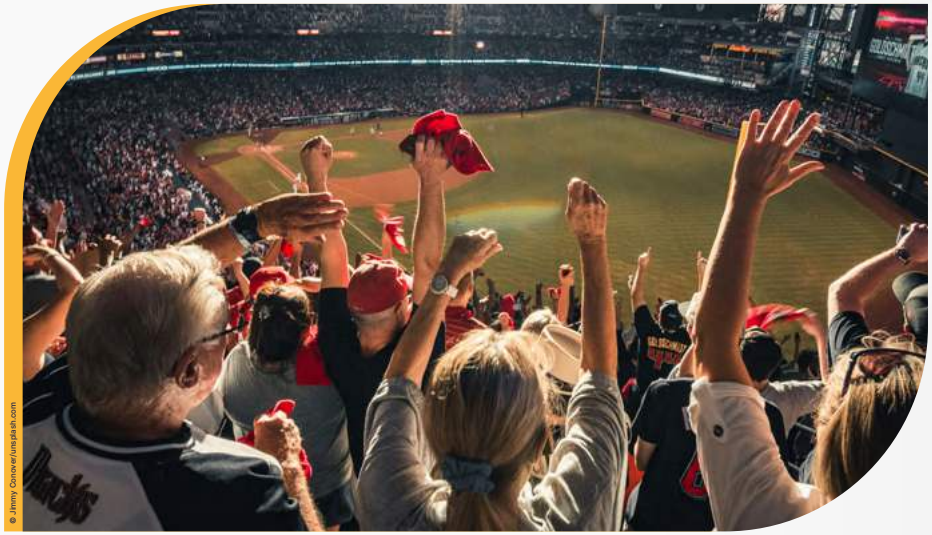
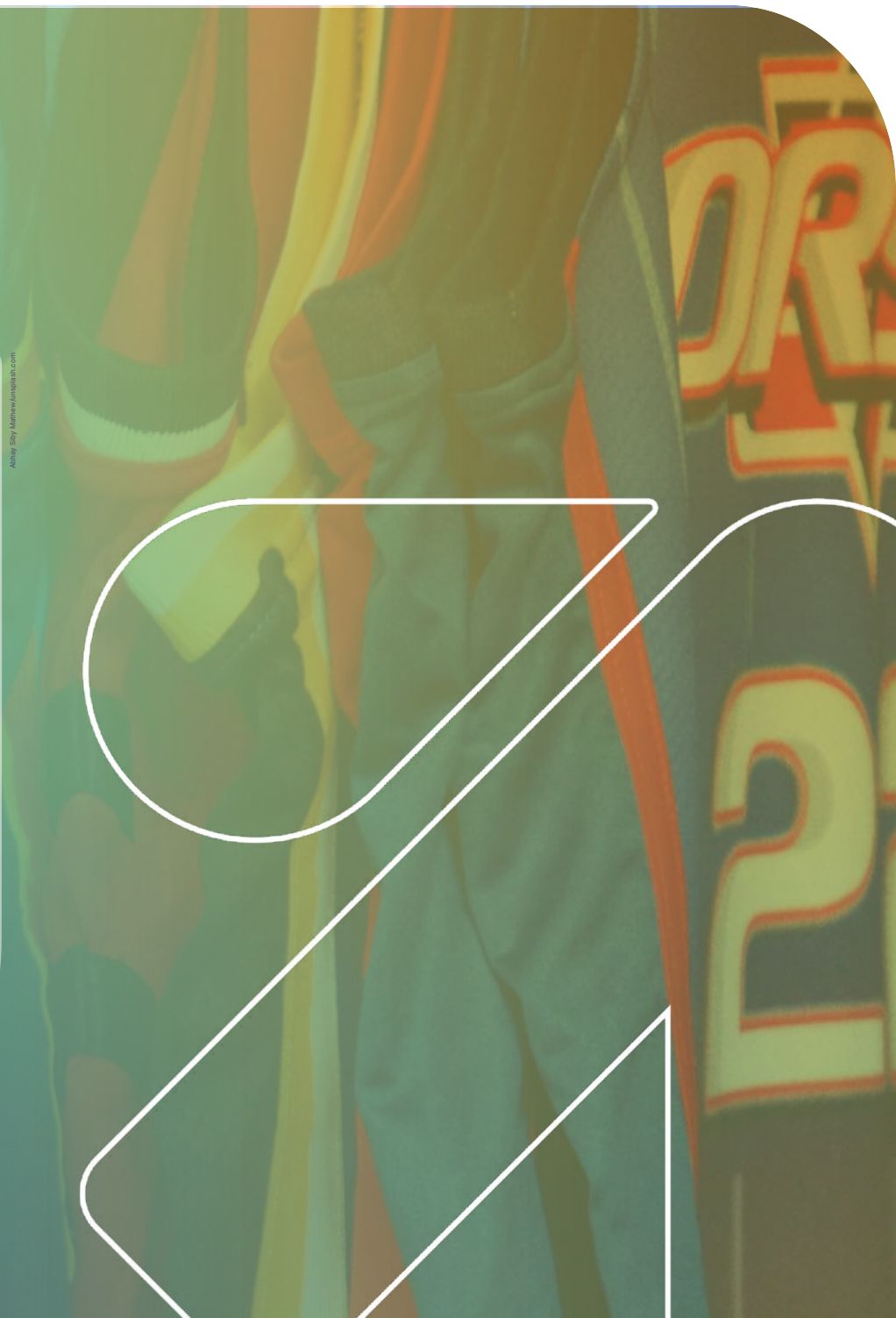


Sports for Nature

1 Introduction



Purpose

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, or environment in which they are played. The Sports for Nature Sourcing Framework aims to help sports identify and address potential nature-specific impacts of their sourcing decisions through embedding nature and biodiversity considerations into sourcing and supply chain management and engagement with direct suppliers.

The Framework builds on and supplements the International Olympic Committee's Sustainability Essentials: Sustainable Sourcing in Sport, Sports for Nature "Mapping Your Relationship with Nature" Self-assessment tool, and IOC Sustainable Sourcing Factsheets. It looks at both well-known impacts as well as actions that may look "positive" for the environment, but may have unintended consequences for biodiversity. For example, alternative fuels may contribute to deforestation, or some materials marketed as "eco-friendly" may still be harmful for waterways or deplete natural resources.

Who this is for

This Framework is for anyone in sports organisations involved in purchasing or sourcing products and services - from ordering office supplies or sports equipment, through arranging catering or event services, to investing in major infrastructure. It's also useful when conducting due diligence on sponsorship deals, particularly supply-side elements.

Link to the IOC's Sustainability Essentials: Sustainable Sourcing in Sport

IOC's Sustainable Sourcing in Sport

- Provides the overall framework for sourcing more sustainably.
- Sets out why sustainable sourcing matters in sport.
- Explains universal management steps on how to set up the right systems (governance, transparency, data, supplier management, continuous improvement).
- Broad, cross-cutting across all sustainability issues (environment, labour, ethics and governance).
- Consult the document here

Sports for Nature Sustainable Sourcing Framework

- Builds on the same universal management steps because they apply no matter what sustainability theme is in focus.
- Zooms in on nature and biodiversity as a priority theme.
- Adds specific tools:
  - Sustainable Sourcing Heatmap (to prioritise where impacts are most relevant).
  - Sports Category Profiles (to guide buyer and supplier conversations and decisions).
- Focuses on must have and should have actions – advanced actions only signposted.
- Practical tools ready for use without extensive training.

2 Getting started

Sustainable sourcing fundamentals

Before you explore the Framework itself, it is important to keep in mind the fundamentals of the sustainable sourcing process. The below scheme will provide you with the essential information that you will need.

For more details, consult the respective chapters of the IOC Sustainable Sourcing in Sport guide referenced below.

Managing Sustainable Sourcing

- **Incorporate sustainability into contracts:** use standard sustainability clauses and include specific clauses/requirements where needed.
- **Build it in early and focus where it matters:** consider requirements at the start for priority spend; prioritise contract management by risk/opportunity.
- **Run a simple, fair sourcing process:** Larger buys require multiple quotes/Requests for Proposals (RFPs); clear scope, terms and conditions, deadlines, and submission requirements; disclose assessment criteria to prospective suppliers; choose best overall value; treat bidders equally with transparent QCA.
- **Manage the contract:** agree a simple delivery/performance plan (include KPIs, basic monitoring and targets), hold regular check-ins, think about incentives/sanctions if needed.

Ch. 5 - Managing Sustainable Sourcing, IOC Sustainable Sourcing in Sport

Communicating Sustainable Sourcing Efforts

- **Tell your teams and key suppliers** what you expect and what you're doing.
- **Put a brief public sustainability commitment on your website** (vision/strategy can come later).
- **Keep claims simple and credible:** clear, accurate, relevant, and verifiable.
- **Only use third-party logos / label with the right licence / agreement** (e.g. FSC®).

Ch. 6 - Communicating Sustainable Sourcing Efforts, IOC Sustainable Sourcing in Sport

Enabling Sustainable Sourcing

- Do a quick readiness check: culture/values, governance (who's accountable, basic reporting), roles, rollout plan (pilot/phase), and skills/resources.
- Appoint/identify 'sustainable sourcing champions' in each budget-holding team as go-to helpers.
- Back it from the top and align governance/culture so sourcing fits strategic priorities.
- Provide basic training for anyone who is responsible for sourcing decisions.
- Start with quick wins in high-impact, high-visibility categories to build momentum and demonstrate value.

Ch. 7 - Enabling Sustainable Sourcing, IOC Sustainable Sourcing in Sport

Nature hotspots

The six "hotspots" used in this Framework are drawn from the Sports for Nature "Mapping Your Relationship with Nature" Self-Assessment tool and represent the key ways sourcing can impact biodiversity/nature. Five align with recognised threats to biodiversity, while 'People and Communities' attempts to capture ecosystem services (i.e. the benefits nature provides to humans like clean water, air purification, and climate regulation) in more accessible language. Together, these hotspots help identify where your sourcing decisions affect nature.

Changes in the use of land, sea or water

Natural environments like forests, grasslands, or coastal areas are cleared or altered for human activities, leading to habitat loss and fragmentation.

Sport impact: *Sports can impact habitats through infrastructure development (facilities, stadiums) that may clear land and fragment ecosystems, commodity sourcing including natural materials (timber, metals, textiles, food products) and manufactured goods that can involve deforestation, water depletion, chemical pollution, mining, and extraction activities that degrade ecosystems and displace communities globally.*

Pollution

Chemicals, plastics, and waste harm biodiversity in numerous ways, with pollution affecting air, water, and soil quality across ecosystems.

Sport impact: *Sports can generate pollution through event waste (plastics, packaging) that may contaminate waterways, facility maintenance using pesticides and chemicals that can runoff into ecosystems, transport emissions from travel to events contributing to air pollution, and noise from events that can disrupt local wildlife and surrounding communities.*

Invasive Species

Non-native organisms disrupt local ecosystems by outcompeting native species, spreading disease, and altering habitats.

Sport impact: *Sports can inadvertently spread invasive species through international transport of equipment, materials, and people across borders, potentially introducing non-native organisms. Aquatic sports may carry invasive species on improperly cleaned boats or gear, while imported turf or landscaping materials for facilities can introduce species that outcompete native flora.*

Overexploitation of Resources

Natural resources are used faster than they can regenerate, disrupting ecosystems by reducing populations of key species.

Sport impact: *Sports can drive overexploitation through demand for natural materials in equipment or infrastructure, water-intensive facilities like golf courses may deplete local water supplies needed by ecosystems, and wildlife disturbance from events in natural settings can force species relocation or increase competition for resources.*

Climate Change

Rising temperatures, extreme weather, and shifting patterns disrupt ecosystems, threatening species that cannot adapt quickly enough.

Sport impact: *Sports can contribute to climate change through energy-intensive facilities using non-renewable power, international travel by teams, fans, and equipment creating significant carbon footprints, and high resource consumption. (Outdoor) sports remain vulnerable to climate impacts, as rising temperatures and extreme weather can alter or damage natural event environments.*

People and Communities

Nature provides clean water, healthy soil, air purification, and green spaces, connecting to people's rights for healthy environments and land decision-making.

Sport impact: *Sports can impact communities through facility development on lands that provide clean water, healthy soil, and green spaces, and through sourcing from regions where resource extraction may affect communities' access to natural resources and traditional lands, potentially undermining people's rights to healthy environments and land decision-making.*

Sustainable Sourcing Framework in practice

How to use this framework

1. **Check the Sourcing Heatmap** → Identify which categories relevant to you matter most for nature.
2. **Review Sports Category Profiles** → Reflect on specific guidance for what you plan to source.
3. **Ask Key Questions** → Use suggested supplier questions during the sourcing process.
4. **Set Minimum Standards** → Apply "must have" requirements to new contracts.
5. **Build Over Time** → Work toward "should have" expectations as capacity grows.

Quick start actions

- **For all opportunities:** Review sustainable sourcing fundamentals.
- **For routine purchases:** Use relevant profile questions.
- **For major contracts:** Develop detailed requirements from profiles.
- **For sponsorship:** Apply as due diligence tool.
- **For teams:** Share profiles with anyone who purchases.

Building your approach

Many sport organisations are just beginning this journey with limited expertise or resources - that's perfectly fine and normal. This Framework aims to help you take meaningful steps – whether you're just starting out or are a bit more advanced.

For example, if you feel you can only ask one question to your suppliers about nature, make it this:

How much do you know (and don't know) about the impacts of your products or services on nature?

Their response should indicate their awareness, transparency, and readiness to engage on biodiversity topics.

Remember

Starting imperfectly beats not starting at all.

3 Sports for Nature Sourcing Heatmap

About the Sports for Nature Sourcing Heatmap

Understanding the ratings

The heatmap ratings provide an indicative assessment based on typical sourcing scenarios. Each rating primarily reflects:

- **Direct impact on nature:** How significantly this category typically affects biodiversity.
- **Typical sourcing "influence":** Volumes, frequencies, and specifications typical for sport organisations' operations.

Ratings assume standard sourcing practices where organisations are often secondary purchasers with limited control and influence. Categories that appear similar may have different ratings because sourcing realities vary - some involve specified products with regular orders and brand standards, while others involve generic, one-off purchases with minimal specifications or limited ability to influence. For example, 'Merchandise' rates higher than 'Gifts and Giveaways' because organisations typically have greater influence over merchandise sourcing versus low-margin, often stock promotional items where the main influence is whether to procure such items at all.

Remember

Each profile aims to provides generic and indicative guidance requiring adaptation for your specific sport, location, and scale. Always consider local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements alongside this framework.

Context is everything

These ratings assume typical sports operations in typical environments. Your reality may differ significantly:

- **Location matters:** Activities near protected areas, marine or alpine environments require heightened scrutiny regardless of category ratings.
- **Scale changes impact:** Major events amplify effects compared to routine operations.
- **Local conditions apply:** Water use in arid regions, chemical/material use in alpine or aquatic ecosystems or waste in areas with limited infrastructure elevates importance.
- **Sport-specific factors:** Certain sports (e.g. aquatic sports, mountain and motor sports) will have unique considerations.
- **Level of control/influence:** Purchase volume, contract terms, and market position affect your ability to drive change.

How to Use this Tool

The Heatmap is a starting point or initial screening tool, not an endpoint for decision-making. Categories rated 'Not applicable / negligible' or 'Low' may be important in your specific context. Use it to:

- Identify where to focus initial efforts.
- Guide deeper consideration of relevant categories.
- Prompt questions about your specific circumstances.
- Challenge assumptions about impact and influence.

Sports for Nature Sourcing Heatmap

Goods/Services Category	Category Description	Relationship with Nature					
		Land, Sea or Water Use	Pollution	Invasive Species	Over-exploitation	Climate Change	People & Communities
Facilities & Infrastructure							
Permanent construction & infrastructure*	Sport construction projects, venues (new and refurbished), training facilities, permanent structures.	H	H	M	H	H	H
Temporary constructions fit-out (overlay)*	Structures, seating, fencing, and other temporary infrastructure for events.	H	H	M	H	H	M
Waste management (incl. snow removal)*	Collection, recycling, disposal, and specialist services such as snow or debris clearance.	H	H	L	L	H	M
Utilities (incl. temporary power generation)*	Energy, water, gas, and temporary power supply services.	M	H	L	M	H	M
Accommodation & conference facilities	Hotels, lodges, and venues used for hosting teams, officials, and meetings.	M	M	L	M	M	M
Merchandise & Equipment							
Clothing, footwear & textiles*	Sportswear, officials and workforce uniforms and other fabric-based items.	H	H	L	H	H	M
Sports equipment, supplies & accessories*	Training and competition sports equipment and kit.	M	H	M	H	H	L
Merchandise*	Branded products sold to spectators/fans, including apparel, souvenirs, and accessories.	H	H	L	H	H	M
Gifts & giveaways (e.g. premiums)*	Branded or promotional items given to guests, workforce, or fans.	-	H	M	M	M	L
Floriculture & silviculture products*	Plants, flowers, turf, and trees for landscaping or decoration.	M	H	H	L	L	L
Furniture & fittings*	Desks, chairs, shelving, and fixtures for venues, offices, and temporary setups.	M	M	-	H	M	L
Domestic appliances	Whitegoods and small electrical appliances for venues, catering, or offices.	-	M	-	M	M	-
Transport & Logistics							
Logistics*	Transport, warehousing, and handling of goods and equipment.	M	H	M	M	H	M
Vehicles (incl. transport services)*	Purchase, hire, or operation of cars, vans, buses, and related transport services.	M	H	L	M	H	M
Mail & courier (incl. freight forwarding)	Postal, courier, and international freight forwarding services.	-	M	L	M	M	L

H	M	L	-
High Relevance – direct significant impact	**Medium Relevance** – context-dependent relevance	**Low Relevance** – limited indirect relevance	**Not applicable** / negligible – no meaningful connection

Categories marked with * have dedicated profiles. All other categories please refer to the generic 'Sports for Nature Considerations for Low-Medium Rated Sourcing Categories'.

Sports for Nature Sourcing Heatmap

Goods/Services Category	Category Description	Relationship with Nature					
		Land, Sea or Water Use	Pollution	Invasive Species	Over-exploitation	Climate Change	People & Communities
Venue Operations & Services							
Catering & food services*	Food and beverage supply, preparation, and serving at events, venues, and offices.	M	H	L	H	H	M
Venue services (incl. retail, operations & maintenance)*	Running of sporting venues, including retail outlets, cleaning, and maintenance.	H	H	M	M	H	M
Ceremonies (victory or other)*	Supplies and services for medal ceremonies, cultural presentations, and formal events.	-	H	L	M	H	M
Cleaning services (incl. laundry, pest control)*	Venue, office, and accommodation cleaning, linen services, and pest control.	M	H	-	M	M	L
Event management services	Planning, coordination, and delivery of sporting or corporate events.	L	M	L	M	M	M
Technology, Marketing & Communications							
IT, broadcasting & telecoms*	Hardware, software, broadcasting equipment, telecoms, digital platforms, and content production.	M	H	-	H	H	L
Marketing, signage & accessories*	Printed, digital, and physical materials including signage, banners, and creative content.	L	H	L	M	H	L
Printing services	Printing and reproduction of materials such as brochures, tickets, and programmes.	-	M	-	M	M	-
Editorial services	Copywriting, editing, translation, and content development.	-	L	-	-	L	-
Professional & Support Services							
Business travel services*	Flights, trains, car hire, and related travel booking and management.	L	H	L	H	H	M
Security & safety equipment & supplies	Security services, surveillance, personal protective equipment, and safety gear.	L	M	L	M	M	-
Medical & laboratory services & equipment	Supplies, health checks, testing, and equipment for athletes, officials and workforce.	-	M	L	L	L	-
Administrative services	Back-office support such as HR, finance, payroll, and clerical services.	L	L	-	L	M	-
Professional services	External expertise such as legal, consulting, auditing, and design.	-	L	-	-	L	L
Office accessories, supplies & services	Stationery, consumables, office equipment, and related services.	-	L	-	L	L	-

H	M	L	-
High Relevance – direct significant impact	**Medium Relevance** – context-dependent relevance	**Low Relevance** – limited indirect relevance	**Not applicable** / negligible – no meaningful connection

Categories marked with * have dedicated profiles. All other categories please refer to the generic 'Sports for Nature Considerations for Low-Medium Rated Sourcing Categories'.

4 Sports Category Profiles

1 - Permanent construction & infrastructure

Sport construction projects, venues (new and refurbished), training facilities, permanent structures

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**H**	Permanent structures can alter land use, remove soil, vegetation and natural drainage. Construction can fragments habitat and cause runoff. However, developments can integrate green infrastructure, creating new habitats through green roofs, wetlands and biodiverse landscaping that enhance rather than diminish local ecosystems.
Pollution	**H**	Construction generates noise, dust, vibration and chemical pollution that harms biodiversity. Runoff carries sediments and pollutants into waterways. Materials selection and pollution controls influence long-term impacts on surrounding ecosystems.
Invasive species	**M**	Construction materials, imported soil and landscaping can introduce non-native species. Site disturbance creates ideal conditions for invasive establishment. Native planting requirements and biosecurity protocols reduce spread risks between regions.
Overexploitation	**H**	Permanent construction can demand vast quantities of materials - aggregates, timber, metals. Extraction degrades ecosystems through quarrying, deforestation and mining. More sustainable materials and recycled content can reduce pressure on resources.
Climate Change	**H**	High embodied carbon in concrete and steel. Energy-intensive construction and ongoing operations contribute to warming that disrupts ecosystems. However, permanent venues offer opportunities for renewable energy, passive cooling and carbon sequestration.
People & Communities	**H**	Permanent infrastructure changes community access to green space and ecosystem services like cooling, flood protection and recreation. Projects can enhance or eliminate these benefits. Well-designed venues can become nature positive community assets.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Convention on Biological Diversity – requirements for habitat protection and restoration targets
- CITES – Restrictions on timber and materials from endangered species
- Ramsar Convention – Wetland protection requirements for waterside events
- Wildlife and habitat protection - local laws for protected species and trees and seasonal restrictions
- Environmental controls - local requirements for impact assessments, biosecurity, and soil/water protection
- Indigenous land rights and sacred sites - consultation requirements and access restrictions location-dependent

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Is a greenfield or brownfield site proposed? Brownfield offers restoration opportunities without virgin habitat loss while greenfield development could permanently impact ecosystems.
- What biodiversity currently exists on and around the site? Professional ecological surveys are essential to understand what you're impacting before any design decisions.
- How will this affect community access to nature and cultural sites? Permanent structures can enhance or eliminate green space access, disrupt traditional land uses, or impact culturally significant features - but also create new accessible habitat.
- Can this project achieve nature positive outcomes while serving community needs? Design should integrate habitats providing ecosystem services while optimising energy / water efficiency to reduce pressure on resources.

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. Do you have qualified ecologists on your core team and what nature positive outcomes % will you deliver?
2. What are your science-based climate targets and how will this project contribute through energy-efficient design, renewable energy, low-carbon materials, and water conservation measures?
3. Do you use more sustainable materials (e.g. responsibly sourced, verified recycled content) and what are your embodied carbon reduction targets for high impact materials such as concrete and steel?
4. How will this project benefit local communities through employment, nature access and cultural respect?
5. How will biodiversity features be funded and managed for 30+ years post-construction?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **Ecological expertise and baseline assessments** - qualified ecologists conducting comprehensive surveys for protected species and habitats before any design work begins.
- **Environmental management** - ISO 14001 or equivalent with dedicated environmental manager and biodiversity action plan including measurable targets.
- **Low carbon materials and resource efficiency** - suppliers must calculate embodied carbon, set verified recycled content targets, meet energy/water performance standards, use FSC or PEFC certified timber, and minimise extraction impacts.
- **Compliance and waste management** - suppliers must comply with all environmental regulations and demonstrate high recycling/reuse rates for construction waste, with clear tracking of materials diverted from landfill.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Exceeding biodiversity requirements through certification and nature positive outcomes** - achieving maximum ecology credits in green building schemes AND delivering measurably more habitat than mandated, with community.
- **Nature-based solutions for infrastructure challenges** - suppliers should have science-based carbon reduction targets aligned with 1.5°C pathways using nature-based infrastructure to manage drainage, cooling, and carbon sequestration rather than conventional engineering alone.
- **Circular economy and material innovation** - designing for disassembly/future adaptation, material passports and pioneering low-carbon alternatives.
- **Community co-design and long-term partnerships** - involving local communities in design decisions, creating permanent nature education facilities, and establishing long-term stewardship partnerships.

Red flags

- No ecologist on design team from project inception
- Maximising built footprint without green space integration
- Resistance to sustainability or transparency
- History of environmental damage or community opposition
- Resistance to certification or transparent monitoring
- Focus only on compliance not enhancement opportunities

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Factsheet: Wood & Wood-based Products
- IUCN Guide: Mitigating biodiversity impacts of new sports venues

2 - Temporary construction & fit out (overlay)

Structures, seating, fencing, and other temporary infrastructure for events

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**H**	Temporary venues may require land clearing that disrupts habitats and ecosystems. Materials sourcing (timber, metals, aggregates) may drive deforestation, mining and extraction. Construction can consume significant water resources. Foundation systems can damage root systems and soil structure.
Pollution	**H**	Construction / fit out can cause waste/emissions affecting air, water and soil. Materials may release microplastics, chemicals and particulates that harm biodiversity. Paints and solvents may release VOCs , while light and noise disrupts wildlife and communities.
Invasive species	**M**	International transport of materials and equipment can introduce non-native organisms. Site disturbance creates opportunities for invasive species establishment. Wooden pallets and packaging are common pathways for species spread between regions.
Overexploitation	**H**	Temporary structures can demand virgin materials despite brief usage periods. Poor recovery rates mean resources are consumed faster than natural regeneration allows. Particular pressure exists on timber for scaffolding and formwork.
Climate Change	**H**	Construction contributes around 40% of global carbon emissions. Temporary structures have disproportionate impacts due to high embodied carbon relative to usage duration. Transport emissions are multiplied by delivery and removal journeys.
People & Communities	**M**	Development can displace communities and restrict access to green spaces.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Convention on Biological Diversity – requirements for invasive species prevention and habitat protection
- CITES – Restrictions on timber and materials from endangered species
- Ramsar Convention – Wetland protection requirements for waterside events
- Wildlife and habitat protection – local laws for protected species and trees and seasonal restrictions
- Environmental controls – local requirements for impact assessments, biosecurity, and soil/water protection
- Site restoration standards – local obligations to return sites to original condition after removal of structures

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Are temporary structures really needed or could what's already there be used instead?
- What could this impact on-site? What is understood about trees, wildlife, water sources or community spaces? Think about light and noise and whether the ground will recover after removal. What biodiversity requirements, permits, or protections apply?
- What happens to everything when the event ends? Even with rentals, understand the supplier's reuse practices. Are structures refurbished between events? What components can't be reused and why?
- What level of sustainability ambition do you have for this procurement? Are you clear in what you want regarding biodiversity/environmental management and what will be your organisation's responsibilities vs. suppliers?

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. Do you have any relevant certifications (e.g. ISO 14001 or ISO 20121) or adhere to any standards related to the delivery of your product/service and can you provide evidence of compliance from previous events?
2. How do you minimise environmental and local community impacts during installation and removal, including control or prevention of pollution (air, water, land, noise and light) and protection of existing flora and fauna?
3. Do you use more sustainable materials in your products e.g. responsibly sourced, reusable, recycled or recyclable?
4. What do you have in place to control and reduce your direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions?
5. What steps do you take to minimise waste and avoid use of landfill and other forms of disposal?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **ISO 14001, ISO 20121 or equivalent certification** - suppliers must hold a relevant management system certification with trained environmental supervisors on-site during all installation and removal activities.
- **Environmental and community protection plan** - suppliers must have procedures for protecting biodiversity (wildlife, trees, water sources), managing community impacts (noise, dust, access), and responding to environmental incidents.
- **Site protection and restoration** - suppliers must guarantee full site restoration including soil decompaction, vegetation reinstatement, and complete removal of all materials, with documented before/after evidence.
- **Compliance and waste management** - suppliers must comply with all environmental regulations and demonstrate material reuse across multiple events, with clear tracking of reuse rates and disposal routes.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Biosecurity protocols** - suppliers should have cleaning and inspection procedures to prevent spread of invasive species, particularly for equipment moved between different sites or regions.
- **Low-impact installation methods** - suppliers should minimise ground disturbance through weighted/ballasted bases, protective trackway for vehicle access, hand installation near sensitive areas, and avoid breeding/nesting seasons.
- **Low carbon and material innovation** - suppliers should have measurable science-based carbon reduction targets aligned with 1.5°C pathways, use verified recycled content and sustainably sourced materials (e.g. FSC or PEFC timber) and invest in low-carbon alternatives that maintain safety and functionality.
- **Community benefit initiatives** - suppliers should provide local employment opportunities, use local sub-contractors where possible, and contribute to community projects or leave positive legacies from temporary installations.

Red flags

- No sustainability policy or commitments
- History of environmental breaches or community complaints
- Resistance to sustainability or transparency
- Lack of material sourcing or timber certification evidence
- Single-use design philosophy without justification
- No reuse/recycling plans

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Factsheet: Wood & Wood-based Products

3 - Waste management (incl. snow removal)

Collection, recycling, disposal, and specialist services such as snow or debris clearance

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**H**	Landfills permanently consume land and contaminate groundwater through leachate. Waste facilities fragment habitats and degrade surrounding areas. Poor waste management pollutes waterways with plastics and chemicals.
Pollution	**H**	Waste operations generate methane (30 times more potent than CO2), leachate, and microplastics that persist in ecosystems. Incineration releases pollutants. Improper disposal contaminates soil and water. Snow removal chemicals harm vegetation and aquatic life. Single-use plastics escape into nature, harming wildlife.
Invasive species	**L**	Organic waste can spread plant seeds and pathogens between locations within a country. Green waste from landscaping can spread invasive plant material if not properly composted.
Overexploitation	**L**	Waste management focuses on disposal rather than extraction. However, effective recycling reduces demand for virgin materials, indirectly protecting forests, quarries and mines from overexploitation through more circular approaches.
Climate Change	**H**	Organic waste decomposition produces significant methane emissions. Transport and processing are energy-intensive. Incineration releases stored carbon.
People & Communities	**M**	Waste facilities affect community health through odour, traffic, and visual impacts. Poor management reduces access to clean environments.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Convention on Biological Diversity - waste reduction targets supporting ecosystem protection
- Basel Convention - controls on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes
- Extended Producer Responsibility schemes - requiring take-back of products and packaging
- Landfill directives - local restrictions on biodegradable waste to landfill and methane capture requirements
- Waste hierarchy regulations - local legal requirements prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling over disposal
- Environmental permits - local controls on emissions, leachate, operating hours and accepted waste types

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- What waste streams are we likely to generate? Understand volumes, types and current disposal routes to identify reduction opportunities.
- Can waste be prevented at source? Focus on reusable systems, elimination of single-use items (e.g. plastics), and procurement specifications that minimise packaging.
- How will we maximise diversion from landfill? Set targets for prevention (avoid/reuse), recycling, composting and recovery that exceed local requirements.
- What happens to waste after collection? How we will verify final destinations and ensure local processing where possible to maintain oversight of environmental standards?

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. What are your landfill diversion rates and can you guarantee specific recycling/composting percentages for our waste streams?
2. Do you have ISO 14001 certification (or equivalent) and what environmental and community incidents have you had in the last 3 years?
3. What level of transparency can you offer on waste? Can you provide full chain of custody to final processing/disposal?
4. How do you prevent pollution during collection and processing?
5. Can you provide carbon footprint data for different disposal routes and help us choose lowest-impact options?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **Environmental compliance and pollution prevention** - suppliers must hold valid licences, provide waste transfer notes, and demonstrate how they prevent leachate and litter reaching soil and waterways that harm biodiversity.
- **Methane reduction from organic waste** - suppliers must divert all food and green waste from landfill to composting or anaerobic digestion, providing data on methane emissions avoided to reduce climate impacts on ecosystems.
- **Protection during venue collections** - suppliers must prevent litter escaping that could harm wildlife, use appropriate vehicles to avoid damage, manage snow removal chemicals to prevent runoff, and handle spills affecting venue grounds.
- **Verified disposal protecting habitats** - suppliers must provide full chain of custody proving waste does not end up in illegal dumps or countries with poor controls, with monthly reporting on recycling rates and final destinations.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **90%+ landfill diversion protecting land** - suppliers should minimise habitat loss from new landfill development through maximum recycling, composting and recovery, demonstrating land saved from waste infrastructure.
- **Methane capture and renewable energy** - suppliers should capture landfill gas for energy, use anaerobic digestion for food waste, operate electric vehicles, and power facilities with renewables to reduce climate impacts.
- **Nature-positive waste facilities** - suppliers should enhance biodiversity at operational sites and closed landfills, creating habitats that provide refuges for wildlife, use low-impact snow removal methods, and contribute to ecological networks.
- **Circular economy reducing extraction pressure** - suppliers should provide data showing how recycling reduces demand for virgin materials and supports elimination of single-use plastics, protecting forests and habitats from extraction.

Red flags

- No environmental management system
- History of pollution incidents or poor community relations
- Unable to confirm final disposal/processing destinations
- Exporting waste without proper oversight
- No investment in recycling infrastructure/practices
- Resistance to waste reduction initiatives

Other relevant resources

- IOC Guide: Plastic Game Plan for Sport

4 - Utilities (incl. temporary power generation)

Energy, water, gas, and temporary power supply services

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**M**	Sports venues consume significant water for pitch irrigation, cooling, and spectator facilities. Temporary events require generators and water infrastructure that can damage grounds. Peak demand strains local supplies.
Pollution	**H**	Temporary generators emit fumes that harm local air quality and habitats. Cooling systems release thermal pollution into waterways. Any refrigerant leaks deplete ozone and are potent greenhouse gases. Chemicals for water systems contaminate soil and runoff. Floodlights disrupts nocturnal wildlife. Event noise pollution disturbs breeding birds and mammals.
Invasive species	**L**	Utility infrastructure corridors may spread plant species between areas. Temporary cable runs for events can transport seeds and soil. However, these are likely minor pathways.
Overexploitation	**M**	Major events create extreme peaks in water and energy demand, stressing local resources. Stadium cooling and irrigation can deplete groundwater, affecting wetlands and stream flows. Broadcasting drives massive energy infrastructure expansion.
Climate Change	**H**	Venue energy use is typically the largest source of operational emissions. Temporary generators produce significant emissions. Airconditioning and heating for year-round operations contribute substantially to climate impacts affecting ecosystems globally.
People & Communities	**M**	Event utilities demands can affect community resource availability. Generator noise and emissions impact local residents.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Paris Climate Agreement - national carbon footprint reduction targets affecting energy procurement strategies
- UN Sustainable Development Goals - SDG 7 (Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) driving renewable requirements
- Montreal Protocol (for cooling systems) - restrictions on refrigerants that deplete ozone and contribute to climate change
- Grid capacity and connection permits - restrictions on renewable installations and event power demands
- Water abstraction licensing - limits during droughts affecting irrigation and cooling systems
- Temporary power regulations - emissions standards, noise limits, and fuel storage requirements for generators

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- What are our baseline and peak consumption patterns? Map energy and water use across seasons, competition days, and non-event periods to identify where nature impacts are greatest.
- Can we avoid temporary generators altogether? Investigate permanent power upgrades, battery storage, or scheduling changes that eliminate need for diesel generation.
- Are renewable claims genuinely additional? Verify green tariffs or certificates support new renewable projects, not just existing generation, and ensure biofuels are sustainably certified to avoid deforestation and other land use impacts.
- How do our utility choices affect local ecosystems? Consider water abstraction during droughts, light pollution on wildlife, generator placement near habitats, and cumulative impacts on local biodiversity.

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. Can you provide 100% renewable electricity for our venue and what temporary clean power options do you offer?
2. What water-saving technologies can you install for irrigation and how do you protect local water resources?
3. How do you minimise pollution from your operations - including air emissions, thermal discharge, and chemical treatments?
4. How can you help us reduce competition peaks through load management and energy storage?
5. Can you demonstrate biodiversity initiatives associated with your facilities or solutions and provide data on habitat impacts?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **Green tariffs and clean temporary power** - suppliers must offer electricity from renewable sources and alternatives to diesel generators including certified sustainable biofuels, or hybrid power systems.
- **Water efficiency and protection** - suppliers must provide smart metering, leak detection, and demonstrate how they protect local water resources during peak event demands.
- **Environmental compliance for events** - suppliers must ensure temporary power meets air quality standards, noise limits, and demonstrates safe fuel handling and pollution prevention at venues.
- **Consumption monitoring and reduction** - suppliers must provide real-time monitoring of energy and water use, identifying opportunities to reduce competition peaks and baseline consumption.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **100% renewable venue operations** - suppliers should facilitate access to 100% electricity from renewable sources, have science-based carbon reduction targets aligned with 1.5°C pathways, support installation of on-site solar/wind generation infrastructure, and offer battery storage for resilience and peak demand reduction.
- **Nature-friendly infrastructure** - suppliers should create habitat around substations and facilities, use biodiversity-friendly landscaping, and minimise infrastructure impacts on wildlife movement.
- **Circular water management** - suppliers should enable rainwater harvesting for pitch irrigation, greywater recycling from facilities, and natural drainage systems that recharge groundwater.
- **Innovation in event sustainability** - suppliers should provide solar/battery hybrid generators, waste-derived biofuels where combustion is unavoidable, and temporary renewable installations.

Red flags

- No renewable options for permanent or temporary supply
- Cannot provide alternatives to diesel generators
- History of environmental incidents during events
- Resistance to water-saving measures for irrigation
- No monitoring of consumption or peak demand
- Unwilling to support on-site generation

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainability Essentials: Sports for Climate Action
- IUCN Guide: Mitigating biodiversity impacts of new sports venues

5 - Clothing, footwear & textiles

Sportswear, officials and workforce uniforms and other fabric-based items

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**H**	Cotton monoculture can reduce biodiversity on farmland. Cotton farming requires significant land and may require intensive irrigation in water-stressed regions. Ancient / endangered forests may be cleared to produce wood pulp for viscose, rayon and modal. Dyeing / finishing facilities can consume significant water to colour / treat fabrics.
Pollution	**H**	Dyeing / treatment releases chemicals into water. Conventional cotton farming uses pesticides that contaminate soil and water. Viscose production releases chemicals. Textiles shed fibres when washed, but synthetics persist as microplastics. Leather tanning often uses hazardous chemicals.
Invasive species	**L**	Limited impact. Agricultural pests may travel with cotton shipments between countries. Seeds and organisms could potentially be transported with natural fibre imports. Finished clothing typically poses minimal risk of spreading invasive species.
Overexploitation	**H**	Cotton production can use up to 20,000 litres of water per kg in some regions. Oil and gas for synthetics may be extracted at unsustainable rates. Intensive farming can deplete soil quality. Overgrazing for wool may degrade land. High fashion turnover can drive resource depletion.
Climate Change	**H**	The fashion industry has a large carbon footprrint. Sources can include: energy for dyeing and fabric treatment, oil-based synthetic materials, agricultural emissions from cotton farming, shipping between production stages, and washing/drying during use.
People & Communities	**M**	Factory workers may face poor wages and chemical exposure. Cotton farming can deplete local water supplies and leave smallholder farmers vulnerable to unfair pricing. Limited supply chain transparency makes monitoring these impacts difficult.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Convention on Biological Diversity Target 10 – sustainable agriculture reducing pesticides/nutrients by 50% by 2030.
- CITES – restrictions on endangered species in exotic leathers, skins and fur trim.
- EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) – due diligence for forest-risk commodities including leather, rubber and viscose/rayon.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes – requiring brands to finance collection and recycling of textile waste.
- Textile waste legislation – landfill bans and mandatory separate collection for textiles becoming more common.
- Supply chain due diligence laws – mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence requirements with penalties.

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Do we have a clear sustainability ambition and policy position for textiles including ethical sourcing, fibre/raw materials, manufacturing practices, and labour standards, or will we be guided by what suppliers offer?
- What minimum level of supply chain transparency do we ideally want to achieve or accept?
- How will we address the circular economy challenge for branded items - can logos be removed, materials recycled, or products designed for disassembly?
- What are we willing to pay for more nature positive clothing that maintains functional and performance requirements - from responsibly sourced fibres and recycled materials to design features that enable post-use recycling?

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. What policies and ethical codes do you have in place, including fair purchasing practices for raw materials, and how will these be applied to products supplied to us?
2. What level of visibility do you have over your supply chain – from tier 1 manufacture through to raw materials sourcing?
3. What percentage of products supplied will contain preferred materials (organic, recycled, or other certified credentials)?
4. Do you have policies for hazardous substances used in manufacturing / products and how do you implement them?
5. How do you approach design for circularity - including design for durability, repair services, take-back programmes, or end-of-life solutions?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **Tier 1 transparency and valid assessments** - suppliers must disclose production sites and provide valid social/environmental assessments to recognised standard (e.g. 4 Pillar SMETA, BSCI, ERSA or equivalent) completed within last 12 months.
- **Fibre/material traceability** - suppliers must disclose fibre composition, demonstrate country of origin for cotton including awareness of water-stress in sourcing regions, ensure no CITES/IUCN Red List species, and provide responsible sourcing evidence for forest-risk materials (e.g. FSC viscose/rayon and natural rubber, deforestation-free verification for leather).
- **Chemical management and testing** - suppliers must provide documented restricted substances lists, demonstrate regulatory compliance including water discharge standards where visibility exists, and show evidence of testing protocols.
- **End-of-life solutions for branded items** - suppliers must present clear plans for managing logoed products post-use including take-back programmes, recycling partnerships, or logo removal/covering solutions.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Climate and nature positive commitments** - suppliers should have measurable carbon reduction targets and public commitment to work towards setting science-based targets for climate and nature.
- **Advanced sourcing beyond minimums** - suppliers should use fibres from more certified sources (organic/physical BCI cotton, certified recycled synthetics, FSC viscose, bio-based materials) for majority of products supplied.
- **Supply chain transparency to tier 2** - suppliers should provide visibility to dyehouses and processing facilities where major water/chemical impacts occur with water reduction targets and demonstrate active improvement programmes.
- **Circular design and recovery** - suppliers should implement mono-material design for recyclability, demonstrate durability testing, and actively participate in textile-to-textile reuse and recycling initiatives.

Red flags

- No sustainability policy or commitments
- Lack of Tier 1 production information or audit evidence
- No/limited knowledge of fibre sourcing/credentials
- No chemicals policy or restricted substances list
- Significantly below market pricing with no transparency
- No thought to end of life solutions

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Factsheet: Textiles & Textiles-Based Products

6 - Sports equipment, supplies & accessories

Training and competition sports equipment and kit

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**M**	Natural rubber cultivation may drive deforestation in tropical regions. Metal extraction for equipment requires mining operations that can alter landscapes. Manufacturing facilities and material processing plants consume water.
Pollution	**H**	Manufacturing processes release chemicals including VOCs from adhesives and coatings. Microplastic pollution from synthetic turf and equipment wear. PVC and other plastics may contain phthalates and heavy metals. End-of-life disposal creates persistent waste.
Invasive species	**M**	Natural materials may harbour pests during international transport. Equipment can carry seeds or organisms between regions. Risk varies by sport and geography - highest for equipment contacting soil/water (golf, equestrian, water sports) crossing borders, lowest for indoor sports with synthetic materials.
Overexploitation	**H**	Virgin plastics from petrochemicals dominate equipment manufacturing. Natural rubber harvesting can deplete forest resources. Rare earth minerals for electronics in smart equipment. Short replacement cycles drive continuous resource extraction.
Climate Change	**H**	Energy-intensive manufacturing of plastics and metals. Long supply chains from Asian manufacturing hubs. Limited recycling options for composite materials. Transport and storage requirements add to carbon footprint.
People & Communities	**L**	Manufacturing typically automated. Some risks in raw material extraction (mining, rubber tapping). Local communities may be affected by manufacturing pollution, though equipment production is less labour-intensive than some other products (e.g. clothing).

Legislation/public policy considerations

- CITES – restrictions on endangered wood species used in high-end bats, racquets, and musical/sports equipment
- REACH Regulation (EU but is applied in other markets)– chemical restrictions on substances in sports equipment in European markets
- EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) – due diligence for rubber and wood in equipment entering EU markets
- Chemical restrictions – country-specific limits on phthalates in balls/mats, lead in equipment, PAHs in rubber/plastic components
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – emerging requirements for sports equipment take-back and recycling
- Product safety standards – equipment certification requirements that increasingly include environmental criteria

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Do we have a clear position on balancing performance requirements with sustainability - are we willing to accept alternative materials that may affect traditional specifications?
- What level of supply chain transparency can we realistically expect from equipment suppliers who often use complex global component sourcing and may be resistant to being open about their supply chains for IP/competitive reasons?
- How will we manage equipment lifecycle - can we prioritise durability and repairability over frequent replacement cycles?
- Are we prepared to invest in higher-quality equipment with better environmental credentials versus lower-cost options that may need more frequent replacement?

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. Do you understand how your products depend on nature and your key impacts on nature?
2. What visibility do you have over your supply chain, particularly for high-risk materials like natural rubber, wood, and minerals? Can you confirm the country/region of origin and that minerals are conflict-free?
3. What policies do you have for hazardous substances (including PFAS/forever chemicals where relevant) and how they are implemented across your manufacturing partners?
4. How are you addressing microplastic pollution from synthetic materials and what innovations are you pursuing for lower carbon / more sustainable alternatives?
5. Can you demonstrate how products can be repaired, refurbished, or recycled at end-of-life, and do you offer any refurbishment or take-back services to extend product lifespan?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **Tier 1 transparency and valid assessments** - suppliers must disclose production sites and provide valid social/environmental assessments to recognised standard (e.g. 4 Pillar SMETA, BSCI, ERSA or equivalent) completed within last 12 months.
- **High-risk material verification** - suppliers must identify and verify legality of wooden components, provide information on natural rubber content and sourcing regions, ensure no CITES/IUCN Red List species, demonstrate awareness of deforestation risks and other biodiversity/nature concerns in sourcing regions, and work toward certified sources where available.
- **Synthetic materials and pollution control** - suppliers must provide material composition data including synthetic/natural ratios, demonstrate compliance with chemical regulations, and acknowledge microplastic concerns with any mitigation measures in place.
- **Service and circularity** - suppliers must provide repair/maintenance guidance, commit to spare parts availability, and offer guidance on responsible disposal or take-back options where feasible.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Climate and nature positive commitments** - suppliers should have science-based carbon reduction targets aligned with 1.5°C pathways and public commitment to work towards setting science-based targets for nature.
- **Advanced sourcing beyond minimums** - suppliers should achieve 30% verified recycled content where feasible, prioritise certified forest-risk materials, ensure conflict-free and preferentially recycled metals, and demonstrate shifts from petroleum-based to bio-based or recycled synthetics.
- **Minimised in-use impacts** - suppliers should implement measures to minimise microplastic pollution from equipment wear, improve energy efficiency in powered equipment, and extend product lifespan without performance degradation.
- **Nature-positive advocacy** - suppliers should be actively engaged in industry initiatives seeking to improve the sustainability of sporting equipment, particularly those aligned to nature-positive outcomes.

Red flags

- No sustainability policy or commitments
- No material composition data
- Resistance to sustainability or transparency
- Cannot verify legality or sustainability of wood/rubber
- No chemical compliance documentation
- No thought to end of life solutions

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Fact Sheets: Sport Equipment; Wood & Wood-Based Products; and Rubber & Rubber-Containing Products
- OECD: Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas

7 - Merchandise

Branded products sold to spectators/fans, including apparel, souvenirs, and accessories

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**H**	Merchandise production demands varied raw materials - cotton, timber, petroleum, metals. Manufacturing consumes significant water for processing and cooling, particularly in Asian production hubs facing water stress. Factory wastewater can contain heavy metals, dyes, and microplastics.
Pollution	**H**	Plastic can create microplastics pollution. Printing processes for books, posters, and branded items can release VOCs and use harmful inks. Metal plating can involve hazardous chemicals. PVC in inflatables and soft toys may release phthalates. E-waste contains heavy metals.
Invasive species	**L**	Limited direct impact. Wooden souvenirs may carry pests if untreated. International shipping containers may transport invasive species. However, finished merchandise poses minimal risk compared to agricultural products or raw materials.
Overexploitation	**H**	Merchandise drives extraction across multiple resources - forests for paper and wooden items, petroleum for plastics, metals for accessories, cotton for textiles. Short-lived promotional products accelerate consumption. Collectibles culture encourages overproduction. Single-use items waste materials.
Climate Change	**H**	Manufacturing generates emissions across plastics, metals, paper, and textiles. International shipping multiplies impacts. Short product lifecycles drive continuous replacement. Air freight for just-in-time delivery has extreme per-unit emissions.
People & Communities	**M**	Factory workers may face poor conditions and chemical exposure. Communities near production zones can suffer pollution. However, manufacturing provides employment and ethical sourcing can support development.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Modern Slavery Acts – requirements for supply chain transparency and due diligence.
- Extended Producer Responsibility – end of life obligations for products/packaging placed on market.
- REACH Regulation (EU but is applied in other markets) – restrictions on hazardous substances in products/packaging.
- Product safety standards – toy/child appeal safety directives including age-appropriate labelling and testing requirements.
- Microplastics legislation – emerging bans on intentional microplastic additions.
- Deforestation regulations – requirements to prove products not linked to deforestation.

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Do we need physical merchandise or can we offer experiences/digital alternatives? Consider virtual collectibles, experience vouchers, or charity donations instead of physical items.
- How can we reduce variety while maintaining appeal? Fewer, better quality items reduce impacts - focus on timeless designs not trend-driven products.
- What sustainability requirements can we mandate and ask suppliers to demonstrate sustainable material innovation?
- What's the lifecycle impact? Consider raw material extraction, manufacturing, transport, use, and disposal - specify single / mono-materials for improved recyclability and design requirements for durability.

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. What more sustainable materials do you use across product categories - recycled plastics, FSC paper/wood, organic cotton, recycled metals?
2. What level of supply chain transparency can you provide including audit evidence for social/environmental standards?
3. What hazardous substances are restricted in your products and how do you verify compliance?
4. How do you minimise packaging and what circular economy approaches can you demonstrate?
5. What end-of-life solutions exist - take-back schemes, recyclability verification, or more circular options?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **Tier 1 transparency and valid assessments** - suppliers must disclose production sites and provide valid social/environmental audits within last 12 months.
- **Material composition disclosure** - suppliers must specify all materials used, country of origin for natural materials, verified recycled content verification, and any certifications (FSC, organic, recycled).
- **Chemical compliance and safety** - suppliers must meet toy/child appeal safety standards where relevant, comply with REACH/local regulations, provide testing certificates, and restrict hazardous substances.
- **End-of-life consideration** - suppliers must use recyclable mono-materials where possible, minimise single-use packaging, avoid PVC/problematic plastics, and provide clear disposal and recycling guidance (ideally on pack).

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Climate and nature positive commitments** - suppliers should have science-based carbon reduction targets aligned with 1.5°C pathways, use renewable energy, demonstrate water efficiency, invest in cleaner production and public commitment to work towards setting science-based targets for nature.
- **Advanced sustainable materials** - suppliers should prioritise verified recycled content, bio-based plastics from waste not food, FSC/recycled paper, ocean plastics, and innovative materials with lower impacts.
- **Supply chain transparency to Tier 2+** - suppliers should provide visibility beyond direct suppliers, demonstrate responsible sourcing of raw materials, and show investment in supply chain improvements.
- **Circular design and recovery** - suppliers should design for durability and repair, offer take-back programmes and eliminate single-use items, use pre-orders to avoid overproduction.

Red flags

- No sustainability policy or commitments
- Lack of Tier 1 production information or audit evidence
- No/limited knowledge of fibre sourcing/credentials
- No chemicals policy or restricted substances list
- Significantly below market pricing with no transparency
- No thought to end of life solutions

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Fact Sheets: Gifts and Promotional Products; Wood & Wood-Based Products; Rubber & Rubber-Containing Products; and Textiles & Textiles-Based Products

8 - Gifts and giveaways (e.g. Premiums)

Branded or promotional items given to guests, workforce, or fans

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	-	Giveaway production has minimal direct land/water impacts as items are typically mass-produced in existing facilities sharing resources across multiple product lines. However, cumulative demand contributes to overall manufacturing footprint. Packaging waste can enter waterways if improperly disposed.
Pollution	**H**	Mass-produced plastic giveaways create significant as items often quickly discarded. Cheap electronics contain hazardous substances. Printing processes use harmful inks. Single-use items generate waste. Microplastics shed from synthetic promotional products.
Invasive species	**M**	Seed paper and plantable products can introduce non-native species if seeds are not locally appropriate. Wooden items may harbour pests. Risk higher than merchandise as quality control often minimal for cheap promotional items.
Overexploitation	**M**	Giveaways drive demand for virgin plastics, paper, and metals though smaller volumes than merchandise. Cheap pricing encourages overconsumption. Short lifespan means continuous replacement demand. However, small size and shared production facilities moderate resource intensity compared to bespoke merchandise.
Climate Change	**M**	Manufacturing generates emissions across materials and transport. However, mass production efficiency and smaller item size reduce per-unit impacts compared to merchandise. Short lifespan drives replacement cycles. Risk of air freight for rush orders.
People & Communities	**L**	Mass production in existing facilities has established worker impacts. Communities near production zones may face some pollution. However, as secondary purchasers, sports organisations have minimal influence over established supply chains.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Modern Slavery Acts - requirements for supply chain transparency and due diligence.
- Extended Producer Responsibility - end of life obligations for products/packaging placed on market.
- REACH Regulation (EU but is applied in other markets) - restrictions on hazardous substances in products/packaging.
- Product safety standards - toy/child appeal safety directives including age-appropriate labelling and testing requirements.
- Seed import regulations - biosecurity controls on plantable promotional items.
- Greenwashing regulations – substantiation required for environmental claims on eco-promotional items.

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Do we need physical giveaways at all? Consider digital alternatives, experience vouchers, or charity donations instead of items that become instant waste.
- Can we choose quality over quantity? Fewer, useful items outlast hundreds of disposable novelties.
- What message does this send? Giving away single-use plastics contradicts sustainability commitments - ensure alignment with stated values.
- How can we verify sustainability claims? Many 'eco' promotional products lack recognised/credible certification - require evidence for any claims.

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. What more sustainable materials are available in your standard catalogue - verified recycled content, FSC paper/wood?
2. Can you provide supply chain transparency including factory locations, audit reports, and chemical compliance documentation?
3. For plantable/seed products - are seeds native to region with non-invasive species verification?
4. What useful, durable alternatives to single-use novelties can you offer within budget constraints?
5. Do you have take-back programmes or can you demonstrate actual end-of-life recyclability?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **Product safety and compliance** - suppliers must provide safety certificates for all items, especially those appealing to children, with REACH/local regulatory compliance documentation.
- **Basic supply chain transparency** - suppliers must disclose manufacturing locations for all items and provide evidence of social/environmental standards at these facilities.
- **Catalogue sustainability options** - suppliers must offer at least some verified sustainable alternatives in their standard catalogue (FSC paper, recycled plastic, reusable items).
- **Clear disposal guidance** - suppliers must provide recycling/disposal information either on products or in documentation, avoiding mixed materials that prevent recycling.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Expanded sustainable catalogue** - suppliers should offer multiple more sustainable options at various price points, eliminating single-use plastics from recommendations.
- **Deeper supply chain visibility** - suppliers should provide detailed factory information including audit reports, working conditions assessments, and environmental certifications even for stock items.
- **Innovation in standard offerings** - suppliers should continuously add more sustainable options to catalogues, phase out problematic materials, and offer useful items / keepsakes over novelties.
- **Bulk order sustainability** - suppliers should reward larger orders with more sustainable options rather than just cheaper prices, and advise on optimal quantities to avoid waste.

Red flags

- No sustainable options in standard catalogue
- Unable to provide safety compliance documents
- No transparency on factory locations/audit status
- Only offering cheapest single-use plastics
- No material composition information available
- Excessive minimum orders forcing over-purchasing

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Fact Sheets: Gifts and Promotional Products; Wood & Wood-Based Products; Rubber & Rubber-Containing Products; and Textiles & Textiles-Based Products

9 - Floriculture & silviculture products

Plants, flowers, turf, and trees for landscaping or decoration

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**M**	Growing requires land, water, and (chemical) inputs. Turf farming consumes substantial water and converts natural habitats. Temporary tree installations stress root systems while permanent native trees provide ecosystem services. Urban tree planting can reconnect fragmented habitats.
Pollution	**H**	Floriculture relies heavily on pesticides, herbicides, and fertilisers. Plastic wrapping, floral foam, and single-use decorations create persistent waste. Chemical preservatives can be used in cut flowers. Peat extraction can destroy stored carbon and destroys wetland habitats.
Invasive species	**H**	Ornamental plants are a pathway for invasive species. Non-native plants can escape cultivation and outcompete local flora. International plant trade can spreads pests and diseases. Even 'sterile' cultivars can hybridise with native species.
Overexploitation	**L**	While intensive production uses resources, floriculture generally does not drive habitat conversion at the scale of agriculture or forestry. Most products are cultivated rather than wild-harvested. However, illegal collection of rare orchids and cycads for prestige displays could be a concern. Peat extraction depletes finite resources.
Climate Change	**L**	Plant production has lower emissions than most sectors, with plants sequestering carbon during growth. Heated greenhouses, refrigerated transport, and air freight for out-of-season flowers generate emissions. Synthetic fertiliser production is energy-intensive.
People & Communities	**L**	Floriculture provides livelihoods, particularly in developing countries. Local sourcing can support regional growers. However, intensive production can expose workers to pesticides. Water extraction for irrigation may affect local communities.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Plant health regulations - phytosanitary certificates required for international movement.
- CITES restrictions - controls on endangered plant species trade.
- Invasive species legislation - bans on high-risk ornamental plants.
- Pesticide regulations - restrictions on chemical use in horticulture.
- Biosecurity requirements - quarantine and inspection for plant imports.
- Peat reduction targets - policies phasing out peat use in horticulture.

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Do we need imported flowers or can we source locally/seasonally? Local, seasonal flowers reduce transport emissions and support regional growers while minimising biosecurity risks.
- Can we choose native species over exotic varieties? Native plants support local biodiversity, require less water and chemicals, and eliminate invasive species risks.
- What's the legacy value of plantings? Permanent trees and landscaping should enhance habitats long-term, while temporary installations (potted trees, displays) should be reusable or replantable rather than disposable.
- How can we verify claims? Look for certified sources and avoid wild harvested plants or peat-based growing media.

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. What percentage of your plants/flowers are grown locally versus imported, and can you provide biosecurity documentation?
2. Can you supply native species suitable for our region with guarantees they are not invasive or treated with neonicotinoids?
3. What sustainable growing practices do you use – e.g. peat-free media, water recycling, renewable energy?
4. What happens to plants after events? Can you provide replanting services for trees, reusable alternatives to floral foam, and avoid root damage in temporary installations?
5. Do you have relevant third-party certification and can you demonstrate pesticide reduction strategies?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **Product safety and compliance** - suppliers must provide phytosanitary certificates for all items, comply with CITES regulations, and confirm plants are not on regional invasive species lists.
- **Basic supply chain transparency** - suppliers must disclose growing locations and methods, pesticide use records, and provide evidence of worker safety protocols.
- **Sustainable growing media** - suppliers must offer peat-free alternatives, avoid single-use plastics where possible, and provide disposal guidance for growing media and plant waste.
- **Biosecurity protocols** - suppliers must demonstrate pest and disease management, provide clean plant guarantees, and show systems preventing pathogen spread between sites.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Climate and nature positive commitments** - suppliers should use renewable energy in greenhouses, demonstrate water efficiency, implement biodiversity areas at nurseries, and calculate/reduce transport emissions, with science-based targets for operations aligned to a 1.5°C pathway.
- **Advanced sustainable practices** - suppliers should use biological pest control, demonstrate soil health improvements, offer organic options, and show measurable reductions in synthetic inputs.
- **Native plant expertise** - suppliers should specialise in regionally appropriate species, provide habitat value information, offer pollinator-friendly options, and advise on ecological landscaping.
- **Circular economy approach** - suppliers should offer plant rental/return schemes, compostable packaging, demonstrate zero waste growing, and facilitate replanting rather than disposal after events.

Red flags

- No phytosanitary certification available
- Unable to confirm plants are not invasive species
- No information on pesticide use
- Wild harvested rather than cultivated plants
- No transparency on growing locations/sources
- Heavy reliance on peat-based media

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Fact Sheet: Wood & Wood-Based Products
- IUCN Guidelines for reintroductions and other conservation translocations

10 - Furniture & fittings

Desks, chairs, shelving, and fixtures for venues, offices and temporary setups

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**M**	Production requires timber from forests, metals from mining, and petroleum for plastics and foam. Manufacturing consumes water for processing and finishing. Sustainable forestry and recycled materials can reduce impacts. Temporary events often uses virgin materials made for single events. Modular systems enable reuse across multiple venues.
Pollution	**M**	Manufacturing can release VOCs from adhesives, paints, and finishes. Foam padding contains harmful chemicals including flame retardants. Chrome plating and metal treatments create harmful waste. Temporary furniture disposal creates waste.
Invasive species	**-**	Furniture poses minimal direct invasive species risk. Kiln-dried timber and treated products reduces most risks. Considered negligible pathway versus live plants or soil movement.
Overexploitation	**H**	Furniture drives demand for virgin timber, contributing to deforestation particularly for tropical hardwoods. Fast furniture culture mirrors fast fashion. Illegal logging for premium woods threatens endangered tree species. Metal extraction for frames and fittings degrades habitats. Single-use event furniture compounds resource consumption.
Climate Change	**M**	Manufacturing generates emissions from processing and transport. Deforestation releases stored carbon. Heavy furniture increases shipping emissions. Temporary installations requiring new products for each event significantly increase impacts.
People & Communities	**L**	Manufacturing provides employment but exposes workers to chemicals and dust. Local craftsmanship supports regional economies. FSC supports community rights. Sports organisations have limited influence as secondary purchasers of mass-produced items.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) – due diligence for rubber and wood in furniture entering EU markets.
- Extended Producer Responsibility - end of life obligations for products/packaging placed on market.
- REACH Regulation (EU but is applied in other markets) - restrictions on hazardous substances in products/packaging.
- CITES regulations – restrictions on furniture using endangered wood species (rosewood, ebony).
- Formaldehyde emission standards - limits on off-gassing from composite woods.
- Fire safety requirements - flame retardant regulations for public venues.

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Do we need new furniture or can existing items be refurbished/hired? Rental and refurbishment reduce waste.
- Can we choose certified sustainable materials? FSC timber, recycled metals, and plastics demonstrate responsible sourcing - avoid tropical hardwoods unless verified legal.
- What's the intended lifespan and end-of-life plan? Invest in durable, repairable items for permanent use - ensure temporary furniture can be reused, recycled, or returned.
- How can we minimise chemical exposure? Choose low-emission certified products, avoid unnecessary flame retardants, and ensure adequate ventilation during installation.

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. What percentage of materials are certified sustainable (FSC timber, verified recycled content) with chain of custody verification?
2. Can you provide third-party certification for low emissions and chemical content disclosure?
3. For timber products - can you demonstrate legal sourcing and no connection to deforestation?
4. Do you offer rental, buy-back, or refurbishment services to extend furniture life and reduce waste?
5. What modular/adaptable systems can you provide that work across multiple venues and events?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **Product safety and compliance** - suppliers must provide safety certificates for all items, fire safety compliance for public venues, and chemical content disclosure.
- **Basic supply chain transparency** - suppliers must disclose production locations for all items and provide evidence of social/environmental standards at these facilities.
- **Legal timber verification** - suppliers must demonstrate legal sourcing for all wood products, provide FSC or PEFC certification where available, and avoid CITES-listed species.
- **End-of-life consideration** - suppliers must provide clear disposal guidance, use materials that can be separated for recycling, and avoid composite materials that prevent material recovery.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Expanded sustainable catalogue** - suppliers should offer multiple certified sustainable options at various price points, eliminate virgin tropical hardwoods, and prioritise recycled/recyclable materials.
- **More circular services** - suppliers should provide furniture leasing options, refurbishment and repair services, take-back programmes, and design for disassembly.
- **Advanced certifications** - suppliers should achieve cradle-to-cradle certification, carbon neutrality for operations, and demonstrate continuous reduction in virgin material use.
- **Innovation in temporary solutions** - suppliers should specialise in reusable modular systems, lightweight designs reducing transport impacts, and rental pools serving multiple venues.

Red flags

- No certification for timber sources
- Unable to verify legal sourcing
- No information on chemical content
- Only offering single-use solutions
- Unwilling/unable to disclose manufacturing locations
- No take-back or end-of-life services

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Fact Sheets: Wood & Wood-Based Products; Rubber & Rubber-Containing Products

11 - Logistics

Transport, warehousing, and handling of goods and equipment

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**M**	Logistics rely on existing roads and warehouses that occupy converted land. Distribution centres are often on former agricultural or industrial sites. Heavy vehicles compact soil and damage verges.
Pollution	**H**	Transport generate emissions along delivery routes, concentrating pollution near venues and training facilities. Diesel particulates impact vegetation and local air quality. Noise from early morning/late night deliveries disrupts wildlife. Warehouses contribute to light pollution. Tyre wear creates microplastic pollution entering waterways.
Invasive species	**M**	Equipment and goods transport can spread seeds, plant diseases, and pests. Packaging materials harbour invasive organisms. Trucks can transport soil and organic matter in wheel arches and undercarriages.
Overexploitation	**M**	Logistics drives fuel consumption through vehicle movements and requires packaging materials from timber and petroleum products. Peak event periods intensify material consumption for temporary requirements.
Climate Change	**H**	Transport is major carbon emissions source with last-mile delivery particularly carbon-intensive. Refrigerated transport adds significant emissions. Multiple handling stages multiply impacts.
People & Communities	**M**	Heavy goods vehicles can damage local roads and create safety concerns near venues. Delivery schedules can disrupt residential areas. Air quality impacts from diesel affect nearby communities.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Clean Air Zones and Low Emission Zones - restrictions on diesel vehicles accessing city centre venues.
- Working time directives - limitations on driver hours affecting delivery schedules.
- Dangerous goods regulations - requirements for transporting pyrotechnics, fuel, and chemicals for events.
- Noise restrictions - curfews on deliveries in residential areas near venues and training grounds.
- Packaging waste regulations - extended producer responsibility and take-back requirements.
- Supply chain documentation - proving sustainable sourcing for key commodities e.g. timber and paper.

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Can we reduce transport frequency? Consolidating deliveries minimises emissions, road kill risk, and spread of invasive species between venues.
- Do we understand our full supply chain impact? Consider warehouse habitat loss, routing through wildlife corridors, and whether goods are transferred through sensitive areas.
- How do we protect venue biodiversity? Schedule deliveries outside nesting periods, prevent soil contamination from vehicles, and establish biosecurity protocols between grounds.
- Are we enabling more sustainable practices? Set environmental expectations, avoid rush deliveries that bypass green routes, and minimise single-use packaging that becomes litter.

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. What percentage of your fleet meet latest emissions standards (e.g. Euro VI/electric) and can you prioritise cleaner vehicles for our regular venue deliveries?
2. How do you prevent biosecurity risks when moving equipment between venues and training grounds?
3. Where are your warehouses located relative to our venues and can you offer regional storage to reduce transport distances?
4. Can you consolidate deliveries from multiple suppliers and provide reusable packaging systems to reduce waste?
5. What specific measures do you take to protect biodiversity at depot sites and along delivery routes?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **ISO 14001 or equivalent environmental certification** - suppliers must demonstrate systematic environmental management including emissions monitoring and fleet improvement plans.
- **Transparent emissions reporting** - suppliers must provide accurate emissions data per delivery/tonne-kilometre using recognised methodologies and route optimisation evidence.
- **Biosecurity and contamination prevention** - suppliers must have wheel washing for vehicles entering training grounds, designated routes avoiding sensitive habitats, and protocols preventing spread of turf diseases between venues.
- **Sustainable packaging standards** - suppliers must minimise packaging, use recyclable/reusable materials where essential, and provide take-back services for crates/pallets.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Zero/low emission fleet commitment** - suppliers should have transition plans with science-based carbon reduction targets aligned with 1.5°C pathways, use HVO/biofuels from certified sources where electrification not feasible, and demonstrate annual emission reductions.
- **Nature-positive depot operations** - suppliers should create habitat at warehouse sites, use renewable energy, harvest rainwater, and maintain biodiversity areas rather than sterile concrete.
- **Collaborative logistics programmes** - suppliers should offer shared warehousing, consolidated deliveries from multiple vendors, and backhaul programmes to eliminate empty running.
- **Circular economy innovation** - suppliers should provide reusable packaging systems for regular deliveries, facilitate equipment sharing between venues, and manage tournament surge capacity without environmental compromise

Red flags

- Old diesel fleet with no upgrade plans
- No route optimisation or emissions tracking
- History of environmental violations
- Excessive packaging without justification
- No biosecurity awareness or protocols
- Unwilling to consolidate deliveries

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainability Essentials: Sports for Climate Action

12 - Vehicles (inc. transport services)

Purchase, hire, or operation of cars, vans, buses, and related transport services

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**M**	Operations require depots, maintenance facilities, and park-and-ride sites that can consume greenfield land. Major events often trigger new infrastructure that may become redundant. Fleet washing and maintenance facilities demand significant water. Runoff from parking and depot areas carries pollutants into waterways affecting aquatic habitats.
Pollution	**H**	Emissions concentrate along routes to venues creating pollution corridors. Diesel particulates affect air quality near venues. Tyre wear generates microplastics. Oil and fuel spills contaminate soil. Noise from vehicles can disrupt wildlife.
Invasive species	**L**	Vehicles can transport seeds, soil, and organisms between venues in wheel arches and undercarriages. International team buses may carry non-native species across borders. However, these are likely minor pathways.
Overexploitation	**M**	Fleet operations drive fuel demand contributing to oil extraction. Manufacturing new vehicles requires rare earth elements for batteries. Event-driven fleet expansion can create redundant assets wasting materials.
Climate Change	**H**	Transport is a major contributor to venue/event emissions. Diesel buses, coaches, and official vehicles generate significant CO2. Short journeys with low occupancy have highest per-person emissions. Air conditioning in vehicles adds to fuel consumption and emissions.
People & Communities	**M**	Competition traffic creates congestion and air pollution affecting local residents. Park and ride schemes can reduce impacts but concentrate issues at hub sites.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Clean Air Zones and Ultra Low Emission Zones - restrictions on older vehicles accessing city centre venues
- Euro emissions standards - requirements for fleet compliance
- Public transport regulations - safety standards, accessibility requirements, driver hours limitations
- Idling restrictions - prohibitions on running engines while stationary near venues
- Parking management schemes - controls on event day parking affecting transport planning
- Noise limits - restrictions on vehicle operations during anti-social hours near residential areas

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Is this permanent fleet expansion or event-specific? Temporary needs should use existing vehicles through hire/lease rather than purchasing new vehicles that become redundant.
- What role does sponsorship play? Official vehicle partners may constrain choices but can partnership agreements include sustainability requirements?
- How do we ensure legacy value? Major event transport infrastructure (park and rides, depot facilities) should have post-event community use planned from the start.
- Can we influence behaviour? Incentivised public transport, restricted parking, and clear sustainable travel messaging can reduce individual car journeys.

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. What percentage of your fleet meet latest emissions standards (e.g. Euro VI/electric), what's your zero-emission transition timeline, and how will you handle peak event demand without creating redundant assets?
2. Can you provide occupancy data and demonstrate how you maximise passengers per vehicle?
3. What driver training do you provide on fuel-efficient driving and environmental awareness?
4. How do you prevent contamination from vehicle washing, maintenance, and fuel storage reaching local habitats?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **ISO 14001 or equivalent environmental certification** - suppliers must demonstrate systematic environmental management including fleet emissions monitoring and improvement programmes.
- **Transparent emissions reporting** - suppliers must provide accurate per-journey and per-passenger emissions data using recognised calculation methods.
- **Pollution prevention measures** - suppliers must have spill kits on all vehicles, bunded fuel storage, oil interceptors at depots, and procedures preventing runoff entering watercourses.
- **Route planning and efficiency** - suppliers must demonstrate route optimisation, vehicle right-sizing for demand, anti-idling policies, and plans for post-event fleet utilisation to avoid stranded assets.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Zero-emission fleet transition** - suppliers should have clear roadmaps with science-based targets aligned with 1.5°C pathways, demonstrate interim use of certified sustainable biofuels, and report annual fleet emissions reductions.
- **Biodiversity protection at facilities** - suppliers should maintain wildlife areas at depots, use sustainable drainage systems, harvest rainwater for washing, and create green corridors rather than sterile parking.
- **Passenger maximisation programmes** - suppliers should offer dynamic routing responding to demand, coordination between venues, and demonstrate how temporary event capacity avoids creating stranded assets post-event.
- **Event legacy planning** - suppliers should demonstrate how (major) event transport infrastructure will serve community needs post-event, avoiding redundant facilities that waste resources.

Red flags

- Ageing diesel fleet with no upgrade plans
- No emissions monitoring or reporting
- History of pollution incidents and / or community complaints
- Excessive idling or empty running
- No driver environmental training
- No plan for post-event fleet/infrastructure use

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainability Essentials: Sports for Climate Action

13 - Catering & food services

Food and beverage supply, preparation, and serving at events, venues, and offices

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**M**	**Direct:** Venue water use for cooking/cleaning. Indirect: Single-crop farming reduces soil quality. Intensive livestock farming affects watersheds. Mixed farming uses more land but may maintain ecosystem services.
Pollution	**H**	**Direct:** Venues generate food waste, packaging litter, grease and chemical discharge. Indirect: Agricultural runoff is major water pollution source. Food packaging contributes to waste streams.
Invasive species	**L**	Limited direct impact. Indirect: International food trade may transport pests and diseases between regions when biosecurity measures are insufficient. Imported produce can introduce non-native organisms.
Overexploitation	**H**	**Direct:** Large events strain local suppliers. Indirect: Overfishing depletes fish populations and destroys marine food webs. Intensive conventional agriculture eliminates soil biodiversity. Monocultures remove habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects.
Climate Change	**H**	**Direct:** Refrigeration/cooking energy, waste decomposition, packaging production emissions. Indirect: Agriculture contributes 24% global GHG emissions through livestock, fertilisers, land conversion. Food typically counts for 20-30% of event CO2 footprints.
People & Communities	**M**	**Direct:** Procurement affects local suppliers and food availability. Indirect: Agricultural intensification may displace small farmers. Working conditions vary across global food supply chains.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Convention on Biological Diversity Target 10 – sustainable agriculture reducing pesticides/nutrients by 50% by 2030
- CITES – restrictions on endangered species in food products (e.g., certain caviar, shark fin, bushmeat)
- EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) – due diligence for forest-risk commodities (beef, soy, palm oil, coffee, cocoa)
- Waste and EPR – single-use plastic bans, packaging producer responsibility, food waste reduction, landfill diversion
- Pesticide and fertiliser controls – restrictions on neonicotinoids, integrated pest management requirements, nutrient runoff
- Animal welfare – intensive farming regulations affecting land use intensity, pollution concentration, and habitat impacts

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Do we have a clear catering strategy that balances operational needs, fan experience, and nature protection?
- What level of ambition do we have for food sourcing - basic or leadership through more nature positive sourcing that protects species and habitats?
- Are we clear on environmental management of catering operations – how equipment, chemicals, food waste, beverage service, and packaging will be managed to prevent harm to nature?
- What are we willing to pay for more nature positive catering – from deforestation-free commodities to sourcing ingredients which meet recognised sustainability standards?

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. How do you incorporate plant-forward options that reduce pressure on land and water systems?
2. What standards do you apply to protect biodiversity - avoiding links to deforestation, preventing overfishing, and minimising pesticide impacts on pollinators and soil organisms?
3. How do you minimise operational environmental impacts (energy use, refrigerant gases, cleaning chemicals, grease management, waste, packaging) – and do you have any certifications (e.g. ISO 14001, ISO 20121) to support this?
4. Can you provide transparency on supply chain traceability and metrics for biodiversity impacts?
5. How do you maintain sustainability standards when managing volume and cost pressures at sporting events?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **ISO 14001, ISO 20121 or equivalent certification** - suppliers must hold a relevant management system certification demonstrating systematic environmental and operational controls.
- **No threatened species and full traceability** - suppliers must avoid all CITES/IUCN Red List species, demonstrate traceability for high-risk proteins (seafood, exotic meats), and know the country of origin for all fresh proteins and produce.
- **Minimum sourcing credentials aligned with organiser expectations** - suppliers must demonstrate responsible sourcing through credible recognised sustainability standards for high-impact ingredients (palm oil, beef, soy, coffee, cocoa) and meet minimum sustainability requirements for ingredients set by the organiser.
- **Waste hierarchy and single-use plastic reduction** - suppliers must implement waste reduction hierarchy, actively minimise single-use plastics with transition plans, and demonstrate diversion from landfill.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Climate and nature positive commitments** - suppliers should have science-based targets aligned with 1.5°C pathways and public commitment to work towards setting science-based targets for climate and nature.
- **Advanced sourcing beyond minimums** - suppliers should ensure over 50% of total procurement by volume meets credible recognised sustainability standards, including MSC/ASC certification whenever seafood is offered.
- **Food waste reduction** - suppliers should demonstrate year-on-year reduction with published metrics, active redistribution partnerships for surplus food, and investment in prevention through menu engineering and portion optimisation.
- **Preferencing suppliers with biodiversity credentials** - suppliers should prioritise local, seasonal and indigenous ingredients where available, minimise single-use packaging, and demonstrate biodiversity benefits in procurement choices.

Red flags

- No sustainability policy or commitments
- Cannot demonstrate credentials or poor event track record
- Resistance to sustainability or transparency
- No certifications or environmental management systems
- No or limited sustainable sourcing
- Excessive single-use materials, particularly plastics

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Fact Sheets: Catering Services; Wood & Wood-based Products

14 - Venue services (inc. retail, operations and maintenance)

Running of sporting venues, including retail outlets, cleaning and maintenance

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**H**	Venues require land for facilities, parking, and surrounding infrastructure. Intensive water use for pitch irrigation, cleaning, and facilities operations strains supplies. Surface runoff surfaces carries pollutants into waterways. Retail / hospitality increase resource demands.
Pollution	**H**	Cleaning products, pesticides, and fertilisers contaminate soil and waterways. Food waste from retail/hospitality can create methane. Maintenance equipment generates noise and air pollution. Microplastics from artificial pitches enter water systems. Light pollution affects nocturnal wildlife. Single-use plastics (from retail operations) create waste.
Invasive species	**L**	Grounds maintenance may transport pests or diseases between sites on equipment. International events could facilitate species movement through visitors. However, venues aren't primary invasion pathways. Basic hygiene and biosecurity protocols manage risks.
Overexploitation	**M**	Venues drive demand for cleaning products, retail goods, utilities, and maintenance supplies. Large events create consumption surges depleting local resources. Sustainable procurement and resource efficiency can reduce demands on natural systems.
Climate Change	**H**	Venues can be energy-intensive - floodlighting, heating/ cooling, refrigeration etc. - generate emissions. Retail and catering operations add to this. International events drive spectator travel emissions. Renewable energy and efficiency measures can reduce impacts.
People & Communities	**M**	Venues provide employment and can support local economies. However, event noise, traffic, and litter can affect residents. Water/energy demands may compete with community needs. Well-managed venues can become community assets.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Environmental permits - discharge consents, abstraction licenses, waste management licenses
- Pesticide regulations - restrictions on products for grounds maintenance (especially neonicotinoids)
- Single-use plastics bans - affecting retail and catering operations
- Noise and light pollution controls - limits on operating hours and illumination
- Water efficiency regulations - restrictions during droughts and sustainable drainage requirements
- Energy efficiency standards - minimum standards for buildings and reporting requirements

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- How do we coordinate diverse venue operations? Multiple contractors (cleaning, grounds, retail, security) need aligned environmental standards to avoid conflicting practices.
- What control do we have over retail and concessionaires? Products sold and services offered significantly impact venue footprint - green lease clauses and procurement standards extend influence.
- Can venue/grounds enhance nature? Moving from manicured monocultures to biodiverse landscapes supports wildlife.
- How do we balance 24/7 operations with nature's needs? Night competitions, year-round use, and intensive maintenance create unique challenges requiring innovative solutions.

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. What integrated environmental management system covers all your venue services (cleaning, grounds, maintenance, retail oversight)?
2. How do you ensure tenants and concessionaires comply with venue sustainability standards for waste management, energy use, and operational practices?
3. What biodiversity enhancements can you implement as part of delivering your services?
4. Can you demonstrate year-on-year reduction in resource consumption (chemicals, water, energy) with specific metrics?
5. How do you coordinate between different service areas to maximise efficiency and minimize environmental impacts?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **ISO 14001, ISO 20121 or equivalent certification** - suppliers must hold a relevant management system certification demonstrating systematic management of impacts across all venue operations.
- **Chemical and pesticide minimisation** - suppliers must provide full disclosure of all products used, demonstrate implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches for grounds, and transition from hazardous substances of concern.
- **Tenant and concessionaire standards** - suppliers must enforce environmental operational requirements for all venue tenants including waste segregation, energy/water efficiency, single-use plastic reduction, and compliance with venue sustainability policies.
- **Resource monitoring and reporting** - suppliers must provide metered data for water/energy/waste by stream and demonstrate active reduction programmes with targets.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Nature-positive venue management** - suppliers should maintain biodiversity areas (wildflower meadows, native hedging), eliminate routine pesticide use, create habitat features, and monitor species presence.
- **Circular economy throughout operations** - suppliers should prioritise repair/refurbishment over replacement, coordinate waste-as-resource between tenants, implement refill systems, and demonstrate more circular practices.
- **Low impact cleaning and maintenance** - suppliers should use certified low impact products, demonstrate chemical reduction through alternative methods (steam, UV, microfibre), precision irrigation systems, and achieve zero discharge of hazardous chemicals.
- **Innovation and best practice** - suppliers should demonstrate industry leadership through new technologies (electrification/automation, UV disinfection) and committed to working towards net-zero operations.

Red flags

- No environmental management system
- Unable to provide chemical/pesticide disclosure
- No waste or resource monitoring
- Purely aesthetic grounds management
- No influence over retail/tenant practices
- No coordination between service contractors

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Fact Sheets: Catering Services; Wood & Wood-based Products

15 - Ceremonies (victory or other)

Supplies and services for medal ceremonies, cultural presentations, and formal events

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	-	Ceremonies have minimal direct land or water impacts. Temporary platforms and staging generally use existing venue infrastructure. Manufacturing medals, trophies, and ceremonial items requires resources. Flowers consume water during cultivation. Overall impacts are limited to short-duration events with temporary installations.
Pollution	H	Single-use decorations, banners, and backdrops can create significant waste. Fireworks release heavy metals and particulates affecting air and water. Confetti and balloon releases directly harm wildlife. Medal production involves use of hazardous substances.
Invasive species	L	Limited risk primarily through ceremonial flowers and plants which may carry pests or diseases. Basic biosecurity for plant materials manages this adequately.
Overexploitation	M	Ceremonies drive demand for metals (gold, silver, bronze) for medals and trophies. Gold and tin mining destroys habitats and pollutes watersheds. Flower requirements can spike demand. Cultural presentations may use unsustainably sourced materials.
Climate Change	H	Manufacturing and transporting ceremony supplies generates emissions. Pyrotechnics and special effects can be carbon-intensive. Single-use nature means poor emissions-per-use ratio.
People & Communities	M	Ceremonies provide cultural celebration and community pride. Worker exposure in medal manufacturing and flower production can raise concerns. Fireworks can disturb residents.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Environmental permits - pyrotechnics, temporary structures, noise exemptions
- Waste regulations - single-use plastics bans affecting decorations and celebrations (incl. confetti)
- CITES restrictions - materials from protected species (ivory, rare woods, feathers)
- Precious metals regulations - conflict minerals legislation for medals
- Air quality rules - restrictions on fireworks and pyrotechnics
- Cultural heritage laws - permissions for traditional/indigenous presentations

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Can we design for reuse rather than single-use? Modular staging, reusable backdrops, and permanent podiums avoid waste while maintaining ceremony prestige.
- What materials enhance versus decorate? Focus on meaningful symbols (medals, trophies) while ditching single-use items.
- How do we respect cultural authenticity while ensuring sustainability? Work with communities to source traditional materials responsibly or develop sustainable alternatives.
- What's the legacy value of ceremony investments? Design medals as keepsakes, donate flowers post-ceremony, ensure infrastructure serves future events.

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. Can you provide verified recycled content certification for medals/trophies and demonstrate responsible sourcing of precious metals?
2. What alternatives to single-use decorations, pyrotechnics, and balloon releases can you offer?
3. How do ceremony elements (flowers, decorations, staging) maximise reuse and recovery?
4. How do temporary structures maximise reusability - modular designs, rental options, end-of-life recovery?
5. What more sustainable options exist for cultural presentations - certified materials, traditional low impact crafts supporting communities?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **ISO 14001, ISO 20121 or equivalent certification** - suppliers must hold a relevant management system certification demonstrating systematic management of impacts across ceremony services.
- **Supply chain transparency and responsible metals** - suppliers must disclose key manufacturing locations, demonstrate OECD-aligned due diligence for gold/tin in medals with chain of custody and ensure conflict-free sourcing.
- **Materials disclosure and restricted substances** - suppliers must confirm no use of endangered species materials (CITES), provide material composition for all items, and demonstrate compliance with applicable regulations.
- **Waste management and recovery** - suppliers must demonstrate waste hierarchy implementation, provide take-back for temporary infrastructure, and ensure proper disposal of pyrotechnics residues.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Circular ceremony design** - suppliers should prioritise reusable infrastructure through rental options and modular designs, have science-based carbon reduction targets aligned with 1.5°C pathways, create durable keepsakes rather than disposable items, and eliminate single-use decorative elements where possible.
- **Nature-positive alternatives** - suppliers should replace pyrotechnics with light shows, source local seasonal flowers, and develop innovative celebration methods with minimal impact.
- **Cultural and community benefit** - suppliers should work with local artisans for cultural items, ensure fair wages in supply chains, support traditional crafts, and facilitate donation of materials post-event.
- **Innovation in ceremony delivery** - suppliers should demonstrate innovative celebration methods (projection mapping, reusable displays) and use renewable energy for productions etc.

Red flags

- No sustainability policy or commitments
- No environmental management system
- Unable to demonstrate responsible metals sourcing
- No transparency on supply chains
- Single-use only offerings
- No reusable or rental options

Other relevant resources

- OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas
- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Fact Sheets: Wood & Wood-based Products; Rubber & Rubber-Containing Products

16 - Cleaning services (inc. laundry, pest control)

Venue, office and accommodation cleaning, linen services and pest control

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**M**	Cleaning operations consume water for washing, rinsing, and laundry processes. Industrial laundries use thousands of litres daily. Cotton linen production requires agricultural land and irrigation. Paper products for cleaning may drive deforestation.
Pollution	**H**	Cleaning chemicals including bleaches, solvents, and disinfectants can harm aquatic life. Microplastics from synthetic textiles pollute waterways. Pest control uses toxic substances persisting in soil and water. Aerosols and VOCs affect air quality. Phosphates cause eutrophication. Fragrance chemicals disrupt endocrine systems in wildlife.
Invasive species	**-**	Negligible pathway for invasive species. While linen services theoretically could transport pests, standard washing temperatures and processes eliminate this risk. Cleaning services pose no meaningful biosecurity threat.
Overexploitation	**M**	Cleaning drives demand for materials - chemicals from petroleum, cotton for linens, paper from forests, and plastic from fossil fuels. Palm oil derivatives used in many formulations. Industrial laundry requires energy for hot water and drying.
Climate Change	**M**	Energy use for hot water, drying, and equipment operation generates emissions. Frequent washing cycles multiply energy demands. Vehicle emissions from service rounds contribute.
People & Communities	**L**	Local procurement supports regional economies. Night cleaning may disturb residents. Overall, well-managed services have limited community impacts.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Chemical safety regulations - COSHH requirements for worker safety, REACH compliance for hazardous substances
- Biocidal Products Regulation - approval requirements for disinfectants and pest control
- Water discharge consents - limits on chemical content in wastewater
- Deforestation regulations - due diligence for paper products and palm oil derivatives in cleaning products
- Animal testing regulations - country bans on animal-tested cosmetic ingredients extending to some cleaning products
- Wildlife protection laws - restrictions on pest control methods near protected species

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Can we reduce chemical dependency? Mechanical cleaning, UV disinfection, and proper ventilation reduce needs while meeting quick turnaround demands between events.
- What pest control is genuinely necessary? Integrated Pest Management using exclusion, habitat modification, and monitoring minimises pesticide use.
- How do we minimise waste generation? Eliminate single-use items, implement refillable systems, ensure proper segregation, and demand waste reduction targets.
- Are products ethically sourced? Verify cruelty-free status and responsible sourcing (e.g. paper, palm oil/soy ingredients).

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. What environmental certifications (e.g. ISO 14001) do you hold and how do you measure continuous improvement?
2. Can you provide full chemical disclosure, confirm products are cruelty-free, and transition to safer alternatives?
3. What water and energy reduction practices do you implement - waterless cleaning technologies, efficient equipment, cold-water processes, water recycling?
4. How does your pest control minimise pesticide use through IPM, exclusion methods, and targeted treatments?
5. How does integrated cleaning and pest prevention minimise chemical use through IPM, exclusion, and coordinated services and assessed for unintended environmental impacts?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **ISO 14001 or equivalent certification** - suppliers must hold relevant environmental management system certification demonstrating systematic management of cleaning service impacts.
- **Chemical disclosure and safety** - suppliers must provide Safety Data Sheets for all products, verify responsible sourcing of key ingredients (e.g. palm/soy), confirm cruelty-free status, and show transition from substances of concern.
- **Water and energy efficiency** - suppliers must demonstrate waste hierarchy implementation, elimination of single-use items where feasible, proper segregation for recycling, and waste reduction targets with monitoring.
- **Responsible pest management** - suppliers must implement Integrated Pest Management principles, use targeted treatments over widespread applications, and comply with wildlife protection requirements.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Third-party certified products** - suppliers should use EU Ecolabel, Nordic Swan or equivalent certified products, demonstrate continuous reduction in chemical use, and eliminate all unnecessary chemicals.
- **Zero waste operations** - suppliers should achieve zero waste to landfill, implement closed-loop systems for all materials, offer packaging take-back, and demonstrate circular economy principles throughout operations.
- **Advanced technologies** - suppliers should deploy verified and tested probiotic cleaning, waterless cleaning practices, ozone or UV laundry systems, smart dosing technology, and demonstrate continuous innovation adoption.
- **Climate and nature positive transition** - suppliers should set science-based targets aligned with 1.5°C pathways, work towards nature-positive outcomes by eliminating biodiversity-harmful chemicals and reducing water stress, and collaborate on innovative solutions that benefit both climate and ecosystems.

Red flags

- No environmental management system
- Unable to disclose chemical ingredients
- No consumption monitoring or targets
- Routine widespread pesticide use
- Products tested on animals
- No verification of sustainable sourcing

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Fact Sheets: Wood & Wood-based Products;
- IOC Sustainability Essentials: Sports for Climate Action

17 - IT, broadcasting & telecoms

Hardware, software, broadcasting equipment, telecoms, digital platforms and content production

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**M**	IT infrastructure, broadcast facilities, and telecoms networks require significant land and water. Data centres can consume water for cooling. Telecoms networks can fragment habitats with cell towers and cables. Manufacturing can demand water-intensive chip production. Mining for components can impact landscapes.
Pollution	**H**	Electronics manufacturing for IT and broadcast equipment may release acids, solvents, and heavy metals into air and water. E-waste is fast growing waste stream. Electromagnetic radiation from transmitters and telecoms can affect wildlife. Light pollution from screens and digital displays disrupts nocturnal species. Generators for broadcasts cause air pollution.
Invasive species	**-**	Negligible pathway for invasive species. IT and broadcast equipment poses no meaningful biosecurity threat.
Overexploitation	**H**	All three sectors drive mining for rare earth elements and precious metals. Short technology cycles - broadcast standards evolution, IT hardware updates, telecoms network upgrades - accelerate resource depletion. (Major) events demand equipment often used temporarily. Planned obsolescence in devices multiplies extraction pressures.
Climate Change	**H**	Data centres, broadcast operations, and telecoms are collectively energy-intensive. Live streaming, cloud services, and content distribution require massive server capacity. Outside broadcast units and temporary infrastructure often rely on diesel generators.
People & Communities	**L**	Mining and manufacturing for electronics affect supply chain communities. Sports organisations have limited influence as end-users.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- WEEE Directive - requirements for electronic waste collection and recycling.
- RoHS compliance - restrictions on hazardous substances in electronics.
- Conflict minerals legislation - due diligence for tin, tantalum, tungsten, gold.
- Energy efficiency standards - requirements for equipment power consumption.
- Right to repair legislation - emerging requirements for device repairability.
- Data centre regulations - energy efficiency and renewable energy requirements.

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Can we extend device lifecycles? Repair, refurbish, and upgrade equipment / infrastructure rather than replacement.
- What's the permanent versus temporary infrastructure balance? Consider rental for event broadcasting, shared telecoms infrastructure, and whether temporary setups can use existing equipment.
- How do we manage event and production waste? Temporary broadcasts generate infrastructure waste while content production creates set/prop waste - prioritise rental, reuse, virtual sets, and avoid single-use materials.
- What are suppliers' biodiversity commitments? Look for nature-based targets, elimination of hazardous materials, and measurable improvements in reducing impacts across operations and products.

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. Can you demonstrate responsible sourcing for IT, broadcast, and telecoms equipment?
2. What rental/reuse options exist for temporary broadcast infrastructure and outside broadcast units?
3. How do you minimize environmental impact across data centres, transmission, network operations and content production - renewable energy, efficiency, waste reduction?
4. What happens to temporary infrastructure post-event - cable recycling, equipment redeployment, waste management?
5. Can you provide environmental assessments for both permanent facilities and temporary event installations?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **ISO 14001 or equivalent certification** - suppliers must hold environmental management certification covering their service delivery that specifically addresses biodiversity and nature impacts.
- **Supply chain transparency and responsible sourcing** - suppliers must disclose key manufacturing locations, demonstrate OECD-aligned due diligence for conflict minerals, and ensure conflict-free sourcing for all equipment.
- **Materials disclosure and restricted substances** - suppliers must confirm RoHS/ REACH compliance for all equipment including temporary broadcast infrastructure, provide material composition, and verify no endangered species materials.
- **Waste management and recovery** - suppliers must demonstrate waste hierarchy implementation, provide take-back for equipment including temporary infrastructure, and ensure proper disposal of hazardous components, event waste, and production materials (sets, props).

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Circular economy design** - suppliers should prioritise rental pools for broadcast equipment, offer reusable infrastructure for events, design for modularity and repair, and eliminate single-event purchases where possible.
- **Nature-positive alternatives** - suppliers should replace rare earth elements with recycled alternatives where feasible, minimise infrastructure footprint, responsible sourcing, and develop lower-impact materials.
- **Climate action aligned with science** - suppliers should set science-based targets aligned with 1.5°C pathways, transition to 100% renewable energy for all operations, replace diesel generators with zero-emission alternatives at events, and demonstrate annual carbon reduction progress.
- **Biodiversity impact reduction** - suppliers should set science-based nature targets, demonstrate habitat protection at facilities, eliminate substances of concern, and show measurable year-on-year reductions in nature/biodiversity impacts.

Red flags

- No environmental management system.
- Unable to verify material sourcing.
- No take-back or recycling programme.
- Products not repairable/upgradeable.
- No renewable energy commitments.
- Single-use infrastructure for events.

Other relevant resources

- OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas
- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Fact Sheets: Wood & Wood-based Products; Rubber & Rubber-Containing Products
- IOC Sustainability Essentials: Sports for Climate Action

18 - Marketing, signage & accessories

Printed, digital and physical materials including signage, banners and creative content

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**L**	Sports marketing materials have minimal direct land or water impacts. Stadium signage, pitch-side advertising, and broadcast graphics generally use existing infrastructure. Paper sourcing for tickets and posters can drive deforestation if not FSC certified, but volumes are limited compared to other categories.
Pollution	**H**	Events generate significant marketing waste - sponsor signage, single-use fan zone materials, temporary activations. Vinyl pitch-side boards and PVC banners contain substances of concern. Printing can use harmful inks and adhesives. Promotional giveaways often become litter. Microplastics from single-use items persist in ecosystems.
Invasive species	**L**	Limited pathway for invasive species. Marketing and look and feel materials are not considered to be a particular biosecurity threat.
Overexploitation	**M**	Sports marketing drives demand for materials - new sponsor campaigns, seasonal refreshes, competition re-brandings. Paper, plastics, and metals for structures deplete resources. LED boards require rare earth elements. However, as processed materials rather than raw extraction, impacts are indirect though significant.
Climate Change	**H**	Digital marketing drives significant emissions. LED displays consume energy continuously. Cloud storage, streaming, and data processing require energy-intensive infrastructure. Digital's energy demand often exceeds print savings. Higher resolution displays multiply consumption despite efficiency gains.
People & Communities	**L**	Sports marketing production provides employment but workers may face chemical exposure in print facilities. Cultural sensitivity needed in global tournament marketing.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Responsible marketing - environmental claims verification, greenwashing prevention
- Waste regulations - single-use plastics bans affecting promotional materials
- Planning permissions - temporary structures, LED board installations
- REACH compliance - inks, adhesives, and material chemicals
- Deforestation regulations - paper sourcing due diligence
- Light pollution controls - LED advertising brightness and hour

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Can stadium branding be permanent not temporary? Fixed sponsor boards, reusable pitch-side systems, and modular fan zones reduce waste across seasons.
- What's essential versus excessive? Focus on impactful venue dressing while eliminating disposable giveaways and over-production of printed materials.
- How do we balance digital and physical? Consider lifecycle impacts - digital's energy use versus print's materials - and choose the lowest-impact option for each application.
- Do sponsors share our values? Require more sustainable materials, support reusable infrastructure and explore digital.

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. What certified, more sustainable materials, do you use for 'look and feel' materials and how do you verify FSC/recycled content?
2. Can you provide reusable systems for activations, pitch-side advertising, and fan zone structures?
3. What take-back services exist for outdated signage, competition branding, and temporary installations?
4. How are you reducing impacts across both digital and physical materials - energy-efficient LED systems, renewable-powered digital infrastructure, sustainable print alternatives?
5. Can you demonstrate year-on-year reductions in waste, emissions, and virgin material use with metrics?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **ISO 14001 or equivalent certification** - suppliers must hold environmental management certification extending to marketing-related services, demonstrating systematic impact management.
- **Sustainable materials verification** - suppliers must provide FSC certification for paper, verified recycled content verification for plastics, and demonstrate responsible sourcing for all stadium signage materials.
- **Chemical compliance and safety** - suppliers must ensure REACH compliance for inks/adhesives, provide safety data sheets, and confirm no hazardous substances in fan-facing materials.
- **Waste hierarchy implementation** - suppliers must demonstrate reduction strategies, reuse systems for competition materials, recycling programmes, and responsible disposal of LED/electronic signage.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Circular venue branding systems** - suppliers should offer modular perimeter boards, reusable sponsor activation kits, rental pools for tournament signage, and design for disassembly.
- **Innovation in sustainable materials** - suppliers should prioritise verified recycled content, plant-based alternatives to PVC/vinyl, algae-based inks, and other alternative fan materials where safe and no unintended consequences envisaged.
- **Sustainable media mix** - suppliers should optimise between digital and physical based on lifecycle assessments, ensure renewable energy for digital systems, and demonstrate overall impact reduction regardless of medium.
- **Science-based climate action** - suppliers should set science-based carbon reduction targets aligned with 1.5°C pathways for production and operations, use renewable energy in manufacturing and digital infrastructure, and report verified carbon reductions annually.

Red flags

- No sustainability policy for sports events
- No environmental management system
- Unable to verify material sources
- Single-use only solutions
- No take-back programmes
- "Green" claims without evidence (greenwashing)

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainable Sourcing Fact Sheets: Wood & Wood-based Products; Rubber & Rubber-Containing Products
- IOC Plastic Game Plan for Sport
- IOC Environmental Impact Evaluation of Signage Solutions for Events & Sustainable Sourcing Guidelines for Branding and Signage Materials

19 - Business travel services

Flights, trains, car hire, and related travel booking and management

Note: This profile provides generic guidance that may need adaptation for specific sports, locations, or event scales. Local regulations, site conditions, and sport-specific requirements should be considered alongside this advice.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

Relationship with nature

Theme	Rating	Why this matters
Land, sea or water use	**L**	Likely minimal direct land use impacts. However, airport expansion and road infrastructure to support travel demand fragments habitats. Hotels and venues consume water resources in destination locations, potentially stressing supplies in water-scarce regions.
Pollution	**H**	Aviation produces significant air pollutants and contrails that affect atmospheric chemistry and harm ecosystems. Ground transport emissions concentrate along corridors damaging roadside vegetation. Noise pollution from aircrafts disrupts wildlife behaviour and breeding patterns particularly near airports.
Invasive species	**L**	International travel can transport seeds, pests, and pathogens on clothing, luggage, and vehicles. However, these are likely minor pathways.
Overexploitation	**M**	Fuel demand drives oil extraction. Rare earth mining for electric vehicle batteries can impact habitats.
Climate Change	**H**	Aviation accounts for 2-3% of global emissions with disproportionate high-altitude impacts. Short-haul flights common in business travel have highest emissions per km. Ground transport adds significant emissions.
People & Communities	**M**	Noise and pollution affect communities near airports and flight paths. Tourism pressure from business travel can strain local resources and increase living costs. However, travel can also support local economies and cultural exchange when managed sustainably.

Legislation/public policy considerations

- Carbon reporting requirements for sports organisations - increasing disclosure obligations for all business travel
- Sports governing body sustainability commitments - requirements extending to administrative travel
- Corporate sponsor expectations - pressure from sponsors for sports organisations to reduce business travel footprint
- National aviation taxes and frequent flyer levies - increasing costs for high-emission travel in several countries
- Air quality regulations - restrictions around airports affecting ground transport options
- Protected area overflight restrictions - limits on flight paths over sensitive habitats and breeding grounds

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Do we actually need to travel? Virtual scouting, remote meetings, and digital conferences reduce impacts while saving costs.
- What's the cumulative impact of workforce travel? Regular flights for executives, scouts, marketing teams, and administrators add up across the season.
- Can we cluster business activities? Combine scouting trips, schedule back-to-back sponsor meetings, align conference attendance to reduce total journeys.
- How do we set the right culture? Senior leadership travel choices influence organisational norms - can executives model sustainable practices?

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. Can you provide detailed emissions data for our business travel patterns, identifying high-impact routes and reduction opportunities?
2. What virtual meeting technology and more sustainable ground transport options (electric vehicles, public transport integration) can you offer?
3. What percentage of domestic bookings do you actively redirect from air to rail?
4. How do you help organisations set and monitor travel reduction targets aligned with climate commitments?
5. Can you provide consolidated reporting for sponsor obligations while minimising unnecessary travel?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **ISO 14001 or equivalent environmental certification** - suppliers must demonstrate systematic environmental management including emissions monitoring and reduction targets.
- **Transparent emissions reporting** - suppliers must provide accurate emissions data for all travel modes using recognised methodologies.
- **Lower-impact travel options** - suppliers must actively promote rail for domestic routes, electric vehicles for transfers, direct flights where flying is necessary, and provide clear comparisons between travel modes for common business routes.
- **Duty of care for nature** - suppliers must have policies supporting virtual alternatives for routine meetings, demonstrate awareness of biosecurity risks between venues, and track cumulative impacts of frequent business travel.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Science-based emission reduction targets** - suppliers should have validated targets and demonstrate how they're helping sports organisations reduce business travel emissions in line with 1.5°C pathways .
- **Biodiversity impact assessment** - suppliers should evaluate and report impacts on ecosystems at destinations and along corridors, with programmes to support conservation.
- **Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) programmes** - suppliers should offer SAF options for essential business travel, particularly for long-haul flights.
- **Travel reduction innovation** - suppliers should provide analytics showing travel patterns, virtual alternatives for scouting/meetings, and incentives for choosing lower-impact options when travel is essential.

Red flags

- No emissions data or using outdated calculation methods
- Promoting carbon offsets without reducing actual travel
- No lower-impact alternatives offered
- Greenwashing claims modes/services offered
- Lack of transparency about fuel sources
- No travel reduction strategies

Other relevant resources

- IOC Sustainability Essentials: Sports for Climate Action
- Global Business Travel Association Sustainability Toolkit

Considerations for Low-Medium Rated Sourcing Categories

Guidance for sourcing categories without dedicated profiles - typically those with predominantly Low (L) or Medium (M) relationship with nature ratings where sports organisations have limited direct control but can still make informed sourcing choices.

Note: For these categories, organisational influence may be limited so its important to make the right supplier selection choice, understand what it is you actually want or need and how nature might be relevant. Focus efforts on avoiding obvious harms and choosing suppliers who are open and transparent with you and who have solid environmental credentials.

Core questions

- Could this product/service's **use of land, sea or water** damage nature?
- Could it **cause pollution** (e.g. waste, chemicals, plastics)?
- Could it **introduce or spread invasive species**?
- Could it be linked to **resources being overused** (e.g. forests, fish, soils)?
- Could it **contribute to climate change**?
- Could it **affect people's access to nature** or their rights to healthy environments?

What to consider before procuring goods/services?

- Do we actually need this? Can we reduce demand, reuse existing resources, or find a lower-carbon alternative?
- Do we know what natural resources are involved - paper, wood, metals, textiles, water, energy - and where they come from?
- Are we aware of any nature risks in this category? Even low-impact categories may have concerns (e.g. paper sourcing, plastics, chemicals, e-waste, invasive species in plant materials).
- Could this product or service affect local communities' access to nature or natural resources they depend on?
- What happens at end-of-life? Can products be reused, recycled, or returned - or will they pollute landfill or the natural environment?

What questions could I ask a supplier?

1. What do you know about where your natural materials come from and whether they are responsibly sourced?
2. What are the main impacts of your products/services on nature and what are you doing to reduce them?
3. Do you have an environmental policy or management system addressing your nature and climate impacts?
4. For paper and wood products - are these from FSC or PEFC certified or recycled sources?
5. How do you minimise waste and packaging, and what can be recycled or returned at end-of-life?

Minimum supplier expectations (must have)

- **Awareness of impacts** - suppliers must have basic awareness of how their products/services affect nature and climate, and describe what they are doing to manage them.
- **Legal compliance** - suppliers must comply with environmental regulations including those protecting habitats, species, water resources, and community environmental rights.
- **Material transparency** - suppliers must know and disclose the origins of key natural materials, particularly paper, wood, and other forest or agricultural products.
- **No serious controversies** - suppliers should have no major unresolved pollution incidents, habitat damage, or conflicts with communities over environmental harm.

Better supplier expectations (should have)

- **Systematic management** - suppliers should have a published environmental policy or ISO 14001 certification demonstrating structured management of nature and climate impacts.
- **Supply chain knowledge** - suppliers should understand nature impacts beyond their direct operations including carbon footprint, resource origins, and community effects.
- **Lower-impact alternatives** - suppliers should offer recycled, environmentally-certified, lower carbon, or other lower-impact options and explain their benefits for nature.
- **Continuous improvement** - suppliers should be actively working to reduce their impacts on nature and climate over time with measurable progress.

Red flags

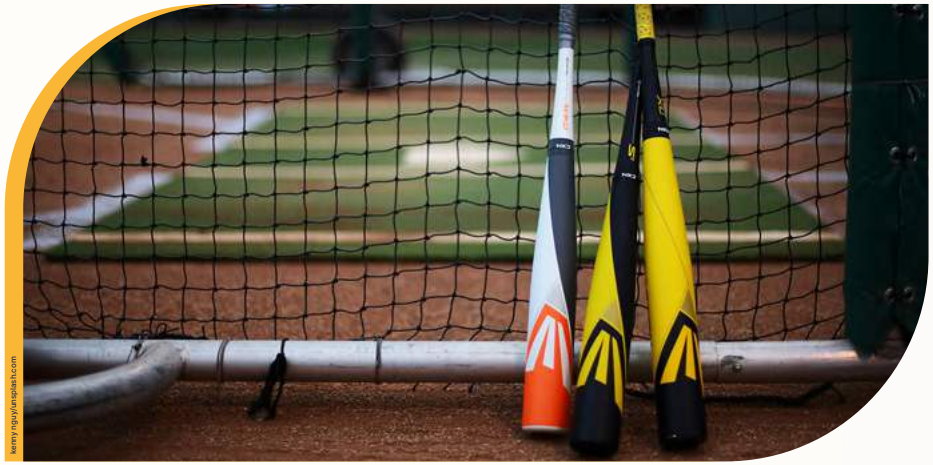
- No awareness of how their activities affect nature
- Cannot describe their main nature or climate impacts
- Do not know where key natural materials originate
- Unwilling to answer basic questions about sourcing
- Excessive packaging or waste with no reduction efforts
- History of environmental harm or community conflict

When to Apply Greater Scrutiny

- Supplier cannot adequately explain material origins
- Products may contain endangered species materials
- Services operate near sensitive habitats or protected areas
- Significant pollution or hazardous waste risks identified
- Procurement is large-scale, long-term, or recurring
- Supplier answers raise more questions than they resolve

Related profiles

Where greater scrutiny is needed, the following profiles may be relevant: Logistics/ Vehicles (courier/freight); Venue Services/Catering (accommodation); Marketing & Signage (printing); IT & Broadcasting (appliances); Merchandise (office supplies).



Remember

For L-M rated categories, the goal is informed sourcing that avoids contributing to nature harm - not comprehensive biodiversity management. Use red flags to identify problematic suppliers. Use greater scrutiny triggers to identify when a procurement needs more attention - and refer to related profiles for guidance.

More Advanced Considerations: Deepening Your Approach

The Sports for Nature Sourcing Framework provides the foundational steps for considering how your sourcing activities impact nature (positively or negatively). The below sets out more advanced steps for those organisations wishing to go beyond these key steps.

Connecting the Pieces: Link to your broader organisational strategy

Use sourcing strategically to drive organisational change and more nature positive outcomes.

Sourcing Targets

- Set category-specific goals
- Identify measurable outcomes
- Report regularly

Next Steps

- Complete the Sports for Nature "Mapping Your Relationship with Nature" Self-assessment tool
- Apply location lens to top sourcing categories
- Pilot advanced ("better supplier expectations") requirements
- Share with Sports for Nature community

Continuous Improvement: Build sourcing maturity

Move beyond minimum requirements to become a leader in nature-minded sourcing.

From Compliance to Partnership

- Focus on direct suppliers first
- Then extend to tier 2-3 suppliers
- Collaborate on standards (with suppliers/manufacturers)
- Share to help shift/transform sport

Track Progress

- % suppliers meeting requirements
- Volume from verified sources
- Year-on-year improvements

Location-Specific Sourcing: Apply More Local Context to Sourcing

Refer to the Sports for Nature "Mapping Your Relationship with Nature" Self-assessment tool, location assessment guidance (see section 2.2, pages 16-19).

Know Your Supply Origins

- Where products are made/grown
- Local ecosystem pressures
- Environmental risks by region
- Your purchasing impact there

Adjust by Context

- Stricter standards for protected/ sensitive areas
- Enhanced monitoring for high-risk locations
- Local sourcing where beneficial
- Seasonal biodiversity considerations

Remember

Your sourcing choices are probably the single biggest tool or lever you have for achieving more nature positive outcomes - use them strategically.

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About Sports for Nature

Sports for Nature is a joint initiative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Olympic Committee (IOC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Dona Bertarelli Philanthropy.

It aims to deliver transformative action for nature through sports, by 2030 and beyond, enabling sports to champion nature and contribute to its protection and restoration. It provides a game plan for sports – at all levels – to accelerate and inspire others to take action for nature.

Founding partners

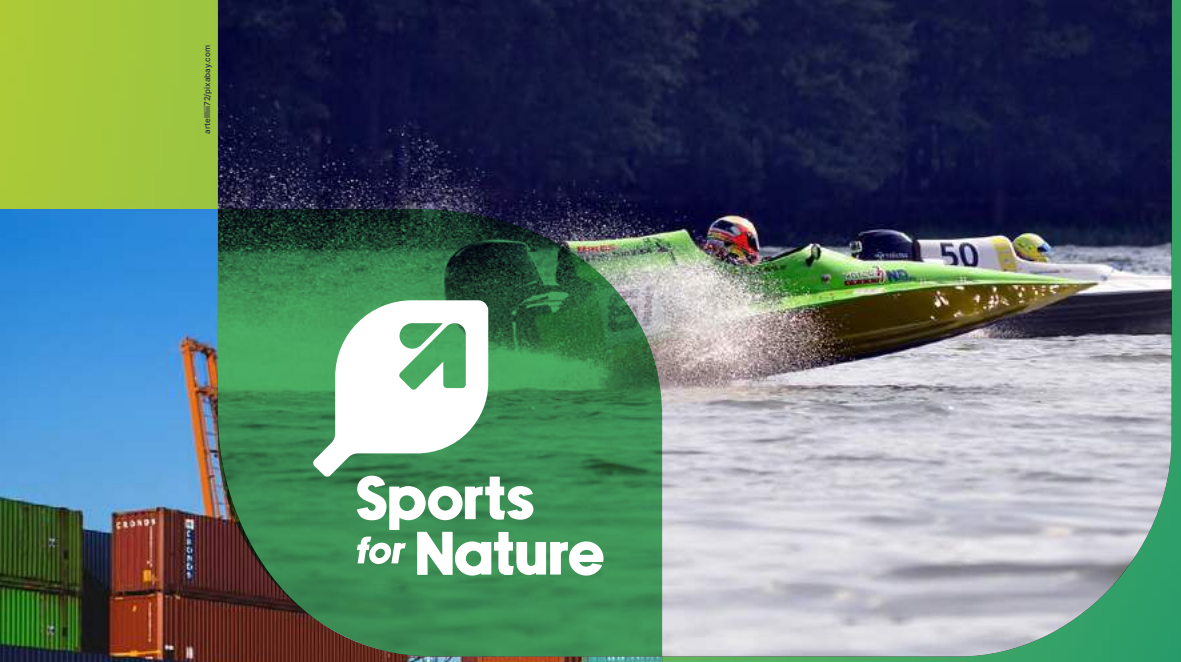
IUCN

International Olympic Committee

UN environment programme

Convention on Biological Diversity

DONA BERTARELLI PHILANTHROPY



Sports for Nature

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.

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