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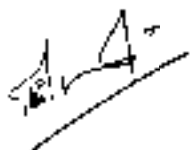
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T.A. Ganda Sithole,
Director, IOC Department of International Cooperation & Development





Foreword



Environmental issues are a general concern all over the world, as they affect the daily lives of each and every one of us.

As sport, like recreation and physical education activities, is an integral part of society, it cannot ignore environmental and sustainable development issues.

This is why the International Olympic Committee considers the environment as the third dimension of the Olympic Movement, alongside sport and culture. Our objectives are to ensure the staging the Games does not have a negative impact on the environment, but instead develops and enhances it and leaves a green legacy, as well as generally promoting awareness on the importance of a healthy environment.

With the "IOC Guide on Sport, Environment and Sustainable Development", we intend to provide guidance to the whole sports community by analysing the impact that the different parties involved in sport, and particularly the Olympic sports, have on the environment, and offer practical solutions and tips.

Through this Guide, the sports community will endeavour and be encouraged to adopt a responsible attitude towards the environmental and sustainable development issues related to the practice of sport, and thus continue to place sport everywhere at the service of the harmonious development of humanity and our environment, thereby contributing to our well-being.

Together, let us reaffirm the commitment of the Olympic Movement to sport, environment and sustainable development by implementing the Guide.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacques Rogge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jacques Rogge,
President of the International Olympic Committee



Introduction



The relationship between human beings and nature is a notion that has existed in all civilisations since time began. But the realisation that the protection of the environment was impossible without social and economic progress is the product of the end of the 20th century, and led to the notion of sustainable development.

Sport is not isolated from this. Be it as a basic physical activity during leisure time or a high-level competition, sport constitutes a central element of society. It gathers together millions of men and women, boys and girls, children and the elderly, in every corner of the planet and gives life to numerous clubs, associations and institutions of many kinds.

As any activity, sport both has an impact on the environment and is affected by it. Sport and sustainable development are deeply interlinked and increasingly need to be addressed jointly.

The Olympic Movement and the International Olympic Committee in particular therefore have a role to play in the field of environment protection and sustainable development, to ensure that present and future generations will be able to enjoy sports activities in a preserved socio-economic, healthy and natural environment.

It is in this framework that in 1999 the Olympic Movement adopted an Agenda 21 for the sports community, highlighting special issues and challenges that sportsmen and sportswomen can address to ensure the sustainable development of sport.

Following several conferences and seminars at international and regional level on sport and environment, the need arose for a guide which would further help the different members of the Olympic family to transform the Agenda 21 recommendations into concrete actions and programmes.

The “IOC Guide on Sport, Environment and Sustainable Development” was thus created with a view to offering methodological and practical tools to the sports community, based on the major principles of sustainable development. It provides an easy way to move from theory and concepts to practical initiatives and behavioural changes; an easy way to understand the global challenges and needs for environmental protection while considering local specificities coming from diverse geographical, socio-economic, cultural and sports contexts.

The Guide (see figure 1) is structured around five chapters. The first recalls the most important current knowledge on environment and sustainable development. A second chapter describes the environmental and sustainable development issues of special interest to the world of sport. The third concerns the application of these precepts in the organisation of sport. The fourth chapter describes these same issues in relation to each individual Olympic sport, and the final short chapter proposes motivations to take action.

The Guide also takes particularly into account:

- the different level of involvement of the individuals or groups concerned (athletes, participants in grassroots sport, coaches, clubs, federations, organizers of sports events, spectators, equipment manufacturers, constructors and managers of sports facilities, media);
- the different types of sport (summer or winter, indoor or outdoor, individual or team, aquatic or terrestrial, etc.).

With this Guide, we sincerely hope that members of the Olympic family will find additional and useful tools to further implement the motto: “think globally and act locally”.

Pál Schmitt,
Chairman, IOC Sport and Environment Commission



