The world faces significant challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental matters. The Olympic Movement has both an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to the global sustainability debate in line with its vision of “Building a better world through sport”.

With this in mind, and in response to Olympic Agenda 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016 to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives – identifying common topics, challenges and good practices while also sharing information among the IFs.

One outcome of the project was a series of case studies illustrating how IFs are actively contributing towards a more sustainable world. As part of the IOC’s objective to “profile the role of the Olympic Movement in sustainability through the aggregation of information and collective reporting”, it was agreed that the identification and sharing of information contributes to the holistic integration of sustainability and should be continued. These case studies, which now also showcase National Olympic Committees’ (NOCs) best practices, form part of a strategic support system given to the Olympic Movement through the IOC Sustainability Strategy.

Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites; sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce; and climate. They are also aligned with one or more of the United Nations’ (UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges. This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement – in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

“Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”

Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
THE NOC OF UGANDA HAS WORKED TO INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AMONG THE SPORTS COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVES

By organising a sustainability conference and workshop, the NOC of Uganda aimed to:

- Provide a forum to discuss environmental challenges with experts.
- Set up a space for collaboration between sport organisations, public authorities, NGOs and other bodies to discuss solutions.
- Raise awareness about environmental topics among the Ugandan sports community.
- Agree and implement concrete measures to tackle environmental challenges, such as the creation of a toolkit to train the sports community on good environmental practices.

In August 2018, the National Olympic Committee of Uganda (UOC) held a national sustainability conference and training workshop on sustainable sport in Kampala, with the help of Olympic Solidarity. Having acknowledged a lack of environmental responsibility within the Ugandan sports community, the UOC wanted to address concerns about the impact that sport can have on the environment, individuals and the public, as well as the impact a degraded environment can have on sport.

The conference welcomed 72 participants representing National Federations (NFs), sports event organisers, local and national public authorities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other entities.
to discuss how sustainability principles could be embedded within the sports community.

The workshop that followed the conference was attended by representatives from NFs, the Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation & Impact, public authorities responsible for environmental protection, civil society organisations and the Sport & Environment Commission of Uganda. This Commission is part of the NOC and was given mandate to execute the workshop according to the values and vision of the sport entity. For three days, participants worked together on key challenges and concepts, with the overall aim of finding solutions to train NFs, athletes and sports event organisers on good environmental practices.

The main outcome of the workshop was the creation of a best-practice toolkit for the Ugandan sports community. The toolkit sets out various approaches, principles and guidelines through which the sports community can act responsibly and reduce its environmental impact, particularly with regard to improving waste management systems; and work together with athletes to raise awareness on the importance of respecting the environment and encouraging sustainable development through sport.

**EVALUATION**

The UOC has committed to educate the Ugandan sports community to change the way they use and leave their sports fields and their local environment, encouraging them to adopt sustainable policies and operations. As well as hosting the sustainability conference and workshop, the UOC is measuring the impact of its work in order to inform its future plans. Its findings will be fed into the agenda of the third Biannual National Conference on Sustainability in Sports in 2020.

**BENEFITS**

- Raising environmental challenges at a national scale can help raise awareness and influence social and environmental change.
- By collaborating with diverse stakeholders throughout the country, an NOC can demonstrate leadership and the power of sport to bring about change.
- Experts can enhance a project and bring about effective solutions.
- Creating a sustainability toolkit is a simple way of training the sports community.