IF Sustainability Project
REDISTRIBUTION OF TATAMI & JUDOGI
The world faces important challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental issues, and the sport community is not immune from their impacts. 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 recommendation 5 of Olympic Agenda 2020 (“Include sustainability within the Olympic Movement’s daily operations”), the IOC conducted the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project throughout 2016. The IOC carried out the project with three objectives: obtaining an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives; identifying common topics, good practices and shared challenges; and sharing information among the IFs. As part of this project, the IOC collaborated with the IFs to compile a series of case studies reflecting how IFs are contributing towards a more sustainable world.

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. These focus areas were selected through an extensive stakeholder engagement process, taking into consideration today’s key sustainability challenges and the manner in which the IOC believes the Olympic Movement can most significantly contribute to addressing them.

The case studies are also aligned with the United Nations’ (UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 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 IJF has established a programme to donate competition-used judo equipment to developing member federations.

The IJF purchases tatami and judogi when hosting major events. The tatami and judogi are sourced only from manufacturers who have met IJF regulations with regard to such matters as safety, production standards, fire resistance, homogeneity and stiffness.

Since 2007, the IJF has institutionalised a redistribution programme of used tatami and judogi, which are allocated based on requests made by member federations. These requests are analysed by the IJF President’s Office, which takes into consideration factors such as the performance of the member federation, the amount of equipment requested and, sometimes, the member federation’s proposed development plan (if submitted) and future objectives.

The final decision is made by the IJF President, before the IJF covers all the related costs and manages the process of distributing the equipment to member federations.

According to IJF records, tatami valued at more than USD 956,000 and judogi, which are allocated based on requests made by member federations.

“The IJF also encourages larger member federations to redistribute used tatami and judogi via the IJF’s redistribution process.”

Objectives

The mission of the International Judo Federation (IJF) is to develop, promote and organise judo activity around the world. As part of this mission, the IJF has established a programme to redistribute competition-used tatami, mats used as flooring for judo events, and judogi, uniforms used for training and competition. The IJF redistributes these items to developing member federations, providing them with valuable resources that help to increase access to judo in their countries.
judogi valued at more than USD 773,400 were donated to developing member federations between 2012 and 2015. In the case of tatami, for instance, the IJF has donated more than 15,000m² of judo flooring to developing member federations over the last three years:

2014:
4,900 m² redistributed to 25 countries

2015:
6,860 m² redistributed to 35 countries

2016:
4,508 m² redistributed to 23 countries

Since the inception of the programme, the IJF has also encouraged its larger member federations to redistribute used tatami and judogi via the IJF’s redistribution process, or by making their own arrangements with developing member federations.

TIME & PERSONNEL
The programme is led by the IJF President’s Office. There is no one person dedicated to this programme – rather, several people share the related tasks as and when required.

COMMUNICATION
The IJF communicates the value of the donated equipment at its annual Congress, which is attended by all member federations. Upon request of the IOC, the figures have also been communicated within the framework of the IF Development Programme.

EVALUATION
The IJF has not put in place an official evaluation process for the programme. One of the challenges of the programme has been the increased cost of delivering donations due to mandatory custom duties in certain countries.