IF Sustainability Project

IPADS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS
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

IF SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT
THE BWF HAS DRAMATICALLY REDUCED ITS RELIANCE ON PAPER AT ITS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS BY ISSUING IPADS TO EACH COUNCIL MEMBER.

To prepare for council meetings (on average, three per year) and the eight standing committee meetings attached to each one, BWF staff had to compile folders containing a large volume of information for each council member. The 26 council members and four BWF staff members who attended council meetings each received a folder containing approximately 500 sheets of paper, which equates to approximately 15,000 sheets of paper for each week of meetings.

It took BWF staff almost two full days to prepare the folders, which then had to be shipped to the meeting location – often a costly process. The folders were heavy and caused security concerns, as members were not always able to dispose of them appropriately. They also created unnecessary waste: some folders had to be shredded because members did not want to take them home.

In December 2010, the BWF Administration Committee proposed going paperless and allocating iPads to each council member. The idea was discussed internally with various stakeholders, and was then officially launched in March 2011. The BWF allocated an iPad budget of €650 for each council member, who had the option of purchasing their own iPad or having the BWF purchase one on their behalf. A total of 30 iPads were bought. The BWF organised technical training for council members and ensured that all necessary software was installed on the iPads.

Once all the council members had received their iPads, BWF staff members compiled all the information and documents required for each council meeting into appropriately labelled and numbered folders, structured in accordance with the agenda items to create a smooth flow during meetings. Staff members then sent the files to council members.

OBJECTIVES

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) resolved to reduce the environmental impact of its council meetings by going paperless. The project was also designed to create a more sustainable approach to conducting meetings by reducing the number of administrative hours needed to print, compile and distribute the required meeting documents.
either by email (as a zip file) or via the online WeTransfer platform. Meeting minutes and details of decisions made during each meeting were also sent by email, making the process much simpler and more sustainable.

In 2013, the BWF undertook a comprehensive upgrade of all iPads and software. On a quarterly basis, all meeting documents are now stored on the BWF’s protected server, which has a file back-up system. The iPad project has reduced the BWF’s financial and human-resource output for council meetings while offering a more secure and sustainable option for the distribution of key information.

COMMUNICATION
The chair of the BWF Administration Committee, who is also a council member, informally proposed the project to his fellow council members. The idea was discussed with BWF staff members, including the Secretary General, who gave their full support. Discussions were then held at the official council meeting level, where the project was approved.

EVALUATION
Initially, using only iPads for meetings was quite an adjustment for some council members. To combat their apprehension, BWF staff members explained the financial and human resource savings that would be made through the new process.

The BWF recommends providing training for members using new equipment, especially those who are less confident with technology. A council member with a strong IT background led two group sessions as part of the orientation process. Over time, all council members have become proficient with the technology, and the BWF has seen a significant reduction in the financial expenditure and number of employee hours required to prepare for council meetings.

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