IF Sustainability Project
GOOD NET PROJECT
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 IOC provides support to NOCs and IFs in the definition, design and development of their sustainability strategies.
THE FIVB IS COLLECTING FISHING NETS FROM THE OCEANS AND TURNING THEM INTO VOLLEYBALL NETS

Every year, around 640,000 tons of fishing equipment ends up in the oceans, polluting the seas and trapping whales, dolphins, turtles, fish and other marine animals. According to a 2018 study published by Scientific Reports, these “ghost nets” make up at least 46 per cent of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a collection of marine debris in the North Pacific Ocean that is roughly the size of France.

In March 2019, the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) followed the lead of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) by signing up to the Clean Seas initiative. Clean Seas was launched in February 2017 by UN Environment to increase global awareness of marine litter and tackle the problem.

OBJECTIVES

Through its affiliation with the UN’s Clean Seas initiative and its creation of the Good Net project, the FIVB aims to:

- Raise awareness about the devastating consequences of marine litter.
- Use creativity and innovation through sport to tackle a global issue while developing volleyball worldwide.
- Encourage the sport community, athletes and the general public to join the Clean Seas movement through education and advocacy.
As part of its involvement in Clean Seas, the FIVB launched the Good Net project. Created in partnership with the Ghost Fishing Foundation, a global non-governmental organisation (NGO) that works to remove lost fishing equipment from the oceans, the Good Net project sees fishing nets recovered from the seas and turned into volleyball nets for community use. While helping to tackle the global issue, the project also helps to raise awareness about the problem of marine litter among fishermen and the sport community.

The project was first implemented in March 2019 on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where the Rio 2016 Olympic beach volleyball competition was held. As an Olympic city with a large active fishing community, Rio was a symbolic place to launch the initiative.

Good Net is now being implemented around the world as part of the FIVB’s global schedule of beach volleyball and volleyball competitions. During 2019, the nets were showcased at the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championship in Hamburg and at the FIVB World Tour Finals Rome, and were used at two events organised by the Dutch Volleyball Federation, engaging fans and raising awareness.

**EVALUATION**

By transforming abandoned fishing nets into sporting equipment, the FIVB has demonstrated sport’s potential to benefit the environment and community within a circular economy and promote social change. The project is already using traditional techniques to repair fishing nets, and the next step will be to create brand new nets from old fishing equipment – with ghost nets now being recycled into yarn for widespread use.

“**NETS ARE AT THE CENTRE OF OUR GAME AND OF OUR JOY, SO IT WAS REALLY HARD TO LEARN THAT, IN THE OCEANS, THERE ARE SO MANY NETS THAT ARE DOING SO MUCH HARM OUT OF SIGHT.”**

Giba, Three-Time Olympic Medal-Winning Brazilian Volleyball Star