
THE BLUEPRINT
WORLD
AQUATICS

WORLD AQUATICS

CONTENTS

1. Foreword
2. About World Aquatics
3. Executive summary

4. Sustainability at World Aquatics
4.1 Why Sustainability is Important to World Aquatics
4.2 Our Strategic Approach – Overview
4.3 Our Strategic Approach – Details
4.4 Defining the Scope of the Blueprint

5. Strategic summary
5.1 Organisation
5.2 Events
5.3 Community

6. From strategy to action
6.1 Our Next Steps



1. FOREWORD



As an International Federation, World Aquatics holds both the privilege of a global platform and the responsibility to lead by example in promoting sustainability – environmental, social and governance – across our work and within our global community. We are united in our commitment to harness the power of aquatic sports and our worldwide reach to help build a better future.

Water covers over 70% of our planet, connecting people worldwide through our shared need for it, our use of it and the joy we find in and around it. Yet today, we must also work together to better understand and protect water, avoid or reduce any negative impacts on people, nature and the climate and ensure that aquatic ecosystems and all who depend on them can thrive.

At World Aquatics, we are committed to working hand in hand with our athletes, members, partners, staff and the broad spectrum of our global aquatics community to ensure that our sport leaves a lasting, positive impact. By joining the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework, we acknowledge our commitment to this vital task and join a growing number of sports in a collaborative effort to take leadership in sustainable development.

By publishing the Blueprint, World Aquatics' sustainability strategy, we take that commitment further, assessing our unique responsibilities to both people and the planet.

While the first steps have been taken and our mission and vision are clear, we know that this journey is not one with a final destination. It is a continued effort to support communities, ensuring that children receive education and develop essential life skills, that health and safety are protected and that access is available to everyone. Ultimately, we want to ensure that this great element that we so love – water – and the natural environment that it flows within are not harmed by us, but left better because we were here. We invite you to join us in this journey and we look forward to what is to come.

Husain Al Musallam
World Aquatics President

WORLD AQUATICS

2. ABOUT WORLD AQUATICS

World Aquatics is the global governing body for six aquatic sports, swimming, diving, water polo, artistic swimming, open water swimming and high diving, uniting a vibrant, diverse and growing global community. As the sole authority for aquatics worldwide, World Aquatics works in close collaboration with **210 National Member Federations** across five continents.

The organisation leads through its commitment to fair play, equality, inclusion, clean sport and environmental responsibility. Under the presidency of Husain Al Musallam, World Aquatics has embedded sustainability, transparency and athlete welfare into the heart of its mission.

Each year, World Aquatics organises more than **40 international sports events**, providing platforms for competition, development and unity. Every two years, it delivers its flagship World Aquatics Championships, bringing together all six sports in a single global celebration of aquatic excellence. Through these events and a wide range of education, development and integrity programmes, World Aquatics promotes access and participation at every level – from elite performance to grassroots engagement.

By embedding sustainability into governance, operations and event delivery, the organisation is working to ensure that aquatic sports flourish in harmony with nature – now and for generations to come.



WORLD AQUATICS

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the ESG principles, World Aquatics has developed a comprehensive sustainability strategy towards 2030, the **Blueprint**.

Rooted in World Aquatics' **Vision** and **Mission**, the Blueprint is structured around **three Key Pillars** and **nine Priority Areas**, all of which have been shaped through the process outlined below.

- Audited Current Sustainability Progress
- Identified World Aquatics' Control and Influence
- Engaged Stakeholders
- Performed Materiality Assessment
- Drafted Focus Areas and Sustainability Targets
- Implemented a Broad Stakeholder Survey and Consultation
- Revisions Made and Access to Strategy Shared with Stakeholders
- Strategy Launch

WORLD AQUATICS VISION

A world united by water, for health, life and sport

WORLD AQUATICS MISSION

To ensure the ability to participate, compete in and benefit from aquatic sports

Our Mission is highlighted through the Key Pillars and specified through the Priority Areas, defining World Aquatics' role in sustainable development.

Key Pillars	Priority Areas (incorporating 60 objectives)
WORLD AQUATICS AS AN ORGANISATION	**1.0** Advocacy for sustainable development **2.0** Reducing the climate impact of World Aquatics **3.0** Sustainable procurement
WORLD AQUATICS AS AN EVENTS' OWNER	**4.0** Strategic event planning **5.0** Event operations **6.0** Sustainable travel
WORLD AQUATICS AS A LEADER OF AQUATICS COMMUNITY	**7.0** Athlete engagement **8.0** Improving facility and equipment sustainability standards **9.0** Community empowerment

4. SUSTAINABILITY AT WORLD AQUATICS



4.1 WHY SUSTAINABILITY IS IMPORTANT TO WORLD AQUATICS



Responsibility

As the global governing body for aquatic sports, World Aquatics has a responsibility to lead by example – protecting the ecosystems we rely on, reducing our environmental impact, and inspiring the broader sporting and aquatic community to do the same.



People

Sustainability is about people. It means ensuring that athletes of today – and tomorrow – have safe, healthy environments to train, compete and thrive. It means inspiring grassroots communities around the world to engage in aquatic sports and stewardship of water. It means honoring our duty to future generations, so they too can experience the joy, challenge, and unity that aquatic sports bring.



Innovation

Sustainability offers an opportunity to innovate through smarter infrastructure, circular resource use, renewable energy and inclusive practices that reflect environmental and social responsibility. It enhances the credibility and appeal of our sport to fans, athletes, members, partners, and host cities.



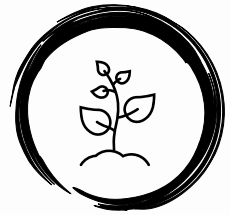
Challenges

The climate crisis presents real and increasing risks: rising water temperatures and levels, extreme weather events, water scarcity and pollution threaten training facilities and competition venues, while the increased risk of drowning endangers the wellbeing of athletes and communities.



Commitment

By embedding sustainability into its operations and events, World Aquatics can help mitigate these risks, safeguard the future of aquatic sports and contribute to broader global goals, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework.



Legacy

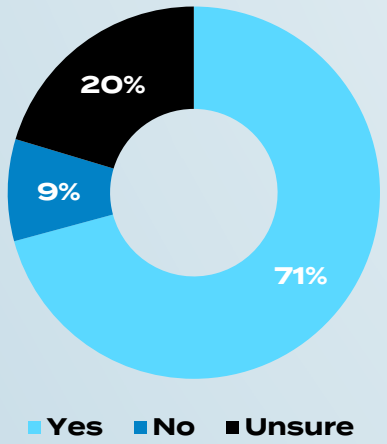
Ultimately, sustainability is essential to the mission of World Aquatics to promote aquatic sports globally in harmony with nature. By championing sustainable development, World Aquatics can ensure that aquatic sports continue to flourish and inspire for generations to come.

4.1 WHY SUSTAINABILITY IS IMPORTANT TO WORLD AQUATICS

What our community says:

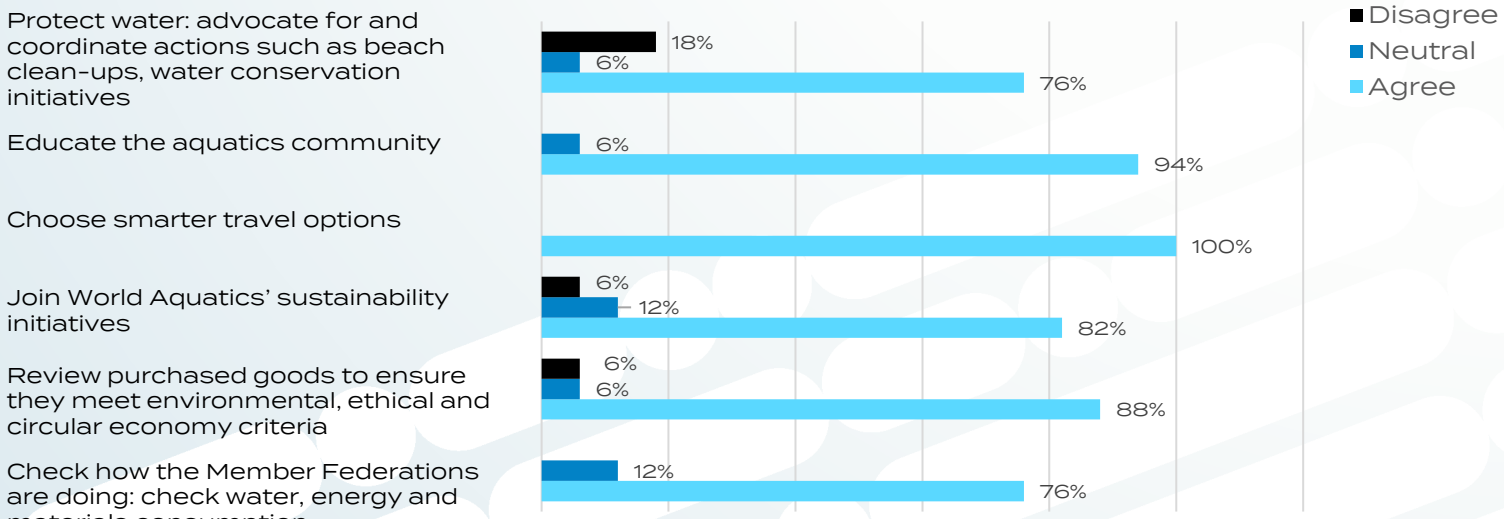
Surveyed at World Aquatics Swimming (25m) Championships – Budapest 2024 our community including athletes, coaches and Member Federation representatives indicated that sustainability is a key area that World Aquatics should focus on.

Do you think World Aquatics should focus more on environmental and social sustainability?



During the 2025 World Aquatics Online Education Session on Sustainability, Member Federation representatives expressed strong interest in implementing local sustainability measures and joining World Aquatics' initiatives to address shared challenges together.

What measures should be implemented to overcome key sustainability challenges?



WORLD AQUATICS

4.2 OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH – OVERVIEW

1. Audit Current Sustainability Progress

2. Understanding World Aquatics' Control and Influence

3. Stakeholder Engagement

4. Materiality Assessment – Issue Identification and Significance Testing

5. Draft Focus Areas and Targets

6. Broad Stakeholder Survey and Consultation

7. Revisions and Stakeholder Access to Strategy

8. Strategy Launch



WORLD AQUATICS

4.3 OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH – DETAILS

Audit Current Sustainability Progress. This process involved a review of all the existing work that had been conducted. It was noted that several projects had already been implemented however a systematic approach to sustainability at the organisation needed to be defined. With existing projects and an expression of organisational interest, this was a time of great opportunity to begin building a more strategic sustainability approach at World Aquatics.

Understanding World Aquatics' Control and Influence. This part of the project involved discovery sessions to investigate the extent at which World Aquatics had the ability to directly control sustainability attainment or whether it could influence sustainability outcomes. This process also mapped out the potential impact. In summary, numerous opportunities were identified for World Aquatics to enhance sustainability within its own operations – such as event delivery and the Discover Water programme – as well as to drive broader change across the sports through collective action.

Stakeholder Engagement. To support the development of the Blueprint, World Aquatics established a Sustainability Advisory Working Group comprising key stakeholders, athletes, Member Federations and global industry representatives, to provide feedback and recommendations.

Materiality Assessment – Issue Identification. The Materiality Assessment included interviews with key World Aquatics stakeholders to identify the sustainability issues most relevant to the organisation. The findings highlighted water quality, carbon emissions, water safety, procurement, education and development as the most significant priorities, alongside several other important sustainability concerns.

Draft focus areas and sustainability targets. Drafting the focus areas facilitated the grouping of targets and helped identify both sustainability risks and potential opportunities for the organisation. While several risks were confirmed – many of which had been previously recognised – numerous positive opportunities emerged that had not been identified before and could be integrated into the Blueprint.

Broad Stakeholder Survey and Consultation. The consultation allowed key stakeholders to provide input for the development of the Blueprint to help refine targets and timeframes as well as offer suggestions of constructive critique to assist in the final draft. Some responsibilities within World Aquatics have already been defined for delivery and the initial management plan for implementation has been shared with the key groups responsible for delivery.

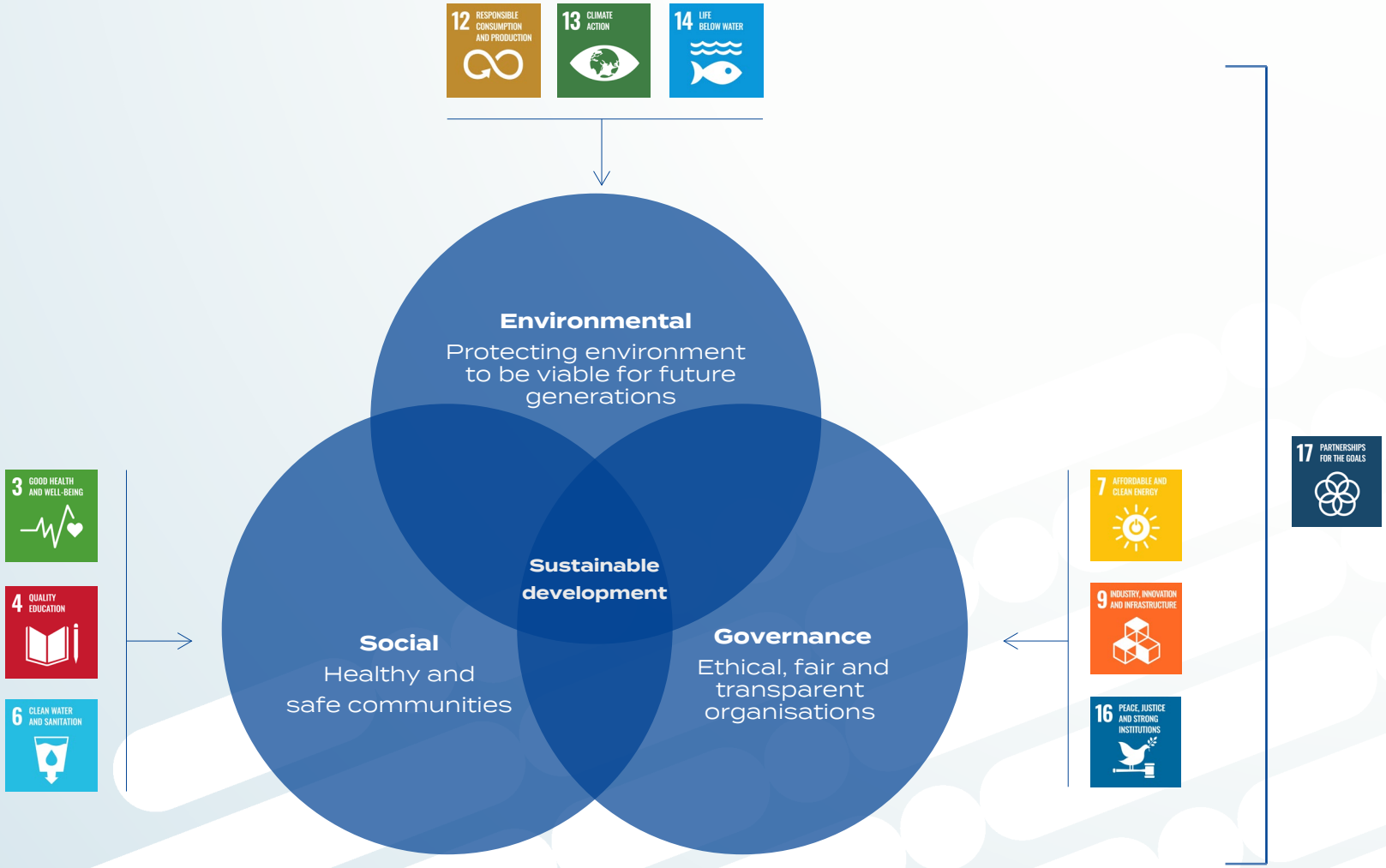
Revisions and Stakeholder Access to Strategy. The feedback from the consultation was collated and adjustments to the content of the Blueprint made accordingly, with stakeholders receiving access to the updated document.

Strategy Launch. The Blueprint was officially launched and shared publicly on 29 July 2025 during the World Aquatics Congress in Singapore.

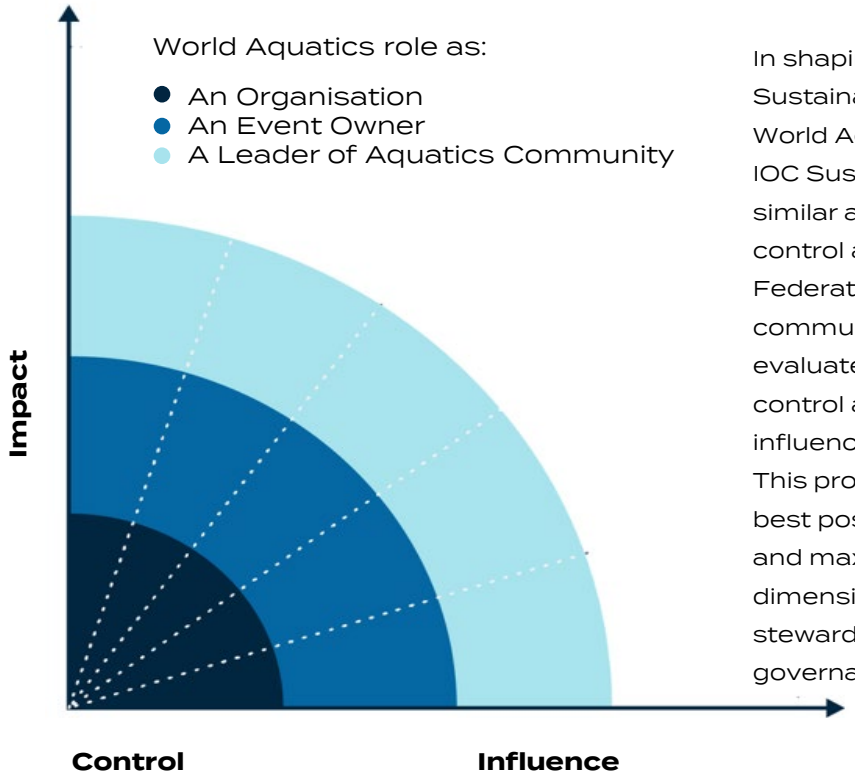
4.4 DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE BLUEPRINT

World Aquatics has aligned its sustainability strategy with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to contribute to global efforts for a more sustainable and inclusive future. Recognising sport as a powerful enabler of development, we have identified specific SDGs where aquatic sports can make the greatest impact. These goals guide our actions across environmental, social and governance areas, ensuring our work contributes meaningfully to broader global progress.

Through the Blueprint, World Aquatics demonstrates how sport can serve as an enabler of sustainable development.



4.4 DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE BLUEPRINT



In shaping its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), World Aquatics drew inspiration from the IOC Sustainability Strategy and adopted a similar approach to assessing its areas of control and influence. As an International Federation, event owner and global community leader, World Aquatics carefully evaluated where it holds direct operational control and where it can exert broader influence across the aquatics ecosystem. This process helped define where we are best positioned to drive meaningful change and maximise our impact across the three dimensions of sustainability: environmental stewardship, social responsibility and strong governance.

5. STRATEGIC SUMMARY



WORLD AQUATICS

OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The following section will be divided into three parts based on the Key Pillars: Organisation, Event Owner and Community Leader. Each of these sections will be further defined by the Priority Areas and their corresponding actions. These actions are designed to be implemented progressively by 2030 and are grounded in World Aquatics' multifaceted role. By leveraging these three pillars, World Aquatics aims to create a meaningful and lasting impact across the aquatic sports through strong governance, sustainable event delivery and community engagement and education.

The Key Pillars:



ORGANISATION



EVENT OWNER



COMMUNITY LEADER

The Priority Areas:

1.0 Advocacy for sustainable development

2.0 Reducing the climate impact of World Aquatics

3.0 Sustainable procurement

4.0 Strategic event planning

5.0 Event operations

6.0 Sustainable travel

7.0 Athlete engagement

8.0 Improving facility and equipment sustainability standards

9.0 Community empowerment

Spanning 60 targets, World Aquatics' approach integrates Environmental, Social and Governance dimensions to inspire sustainable change, strengthen communities and promote responsible leadership.



Environmental



Social



Governance

WORLD AQUATICS

5.1 ORGANISATION

World Aquatics is the global governing body of six aquatic sports, employing 75 staff members and operating from its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, with a major operational hub in Budapest, Hungary. These two centres form the core of its global operations, enabling year-round administrative, technical and event-delivery functions.

The organisation is dedicated to fair and safe competitions, athlete protection and promoting participation for all. It organises major events, is a strong actor within the Olympic Movement, works on advancing facilities and sustainability and invests in education and development to ensure the growth and integrity of aquatic sports worldwide.

Through consultation and a materiality study, sustainability opportunities were identified in the following Priority Areas, including:

- **Advocacy for sustainable development: revising internal policies and event guidelines to reflect the commitments of the World Aquatics Sustainability Blueprint.**
- **Reducing the climate impact of World Aquatics: efforts to reduce emissions through digital alternatives, sustainable transport modes and travel guidelines.**
- **Sustainable procurement: enhancing supplier engagement to align with environmental and social criteria.**

As a central actor within the aquatics ecosystem, World Aquatics is well-positioned to influence change across the sport's global footprint – making its organisational structure and partnerships essential enablers of the Blueprint's ambitions.

The Organisation pillar aligns with and contributes to the following SDGs:



1.0 ADVOCACY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**1.1 Promote water quality through collaboration with other International Federations of water sports**	Engage with International Federations of water sports to advocate for improved water quality in key locations used for training, competition and recreational sport, using a unified voice to influence policy and environmental practices.	2026	
	1.2 Create an annual World Aquatics Sustainability Award	The Sustainability Award will honour Member Federations, partners, organisations, individuals for impactful initiatives across defined categories, selected through clear criteria and a transparent process. Winning projects will be celebrated publicly and shared as best practices to inspire broader action across the aquatic community.	2029	
	1.3 Empower Member Federations to implement local climate actions and engage their communities in sustainability efforts	Develop easy-to-use sustainability guides for Member Federations, covering key areas such as energy efficiency, water management and plastic reduction. These resources will be customisable and locally brandable to support effective community engagement.	2027	
	**1.4 Partner with other water sports International Federations to jointly implement water safety initiatives**	Establish a joint task force with other water sports International Federations to develop and launch shared water safety programmes, including educational materials, campaigns and events addressing drowning prevention and promoting safe aquatics participation globally.	2026	
	1.5 Collaborate with international organisations to strengthen global water safety efforts	Engage with key international organisations working in health, water safety and first aid to coordinate drowning prevention efforts, share best practices and jointly deliver programmes in targeted regions – supporting local impact through education, capacity-building and community outreach.	2026	
	1.6 Support the development of aquatic sports by delivering accessible and engaging online education	Design and deliver a suite of online educational resources to support the development of aquatic sports, ensuring content is accessible, engaging, and tailored to diverse audiences including athletes, coaches, officials, managers and grassroots organisers.	2026	

WORLD AQUATICS

1.0 ADVOCACY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**1.7 Advocate for sustainability within the Olympic Movement**	Actively represent World Aquatics in Olympic sustainability forums and working groups, sharing aquatic-specific insights and contributing to the exchange of ideas and best practices across the Olympic Movement.	2025	
	1.8 Maintain the signatory status of the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework	World Aquatics joined the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework in 2024. To uphold this commitment, we will continue to report our annual carbon footprint, implement a carbon reduction plan, educate stakeholders on climate action, promote sustainable consumption across aquatic sports and actively communicate our progress and initiatives.	2025	
	1.9 Encourage Member Federations, Continental Organisations and partners to commit to and implement sustainability actions	Launch the World Aquatics Sustainability Declaration, outlining six core commitments for signatories. Promote the Declaration across the aquatics community and publicly celebrate those who commit, reinforcing a shared culture of environmental and social responsibility.	2025	
	1.10 Ensure inclusive input into sustainability planning and decision-making by engaging key stakeholders through a dedicated Working Group	World Aquatics has established a Sustainability Advisory Working Group to guide the development of the strategy, with representation from athletes, Member Federations and corporate partners. The group will remain active until the strategy is adopted and a permanent Working Group is formed.	2025	

 Environmental  Social  Governance

WORLD AQUATICS

2.0 REDUCING THE CLIMATE IMPACT OF WORLD AQUATICS

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**2.1 Strengthen internal climate knowledge and capacity to support effective sustainability action across the organisation**	Deliver carbon literacy training to staff as a foundational step towards embedding climate awareness in day-to-day operations and decision-making – with a long-term commitment to ongoing, role-specific sustainability training across the organisation.	2026	
	2.2 Improve the planning of the World Aquatics events calendar with sustainability in mind	Streamline the planning of sport, development, and governance event calendars to reduce carbon emissions, for example by aligning educational workshops with existing events where possible.	2028	
	2.3 Reduce the environmental impact of expert travel by promoting more regionally based programme delivery	Identify and train local and regional lecturers to prevent non-essential long-distance travel.	2027	
	**2.4 Minimise the environmental footprint of World Aquatics' digital operations and platforms**	Assess and optimise the sustainability of digital infrastructure by exploring low-energy hosting solutions, reducing data storage impacts and integrating environmentally responsible practices in the development and maintenance of online platforms.	2028	
	**2.5 Promote more sustainable travel practices across World Aquatics operations**	Refine travel policy, incentivise lower-carbon travel options and assess how routing and carrier choices impact the organisation's carbon footprint.	2026	

WORLD AQUATICS

3.0 SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**3.1 Establish a system to measure and track the carbon footprint of World Aquatics operations**	Develop a carbon reporting system to support more accurate and efficient tracking of emissions across all areas of operation, including supplier services, procured goods and organisational activities.	2027	
	**3.2 Ensure sustainable and responsible procurement practices across the organisation's operations**	Develop and implement a World Aquatics Sustainable Procurement Code and Guidelines, including criteria for local sourcing, emissions reduction, waste and water management and human rights due diligence. Encourage adoption by Member Federations for broader impact.	2026	
	3.3 Support Member Federations in adopting sustainable procurement practices	Develop a practical checklist to guide Member Federations in integrating sustainability criteria into procurement decisions, including environmental, social and ethical considerations.	2026	

 Environmental  Social  Governance

5.2 EVENTS

World Aquatics serves as the global governing body for six aquatic sports – swimming, diving, water polo, artistic swimming, open water swimming and high diving – all showcased at the highest level through the World Aquatics Championships, World Cups and Youth and Junior events. In addition, the organisation coordinates a wide array of competitions, development programmes and other initiatives in close collaboration with its Member Federations and Local Organising Committees (LOCs).

World Aquatics annually stages more than 40 events around the world, including the flagship World Aquatics Championships and the aquatics competitions at the Olympic Games. These events span diverse venues and nations, creating a significant global footprint with notable operational, environmental and social impacts.

Events are one of the most visible and influential aspects of World Aquatics' global presence and a key focus of the Blueprint, particularly in the following areas:

- **Strategic event planning: embedding sustainability considerations into every stage of event planning and delivery to ensure responsible, future-focused operations.**
- **Event operations: ensuring that LOCs adopt sustainable practices across all operational areas to minimise environmental impact, reduce resource use and promote responsible event management.**
- **Sustainable travel: promote sustainable travel and accommodation choices for participants, entourage and spectators.**

By embedding sustainability principles into event planning, delivery and legacy design, World Aquatics can not only reduce negative impacts but also champion innovation and leadership across the global sports event landscape.

The Events pillar aligns with and contributes to the following SDGs:



WORLD AQUATICS

4.0 STRATEGIC EVENT PLANNING

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**4.1 Embed circular economy principles into the planning and delivery of World Aquatics events**	Work with LOCs and industry partners to apply circular economy principles – such as reducing waste, reusing materials and designing for resource efficiency – using tools like life cycle assessments to support implementation in procurement, logistics and venue operations.	2027	
	4.2 Work with Local Organising Committees to reduce single use items at events	Collaborate with LOCs to phase out single-use items such as plastics through sustainable procurement, on-site alternatives and operational guidelines.	2026	
	4.3 Integrate biodiversity considerations into the strategic planning of World Aquatics events	Collaborate with LOCs to embed nature-positive measures into event planning – such as supporting local biodiversity, restoring natural areas, or reducing ecological disruption – leaving a positive legacy in host communities.	2030	
	**4.4 Promote diversity and inclusion at World Aquatics events**	Ensure equal opportunities for Member Federations to nominate both male and female athletes, promote increased representation from developing countries and maintain Universality places at World Aquatics Championships to support broader diversity and inclusion across all levels of participation.	2025	
	4.5 Plan and deliver community-focused initiatives that create lasting social and environmental impact	Implement water safety and drowning prevention programmes using the Discover Water framework for under-served groups and deliver environmental education and awareness activities at events – engaging local communities through targeted actions before, during and after the event.	2027	

 Environmental  Social  Governance

WORLD AQUATICS

4.0 STRATEGIC EVENT PLANNING

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**4.6 Integrate sustainability targets into the event bidding process and contractual agreements with LOCs**	Include mandatory sustainability criteria in bid documents and require LOCs to submit event-specific sustainability plans. These will be evaluated during the bidding process and formalised in hosting agreements.	2026	
	4.7 Support LOCs on sustainable event planning, delivery and reporting	Provide guidance and tools for LOCs to integrate sustainability throughout the event lifecycle, including planning templates, operational checklists and venue sustainability reporting requirements.	2026	
	4.8 Achieve ISO 20121 certification for World Aquatics' event planning and delivery processes	Develop and implement a sustainable event management system aligned with ISO 20121* standards, conduct internal audits and engage a third-party certifier to assess compliance – demonstrating to stakeholders a structured commitment to continuous sustainability improvement. ** ISO 20121: international standard for sustainable event management system, helping organisations minimise the negative social, economic and environmental impacts of their events.*	2027	
	4.9 Encourage LOCs to develop meaningful and context-specific event legacy plans	Collaborate with each LOC to co-develop a tailored Event Legacy Plan that outlines long-term social, environmental and economic benefits for the host community, including sustainability, sport participation, pre-event activities and post-event infrastructure use.	2028	

Environmental Social Governance

WORLD AQUATICS

5.0 EVENT OPERATIONS

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	5.1 Promote the use of sustainable and efficient temporary power solutions at World Aquatics events	Provide LOCs with technical considerations, case studies and sustainability expectations to support informed decision-making around temporary power planning, encouraging the adoption of lower-emission and optimised energy solutions.	2030	7
	**5.2 Reduce the environmental impact of broadcasting at World Aquatics events**	Assess and pilot remote broadcasting technologies and workflows to reduce on-site production needs, cut carbon emissions and maintain high-quality event coverage through more sustainable methods.	2027	13
	5.3 Optimise energy use at World Aquatics event venues through improved efficiency and smarter energy management	Work with LOCs to identify energy-saving opportunities and support the implementation of efficiency measures across venue operations, equipment and temporary infrastructure..	2030	7
	5.4 Explore and promote sustainable ticketing solutions for World Aquatics events	Research, pilot, and evaluate digital ticketing options and low-impact enhancements – such as paperless access and recyclable accreditation materials – to reduce waste and environmental impact across the ticketing process.	2027	13 12
	**5.5 Engage volunteers in activities that promote social inclusion and environmental awareness**	Develop and implement a structured volunteer engagement programme at World Aquatics events that includes sustainability-focused training, event support roles (e.g. waste sorting, water and energy monitoring) and participation in community initiatives such as aquatic education and post-event clean-ups.	2027	4

WORLD AQUATICS

5.0 EVENT OPERATIONS

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**5.6 Promote sustainable catering practices through clear guidance and best practice sharing**	Develop and share guidelines with LOCs that promote the use of locally sourced and plant-based ingredients, minimise food waste and reduce single-use packaging.	2027	
	5.7 Establish consistent sustainability standards for the organisation and delivery of World Aquatics events	Develop a comprehensive set of sustainability guidelines covering key areas such as sustainable procurement, catering services, carbon footprint reduction, reporting and delivery practices.	2029	

Environmental Social Governance

WORLD AQUATICS

6.0 SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**6.1 Increase the use of sustainable transport and accommodation options by spectators**	Encourage LOCs to collaborate with local transport providers and tourism partners to promote public transport, shared mobility and environmentally responsible accommodation options to spectators.	2029	
	**6.2 Promote more sustainable travel choices among participants and their entourages**	Develop and disseminate event-specific recommendations for athletes, teams and entourages, including guidance on low-emission transport options, carbon offsetting and responsible travel planning.	2027	

 Environmental  Social  Governance

WORLD AQUATICS

5.3 COMMUNITY

World Aquatics is anchored by a vibrant global community, comprising 210 Member Federations that represent athletes, coaches, officials and administrators across all six aquatic sports. This network spans every continent, forming the backbone of aquatic sports and providing both reach and influence far beyond the elite competition circuit.

The community includes a diverse array of stakeholders critical to the sport's success:

- Athletes and coaches who embody aquatic sport and are essential champions for change.
- Managers, volunteers and technical officials, from grassroots to global events, who form the heart of the sport's governance and delivery.
- Partners and sponsors whose support and collaboration are crucial for embedding sustainability into events, operations and broader sport development.
- Facility operators and infrastructure managers who ensure pools, venues and training centres are maintained and upgraded – offering opportunities to advance energy efficiency and resource stewardship.
- Equipment providers and sport technology partners whose innovation can help drive sustainable design and responsible production.
- Fans and supporters whose passion for the sport drives visibility, inspires participation and can amplify messages around sustainability and inclusion.

A unique strength of World Aquatics lies in its volunteer network and training and development programmes, which cultivate future generations of athletes, leaders and technical experts. These programmes are a natural conduit for building sustainability literacy and promoting behavioural change within the sport.

Through targeted education, communications and partnerships, World Aquatics is well positioned to excel in the following Priority Areas:

- **Athletes' engagement: educate athletes on sustainability practices, provide opportunities for athletes facing resource constraints and promote athletes to become Ambassadors of development.**
- **Improving facility and equipment sustainability standards: advocate for sustainable infrastructure and work with industry to define best practices.**
- **Community empowerment: foster a culture of sustainability that protects the future of aquatic sport and its global reach.**

This global community is both the foundation and the force for delivering lasting change aligned with the Blueprint.

The Community pillar aligns with and contributes to the following SDGs:



WORLD AQUATICS

7.0 ATHLETE ENGAGEMENT

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**7.1 Raise athlete awareness on sustainable gear choices and circular economy practices**	Provide workshops and online learning opportunities for athletes to understand product life cycles and adopt circular economy practices such as reusing, repairing and repurposing gear.	2028	
	7.2 Promote low-impact athlete travel through sustainable transport options and awareness	Provide guidance, incentives or shared solutions such as public transportation passes and group travel for athletes – starting with Scholarship holders and expanding where feasible.	2026	
	7.3 Educate athletes on responsible water use and water quality awareness	Provide athletes with practical guidance on water conservation and pollution prevention – covering behaviours such as reduced shower times, avoiding single-use plastics and supporting clean water initiatives.	2026	
	**7.4 Increase access to training and development opportunities for athletes with limited resources**	Deliver and expand World Aquatics' flagship Scholarship Programme to support athletes facing financial and resource constraints, ensuring equitable access to training and development opportunities.	2025	
	7.5 Harness the voice of athletes to lead change and inspire youth through development and sustainability	Design and implement a dedicated Athlete Ambassador programme that equips top athletes to champion World Aquatics development initiatives and advocate for sustainability across events, communities and digital platforms	2026	
	7.6 Ensure access and participation opportunities for refugee athletes at World Aquatics events	Strengthen support for the World Aquatics Refugee Team by collaborating with partners to provide training, accommodation and equipment at our events – enabling athletes to compete and thrive on the international stage.	2025	

Environmental Social Governance

WORLD AQUATICS

7.0 ATHLETE ENGAGEMENT

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**7.7 Equip athletes with knowledge to champion sustainability**	Design and deliver tailored education sessions for athletes at World Aquatics events and on digital platforms, focusing on environmental responsibility, climate impact and their role as sustainability advocates – in close collaboration with the World Aquatics Athletes' Committee and through active engagement of the global athlete community.	2027	

 Environmental  Social  Governance

WORLD AQUATICS

8.0 IMPROVING FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**8.1 Collaborate on research into sustainable solutions for aquatic facilities, operations, equipment and apparel**	Partner with swimming equipment manufacturers, universities and technical experts to explore sustainable materials, sourcing, packaging and production methods for aquatic infrastructure and gear.	2029	
	8.2 Encourage Member Federations to monitor water quality and engage with national authorities on local improvement initiatives	Promote water quality testing for open water swimming and provide guidance to Member Federations on engaging with national authorities responsible for water management.	2026	
	**8.3 Promote innovative and data-informed solutions for sustainable aquatic facility design and operation**	Showcase, in collaboration with strategic partners, how innovative technologies supported by verified data can improve the economic and environmental performance of aquatic facilities.	2028	
	8.4 Increase access to aquatic sport by supporting the development of sustainable, community-focused pools in countries without existing facilities	Expand the Pools for All programme to support the design, construction and sustainable operation of swimming pools in countries with limited aquatic infrastructure, ensuring access for both community initiatives and athlete development.	2025	

Environmental Social Governance

WORLD AQUATICS

8.0 IMPROVING FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**8.5 Collaborate with industry to define best practices for adopting renewable energy in aquatic facilities**	Create practical recommendations for new aquatic facilities to adopt renewable energy solutions, such as rooftop solar panels and other clean energy technologies.	2027	
	8.6 Update World Aquatics pool certification standards to include sustainability principles	Include key sustainability requirements in the updated World Aquatics pool certification document and explore the development of dedicated sustainable facility guidance to support broader adoption.	2027	

Environmental Social Governance

WORLD AQUATICS

9.0 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**9.1 Encourage Member Federations to take measurable climate action and contribute to community impact**	Introduce an incentive programme to recognise and encourage Member Federations demonstrating leadership in climate action and community engagement – potentially including access to support resources, pilot opportunities or visibility within World Aquatics platforms.	2027	
	9.2 Expand sustainability education through World Aquatics' digital learning platforms	Develop and integrate sustainability-focused modules into e-learning courses for athletes, coaches, officials and grassroots organisers, ensuring accessible, multilingual content for all Member Federations.	2026	
	9.3 Promote sustainability to aquatic community through various communication channels	Leverage World Aquatics' social media platforms to promote sustainability awareness across diverse stakeholders. Develop and implement a content calendar and regularly monitor reach, engagement and impact to optimise messaging and audience outreach.	2026	
	**9.4 Strengthen regional expertise by building a diverse and inclusive pool of trained professionals across all continents**	Conduct a mapping of existing lecturers and experts to identify underrepresented regions and implement targeted upskilling and recruitment efforts to enhance diversity and geographic balance within World Aquatics' expert network.	2026	
	9.5 Educate World Aquatics stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices	Deliver targeted educational messages and resources on topics such as freshwater conservation, responsible consumption and climate action, tailored for athletes, officials, staff, spectators and fans.	2027	
	9.6 Advance gender balance in aquatic sports by ensuring equal access, representation and opportunities across all activities	Increase female representation by expanding access to officiating and leadership courses, aiming for gender balance across World Aquatics training programmes from a baseline of 30% female participation.	2028	
	9.7 Promote aquatic participation through Discover Water and other grassroots programmes	Expand and implement flagship programmes such as Discover Water to increase participation in aquatics—especially among children and under-served communities – across all five continents.	2030	

WORLD AQUATICS

9.0 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

ESG	TARGETS	ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SDG
	**9.8 Conduct a review process with the World Aquatics community to assess and refine the sustainability strategy**	Facilitate structured consultation sessions and report regularly on progress to ensure the sustainability strategy remains responsive to the priorities, needs and feedback of the World Aquatics community.	2028	
	9.9 Encourage Member Federations to sign and implement the World Aquatics Sustainability Declaration	Promote the adoption and implementation of the World Aquatics Sustainability Declaration by educating Member Federations on its benefits and providing ongoing guidance.	2026	

Environmental Social Governance



6. FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION

3. FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION

World Aquatics has already taken significant steps towards implementing key elements of its sustainability strategy, the Blueprint. Several foundational targets have been initiated and achieved, laying the groundwork for long-term impact:

1. We ensured that a consultation process was conducted with the World Aquatics community on World Aquatics' sustainability strategy.
2. Initial educational sessions were delivered to Member Federations on key aspects of sustainability and the World Aquatics Sustainability Strategy, laying the foundation for future guidance and capacity-building support.
3. A baseline carbon footprint has been established to guide emissions reduction planning and reporting.
4. The long-term global programme Discover Water was launched to promote water safety and increase participation in aquatic activities, supporting both social sustainability and community engagement.
5. The World Aquatics Community Sustainability Declaration was created to affirm our shared commitment integrating sustainability into all aspects of our work.
6. World Aquatics became a signatory to the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework, aligning with global efforts to advance climate action in sport.
7. The Pools for All programme was launched to support the construction of community-focused aquatic facilities in countries without existing infrastructure. The first pool was completed in Bhutan in 2024, with additional projects underway across multiple continents.

WORLD AQUATICS

Launched at COP 24 by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework brings together global sports organisations, particularly from the Olympic Movement, to collectively tackle climate change.

World Aquatics joined the Framework to demonstrate leadership in climate action, align with global best practices and support the transformation of aquatic sports into a more sustainable and climate-resilient community.

Signatories commit to adhering to five key principles and to reducing and reporting their emissions in line with the Paris Agreement:



1. Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility



2. Reduce overall climate impact



3. Educate for climate action



4. Promote sustainable and responsible consumption



5. Advocate for climate action through communication

WORLD AQUATICS

6.1 OUR NEXT STEPS

1.

Internal Alignment

World Aquatics is committed to aligning its internal structures and operations with the Blueprint. This includes clarifying roles and responsibilities, fostering collaboration across departments and advancing staff and volunteer understanding through targeted training and education. By building internal capacity, we will be better positioned to deliver on our sustainability ambitions.

2.

Strategic Partnerships

World Aquatics will seek strategic partnerships with organisations and stakeholders that share its sustainability values. These collaborations will aim to accelerate innovation, support the adoption of more sustainable practices and explore solutions in areas such as low-carbon technologies, materials and event operations. Through shared expertise and influence, we will strengthen our collective ability to drive positive environmental and social outcomes.

3.

Monitoring, Measurement & Reporting

Transparent reporting will underpin delivery and accountability across all sustainability efforts. Annual sustainability reports will be shared with key stakeholders, while emissions will be tracked and carbon reports submitted in line with World Aquatics' commitment to the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework. Data and insights will drive continuous improvement and inform the evolution of future targets.

4.

Pilot Projects & Early Wins

To build momentum and lay the foundation for broader impact, World Aquatics will begin implementing selected sustainability targets across key activities. Early actions will help to identify practical approaches, generate insights and inform the refinement of policies and tools.

5.

Communication & Engagement

Engaging the broader aquatics community is vital to the success of the Blueprint. World Aquatics will begin rolling out awareness initiatives through digital platforms and event channels, reaching athletes, fans and partners. Sustainability principles will be integrated into development and education programmes, while success stories and champions will be featured to inspire wider participation.

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