



## Congress 2021

# SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair of Sustainability Committee - Kianoosh Mehrabi

The Sustainability Committee has been working as a separate committee since 2017 Japan WRC. Its title was River Conservation Committee. The title as well as the strategic plan was adapted as "Conservation" is only a small part of "Sustainability".

We have achieved impressive goals in the area of sustainability, working together to create sustainable partnerships; working towards Green Events, increasing respect towards and to protect rivers, communities and environments; encouraging everyone to take responsibility to protect rivers and river communities.

### Key Achievements:

- Cooperating with Sport and Sustainability International (SandSI) <https://www.sportsustainability.org/>
- In January this year we launched our "Practical Guide to sustainability for rafters"
- We ran two very successful "Sustainability and Rafting" webinars with 70 participants.
- With the leadership of Rafael Gallo a very successful and first ever IRF World White Water Rafting Summit was held in Costa Rica
- Joined the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Sports for Climate Action initiative as a signatory to the Sports for Climate Action Framework.
- Cooperating with the International Fair Play Committee
- Cooperating with United Through Sport (UTS) International Virtual Youth Festival!
- Cooperating with United Nations Sports for Climate Action
- Cooperating with Colombia's Rafting For Peace
- Signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding with leading global rivers campaign organization International Rivers
- Fighting for rivers' rights and to keep them flowing and healthy
- Gender equality - more female raft guides qualified. More women in raft racing

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There were many valuable members who helped the committee promote sustainability including Rafa (who passed away recently), Sue Liell-Cock, Sean Clarke, Hanieh Goharipour, and Emilia Peneva. There is still much work to be done to make rafting more sustainable. The IRF should become a well-known international organisation in the area of sport and tourism sustainability. Our goals will be better achieved by collaborating with international and national organisations and non-governmental organisations all around the world.

**Report by Kianoosh Mehrabi (Sustainability Committee Chair), October 2021**