

Report template for XL ICF Congress Antalya, Türkiye, November 2024

ICF Vice-President
Cecilia Liliana Farías

Activities 2023-2024: Participation at Competitions:

2023:

- XXI Caribbean and Central American Games. San Salvador. Santo Domingo 2023. President of the Jury.
- ICF Sprint and Paracanoe Senior World Championships. Duisburg. President of the Jury.
- ICF Slalom Senior World Championships. Lee Valley. Jury Member.
- XIX Pan American Games, Santiago 2023. Slalom. Jury Member.
- XIX Pan American Games, Santiago 2023. Sprint. Jury Member.

2024:

- Slalom Pan American Championships and Olympic Qualifier Rio de Janeiro. Jury Member.
- Olympic Games Paris 2024 Sprint. President of the Jury.
- Olympic Games Paris 2024 Slalom. Jury Member.
- Paralympic Games Paris 2024. Jury Member
- SUP World Championships Sarasota. President of the Jury to be in November 2024.

Development activities and Key achievements 2023 – 2024:

Pathway to Excellence:

The Talent Identification Program (TIP) has evolved, becoming a programme of excellence. The support of the host NFs has been and will continue to be vital.

Originally designed to support athletes, currently also includes and prepares coaches who shall replicate at home what they have learned at the camps. As a

result, the ICF has more qualified coaches working at the camps and available for international employment.

The TIPs include education on nutrition, prevention of injuries, anti-doping, and safeguarding. It is important for us the involvement of the NOCs as partners to deliver these contents.

Prior to the Olympic Games Paris 2024 a special camp was held to support athletes who qualified at their Continents and who participated for the first time at the Games.

The programmes of ICF Olympic Solidarity represents a source of additional funding of which the National Federations can benefit with the support of their NOCs. The ICF has delivered a large number of Seminars for coaches Level 1, 2 and 3. In 2023 more than 500 coaches were educated through our system.

The TIP camps have been extended to the non-Olympic disciplines which keep reaching more people and improving the quality of athletes and coaches.

The development is and will be an ongoing professional work along the years. It shall not be confused with the high performance. Having medals on the major ICF events and the Olympic Games distributed among continents is encouraging. It gives us the feeling of a well-planned work which is the sole and real reward.

Involvement of the Continental Associations:

To deliver successful development plans it is necessary to know the conditions, circumstances and the people that realise a project. This led us to create projects involving the beneficiary NFs through financial and logistic support.

The donation of sport equipment had been suspended for at least two years to allow re-negotiation with the equipment suppliers. Meanwhile sport equipment providers are being sought in the proximity of the federations, avoiding expensive shipping.

Africa: developing the coaching knowledge and implementing the programmes of Olympic Solidarity with the support of the NOCs and ANOCA. Applying also to Olympic Solidarity support.

Always moving forward

America: supporting the development of the Sport System in the Federations of Central America through the Coaches Level 1, National Technical officials.

Seminars and Certifications in Guatemala including Honduras, Nicaragua and Belize. Preparing to receive the Level 2 education while the project shall complete the incorporation of El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama.

Planning dedicated activities for canoe women in Peru and a DNS Project in Bolivia next December.

Asia: continuing slalom and sprint actions with great support from the Asian Canoe Confederation, particularly in Thailand where the participation is numerous and the facilities and services are according with the ICF standards India is also another targeted NF. ICF major events in Uzbekistan and the latest seminar for continental sprint judges in Turkestan (Kazakhstan) complete the actions of 2024.

Europe: continues working with their developing NFs, and working on the OS projects.

Oceania receives support for their activities particularly focused on Games and their athletes are invited to the TIPs.

22 sprint athletes from the ICF Sustainable Development Program and 4 Refugee athletes participated at the Olympic Games, Paris 2024. Their Olympic dream have been made possible thanks to the support of the ICF's Sustainable Development Program.

Seminars and certification for Sprint Continental Officials:

Between 2023 and 2024 I prepared and delivered Seminars for Sprint Continental officials at the NFs of:

- Dominican Republic
- Argentina
- Peru
- Venezuela
- Guatemala (with officials from Nicaragua, Honduras, Belize and Mexico)
- Turkestan (Kazakhstan)
- Cuba (this seminar was online) and
- Bolivia (to be held in December).

Always moving forward

Five of these 8 activities were financed by the host Federations and by the Turkestan Region, and were endorsed by COPAC and by ACC.

Gender Equality within the Sustainable Development Program:

All the ICF Development Program activities have a mandatory participation based on gender equality: seminars for coaches and judges, athletes and coaches TIP's camps. The ICF is committed to grant equal access to our activities for men and women, and I have fulfilled such mandate. I call our NFs to ensure that their girls and women will have the right to participate that they own.

A modern sport community, speaking about Governance, must provide a safe environment within trustworthy sport institutions, and that is all of our responsibility and at the same time a pending job in some areas of our canoeing family.

September 2023: ICF Women Symposium, Dublin.

With no doubt, this was the most impactful seminar of the year. This major event would not have been possible without the support of Canoeing Ireland and its team lead by Lynda Byron (President of Canoeing Ireland) and Moira Aston (CEO). I thank to both of them and to each of their team members.

We had a dedicated team that supervised the planning and execution of this landmark event held along 1.5 days of workshops, lectures and fun.

The motto was: Change Locally, Change Globally, Change Together. Women and men received tools to instrument their inspiration through actual actions to change locally and regionally.

The aim of this project was to understand how to produce the changes needed to increase female coaches and decision makers, and to produce a similar event in each Continent. As a result, conversations are around delivering seminars in 2025 in:

Asia: Kyoto. Japan

Europe: TBC

Oceania: Australia

Africa: in a webinar format

America: México City TBC

Always moving forward

We have enrolled and financially supported women's participation on the following programs:

- WISH PROGRAM ensuring the continuity through mentoring
- APSO Leadership Course

Through governance policies unanimously approved, the Standing Committees of COPAC in the American Continent must have equal number of female and male members and both genders will be represented on the positions of Vice Presidents. Asia also secured the female representation as Vice President and both continents held elections incorporating more women to the positions that they are competent to fulfil.

Sustainability:

The ICF committed with the following programmes:

Sport For nature framework and
Sport For Climate Action (S4CA):

- Long term, drive sport to net zero by 2040
- Mid-term target to reduce GHG emissions by 50% by 2030 at the latest.

The recommendation is for the NFs and Continental Associations to work on sustainability, reducing the carbon foot print across all their activities and generating awareness of the preservation of the environment. The ICF already incorporated clauses on the contracts related to this matter.

The office in Hangzhou with dedicated staff works closely with Ali Baba Cloud and the Deck Project's responsible.

We celebrate that the "Developing Environmental Circular Knowledge" programme (DECK) was chosen as one of the finalists for the prestigious "IOC Climate Action Awards" supported by Deloitte.

DECK identified 50 environmental management and circular economy best practices for canoeing competitions and created a rating tool for evaluating any type of paddling events.

Always moving forward

The aim is to get National Federations to support the adoption of innovative environmental governance tools and integrate leading-edge environmental practices into the running of competitions. To educate and inspire children and youth on the preservation of a long-life healthy planet shall be part of each of our actions.

After a successful ICF Sustainability Forum at the 2023 Canoe Slalom World Championships, the report, “Whitewater Venues: Driving Urban Sustainability” was presented, highlighting the substantial economic, social and environmental benefits these venues offer to cities and urban areas.

Several NFs run dedicated sustainability projects that are embraced by their national and local communities. We encourage all of them to share their actions and best practises during the ICF Sustainability Symposium that we shall have very soon.

Strategic plans for future implementation:

I recommend to the Continental Associations and to each National Federation to engage with the concepts and values of the Fit For Future Strategy, adapting the implementation as per the particularities of each continent. The strength of our Sport organisation has to be understood as the foundation of a stronger sport and a stronger IF.

I am confident that in the coming period we will be ready to support our federations from another perspective.

The Fit For Future Strategic Plan 2022-2024: is under a regular revision and evaluation of the progress. Along its implementation we can count success and defeat. We learnt lessons and reshaped the planning, which allowed us to go ahead within time and budget serving key development areas.

At the Global level the Fit For Future Strategy needs a continuation towards its defined goals with the provision of financial and human resources.

Development of Central America: shall continue with the level 2 education for coaches and the integration of CRC, ESA, y PAN, covering in such a way the entire Central American region.

The Development Program shall also focus on the participation of athletes at Regional and Continental Games and the maintenance of our full competition's programmes. In 2023 the Caribbean and Central American Games cancelled 3 women events due to the low participation of NOCs. We have to support the increase of participation by raising the level of coaches and creating better conditions for all our athletes. It is very important to pay equal attention to the Games in every Continent, both Continental and regional.

ACODEPA Vice Presidency

It is convenient for our sport to have representation in key sport forums at world and continental level. Particularly on those ones related to Games. On that regard, I report that in 2023 I had been re-elected for a second term as 1st Vice President of the Association of Pan American Sports Confederation.

It is all what I have to report, wishing our sport community a successful Congress with good decisions.

Cecilia Farias