

# International Canoe Federation 2025 Sustainability Report

## Introduction

As a signatory to the UNFCCC Sports for Climate Action framework, The International Canoe Federation (ICF) has emphasized sustainability into its [Fit for Future Evolution \(2024-2026\)](#) strategy (5<sup>th</sup> Pillar about Climate Positive). As part of the ICF's sustainability commitment, it has adopted science-based climate targets (50% GHG reduction by 2030 and net-zero by 2040). The following data reflect the federation's total carbon emission in 2024.

In 2024, ICF's total emissions were **713** tons CO<sub>2</sub>e

Scope 1: **10** tons CO<sub>2</sub>;

Scope 2: **33** tons CO<sub>2</sub>e;

Scope 3: **670** tons CO<sub>2</sub>e). This is higher than earlier reports and is attributed mainly to expanded operations, like new office in Hangzhou (increasing travel and energy use) and a growing staff.

## GHG Emission Scopes (GHG Protocol)

Following [the Greenhouse Gas Protocol](#), ICF categorizes emissions as Scope 1, 2, and 3. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by ICF (e.g. on-site fuel combustion). Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from purchased energy (electricity, heating, cooling) consumed by ICF's offices. Scope 3 covers all other indirect emissions in ICF's value chain, such as travel by staff, athletes, coaches, and volunteers to competitions, plus other upstream/downstream activities. In ICF's case, Scope 1 emissions are negligible, Scope 2 arises from grid electricity at its offices, and Scope 3 is dominated by business and event travel (airfare, accommodation, vehicle use at events). (A fuller discussion of boundaries and calculation methods is in the Methodology section below.)

## 2023 Emissions Profile

In 2023, ICF's reported GHG footprint was **403** tons CO<sub>2</sub> e. This breaks down as:

Scope 1: **10** tons CO<sub>2</sub>

Scope 2: **32.6** tons CO<sub>2</sub>

Scope 3: **360.4** tons CO<sub>2</sub>

The increase over prior year is largely due to ICF expanding its footprint: the new Hangzhou office and more competitions mean more travel and power use. In the upcoming years, the ICF is committed to reducing more carbon emissions from its events and operations and offset the carbon emissions from sustainability events.

## **Emissions Reduction Achievements and Initiatives**

The International Canoe Federation (ICF) has accelerated its sustainability agenda in 2024, embedding climate action across events, partnerships, and community programmes. The following achievements and initiatives illustrate the federation's leadership in advancing climate-positive action.

**Fit for Future Evolution (2024–2026):** This new version (Pillar 5, Climate Positive) is the next phase of the strategy represents a system-wide integration of sustainability into governance and operations. The ICF will continue to oversee implementation of its UNFCCC-aligned strategy. This will include embedding sustainable practices in operations, waste and energy management, and procurement

**ICF Events Sustainability Toolkit:** On World Water Day (March 22) 2023, ICF released an Events Sustainability Toolkit for all event organizers. We used this guide for our 2024's events. This guide provides checklists and best practices across transport, waste, energy, catering, biodiversity protection, and inclusion/diversity to help organizers minimize environmental impacts.

**Alibaba Cloud Partnership:** In late 2023, ICF partnered with Alibaba Cloud (Official IOC Cloud Partner) to leverage AI-driven tools for sustainability. Announced at the Hangzhou Asian Games and reinforced at a 2024 tech summit, this collaboration will pilot AI analytics to identify carbon sources at ICF events, improve energy use (e.g. shifts to renewables), and engage fans/sponsors in sustainability.

## **Community Clean-up Campaigns:**

### **DECK Project 2024 (Developing Environmental Circular Knowledge)**

Environmental sustainability is at the forefront of the International Canoe Federation Canoe Slalom World Cup in Ivrea. Around 2,000 water bottles made of 100 per cent recycled plastic have been made available by the Itan Canoe

Federation (FICK) to promote the conscious use of materials, thus avoiding unnecessary waste.

The DECK Project, which aimed to develop environmental standards for sustainable canoeing events in Metkovic, Croatia.

The DECK Project, supported by the International Canoe Federation, was entering its next phase as it sought to collect data from athletes. This innovative project aimed to analyze the environmental impact of sports activities and promote sustainable practices

The International Canoe Federation's DECK project has been shortlisted for the International Olympic Committee Climate Action Awards 2024.



## **Puerto Princesa Dragon Boat World Championships 2024**

Introduced a “Paddle Together for Climate Action” campaign at the World Championships in the Philippines.

This initiative included coastal and baywalk clean-ups, eco-conscious race protocols, sustainability education for spectators, and partnerships with local organizations to promote climate awareness.

## **Sustainable Boat Production Partner**

As one of ICF's Gold Partners, Nelo has embedded sustainability principles into its global boat manufacturing operations.

The company applies a “3R” strategy, Reuse, Recycle, Reduce, by repurposing carbon waste into products such as backpacks, creating rudders from recycled plastic bottles, and using reused resins and polyesters in production.

Renewable energy is a cornerstone of its factory operations in Portugal, where solar panels now generate nearly 60% of energy needs, complemented by policies to reduce water consumption.

Nelo's "boat for everybody," the Nelo 400, is produced with 50% recycled materials. Its durability reduces the frequency of new production, lowering material demand and carbon footprint.

The production partner also supports marine biodiversity protection, demonstrating the broader alignment of equipment manufacturing with climate action in sport.

Each of these initiatives or projects is aligned with the ICF's climate positive. In the long-term, ICF will aim to reduce carbon emissions in Scopes 1 and 2, and to address Scope 3 through sustainable projects or events that follow our toolkits and offset programmes. Collectively, they exemplify the ICF's strategic pillar of "climate-positive actions" from the Fit for Future strategy.

### **Methodology and Standards**

ICF refers to the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting Standard for emissions calculations. Emissions are calculated or estimated from activity data (energy consumption, travel itineraries, event attendance) using accepted emission factors. Scope 3 travel emissions are calculated and included from known travel distances and modes for staff and athletes. ICF's calculation or estimation method conform to the best practices, but rely on available data; where data were missing, conservative assumptions were made in line with Sports for Climate Action guidance.

### **Future Commitments (Sports for Climate Action)**

ICF's future plans align with the UN's Sports for Climate Action targets: halve emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2040. These commitments are added in ICF's Fit for Future Evolution strategy. It will continue annual reporting on emissions and progress (as per S4CA guidelines) to ensure transparency. By 2040 ICF aims to completely neutralize its residual footprint through in-house reductions and credible offsets, in line with the S4CA science-based pathway.

**ICF–UNITAR Training Partnership:** In April 2025 ICF signed an MoU with the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). This partnership will develop curricula on water safety, flood response, and climate adaptation for canoe

coaches, athletes and venue managers. It will also build disaster-response skills using paddle sports centres.

In the future, the ICF will continue its existing sustainability initiatives, including further reducing emissions and implementing carbon-offset activities. It will also develop new projects, like webinars for sharing sustainability best practices and building capacity.

### **Limitations of This Report**

This report's findings are subject to several limitations. Notably, ICF's inventory excludes spectator/fan travel to events, and likely omits some upstream sources. Some data rely on estimated emissions factors. Data accuracy depends on internal records (e.g. staff travel logs, utility bills) and was not third-party verified. Readers should interpret the reported 713 tons CO<sub>2</sub> as an approximate footprint rather than an exact measurement. These limitations underscore the need for improved data collection and transparency in future reports.