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Strengthening WOSM's environmental sustainability

Support Document for Draft Resolution 2021-H

by World Scout Committee



**World Scout
Conference**
**42nd Conférence Mondiale
du Scoutisme**
2021



SCOUTS
Creating a Better World

Strengthening WOSM’s environmental sustainability

by World Scout Committee

This Conference Document provides information to explain the progress that has been taken in the area of environmental sustainability in WOSM and the need to develop strategy on WOSM’s climate neutrality.

Through establishing a climate impact strategy for WOSM to be decided by the Conference, clear actions can be taken to significantly strengthen WOSM’s environmental sustainability practices to address the heightened worldwide climate concern.

Conference proposal:	Draft Resolution 2021-H
Related document:	Conference Document 4A
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Table of Contents

1. Background	2
2. Achievements since the last conference	2
The Earth Tribe Initiative	2
SCENES.....	3
Sustainable Events Guidelines	3
WOSM’s environmental impact report.....	3
3. Creating a climate impact strategy	4

Languages

The official languages of the World Organization are English and French. The World Scout Bureau will make all Conference Documents available in both languages. When possible, it endeavours to make them available also in Arabic, Russian and Spanish - the three additional working languages of WOSM. In the event of a conflict arising out of the interpretation of this Conference Document or any other official document of the World Organization, the English text shall prevail.

1. Background

This Conference Document presents the progress World Scouting made in the area of environmental sustainability since the 41st World Scout Conference in 2017. It provides also the explanation of the need to develop strategy towards WOSM’s organisational ambition for climate neutrality.

During the last World Scout Conference, Member Organizations (MOs) adopted Conference Resolution 2017-10 to bring forward the need to measure the impact and strengthen the area of environmental sustainability at all levels. Besides calling on MOs to adopt policies which promote environment sustainability activities, the Conference Resolution also covered the following areas of action for the World Scout Committee and World Scout Bureau: empowering young people through environmental education, reporting on opportunities for achieving carbon neutrality, engaging SCENES Centres, sustainable meetings and events, and investigating WOSM’s environmental impact.

2. Achievements since the last conference

The Earth Tribe Initiative

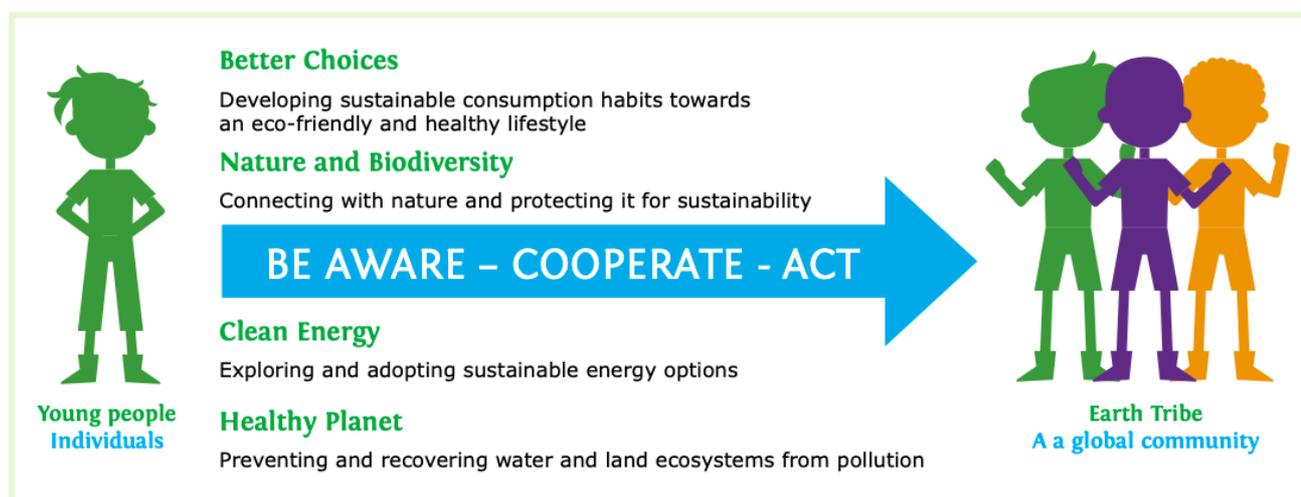
Environmental education has been a long standing aspect of the Youth Programme, with the conservation badge programme first being offered by World Scouting in the 1970’s. During the 2017-2020 Triennium, a review was conducted of the 10 year old World Scout Environment Programme (WSEP) to align with the formation of the Better World Framework and mobilisation of Scouts for SDGs.

As a result of this alignment process, World Scouting launched [the Earth Tribe](#) initiative in June 2020. The Earth Tribe initiative and its educational Challenges specifically seek to address environmental and sustainability issues such as climate change, promoting the development of sustainable habits towards an eco-friendly and healthy lifestyle, and connecting with nature to protect it sustainably.



The Earth Tribe contributes to the development of young people with a focus on competencies for sustainable development in the area of environmental education. Young people and adults are invited to become members of the Earth Tribe by exploring four key learning paths – better choices, nature and biodiversity, clean energy, and healthy planet.

During the journey through these learning paths, members of the Earth Tribe become aware by learning and discovering new knowledge, cooperating with others and with local communities to find solutions, and acting for sustainability and positive change. The Earth Tribe is also a way for young people to mobilise around the Scouts for SDGs and contribute to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



SCENES

Around the world, Scouts Centres of Excellence for Nature, Environment and Sustainability ([SCENES Centres](#)) are working to connect young people to nature, educate people about the effects of climate change on our planet, and inspire Scouts to take action towards making our communities more sustainable. Today, there are 38 SCENES Centres established in 21 countries which are part of a growing worldwide network that have contributed to the preservation of natural areas and protection of endangered species.

The SCENES Network convened its regular seminar virtually in October 2020. Together they discussed ways to incorporate sustainability principles into future programming and to strengthen the SCENES Network with an aspiration to grow the number of accredited SCENES Centres worldwide, ensuring that more young people have access to attractive and engaging environmental education programmes.

Support became available to all SCENES Centres and National Scout Organizations interested to initiate the process to become internationally accredited through the [WOSM Services](#) platform and [the new SCENES Guidelines](#).

Sustainable Events Guidelines

World Scouting has developed the [WOSM Guidelines for organising sustainable events](#). These guidelines are prepared with a special focus on event bidders and designated hosts for World and Regional Scout Events such as Jamborees, Moots, Conferences and Youth Forums. In addition, these guidelines are also meant to serve as guidance for all organisers of smaller events and meetings across the Scout Movement (ie NSO events, workshops, operational framework structures' meetings, committee/board meetings, etc.). In addition, specific Regional guidance was developed in the last triennium, including the [Checklist for Sustainable Events](#) of the European Scout Region.

WOSM's environmental impact report

An investigation of WOSM's environmental impact was conducted and the outcomes presented in this report, [Understanding WOSM's environmental impact: baseline study and recommendations for improvement](#). This report forms the basis of a much broader effort World Scouting has embarked on to measure its environmental impact and mitigate any negative effects over the coming years. The report helps to understand the current situation, but it also recommends that World Scouting conducts a more in-depth analysis of its carbon footprint and subsequently develops plans for offsetting it in order to gradually become a carbon neutral or carbon positive organisation through a climate impact strategy.



3. Creating a climate impact strategy

As recommended in WOSM's environmental impact report, WOSM has worked with experts on developing an approach to create a strategic plan for its climate action. Several aspects need to be considered to ensure a well-informed approach to reach the desired goals.

A briefing paper has been prepared to inform Member Organizations on the "[Main aspects of developing WOSM's climate impact strategy](#)", which will be put for discussion and debate at the 42nd World Scout Conference.

It is envisioned that the next World Scout Committee will use these inputs to finalise a climate impact strategy with partners and experts in this area, including implementing clear actions to significantly strengthen WOSM's environmental sustainability practices, and setting World Scouting on course to achieve its climate impact strategy in its operations.