

2021



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10 TIMES POSITIVE

FOR ATHLETE TRAVEL AT IQFOIL EVENTS
2021



CONTENTS



03

THE PATHWAY

04 - 07

TREES PER EVENT

08

METHODOLOGY

09

WHY MANGROVES



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THE PATHWAY TO 10 TIMES POSITIVE

With the iQFoil selected to bring windsurfing to the 2024 Olympics in Paris, Starboard felt the urgency to show how sports can lead the way in identifying and reducing the equivalent emissions of sporting events.

Starting on the water, Starboard's mission is to: **'Bring inspiration and innovation to the world of wind and water'**. As the iQFoil class develops throughout the years, more and more actions will be put into place to reduce the impact at events. Starting with each event organiser having to agree to implement the actions on the Event Environmental Code of Conduct.

Using the class as an example for all other sporting disciplines to follow suit and even go beyond!

For each tonne of carbon dioxide released from the athletes travel, 10 mangrove trees will be planted. A mangrove tree will approximately absorb 1 tonne of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years of its life.

Additionally, each iQFoil board will have 100 mangroves planted to absorb the boards approximate emissions 100 times over.

Finally, each person is responsible for 1.1 kg of plastic waste reaching the oceans each year. For each iQFoil board, more than 10 times this amount will be collected. Resulting in 11.4 kg per each iQFoil board.

642

Mangrove trees planted for the
International Games, Lake Garda
for 107 Athletes

1470

Mangrove trees planted for the
Youth World's event in July for
245 Athletes

90

Mangrove trees planted for the
Exhibition Race, in St Mortiz
for 15 Athletes

1374

Mangrove trees planted for the
Senior and U21 World
Championships, in Silvaplana
for
229 Athletes

174

Mangrove trees planted for the
Kieler Woche event, in Kiel
for 29 Athletes

66

Mangrove trees planted for the
International Games, in Split
for
11 Athletes

1254

Mangrove trees planted for the
European Championships, in
Marseille for 209 Athletes

5070

mangrove trees planted in total
to make the estimated emissions
of all the iQFoil events 10 times
carbon positive.

METHODOLOGY

Information gathering

In the other events we found that our standardised data collection methods were ineffective as every discipline works differently. This resulted in us not gathering enough feedback to calculate an average per person. For all future events, each individual will take part in a 30-60 second interview to gather all travel details effectively.

Additional Areas

In future events the electricity, fuel from boat use, staff and volunteer travel will also be included.

Calculation

Average

Starboard looked back at the carbon footprint calculations for similar sporting events from previous years.

From this data we calculated an average of 0.6 tonnes of CO₂ per person. Which was agreed as a fair estimation for these events.

A total of 845 athletes were accounted for in these calculations. To gain the final CO₂ emissions for these events we multiply 845 by 0.6 to get 507 tonnes.

All findings were placed into the [Carbon Footprint UK calculator](#). The same company are those who verify Starboard's yearly carbon footprint. All emissions factors from the calculator are gained from the latest sources, including the UK government (gov.uk).

Margin of error

10% is included in the averages to account for any inaccuracies from our estimations.

Mangrove Calculation

For each tonne identified 10 mangroves are planted to make the events 10 times carbon positive. As a tree will absorb approximately 1 tonne of CO₂ within the first 20 years of it's life.

WHY MANGROVES?

Mangroves help the planet thrive in many ways!

In the last few decades huge areas of mangrove forest have been slashed down for salt or shrimp farming or to be used as coal to fuel fires. With this rapid depletion comes many issues:

- The huge quantities of carbon stored by the mangroves is released into the atmosphere.
- No plants are left to photosynthesise and draw down atmospheric carbon.
- Native wildlife will either face extinction or be forced into closer contact with humans.
- Biodiversity will be severely reduced
- Removal of this natural sea defense will expose the land to soil erosion and local communities to the direct impact of extreme weather events.

Protecting the surviving forests will help to prevent these issues, but protection alone is not enough. If we do not support the reforestation of mangroves we will have to face the consequences globally.

The planets carbon cycle is the exchange of where the carbon dioxide is stored. Carbon is normally stored in carbon sinks in the ground. CO₂ is released from the carbon stores in the ground or under the ocean through the change of land or the burning of fossil fuels.

Once this CO₂ is released it goes into the atmosphere, increasing levels of atmospheric carbon and adding to the greenhouse gases which are now warming our planet and acidifying our oceans.

The fastest way to restore carbon is through plant photosynthesis, where plants remove carbon from the air, store it in their trunks, roots and leaves and eventually sink it into the ground. photosynthesis also releases oxygen back into the atmosphere. Additionally, mangroves live in oxygen poor soils which means they work even harder to process the surrounding CO₂.

Worldview International Foundation have the highest survival rate for trees, whilst also supporting the local community by creating jobs that provides a good income for planting and protecting the mangroves forests.