



River Conservation Report – Congress 2019

By Kianoosh Mehrabi, Chair of Conservation Committee

13 & 15 May, Tully, Queensland, Australia

Aims

- To make and introduce rafting as a responsible and green tourism activity and sport.
- To grow river conservation awareness among all rafters (instructors, guides, sport rafters, rafting participants etc)
- To have cleaner rivers
- To have free flowing rivers
- To save water
- To conserve rivers directly by cooperation with international and national organizations
- To help conservation by empowering local people and have their cooperation
- To have greener events

Achievements

- A river cleaning program was run in Iran (as a sample) in Sefidroud and Zayandeh Rood Rivers
- An eco-friendly river festival was run for people with disabilities on the Sefidoud River and the river was cleaned by the people with disabilities and the local community (Run by Iran Rafting Association).
- An [Action Plan “Litter-Free & Green Event”](#) was prepared and is now available for all event organisers (by Ms. Hanieh Goharipour and other committee members)
- NGOs which are active in the field of river conservation were found so as to network with them
- Campaigns fighting against dams or other activities that have a negative effect on the free flowing rivers of our world have been publicised.
- A campaign was launched together with the International Rivers Organisation and the African Paddling Association to stop the damming of the Zambezi River just below Victoria Falls.

Recommendations

- Need to get more attention from event organisers, rafting federations, rafting and rivers lovers, etc. The event organisers mostly focus on the racing events and show too little attention on the eco-activities at the events.
- Need to emphasise the green aspect of the events and use media to make all rafting lovers aware of this.
- Need to cooperate with the international, national, regional and local associations and organisations active in river activities and perform more eco-river projects.
- Combine GTE events with other IRF conservation events and add “Green River” class to GTE courses and use guides’ potentials to raise public awareness.
- Design an “Eco” or “Green” label for the rafting operators that help conserve rivers and practise sustainable tourism.
- Create festival like events and put Green Activities as a part of the events
- Seek more active people to help promote river conservation