

# KENYA CONFIRMED AS JULY 2026 HOST FOR WORLD RAFTING CUP

## Historic MOU Signed in Aosta, Italy



L-R: MOU signing ceremony | KRF delegation with WRF officials | Group photo at Aosta venue

A defining milestone for African water sports was achieved yesterday in Aosta, Italy, where the World Rafting Federation (WRF), African Rafting Council and a high-level Kenyan delegation (KRF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) officially awarding Kenya the hosting rights for the July 2026 World Rafting Cup, the third leg of the global World Cup series.

The signing ceremony brought together top international and continental rafting leadership, underscoring the strategic importance of Kenya's entry into the world-class competition circuit.

### LEADERSHIP REPRESENTED

#### WORLD RAFTING FEDERATION

Mr. Danilo Barmaz, President, WRF

Mr. Matteo Benciolini, Secretary General, WRF

Mr. El Mamoun Belabbas, President, African Rafting Council

#### KENYA DELEGATION

Mr. William Kinuthia, Secretary General, KRF

Mr. Denis Munuve, Government Representative

### SIGNIFICANCE FOR KENYA

The MoU elevates Kenya into the global rafting spotlight, bringing wide-ranging benefits:

- Increased international tourism and sports travel
- Expanded opportunities for youth and athlete development
- Strengthened sports diplomacy and global partnerships
- Enhanced visibility for African rivers as competitive venues

*WRF leadership praised Kenya's rapid organizational progress and the continent's growing rafting potential.*



The stunning Aosta Valley backdrop for the historic signing

### 2026 WORLD CUP SERIES

<p><b>APRIL 2026</b></p>  <p><b>Pau, France</b></p>	<p><b>JUNE 2026</b></p>  <p><b>Val di Sole, Italy</b></p>	<p><b>JULY 2026</b></p>  <p><b>Sagana, Kenya</b></p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER 2026</b></p>  <p><b>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</b></p>
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*Kenya's hosting marks the first time in history that a World Rafting Cup league will be held on African soil.*

### NEXT STEPS TOWARD JULY

Joint Kenya-WRF technical teams will now begin coordinated preparations:

- 1 River inspections and safety assessments
- 2 Infrastructure and logistics planning
- 3 Technical official training and athlete development
- 4 Government and private-sector mobilization
- 5 Integration into the global promotional calendar