World Vision

Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action

HANDBOOK

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World Vision is a Christian relief, development, and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
AP	Area Programme
BSL	Building Secure Livelihoods
CBDRM	Community-based Disaster Risk Management
CSA	Climate-smart agriculture
CVA	Citizen Voice and Action
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GHG	Greenhouse gas
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
LDCs	Least developed countries
LICs	Low-income countries
LMICs	Lower-middle income countries
NRM	Natural resource management
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Fund
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VFI	VisionFund International
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WV	World Vision
WVI	World Vision International

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Carbon sequestration	The physical uptake/removal and storage of carbon. Trees and plants, for example, absorb carbon dioxide, release the oxygen and store the carbon.[1] Carbon can also be naturally sequestered in soil, oceans and coastal mangroves.
Carbon offsetting	A market mechanism for companies, individuals and governments to pay for carbon reduction or removals elsewhere and claim that 'credit' for carbon reduction within their own organisations. Offsets can be generated from both mitigation (e.g., a reduction in expected emissions) and sequestration projects.
Climate change	A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is, in addition to natural climate variability, observed over comparable time periods.[2]
Climate action	Any measure, programme or policy that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, builds resilience to climate change or supports and finances those goals.
Climate change adaptation	The process of adjustment in ecological, social and economic systems in response to both the current effects of climate change and the predicted impacts in the future.[3] Adaptation actions range from setting up early warning systems for cyclones to switching to drought-resistant crops, among others.
Climate change mitigation	Avoiding and reducing emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere to prevent the planet from warming to more extreme temperatures or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Mitigation measures include use of renewable energy and waste minimisation processes, among others.[4]
Climate empowerment	Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) is a term adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The over-arching goal of ACE is to empower all members of society to engage in climate action, through education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation on these issues.[5]

[1] UNFCCC, 'Glossary', https://unfccc.int/resource/cd_roms/na1/ghg_inventories/english/8_glossary/Glossary.htm#C.
[2] UNFCCC (1992), *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, article 1, point 2.
[3] UNFCCC, 'What do adaptation to climate change and climate resilience mean?', https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/the-big-picture/what-do-adaptation-to-climate-change-and-climate-resilience-mean.
[4] IPCC (2018). Annex I: Glossary [Matthews, J.B.R. (ed.)]. In: *Global Warming of 1.5°C.*, https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/glossary/.
[5] UNFCCC, 'What is Action for Climate Empowerment?' https://unfccc.int/topics/education-youth/the-big-picture/what-is-action-for-climate-empowerment.

Climate resilience	Broadly defined as the ability to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, absorb and recover from the impacts of stresses imposed by climate change.
Climate-smart agriculture (CSA)	An approach to help the people who manage agricultural systems respond effectively to climate change. The CSA approach pursues the triple objectives of sustainably increasing productivity and incomes, adapting to climate change, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions where possible. It is not a set of practices that can be universally applied, but rather an approach that involves different elements embedded in local contexts.[6]
Environmental degradation	The deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water and soil; the destruction of ecosystems; habitat destruction; the extinction of wildlife; and pollution. It is defined as any change or disturbance to the environment perceived to be deleterious or undesirable.
Environmental impact	Refers to the direct effect of socio-economic activities (e.g., burning of fossil fuels, deforestation) and natural events (e.g., storms, droughts) on the components of the environment (e.g., air quality, climate, soils, forests, water quality).
Environment safeguards	Policies, standards and operational procedures designed to identify, prevent and minimise undue harm to people and their environment in field programming.
Environmental stewardship	Responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation, restoration and sustainable practices.
Greenhouse gases (GHG)	The gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation. Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons are examples of greenhouse gases.
Global warming	Warming or heating of the earth (land and water) caused by solar radiation (heat) being trapped in the atmosphere by greenhouse gases.
Natural resource management	The sustainable use and management of natural resources such as forests, land, water, soil, plants and animals with a particular focus on how management affects the quality of life for both present and future generations.
Net Zero	Net Zero is the point when our GHG emissions are equal to the GHG we can prevent or remove from the atmosphere

[6] FAO, 'Climate Smart Agriculture', https://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture/en/.

1. Preface

1.1 Introduction

Climate change presents the single biggest threat to human development, and its widespread impacts disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable households in fragile and rural developing contexts – particularly women and children. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) latest report, 'between 2010 and 2020, droughts, floods and storms killed 15 times as many people in highly vulnerable countries, particularly in Africa — which is responsible for less than 3 percent of global emissions – than in the wealthiest countries'.[7] Recognising environmental degradation and climate change are key accelerators of extreme child vulnerability, World Vision (WV) approved the Environmental Stewardship Management Policy ('the Policy') and Guidelines ('the Guidelines') in 2021. To support the implementation of the Policy and Guidelines, WV has developed this Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action Handbook ('the Handbook') to help offices across the WV Partnership implement best practice environmental management strategies both in the field and in our operations and facilities.

Integrating environmental stewardship and climate action into all our work – whether that be in our Area Programmes, grant projects, responses to disasters or advocacy – is critical to achieving WV's strategy.

As a Christian organisation we are compelled to follow the ways of Jesus Christ, calling us to care for the 'least of these' (Matthew 25:40) – the vulnerable children who are disproportionately impacted by climate change. Our response to the degradation of the environment is not motivated by political expediency or funding – but because we are called to steward God's creation (Genesis 1:28).

1.2 The Global Challenge: Environmental Degradation and Climate Change

The impacts from environmental degradation and climate change threaten the earth's natural ecosystems and thus humanity's ability to maintain good health and well-being, particularly in countries already vulnerable to natural hazards, fragile economies and unstable political systems. In a recent study by Xu et al (2020), It is estimated that for every 1 degree rise in temperature, 1 billion people will be displaced; we have already seen the climate-related displacement of over 200 million people.[8]

Global warming as a result of increased concentration

[7] Price, K. (2022). 'IPCC report: Climate Change could soon outpace humanity's ability to adapt', Feb 28, 2022, https://www.conservation.org/blog/ipcc-report-climate-change-could-soon-outpace-humanitys-ability-to-adapt

[8] Xu, C., Kohler, T., Lenton, T. (2020). *Future of the Human Climate Niche.* Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, May 4, 2020.

of greenhouse gases (GHG) in our atmosphere contributes to extreme temperatures. Currently 0.8 per cent of land mass is too hot for humans to inhabit. If global temperature rises 3 degrees – which we are well on course to pass according to the latest IPCC report – the amount of land mass that will be too hot to support human life will jump to 19 per cent by 2070.[9]

Extreme weather events such as flooding, droughts and mega-fires are increasing in frequency and intensity due to climate change, which is having a devastating effect on food security, nutrition and personal security due to forced migration. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the annual occurrence of disasters is now more than three times that of the 1970s and 1980s as a result of the warming climate.[10]

As climate change causes increases in average temperatures or extreme weather events like flooding, tropical diseases are shifting into new areas where the population is less immune or prepared. Whilst everyone is vulnerable to the health impacts associated with climate change, children are disproportionately affected due to their physical, physiological and cognitive immaturity.[11] Children in low-income countries that already experience a higher burden of disease with limited ability to adapt will be even more affected by harmful effects of climate change.

1.3 Objective

The primary goal of the Handbook is to support the implementation of the WV Partnership's Environmental Stewardship Management Policy so that WV programmes, operations and facilities, advocacy, and communications and marketing activities contribute to improved natural environments while minimising negative impacts that may affect the well-being of the children, their families and the communities that we serve. The specific objectives are to:

- identify and manage environmental and climate risks and impacts both in WV field programming and across our operations and facilities
- set minimum standards and requirements to integrate environmental and climate risk into programming

The Handbook can be applied to both urban and rural programming contexts.

1.3.1 Guiding Principles

WV has a long history of implementing programmes that address the impacts and causes of climate change and environmental degradation, and deliver positive outcomes for vulnerable communities and the natural environment. WV acknowledges that to effectively address the climate crisis and improve the well-being of children, we must take concurrent actions to end global poverty and inequality, support at-risk communities to build resilience, and reduce global climate and environmental impact. According to the IPCC report, investments in climate mitigation will boost the resilience of ecosystems and the communities WV serves. The sustainable methods laid out in this handbook can contribute to long-term economic and societal transformations that protect against future climate shocks.[12]

[9] Ibid.
[10] FAO (2021). *The impact of Disasters and Crises on Agriculture and Food Security*, https://doi.org/10.4060/cb3673en.
[11] Etzel, R. A. & Balk, S. J. (2018). *Pediatric Environmental Health*, 4th edn (American Academy of Pediatrics).
[12] Ibid.

Our environmental stewardship approach is founded in four core guiding principles:

1 **We are Christian and stewards of God's creation**
One of our core values states that 'We are stewards of God's creation. We care for the earth and act in ways that will restore and protect the environment.'

2 **We are committed to the poor and child focused**
Climate change and environmental degradation is a key driver of extreme poverty, inequality and child vulnerability.

3 **This is what is expected from us**[13]
WV signed the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations[14] in January 2022. In signing the charter, WV agrees to fulfil the following seven commitments:

1. Step up our response to growing humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the impacts of the climate and environmental crises.
2. Maximise the environmental sustainability of our work and rapidly reduce our GHG emissions.
3. Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities.
4. Increase our capacity to understand climate and environmental risks and develop evidence-based solutions.
5. Work collaboratively across the humanitarian sector and beyond to strengthen climate and environmental action.
6. Use our influence to mobilise urgent and more ambitious climate action and environmental protection.
7. Develop targets and measure our progress as we implement our commitments.

4 **What we can achieve**
Implementation of the guidelines will help offices to both reduce our environmental footprint, which has a negative global impact on child well-being, and can also potentially create financial savings (for example, from reducing travel or energy use), which will mean more funding is used to reach more vulnerable children.

1.4 Who Is the Handbook for?

This Handbook is relevant to all operational contexts and applies to all WV entities, including VisionFund International (VFI) and its affiliated microfinance entities. It is also the intent of the Handbook to guide WV fundraising and resource development efforts to fund Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship programming. It is the responsibility of WV leaders to ensure that all staff are aware of the Policy and supporting Guidelines and Handbook and that all WV employees are in full alignment with this policy in their respective roles.

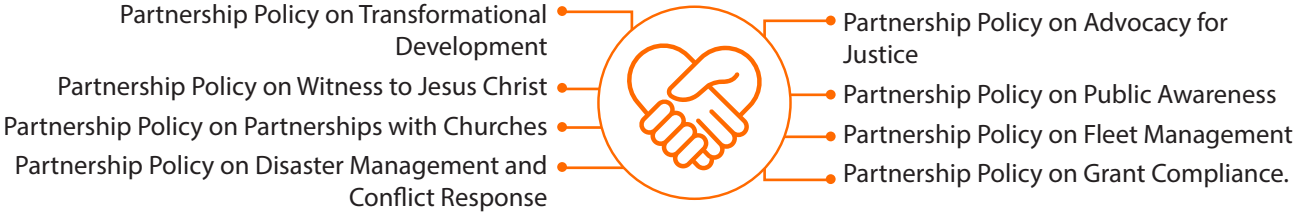
1.4.1 Context

WV and VFI entities may adopt a self-paced and self-directed contextualisation of the Handbook depending on their capacity and applicability. Each office should agree priority actions and add these to the Combined Action Plan (e.g., Strategy or Strategy Support Team Action Plan). The action plan should be the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team.

[13] Donors such as World Bank and the EU (through their new 2021–2027 strategy) are also urging 'greener, smarter, more equitable' recovery path. The new DFAT Environment and Social Safeguards also now require all new aid investments to screen for climate change risk and disaster risk reduction.
[14] Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations (https://www.climate-charter.org).

1.4.2 Related Policies

The Handbook supports the implementation of the Environmental Stewardship Management Policy. It is also related to the following policies (but not limited to):



1.5 Structure of the Handbook

The Handbook will provide detailed information on environmental stewardship minimum standards, assessment processes, and training and resource materials to support the implementation of the Policy across development and disaster management projects and programmes, both in rural and urban contexts. The Handbook also provides information on how to embed climate action into WV's projects and programmes.

To meet the systemic challenges to children's well-being posed by environmental degradation and climate change, the Handbook is organised into four thematic areas:

Field Programming: Adapting development and disaster management programmes during design, implementation and decommissioning to identify risks of negative environmental impacts, ensure positive environmental outcomes, and mitigate the impacts from degraded environments, natural hazards and climate change on vulnerable children.[15]

Operations and Facilities: Adjusting management practices in our operations and facilities (including offices) to know what our environmental footprint is, to reduce our negative impact on the environment – including our carbon footprint – and increase our positive impact on the environment through agreed approaches.

Advocacy: Responding to climate change is a justice issue. We see climate justice as an approach that places children at the centre of the climate crisis and brings about solutions that are good for people and the planet by upholding children's rights.

Communications and Marketing: Showcasing WV's contributions to climate mitigation, adaptation and justice, and raising our profile with donors and governments to invest in proven, scalable environmental and climate action approaches.

1.6 How to Use the Handbook

The Handbook should be used by our field offices during the planning, implementation and decommissioning phases of Area Programmes (APs), institutional donor-funded (e.g., grants) projects, programmes and disaster responses. It should also be used to identify environmental impacts; develop mitigation action plans to monitor and reduce their impacts across both operations and facilities; and identify and implement appropriate advocacy, communication and fundraising strategies to promote good environmental stewardship and climate action to all supporters.

[15] COVID-19 & Green Recovery: https://www.wvi.org/publications/policy-briefing/climate-change/covid-19-green-recovery.

2. Integrating Environment and Climate Action into Field Programming

2.1 Integrating Environment and Climate Action in the Project Cycle

Integrating and mainstreaming environmental stewardship and climate action activities needs to be considered right from the start of the project cycle, with good situation analysis identifying risks, vulnerabilities and capacities at an early stage. Environment, climate and disaster management action can be incorporated relatively easily and effectively into standard project planning tools such as logical frameworks and environmental risk assessments. It can also be built into the whole project cycle using tools such as checklists (e.g., environmental and climate marker questions provided in Chapter 3). Checklists set out a series of questions relating to environment, climate and disaster management issues to be answered when developing project-planning documents.[16]

The following are actions that can be taken by all WV field offices to enable integration of environment, climate and disaster management:

'Environment/climate/disaster-proof' new programmes by including environmental safeguarding assessments in their business case (see Chapter 3).

Institutionalise environment/climate-informed risk assessments in design and redesign phases of programme development (see Chapter 3). At a minimum, the 'do no harm' principle should be applied. Moreover, programmes should seek to have positive environmental contributions, and assessments can determine what the need/opportunity areas are.

Incorporate existing environmental stewardship and climate action activities into development and disaster management programmes and adapt existing programmes to support climate and disaster resilience.

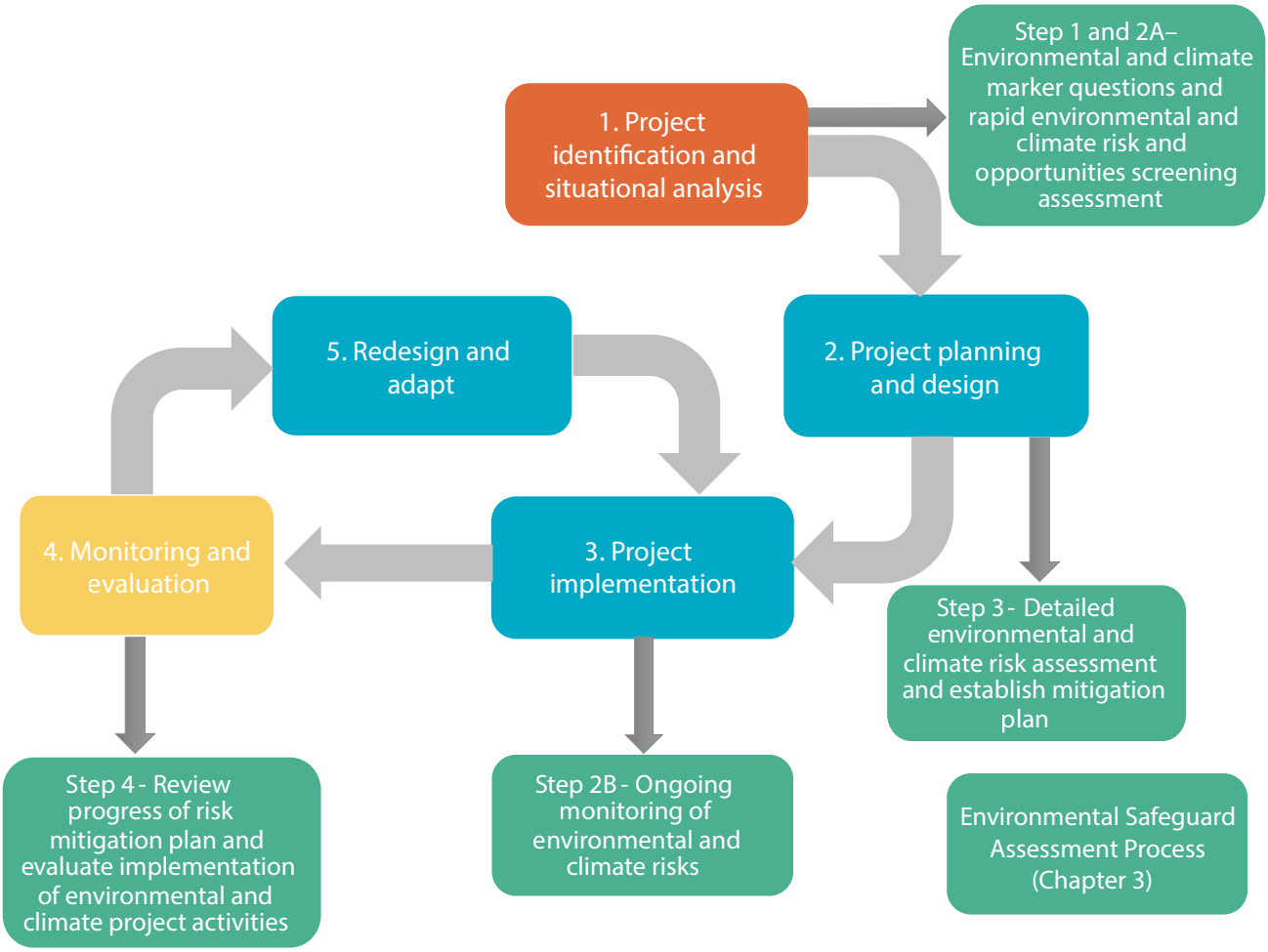
[16] Twigg, John (2015) (new edition). *Disaster Risk Reduction: Good Practice Review 9*. Commissioned by Humanitarian Practice Network, Overseas Development Institute.

Some critical steps that can be taken to create an enabling environment for integrating and mainstreaming environmental stewardship and climate action into the project cycle include:

- have the commitment and support of leadership and management
- include environmental stewardship and climate action in your field programming strategy
- make the appropriate institutional arrangements and build the necessary capacity by employing dedicated staff with environmental and climate change programming expertise, and by sensitising existing staff to environmental stewardship standards; link environmental stewardship team members with regional learning groups/green teams for broad knowledge sharing
- include environmental stewardship and climate action in all stages of project planning, needs assessment, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and knowledge sharin
- advocate environmental stewardship and climate action internally and externally (see Chapter 6 for more information).

Figure 1 provides the key steps for integrating environmental stewardship and climate action into the project cycle. The Handbook applies to all field office technical programmes under which Area Programmes implement the core project models and grant projects. The Handbook also applies to disaster response projects. The key steps in the integration process across the project cycle are explained below.

FIGURE 1. Steps to integrate environmental stewardship and climate action into the project cycle



WV entities prefer partners with demonstrated values of good environmental stewardship. In the case of very large and enduring contracts, a due diligence check should be carried out, ensuring that WV does not work with any partners or institutions with poor ratings for environmental impacts among other things.

2.2.1 Steps to Integrating Environment and Climate Action in the Project Cycle

1. Project identification and situational analysis

As part of the project identification and situational analysis stage of project development, field offices, with support from support offices where appropriate, should be assessing project activities against the environmental and climate marker questions, therefore undertaking a rapid environmental and climate risk and opportunities screening assessment. This assessment will determine if a detailed environmental and climate risk assessment is required in the project planning and design phase. Both the environmental and climate marker questions and the screening assessment should be integrated into existing processes for understanding the situational context for any type of project and sector before detailed planning of activities is undertaken. However, it may be necessary to undertake the rapid environmental and climate risk and opportunities screening assessment during the planning phase (step 2) if insufficient information on the project activities is known at the project identification phase. Chapter 3 provides detailed guidance on how to assess project activities against the environmental and climate marker questions and undertake a rapid environmental and climate risk and opportunities screening assessment – which is steps 1 and 2 of the environmental safeguards assessment process, respectively.

2. Project design and planning

During the project planning and design phase, the project design team may need to undertake a detailed environmental and climate risk assessment as part of the design process depending on the results of the rapid environmental and climate risk and opportunities screening assessment. Where medium to high risks are identified during the detailed assessment, a mitigation plan will need to be developed. Chapter 3 provides more information on this process.

Beyond addressing any critical risks identified during the detailed risk assessment, the project design team should also be looking for opportunities to make the project more environmentally sustainable and climate resilient. For example, in designing WASH projects, integrated water management, where appropriate, should be incorporated into the project design. In another example, rural economic development projects should incorporate climate-smart agriculture practices into the project design, regardless of whether any risks were identified during the situational analysis process. And in the case of disaster response management, waste management practices such as recycling should be considered.

It should be noted that WV is already addressing many of the impacts environmental degradation and climate change is having on development and disaster management projects through a range of innovative areas of action including:

Many of these action areas are interconnected and overlapping, and address multiple impacts caused by environmental degradation and climate change.

Chapter 4 provides an overview of how each of these environment and climate areas of action integrate with WV sectors of operation including Health and Nutrition; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); Education; Disaster Management; Child Protection; and Economic Development.

3. Project implementation

During implementation, both risk mitigation plans and environment and climate action areas identified during the planning phase are implemented alongside other project activities. Therefore, the relevant activities should be included in the project log frame and monitoring and evaluation plan.

4. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

LEAP (Learning, Evaluation, Accountability and Planning) is WV's approach to planning, monitoring and evaluation for all programmes, regardless of funding type. Monitoring occurs throughout the life of the programme and supports timely management decisions and reporting. Programme evaluation assesses the effectiveness of programme design and implementation, with results feeding into redesign where the programme enters a new cycle. For monitoring and evaluating environment and climate risks for all programmes, World Vision International's (WVI) enterprise risk management (ERM) framework should be used. Further guidance on this is provided in Chapter 3.3. For monitoring and evaluating environment and climate action projects, appropriate activities and progress indicators will be present in the programme design, log frame and M&E framework.

5. Redesign and adapt

WV's programme management cycle embodies an iterative journey towards continuous improvement. Where programmes enter a new cycle or are extended, reflections and learnings from M&E are taken into consideration in redesign. Learnings from M&E should be used to redesign risk management plans and project activities where deficiencies and unintended negative effects on the environment in the current design are found. This stage acts as a feedback loop, as any changes will result in updates to project plans and in how implementation is carried out.

3. Assessing Environmental and Climate Risk in Field Programming Design

3.1 Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Safeguarding Minimum Standards

This chapter applies to all WV field projects and programmes including:

- Technical Programmes and Area Programmes
- institutional donor-funded development projects and programmes
- disaster management.

All WV field projects and programmes are expected to undertake environmental safeguards assessments to ensure good stewardship. Minimum requirements that every office must meet are provided in this Handbook and include our Do No Harm Principles and Gender Responsive and Child-focused Engagement processes, presented below.

3.1.1 Do No Harm Principles

WV's environmental stewardship and climate change minimum standard is guided by the 'Do No Harm' principles – that is, to manage the environmental and climate risks in all projects, programmes and disaster responses (e.g., child sponsorship, government and multilateral grants) to ensure that no harm is caused to the environment and also to create opportunity for a positive environmental outcome.

Based on this principle, WV will ensure that its projects and programmes will undergo an environmental safeguard assessment to avoid – and where avoidance is not possible, to minimise or mitigate – adverse impact to people and environment. Environmental safeguarding should start at the proposal design stage of every project/programme through the analysis of potential positive and negative impacts of proposed activities and identification of mitigation measures. This requirement will apply to all projects starting from the 1 October 2022; however, it can be retroactively applied to existing projects and programmes where practical. An environmental safeguard assessment should also identify opportunities to contribute positive environmental measures into projects and programmes.

WV Do No Harm principles that will apply to all development sectors and disaster management include:

Child Protection and Participation: WV's systems approach to child protection helps strengthen the protective environment around children.[17]

Education: WV works with communities and local governments to address the barriers to a quality education for all. Through education, we will promote environmental stewardship and climate action at grass-roots levels and ensure our education programmes avoid damage to the environment (e.g., construction of new schools).

Health and Nutrition: WV's sectoral approach for health and nutrition targets pregnant and lactating women and children under 5, since they face the greatest threat of mortality, malnutrition and illness. WV will ensure that project-related activities avoid or minimise any potential community exposure to health risks (i.e., pollution and contaminants); diseases (i.e., vector-borne, communicable and non-communicable diseases) and hazardous materials in accordance with international accepted standards.

Livelihoods: WV recognises and supports the conservation of biodiversity and the management of ecosystem services, which are fundamental in the sustainability of food and agricultural systems. WV promotes climate-smart agriculture, low-emission production systems, technologies and green income sources, and effective nature-based solutions to support both climate change mitigation and adaptation goals as a global response to the climate crisis.[18]

WASH: WV's approaches to WASH support access to safe, reliable and sustainable WASH facilities and services.[19] WV will ensure that all WASH projects contribute to protecting and, where possible, enhancing water resources, including ground and surface water sources. This will include avoiding the over extraction of water sources and avoiding contamination of them.

Disaster Management: WV is committed and contributes to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 that calls for an inclusive and risk-informed decision-making to prevent, reduce, manage and strengthen resilience to hazards, including 'build back better' after disasters to increase resilience.[20] Moreover, Cash and Voucher Programming provides environmentally viable modality options (service, in-kind, cash, vouchers) and delivery channels (mobile money or cash in envelope, etc.).[21]

3.1.2 Gender Responsive and Child-focused Engagement

Gender

Environmental safeguard assessments should incorporate Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) mainstreaming approaches that take into account specific needs of vulnerable women and men, girls and boys, people living with a disability, and marginalised groups and communities. Gender and social inclusion factors will be considered in relation to promotion of conservation of biodiversity and traditional knowledge, sustainable use of natural resources, and equitable sharing of benefits from these resources.

[17] For further details, please see: https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/Quick_Guide_for_Child_Protection.pdf.
[18] The principles and practices are integrated in WV field programmes and project models, notably, Farmer Managed Natural Resources Management, Building Secure Livelihoods, Integrated Watershed Management.
[19] WV recognises that WASH interventions extend to broader sustainability issues and uses the Sustainable WASH Model as an example to address issues that affect the natural environment and livelihoods.
[20] WV supports a wide-ranging disaster risk reduction (DRR) component in its projects depending on the crisis faced and supports local government and communities in the development of an inclusive Disaster Risk Management Plan to strengthen resilience to shocks, disaster, conflict and emergencies.
[21] WV is part of an inter-agency consortium facilitated by the Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) to establish environmental impact standards to measure cash voucher assistance and other modality options (in-kind, services) and delivery channels, comparing urban, rural and camp settings. See also https://ehaconnect.org/.

Mainstreaming gender equality involves looking at the experience and interests of women and men in the development process and addressing these realities in such a way that challenge existing social norms and place women and men on a level playing field. Gender mainstreaming is also not the same as gender balance or gender parity. Gender mainstreaming goes beyond counting the number of women and men in a room. Rather, gender mainstreaming addresses the gender inequalities that are at the core of project, policy or process, leading to more gender-responsive actions.[22]

WV programming embraces a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion approach, seeking to empower women to ensure children's well-being will be improved. Therefore, WV GESI guidance should be reviewed prior to undertaking the environmental safeguards assessment to ensure gender-sensitive design approaches are incorporated into the assessment. GESI experts should also be consulted.

Children

WV will ensure all programming adheres to the Child Protection Minimum Standard as we are member of The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. Therefore, these requirements should also inform the environmental safeguards assessment. The specific needs and vulnerabilities of children in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, protection of the environment, sustainable use of natural resources and equitable sharing of benefits from these resources needs to be considered when assessing the potential impacts of a project or programme on the environment. This can be achieved by including children in the assessment process to ensure their opinions are gathered and needs met.

3.2 Donor Expectations

Most donors now require environmental safeguard/impact assessments. Where donor directives for environmental safeguarding meet or exceed WV's standards, these should be applied in place of the requirements outlined in this Handbook. Examples of such donor requirements include ECHO and UNDP, as shared below.

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operations (ECHO)

The European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operations (ECHO – the EU's humanitarian arm) has recently shared new 'Minimum Environmental Requirements and Recommendations'. These will apply to projects and appraisal processes from 2023 onwards. They touch on supply chain and material efficiency specifically and will impact procurement decisions and considerations for ECHO-funded actions.

The ECHO Guiding Environmental Principles are organised under the following areas: CO2 emission mitigation, waste management, water and wastewater management, energy, supply chain and material efficiency, biodiversity, natural habitat and land preservation, and localisation of resources.

ECHO has developed sector-specific recommendations and requirements on food assistance, shelter, settlements and infrastructure, WASH, public health, nutrition, camp coordination and camp management, livelihoods, and education in emergencies. There are also seven cross-cutting areas of recommendations and requirements in projects which should entail:

1. a longer-term vision and encourage linkages with development actors
2. risk-informed approaches
3. a protection and gender lens in the implementation
4. promotion of localisation and participation of local stakeholders
5. promotion of sustainable management of solid waste and chemicals
6. sustainable supply chains and optimisation of logistics
7. environmental efficiency in cash and voucher assistance.

[22] United Nations Industrial Development Organization (2015). *Guide on gender mainstreaming: environmental management projects*.

The main elements to keep in mind when engaging with ECHO is that:

- A mainstreaming approach is crucial to reduce environmental impacts at the project level (carbon offsetting) and the organisational level (greening offices).
- ECHO recognises and co-finances additional costs – up to 10 per cent of total direct costs – related to the implementation of minimum environmental requirements.
- ECHO appreciates and co-finances actions with positive long-term returns.

Environmental considerations are a key priority across the EU and in all EU aid, with the EU aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030 – including ECHO and the department for International Partnerships (INTPA). In EU external development aid, there are not yet any minimum environmental requirements, but some practical actions might be forthcoming in the future, possibly related to greening supply chains. In EU humanitarian aid, environmental considerations should be integrated in all sectoral policies and interventions, even short-term emergency ones.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP programmes and projects must adhere to the objectives and requirements of their Social and Environmental Standards (SES), which have the goals to:

1. strengthen the social and environmental outcomes of programmes and projects
2. avoid adverse impacts to people and the environment
3. minimise, mitigate and manage adverse impacts where avoidance is not possible
4. strengthen UNDP and partner capacities for managing social and environmental risks
5. ensure full and effective stakeholder engagement, including through a mechanism to respond to complaints from project-affected people.

The SES is designed as an iterative process that requires pre-screening by the project developer to inform the project design. A mandatory screening assessment is to be conducted and reviewed by UNDP for approval. For potential moderate or high-risk projects, a scope of required social and environmental assessment is determined and is conducted as part of project preparation. During project implementation, UNDP will check for ongoing compliance with the SES to ensure social and environmental risk management and mitigation measures have been implemented and monitored. Risks are logged (at least annually), regularly updated, mitigated and managed as necessary.

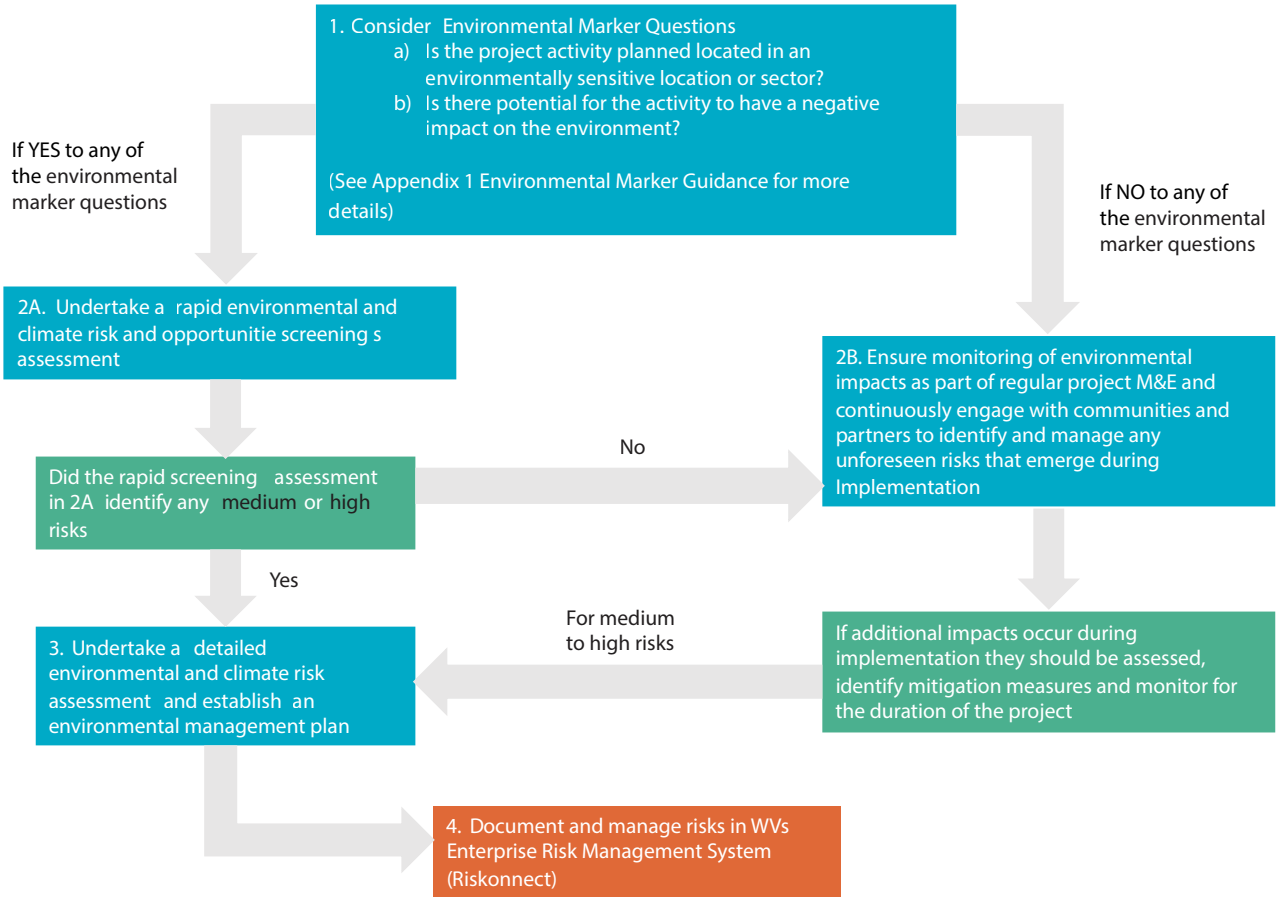
Examples of other donors that have environmental policies and safeguard assessment requirements include:

- Asian Development Bank – Environmental Safeguards
- Australian Government: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Environmental and Safeguards Policy
- European Union's International Partnerships Directorate-general (INTPA) - Quick tips to integrate environment and climate change into key sectors
- Green Climate Fund – Environment and Social Safeguards
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – Environmental Guidelines
- USAID – Environmental Compliance Procedures
- World Bank – Environmental and Social Standards (ESS)
- Global Affairs Canada – Environmental Integration Process – Screening Tool.

3.3 Environmental Safeguard Assessment Process

The field programming environmental safeguarding requirements applies to all field projects and programmes including Technical Programmes, APs, grant-funded projects and disaster management. At a minimum, all projects and programmes will be expected to undertake the environmental safeguard assessment process as shown in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2. Overview of the environmental safeguard assessment process



In line with best practice across the aid and development sector,[23] WV's environmental safeguard assessment operational procedure includes both a rapid screening assessment and detailed environmental assessment and management plan where medium- and high-risk activities are identified during the rapid screening assessment. The purpose of the environmental safeguard assessment is to:

- determine whether a project or programme activity may have a negative impact on GHG emissions or the environment, or whether it creates new or exacerbates existing risks
- assess whether project or programme activities or outcomes are potentially at risk due to climate change, environmental degradation or natural disasters
- identify risks that may impact the environment in the project area, rate their likelihood and impact, assess the effectiveness of any current controls in place to mitigate this risk, and then determine and document (with a management owner and due date) the mitigating measures and monitoring responsibilities for ongoing risk management during project/programme implementation.

It is highly recommended that subject matter experts are consulted during the safeguard assessment process to ensure a rigorous assessment and that all possible risks are identified. Each field office has a designated 'Risk Prime'[24] who has been trained on enterprise risk management methodology. These focal points can provide guidance and tools to help design and execute an appropriate environmental risk assessment.

In instances where donors or host governments (location of field projects and programmes) have their own specific environmental policies, standards and guidelines for undertaking safeguard and/or impact assessments, WV shall follow donor/host government guidance rather than the process outlined in the Handbook (assuming they meet or exceed WV standards).

The environmental safeguard assessment process is described in more detail below.

[23] See for example the Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance (CEDRIG) by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) (https://www.cedrig.org/) and Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (https://resources.eecentre.org/resources/neat/).
[24] Every WV office (field, support, region, relief and shared service centres) will designate a person responsible (Risk Prime) for the risk management process. It will typically be a dedicated risk manager, a member of senior management, or their designate (ERM Framework version 4.0).

3.3.1 Environmental Safeguard Assessment Process

Step 1. Consider environmental and climate marker questions

The initial step in undertaking the environmental safeguard assessment is to consider the following environmental marker questions provided in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Environmental and climate marker questions

Environmental and Climate Marker Question	Examples
a) Is the planned project activity located in an ecologically sensitive location or sector?	***Some ecologically sensitive locations include:*** • forests, including tropical rainforests or vegetation, temperate forests and natural grasslands • wetlands, flood plains, lakes, mangrove swamps, beaches, coastal dunes or beach ridges, and coral reefs • areas subject to desertification or other arid or semi-arid lands • water sources and their margins • steep lands, highlands or mountain areas, and karst (limestone) landscapes • areas affecting national parks, protected areas or locations of high biodiversity value • undulating lands with fragile, unstable and impermeable topsoil prone to erosion • areas where surface and groundwater supplies are scarce and prone to silting or drying up. ***Some environmentally sensitive sectors WV works in that may affect the environment include:*** • rural economic development, including agriculture, forestry and fisheries • construction of service infrastructure including access roads, water pipelines and all other infrastructure such as buildings in the education and health sectors • manufacturing including textiles, food processing and charcoal production • water resources including water supply systems, irrigation, dams and flood control • waste management including sewerage disposal and solid waste landfilling.
b) Is there potential for the activity to have a negative impact on the environment or climate?	***When undertaking this first step of assessment, consider the extent, if any, to which the proposed activity could result in:*** • any environmental effect on a community (e.g., reduction in water supply from ground or surface waters) • the transformation of any area (e.g., clearing of forests) • any impact on the ecosystems of an area (e.g., impact of aquatic species due to a reduction in water flows from irrigation) • any reduction of the aesthetic, recreational, or other environmental quality or value of an area • any adverse effect on an area or structure that has cultural, heritage, historical, or social significance or other special value for present or future generations

Environmental and Climate Marker Question	Examples
b) Is there potential for the activity to have a negative impact on the environment or climate?	• the endangerment or further endangerment of any species of fauna or flora • important long-term effects on the environment (e.g., use of pesticides and herbicides that can reside in soils for decades) • the degradation of the quality of the environment (e.g. WASH projects leading to reduction in water quality of natural water systems) • environmental problems associated with the disposal of waste • increased demands on natural resources that are or are likely to be in short supply • adverse impact on the atmosphere (e.g., release of GHG). ***Examples of activities that could produce negative environmental impacts include those that:*** • impair biodiversity and the continued survival of flora and fauna • damage ecological processes and life support systems, including hydrological regimes • create a significant demand for a resource that is likely to be in short supply or already has competing demands • impair sites, items or activities of conservation, historic, traditional or cultural (i.e., heritage) significance (e.g., destruction of sacred religious sites) • cause changes or result in extensive disturbance of land-based or coastal zone resources • create subsidence and instability and have the potential to cause erosion • involve draining, clearing, burning or modification of vegetation • involve changes in the quality, quantity or availability of surface or groundwater • result in permanent alteration of water courses or drainage patterns through the construction of dams or irrigation systems • relocate water courses or significantly alter the flood potential of water courses • involve disposal of sewage from latrines into natural water systems (e.g., groundwater) • create solid waste from the construction of buildings or dwellings • include increased construction or use of a large number of buildings or dwellings • involve increased or changed use of pesticides, fertilisers and other chemicals • include significant discharges of GHG from land clearing or use of fossil fuels.

This initial step should be undertaken during the project identification stage of the project cycle described in Figure 1 in section 2.1.

Answering yes to any of these environmental marker questions triggers the need for a rapid screening assessment (step 2A, below). If you answered no to both of these questions, then step 2B (below) must be followed. For disaster responses, WV recommends that all category levels (1, 2 and 3) must at a minimum consider the questions above and then determine whether step 2A or 2B is followed.

Step 2A. Rapid environmental and climate risks and opportunities screening assessment

A rapid environmental and climate risks and opportunities screening assessment (or, 'rapid screening assessment') is used to determine whether a project or programme activity may have a negative impact on the environment or is at risk from climate change, land degradation or natural hazards. The assessment also determines whether there are opportunities to implement good environmental and climate practices into the project design. Identification of negative impacts and risks should be identified and assessed in the first instance. An overview of both is provided below:

1. Assessment of negative impacts on the environment from project activities

For each project or programme activity, a rapid screening assessment of potential impacts should be undertaken at a minimum on the following environmental areas:

Water quality and quantity – examples of impacts include contamination of water bodies from pesticides, chemicals, sewerage, soil erosion; salination; impacts of infrastructure such as dams and weirs on natural water flow; and depletion of river, lake or groundwater sources

Air quality – examples of impacts include air pollution from operation of vehicles and generators, and dust from land clearance for agriculture activities or building construction

Land and ecosystems – examples include impacts on ecosystems through land use changes including clearance of native vegetation; cutting of wildlife corridors due to road and infrastructure developments; deforestation from expansion of agriculture; chemical contamination of soils; and desertification caused by erosion

Coastal and marine ecosystems – examples include impacts on ecosystems through coastal and marine use change including clearing of native mangroves and sea grasses from expansion of aquaculture; damaging or clearing breeding grounds for local fisheries; marine pollution from agriculture runoff; impacts of salination of fresh water from seepage or flooding

Climate change – examples include increase in GHG emissions from transportation, energy generation and consumption, deforestation, and methane production from cattle and other ruminant animals

2. Assessment of potential climate change, environmental degradation and natural hazard risks

This assessment is based on a rapid scan of the hazards and consequences from climate change, land degradation and natural disasters. The steps involved include:

1. identify hazards
2. estimate likelihood of occurrence of the identified hazards
3. estimate the potential consequences (i.e., how could components of an activity be affected by the identified hazards)
4. estimate risks based on the likelihood and consequences for the activity; the significance of the risks should be estimated based on how they could compromise the achievement of the activity (e.g., low, medium, high)
5. look for opportunities to strengthen natural systems, encourage natural growth and soil health, and embed locally made solutions in mitigation of risks (e.g., local natural fertiliser).

Examples of hazards include:

Natural hazards – drought, storms, hurricanes, cyclones, heat waves, extreme cold, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, flooding, wildfires, landslides and tsunamis

Environmental degradation – deforestation, desertification, salinisation, soil contamination, water pollution, air pollution, pests, plastics, invasive plants

Climate change – trends towards lower or higher average yearly temperatures, trends towards an increase or decrease in average rainfall, changes in frequency and intensity of climatic extreme events (e.g., heat waves, drought, storms, floods). Such changes should be evaluated with a forward-looking perspective with an eye towards the potential cascading effects (e.g., climate change may lead to food shortages, which may lead to insecurity, migration and relocation).

WV staff or local partners with specialist training in environment and climate impact risk assessments should oversee the rapid scan to ensure it meets a rigorous standard.

There are several rapid assessment screening tools freely available that can be used. Information on some of these tools is provided in the tools for undertaking environmental safeguard assessment section (section 3.4) below.

To assess the likelihood and risk impact of different hazards, it is recommended that the WVI Risk Matrix provided in Appendix 1 should be used in conjunction with risk matrices provided in external assessment tools.

The rapid screening assessment should be undertaken during the project identification stage of the project cycle described in Figure 1, assuming sufficient knowledge of the project activities is known at this stage.

Where a project or programme activity is assessed to have a medium to high risk of causing a negative impact or is potentially at risk due to climate change, environmental degradation or natural hazards, then a detailed assessment should be carried out as described in Step 3 below. Where no medium or high risks are identified, then monitoring of any low-rated environmental impacts should be monitored as part of regular project M&E as shown in Step 2B.

Step 2B. Monitor potential environmental impacts through the M&E process

If no medium to high risks are identified during the rapid screening assessment in Step 2A, then the monitoring of low environmental risks should be

part of regular project M&E and there should also be continuous engagement with communities and partners to identify and manage any unforeseen environmental risks that may emerge during implementation. If additional risks are identified during implementation, then they should be assessed, and mitigation measures identified and implemented. For medium to high risks, they should be assessed in accordance with Step 3.

Step 3. Detailed environmental and climate risk assessment and management plan

Following the rapid screening assessment, where negative environmental and climate impacts from project activities are considered to have a medium to high risk or project activities were assessed to have medium to high-risk exposure to climate change, environmental degradation or natural disasters, then a detailed assessment should be carried out.

A detailed assessment requires more research involving the collection and analysis of data from a range of sources about climate change, the environment and disasters. This may include conducting stakeholder consultations with local communities and government officials where the project is to be implemented. At a minimum, a detailed assessment report should include an overview of the project; an assessment of each negative impact on the environment and activities at risk from climate change, land degradation and natural disasters identified in the rapid assessment; and a management plan that identifies ongoing monitoring and mitigation measures.

The detailed environmental and climate risk assessment should be undertaken during the project planning and design stage of the project cycle described in Figure 1 so that they can be incorporated into the project log frame and M&E plan where appropriate. Information on some of the tools freely available to undertake the detailed assessment is provided in the next section (section 3.4).

To ensure risks identified in Steps 2A and 3 are managed together with other forms of risk (e.g., corruption, child protection), they should be added to the field office's risk register in accordance with ERM system – Riskonnect. For support in accessing Riskonnect in line with your offices ERM programme, please contact either your office's Risk Prime, or the regional level Risk Prime for assistance.

Where a project or programme activity is assessed to have a medium to high risk of causing a negative impact or is potentially at risk due to climate change, environmental degradation or natural hazards, then, following the detailed assessment, these need to be placed on the ERM Risk Register and managed accordingly as described in Step 4.

Document and manage risks in WV's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) System

The project design and implementation teams will be responsible for engaging with the relevant Risk Prime in the field office to ensure risks identified during the environmental safeguard assessment are captured in the office risk register. The WVI Enterprise Risk Management Framework must be consulted to ensure risks are being reported and managed.

3.4 Tools and Resources

3.4.1 Environmental Safeguard Assessment Tools

There are a range of free environmental safeguard screening tools available as 'open source' that can be used to carry out both rapid screening assessments (Step 2A) and detailed environmental assessments (Step 3). They include CEDRIG and NEAT+, as explained below:

Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance (CEDRIG)

CEDRIG is a practical and user-friendly tool developed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. This tool provides a two-step process to assess whether a strategy, programme or project is potentially at risk due to climate change, environmental degradation or natural hazards; it also aims to determine whether a strategy, programme or project may have a negative impact on GHG emissions or the environment, or whether it creates new or exacerbates existing risks. The first step is to undertake a rapid risk and impact screening (CEDRIG Light) as an initial filter. This first step helps to decide whether a detailed assessment (CEDRIG Operational or CEDRIG Strategic) is required.

The aim of CEDRIG Operational is to systematically integrate climate change, environmental issues and natural hazards at the project level. CEDRIG Operational helps to determine whether or not the

project goals, aims or priorities are at risk from climate change, environmental degradation or natural hazards. It also aims at determining whether the project may have a negative impact on the climate or on the environment, or whether it creates new or exacerbates existing risks ('do no harm' approach).

The detailed assessment (Step 3) requires more research, including the collection and analysis of primary and secondary information from different sources about climate change, the environment, disaster risks, and economic and political factors. It is also recommended that the detailed assessment includes a multi-stakeholder consultation workshop to work through the assessment requirements.

The Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+)

The NEAT+ Tool has been developed by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Joint Environment Unit. As an environmental screening tool, the NEAT+ allows humanitarian actors to quickly identify issues of environmental concern before designing longer-term emergency or recovery interventions. The NEAT+ gives organisations a snapshot of environmental vulnerabilities in their operations and highlights environmental risks associated with specific activities.

The tool provides modules for assessing environmental sensitivity and humanitarian activities, including separate modules for i) shelter, (ii) WASH, and (iii) livelihoods and food security. Potential environmental risks related to humanitarian-related project activities are overlaid with the environmental sensitivity of a specific area to provide a comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts of proposed projects. The NEAT+ automatically produces a customised report showing areas of environmental risk categorised into the low, medium and high level of concern. A set of mitigation measures and suggestions for further resources and tools is also provided, allowing users to effectively prioritise areas of concern.

It is important to note that the use of CEDRIG, NEAT+ or similar tools must meet WV's minimum standards for undertaking the environmental safeguard assessment and they should be used in conjunction with WVI's ERM framework to ensure consistency.

3.4.2 Training courses and other resources

For staff wanting to improve their knowledge on environmental safeguard assessments, there are 'open source' courses online that can be taken. Some examples are as follows:

Environmental Emergencies Learning Centre

The Environmental Emergencies Learning Centre hosts five different eLearning modules on a range of environmental emergency preparedness and response topics. The online training includes a course introducing environmental emergency preparedness and response; assessing chemical release risks using the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool; managing disaster waste; and preventing, preparing for and responding to industrial accidents. Courses are available for free in multiple languages.

WWF training on Green Recovery and Reconstruction (GRRT)

The GRRT online training modules are designed for humanitarians, government officials, and local communities to increase awareness and knowledge of environmentally responsible disaster response approaches. The in-depth training modules are available in English, Spanish and Bahasa Indonesia.

World Bank Environmental and Social Framework

The World Bank offers an online course entitled 'ESF Fundamentals' aimed at environmental and social practitioners who are interested in an in-depth knowledge of the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The ESF enables the World Bank and borrowers to better manage environmental and social risks and to improve development outcomes. The course is free.

United Nations Environmental Management Group (EMG) – Moving towards a common approach to environmental and social standards for UN programming

The UN EMG has developed a proposed model approach to environmental and social standards for UN programming. The model approach represents a key step in moving towards a common approach among UN entities for addressing environmental and social standards in programming.

4. World Vision's Key Environmental and Climate Action Areas

4.1 Overview of Key World Vision Environmental and Climate Action Areas

WV is already responding in many ways to environmental degradation and climate change throughout our field programmes. WV identified eight key action areas during a study in 2021 on environment and climate action across all sectors of operations for both development and disaster management programmes. An overview of each of these action areas and additional information sources are as follows:

1. Natural Resource Management (NRM)

NRM aims to restore land, vegetation and water to ensure sustainable improvements in agroecosystems. WV's NRM work typically focuses on smallholder farmers working in semi-arid rain-fed farming systems, where declining household food and income security and increasing exposure to climate-related shocks and disasters place children's well-being at risk. Some examples of NRM interventions include the construction of stone bunds and infiltration trenches, gully reclamation, and establishment of contour gradients.

2. Agroforestry and Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)

Agroforestry is a collective name for land-use systems and technologies where woody perennials (trees, shrubs, palms, bamboos, etc.) are deliberately used on the same land-management units as agricultural crops and/or animals, in some form of spatial arrangement or temporal sequence.[25] Trees can be introduced either by planting or through natural regeneration.

FMNR is a community-led, nature-based solution that reverses environmental degradation and tackles poverty, hunger and climate change through the regeneration of trees and shrubs. This natural regeneration of trees from living tree stumps and wild seedlings can have a significantly higher success rate than tree planting, particularly in semi-arid regions – though tree planting is often a necessary complementary activity. FMNR has an immediate

[25] FAO. 'Agroforestry: Definition', https://www.fao.org/forestry/agroforestry/80338/en/#:~:text=Definition,spatial%20arrangement%20or%20temporal%20sequence (Last accessed 6 June 2022).

positive effect on the environment and microclimate in the respective area under practice, while it can easily be integrated with additional measures such as climate-smart agriculture in order to tap its full potential.

3. Climate-smart agriculture (CSA)

CSA is based on three principles: sustainably increasing the productivity and incomes of agricultural systems, increasing climate resilience, and mitigating or reducing GHG emissions arising from agricultural systems.[26] WV promotes all three principles under its livelihoods programming. This includes, for instance, the promotion of agroforestry, conservation agriculture, water harvesting, crop diversification, biochar and composting, climate information services, and erosion control techniques. These methods and approaches build resilience to climate change and reverse environmental degradation while increasing farm productivity.

4. Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)

CBDRM is a WV project model focused on reducing vulnerabilities and increasing capacities of the most vulnerable children, families and communities to cope with, prevent or minimise loss and damage to life, property and the environment from exposure to natural hazards and climate impacts. The approach primarily focuses on strengthening community coping mechanisms and adaptation capacities and supporting communities to develop locally appropriate strategies for disaster mitigation, preparedness and risk reduction.

Before disasters hit, WV invests in strengthening early warning systems to support more effective disaster preparedness and response. When disasters do hit, WV rapidly responds to provide urgent life-saving assistance and support the recovery of disaster-affected girls, boys, women and men.

5. Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and watershed management

IWRM is a sustainable approach seeking to address the socio-economic needs of all stakeholders in a watershed, preserving the environment and considering the needs of future generations. WV applies this approach through the development and implementation of multiple-use water systems, which provide water for domestic uses, agriculture, livestock and livelihoods. Through the IWRM approach, WV's programmes provide equitable access to water while also considering the impact of pollution on human activities. WASH committees – the basic entities of local WASH governance – consult with the community on needs and the status of the current water supply. The committees also learn how to safely and efficiently manage water and sanitation resources with environmental protection in mind.

6. Climate empowerment through environment and climate change education

WV is committed to Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) – a concept adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – which aims to empower all members of society to engage in climate action through education, training, awareness-raising, participation, public access to information and international cooperation on these issues.[27]

In line with ACE, many WV project models – such as Building Secure Livelihoods (BSL), CBDRM, Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) and Ultra Poor Graduation (UPG) – include the key building blocks of environmental education, awareness-raising and climate empowerment. In addition, WV-supported children's clubs and school-based committees provide behaviour change activities and climate change education.

7. Waste management

WV works in densely populated areas supporting solid waste management services, which typically struggle to meet demand. Ensuring effective and sustainable waste management systems – especially in refugee and internally displaced people's camps and settlements – is key to maintaining adequate and hygienic living standards and for minimising environmental and health impacts. With the right approach, waste management can also be a source of environmental protection, revenue and employment. WVs work includes construction of waste sorting and

[26] FAO (2013). *Climate-Smart Agriculture Sourcebook*.
[27] UNFCC. 'What is Action for Climate Empowerment?'.

processing facilities in refugee camps and poor urban communities.

8. Energy efficient and renewable energy technologies

WV has been improving access to energy efficient and renewable energy technologies for several years. Examples of energy efficient technologies include fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly stoves. The benefits of introducing more fuel-efficient stoves in place of open fires are numerous and cut across health and livelihoods sectors. Fuel-efficient cookstoves can reduce indoor air pollution and exposure to wood smoke, particularly for women and children, and at the same time reduce GHG.

WV has also been making it easier for farmers and households to access renewable energy products such as solar lamps, solar water pumps and biogas cookers. These technologies reduce reliance on fossil fuels such as diesel and kerosene, reducing expenditure and improving health outcomes.

Table 2 below provides a summary of WVs current eight environment and climate action areas including how they integrate across the development sectors and align to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and WVs child well-being objectives. For more information on WVs environment and climate areas of action please see:

Promising Practices for a Smiling Earth

Investing in Sustainable Outcomes for Children

Whilst WV is already implementing a range of environment and climate action areas, field offices and support offices are encouraged to continuously look for new opportunities to address environmental degradation and climate change.

TABLE 2. WV's environment and climate areas of action contributing to child well-being outcomes and SDGs

Areas of action	WV sectors addressed	WV project models	WV child well-being objectives	SDG
Natural resource management 	- **Health and Nutrition** – Improved soil fertility leads to higher farm productivity, access to more food and improved nutrition. - **Livelihoods** – Improved soil fertility leads to higher farm productivity and opportunities to generate more income through the sale of agricultural products. - **WASH** – Reduction in soil erosion leads to improved surface water quality and therefore improved access to clean water. - **Disaster Management** – Flooding is reduced through water management interventions such as infiltration trenches.	- Regreening Communities - Building Secure Livelihoods - FMNR	- Children are well-nourished. - Girls and boys are cared for, protected and participating. - Children have hope and vision for the future. - Community is resilient to shocks and disasters.	
Agroforestry and Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration 	- **Health and Nutrition** – Regeneration of multipurpose indigenous tree species uses can directly improve access to nutritious foods and medicines. - **Economic Development** – Introduction of fast-growing multipurpose trees can enhance farm productivity and opportunities to generate income from tree products. - **WASH** – Restoration of vegetation cover slows rainwater runoff and increases infiltration and recharge of groundwater in watersheds, therefore increasing access to water. - **Disaster Management** – Increasing tree density across the landscape helps to control wind and water erosion, stabilises soils, and reduces flooding.	- Regreening Communities - FMNR		
Climate-smart agriculture 	- **Livelihoods –** Trained farmers apply climate-smart agricultural practices including efficient water systems such as solar pumps and drip irrigation, increasing farm productivity and therefore income-generation opportunities, - **Health and Nutrition** – Improved soil fertility leads to improved farm productivity, which leads to improved nutrition, dietary diversity and access to food. - **WASH –** Permaculture sites are established to support household-level water management and household gardens, therefore improving access to safe, clean drinking water. - **Disaster Management –** Installation of infiltration dykes, contour bunds and strip vegetation prevents erosion and increases water infiltration, making farms more resilient to natural hazards and climate impacts.	- Building Secure Livelihoods - FMNR		

Areas of action	WV sectors addressed	WV project models	WV child well-being objectives	SDG
Community-based disaster risk management 	- **Livelihoods –** Training farmers and communities in hazard reduction and disaster preparedness can increase resilience to climate related shocks. - **Health and Nutrition –** Disaster preparedness measures for health providers can reduce the spread of diseases. - **WASH –** Early warning systems and hazard reduction plans can help to prevent flooding and storm events, which may protect drinking water supplies. - **Education –** Disaster awareness-raising in schools leads to improved knowledge and awareness, and facilitates contribution of children and youth in community-based DRR activities.	- CBDRM	- Community is resilient to shocks and disasters. - Girls and boys are cared for, protected and participating.	
Integrated water resource management 	- **Economic Development** – Construction of dams and protection of water courses provides more reliable access to water for crop irrigation and livestock, improving farm productivity. - **WASH** – Construction or rehabilitation of water infrastructure increases access to water for households and food production systems. - **Health and Nutrition** – Improved access to clean water reduces the incidence of waterborne diseases. - **Disaster Management** – Construction of dams and gabions helps to reduce impacts of hydrological disasters such as floods and drought.		- Community has access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene. - Children are well-nourished.	
Climate empowerment – environmental education and awareness-raising 	- **Education** – Climate awareness-raising in schools leads to improved knowledge and awareness, leading to behaviour change and improved practices. - **Disaster Management** – Empowerment of communities through education and training can lead to better disaster preparedness and resilience to climate shocks.	- Citizen Voice and Action - Building Secure Livelihoods	- Children are well-nourished. - Children have hope and vision for the future.	
Waste management 	- **Health and Nutrition** – Safely managed waste creates a more hygienic environment and reduces risk of contamination of water supplies, thus creating positive health outcomes for local communities. - **Economic Development** – Creation of waste management facilities creates employment for local communities. - **WASH** – Well managed solid and liquid waste reduces the likelihood of contaminating drinking water sources, therefore reducing the incidence of disease.		- Children are protected from infectious disease and preventable death.	

Areas of action	WV sectors addressed	WV project models	WV child well-being objectives	SDG
Energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies 	- **Education** – Solar lamps allow children to do homework at night improving their education outcomes. - **Economic development** – Renewable energy technologies such as solar water pumps reduce farm expenditure, allowing farmers to invest into improving farm productivity. - **Health and Nutrition** – Fuel-efficient cookstoves and solar lamps reduce exposure to harmful indoor air pollutants from the burning of wood and kerosene.		- Children are protected from preventable death.	

4.2 Design, Monitoring and Evaluation of Environment and Climate Action Work

LEAP 3 outlines minimum standards for programme design, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, WV projects are guided by WV's Programme Quality Approach, which sets out Programme Quality Standards for Design,[28] Monitoring and Evaluation.

1. Design describes desired changes to child well-being in alignment with National Office priorities and demonstrates how programming approach, activities, outputs and outcomes contribute.
2. Standardised outcome and monitoring indicators consistent with the design and disaggregated by gender are used.
3. Progress towards objectives is assessed through measurement and reporting of outcome and monitoring indicators against baseline values.

WV core project model (CPM) guidance documentation includes information on the project logic and theory of change, with suggested log frames and advice on monitoring and evaluating progress. In addition, minimum standards for the CPMs stipulate the 'essential interventions' and corresponding 'essential indicators' that need to be included in the design and reported in Indicator Tracking Tables in Horizon. Finally, each CPM has a Design Implementation Quality Assurance review tool which also lists essential interventions and indicators to include.

CPMs with a principle focus on environmental and climate outcomes such as BSL, CBDRM, Regreening Communities and supporting CPMs such as FMNR should be consulted for suitable outcome and output indicators. It is essential that outcome and output indicators for environment and climate areas of action are included in implementation plans and budgets in order to achieve, monitor and report the results of these actions.

It is highly recommended that during Technical Programme, grant or disaster management project planning that staff with expertise across the environment and climate areas of action are consulted to ensure that environmental considerations are effectively integrated into design, implementation and monitoring plans for all sectors.

4.2.1 Indicator selection

Programme designs include a log frame with stated objectives and M&E indicators at goal, outcome and output level, reflecting the project logic and underlying theory of change. Goal and long-term outcome indicators are typically measured at programme baseline and endline. Intermediate and short-term outcome indictors as well as output and reach indicators are measured periodically throughout the life of the project. The selection of indicators for environment and climate action objectives should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound). Other considerations may include prioritising indicators that:

- are required by the donor
- can be competently, consistently and cheaply measured
- are relevant to programme learning, management and decision-making
- are 'industry standard' (e.g., indicators used externally).

[28] Programme design documents include Technical Programme designs, grant programme designs and emergency response programme designs.

A final consideration would be to review indicators available in WVs Compendium of Indicators[29] and to use existing ones where they are of sufficient quality and relevance. It should also be noted that there will be some indicators required by donors that will need to be taken into consideration which will not be part of WVs Compendium of Indicators. Depending on the specific design and stated objectives of the environment and climate project, indicators selected should report on one or more of the following areas:

Direct participants in projects and/or households in target community/ies trained, with increased Environment & Climate related knowledge and improved practices:

a) # people who completed Environment & Climate related training/education/exposure visits
b) # and % trained people demonstrating improved Environment & Climate related knowledge/skills
c) # and % trained people demonstrating desired Environment & Climate related behaviour/practices
d) # of faith leaders trained demonstrating improved Environment & Climate related knowledge/skills
e) # of faith leaders taking action to address Environment & Climate related issues in their community

Land areas restored through improved Environment & Climate related practices:

a) area of land (hectares) targeted by WV projects for improved Environment & Climate action
b) # and % land area (hectares) with evidence of achievement of Environment & Climate objectives
c) tonnes of CO2 reduced or removed by WV projects for improved Environment & Climate action

Governance systems/structures/by-laws created to improve Environment & Climate related practices:

a) # new/improved governance systems/structures/community by-laws, etc., achieved under WV Environment & Climate action related projects
b) # households benefiting from improved governance systems/structures/community by-laws, etc., in WV Environment & Climate action projects

CVA – improving access to government services that support improved Environment & Climate related practices:

a) # WV projects strengthening Environment & Climate action CVA
b) # households benefiting from improved WV Environment & Climate action CVA
c) proportion of community members can state one or more government service standard (on environmental management or climate action)
d) proportion of households who have given feedback to a service provider, local government or political leader (on environmental management or climate action)
e) proportion of (environmental management or climate action) services or facilities that met additional government standards
f) proportion household respondents who report they are satisfied with their last experience of (environmental management or climate action) public services

Policy changes supporting improved Environment & Climate related practices:

a) # WV projects working with local partners on improving WV Environment & Climate action policies
b) total # households benefiting from improved WV Environment & Climate action policies

[29] https://app.powerbi.com/groups/me/apps/ceedbfc2-4db8-4c6e-b2cb-84a8c831e7b2/reports/cf5cd4dc-4498-475c-af60-363e628c7ef8/ReportSection?ctid=b951e030-af38-40d7-bd0b-fbed3c87653a.

Technologies promoted to increased energy efficiency, safe waste disposal and recycling:

a) # direct participants or households in the project target area trained in/exposed to improved energy efficient technologies/safe waste disposal/recycling
b) # direct participants or households in the project target area who have access to improved energy efficient technologies/safe waste disposal/recycling
c) # direct participants or households in the project target area correctly using improved energy efficient technologies/safe waste disposal/recycling
d) # direct participants or households in the project target area with increased income due to adoption of improved energy efficient technologies/safe waste disposal/recycling
e) total reduced emissions achieved by the project based on uptake and correct use of improved energy efficient technologies/safe waste disposal/recycling
f) total energy saved achieved by the project based on uptake and correct use of improved energy efficient technologies
g) total time saved on collecting fuel (e.g., firewood) achieved by the project based on the uptake and correct use of improved energy efficient technologies

4.3 Tools and Resources

The following resources can also be referred to when implementing WVs eight environment and climate areas of actions and designing the M&E plan and identification of suitable indicators.

Natural resource management

Natural Resource Management: Tools for planning and implementing participatory NRM projects (Catholic Relief Services, 2013)

Agroforestry and FMNR

FMNR Manual (World Vision Australia, 2019)
Practitioner's Field Guide: Agroforestry for climate resilience (World Agroforestry, 2021)

Climate-smart agriculture

Climate-Smart Agriculture Sourcebook (FAO, 2013)
Climate-Smart Agriculture 101 (The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security)

Disaster risk management

Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis Handbook, Second Edition (Care International, 2019)
Participatory Capacity and Vulnerability Analysis: A practitioner's guide (Oxfam Australia, 2012)
Towards Resilience: A guide to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (Catholic Relief Services, 2013).

Integrated water resource management

Integrated Water Resources Management (UN Water)
Guidelines for local-level integrated water resource management (International Water Management Institute)

Climate empowerment – environmental education and awareness raising

Action for Climate Empowerment Guidelines (UNFCCC)
Working Together for the Care of Creation (A Rocha)

Waste management

Handbook for urban poor communities on waste management: Education, Advocacy, Solutions (Sahmakum Teang Tnaut)

Energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies

Igniting Change: Strategy for universal adoption of clean cookstoves and fuels (Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves)
Clean and Efficient Cooking Technologies and Fuels: Complete Toolkit (USAID)

Guidance for M&E of climate change interventions

Guidance Note 2: Selecting indicator for climate change adaptation programming (UKCIP, 2014)
Framework of Milestones and Indicators for Community-Based Adaptation (CARE)

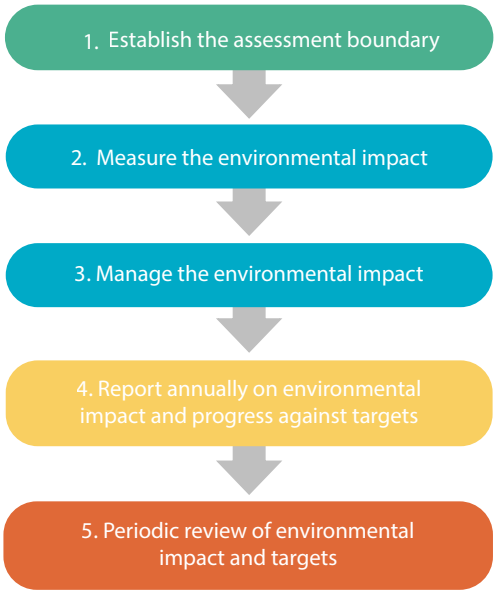
5. Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action in Our Operations and Facilities

5.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on environmental stewardship and climate action in WV's operations and facilities, which includes all WV offices, transport and activities related to supporting staff to carry out their work. WVs operations and facilities can consume a lot of natural resources such as energy, materials (e.g., paper) and water, which leads to a range of environmental and climate impacts including GHG emissions, waste, and air pollution. Hence, this chapter of the Handbook focuses on measuring the impact WVs operations and facilities have on the environment and climate, and opportunities to reduce the impact from these activities.

The process for measuring and managing the environmental and climate impacts caused by operations and facilities is provided in Figure 3.

FIGURE 3. Process for measuring and managing environmental impacts from operations and facilities



5.1.1 Who Is Responsible for Managing the Process?

The following steps are recommended to manage the process outlined in Figure 3:

1. Identify a 'green' or 'sustainability' champion within each office. Ideally this person would be part of the senior leadership team.
2. Set up a 'green' or 'sustainability' team with support of senior management to implement the commitments made by senior management and monitor performance.
3. Measure current environmental impact and identify some commitments, and set targets the organisation can undertake to reduce environmental impact.

5.2 Environmental Impact Measurement and Management Process

1. Establish the assessment boundary

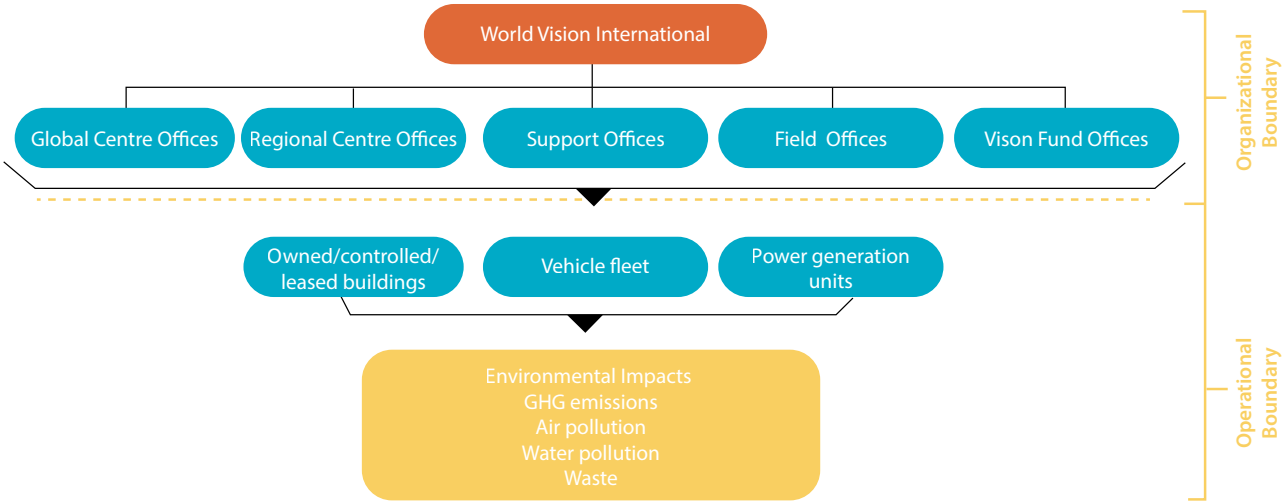
The assessment boundary is divided into the organisational and operational boundaries. This is a concept adapted from the GHG Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard.

The organisation boundary includes all WV offices and VFI. The focus should be measuring impacts from activities associated with managing operations and facilities and not specific to projects. For example, only GHG emissions from vehicles used to managed facilities should be included; vehicles used specifically for projects should be excluded. The reason for this is that many donors now require estimates of GHG emissions from projects they fund and, therefore, to avoid double counting they should be reported separately from general management activities associated with running operations and facilities.

The operational assessment boundary defines the scope of operations and facilities that fall within the organisational boundary. Examples of these include buildings that are either owned, controlled or leased by WV or VFI offices, vehicle fleets and power generation units.

Figure 4 provides an overview of the relationship between the organisational and operational boundaries.

FIGURE 4. Organisational and operational boundaries for assessing environmental impacts



A range of activities may occur within the operational boundary, some examples include:

- Owned/controlled/leased building:
  - electricity usage
  - natural gas consumption
  - paper consumption
  - water consumption
  - waste production
  - business travel
  - purchase of goods and services
  - refrigeration
- Vehicle fleets
  - fuel consumption
- Power generation units
  - fuel consumption.

From these, a range of environmental impacts can occur such as GHG emissions from electricity usage and fuel consumption, deforestation from the consumption of paper and other goods and services, and emissions of ozone depleting gases from refrigeration.

2. Measure the environmental impact

WVI has established an initial set of minimum requirements for the measurement and management of environmental impacts within the operational boundary, which will be called the 'core environmental focus areas' throughout the rest of the Handbook.

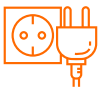
Core environmental focus areas

WVs initial focus is on measuring GHG emissions from the following activities:

air travel (kilometres travelled) – includes both domestic and international flights

local business travel (litres of fuel) – includes all travel undertaken for work purposes including fleet vehicles, taxis and ride-share services

paper usage (kilogrammes) – includes all paper products consumed, for example printing, packaging, mail and cleaning



electricity usage (kwh) – all electricity consumed onsite for powering appliances and equipment, lighting and heating

in-house fuel consumption, including natural gas and diesel fuel (megajoules or litres) – used for cooking and heating and/or powering generators.

WVI has developed the Carbon Footprint Tool v4.0 which will be used by WV offices to record activity data associated with the core environmental focus areas and used to calculate the GHG footprint associated with these activities. The tool will be made available online which offices can fill in, and then the data will feed into Power BI for automated analysis. This tool can be used to help create awareness of climate change within the organisation, measure the emissions, and create management options to reduce the carbon footprint. The Carbon Footprint Tool v4.0 is mandatory for all field offices to use and must be used by all other offices if they don't use their own carbon footprint tool. A summary of the data requirements to measure the core environmental focus areas is provided in Table 3.

TABLE 3. Data requirements and sources for each core environmental focus area

Core environmental focus areas	Data requirements	Source of data
Air travel	Flight details including length of flight, origin and destination of flight, cost of flight, mileage	Flight vendor
Local business travel	Fuel type, quantity of fuel, travel distance	Invoices, receipts
Paper usage	Type, source, weight and cost of paper used	Invoices, receipts, product specifications
Electricity usage	Kwh or area of floor space	ProVision purchasing system
In-house fuel consumption (including natural gas and diesel fuel)	MJ	Invoices

It is important that, to ensure high quality data is obtained, each office establishes a data management plan. Some critical features of the plan should include:

- a description of data collection procedures:
  - processes/activities within the defined organisational boundaries
  - activities/processes outside (upstream or downstream) of the defined organisational boundaries – specific, average, or generic data
- data sources
- calculation methodologies
- data transmission, storage and backup procedures
- quality control and review procedures for data collection, input and handling activities, data documentation and validation

.

The data collected for each core environment focus area is then entered into the WVI Carbon Footprint Calculator v4.0 to calculate the amount of GHG emissions produced from each focus area.

It is important to note that whilst the Carbon Footprint Calculator v4.0 provides estimates on the amount of GHG emissions produced from each core environmental focus area, other data can be obtained from the tool including total amount of energy used from electricity, fuel consumption and paper usage, which can be reported on as well.

It is mandatory requirement for all offices to report to WVI on the core environmental focus areas. Reporting years should be aligned with WVs financial year, that is from 1 October to 30 September the following year.

Other environmental and climate impacts

Whilst WVI has established the core environmental focus areas, it is also encouraged that offices measure and manage other environmental impacts relevant to their context. WVI also encourages offices to suggest additional core environmental focus areas over time; these will be added to the tool, beginning with the areas users identify as the top priorities. Some suggestions as to what other focus areas could be measured and managed include (but not limited to):

commuter transport (litres of fuel) – includes all commuter travel to and from work including private vehicles and public transport such as buses and trains

biomass usage (tonnes of wood or charcoal) – combustion of fuel wood or charcoal for cooking and/or heating purposes

water consumption (litres) – includes all water consumed such as for drinking, washing and flushing toilets

waste (tonnes) – includes all solid waste disposed during the course of operations; examples of solid waste include food, paper, cardboard and plastic materials

construction materials (kilograms) – includes all construction materials used for offices, such as concrete, steels and bricks

accommodation ($ spent) – includes all accommodation used during business travel

purchase of goods and services ($ spent) – includes contractors, IT services, office equipment, etc.

3. Manage the environmental impacts

Once an office has undertaken an initial measurement of environmental impacts, known as the 'baseline year', the office must then develop a management plan which should consist of setting environmental impact reduction targets and mitigation measures to reduce or avoid each environmental impact identified.

Environmental impact reduction targets

Each office should set environmental impact reduction objectives specific to their own context by developing their overall goal, targets and detailed performance measures that need to be met in order to achieve these objectives. Below is an example of objective and associated targets.

Objective: *Reduce GHG emissions (from a defined office or activity source)*

Target: *40% reduction in employee air travel by 2030 from a FY2022 base year*

When developing and reviewing the objectives and targets, offices should take the following into consideration:

- commitments made in the Environment Stewardship Policy and Guidelines
- applicable legal and other requirements
- significant environmental focus areas (identified during initial baseline measurements)
- progress against existing objectives and targets
- technological options to reduce or avoid impacts
- financial and operational requirements
- expectations of stakeholders (both internal [e.g., senior management] and external [e.g., donors])

The focus should be on setting targets for the core environmental focus areas, however offices may wish to set other environmental impact targets as well, such as reduction in use of plastic materials, reduction in water consumption, and so on.

Mitigation measures

Once the magnitude of the impacts from the core environmental focus areas are known and environmental impact reduction targets are set, mitigation opportunities will need to be identified to either reduce or avoid the environmental impacts going forward. The mitigation options should be developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including senior managers, finance department, human resource department, property

managers and fleet vehicle managers, to name a few. Once the mitigation opportunities are identified and agreed, these should be widely publicised across the office to ensure buy-in from all staff. This will give the best chance of achieving the targets, particularly ones that require staff behaviour changes. Table 4 provides some mitigation options for both the core environmental focus areas and other environmental and climate impacts that offices may like to target.

Sustainable procurement

WV entities should preference partners with demonstrated values of good environmental stewardship; for example, they should be able to demonstrate they have an environmental policy and demonstrated action on climate change (i.e. have set carbon reduction targets and can show actions to reduce emissions). For enduring contracts with large corporations, Due Diligence check must be carried out on their environmental and climate performance and WV entities shall not work with any partners or institutions that have caused severe environmental impacts (among other things) such as wide-spread deforestation and pollution of water bodies. For further guidance on sustainable procurement, the UN Global Compact for sustainable supply chains can be referred to.

TABLE 4. Mitigation and additional office benefits for each environmental focus area

Environmental focus area	Mitigation opportunities
Core environmental focus areas	
Air travel	• Emissions from air travel can be reduced through the use of video-conferencing technology and cutting down on unnecessary business travel • Where travel is necessary, choosing direct routes can reduce emissions; online tools such as Google Flights now provide emissions estimates for alternative flights
Local business travel	• Local business travel can be reduced through the use of video-conferencing technology and cutting down on unnecessary business travel • Convert petrol-powered fleet vehicles to low emissions options such as hybrid and electric vehicles where practical
Paper usage	• Promoting paperless offices • Use of recycled paper products can help to reduce the amount of paper used and therefore impacts on deforestation and GHG emissions
Electricity usage	• Installing energy efficient equipment (e.g., LED lights) • Switching to green energy sources (e.g., solar panels) • Reducing data storage • Turning equipment off at the end of the day
Natural gas consumption	• Improved building insulation can help to reduce the need for heating • Switch to electric heat pumps where practical
Other environmental and climate impacts	
Commuter transport	• Promoting working from home • Car-pooling and using public transport • Cycling to work
Biomass usage	• Use of fuel-efficient biomass stoves or switching to electric stoves will reduce consumption of fuel wood
Water consumption	• Installing water efficient toilets • Recycling grey water for use on gardens
Waste	• Implementing bans on single use plastics • Using containers that can be re-used several times and promoting recycling • Onsite composting of vegetable and fruit material
Purchased goods and services	• Implement green procurement policies

Offices that implement some of the mitigation opportunities outlined above are likely to achieve significant office costs savings due to reducing expenditure on energy consumption, office supplies (e.g., paper) and staff business travel. These costs savings may result in additional funding available for field programming.

4. Report on the environmental impacts and targets

Each office will be required to report on their environmental impacts annually, aligned to financial year reporting. The purpose of the report is to communicate to office staff and to WVI. Each office may wish to communicate results to external stakeholders as well.

The annual report should be brief and include the following sections:

a) description of the reporting office including organisational boundary
b) description of the operational boundaries and list the specific types of activities and environmental focus areas covered
c) the reporting year covered
d) information on environmental impact data:
   - activity data collected for each environmental focus area
   - methodologies used to calculate or measure environmental impacts
   - any specific exclusions of environmental focus areas, facilities and/or operations
e) information on performance against goals and targets.

The reported should be brief (2–4 pages) and provide a snapshot of how the office is tracking towards the environmental targets set. WVI will provide an online template that offices can access for annual reporting.

5. Periodic review of environmental impacts and targets

To ensure the environmental focus areas and the office objectives in relation to goals and targets remain relevant, periodic review should be undertaken by an internal review team. The internal review team should be made up of key stakeholders across senior management, finance, property management, fleet vehicle management, etc. The review should include:

- progress against targets
- benefits and costs of implementing mitigation opportunities
- relevancy of existing environmental focus areas
- identification of new environmental focus areas.

Ideally, the review will occur at the end of each reporting year to ensure the office objectives remain relevant and any issues with progress against targets can be identified and addressed at least on an annual basis.

5.3 Corporate Climate Action – Zero-net Emissions and Carbon Neutrality

Globally, thousands of companies have announced climate action plans committing to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by uncertain date through adopting science-based targets aligned with the Paris Agreement. The Science-Based Targets Initiative has developed standards and guidelines which can be used by companies to set science-based targets. A commitment to net-zero carbon means reducing GHG emissions with the goal of balancing the emissions produced and emissions removed from the earth's atmosphere. Therefore, under a net-zero commitment, companies are required to reduce GHG emissions across its supply chain as much as possible. Companies are encouraged to support or fund the removal of carbon dioxide produced by any emissions the business does produce. A small portion of residual GHG emissions can be offset using carbon credits – less than 10 per cent according to the Science-Based Targets Initiative.

Companies also often commit to becoming carbon neutral; however this is very different to setting a zero-net emissions target. Carbon neutrality means balancing GHG emissions by 'offsetting' – or removing from the atmosphere – an equivalent amount of carbon for the amount produced. This can be achieved by buying 'carbon credits' – in essence, permission to emit carbon dioxide or other GHG in exchange for offsetting the effects of those emissions – and/or by supporting GHG-reduction initiatives such as renewable-energy and reforestation projects. However, a commitment to carbon neutrality does not require (or even necessarily imply) a commitment to reduce overall GHG emissions. A carbon-neutral business needs only to offset the GHG emissions it produces – even if those emissions are increasing.

5.3.1 Carbon credits and offsetting

Carbon credit projects can include a variety of interventions from reforestation to FMNR to CSA to clean energy programmes. Carbon credits are the market 'product' of the intervention, meaning the amount of carbon sequestered or reduced has a value. This credit has a fluctuating market value that companies buy to offset their carbon emissions generated by their business. All programmes that are looking to generate credits must work with a certification standard (e.g., Gold Standard and Verified Carbon Standard).

There are some key qualifying features that programmes seeking to generate revenue from carbon credits must consider:

- **Additionality** means that the project would not have happened without the offset programme payments. This is one of the toughest things to 'prove' for an offsets project yet one of the most important from a climate perspective. For renewable energy projects, it can be far more difficult to guarantee 'additionality' which are very likely to happen regardless of offset-based financing, as costs of wind and solar energy are now lower than fossil fuel-based power.
- **Permanence**, meaning the offset project is likely to reduce emissions (or store carbon in soil/trees) for a long period of time. This is difficult to guarantee with forestry projects which are vulnerable to droughts, wildfires or disease, and land ownership issues. There is also the length of time that the project is monitored (25+ years), as 'peak' sequestration in forest-based programmes is not hit until years after the intervention because of the growth cycle of trees and shrubs.
- **No double counting**, meaning the credits are only counted once. So, for example, if Brazil sells credits to Norway, it can't also count the same forest protection towards its own national GHG accounting.
- **No leakage**, meaning avoided deforestation in one area does not lead to higher rates elsewhere as the consumer demand for forest products remains unchanged or even increases.
- **No additional social and environmental harm**, meaning carbon credit projects do not jeopardise indigenous livelihoods or local cultures/traditions, to the extent that local populations must resort to unsustainable means of ensuring their survival, and that offset projects do not cause non-GHG related environmental impacts such as biodiversity loss or water resource depletion.

Field offices may consider developing carbon credit projects as a new source of revenue.

5.4 Tools and Resources

Some good resources that can be used to identify environmental impacts caused by an organisation and how to measure and manage them include the following:

GHG inventories and management

The GHG Protocol – A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard
The GHG Protocol is a globally accepted standard for measuring and reporting GHG emissions for organisations.

Science-Based Targets Initiative
The Science-Based Targets Initiative can be used to set science-based emission reduction targets and learn how to achieve net-zero emissions.

Sustainability standards

GRI Standards
The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is an independent, international organisation that helps businesses and other organisations take responsibility for their impacts, helping them to become more sustainable. GRI provides a set of standards covering environmental, economic and social impacts.

Climate, forests and water standards

CDP
CDP is a not-for-profit charity that runs the global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts. Topics covered include climate change, forests and water security.

Environmental management systems

ISO 14000 Family – Environmental Management
ISO 14000 sets out the criteria for an environmental management system and can be certified. It maps out a framework that a company or organisation can follow to set up an effective environmental management system.

Carbon crediting standards

Verra
Gold Standard
Plan Vivo

These standards can be used to design a carbon project and generate revenue from the carbon credits created through these projects.

Training resources

The GHG Protocol offers multiple online training opportunities on their GHG Accounting Standards. Some of these training courses are free, others require a small fee ranging from US$25–$325.

6. Promoting Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action through Advocacy

6.1 Overview of World Vision's Position on Climate Action

World Vision believes that responding to climate change is a justice issue. Climate justice represents the interdependence of human rights, development and climate action. We see climate justice as an approach that places children at the centre of the climate crisis and brings about solutions good for people and the planet by upholding their rights.

We seek to protect the rights of the most vulnerable children and ensure that climate change decision-making processes are participatory, transparent and accountable, including for children and youth. We believe that climate action must target the most vulnerable communities and protect and restore environmental assets that support the livelihoods of vulnerable communities and mitigate climate change. We believe that we must support communities to build their resilience; to adapt to climate change; and to prepare, mitigate, cope with and recover from the immediate impacts of climate-related disasters.

World Vision believes that every child has the right to both a healthy and safe environment today and a sustainable future.[30]

6.1.1 Key international instruments underpinning WV's climate action

A number of key international climate change and development frameworks, policy instruments, and strategies are inextricably linked. These instruments are fundamental to tackling the climate crisis and ensuring children's rights to a healthy, safe and sustainable environment and future.

- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC):** While children have a right to a healthy environment, climate change threatens their survival and development, undermining the full and effective enjoyment of their rights, as outlined in this convention.

[30] World Vision (2020). *Climate Action: World Vision Policy Position – Summary*, https://www.wvi.org/publications/policy-briefing/climate-change/climate-action-world-vision-policy-position-summary (Last accessed 19/06/2022).

- **Paris Agreement:** This agreement of the UNFCCC deals with climate change mitigation, adaptation and finance, and aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping global temperature rise this century well below 2˚C and as close to 1.5˚C as possible above pre-industrial levels.
- **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:** Action to combat climate change is a specific priority in the Sustainable Development Goals (including SDG13 – Climate Action) and intrinsically linked to the achievement of all 16 other goals.
- **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030):** This framework is a roadmap to make communities safer and more resilient to disaster with the aim of reducing disaster risks and loss of lives, livelihoods and health.
- **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030:** This strategy accelerates existing global restoration goals, such as the Bonn Challenge, which aims to restore 350 million hectares of degraded ecosystems by 2030.

To ensure children's rights to a healthy, safe and sustainable future, WV calls on governments, corporations and the international community to support the full realisation of the UN CRC, the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), and the goals of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021– 2030). In particular, we call on governments, corporations and the international community to do the following:

Reduce global GHG emissions to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C;

Mobilise USD 100 billion in annual climate finance to support developing countries, in particular LDCs, SIDS, and fragile contexts, to meaningfully adapt to the impacts that are already unavoidable;

Build the capacity of governments, at all levels, cities and communities in LDCs, SIDS and fragile contexts for effective climate change-related planning and management, with a focus on the most vulnerable children, youth, women and marginalised communities;

Enhance international cooperation with developing countries through adequate and sustainable support for their national actions to implement the Sendai Framework by 2030; and

Bring 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2030, in line with the Bonn Challenge.

To ensure that these actions meet the needs of the most vulnerable and leave no one behind, WV further calls on governments, corporations and the international community to:

- strengthen social accountability and foster greater participation of those most affected by climate change, especially children
- ensure climate action targets the most vulnerable communities and is child-centred, inclusive and supports women's economic and social empowerment
- scale up investment in programmes that protect and restore environmental assets to support vulnerable communities' food security and livelihoods and mitigate climate change
- support communities to build their resilience to climate change and prepare, mitigate, cope with and recover from the immediate impacts of climate-related disasters.

The full version of WV's policy position on climate action can be accessed on the WVI website.

Climate and Environmental Charter for Humanitarian Organisations

In January 2022, WV signed on to the Climate and Environmental Charter for Humanitarian Organisations, a global commitment developed by and for humanitarian organisations, with signatories representing non-governmental, inter-governmental and other not-for-profit organisations that provide humanitarian assistance and/or protection. By signing the Charter, WV commits to:

1. Step up our response to growing humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the impacts of the climate and environmental crises.
2. Maximise the environmental sustainability of our work and rapidly reduce our GHG emissions.
3. Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities.
4. Increase our capacity to understand climate and environmental risks and develop evidence-based solutions.
5. Work collaboratively across the humanitarian sector and beyond to strengthen climate and environmental action.
6. Use our influence to mobilise urgent and more ambitious climate action and environmental protection.
7. Develop targets and measure our progress as we implement our commitments.

The charter informs a key pillar to how we will engage global citizens on environmental and climate action and what we will also do both in our field programming and in our operations and facilities.

6.2 Advocacy in Action

WV is committed to advocating for greater global action for climate justice for children and empowering local communities, girls and boys to become agents of change, ensuring that their active participation and opinions are reflected in climate action decision making at the local, national and global levels.

At the global level, WVI leads the coordination of our advocacy on climate justice for children. At the local and national levels, each field and support office needs to lead in order to development contextually relevant social accountability programming and advocacy campaigns centred around climate justice and empowering girls and boys to take action.

WV is committed to Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) – a concept adopted by the UNFCCC, which aims to empower all members of society to engage in climate action., includes:


education – to change habits in the long-term


training – to develop practical skills


awareness-raising – to reach people of all ages and walks of life


participation – to make information freely available


public access to information – to involve all stakeholders in decision-making and implementation


international cooperation – to strengthen cooperation, joint efforts and knowledge exchange

These six scopes under Article 6 of the UNFCCC can be used by WV offices to develop their environmental and climate action advocacy campaigns. Any advocacy campaigns, however, should be led by the advocacy team within that office or engaged throughout the entire process.

6.3 Advocacy By and With Communities

WV has adapted its Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) project model to support field offices to equip local communities with information, tools and spaces to participate in local-level advocacy for accountable Environmental Management and Climate Action. Through the CVA process:

- WV works with community groups and government stakeholders to identify key public policy documents that outline detailed government commitments and standards on environmental stewardship and climate action that are most relevant to the front line and local community.
- These standards, communities' rights and entitlements on climate action are then simplified and shared with local groups through civic education processes.
- WV follows participatory processes to bring stakeholders together to assess the quality of their public services and to identify ways to improve their delivery. This will involve community, front line service providers and decision-makers' participation in the mini social audits, community scorecards and interface sessions, resulting in a community action plan.
- Young people can be key actors and catalysts in CVA for environmental management and climate action.
- Some climate action and environmental management issues may be resolved at the local level or through collective action (e.g., enforcement of livestock grazing guidelines and waste disposal). However, the complexity and systemic nature of other concerns (e.g., recruitment of extension officers), may require higher level advocacy at provincial and national levels. The CVA database helps aggregate the volumes of citizen-generated data from CVA to create data insights to help inform policy engagements.

Furthermore, WV also supports the initiatives led by other faith-based organisations and groups:

Creation Care and the Gospel: Jamaica call to Action: A call by the World Evangelical Alliance and Lausanne Global Consultation stating that creation care is a gospel issue within the Lordship of Christ and that the world is facing a crisis.

UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Faith for Earth Initiative's mission is to encourage, empower and engage with faith-based organisations as partners, at all levels, towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfilling the 2030 Agenda.

7. How to Inform WV Staff and Supporters through Communication and Marketing

7.1 Introduction

Communication and marketing is a critical function of WVs environmental and climate action work to inform supporters and donors of what we are doing in this field and also to raise awareness both within WV and with global citizens of the problems and solutions that exist.

Some key elements to consider in communications and marketing include:

1. Inform supporters and donors

Where contextually appropriate, ensure that each office's marketing methods, channels and products promote our approach to care of creation, environmental stewardship and climate action. This might include promoting field projects funded or implemented by relevant support and field offices respectively that have strong environmental and climate action areas as described in Chapter 4. Each office may also like to communicate to donors and supporters what actions they are undertaking within their operations and facilities (e.g., offices).

2. Awareness-raising

WV offices should aim to systematically create awareness on environmental sustainability to encourage individual and collective action for both WV staff and global citizens. The 'green' or 'sustainability' teams together with advocacy and marketing teams should communicate with staff through awareness campaigns and sharing the results the organisation has achieved against the commitments made. Some examples of awareness campaigns within the 'office' can include:

- promoting recycling and encouraging staff not to use single-use plastics
- running webinars and seminars on environmental issues
- celebrating international days such as World Environment Day
- involve staff in the environmental commitments made by the senior leadership team
- share results through staff meetings and other forums
- promote and fund green travel options like bike sheds.

Relevant international days focusing on environment and climate also provide good opportunities for awareness-raising. Some of the key international days include:

- March 21 — International Day of Forests
- March 22 — World Water Day
- April 22 — Earth Day
- May 22 — World Biodiversity Day
- June 5 — World Environment Day
- June 8 — World Oceans Day
- June 17 — World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- October 13 — International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
- October 24 — International Day of Climate Action

3. Environmental products

Where appropriate, develop environmental and climate friendly products that can be offered to supporters to fund field programmes and encourage donors to reduce their own carbon footprint.

4. Participate in regional and global environmental forums

To promote WVs work, WV should participate in relevant global and regional forums. Some relevant forums include:

- UNFCCC Conference of the Parties on climate change (November/December)
- UN Forum on Forests (May)
- Bonn Climate Change Conference (June)
- UN Biodiversity Conference (December)
- Climate Vigil (November)
- Season of Creation led by World Council of Churches (September)
- Climate Vigil led by World Evangelical Alliances (November)

8. References

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9. Appendices

Appendix 1. World Vision International Risk Rating Framework

The following risk rating resources come directly from WVI's Environmental Risk Management Framework – Riskonnect. To ensure consistency with how all risks are assessed across the organisation, WV staff undertaking environmental and climate risk assessments should refer to these risk rating tools.

Guideline for impact rating: Sample impact ratings across different dimensions. (A risk can have an impact on multiple dimensions; use these as a guideline to select one overall impact rating.)

Rate	Impact	Operational	People	Financial	Reputation
5	**Extreme**	Extreme impact on operations and ability to achieve ministry objectives on a long-term basis. Recovery may not be possible.	Multiple fatalities or permanent total disabilities from an accident or occupational illness	>30% of annual budget (project, office, or organisational, as applicable)	Partnership-wide international impact: international public and media attention
4	**Severe**	Major impact on operations and ability to achieve ministry objectives and outcomes on a medium-term basis. Difficult recovery.	Single fatality or permanent total disability from an accident or occupational illness	>10% of annual budget	Regional impact: negative regional public and media attention
3	**Moderate**	Moderate impact on operation ability to achieve ministry objectives. Medium duration and ability to recover.	Major injury or health effects (absences, irreversible health damage, chronic condition)	5% to10% of annual budget	National impact: considerable negative public and media attention
2	**Minor**	Minor impact on operations and ability to achieve outcomes. Short duration, no long-term impact. Recovery possible.	Minor injuries or health effects (restricted work case or lost time); limited reversible health effects	2% to 5% of annual budget	Localised impact: some local public attention, some local media attention
1	**Insignificant**	Minimal impact to operations and ability to achieve outcomes. Short-term delays, no recovery required.	Slight injury or health effects (first aid case, medical treatment case).	1% of annual budget	Slight impact: public awareness may exist, but there is no public concern

WVI Likelihood Rating Scale

Guideline for likelihood rating: The potential for problems to occur at the impact level identified.			
Rating	**Likelihood**		
5	**Certain**	Happens often	Could occur within days to weeks
4	**Very Likely**	Could easily happen	Could occur within weeks to months
3	**Likely**	Could happen, has happened before	Could occur within a year or so
2	**Moderately Likely**	Has not happened, but could	Could occur after several years
1	**Unlikely**	Conceivable but only in extreme circumstances	A 100-year event

WVI Risk Matrix

	Impact				
Likelihood	Insignificant (1)	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	Severe (4)	Critical (5)
Certain (5)					**Unacceptable**
Very Likely(4)				**High**	
Likely (3)			**Medium**		
Moderately Likely (2)		**Low**			
Unlikely (1)	**Very Low**				

Very Low Risk
Negligible impact and unlikely to ocurr
Risk Rating <3

Low Risk
Moderate impact, some probability
Risk Rating 4-6

Medium Risk
Moderately high impact, very probably
Risk Rating 8-10

High Risk
High impact, very likely to ocurr
Risk Rating 12-16

Unacceptable Risk
Catastrophic impact, imminent probability
Risk Rating 20-25

World Vision is a Christian relief, development, and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

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