Australian Council for International Development

Climate Action Framework for the Australian International Development Sector

REPORT

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Australian Council For International Development

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1. Introduction

This Climate Action Framework has been developed to support Australian international development NGOs increase their engagement and action on climate change.

A common challenge for many actors wanting to engage in climate change issues is to understand the role they can play and where they can be most effective. Climate change is a complex global problem, the enormity of which can easily overwhelm and confuse those who want to meaningfully engage. This confusion can be further exacerbated through the use of generic language such as 'climate action' as a catch-all to describe a range of different responses to climate change.

This framework seeks to address this issue by providing a clear typology of climate actions relevant to Australian NGOs (ANGOs). In doing so, it aims to increase the understanding of the types of action that can be undertaken at different activity levels and provide clearer entry points for organisations wanting to start working on climate change or seeking to step up their work.

2. Framework Context

2.1 WHAT CONSTITUTES EFFECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION?

Effective climate action must reduce the overall climate risks that communities, economies and ecosystems are facing across the world. This can only be achieved by addressing both the causes and the impacts of climate change, at a speed and scale commensurate to the problem[1].

How we address climate change is as equally important.

Responding to climate change is, itself, a human rights issue. Climate change threatens the food security, livelihoods, access to clean water, health, and homes of hundreds of millions of people around the world[2]. Addressing climate change helps to protect these and many other rights of vulnerable communities. Yet for climate action to be effective in protecting and promoting the rights of vulnerable communities, it must address global and local power structures and inequalities that leave many poor communities with higher exposure and greater vulnerability to climate impacts[3]. Without understanding and addressing these inequalities, action to address climate impacts will not achieve its objective.

2.2 PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION

To ensure climate action is as effective as possible, the following principles should be used to inform the design of climate change responses.

EVIDENCE-BASED

Actions are informed by the best available information, data, research, or analysis and aim to make a meaningful impact in addressing the cause or impact of climate change, relative to the size, reach and resources of the organisation.

EQUITY

Climate action should promote and uphold the rights of groups directly and indirectly impacted by the intervention and ensure the benefits of actions are equitably shared across the community. Organisations should seek to identify, understand, and address inequalities that may increase the exposure or vulnerability of different groups to climate change impacts or their ability to respond. This includes consideration of the specific needs and climate change impacts on women, children, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, landless, and other marginalised groups.

INCLUSION

For climate action to be effective it must respond to the local social, economic, environmental, and political context. At a minimum this requires the active inclusion of local community members, including minority and marginalised groups, to inform and design actions. Wherever possible, actions should be locally led, including the identification, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of climate action, to improve effectiveness and strengthen outcomes for local communities.

These principles should be considered alongside standard good practice principles for development and humanitarian programs.

2.3 MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION: ADDRESSING THE CAUSE AND THE IMPACT

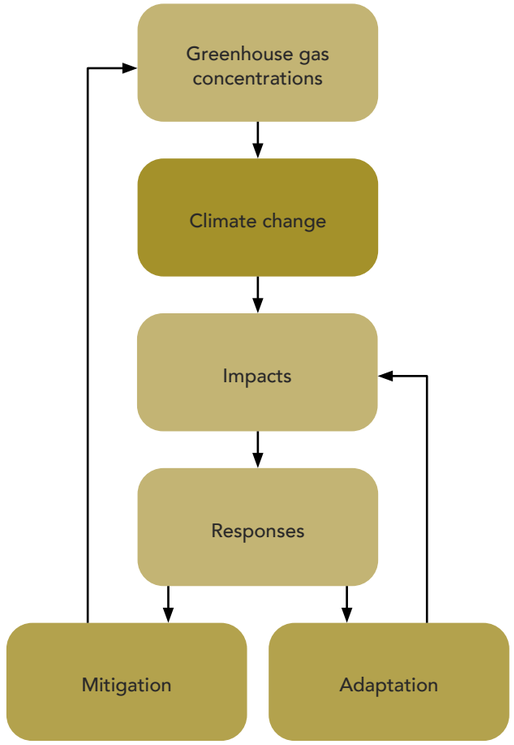
Figure 1 shows a simplified flow diagram, illustrating the relationship between climate change impacts and mitigation and adaptation responses. Both mitigation and adaptation responses work to reduce climate change impacts, but each focuses on various levels and timeframes of action. Mitigation addresses the global issue of increased atmospheric greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations. However, the atmospheric carbon lifecycle means the impact of mitigation actions on the climate will only be fully realised decades later. Adaptation actions, on the other hand, focus on addressing localised impacts of climate change, usually in the short-term[4].

The international development sector has traditionally had a greater focus on addressing the immediate or short-term impacts of climate change, through adaptation, resilience, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian programs. The outcomes of these programs have supported many beneficiary communities to improve their health and well-being, livelihoods, security, and dignity in the face of threats posed by climate change. However, without also addressing the causes of climate change, in particular, increased global GHG concentrations and environmental degradation, these communities will continue to face growing threats to their lives and livelihoods.

Equally, action on climate change cannot only focus on mitigation without also addressing the risks that already confront vulnerable communities around the world. While action to mitigate climate change is required to prevent the long-term extreme risks associated with global heating over 2˚C, it does not reduce the immediate risks faced by communities from climate change that has already occurred. In the five emissions scenarios modelled in the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report, average global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century under all emissions scenarios, including scenarios in line with the 1.5 ˚C target[5].

Supporting communities to build resilience and adapt to climate change is also a matter of justice, as poor communities are disproportionately vulnerable to climate risks, despite being the least responsible for it.

Figure 1: Mitigation and Adaptation responses to climate change impacts



2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

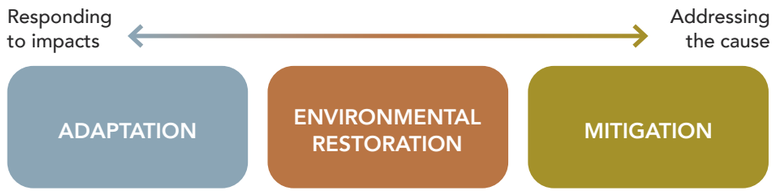
Urgently reducing global GHG emissions is critical in keeping global temperature rise to safe levels, but without also ceasing the destruction of the natural environment and actively restoring it, remaining under 2˚C may still be impossible[6]. The destruction of forests, wetlands, and other critical ecosystems compounds climate change by releasing vast amounts of stored carbon into the atmosphere, while also removing the earth's naturally occurring carbon sinks. In 2019, land-use change added an additional 6.7 Gt of CO2-e to the atmosphere, approximately 11 per cent[7]. However, by protecting the natural environment against further destruction and actively restoring degraded ecosystems, this emission source can instead become a carbon sink.

For international development actors and their partners, nature-based solutions provide significant opportunities to support both climate change mitigation and adaptation, while also delivering sustainable development outcomes.

2.5 TYPES OF CLIMATE ACTION

Figure 2 provides an overview of three key types of climate action discussed in sections 2.3 and 2.4 and where they sit on the spectrum of addressing the cause of climate change to responding to the impacts.

Figure 2: Types of climate action



2.6 THE SPEED AND SCALE OF ACTION REQUIRED

Based on current global policy settings, the world is on track to increase approximately 2.9˚C by 2100[8]. Yet for many partner countries and communities of the Australian development program, 2˚C of warming could mean the loss of their homes, livelihoods, and even their lives. Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are all projected to be higher for global warming of 2˚C than for 1.5˚C. Compared to 2˚C, limiting global warming to 1.5°C, could reduce the number of people exposed to climate-related risks and susceptible to poverty by up to several hundred million by 2050[9].

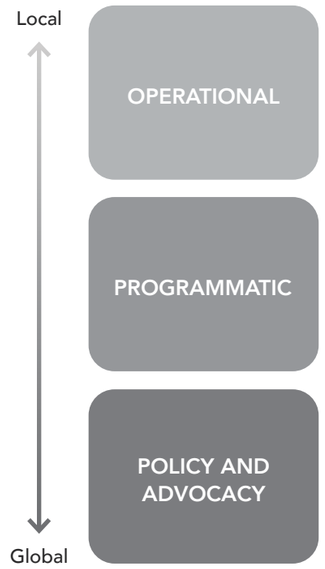
Global emissions, however, continue to rise. In 2019, global greenhouse gas emissions reached a new high of 52.4 gigatons of CO2-e (excluding land-use change)[10]. To have any chance of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5˚C by 2100, annual global GHG emissions must be cut by more than half to a maximum of 25 gigatons of CO2-e by 2030[11]. From there, global emissions need to reach net zero as quickly as possible, but no later than 2050[12].

2.7 INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE OPTIONS

There are three key levels at which ANGOs can respond to climate change. Across each of these levels, development organisations can carry out actions to address both the cause and the impact of climate change.

1. Operational Response – Reducing climate risks to an organisation's operations, programs, assets, and staff and reducing its own environmental impact.
2. Programmatic Response – Design and implementation of projects that seek to deliver adaptation or mitigation outcomes.
3. Policy and Advocacy Response – Advocating for transformational change to the systems and power structures that disincentivise greater global action.

Figure 3: Level of action



ARTICLE 2, PARIS AGREEMENT

The Paris Agreement "aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:

(a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change

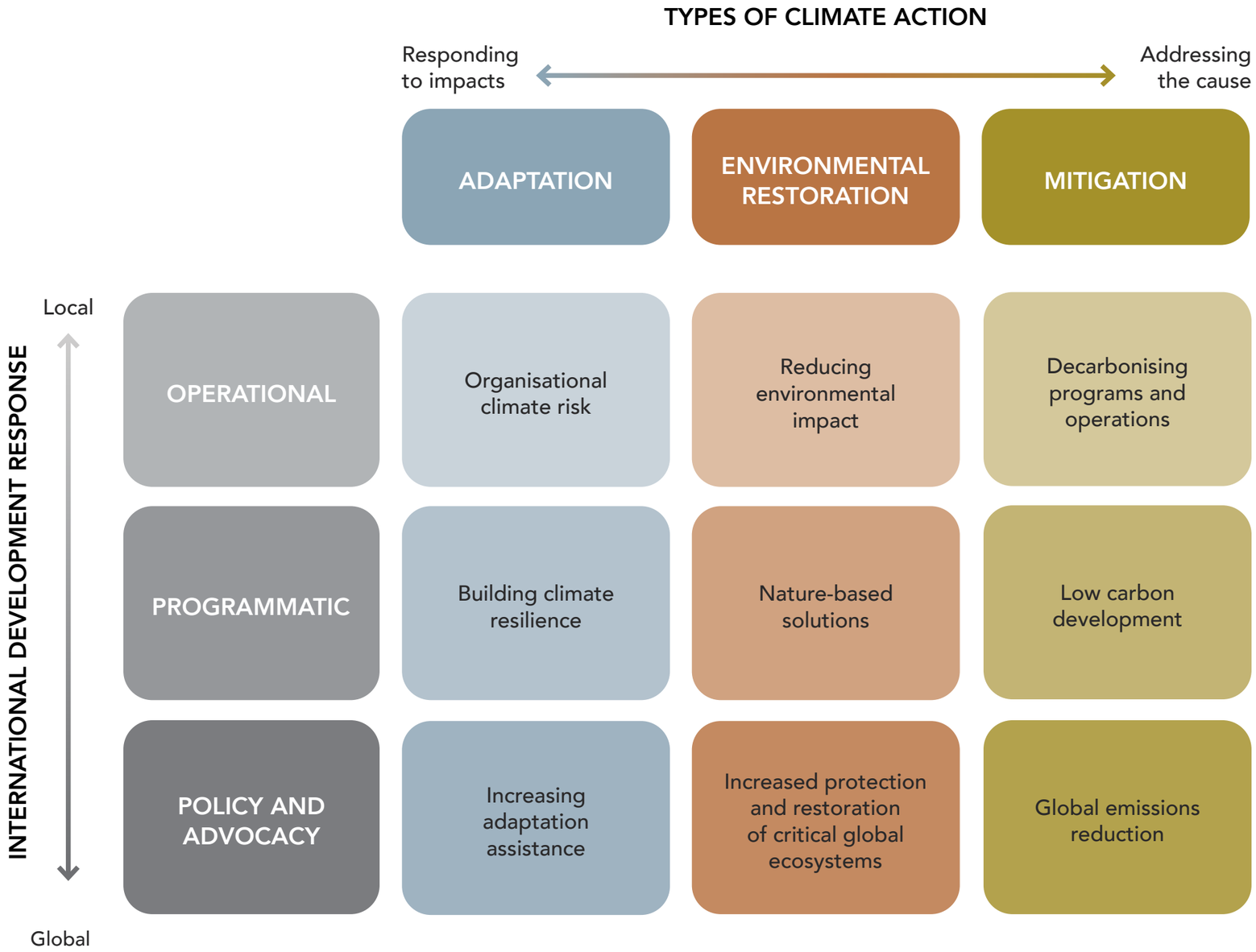
(b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and

(c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development".

3. Climate Action Framework

The Climate Action Framework shown in Figure 4 links the three main types of climate action: Adaptation, Environmental Restoration, and Mitigation to the different levels of response that international development organisations can undertake: Operational, Programmatic and Policy and Advocacy. This provides a matrix of action areas that cover the cause and impact spectrum of climate change across each of the response levels.

Figure 4: Climate Action Framework for International Development Actors



OPERATIONAL RESPONSES

Focus on minimising an organisation's own environmental impact and operational and strategic risks. This should be considered a minimum requirement for all international development organisations, even if they have no programmatic focus on climate change.

PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSES

Will vary depending on an organisation's strategic priorities and objectives. It is expected that there will be a greater weight of activities on climate resilience compared to nature-based solutions or low carbon development, due to the traditional strategic objectives of Australian NGOs. However, for organisations seeking to step up their climate change focused programming, nature-based solutions and low carbon development present good opportunities to help address the cause as well as the impact of climate change.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY RESPONSES

Given that climate change is a global issue, it ultimately requires coordinated and concerted global action. Policy and advocacy responses are therefore needed to drive transformational change to the systems and power structures that continue to incentivise emissions-intensive activities and environmental destruction, while failing to provide at-risk countries and communities with the support they require to adapt to climate change.

4. Adaptation Responses

4.1 OPERATIONAL – ORGANISATIONAL CLIMATE RISK

OBJECTIVE OF ACTIONS

To mitigate climate change risks to an organisation's programs, operations, assets, and staff.

Climate change presents a number of significant risks to ANGOs. These includes risks to operations, assets, and staff as well as risks to the success or sustainability of projects that do not consider how climate change may impact upon project outcomes.

Risks to operations, assets and staff could include:

- Increased exposure of program offices and staff to climate-related hazards, such as flash flooding,
- Increased risks to supply chains, warehouses, and contingency stock from extreme weather events, and
- Increased health risks to staff as a result of new/changed disease transmission with hotter and wetter climates.

Risks to programs could include:

- Not considering changes to local rainfall patterns from climate change when designing a new agricultural project,
- Not accounting for expected changes to flood levels, sea-level rise or storm surge height when building back after a disaster, or
- Rapidly changing program priorities where climate threats are becoming a much higher priority for the targeted community.

Consideration of climate change impacts on operations, programs and assets must be integrated into strategic and operational decision-making to ensure climate risks are identified and appropriate control measures are put in place to reduce these risks.

Actions that organisations can take to start identifying and planning for climate change risks to programs and operations, include:

- Including climate change risks in the organisation's strategic and operational risk register,
- Ensuring that country strategies, security and contingency plans include an analysis of potential short to medium term climate change impacts on operations, programs, assets, and staff.
- Identifying and disseminating credible climate projections, as downscaled as possible, for all operational and program areas to relevant managers and staff.
- Ensuring the design of all new projects considers the projected climate change impacts for the targeted areas and assesses the potential impact of these changes on project outcomes and sustainability.

CLIMATE ACTION PRINCIPLES

Actions to reduce an organisations climate risk should:

Evidence-base	• be informed by robust climate risk assessments. • be informed by credible local climate change data or projects.
Equity	• consider how climate risks may impact differently on staff and how risk management measures can account for these.
Inclusion	• involve local staff, community members and leaders to support the identification of local climate risks

4.2 PROGRAMMATIC – BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

OBJECTIVE OF ACTIONS

To build the resilience of communities vulnerable to climate change, to anticipate, adjust, prepare, and respond to changed climate conditions and new or intensified hazardous events.

In both developmental and humanitarian work, building climate resilience can be an easy entry point to climate change adaptation due to its strong overlap with disaster risk reduction and preparedness approaches. Especially in contexts of high vulnerability to natural disasters such as South-East Asia and the Pacific, there is a strong recognition of the importance of resilience work, including qualified partner organisations and strong government support.

The UNFCCC Climate Action Pathways for Climate Resilience identifies five thematic impact areas to achieve their 2050 vision of "a world where all communities thrive in the face of multiple risk and uncertainty posed by climate change".

> Climate resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate. Improving climate resilience involves assessing how climate change will create new, or alter current, climate-related risks, and taking steps to better cope with these risks." .
>
> Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

THEMATIC IMPACT AREAS

- Resilient food & agriculture systems
- Resilient water & natural ecosystems
- Resilient cities
- Resilient coastal zones & oceans
- Resilient infrastructure & services (Transport, energy & industry)

ACTION AREAS TO HELP BUILD RESILIENCE ACROSS THESE FIVE IMPACT AREAS INCLUDE:

- Conducting climate risk and vulnerability assessments,
- Increasing access to early warning systems and development of early actions,
- Improving preparedness with contingency plans and emergency responses
- Establishing effective governance to manage climate risks, accompanied by human and institutional capacity-building,
- Utilising nature-based solutions to reduce risks,
- Climate proofing of infrastructure and services,
- Increasing access to insurance and social protection instruments,
- Sharing knowledge and best practice on climate risk management, and
- Increasing the volume quality and access of public and private finance to invest in resilience.

For more information, refer to the Climate Resilience Action Table (2020):

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Action_table%20_Resilience.pdf

ADDRESSING MARGINALIZATION AND INEQUALITY AS PART OF AND EFFECTIVE CLIMATE RESPONSE

The above action areas summarise some key activities that can help to build resilience to climate change. However, without addressing inequality and marginalization as part of the climate response, actions are likely to prove ineffective. Inequality and marginalization, including women, children, people with disabilities and minority groups, can both increase people's exposure to climate related hazards and their vulnerability to impacts once they occur[13].

Minority groups, including poor economic migrants, may not have land rights and be forced to live in informal settlements. Informal settlements are often established close to urban centres, to provide access to income earning opportunities, on marginal or degraded land that was previously unoccupied due to high hazard risks, such as flooding[14]. As climate change increases the frequency and severity of hydrometeorological hazards, the exposure of these marginal lands to climate change impacts will greatly increase.

Increasing access to early warning systems can allow for prompt action to reduce the impact of climate-related hazards and save lives. However, unless there is a clear understanding of who are the holders of information within the community and how it is disseminated, early warning information may not reach all community members, including women, children, and people with disabilities, leaving many at greater risks[15]. These same groups may often have fewer assets and resources, meaning the relative impact of a climate-related disaster event can be much more significant and take longer to recover from. As different issues of social, economic, and political exclusion intersect, vulnerability can significantly increase.

LOCALISATION AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Ensuring that program design and decision-making is locally led or as close to communities as possible can support greater empowerment and participation of those the actions are intended to benefit and, in doing so, improve program outcomes[16]. While climate change is a global issue, the impacts are experienced differently in every community around the world as a result of the unique social, economic, environmental, geographic, and political circumstances of that community.

For programs to effectively respond to and address changes in the local climate, or changes in local disaster risk, it must be informed by the daily lived experiences of people and communities in that local area. Traditional knowledge is also essential both in helping to increase the understanding of important local social, environmental, and economic interactions, that may not be understood from the outside, and in providing new (or old) solutions for climate change issues[17].

CLIMATE ACTION PRINCIPLES

Actions to build climate resilience should:

Evidence-base	• be informed by credible climate change data and projections to ensure that project activities account for local climate changes. • be informed by risk and vulnerability assessments, that consider the differentiated risks and vulnerabilities of different groups.
Equity	• seek to understand the differentiated impacts of climate change on different groups, including women, children, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups. • seek to identify and respond to issues of inequality, exclusion, and power in the intervention design. • promote and uphold human rights.
Inclusion	• engage local communities to ensure action is informed by the local social, economic, and political context and the daily lived experiences of people in that local area. • be locally led, including the identification, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of actions.

4.3 POLICY AND ADVOCACY – INCREASING ADAPTATION ASSISTANCE

OBJECTIVE OF ACTIONS

To effect global and regional policies and treaties to support countries, communities, and individuals most vulnerable to climate change, aiming to minimise negative impacts of climate change across the globe.

It is widely accepted that the world's poorest are most vulnerable to climate change. The low adaptive capacity due to poverty is exacerbated by the fact that the poor are often most exposed to risk (e.g., informal settlements are often located in flood-prone areas), and that they are overrepresented in countries with poor governance and limited response capacity. Conversely, the poor are the least responsible for anthropogenic climate change. Next to poverty, there are other especially vulnerable groups, including the elderly, people with disabilities, and those marginalised for other socio-cultural reasons.

According to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) the finance gap to cover expected adaptation needs is not closing – even with a high number of countries now having a national adaptation plan, strategy, law, or policy in place. This will pose a challenge, especially for developing countries. The annual adaptation costs in developing countries are currently estimated at around US$70 billion, expected to reach US$140–300 billion in 2030, and US$280–500 billion in 2050. Significant global funding will need to be made available to reduce climate damage, especially for the most vulnerable with low adaptive capacity.

Even with sufficient adaption finance in place, some negative climate impacts are already unavoidable, and will lead to loss and damage, that will need to be addressed and managed. This prompts questions of liability and equity, considering that many of the poorest countries, least responsible for climate change, will have to bear the brunt of loss and damage, including to essential resources such as (arable) land area, food, and water supply, as well as loss of life.

For more information, please refer to UNEP's Climate Change Adaptation Finance Gap Report 2020:

https://www.unep.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2020

POLICY CONTEXT

Adaptation Finance

At the 2009 UNFCCC CoP15 in Copenhagen, an agreement was made for developed countries to mobilise USD $100 Billion per year by 2020 to address the mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries[18]. Developed countries have not met this commitment and, subsequently, in 2015 at the Paris CoP 21, this target was extended to 2025. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)n 2017 USD $71.2 Billion in climate finance had been provided to developing countries but only USD $13.3 billion for adaptation[19]. Even if the USD $100 billion target was achieved, this would still be well below the required finance to address adaptation issues in developing countries. The 2020 UNEP Adaptation Gap Report estimates that adaptation costs in developing countries are currently in the range of USD $70 billion annually and could reach between USD $140–300 billion in 2030 and USD $280–500 b[20].

Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM)

The WIM was established at CoP19 in 2013 to promote the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow-onset disasters, focussing on developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The key functions of the Loss and Damage Mechanism include:

1. Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage.
2. Strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence, and synergies among relevant stakeholders.
3. Enhancing action and support, including finance, technology, and capacity-building, to address loss and damage, to enable countries to undertake actions.

Stronger commitments were negotiated to the WIM as part of CoP25 in 2019, although greater work still needs to be done to enhance institutional arrangements and scale up finance. An analysis on the outcome of the negotiations can be found here:

https://climateanalytics.org/blog/2019/loss-and-damage-at-cop25-a-hard-fought-step-in-the-right-direction/

KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES

Adaptation Finance

- Increasing the amount of adaptation funding or finance that is available to countries most at risk of climate change impacts, including least developed countries and small island developing states.
- Ensuring climate finance mechanisms support priority access for those most affected by climate change, including women, children, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.
- Ensuring climate finance mechanisms (especially market based mechanisms) include safeguards for human rights, a vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Loss and damage

- Urgent, scaled up, new and additional finance for addressing loss and damage.
- Enhanced institutional arrangements for facilitating action and support to address loss and damage.

Climate Equity/Climate Justice

- Make developed countries responsible to cover adaptation as well as loss & damage cost.
- Advancing Climate Justice in International Law.
- Ensuring climate policy and programs are centred in climate justice and equity principles.
- Working in Solidarity with communities to support climate justice.

CLIMATE ACTION PRINCIPLES

Adaptation policy and advocacy initiatives should:

Evidence-base	• be informed by, and offer credible research and analysis. • be supported, where possible, by ANGOs' experiences and firsthand evidence collected from across an organisations' development and humanitarian programs.
Equity	• seek to ensure that global efforts to adapt to climate change prioritise and account for the differentiated needs of groups most vulnerable to climate change impacts.
Inclusion	• include the voice of people and communities most affected by climate change, and where possible be led by local communities.

ACFID's Advocacy Agenda can be found here:

https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/ACFID%202021%20Advocacy%20Agenda_WEB.pdf

5. Environmental Restoration Responses

5.1 OPERATIONAL – REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

OBJECTIVE OF ACTIONS

To reduce the environmental impact of an organisation's operations and programs.

Without due consideration and care, international development programs and operations can have significant negative environmental impacts. Identifying, minimising and reporting on potential environmental impacts is now commonplace across the sector and most donor agencies and peak bodies require adherence to strict environmental standards or codes of conduct.

The ACFID Code of Conduct requires members to demonstrate organisational commitment and improved environmental outcomes in member operations and programs.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) requires environmental 'scanning' to be conducted for all Australian aid programs with Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) to be conducted for all medium to high-risk projects and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) developed[21].

ACFID CODE OF CONDUCT

Commitment 3.3 We promote environmental stewardship and sustainability

3.3.1 Members demonstrate an organisational commitment to environmental sustainability and improved environmental outcomes in their development and humanitarian initiatives.

3.3.2 Members demonstrate an organisational commitment to environmental sustainability and improved environmental outcomes in their organisation's internal operations.

When assessing potential environmental impacts, strong engagement with local communities, stakeholders and authorities is required to ensure all risks to the local environment, as well as any potential flow on social or economic impacts, are identified and documented, and appropriate risk mitigation or management solutions are developed.

COMMON APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS

The UN Environmental Management Group (UN EMG) has developed a Common Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN programming[22]. The integration of environmental and social standards underpins the critical link between the two.

The approach outlines a process of screening, assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts, which is supported by stakeholder engagement and accountability and informed by four guiding principles:

- Leave no one behind
- Human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment
- Sustainability and resilience
- Accountability

Eight thematic standard areas are covered in the model approach.

The objective of Thematic Area 1: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management are to:

- Conserve biodiversity
- Maintain and enhance the benefits of ecosystem services
- Promote sustainable management and use of living natural resources
- Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the utilization of genetic resources
- Respect, preserve, maintain, encourage knowledge, innovation, practices of Indigenous and local communities for conservation or sustainable use

Figure 5: UN EMG Model Approach for Environmental and Social Standards

Source: UNEMG

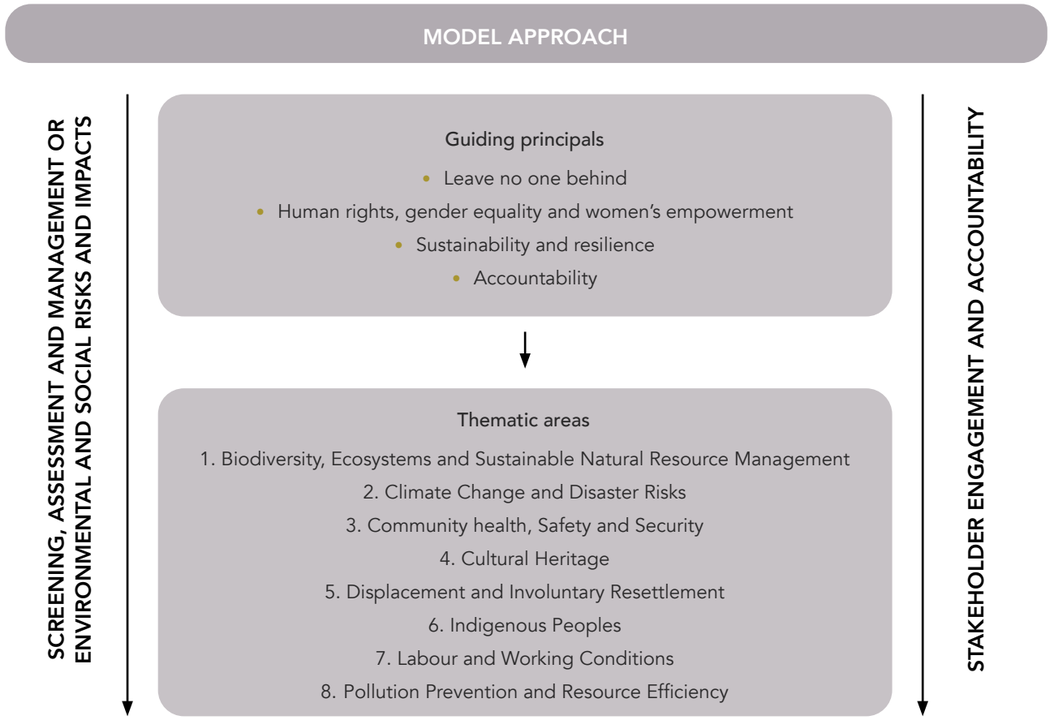


Photo: SurfAid is working across Indonesia, the Solomon Islands and Baja Sur, Mexico. This picture is from the Solomon Islands, where small islands are starting to disappear as the sea levels rise. Photo: Matt Dunbar/SurfAid.

The risk identification processes seek to:

- Identify direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services
- Consider risks related to:
    - habitat and species loss,
    - degradation and fragmentation,
    - overexploitation,
    - invasive alien species,
    - hydrological changes,
    - nutrient loading,
    - pollution,
    - incidental take,
    - potential climate change impacts, and
    - differing values attached to potentially affected biodiversity and ecosystem services by potentially affected communities and other stakeholders
- Consider potential impacts across potential landscapes and seascapes.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement throughout the program life cycle is required to support the risk assessment process. Stakeholder and affected parties must be provided with timely access to appropriate, understandable information on programming activities and potential environmental and social risks and impacts. Affected parties must have access to fair, transparent, and inclusive grievance processes and mechanisms[23].

Ensuring meaningful and effective participation of the local population on environmental risk and impact assessment can also help meet other benchmark standards in the other thematic areas. For example, Thematic Area 4 includes an objective to protect cultural heritage, including landscapes and natural features with cultural significance. Thematic Area 6: Indigenous Peoples recognises the rights of Indigenous peoples to their lands, territories (including waters) and resources and aims to recognise, respect, protect and preserve cultural knowledge and practices.

Incorporating local and traditional knowledge into environment impact assessment processes can help minimise risks not only to the local environment but also to cultural heritage and traditional livelihoods.

5.2 PROGRAMMATIC – NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

OBJECTIVE OF ACTIONS

To address the causes and reduce the impact of climate change by protecting and restoring ecosystems that support human life, while preserving biodiversity.

Nature-based solutions (NbS) make use of the natural ability of ecosystems to sequester carbon and regulate the local environment to mitigate climate change and reduce climate change impacts. Additionally, NbS can deliver many other sustainable development outcomes, including increased food security, greater livelihood opportunities and improved health outcomes.

NbS range from rehabilitating existing ecosystems and enhancing ecosystem services to creating new ecosystems. These actions can contribute to environmental rehabilitation, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, improved land productivity and the reduction of the impact of natural disasters. There is a strong overlap with many environmental development projects, which can serve as a steppingstone to build climate action.

Common types of NbS include (adapted from IUCN):

- Ecosystem restoration approaches: ecological restoration, ecological engineering, forest landscape restoration
- Issue-specific ecosystem-related approaches: ecosystem-based adaptation, ecosystem-based mitigation, climate adaptation services, ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction
- Infrastructure-related approaches: natural infrastructure, green infrastructure
- Ecosystem-based management approaches: integrated coastal zone management, integrated water resources management
- Ecosystem protection approaches: area-based conservation approaches, including protected area management

For more information on NbS please see:

https://www.iucn.org/theme/nature-based-solutions

For information on the IUCN Global Standard for NbS see:

https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/wcc_2016_res_069_en.pdf

> Nature-based Solutions are defined as “actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.” .
>
> IUCN Global Standard for NbS.

DELIVERING ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION OUTCOMES THROUGH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

- The restoration of forests, wetlands, and mangroves can be effective in reducing drought, flash flooding and storm impacts, while also increasing biodiversity, improving land productivity, and storing carbon to help mitigate climate change.
- Urban forests and green infrastructure can reduce urban heat islands and lower surrounding temperatures, reducing the need for energy-intensive cooling.
- Low carbon development solutions can provide communities with new economic and educational opportunities, including for marginalised groups, while reducing emissions and localised pollution and improving health outcomes.

TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) can be defined as a cumulative body of multigenerational knowledge, practices, and beliefs[24]. Examples of TEK are often agriculturally based, ranging from mountain-based agriculture in the Andes, to forest gardens in Tanzania and aquaculture in Indonesia, however also include traditional construction techniques (including living tree root bridges) and water supply systems. These socio-ecological systems are associated with 'place', and have been developed, practised, and refined over hundreds, if not thousands, of years[25]. Where Western agricultural practices or construction techniques may be unsuited to non-European climates, traditional practices are typically intrinsically in tune with the local environment, due to generations of refinement, and as such, are much more resilient to local climate changes.

The survival of many of these socio-ecological systems provides significant opportunities for development organisations to learn about place-based adaptation and to support the re-emergence of sustainable technologies, including agriculture.

CLIMATE ACTION PRINCIPLES

The implementation of nature-based solutions to climate change should:

Evidence-base	• be informed by credible environmental assessments and climate change data and projections to ensure that solutions are appropriate for the local community and environment and will be sustainable under future climate conditions.
Equity	• consider potential social, economic, and environmental impacts and how different groups, including Indigenous people, women, children and other groups, value, use and access local spaces and the natural environment. • consider opportunities to promote social and economic inclusion of marginalised groups
Inclusion	• engage local communities to ensure action is informed by the local social, economic, and political context and the daily lived experiences of people in that local area. • where possible, be locally led, including the identification, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of actions.

5.3 POLICY AND ADVOCACY – INCREASING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

OBJECTIVE OF ACTIONS

To elevate and integrate environmental protection and restoration as a key pillar of sustainable development policy and practice and to increase global and national efforts to stop and reverse the destruction, degradation, and fragmentation of all types of ecosystems.

Human activity is altering the biosphere across all spatial scales; three-quarters of the earth's land surface has been significantly changed, two-thirds of the ocean area has been impacted, and over 85 per cent of wetland area has been lost. Both the scale and rate of this change to nature has reached an alarming level with biodiversity declining faster than ever before. An estimated one million species currently face extinction, with a global extinction rate already hundreds of times higher than the average over the past 10 million years. This negative trend in biodiversity and ecosystem functions is projected to worsen with human population growth, as well as through unsustainable production and consumption patterns on a global scale. To conserve and restore nature, major and urgent policy change is required that can lead to transformative change.

It is highly unlikely that the Sustainable Development Goals can be met without a stop to ecosystem degradation and massive efforts to restore ecosystems taken on the scale of hundreds of millions of hectares globally. The restoration of ecosystems will contribute effectively to both climate change mitigation and adaptation, help to enhance food security and holds economic opportunities that allow for other societal goals to be met simultaneously. The protection and restoration of healthy and diverse natural ecosystems must be recognised as a key pillar of sustainable development policy and practice and integrated across development activities.

For more information, please see the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services:

https://ipbes.net/global-assessment

POLICY CONTEXT

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

The UN General Assembly has declared 2021-2031 the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The primary aim is to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems globally, with an explicit dual focus on both protection and restoration. It is acknowledged that no single entity can steer the course of action required to achieve this on the scale required across diverse ecosystems globally. The strategy thus is to connect and empower the actions of the many across all scales of intervention, which may offer a range of opportunities for ACFID members.

UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Alongside the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), The CBD emerged from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. It is a legally binding international treaty aiming to achieve three key objectives:

- Conservation of biodiversity
- Sustainable use of its components
- Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources

Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets included 20 international goals for 2011-2020 aiming to:

1. address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society,
2. reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use,
3. improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity,
4. enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services, and
5. enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Photo: ALWS partners with Life with Dignity in Cambodia on a holistic rural development program. Communities are empowered to manage disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation for long term sustainability. Through the program Mrs. KA Thoeun, was supported to adopt climate change resilient vegetable growing (drip system techniques), sale and marketing approaches. With community support through Agricultural Cooperatives climate resilient vegetable growing techniques successfully improved cucumber, long-beans and papaya growing." Credit: Life With Dignity/ALWS.

According to the UN's Global Diversity Outlook 5, none of the Aichi Targets has been met by 2020 (with six targets partially met), highlighting the exceptionally poor international performance with regards to the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity.

UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Also established as a result of the Rio Earth Summit, the UNCCD is a legally binding international agreement to implement sustainable land management across the globe. It focuses on dryland areas that hold some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples. The UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework is built around the global commitment to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality, aiming to restore the productivity of degraded land, improve livelihoods and reduce the impacts of drought on vulnerable populations.

KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES

Addressing the drivers of deforestation and habitat fragmentation

- Palm oil and timber plantations
- Cattle
- Mining
- Road construction, urban sprawl

Prioritising Nature Based Solutions

- Incentivise the delivery of environmental benefit through elevating the environment (and climate change adaptation) as a core investment in the development policy post COVID-19 strategy
- Allocating specific budget to nature-based solutions.

Stopping the overfishing of the oceans

- The global fishing industry is bringing numerous species to the brink of extinction
- Often this is bycatch could be prevented by prohibiting certain fishing practices
- International agreements insufficient or insufficiently enforced

Desertification and land degradation

- Generally driven by climate change and unsustainable land and water management

Pollution destroying local ecosystems

- Industrial and mining by-products
- General waste management and recycling
- Banning of single-use plastics

ACFID's Advocacy Agenda can be found here:

https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/ACFID 2021 Advocacy Agenda_WEB.pdf

CLIMATE ACTION PRINCIPLES

Environmental policy and advocacy initiatives should:

Evidence-base	• be informed, and offer credible research and analysis on international environmental and biodiversity agreements. • be supported, where possible, by ANGOs experiences and firsthand evidence of the impact of environment degradation on local communities.
Equity	• seek to ensure the protection, and, where required, the restoration of critical eco-systems and natural assets for all communities around the world.
Inclusion	• include the voice of people and communities most affected by environmental degradation and climate change, and where possible be led by local communities and indigenous knowledge and practices.

6. Mitigation Responses

6.1 OPERATIONAL – DECARBONISING PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS

OBJECTIVE OF ACTIONS

To reduce the impact of climate change from an organisation's own operations and programs.

Except for those that have already transitioned to net zero emissions, all international development organisations contribute to climate change. Setting organisational emissions reduction targets and transitioning to net zero emissions is also important in helping to lead by example and galvanise wider societal change towards a clean and renewable economy. Being seen to 'live your values' can also increase credibility and support policy and advocacy work.

The first step in reducing an organisation's carbon footprint is to develop a GHG emissions inventory to understand what the key emissions sources are and where the opportunities for emissions reduction exist.

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standards provide an internationally recognised corporate accounting and reporting standard for preparing corporate-level GHG emissions inventories.

The majority of emissions for an Australian international development NGO are most likely to come from the following sources:

- International and domestic flights
- Electricity/gas consumption at organisation's offices (in Australia and overseas)
- Fuel use for organisation's fleet (in Australia and overseas)
- Use of diesel generators (e.g., as back-up power supply at field offices)
- Other transport (e.g., taxis, rented cars, boats)
- Accommodation
- Other minor sources including, office paper, industrial processes and product use, water use, office waste

An organisation may also be indirectly supporting fossil fuel companies or emissions intensive industries through the financial institutions they bank or invest with or by the default superannuation providers they use.

LOCALLY-LED DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES AND OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT OPERATIONAL DECARBONISATION

The localisation of humanitarian and development operations, program management and decision-making supports the decarbonisation of the aid sector. Transport accounted for over 14% of global emissions in 2018 and remains one of the most challenging sectors to decarbonise.

Air travel accounts for a significant proportion of emissions in the Aid sector. According to the 2019 UN Greening the Blue report, air travel accounted for 42% of UN emissions in 2018. Greater locally-led development and humanitarian operations, program management and decision-making, reduces the need for costly and emissions intensive travel.

DECARBONISING YOUR ORGANISATIONS

Steps that organisations can take to reduce emissions include:

- Develop a greenhouse gas inventory for the organisation and establish an emissions baseline.
- Commit to organisational emissions reduction targets that are in line with (or better than) the required rate of global emissions (e.g., 50 per cent emissions reduction by 2030 and zero by 2050).
- Develop an action plan to reduce emissions in line with targets.
- Audit emissions inventory annually to monitor and track emission reductions.
- Divest from banks and other financial institutions that continue to fund fossil fuels.
- Promote ethical superannuation funds that do not invest in fossil fuels.

Example emissions reduction activities:

- Reduce the number of domestic and international flights taken by the organisation
- Install rooftop solar panels at offices or purchase 100 per cent green certified energy.
- Replace gas heating or appliances with electric alternatives.
- Transition fleet to electric vehicles.
- Offset unavoidable emissions.

CLIMATE ACTION PRINCIPLES

Actions to reduce an organisation's carbon emissions should:

Evidence-base	• be informed by a publicly available organisational emissions inventory. • be based on actions that are proven to reduce emissions. • be implemented at a speed and scale that aligns climate science and global efforts to keep warming to as close to 1.5˚C as possible
Equity	• ensure that responsibility for reducing emissions is shared across organisational operational areas • ensure that this work is funded and does not fall only on staff responsibility for operations.
Inclusion	• involve staff, in Australia and overseas, to support the identification and implementation of emission reduction opportunities.

Photo: SurfAid is working across Indonesia, the Solomon Islands and Baja Sur, Mexico. This picture is from the Solomon Islands, where small islands are starting to disappear as the sea levels rise. Photo: Matt Dunbar/SurfAid.

6.2 PROGRAMMATIC – LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE OF ACTIONS

To support the delivery of sustainable development outcomes through the utilisation of clean technology and the development of long-term low emissions development strategies.

Low Carbon Development aims to decouple economic growth from high emissions trajectories through the decarbonisation of the economy. It takes advantage of the fact that many technologies already exist that allow developing countries and communities to 'leapfrog' redundant technologies and, in doing so, challenges the notion that development and economic outcomes can only be achieved through substantial growth in emissions. While clean technologies offer important opportunities to reduce emissions in developing countries, now they can more significantly avoid locking developing countries into old technologies and costly emissions reduction actions in the future[26].

Sustainable development must remain front of mind in low carbon development. Actions to achieve net zero emissions are intrinsically linked to many other sustainable development outcomes[27]. In many cases, gains in other sustainable development outcomes may be much more significant than the emissions reduced. However, where a low carbon development initiative has a negative or marginal impact on the local community, the action should be re-evaluated. Considering the interaction between social, economic, and environmental impacts is key to ensuring that development outcomes are maximised, while emissions are minimised[28].

For international development actors, low carbon development programs can focus across a number of levels, from individual household level actions to the development of low emissions development strategies (LEDS) in partnership with national governments.

Table 1: Mapping Low-Emission Development Strategies

Source: UNDP

TOWARDS A LOW-EMISSION ECONOMY
Low-Emissions Energy Systems
Renewable energy (e.g. wind, solar, biomass, mini-hydro, geothermal, ocean-based energy generation) Energy efficiency and management (e.g. housing and industrial energy efficiency, smart grids)
Low-Emission Urban and Transport Systems
Low emission vehicles, multi-modal mass transit, urban planning, 3rd generation bio-fuels, etc.
Low-Emission Manufacturing of Products and Chemicals, and Waste Management
Clean production of domestic, commercial and industrial equipment/appliances and manufactured goods (e.g. refrigeration and AC/ appliances), waste avoidance and segregation, 3R, recycling and treatment, clean production, ODS banks collection and disposal, etc.
Agriculture, Forestry and Ecosystems
Low-emission agriculture, peatlands restoration, grazing land management, afforestation, forest management, coastal ecosystem management (e.g. 'blue carbon'), etc.
CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT CAPACITY
Existing financial flows; policy, institutional and legal preparedness; economic structures; social fabric; etc.

HOUSEHOLD OR COMMUNITY LEVEL

Low carbon development at the household and community level can include actions such as:

- Installation of household or community renewable energy (most likely solar)
- Installation of solar lights in the home and community
- Replacing diesel pumps with solar pumps
- Replacing oil lamps with LED lights
- Replacing biomass stoves with solar or fuel efficient stoves.

While individual emissions reductions from these actions will be small, replicated at scale they can have a meaningful impact. A World Vision project to replace 80,000 biomass stoves in Ethiopia with fuel efficient stoves was estimated to reduce emissions by over 560,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent over seven years[29].

Beyond emissions reduction, these actions can also be used to support the delivery of other development objectives including health improvements, gender equality, women's empowerment, and social protection. The fuel-efficient stoves distributed by WV were found to also reduce carbon monoxide emissions by over 50 per cent[30]. Bringing electricity and telecommunications to remote areas can help open new educational and economic opportunities for women and other groups, while improved community lighting can help reduce social protection risks.

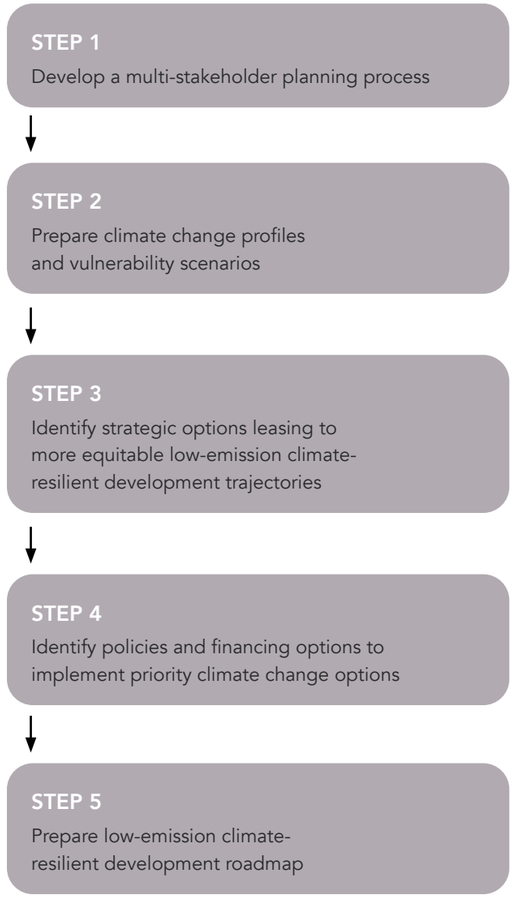
CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cities and local governments have a key role to play in emissions reduction. Globally cities account for 70 per cent of emissions[31] and often have responsibility for urban transport, waste management, water, and wastewater treatment, and may have considerable influence over electricity markets.

Understanding a city's greenhouse gas emissions and the opportunities for emissions reduction are the first steps in developing a plan to reduce municipal emissions. The Global Protocol for Cities provides an internationally recognised accounting and reporting standard for cities.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has developed a Guidebook on Preparing Low-Emission Climate-Resilient Development Strategies. This guidebook integrates climate change mitigation and adaptation planning to holistically address the cause and impacts of climate change within strategy development. It outlines a five-step process for developing low-emission climate-resilient development strategies (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Key Steps in Preparing a Low-Emission Climate-Resilient Development Strategy, UNDP



NATIONAL LEVEL

Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS) are defined by the OECD as "forward-looking national economic development plans or strategies that encompass low-emission and/or climate-resilient economic growth". Under the Paris Agreement all countries must develop Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) every five years. NDCs outline a country's efforts to reduce national emissions and adapt to climate change[32]. Achieving a country's NDC requires the development of long-term strategies to guide the transition to a low emission and resilient society[33].

ClimateWorks Australia have developed a guide to support National Governments in developing countries to develop long-term low emissions development strategies under the Paris Agreement.

Growth through transformation: An investment vision guide for climate and development outlines a five-part process to create an enabling environment for green investment and to align public and private sector finance with sustainable development and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The guide highlights best practice approaches, tools, resources and case studies to illustrate the elements required for climate-safe green growth, assisting in:

- creating a political context that supports the transition
- understanding at a granular level how the transition can be achieved and what trade-offs need to be managed
- ensuring policy and financial systems unlock investment and direct it towards green infrastructure and technologies, and
- identifying specific projects that can catalyse the transition this decade, and assessing how they might best be funded[34].

The LEDS Global Partnership also provides a range of resources, tools, good practices and case studies on low emissions development across key thematic areas, including Energy, Transport, Finance and Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU).

CLIMATE ACTION PRINCIPLES

Low carbon development actions should:

Evidence-base	• be informed by credible analysis of emissions or other pollution from target activities. • be based on credible research or proven technology and actions.
Equity	• ensure benefits of low carbon development solutions are shared across different groups, including women, children, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, and other groups. • consider potential social, economic, and environmental impacts on different groups. • consider opportunities to promote social and economic inclusion of marginalised groups
Inclusion	• engage local communities to ensure action is informed by the local social, economic, and political context and the daily lived experiences of people in that local area. • where possible, be locally led including the identification, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of actions.

6.3 POLICY AND ADVOCACY – GLOBAL EMISSION REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE OF ACTIONS

To accelerate national and global action to reduce emissions and keep global warming to well below 2˚C and as close to 1.5˚C as possible, in line with the Paris Agreement.

The speed and scale of action required to mitigate climate change and hold global average temperature rise to 'safe' levels requires a rapid acceleration of concerted international action to reduce emissions and transition to a net zero emissions economy.

Advocacy is required to increase the ambition and accelerate emissions reduction commitments of individual countries and corporations and strengthen international agreements through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties, for example, CoP26 in Glasgow in November 2021, and other multilateral engagements.

POLICY CONTEXT

Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement remains the key international agreement to act on climate change. Since it was negotiated in 2015, the Agreement has been ratified by 197 countries. The Agreement aims to hold global average temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C[35]. These temperature increases are considered to be the limit of safe temperature global rise, although as stated in the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Special Report on Global Warming, "climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C"[36].

The Paris Agreement requires each Party (Country) to prepare and maintain successive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) outlining their intended actions and commitments to meet the goals of the Agreement. Commitments within NDCs are used to assess whether the world is taking sufficient action to mitigate climate change. Climate Action Tracker assesses that current global policies have the world on a trajectory of 2.9˚C warming or 2.4 ˚C warming based on current pledges and target[37].

Emissions Gap

Each year UNEP release an emissions gap report which provides a yearly review of the difference between where greenhouse emissions are predicted to be in 2030 and where they should be to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. To achieve the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C by 2100, annual global GHG emissions must be cut by more than half, to a maximum of 25 gigatons of CO2-e by 2030[38].

The economic shutdown that accompanied the outbreak of COVID-19 led to a 7 per cent reduction in CO2 emissions in 2020, the largest absolute drop in emissions ever recorded, and the largest relative drop since the Second World War[39].

The 2019 Emissions Gap Report, however, stated that to still have a 67 per cent chance of holding global temperature rise to 1.5°C by 2100, the world requires a 7.6 per cent decline in annual emissions from all GHGs (not just CO2), year on year, by 2030[40].

KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES

Emissions Reduction Targets

- Set more ambitious targets in line or better than Paris given our wealth and commit in our NDC at Glasgow

Fossil Fuel Subsidies

- End subsidies that continue to prop up fossil fuel industries

Fossil Fuel Exports

- Ban all fossil fuel exports from Australia

Increase Clean Development Assistance

- Increase Australian assistance to development partner countries to transition to a low carbon economy.

Emission offsets

- Ensure emissions offsetting is not used to avoid making real reduction in emissions and is only used where there are presently no viable alternative options to reduce emissions.
- Ensure any offsets safeguard biodiversity, human rights and local community knowledge and rights

CLIMATE ACTION PRINCIPLES

Mitigation policy and advocacy initiatives should:

Evidence-base	• be informed by the latest climate science, credible research and analysis and offer proven technology and action. • be informed by international agreements, in particular the Paris Agreement.
Equity	• seek to ensure that industrialised nations take responsibility for their fair share of global emissions reductions and do not shift responsibility to developing countries.
Inclusion	• include and make space for and prioritise the voice of people and communities most affected by climate change, and where possible be led by local communities.

ACFID's Advocacy Agenda can be found here:

https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/ACFID%202021%20Advocacy%20Agenda_WEB.pdf

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DOOR OF HOPE AUSTRALIA
Edmund Rice Foundation Australia
NSW EDO
ETF EDUCATING THE FUTURE
FemiliPNG care. support. change.
Global Development Group
gmp
GLOBAL SCHOOL PARTNERS
indigo foundation
IJM
ina international
INTERNATIONAL NEPAL FELLOWSHIP
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adi australian doctors international
AUSTRALIAN HIMALAYAN FOUNDATION
afao AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS
Australian Lutheran World Service
BEYOND THE ORPHANAGE
Birthing Kit Foundation Australia
BridgIT Water Foundation
Brien Holden VISION INSTITUTE
Burnet Institute Medical Research. Practical Action.
Business for Development
care
Clan Caring & Living As Neighbours
compass housing services
Cufa CREATING INFINITE VALUE
Destiny Rescue rescuing children
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DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM
DISASTER RELIEF AUSTRALIA
engineers without borders australia
EverGreening GLOBAL ALLIANCE
global concern
FAIRTRADE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND
family planning nsw Reproductive & Sexual Health
foresight CURE | PREVENT | EMPOWER
The Fred Hollows Foundation
good return
GraceWorks MYANMAR
Habitat for Humanity Australia
HAGAR The whole journey
HealthServe Australia
Hope for Children
HOST INTERNATIONAL
IWDA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
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Islamic Relief Australia
JOHN FAWCETT FOUNDATION
KTF
KYEEMA FOUNDATION
The Leprosy Mission Australia
MARIE STOPES INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA
MARY MACKILLOP today
MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA
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MIT GROUP FOUNDATION
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Cover photo: At his family's land, Amit has planted more than ten tree saplings. He had acquired this knowledge from the environment classes at his children club that meets once a week.

Through the activity book children learn about different names of plants and trees. They are encouraged to go outdoors and find trees and plants they are unaware of and get help from elders in identifying them. They are encouraged to collect leaves or fruits of plants and trees native of the place and list their economic and medicinal values.

World Vision India is working with children like Amit to raise awareness on climate change and encourage them to act. Here children learn to dream. Photo: Jim Kasom / World Vision.

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