



Climate Change

ACFID Code of Conduct Topic Guide

This guide outlines the requirements in the ACFID Code of Conduct related to Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability. Additional guidance can be found in the online [Good Practice Toolkit](#).



QUALITY PRINCIPLE 3: SYSTEMIC CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION

Commitment 3.2 We promote environmental stewardship, sustainability, and climate action.

Compliance Indicators	Verifiers
3.2.1 Members demonstrate an organisational commitment to environmental sustainability, climate action and improved environmental outcomes in their development and humanitarian initiatives.	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy, statement or guidance document committing the member to promoting environmental sustainability, climate action and improved environmental outcomes in development and humanitarian initiatives. <input type="checkbox"/> Design or planning framework, tools, templates which require or approaches which consistently show evidence of the analysis of environmental risk and management, including risks associated with climate change.
3.2.2 Members demonstrate an organisational commitment to environmental sustainability, climate action and improved environmental outcomes in their organisation’s internal operations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy, statement or guidance document committing the member to minimising the environmental impact, including the carbon footprint, of their organisation’s internal operations.



QUALITY PRINCIPLE 4: QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Commitment 4.2 We analyse and understand the contexts in which we work.

Compliance Indicators	Verifiers
4.2.1 Members’ planning and practice are informed by analysis of context, evidence and research, and inclusion of the perspectives and knowledge of primary stakeholders.	<input type="checkbox"/> Design, planning or appraisal framework, process, tools, templates which require or approaches which consistently show context and stakeholder analysis. Contextual analysis should consider the perspectives and knowledge of primary stakeholders, impacts of climate change and an analysis of power dynamics including issues of gender equality and equity.
4.2.2 Members assess and manage risk in their development and humanitarian initiatives.	<input type="checkbox"/> A risk framework, risk management plan or approach that assesses and addresses risks for all initiatives including from a protection / safeguarding perspective, and risks associated with climate change (see 1.4.1, 1.5.1, 3.2.1).

Good Practice Indicators (not required for compliance)

COMMITMENT 3.2

- A focal person with responsibility for environmental sustainability is in place.
- Climate change mitigation, adaptation, and impact, and disaster risk reduction are incorporated into program strategies wherever possible.
- Program designs, implementation and monitoring and evaluation processes include consideration of potential and realised impacts on the environment.
- Environmental sustainability and impact training is provided to key personnel and partners.
- Periodic reports are provided internally and to relevant external stakeholders on environmental sustainability and impact achievements.
- Information about the impacts of climate change and environmental sustainability issues are promoted in public communications.
- Climate action policy, programs and advocacy reflect climate justice and equity principles.
- Organisational targets are in place to measure progress in minimising the environmental impact of our operations.

COMMITMENT 8.3

- Member annual report includes Environmental sustainability reporting, including reporting on actions to reduce organisational carbon footprint.

Definitions

Carbon footprint	The total amount of greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide and methane) that are generated by an individual or organisation's actions.
Climate Action	Actions taken to reduce the overall climate risks that communities, economies and ecosystems are facing across the world by addressing both the causes and the impacts of climate change. Climate action includes activities that support adaptation, environmental restoration and mitigation. These activities may relate to an organisation's operations, programming or policy/advocacy work. (Adapted from ACFID's Climate Action Framework)
Climate Change	Climate change refers to any long-term trends or shifts in climate over many decades. These changes may be due to natural variations (such as changes in the Earth's orbit) or caused by human activities changing the composition of the atmosphere. (CSIRO)
Climate Justice	Climate justice is a concept that addresses the just division, fair sharing, and equitable distribution of the burdens of climate change and responsibility for its mitigation. A climate justice approach sees climate change as an issue of social and environmental injustice. It recognises that vulnerability to climate change can reflect existing structural injustices in society, and that climate action must explicitly address these structural power imbalances.
Environmental sustainability	Making decisions and taking actions that minimise harm to the environment and people through the relationship they share with it, and ensuring the environment is not degraded beyond its capacity to maintain critical ecological processes.

ACFID Resources and Communities of Practice

[Climate Action Resource Hub](#)

[Introduction to Climate Change and Development - e-learning](#)

[Join](#) the ACFID Climate Policy and Practice Community