

World Vision Australia

Environment and Climate Change Policy

Preliminary information:

Type of Policy:	Organisation	Core Value supported: We are stewards
Leadership Owner:	Chief Field Impact Officer	Issue Date: May 2017
Frequency of review: Two yearly		
Last review date: November 2020		
Next review deadline: November 2023		

Purpose of the Policy:

WV's Core Value 'We are Stewards' is rooted in our Christian faith, and requires us to "care for the earth, and act in ways that will restore and protect the environment, ensuring that our development activities are ecologically sound". In recognition of the global concern around climate change and environmental degradation hampering sustainable development goals, the purpose of this policy is to set out the approach World Vision Australia ("WVA") intends to contribute to improved environments while avoiding and managing negative environmental impacts and that may be caused by its operations in Australia, international development and emergency relief programs during design, implementation and decommissioning and the impacts from natural hazards and climate change on its programming. The policy will ensure WVA complies with all relevant Australian Government policies and legislation related to its operations in Australia and international aid funding and promote projects and activities that have positive environmental outcomes. Key policies and legislation include:

- *Environmental Protection and Environmental Protection Act 1999*
- DFAT Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy 31 March 2019
- DFAT Asbestos Management in the Aid Program April 2017
- DFAT Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction – Guidance Note August 2018

WVA defines the environment to include:

- a) ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities
- b) Climate and natural processes and systems
- c) natural and physical resources
- d) qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas
- e) heritage values of places
- f) social, economic and cultural aspects of the above, including those related to indigenous peoples

This definition is consistent with the definition of "environment" under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) ('EPBC').

This policy applies to all personnel and property of WVA, including:

- its Board members,

- its employees (permanent, casual and contracted employees and volunteers), and
- its contractors and personnel of partner organisations;
- our operations and offices in Australia and overseas.

Who the Policy applies to:

		Applicable?	Extent of application:
Our Board members (any person who is a member of our Board of Directors)		Yes	-
Our employees:	Permanent	Yes	-
	Casual	Yes	-
	Fixed term contract employees	Yes	-
	Secondees	Yes	-
Volunteers		Yes	-
Agency staff (eg. temporary staff assigned by an agency to WVA)		Yes	-
Consultants*, whether individuals or organisations (eg. evaluators)		Yes	-
Service or goods providers (that is, suppliers of goods or services to us), whether individuals or organisations* (eg. print and mailhouse service providers, professional advisors)		No	-
Our partner organisations* (eg. other NGOs)		Yes	-
Our supporters		No	-
Other:		-	

Authority & Responsibility for the Policy and related Standards, Procedures & Guidelines:

The CEO will ensure that the material environmental risks and impacts associated with WVA's activities are identified, mitigated, managed and reported to the Executive Leadership team on a regular basis. The Risk Committee will report to Board on policy implementation once per year.

The Chief Field Impact Officer must report all substantial matters of environmental significance to the CEO for reporting to the Board as applicable as soon as possible following the relevant event.

The Senior Leader listed as the **Leadership Owner** of the Policy has:

- the overall responsibility for the Policy including that those listed in the table below exercise their responsibilities and authorities as set out below; and
- the particular responsibility of ensuring that the Policy is reviewed according to the frequency and by the deadline applicable.

The following table sets out for the actions listed, those:

- with the responsibility to *recommend* the action (including to report about an incident in the case of incidents);
- who are to be *consulted* about the action;
- those who have the authority to *decide* (including approve) the action; and
- those with the responsibility and authority to *perform* (which means taking all actions necessary) for the action overall.

	Implementing the Policy and the related standards, procedures and guidelines:	Amending the Policy:	Amending the related standards, procedures and guidelines:	Responding to and dealing with incidents (including non-compliance):
Recommend	Not applicable	Anyone	Anyone	Anyone
Consult	Company Secretary	Chief Field Impact Officer	Chief Field Impact Officer	Chief Field Impact Officer
Decide*	Chief Field Impact Officer	Board	Chief Field Impact Officer	Chief Field Impact Officer
Perform	Chief Field Impact Officer	Chief Field Impact Officer	Chief Field Impact Officer	Chief Field Impact Officer

* Where the Policy is a Board policy, any amendments to the Policy must be considered and approved by the Board.

Please liaise with the Company Secretary in relation to the process to be taken for this.

The Policy:

World Vision Australia sees the impacts of natural hazards, climate change and environmental degradation in the countries where we work. This could reverse many of the development gains of recent decades and present challenges for how development work should be carried out in the future. Addressing climate change and environmental degradation are also critical in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We also see the positive impact of rehabilitating degraded environments on the people we serve.

WVA acknowledges that our activities have an impact on the global environment and we should modify our operations both in field programming and WVA office operations/facilities to avoid or, where this is not practical, minimise, mitigate and remediate our negative environmental impacts, while aiming to build lasting environmental benefits in the regions where we operate.

WVA will:

- Comply with all applicable Australian Government policies, Commonwealth legislation, multilateral environmental agreements the Australian Government are signatories to.
- World Vision will undertake an assessment of the environmental impacts, natural hazards and climate and disaster risk exposure in all new field programs, using DFAT's Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy, Asbestos Management in the Aid Program and Operational Guidance and work towards continuously improving our environmental performance and reducing our organisational contribution to climate change and environmental degradation both in Australia and overseas.
- WVA offices and operations will incorporate environmentally sound practices and guidance to reduce our organisation's environmental footprint, set clear goals and measurable targets to reduce carbon footprint, motivate staff and nurture collective action towards sustainability.
- Actively work to understand and mitigate any negative environmental impact and climate changes and disaster risks in the programming work undertaken by or funded through WVA.
- WVA programmatic interventions will promote environmentally sustainable development, including ecosystem resilience, conservation, and restoration of the environment, supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- In collaboration with National Offices, local communities, partners and other NGOs, we aim to increase our understanding of the short-term and long-term environmental and climate change and disaster risks we face – both challenges and opportunities – and how best to manage them.
- Develop, implement and regularly review standards, guidelines and practices that support this policy and meet the compliance obligations as a recipient of international aid funding. Standards, Procedures & Guidelines related to the Policy:
 - Environmental Assessment – Guideline for undertaking initial environmental assessments in development projects, Version 3.0
 - World Vision Australia Carbon Management Procedure
 - DFAT Environmental and Social Safeguards Operational Procedures 31 March 2019
 - WVI's Environmental Stewardship Policy (issued Oct 1, 2020, currently pending Board's approval)

Tools related to the Policy:

- DFAT Risk and Safeguarding Screening Tool March 2019
- WVA Environmental Impact Assessment Sectoral Field Guidance
 - WASH
 - Emergency Response
 - Agriculture and livestock
 - Construction
 - Forestry and Landscape Restoration
 - Health
- WVA Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Field Guidance Tool

Related Policies:

- Board Policy Manual
- Contracts Policy
- Purchasing Policy (FIN 04.01)

Revision History

Revision History:				
<i>Revision Date:</i>	<i>Revision no:</i>	<i>Summary description of revision(s) made:</i>	<i>Section(s) changed:</i>	<i>Approved by:</i>
April 2017	1	Drafting of WVA policy, in alignment with existing WVI Environmental Management Policy	New draft	Board
April 2019 (with further updates in Oct 2020)	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Included Climate in the title 2. Included Australian Operations in the purpose statement 3. Included reference to key Australian Government environmental policies and legislation 4. Updated definition of Environment 5. Included reference to the SDGs 6. Included reference to WVI's Environmental Stewardship Policy, issued Oct 1, 2020, currently pending WVI's Board's approval. 7. Included specific references to climate change and natural hazards in text. 8. Added new tools and guidance documents although these are still in development. 	Title (page 1) Purpose of the Policy (page 1) The Policy (page 3) Tools related the policy (page 4)	
November 2020		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Included WV's Core Value 'We are Stewards' as aspirations to care for Earth 10. Put further emphasis on WVA's contribution to improved environments beyond mitigating risks. 11. Clarified reporting time/line: The Management Risk Committee will report to Board once a year on policy implementation while CEO will update ELT on regular basis. 12. Put an emphasis on commitments from both in field programming and WVA office operations/facilities and remove the sentence/focus on risks. 13. Included specific areas of contribution from WVA operations/facilities 14. Included a focus on supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation in field programming. 	Page 1 Page 1 Page 2 Page 3 Page 3 Page 3	