



COOPERATE · ENRICH · SHARE

# SOCODEVI'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

## POLICY RATIONALE

**At SOCODEVI, we recognize the fundamental interdependence between the environment and human development. The depletion of natural resources, the degradation of ecosystems and the environment, climate change and the disturbance of ecological cycles infringe on the perspectives of maintaining and improving living conditions.**

**If environmental links are not considered, it will be impossible to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for 2030, of which 7 out of the 17 refer directly to the importance of maintaining healthy relations with the environment, our place of life :**



**Clean Water and Sanitation**

Ensure access to water and sanitation for all, and ensure a sustainable management of water resources



**Affordable and Clean Energy**

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



**Sustainable Cities and Communities**

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



**Responsible Consumption and Production**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



**Climate Action**

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



**Life Below Water**

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



**Life on Land**

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

SOCODEVI recognizes the importance of contributing all together, within our organization, in Canada and overseas, in all our programs, projects and activities, to the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change.

**Through our environmental policy, we are seeking to :**



Minimize the negative environmental impacts of our programs, projects and activities, and increase their positive outcomes.



Institutionalize environmental integration.



Support our partners in environmental awareness-raising, development of knowledge, informed decision-making and action.



Provide environmental solutions and innovations as well as with regards to climate change, that are adapted to the context of our projects, partners and countries of intervention.

**With this institutional policy, SOCODEVI adopts a clear and common vision of our role as an organization and of our responsibilities in attaining our general objective for the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change.**



# SOCODEVI, ENVIRONMENT AND COOPERATIVES

**SOCODEVI's mission** is to contribute to sustainable development in partner countries with a view to empowering their inhabitants, which involves among others the **promotion of a greater environmental responsibility**.

We believe that our partners are the main agents in charge of their development. As it pertains to environmental matters, we thus wish to accompany them in informed decision-making and contribute to the strengthening and recognition of their environmental capacities, through the sharing of experiences and expertise.

Through their values and principles, their emphasis on sustainable, responsible and inclusive development, their roots in the community and the scope of their actions, cooperatives and mutuels are levers for the **protection of the environment and the resilience of communities concerning climate change**.

The cooperative and mutual model that we favour reinforces **the sense of belonging, of responsibility and of empowerment**, for individual and collective commitment towards the environment.

By offering their members **services that meet shared needs**, cooperatives and mutuels help to soundly manage natural resources.

They are **sources of innovation** to reduce their ecological footprint and fight against climate change, while valuing the contribution of their members as actors of their own adaptation.

# OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following fundamental principles guide all our decisions and our interventions :



**A holistic and multidimensional vision** is essential to achieve sustainable, responsible, contextually relevant and socially shared development. This implies that the productive activities of all must be based on environments that can support them, without compromising their sustainability and their ecological and climatic regulatory roles.



**The recognition and the strengthening of environmental capacities** are crucial to integrate environmental concerns in decision-making and management processes, as well as in actions, to concretely protect natural resources, ecosystems and the environment, and to improve the communities' resilience towards climate change.



**A participatory and inclusive approach** is indispensable to clearly ascertain environmental realities, to guarantee the socio-ecological relevance of the implemented actions and to ensure the appropriation of the changes by all concerned, for the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change.



**Compliance with applicable environmental legislative frameworks** is required and allows for the recognition of local processes that are essential for the fair and responsible use of natural resources, the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change.



# OUR COMMITMENTS

**To translate our environmental policy in positive changes, everyone has a role to play.**

**Each member of SOCODEVI's staff** bears a **shared responsibility** to contribute to the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change.

As such, each person is committed to translate this policy's guiding principles by adopting available strategies to do so, in all components of programs, projects and activities as well as in the performance of their daily work.

Moreover, SOCODEVI's **Board of Directors and Executive Management** are committed to **demonstrating leadership** to inspire all the organization's personnel to take action for the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change.

**More specifically, at SOCODEVI, we are committed to:**

1

**Make our environmental policy known** by all our partners.

2

**Develop and systematically use tools that enable the implementation of our environmental policy,** among others: implementation framework for the policy; analysis of the environmental potential and climatic vulnerabilities of value chains and sectors of activity; environmental and climate change organizational diagnostic form; environmental analysis and assessment of programs, projects, activities; environmental monitoring indicators and mechanisms; measures for the ecological management of internal operations; various environmental awareness-raising and training material.



# 3

**Take all possible steps to strengthen the environmental capacities of our field partners and their members** for the integration of environmental concerns into their decision-making and management processes, as well as in their products, services and activities.

# 4

**Take into account the environmental situation of the countries** where we work (environmental policy; applicable legislation; state of the environment and climate change; environmental guidelines, priorities, projects and programs, environmental actors and resources, and so on).

# 5

**Recognize gender-specific vulnerabilities and needs and value the role and the leadership of women** as well as the particular contribution of different groups of the population, including vulnerable or marginalized people, as actors in the protection of the environment et the fight against climate change.

# 6

**Develop innovations for the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change,** in current and future activities, for example with programming elements explicitly dedicated to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, to ecologically sound and climate-smart technologies, to alternative energies, to adaptation strategies and innovative insurance products, and so on, and the role of cooperatives and mutuals in this regard.

# 7

**Explore and put forward economic opportunities with environmental value-added,** for example in the choice of value chains, by valuing by-products for a new economic activity or through the reduction of dependence to fossil fuels.

# 8

**Invest in awareness-raising and the sharing of our experiences and lessons learned** on environmental matters and climate change topics, among others with our member institutions and other partners.



# 9

**Invest in awareness-raising and the ongoing training of our staff at our head office and in the field** with regards to the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of the environment, the reduction and mitigation of climate change, and adaptation vis-à-vis climate change.

# 10

**Promote alliances and partnerships** with different organizations, civil society groups or governmental institutions contributing to the overall objective of this policy, namely the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change.

# 11

**Conduct our internal operations in an environmentally-sound manner** (office activities, eco-responsible training activities and events, communications, travel and transportation, responsible supply and consumption, reduction of residual wastes and valuing through recycling or composting, and so on).

# 12

**Complete our annual carbon assessment** with the view of offsetting our greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing our carbon footprint.

# 13

**Offer to our member institutions and other partners the opportunity to offset their greenhouse gas emissions** by participating in a reforestation program in Québec and overseas: “l'Arbre de l'intercoopération” – “The Intercooperation Tree”.

# 14

**Evaluate the implementation of our environmental policy annually** based on defined targets and indicators and share the results with our Board of Directors.

# 15

**Conduct and update the institutional strategic and operational plans** while integrating objectives and targets for the continuous improvement of our environmental performance.

