

INF Australia ENVIRONMENT POLICY

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Owner:		Approved on:	December 2018
Users:	INF Directors, Staff, Volunteers and Overseas Development Partners	Scheduled review date	December 2021

RELATED INF AUSTRALIA POLICIES:

RELATED INF AUSTRALIA PRACTICE DOCUMENTS:

RELATED OTHER DOCUMENTS: ACFID CODE OF CONDUCT: IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE D2.5
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF OPERATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy describes INF Australia’s understanding of the environment and our approach to it. We consider Environment to be ‘the circumstance and conditions that surround one including access to fresh water, food, fuel and protection from natural disasters’.

We believe that God created all things good and that “the environment” (animals, plants, rivers and oceans, atmosphere, forests and deserts, hills and mountains and all other parts of the non-human creation) is not mere property or resource to be used or exploited but the beloved creation of God, among which the relationships are intended to be a blessing for all creatures. We further affirm that we have a responsibility as stewards in God’s creation and that for all to live free from poverty, all people and nations must live within God-given environmental limits and ensure that shared environmental resources are available equitably to all and to future generations, as well as allowing for environmental rest and regeneration.

We support the sustainable development goals and consider access to a safe and clean environment to be a basic human right. We recognise that restricted access to a safe and clean environment can be an indicator of, or cause of, extreme poverty. In this regard, environmental degradation also impacts most heavily on the poor.

Major threats caused by human destruction of the environment include the impact of climate change, flooding, salinity, habitat destruction, pollution and urban expansion. Development which leads to such impacts is not sustainable because it jeopardizes the opportunities of future generations.

2. POLICY

2.1. IN AUSTRALIA

INF Australia will minimise the environmental impact of its activities by:

- considering the environmental impact of procurement decisions,
- minimising waste in the office and using recycled materials where possible,

- minimising travel, particularly air travel,
- streamlining printing and distribution of publications,
- minimizing waste and emissions related to supporter events and exposure visits,
- raising awareness of global environmental issues among our supporters in Australia and advocating for policies that protect our shared home and, particularly, the ecologies of vulnerable communities
- actively reducing emissions across all aspects of our work and identifying sustainable and responsible offset options to mitigate unavoidable emissions, with a view to seeking carbon neutrality in our operations,
- supporting and campaigning for the Sustainable Development Goals which call for global action to reduce climate change.

2.2. THROUGH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

A large proportion of Nepali people rely on their immediate environment to survive, so access to a clean, sustainable environment will directly affect their health and livelihoods. Nepali is one of the countries most at risk from climate change and many Nepali people, particularly the poor, are at risk from natural disasters.

Good development practice builds awareness and resilience in a community and we will continue to support partners using participatory development practices to strengthen communities. Through our development partners, we aim to raise awareness of environmental sustainability and to mobilise the Nepali people for their own development.

Activities supporting this policy include:

- Empowerment – giving people the knowledge to consider their environment and confidence to protect it;
- Advocacy – helping people to access their rights;
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene systems and maintenance training;
- Disaster preparedness training;
- Production of sustainable food and fuel sources (eg. we will not introduce species such as buffaloes or goats into areas which are not currently supporting such animals);
- Help groups to identify responses to climate change, including drought, floods and cold weather
- Encouraging an environmental impact assessment during the design phase of projects to ensure no detrimental effect on flora and fauna, traditional culture and practices
- Compliance with the relevant environmental laws of the country
- Enabling staff to educate themselves and improve their skills relating to environmental sustainability
- Active support of national and international initiatives and campaigns that promote sustainable environmental management.

2.3. MONITORING

INF Australia will use the following methods to monitor environmental impact:

- Conducting INFA Emissions and other Environmental Audits; and developing action plans to reduce emissions and environmental impacts;
- Six monthly project reports from Partners;
- Project visits;
- Periodic Evaluations
- Assessing partner's capacity for environmentally sustainable management to monitor the impact of projects and ensure they remain in line with Multilateral Agreements to which Australia is a signatory; and
- Quarterly reports to the INF Australia Board on cross cutting issues.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	No	Summary of Changes	Section/s that changed	Authorised by:
April 2012	v1	created		INFA Board
June 2015	v2	Re format	2.1, 2.2	INFA Board
December 2018	V3	Additions	1, 2,1, 2.2, 2.3	