



Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Organization (SWRO)



SWRO

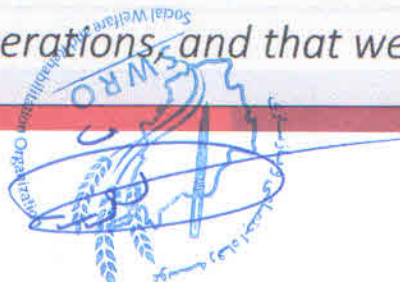
**Environment
Protection**

Policy

2020

It is absolutely essential that we understand how sensitive the environment is to impact from our operations, and that we work to reduce that impact

NRC environment specialist



1 | Purpose of the Policy

The overall purpose of the policy is to set certain commitments and to take morale responsibility as organization to protect the environment from any harm through provision of staff awareness on protecting the environment, guiding our suppliers to consider and use e environmentally friendly material and increasing our community awareness on protecting and preservation of the environment.

2 | Introduction and background

Protecting the environment is vital to our work. It reduces the risk of displacement and strengthens resilience for those who live off the land. As climate change impacts the most vulnerable, we need to act. At SWRO, we must ensure that our activities do not increase vulnerability even further.

That's why we have started the process of weaving environmental issues into all of our thinking and doing. From renewable energy to conservation agriculture, from carbon management to sustainable livelihoods: we must develop our assistance that is effective, real and most of all, sustainable. We know that a degraded environment can force people to flee, and we want to work to prevent it.

Our concern for the poor means that we cannot ignore changes in the environment that intimately affect their livelihoods. Climate change has the potential to seriously undermine sustainable development and may in the long run contribute to rising levels of natural disasters and endemic poverty. As a result, it will have the greatest impact on the poorest communities around the world. We recognize the United Nations Global Compact voluntary initiative which encourages organizations to implement universal sustainability principles I support of UN goals. UN Global Compact environment principles seven to nine encourage: a precautionary approach to environmental challenges, initiatives which promote greater environmental responsibility and encourage environmentally friendly technologies.

Humanitarian operations can have a negative impact on the environment. But SWRO can innovate to work in more environmentally friendly ways, such as use environmentally adaptive materials. Under the Paris Agreement, gender equality and empowerment of women was acknowledged so that gender differences and inequalities are not only recognized, but identified and addressed in a manner that provides for accountability (Articles 7.5 and 11.2). Women are disproportionately affected by long-term climate change, particularly in contexts where gender inequality is more pronounced and women therefore are excluded from owning property and productive resources, and are confined to the home with responsibility for resource management, such as water and energy management. Women's specific competences and vulnerable conditions are often overlooked because these survival responsibilities typically fall outside the formal economy. To avoid the needs and interests of women being overlooked and marginalized, gender equality, therefore, must be at the heart of the climate/environment discussion, at all levels of decision making.

As the impacts of climate change increase in frequency and intensity, their repercussions for communities and the natural environment also increase, leading to the disruption or entire destruction of food, water, and livelihood systems. SWRO prioritizes the dignity and resilience of communities that are already affected by climate change, and whose capacities to adapt and resources to respond are limited. Building the resilience of communities towards the impacts of climate change must be comprehensive and rights based, with important principles of the Paris Agreement such as food security, land rights of rural and indigenous communities, gender equality as well as biodiversity to be considered, protected and promoted at all times. SWRO's focus on community resilience considers policy and practice on adaptation and loss and damage, including land rights, promotion of climate-resilient agriculture and food systems,



protection of smallholder farmers, and the halting and reversal of land degradation and biodiversity loss (SWRO will coordinate and linkup with engaged actors to take this happen).

Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Organization (SWRO) acknowledges the connection between the climate and other environmental crises and the threat of current and future homelessness, disease, food and water shortages and poverty for millions of people around the world, as well as the major damage being caused to our natural eco-systems. It therefore recognizes its responsibility to reduce its carbon and environmental footprints and formally commits itself to being an environmentally responsible CSOs. SWRO will strive to support the NEPA and relevant SDGs (particularly SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable modern energy for all) into consideration so that our act can contribute to the protection of environment. SWRO will use environment as cross cutting issues during project cycle.

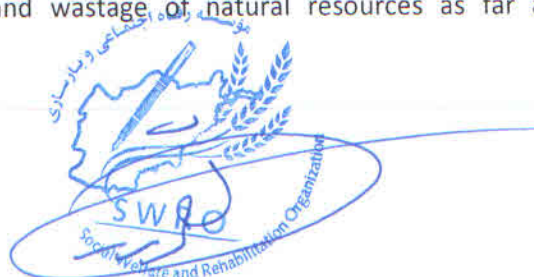
3 | Environment Protection Policy

At SWRO we are committed to limiting the environmental impact of our work. Through both individual and collective efforts to change our ways of working, all our people at every level of the organization play their part in reducing the resources we consume to help mitigate climate change and its adverse impact on the target groups and host communities.

SWRO mandates the Executive Director to take executive responsibility for taking forward and implementing this commitment.

Policy Principles

- All Social Welfare and Rehabilitation (SWRO) staff and volunteers are accountable for using our resources responsibly for purposes that are both relevant and beneficial to our mission to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.
- We monitor and comply with NEPA and International legislation, regulations and codes of practice on environmental matters relevant to SWRO's operations.
- Comply with all applicable legal and other environmental requirements
- Look to increase awareness of the impacts of environmental issues with employees.
- We strive to build an environmentally friendly work culture through regular internal communication and stakeholder engagement. We run staff environmental initiatives to minimize the environmental impact of our activities.
- We monitor and minimize the environmental impact of road and air travel by encouraging the use of travel options that minimize environmental impact in addition to exploring new ways of delivering our work sustainably.
- We minimize the consumption and wastage of natural resources as far as reasonably and economically practicable.



- We ensure that consideration is given to purchasing environmentally sustainable products and services and develop sustainable supply chains by using suppliers that have environmental standards compatible with our own.
- We have robust procurement procedures and policies in place so that the environment is considered as part of our decision making processes.
- All staff contracts will include a clause stating that staff will be expected to help SWRO in carrying out its aim of being an environmentally responsible organization, in how they carry out their day-to-day duties.
- Induction procedures for new staff will include information on the SWRO's environmental practices.
- SWRO will ask all its current and future suppliers for their environmental policies and for evidence of implementation of such policies and indicate that such performance will be used as criteria for supplier selection.
- SWRO will seek to have relevant environmental clauses included in any future contracts agreed with outside bodies.
- SWRO will include environmental responsibility training in any future staff training programmes, especially for those involved in providing advice to vulnerable communities and our target groups.
- SWRO proposals, reports to include environmental issue as cross cutting issue
- SWRO will develop and maintain a sustainable transport policy for their staff, seeking to reduce unnecessary travel and making the transport that is necessary as sustainable as possible and will monitor progress annually.
- Reducing environmental degradation by using sustainable sourced paper and purchasing locally produced goods.
- Raising awareness of environmental issues: ensuring staff are aware of our environment policy and practices, sharing with staff how SWRO wider work is helping communities to adapt and become more resilience to climate changes.
- We will seek to abide by the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, which specifies "We will pay particular attention to environmental concerns in the design and management of relief programmes. We will also endeavor to minimize the negative impact of humanitarian assistance, seeking to avoid long-term beneficiary dependence upon external aid."



Specific objectives on which SWRO will focus include:

- We commit to minimizing the environmental impact of our operations wherever possible, balancing it with necessities to fulfil our mandate, and financial affordability.
- We will ensure this policy is adequately communicated and understood by our staff and that staff can take appropriate action to implement it.

Environmental Standards:

Suppliers should as a minimum comply with all statutory and other legal requirements relating to environmental impacts of their business. Areas to be considered are:

- Waste Management
- Packaging and Paper
- Conservation
- Energy Use
- Sustainability

This policy statement was approved by SWRO Executive Director, in April 2020 and is due for review in April 2021. SWRO's Executive Director is responsible for implementing this policy.

