



DCA POLICY:
**CLIMATE &
ENVIRONMENT**

December 2023

DCA'S CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

DanChurchAid envisions a world without hunger, poverty, and oppression, in which popular and political powers constantly work strongly and actively for a just and sustainable distribution and use of the earth's resources. DCA recognizes that the rapidly escalating and interlinked climate, environment, and biodiversity crises, or so called triple planetary crisis, are exacerbating existing vulnerabilities of the communities that DCA works with, challenging humanitarian and development efforts and jeopardising their sustainability. Climate change has negatively impacted water and food security, health, settlements, and infrastructure, affecting disproportionately the livelihoods of those most vulnerable, increasing gender and social inequalities, and contributing to humanitarian crises.¹

According to the scientific community, the window to address climate change is rapidly closing. To significantly reduce the risks and impact of climate change, significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions are needed in the near term to limit global warming to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels.² Moreover, climate change has already altered ecosystems and exacerbated biodiversity loss, adding to the pressure from environmental degradation and land use changes, primarily from unsustainable food production. Global action and finance to address these crises remains insufficient, as the world is reaching its limits to adaptation. Responses are insufficient to fully mitigate and adapt to climate impacts, resulting in increasing economic and non-economic losses and damages primarily faced by the most vulnerable communities.

In line with DCA's values, DCA acknowledges its **responsibility** to reduce the impacts of these crisis and commits to accelerate action and resources to continue mobilising others. As an organisation that is at the forefront of advocating for climate justice in international and Danish fora, DCA is committed to walking the talk, to further integrate climate considerations in our organisational and programmatic actions and to rapidly reduce our carbon footprint. DCA will **proactively** continue to integrate new ways of working and engaging in innovative multistakeholder partnerships to co-develop sustainable solutions. It will do so **respectfully** and with **compassion** by promoting locally led climate and environmental action, taking a human rights-based approach ensuring representation, inclusion, and protection of the rights of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

This policy is an updated version of DCA's internal climate policy which has been in place since 2019. It builds on the progress made so far and current efforts at organisational level to measure and take action to reduce DCA's carbon footprint and at programmatic level to integrate climate and environment considerations into our work in Denmark and country programmes.

2. POLICY PURPOSE

The main purpose of this policy is to set the ambition, provide direction and guide DCA's efforts to address the climate crisis and promote synergies to achieve other environmental and biodiversity co-benefits at organisational and programmatic levels in Denmark and internationally. This policy aims at setting a common understanding among staff, partners, and relevant stakeholders about DCA's climate and environmental commitments and the procedures and mechanisms to live up to them. The policy sets the overarching ambition to position DCA as a front-runner organisation, ensuring to meet existing commitments and proactively taking action to enhance our response to internal and external stakeholders' requirements and expectations. The policy also reiterates key intervention

¹ IPCC, Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.

² IPCC, Climate Change 2023: AR6 Synthesis Report.

areas within DCA's global strategy where significant attention towards climate and environmental programming and implementation is key.

3. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

This is an organisational policy and therefore outlines requirements that apply to all staff and operations across the organisation. It sets DCA's overall approach to contribute to addressing the climate and environmental crises.

DCA's objectives towards which organisational and programmatic efforts should contribute to are:

3.1. ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVE

3.1.1. Reduce DCA's carbon footprint by 46,2% by 2030 compared to 2019 baseline emissions.

DCA will continue measuring the carbon footprint of its operations in Denmark and the countries and will integrating data systematically from all country offices and operations in Denmark by 2025 using an operational control consolidation approach.

Inspired by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) target setting tool, DCA aims to reduce by 46,2% its emissions by 2030 considering 2019 as the baseline year. This target aims at supporting emissions reductions towards the Paris Agreement goal to hold the increase in the global average temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. DCA will develop a roadmap with near and long-term targets and initiatives based on assessments on their potential emission reduction, economic feasibility and potential to create engagement.

Carbon credits for the value of carbon emissions from HQ air travel will continue being purchased annually from a certified provider, however, this does not account towards the emissions reduction target, it is rather used in addition while we meet our reduction targets.

3.2. PROGRAMMATIC OBJECTIVES

At programmatic level, key ambitions in relation to climate and environmental sustainability are set in DCA's Global Strategy (2023-2026). Climate and environmental sustainability objectives have been integrated both as cross-cutting commitments and as a focus area of engagement and are monitored through relevant indicators through DCA's global result framework.

3.2.1. To integrate analysis of climate and environmental-related risks into all our programmes.

DCA will identify and analyse climate and environmental risks to inform the planning of all programs including those in fragile contexts, crises, and conflict.

DCA will screen all projects to identify environmental risks and put in place measures to avoid, mitigate, and/or manage adverse impacts to the environment by 2026.

3.2.2. To scale up support for locally led approaches for climate and environmental action.

DCA will enhance support to communities to mitigate, anticipate and adapt to climate change impacts, and respond to losses and damages, with a human rights-based approach.

DCA will promote approaches that also support the protection, sustainable management, and restoration of ecosystems, such as agroecology and nature-based solutions.

At least 60% of projects will have integrated objectives contributing towards climate mitigation, adaptation, responses to loss and damage, biodiversity protection, and/or environmental protection by 2026.

DCA will engage in multistakeholder partnerships to scale these and other approaches, such as sustainable energy, food loss and waste reduction, improved waste management and efficient use and circulation of resources, etc., that reduce the environmental footprint of food and market systems and increase communities' resilience.

3.2.3. To advocate for increased support and finance for inclusive and just climate action.

DCA will increasingly engage its constituency, consumers, private sector partners, and political stakeholders, to co-create solutions for sustainable consumption and to support global efforts to promote climate justice.

DCA will continue building bridges between global and local stakeholders in Denmark and the countries that we work with to advance adherence to the relevant international climate and environmental frameworks that DCA is committed to.

DCA aims at consolidating its leadership on global climate advocacy to continue promoting climate policies and financing for adaptation, loss and damage, and anticipatory action informed by local-level evidence and knowledge.

DCA is committed to achieve synergies with its other two cross-cutting commitments: gender equality and engagement of young people by promoting gender responsive climate and environmental action and recognizing and promoting women as leaders and change agents for sustainable natural resources management and climate action. DCA will have a special focus on ensuring access for women and youth to green jobs and income opportunities and promoting the inclusion of women and youth in relevant decision-making processes. In Denmark, DCA will continue engaging youth on the co-development of solutions to climate and environmental challenges.

4. PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

4.1. CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

DCA commits to actively promote and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. DCA is signatory to the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations, the Locally led adaptation Principles, and subscribes and commits to the principles of Agroecology set by FAO's High-Level Panel of Experts. Moreover, DCA as a member of the Core Humanitarian Standard Alliance is committed to identify and act upon potential or actual unintended negative effects on the environment in a timely and systematic manner, and to use local and natural resources in an environmentally responsible way.

4.2. IMPLEMENTATION

DCA expects employees, partners, suppliers, and other relevant stakeholders to know this policy and contribute towards the organisational and programmatic climate and environmental objectives as relevant. This policy will be communicated to all staff and relevant stakeholders and will be made public in DCA's website and internal climate learning site.

DCA will build the capacity of staff, partners, and other relevant stakeholders on the different elements of this policy as relevant for implementation and will ensure that climate and environmental considerations are integrated across relevant operational policies and procedures.

Relevant guidance and tools have been and will continuously be developed and integrated into the DCA online Programme and Project Manual (PPM) as well as into dedicated learning sites.

DCA will achieve its **organisational objective** through the following implementation mechanisms:

Measuring our carbon footprint:

DCA will continue measuring the carbon footprint of its operations in Denmark and the countries that we work based on the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard. DCA uses an operational control approach to set the carbon footprint organizational boundaries.³ DCA aims at integrating data systematically from country offices and operations in Denmark by 2025 using an operational control consolidation approach.

DCA will continue estimating emissions from:

Scope 1 – Direct emissions from owned or controlled sources such as fuel combustion in electricity generators and vehicles operated by DCA staff.

Scope 2 - Indirect emissions from generation of purchased heating and electricity.

Scope 3 category 6 – Indirect emissions from business travel.

DCA will broaden the operational boundary to include other relevant categories in scope 3, prioritising categories based on their materiality and the feasibility of data collection, for example emissions related to products and services that DCA buy, use and/or dispose. DCA strives to improve its baseline and data collection over time and will be fully transparent along its carbon accounting and management journey.

Reducing our carbon footprint:

A roadmap with near and long-term targets will be developed in collaboration with relevant staff across country offices and HQ departments. The roadmap will prioritise reduction levers based on assessments on their potential emission reduction, economic feasibility and potential to create engagement. DCA has already identified through consultations with relevant staff, levers to reduce emissions including:

- Implementation of energy efficiency measures in offices and retail shops.
- Installation of solar energy to substitute carbon intensive electricity generation.
- Gradual replacement to electric vehicles for retail fleet
- Roll-out of green procurement and logistic procedures and tools across the organisation.
- Revision and enforcement of travel policies. Emission reductions from travel can be reduced by optimising the use of virtual solutions for meetings and workshops, selecting flights and airlines with reduced carbon footprint, and behavioural changes.
- Other changes in culture, practices, and investments.

Following the roadmap, tangible annual action and investment plans will be developed and consolidated in coordination with relevant staff and Senior Management.

DCA will engage in dialogue with donors to call for enhanced support for the implementation of measures that entail large investments and for the procurement of products or services that entail higher costs than those with a larger environmental footprint. DCA will also engage in dialogue with relevant suppliers to enhance adherence to green procurement procedures.

³ This implies that DCA will account for GHG emissions over which it has operational control, however it does not account for GHG emissions in scopes 1-2 from operations in which it owns an interest but does not have operational control, these are to be accounted for in scope 3.

Communicating our efforts:

DCA will communicate internally progress towards the targets and promote experience sharing across the organisation to inspire action. DCA will also communicate to external stakeholders on an annual basis through the carbon footprint report.

Implementation mechanisms to achieve DCA's programmatic objectives have been defined in the global strategy and are summarized below:

DCA will develop and carry on capacity building, ensure that relevant tools are available and facilitate knowledge sharing within staff and partners.

DCA will continue engaging and strengthening partnerships with research organisations, networks local, global, and Danish private sector, development financial institutions, knowledge partners, and other actors as relevant to advance our programmatic objectives.

DCA will engage in dialogue with donors, relevant networks, and actors at global and local levels to advocate for enhanced climate finance for locally led adaptation, anticipatory action and loss and damage responses, and to advance the implementation of relevant frameworks, as well as to advance inclusive and just climate policies and implementation at local levels.

DCA will increase support to youth, faith, and community-based organisations, environmental champions, and natural resource rights movements at local, national, and international levels and will promote women's leadership in climate and environmental action.

In Denmark, DCA will develop communication and campaigns that highlight the links between local action on sustainability and DCA's global efforts to promote climate action.

4.3. GOVERNANCE

DCA's board approves the policy and receives progress report from Senior Management on key indicators through the Annual Report (Årsberetning).

The policy manager and the responsible middle manager will follow-up on the implementation of the policy, including the development of roadmap for emissions reduction, relevant training to staff and partners and ensuring that it is clearly communicated.

Relevant indicators aimed at monitoring progress towards the achievement of strategic climate and environmental goals are integrated into DCA's Global Results Framework and Rio Markers analysis reported on the annual global report. The annual carbon footprint report will supplement monitoring of the organisational objective.

5. POLICY INFORMATION

First approved: 2019 / Last revised: December 2023

Effective date: January 1st, 2024

Next review required by December 2027

Policy Manager: Sustainability and Greening, Senior Advisor

Responsible Unit: PAL