

CoDevelopment Canada – Environmental Sustainability Policy

I. Introduction

CoDevelopment Canada's work has focussed historically on capacity building with civil society organizations involving training, conferences, research and meetings. CoDev believes that this kind of capacity building supports sustainable change in communities and delivers strong results with relatively few resources. As a result, supporting physical infrastructure projects is not a priority for CoDev.

II. Principles of the Policy

Sustainable development requires the integration of environmental sustainability with economic, social, cultural and political sustainability. Achieving environmental sustainability requires managing and protecting ecosystems to maintain both their economically productive and their ecological functions. This includes maintaining diversity of life of both human-managed and natural systems, and protecting the environment from pollution to maintain the quality of land, air and water.

To promote environmental sustainability in development, CoDev will incorporate these objectives where appropriate into projects that have an environmental component:

- A. Helping to increase the institutional, human resource and technical capacities of partner organizations to plan and implement development policies, programs and activities that are environmentally sustainable.
- B. Assisting in strengthening the capacity of partners in developing countries to contribute to the resolution of global and regional environmental problems, while meeting their development objectives.

To integrate environmental considerations more effectively into CoDev decision-making and the activities CoDev and its partners carry out, CoDev will pursue the following operational objectives where appropriate:

- A. Ensuring environmental considerations - including opportunities for enhancing environmental sustainability - are integrated into programs, program assistance and project planning and implementation, taking into account the views of our partners and their communities.
- B. Supporting environmental and broader socio-economic policy dialogue, programs and projects that directly address environmental issues.
- C. Developing and applying approaches for assessing the environmental impact of its programs and enhancing environmental benefits of projects
- D. Encouraging our partners to develop policies, programs and projects that further the objectives of environmental sustainability.
- E. Committing to never knowingly participate in, or encourage, environmentally harmful practices.
- F. Striving to ensure that all our practices in Canada and Latin America contribute to environmental sustainability.

III. Procedures

CoDevelopment Canada – Environmental Sustainability Policy

- A. A CoDev Program Director will take the lead on environmental concerns as part of their job responsibilities.
- B. CoDev staff and members of the Program Committee will be required to participate fully in the Environmental Procedures, including an initial briefing and information session and annual meetings to discuss progress, lessons learned and future work.
- C. CoDev will communicate with Southern Partners to assess each partner's environmental awareness and impact. CoDev will share their environmental policy and seek opportunities for sharing lessons learned. CoDev staff will include environmental discussions in monitoring visits with southern partners, where appropriate.
- D. CoDev will include discussions on environmental sustainability when establishing a new partner.
- E. If a Southern Partner proposes an activity that would potentially have an impact on the environment, the following steps would be followed:
 - i) the Program Director will communicate with the Southern Partner to further determine the nature of the activity and its importance for the overall program of that partner;
 - ii) bring this information to the CoDev Program Committee that will discuss the proposal to determine whether or not CoDev will support the activity according to coherence with the CoDev Program;
 - iii) If the CoDev Program Committee does not agree to support the proposal, the Program Director will discuss with the Southern Partner alternatives to the activity and possible other sources of funding;
 - iv) If the Program Committee agrees that the activity has importance for the overall goals of the program and it is within the scope of the budget, the Program Director will work with the Southern Partner to begin an environmental assessment with the intent of determining the likely environmental impact of the activity and whether or not the CEAA (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency) assessment is required, as well as developing an environmental plan to address concerns and plan a monitoring and evaluation strategy;
 - v) The Program Director will ensure approval of all necessary assessments and reports to comply with CIDA standards and the CEAA before any such activity is included in a CoDev Program.
 - vi) The program will be monitored throughout in the RBM reporting and evaluated at the close of the program to determine how effective the plan was and what lessons should be incorporated into future programs.
- F. In Canada, CoDev will perform due diligence in ensuring its activities have a minimal effect on the environment. This may include such measures as: using recycled materials whenever possible, repairing equipment whenever possible, using environmentally-friendly cleaning products, encouraging staff and Board to carpool whenever possible, etc. Recognizing that air travel is an integral part of our work, CoDev will investigate possibilities for minimizing its environmental impact.

IV. Roles and Responsibilities

CoDevelopment Canada – Environmental Sustainability Policy

CoDevelopment

- A. CoDev will work with Southern partners to share information and best practices as well as to develop new strategies and plans. Specifically, CoDev will send our environmental policy to Southern partners and ask for copies of their policies and practices with regards to the environment and encourage the development of greater environmental awareness and action.
- B. CoDev will share the with Southern partners information on CIDA's guidelines and the CEAA.
- C. CoDev will seek to support Southern partners where needed in their work to improve or develop environmental practices.
- D. CoDev will support Southern partners to proceed through any required environmental assessment.

Southern Partners

- A. Southern partners will be responsible for communicating their environmental programs with CoDev and with their members.
- B. Southern partners will include information on the possible environmental impacts associated with their work in their program proposals and take the necessary steps to mitigate impacts accordingly.
- C. Southern partners will report on environmental concerns throughout the implementation of their programs as part of their regular narrative reports.

CUPE 1004