

## Société de coopération pour le développement international (SOCODEVI) - Environmental Policy and Implementation Framework

### Tool at a glance

**Title:** Environmental policy and its application framework

**Addresses:** Contribute to the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change

**Pertains to greening:** Operations, Policy, Communications and Programming



### Overview

[SOCODEVI](#) is a non-governmental organization that works in support of cooperatives as a driving force for sustainable and inclusive development. With the commitment of its member institutions, SOCODEVI contributes to improving the living conditions of families in developing countries by supporting the creation and strengthening of inclusive, autonomous, profitable, sustainable and innovative cooperatives. In its 35 years of existence, SOCODEVI has supported more than 800 cooperative organizations through 400 projects in 40 countries. Its actions are based on a participatory approach and institutional policies that ensure that all operations consider the various elements of sustainability, such as the vulnerability of poor populations, gender equality and women's empowerment, protection of the environment and natural resources, adaptation to climate change, inclusive governance and the sustainability of trade relations.

Recognizing the fundamental interdependence between the environment and human development, SOCODEVI has since 1999 adopted an environmental policy, with tools for its implementation, which reflects the organization's commitments to protecting the environment and combating climate change. This environmental policy has been updated over time, the most recent edition being from 2018.

### Contributing to the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change

*The desire to strengthen environmental commitments and to promote lessons learned*

Since the adoption of SOCODEVI's environmental policy, the revision of its implementation guide in 2002 (second edition) and the addition of new commitments in the fight against climate change (third edition of the policy, 2009), the annual reviews of its implementation have shown a comprehensive, sustained and coherent approach to the integration of environmental considerations and the implementation of specific environmental actions. Some ten years after its last edition, it seemed appropriate to renew and update the institutional environmental policy to reflect a higher level of commitment than in the past and to aim even higher by developing new commitments to achieve positive and significant changes in environmental protection and the fight against climate change.

*Updating SOCODEVI's environmental policy*

With its environmental policy, SOCODEVI adopts a clear and common vision of its role as an organization and the responsibilities of its teams in achieving its general objective of protecting the environment and fighting climate change. In its 4th edition, the objectives previously pursued have been renewed and special emphasis has been placed on promoting innovative solutions for environmental protection and the fight against climate change.

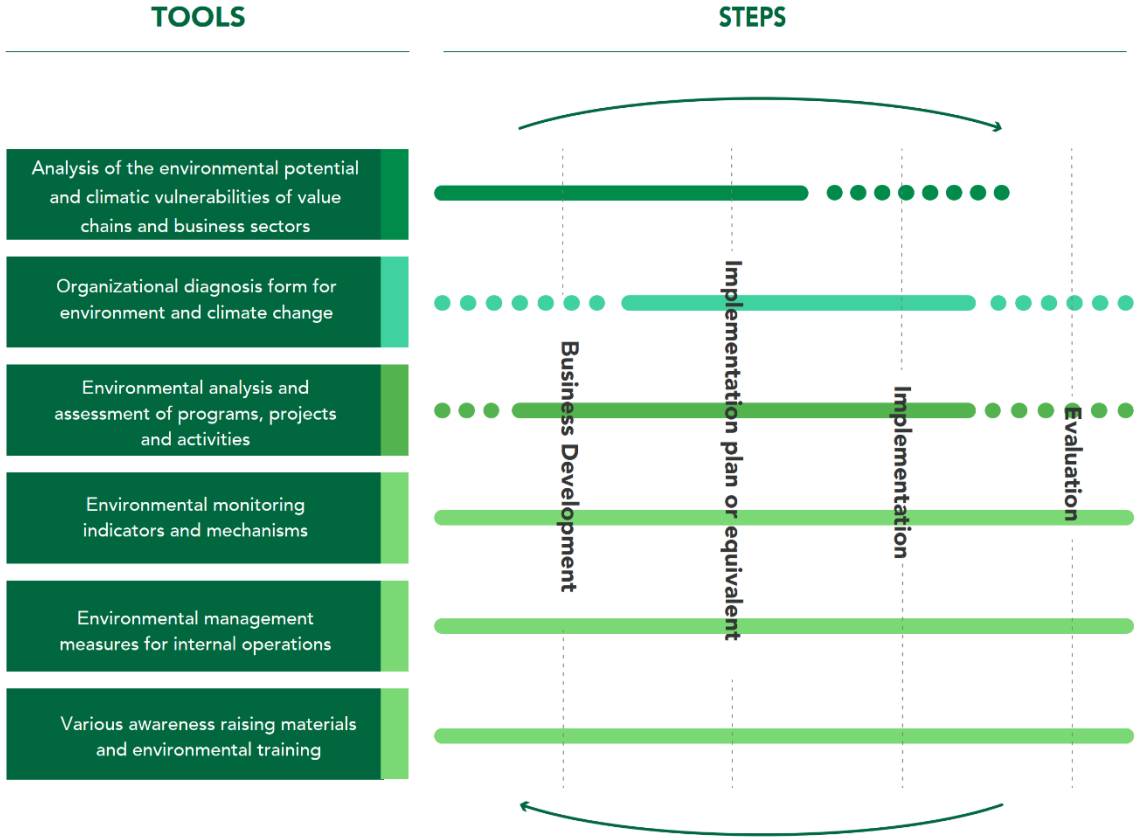
With its environmental policy, SOCODEVI intends to:

- Limit the negative environmental impacts of programs, projects and activities and increase their positive spin-offs.
- Support our partners in raising awareness, developing knowledge, making informed decisions and taking action on the environment.
- Institutionalize the environmental reflex.
- Bringing environmental and climate change solutions and innovations adapted to the context of our projects, partners and countries of intervention.

**SOCODEVI’s environmental policy and its application framework**

SOCODEVI’s approach to the environment is supported by a toolbox comprising six major categories of tools that enable us to contribute to environmental transversality and the achievement of specific environmental results in the management of programs, projects and day-to-day operations and in the day-to-day performance of work and activities. The following diagram presents the context of application of these major categories of tools.

Diagram: Application of SOCODEVI's environmental approach to all our activities



### Results

In order to evaluate the implementation of the environmental policy on an annual basis, an assessment is made on the basis of precise targets and indicators aimed at achieving the environmental commitments. These results are shared with all SOCODEVI staff and the Board of Directors. Tools are effectively available and systematically used to implement the environmental policy.

- A wide range of environmental awareness and training materials have been developed and are adapted and used with various target audiences, both among SOCODEVI staff and with partner cooperatives and their members.
- Elements of the projects and programming are explicitly dedicated to environmental protection and the fight against climate change, as well as the role of cooperatives and mutuals in this regard.
- Strategies exist for the implementation, recognition and evaluation of eco-responsible measures adopted through the SOCODEVI offices in day-to-day activities and operations. Eco-responsibility is addressed from the perspective of five major categories of internal operations: travel and transportation, responsible procurement and consumption, communications, reduction of residual materials and recovery through recycling or composting, training activities and events.
- Since 2009, an institutional carbon assessment has been carried out annually with a view to offsetting greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing the carbon footprint.
- A greenhouse gas emissions offsetting program is available via the [Arbre de l'intercoopération](#): an initiative that encourages the fight against climate change, reforestation and inter-cooperation at the same time.

### Next Steps

SOCODEVI will continue to evaluate annually the achievement of environmental commitments, the application of the environmental policy and the adequacy of its application framework. Environmental successes and avenues for continuous improvement will thus be highlighted and can feed into institutional strategic and operational plans.

### Insights and Lessons Learned

- **Collaborative efforts:** Through their values and principles, their emphasis on sustainable, responsible and inclusive development, their anchoring in the community and the scope of their actions, cooperatives and mutuals are a lever for environmental protection and the resilience of communities to climate change.
- **Capacity building:** Sharing experiences and expertise, as well as building the environmental capacities of staff and partners are key to ensuring the socio-ecological relevance of the actions implemented and to ensuring ownership of the changes by all concerned by environmental protection and the fight against climate change. This component is of course complementary to an effective mobilization of resources for the concrete implementation of actions for the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change.

### Sources

- [SOCODEVI's environmental policy](#)
- [SOCODEVI's approach to the environment and climate change](#)