

VIDEA – Environmental Policy and Procedures

Policy for Environmental Sustainability

Sustainable development requires the integration of environmental sustainability with economic, social, cultural and political sustainability. Achieving environmental sustainability requires managing and protecting ecosystems 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, VIDEA will incorporate these objectives where appropriate into projects that have an environmental component:

1. Helping to increase the institutional, human resource and technical capacities of partner organizations to plan and implement development policies, programmes and activities that are environmentally sustainable.
2. 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 VIDEA decision-making and the activities VIDEA and its partners carry out, VIDEA will pursue the following operational objectives where appropriate:

1. Ensuring environmental considerations - including opportunities for enhancing environmental sustainability - are integrated into programmes, programme assistance and project planning and implementation, taking into account the views of our partners and their communities.
2. Supporting environmental and broader socio-economic policy dialogue, programmes and projects that directly address environmental issues.
3. Developing and applying approaches for assessing the environmental impact of its programmes and enhancing environmental benefits of projects
4. Encouraging our partners to develop policies, programmes and projects that further the objectives of environmental sustainability.
5. Committing to never knowingly participate in, or encourage, environmentally harmful practices.
6. Striving to ensure that all our practices contribute to environmental sustainability.

Procedures

1. The VIDEA Executive Director will take the lead on environmental concerns as part of their job responsibilities.
2. VIDEA staff and members of the Board will be required to participate fully in an annual review of VIDEA environmental procedures, to discuss projects, lessons learned and future work.
3. VIDEA will communicate with Southern Partners to assess each partner's environmental awareness and impact. VIDEA will share their environmental policy and seek opportunities for sharing lessons learned. VIDEA staff will include environmental discussions in monitoring visits with southern partners, where appropriate.
4. VIDEA will include discussions on environmental sustainability when establishing a new partner.
5. If a Southern Partner proposes an activity that would potentially have an impact on the environment, the following steps would be followed:
 - i) the Executive Director will communicate with the Southern Partner to further determine the nature of the activity and its importance for the overall programme of that partner;

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- ii) The ED or designate will bring this information to the VIDEA Board that will discuss the proposal to determine whether or not VIDEA will support the activity according to coherence with the VIDEA Programme;
 - iii) If the VIDEA Board does not agree to support the proposal, the Executive Director will discuss with the Southern Partner alternatives to the activity and possible other sources of funding;
 - iv) The Executive Director will ensure approval of all necessary assessments and reports to comply with GAC standards before any such activity is included in a VIDEA GAC funded Project.
6. In Canada, VIDEA 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, VIDEA will investigate possibilities for minimizing its environmental impact.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. VIDEA will work with Southern partners to share information and best practices as well as to develop new strategies and plans. Specifically, VIDEA 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.
2. VIDEA will share the with Southern partners information on GAC's guidelines as it relates to GAC funded projects.
3. VIDEA will seek to support Southern partners where needed in their work to improve or develop environmental practices.
4. VIDEA will support Southern partners to proceed through any required environmental assessment.