



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY 2023

 **Nepal Red Cross Society**
Kathmandu, Nepal

FOREWORD

Nepal Red Cross Society, as the lead humanitarian agency of Nepal, works in the frontline of existing and emerging humanitarian crises. Climate change impacts and environmental degradation have threatened lives and livelihood support systems such as health, water, sanitation, food, shelter, and mobility. On the ground, the NRCS engages in several fronts of climate-friendly and environmental conservation initiatives through its core and sectoral program and project activities. The NRCS actively engages with government agencies and other partners in developing adaptation plans and other prominent climate change and risk reduction policies and ensures the needs of the most vulnerable and locally led actions are prioritized. The NRCS is regarded as a pioneer organization in introducing and implementing forecast-based actions/ anticipatory action in Nepal, with now several partners, including the government, working to mainstream this approach in the broader disaster management continuum. At an operational level, the NRCS has mobilized numerous community-based disaster risk reduction interventions, climate change adaptation, and ecosystem management activities. Additionally, the NRCS has been supporting several policy dialogues and advocacy at different levels to bring greater focus to disaster risk reduction and community resilience building.

Given the global and national needs of collective efforts to fight climate change and environmental issues, the NRCS, guided by the RCRC Movement ambitions and strategy, needs to be better prepared for the unfolding climate and environmental emergencies with humanitarian services through integrated policies on these issues. In this context, NRCS has formulated a Climate and Environmental Policy to guide its humanitarian action in response to the ever-growing climate and environmental crises. The formulation of this policy was consultative and collaborative, bringing broader inputs from all the sectoral departments, IFRC, PNSs, and colleagues from district and local chapters of diverse geography and context. This has made the resulting policies more inclusive, reflecting the needs and aspirations of NRCS and all the stakeholders involved. This policy will serve as a crucial strategic document for NRCS, the IFRC Country Delegation in Nepal, Partner National Societies (PNSs), the IFRC and its members, and other partner agencies to help communities adapt to a changing climate and environment while increasing the environmental sustainability of their services and operations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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We are grateful for the unwavering commitment of TWG, whose dedication remained steadfast until the finalization of the policy and strategic framework. The collaborative spirit and expertise exhibited by the team composition, which includes the NRCS DM Director, IFRC Representative, representatives from all NRCS Departments and PNSs, the RCRC Climate Center, experts/consultants, and DM colleagues, have been instrumental in ensuring the comprehensive and inclusive nature of the policy and framework development process.

Deepest gratitude to all involved for their invaluable contributions and support throughout this process. Members of the Technical Working Group (TWG) and Advisory Group are provided below:

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ABBREVIATIONS

CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CEA	Community Engagement and Accountability
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
FbF	Forecast based Financing
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
JYRC	Junior Red Cross Circle
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NRCS	Nepal Red Cross Society
PGI	Protection, Gender, and Inclusion
PNS	Partner National Societies
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
RCRC	Red Cross and Red Crescent
SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risks Reduction
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
CBDRR	Community based disaster risk reduction
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
GLOFs	Glacier Lake Outburst Floods
GoN	Government of Nepal
UNFCCC-	UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)

ABOUT THE NEPAL RED CROSS SOCIETY

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) is an independent, volunteer-based, and nonprofit humanitarian organization established in 1963. It was recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 1964 and affiliated to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in the same year. NRCS has, over the years, grown to be the largest humanitarian organization in the country with a network of 7 province committees, 77 district chapters, and 1,556 sub-chapters at grassroots level. At present, NRCS is delivering its organizational and community-based services by mobilizing more than 100,000 volunteers and 1.2 million members in addition to over 500 professional staff.

NRCS has been delivering humanitarian assistance like disaster risk management, healthcare, community development as well as its flagship services including blood transfusion, ambulances, first aid, eye care, humanitarian value promotion and so on across the country. In this initial phase of the establishment, NRCS had primarily focused on disaster relief, gradually expanding its capacity and services; NRCS engaged in emergency preparedness and response, community-based disaster risk reduction, and management programs ensuring participation from the community. Considering the evolving risk patterns, NRCS as a humanitarian organization, is engaged to address those evolving risks through its services to achieve global and national target of sustainable development Goals (SDGs), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risks Reduction (SFDRR), and Paris agreements. NRCS has always aspired to be a partner of choice for the beneficiaries and its partners while expanding its service areas. NRCS has been rolling out organizational policies, strategies, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and plans, ensuring alignment with national and international priorities.

Towards this end, NRCS has developed and implemented its eight-development plan (2021-2025) focusing on four strategic objectives, which are a) Governance and Organizational Development, b) Disaster and Crisis Management, c) Health and Community Care and d) Humanitarian Principles, Values, International Laws, and Diplomacy. In the context of NRCS's strategic focus on disasters and crises and increasing humanitarian consequences of climate risks, the climate and environment policy will provide strategic direction and guidance on addressing various dimensions of climate and environmental risks in Nepal.

The Context

The climate crisis and environmental degradation are significant risks to humanity. Changes to our climate and environment are already contributing to an increase in the frequency, intensity, and unpredictability of severe weather events, multiplying health effects, and biodiversity decline. Without action on both climate and environmental degradation, their impacts will place increasing pressure on scarce natural resources, including food, water, and clean air. These

intersecting issues increase exposure and vulnerability, raising climate-related risks in cities and rural communities already suffering from limited resources and other stresses and challenges.

Nepal is a climate hotspot¹ and the country is warming at the rate of 0.056-degree Celsius per year with higher rates at higher altitudes.² Likewise, a precipitation pattern indicates a decreasing trend at varied rates temporally and spatially, while the extreme incidents of precipitations are increasing.³ Multiple changes across mountain and rural areas and the rapidly expanding and urbanizing areas,⁴ communities of Nepal are in the brunt of numerous, cascading, and compounding risks of climate and weather extremes.⁵ The existing understanding of the climate change risks is limited to hazard interactions and focuses on the domino (cascading) effect, where a hazardous event triggers another (e.g., landslide induced by an earthquake, a flood induced by a storm), thus creating multiple interactions that trigger or increase the probability of others occurring. For example, the Melamchi disaster 2021 exhibited how an extreme weather event can trigger a series of hazards- landslides, floods, and multiple breaches of riverbanks, leading to the destruction of the newly constructed headwork systems of the country's largest water supply project to supplement the rapidly growing demand of the capital city, Kathmandu, human settlements, local market and tourist places, and thousands of hectares of farmlands.⁶ Additionally, the unwarranted flood incidents of Manang and Mustang Flood of June 2021, Post Monsoon cloudbursts of 2022, Bara Windstorms 2019 further underscored the inadequate understanding about these unprecedented and unfolding weather extremes that the country was hardly prepared for.⁷ The NRCS officials and volunteers are already witnessing the ground reality of how these changing risks affect communities, ranging from: more frequent and intense disasters including floods, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), landslides, windstorms, heatwaves, and fires; accelerated health risks; water and food insecurity; loss of productive land and safe housing; and situations of long-term displacement. All these risks are likely to bring significant biophysical and socio-economic impacts. This includes losses of lives, injuries and missing, damage to livelihood bases e.g., properties, lands, businesses, access to health services, income, and, more importantly, the people's hope and confidence without external support. The future economic cost of climate change is projected to be between 2 to 3% additional losses of GDP.⁸ Humanitarian needs are likely to grow at an extraordinary pace due to climate change, outstripping the resources available to respond to climate-related disasters and emergencies.

As a lead humanitarian organization in the country, the Nepal Red Cross Society needs to be prepared for and anticipate events ranging from local emergencies to mega-disasters, both the predictable and the unexpected. NRCS' role in highlighting the needs of the people of Nepal, who are already vulnerable and who will become vulnerable, is increasingly important. This must be integrated into all areas of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts of NRCS.

Nepal's Climate and Environmental Policy Landscape

The environment and climate change policy landscape of Nepal is shaped by several national and international frameworks. The Government of Nepal (GoN) has recognized climate change

1 Dillely, M., R. S. Chen, U. Deichmann, A. L. Lerner-Lam, M. Arnold, J. Agwe, P. Buys, O. Kjekstad, B. Lyon, and G. Yetman (20 05), Natural Disaster Hotspots: A Global Risk Analysis, The World Bank Hazard Management Unit, Washington, D. C.

2 MoFE/DHM, 2018: Climate Change Scenarios of Nepal.

3 Karki, R., Hassan, S., Schickhoff, U., Scholten, T., and Bohner, J., 2017: Rising precipitation learned and the way forward. *Climate* 5(1), 4.

4 IPCC, 2021: Climate Change: The Physical Science Basis, the Working Group I contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report.

5 Arias et. al., 2021: Technical summary. In *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S.L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M.I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T.K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu, and B. Zhou, Eds., Cambridge University Press, pp. 33-144, doi:10.1017/9781009157896.002.

6 <https://www.nepalimes.com/opinion/who-will-pay-for-climate-disasters>

7 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2022/03/28/in-nepal-2-major-climate-disasters-in-a-single-year-highlight-the-need-to-build-resilience>

8 MoFE, 2022: The National Adaptation Plan of Nepal 2021-2050.

adaptation and mitigation as fundamental to safeguarding climate vulnerable communities and ecosystems. The growing gap in adaptation needs and actions calls for urgent priority on climate change responsive measures from community to national levels.

Nepal is a signatory of the Paris Agreement,⁹ a global effort to combat climate change and limit global temperature rise well below 2 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels. At the national level, Nepal has developed a comprehensive National Climate Change Policy that provides overall guidance for climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. The policy aims to contribute to the socio-economic prosperity of the nation by building a climate-resilient society. It emphasizes the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving natural ecosystems, and building resilience in vulnerable sectors such as water resources, health and sanitation, and livelihood.

Likewise, Nepal has submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, which shapes Nepal's mitigation efforts. The NDC outlines Nepal's climate targets and actions, including its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by promoting renewable energy, sustainable forest management, and climate-smart agriculture. Additionally, Nepal's set goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2045¹⁰ indicates the mitigation efforts to be taken in the future.

Similarly, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) adopted by the government of Nepal to deal with the climate change adaptation need for 2021-2050 aims to make Nepal climate resilient by 2050, which defines the adaptation priorities and pathway of Nepal, supplementing the National Climate Change policy.¹¹ The NAP has focused on identifying and prioritizing adaptation actions per the National Climate Change Policy 2019, which identified adaptation actions in eight thematic sectors and four inter-sectors (crosscutting). The NAP has categorized the climate hazards into acute (rapid onset) and chronic (slow onset). The former includes extreme weather events, heatwaves, landslides, floods, forest fires, and avalanches, while the latter includes changes in precipitation patterns, snow coverage, glacier retreat, and GLOFs. Perhaps the greatest challenge of Nepal's adaption ambition has been its financial dependency to the external support. For instance, of the total estimated investment needs in the national priority sector, USD 45.9 billion is expected to be funded externally while the rest USD 1.5 billion from the internal sources.¹²

In addition to climate change-specific policies, Nepal has an Environment Protection Act that provides a legal framework for environmental conservation and management. The act aims to protect and improve the quality of the environment, conserve natural resources, and prevent pollution. It establishes mechanisms for environmental impact assessment and regulation of activities that may have adverse environmental effects. Nepal has multiple policy provisions for maintaining environmental qualities as a crosscutting theme for development projects and disaster management. The National Environmental Policy 2019, National Forest Policy 2019, and the National Wetland Policy 2012 are some of the prominent policy provisions. National targets of Sustainable Development Goals and Fifteenth Five Yearly Plan (2019-2024) have also highlighted environmental policy provisions as guidelines for the government. Furthermore, Nepal is committed to achieving Goal 13 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) along with other SDGs, which focuses on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. This goal aligns with Nepal's national efforts to address climate change and promote sustainable development.

9 Paris Agreement <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement> (UNFCCC COP 21)

10 MoFE, 2021: Nepal's Long-term Strategy for Net-zero Emissions.

11 MoFE, 2022: The National Adaptation Plan of Nepal 2021-2050.

12 www.mofe.gov.np/uploads/uploads/notices/nap-full-repronoticepdf-3463-7921661679518.pdf

The RCRC Movement Ambition on Climate Change

The Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement is uniquely placed to address the consequences of the climate crisis. National RCRC Societies like Nepal Red Cross Society are present in communities before, during and after emergencies, accustomed to identifying local solutions to local needs and supporting community mobilization. Therefore, building on the IFRC framework for Climate Action towards 2020 and Strategy 2030, and the ICRC's strategy 2019-2020, the RCRC Movement has put forth four pillars of action; scale up climate smart DRR, early action and preparedness, reduce health impacts of climate change, address climate displacement and enable climate resilient livelihoods and services and sustainable water resource management. This means, the action can range from prevention and preparedness to response and recovery with an overall aim to reduce the impacts of climate-related shocks and hazards to support the longer-term resilience of communities. Reduction in the carbon footprint remains a cross-cutting consideration in all the actions.

Additionally, RCRC Movement led the development of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations in 2021, calling for collective endeavor to adapt to changing climate and environment, while increasing our environmental sustainability. The charter is firmly grounded on the immediate needs of local, national, and international actions to save lives, livelihoods, and the environment from the unequivocal impacts of climate change on water, food, and ecosystems on unprecedented scales. Science confirms that climate change is not only a future humanitarian concern, but also the current cause of devastating impacts that need a scaled-up humanitarian response. The seven commitments of the Climate and Environment charter itself emphasize stepping up responses to growing humanitarian needs and helping people adapt to the impacts of the climate and environmental crises.

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) is an auxiliary to public authorities on humanitarian affairs; The government and leading front leader of Red Cross Movement in Nepal with a multi-layer institutional network across the country firmly adheres to RCRC Movement ambitions on climate change and commitments of the Climate Charter. It further seeks to realign its current and future climate and environmental initiatives with those of both RCRC movement and national government policy and strategic priorities. Nepal Red Cross Society has already adopted several sectoral policies and frameworks such as Health Policy 2022 and Health Strategy 2022, Risk Reduction Policy (2019), Risk Reduction Strategy (2019), WASH Policy and Strategy 2003 (revised), and The Framework for Change Framework (2011 - draft). All these will be used as the guide for retrofitting or reinforcing the policies and strategic actions on climate and environmental actions.



Vision

Nepal Red Cross Society is recognized as a prominent actor accelerating climate and environmental action to reduce the impacts of climate change and environment issues on the most vulnerable population of Nepal.



Mission

Nepal Red Cross Society expands its technical knowledge and institutional capacity on building climate resilience and environment sustainability and collaborates with relevant actors to tackle the growing humanitarian challenges.



Values

Nepal Red Cross Society will promote and advocate fundamental values of the RCRC Movement and adhere to the commitments set by Climate and Humanitarian Charter for climate resilient and environmentally sustainable communities in Nepal.

Strategic direction

The Climate and Environment Policy of the Nepal Red Cross Society underscores the strategic direction set by the policy documents, namely, the 8th Development Plan of NRCS, IFRC Strategy 2030, NRCS Risk Reduction Policy (2019) and Risk Reduction Strategy 2019-2025; and National Climate Change Policy 2019 of Government of Nepal and will be contributing to the commitments set out by Climate and Humanitarian Charter, National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2021-2050, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National strategic action plan (2018-2030) for DRR and Sustainable Development Goals. The strategic direction, objectives, and priorities of NRCS's climate change and environmental policy are illustrated in the Strategic Framework for Implementation document.

Scope

The scope of this policy covers climate change adaptation, mitigation, and environmental sustainability. The policy sets out strategic directions for climate change adaptation to address both current and future humanitarian impacts of climate risks by adapting our programmes and operational capacity to build resilience in the communities and people we serve. The scope towards climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability covers NRCS's direction towards minimizing or reducing carbon footprints and ensuring environmental protection, obligations, and performance in all its operations and mission delivery.

Approach

The NRCS shall adopt the following approaches as core values to remain upheld across all the initiatives taken under this policy and framework.

Road to resilience (R2R)

Every initiative of the NRCS shall lead to contributing towards the Road to Resilience as they will comply with the climate resilient and environment sustainable solutions.

Auxiliary to Public Authorities for Humanitarian Affairs

Nepal Government DRRM Act 2074 recognizes NRCS as an auxiliary to public authorities for humanitarian affairs. Therefore, NRCS has an obligation to cooperate with the Government of Nepal, the civil society community and the private sector on the effective implementation of the national climate change and environmental policies across the three layers of governmental institutions- federal, provincial, and local levels.

Do no Harm

At the core value of all humanitarian services lies in the principle of 'do no harm' to the human and natural systems as well as their components. The NRCS shall adhere to this guiding principle at all climate and environmental initiatives levels.

Collaboration

NRCS believes in collective and collaborative efforts to manage risks and develop sustainable

solutions. NRCS will work with local and national authorities, environmental, development and human rights actors, international financial institutions, the private sector, researchers, suppliers, and donors for people-centered and inclusive climate and environment action.

Innovation

The NRCS supports the use of data, analysis, evidence, and research in decision making and planning of its programmes, operations, and services. NRCS will learn from and further integrate science, innovation, and indigenous knowledge in our approach to reducing climate risks and promoting a sustainable environment.

Locally Led Action

NRCS recognizes the value of local knowledge, expertise, and indigenous practices in addressing climate and environmental risks. NRCS will ensure local actors, those on the frontlines of climate change, have equitable access to expertise, capacity, and resources to build resilience.

People Centered

NRCS has a deep connection with communities through a network of volunteers at a local level that could be maximized by building trust and accountability with communities while designing and implementing locally led climate resilient and environmentally sustainable programmes. The most at-risk people will be placed at the center of NRCS' programme which focuses on adopting a demand-driven people-centered approach to climate change adaptation and environmentally sustainable solutions.

Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) & Community engagement and accountability (CEA)

Every initiative of the NRCS on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and environmental sustainability will ensure protection, inclusion, community engagement, and accountability in the planning, design, delivery, and monitoring process. Firmly guided by the 'leave no one behind' principles, the NRCS shall consider Gender, Social Inclusion, and Child Protection, ensuring the engagement of women, sexual and gender minorities, children, elderly, disabled, and economically marginalized communities in all levels. NRCS adheres to the principles of dignity, access, participation, and safety of all individuals and groups as common protection principles of the Humanitarian Charter and the Core Humanitarian Standards.

Youth Engagement

As the impacts of climate change become increasingly severe, today's youth have an all-important task. The NRCS recognizes youth's key role in ensuring people now and in the future do not suffer the consequences of worsening climate. NRCS's youth engagement will focus on increasing awareness, engaging in practical action, and enabling meaningful advocacy.

Behavioral Change:

Red Cross volunteers and staff are expected to demonstrate environmental and climate-friendly behavior toward reducing carbon emissions, environmental protection and climate change adaptation. The NRCS shall emphasize climate and environment-friendly behavioral change of all actors engaged in or contributing to achieving its climate and environment policy objectives.

Policy Statements

Climate Change Adaptation

1. The NRCS shall sensitize and capacitate Red Cross volunteers' network and staff at all levels on climate change and environmental issues and enable them to serve vulnerable communities in the context of changing climate risk and weather extremes.
2. The NRCS shall mainstream climate change and environmental issues in its organizational plans, policies, guidelines, standard operating procedures, and all other strategic documents and directives.

3. The NRCS shall make all its current and future programmes and operations climate-smart by integrating climate and weather information across all timescales, i.e., weather forecasts (day/weeks) and seasonal information (months), and climate projections (years and decades).
4. The NRCS shall strengthen its institutional governance on managing climate change-related risks and opportunities through relevant roles and responsibilities shared across its leadership and operational structures at different levels.
5. The NRCS shall enable communities to anticipate and adapt to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change in relation to weather extremes and disasters and the derived challenges to livelihoods, food security, health and wellbeing, WASH, migration, protection, shelter, social cohesion etc.
6. The NRCS shall strengthen its capacity to better articulate and address changing climate patterns and weather extremes like heatwaves, cold waves, droughts, off-seasonal rains, windstorms, lightening and thunderbolts, cloud bursts, and other new emerging climate crises.
7. The NRCS shall ensure that its services and interventions do not place people at increased risk in the future, particularly considering likely new climate-related extreme weathers, both slow and rapid onset events and growing vulnerabilities.
8. The NRCS shall position itself as a recognized climate actor through policy engagement, and humanitarian diplomacy at national, regional, and global levels.
9. The NRCS and its institutional structures at all levels shall strengthen its capacity to access and mobilize climate finances and resources, including public, bilateral, multilateral, international, and private sectors, and ensure adequate resources are in place for executing its climate-smart programming and operations.
10. The NRCS shall collaborate with humanitarian institutions, government authorities, civic and community organizations, and private sectors to scale up its climate change adaptation efforts, ensuring meaningful participation of marginalized and vulnerable groups.
11. The NRCS shall strengthen its community health- WASH services and interventions to address climate and weather associated health and WASH related hazards, impacts, and complexities.
12. The NRCS shall protect and support the basic needs of climate-induced migrants or displaced populations, including those living in fragile, conflict, and violent situations, by addressing vulnerabilities, providing humanitarian assistance adaptive capacity, and ensuring equitable access to emergency and long-term recovery support.
13. The NRCS shall recognize and address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls, children, PWD, the elderly, and marginalized groups in the context of growing climate and environmental risks. This will ensure gender equality, social inclusion and addressing gender and social disparity in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
14. The NRCS shall promote inclusive and locally led anticipatory actions and forecast-based actions, as a standard model within its humanitarian programming and disaster risk management.
15. The NRCS shall recognize the significance of assessing climate and environmental risks through the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) provisions on loss and damage referring to the four aspects of climate change impacts, namely, economic losses, non-economic losses, rapid onset climate risks and slow onset climate risks.
16. The NRCS shall invest in research and knowledge generation and dissemination with regard to multi-hazard risk reduction through understanding of causal dependencies, interactions and coincidence mechanisms of hazards and the dynamic vulnerability in the context of climate change.
17. The NRCS shall accelerate youth action on climate and environment at all levels.

Climate Change Mitigation

18. The NRCS shall reduce its carbon footprint and GHG's emissions in its programmes and

through such actions as energy efficiency upgrades, utilization of environment friendly materials as well as services and sustainable waste management.

19. The NRCS shall promote green logistics supply chain practices across its regular operations and programmatic services.
20. The NRCS shall factor in the emissions of GHG's emissions and carbon footprints and identify suitable models to offset those carbon footprints.
21. NRCS shall promote the transition towards a circular and green economy with reference to minimize waste generation, maximize resource efficiency and encourage the adoption of sustainable waste management practices.
22. The NRCS shall emphasize the importance of energy efficiency measures across all levels and encourage the use of locally produced products over imported and energy-inefficient technologies and practices.

Environmental Sustainability

23. The NRCS shall strengthen its capacity at all levels to adopt and promote nature-based solutions and sustainable management of ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, and watersheds, to enhance natural buffers, sustainable livelihoods, and climate resilience.
24. The NRCS shall address environmental pollution, namely, air, water, and land with strict preventive and rehabilitative measures to enhance clean environment, air, water systems, and behavior changes.
25. The NRCS shall identify and promote appropriate indigenous and local practices and link with scientific technology for climate and environmental actions.

Institutional framework

The NRCS shall own and institutionalize the Climate and Environment Policy as a mandatory charter for its in-house departments and partners engaged in the Red Cross Movement.

Implementation of policy

All services provided, planned, and envisioned in the Climate and Environment Policy of the NRCS are subject to the ability of NRCS to carry out the vision, goals, and objectives of the Red Cross. The terms used in the policy only refer to the services provided by the NRCS. The NRCS thematic departments, Province chapter, District chapter and Subchapter shall implement the respective provisions of the Climate and Environment Policy independently or jointly with collaborating partners. This policy shall remain as a guiding document for the NRCS head office, province chapter, district chapter, and local chapter, including subchapter, program, and project units to develop their respective policies, plans, programmes, and activities. The roles and responsibilities of all actors involved, including the provisioning of monitoring and evaluation of associated climate and environmental actions, have been detailed in a separate strategic framework document.

Endorsement, Review, and Revision of the Policy

The Central Executive Committee and the leadership management shall be responsible for endorsing this policy. They shall review and revise the policy statements and strategic directions as needed in the case of changing institutional context and national priorities.

Annex: Terminology¹³

Adaptation	In human systems, the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects.
Adaptive capacity	The ability of systems, institutions, humans, and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences.
Disaster risk management (DRM)	Processes for designing, implementing, and evaluating strategies, policies, and measures to improve the understanding of disaster risk, foster disaster risk reduction, and transfer, and promote continuous improvement in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery practices, with the explicit purpose of increasing human security, well-being, quality of life, and sustainable development.
Ecosystem services	Ecological processes or functions have monetary or non-monetary value to individuals or society at large. These are frequently classified as (1) supporting services such as productivity or biodiversity maintenance, (2) provisioning services such as food or fibre, (3) regulating services such as climate regulation or carbon sequestration, and (4) cultural services such as tourism or spiritual and aesthetic appreciation.
Loss and Damage	Refers to political debate under the UNFCCC following the establishment of the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage in 2013, which is to ‘address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.’
Mitigation	A human intervention to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.
Nature-based solutions	Actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.
Resilience	The capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event, trend, or disturbance, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity, and structure while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning, and transformation.

¹³ IPCC, 2018: Annex I: Glossary [Matthews, J.B.R. (ed.)]. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 541-562. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009157940.008>.

