

**The Aarhus Convention** is the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. It entered into force on 30 October 2001. The Aarhus Convention is created to empower the role of citizens and civil society organisations in environmental matters and is founded on the principles of participative democracy. The Aarhus Convention provides for: i) access to environmental information; ii) public participation in environmental decision-making; and iii) access to justice.

**Agro-ecology** is based on applying ecological concepts and principles to optimize interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into consideration the social aspects that need to be addressed for a sustainable and fair food system. By building synergies, agro-ecology can support food production, food security and nutrition while restoring the ecosystem services and biodiversity that are essential for sustainable agriculture (e.g. ecological practices and processes applied to agriculture).

**Biodiversity:** Short for biological diversity. It includes the variety of all forms of life on earth, including the variability within and between species and within and between ecosystems. It is the relative number of species, diverse in form and function, at the genetic, organism, community, and ecosystem level. Loss of biodiversity reduces an ecosystem's ability to recover from natural or man-induced disruption.

**Biosphere:** The sum of all the ecosystems of the world. It is both the collection of organisms living on the earth and the space that they occupy on part of the earth's crust (the lithosphere), in the oceans (the hydrosphere) and in the atmosphere.

**Central Environmental Review (CER):** Review of multilateral organisations' systems and capacities for managing environment and climate change aspects in their work.

**CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)**

is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. CITES entered into force in 1975.

**Climate change adaptation:** Adaptation is the principal way of responding to the impacts of a changing climate and consists of activities or measures implemented to build capacity of resilience to impacts/effects of climate change. Climate change adaptation refers to activities managing the social, environmental and economic impacts of climate change.

**Climate change mitigation** is putting in place interventions that will help to reduce emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. It consists of activities or measures implemented to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) or capture GHGs and store in carbon pools or sinks such as trees and soils.

**Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)** is an approach that helps to guide actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate. CSA aims to tackle three main objectives: i) sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes; ii) adapting and building resilience to climate change; and iii) reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions, where possible.

**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** is the international legal instrument for "the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources" that has been ratified by 196 nations.

**A crosscutting issue** is an issue that is linked with, or related to, other concerns. Although sometimes seemingly unrelated, the crosscutting issue can be affected by, or influence the outcomes of, interventions in a different area or sector. The underlying perspective is that different parts of a system are interconnected.

**Deforestation:** The destruction of vast areas of forest (e.g., unsustainable forestry practices, agricultural and range land clearing, and the over-exploitation of wood products for use as fuel) without planting new growth.

**Desertification:** The spread of desert-like conditions in arid or semi-arid areas, due to overgrazing, loss of agriculturally productive soils, or climate change.

**Direct environmental impacts:** Impacts that derive directly from the organisation and its staff, and direct activities, e.g. travels, electricity consumption, procurement (e.g. office supplies, catering, cleaning supplies, etc.), waste, etc.

**Disaster Risk Reduction** aims to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones, through an ethic of prevention. It is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and reduce the causal factors of disasters. Reducing exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improving preparedness and early warning for adverse events are all examples of disaster risk reduction.

**Ecosystems:** All the organisms in a given area, along with the physical environment with which they interact, such as a forest or a coral reef.

**Ecosystem services:** The benefits people obtain from ecosystem processes, e.g. food, provision of clean water, regulation of climate, pollination of crops and fulfilment of people's cultural needs.

**Environment:** The concept of environment includes natural resources, climate, biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, and encompasses aspects related to climate change, resource depletion, environmental degradation and pollution.

**The environment and climate perspective** shall permeate Sida's operations. Sida is committed to protect the environment and to proactively promote a transformation to an environmentally sustainable development.

**Environmental aspects:** The activities and processes that an organization performs and which in the short or long run give rise to effects in the environment such as emissions to air or consumption of natural resources.

**Environmental Assessment (EA)**<sup>1</sup> serves as the basis for integrating environmental aspects into planning, implementation and monitoring of contributions to harness opportunities for positive environmental impact, avoid and mitigate negative environmental impact and ensure resilient contributions with sustainable results. All Sida partners shall carry out an environmental assessment.

**Environmental degradation** is an umbrella concept which covers a variety of issues including pollution, biodiversity loss and animal extinction, deforestation and desertification, global warming, and a lot more. Environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water and soil; the destruction of ecosystems; and the extinction of wildlife. It is defined as any change or disturbance to the environment perceived to be deleterious or undesirable.

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** is a more extensive, formalised and participatory environmental and social impact assessment process that shall be carried out on all contributions that are expected to have significant environmental risks. An EIA shall be carried out in accordance with national legislation and international good practice.

**Environmental integration** refers to the systematic integration of environment into projects and programmes, that is making environment an integral dimension of the plan, implementation and monitoring of the contribution. In order to create prerequisites for better living conditions for people living in poverty and oppression, it is crucial to analyse, assess and integrate environment into all Sida's operations. All Sida-financed contributions must be based on an environmental assessment, which identifies entry points for integration.

<sup>1</sup> Formerly known as simplified environmental assessment.

**Environmental Management System (EMS)** is a management tool for an organisation's systematic work with environmental integration. It implies that the partner has an environmental policy, that it sets its own environmental annual targets, monitors the achievement of them, and increases their ambition gradually. An EMS should be relevant to the partner's context, ambitions and possibilities.

**Environment policy marker** is used at Sida to track the integration of the environment and climate perspective in contributions. Definition of the environmental policy marker: the component aims at contributing to an environmentally sustainable development in the recipient country, area or concerned target groups. And/or includes specific measures to integrate environmental aspects in other development fields through institutional and/or capacity development. A contribution should be marked with policy marker 2 (principal objective) when environmental sustainability is the main objective of the project/programme and is fundamental in its design and expected results. The project/programme would not have been undertaken without this objective. Policy marker 1 (significant objective) should be applied when environmental sustainability is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the project/programme.

**Green economy** implies transformation of today's policies and practices towards environmental sustainability. It challenges business as usual. Key elements of GE are efficiency, incentives, transformation, sustainability and inclusion – bringing people and key actors together towards better livelihoods in smarter, cleaner, innovative and more resource efficient economies. GE accounts for the environment and the value of natural assets in planning and decision-making, and focuses on the quality and sources of economic growth – as opposed to today's focus on growth only.

**Greenhouse gases (GHGs)** are gases that absorb and emit radiant energy within the thermal infrared range, causing the greenhouse effect.

**Green Toolbox** contains a selection of key documents that support integration of the environment and climate change perspective in Sida's operations in all sectors, for instance tools and guidelines; thematic briefs; thematic overviews and in-depth guides; Sida's environmental management system.

**Indirect environmental impacts** refer to impacts associated with the programmes/projects, for instance support to capacity development, infrastructure development, resource management, advocacy or other types of development cooperation.

**IPBES:** The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body established by states to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. It was established in Panama City, on 21 April 2012 by 94 Governments.

**IPCC:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. Created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the objective of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies. IPCC reports are also a key input into international climate change negotiations.

**Land degradation** is defined as the temporary or permanent decline in the productive capacity of the land, the diminution of the productive potential including its major land uses (e.g., rain-fed arable, irrigation, forests), its farming systems (e.g., smallholder subsistence), and its value as an economic resource.

**Natural resources** are resources that exist without actions of humankind. Natural resources provide benefits through the provision of raw materials and energy used in economic activity (or that may provide such benefits one day) and that are subject primarily to quantitative depletion through human use. They are subdivided into four categories: mineral and energy resources, soil resources, water resources and biological resources.

**Natural resource management** refers to the management of natural resources such as land, water, soil, plants and animals, with a particular focus on how management affects the quality of life for both present and future generations.

**Nature-based solutions** are interventions which use nature and ecosystem services to tackle environmental challenges, including climate change. They constitute 'smart' green infrastructure solutions that changes the way urban infrastructure – roads, drains, flood gates, river banks, water and sanitation facilities, electricity supply, and buildings – is conceived, designed and managed to be sustainable and resilient to the impacts of climate change.

**Nationally determined contributions (NDCs)** are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of these long-term goals. NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement requires each party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.

**Paris Agreement:** The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. To achieve this long-term temperature goal, countries aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible to achieve a climate neutral world by mid-century.

**Planetary boundaries:** A set of nine planetary boundaries within which humanity can continue to develop and thrive for generations to come. The boundaries include: biosphere integrity; climate change; novel entities; stratospheric ozone depletion; atmospheric aerosol loading; ocean acidification; biogeochemical flows; freshwater use; and land-system change.

**Resilience** is the capacity to deal with change and continue to develop. Ecosystem resilience is a measure of how much disturbance (like storms, fire or pollutants) an ecosystem can handle without shifting into a qualitatively different state. It is the capacity of a system (for example a forest, a village, a lake) to both withstand shocks and surprises and to rebuild itself if damaged.

**The Rio markers:** Policy markers adopted by the UN in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The markers are:

- **Desertification marker** for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification: the project/programme aims at combating desertification or mitigating the effects of drought in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas through prevention and/or reduction of land degradation, rehabilitation of partly degraded land, or reclamation of desertified land.
- **Climate change mitigation** for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change: the project/programme contributes to stabilisation of greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system by promoting efforts to reduce or limit GHG emissions or to enhance GHG sequestration.
- **Climate change adaptation** for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change: the project/programme intends to reduce the vulnerability of human or natural systems to the impacts of climate changes and climate-related risks, by maintaining or increasing adaptive capacity and resilience. This encompasses a range of activities, from information and knowledge generation, to capacity development, planning and the implementation of climate change adaptation actions.
- **Biodiversity** for the Convention on Biological Diversity: the project/programme promotes at least one of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity: conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components (ecosystems, species or genetic resources), or fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of the utilisation of genetic resources.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental implications of a proposed policy, plan or programme. The process provides means for looking at cumulative effects and appropriately address them at the earliest stage of decision-making alongside economic and social considerations. The SEA assesses the extent to which a given policy, plan or programme: i) provides an adequate response to environmental and climate change-related challenges; ii) may adversely affect the environment and climate resilience; and iii) offers opportunities to enhance the state of the environment and contribute to climate-resilient and low-carbon development.

**Sustainable development:** Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and without the depletion of natural resources.

**Sustainable agricultural development** refers to agriculture that conserves land, water, as well as plant and animal genetic resources. It should also be environmentally non-degrading, technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable.

**Transformative change** means doing things differently to generate a shift to a low-emission, climate-resilient and nature positive sustainable development.

**UNCCD** stands for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found. It was established in 1994.

**UNFCCC** stands for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994. Today, it has near-universal membership with 197 countries that have ratified the Convention. The ultimate objective of the Convention is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations “at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system.” It states that “such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.”