

This is a guide to support the dialogue during partner organisations' integration of environment and climate change in contributions. More specifically, it provides guidance for **Step 2: The partner's environmental assessment of the document "Introduction to Environment and Climate Change Integration in Contributions"**.

During the planning or appraisal phase, Sida requests that the partner makes an environmental assessment of the programme/project. This shall be done for all contributions, with the purpose of getting the partner to analyse, and take a clear position on their environmental opportunities and risks. The partner is responsible for carrying out the environmental assessment. It can in some cases be done in close cooperation between the partner and Sida, for example through dialogue, and together with other donors when appropriate. It shall result in an identification of environmental opportunities and risks, including climate and other environmental vulnerabilities, show how the partner intends to manage them, and assess the organisation's capacity to do so. The environmental assessment shall be at the relevant level depending on the result of Sida's screening in step 1.

This guide can be used as a support when the screening has showed that a Simplified Environmental Assessment is sufficient.

The Simplified Environmental Assessment does not need to be a separate process or document, but may be part of the regular programme planning and documentation. It does not need to be called an environmental assessment – what is important is that the substance is there. It should state the main environmental opportunities, risks, and climate vulnerabilities, and how the organisation intends to address them. In some cases it may be presented in a brief paragraph in the programme document, in other cases it may be a more elaborate text and/or a separate document.

A simplified environmental assessment can be made by analysing, answering and motivating the answers to the following questions:

- **Could the programme/project offer opportunities** for positive contributions to an environmentally sustainable development? Which are these opportunities? Which of them are most relevant to address? Has the programme/project been adjusted to enhance these opportunities?

- **Could the programme/project have any negative impacts on the environment**, including the climate, or increase vulnerability to disasters? Which are the potential negative impacts? Which of these are most relevant to address? Has the programme/project been designed to avoid, or reduce and manage, these impacts?
- **What are the current and projected impacts of climate change<sup>1</sup> and other environmental degradation** in the area where the programme is operating? Are they likely to impact the sustainability of the contribution? How can such risks be avoided, or reduced and managed?
- **Are environmental concerns and opportunities addressed in management plans** for the programme's/project's implementation, monitoring and evaluation?
- **Does the partner organisation have capacity** for environmental management, in terms of staff capacity, policies, guidelines, environmental management system? Are there opportunities to improve the capacity?

To ensure relevance and ownership, partners are encouraged to engage different parts of the organisation and stakeholders in the assessment. The environmental assessment shall summarize the main opportunities for positive impacts, risks of negative impacts, climate and environmental vulnerabilities, and how the partner plans to manage these to ensure that the initiative contributes to environmental sustainability and is resilient to climate or other environmental change.

#### Related documents in the Green Tool Box

**This is the third of four, closely related, tools on environment and climate change integration in contributions:**

- Introduction to Environment and Climate Change Integration in Contributions
- Guidelines for Screening prior to an Environmental Assessment
- Guidelines for a Simplified Environmental Assessment
- Guidelines to Appraise a Simplified Environmental Assessment

<sup>1</sup> Climate change impacts – a geographically coarse but scientifically well founded overview of climate change impacts is provided in the regional assessment reports of the International Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, available at <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2/>. In many countries, more detailed projections are available from national institutions.