

## Sida's Environment policy

Sida's vision for 2023 is to "create conditions for the poorest and most vulnerable to shape their existence and future" and for "every person's right and opportunity to live a decent life!". Our bio-physical environment with well-functioning ecosystems and a stable climate is the foundation for development and all human life. Sustainable management of the earth's resources is therefore a prerequisite for reduced poverty and sustainable societies – for current and future generations. Environmental sustainability is closely interlinked with other cross-cutting issues, such as the rights perspective, gender equality and the conflict perspective.

Environmental sustainability is clearly reflected – directly and indirectly – in the Global Goals for Sustainable Development that were adopted at the UN summit in 2015. These goals, together with the Swedish legal environmental requirements and the Swedish government's instructions to Sida, including the Policy Framework for Development Cooperation, provide the foundation for Sida's environmental work. The environmental management system is a crucial instrument for Sida's management to manage and monitor Sida's environment and climate work in order to achieve continuous improvements.<sup>2</sup>

With this background, Sida commits to protect the environment and to proactively promote a transformation to an environmentally sustainable development by integrating environmental aspects in all operations and sectors, with the following overall<sup>3</sup> direction:

- Strengthened focus on climate change adaptation, as well as climate change mitigation, through i.a. environmentally sustainable energy solutions and environmentally sound land management;
- Promotion of sustainable use of natural resources such as forests, land, water and marine resources with the objective to secure biodiversity and ecosystem services for increased resilience, poverty alleviation and development;
- Promotion of reduced pollution of air, land and water; and
- Promotion of a circular economy, through economic instruments, incentives and technical solutions that in a transformative manner contribute to a resilient, climate neutral and resource efficient development.



Photo: Sara Gräslund

**Pastoralists in Isiolo, Kenya, increase their resilience to climate change and extreme drought through improved management of water resources and pasture.**

Sida's environmental work within long-term development cooperation and humanitarian support is undertaken through:

- Systematically taking environmental aspects, including climate risks, into account and integrating them into planning, implementation and monitoring of strategies and contributions;
- Increasing ambition regarding the proportion and volume of support to environmentally sustainable development both through grants, and through mobilized capital from other financial instruments;
- High-lighting environmental sustainability as an important entry-point in dialogue with partners at all levels, in Sida's role as an expert agency, and in external communication;
- Continuously developing Sida's own environmental capacity and increasing the environmental competence of Sida staff.

Finally, Sida's direct negative environmental impacts shall decrease continuously, with sustained efforts for a greener office and a specific focus on reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from travelling.

All staff at Sida has an important role in implementing this Environmental Policy. However, Sida's management – through the Director General and the Senior Management – has the overall responsibility for ensuring that the environment/climate perspective is taken into account throughout Sida's work.

<sup>1</sup> Updated information as per decision on Sida's vision in September 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Updated based on Sida's environmental management system October 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Noting that portfolio development is guided by the bilateral, regional and global strategies decided by the Government for different budget posts.