

CESVI ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

CESVI Fondazione Onlus

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Alliance

2015

towards
the eradication
of poverty

1. Foreword

CESVI works all over the world to support the most vulnerable populations in the promotion of human rights, in achieving their aspirations, for sustainable development. CESVI believes that the recognition of human rights contributes to the well-being of everyone on the planet, a common home to be preserved.

Based on the ideals of social justice and respect for human rights, CESVI pursues the welfare of vulnerable populations in poverty or affected by wars, natural disasters and environmental disasters. This is achieved through the implementation, also at an international level, of humanitarian aid works, both in emergency and development contexts, in support of the weakest categories, particularly children, women, the elderly and the marginalised, supporting them in achieving their aspirations with the aim of promoting their autonomy and future sustainability.

The Foundation also pays particular attention to environmental issues in all its initiatives and in this sense does not limit its action to compliance with local or international legislation in force.

In particular, CESVI signed the Climate and Environment Charter, 7 objectives that local, national and international humanitarian organisations commit to in order to promote an effective collective response to the climate and environmental ^{crisis}¹.

CESVI also implements environmental protection programmes for the sustainable development of the planet, for counteracting the effects of change, and for managing environmental resources so that current and future generations can enjoy them.²

CESVI works in Europe, South America, Africa, Asia and ~~t h e~~ Middle East with local communities so that they are advocates for a sustainable use of their land, in harmony with their environment. Promoting sustainability and the proper management of natural resources are the key principles that guide CESVI in the environmental sector.

¹ The development of the Charter was spearheaded by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and guided by a 19-person Advisory Committee, including representatives of local, national and international NGOs, UN agencies and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as academics, researchers and experts in the humanitarian, development, climate and environmental fields.

² Code of Ethics, Section 6. Environmental Protection

2. Scope of application

CESVI's approach to the implementation of projects and works consistent with its mission, values and principles, includes fundamental analysis activities to acquire a thorough knowledge of the environmental conditions, as well as of the local social, cultural and economic context where CESVI operates. This makes it possible to find sustainable, lasting and technically appropriate solutions to environmental problems. Similarly, CESVI works closely with and for local communities and institutions, on the one hand to acquire knowledge, know-how and practices from them, and on the other hand to make them aware of the respect for resources and to strengthen their skills, also in terms of autonomy in the sustainable management of the territory.

CESVI recognises that climate change and other environmental threats increase the vulnerability of the people it aims to help and their communities. At the same time, it recognises the potential negative impact that its operations can have on the environment if not properly managed. Therefore, CESVI believes that good environmental practices and standards should be an integral part of its programmes as well as organisational behaviour.

Through this policy, CESVI demonstrates its commitment to prevent and mitigate, where possible, the potentially negative environmental impact of its activities.

CESVI also recognises that continuous improvement of its environmental performance can lead to significant benefits, while meeting expectations for environmental improvement related to the context in which it operates.

3. Organisational commitments

In view of the above, CESVI commits itself to

- Pursue a policy and objectives and targets of continuous improvement of its environmental performance, during all phases of programme design, implementation and evaluation, minimising, where technically possible and economically sustainable, any negative impact of its activities towards the environment and with particular reference to the supply chain.
- Ensure that its activities are carried out in accordance with applicable legal provisions and any subscribed codes of practice,

- Implement projects that contribute positively to the maintenance and restoration of the natural environment, with particular reference to the adoption of renewable energy and the adaptation of communities to climate change.
- Ensure that environmental protection activities do not increase inequalities, especially those that further marginalise the most vulnerable.
- Involve partners and communities to act responsibly towards the conservation of the natural environment and ensure sustainable development paths.

4. **Dissemination, monitoring and review**

In order to make the above organisational commitments operational, CESVI's Executive Board undertakes to

- ensure that this document is available to interested parties;
- implement and maintain an effective Environmental Management System;
- ensure that this environmental policy and related management system is understood, implemented and maintained at all levels of the organisation and that the system is supported by regular and systematic theoretical and practical training activities;
- appoint one or more focal points of the policy, to support its operational implementation
- ensure adequate resources for the implementation of the above.