



ENVIRONMENT POLICY

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ENVIRONMENT POLICY

STATEMENT

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund / Le Fonds du Primat pour le Secours et le Developpement Mondial (PWRDF) is committed to the promotion of sustainable practices that improve both the natural environment and the holistic quality of the lives of people and their communities. In the programmes it supports PWRDF commits itself to participatory needs assessment, planning, activity and site selection, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes with its partners that enhance the natural and socio-cultural environments, and to integration of environmental objectives with other objectives. Moreover, PWRDF commits itself to act in conformity with the environmental policy guidelines and analytic frameworks of the Canadian International Development Agency and the Canadian Council of International Cooperation.

GOAL

The goal of the Environment Policy is to enhance the mission of PWRDF by contributing to ecological stewardship through respect for, and awareness of the natural environment; the promotion of its just and proper use, and self-critical reflection for remedial environmental action on the part of its staff, partners, supporters and constituencies.

RATIONALE

PWRDF responds to God's call for renewal of the earth by recognizing the importance of the natural environment and its protection. This engagement by PWRDF to give attention to the natural environment is the effect of the sustained commitment of the Anglican Communion here in Canada and around the world to the integration of environmental concerns into the Church's mission to bring God's healing love to a broken world. This response is undertaken in concert with the official statements and resolutions on the environment emanating from the General Synod and Council of General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, the resolutions on the environment arising from the Lambeth Conference and the Anglican Consultative Council, and the legacy and impetus of the Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative's campaign "toward right relations with Aboriginal Peoples and the earth".

PWRDF seeks to promote a healthy environment as part of building a moral political economy such that the natural environment is maintained, protected and enhanced through the design and advancement of sustainable agricultural models, strengthened local capacity to defend the natural and renewable resource base, and developed eco-forestry and sustainable water resources management. PWRDF, however, recognizes that in responding to disaster situations resulting in massive displacements of people there may be limited capacity to give priority to environmental concerns. Nevertheless, even in such situations PWRDF endeavours to minimize damage to the environment in urgent responses to basic human needs related to temporary shelter and settlements (e.g., Sphere Project).

There are many current issues adversely affecting the environment including: unsustainable consumption patterns of non-renewable resources, global warming,

demographic pressures to put marginal lands into production, environmentally degrading practices of national and transnational corporations, and weak public sector monitoring and enforcement. The rationale for the PWRDF commitment to the natural environment and its protection—“rest for the earth”—is rooted in scriptural teachings that link creation, justice and redemption. Those teachings call us to respect all of creation as God’s work; to work for the just and proper use of creation following the example of Jesus, and to prepare for God’s redemption of peoples, communities, and the land through repentance—changes in attitudes and lifestyles—and restitution—repayment of the “earth deficit”.

PWRDF ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEFINITIONS

Earth deficit: In humankind’s search for wealth, policies are pursued which devastate the earth and its web of life, source of all food, water, shelter, warmth, and beauty. Environmentally unsustainable practices and non-renewal resource extraction in logging, mining, farming, hunting and fishing all deplete this natural wealth, in some cases to the point of exhaustion or extinction. Widespread pollution is the bitter legacy from the 19th and 20th centuries’ waves of industrialism which eco-theologian Thomas Berry describes as the “earth deficit”.

Ecological stewardship: Ecological stewardship consists of a just and moral economy where the Earth and the whole created order is nurtured with utmost respect and reverence rather than unsustainably exploited and degraded.

Natural environment: The natural environment encompasses land, water, atmosphere, organic and inorganic matter, living organisms and interacting natural systems.

Rest for the earth: “Rest for the earth” envisions protection of the natural environment from unsustainable practices through ecological stewardship so as to allow the Earth to naturally renew itself.

Sphere Project: The Sphere Project is an international initiative aimed at improving the effectiveness and accountability of disaster response. The Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response sets out what people affected by disasters have a right to expect from humanitarian assistance based on the principles and provisions of international humanitarian, human rights, and refugee law, and on the principles of the Red Cross and NGO Code of Conduct. It describes the core principles that govern humanitarian action and asserts the right of populations to protection and assistance. The Minimum Standards are supplemented by Key Indicators that provide a way of measuring and communicating the impact, or results, of programmes as well as the process, or methods, used. They also provide standards related to water, sanitation, shelter and site planning and guidance on how interventions should be designed and delivered in such a way as to minimise any negative impact on the host population or on the environment. Action of Churches Together (ACT), the network through which PWRDF conducts its relief responses, is part of the Sphere Project Management Committee.

Sustainable practices: Sustainable practices are the behaviours of humans interacting with the natural environment, which, while meeting the basic human needs of humankind

through ecological stewardship, regenerate, improve and restore renewable resources while reducing use of non-renewable resources.

PWRDF ANALYTIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In view of PWRDF's own commitments to enhancing the natural environment and its grant agreements with the Government of Canada the PWRDF analytic framework for assessing the environmental sensitivity and appropriateness of partner work is intended to assist the organization in systematically 1) integrating biophysical and human environmental factors into its decision-making processes for programs and projects in a manner that promotes sustainable development and 2) documenting the process. Other analytic frameworks and resources for Canadian constituency environmental education and praxis are available through KAIROS from the three-year Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative project.

Projects exclusively involving such programming as good governance, community organizing, public education, human resource development, capacity building, human rights advocacy, and research may, with documented diligence, be screened out of this analytic framework process.

All projects involving "physical work" such as constructing wells, latrines, roads, sanitary systems, dams, irrigations systems or buildings will be analysed to identify measures needed to prevent the project from causing ecological damage and generating social costs. Environmental analyses for such projects will respond to the following questions:

- How have any environmental objectives been integrated into the project's other objectives?
- What are the environmental features of the project site?
- What project components could lead to adverse environmental effects?
- What are these effects?
- What is their significance?
- What effect might the natural environment have on the project?
- What strategies and specific measures will be implemented to alleviate or eliminate any negative effects and increase its benefits?
- How will the project be monitored to ensure the effective implementation of these measures?

All projects involving "physical work" within the meaning of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) will require an assessment of environmental effects to be carried out as early as practicable in the planning stages of the such projects once the essential details become specified and before irrevocable decisions are made so as to determine that such projects are not the likely cause of significant adverse environmental effects. An environmental assessment is a systematic approach to assessing the environmental effects of projects, including the repercussions for human populations and their way of life. With prior knowledge of these effects, it is possible to alter the design of a project to eliminate or minimize adverse effects. When the effects are unacceptable PWRDF should not fund the project, though alternative solutions may be considered. Some projects are not subject to the CEAA because their environmental effects are considered relatively minor such as maintenance or repair to an existing physical work, or the construction of a building with a

footprint of less than 100 m. sq. and a height under 5 m., which is located more than 30 m. from a body of water and does not release polluting substances into it. Environmental assessments for projects involving “physical work” falling under CEAA will consider the following factors:

- the environmental effects of the project, including the environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the project and any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out;
- the significance of those effects;
- comments received from the public, if any;
- measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project; and,
- any other relevant matters such as the need for the project and alternatives to the project.

Sectoral best management practices and checklists addressing environmental effects in such areas as well building, latrine construction, building construction, forestry, irrigation, water supply, waste management, rural roads, fishing, animal husbandry, and crop production available from CIDA and other sources will be used to facilitate project environmental analyses and assessments.