

# **CBM Global Policy**

# **Environmental Responsibility**

September 2024



**CBM Global Disability Inclusion**

Van Heuven Goedhartlaan 13D, 1181 LE Amstelveen, Netherlands

<https://cbm-global.org>

# Rationale

Environmental degradation, climate change, food shortages and competition for scarce resources are inextricably linked with poverty and disability. People in the world's poorest communities have generally made the smallest contribution to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere yet have to carry some of the largest impacts of climate change. Exclusion of people with disabilities from actions related to environmental sustainability will greatly exacerbate their poverty and deprivation.

In discussing environmental responsibility, CBM Global is referring to the 'natural environment', and not the 'built environment', as referred to in CBM Global's Policy on Accessibility.

We define Environmental Sustainability as the sustainability of the natural environment, requiring society to meet human needs while preserving the life support systems of the planet.

# Purpose

The purpose of this Environmental Responsibility policy is to outline CBM Global's commitment to protecting and enhancing the natural environment, including by playing our part in seeking to reduce climate change, through reduction of, or compensation for our carbon emissions. The policy is based on the approach of **progressive realisation**, providing a framework for CBM Global's actions to be implemented in a phased manner, based on the principle of 'continuous improvement'.

This policy also reflects CBM Global's programme standard on Environmental Responsibility as detailed in CBM Global's Programme Quality Framework (PQF) and CBM Global's work on climate justice as outlined in the CBM Global Climate Advocacy Roadmap, which is one of CBM Global's strategic advocacy priorities.

# Scope

CBM Global's Environmental Responsibility policy is applicable to CBM Global, covering Secretariat, Technical, and Country Teams. Federation Members are encouraged to adopt the policy where no policy currently exists, and/or to ensure that any existing Member policies relating to environmental responsibility align with this policy.

CBM Global expects partners, consultants, contractors and any other third parties providing products, goods, services, systems, or facilities on behalf of CBM Global or as part of programmes funded via CBM Global, to commit themselves towards environmental responsibility.

Environmental considerations for programme design and implementation should follow CBM Global's programme development and assessment procedures, in accordance with the Programme Quality Framework environmental commitments and our Disaster Risk Management framework.

# Statement & Commitments

## Statement

CBM Global commits to participating in global efforts aimed at protecting and enhancing the natural environment, and reducing climate change, including through the lowering of, or compensation for our carbon emissions. Furthermore, CBM Global commits to ensuring that people with disabilities participate in and benefit from poverty-reducing environmental strategies as their human right.

This commitment is based on the principles of the [UN Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#) and of the **UN Agenda 2030** and its 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

## Commitments

In line with our vision and values, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the global environment in which CBM Global is operating:

- 1) We are committed to continuous improvement in our performance towards environmental sustainability. As signatories to the [Climate & Environment Charter](#) we are committed to implementing the Charter commitments and to hold ourselves accountable to time bound targets and actions.
- 2) We seek out opportunities to enhance environmental sustainability and biodiversity relevant to our operations, wherever possible and while ensuring sustained functioning of our activities. Environment and climate considerations are key in our programming in inclusive disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation and inclusive humanitarian action and across our other core areas of work.
- 3) We strive to avoid, reduce, or mitigate the negative impacts of our operations on the environment at local, national and global levels. We commit to undertake periodic carbon emissions analysis in order to assess progress in managing CBM Global's carbon footprint and to identify improvement plans.
- 4) We seek to reduce our organisational contribution to human induced climate change, by the lowering of carbon emissions resulting from our operations. This includes setting reduction targets relating to the largest sources of carbon emissions across CBM Global's operations and carbon offsetting for air travel.

## Implementation

In taking a progressive realisation approach and operating within available budgets, guidance is maintained (CBM Global priority actions for Environmental Responsibility policy implementation) which set out the priorities required of staff and managers to reduce negative environmental impacts and enhance environmental sustainability.

Careful judgement is required to adopt actions that reduce negative environmental impacts in a way that is relevant and appropriate to the local context and in keeping with our commitments to inclusion. The policy is to be implemented in conjunction with CBM Global's Policies on Accessibility, on Health, Safety and Security, other relevant policies including our commitment to inclusive employment, and our Reasonable Accommodation guidelines, ensuring for example that actions taken do

not negatively affect staff safety or the reasonable accommodation that may be required by some members of staff.

We encourage line managers to have on their staff meeting agendas periodic reviews of these improvement commitments and progress reached.

## **Key references and supporting documents**

All mentioned documents are available to CBM Global Federation staff on [Global Connect](#). Documents that are relevant for external audiences can be found on [www.cbm-global.org](http://www.cbm-global.org).

- CBM Global Vision
- CBM Global Values
- CBM Global Programme Quality Framework
- CBM Global Accessibility Policy
- CBM Global Climate Advocacy Roadmap
- CBM Global Disaster Risk Management Framework
- CBM Global Health, Safety & Security Policy
- CBM Global Reasonable Accommodation Guidelines