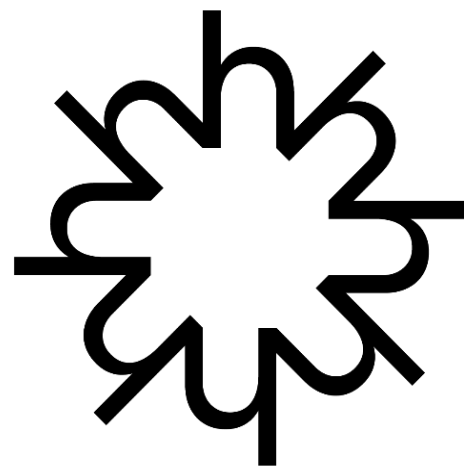


*Política ambiental
& climática*
2022-2030

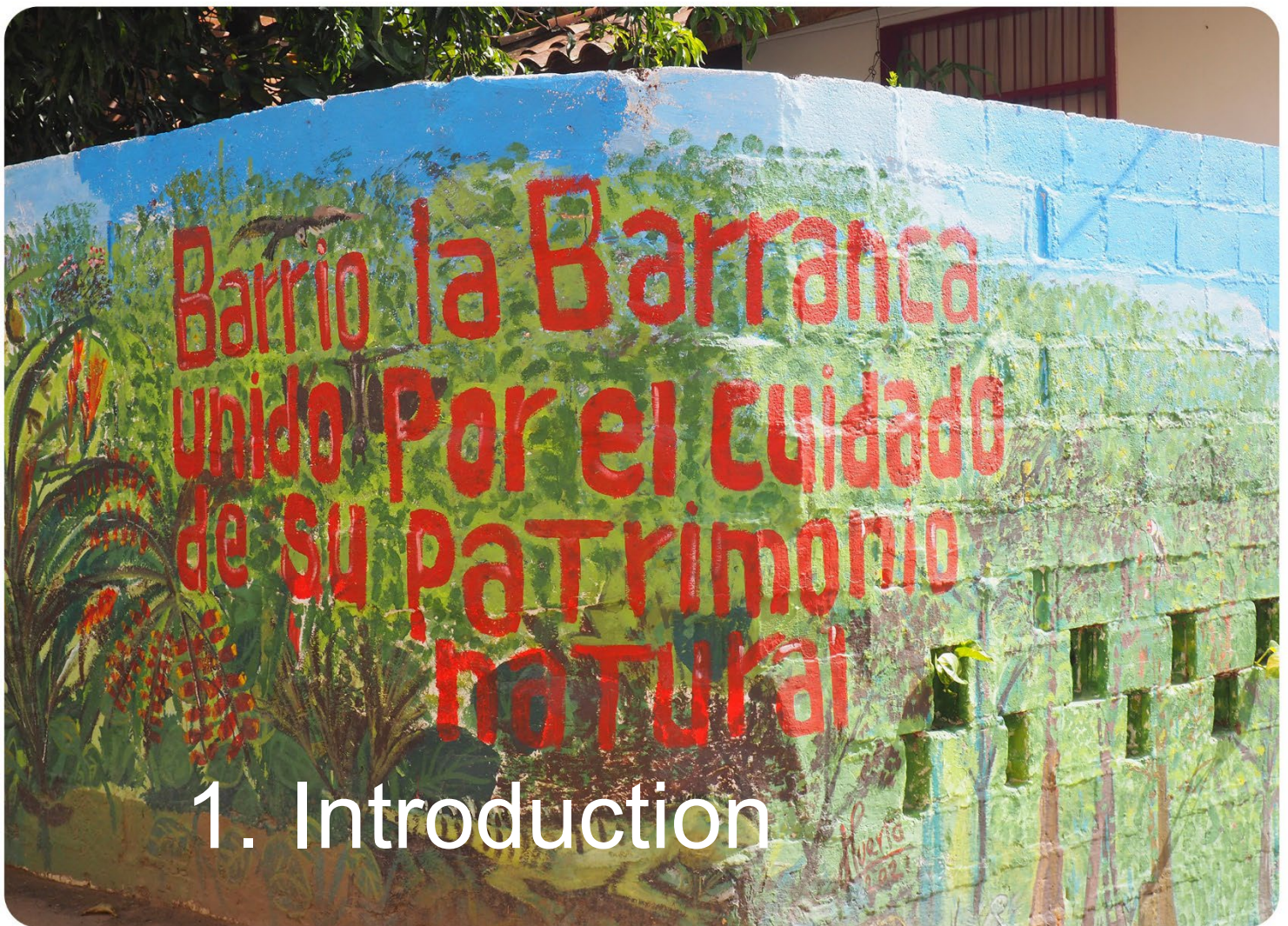


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Abreviaturas

A&C	Ambiente y Clima
A&CC	Ambiente y Cambio Climático
ADA	Agencia Austriaca de Desarrollo
AT	Asesor/a Técnico/a
CMNUCC	Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático
DH-SC	HORIZONT3000 Sector Derechos Humanos - Sociedad Civil
DR-MRN	HORIZONT3000 Sector Desarrollo Rural - Manejo de Recursos Naturales
GCP	Gestión del Ciclo del Proyectos
GEI	Gases de Efecto Invernadero
H3	HORIZONT3000
IPCC	Grupo Intergubernamental (científico) de Expertos sobre el Cambio Climático
KH3	KNOWHOW3000, programa de gestión del conocimiento de HORIZONT3000
MA	Medio Ambiente
MEAL	Monitoreo, Evaluación, Rendición de cuentas y Aprendizaje (MEAL, por sus siglas en inglés: Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning)
ORPs	Oficinas Regionales y de País de HORIZONT3000
OMs	Organizaciones Miembro de HORIZONT3000
OS	Organizaciones Socias
PNUMA	Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
RRD	Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres
PAT	Programa de Asesoría Técnica



1. Introduction

horizont3000 (h3) reconoce el papel central que desempeñan el medio ambiente, la biodiversidad y el clima en el desarrollo sostenible y la reducción de la pobreza. Con esta primera versión de la Política Ambiental y Climática, horizont3000 pretende cerrar la brecha existente en el marco político institucional con respecto a la acción ambiental y climáticaⁱ tanto a nivel institucional como programático, esbozando su posición y estrategias hacia la protección del clima, del ambiente y de la biodiversidad e implementando acciones que:

- No hacen daño, previenen y mitigan los efectos indeseables sobre el ambiente, la biodiversidad y los recursos naturales, y los efectos inaceptables de nuestro trabajo sobre los seres humanos.
- Garantizan que nuestro trabajo refuerza las capacidades de nuestras OS y sus grupos/regiones meta en relación con la protección, la restauración y el uso responsable del ambiente, la biodiversidad y los servicios ecosistémicos, así como la acción climática, para aumentar la resiliencia climática en general.
- Declaramos nuestro compromiso como organización con las leyes, reglamentos y otros mecanismos legales y políticos relativos a temas ambientales y climáticas. Aseguramos que horizont3000 y su trabajo están alineados con y apoyan a los acuerdos, marcos, estrategias planes y tratados internacionales y nacionales esenciales en materia de ambiente, biodiversidad y clima.

ⁱ Definimos la acción medioambiental y climática como actividades de respuesta implementadas con el objetivo de aportar soluciones para abordar la degradación medioambiental, el aumento de la variabilidad climática y la crisis del clima y la biodiversidad. Estas actividades pueden abordar cuestiones a diferentes escalas dentro del sector social, político y privado, tal y como se definen en los Marcadores de Río del CAD, incluida la labor de promoción, el trabajo por la justicia climática y la defensa de los derechos sobre la tierra, etc.

1.1 Situación global

El cambio climático (o más bien crisis climática, emergencia, perturbación, catástrofe, etc.ⁱⁱ) y la degradación ambiental son retos globales impulsados en gran medida por el crecimiento económico y demográfico, con efectos de gran alcance sobre los ecosistemas de la tierra, la biodiversidad y, en última instancia, los medios de subsistencia humana. Existe un consenso científico amplio sobre el hecho de que los niveles actuales de calentamiento global están causados por la actividad humana a través de las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero (GEI) y los cambios inducidos por el ser humano en ecosistemas enteros, debido a la gestión insostenible de los recursos naturales, que deben reducirse drásticamente.

Fenómenos meteorológicos extremos y de aparición lenta

El calentamiento global aumenta la probabilidad y la intensidad de fenómenos meteorológicos extremos como inundaciones, sequías y tormentas, y ya impulsa fenómenos de aparición lenta como el aumento de temperatura, la desertificación, el deshielo de los glaciares y los casquetes polares, el aumento de la temperatura de los océanos, el aumento del nivel del mar, la acidificación de los océanos y la salinización de los suelos costeros y las reservas de agua dulce. Al mismo tiempo, la degradación de los ecosistemas, la pérdida de biodiversidad, la degradación del suelo, la contaminación y el aumento de los niveles de residuos son fenómenos globales que conducen a la crisis ambiental sin precedentes. Johan Rockström, antiguo director del Centro de Resiliencia de Estocolmo, definió junto con un equipo de científicos de renombre internacional nueve límites planetarios, dentro de los cuales la humanidad puede seguir desarrollándose y prosperando durante generaciones. Entre ellos la integridad de la biosfera, los flujos biogeoquímicos, el cambio del sistema terrestre y el cambio climático, todos los cuales ya corren un riesgo creciente o elevado, que nos lleva a condiciones de vida a las cuales los seres humanos, nuestros medios de subsistencia, los ecosistemas y la biodiversidad no están adaptados.

El impacto de la crisis climática y la degradación ambiental están contribuyendo a la pérdida y el deterioro de vidas y hogares, de salud, de infraestructura, de medios de subsistencia, de recursos naturales y la inseguridad alimentaria, así como a la movilidad y el desplazamiento humanos inducidos por el clima. Los riesgos ambientales y climáticos amenazan aún más la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible de la ONU.

Impacto mundial

La crisis climática y ambiental afectan a todas las regiones del mundo, pero las personas pobres y marginalizadas de países en desarrollo son las más afectadas. Las personas de los grupos y países pobres, desfavorecidos, excluidos y (especialmente) vulnerables suelen depender en gran medida de su entorno natural a menudo son menos resilientes. Es decir, tienen capacidades y recursos limitados para anticipar y absorber el estrés y los choques, adaptarse a los cambios y transformar sus medios y formas de vida, así como inducir cambios fundamentales en las estructuras profundas que causan o aumentan la vulnerabilidad y el riesgo. También pueden necesitar más tiempo para recuperarse tras los fenómenos extremos.

ⁱⁱ Muchas organizaciones de la sociedad civil, periodistas y activistas climáticos ya no consideran actualizado el término cambio climático porque no es lo suficientemente preciso ni apropiado a la vista de los dramáticos impactos que ya se están produciendo y de las terribles conclusiones de la ciencia climática. En H3 utilizamos el término crisis climática cuando queremos enfatizar la urgencia del asunto y nos ceñimos a cambio climático cuando nos referimos a citas y definiciones, así como en relación con términos técnicos bien establecidos en torno a adaptación y mitigación del cambio climático.

Los peligros relacionados con el clima agravan aún más los factores de estrés existentes y socavan significativamente el desarrollo al amenazar los recursos críticos, especialmente el agua y los recursos productivos. .

Los países pobres sufren más

En general, se concluye que las pérdidas y los daños causados por la crisis climática serán mucho más graves en los países pobres . Dentro de los países, las personas que viven en la pobreza y otros grupos marginalizados, incluidos los pequeño/as agricultore/as, ganadero/as, los pueblos indígenas y afrodescendientes y las poblaciones costeras, a menudo están a la vanguardia de la acción climática, pero al mismo tiempo son portadores de valiosos conocimientos tradicionales. Estos grupos están más expuestos a los impactos de la crisis climática e incurrir en mayores pérdidas a causa de ella. La Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU) destaca en su Informe Social Mundial 2020 que "el cambio climático puede generar un círculo vicioso de aumento de la pobreza y la vulnerabilidad, empeorando la desigualdad y la ya precaria situación de muchos grupos desfavorecidos " .

Género y grupos marginados

Las mujeres y las niñas se ven afectadas de forma desproporcionada por los impactos de la crisis climática, y lamentablemente más y más por acción climática mal diseñada. El 60% de las personas desnutridas son mujeres. Mueren más mujeres y niños que hombres durante fenómenos extremos, entre otras cosas porque se les avisa más tarde. En países en desarrollo, las mujeres son responsables del 60-80% de la producción de alimentos y con una condición legal de tenencia de tierra menor del 15%. Tienen que lidiar con la escasez de agua y la pérdida de cosechas, al tiempo que se enfrentan al trabajo de cuidado, reproductivo y doméstico . Además, están poco representadas en los procesos o puestos de toma de decisiones, desde el nivel comunitario hasta el de la CMNUCC, mientras que ocupan puestos y poseen conocimientos clave en agricultura, conservación de la biodiversidad, y en la resistencia a la degradación de los ecosistemas .

Además, ciertas personas y grupos de personas históricamente marginados se enfrentan a formas múltiples e interrelacionadas de discriminación estructural debido a su orientación e identidad sexual, género e identidad de género, etnia, situación económica, estatus migratorio, origen nacional y capacidad, entre otros aspectos que representan retos únicos para las personas y las comunidades y dan lugar a vulnerabilidades agravadas y superpuestas a la hora de hacer frente a las consecuencias de la crisis climática .

Injusticia mundial

El Índice Global de Riesgo Climático analiza en qué medida los países y las regiones se han visto afectados por los impactos de fenómenos meteorológicos, sirviendo como señal de alarma sobre la vulnerabilidad ya existente que puede aumentar aún más debido al cambio climático. Las tormentas y sus consecuencias directas -precipitaciones, inundaciones y deslizamientos de tierra- fueron unas de las principales causas de pérdidas y daños en 2019. Ocho de los diez países más afectados por fenómenos meteorológicos extremos en 2019 pertenecen a la categoría de renta baja o media-baja, y la mitad de ellos son países en desarrollo. Curiosamente, incluso países como Noruega, Finlandia, Suiza, Suecia, Dinamarca, Singapur, Austria, Alemania, Islandia y Nueva Zelanda, que puntúan entre los menos vulnerables y más preparados según el Índice Global de Adaptación Notre Dame- (ND-GAIN), muestran un descenso general de las puntuaciones, lo que supone un recordatorio crítico de que ningún país es inmune a los impactos de la crisis climática .

Si se comparan los diferentes índices climáticos a escala mundial , se pueden encontrar claros conglomerados regionales con mayor vulnerabilidad y falta de capacidad de adaptación en el África subsahariana, el sur de Asia y partes del sudeste de Asia. Para algunos países los diferentes índices coinciden claramente

en una exposición media alta, por ejemplo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Ecuador y Nicaragua.

Al mismo tiempo, los países en desarrollo han contribuido en general mucho menos a la contaminación y a la emisión de GEI , por lo que los aspectos de justicia ambiental y climática deben estar en el centro de las negociaciones, políticas y estrategias globales/internacionales. Además, las políticas ambientales y climáticas deben ir acompañadas de medidas sociales y económicas que permitan una transición justa (hacia economías verdaderamente más ecológicas). **Extreme weather and slow onset events**

Global heating increases the probability and intensity of extreme weather events such as flooding, droughts and storms, and already drives slow onset events like changing temperatures, desertification, melting of glaciers and polar ice shields, rising ocean temperatures, rising sea levels, ocean acidification and salinization of coastal soils and fresh water reserves². At the same time, degradation of ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, soil degradation, pollution and increasing waste levels are global phenomena leading to unprecedented environmental crises. Johan Rockström, former Director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre, defined together with a team of internationally renowned scientists nine planetary boundaries - within which humanity can continue to develop and thrive for generations to come. Among them biosphere integrity, biogeochemical flows, land-system change and climate change, all of which already are at increasing or high risk, moving us into living conditions, we humans, our livelihoods, ecosystems and biodiversity are not adapted to³.

The impact of the climate crisis and environmental degradation is contributing to the loss and damage of lives and homes, poor health, damage to infrastructure, livelihoods, environmental resources, and food insecurity as well as climate induced human mobility and displacement⁴. Environmental and climate risks further threaten the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals⁵.

Global impact

The rapidly changing climate and environment have an impact on all regions around the world, but poor, marginalized people in the Global South are most severely affected. People in poor, disadvantaged, excluded and (particularly) vulnerable groups and countries often depend heavily on their natural environment and are oftentimes less resilient i.e., have limited capabilities and resources to anticipate and absorb stress and shocks, adapt to changes and transform their livelihoods and ways of living as well as induce fundamental changes in the deep structures that cause or increase vulnerability and risk⁶ and may need more time to rebuild and recover after extreme events. Climate-related hazards further exacerbate existing stress factors, in particular for people living in poverty⁷ and significantly undermine development by threatening critical resources, especially water, and increasing the incidence and severity of natural disasters⁸.

Poor Countries suffer more

It is generally concluded that the effects of loss and damage from the climate crisis will be much more serious in poor countries⁹. Within countries, people living in poverty and other marginalized groups – including smallholder farmers, pastoralists, Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, and coastal populations, who are often at the forefront of climate action and bear valuable traditional knowledge – are more exposed to the impacts of the climate crisis and incur greater losses from it. The United Nations (UN) highlights in their World Social Report 2020 that “climate change can generate a vicious cycle of increasing poverty and vulnerability, worsening inequality and the already precarious situation of many disadvantaged groups¹⁰.”

Gender and Marginalized Groups

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the impacts of the climate crisis and poorly designed climate action. 60% of undernourished people are women, more women and children than men die during extreme events, among others because they are notified later. In the global south, women are responsible for 60-80% of food production, owning less than 15% of all land. They have to deal with water scarcity and the loss of harvests, while being confronted with care, reproductive and domestic work¹¹. Additionally, they are underrepresented in decision making processes or positions from community to the UNFCCC level, while holding key positions and knowledge in agriculture, biodiversity conservation and in resistance to the degradation of ecosystems¹².

Additionally, certain individuals and historically marginalized groups of people face multiple and intersecting forms of structural discrimination due to their sexual orientation and identity, gender and gender identity, race, economic status, immigration status, national origin, and ability, among other aspects representing unique challenges for individuals and communities and resulting in compounding and overlapping vulnerabilities when dealing with the consequences of the climate crisis¹³.

Global Injustice

The Global Climate Risk Index¹⁴ analyses to what extent countries and regions have been affected by impacts of weather-related events, serving as a red flag for already existing vulnerability that may further increase due to climate change. Storms and their direct implications – precipitation, floods, and landslides – were one major cause of losses and damages in 2019. Eight out of the ten countries most affected by extreme weather events in 2019 belong to the low- to lower-middle income category, half of them are Least Developed Countries. Interestingly even countries like Norway, Finland, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Singapore, Austria, Germany, Iceland and New Zealand, that score among the least vulnerable and most ready according to the Notre Dame-Global Adaptation Index (ND-GAIN), show a general decline of scores, which is a critical reminder that no country is immune to the impacts of the climate crisis¹⁵.

Comparing different climate indices on a global scale¹⁶, clear regional clusters with highest mean vulnerability and lack of adaptive capacity can be found in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and parts of Southeast Asia. Despite the less distinct regional clusters with highest exposure, for some countries the different indices clearly agree on a high mean exposure, e.g., Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Ecuador and Nicaragua¹⁷.

At the same time, countries from the Global South have generally contributed significantly less to pollution and the emission of harmful GHG¹⁸, therefore, aspects of environmental and climate justice need to be in the centre of global/international negotiations, policies and strategies. Furthermore, environmental and climate policies need to be accompanied by social and economic measures to enable a just transition (towards truly greener economies).

1.2 Development process

In the course of the strategic review of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) it was decided to develop an environmental policy for h3. After the elaboration of a first outline of the environmental policy, including climate action, as an important strategic topic for h3 in early 2021, based on existing experiences, a participatory process was installed to involve the h3 programme staff, regional and country offices (RCOs), advisors, h3 member organisations (MOs) and of course our local partner organisations (POs). A sounding board, consisting of 1-2 representatives of each of these stakeholders, as well as the ADA, was installed to give feedback on the different stages of the document (see Fig. 1.). The second draft was further discussed in two regional Workshops with a bigger group of the same stakeholders. The third and final draft was once again reviewed by the sounding board and presented to the ADA for final comments before being submitted to approval by the h3 Board.

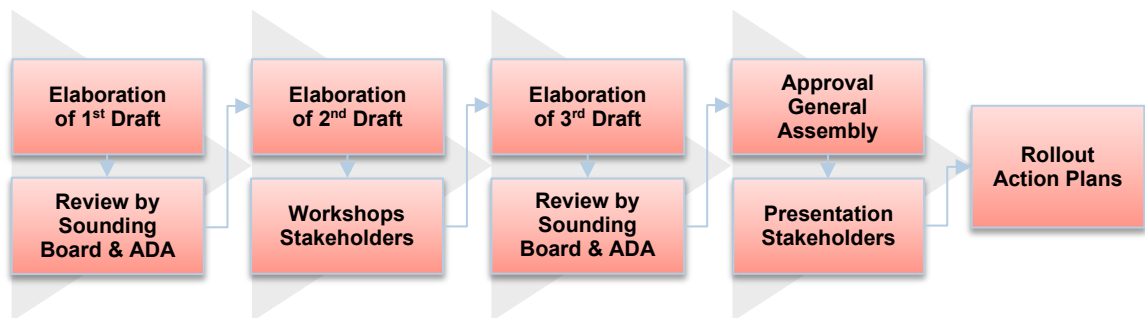


Fig. 1. Process of development of the Environmental and Climate Policy; Sounding Board: min. 2 Experts of our POs, 1-2 h3 Programme coordinators, 1-2 Representatives of our RCOs, selected advisors, 1-2 Representatives of MOs

1.3 E&C Policy within the Policy Framework of horizont3000

Within the Policy Framework of h3, the E&C-Policy belongs to the category of cross-cutting policies, which regulate the h3 Strategy and all subsequent policies and strategies and inform programmes and individual projects. Our cross-cutting policies treat interrelated topics and therefore refer to each other.

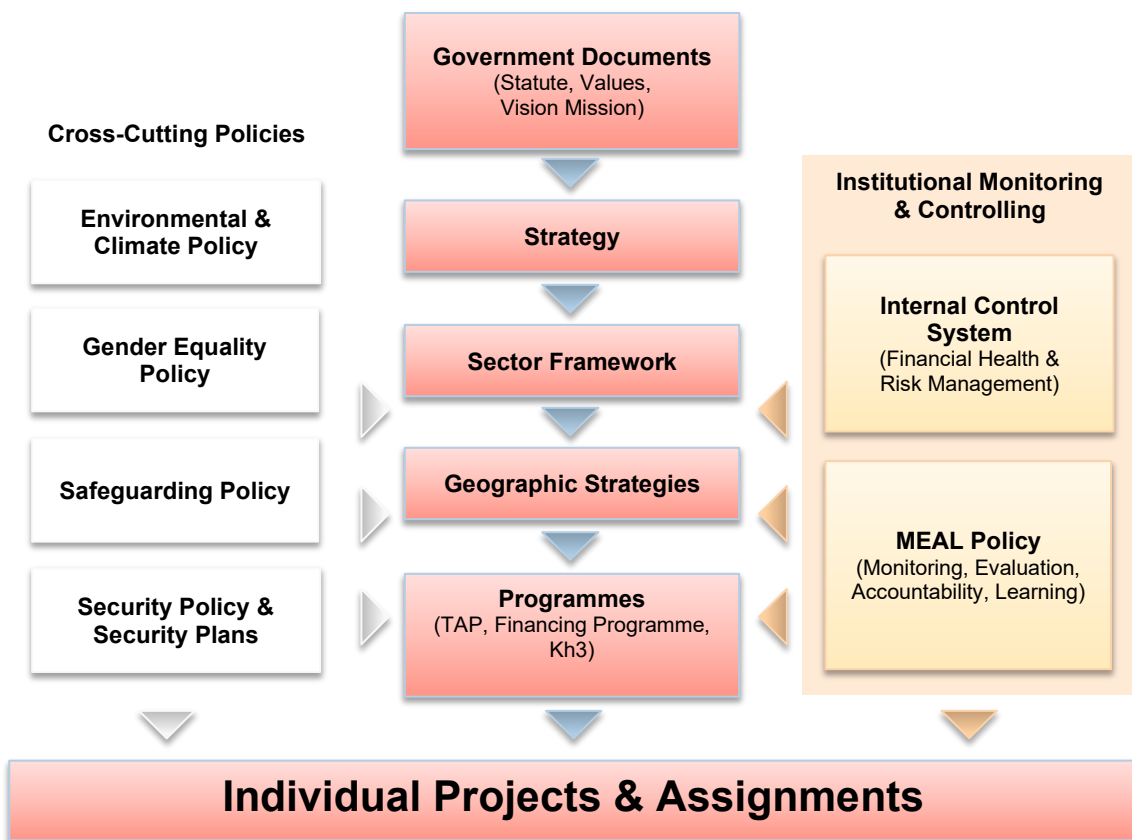


Fig. 2. Policy Framework of h3



2. E&C Policy

2.1 Policy Objectives

With this policy h3 **outlines guiding principles and commitments at institutional and programming level towards promoting environmental and climate action**, based on an intersectional and human rights approach, recognizing the central role that the environment, biodiversity and climate play towards sustainable development and poverty reduction as well as their interrelation with each other and other cross cutting issues like gender equality.

- h3 aims to become an environmentally and climate change transformative organisation,
 - learning from and with our partner network
 - leading the way ourselves, with climate neutral operations in the headquarters in Vienna until 2025
 - aiming to support more projects that are at least environmentally and climate change responsive
- Furthermore, h3 supports its POs to progress along the pre-defined E&CC integration continuum scale, towards individually set objectives.

2.2 Scope of the E&C Policy

The policy serves as reference and guidelines for **h3 staff** (including advisors) at Headquarters in Vienna, Austria as well as RCO, in Central America, East Africa, Mozambique and Senegal. It is intended to guide the planning and implementation of projects and programmes in our two

sectors Rural Development and Management of Natural Resources (RD-MNR) as well as and Human Rights and Civil Society (HR-CS), together with **POs** in the Global South and **MOs** of h3.

Contractors, consultants, and other service providers will need to adhere to principles and commitments of this policy. In addition, the policy serves to sensitize and inform **current and potential donors and partners** about h3 principles and standards related to E&C as well as to activate them for measures in the context and spirit of this Policy.

This policy does not cover:

- General gender equality concerns – which are covered by the h3 Gender Policy
- Safeguarding concerns regarding the protection of persons (children, vulnerable adults, staff) from harm, incl. abuse of power and sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) – which are covered by the h3 Safeguarding Policy (upcoming)
- Corruption – which is covered by the h3 Anti-Corruption Policy and Guidelines
- Safety and Security for staff – which are covered by h3's Safety & Security Policy

2.3 The E&CC Integration Continuum

The **Environmental and Climate Change Integration Continuum** has been developed based on the idea of a gender integration continuum, serving as an internal framework to:

- **address levels of E&CC mainstreaming** at institutional as well as at programme/project level at h3 and our POs,
- **assess/characterize respective levels** of practice and approaches at institutional as well as at programme/project level
- and **show improvements** in the **institutional learning/capacity development** process along the continuum from E&CC unaware to transformative.

Even though h3 supports different types of POs in the Global South through individual projects in the sectors of RD-MNR and HR-CS, we have a strong commitment to lead the way with our good example and support our POs in their organisational development, related to environmental and climate action, by our know-how3000 as well as our TAP, through mutual and horizontal learning processes and the systematization of experiences, starting at different levels.

The following table summarizes the understanding of h3 regarding different levels of environmental and climate change integration, which serves as a (self)assessment framework to further define the concrete ambition at organisational and programming level. Specific criteria and indicators will be defined for each level of the continuum in a participatory manner.

LEVEL	PRACTICES & APPROACHES
E&CC unaware	Does not explicitly consider environmental, biodiversity and climate change aspects, at institutional or project level. Likely to cause unnecessary emission of GHG, potentially reinforcing vulnerabilities of socio-ecological systems and environmental degradation.
E&CC aware	Recognizes that environment, biodiversity as well as the climate and related vulnerabilities of ecosystems and social systems, can be impacted by operations, and vice versa, but makes only minor adjustments to address this.
E&CC responsive/ sensitive	Proactively considers environmental, biodiversity and climate change related aspects at institutional and project level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises awareness (internally and publicly) and trains staff. • Makes some adjustments to office management to adapt to climate change and reduce environmental/GHG footprint.¹⁹ • Mainstreams environmental, biodiversity and climate change adaptation and mitigation aspects within PMC. • Designs and implements related pilot projects.
E&CC transformative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively designs and implements approaches, policies, and practices integrating environmental, biodiversity and climate change related aspects at all levels. • Systematically implements office management measures to quantify and reduce the environmental/GHG footprint and adapt to climate change. • Actively engages in related networks, advocacy and policy dialogue at local/national/international level. • Designs and implements specific environmental/biodiversity and climate change adaptation/mitigation related projects (scoring 1ⁱⁱⁱ = significant or 2 = principal in the DAC RIO Marker^{iv} and ADA Cross-cutting development issues).

Table 1: Levels and Practices & Approaches: From unaware to transformative²⁰

ⁱⁱⁱ The objective (climate change mitigation or adaptation) is explicitly stated but it is not the fundamental driver or motivation for undertaking it. Instead, the activity has other prime objectives but it has been formulated to help meet the relevant climate concerns. Climate Change https://www.oecd.org/dac/environment-development/Revised%20climate%20marker%20handbook_FINAL.pdf Biodiversity <https://www.oecd.org/dac/environment-development/Annex%2018.%20Rio%20markers.pdf>

^{iv} The objective (climate change mitigation or adaptation) is explicitly stated as fundamental in the design of, or the motivation for, the activity. Promoting the objective will thus be stated as one of the principal reasons for undertaking it. In other words, the activity would not have been funded (or designed that way) but for that objective.



3. Key Areas

3.1 E&CC Mainstreaming at horizon3000

As an Austrian organisation working in the field of sustainable development, we have multiple and direct insights into the dramatic social and ecological effects of our resource-consuming economy and way of life in an international context. We therefore want to lead the way by acting in a climate and environmentally responsible manner in all aspects of our work, **aiming to become an environmentally and climate change transformative organisation.**

3.1.1 Guiding Principles of Institutional Mainstreaming

- Dedicate resources to the mainstreaming process and involve everybody relevant
- Acquisition of local and organic goods/products and services where ever possible
- Resource conservation
- Reduction of environmental and GHG footprint
- Ethics (social aspects)

3.1.2 Commitments of Institutional Mainstreaming

- Regular provision of **tailored environment, biodiversity and climate change related trainings** for h3 staff (Vienna, RCOs, advisors), including onboarding, to foster environmental and climate change sensitive professional conduct and performance.

- Establishment of **Environmental & Climate Focal Points** in the Head Quarters in Vienna and all RCOs of h3 and assure their collaboration with each other as well as our POs.
- Development & regular update of RCOs annual environmental and climate **action plans and disaster risk management components of their security plans.**
- Systematic implementation of **office management measures** according to our Green Office Guidelines²¹ to quantify and reduce the environmental/GHG footprint of all h3 offices and adapt office infrastructure and workplans to a higher climate variability and possible extreme events (See Annex 6).
- **Finance and Investments** – Collaboration with banks that have ethics and sustainability standards such as the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) or the Guidelines for ethical investment of the Austrian bishop's conference²².
- Making our institutionally measures and our resulting **environmental and climate performance openly available** (annual reports, webpage, Kh3 platform, events and podcasts) to raise awareness and to communicate our commitment to h3 staff, POs and the public and encourage them to support and follow it.
- **Compensation of unavoidable GHG emissions** from air travel, energy consumption, print materials and h3 webpages, as an interim solution, via the Klima-Kollekte²³, transitioning from the current compensation model to financing partner countries emission reduction goals.
- **Interorganisational collaboration & networking** in the climate sector as well as learning from and sharing experiences with our partner community and beyond, continually looking for benchmarks to improve our environmental performance.

3.1.3 E&CC Mainstreaming

horizont3000 offers **support to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups**, such as smallholder farmers, women, children and youth, human rights groups as well as indigenous peoples in countries of the Global South and empowers them to improve their lives in a sustainable way.

This is done in the framework of development cooperation projects and programmes (**Project Support**)^v the placement of experts (**Technical Advisor Programme**) in POs in countries of the Global South as well as through our **Knowledge Management Programme KnowHow3000**^{vi}.

3.1.4 Guiding Principles

To ensure that project and programme interventions are resilient and sustainably support local adaptive capacity in the face of the climate crisis and environmental degradation, the following key principles are cornerstones for all programmes and projects of h3:

- **Ensuring contextualisation, participation and promotion of locally led ecosystem-based solutions:** We support local leadership and bottom-up initiatives that ensure broad participation of different interest groups. We enable grassroots innovation and locally developed and adapted methods that include traditional knowledge and ancestral values. We focus on long term collaborations to identify barriers to and foster meaningful and inclusive participation in community and ecosystem-based climate change adaptation (partly co-benefiting mitigation) instead of expensive and invasive solutions

^v Explore current horizont3000 projects on the online project map (in German).

^{vi} <https://knowhow3000.org/en/>

- **Applying system's thinking and strengthening resilience & sustainability:** Being aware of complex functioning and interaction of ecological, climatic as well as socio-economic systems, we focus on
 - considering and addressing risks associated with the climate crisis, introducing climate protection and adaptation measures as a tool for poverty reduction and sustainable development, paying particular attention to increase the climate change resilience of poor and marginalized populations
 - building on local economic cycles and value chains as well as integrating and promoting ecosystem conservation and restoration through approaches like agroecology and agroforestry, reforestation, integrated soil management, integrated coastal zone management, sustainable waste management, etc.
 - generating and using synergies between climate protection, biodiversity conservation and other environmentally relevant issues
- **Do no harm:** No unintentional negative impacts should occur due to our work. Existing access to and user rights of livelihood resources must be taken into due account, whereby ideally everybody should have equal opportunities.²⁴ A conflict-sensitive approach in programme and project planning and implementation is essential; possibly diverging or incompatible interests must be considered in order to avoid potential conflicts.
 - Additionally, we avoid any negative environmental or climate impact through our work, reduce our GHG footprint, contribute to conserving and restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services, and sustainable management of natural resources, enhancing resilience, conserving threatened species and their habitats, and increasing carbon storage and sequestration. Where appropriate and relevant we **integrate Information Communication Technology (ICT) and digital tools** (adapted to the specific circumstances of the target groups)^{vii} to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.
- **Integrating an intersectional Gender and Human/rights-based approach to contribute to climate justice:** It is important to recognize that the effects of environmental degradation and the climate crisis on women, men, girls and boys from and within diverse backgrounds and age groups differ immensely. Also, their human rights cannot be enjoyed without a safe, clean and healthy environment²⁵. Therefore, we include an intersectional gender approach during development and implementation of climate and environment related actions, integrating the different concerns and potentials of the diverse stakeholders during the different stages of programme development and implementation, ensuring that inequalities will not be perpetuated and that no one is left behind. We respect and consider human rights, in all our projects addressing environmental conservation and the climate crisis²⁶.
- **Engaging in networking and alliance building as well as policy dialogue** at project/programme level to join forces and ensure coherence and complementarity for advocacy to advance environmental and climate action, e.g., changing or enforcing specific legislation in the partner countries of the Global South but also in Austria and the European Union together with other NGOs including from other sectors, civil society platforms, umbrella organisations and universities etc.

3.1.5 Operational Commitments for Implementation

Based on above stated principles h3 plans to take concrete action within the advisor, kh3 and co-financing programmes and projects as follows. Specificities will be defined via action plans for

^{vii} for purposes such as meetings, trainings, conferences, data collection, information sharing, providing agricultural extension services, sharing of market, weather, and climate information.

each region/partner country (see chapter 5) and details might be adjusted according to requirements of the programmatic areas.

In general, h3 supports its POs to progress along the predefined environmental and climate change integration continuum (Chapter 2.3.) towards individually set objectives and aims to supporting projects that are at least environmentally and climate change responsive/sensitive.

I E&C Change Mainstreaming at POs

- **Facilitate tailored E&CC related trainings for POs and other relevant stakeholders** to foster environmental and climate change sensitive professional conduct and performance through our kh3 and TA Programme.
- **Support POs in the development of environmental and climate approaches, policies, plans (including DRR) and practices** as well as the design and implementation of respective assessments and measures to quantify and reduce their environmental/GHG footprint and adapt to climate change via technical expertise or possibly budgetary resources through our kh3 and TA Programme.
- **Development and/or identification of practical tools and methods** (manuals, tool kits) related to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the environment as well as climate change adaptation (and mitigation) through our kh3 and TA Programme.
- **Learning from experience and sharing knowledges (scientific, indigenous and others):** We assist and learn from our POs in identifying and combining traditional and indigenous knowledges and good practices and suitable scientific and technological insights and innovations related to environmental and climate action, learning from failure, adapting good practices from climate homologue areas and share them through our kh3 Programme and platform with the support of the TA Programme.

II E&CC Mainstreaming at Programme and Project Level

Minimum Programming Requirements for all programmes and projects

- **Complying with national environmental laws and regulations, existing local or regional development/environmental/climate policies, strategies and plans, as well as related international strategies and treaties and human rights norms and standards (see Annex 3):** We and all our POs commit to conforming to environmental and climate laws, regulations, standards, related development strategies and plans and additional requirements such as specific permits to implement our projects and programmes. Special attention is given to the right to land and responsible governance of tenure²⁷, given the strong connection between land and human rights and the importance of land rights in addressing social and economic inequalities as well as ensuring environmental protection and climate change adaptation.
- **Avoid, reduce and compensate unavoidable GHG emissions in particular from mobility in all projects**^{viii} by considering low emission mobility alternatives within projects (land instead of air travel), optimizing travel efficiency (frequency, persons), budgeting respective measures and compensation costs during the planning phase, monitoring and documenting them (mileage logbooks and air travel itineraries) during project implementation.

^{viii} Still depending on the donor, EU, ADA (TA programme and Framework Programme starting 2023) BMK funded projects recognize the costs for compensation GHG emissions.

- **Mainstream E&C action into PCM of all projects/programmes (RD-MNR and HR-CS):**
 - **Conduct an environmental, climate, gender and social risk screening^{ix}** ensuring the programme/project has no potential negative impacts.
 - **Identify risks to the projects/programmes** or its sustainability resulting from environmental degradation and climate change impacts.
 - Include relevant **environmental and climate risk and vulnerability aspects within the gender sensitive baseline studies.**
 - **Develop and integrate appropriate indicators** (see Annex 6.) as well as budgetary elements necessary to protect and conserve biodiversity and natural habitats, manage and restore ecosystems and promote adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.
 - **Environmentally friendly project implementation:** Apply appropriate “green office” measures (see chapter 3.1.2. and Annex 5. for inspiration) during project implementation.
 - **Monitor the respective indicators and evaluate taken environmental and climate action** as part of the h3 MEAL activities (see h3 MEAL Policy) assuring documentation of learning from good practices and failure within the kh3 Programme.

Specific Focus – Additional Environmental and Climate Action in specific environmental/biodiversity and climate change adaptation/mitigation related projects

- **Foster acquisition of climate finance** within the h3 partner community, participatory developing high-quality proposals based on lessons learned from previous examples supported by our TA Programme.
- **Consult and respond to environmental and climate relevant international** (like the SDGs Targets, DAC Rio Markers for biodiversity, climate change adaptation and mitigation, EU Green Deal²⁸) **as well as national and alternative frameworks during the design** of all projects/programmes within the sector DR-MNR, assuring alignment with the main frameworks mentioned in Annex 3. and as well as facilitating appropriate reporting.
- **Conduct a participatory analysis of climate impact and vulnerability as well as environmental assessment combined with a gender analysis where possible** before starting the implementation of all projects/programmes within the sector RD-MNR above 200.000 EUR, including climate trends and projections, gender sensitive identification of risks, impacts on and specific vulnerabilities of target groups, (considering intersecting forms of social-environmental injustices driving vulnerabilities), ecosystems as well as project activities. Specificities of assessments are to be decided depending on the project content and context as well as donor and national requirements. These analyses will be supported through our kh3 and TA programme and should lead on to the participatory planning and implementation of appropriate and feasible adaptation (mitigation) measures to reduce potential risks and vulnerability, build appropriate capacities and strengthen resilience.
- **Integrate emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction (DRR) elements where relevant** (NEXUS humanitarian aid, development and peace) in the context of securing sustainable livelihoods and agricultural production, such as for example risk mapping and planning exercises to support adaptation measures, early warning and

^{ix} Using a questionnaire based on the Environmental, Gender and Social Standards (EGSS) Checklist (ADA)

information sharing mechanisms. Cooperate with and learn from experienced stakeholders in this field.



4. Implementation

To ensure that expected improvements in the quality of work of h3 can be achieved and maintained in the long term, various measures are required in the areas of communication, capacity development and in the further development of the policy.

After the participatory development of this policy, the roll out will be carefully planned. An adequate presentation and communication strategy and -tools will be developed in close collaboration with the communications and knowledge management team.

We consider the **first years of implementation a learning phase**, meaning that the different commitments stated in this policy will be implemented gradually and in close collaboration with our partner community **to leave no one behind**, as well as learn and improve together.

- The policy will be rolled out to all RCOs and programmes starting 2023.
- It will be presented in a simple and practical format to our main stakeholders (MOs, POs as well as main donor agencies) and published on our website www.horizont3000.at (in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese).
- Each region/country's specific needs for action to implement the policy as well as specific targets will be defined during roll out and anchored in the corresponding regional and country action plans.
- **Formats and Tools** for the implementation of the policy during daily business will be developed and tested.
- **Criteria** for the different levels of the **environmental and climate integration continuum** will be developed in a participatory way (including the Sounding Board) for POs to self-assess and set their individual goals.
- The need for **further training** will be addressed systematically, (Vienna Head Office, RCOs, advisors, and POs) to enable both h3 and POs to advance in complying with the quality standards formulated in this policy, aiming at maximum synergy with existing

instruments and formats for institutional capacity development (especially from the kh3 programme).

- **Regional/National Climate Focal points** will be installed, starting in East Africa and Central America as pilots, to support the implementation of this policy and our POs in their institutional development, mainstreaming environmental and climate action in their projects and at an institutional level as well as accessing climate finance.

4.1 Roles and Responsibilities

General assembly and **Board of h3** in approving this policy, sets the standards by which all h3 employees embody and promote its principles and commitments within the organisation.

The **management team** of h3, ensures cohesion and integration of environmental and climate change standards across institutional policies and strategic documents. It guarantees the policies implementation at institutional level and monitors the progress of its operationalization across all departments. This implies securing and allocating the necessary personnel as well as financial resources.

Regional and Country directors are responsible for promoting and implementing the commitments of the policy and allocating the necessary human and financial resources for its implementation. They are expected to align their existing local h3 policies and guidance with it, making the appropriate adaptation to their contexts.

Programme coordinators are responsible for promoting and implementing the commitments of the policy and allocating the necessary human and financial resources for its implementation.

Sector coordinator RD-MNR/E&C Focal Point Vienna: leading the development, monitoring, evaluation and updating of the policy in close collaboration with the head of programmes, team lead kh3 programme, programme coordinators and the RCOs.

E&C Focal Points RCOs: promoting and implementing the commitments of the policy, helping to align existing local h3 policies and guidance, with the appropriate adaptation to their contexts. General support of our local partner communities in mainstreaming environmental and climate action in their projects and at an institutional level as well as accessing climate finance.

Advisors: tailored support our POs in their institutional development, mainstreaming environmental and climate action in projects and at institutional level as well as improve access to climate finance.

Individual Responsibility: All employees are expected to promote and safeguard the principles of environmental and climate action as outlined in this policy in their respective teams and work with partners and stakeholders. Each employee is responsible for reporting any incidents or inconsistencies according to organisational procedures.

4.2 Monitoring & Evaluation

This policy was adopted at the h3 Board on the 24th of march 2022. The quality and effectiveness of the policy as well as its progress of its implementation will be monitored, reviewed and adapted on a regular basis. Additionally, the policy will be evaluated every five years, according to our MEAL Policy.

Since international travel for monitoring visits accounts for the biggest part of our GHG Emissions, monitoring visits have to be carefully planned and coordinated with our MOs and RCOs. The reduction of frequency of in person visits from Europe can be compensated with visits from RCO staff and online tools in many cases.

Regular reports on the implementation of this policy and its implementation tools will be made to the leadership and the h3 General Assembly.

Furthermore, we monitor the carbon footprint of our headquarters in Vienna as well as our RCOs and advisors (where possible) with a CO₂ balance mainly in the fields of mobility (international and national trips of Vienna and RLB Staff as well as advisors), energy consumption (electricity, heating, cooling), event management, webpages and print materials (internal and external services). We strive to reduce our GHG emissions as much as possible and compensate our unavoidable emissions via the Klima-Kollekte (www.klima-kollekte.at). Respective information can be found in our yearly reports.



5. Annex

Annex 1 About us

horizont3000 – Austrian Organization for Development Cooperation was established in 2000 through the merger of three Austrian civil society development cooperation organizations (the first founded in the 1958). In 2020, h3 supported 161 Projects, in 17 partner countries, with a combined budget of EUR 11.5 million (www.horizont3000.at).

h3 is governed by a general assembly and a board formed by its catholic member organizations. The organization has its headquarters in Vienna as well as regional offices in Nicaragua for Central America and Uganda for East Africa, and country offices in Senegal and Mozambique. There are currently about 32 staff employed in the head office and overall, 26 international and local staff working in the country and regional offices. Throughout its existence h3 has been one of the main civil society partners of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). The organization successfully implements grants from the European Commission and has developed strong partnerships with foundations and corporations. h3 projects and programmes are co-financed with contributions from its member organizations.

Annex 2 Our Approach

h3 engages in two main sectors, namely (1) Rural Development and Management of Natural Resources, and (2) Human Rights and Civil Society

In all our projects and programmes **within the sector of Rural Development and Management of Natural Resources**, we consider natural resource and biodiversity conservation and restoration, as essentials for sustainable development and combating the climate crisis. Biodiversity and resilient ecosystems are crucial for human well-being, as they support

livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, enable access to water and health and contribute significantly to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Together with our partner organizations we strengthen local capacities related to the sustainable management of ecosystems and local biodiversity and adapt holistic and integrated management and farming approaches to the different natural landscapes as well as local climate conditions and other specific characteristics of the target regions (social, cultural, political, economic, etc.). We strive to contribute to (1) the sustainable use and collaborative management of ecosystems, (2) the promotion of renewable energy, (3) climate and environmental literacy, (4) climate change adaptation and mitigation, (5) food security and sovereignty via sustainable farming, (6) the promotion of income generation and sustainable livelihoods for small-scale farmers, pastoralists and fishermen/women. We focus on projects and programmes that promote participatory and self-sustaining methods and approaches.

Within the sector of **Human Rights and Civil Society**, h3, together with its POs, strives to contribute to (1) the empowerment and participation of women, children and young persons, the disadvantaged and marginalized rural population and indigenous people, (2) the protection and compliance of human rights in particular women's, youth and children's rights as well as land rights, (3) the improvement of the legal basis and budgetary means for the concerns of the target groups and (4) the networking and sustainable strengthening of capacities of our Partner Organisations.

Measures to strengthen **Gender Equality and Women's Rights are integrated** in all h3 projects and programmes.

Annex 3 Main Frameworks

The E&C policy aims to ensure that h3 and its work are aligned with and supports essential international agreements, frameworks, strategies and treaties regarding the E&CC such as:

- The **United Nation Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC 1992),
- UNFCCC **Gender Action Plan**, Lima Work Programme on gender²⁹
- the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, which entered into force in 1993³⁰,
- the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**, established in 1993, representing the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management,³¹
- the **Basel Convention** to control transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal, the **Rotterdam Convention** on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the **Stockholm Convention** to Protect Human Health and the Environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants,³²
- the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, adopted in 2015, with a special focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 (Zero Hunger), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and clean Energy), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life below Water) and 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality),³³
- the **2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change (UNFCCC, COP21)**, with its goal to "limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels"³⁴,
- the **European Consensus on Development**, adopted in 2017, which integrates the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development³⁵,
- the **European Green Deal** presented in 2019, a roadmap with the goal to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, covering all sectors of the economy, notably

transport, energy, agriculture, buildings, and industries such as steel, cement, ICT, textiles and chemicals³⁶.

- United Nations Declaration on the **Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP)**, adopted by the Human Rights Council in 2018³⁷ recognizing the special relationship and interaction among peasants and other groups working in rural areas and their contribution to conserving and improving biodiversity as well as their own and world-wide food security, while promoting women's and indigenous people's rights.
- **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**³⁸

and respective frameworks at national level such as **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)** under the UNFCCC and **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** to the Paris Agreement, national Biodiversity Strategies as well as other relevant development policies.

In addition, it aims to contribute to the **European Union (EU) Gender Action Plan (GAP) III**, 2021-2025, specifically to the overall objective regarding E&C, which aims at "Women in all their diversity influence decision-making processes on environmental conservation and climate change policies and actions"³⁹.

The policy aims to comply with principles and standards promoted by the **Austrian Development Agency (ADA)** through the inter-ministerial OEZA/ADC **Strategy on Environment, Climate and Development**⁴⁰, the **ADA focus paper on climate change**⁴¹ and the **Environmental, Gender and Social Impact Management (EGSIM) Manual**⁴².

Furthermore, the policy finds common ground with **Laudato si'** (*Praise Be to You, 2015*), the second encyclical of Pope Francis "on the care for our common home"⁴³.

Finally, the policy is also inspired by alternative concepts and movements from the global south and north like the **Buen Vivir, Ubuntu, Degrowth**⁴⁴, **Transition Town**⁴⁵.

Annex 4 Good Practices

For more than a decade h3 has been working on creating capacities related to climate change adaptation, mitigation, and environmental conservation in-house as well as in collaboration with POs, particularly in Central America, Senegal, but also East Africa.

Agroecology has become the main development approach we promote together with our POs to help small scale farmers to adapt context-oriented to the increased climate variability. Agroecology, according to CIDSE is "a set of principles and practices that enhances the resilience and sustainability of food and farming systems while preserving social integrity"⁴⁶. There is substantial evidence for the contribution of agroecological practices and systems (e.g., farm diversification, agroforestry and organic agriculture) on climate change adaptation as well as for enhanced carbon sequestration in soil and biomass, in particular for agroforestry. Furthermore, farmer co-creation, sharing and engaging with local knowledge through participatory approaches are effective at adapting technologies to local contexts and thereby delivering improved climate change adaptation and mitigation⁴⁷. A recent study by FAO, revealed the strong correlation between the concept of resilience and agroecology, highlighting three cornerstone aspects of agroecology's resilience-enhancing potential: diversity of species, landscapes, practice and economic income; fostering healthy and fertile soils and blend local with scientific knowledge.

In **Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador**, numerous projects have been integrating and promoting agroecology to raise resilience of small holder agriculture for the last 10 years⁴⁸ focusing on the integral management of water through the conservation of watersheds, rainwater harvesting and storage, waste water treatment and reutilization, integral soil and pest management and soil restoration, the recovery, improvement and reproduction of native and climate homologue seeds, diversification of production, as well as recognition and promotion of traditional/ancestral knowledge.

In **El Salvador** FUNDESYRAM is promoting agroecology as a holistic and systemic development approach in the Apaneca - Ilamatepec Biosphere Reserve, stronghold of the original Nahuat Pipil people, main producer of water in the western region, and an important source of income from ecotourism and shaded coffee production.

In **Senegal** a project in Nioko du Rip (region Kaolack) has been implemented for 2 years now, improving the capacities of family farmers/smallholders in the application of agroecological techniques and practices that were tested with them through participatory action research. In **Ethiopia** one project in the Arssi highlands is enabling smallholder farmers to apply climate resilient agriculture through promotion of soil conservation, tree planting and organic fertilizers.

One of the flagship approaches at h3 for more than a decade has been the Enabling Rural Innovation (ERI) Approach⁴⁹, mainly applied in projects and programmes in **East Africa**. ERI empowers farmers and their organisations to engage successfully in market-oriented environmentally friendly agriculture for income and food and nutrition security. Farmer's capacities are strengthened to apply climate resilient agriculture including irrigation technologies for off-season production and management practices to increase forest/vegetation cover.

An important field is the work related to support capacity development, governance, and the implementation of concrete actions around **collaborative ecosystem management and community- and ecosystem-based climate change adaptation and mitigation**. On the Caribbean Coast of **Nicaragua** horizont3000 and our local partners, the universities URACCAN and BICU amongst others, have been promoting local indigenous and afro-descendant governance for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and management of natural resources through participatory strategies for restoration and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems for more than 10 years. Other projects in **Nicaragua** promote local adaptation actions to face the threats of the climate crisis, as well as concrete mitigation measures in particular the conservation of carbon sinks like wetlands and forests.

Another important focus in the face of the climate crisis in **Central America** became disaster risk preparedness, supporting local and regional planning and capacity development processes, as well as the equipment of local disaster risk committees. The Climate Change Alliance of the Southern Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua (ACCSACC) was created in 2014 by civil society organisations and local universities supported by h3 to coordinate efforts, advise local authorities and give voice of affected coastal peoples at national and Central American levels (Nicaragua and Central America vulnerable to Climate Change - united for life⁵⁰).

In **Senegal** natural resource management, conservation and reforestation based on local governance mechanisms as well as the promotion of energy efficient cookstoves have been integrated for many years in the country programme strategy and individual projects. Since 2017 h3 POs, have established a Climate Change Platform with local sub-groups for the exchange and mutual reinforcement between stakeholders regarding the strategies and means to support the adaptation of rural population in Senegal.

In **Brazil and Guatemala**, h3 focuses on securing Indigenous land rights, which are closely related to the protection and responsible use of natural resources. Together with our POs, we monitor and uncover human rights violations and provide legal support to affected families and communities. Furthermore, we support our POs to lobby at all political levels for the implementation of the constitutional rights of Indigenous and other marginalised groups.

In addition, h3 has become a shareholder in the Klima-Kollekte (www.klima-kollekte.de), Germany, an ecumenical CO₂ compensation platform in October 2018. 2019, together with Diakonie Austria, the coordinating office of the Austrian Bishops' Conference for Development and Mission (KOO) and the Evangelical Churches A. and H.B., the Klima-Kollekte Austria (www.klima-kollekte.at) was founded to promote the prevention, reduction and compensation of GHG emissions. h3 currently implements its first compensation project for the Klima-Kollekte in Uganda (developed according to the Gold Standard for the global goals⁵¹), which aims at the conversion from traditional cook stoves with the primary use of wood to energy efficient cook stoves in the Masaka diocese⁵², contributing to the SDGs 3,8,13,17 and supporting the PO in building a social enterprise.

Annex 5 Institutional Commitments

Headquarters Vienna

Since 2019 we are implementing our Green Office Guidelines⁵³, striving in our office management and to reduce our carbon footprint by focusing where ever possible on:

- Use of Energy from renewable sources and providers that are actively promoting the energy transition⁵⁴.
- Responsible Acquisition – We focus on ethically produced, organic and regional goods and services in our procurement and favour/use environmentally friendly and healthy goods and services. We try wherever possible to use repaired and refurbished office furniture and electronic devices like Laptops for our staff.
- Efficient use of materials and resources in our premises including water, energy, printing (recycling paper, double-sided printing, refillable ink cartridges) and others, particularly those that are non-renewable.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle solid waste.
- Responsible Mobility – Use of public and ground transport, reduction of air travel, efficient planning of field missions (e.g., reduction of physical monitoring visits from Austria, improved coordination with our RCOs and MOs).
- Events and Meetings – Organic/regional/vegetarian/fair trade catering, reusable dishes, accommodations with eco standards, use of virtual communication technologies whenever possible and appropriate to reduce associated travel, without sacrificing personal acquaintance and informal exchange.
- Finance and Investments – Collaboration with banks that have ethics and sustainability standards such as the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI).
- Comply with relevant national and international environmental legislation and standards.
- Compensation of unavoidable GHG emissions from air travel, energy consumption and print materials in the head office and h3 webpages, as a transitional solution, via the Klima-Kollekte.

Regional and Country Offices (RCO)

In our RCOs we set yearly emphasis on specific areas of office management like resource efficiency, energy consumption, waste management, mobility, disaster risk management, according to the local and regional possibilities.

All our RCOs have and regularly update their security and disaster risk management protocols coordinated with local authorities and support local disaster risk prevention activities, emergency response and recuperation in case of natural disasters through our projects and programmes as well as additionally.

Specific measures:

- advisors receive an introduction to our Environmental and Climate Policy and are encouraged to sensitise their partner organisations around the topic
- Promote rain water harvesting and storage facilities for RCOs where possible
- Equip RCOs with photovoltaic systems
- Responsible use of air condition (ventilate offices in the mornings, use curtains for shade, limit the use of AC to afternoon hours)
- Plant trees, herbs, vegetables in the garden to supplement lunches and promote a cooler microclimate

- Combination (Technical, financial and TAP), and reduction of physical monitoring visits; Travel by car instead of airplane, where ever possible and safe
- Assess climate risks and vulnerabilities of office infrastructure
- Design, plan and implement relevant adaptation measures for office infrastructure

Annex 6 Indicators (Proposal)

These indicators are proposals that have been discussed during the regional Workshops in Fall 2021. They will be further discussed and included in the regional/country action plans, that are developed during the implementation of the policy. Individual target values will be defined for each region/country.

Indicators E&CC Mainstreaming at h3

- All h3 staff (Head Quarters, RCOs, advisors) are regularly trained on in environmental, biodiversity and climate change related topics including onboarding until 20XX, supported through advisors and kh3 Programme (SDG 13, Target 13.3.).
- Climate/Environmental Focal Points installed in Head Quarters and all RCOs of h3 until 20XX.
- All h3 offices systematically implement office management measures to quantify and reduce the environmental/GHG footprint and adapt to climate change until 20XX (SDG 12, Target 12.6.)
- Climate neutral operations in the h3 headquarters in Vienna until 2025. And XX% reduction in GHG emissions until 20XX and climate neutral operations in all our RCOs until 20XX.

Indicators E&CC Mainstreaming in POs

- Staff of # POs with in the sectors RD-MNR and HR-CS are regularly trained on in environmental and climate change related topics concerning their work until 20XX, supported through advisors and kh3 Programme (SDG 13, Target 13.3.).
- At least # of POs with in the sectors RD-MNR and HR-CS make adaptations to their office management to adapt to climate change and reduce their environmental/carbon footprint until 20XX (SDG 12, Target 12.6.).
- At least # of POs, but all POs of h3 that collaborate within the Sector RD-MNR, have elaborated and are implementing approaches, policies, and practices mainstreaming environmental and climate change aspects in their work until 20XX, supported through the TA & kh3 Programme.
- At least # of POs within the sectors RD-MNR and HR-CS are active in environmental and climate change related networks and advocacyⁱ at local/national/international level by 20XX.
- # of POs accessing climate finance through h3 support has risen by XX% until 20XX.

Indicators E&CC Mainstreaming at Programme and Project level

- Environmental & climate action are mainstreamed into PCM of all projects/programmes supported by h3 according to the Operational Commitments for Project and Programme Implementation stated in this policy by 20XX.
- XX% of project funds within the framework of development cooperation projects and programmes (Project Support) and the TAP are used to implement specific environmental/biodiversity and climate change adaptation (mitigation) related projects (DAC Rio Marker & ADA Cross-cutting development issues / 1= significant or 2=principal) by 20XX.

- XX% of project funds within the framework of kh3 are used for environmental/biodiversity and climate change adaptation(mitigation) related topics by 20XX.

Annex 7 Glossary

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: There are two main ways of responding to climate change: adaptation and mitigation. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines mitigation as “an anthropogenic intervention that is limiting or preventing greenhouse gas emissions and by enhancing activities that remove these gases from the atmosphere”⁵⁵. Adaptation, the IPCC has said, is the “adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities” (IPCC, 2007).

Ecosystem based approaches: Ecosystem-based approaches in adaptation ore mitigation of climate change use biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall strategy to remove GHG from the atmosphere and enhance carbon sinks as well as help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. Ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation for example use a range of opportunities for the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to provide services that enable people to adapt to the impacts of climate change. (CBD AdHoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change).

Climate Change Impacts are consequences of climate change on natural and human systems. The character and magnitude of an impact is determined by the exposure and the sensitivity of the system. Biophysical impacts refer to the biophysical parts of a system and often directly result from climate change factors, e.g., damaged infrastructure due to flooding or erosion of shorelines due to storm surge. Socio-economic impacts (for the bigger part) follow biophysical impacts and affect socio-economic development, e.g., reduced access to services due to damaged infrastructure or losses in tourism revenues due to shoreline erosion.

Loss & Damage: Loss and damage refers to negative effects of climate change that people have not been able to cope with or adapt to⁵⁶, which means climate impacts exceeding the adaptive capacity of countries, communities and ecosystems. Even through there are no reparation payments planned for affected countries yet, loss and damage are included in the Paris Agreement (Article 8) and since 2013 the UNFCCC established the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage⁵⁷.

Risk: The potential for adverse consequences for human and ecological systems. In the context of climate change, risks can arise from potential impacts of climate change as well as human responses to climate change. Relevant adverse consequences include those on lives, livelihoods, health and wellbeing, economic, social and cultural assets and investments, infrastructure, services (including ecosystem services), ecosystems and species⁵⁸.

Resilience: The ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organization and the capacity to adapt to stress and change (IPCC 2001). It is important to consider the multidimensional character of resilience influenced by social, political, cultural, natural, economic factors.

Vulnerability: Vulnerability is the degree to which a system is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, adverse effects e.g., social/political conflicts, pandemics, economic crises and climate change. Vulnerability is a function of exposure to stresses, sensitivity and adaptive capacity. Vulnerability increases as the magnitude of exposure or sensitivity increases, and decreases as adaptive capacity increases.

Annex 8 Photo descriptions

Cover: Visit of our PO CAREM at a vegetable garden of a women's group in Fimela, Senegal (Photo: Jasmin Thomas, 2016)

Introduction: Mural made by members of the environmental board of Santa Fe de Antioquia, Colombia saying "Barrio la Baranca united for the care of its natural heritage" (Photo: Kristina Kroyer, 2021)

E&C Policy: Bena Namayanja with her new efficient cookstove installed by Caritas MADDO in Ssaza, Masaka, Uganda (Photo: Martina Luger, 2021)

Key Areas: Women showing their new solar pump for the irrigation of their vegetable garden installed by Caritas Kaolack in Saloum Diane, Senegal (Photo: Jasmin Thomas, 2017)

Implementation: Pregnant women that walk several kilometres from their communities in Barada Mission (Búzi District) to be at the maternity waiting home (and have a safe birth). In the picture they are collecting water for their nightly routines (cooking, hygiene, drinking, clean ups, ...), Mozambique (Photo: Trevor DeJongh, 2022)

Annex: Students of the University BICU participating in mangrove reforestation on the Southern Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua (Photo: Martina Luger, 2013)

Annex 9 References

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