

# Cowater International

## Environment and Climate Change Policy

Cowater International is conscious of its social responsibilities with regards to effective stewardship of the environment. Our commitment to adopt best practices throughout our operations and practices is outlined in this Environment and Climate Change Policy.

### Policy Statement

***Our vision is to become recognized as a leader in environmental stewardship and in our approach to climate change through both our corporate operations, and in the services offered to our clients.***

Cowater International recognizes the risks that climate change poses to our efforts to support a better tomorrow for people and economies. We acknowledge two related facts: firstly, that climate change is a present and ongoing challenge to sustainable development; and secondly, that the development sector both contributes to building environmental sustainability and climate resilience, but also includes a high carbon cost in its operations.

Our emphasis is to support the shift towards a low-carbon economy through environmentally smart corporate operations and projects that help protect natural resources and deliver additional environmental benefits while also supporting employment and responsible growth.

We are committed to fostering a culture of environmental responsibility within our company to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and environmental impact over time; to ensure 100% compliance with donor requirements and local environmental laws in the countries where we operate; and to encourage continuous improvement both within the company, throughout our supply chain, and with our clients.

### Guiding Organizational Commitments

We will contribute to long-term sustainability and effective stewardship of the environment through the following commitments:

- **Reduce our carbon emissions** over time through a combination of reduction of our GHG emissions and carbon offsets.
- **Comply** with international best practices, donor requirements, country laws and policies, as well as our own environmental principles.
- **Educate and raise awareness** around environmental stewardship of Cowater International staff, suppliers, customers and in the communities where we operate.
- **Manage risks and monitor impact:** Identify and mitigate environmental risks, both corporately and on a project basis; and monitor impact of our environmental actions.
- **Disclose and communicate** our environmental goals and progress to all relevant

stakeholders and throughout our supply chain.

## Guiding Programme Commitments

We will ensure that all projects have integrated best environmental practices to the extent feasible and appropriate to the project scope. We will deliver on this commitment by applying the following:

- **Plan:** Engage early with communities, governments, and local stakeholders to increase our understanding of the local context and potential ways to generate environmental benefits; and enable proper mainstreaming of important environmental considerations and principles into strategy design as well as programme and project implementation.
- **Deliver:** Provide technical support and capacity building within the Cowater International team, to partners and relevant stakeholders, to promote environmental stewardship, support environmental protection and improvement, and ultimately ensure environmentally smart delivery.
- **Monitor, learn and adapt:** Routinely monitor progress against environmental indicators, improve where necessary, and share learnings and best practice widely.