



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

ETC Foundation

ETC	Management
Date	16 July 2014
Electronic file name	ETC Environmental Policy

For Approval:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J.H.J. Dusseljee', is written over a horizontal line.

J.H.J. Dusseljee
Director ETC Foundation

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1 INTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Realising that the world's natural resources are limited and fragile, ETC considers environmental protection as consistent with its overall goals and values and an important consideration in its overall activities.

ETC is committed to continuous improvement in its environmental protection activities, to reducing the harmful environmental effects of production and to mitigating the harmful effects of its operations on natural resources. This commitment to environmental protection is reflected in ETC's policies, programmes and practices for conducting operations in an environmentally, economically and socially responsible manner. In this respect, ETC applies its environmental policy by:

- Complying with environmental legislation and other requirements, such as approved codes of practice;
- Implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation projects/programmes as part of its programme of work;
- Minimise the environmental risks in the communities where projects and programmes are implemented;
- Minimising the organisation's impact on the environment and reducing pollution and waste by:
 - adopting energy and water efficiency measures, e.g. switching off lights, using compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) where possible, reducing the use of water, switching off computers and other machines when not in use or using standby and energy saving modes for equipment, etc.
 - reducing and where possible eliminating waste through recycling and efficient handling and by disposing of all waste through safe and responsible methods such as donation of old computers and cell phones to southern partners for re-use;
 - printing information only when essential and adopting efficient copying/printing techniques (e.g. double-sided printing);
- Promoting employee awareness of environmental concerns, actions and responsibilities;
- Promoting the adoption of environmental protection goals and practices by subcontractors;
- Reducing employees' carbon footprints by including the option of working from home one day a week and by fully reimbursing travel expenses for those travelling by public transportation;
- Updating this environmental policy through an annual review of the organisation's code of conduct and practices. For example, ETC is consulting with its travel agent to introduce a procedure to offset the CO₂ emissions for all its business air travel, such as through investments in sustainable energy projects in developing countries.

2 EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

- Within the context of ETC programme work, environmental assessments have been conducted and the results integrated into both the design and the results framework of the energy,

sustainable agriculture and climate change adaption development interventions. Climate change has emerged as a serious global challenge, with energy generation and use being the principal contributor. With agriculture, forest systems and wastelands facing increasing pressures from changing climates, women in communities who get their energy supplies directly from the ecosystem are increasingly vulnerable to energy scarcities.

- In general, the development interventions managed by ETC will reduce negative environmental and health effects by:
 - reducing the use of primitive cooking facilities with associated health benefits and reduced emissions;
 - reducing firewood use which will protect forests and reduce the loss of biodiversity;
 - increasing the use of renewable energy for lighting which will improve health and safety, and provide access to more affordable energy services for women and the poor.