

A young girl with dark skin and short hair is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. She is wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt with a patterned collar and a red and white polka-dot skirt. She is holding a green corn cob with both hands, presenting it towards the camera. The background is a lush green cornfield under bright sunlight.

# **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action**

## **Strategic Roadmap 2024-2027 for a Thriving Environment for Children**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document was developed by World Vision, with contributions from the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action (ESCA) working group members.

We would also like to acknowledge generous contributions made by our collaborators Iyad Abu Moghli and Azmaira Alibhai from the United Nations Environment Programme, Knud Falk from the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, and Charlotte Sterrett from WWF-Australia for reviewing the document.

World Vision is a Christian relief, development, and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

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# 1. OVERVIEW

## 1.1. Introduction

World Vision is a global Christian humanitarian, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. As stewards of God's creation, we care for the earth and act in ways that will restore and protect the environment to help ensure children enjoy life in all its fullness.

World Vision's first partnership-wide **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action (ESCA) Strategic Roadmap is an initial three-year commitment** (FY2025–2027) to achieve our long-term goals by 2030. At its heart, **this roadmap is about a faith-based approach to protecting children's rights in a changing climate** – a collective endeavour with partners working towards a common goal.

To achieve this, it will take a whole-of-organisation approach, incorporating operational, programmatic and advocacy responses. This ESCA Strategic Roadmap will go beyond business-as-usual; it will be bold in its ambition because children are asking us to act now on the climate crisis.

## 1.2. Climate change is creating a crisis for children








Across the globe, children are experiencing multiple climate change threats – whether they live in urban or rural environments – including greater risk of infectious disease, undernutrition due to climate impacts on agri-food systems, air and water pollution, and extreme weather events,<sup>i</sup> all of which are projected to increase with further global warming.<sup>ii</sup> Climate change also poses a threat to further biodiversity loss, which is already under severe pressure from land clearing for food production.<sup>iii</sup>

Climate change amplifies existing social and economic inequalities, particularly for the most vulnerable communities. Children, women and people with disabilities in low-income households disproportionately experience food insecurity, malnutrition, livelihood loss, water scarcity, and rising food costs due to climate change.

The more than 1 billion people living in urban informal settlements are also at high risk of the impacts of climate change. This exposure to risk is exacerbated by overcrowded living conditions, lack of adequate infrastructure and services, unsafe housing, inadequate nutrition, and poor health.<sup>iv</sup>



Underpinning the response to the climate crisis are several key international frameworks, policy instruments and strategies which are inextricably linked and fundamental to tackling the climate crisis and ensuring children's rights to a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment and future.

<p><b>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)</b></p> 	<p>General Comment 26 recognises that children have a right to a healthy environment in the context of climate change, which is undermining the full and effective enjoyment of their rights, as outlined in this convention.</p>
<p><b>UN Framework Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement on Climate Change</b></p>  <p><b>United Nations</b> Framework Convention on Climate Change</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement, an agreement of the UNFCCC, covers climate change mitigation, adaptation and finance aimed at strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping global temperature rise this century well below 2°C and as close to 1.5°C as possible above pre-industrial levels.</p>
<p><b>UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b></p> 	<p>Action to combat climate change is a specific priority in the SDGs, including SDG13: Climate action and SDG15: Restoring degraded land, and is intrinsically linked to the achievement of all 17 goals.</p>
<p><b>UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction</b></p>  <p><b>SENDAI FRAMEWORK</b> FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030</p>	<p>The Sendai Framework provides a roadmap to make communities safer and more resilient to disaster with the aim of reducing disaster risks and loss of lives, livelihoods and health.</p>
<p><b>UN Convention of Biodiversity</b></p>  <p><b>Convention on Biological Diversity</b></p>	<p>The UN Convention of Biodiversity supports the achievement of the SDGs and sets out an ambitious pathway to live in harmony with nature by 2050.</p>
<p><b>UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)</b></p>  <p><b>United Nations</b> Convention to Combat Desertification</p>	<p>The UNCCD aims to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.</p>
<p><b>UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030</b></p>  <p><b>UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION</b> 2021-2030</p>	<p>A strategy to accelerate existing global restoration goals, such as the Bonn Challenge, which aims to restore 350 million hectares of degraded ecosystems by 2030.</p>

### 1.3. How World Vision is responding to the environmental and climate crisis

World Vision has a long history of implementing programmes that address the impacts and causes of climate change while delivering positive outcomes for children living in vulnerable communities. We also recognise that to effectively address the climate crisis, we must take concurrent actions to end extreme poverty and inequality, support at-risk communities to build resilience, and reduce global climate and environmental impact to create a climate-safe future.

World Vision is currently working in eight technical areas addressing climate change – **conserving, protecting and restoring natural ecosystems** – which are implemented as part of broader programmes across different sectors such as Child Protection; Education; Livelihoods; Health and Nutrition; and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

In FY21-22 alone, World Vision implemented more than 1,100 projects addressing ESCA in 47 countries as listed in Table 1.<sup>v</sup>

**Table 1. ESCA programmes contributing to child well-being**

	<b>Climate empowerment/ environmental education</b> 670 projects 3.8 million participants 34 countries		<b>Climate-smart agriculture</b> 630 projects 3.3 million participants 33 countries
	<b>Natural resource management</b> 370 projects 2.3 million participants 24 countries		<b>Disaster risk management</b> 210 projects 1.1 million participants 15 countries
	<b>Agroforestry including Regreening Communities and FMNR</b> 100 projects 0.9 million participants 27 countries		<b>Waste management</b> 260 projects 2.4 million participants 19 countries
	<b>Integrated water resource management</b> 30 projects 0.3 million participants 7 countries		<b>Renewable and energy efficient technologies</b> 6 projects 0.5 million participants 3 countries

## 2. OUR FOCUS AREAS FOR A THRIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN

### 2.1. ESCA Strategic Roadmap Framework

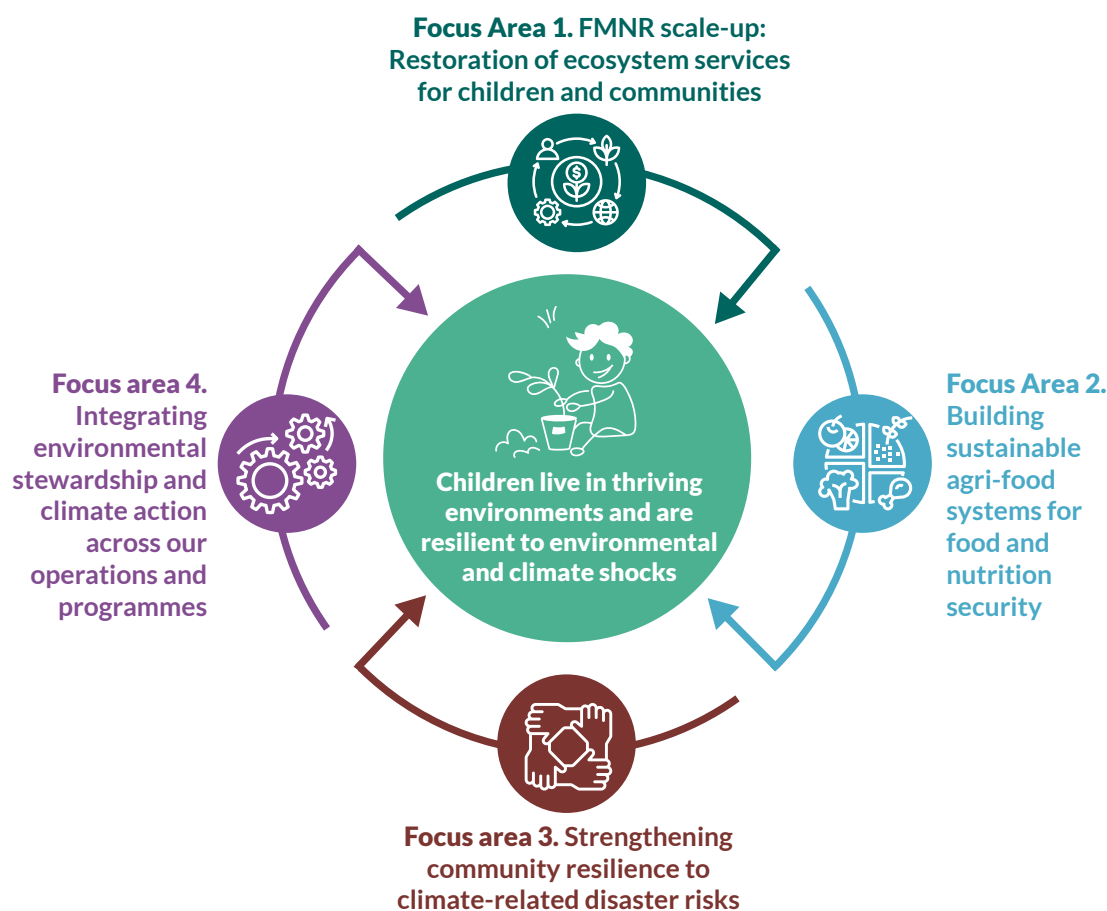
Through the ESCA Strategic Roadmap, our aim is to reach **20 million people (10 million children) by 2030**, so that children and their caregivers can live in a **thriving environment** with **improved resilience** against environmental and climate shocks.

This goal will be delivered through the ESCA Strategic Roadmap Framework, which is a holistic systems approach to addressing risks from climate change, environmental degradation, and unsustainable farming practices in both rural and urban communities.

The core of the framework includes the four focus areas.

The four focus areas have been developed in alignment with the World Vision Partnership's global strategy, [Our Promise](#), and in particular, our 1-billion-hectare restoration ambition through the FMNR scale-up. The focus areas are based on our experience in delivering climate mitigation and adaptation outcomes for children and their communities, our commitment to integrate ESCA across all our programmes and operations, and children's urgent call for climate justice and the [ENOUGH](#) campaign.

**Figure 1. ESCA Roadmap Framework and the four focus areas**



Local to global advocacy by empowering children in climate action

## 2.2. ESCA focus areas



### Focus area 1: FMNR scale-up: Restoration of ecosystem services for children and communities

#### Rationale

Environmental degradation, climate change, and unsustainable land and sea management practices have left children and their communities with a depleted natural resource base and increasing risk in the face of future disasters. Vulnerable communities face severe food insecurity, poverty, and are more susceptible to climate-related shocks and disasters. Social instability in the form of conflict, migration and social inequality is increasingly common, due in part to the ever-decreasing natural resource base. Conserving and restoring ecosystem services is critical to address the root causes and drivers of child vulnerability. This focus area will contribute to the 1-billion-hectare restoration movement through World Vision's **Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)** scale-up initiative.

#### Our targets and indicators

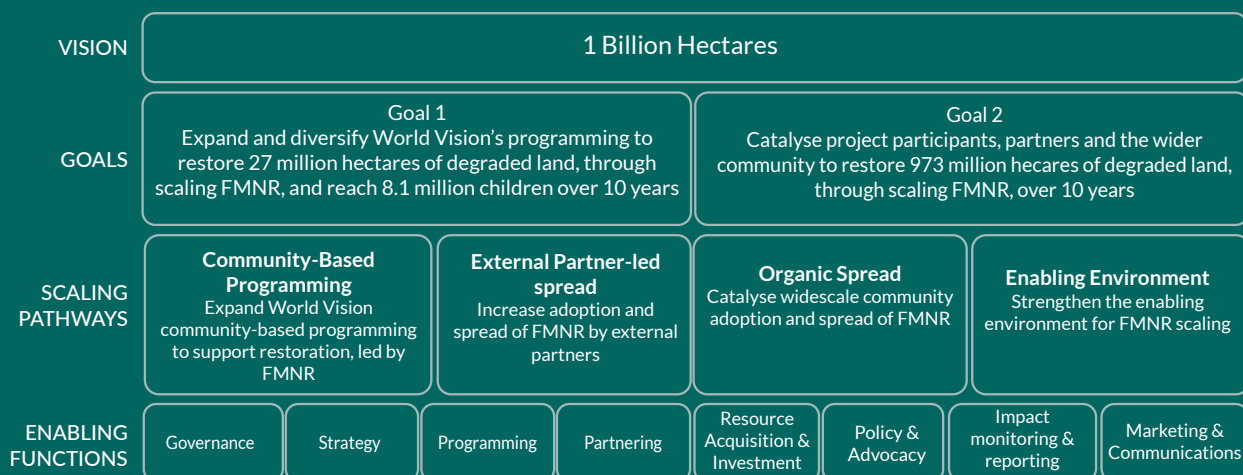
- 27 million hectares of degraded land will be protected and/or under restoration by 2033
- Invest US\$1.8 billion in FMNR scaling and greening programmes
- Number of children empowered through environmental and climate awareness sessions
- Number of green technology units (clean energy and solar energy) deployed

#### How do we achieve this goal?

World Vision will collaborate with communities to actively conserve and restore their land- and seascape to ensure a more climate-resilient and sustainable natural resource base for children and future generations to come. This will be achieved through **nature-based solutions** such as the FMNR practice and the **Regreening Communities** project model.

### 1-billion-hectare restoration goal through FMNR scale-up

As a global partnership, World Vision will lead a bold vision to restore 1 billion hectares of degraded land led by scaling FMNR for the benefit of children and future generations to come. FMNR has been introduced into 29 countries, and we have started to rapidly scale up by focusing on the catalytic countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia, as well as the Central American Dry Corridor. Four scaling pathways – (1) Direct programming, (2) Partner-led spread, (3) Organic spread and (4) Enabling environment – will unlock the potential of FMNR in a range of contexts to take roots in the hearts and minds of individual farmers and communities.





We will also promote the use of **green technologies such as solar energy and clean cookstoves** to protect ecosystems, as these approaches provide both mitigation (e.g., CO<sub>2</sub> removals) and adaptation (e.g., flood protection) benefits for the communities in both urban and rural areas.

As children are critical agents of change, we will empower them and their communities to undertake climate action through environmental and climate education using **Citizen Voice and Action (CVA)** as well as through school- and community-based environment and climate change awareness-raising sessions. School-based FMNR eco-clubs are also being piloted.

### Partnering for greater impact

World Vision is a supporting partner for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030). We collaborate closely with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)<sup>vi</sup> Faith for Earth coalition, as faith-based organisations have a critical role to play. This effort mobilises national and local governments, civil society, the private sector, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for the protection and recovery of ecosystems across all regions to improve environmental outcomes, human well-being, and livelihoods. Because we are committed to collective learning, online training modules for FMNR and Regreening Communities are available for both World Vision staff and partner organisations.

### Relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



### SPOTLIGHT: Regreening Africa

The Regreening Africa Project funded by the European Union is co-led by the Centre for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) with several partners, including World Vision, and is expected to bring 5 million hectares under restoration by 2030, boosting biodiversity and supporting local communities. The first phase of Regreening Africa was carried out from September 2017 to March 2023 across eight countries in sub-Saharan Africa. World Vision led the implementation of Regreening Africa in Kenya, Rwanda, Somaliland, Senegal, Ghana, and Niger, and supported implementation in Ethiopia and Mali.

The initiative has already led to the regreening of over 350,000 hectares across the eight countries, reaching more than 607,000 households through training and tree growing efforts such as FMNR, adopting new regreening practices or intensifying existing ones. Climate benefits from these efforts include sequestering carbon and making the landscape more resilient to droughts and flooding. The success of this project has led to it being recognised as one of the seven UN World Restoration Flagships.



## Focus area 2: Building sustainable agri-food systems for food and nutrition security

### Rationale

The world is facing the worst hunger crisis ever seen in decades. Almost half of the 345 million people facing acute hunger in 2022 were estimated to be children.<sup>vii</sup> Climate change is having a devastating effect on the agri-food systems,<sup>viii</sup> leading to decreased food safety, quality, diversity and nutrient density. This has a direct impact on food prices and food security, with children in the most vulnerable communities being hit hardest.

**Sustainable agriculture** can be part of the solution – it can be harnessed to minimise emissions to mitigate climate change by supporting regreening initiatives such as agroecology. It can also build resilience by helping smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities to adapt to the impact of climate change and build longer term resilience by adopting water saving technologies such as drip irrigation, hydroponics, rainwater harvesting, and improving soil health through utilising organic fertilisers and reducing soil tillage. A thriving environment and resilient agri-food system is foundational to the livelihoods of many communities in both rural and urban contexts, especially in farming, coastal and pastoral areas.

### Our targets and indicators

- Number of individuals trained in sustainable agricultural practices, including climate-smart agriculture and natural resource management
- Proportion of households adopting sustainable agricultural practices
- Proportion of households that provide well for their children

### How do we achieve this goal?

To address the negative impacts of climate change, World Vision will work with smallholder farmers and their communities to make agri-food systems more resilient through investing in **sustainable agri-food system approaches** such as climate-smart nutrition-sensitive agriculture and agroecology. Integrated water resource management, wastewater reuse and water saving irrigation technologies are also critical, as water scarcity is already affecting vulnerable communities.

To foster a holistic approach to sustainable agri-food systems, World Vision will not only focus on improving practices on farm but also along the supply chain. This will include implementing project models such as Local Value Chain Development and [Savings for Transformation \(S4T\)](#) to increase farmers' access to markets and financial services.

### Global hunger response and ENOUGH campaign

The [ENOUGH campaign](#) is our collective opportunity to end child hunger and malnutrition. World Vision must boldly support families and communities to break the vicious child hunger and malnutrition cycle through addressing the systems and structures that underpin it. By leveraging our expertise in integrated approaches to child well-being and our ability to engage externally, advocate, partner and mobilise public engagement, World Vision has a historic opportunity to stimulate much-needed changes in global, regional and national food systems to ensure they work for children and the planet. This will enable more equitable access to more nutritious food for all children, particularly for the most vulnerable boys and girls, including children on the move and children with disabilities. Now is the moment for us to join together and call for ENOUGH nutritious food for every child, sourced ethically and sustainably, enabling children to flourish in all locations.

We will also promote circular economy practices through supporting sustainable waste management both on farm and post-harvesting and supporting the development of green jobs across the agri-food system supply chain.

## Partnering for a greater impact

World Vision has a long-standing collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which works to promote improved and resilient livelihoods for smallholder farmers. With our localisation agenda, we work closely with community-based organisations and smallholder farmers. We are engaged with several global initiatives including the Global Food Security Cluster and the Zero Hunger Challenge. World Vision also works with governments, the private sector and research institutions, such as the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), to improve the resilience of agri-food systems and improve food security outcomes for vulnerable communities.

## Relevant SDGs



### SPOTLIGHT: Empowering rural farmers in Mongolia

Mongolia's long severe winters and short cropping durations (three months) are a limiting factor for agriculture. Through climate change adaptation efforts, World Vision helped empower vulnerable farmers to overcome these challenges and improve their productivity. World Vision introduced innovative greenhouses in Mongolia for cultivation, which increased the cropping duration to 10 months. These changes increased the scope of cultivation, thereby enabling farmers to cultivate a diverse variety of crops. The smallholder farmers were equipped with trainings in greenhouse cultivation as well as simple food processing techniques, which further enhanced their skills to produce simple processed food products. Care was taken to use micro-irrigation to ensure that water resources are used judiciously. These initiatives resulted in a significant increase in crop productivity and better economic benefits. Many smallholder farmers in Mongolia have benefitted from



these sustainable agricultural practices, which has helped them support their children's development, education and well-being, and provide a better quality of life for them.



### Focus area 3: Strengthening community resilience to climate-related disaster risks

#### Rationale

More frequent and severe climate change-induced natural hazards are amplifying already high levels of humanitarian need globally, causing death, suffering and displacement, destruction of livelihoods, reduced access to essential public services, and increased conflict over scarce resources. Moreover, climate-displaced people often have no choice but to resettle in urban slums and informal settlements. Vulnerable communities, particularly those caught in shortening cycles of recurrent disasters or protracted crises, need greater support to prevent, respond to, adapt to and build resilience to climate change risks and impacts.

#### Our targets and indicators

- Proportion of households that faced a disaster but were able to recover and now live at the level they did before
- Number of communities with functional committees to assess, prevent, mitigate, and prepare for the risks of hazards

#### How do we achieve this goal?

To enhance community resilience to climate-related risks, we will integrate [disaster risk management](#) as a foundational component of our field programmes. This will be driven by our [Community-based Disaster Risk Management \(CBDRM\)](#) project model, which supports children, their families and communities to understand and reduce the disaster risks they face, thereby bolstering their resilience when disasters occur. We will complement this approach with timely and effective humanitarian assistance, in the form of anticipatory action (aid provided in the critical window between an early warning and onset of a disaster) or conventional humanitarian aid provided after the disaster

has occurred. Disasters disproportionately impact children, exposing them to greater risks of injury, illness, exploitation and abuse. Consequently, we will ensure their active participation in their community's disaster risk reduction efforts and ensure they are protected and supported when disasters strike.

Furthermore, we will contribute to strengthening public services essential for resilience in the face of climate-related disasters. This includes ensuring robust and accessible WASH services such as water supply and storage, sanitation, and waste management, as well as initiatives aimed at making schools disaster-resilient and minimising disruptions to education in the aftermath of disasters. Through our cash and voucher programmes, we will work to enhance government and civil society-run social safety net programmes, ensuring accessibility and responsiveness to climate shocks.

#### Partnering for a greater impact

Disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action are inherently collaborative efforts, so World Vision works with partners in governments, humanitarian agencies, civil society, faith communities, businesses, and academia to strengthen disaster resilience and address humanitarian needs. Key partners include the World Food Programme, UNICEF, the START Network, Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector, and Risk-informed Early Action Partnership's (REAP). We are a signatory to the [Grand Bargain](#), whereby we commit to providing at least 25% of humanitarian funding to local partners. Additionally, World Vision has signed the [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations](#) and endorsed REAP's [Getting Ahead of Disasters Charter](#), which seeks to ensure better use of finance to manage risks and protect the most vulnerable people from climate-related disasters.



## Relevant SDGs



### SPOTLIGHT: Somalia Resilience Programme

After the Somali famine of 2011, a group of NGOs – both international and local – came together to mobilise their best practices and created the Somali Resilience Program (SomReP). World Vision, as SomRep's lead agency, together with the consortium members developed a multiyear strategy with a focus on being proactive in building resilience so that the communities can overcome climate and conflict induced shocks. SomReP employs the CBDRM approach to disaster risk reduction planning and responses, building the capacity of first responders to monitor and respond to environmental and other types of shocks and take action. SomRep develops the capacity of Early Warning Committees to monitor indicators in their own context through

simple tools that facilitate proactive planning at the community level. The SomReP is one of the longest running resilience consortiums in a fragile context and has raised over US\$134 million. It has become the model for resilience programming, bridging the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding nexus. Over the past 10 years, 191 communities developed community action and adaptation plans that supported 12,918 households, and 256,000 households engaged in various resilience interventions, including cash-based interventions layered to support rehabilitation or construction of productive community assets. A free [CBDRM e-learning course](#) on Kaya was also created to build capacity.





## Focus area 4: Integrating environmental stewardship and climate action across our operations and programmes

### Rationale

Integrating environmental stewardship and climate action across all World Vision's operations, facilities and programmes is critical to ensure we make systemic change across the whole of the organisation. World Vision's ESCA work is guided by the 'do no harm' principles – that is, to manage the environmental and climate risks in all projects, programmes and disaster responses, as well as our operations to ensure that no harm is caused to the environment and also to create opportunity for a positive environmental outcome.

### Our targets and indicators

- We will ensure 100% of all World Vision projects and programmes complete environmental safeguard assessments and manage any ongoing negative environmental impacts.
- We will achieve a 20% reduction in organisational greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

### How do we achieve this goal?

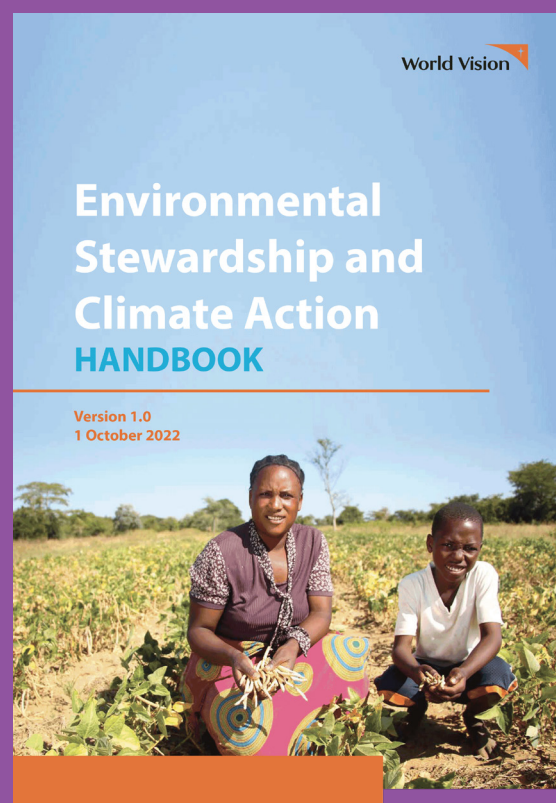
Climate change affects – directly or indirectly – all aspects of World Vision's work, making it everybody's job across the organisation to work through how they can best contribute to responding to the climate crisis. Therefore, environmental safeguards and climate risk assessments will be conducted for all projects and programmes. Integration will occur at all stages of the project cycle and will be guided by World Vision's [Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action Handbook](#). We will also protect all our facilities and assets used to run our programmes from future climate risks by developing appropriate adaptation measures. We will intensify our capacity building effort in order to keep our commitment to doing no harm.

### Our environmental safeguarding commitment

Environmental safeguards refer to a set of policies, standards and operational procedures designed to identify, prevent and minimise undue harm to people and their environment in field programming. Guided by 'do no harm' principles, we seek positive outcomes for the environmental and children's well-being. Our core documents on environmental safeguards are as follows:

- Core value: 'We are stewards'
- [Environmental Stewardship Management Policy](#)
- [Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action Handbook](#)

For field project tools, World Vision is using the [CEDRIG](#) tool for stable contexts, and [NEAT+](#) in emergency response and fragile contexts.





World Vision is also committed to reducing the carbon footprint of its operations and facilities across the organisation and will implement a target of 20% reduction in greenhouse gas operating emissions by 2030 and work towards **net zero emissions by 2050**.<sup>ix</sup> This will involve establishing a greenhouse gas inventory (according to international best practice greenhouse gas accounting standards) of all material scope 1 (direct emissions such as from fleet vehicles and natural gas usage), scope 2 (emissions from electricity consumption) and scope 3 (emissions from flights and paper for example). We will set up Green Teams in each office so that locally appropriate climate action can be taken. We will take a phased approach to our emissions reduction strategy initially focusing on rapidly reducing sources that we can take practical actions to avoid or reduce. This will include reducing emissions from flights and energy consumption in our facilities. For more difficult sources to reduce such as vehicle emissions, we will work with our fleet suppliers to identify opportunities to reduce emissions without compromising our field operations. We will also take responsibility for our emissions we cannot feasibly reduce in the near term by investing in opportunities to drawdown CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere through tree planting and FMNR in our field programmes.

### Partnering for a greater impact

World Vision is a signatory of the [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations](#), and we are committed to integrated ESCA in our disaster management practice. Furthermore, we work with governments and the private sector to find cost effective solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, particularly in areas such as transport that are difficult to find practical solutions in the near term.

### Target SDGs



### SPOTLIGHT: Creation of Green Teams

In order to mainstream environmental principles, standards and practices in operations and facilities, each office is establishing a support structure called Green teams. In the Middle East and Eastern Europe programmes, for example, Green Teams promoted transitioning to solar power for offices and transitioning our fleet to hybrid vehicles including electric bikes and scooters.



## 2.3. Our approaches

Implementation of the four focus areas is underpinned by the following approaches which cut across all four focus areas

**Care for creation:** As stewards of God’s creation, World Vision has a responsibility to care for and protect the environment. Faith actors and leaders have a unique role to play, as 84% of the global population have religious affiliations. We work with local faith leaders, connecting with people’s spiritual beliefs, which accelerates communities’ engagement and drive to contribute to creation care.

**Children as agents of change:** Children are key stakeholders for climate action and should be part of strategies to make a change in their communities. World Vision is committed to Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) – a concept adopted by UNFCCC – which aims to empower all members of society to engage in climate action through education, training, awareness-raising, participation, public access to information and international cooperation on these issues.<sup>x</sup> World Vision will ensure children’s voices are heard and taken into consideration by supporting Action for Climate Empowerment for children.

## Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

**(GESI):** Climate change has disparate effects on women and girls, as well as persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups. These groups face unique threats to their livelihoods, health and safety because they are marginalised due to gender, disability or other social factor<sup>12</sup>. World Vision requires that all its projects and programmes are, at a minimum, GESI sensitive, but seeks to have an increasing portfolio of GESI responsive and GESI transformative. Through its [GESI approach and framework](#), World Vision and partners challenge and shift discriminating gender and social norms, unequal power relations and gender roles, and inequitable formal and informal systems. This enables populations that are marginalised due to gender, disability or other social status to increase their access services and resources, as well as their participation and decision-making.

World Vision’s GESI approach prioritises the economic empowerment of marginalised populations, creating environments where women, girls and persons with disabilities can develop and exercise their agency, and working with faith actors to address religious drivers of gender inequality and social exclusion.

**Figure 2. World Vision’s GESI continuum**



<sup>1</sup> UN Women: [Explainer: How gender inequality and climate change are interconnected](#) | UN Women – Headquarters

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR: [The impact of climate change on the rights of persons with disabilities](#) | OHCHR



### 3. ADVOCATING FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

Promoting **climate justice for child rights** will sit at the core of our climate action advocacy approach when we engage with supporters, donors, policymakers, research partners, faith groups, NGOs and so forth. Our key advocacy initiatives will include both localised and global approaches as outlined below.

World Vision's [policy position on climate action](#) calls on governments and corporations to take ambitious climate action:

- Reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C.
- Ensure children and young people's meaningful participation in climate action.
- Invest in nature-based solutions, such as FMNR, for ecosystem restoration.
- Increase climate finance, in particular adaptation funding, to support developing countries – especially least developed countries, small island developing states, and fragile contexts – to meaningfully adapt to the impacts.

#### Climate justice

World Vision believes that responding to climate change is a justice issue. Climate justice represents the interdependence of human rights, development and climate action. We see climate justice as an approach that places children at the centre of the climate crisis and brings about solutions good for people and the planet by upholding their rights.

World Vision believes that every child has the right to both a healthy environment and safe climate today and for future generations.



#### 3.1 Local to global approaches

A key approach to driving change at the local level, World Vision's Citizen Voice and Action model will be utilised to equip local communities and faith-based groups with information, tools, and spaces to participate in local-level advocacy for **socially accountable climate action** and environmental sustainability. At the national level, we will use our relationships with local communities and faith-based groups to advocate that governments put children at the centre of their climate action. This includes advocating for funding to be channelled into helping children and their local communities adapt to climate change, enabling a fair and just transition to the green economy. World Vision will also act globally to advocate for child rights in the climate crisis.

## SPOTLIGHT: SAUTI Youth Project – climate change advocacy at a local level

The eastern coastal region of Tanga in Tanzania has been experiencing increased deforestation due to poor control and planning, and degradation of coastal habitats. World Vision engaged with youth from the coastal region in taking urgent actions to combat climate change



and its impact on their community through the SAUTI Youth Project, co-funded by the European Union.

The project empowered girls and boys to be strong voices to improve community welfare in various issues focussing in the area of climate change. World Vision supported children and youth participation through Citizen Voice and Action. The project created young leaders who would not only spearhead proper utilisation of resources for conservation of the environment but who would also raise their voices to empower more youth inclusion in community development committees. In addition to increasing youth engagement at the local level, World Vision advocates for the creation of mechanisms to consult with children and youth at all levels, empowering them to protect themselves from climate-related risks and to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes

### 3.2. Strategic partnerships and collaborations

Partnerships are also a critical aspect of our advocacy approach. To demonstrate our commitment to addressing climate change, World Vision is a member of numerous climate change coalitions such as the [UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration](#) and [UNEP Faith for Earth Coalition](#). We also have signed on to [the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](#).

We will continue to maintain and deepen our existing relationships and seek new partnerships to amplify our work. World Vision will foster to meet our ambitious goals, including:

- strengthening our collaboration with faith-based organisations and community-based organisations to deepen our localisation agenda through ESCA programmes. We will work with traditional local knowledge holders to design projects and to advocate to governments.
- deepen and grow relationships with donors (bilateral and multilateral), private sector partnerships and individual donors to advocate for bold climate action for children
- strengthen and develop new partnerships with environmental organisations to expand our advocacy reach.

## 4. MOBILISING EXISTING AND NEW FUNDS FOR ESCA

There is currently a huge funding gap for climate adaptation for the most vulnerable communities. According to the recent UNEP Adaptation Gap Report,<sup>xi</sup> the current adaptation financing gap is estimated at US\$194–366 billion per year, and adaptation planning and implementation are plateauing. This failure to adapt has massive implications for the most vulnerable peoples and more so for children. World Vision is committed to reducing the gap by advocating and mobilising funds from climate finance and carbon markets to support the adaptation needs for the most vulnerable children and their communities.

### 4.1. Climate finance

Through the Paris Agreement, industrialised nations have agreed to mobilise US\$100 billion in climate finance every year until 2025 and have established several climate financing facilities such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and more recently the Loss and Damage Fund as key funding vehicles to help achieve this target.<sup>xii</sup> World Vision will actively seek to acquire funds from climate financing facilities as part of our objective to mobilise funds for the adaptation needs of the most vulnerable children and their communities.

### 4.2. Carbon markets

Global carbon markets can provide another avenue to finance climate action to help close the funding gap. Carbon markets are considered an important mechanism to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, with estimates that demand for carbon credits is expected to grow from US\$2 billion in 2021 to US\$100 billion in 2030.<sup>xiii</sup>

Through FMNR and energy efficient cookstoves, World Vision has generated over 1 million carbon credits and several million dollars in revenue to communities since 2006.

### SPOTLIGHT: Carbon-based projects in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, Community Managed Natural Regeneration Projects (Humbo and Sodo projects, 2005–2035), which rehabilitated 3,227 hectares of land for smallholder farmers, led to the sequestration of 426,269 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e to date, and the sale of carbon credits has generated over US\$1,180,000 of income for local communities. The restored landscape has also helped to strengthen livelihoods in the local community through increased grass cover for livestock, increased availability of firewood, recovery of springs and groundwater, decreased erosion, and less flooding.



## 5. INNOVATION FOR GREATER IMPACT

World Vision will prioritise innovative approaches to help grow the ESCA portfolio and acquisition of funding, and above all, improve our ESCA programme impact for the well-being of children. Some of the key initiatives we have already started to plan for or implement are highlighted below.

### 5.1. Large-scale regional landscape initiatives



#### ● FMNR scale-up

World Vision is aiming to restore 27 million hectares of degraded land, improving the well-being of 8.1 million children across Africa, Asia and Latin America by 2033. To achieve this, World Vision will need to grow all income streams to invest US\$1.8 billion in community-based FMNR and Regreening programming over this timeframe. The FMNR scale-up will be catalysed through partner-led spread, organic spread and enabling environment, in addition to our direct programming. The initiative aims to achieve its objectives by planting a wall of trees on 100 million hectares of land stretching across the entire Sahel – from Djibouti to Dakar, Senegal. Promoting FMNR funding for this initiative can help communities in the region improve their livelihoods while at the same time contributing to climate change mitigation.

#### ● Regreening Dry Corridor

World Vision is committed to raising US\$100 million, which will benefit 10 million people through regreening the Central American Dry Corridor across Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. This flagship initiative is based on a landscape approach with four pillars: ecosystem restoration and protection through the Regreening Communities project model; water resource management; community-based disaster risk management and resilience building; and food security and nutrition.

#### ● Amazon initiative

World Vision is committed to reaching 6 million children and 4 million adults from the indigenous community based in the Amazon basin by 2030, by protecting and restoring 25 million hectares of land. This initiative focuses on child protection, ecosystem restoration through FMNR and Regreening Communities, and food security.

World Vision is also considering taking landscape approaches to other geographic areas including the Mekong Delta and the Pacific Islands.

### 5.2. Impact measurement



World Vision will improve the ability to measure the impact of ESCA field programmes by developing innovative spatial mapping tools. These tools will enable the tracking of the number of hectares under restoration and number of people applying regreening practices. We will also investigate the potential to measure the amount of carbon sequestered through our FMNR scale-up programme. A data platform that will provide supporters with transparent reporting is also being developed that will show the visual spread of our regreening initiatives along with key data metrics.



### 5.3. Greening social accountability



Together with our eco-friendly technical approaches, we will use our unique project models such as [Citizen Voice and Action](#) (CVA) for child- and youth-led climate action. This will empower children and their families to engage with community and country leaders to ensure they are part of a just transition and that leaders are held accountable for protecting people from climate change and environmental degradation. CVA is simple, powerful and flexible, playing a crucial role in strengthening systems to ensure sustainable results.

### 5.4. Climate shock responsive and child sensitive social protection



World Vision will include **innovative social protection approaches** such as [cash voucher programming modalities](#) (CVP) in ESCA projects and programmes (like FMNR and Regreening Communities) to encourage early adoption of landscape restoration practices and support anticipatory actions. Leveraging CVP to address climate and environmental-related issues in fragile contexts will also be a critical priority to encourage positive coping strategies and economic opportunities for disaster-affected communities.

### 5.5. Exploration of innovative financing mechanisms



World Vision will investigate innovative financing mechanisms, such as impact funds and biodiversity crediting, to fund some of our signature initiatives such as FMNR scale-up. In particular, we will seek opportunities to blend innovative financing mechanisms into grant-funded programmes, which will enable us to grow funding from the private sector.

#### Biodiversity credit mechanisms for ecosystem restoration

Biodiversity credit markets are increasingly recognised as one mechanism that can drive financing toward the protection, regeneration and stewardship of biodiversity, and close the biodiversity financing gap. It has been forecast by the [Inevitable Policy Response](#) (a climate transition forecasting consortium) that, in addition to nature-based carbon projects, a biodiversity credit market could be worth US\$18–43 billion by 2050.

## 6. DELIVERING THE ESCA STRATEGIC ROADMAP

Delivery of the ESCA Strategic Roadmap will be governed by a cross-functional steering committee that will oversee its implementation and coordinate the participation of stakeholders across the World Vision Partnership and with external partners.

Key areas that will be overseen by the steering committee include:

- **Capacity building:** To ensure the successful delivery of the ESCA Strategic Roadmap, our staff members across the World Vision Partnership and partner organisations will be equipped with the necessary technical and human resource competencies. Capacity building will be an integral part of the implementation of the roadmap.
- **Measuring progress:** Progress will be measured on an annual basis to determine the effectiveness of the ESCA Strategic Roadmap. The key success metrics will include tracking progress against each of the targets under the four focus areas, tracking progress against the investment, and reporting on impact of advocacy campaigns and interventions.
- **Accountability:** Progress will be disclosed in an annual ESCA report. Towards the end of the three-year roadmap period, an evaluation will be conducted to determine whether the roadmap has achieved its objectives and how it has contributed to child well-being outcomes.
- **Knowledge management:** We will establish a library of learning materials and an evidence bank on our promising ESCA practices with our key partners, and these will be readily available across the World Vision Partnership. We will also establish an ESCA Community of Practice, which will act as the channel for facilitating knowledge sharing on our promising practices with the entire organisation and with our external partners.
- **Research and learning:** A programme of research will be developed with our partners (i.e., universities, research institutions) to ensure that our ESCA projects and programmes will continuously be improved to ensure that we are maximising our impact for the most vulnerable children and their communities.
- **Adolescent participation:** To ensure the ESCA Strategic Roadmap is truly serving the most vulnerable children, we are creating an Adolescent Advisory Group, who will provide critical insights and advice on child-responsive climate action and environmental sustainability.

# APPENDIX 1: ANNUAL INDICATORS MONITORED

- Number of people reached by community programming on environment and climate action [OIOS #103]



## Focus area 1: FMNR scale-up: Restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem services for children and communities

- 27 million hectares of degraded land will be protected and/or under restoration by 2033 [FMNR business plan is by 2033] – number of hectares of land protected and/or under restoration [OIOS #104].
- Investment on FMNR scaling and greening programmes [from FMNR scale up]
- Proportion of households applying Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) [OIOS #105]
- Number of water supply systems using solar energy [WASH business plan]
- Number of children who participated in environmental and climate awareness sessions [need to segregate the data from OIOS on CBDRM indicator]



## Focus area 2: Building sustainable agri-food systems for food and nutrition security

- Number of individuals trained in improved sustainable agricultural practices (including Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), natural resource management (NRM), Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), sustainable fisheries, ecosystem restoration, etc.) [OIOS #66]
- Proportion of households with sustained or increased agricultural yields due to climate-resilient agricultural practices (including CSA, Agroforestry, Agro-ecology, NRM, FMNR etc)
- Proportion of households who are food insecure according to the Coping Strategies Index [OIOS #69]
- Proportion of households that provide well for their children [OIOS #80]



## Focus area 3: Strengthening community resilience to climate-related disaster risks

- Proportion of households that are able to protect, restore and increase productive assets after a shock [OIOS #64]
- Number of communities with functional committees to assess, prevent, mitigate and prepare for the risks of hazards [C4A.14017, OIOIS level 2, DM core]



## Focus area 4: Integrating environmental stewardship and climate action across our operations and programmes

- Number of projects which conducted environmental safeguard assessments
- Organisational greenhouse gas emissions<sup>xiv</sup>

## APPENDIX 2: PROJECT MODELS AND APPROACHES WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE TARGETS

Project model and approaches	Focus areas			
	FMNR and ecosystem restoration	Sustainable agri-food systems	Community resilience to climate change	ESCA integration across operations and programmes
<a href="#">FMNR scaling pathways</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Regreening Communities</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Cash voucher programming (CVP)</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Building Secure Livelihoods</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Ultra-Poor Graduation</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Citizen Voice and Action (CVA)</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">IMPACT+</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Empowered Worldview</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Creation Care – mobilising faith leaders	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Integrated water resource management</a>	✓	✓		✓
<a href="#">Women's economic empowerment</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Sustaining Access to Clean Water</a>		✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Local Value Chain Development</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Waste management		✓		✓
<a href="#">Community Health Committees</a>		✓		✓
<a href="#">Savings for Transformation (S4T)</a> and microfinance	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)			✓	✓
<a href="#">Anticipatory action</a>			✓	✓
<a href="#">Water security</a>			✓	✓
<a href="#">Child protection</a>	✓		✓	✓
<a href="#">Fragile Context Programming Approach</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Urban Programme Approach</a> (e.g.. Safer Cities and Resilient Cities components)	✓	✓	✓	✓



## APPENDIX 3: DEFINITIONS

Term	Description
Action for climate empowerment	UNFCCC states Action for Climate Empowerment as the foundation for a low-emission, climate-resilient and just future, thanks to its six interconnected elements: climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation on these elements. <sup>xv</sup>
Agri-food systems	Agri-food systems encompass the entire range of actors and their interlinked value-adding activities in the primary production of food and non-food agricultural products, as well as in food storage, aggregation, post-harvest handling, transportation, processing, distribution, marketing, disposal and consumption. Within agri-food systems, food systems comprise all food products that originate from crop and livestock production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, and from other sources such as synthetic biology, and that are intended for human consumption. <sup>xvi</sup>
Anticipatory action	Acting ahead of predicted hazards to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold. <sup>xvii</sup>
Carbon footprint	It is the amount of carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) emissions associated with all the activities of a person or other entity (e.g., building, corporation, country, etc.)
Carbon markets	Carbon markets are trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought. Companies or individuals can use carbon markets to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing carbon credits from entities that remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Circular economy	A circular economy aims to minimise waste and promote a sustainable use of natural resources, through smarter product design, longer use, recycling and more, as well as regenerate nature.
Climate change	A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods. <sup>xviii</sup>
Climate change adaptation	The process of adjustment in ecological, social and economic systems in response to both the current effects of climate change and the predicted impacts in the future. <sup>xix</sup> Adaptation actions range from setting up early warning systems for cyclones to switching to drought-resistant crops, among others.
Climate change mitigation	Avoiding and reducing emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere to prevent the planet from warming to more extreme temperatures or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Mitigation measures include use of renewable energy, waste minimisation processes and enhancing carbon sinks, among others. <sup>xx</sup>

Climate finance	It refers to local, national or transnational financing, which may be drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing used specifically to address climate change, both adaptation and mitigation.
Climate justice	Climate justice is a term that acknowledges that environmental changes can have differing social, economic, public health and other adverse impacts on vulnerable populations. As a result, climate justice looks at environmental changes through a human rights lens, striving to address these inequalities through long-term strategies.
Climate resilience	Broadly defined as the ability to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, absorb, and recover from the impacts of stresses imposed by climate change.
Climate-smart agriculture	Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach to help the people who manage food systems respond effectively to climate change. The CSA approach pursues the triple objectives of sustainably increasing productivity and incomes, adapting to climate change, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions where possible. It is not a set of practices that can be universally applied, but rather an approach that involves different elements embedded in local contexts. <sup>xxi</sup>
Ecosystem services	These are the contributions of ecosystems to benefits used in economic and other human activity. <sup>xxii</sup> The following are three broadly agreed on categories of ecosystem services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>Provisioning services</i>, which represent the material and energy contributions generated by or in an ecosystem to economic and human activities – for example, fish or plants with pharmaceutical properties extracted for final consumption by households or intermediate consumption.</li> <li>b) <i>Regulating services</i>, which result from the ecosystems regulating climate, hydrologic and biochemical cycles, earth surface processes, and various biological processes. These services often have an important spatial aspect.</li> <li>c) <i>Cultural services</i>, which are generated from the physical settings, locations or situations that give rise to intellectual and symbolic benefits experienced by people from ecosystems through recreation, knowledge development, relaxation and spiritual reflection.</li> </ul>
Greenhouse gases	The gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation. Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons are examples of greenhouse gases. <sup>xxiii</sup>
Integrated water resource management	It is a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems. <sup>xxiv</sup>

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration	It is a low-cost land restoration technique used to combat poverty and hunger amongst poor farmers by increasing food and timber production and resilience to climate extremes. In practice, FMNR involves the systematic regrowth and management of trees and shrubs from felled tree stumps, sprouting root systems or seeds.
Nature-based solutions	Actions to protect, sustainably use, manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, which address societal challenges, effectively and adaptively, providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits. <sup>xxv</sup>
Net zero emissions	Net zero emissions are achieved when anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere are balanced globally by anthropogenic removals over a specified period (as defined by the IPCC's AR6 report).

## APPENDIX 4: ACRONYMS

Term	Description
CBDRM	Community-based Disaster Risk Management
CVA	Citizen Voice and Action
CVP	Cash voucher programming
ESCA	Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene

## ENDNOTES

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- <sup>ii</sup> World Health Organization (WHO) (2018), 'Climate Change and Health'. <https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/climate-change-and-health>
- <sup>iii</sup> UN (2022), 'Biodiversity – Our strongest natural defence against climate change'. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/biodiversity>
- <sup>iv</sup> Baker, J. L. (2012). *Climate Change, Disaster Risk, and the Urban Poor: Cities Building Resilience for a Changing World*. <https://doi.org/10.1596/978-0-8213-8845-7>
- <sup>v</sup> World Vision (2022). *Investing in Sustainable Outcomes for Children*.
- <sup>vi</sup> World Vision is aligned with the [UNEP Medium Term Strategy](#) on reversing climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- <sup>vii</sup> World Food Programme (2022). 'A generation at risk: nearly half of global food crisis hungry are children, say WFP, African Union Development Agency NEPAD, The Education Commission and education partners'. <https://www.wfp.org/news/generation-risk-nearly-half-global-food-crisis-hungry-are-children-say-wfp-african-union>
- <sup>viii</sup> World Vision uses the FAO definition on agri-food systems: 'agriculture, forestry and fishing, the manufacture of products derived thereof, and all other aspects of food systems beyond production and manufacturing. The agricultural sector includes all work activities involved in agricultural production – including on-farm activities related to growing crops and raising livestock, fishing, aquaculture, forestry, and hunting'.
- <sup>ix</sup> These goals are for emissions from World Vision's own operations and facilities, including scope 3 emissions for goods and services used in support of operations, but excluding goods and services provided to programme participants and emissions by partner organisations. They apply to all field offices and the Global Centre. Support offices are also encouraged to work towards them and report on progress, but it is recognised that many support offices have to comply with emissions reduction and reporting requirements by their own governments, which may require them to set and track different targets.
- <sup>x</sup> UNFCCC, 'What is Action for Climate Empowerment?', <https://unfccc.int/topics/education-youth/the-big-picture/what-is-action-for-climate-empowerment>.
- <sup>xi</sup> UNEP (2023). *Adaptation Gap Report 2023: Underfinanced. Underprepared. Inadequate investment and planning on climate adaptation leaves world exposed*. <https://doi.org/10.59117/20.500.11822/43796>
- <sup>xii</sup> OECD (2022). 'Climate Finance and the USD 100 Billion Goal'. <https://www.oecd.org/climate-change/finance-usd-100-billion-goal/>
- <sup>xiii</sup> Morgan Stanely (2023). *Carbon Offset Market Trends and Growth: 2050*.
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- <sup>xv</sup> UNFCCC (2021). 'What is ACE?'. <https://unfccc.int/news/what-is-ace>
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- <sup>xxi</sup> FAO (n.d.). 'Climate-Smart Agriculture'. <https://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture/en/>
- <sup>xxii</sup> UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting (n.d.). *An Introduction to Ecosystem Accounting*. <https://seea.un.org/Introduction-to-Ecosystem-Accounting> (Last accessed 8 August 2023)
- <sup>xxiii</sup> IPCC (2012). Glossary of terms. In: *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation*, pp. 555–564.
- <sup>xxiv</sup> UN Water (n.d.) 'Integrated Water Resources Management'. <https://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/iwrm.shtml#:~:text=It%20states%3A%20'IWRM%20is%20a,the%20sustainability%20of%20vital%20ecosystems>.
- <sup>xxv</sup> IUCN (n.d.). 'Nature-based Solutions'. <https://www.iucn.org/our-work/nature-based-solutions>



World Vision is a Christian relief, development, and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.



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