

# PIN Environmental Policy

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## Introduction

People in Need is a non-governmental, non-profit organization founded on the ideals of humanism, freedom, equality and solidarity. PIN is committed to the best practice and quality of work of its staff, its partner organisations and other associates.

Commitments stated in this policy should guide PIN activities and thereby prevent negative effects on the environment and natural resources. Through implementation of this policy, PIN wishes to contribute to global efforts to address the harmful effects of human activity on the natural environment and in doing so, reduce the vulnerability of the populations in places where PIN works.

## Terminology

**Carbon footprint** – The total amount of greenhouse gases produced as a result of activities of a particular individual, organization, or community to directly, and indirectly support human activities, usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

**Climate change** - A change in the climate of a region over time due to natural forces or human activity. In the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, it is the change in climate caused by higher levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere due to human activities as well as natural climate changes<sup>1</sup>.

**Environment** - The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates.

**Environmental damage and degradation** - The deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water and soil; the destruction of ecosystems and the extinction of wildlife.

## Applicability<sup>2</sup>

The PIN Environmental Policy is applicable for all full-time and part-time RDD (Relief and Development Department) staff, members of PIN Board of Directors, volunteers, interns, consultants, visitors, and people acting on behalf of RDD (further referred to as “RDD staff”). To the extent possible, this policy also applies to PIN’s suppliers and partner organizations.

## Policy statement

We recognize that the climate change and other environmental threats increase the vulnerability of the people PIN strives to help and of their communities. At the same time, we acknowledge the negative impact PIN operations may have on the environment. We thus believe that good environmental safeguarding practices and standards should be an integral part of our programmes as well as organisational behaviour. Through this policy,

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<sup>1</sup> UN (1992), [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)

<sup>2</sup> This version of PIN environmental policy is applicable to the Relief and Development Department

PIN demonstrates its commitment to mitigate and, where possible, prevent the potentially negative environmental impact of its operations and programs.

Through this policy, PIN demonstrates its commitment to mitigate and, where possible, prevent the potentially negative environmental impact of its operations and programs. In line with our commitment to responsible environmental management, People in Need also pledges to abide by and uphold all applicable national environmental laws, regulations, and policies in every country where we operate.

To ensure this commitment is implemented in practice, PIN systematically considers the national environmental and legal framework during project design and assessment processes. For example, when conducting social and environmental screening and risk analysis, PIN reviews relevant national policies, strategies, and regulations to ensure full compliance and alignment with local environmental priorities.

## Core Principles

PIN has developed a set of principles for environment-friendly approach of its staff to everyday activities as well as to the implementation of projects. To this end, PIN is committed to the following.

1. In our projects:
  - protect the local environment and communities we work with;
  - minimize negative environmental impact of our programmes;
  - maximize beneficial impact of our work on the local environment;
  - identify and mitigate risks of environmental damage and degradation.
2. In our offices:
  - in our daily decision making (designing processes, developing tools, planning projects etc.), we will take into consideration how the actions of our organization interact with the environment globally;
  - continue to find ways to lower the carbon footprint of our operations;
  - reduce the use of water, electricity and other resources, look for sustainable alternatives where possible;
  - integrate the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' principle into our daily operations and office management.
3. Educate RDD staff about the negative environmental impact PIN projects and operations have or might potentially have; and about practical actions, they can take to prevent or reduce such impact.
4. Continually improve our environmental performance based on monitoring and review<sup>3</sup>.
5. Annually evaluate our progress on implementing this policy.

While PIN aims to reduce and, where possible, avoid any negative environmental impact, these efforts always have to be seen within the context of the primary mission of the organisation, ensuring that it can function efficiently, especially where we work in fragile environments and/or respond to emergencies.

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<sup>3</sup> The 'PIN Environmental Actions Points' table summarizes our current activities in this respect. It monitors progress, serves as a tool for collaboration.

## PIN Commitments

PIN is committed to continue integrating the principles stated above into its work by:

### In our projects:

- Reviewing the extent to which different actions can protect the environment and prioritising the most effective and feasible solutions over the less effective ones (i.e. evidence-based decision-making).
- Strengthening our focus on projects aimed at protecting the environment or on climate change mitigation / adaptation.
- Mainstreaming the environmental protection and climate change mitigation / adaptation in other projects to the largest extent possible – e.g. landscape management, climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy and energy efficiency etc.
- Actively promoting the use of principles of disaster risk reduction (DRR) in all our projects.
- Conducting an environmental impact assessment during the project design when relevant.
- Helping our project partners to understand what actions they can take (and why) in order to be more environmentally friendly.
- Motivating and enabling PIN's target group members and their communities in adopting more sustainable practices.

### In our operations<sup>4</sup>:

- Strengthening the focus on reduction of our flights by improving our communication infrastructure, providing alternatives to air travel and ensuring that RDD staff use them where possible<sup>5</sup>.
- Compensating for the carbon footprint of our unavoidable flights.
- Decreasing the unnecessary energy consumption (e.g. appropriately adjust the heating and air-conditioning, use renewable energy sources such as solar energy where possible, only use lights when necessary, use only LED light bulbs, encourage RDD staff to turn off electronics such as computers and monitors when not in use, unplug devices when not in use etc.).
- Taking specific actions to conserve water (e.g. educate staff about water-conserving practices; introduce faucet aerators).
- Making sure that PIN staff have opportunities and are trained to apply the principles of reducing, reusing, recycling (e.g. enable and motivate RDD staff to reduce the use of single-use plastics, monitor printing and take steps to reduce paper use, introducing effective systems for sorting and recycling of waste in PIN offices etc.).
- Ensuring effective fleet management (e.g. always consider whether our vehicles are appropriate regarding terrain and CO2 emissions, avoid using 4x4 with strong engine for cities) and promoting sustainable transport where possible (e.g. encourage the use of public transport and use of alternative options such as bike,

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<sup>4</sup> Specific steps and progress are indicated in the 'PIN Environmental Action Points' table.

<sup>5</sup> For details see the [RDD Travel Policy](#)

running, walking in locations where it is a practical and safe mode of transportation).

- Applying environmental criteria in the procurement of our supplies and services (e.g. apply the Green Procurement criteria<sup>6</sup>, consider CO2 emissions of vehicles, energy consumption of devices etc.).

Since PIN recognizes the specificities of each country where we have our offices, we aim to support PIN country programmes in developing their own “green office” strategies and, over time, embed the principles of this policy across all locations where PIN works.

## Roles and responsibilities

All PIN staff and partners play a central role in implementation of this policy. Specifically:

- All RDD staff members are responsible for conducting themselves in such a manner that is compliant with this policy.
- All Directors are responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy.
- RDD Knowledge and Learning Department is responsible for technical support in integrating the principles of this policy into our work.
- Line managers are responsible for integrating the principles of this policy into the work of their teams and into relevant job descriptions.

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<sup>6</sup> For details see the [RDD Logistics Handbook](#)

