



# Global Climate and Environment Strategy



# Introduction

In 2024, MAG launched a new Strategic Framework that charts an ambitious course for the organisation through to 2028. Central to this framework is a strategic commitment to Environmental Responsibility, recognising that environmental and climate-related factors are inextricably linked to the humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding outcomes we seek to achieve.

This Climate and Environment Strategy operationalises that commitment. It outlines MAG's strategic direction for understanding, managing, and reducing the environmental impacts of our work, while helping conflict-affected communities adapt to climate-related shocks. The strategy is rooted in our core values and supports our Strategic Framework, notably: Increases Our Impact, Extends Our Influence, and Strengthens Our Organisation.



# Strategic purpose & vision

MAG's vision is for a world where people can live free from the lasting impact of armed violence, conflict, and its legacy. We work in some of the world's most fragile and conflict-affected settings, where weak governance, vulnerable ecosystems, and high exposure to climate shocks create profound risks. Climate change and environmental pressures act as threat multipliers – exacerbating poverty, driving displacement, fuelling conflict, and undermining resilience. These impacts also intersect with contamination from landmines and unexploded ordnance, compounding threats to lives, livelihoods, and long-term recovery.

At the same time, MAG acknowledges that our own operations – spanning

humanitarian mine action (HMA) and armed violence reduction (AVR) – contribute to these challenges. We generate direct environmental impacts through greenhouse gas emissions from fuel use, business travel, demolitions, and procurement, as well as indirect impacts such as land use change following clearance activities or during the weapons and ammunition disposal process. While we are still building a full understanding of these impacts, early evidence suggests that environmental impacts could be significant and therefore require active management[1].

#### **This strategy sets out MAG's commitment to:**

- Understand and reduce the environmental and climatic impacts of our operations;

- Support communities to adapt to and build resilience in the face of climate and environmental threats;
- Integrate environmental sustainability into our HMA and AVR programming;
- Strengthen our systems, partnerships, and evidence base to ensure our actions are responsible, measurable, and continually improving.

In doing so, we aim to ensure that MAG's contribution to peace and security is not undermined by unintended environmental harm – and that our work actively contributes to a more liveable, resilient future.

# Alignment with MAG values



Addressing climate change and environmental degradation is essential for ensuring the safety and sustainability of MAG's HMA and AVR programming. Climate action and environmental responsibility resonate deeply with MAG's core values, reinforcing the organisation's mission to protect vulnerable communities. Here's how:

**Expert: Through excellence and expertise, we build trust**  
MAG takes an informed, evidence-led, and data-driven approach to addressing climate and environmental challenges, ensuring that its operations remain effective and adaptive in changing conditions. By following the science, delivering environmental assessments, and undertaking risk analysis, MAG continuously enhances the safety and sustainability of its HMA/AVR work.

**Determined: We work with purpose**  
MAG's commitment to mitigating the impact of and adapting its operations in the

face of climate and environmental challenges demonstrates its unwavering determination to protect communities and create lasting safety. Whether it's integrating climate risk assessments into project design and planning or responding swiftly to emerging environmental emergencies, MAG's work reflects purpose-driven action, delivering sustainable outcomes for communities for generations to come.

**Integrity: We strive to do the right thing**  
By acknowledging the science and recognising the rapidly changing world, MAG addresses the critical link between climate change, environmental degradation, human security, and conflict. MAG proactively integrates environmentally responsible approaches into its operations, ensuring that our work not only protects communities today but also contributes to a sustainable future that is free from the legacy of war.

**Compassion: People come first in everything we do**

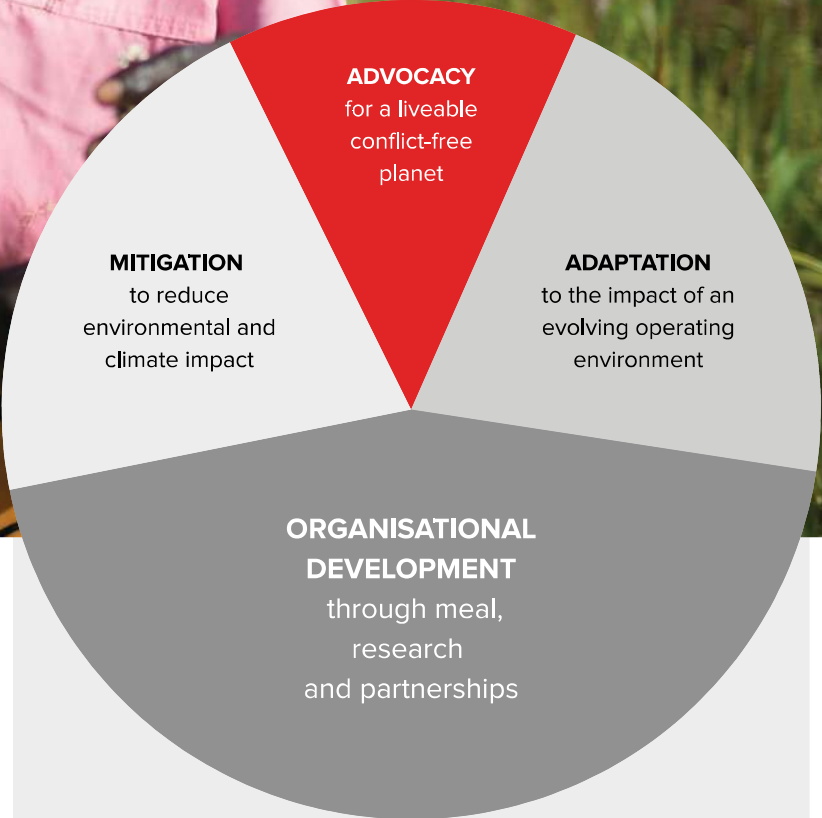
Climate change disproportionately affects the most vulnerable communities – those living in poverty, conflict zones, and marginalized areas. By addressing the “threat multipliers” of climate change and environment degradation, MAG ensures that the long-term safety and well-being of communities remain at the heart of its mission.

**Inclusive: We are inclusive and value diversity**

MAG takes a people-centred and conflict-sensitive approach to ensure our work reflects the needs of all community members, particularly those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and conflict. We adopt gender-transformative methods that empower women and marginalised groups, while recognising and responding to the complex dynamics between environmental stress, resource scarcity, and social tensions. Our aim is to deliver equitable, inclusive, and sustainable impact.



# Strategic priorities & pillars of action



This strategy focuses on four strategic outcomes that align with MAG’s mission, values, and the environmental responsibility commitment set out in the 2024-2028 Strategic Framework. Together, they define the areas where MAG will prioritise action to ensure its work is environmentally responsible, climate-informed, and future-fit. These four outcomes directly support our Strategic Framework priorities: mitigation and adaptation increase our impact, advocacy extends our influence, and organisational development strengthens our organisation.

## Outcomes

**Advocacy:** A liveable conflict-free planet

**Adaptation:** MAG’s operations and supported communities are more resilient to the impact of climate change and environmental decline

**Organisational development:** Mainstreaming and integration of climate resilience, environmental responsibility and sustainable practices throughout MAG’s governance, programmes, policies and partnerships

**Mitigation:** MAG reduces its carbon footprint and adopts environmentally sustainable practices



# Strategic priorities & pillars of action

## Mitigation

### Reduce MAG's Environmental and Climate Footprint

MAG will take deliberate action to measure, manage, and reduce the environmental and climate impacts of its operations in line with global climate goals such as the Paris Agreement. To achieve this MAG commits to:

- Establish a reliable carbon baseline and review biennially MAGs carbon inventory of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Set and track targets to reduce carbon emissions in line with the Paris Climate Commitments
- Promote sustainable resource use throughout the supply chain and operational delivery.



# Strategic priorities & pillars of action

## Adaptation

### Strengthen Climate and Environmental Resilience in Programming

MAG will integrate climate and environmental considerations into the design and delivery of its HMA and AVR programming. This includes assessing climate and environmental risks, adapting programming to reflect local vulnerabilities, and supporting community resilience where appropriate. To achieve this MAG commits to:

- Integrate environmental impact assessments into all programme design and planning processes.
- Develop context-specific adaptation approaches for high-risk environments, especially where climate impacts intersect with conflict drivers and contamination
- Partner with communities and local actors to co-design resilience-building initiatives aligned with MAG's mandate.

## Advocacy

### Strengthen Sectoral Leadership and Influence

MAG will use its voice and expertise to advocate for environmentally responsible mine action and armed violence reduction, contributing to sector-wide change. This includes sharing learning, influencing standards, and elevating the environmental dimensions of conflict and recovery. To achieve this MAG commits to:

- Position MAG as a credible advocate for environmental responsibility in HMA and AVR sectors.
- Contribute to sector-wide guidance, policy dialogue, and inter-agency collaboration on climate and environmental issues.
- Share learning and data transparently to influence standards, donors, and implementing partners.

## Organisational

### Development Build Internal Capability and Accountability

MAG will invest in the systems, policies, people, and partnerships needed to embed environmental responsibility across the organisation. This includes improving measurement and reporting, building staff capacity, and establishing governance mechanisms for environmental action. To achieve this MAG commits to:

- Strengthen internal systems for environmental measurement, reporting, and accountability.
- Build staff capacity and awareness through targeted training, guidance, and leadership engagement.
- Mainstream environmental responsibility into policies, planning cycles, and decision-making processes.



# Implementation & accountability

Delivering this strategy will require coordinated action across MAG – from programme teams to enabling functions, from senior leadership to local partners. Environmental responsibility will not sit as a standalone function, but be integrated across our operational systems, planning frameworks, and decision-making processes.

### **Governance and oversight**

Overall accountability for achieving this strategy rests with MAG's Senior Leadership Team, with the Global Climate and Environment Advisor responsible for the delivery. Designated leads across global support functions and country teams will be responsible for implementation, reporting, and coordination. Progress will be tracked through MAG's strategy review processes and reported to the Leadership Team and Board as part of regular oversight.

### **Planning and integration**

Strategic objectives from this strategy will be embedded into MAG's annual business planning cycles at the department, regional, and country levels. A phased implementation approach will begin with internal baselining, capacity-building, and tool development, followed by integration into programme delivery and operations. Annual plans will prioritise the actions that deliver the biggest impact, balancing ambition with available resources.

### **Measurement and learning**

MAG will build on its recent carbon accounting and pilot work to establish a robust environmental measurement framework. This will include indicators for greenhouse gas emissions, resource use, and programmatic environmental risks. MAG will use learning reviews, case studies, and

research partnerships to evaluate how climate and environmental factors influence the effectiveness, safety, and sustainability of its work. Findings will inform updates to programme design, policy, and training.

### **Transparency and sharing**

As part of our commitment to leadership and accountability, MAG will share progress and insights with donors, peers, and the public, contributing to broader sector learning.

### **Resourcing and enabling conditions**

MAG will allocate time, technical capacity, and where necessary, financial resources to support delivery. Strategic partnerships will be explored to complement internal investment, particularly around innovation, research, and staff development. Environmental responsibility will be positioned as a shared organisational priority.



## Concluding remarks

Environmental responsibility is now a core strategic priority for MAG. This strategy marks the beginning of a deliberate shift: one that recognises the environmental realities of our work, the risks facing the communities we serve, and our responsibility to do no harm.

By embedding climate and environmental action into our operations, programming, and partnerships, MAG will ensure that our contribution to peace and security remains sustainable and future-fit – helping build a safer, more resilient world for generations to come.



# Annex 1: Opportunities to act

MAG staff can act across key operational areas to reduce environmental impact, enhance sustainability, and support climate resilience. The following outlines priority areas, their relevance, and examples of practical implementation.

## 1. Energy conservation and natural resource management

Improve efficiency and reduce emissions by managing energy use and resource consumption across MAG's facilities and operations.

- Transit to solar or hybrid power systems at field bases and offices.
- Install energy-efficient lighting and appliances.
- Conduct regular energy audits to identify inefficiencies.
- Use programmable timers or motion sensors to minimise unnecessary energy use.
- Reduce reliance on generators through improved energy planning and battery storage.

## 2. Water management

Safeguard water resources by improving efficiency, reducing waste, and protecting water quality in all operational contexts.

- Install low-flow taps and toilets in MAG facilities.
- Harvest and store rainwater for non-potable use.
- Monitor and repair leaks to prevent water loss.
- Use water purification systems to reduce bottled water consumption.
- Plan clearance activities to avoid contaminating local water sources.

## 3. Air quality

Minimise emissions and air pollution from MAG operations to protect human health and reduce environmental harm.

- Regularly maintain vehicles and machinery to reduce exhaust emissions.

- Use cleaner fuels or low-emission vehicles where feasible.
- Schedule demolition work to minimise dust and airborne pollutants.
- Avoid open burning of waste materials.
- Train staff on air quality impacts and safe practices.

## 4. Waste management

Reduce, manage, and safely dispose of waste, including hazardous materials, in line with best environmental practices.

- Segregate general, hazardous, medical, and explosive waste at all sites.
- Partner with local recycling providers for non-hazardous waste streams.
- Use reusable or biodegradable materials where possible.
- Minimise single-use plastics in daily operations and staff facilities.



# Annex 1: Opportunities to act

## 5. Transport and mobility

Reduce emissions and environmental impact through more efficient and sustainable transport planning.

- Plan transport routes efficiently to reduce fuel use.
- Encourage carpooling or shared staff transport.
- Introduce fuel monitoring to improve efficiency and track usage.
- Explore the use of electric or hybrid vehicles in appropriate contexts.
- Promote walking or cycling for local outreach where safe and feasible.

## 6. Procurement

Adopt sustainable procurement practices to reduce lifecycle environmental impacts and support local economies.

- Prioritise locally sourced goods and services to reduce transport emissions.
- Include environmental criteria in supplier selection and contracting.
- Choose recycled, biodegradable, or sustainably sourced materials.
- Reduce over-ordering and opt for bulk purchases to cut packaging waste.
- Work with vendors who meet environmental responsibility standards.

This is by no means an exhaustive list. MAG encourages all actions, big or small that can contribute to improved working environments, environmental protection and climate action.

# Annex 2: Glossary of terms



## The Climate

### Adaptation

Adjusting systems, communities, or practices to reduce harm from current or expected climate impacts.

### Carbon Footprint

The total amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere by an organisation, activity, or individual, measured in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

### Carbon Sequestration

Capturing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to reduce greenhouse gases. This occurs naturally in forests, soils, and oceans, or through human technologies that lock carbon away underground.

### Carbon Sink

Natural systems (like forests or oceans) that absorb more carbon dioxide than they emit.

### Climate

The average weather patterns in a specific area over long periods (usually 30 years).

### Climate Action

Steps taken to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts, such as shifting to renewable energy or restoring ecosystems.

### Climate Change

Long-term shifts in temperatures and weather, largely caused by human activities like burning fossil fuels.

### Climate Finance

Funds from public and private sources dedicated to climate mitigation, adaptation, and environmental protection.

### Climate Resilience

The ability of people, communities, ecosystems, and systems to anticipate, prepare for, and recover from climate-related stresses.

### Climate Risk

Potential harm from climate change, shaped by hazards, exposure, and vulnerability.

### Emissions

Greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere from human activities or natural processes.

### Global Warming

The long-term rise in Earth's average surface temperature due to increasing greenhouse gases.

### Greenhouse Gas (GHG)

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, contributing to the greenhouse effect and climate change.

# Annex 2: Glossary of terms



## **Mitigation**

Efforts to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions to slow climate change.

## **Net Zero**

Balancing emitted greenhouse gases with those removed from the atmosphere.

## **Weather**

Short-term atmospheric conditions like temperature, rain, wind, or snow.

## **The Environment**

### **Biodiversity**

The variety of living species in an area, supporting healthy ecosystems and human life.

### **Ecosystem**

A community of living organisms interacting with their physical environment.

### **Environment**

All natural and built surroundings, including air, water, land, plants, animals, and human-made spaces.

### **Environmental Action**

Activities aimed at protecting, conserving, or improving the natural environment.

### **Environmental Aspect**

Elements of an organisation's activities that can interact with the environment.

## **Environmental Baseline**

A snapshot of environmental conditions before a project starts, used to measure future impacts.

## **Environmental Impact**

A change to the environment, positive or negative, from an activity.

## **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

A process to predict and evaluate environmental effects of a proposed activity before decisions are made.

## **Environmental Responsibility**

MAG's commitment to minimise environmental harm and promote sustainable practices.

## **Indicator**

A metric used to monitor environmental conditions or measure progress.

## **Natural Resource**

Materials from the Earth, like water, minerals, soil, forests, and fossil fuels.

## **Pollution**

Harmful substances introduced into the environment.

## **Waste**

Material discarded because it is no longer needed. Can be organic or non-organic.

# Annex 2: Glossary of terms



## General Terms

### Conservation

Using natural resources in ways that maintain ecosystem balance.

### Degradation

Decline in environmental quality due to factors like pollution, deforestation, or climate change.

### Opportunity Costs

The benefits to the environment forgone by carrying out an activity.

### Preservation

Maintaining ecosystems in their current state without human interference.

### Restoration

Helping damaged ecosystems recover to a healthier state, ideally better than before.

### Sustainability

Meeting present needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet theirs.

### Threat Multiplier

A factor like climate change that makes existing risks (conflict, poverty, scarcity) worse.

### Unintended Consequences


Unexpected effects on the environment from an activity.



## Contact

---

Elliot Ball, Global Climate and Environment Advisor: [Elliot.Ball@maginternational.org](mailto:Elliot.Ball@maginternational.org)

 [www.maginternational.org](http://www.maginternational.org)

