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## DACAAR Environment, Climate and Sustainability Policy



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## Preamble

Afghanistan is experiencing an interconnected set of humanitarian, environmental, and climate-related challenges driven by prolonged conflict, recurrent droughts and floods, land degradation, water scarcity, and increasing climate variability, all of which have severely weakened natural resource systems and heightened vulnerability, particularly among rural and displaced populations. These risks are compounded by weak environmental governance, limited institutional capacity, and pervasive poverty, making sustainable natural resource management and climate resilience critical for both immediate humanitarian outcomes and long-term recovery. DACAAR recognizes environmental degradation and climate change as cross-cutting drivers of vulnerability that directly affect water security, food systems, public health, livelihoods, and social stability, and acknowledges that humanitarian interventions which fail to integrate environmental and climate considerations may unintentionally exacerbate environmental harm, resource depletion, and future disaster risks. In contrast, environmentally responsible and climate-informed programming strengthens community resilience, safeguards ecosystems, and supports sustainable and durable development outcomes.

DACAAR is committed to improving the quality of life for Afghans, especially those in conflict-affected and underserved communities, promoting sustainable livelihoods, climate change resilience and environmental sustainability, in line with DACAAR Strategic Framework (2026-2028). DACAAR is headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark, but works in a country-led way, with the country office fully responsible for the day-to-day operations and leading the development of programmes and policies, so they fit the local context. In this setup, headquarters plays a supportive role by overseeing the implementation of all policies, including the DACAAR Environmental, Climate, and Sustainability Policy, contributing to strategic discussions, shared governance structures, learning, and external engagement, while fully respecting the leadership and decision-making of the Afghanistan office.

This Environment, Climate and Sustainability Policy builds on DACAAR's decades-long work in vital areas such as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Natural Resource Management (NRM), Women's Economic Opportunities (WEO), community resilience, sustainable livelihoods and Small-Scale Enterprise Development (SSED) across Afghanistan. Recognizing the severe environmental challenges the country faces, DACAAR integrates climate resilience and sustainable practices into its projects to ensure that today's development does not compromise the needs of future generations. The policy emphasizes DACAAR's role in supporting communities to become more resilient in the face of climate change, addressing both immediate needs and long-term environmental sustainability. Afghanistan's unique environmental vulnerabilities, compounded by climate change impacts, require a coordinated response that aligns with both national and international environmental frameworks. DACAAR's Environmental Policy is designed in accordance with the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)<sup>1</sup>, ensuring local relevance and compliance. Furthermore, it incorporates global commitments like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction and United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs), particularly those related to climate action and the environment. Through this alignment, DACAAR ensures that its work not only

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<sup>1</sup> [Home | NEPA](#)

addresses pressing environmental and climate issues but also contributes to inclusive and sustainable livelihoods for all Afghan communities.

DACAAR's Environment, Climate and Sustainability Policy articulates the organization's commitment to responsible environmental stewardship, climate adaptation, and sustainable development in Afghanistan by providing a strategic framework that guides decision-making, programme design, and operations. The policy ensures that environmental and climate considerations are systematically integrated across all areas of work, aligned with internationally recognized standards and good practices, while remaining responsive to the Afghan context. It affirms DACAAR's responsibility to minimize environmental impacts, reduce climate-related risks, and promote sustainable natural resource use through collaboration with communities, local stakeholders, donors, and partners, while emphasizing accountability, learning, and continuous improvement as essential to effective humanitarian action and long-term well-being for present and future generations.

## **1. Policy Statement and Principles**

### **1.1. Policy Statement**

DACAAR is committed to integrating environmental protection, climate resilience, and sustainability across all its programs, recognizing the vital role of natural resources in the well-being and livelihoods of Afghan communities. This policy is in line with DACAAR strategic objectives as outlined in the Strategic Framework (2026- 2028), contributing to strengthening sustainable livelihoods through improved income generation, food security, and economic resilience, promoting climate resilience and environmental sustainability, including nature-based solutions and responsible resource use, enhancing preparedness and responsiveness to climate-related shocks, displacement, and humanitarian crises, expanding women's economic opportunities through inclusive, climate-smart, and market-oriented approaches; and supporting locally led development through engagement with communities and Afghan civil society actors, as outlined in DACAAR localization strategy.

DACAAR recognizes that environmental degradation, climate change, and unsustainable use of natural resources exacerbate humanitarian needs, undermine community resilience, and disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. This policy affirms DACAAR's commitment to minimize negative environmental impacts, promote environmental sustainability, strengthen climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and promote community-led solutions in line with humanitarian principles and development best practices. We strive to align our programs with international environmental and sustainability standards and national regulations to safeguard Afghanistan's ecosystems.

### **1.2. Principles**

DACAAR's approach to environment, climate, and sustainability is guided by the following core principles, which underpin all programming and operational decisions.

- **Sustainable resource management:** DACAAR will ensure that all projects prioritize the sustainable use of natural resources, such as water, land, and forests, to protect against depletion and degradation. This aligns with our aim to support long-term community resilience and environmental health.

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- **Climate change adaptation and resilience:** Guide the integration of climate risk analysis, disaster risk reduction, and integrate adaptive solutions into programme design to safeguard communities and infrastructure against current and future climate shocks and environmental changes. This includes supporting communities in adopting practices that mitigate the impacts of climate variability on their livelihoods.
- **Biodiversity protection:** DACAAR will actively contribute to the conservation of biodiversity by preventing activities that cause habitat destruction and by promoting practices that enhance ecosystem health.
- **Waste reduction and pollution control:** Reduce waste generation, promote recycling, and ensure that pollution (air, water, and soil) is minimized through environmentally friendly practices in our operations.
- **Environmental awareness and capacity building:** Build environmental awareness among staff, beneficiaries, and partners to encourage the adoption of sustainable practices. This involves training and promoting environmental stewardship at all levels.
- **Compliance with International and National Standards:** DACAAR adheres to relevant environmental conventions, national laws, and regulations, including those set by NEPA (National Environmental Protection Agency), ensuring full compliance in all programs.
- **Do no harm to the environment:** In line with the principle of “Do no harm policy,” DACAAR’s will ensure its interventions do not cause unintended harm by avoiding, minimizing, and managing the damage caused to the environment and the climate, while maintaining its ability to provide timely and principled humanitarian assistance.
- **Environmental and climate stewardship:** Commits DACAAR to responsible management of natural resources, protection of ecosystems, and minimization of climate and environmental footprints across its activities.
- **Community participation, inclusion and accountability:** Promote the involvement of affected populations in decision-making, recognizing local knowledge and promoting shared responsibility for environmental protection, for instance Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM).

## 2. Guiding International agreements, frameworks and National Environmental Standards

### 2.1. International Covenants and Agreements

DACAAR acknowledges and adheres to key Global Environment, Sustainability and Governance (ESG) standards which include international environmental conventions, standards, frameworks and commitments that frame global environmental and climate action, which include but are not limited to:

- **The Paris Agreement (2015)** guides DACAAR's efforts to support Afghanistan in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building climate resilience. In regions severely impacted by climate change, DACAAR’s focus on water resource management and climate adaptation aligns with the agreement’s goals to limit global warming and bolster adaptive capacities.
- **The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** underscores DACAAR’s commitment to conserving Afghanistan's biodiversity, particularly in regions like the Hindu Kush, where deforestation and loss of biodiversity are critical concerns.
- **The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** is central to DACAAR’s approach to land degradation, a growing issue in Afghanistan due to overgrazing,

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deforestation, and agricultural pressures. By promoting sustainable land management practices, DACAAR contributes to the restoration of degraded lands.

- **The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** guides DACAAR's Environmental Policy by providing a global framework for addressing climate change, which is integral to DACAAR's operations in Afghanistan. Specifically, the UNFCCC influences DACAAR's policy in climate change mitigation and developing climate adaptation strategies.
- **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** guides this policy by adopting a risk-informed and preventive approach that integrates disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and resilience into all programmes.
- **Sphere handbook** and its environmental and WASH standards guide all interventions ensuring they meet minimum humanitarian quality and accountability benchmarks while minimizing environmental harm, integrating environmental considerations throughout the project cycle.
- DACAAR subscribes to **The Climate and Environment Charter**, with six commitments from the organization that offers a set of principles to guide humanitarian action in response to the climate and environmental crisis.

## 2.2. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

DACAAR's programs are aligned with multiple SDGs, particularly those related to the environment and social inclusion:

- **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** DACAAR's WASH programs ensure access to clean water and improved sanitation, vital in combating water scarcity and preventing disease outbreaks in Afghanistan's conflict-affected regions<sup>2</sup>.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** Through natural resources management and climate-resilient infrastructure projects, DACAAR actively contributes to national climate adaptation strategies. These efforts are essential for communities that are disproportionately affected by climate-related disasters, including floods and droughts<sup>3</sup>.
- **SDG 15 (Life on Land):** DACAAR's emphasis on sustainable agricultural practices and reforestation efforts ties directly into SDG 15, which calls for protecting, restoring, and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems<sup>4</sup>.
- **SDG 2 (End hunger):** DACAAR Agriculture and NRM interventions supports SDG 2 by promoting climate-sensitive and environmentally sustainable interventions that protect natural resources essential for food security and livelihoods, particularly water and land resources, in crisis-affected communities.<sup>5</sup>
- **SDG 11 (Sustainable communities):** DACAAR efforts of strengthening community resilience through disaster risk reduction, climate-adaptive WASH infrastructure, and environmentally

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<sup>2</sup><https://globalgoals.org/goals/6-clean-water-and-sanitation/>

<sup>3</sup><https://globalgoals.org/goals/13-climate-action/>

<sup>4</sup><https://globalgoals.org/goals/15-life-on-land/>

<sup>5</sup> [Goal 2 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)

sound practices that reduce vulnerability to shocks and environmental hazards aligns well with SDG 11.<sup>6</sup>

- **SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production):** DACAAR sustainability interventions promotes efficient resource use, waste reduction, reuse and recycling practices, and environmentally responsible management of materials and humanitarian waste across programmes and operations.<sup>7</sup>
- **SDG 5 (Gender Equality):** Gender mainstreaming is embedded in all of DACAAR's projects, particularly in natural resource management, where women are involved in decision-making processes related to water resource allocation and environmental conservation<sup>8</sup>.

### 2.3. UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs)

DACAAR's environmental policy also draws on UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security, which highlight the disproportionate impacts of environmental degradation and conflict on women and call for their active involvement in peace-building and sustainable development processes. In Afghanistan, where environmental degradation exacerbates conflict over resources, engaging women in environmental governance is crucial. DACAAR ensures that women play leading roles in water resource management committees and other environmental initiatives.

Furthermore, UNSCR 2349 (2017), which addresses the nexus between climate change, conflict, and security, informs DACAAR's approach to mitigating environmental risks in conflict zones. This resolution recognizes that environmental challenges, such as water scarcity, can exacerbate conflict, making DACAAR's work on sustainable water management in Afghanistan critical to both environmental sustainability and peace-building efforts.

By aligning its operations with these international agreements, SDGs, and UNSCRs, DACAAR is committed to advancing a holistic approach to environmental governance in Afghanistan. This approach not only tackles immediate environmental issues but also promotes inclusive, climate-resilient development that empowers marginalized populations, especially women, while ensuring long-term sustainability.

### 2.4. National Environmental Protection Agency

DACAAR's programs adheres to the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) guidelines in the following ways:

- **Compliance with environmental laws and regulations:** DACAAR ensures that all its projects and programs comply with the national environmental laws and regulations set forth by NEPA while aligning the strategies of various ministries, such as The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock(MAIL), Ministry of Energy and Water(MEW), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP), Afghanistan National Disaster

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<sup>6</sup> [Goal 11 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Goal 12 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)

<sup>8</sup> <https://globalgoals.org/goals/5-gender-equality/>

Management Authority (ANDMA) and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). This includes abiding by environmental protection standards in sectors like Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Natural Resources Management (NRM), and infrastructure projects.

- **Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs):** In compliance with NEPA's requirements, DACAAR conducts Environmental Impact Assessments if required for its development projects to identify potential environmental risks. These assessments ensure that DACAAR's interventions do not negatively affect Afghanistan's ecosystems and that mitigation measures are implemented when necessary.
- **Sustainable resource management:** DACAAR's Natural Resources Management (NRM) programs are designed in alignment with NEPA's focus on the sustainable management of natural resources such as water, land, and forests. DACAAR promotes practices like reforestation, soil conservation, and water management to preserve Afghanistan's natural resources.
- **Climate change adaptation and mitigation:** DACAAR's environmental initiatives incorporate NEPA's guidelines on climate change adaptation, ensuring that projects contribute to building climate resilience within Afghan communities. This includes adopting climate-smart agricultural practices and promoting renewable energy.
- **Collaboration with NEPA:** DACAAR works closely with NEPA to align its activities with national priorities, actively participating in consultations and policy workshops to provide guidance and integrate its programs with Afghanistan's environmental strategies. Notably, DACAAR contributed valuable insights, particularly in groundwater monitoring, during NEPA's policy workshops.
- **Capacity building and awareness:** In alignment with NEPA's public awareness mandate, DACAAR conducts capacity building and awareness raising programmes within communities to promote sustainable practices. These efforts help raise awareness about environmental conservation and resource management among beneficiaries and local stakeholders.

## **2.5. Afghanistan Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**

DACAAR's Environment, Climate and Sustainability Policy talks to the Afghanistan's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets by promoting climate adaptation and sustainable resource management that advance national priorities for water resource management, climate-resilient agriculture, and community adaptive capacity. By mainstreaming climate risk reduction, resilient WASH infrastructure, and sustainable land and waste management into programming, the policy contributes to key adaptation goals reflected in Afghanistan's climate commitments. These actions help strengthen local capacities and environmental stewardship in ways that align with the country's NDC focus on integrated water management, sustainable agricultural practices, and increased resilience to climate impacts. Through this alignment, DACAAR's interventions help

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build community-level climate resilience and support national efforts to meet climate adaptation and mitigation targets.

## **2.6. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Afghanistan (NBSAP) 2024-2030**

The policy also talks to the revised NBSAP, which articulates conservation priorities and actions for the period 2024-2030 in Afghanistan. This strategy guides the development biodiversity conservation and management; Afghanistan's biodiversity conservation priorities to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and defining the role of other governmental and non-governmental organizations and development partners, DACAAR included, in the conservation of biodiversity in Afghanistan.

## **2.7. National Natural Resources Management Strategy (MAIL)**

DACAAR's ECS policy is aligned to the National NRM strategy by Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) which highlights that ecosystems should be healthy, resilient and well managed that provide a good environment of habitation, support sustainable and equitable socioeconomic development for quality life. This policy also ensures sustainable socioeconomic development of communities depending on natural resources, create green environment, conserve soil, water, and protect biodiversity.

## **3 Scope and Purpose**

This policy applies to all DACAAR programmes, projects, offices, staff, partners, and contractors operating in Afghanistan. Its purpose is to provide a coherent framework for identifying, preventing, and mitigating environmental and climate-related risks, while maximizing positive environmental outcomes and long-term sustainability of humanitarian and development interventions. The policy aims to mainstream environmental and climate considerations throughout the project cycle, from assessment and design to implementation, monitoring, and learning. This Policy also encompasses all DACAAR's operations in Afghanistan, ensuring alignment with international and national best practices and global environmental agreements. It provides a framework for integrating environmental sustainability, climate adaptation, and social inclusion into DACAAR's diverse humanitarian and development programs.

### ***3.1. Promote environmental sustainability in humanitarian and development efforts***

In Afghanistan, environmental degradation exacerbates existing vulnerabilities, especially in areas reliant on agriculture and natural resources for livelihoods. DACAAR is committed to embedding environmental sustainability across all its interventions, particularly in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Natural Resource Management (NRM), Small Scale Enterprise Development (SSED), and Women's Economic Opportunities (WEO). By focusing on sustainable practices, DACAAR ensures that resource used today does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This includes:

- Prioritizing sustainable water management, essential in Afghanistan, where water scarcity is a persistent challenge. Afghanistan faces severe depletion of groundwater resources, making DACAAR's work in WASH programs, especially in arid regions.
- Promoting sustainable agriculture and reforestation through NRM programs, particularly in regions vulnerable to deforestation and land degradation. By adopting sustainable farming techniques and planting native trees, DACAAR helps restore ecosystems, protect biodiversity, and improve food security.

This holistic approach aligns with international frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), which calls for sustainable management of natural resources and reducing waste generation

### ***3.2. Mitigate environmental degradation and adapt to the effects of climate change***

In alignment with the *Do No Harm* principle, as referenced in Annex 9.2 of the Adaptive Management and Risk Mitigation Framework in Conflict Sensitivity and Do No Harm Policy, DACAAR acknowledges Afghanistan's vulnerability to climate change, particularly extreme weather events like droughts, floods, and desertification. These challenges, exacerbated by ongoing conflict, demand a focus on both immediate and long-term environmental risks. We are dedicated to avoiding, minimizing, and managing environmental damage while maintaining our ability to deliver principled humanitarian and development aid. In line with the Paris Agreement, DACAAR also integrates climate adaptation into its projects to strengthen the resilience of communities and ecosystems. Key actions include:

- Supporting climate-resilient agricultural practices to help communities withstand unpredictable weather patterns and reduce dependency on rain-fed agriculture, which is becoming increasingly unreliable.
- Encouraging natural disaster risk reduction (DRR) by incorporating climate risk assessments into infrastructure projects and designing systems that can withstand climate-related shocks.

DACAAR's focus on mitigating degradation also connects to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which prioritizes adaptation for countries vulnerable to climate impacts. DACAAR's efforts are guided by frameworks such as the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) of Afghanistan, ensuring local adaptation strategies align with broader global commitments.

### ***3.3. Ensure inclusive participation in environmental governance***

DACAAR recognizes that effective environmental governance requires the inclusion of vulnerable populations, particularly women, children, people living with disability and marginalized ethnic groups, in decision-making processes. In a country like Afghanistan, where natural resource conflicts can exacerbate social tensions, it is crucial that environmental governance incorporates Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI). DACAAR's policy ensures:

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- Women's participation in natural resource management, water governance, and agricultural projects, providing leadership opportunities and building capacities in communities to manage their own resources sustainably.
- Special attention to marginalized groups, such as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and rural populations disproportionately affected by environmental degradation. This aligns with international covenants like the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which emphasizes the rights of all communities to benefit equitably from natural resources.

This aligns with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), reinforcing the global commitment to equitable access to resources and participation in environmental decision-making.

### ***3.4. Aligning DACAAR's activities with global environmental agreements***

DACAAR's activities are aligned with the following key international environmental agreements:

- The Paris Agreement (2015), which provides a roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving resilience to climate impacts. DACAAR incorporates the agreement's principles by promoting low-carbon solutions, such as the use of solar-powered water systems, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and enhancing community resilience to climate-induced disasters.
- The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which prioritizes the protection of biodiversity and sustainable land management practices. DACAAR's focus on biodiversity conservation through reforestation and sustainable agriculture is directly tied to the global target of halting biodiversity loss and restoring ecosystems.
- UN Security Council Resolution 1325, emphasizing the role of women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, extends to environmental governance. DACAAR's inclusion of women in leadership roles in resource management helps build local capacity while promoting peace in resource-scarce areas.

## **4. Objectives**

The objectives of the Environment, Climate and Sustainability policy are to:

- **Strengthen environmental awareness and capacity:** By 2028, DACAAR will enhance the environmental awareness and technical capacity of staff, partners, and targeted communities through structured training, guidance, and a series of strategic meetings with relevant district authorities on sustainable practices, environmental protection, and climate resilience relevant to the Afghan context.
- **Mainstream and integrate environmental sustainability and climate resilience in programming:** By 2028, all DACAAR programmes and project designs will integrate environmental sustainability, climate adaptation, and disaster risk reduction considerations, ensuring interventions contribute to long-term environmental health, reduce vulnerability to

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climate-related risks, and strengthen community adaptive capacity in the face of increasing climate and environmental crises.

- **Support climate change adaptation and responsible asset management:** By 2028, DACAAR will develop and implement practical strategies to support community resilience while ensuring environmentally responsible management and disposal of equipment and assets, including solar systems and fuel-powered machinery, in line with recognized environmental standards.
- **Reduce environmental impact of operations, promoting green operations:** By 2028, DACAAR will systematically identify and reduce negative environmental impacts across all operations and programmes through responsible resource use, environmentally sound waste management, and the adoption of sustainable operational practices, with environmental risk screening applied to 100% new projects.
- **Improve resource efficiency:** By 2028, DACAAR will improve the efficiency of energy, water, and material use across offices and field operations by introducing resource-efficiency measures and monitoring mechanisms, aiming for a measurable reduction in consumption and waste generation compared to baseline levels.
- **Enhance agricultural resilience and sustainable livelihoods:** By 2028, DACAAR will support increased agricultural resilience and rural livelihoods in drought-prone areas by promoting climate-smart and drought-resistant crops, contributing to improved food security and sustainable income opportunities for targeted communities.
- **Ensure compliance with environmental standards and legal frameworks:** By 2028, DACAAR will ensure compliance of its programmes and operations with applicable national environmental regulations and relevant international environmental and humanitarian standards, with compliance mechanisms integrated into organizational policies, procedures, and monitoring systems.
- **Promote green logistics and operations:** By 2028, DACAAR will promote green operations by integrating environmentally responsible logistics practices across offices and field programs, including route optimization, efficient fleet management, reduced fuel consumption, and sustainable procurement standards, aiming for a measurable reduction in transport-related emissions and operational environmental footprint compared to established baseline levels.

## 5. Key Policy Areas

### 5.1. Environmental sustainability

DACAAR's approach to environmental sustainability is based on the pressing need to address Afghanistan's fragile ecosystems while enhancing livelihood resilience for communities that are dependent on natural resources. This entails promoting resource-efficient, low-impact methods across all areas of intervention, particularly in the context of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Small Scale Enterprise Development (SSED), Natural Resource Management (NRM) programs and Women Economic Opportunities (WEO).

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- Sustainable land and water resources management: Given Afghanistan's chronic water scarcity and widespread land degradation, both exacerbated by climate change, over-extraction of groundwater, deforestation, and unsustainable land-use practices, DACAAR will promote integrated, community-based land and water resource management. This approach will focus on building local capacity to sustainably manage water systems and land resources through participatory planning, soil and watershed conservation, and protection of natural recharge areas. Interventions will include the rehabilitation of damaged water infrastructure and degraded land in rural and under-served regions, particularly in conflict-affected areas, where declining water availability and land productivity pose critical risks to livelihoods, food security, and environmental sustainability.
- Waste management: In response to growing pollution in urban and displaced populations, DACAAR will implement community-based waste management systems that promote recycling, composting, and safe disposal of waste. These systems will be tailored to both urban centers and IDP camps, where inadequate waste disposal leads to severe public health and environmental hazards.
- Energy efficiency: DACAAR will incorporate renewable energy solutions in its operations, particularly solar power for water pumping systems and community infrastructure. This aligns with Afghanistan's national priorities for increasing access to clean energy while reducing dependence on unsustainable fuel sources such as wood and coal.

## **5.2. Climate action and resilience**

Afghanistan is one of the countries with most vulnerable to climate change, frequent droughts, floods, and extreme weather events posing a serious threat to agriculture and water resources. DACAAR's climate action strategy focuses on building resilience in the most affected areas.

- Climate adaptation: The role of women, youth, small farmers, or vulnerable communities in climate action has not been identified. DACAAR will support climate-smart agriculture and promote resilient farming practices, particularly focusing on women and young farmers, alongside men, such as drought-resistant crops, efficient irrigation systems, and the construction of check dams to manage water resources effectively. These efforts are critical in ensuring food security for rural Afghan communities. By integrating these measures, DACAAR aims to enhance climate resilience in regions highly exposed to environmental stressors.
- Pollution mitigation: As part of its environmental commitment, DACAAR will concentrate on measures, such as adopting renewable energy where feasible, advocating for energy efficiency, and properly disposing of plastic materials such as plastic bags, bottle, old solar panels and recommend green energy and try to reduce recommending fuel power machines that negatively affect the environment (to reduce usage of nonrenewable energy such as coal, coal products, natural gas, derived gas, crude oil, petroleum products and non-renewable wastes).
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR): DACAAR will integrate disaster risk reduction strategies into its development programs, focusing on building community resilience to natural disasters such

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as floods, landslides, avalanches, sand stabilization, etc., which are becoming more frequent due to climate change. Early warning systems and community-based preparedness plans will be key components of this strategy, to inform anticipatory and early actions.

### **5.3. Environmental justice and human rights**

DACAAR's commitment to environmental justice ensures that marginalized groups, particularly women, ethnic minorities, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) have equitable access to natural resources and are actively engaged in environmental governance processes.

- Inclusive governance: DACAAR will ensure that women and marginalized communities play a central role in natural resource management and decision-making processes. In regions where resource scarcity fuels conflict, inclusive governance mechanisms can promote cooperation and peaceful resource-sharing.
- Equitable access: DACAAR will advocate for equitable access to essential natural resources, ensuring that vulnerable groups are not excluded from development benefits. Special attention will be given to women-headed households, returnees and IDPs, who often face barriers in accessing these resources.
- Right to a healthy environment: In line with UN Human Rights Council resolutions that recognize the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, DACAAR will promote environmental rights in all its project areas. This includes advocating for clean water, air, and sustainable land use for all communities.

### **5.4. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)**

Recognizing the disproportionate impact of environmental degradation and climate change on women and marginalized groups, DACAAR integrates Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) across all its programs. This is crucial in empowering women to become leaders in climate adaptation and natural resource management.

- Empower women in NRM: DACAAR will try to increase women's participation in natural resource management by promoting female leadership within water user associations and community-based conservation efforts. Training and capacity-building initiatives will ensure that women are well-equipped to manage these resources sustainably.
- GESI-sensitive climate programs: DACAAR's climate adaptation and mitigation programs will be gender-sensitive, ensuring that women, children, and marginalized groups—who are often the most vulnerable to environmental shocks—are prioritized in project design and implementation.
- Capacity building for GESI: DACAAR will provide training for targeted communities particularly women and particularly women, youths, vulnerable and marginalized groups, empowering them to fully participate in environmental decision-making and climate resilience activities. This will include technical training on sustainable practices, as well as leadership and governance skills.

## 6. Implementation Strategies

To ensure the success of the policy, DACAAR will adopt a multi-pronged implementation strategy:

- Strategic planning and systems development: Environmental, climate, and sustainability considerations are systematically embedded across DACAAR's organizational policies, strategies, and operational procedures, including an indicator framework to track climate and environmental activities.
- Climate integration and technical support: DACAAR programmes are informed by sound climate risk analysis and adapted to Afghanistan's evolving climate realities. Technical guidance and sector-specific expertise will support the design and implementation of climate-resilient interventions, particularly in WASH, Agriculture and NRM, Women Economic Opportunities and Small-scale enterprise Development.
- Risk, vulnerability and environmental assessments: Systematic risk, vulnerability, and environmental assessments will enable DACAAR to identify potential environmental impacts, climate hazards, and community vulnerabilities before and during programme implementation. These assessments inform targeted mitigation measures, adaptive design, and disaster risk reduction strategies
- Capacity building and awareness: This will involve training staff and community leaders on environmental sustainability, climate adaptation, and GESI principles, ensuring that all stakeholders are well-prepared to contribute to the implementation of environmentally sustainable projects and climate-sensitive interventions.
- Resource mobilization and partnerships: DACAAR will work with both national and international stakeholders, including the Afghan government, UN agencies, and local communities, to implement environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive practices. Collaboration with multilateral environmental frameworks, such as the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), will help DACAAR align its activities with global environmental standards. Leveraging partnerships will enhance access to funding, innovation, and specialized expertise.
- Green operations and environmental sustainability: Green operations will reduce DACAAR's environmental footprint by promoting efficient use of energy, water, and materials, and by strengthening waste management and asset disposal practices. Environmentally responsible operational systems will demonstrate organizational leadership and credibility while reducing long-term operational risks and costs.
- Community based management: DACAAR will integrate communities' participation in planning, management and decision making of all four thematic areas practices for better implementation of the projects and smooth workflow.
- Knowledge management, monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting: DACAAR will put in place a robust monitoring and evaluation system to assess the environmental impacts of its operations. This system will include specific GESI indicators, targets for reducing waste generation, and resource conservation metrics. Annual reports will be shared with stakeholders to ensure transparency and accountability. Systematic data collection and learning processes will track progress, measure impact, and inform adaptive management. By

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capturing and sharing lessons learned, DACAAR will strengthen evidence-based decision-making and enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of its interventions.

By embedding environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and social inclusion into all its activities, DACAAR contributes to a greener, more just future for Afghanistan, while adhering to international environmental and human rights standards.

## **7. Accountability and Governance**

DACAAR recognizes that the success of this Environment, Climate and Sustainability Policy hinges on strong governance, transparent monitoring, and consistent accountability. Overall accountability for the implementation of this policy rests with DACAAR senior management, supported by designated technical focal points at country and programme levels. The technical focal points constitute an Environment, Climate and Sustainability Committee (ECSC) established in accordance with the Terms of Reference outlined in **Annex A**. The ECSC will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the policy, ensuring compliance with global environmental standards, and continually improving environmental and climate performance in line with international best practices.

- Governance structure: The ECSC will be composed of senior leadership, technical environmental experts, and local community representatives. This ensures that the policy remains inclusive, context-sensitive, and aligned with DACAAR's mission of community-driven development.
- Oversight and reporting: The ECSC will be tasked with reviewing DACAAR's climate and environmental activities quarterly. Annual environmental performance reports will be published and shared with donors, stakeholders, and the Afghan government, the Climate and Environment Charter, ensuring transparency, commitment and promoting dialogue on areas for improvement. These reports will include key performance indicators (KPIs) related to carbon emissions, resource management, GESI integration, and project-specific environmental impacts.
- Continuous improvement: The committee will ensure that the policy evolves in response to emerging environmental challenges, technological advances, and global shifts in environmental governance. For instance, the ECSC will keep pace with developments in international agreements, such as updates to the Paris Agreement, SDGs, and other multilateral environmental treaties.

## **8. Policy review and updates**

The dynamic nature of environmental challenges, particularly in conflict-affected regions like Afghanistan, demands a flexible and adaptive policy approach. DACAAR will undertake an annual review of this Environment, Climate and Sustainability Policy to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness. This review will be informed by input from the Environment, Climate and Sustainability Committee, local communities, and key stakeholders, including government authorities and international partners.

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- Stakeholder consultation: To align with best practices in environmental governance, DACAAR will conduct wide-reaching consultations during the review process. This will involve gathering feedback from beneficiaries, particularly women and marginalized groups, to ensure that the policy reflects their needs and perspectives.
- Alignment with global standards: DACAAR will ensure that policy updates align with emerging international frameworks such as the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework and any newly ratified UN resolutions related to environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

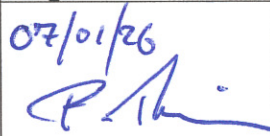
By maintaining a proactive and adaptive policy review process, DACAAR ensures that its environmental initiatives not only address current challenges but are also resilient enough to handle future shifts in both environmental conditions and global standards. This ongoing policy evolution guarantees that DACAAR remains at the forefront of sustainable development and inclusive environmental governance in Afghanistan.

### 9. Roll out plan

No.	Activity	Responsibility	By when
1.	Develop a one-page environmental policy statement	Environment, Climate and Sustainability Committee	Feb 2026
2.	Translate into local languages, policy document and the one pager statement and share with all staff	Technical Coordination Unit Fundraising and Communications	April 2026
3.	Develop office banners and IEC materials and display in offices	Technical Coordination Unit Fundraising and Communications	April 2026
4.	Produce a short policy awareness video (2 Minutes) in English and local languages- share with staff and upload on website	Technical Coordination Unit Fundraising and Communications IT	April 2026
5.	Capacity building and staff awareness raising	Human Resources Environment, Climate and Sustainability Committee	Ongoing from April 2026
	<i>1. Develop training and awareness materials (presentations, handouts and IEC materials)</i>		

	2. <i>Conduct orientation sessions for Kabul main office staff, regional office, field office</i>	Fundraising and Communications Local partners e.g. EPTDO	
	3. <i>Integrate the Environment, Climate and Sustainability Policy into staff induction processes</i>	Private partners	
6.	Monitoring and follow-up, collecting feedback from staff on understanding, usability and uptake of the policy	Environment, Climate and Sustainability Committee MEAL Programs and Operations	Ongoing annually

#### 10. Record of Revisions for This Policy

Date	Section Revised	Description of Change	Total Number of pages	Revised by	Approved by
December 2024	All	A new policy has been developed.	14	Strategy and Policy Coordinator	Acting Director
January 2026	All	Integrating climate considerations into the policy, and aligning to the new Strategic Framework	25	The Environment, Climate and Sustainability Committee (ECSC)	Country Director
<b>Statement</b>			<b>Approved by</b>		<b>Signature / Date</b>
The revised version of the DACAAR Environment, Climate, and Sustainability Policy will be effective from 01.01.2026			Peder Thorning, Country Director		07/01/26 



## Annex A: Terms of Reference for the Environmental Climate Sustainability Committee

### Introduction

The Environment, Climate and Sustainability Committee (ECSC) is established under DACAAR's Environment, Climate and Sustainability Policy, updated 2026, to ensure environmental sustainability, compliance with international standards, and the integration of climate resilience into all operational and programmatic activities. This ToR outlines the roles, responsibilities, structure, and functioning of the ECSC to achieve DACAAR's commitment to sustainable development in Afghanistan.

### Specific tasks and responsibilities of the ECSC

- Oversee the implementation and monitoring of DACAAR's Environment, Climate and Sustainability Policy.
- Promote environmental sustainability and climate resilience across all DACAAR programmes and projects.
- Facilitate inclusive participation in environmental governance, prioritizing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI).
- Oversee the alignment of DACAAR's programs with the Environment, Climate and Sustainability Policy.
- Develop and implement strategies to mitigate environmental degradation and enhance climate resilience.
- Monitor compliance with national and international environmental laws and standards.
- Review and approve annual environmental performance reports.
- Build the capacity of staff, partners, and communities in environmental sustainability.
- Promote environmental awareness among stakeholders.
- Provide guidance on integrating environmental sustainability into program design and operations.
- Ensure meaningful engagement of marginalized groups in environmental governance.

### Composition of the ECSC

Role in ECSC	Name and designation	Responsibilities
Chairperson	Engr. Abdul Wali Muslih- Technical & Coordination Unit Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The Chairperson is responsible for convening meetings and ensuring the implementation of decisions.</li><li>● Lead and represent the ESC in internal and external forums.</li><li>● Ensure alignment of ECSC activities with DACAAR's strategic priorities.</li></ul>
Member	Safia Sharifi- Women Empowerment Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Participate in decision-making processes and contribute expertise.</li><li>● Monitor and evaluate environmental and climate performance in assigned areas.</li><li>● Organize meetings, document decisions, and follow up on action points.</li></ul>
Member	Khan Agha Shinwari- East Region Manager	
Member	Anastancia Mangisi- Climate and Environment Coordinator	

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Member	Sajidullah Safi- NRM Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the preparation of reports and other communication materials for climate and environment integration.</li> </ul>
Member	Camilla Madsen- Donor Compliance and Project Information Officer	
<p><b>The ECSC will track and report on all climate and environment interventions</b> (refer to the results framework, <b>Annex B</b>), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in environmental impacts and organization footprint such as waste generation.</li> <li>Increased capacity of staff and communities in climate and sustainability practices.</li> <li>Number of women and marginalized groups participating in governance processes.</li> <li>Strengthened organizational compliance and alignment with international frameworks such as SDG and national regulations.</li> <li>Environmental and climate risks systematically managed across programmes</li> <li>Sustainability integrated into programme design</li> </ul>		

### Meetings

Quarterly meetings, with additional sessions as needed.

### Annex B: Results framework, indicators and annual targets

The following results framework translates the policy objectives and implementation strategies into measurable results, indicators (both output and outcome), means of verification and annual targets. This framework provides an accountability mechanism to track progress, support learning, and guide adaptive management. The framework will be reviewed annually and updated as needed to reflect contextual changes.

Policy Objective	Key Result	Output Indicators	Outcome indicators	Means of verification	Annual Targets
By 2028, DACAAR enhances environmental awareness and technical capacity of staff, partners, and targeted communities.	Staff, partners, and communities demonstrate improved knowledge and application of sustainable and climate-resilient practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of staff, partners and communities trained on environmental sustainability, sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of trained staff, partners and communities demonstrating increased awareness (post training), and applying environmental safeguards in their work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training attendance registers</li> <li>Pre/post training evaluation results</li> <li>Field monitoring reports</li> </ul>	<p><b>2026:</b> 50%</p> <p><b>2027:</b> 75%</p> <p><b>2028:</b> 90%</p>

<p>By 2028, all DACAAR programmes integrate environmental sustainability, climate adaptation, and DRR considerations.</p>	<p>Environmental and climate considerations are systematically embedded across the project cycle.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of new project proposals screened for environmental and climate risks</li> <li>• No. of programmes with environmental mitigation measures included</li> <li>• No. of staff trained on environmental mainstreaming tools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of programmes demonstrating reduced environmental risks</li> <li>• Improved resilience of target communities to climate shocks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project proposals and design documents</li> <li>• Environmental screening checklists</li> <li>• Programme reviews and evaluations</li> </ul>	<p><b>2026:</b> 60% <b>2027:</b> 80% <b>2028:</b> 90%</p>
<p>By 2028, DACAAR supports community resilience and ensures environmentally responsible asset management.</p>	<p>Assets are managed, operated, and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner while supporting adaptation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of staff trained on environmentally responsible asset use</li> <li>• Number of adaptation-focused community initiatives supported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced environmental risks from asset disposal</li> <li>• Increased community resilience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training reports</li> <li>• Community monitoring reports</li> </ul>	<p><b>2026:</b> 50% <b>2027:</b> 75% <b>2028:</b> 90%</p>
<p>By 2028, DACAAR systematically reduces negative environmental impacts across operations.</p>	<p>Operational environmental risks are identified and mitigated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of operations assessed for environmental risks</li> <li>• No. of waste management plans implemented</li> <li>• No. of staff sensitized on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in operational environmental incidents</li> <li>• Improved compliance with environmental safeguards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance checklists and reports</li> </ul>	<p><b>2026:</b> 60% <b>2027:</b> 80% <b>2028:</b> 90%</p>

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		green operations			
By 2028, DACAAR improves energy, water, and material efficiency across operations.	Resource consumption and waste generation are reduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline assessments conducted for energy, water, and materials</li> <li>• Resource-efficiency measures introduced</li> <li>• Monitoring systems established</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced energy and water consumption</li> <li>• Reduced waste generation per office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utility bills and consumption records</li> <li>• Baseline and follow-up assessments</li> <li>• Internal monitoring dashboards</li> </ul>	<b>2026:</b> Baseline established <b>2027:</b> 5% reduction; <b>2028:</b> 10% reduction
By 2028, DACAAR supports agricultural resilience in drought-prone areas.	Targeted households adopt climate-smart agricultural practices and sustainable livelihoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of farmers supported with climate-smart interventions, including drought resistant crop varieties</li> <li>• No. of demonstrations or training sessions conducted on sustainable and climate resilient agricultural practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of farmers adopting climate-smart practices</li> <li>• Improved crop yields and income stability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training or demo registers</li> <li>• Field monitoring reports</li> <li>• Project progress reports</li> </ul>	<b>2026:</b> 10% <b>2027:</b> 40% <b>2028:</b> 60%
By 2028, DACAAR ensures compliance with national and international environmental standards.	Environmental compliance is embedded in organizational systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental compliance procedures developed</li> <li>• of compliance reviews conducted</li> <li>• No. of staff trained on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced non-compliance incidents</li> <li>• Improved organizational accountability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance checklists</li> <li>• Audit reports</li> </ul>	<b>2026:</b> 70% <b>2027:</b> 80% <b>2028:</b> 90%

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		environmental standards			
By 2028, DACAAR reduces transport-related emissions and logistics footprint.	Logistics operations are more efficient and environmentally responsible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green logistics guidelines adopted</li> <li>Fleet monitoring systems operational</li> <li>% of procurement aligned with sustainability standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced fuel consumption and emissions</li> <li>Improved logistics efficiency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fleet logs and fuel records</li> <li>Procurement documentation</li> <li>Logistics performance reports</li> </ul>	<b>2026:</b> Baseline established <b>2027:</b> 5% reduction; <b>2028:</b> 10% reduction

### Annex C: Glossary

To ensure clarity and consistency across DACAAR's environmental policy and projects, the following key terms are defined, incorporating global best practices, international agreements, and context-specific challenges in Afghanistan. This comprehensive set of definitions ensures that DACAAR's environmental policy is grounded in globally recognized concepts and adapted to the unique environmental and social challenges of Afghanistan. These definitions provide a foundation for developing targeted strategies that promote sustainability, inclusion, and resilience in all of DACAAR's programs.

- **Sustainability:** The ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This involves the responsible management of natural resources to avoid long-term environmental degradation while fostering economic and social development. In Afghanistan, this is particularly crucial in managing scarce water resources and reducing land degradation.
- **Climate resilience:** The capacity of systems, communities, and ecosystems to anticipate, absorb, and recover from the impacts of climate-related hazards, such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves. DACAAR's climate resilience efforts include promoting adaptive agricultural practices and designing infrastructure that withstands climate-induced disasters. The goal is to safeguard livelihoods and minimize the vulnerability of at-risk communities.
- **Environment:** This encompasses all external conditions, resources, and influences the life, development, and survival of living organisms, including air, water, soil, ecosystems, and biodiversity. DACAAR's Environmental Policy prioritizes protecting and improving the environment by addressing challenges like pollution, climate change, and natural resource degradation. This commitment ensures sustainable development, resilience, and improved well-being for vulnerable communities in Afghanistan.

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- Environmental justice: A principle ensuring that no group, particularly vulnerable or marginalized populations, bears an undue burden of environmental hazards while being denied access to environmental benefits. This concept promotes the fair and equitable distribution of environmental risks and resources, such as access to clean water, land rights, and energy. DACAAR's commitment to environmental justice is critical in areas where resource conflict and environmental degradation disproportionately affect poor and rural communities.
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI): GESI ensures that all genders and marginalized groups have equal access to decision-making processes, resources, and benefits derived from development projects. In environmental governance, this means involving women and socially excluded groups in resource management, climate adaptation, and disaster preparedness programs. GESI also aims to address the disproportionate impacts that environmental degradation and climate change have on women and marginalized communities.
- Natural Resources Management (NRM): The sustainable utilization and management of critical natural resources, including land, water, soil, and biodiversity. NRM involves maintaining a balance between resource use and conservation to prevent depletion or degradation, particularly in Afghanistan's fragile ecosystems. DACAAR's NRM programs focus on sustainable agriculture, reforestation, and community-led resource governance to ensure long-term environmental stability.
- Adaptation (to climate change): This is what we do to adjust to the changing climate, that is the actual or expected climate and its effects. DACAAR's Environmental Policy reflects the concept of adaptation by emphasizing adjustments in ecological, social, and economic systems in response to the impacts of climate change. The policy focuses on implementing changes in practices, processes, and structures to mitigate environmental damage and enhance community resilience.
- Ecosystem: This is a dynamic complex of living organisms and their non-living environment, interacting as a functional unit. In the context of DACAAR's Environmental Policy, the concept of ecosystems is central to promoting sustainable natural resource management. By protecting and restoring ecosystems, DACAAR aims to enhance biodiversity, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and ensure the sustainable provision of essential services such as clean water, fertile soils, and resilient livelihoods for communities in Afghanistan.
- Ecosystem services: The benefits that ecosystems provide to humans, including clean water, air, fertile soil, and biodiversity. In Afghanistan, the degradation of these services, through deforestation, soil erosion, and biodiversity loss, directly impacts the livelihoods of rural communities. DACAAR's policy focuses on restoring and preserving these ecosystem services to support sustainable development.
- Paris Agreement: A global accord that aims to limit global warming to below 2°C, with efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. The agreement emphasizes reducing carbon emissions, enhancing climate resilience, and supporting developing countries in their climate actions. DACAAR's environmental policy is aligned with the Paris Agreement's goals,

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particularly in supporting Afghanistan's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and promoting renewable energy use.

- **Biodiversity**: The variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat. DACAAR's activities support biodiversity conservation in Afghanistan, where deforestation, overgrazing, and unsustainable agricultural practices threaten ecosystems. The policy aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, aiming to halt biodiversity loss and restore ecosystems.
  - **Environmental governance**: The systems, processes, and institutions through which decisions related to environmental management and policy are made and enforced. Good environmental governance ensures the participation of all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and local communities, in the protection and sustainable use of natural resources.
  - **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**: A systematic approach to identifying, assessing, and reducing risks of disaster. In Afghanistan, where environmental hazards like droughts and floods are frequent, DACAAR integrates DRR strategies into its programs to enhance community resilience and reduce vulnerability to environmental disasters.
  - **Mitigation (of climate change)**: Action that limits or prevents greenhouse gas emissions and enhances activities that remove these gases from the atmosphere through sustainable practices, such as promoting energy efficiency, reducing deforestation, and implementing renewable energy solutions. DACAAR focuses on minimizing environmental degradation by encouraging sustainable agriculture, water management, and reforestation projects. These mitigation strategies are designed to help reduce Afghanistan's environmental footprint, contribute to global climate goals, and safeguard natural resources for future generations.
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