**HANDOUT 1 Environmental Stewardship Tool**

**WHO**

Project managers, coordinators, field officers, funding officers and technical advisers from CIMOs and partner organizations working on projects that may have environmental issues. This should be completed with those who have knowledge of the local context to form a programme design team. The programme design team may consist of but is not limited to agency/partner staff (mentioned above) along with government representatives, community members, or anyone else involved in the design/implementation of the programme

**WHEN**

The tool should be used during the programme design phase and prior to implementation of a project to inform stakeholders of both the risks associated with negative environmental impact along with the benefits of activities which could regenerate the natural environment. The tool can also be used during project implementation as part of continuous improvement for programme quality and for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning purposes

**WHY**

***Providing stewardship over the Earth is critical to all those who inhabit it***, is one of the core principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Additionally, Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si, calls us to “realize that a true ecological approach *always* becomes a social approach…so as to hear *both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor*. The impact of programme activities on the built and natural environment may be unnoticeable at first but could have long term impacts if not closely analyzed at the beginning. Therefore, Caritas Internationalis Member Organizations (CIMOs) and partners seek to ensure that environmental stewardship is applied in their work. This tool was developed to strengthen CIMO's environmental policies in all programme activities and compliments other environmental impact assessment tools. The main objective is to ensure that the preservation of natural resources (such as forests, wild animals, water, soil etc.) is done in a sustainable manner alongside all activities involving the natural and built environment (such as shelter and infrastructure construction).

**WHAT**

The Environmental Stewardship Tool (EST) is intended to enhance programme quality and improve the accountability of humanitarian and development programming (namely in Food Security and Livelihoods, DRR, Education, Health, Shelter/Settlements and WASH sectors) to improve, rather than degrade the natural environment. The tool allows for rapid identification and registering the risk level of key environmental issues which could be experienced by natural and manmade systems in the programme activities. For this tool, Environmental Risk can be defined as the actual or potential threat of adverse effects on living organisms and the environment arising out of planned activities. Furthermore, the EST provides a series of statements to answer when designing a programme which can identify the amount of risk each action may have on the environment and on individuals and communities living in those programme areas. To mitigate this risk and promote environmentally responsible and regenerative activities, there is also sector specific guidance presented in the EST.

**Tier 1** is designed to serve as a quick checklist to identify potential environmental risks because of existing conditions or project activities. This is merely an analysis of the context and presents an overview of areas that should be addressed moving forward. ***Tier 1 takes approximately 30 minutes to complete***

**HOW TO USE THE TOOL**

The programme design team should work together when using this tool by starting at Tier 1. As there are different levels of need for every programme, the tool is divided into 3 different tiers, detailed below. Each Tier provides detailed instructions for how to complete the specific section. In some cases, performing an analysis at Tier 1 may be all that is needed. For more in depth understanding of environmental issues and programme activities, working on Tier 2 to identify specific risk and Tier 3 to identify mitigation measures may be needed. Throughout the programme design process, the team involved should have access to information to complete the EST, however, secondary data and outside expertise can be incorporated into the analysis if needed and time allows

**Risk ID**

**Tier 2** registers the "risk" of the issues identified in Tier 1 by measuring the likelihood and the impact of the specific issue. ***Tier 2 takes approximately 1 - 2 hours to complete depending on the overall scope of the programme being analyzed***

**Risk Profiling**

**Tier 3** looks to register the overall risk of issues identified in Tier 1 by identifying any existing mitigation measures that could reduce risk. Additionally, Tier 3 aims to identify other mitigation measures that could further ensure good environmental management and potential generation of natural landscapes. ***Tier 3 takes approximately 1 - 2 hours to complete depending on the overall scope of the programme being analyzed***

**Risk Register & Mitigation**

To better inform mitigation measures (Tier 3), there are tabs associated with multiple sectors (Agriculture/Livelihoods, DRR, Shelter and WASH) which present guidance on sector specific mitigation options which that could be incorporated into programming. The list is not exhaustive and generally contains options which are considered environmentally sustainable

**Additional Guidance**