

Environmental Stewardship Tool

WHY

Stewardship is one of the core principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Caring for the natural environment is critical for the wellbeing of all those who inhabit the planet. In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls us to “realise 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 consequences if not closely analysed at the beginning. Caritas Internationalis Member Organizations (CIMOs) and partners seek to ensure environmental stewardship is applied in all our work. The Environmental Stewardship Tool (EST) was developed to help teams *screen for environmental risks* as they design programmes and activities; it can complement other environmental impact assessment tools. The main objective of the EST is to ensure that the preservation of natural resources (such as forests, biodiversity, 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* programmes (namely in Food Security and Livelihoods, DRR, Markets & CVA, Shelter & Settlements and WASH sectors) to improve, rather than degrade the natural environment. This includes not only our thematic approaches but also our operations. The tool allows for the rapid identification and registering the risk level of key environmental issues which could be experienced by natural and manmade systems as a result of programme activities. For the purposes of this tool, *Environmental Risk* is defined as *the actual or potential threat of adverse effects on living organisms and the natural environment arising out of planned activities*. Tier 1 provides a series of statements to consider when designing a programme. Tier 2 supports teams to rank the level of risk each action may have on the environment and on individuals and communities living in those programme areas. Tier 3 helps mitigate risks by prompting measures that are environmentally responsible and activities that are regenerative in nature; with sector specific guidance provided in the accompanying tabs

WHEN

The tool should be used during the programme design phase and prior to the implementation of a project to inform stakeholders of both the risks associated with potentially negative environmental impacts, 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 improvements in programme quality and for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning purposes

WHO

Project managers, coordinators, field officers, funding officers and technical staff from CIMOs and partner organisations working on projects that interface with the natural environment. This should be completed by the *programme design team* and include those who have knowledge of the local context. The programme design team may consist of, but is not limited to, agency/partner staff, along with government representatives, community members, or anyone else involved in the design/implementation of the programme

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 (context, national requirements, planned activities...) to complete the EST, however, secondary data and outside expertise can be incorporated into the analysis if needed and time allows

Risk ID	<p>Tier 1 is designed to serve as a quick checklist to identify potential environmental risks as a result of planned 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</p>
Risk Profiling	<p>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 analysed</p>
Risk Register & Mitigation	<p>Tier 3 measures the <i>overall risk</i> of issues identified in Tier 1 by identifying any existing mitigation measures that could reduce risks. Additionally, Tier 3 prompts the identification of other mitigation measures to further ensure good environmental stewardship and the potential generation of natural landscapes, Tier 3 takes approximately 1 - 2 hours to complete depending on the overall scope of the programme being analysed</p>
Additional Guidance	<p>To better inform mitigation measures (Tier 3), thematic tabs are presented for Food Security & Livelihoods, DRR, Shelter & Settlements, WASH and Markets & CVA. These present guidance on sector specific mitigation options, in addition to operations and safe and dignified programming considerations. The list is not exhaustive and contains options which are considered environmentally sustainable.</p>