



AFGHAN BUREAU
COLLABORATION OFFICE
(ABCO)

STATEMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

January 2020

Objectives

1. To promote the sound management of ABCO's environment in its entirety without compromise, balancing the needs for social and economic development and environmental integrity, to the maximum extent possible while restricting inimical activities.
2. To manage the environment by linking together the activities, interests and perspectives of all at both the central and the local levels.
3. To assure environmental accountability.

Principles

1. The guiding principles of environmental management will be "the polluter pays" and the need to reduce consumption, and recycle and reuse materials to the maximum extent possible.
2. When living natural resources are used, it will be ensured that such use is wise, sustainable, and consistent with the integrity of ecosystems and evolutionary processes.
3. When non-living resources are used, it will be ensured that such use is consistent with environmental best-practice, bearing in mind the need to provide also for future generations.
4. Traditional knowledge and practices will be respected in the development of environmental management systems.
5. Effective governance will be ensured through the decentralization of environmental management services to the maximum possible extent.

Statements

1. Resources such as land, water, air, minerals and biodiversity will be managed in a manner consistent with the viability of ecological processes.
2. Environmental management will be through participatory, transparent, predictable and accountable decision-making processes at all levels.

3. In addition to protecting the environment from abuse, management systems will take into account the need to restore environments damaged in the past.

4. Environmental management systems will be encouraged to be flexible so as to adapt to changing situations (e.g., climate change, invasive species and living genetically-modified organisms) and adopt the Precautionary Principle.

5. The economic value of environmental services will be recognized so as to assure the sustainability of such services for the benefit of the people.

6. The state of the environment will continuously be assessed and reported on through an appropriate institutionalized monitoring framework based on a comprehensive set of indicators.

7. The institutional framework for sound environmental management will be strengthened through capacity-building, legislative instruments and improved inter-institutional coordination and linkages.

8. "Life cycle" and 'cleaner production' principles will be applied to improve the efficiency of natural resource use and to improve environmental quality.

9. Responsible public-private and community partnerships and linkages will be promoted at all levels of environmental management and conservation.

10. Education at all levels, together with research, will be promoted in a manner designed to increase the level of awareness of all aspects of the environment and its care and management among all stakeholders.

11. Inter-organizational responsible behaviours will be encouraged and further developed through an effective framework of awareness building, incentives and enforcement.

12. International commitments will be honoured as part of our responsibility to the national and global communities.

Explanation of Key Concepts

Biodiversity:

The total variety and variability of all living things, including their genetic constituents, interrelationships and habitats; and the *ecosystems* and landscapes of which they are part.

Cleaner production:

The continuous application of an integrated preventive strategy to processes, products and services so as to increase efficiency and reduce risks to people and the environment.

Climate change:

The human-induced changes taking place in the world's climate, especially the trend towards global warming, which will deeply impact on *ecosystems*. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol seek to reduce the rate of change by curbing practices that are thought to accelerate climate change.

Conservation:

The wise use and management of nature and natural resources for their inherent value and for the benefit of society, bearing in mind that future generations have as much right to these resources as our own/

Ecological process:

A process involving the relationship between an organism and (both the living and non-living elements of) its environment. Wise conservation practice should not be restricted to organisms by themselves but be extended also to the *ecological processes* of which they are part.

Ecosystem:

A complex of living communities of organisms and their non-living environment interacting as an entity of its own.

Environment:

The *ecosystem* of which we are part.

Environmental indicators:

Direct or indirect signs that inform us about the health or sickness of the environment. Examples include lichens, which die in the presence of pollutant gases; and the presence of

the bacterium *E. coli* in water, which suggests the presence of faecal matter.

Environmental integrity:

The wholeness of our environment, without any aspect of it being damaged.

Environmental:

The principle that we are each accountable for.

Accountability:

Any actions on our part that affect the environment, and acknowledges our accountability to society.

Evolutionary processes:

The complex processes giving rise to the evolution of organisms, usually involving observable changes only after thousands or millions of years. Biodiversity conservation is about the conservation of *evolutionary processes*: i.e. we seek to conserve not just species and their ecosystems, but their freedom to continue the process of evolution in perpetuity. In view of the pressures on ecosystems resulting from human-induced disturbances such as pollution, habitat degradation and *invasive species*, evolutionary processes are threatened in the truly long term.

Invasive species:

Species not indigenous to a given ecosystem, but which invade it, usually as a result of introduction from abroad (e.g. the widespread tilapia fish, which was introduced from Africa in the 1950s). Indigenous species too, can invade ecosystems that are damaged or under stress.

Life Cycle Principle:

Designing, producing and using goods and services so as to minimize negative impacts on people and ecosystems, whether in the short- or long-term.

Living genetically- modified organisms:

Organisms, usually crop plants, whose genetic components have been altered through biotechnology so as to enhance their agricultural value. Despite extensive testing, many people entertain fears that these could be harmful to health or damage the environment in as yet unknown ways, or prove to be *invasive*.

Polluter Pays Principle:

The principle that each of us is responsible to pay for cleaning up the mess we make. This includes paying more for cleaner fuel, for the responsible disposal of garbage, and for cleaner industries and mechanisms to clean the environment, such as afforestation.

Precautionary Principle:

The principle that when an activity carries a potentially high environmental risk that cannot be fully assessed (e.g., for lack of time, money or information), action should be taken to prohibit or restrict the activity before the uncertainty is resolved.

Protection:

(As opposed to *conservation*) the prevention of harm, usually by passive means, without intervention and active management.

Sustainable development:

International and National development that meets the needs and aspirations of the present generation without compromising the ability to meet those of future generations, which have as much right to nature and natural resources as we do.

Caring for the Environment:

Taking active measures to ensure environmental integrity.

Outcomes to be achieved

The Statement of Environmental Policy provides the direction and framework for managing and caring for the environment. The implementation of the policy has to recognize the impact of human activity on the natural resources individually and on the environment as a whole in ABCO at the present time. In relation to the four basic natural resources of land, water, atmosphere and biological diversity, the application of the National Environmental Policy should focus on achieving the outcomes set out below:

AFGHAN BUREAU COLLABORATION OFFICE is committed to reducing its impact on the environment. We will strive to improve our environmental performance over time and to initiate additional projects and activities that will further reduce our impacts on the environment.

Our commitment to the environment extends to our customers, our staff, and the community in which we operate. We are committed to:

Comply with all applicable environmental regulations;

- Prevent pollution whenever possible;
- Train all of our staff on our environmental program and empower them to contribute and participate;
- Communicate our environmental commitment and efforts to our customers, staff, and our community; and
- Continually improve over time by striving to measure our environmental impacts and by setting goals to reduce these impacts each year.
- Minimise waste by evaluating operations and ensuring they are as efficient as possible.
- Minimise toxic emissions through the selection and use of its fleet and the source of its power requirement.
- Actively promote recycling both internally and amongst its customers and suppliers.
- Source and promote a product range to minimise the environmental impact of both production and distribution.
- Meet or exceed all the environmental legislation that relates to the Company.
- Use an accredited program to offset the greenhouse gas emissions generated by our activities.

Name: KH MOHAD SALIM YAHIA

Title: Director

Date: 01 – 01 – 2020

Stamp & Signature:

