FRAMEWORK FOR GREENING HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN THE PACIFIC

Australian Aid

HUMANITARIAN ADVISORY GROUP

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About HAG

Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) was founded in 2012 to elevate the profile of humanitarian action in Asia and the Pacific. Set up as a social enterprise, HAG provides a unique space for thinking, research, technical advice and training that contributes to excellence in humanitarian practice. As an ethically driven business, we combine humanitarian passion with entrepreneurial agility to think and do things differently.

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About Greening the System

The *Greening the System* research stream, under the DFAT-funded *Humanitarian Horizons 2021–24* initiative, seeks to measurably support the humanitarian sector to reduce its negative impacts on the climate and environment.

The first phase of this research produced a Vision for a Green Humanitarian Future, launched in August 2022. This vision was interrogated and validated through a multi-stakeholder methodology workshop on 31 August 2022, to guide the next steps for the research. The second phase of this research focuses on turning this Vision into action, through the development of two initiatives that present practical ideas for achieving a greener humanitarian system.

This *Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific* is the first initiative from the inaugural phase of the *Greening the System* research. The second is an exploration of behavioural barriers and enablers to greening humanitarian aid globally, using a behavioural science approach with the intent to provide solutions and actions. Although the second initiative is not specific to the Pacific region, it can provide lessons and insights to users of the framework that will support its operationalisation.

Together, these two initiatives seek to shift the status quo of humanitarian operations towards greener actions when planning and implementing a response. The framework provides the practical tools required, and the behavioural analysis supports their uptake and impact.

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Abbreviations

ARC	Australian Red Cross
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CVA	Cash Voucher Assistance
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HAG	Humanitarian Advisory Group
HCC	Humanitarian Carbon Calculator
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
HLC	Humanitarian Leadership Capability
PCCC	Pacific Climate Change Centre
UBD	Unsolicited Bilateral Donation

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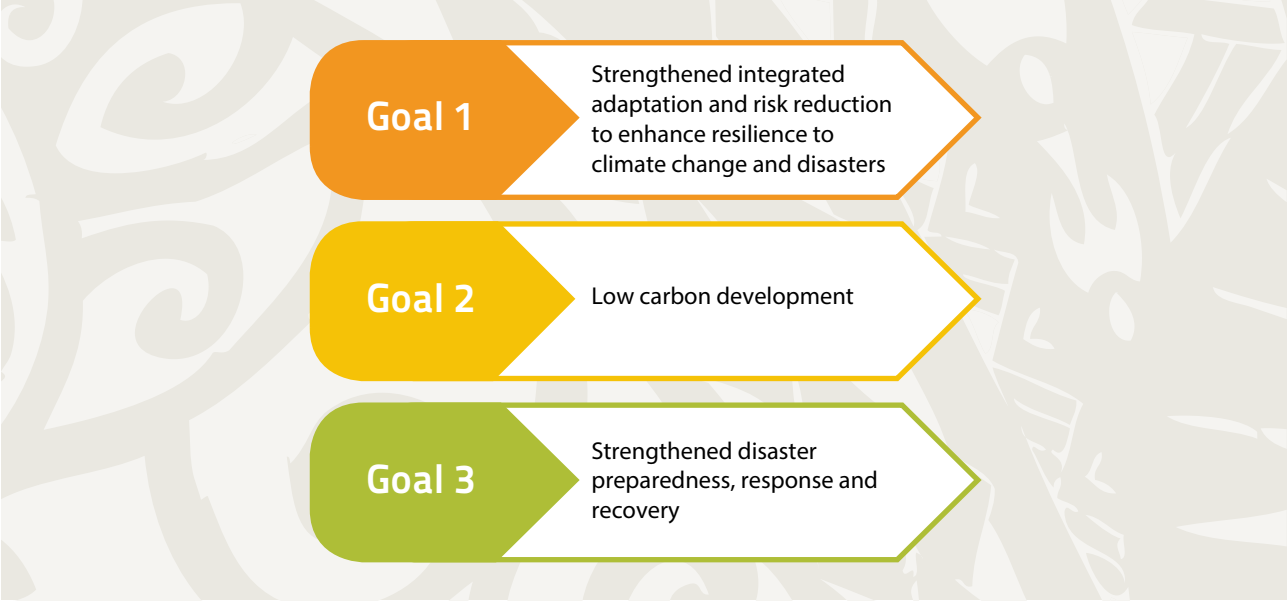
Introduction

The Pacific region is highly vulnerable to the increasingly frequent and severe disasters caused by natural hazards, including extreme weather and climate change. Whilst humanitarian responses to these disasters are increasing proportionally, their own negative impacts must be reduced. Incorporating greener approaches and processes into Pacific humanitarian action helps avoid or minimise negative effects on communities, their environmental resources, cultural values, economic opportunities, and community practices. Simultaneously, 'greening' creates opportunities for nature-positive outcomes to stem from humanitarian activities for Pacific communities.

Pacific nations are global leaders in climate and disaster resilience policy and practice. There is extensive regional and national willingness to meet the challenges facing the region, as highlighted in the plethora of regional and national policies that set goals for progress.[1] An example of this is the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP): 2017-2030, a policy framework developed by the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2016, to guide climate change and disaster risk management in three priority areas (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: Goals of the FRDP[2]



1 HAG (2023) *Behind the Scenes: Developing the Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific*. Humanitarian Horizons. Melbourne: HAG

2 Framework for resilient development in the Pacific: 2017–2030, (2016), p. 12

Operational guidance and tools are needed to ensure that policies can be put into practice. This *Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific* aims to support priority actions under all three goals of the FRDP, supporting actors to operationalise policy commitments in a relevant and contextually appropriate way for Pacific needs and communities (Box 1).

Box 1: Framework snapshot

What? An operational framework and supporting resources to strengthen green humanitarian action.

How? The framework can be contextualised and scaled to meet the needs of actors at different levels and different stages of their greening journey. It provides a process to use as a guide, and tools to implement the process.

For whom? Local, national, regional and international humanitarian actors.

What does the framework include?

- The process: how to use the framework in your context
- The priorities: the key areas and detailed priority actions
- The tools: screening and baselining tools to support implementation.

WHAT DOES THIS FRAMEWORK DO?

This operational framework provides local, national, regional and international humanitarian practitioners, policymakers and donors with a practical approach for strengthening greener humanitarian action in the Pacific. It was designed to avoid the overly technical and therefore inaccessible nature of other frameworks, and is the first framework developed specifically for the Pacific region. This framework centralises community perspectives, priorities and the roles of national actors in leading humanitarian responses (see overleaf).

LOCALISING HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP SUPPORTS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This framework centralises localising humanitarian leadership, which supports environmental sustainability, because local actors have in-depth knowledge of their environments and can deliver more sustainable and effective assistance in environmentally and culturally sensitive Pacific communities. Local humanitarian leaders can collectively incorporate cultural and traditional knowledge and practices and community-based practices for environmental sustainability into the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance in the Pacific. At all levels and through all stages of this framework, it is critical to:

- **Elevate and include** local actors, including community-based actors, individual experts and leaders of disaster-affected communities to ensure local environmental considerations are factored into all phases of humanitarian assistance
- **Acknowledge the diversity of local leadership**, perspectives and their environmental management practices. Actively seek to include the voices of women and girls, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, youth, elderly, LGBTQI+ people, civil society and people from a variety of linguistic groups, classes and social backgrounds
- **Share capacities** between international and local agencies to avoid duplication and build a common understanding of local environments, cultural practices and traditional knowledge
- **Preserve and uphold cultural and traditional knowledge and practices** as central components of environmentally conscious humanitarian action
- **Collaborate with Pacific diaspora leaders** to improve coordination during humanitarian emergencies and leverage the expertise, influence and reach of diaspora networks.

Box 2 below provides an example of a local structure in Fiji that is used throughout the disaster management cycle.

Box 2: Localising humanitarian leadership

In the traditional and cultural practices of solesolevaki in Fiji, all concerned community members gather to make critical decisions collectively. Solesolevaki draws upon social capital, entails indigenous values and ethos, and guides people to work together for the common good. Cultural practices such as solesolevaki are widely respected in Pacific communities, and are ideal avenues for promoting local leadership, partnership, cooperation, and ownership of humanitarian assistance operations.

HOW WAS THE FRAMEWORK DEVELOPED?

This framework was developed through a consultative process with Pacific climate specialists and Pacific stakeholders from governments, donors, humanitarian agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs), in order to develop priorities and actions based on Pacific needs. It draws on the key priority areas presented in the Vision for a Green Humanitarian Future paper. The development process for the framework included an analysis of over 70 relevant regional policy frameworks, review of 16 existing tools and initiatives, and two workshops with Pacific stakeholders in June and September 2023.[3]

WHO IS THIS FRAMEWORK FOR?

This framework was designed for use by Pacific Humanitarian actors. Pacific humanitarian actors include community-based organisations; local, national and international non-governmental organisations; International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movements; United Nations agencies; local, provincial, national and international governments; regional bodies; and donor agencies.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY 'GREENING'?

'Greening' means reducing the negative impacts upon both the climate and environment. In the Pacific humanitarian context, greening includes reducing carbon emissions produced through operations, increasing the use of sustainable humanitarian supplies and avoiding single-use plastics, the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity during responses, and the use of nature-based solutions in humanitarian contexts.

Pacific stakeholders identified that the term 'greening' may be interpreted differently by stakeholders and across the region. In refining this framework, we will continue to explore appropriate terminology with Pacific stakeholders and provide guidance on contextualisation of the term when working with communities.

3 For further detail on the methodology, see HAG (2023) *Behind the Scenes: Developing the Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific.* Humanitarian Horizons. Melbourne: HAG.

How to use the framework

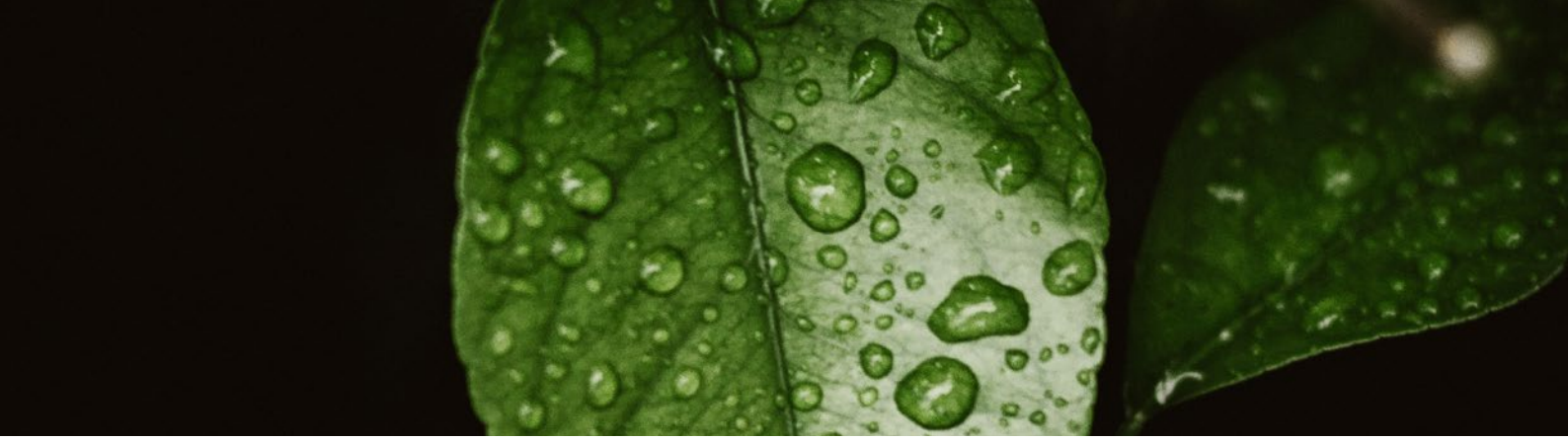
This framework is intended to provide relevant information and examples of potential gaps, opportunities and solutions related to greening humanitarian action. The framework can be used at the response level, project level, or organisation level.

PROCESS

The steps below in Figure 2 can be used to implement the framework in ways that suit particular contexts. Not all the steps, or their order below, are mandatory to make the best use of the framework.

Figure 2: Steps to use the framework

4 A baseline is the reference point against which progress can be measured. To create a baseline, you will need to collect information about your current practices and operations. You can use your baseline to evaluate the success of your future efforts to improve the environmental sustainability of your work.



Key Areas for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific

The priority areas and corresponding actions follow those outlined in the Vision for a Green Humanitarian Future, which provides ambitious, visionary goals. This framework recognises that visionary goals can only be reached with many incremental, operational actions.

Figure 3 below provides a snapshot of the five key areas.

Figure 3: Key areas for greening humanitarian action

1. PROTECT HABITATS AND THEIR INHABITANTS
2. MANAGE WATER USE
3. TACKLE WASTE
4. RACE TOWARDS NET ZERO
5. CHOOSE CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Each key area has three main components:

1. **Desired outcomes:** outcome statements detailing the end goal for each of the five areas
2. **Activity areas:** specific priorities that will advance progress within each of the five areas
3. **Actions:** detailed initiatives that can be implemented to advance change.

The actions in the framework are mapped to phases of the Disaster Management Cycle, as articulated in Figure 4 below. Corresponding icons demonstrate throughout the framework to which phase of the cycle actions belong.

Figure 4: Disaster Management Cycle

KEY AREA 1: PROTECT HABITATS AND THEIR INHABITANTS

Protecting and restoring the environment is central to accountability to affected populations. Humanitarian projects and operations must be designed and implemented to minimise environmental harms to crisis-affected areas, such as deforestation, biodiversity loss and the degradation of natural resources.

DESIRED OUTCOME — Humanitarian action has a net positive impact on habitats and biodiversity through sustainable infrastructure and climate-smart agricultural practices

Activity area 1.1

The design, construction and management of humanitarian infrastructure is environmentally sustainable

Actions	DM phase
1. Conduct environmental screening[5] to identify potential positive and negative effects associated with construction activities (see Annex 1).	1, 2, 3, 4
2. Prioritise the use of locally available materials, such as timber, that have been harvested sustainably and procured from local suppliers.	4
3. Encourage safe reuse of materials such as debris, rubber or rubble into construction activities to minimise waste.	4
4. Incorporate nature-based solutions, such as green roofs, gardens, and use of permeable surfaces instead of concrete.	1
5. Develop a maintenance action plan for infrastructure, including with budget lines for sustainability.	1, 2

5 Environmental screening is a process that identifies the potential positive and negative environmental and social impacts of an activity or proposed project before its implementation starts. It can reveal remedies for adverse effects and predict whether they will be successful.

Activity area 1.2

Agricultural activities are climate smart and mitigate negative environmental outcomes

Actions	DM phase
1. Conduct environmental screening to identify the potential positive and negative effects associated with agriculture and farming activities (see Annex 1).	1, 2, 3, 4
2. Use weather and climate information to plan climate-smart farming and agricultural activities.	1, 4
3. Protect ecosystems and habitats by avoiding introducing new species to areas, and protecting existing biodiversity, such as large trees.	1, 4
4. Work with conservation agencies to support community-based initiatives that integrate nature-based solutions, such as tree or mangrove replanting.	1, 4
5. Increase the productivity, sustainability and resilience of community agri-food systems to reduce the impacts of disasters (see Box 3).	1

Activity area 1.3

Local communities and traditional knowledge sources inform the design and use of agriculture and infrastructure activities

Actions	DM phase
1. Consult with community members (including women and girls, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, youth, elderly, LGBTQI+ people) to ensure that sites selected for construction or agriculture are suitable, protect land rights and conserve sacred or tabu sites.	1, 2, 4
2. Incorporate traditional knowledge, custom and practices to conserve native species and biodiversity in construction and agriculture activities.	1, 2, 4

Box 3: Civil Society Forum of Tonga – encouraging climate-smart agriculture in Tonga

The Civil Society Forum of Tonga developed the 'cash for crops' initiative to mitigate the impacts of post-disaster agricultural and soil damage and loss of land and enable the sustainable recovery of Tonga's agricultural sector. The program targets at-risk groups including women, children, the elderly, people with disability, agricultural workers and fishers. The program has three priorities: funding to assist affected farmers and labourers, food procurement initiatives, and crop distribution to affected families.

Following the tsunami in 2022, the cash for crops program assisted farmers with recovering and harvesting damaged crops, and delivered food and financial relief to at-risk communities, such as families evacuated from outer islands. The program also facilitated the replanting and germination of trees and crops to reverse soil erosion and land degradation caused by the tsunami and volcanic eruption. Replanting restored vast areas, which act as carbon sinks. Moreover, program coordinators encouraged and familiarised local farmers with climate-smart, organic agricultural practices, helping them to build a nationwide sustainable system.[6]

6 HAG, CSFT & MORDI (2022), *Treading gently: building on positive environmental practice in the Tonga volcano response.* Humanitarian Horizons. Melbourne: HAG, p. 15

KEY AREA 2: MANAGE WATER USE

Clean water access and management are crucial for communities during times of disaster, particularly rural and remote island communities. Long-term management of the Pacific's delicate water resources is an important part of humanitarian operations, enabling water resources to become sustainable and protected for future generations.

DESIRED OUTCOME — Humanitarian water and sanitation interventions centralise positive community practices and promote low-waste approaches

Activity area 2.1

Existing community-level water infrastructure is protected and improved

Actions	DM phase
1. Preserve and protect catchment ecosystems, including wetlands, trees, mangroves and biodiversity (e.g. through promoting sustainable fishing).	1, 2
2. Encourage storage of rainwater in tanks to create a backup source during disasters or periods of low rainfall.	2
3. Promote the use of monthly rainfall outlooks (produced by Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services) to inform decision-making on water use.	1, 2
4. Support communities to develop and resource maintenance plans for water infrastructure.	1, 2

Activity area 2.2

Emergency water responses prioritise low-waste alternatives to community/household level water provision (such as eliminating individual bottles)

Actions	DM phase
1. Conduct environmental screening to identify the potential negative and positive effects of proposed sanitation, treatment and WASH interventions (see Annex 1).	1, 2, 3, 4
2. Use large containers, drums, jerry cans or desalination equipment (that can be carried safely) instead of small plastic bottles.	3
3. If small drinking bottles are provided, encourage re-use by establishing community standpipes.	3
4. Repair or upgrade existing water supply and sanitation systems if possible.	1, 2, 4
5. Explore the use of biodigester systems to process organic waste into fertiliser/biogas.	1

Activity area 2.3

Local communities and traditional knowledge sources inform the design and use of water interventions

Actions	DM phase
1. Communities (including those upstream and downstream) are consulted about their water needs and practices, including cultural and gender responsive and inclusive practices for different groups.	1, 2, 3, 4
2. Leverage traditional knowledge in community water management plans and practices (see Box 4).	1, 2, 3, 4
3. Share lessons learned and best practices from other communities on sustainable water resource management.	1, 2

Box 4: WWF-Australia – leveraging traditional knowledge in community-based fisheries management practices in Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Fiji

Across the Pacific, women are responsible for as much of 50% of coastal fishing, but are generally excluded from fisheries management decision-making. For 10 years, with support from the Australian NGO Cooperation Program and John West Australia, WWF Australia has partnered with coastal communities in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea to advance sustainable community-based coastal fisheries management by empowering traditional knowledge and inclusive community governance.

WWF and local partners convened the first ever Symposium on Community Women Leaders in Coastal Fisheries Resource Management in the Solomon Islands in July 2021. Over 40 women gathered to share views on coastal fisheries and traditional resources management practices. The event led to a comprehensive set of recommendations for government and key partners in the fisheries sector in the Solomon Islands, highlighting the particular needs of women, people with disabilities, children and others in disadvantaged situations.

KEY AREA 3: TACKLE WASTE

It is essential humanitarian actors avoid, reduce and manage waste from their operations. Solid waste, such as relief items, their packaging, medical waste, e-waste and unsolicited bilateral donations (UBDs) should be managed to minimise environmental harm in crisis-affected areas, such as carbon dioxide and methane emissions, and toxic pollution that threatens the health of local populations.

DESIRED OUTCOME — Humanitarian action prioritises reduction and appropriate management of waste

Activity area 3.1

The use of plastic and packaging in equipment and relief items is minimised

Actions	DM phase
1. Promote cash voucher assistance (CVA) if assessments show local markets can provide sustainable, quality products with minimal packaging.	3
2. Consult sustainable item information sheets to inform choice of relief items, and encourage donors to consult them.	2, 3
3. Impose environmental policies that reduce packaging as early in the supply chain as possible (e.g. initial purchase agreements).	1
4. Integrate environmental standards into tender and contract documentation (e.g. avoiding single-use plastics) (see Box 6).	1

Activity area 3.2

Plastic, solid and health and medical waste in humanitarian action is reused, recycled, repurposed or managed appropriately

Actions	DM phase
1. Conduct environmental screening to identify the potential negative and positive effects associated with proposed sites for waste management and disposal (see Annex 1).	1, 2, 3, 4
2. Support community management of disaster waste (such as construction debris, electronic waste, organic and household waste) through provision of waste disposal equipment.	3, 4
3. Establish locally led (including women or youth led) waste awareness education programs teaching how to reuse, repurpose, recycle and dispose of waste. Encourage correct disposal into appropriate bins (see Box 5).	1, 2
4. Encourage donors sending relief supplies to take waste back, or plan for appropriate repurposing or disposal.	3, 4
5. Ensure medical waste is not burnt, does not enter waterways and is disposed of safely, taking advice from local health authorities.	3
6. Ensure medical waste disposal bins are sufficient, meet standards and consider different needs (clinical, non-clinical, sharps, and general waste).	2, 3

Activity area 3.3

Unsolicited bilateral donations are reduced through coordinated engagement and messaging

Actions	DM phase
1. Promote public messaging to people wanting to donate during a humanitarian response preferencing cash donations over materials; highlight the problems UBDs create.	3
2. Encourage development of national environmental regulations that cover UBDs.	1, 2

Activity area 3.4

Local community knowledge and preferences are centralised in decision-making around material use and management

Actions	DM phase
1. Consult communities (including women and girls, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, youth, elderly, LGBTQI+ people) to learn which relief supplies are locally available and culturally familiar, and how they are used and stored.	2, 3
2. Consult communities (including women and girls, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, youth, elderly, LGBTQI+ people) on appropriate methods and locations for disposal of waste.	2, 3

Box 5: No Pelestiki campaign – supporting waste reduction in Tonga

The No Pelestiki campaign, founded in 2018, aims to reduce and ultimately eliminate single-use plastics in Tonga through waste collection initiatives, public awareness programs and influencing local and national leaders and policy makers to ban single-use plastics. Funded by the New Zealand and Australian Governments, the volunteer-run campaign has made tremendous progress over the past five years. Following the tsunami in 2022, No Pelestiki volunteers collected over 3,000 kg of plastic waste from over 1,500 households. Local communities were eager to do their part, and continued to sort their plastic waste for recycling, re-use or disposal after the disaster. Australian partners supported the Tongan-based initiative by transporting the collected plastic to a location where it was compressed and disposed of appropriately.

No Pelesteki's public awareness program promotes the use of alternatives crafted from local materials, like traditional woven 'oa baskets made from coconut shoots. The goal is to educate local communities to enact effective, long-term change, rather than only short-term disaster waste relief. Focusing their efforts on schools and youth centres, No Pelestiki volunteers hope to instil new habits in Tongan children to bring about generational change.[7]

7 HAG, CSFT & MORDI (2022), *Treading gently: building on positive environmental practice in the Tonga volcano response.* Humanitarian Horizons. Melbourne: HAG, p. 15

Box 6: Humanitarian Logistics Capability – reducing packaging of humanitarian relief supplies

The Humanitarian Logistics Capability (HLC) is DFAT's emergency response mechanism, sending lifesaving relief supplies across the Indo-Pacific when humanitarian crises occur. The HLC is working to introduce environmental standards for packing of those relief items. As part of the HLC's commitment to remove unnecessary waste and plastic as early in the supply chain as possible, it introduced guidelines for suppliers on suitable packaging for pre-positioned humanitarian emergency relief supplies.

Whilst these guidelines actively support waste reduction in supply chains, some packaging cannot be reduced at procurement and items arrive with unnecessary waste. This is most common when the HLC consolidates multiple individual items into kits. To solve this problem, HLC warehouse staff inspect and remove unnecessary packaging. Waste removal efforts have led to significant amounts of waste being removed from relief kits, as highlighted in Figure 5 below:

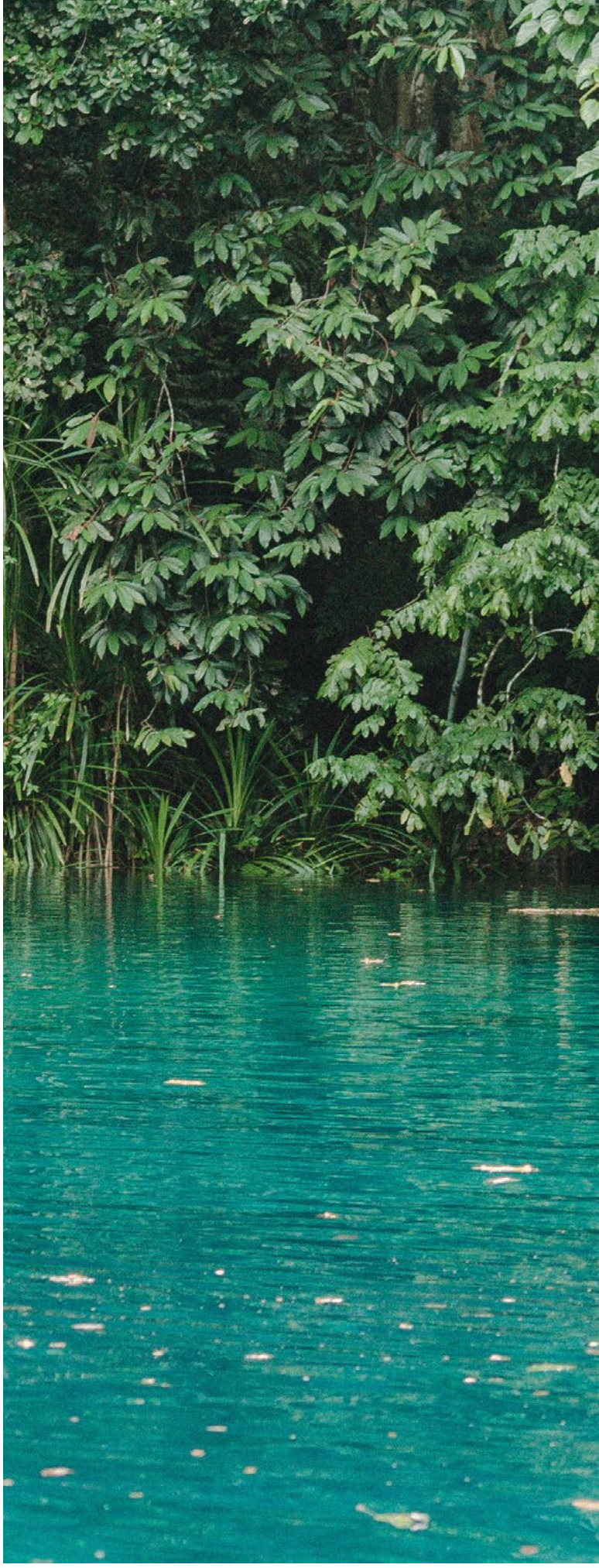
Figure 5: Waste removed from relief kits

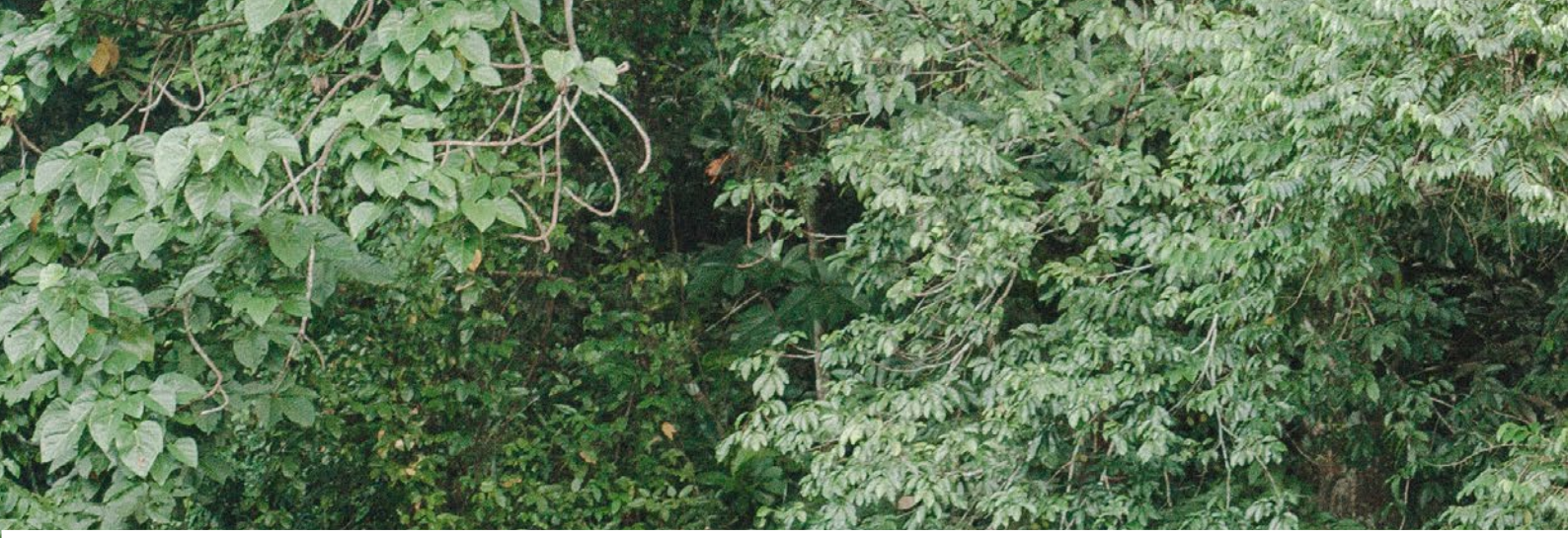
1.7kg of waste removed per chainsaw/ early recovery kit

4.2kg of waste per light tower kit

20kg of waste per assistive technology kit

If 100 assistive technology kits are pre-positioned, this initiative will prevent over 2,000 kg of waste being sent to the Indo-Pacific region.





KEY AREA 4: RACE TOWARDS NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS

Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from humanitarian operations is central to supporting greener humanitarian action. Humanitarian projects should be designed and implemented to reduce GHG emissions from operations, including running offices, transportation and logistics, delivering relief supplies, powering responses, and in supply chains.

Box 7: What are greenhouse gas emissions?

Throughout a product's lifetime, or life cycle, GHGs such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide may be emitted, with varying ability to trap heat in the atmosphere.

SCOPE 1 – **Direct emissions**, generated from sources owned and controlled by an individual or organisation such as stationary and mobile combustion sources (e.g. steam/electric generating plants, industrial boilers, commercial and domestic combustion units), vehicles and generators.

SCOPE 2 – **Indirect emissions**, which occur in the consumption of electricity, and the procurement of steam, heat and cooling.

SCOPE 3 – **Emissions from external sources**: purchased goods and services, capital goods (items used to create goods), extraction and production of energy and fuel activities, waste generation in operations, business travel and commuting, extraction of resources and manufacturing of materials in supply chains, emissions produced by associated business partners, and the end-of-life treatment of distributed products. These are also referred to as indirect emissions.[8]

Scope 1 and 2 emissions are the easiest for Pacific humanitarian actors to calculate and reduce; Scope 3 emissions are more difficult, because they are produced by external sources. Reducing Scope 1 and 2 emissions are the focus of the activity areas below.

8 Greenhouse Gas Protocol (nd) *Corporate value chain (Scope 3)*, p. 5

DESIRED OUTCOME — Greenhouse gas emissions associated with humanitarian actions are reduced

Activity area 4.1

Greenhouse gas emissions from set-up and ongoing management of humanitarian operations are reduced

Actions	DM phase
1. Incorporate environmental considerations/objectives into organisational strategic plans. Publicise these widely, including with donors and partners (see Box 9).	1
2. Recruit or identify staff interested/able to lead on organisational sustainability (see Box 9).	1
3. Implement a staff engagement and awareness program, prioritising individual actions. Adapt terminology to local context to ensure messaging around environmental awareness is culturally appropriate and accessible (see Box 8).	1
4. Review the use of office equipment and opt for recycled/recyclable and energy-efficient options.	1
5. Reduce emissions related to cloud storage and internet – delete and archive unused files and limit video streaming.	1
6. Undertake a carbon emission audit (see Annex 4).	1

Activity area 4.2

Greenhouse gas emissions from humanitarian transport and supply chains are reduced

Actions	DM phase
1. Prioritise CVA if market assessments show local markets can provide sustainable, quality items.	3, 4
2. Procure and preposition items as locally as possible, ensuring storage facilities consider environmental sustainability (see above section on humanitarian infrastructure).	2
3. Coordinate and pool supplies with other agencies to reduce duplication of transport-related emissions.	2, 3, 4
4. Reduce international travel through decentralisation of leadership, decision-making and resources to local humanitarian actors.	1, 2, 3, 4
5. Prioritise more sustainable transport approaches, such as shipping instead of air freight, and energy-efficient vehicles.	2, 3, 4
6. Collaborate with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for tailored climate prediction services when planning transport routes.	2, 3, 4

Box 8: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent – developing organisational tools to support greening humanitarian operations

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), with Pacific National Societies, the Australian Red Cross (ARC) and the University of the South Pacific, have developed a Pacific Green Response Compendium: Ideas to Action. It gives National Societies options for taking a greener approach to various aspects of preparedness and response.

The Compendium covers a wide range of areas, from how Pacific National Societies can hold greener meetings, deliver public advocacy campaigns to reduce unrequested donations, to how they can procure, package and preposition household items that minimise energy consumption or potential environmental impacts.

With funding from Japan Red Cross Society and ARC, the Samoa Red Cross Society is already taking the lead within the Pacific Red Cross with a recently initiated 'Go Green' program. It aims to minimise GHG emissions through reducing vehicle use, increasing access to isolated areas using non-fossil-fuelled transport such as sailing canoes, and promoting cycling as a mode of transport for environmental and individual health.

Box 9: Humanitarian Logistics Capability – the journey to develop a Greening Strategy

Throughout 2022 and 2023, the HLC (DFAT's humanitarian crisis response mechanism) underwent a transformative process in its approach to environmental sustainability and greening. The HLC team leveraged an existing officer's passion and interest in environmental sustainability and allocated 10% of their time to 'greening the HLC'. The first step was to draft and establish a strategy.

The HLC's Greening Strategy was inspired by the Vision for a Green Humanitarian Future paper and was developed in close alignment to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) Social and Environmental Safeguarding Policy. The Strategy and corresponding Action Plan (complete with indicators for measuring progress) outlined the vision and proposed pathways via which the HLC will move toward a greener humanitarian approach, whilst ensuring the Australian Government has a suitable logistics capability to respond to humanitarian crises overseas. DFAT approved the Strategy and Action Plan in December 2022, and the HLC team commenced work on the Action Plan.

In July 2023, DFAT demonstrated further commitment to greening the HLC by approving an increase from 10% of the Officer's role to 50%. Taking advantage of a timely vacancy in the role, the HLC recruited someone with suitable technical skills and knowledge in environmental sustainability to implement the Action Plan and conduct HLC's first baseline audit of GHG emissions.

KEY AREA 5: CHOOSE CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

A clean energy transition is critical for both the global environment and the humanitarian sector. Over three quarters of global GHG emissions are produced from the energy sector,[9] making it a the main contributor to the global climate crisis. It is important that humanitarian projects and operations are designed and implemented using stable and sustainable energy supplies, and embrace new energy technologies such as solar and wind power where possible, to provide heating and air conditioning, lighting, cooking facilities, water treatment and distribution, communication services, and power medical equipment, schools and offices.

DESIRED OUTCOME — Energy efficiency of humanitarian action is optimised

Activity area 5.1

Ways to improve the efficiency of existing appliances are prioritised

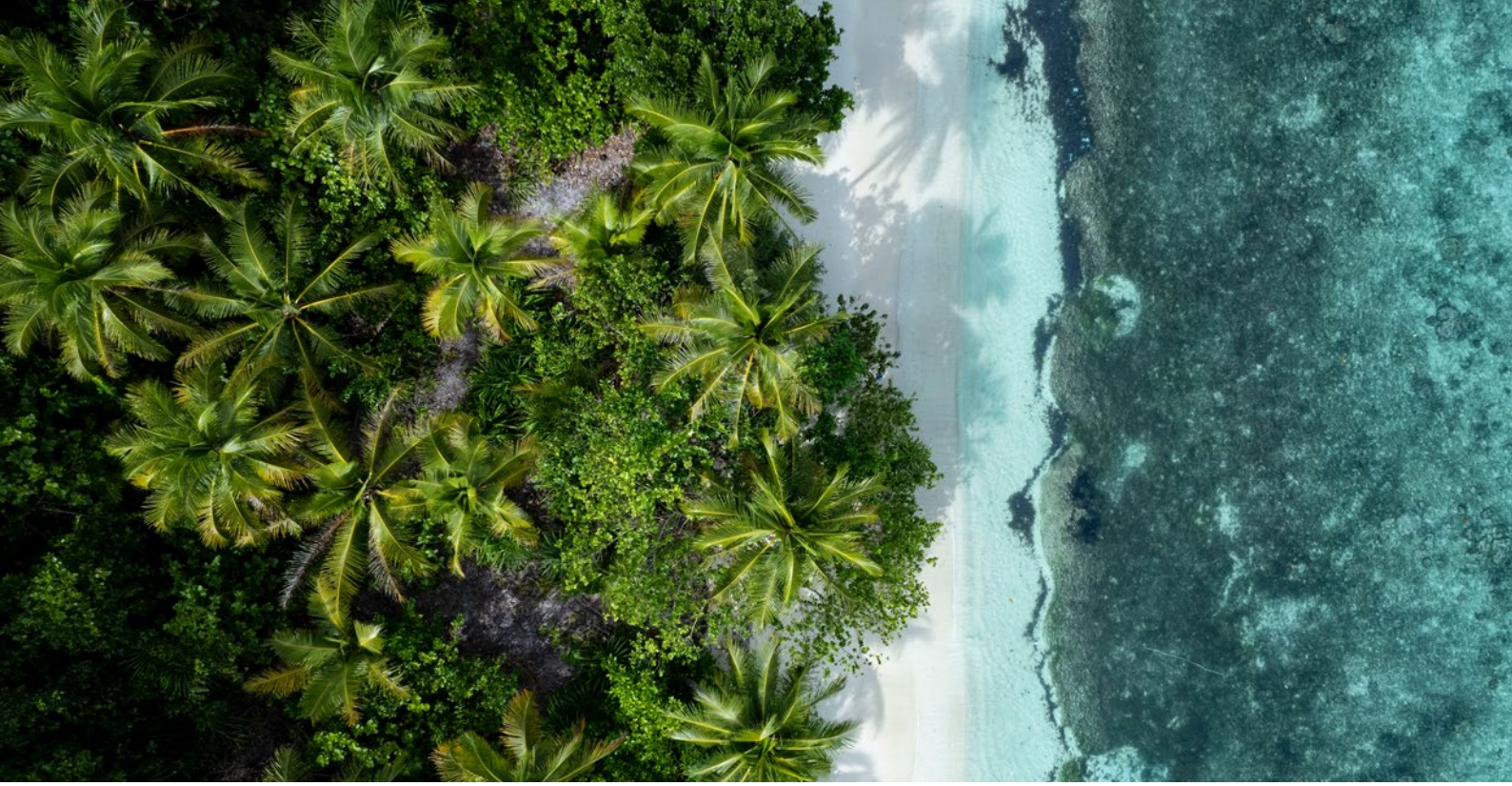
Actions	DM phase
1. Use low-emission cooking fuels (e.g. biogas, ethanol, solar power).	3, 4
2. Use solar lanterns for street and household lighting.	3, 4
3. Install energy-conserving technologies (such as ceiling fans and window coverings) to reduce the use of fossil-fuelled appliances.	1
4. If the use of fossil-fuelled appliances are unavoidable, prioritise energy-efficient models.	2, 3, 4

Activity area 5.2

Renewable energy solutions are prioritised for new energy needs

Actions	DM phase
1. Conduct environmental screening to identify potential negative and positive effects of new and proposed energy systems (see Annex 1).	1, 2, 3, 4
2. Purchase new appliances or systems that are as energy efficient as possible.	1
3. Explore the potential of renewable technologies such as wind power or solar energy systems (e.g. for warehouses and office buildings, see Box 10).	1
4. Advocate to donors to include funding for renewable energy systems and mechanisms in humanitarian programs.	1

9 IEA (2023) *Greenhouse gas emissions from energy data explorer*



Activity 5.3

Communities are given information and tools to help them improve energy efficiency

Actions	DM phase
1. Strengthen the capacity of community members (including women and girls, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, youth, the elderly, LGBTQI+ people) to explore renewable energy projects.	1
2. Support community members to install low-emissions technologies and retrofit existing appliances.	1

Box 10: Pacific Climate Change Centre – implementing clean energy sources in Samoa

When it opened in 2019, the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) in Samoa sourced 50% of its energy needs from solar panels.[10] Only three years later, in 2022, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), expanded the PCCC's rooftop solar system to supply 100% of the PCCC's electricity. The expansion project contributed to Samoa's GHG reduction goals and was jointly funded by the Governments of Japan, Ireland and Samoa, and the Electricity Power Corporation.[11]

The PCCC building was designed and constructed according to green guidelines, including using water- and energy-saving technologies; however, the costs of reaching full energy sustainability were spread across three years. The PCCC provides a model of a successful renewable energy transition.

10 International Institute for Sustainable Development's Sustainable Development Goal Knowledge Hub (2019) *Pacific Climate Change Centre Opens in Samoa*

11 SPREP (2022) *Pacific Climate Change Centre showcases greenhouse gas emission reduction leadership with launch of 100% Rooftop Solar System*

What's next?

This framework was developed to give humanitarian actors a starting point for greening their responses, projects and operations in the Pacific. It was developed through consultation and has undergone initial validation by stakeholders; however, it remains a work in progress.

The next step is for humanitarian practitioners at local, national, regional and international levels to use the framework and give feedback so we can continue to refine it to ensure it is practical, useful and contributes meaningfully to greening humanitarian action in the Pacific. We intend to test the framework and tools with partners to capture learnings and case studies that will be integrated into subsequent iterations. We will also explore how we can contextualise the framework with partners to make versions that are usable in particular Pacific countries, contexts and organisational settings. This includes working with gender, disability and social inclusion organisations to contextualise and improve the framework in these areas.

Get involved in the ongoing testing and iteration of the framework

If you or your organisation are interested in engaging in the testing of this framework, please contact the research team:

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Annex 1: Environmental screening guidance

Environmental screening (also known as environmental assessment) of activities and projects is a way to identify the potential negative and positive environmental impacts of an activity or project. Identifying adverse effects allows them to be mitigated, while positive impacts can be maintained or maximised with the available resources.

An environmental screening process is outlined below, followed by links to recommended tools.

The Environmental Screening Process

There are five basic steps in environmental screening (Figure 6).

- **Step 1.** *Proposed project activities***.** List potential project activities, materials and chemicals that could harm key sensitive resources during any humanitarian project design phase.
- **Step 2.** *Determine the project's likely effects on key sensitive resources.* Based on your awareness of the identified project site, determine the anticipated adverse effects of the project on the key sensitive resources.
- **Step 3.** *Risk assessment.* Perform risk analysis on each activity and assign risk levels (**Low, Medium**, and **High**) to each anticipated risk using tools such as the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+).
- **Step 4.** *Identify mitigative actions*: Identify alternative actions and strategies that mitigate the adverse environmental effects of the **Medium** and **High** risk activities.
- **Step 5.** *Revise project activities.* Update project activities by incorporating the identified alternative actions and strategies to reduce the risk level where possible.

Figure 6: Basic steps in environmental screening

Best practice

- Consult with diverse community members, including women and girls, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, youth, elderly, LGBTQI+ people, others in vulnerable situations and people from a range of cultural, linguistic and class backgrounds.
- Engage with local humanitarian groups to provide local context and support the risk assessment.

Recommended environmental screening tools

Many environmental screening tools and guidance documents exist online. The following three are recommended for the humanitarian context:

1. *The Environment in Humanitarian Action Online Toolkit: EHA Connect* https://ehaconnect.org/.
   This tool allows humanitarian actors to incorporate environmental considerations into any of the disaster management cycle phases (EHA Connect, 2023).
2. *Nexus Environmental Assessment (NEAT+)* https://neatplus.org/ **.**
   This open-source tool is intended for screening any humanitarian program before implementation (Hauer and Kelly, 2018).
3. *Sphere environmental standards* https://spherestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/Sphere-thematic-sheet-environment-EN.pdf
   Core Humanitarian Standards 1, 3, 6 and 9 are specific to environmental considerations, and humanitarian stakeholders can use them to inform environmental screening.

NOTE: Environmental screening is an initial assessment, and is not intended to replace the comprehensive environmental impact assessment required in many Pacific countries. Be sure to check the legally required environmental assessments in your country or local area when undertaking environmental screening.

Annex 2: Self-Assessment Scorecard

This scorecard is a self-assessment tool that can be used to establish a simple baseline for the environmental impact of a humanitarian response, project or organisational process. Answers to the scorecard's quantitative questions will generate a score for each of the framework's five key areas.

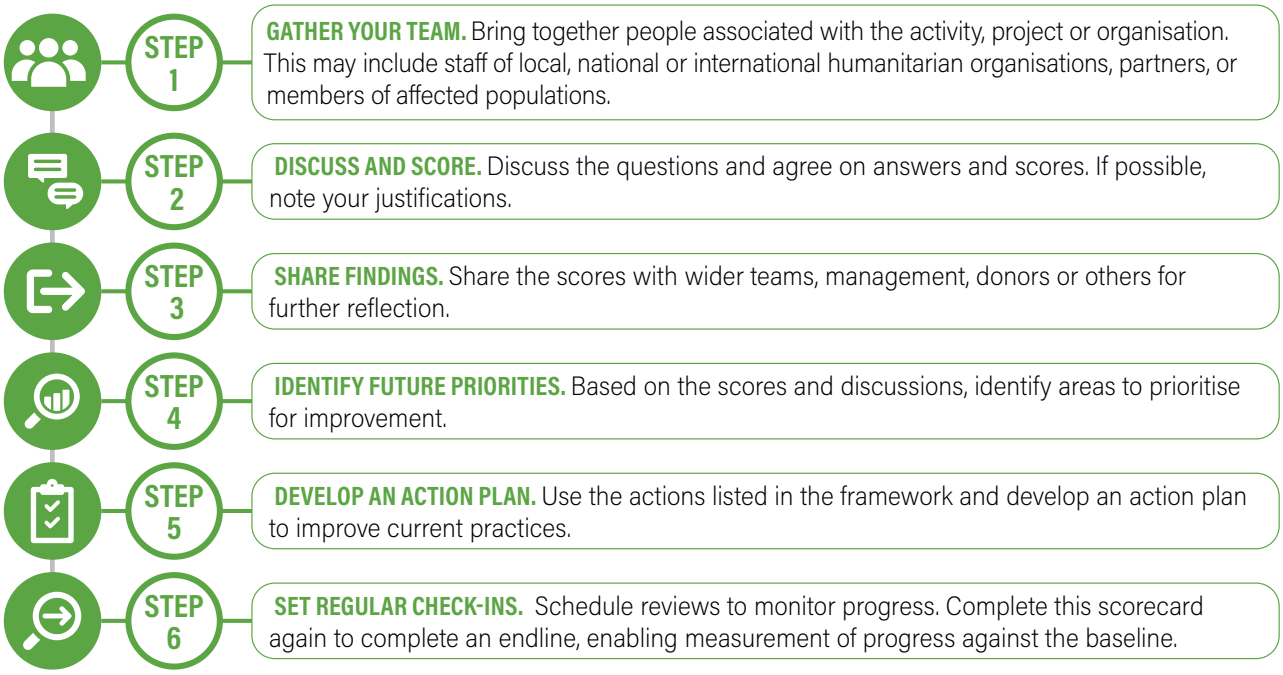
This scorecard offers a way to:

- Create an environmental impact baseline at a response, project or organisation level
- Reflect on the environmental impact of your activity, project or organisation
- Support useful internal conversations about what needs to change and why
- Track change in environmental impact of your activity, project or organisation over time
- Stimulate conversations about environmental issues with your partners and donors.

How to use it

The six steps to follow in using the self-assessment scorecard are shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7: Using the self-assessment scorecard



Be mindful that:

- The scores are subjective, and it will be important to make sure there is an honest reflection made to rate where you stand.
- Scores may be biased because they are based on the views of internal personnel; external perspectives may differ.
- Some questions may not be relevant to your organisation. Choose the ones that apply.
- Consider power dynamics when having these conversations with communities and partners. Create a safe respectful environment for these discussions.

KEY AREA 1: PROTECT HABITATS AND THEIR INHABITANTS

PROPOSED IMPACT STATEMENT: Humanitarian action reduces negative impact on habitats and biodiversity through sustainable infrastructure and climate-smart agricultural practices

TOTAL SCORE **60**

Baseline score:

Endline score:

Activity area 1.1: The design, construction and management of humanitarian infrastructure is environmentally sustainable

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Is environmental screening undertaken before humanitarian infrastructure activities begin?					
2. Are locally available and sustainable materials procured from local suppliers?					
3. Are materials such as debris, rubber and rubble reused safely in the construction of humanitarian infrastructure?					
4. Are nature-based solutions such as green roofs or gardens incorporated into the design and construction of humanitarian infrastructure?					
5. Are maintenance plans for humanitarian infrastructure developed?					

Activity area 1.2: Agricultural activities are climate smart and mitigate negative environmental outcomes

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Is environmental screening undertaken on potential sites for farming and agricultural activities?					
2. Is weather and climate information used to plan farming and agricultural activities?					
3. Do plans to protect ecosystems, biodiversity and habitats within agricultural areas of humanitarian operations exist?					
4. Are conservation agencies engaged to support community-based initiatives such as planting programs?					
5. Are agri-food systems supported to be productive, sustainable and resilient to disasters?					

Activity area 1.3: Local communities and traditional knowledge sources inform the design and use of agriculture and infrastructure activities

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Are community members (including women, people with disabilities, youth, elderly, LGBTQI+ people) consulted on site selection for construction and agriculture activities?					
2. Is traditional knowledge, custom and practices incorporated into construction and agriculture activities?					

KEY AREA 2: MANAGE WATER USE

PROPOSED IMPACT STATEMENT: Humanitarian water and sanitation interventions centralise positive community practices and promote low waste approaches

TOTAL SCORE **60**

Baseline score:

Endline score:

Activity area 2.1: Existing community-level water infrastructure is protected and improved

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Do plans to protect broader ecosystems around catchment areas exist?					
2. Are communities encouraged and supported to own rainwater tanks?					
3. Is National Meteorological and Hydrological Services information used to make decisions about rainwater tank usage?					
4. Do community maintenance plans for community water infrastructure exist?					

Activity area 2.2: Emergency water responses prioritise low-waste alternatives to community/household level water provision

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Is environmental screening undertaken to identify the likely impacts of proposed sanitation, treatment and WASH interventions?					
2. Are small plastic bottles avoided during water distribution activities?					
3. Are standpipes for water supply established?					
4. Are water supply and sanitation systems repaired or upgraded as required?					
5. Are more environmentally friendly systems or machinery to support sanitation management considered and used?					

Activity area 2.3: Local communities and traditional knowledge sources inform the design and use of water interventions

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Are community members (including women, people with disabilities, youth, elderly, LGBTQI+ people) and communities upstream and downstream of crisis-affected areas consulted about their water needs and practices?					
2. Are traditional knowledge and practice integrated into community water management plans?					
3. Do processes or networks facilitate communities sharing lessons learned and best practices on sustainable water resource management?					

KEY AREA 3: TACKLE WASTE

PROPOSED IMPACT STATEMENT: Humanitarian action prioritises reduction and appropriate management of waste

TOTAL SCORE **70**

Baseline score:

Endline score:

Activity area 3.1: The use of plastic and packaging in equipment and relief items is minimised

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Are assessments undertaken to determine whether sustainable and locally made relief supplies are available in country, or elsewhere in the region?					
2. Are sustainable item information sheets used to inform choices of current relief items?					
3. Are strategies to minimise single-use plastics used?					
4. Are environmental standards included in contract documentation?					

Activity area 3.2: Plastic, solid and health and medical waste in humanitarian action is reused, recycled, repurposed or managed appropriately

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Is environmental screening undertaken on waste disposal activities and management facilities?					
2. Is appropriate waste management and disposal equipment provided to communities, and do plans to manage waste exist?					
3. Do community-led waste awareness education programs exist?					
4. Do donors sending relief supplies take back or manage the waste from their supplies?					
5. Are local health and/or municipal authorities consulted for advice on correct waste disposal methods and locations?					
6. Is waste management and disposal equipment that meets relevant medical standards provided to health and medical teams/centres?					

Activity area 3.3: Unsolicited bilateral donations are reduced through coordinated engagement and messaging

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Are cash donations actively encouraged instead of UBDs during a humanitarian response?					
2. Do national-level environmental regulations that cover UBDs exist?					

Activity area 3.4: Local community knowledge and preferences are centralised in decision-making around material use and management

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Are community members (including women, people with disabilities, youth, elders, LGBTQI+ people) consulted on their needs and preferences for relief supplies?					
2. Are community members (including women, people with disabilities, youth, elders, LGBTQI+ people) consulted on appropriate methods and locations for waste disposal?					

KEY AREA 4: RACE TOWARDS NET ZERO

PROPOSED IMPACT STATEMENT: Carbon emissions associated with humanitarian action are reduced

TOTAL SCORE **60**

Baseline score:

Endline score:

Activity 4.1: Emissions from set-up and ongoing management of humanitarian operations are reduced

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Are environmental considerations included in organisational strategies?					
2. Are staff and resources available to progress greening objectives?					
3. Is a staff awareness program or training on greening humanitarian operations available?					
4. Is office equipment energy efficient?					
5. Are actions taken to reduce e-waste (used or unwanted electronic products)?					
6. Has a carbon emissions audit of operations been undertaken?					

Activity 4.2: Emissions from humanitarian transport and supply chains are reduced

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Are assessments undertaken to determine whether sustainable and locally made relief supplies are available in country or elsewhere in the region?					
2. Are relief items procured and positioned locally?					
3. Are shipments of relief supplies coordinated with other humanitarian actors?					
4. Is international travel minimised as much as possible?					
5. Are more energy-efficient methods to transport goods prioritised (shipping, energy-efficient road vehicles)?					
6. Are national meteorological and hydrological services consulted for weather information to plan transport routes that use less energy?					

KEY AREA 5: CHOOSE CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

PROPOSED IMPACT STATEMENT: Energy efficiency of humanitarian action is optimised

TOTAL SCORE **50**

Baseline score:

Endline score:

Activity area 5.1: Solutions to enhance efficiency of existing appliances are prioritised

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Are energy-efficient fuels used for cooking?					
2. Are solar lanterns used for household or street lighting?					
3. Are energy-saving technologies used to cool buildings?					
4. Are fossil-fuelled machines (e.g. generators) the most energy-efficient available?					

Activity area 5.2: Renewable energy solutions are prioritised for new energy needs

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Is environmental screening undertaken on new and proposed energy systems?					
2. Are energy-efficient appliances purchased by default?					
3. Are renewable energy systems incorporated into or retrofitted onto buildings?					
4. Are donors allocating funding for renewable energy systems in humanitarian programs?					

Activity area 5.3: Communities are supported with information and tools to improve their energy efficiency

Guiding questions	Score				
	1-Never	2-Rarely	3-Sometimes	4-Mostly	5-Always
1. Are community members (including women, people with disabilities, youth elderly, LGBTQI+ people) aware of renewable energy options?					
2. Are community members trained in installing low-emissions options or retrofitting existing appliances?					

SUMMARY OF SCORES

Add up your scores for each of the five areas and enter your total score.

TOTAL SCORE ACROSS 5 KEY AREAS	**300**
Baseline score:	
Endline score:	

GUIDANCE ON MEASURING CARBON EMISSIONS

Optional extra activity

Humanitarian actors may choose to measure the carbon emissions of their response, project or organisation using a carbon calculator, and use the results alongside the self-assessment scorecard, to establish a more detailed baseline. This is entirely optional.

Humanitarian Carbon Calculator

The Humanitarian Carbon Calculator (HCC) allows organisations to assess the direct and indirect GHG emissions associated with their activities; this makes it possible to set reduction targets and build emission reduction plans. The HCC can also be used to monitor the evolution of an organisation's emissions over time, thereby assessing the effectiveness of efforts to reduce emissions.

The development of the HCC was informed by consultation with over 100 humanitarian organisations, experts, and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations throughout 2021, and is consistent with the standard Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol).

When to use it

It can be used at any stage of the disaster management cycle, but it is most often used during the design or planning stage of a humanitarian response or project. It can also be used at an organisational level to generate a baseline against which future progress can be measured.

How to use it

A comprehensive guide on how to use the HCC is available at https://www.climate-charter.org/humanitarian-carbon-calculator/

Challenges

Measuring carbon emissions (also known as carbon accounting), particularly measuring against baselines, is difficult in humanitarian contexts. For example, the scale of humanitarian action each year (or reporting timeframe) depends on the number of responses, projects and humanitarian crises in which organisations are involved. Therefore, it is difficult to measure emissions reduction against meaningful baselines.

Additionally, the HCC focuses on Europe, Africa and the Middle East; specific expertise is required to contextualise it. For this reason, humanitarian actors operating in the Pacific may find the HCC difficult to use, therefore its use is optional when creating a baseline.

Annex 3: Glossary

The following are definitions of key terms used in the framework and tools. They are drawn from existing definitions, contribution from workshop participants and contextualised to the Pacific context.

Climate and disaster resilience is the measure of a community's ability to recover from or mitigate its vulnerability to climate-related shocks.

Climate-smart agriculture refers to a set of agricultural interventions or practices that seek to meet three objectives: sustainably enhance agricultural productivity to increase income and food security; adapt and build resilience to climate change; and develop opportunities to remove and/or reduce greenhouse gases.[12]

Cash and voucher assistance is a strategy used by humanitarian organisations use to deliver cash directly to populations in need. Not only does this strategy promote the agency and dignity of communities in need, it reduces unnecessary travel emissions and waste from packaging.

Carbon accounting is the process of calculating an organisation's GHG emissions.

Clean energy refers to energy that does not produce GHGs directly. Sources of clean energy include sunlight (solar), wind, geothermal, hydropower, biomass and the ocean. Generating energy from fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil produces GHG emissions directly.

Disaster management cycle is a four-step cycle that comprises response, recovery, mitigation and preparedness. In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, organisations engage in *response* through their disaster response plans. *Recovery* occurs as regular operations and activities recommence after a disaster. *Mitigation* involves taking action to prevent or reduce the impact of future disasters. Finally, *preparedness* includes planning for any impacts that may not be mitigated.

Environmental screening is a simple, standardised approach to determining the potential environmental impacts of a project or activity so that these impacts can be avoided or mitigated. Environmental screening means identifying the physical inputs and outputs of a project or activity and comparing them to the sensitivities of the receiving environment to identify the key environmental impacts, both positive and negative.[13]

Environmental standards in this framework refer to regulations or guidance implemented by organisations to mitigate harmful impacts on the environment that may occur as a result of humanitarian action.

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are gases that trap heat in the earth's atmosphere and contribute to global warming. Anthropogenic GHGs are mostly produced through the combustion of fossil fuels, deforestation and agriculture. Carbon dioxide and methane are the main GHGs driving global warming.

Greening – In this framework, 'greening' refers to reducing the negative impacts upon both the climate and environment. In the Pacific humanitarian context, greening may be associated with reducing carbon emissions produced through operations, increasing the use of sustainable humanitarian supplies such as avoiding single-use plastics, the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity during operations, particularly shelter and camp coordination and management, and the use of nature-based solutions in humanitarian contexts.

12 FAO (2009) *Food security and agricultural mitigation in developing countries: options for capturing synergies*
13 IFRC (2022) *Green response: quick environmental guide*

Greening the System is an approach to humanitarian action that emphasises stronger accountability towards affected populations by actively promoting alternative, more environmentally beneficial solutions that meet needs and by extending the fundamental humanitarian principle of 'do no harm' to the environment and ecosystems on which the people we seek to assist are reliant. The concept was initially developed by the IFRC as 'green response', which involves making the operations of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement more respectful of the environment, in a way that centralises the importance of affected populations and adheres to humanitarian principles.

Grey water tanks store and recycle water that has already been used (for washing, laundering, bathing or showering, but not toilets or urinals).

Humanitarian system is the network of interconnected institutional and operational entities through which humanitarian assistance is provided when local and national resources are insufficient to meet the needs of the affected population.

Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, manage, conserve, or restore natural ecosystems. In the Pacific context, they are important for mitigating the effects of extreme weather, climate change and water scarcity (e.g. reforestation programs, mangrove rehabilitation). NbS can also strengthen community resilience.

Net zero refers to a state in which the amount of GHGs emitted into the atmosphere by humanitarian activities is balanced by GHGs removed as a result of greening actions over a specific period of time.

Pacific diaspora means populations of Pacific Islanders living abroad, in, for example, Australia, New Zealand or the United States.

Pacific humanitarian actors include UN agencies; the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; local, national and international NGOs; CSOs; local and national government institutions; and donor agencies. These organisations' actions are guided by key humanitarian principles: humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality.

People with disabilities refers to anyone who has long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, which, in interaction with other barriers, hinder their participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Renewable energy refers to energy produced from natural sources that are replenished at a higher rate than they are consumed. Common sources of renewable energy include sunlight (solar), wind, geothermal, hydropower, biomass and the ocean.

Sensitive environmental resources in this framework are environmental components that are critical for the livelihoods of individuals and Pacific communities and at risk of harm from humanitarian actions:

- Biodiversity
- Rivers and drinking water
- Coastlines, mangrove and coral reef ecosystems, and oceans
- Atmosphere/air
- Farming and agricultural land
- Protected areas and cultural sites
- Faith and community norms/regulations
- Cultural practices and traditional knowledge.

Solesolevaki is a Fijian process in which all concerned community members gather to make critical decisions collectively. *Solesolevaki* draws upon social capital, entails indigenous values and ethos, and enables people to work together for the common good. It is used in humanitarian contexts and throughout the disaster management cycle in Fiji.

Traditional knowledge in the Pacific refers to knowledge that expresses the cultures and worldviews of the region's indigenous peoples. Traditional knowledge is transmitted orally across to enhance, safeguard and perpetuate indigenous peoples' identity, wellbeing and rights.

Unsolicited bilateral donations (UBDs) are any donations in a large-scale emergency that arrive unannounced or with short notice and lack a clear consignee. They also may be non-standard items or in incorrect packaging.