



## Environmental Sustainability Policy

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to help foster a philosophy of environmental sustainability into all of CFC ANCOP Australia Ltd. (ANCOP)'s activities. CFC ANCOP Australia Ltd. acknowledges that it must work for the preservation and protection of the planet, at all levels of its operation.

### 2. Objective

ANCOP is committed to minimising its impact on the environment and maximising the effectiveness and efficiency of its use of resources. This is achieved by increasing communication and awareness amongst volunteers, and partners at all levels.

ANCOP's commitment is also towards complying with international and Australian laws relating to environmental protection and sustainability.

### 3. Scope

This policy applies to all volunteers of CFC ANCOP Australia Ltd. as well as all agencies that partner with ANCOP.

### 4. Related Documents

#### 4.1 United Nations Documentation

- 4.1.1. Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)
- 4.1.2. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (New York, 1992)
- 4.1.3. The Kyoto Protocol (Kyoto, 1997)
- 4.1.4. The Paris Agreement (Paris, 2015)
- 4.1.5. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Paris, 1994)
- 4.1.6. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel, 1989)
- 4.1.7. Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna, 1985)
- 4.1.8. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal, 1987)
- 4.1.9. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Washington, 1973)
- 4.1.10. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1971)

#### 4.2 Australian Documentation and Legislation

- 4.2.1. Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)
- 4.2.2. Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure (BEED) Act 2010 (Cth)
- 4.2.3. Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Amendment Act 2010 (Cth)
- 4.2.4. Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)

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#### 4.3 Catholic Church Documentation

- 4.3.1. Laudato Si (Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis on Care for Our Common Home), 2015
- 4.3.2. Octogesima Adveniens (Apostolic Letter of Pope Paul VI), 1971
- 4.3.3. A Hospitable Earth for Future Generations (Address of Pope Paul VI to the Stockholm Conference on Human Environment), 1972
- 4.3.4. Redemptor Hominis (Encyclical Letter of Pope John Paul II to His Venerable brothers in the Episcopate: The Priests, the Religious Families, the Sons and Daughters of the Church and to All Men and Women of Good Will at the beginning of His Papal Ministry), 1979

#### 4.4 CFC ANCOP Australia Forms

- a. Partnership Appraisal
- b. Partnership Agreement
- c. Project Funding Application
- d. Project Proposal Appraisal
- e. Project Agreement
- f. Progress or Final Project Report

### 5. Definitions

#### 5.1 Environment

In this policy, environment refers to the surroundings in which ANCOP and its partners operate. This includes air, water, land, natural resources, flora and fauna, and humans and their interrelations.

#### 5.2 Environmental Impact

In this policy, environmental impact is any change to the environment, positive or negative, whole or partial, that results from ANCOP's activities.

#### 5.3 Environmental Impact Management System

In this policy, environmental impact management system refers to ANCOP's system for managing its activities' environmental impact.

#### 5.4 Environmental Protection

In this policy and throughout all of ANCOP's policies and official documents, environmental protection includes all measures and initiatives adopted by ANCOP to minimise adverse impact to the environment.

#### 5.5 Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability, in this policy, refers to a state in which demands placed on the environment are met without undermining its capacity to meet the needs of all people, in the present and in future.

#### 5.6 Partners

Throughout all of ANCOP's policies and official documents, ANCOP uses the term partners for individuals and organisations with whom we have formed alliances in Australia and in other countries, for the receipt of overseas aid funding for the in-country delivery of development projects.

These may not be partnerships in the strict legal sense but also includes alliances with in-country organisations and dioceses with whom ANCOP has communicated its vision, mission, policies, and expectations.

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## 5.7 Sustainable Use

In this policy, sustainable use refers to the use of components of the Earth's resources in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of such resources, thereby maintain the Earth's potential to meet the needs of present and future generations.

## 6. Policy

This policy has been developed to foster ANCOP's commitment to minimising its negative impacts on the environment through:

- Providing a workplace that complies with occupational health and safety standards.
- Having an environmentally sustainable culture, with responsibilities assigned and understood.
- Conserving natural resources by reusing, reducing, and recycling.
- Using, in our own operations, processes that do not adversely affect the environment.
- Ensuring responsible energy use throughout the organisation.
- Participating in efforts to improve environmental protection and understanding.
- Conducting rigorous monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this policy.
- Working with suppliers and partners who promote sound environmental practices.
- Improving environmental performance continuously through educating and motivating staff, partners, and volunteers to act in an environmentally responsible manner.

## 7. Responsibilities

The board is responsible for:

- establishing an environmental impact management system
- monitoring compliance with this policy, and
- reviewing this policy on an annual basis to ensure that the policy is operating effectively.

The charity must ensure that its board members are aware of the ACFID Code of Conduct, particularly Commitment 3.3.

## 8. Principles

8.1 ANCOP will develop guidelines for partners, and volunteers to adopt sound environmental work practices. Adequate training will be provided.

8.2 ANCOP will act responsibly to correct incidents or conditions that endanger health, safety, and the environment. ANCOP will inform affected parties as appropriate and will promptly report such incidents to the relevant authorities.

8.3 ANCOP will endeavour to reuse and recycle materials and use recyclable packaging and other materials. This includes paper recycling or limiting paper use, avoiding bottled water, and asking stakeholders to bring their own bottles, plates/cutlery at events.

8.4 ANCOP will endeavour to minimise materials and energy use, prevent pollution, and dispose of waste responsibly. This includes switching off idle equipment and lights, avoiding paper products from native

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forests, carefully planning transportation for events with consideration of CO2 emissions and using communication technologies and local capacity instead.

8.5 ANCOP will conduct audits and self-assessments on an annual basis of its compliance with this policy. Periodic reports will also be provided internally and to relevant stakeholders on environmental sustainability and environmental impact of ANCOP's activities.

8.6 ANCOP will maintain an open and honest dialogue with volunteers, stakeholders, and partners about the environmental, health, and safety performance of its activities.

8.7 ANCOP will integrate environmental management best practices into our strategic plan and management processes. ANCOP will include an analysis of environmental risk and opportunities when funding projects. This includes a design appraisal tool or set of criteria requiring an assessment of environmental risk and identification of opportunities to promote positive environmental outcomes.

## 9. Compliance with this policy

If the board has a reason to believe that an individual or organisation subject to the policy has failed to comply with it, it will investigate the circumstances. If it is found that the individual or organisation has failed to comply with the policy's principles, the board may take action against them. This may include seeking to terminate their relationship with the individual or organisation.

## 10. Revision History

| Version | Approval Date | Summary of Changes |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| V1.0    | April 2024    | Original policy.   |

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