# Guide to Environmental analysis

This is a guide to Act Church of Sweden’ analysis of the integration of environmental perspectives in strategies, programmes and projects. The main rational for doing Environmental analysis is to:

* Identify and act upon environmental problems and risks that may have negative consequences to programmes and projects.
* Take responsibility for the environment in our own and partners’ operations and find opportunities for positive contributions.

Integrating environment in strategies, programmes and projects is therefore about strengthening results in the work that we already do. As an introduction, we recommend [this film](https://youtu.be/5Lz5jJe9UXU) produced by our Swedish ACT Alliance partner Diakonia. This guide to Environmental analysis builds on their work on the *Environmental Lens*, see <https://environmentallens.org/>.

The Environmental analysis consists of **three main steps**. At the end of this document you will also find a **checklist** to support assessment and monitoring of the quality of environmental integration in strategies, programmes and projects. If you have any further questions or need more guidance, please contact the person responsible for environmental mainstreaming in your organisation.

## Step 1: Screening the Environmental context

The screening of the environmental context is a simple exercise. If done appropriately, it will give the big picture of what the environmental situation looks like in the country context you work in. The screening shall be reflected in the context analysis of planning documents. Analyse the following:

1. Identify current environmental problems, climate trends and risk of natural hazards in the context. Useful resources: [World Bank Climate Risk country profiles](http://sdwebx.worldbank.org/climateportalb/home.cfm?page=country_profile) and [INFORM Risk Index](http://www.inform-index.org/Countries/Country-Profile-Map).
2. What is the impact of those identified issues on development and human rights in the context?

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| Examples of environmental problems, natural hazards and climate trends |
| - Deforestation - Water pollution - Air pollution - Desertification - Overgrazing - El Niño  - Soil erosion - Land salinization - Rising sea level - Unpredictable rainfall - Heat waves - Floods  - Earthquakes - Landslides - Tsunami - Drought - Storms/Cyclones |
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| Examples of environmental impacts on development and human rights |
| * Drought diverts funds from other development projects, resulting in less focus on of human rights and long-term development. * Deforestation threatens livelihood of ethnic minorities, increasing disputes over land. * Women and children at higher risk to be affected by floods, thereby preventing them from participating actively in decision making and access basic rights such as health and education. |

## Step 2. Analysing the Environments impact on the project or programme

This analysis is looking deeper into how the results of the programme or project are affected by the environmental problems identified in step 1. It also gives opportunity to reflect on possible adjustments in the programme or project.

Analyse the following:

1. How do the identified environment issues in Step 1 impact on your programme or project? What is the impact on rights holders? As far as possible, try to identify *who* is affected and *why*, taking into account gender dynamics and other aspects (such as socio-economic status, age, ethnicity).
2. What actions can be taken as part of your programme or project to avoid negative impacts on your results? Think also of what you can do to strengthen positive impacts.

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| Examples of environmental impacts and possible adjustment actions to take |
| * Recurrent floods are hindering partners from perusing their development work. * **Action**: Rescheduling of project activities * Drought is having severe impacts on women’s abilities to participate in community development and in the political sphere due to increased workload in the household. * **Action**: Find ways to support women’s participation in decision making regarding drought mitigation. * Climate change will lead to increasing heavy rains that will affect communities in the areas where Act Church of Sweden work. * **Action**: Incorporate an awareness component about climate change and capacity building for disaster risk reduction in the programme or project. |

## 3. Analysing the project or program’s impact on the Environment

Normally, the negative impact that Act Church of Sweden’s programmes and projects have on the environment is quite minimal. However, it is important to ensure that we, as far as possible have taken necessary measures to avoid doing harm. At the same time, we should look for opportunities to contribute in a positive way to the environment. Analyse the following:

1. What are the possible negative and positive impacts of the programme or project?
2. How can negative impact be managed?
3. What are the opportunities to maximize positive impacts?

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| Examples of project or programmes impact on the environment and possible actions to take |
| * Farmers are planning to use GMO crops and pesticides as part of the Act Church of Sweden funded program. * **Action**: Explore potential for organic farming. * Exploitation of natural resources is threatening basic rights in a context where Act Church of Sweden runs a Human Rights program. * **Action**: Explore possibility of adding an advocacy component on good governance of natural resources. |

## Monitoring-checklist for Environment and Climate change integration

This checklist can be used as a guide for staff with responsibility to ensure the integration of environment and climate change perspectives in Act Church of Sweden’s work. It shall be used to assess and monitor strategies, programmes, projects. It can also be used as a reference when assessing partner’s applications.

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| 1. Environmental screening/ context analysis (yes–no–n/a–comment) | |
| * The context analysis identifies relevant environmental problems, climate trends and risk for natural hazards. |  |
| * The context analysis briefly reflects how those identified environmental factors impacts on development and rights. |  |
| 2. Environmental impact on project or programme (yes–no–n/a–comment) | |
| * If there are environmental problems and risks in the context of the intervention, the programme or project reflects an understanding of how these problems affects rights holders. |  |
| * The programme or project design has made relevant adjustments if considered necessary. |  |
| 3. Program or project’s impact on the environment (yes–no–n/a–comment) | |
| * If there is a risk that the programme or project can have negative effects on the environment, the programme or project is designed to avoid harm to the environment. |  |
| * Positive impacts have been explored when relevant. |  |