World Vision

Shoots of Hope for a Greener Future

Taking Stock of World Vision's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action Roadmap

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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World Vision is a Christian relief, development, and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Across the globe, children are experiencing multiple climate change threats – whether they live in urban or rural environments – including greater risk of infectious disease, undernutrition due to climate impacts on agri-food systems, air and water pollution, and extreme weather events,ⁱ all of which are projected to increase with further global warming.ⁱⁱ

Responding to children's urgent call for climate action, World Vision developed a first organisation-wide <u>Environmental</u> <u>Sustainability and Climate Action (ESCA)</u> <u>Strategic Roadmap</u> with an initial three-year commitment (FY2025–2027) to achieve our long-term goals by 2030. The roadmap aims to address environmental degradation and climate change for children and their communities through four focus areas:

- Focus area 1. Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) scale-up: Restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem services for children and communities
- Focus area 2. Building sustainable agrifood systems for food and nutrition security
- Focus area 3. Strengthening community resilience to climate-related disaster risks
- Focus area 4. Integrating environmental stewardship and climate action across our operations and programmes

Figure 1. ESCA roadmap framework and four focus areas



Local to global advocacy by empowering children in climate action

Following the ESCA roadmap launch, World Vision conducted a stocktake of ESCA projects and programmes implemented across 69 countries. This report presents the results of the study, providing an overview of the current ESCA programming and future recommendations for a successful delivery of the ESCA roadmap for children so that they can live in thriving environments by 2030.

1.1. Study approach

This study was based on a desktop review of World Vision's ESCA-related project

documents and a survey targeting World Vision's offices. Based on the previous stocktaking exercise, <u>Investing in Sustainable</u> <u>Outcomes for Children</u>, conducted in 2022, World Vision identified the following eight technical areas which contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. World Vision implements most of the ESCArelated projects and programmes as part of broader programmes across different sectors such as education; health and nutrition; livelihoods; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

Technical areas	Climate action	Intervention examples	World Vision's child well-being objectives	SDG	
Agroforestry and FMNR	Climate change adaptation and mitigation	FMNR with indigenous trees, enrichment tree-planting, woodlots tree-planting, community-generated by-laws	Children are well- nourished. Girls and boys are cared for, protected, and participating. Children have hope and vision for the future. Community is resilient to shocks and	Children are well- nourished. Girls and boys are cared for, protected, and participating. Children have hope and vision for the future. Community is resilient to shocks and	1 Martin Martin 2 Martin 3 Martin 3 Martin 2 Martin 3 Martin 1 Mar
Climate-smart agriculture and agroecology	Climate change adaptation and mitigation	 Drought tolerant crops and livestock Compost/biochar establishment Nutrition/kitchen/home gardens establishment Soil management practices including intercropping, crop rotation, integrated pest management 			
Natural resource management	Climate change adaptation and mitigation	 Infiltration trench maintenance and establishment, dead and graded contours establishment Stone bunds establishment, gully reclamation, establishment and management of protected areas 	uisasters.		

Table 1: World Vision's climate action contributing to child well-being outcomes

Technical areas	Climate action	Intervention examples	World Vision's child well-being objectives	SDG
Water resource management	Climate change adaptation and mitigation	 Rehabilitation/construction of water infrastructures (boreholes, wells, water reservoirs, water harvesting) Construction/maintenance of check dams and sand dams, including gabions to protect watercourse; watershed restoration 	Community has access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. Children are well- nourished.	
Climate empowerment - environmental education and awareness- raising	Climate change adaptation and mitigation	 Livelihood-based trainings (e.g., FMNR, climate-smart agriculture, apiculture, mangrove restoration) School-based awareness-raising, including safe school initiatives 	Children are well- nourished. Children have hope and vision for the future.	4 sources 13 anar Constants
Community- based disaster risk management	Climate change adaptation	 Child-focused disaster risk management planning and awareness-raising at school/community Training in disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction, and disaster management Development of hazard risk reduction plans, strategies and policies, anticipatory action, and disaster preparedness and contingency plans 	Community is resilient to shocks and disasters. Girls and boys are cared for, protected, and participating.	
Waste management	Climate change mitigation	 Community-based solid and liquid waste management; human and animal faeces management Recycling of waste for circular economy and green job creation Recycling of waste and awareness- raising; sanitation promotion, hygiene practices 	Children are protected from infectious disease and preventable death.	3 DEFENSION

Technical areas	Climate action	Intervention examples	World Vision's child well-being objectives	SDG
Renewable and energy- efficient technologies	Climate change mitigation	 Fuel-efficient stoves Use of solar photovoltaic panels for water pumps 	Children are protected from preventable death.	

Figure 2: World Vision's ESCA technical areas for enhancing climate resilience for children and communities



Through an online survey and review of internal database and project management systems,¹ we identified projects and programmes addressing ESCA-related issues by considering the objectives and indicators in the project planning documents. In total, this study analysed over 300 projects implemented by World Vision in collaboration with partner organisations in 69 countries in the financial years 2023 and 2024.

It was beyond the scope of the study to undertake detailed analyses of this large number of projects. The results presented here highlight the value and diversity of World Vision's contributions to supporting vulnerable communities in the key areas of environment and climate action and also reveal some areas of improvement for our organisation and our partners for a successful delivery of the ESCA roadmap.

The data collection process had the following limitations:

- Not all field offices could provide complete data sets. While this study provides a reliable overview of World Vision's ESCA programming, it should not be considered as a comprehensive baseline.
- Some data such as the area of land under restoration – relied on the respondents self-declared data, that in many cases, is yet to be validated through field measurements.
- As World Vision's internal reporting system is transitioning to a new system, not all the project documents were correctly uploaded on World Vision's existing database system (Horizon).
- Not every office was trained to identify ESCA programming and indicators, and therefore it is very likely that projects which have cobenefits for ESCA (i.e., humanitarian response projects which had ESCA activities) may have not been included.

• Due to the cross-cutting theme of ESCA, multiple persons in a field office entered the data, which added the risk of multiple varying submissions for the same project.

The following measures were taken to minimise the errors:

- Data triangulation: All relevant datasets, including project design document with financial data, were revised and analysed from different data sources including the Horizon system, project management databases ran by different offices, and other relevant data repositories.
- Completed data validation with key offices with largescale projects and offices with ambiguities on the source data.
- Validated data through unique project code to avoid data duplication.



¹ Data collected include online survey results from World Vision's field and support offices, as well as grant-funded projects, private nonsponsorship funded projects, and technical programmes and area programmes. In total, 59 field offices participated in the online survey, and data from other offices were collected through the Horizon and World Vision US WASH Business Plan dashboard and other support offices' data management systems.

2. OUR STOCKTAKE ON ESCA PRO GRAMMING IN FY2023 & 2024



2,000 partner organisations collaborating for FMNR scale-up

4,800 disaster risk management committies formed

Over 10 million people, including 4 million children, participated in ESCA-related programmes.

Bolivia Brazil Chile Colombia Costa Rica Dominican Republic Fcuador El Salvador Guatemala Haiti Honduras

> Mexico Nicaragua Peru Venezuela

West Africa

Burkina Faso Central Africa Rep. Chad Ghana Mali Mauritania Niger Senegal Sierra Leone

East Africa

Burundi Ethiopia Kenya Rwanda Somalia Somaliland South Sudan Sudan Tanzania Uganda

Southern Africa

Angola **Democratic Republic** of the Congo Eswatini Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Zambia Zimbabwe

Middle East and

Afghanistan Albania Armenia Georgia Iraq Jerusalem/ West Bank/Gaza Jordan Lebanon Moldova Syria

>1.22million hectares of land is under protection and restoration

Cambodia China Laos Mongolia Myanmar Thailand Vietnam

outh Asia and

Bangladesh India Indonesia Nepal Papua New Guinea Philippines Solomon Islands Sri Lanka **Timor Leste** Vanuatu

2.1. Overview

World Vision currently conducts ESCA-related programmes in 69 countries across all regions.² across all regions. In FY2023–2024, over 10 million people, including 4 million children, participated in ESCA-related programming. US\$369 million were spent in projects that included components and outcomes related to the four focus areas. Over \$208 million came from World Vision's private donors.



Focus area 1. Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) scale-up: Restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem services for children and communities



At least **40 countries** reported planning to implement or implementing FMNR and/or Regreening Communities projects.³



More than **1.22 million hectares** of land is under protection and restoration to date through the use of FMNR, Regreening Communities, and/or sustainable agricultural practices.



World Vision has commitments through funded projects to protect and restore over **3 million** hectares of degraded land directly through our own programming.



At least **17,000 hectares of land** have been placed under improved watershed management, supporting rehabilitation and restoration of the water catchment areas.

World Vision is partnering and engaging with approximately **2,000 partner organisations** for FMNR scaling, ranging from community-based organisations to government agencies.



Over **92,000 people** were trained as FMNR trainers.



In Ethiopia, through natural regeneration projects (Humbo and Sodo projects, 2005–2035), 3,227 hectares of land have sequestered 432,642 tons of CO2e to date.

² Data from 69 countries include the online survey results from 59 field offices and additional data collected through the Horizon and World Vision US WASH Business Plan dashboard and other support offices' data management systems. ³ Countries with hectare restoration target using FMNR and/or Regreening project techniques: Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burundi,

³ Countries with hectare restoration target using FMNR and/or Regreening project techniques: Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Philippines, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Somaliland, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor Leste, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.



Focus area 2. Building sustainable agri-food systems for food and nutrition security



Over 525,000 individuals have been trained in improved sustainable agricultural practices, including climate-smart agriculture (CSA), natural resource management (NRM), FMNR, sustainable fisheries, and ecosystem restoration.

Over 350,000 households are adopting sustainable agricultural practices.







committees were formed and strengthened at the village level, and 56% of these Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) groups were linked to local authorities, agencies, and national early warning/early action systems

are implementing disaster risk reduction to



Where over **665,000 people** were targeted by anticipatory protocols, over 321,000 people were reached with humanitarian assistance through the Anticipatory Action activities.⁵



Focus area 4. Integrating environmental stewardship and climate action across our operations and programmes



Baseline organisational carbon emission measured.

85% of field offices now have ESCA focal point and/or Green Teams for the effective implementation of Environmental Stewardship Management Policy.

⁴ Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Lesotho, Loas, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Mozambique, Niger, Peru, Rwanda, Soloman Islands, Somalia/ Somaliland, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe. ⁵ List of key countries with key Anticipator Action activities with donors in brackets: Niger (CERF), Mali (ADH), Zambia (NEPRF), Malawi (NEPRF), Zimbabwe (WFP), Sri Lanka (START and ADH), Bangladesh (START and ADH), Mongolia (START and ADH), Myanmar (ADH), Vietnam (ECHO). Philippines (CERF and ADH), Indonesia (START, ADH, and AHP), Vanuatu (AHP), Guatemala (START), Honduras (START), Mexico (START). Colombia (START), Iraq (START and ADH), Syria (ADH), Lebanon (ADH).



2.2 Focus area 1. FMNR Scale-up: Restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem services for children and communities

Through focus area 1, World Vision will collaborate with communities to actively conserve and restore their landscape and seascape to help ensure a more climateresilient and sustainable natural resource base for children and future generations. This will be achieved through nature-based solutions integrated in the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) scale-up initiative and the Regreening Communities project model. We also promote the use of green technologies such as solar energy and clean cookstoves to protect ecosystems through reduced consumption of fuel wood, as these approaches provide both mitigation (e.g., CO₂ removals) and adaptation (e.g., flood protection) benefits for the communities in both urban and rural areas.

Our targets and indicators

- 27 million hectares of degraded land will be protected and/or under restoration by 2033
- Invest US\$1.8 billion in FMNR scaling and regreening programmes
- Number of children empowered through environmental and climate awareness sessions
- Number of green technology units (clean energy and solar energy) deployed



Our progress

Number of hectares of degraded land protected and/or under restoration

- More than 1.22 million hectares of land is already under restoration to date through the use of FMNR, Regreening Communities, natural resource management, and/or sustainable agricultural practices. Furthermore, current World Vision projects have committed to restoring over 3 million hectares of degraded land.⁶
- 40 field offices reported implementing FMNR and/or Regreening Communities project models and have established hectare restoration targets.⁷
- Over 21 million trees have been planted across 28 countries, with more than 33,000 tree nurseries being supported.
- As part of the FMNR scaleup initiative, World Vision has collaborated and engaged with approximately 2,000 partner organisations, ranging from community-based organisations to government agencies. To support the spread of FMNR, more than 92,000 people have been trained as trainers to expand the technique's use both within and beyond World Vision programming areas.

Investment in FMNR scaling and regreening programmes

 In FY24, World Vision field offices spent more than US\$124 million in projects that included focus area 1 related components and outcomes.



FOCUS AREA 1 SPOTLIGHT: Scaling Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) for sustainable land restoration in Zambia

The Sustainable Land Restoration project is one of World Vision's FMNR scale up projects. This project aims to catalyse the restoration of 150,000 hectares of degraded land through FMNR in the Eastern and Central provinces of Zambia through accelerating the scaling up of FMNR via four different pathways:

- direct programming
- partner-led spread
- organic spread
- enabling environment.

In line with the direct programming scaling pathway, FMNR Champions in the community have been supported to establish more than 650 FMNR demonstration and learning sites. Local leaders, community groups, children, and youth have been empowered as change agents. So far, more than 600 children have joined school FMNR clubs, where they practise FMNR and become environmental champions in their communities. To further catalyse the spread of FMNR via external partners, the project has established multistakeholder alliances at the national and district level. Community Forest Management Groups have been trained and supported to ensure sustainable governance and management of communal FMNR sites. The project is also working with government to review relevant public policies and advocate for their improved implementation. Eleven media houses have been trained on climate action, restoration, and FMNR to help increase awareness through their coverage.

⁶ Four FMNR scaling countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia – are currently responsible for the majority of the scaling efforts across the World Vision Partnership. For the purpose of accountability, project goals for these projects included in this study is by direct programming only, as indirect hectares leveraged by other World Vision activities, external partners, or organic spread are not included. To identify only World Vision contributions and avoid double counting, the specific target for direct hectares by the Catalyst project has been included only (total 551,606 ha) instead of the project goal (total 3,375,000 ha).

⁷ Countries with projects which include hectare restoration target using FMNR and/or Regreening project techniques: Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Philippines, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Somaliland, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor Leste, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.



FOCUS AREA 1 SPOTLIGHT: Gender transformative climate action in fragile contexts (RESILIENT-WE)

The compounding nexus of climate change and gender inequality is one of the greatest threats to reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development in Ethiopia. The Reducing Environmental Shocks, Improving Livelihoods and Inspiring Empowered Innovative and Thriving Women of Ethiopia project (RESILIENT-WE), funded by Global Affairs Canada, partners with women and men, girls and boys, women's rights organisations, and other stakeholders to tackle gender inequality, empower women, and strengthen their resilience to impacts of climate change, environmental stresses, and economic shocks.

The project uses Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) practices for ecosystem restoration and promotes energy-efficient cookstoves and renewable energy solutions to address energy poverty and mitigate the use of biomass energy sources.

• Over 34,000 children are participating in environmental and climate awareness sessions.



FOCUS AREA 1 SPOTLIGHT: Adolescents regreening urban areas through IMPACT+ clubs in Albania

IMPACT+ is a World Vision signature project model – an integrated approach to adolescent engagement that fosters the skills, behaviours, and attitudes necessary for their improved participation in the social, civic and economic life of their communities. In Albania, World Vision has been implementing IMPACT+ clubs since 2015. Currently, more than 2,200 children and youths are supported through IMPACT+ clubs in Albania. Over the last few years, the IMPACT+ club members are increasingly concerned with ecosystem restoration and local environmental conservation. In urban areas, the club members are engaging in local clean-ups, planting trees, flood response plans and cleaning up the riverbanks. In Kandaz, Northern Tirana Paskuquanit Lake project is a powerful example of how a local IMPACT+ club can help ignite a remarkable story of urban regeneration. The club's involvement was a vital link connecting the municipality with community support, which was key to unprecedented local engagement and transformation. The Shkumbin River, polluted and littered with trash, became the focus of local IMPACT+ clubs. They organised a river clean-up and are now rallying local government and citizens to join their pursuit of lasting change.

Number of green technologies units (clean energy and solar energy) deployed

 Approximately 75% of water supply systems constructed by World Vision in FY23 deployed solar energy.⁸

⁸ Source: World Vision US WASH business plan.



2.3. Focus area 2. Building sustainable agri-food systems for food and nutrition security

To address the negative impacts of climate change, World Vision will work with smallholder farmers and their communities to make agri-food systems more resilient through investing in **sustainable agri-food system approaches** such as climate-smart nutritionsensitive agriculture and agroecology. Integrated water resource management, wastewater reuse and water saving irrigation technologies are also critical, as water scarcity is already affecting vulnerable communities. We will also promote circular economy practices through supporting sustainable waste management, both on farm and postharvesting, and supporting the development of green jobs across the agri-food system supply chain.

Our targets and indicators

- Number of individuals trained in sustainable agricultural practices, including climate-smart agriculture and natural resource management
- Proportion of households adopting sustainable agricultural practices
- Proportion of households that provide well for their children

Our progress

Number of individuals trained in sustainable agricultural practices, including climate-smart agriculture and natural resource management

• **Over 525,00** individuals have been trained in improved sustainable agricultural practices (including climate-smart agriculture (CSA), natural resource management (NRM), FMNR, sustainable fisheries, and ecosystem restoration in at least 37 countries.⁹



° Albania, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Philippines, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

• At least 350,000 households have been reported as adopting climate-resilient sustainable agricultural practices (including CSA).

Proportion of households that provide well for their children

 Data on the impacts on yields as a result of the adoption of these practices was reported less frequently (potentially as it may require an evaluation study not yet completed by all projects sampled); however, the survey respondents indicated that more than 130,000 households have reported sustained or improved yields as a result.

Investment in focus area 2

 In FY24, World Vision field offices spent more than US\$135 million in projects that included focus area 2 related components/outcomes.



FOCUS AREA 2 SPOTLIGHT: <u>Climate-smart agriculture project in Laos</u>

The project aims to empower vulnerable communities across 150 villages in the northern provinces of Laos to adapt to climate change and build resilience through climate-smart agricultural practices. The project is funded by Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and being implemented by World Vision in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The project has a strong women's economic and social empowerment component, integrating our Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) approach.

The project focuses on:



building an enabling environment to promote and incentivise resilient and sustainable rural landscapes in the climate-vulnerable communities in the provinces of Luang Prabang and Houaphana



adopting resilient and sustainable land-use planning and value-chain networks



deploying climate-smart technologies to improve livelihood practices and support the food security and nutrition of rural households.



2.4. Focus area 3. Strengthening community resilience to climaterelated disaster risks

To enhance community resilience to climaterelated risks, we will integrate disaster risk management as a foundational component of our field programmes. This will be driven by our Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) project model, which supports children, their families and communities to understand and reduce the disaster risks they face, thereby bolstering their resilience when disasters occur. We will complement this approach with timely and effective humanitarian assistance, in the form of anticipatory action (aid provided in the critical window between an early warning and onset of a disaster) or conventional humanitarian aid provided after the disaster has occurred. Disasters disproportionately impact children, exposing them to greater risks of injury, illness, exploitation and abuse. Consequently, we will ensure their active participate in their community's disaster risk reduction efforts and ensure they are protected and supported when disasters strike.

Moreover. World Vision aims to enhance the efficiency of humanitarian assistance by taking Anticipatory Action before hazards impact vulnerable communities, thereby preventing and mitigating the disruptive effects of disasters. We implement anticipated interventions based on forecasts, early warnings, or pre-disaster risk analyses to protect communities. This approach involves equipping communities with cash, seeds, tools, and knowledge ahead of time, preserving development gains and increasing resilience to future shocks. Anticipatory Action relies on pre-agreed, risk-informed triggers, necessitating access to reliable risk information, accurate forecasts and established early warning systems.

Our targets and indicators

- Proportion of households that faced a disaster but were able to recover and now live at the level they did before
- Number of communities with functional committees to assess, prevent, mitigate and prepare for the risks of hazards



Our progress

Proportion of households that faced a disaster but were able to recover and now live at the level they did before

 68% of households that faced a disaster were able to recover and now live at the level they did before.

Number of communities with functional committees to assess, prevent, mitigate and prepare for the risks of hazards

- At least 36 countries have reported implementing disaster risk reduction to climate-related risk.¹⁰
- Over 2,800 communities have functional committees to assess, prevent, mitigate and prepare for the risks of hazards.
- At least 4,800 disaster risk management committees were formed and strengthened at the village level, and 56% of these CBDRM groups were linked to local authorities, agencies and national Early Warning/Early Action system.
- Over 665,000 people were targeted by anticipatory action protocols, and over 321,000 people were reached with humanitarian assistance through the Anticipatory Action activities.¹¹
- There were 43 Anticipatory Action protocols approved and funded and 41 Anticipatory Action protocols that have been activated (including in vain i.e., where the hazard did not materialise as forecast)
- Waste management is recognised as an important element particularly in emergency response. Over 350,000 people benefitted from solid waste disposal services in emergency settings.¹²

Investment in focus area 3

 In FY24, World Vision field offices spent more than US\$75 million in projects that included focus area 3 related components/outcomes.



FOCUS AREA 3 SPOTLIGHT: Anticipatory Action in South Asia and Pacific Region

In the South Asia and Pacific region, the impact of climate change is evident through the increased frequency and severity of typhoons, floods, droughts, and heat waves. The Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2023 revealed that in 2022 alone, over 140 disasters occurred, resulting in more than 7,500 deaths, affecting 64 million people and causing an estimated economic loss of US\$57 billion. Responding to these challenges, World Vision has shifted our strategy to become more agile and responsive, adopting an integrated disaster management approach. We aim to enhance the efficiency of humanitarian assistance by taking Anticipatory Action before hazards impact vulnerable communities, thereby preventing and mitigating the disruptive effects of disasters. World Vision implements anticipated interventions based on forecasts, early warnings, or pre-disaster risk analyses to protect communities. This approach involves equipping communities with cash, seeds, tools and knowledge ahead of time, preserving development gains and increasing resilience to future shocks. World Vision's South Asia and Pacific Anticipatory Action Capacity Statement report further details some of anticipatory action work in the region spanning from India towards Samoa.

¹⁰ Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Lesotho, Laos, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Mozambique, Niger, Peru, Rwanda, Soloman Islands, Somalia/Somaliland, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
¹¹ List of countries with key Anticipatory Action activities with donors in brackets: Niger (CERF), Mali (ADH), Zambia (NEPRF), Malawi (NEPRF), Zimbabwe (WFP), Sri Lanka (START and ADH), Bangladesh (START and ADH), Mongolia (START and ADH), Myanmar (ADH), Vietnam (ECHO). Philippines (CERF and ADH), Indonesia (START, ADH and AHP), Vanuatu (AHP), Guatemala (START), Honduras (START), Mexico (START), Colombia (START), Iraq (START and ADH), Syria (ADH), Lebanon (ADH).

¹² Rwanda 113,518; Bangladesh 61,000; Tanzania 57,980; Zimbabwe 52,458; Angola 45,119; Kenya 20,245 (WVUS WASH FY23 C1B.23053 data).



2.5. Focus area 4. Integrating environmental stewardship and climate action across our operations and programmes

Climate change affects – directly or indirectly – all aspects of World Vision's work, making it everybody's job across the organisation to determine how they can best contribute to responding to the climate crisis. Therefore, environmental safeguards and climate risk assessments will be conducted for all projects and programmes. Integration will occur at all stages of the project cycle and will be guided by World Vision's <u>Environmental Stewardship</u> <u>and Climate Action Handbook</u>. We will also protect all our facilities and assets used to run our programmes from future climate risks by developing appropriate adaptation measures. We will intensify our capacity building effort in order to keep our commitment to doing no harm.

Our targets and indicators

- We will achieve a 20% reduction in organisational greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- We will ensure 100% of all World Vision projects and programmes complete environmental safeguard assessments and manage any ongoing negative environmental impacts.

Our progress

All World Vision entities are now required as a minimum to track annually and work on reducing emissions from fuel (scope 1), electricity (scope 2), air travel (scope 3), and paper (scope 3) in accordance with the <u>Greenhouse Gas Protocol</u>. The rationale for focussing on these items is that they represent emissions from World Vision's own operations, rather than goods and services that make up the benefits received by





programme participants. Baseline estimates showed that emissions from vehicle fuel were the most significant element of these operating emissions by a large margin, and this is therefore our primary focus for emissions reduction. Furthermore, for all offices using the World Vision Partnership purchasing system, an automated dashboard has been set up drawing on purchasing data, using conversion factors provided in the Humanitarian Carbon Calculator, which allows daily updates for all goods and services. Work on improving the precision and completeness of the dashboard is continuing, aiming progressively to capture actual quantities as well as cost for the most critical items; this has so far been done for electricity and is planned next for fuel.

In terms of environmental safeguarding processes, World Vision recommends the use of the <u>Climate Environment and Disaster Risk</u>. <u>Reduction Integration Guidance (CEDRIG)</u> tool in stable development contexts and the <u>Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool</u> (<u>NEAT+</u>) in fragile contexts. However, the survey results showed that the majority of field programmes were not designed with the recommended environmental safeguarding assessment processes.¹³ While an in-depth analysis on the slow up-take of environmental safeguarding assessment is ongoing, we are developing training modules for environmental safeguarding for staff capacity development.



FOCUS AREA 4 SPOTLIGHT: Screening for integrating ESCA into field programming in the Middle East and Eastern Europe Region (MEER)

Since 2023, MEER has implemented the ESCA screening through a simple checklist on all new projects. This process helps project offices and managers to identify potential risks of doing harm to the environment during the project design phase and make necessary adjustments so as to minimise risks. This simple screening process provides critical insights to track the progress of ESCA integration into all our field programming in accordance with World Vision's <u>Environmental Stewardship</u> <u>Management Policy</u>. These findings will help us identify targeted interventions that can be scaled across World Vision as well as partner agencies.

¹³ Offices using CEDRIG+ tools include: Burundi, Ethiopia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Mongolia, Niger, Philippines Somalia, South Sudan, Timor Leste, Uganda. Offices using NEAT + include: Afghanistan, Georgia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, Thailand and Vietnam.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study has illustrated the current progress of World Vision projects and programmes that are contributing to environmental sustainability as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation for children and future generations. The findings highlight the common threads across regions, and the key recommendations provided here are to address the gaps identified in the data collection process so as to improve project impact assessments and strengthen the ESCA roadmap progress measurement.

Based on this work, we make the following conclusions:

- World Vision has a significant footprint in environment and climate action work globally, with a large number of projects encompassing one or more elements of environment and climate action in the design.
- We have now the experience and foundation to significantly increase our ESCA programming, further building on the foundations that we have in more than 60 countries.
- Promising practices across diverse regions and contexts tend to have a multi-sectoral approach with a child-focused lense to address environmental degradation and climate change.
- We have a valuable opportunity to synthesise data from many projects and show evidence of impact at scale. However, this requires an evidence framework and guidance on selection of environment and climate action indicators in project designs.

These study findings provide valuable insights into the scale and impact of the ESCA programming, but there are clear opportunities for improvement. While we all must do our part to respond to the climate crisis, we also must support and strengthen the global cooperation that can deliver decisive and meaningful action. The section below provides recommendations for World Vision, but also for partner agencies and ESCA practitioners to better deliver environment and climate action, as we understand that effective action to address the climate crisis requires meaningful, long-term international cooperation.



Create a robust monitoring, evaluation and learning framework

World Vision should create a solid monitoring and evaluation framework for ESCA-related programming, including specific metrics for monitoring project outcomes and impacts in alignment with the global frameworks, including the Rio markers for climate change. At the national level, it is important to ensure that the monitoring framework is aligned with national climate policies such as Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.

Currently, World Vision is developing a monitoring system made up of an app for mobile data collection, called mTierra, and a web portal for survey design, data management, and the creation of dashboards and maps. mTierra, which is a sister application of <u>mWater</u>, will be housed within <u>the Solstice</u> <u>data management platform</u>. The intention of mTierra is to improve World Vision's ability to measure the extent and impact of ESCA field programming

Furthermore, in order to measure the effectiveness of ESCA programming, we should integrate participatory evaluations. In particular, to measure the transformational impacts of our GESI approach and the role of faith actors, in depth-analysis with key informant interviews and focus group discussions are necessary.



Strengthen capacity building

While conducting environmental safeguarding assessments is mandatory under World Vision's <u>Environmental Stewardship Management</u> <u>Policy</u>, the study identified that the implementation of the policy is slow. Capacity building and awareness-raising training, and resource development for environmental safeguarding tools such as CEDRIG and NEAT+ are critical to support their consistent application across field programming, regardless of the founding sources.

We should invest in building the capacity of design, monitoring, and evaluation on environmental and climate-specific methodologies, such as training on Regreening Index (World Vision's approach to communityled ecological monitoring through Regreening Communities), climate vulnerability assessments, and environmental data analysis.

As Word Vision prepares to introduce a mobile survey tool, mTierra, in 2025, it is critical to develop training programmes. We should conduct regular training sessions for personnel involved in data collection.



Integrate environment and climate action into existing programmes

One of the most effective ways to address climate issues is to integrate climate actions into existing projects and programmes throughout the entire project and programme lifecycle¹⁴ – from assessment to design to monitoring to evaluation. Therefore, we should integrate environment and climate change considerations, by including environmental safeguarding and climate vulnerability assessments into broader development and humanitarian work in areas such as child protection, education, health and nutrition, livelihoods, and WASH, among others. There are also many opportunities to include environmental restoration activities into a range of development programmes.



Streamline evidence building

While World Vision has a long history of implementing community-based programmes that address the impacts and causes of climate change, the field-based evidence on environment and climate action has been often fragmented due to its cross-sector nature. Using the common indicators contributing to SDG targets and global frameworks, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, is crucial to track outcomes and impacts in a more transparent and consistent manner. The international community should promote a suite of community-based climate action projects and participatory monitoring and evaluation methods from which to showcase evidence of experience and impact. World Vision, within our disaster risk reduction work, should simplify and harmonise indicator definitions in order to minimise confusions and errors in the collection processes.



Enhance Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)responsive climate action

Implementing GESI-responsive climate actions is not just about addressing the differentiated impacts of climate change but also about unlocking the potential of children and adults who face marginalisation due to age, gender, disability or other social factors through climate action. They are powerful agents of change and need to be given space to meaningfully participate and make decisions about the actions that influence their lives. While it was beyond the scope of this study to analyse GESI-responsive and GESI-transformative climate action. World Vision should seek to learn how ESCA programming is supporting gender equality, disability and social inclusion in our current programming portfolio by identifying promising practices. GESI-related evaluation and learning questions should also be included in our programme and project monitoring, evaluation, and learning plans.

¹⁴ OECD (2011), 'Integrating climate change adaptation into development planning', <u>https://www.oecd.org/dac/environment-development/45856020.pdf.</u>



Explore opportunities for partnering for greater impact

With more than 2,000 partners engaged, there is an opportunity to strengthen crossorganisational learning and collaboration for greater impact. Proper partner recording is also important for future learning. World Vision should support and facilitate regular forums and networks for partners to exchange best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches to scaling FMNR and regreening initiatives. Further, we should ensure that our FMNR and regreening partnerships with local actors build on their specific strengths and identities to support locally led responses for deeper and more sustainable programming impacts. By working with partners, World Vision can lead the scale-up and acceleration of land restoration with FMNR, benefitting our communities and those beyond World Vision's programming areas.



Align with government-led initiatives

To strengthen community resilience to climaterelated disaster risks, it is recommended that initiatives by the community and disaster risk reduction committees coordinate closely and align with the government strategies and the national emergency management authority such as the national disaster preparedness plans and National Adaptation Plans that includes existing early warning procedures. By coordinating efforts with local and national authorities, communities can better access resources and support, ensuring a more integrated and effective response. This alignment not only enhances preparedness but also supports long-term resilience by incorporating government policies and frameworks into local-level climate adaptation and disaster risk management efforts.



Mobilise funding for environment and climate action

The international community must scale up climate financing for climate change adaptation in order to support communities to build their resilience to climate change. In particular, donors should step up investment in programmes that protect and restore environmental assets through naturebased solutions, that support vulnerable communities' food security and livelihoods, and that mitigate climate change.



ANNEX 1. SURVEY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

List of countries participated in the survey

East Africa	West Africa	Southern Africa	East Asia
Burundi	Burkina Faso	Angola	Cambodia
Ethiopia	Central Africa Rep.	Democratic	China
Kenya	Chad	Republic	Laos
Rwanda	Ghana	of the Congo	Mongolia
Somalia	Mali	Eswatini	Myanmar
Somaliland	Mauritania	Lesotho	Thailand
South Sudan	Niger	Malawi	Vietnam
Tanzania	Senegal	Mozambique	
Uganda	Sierra Leone	Zambia	
-		Zimbabwe	



Latin America and Caribbean	Middle East and Eastern Europe	South Asia and Pacific
Bolivia	Afghanistan	Bangladesh
Brazil	Albania	India
Colombia	Armenia	Indonesia
Dominican Republic	Georgia	Nepal
Ecuador	Iraq	Papua New Guinea
El Salvador	Jerusalem/	Philippines
Guatemala	West Bank/Gaza	Solomon Islands
Haiti	Jordan	Sri Lanka
Honduras	Lebanon	Timor Leste
Mexico	Moldova	Vanuatu
Nicaragua	Syria	0 0
Peru		

Due to the conflict situations in Afghanistan, Haiti, Venezuela and Yemen, data were not submitted within the study period. Data from other field offices which did not participate in the survey were collected from other databases such as World Vision US WASH database and Horizon database.

Survey questions

Focus area 1

- Number of hectares of land protected and/or under restoration
- Number of individuals adopting FMNR
- % change in average tree density
- Number of trainers trained on FMNR
- Number of partners engaged
- Number of people reached/sensitised
- Planned number of hectares to be protected or under restoration at the end of the implementation period for the project
- Number of children participating in environment and climate awareness sessions
- Number of water supply systems using solar energy

Horizon indicators:

- C3A.027566 L1-Number of hectares protected and/or under restoration
- C3A.027567 Proportion of households applying FMNR
- C4B.25207 number of individuals trained in FMNR
- C4B.25208 number of individuals adopting FMNR
- C5A.16229 degraded land area in HA conserved through FMNR

Focus area 2

- Number of individuals TRAINED in sustainable agricultural practices, including climate-smart agriculture and natural resource management, FMNR, sustainable fisheries, ecosystem restoration, etc.
- Number of households ADOPTING climate-resilient sustainable agricultural practices (including CSA, agroforestry, agroecology, NRM, FMNR, etc.)
- Number of households with SUSTAINED or INCREASED agricultural yields due to climate-resilient farming practices (including CSA, agroforestry, agroecology, NRM, FMNR)
- Number of water sources protected and rehabilitated
- % target population with improved access to water for irrigation, domestic use and livestock
- Number of hectares under improved watershed management practices or technologies
- Number of people benefitting from solid waste disposal services in emergency settings

Horizon indicators:

- C3A.027661 L1 Number of individuals trained in improved sustainable agricultural practices
- C4B.22748 % of trained individuals with knowledge of improved sustainable and climate smart agriculture techniques
- C4B.22749 Number of project trained individuals who have trained others on improved sustainable and climate smart agriculture
- C4B.22759 Number of individuals trained in environmental conservation and natural resource management
- C1B.25972 Number of people benefitting from the adoption and implementation of measures to improve water resource management

Focus area 3

- Number of disaster risk management committees FORMED and strengthened at the village level

- % of households who faced a disaster but were able to recover and now live at a level they did before
- Number of communities who have developed disaster preparedness plans and have conducted disaster risk reduction activities
- Number of community members and/or persons able to correctly name local hazard risks and measures to reduce them
- Number of CBDRM groups linked to local authorities, agencies and national Early Warning/Early Action systems
- Number of communities with functional committees to assess, prevent, mitigate and prepare for the risks of hazards
- Number of people targeted by Anticipatory Action protocols
- Number of people reached with humanitarian assistance through the Anticipatory Action activities

Focus area 4

- Organisation emission for fleet (scope 1), utilities (scope 2), business travel and paper usage (scope 3)
- Projects designed with environmental safeguarding processes
- Projects including other sector activities and outcomes

ANNEX 2. LIST OF ESCA ROADMAP INDICATORS



Focus area 1: FMNR scale-up: Restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem services for children and communities

Indicator	Results from data analysis
Number of people reached by community programming on environment and climate action [OIOS #116]	10 million people, including 4 million children, were reached.
27 27 million hectares of degraded land will be protected and/or under restoration by 2033 [note – FMNR business plan is by 2033]: Number of hectares of land protected and/or under restoration [OIOS #117]	Over 1.22 million hectares of land is protected/under restoration to date through the use of FMNR, Regreening Communities, and/or sustainable agricultural practices. Furthermore, World Vision has planned to restore over 3 million hectares of degraded land. ¹⁵
Investment in FMNR scaling and regreening programmes [from FMNR scale-up]	In FY24, World Vision field offices spent more than US\$124 million in projects that included focus area 1 related components and outcomes.
Proportion households applying FMNR [OIOS118]	Over 380,000 households are applying FMNR. Proportion data need to be incorporated for future assessment.
Number of water supply systems using solar energy [WASH business plan]	In FY23, World Vision constructed 746 solar-powered water supply systems.
Number of children participated in environmental and climate awareness sessions	Over 230,000 children participated in environmental and climate awareness sessions.



Focus area 2: Building sustainable agri-food systems for food and nutrition security

Indicator	Results from data analysis
Number of individuals trained in improved sustainable agricultural practices (including CSA), NRM, FMNR, sustainable fisheries, ecosystem restoration, etc.) [OIOS #70]	Over 500,000 individuals have been trained in improved sustainable agricultural practices (including CSA, NRM, FMNR, sustainable fisheries and ecosystem restoration).

¹⁵ Four FMNR scaling countries, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia, are to be responsible for the majority of the scaling efforts across the World Vision Partnership. For the purpose of accountability, project goals for these projects included in this study is by direct programming only, as indirect hectares leveraged by other World Vision activities, external partners or organic spread are not included. To identify only World Vision contributions and avoid double counting, the specific target for direct hectares by the Catalyst project has been included only (total 551,606 ha) instead of the project goal (total 3,375,000 ha).

Indicator	Results from data analysis
Proportion of households adopting sustainable agricultural practices [OIOS#72]	Over 350,000 households are adopting sustainable agricultural practices. Proportion data need to be incorporated for future assessment.
Proportion of households who are food insecure according to the Coping Strategies Index [OIOS #73]	Over 170,000 households have sufficient diet diversity and have year-round access to sufficient food. Proportion data need to be incorporated for future assessment.
Proportion of households that provide well for their children [OIOS#90]	Over 200,000 households can provide well for their children. Proportion data need to be incorporated for future assessment. Proportion data need to be incorporated for future assessment.

Focus area 3: Strengthening community resilience to climate-related disaster risks

Indicator	Results from data analysis.
Proportion of households who faced a disaster but were able to recover and now live at the level they did before [OIOS #84]	68% of households that faced a disaster were able to recover and now live at the level they did before.
Number of disaster risk management committees created and strengthened	Over 4,800 disaster risk management committees exist.
Number of functional committees who help their community to assess, prevent, mitigate and prepare for the risks of hazards	There is a total of 2,800 functional committees. Over 2,700 of these CBDRM groups were linked to local authorities, agencies and national early warning/early action systems. Over 8,000 communities have developed disaster preparedness plans and have conducted disaster risk activities.
Number of people targeted by anticipatory action protocols	Over 665,000 people were targeted by anticipatory action protocols.
Number of people reached with humanitarian assistance through anticipatory action activities	Over 321,000 people have been reached with humanitarian assistance through Anticipatory Action activities.

ANNEX 3. EXAMPLE OF LARGE SCALE PROJECTS

Region	Country	Project name	Objectives	Donor	Budget in US\$*
East Africa	South Sudan	Fortifying Equality and Economic Diversification for Resilience (FEED II)	Enhancing adaptive resilience capacities for women and girls	Government of Affairs of Canada (GAC)	\$39 million (5 years)
East Africa	Kenya	Integrated Management of Natural Resources for Resilience in Arid and Semi- Arid Lands (IMARA)	Increasing resilience against climatic shocks	Swedish International Development Cooperation Aid (SIDA)	\$29 million (7 years)
East Africa	Kenya	Restoring Landscapes and Livelihoods in Kenya with Climate Asset Management (RESAf)	Restoring degraded land for smallholder farmers with carbon sequestration	Climate asset management through Global Evergreening Alliance	\$19 million (5 years)
East Africa	Rwanda	Transforming Households Resilience In Vulnerable Environment (THRIVE 2030)	Enhancing resilience against economic and climate shocks through sustainable livelihoods	World Vision US	\$18.8 million (7 years)
East Africa	Somalia	Enhancing Resilience in Somalia (SIDAII)	Enhancing resilience against economic and climate shocks through sustainable livelihoods	SIDA	\$13.7 million
East Africa	Ethiopia	Reducing Environmental Shocks, Improving Livelihoods, and Inspiring Empowered, Innovative and Thriving Women of Ethiopia (RESILIENT-WE)	Gender transformative climate action including renewable energy technology and FMNR	GAC	\$12.6 million (5 years)
Latin America and Caribbean	Guatemala	Assistance for Change and Economic Growth for Food Security (Asistencia para el Cambio y Crecimiento Económico por la Seguridad Alimentaria, ACCESO)	Enhancing food security and sustainable livelihoods against climatic shocks (220849)	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), USAID	\$12 million (3 years)
Middle East and Eastern Europe	Jordan	Increase Economic Self- reliance – Waste to Positive Energy (GIZ SWM)	Efficient waste management and creating green jobs in the refugee camps	European Union, Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	\$8.9 million (4 years)
South Asia and Pacific	Timor Leste	<u>Better Food Better Health</u>	Enhancing food security and nutrition for children through nutrition- sensitive climate-resilient agriculture	ANCP Australian NGO Cooperation Partnership	\$8.5 million (5 years)
East Africa	Kenya	Sustainable Environment and Economy against Drought and Degradation in the Tsavo Ecosystem and Dispersal Area (K-SEED)	Enhancing resilience through ecosystem restoration and climate- smart agriculture	Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)	\$8.5 million (5 years)

*Budget figures represent the overall project budget and inclusive of budget to be implemented by other partner agencies.

ANNEX 4. DEFINITIONS

Action for climate empowerment	UNFCCC states Action for Climate Empowerment as the foundation for a low-emission, climate-resilient and just future, thanks to its six interconnected elements: climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation on these elements. ⁱⁱⁱ
Agri-food systems	Agri-food systems encompass the entire range of actors and their interlinked value-adding activities in the primary production of food and non-food agricultural products, as well as in food storage, aggregation, post-harvest handling, transportation, processing, distribution, marketing, disposal and consumption. Within agri-food systems, food systems comprise all food products that originate from crop and livestock production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, and from other sources such as synthetic biology, and that are intended for human consumption. ^{iv}
Anticipatory action	Acting ahead of predicted hazards to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold. ^v
Carbon footprint	It is the amount of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions associated with all the activities of a person or other entity (e.g., building, corporation, country, etc.)
Carbon markets	Carbon markets are trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought. Companies or individuals can use carbon markets to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing carbon credits from entities that remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Circular economy	A circular economy aims to minimise waste and promote a sustainable use of natural resources, through smarter product design, longer use, recycling and more, as well as regenerate nature.
Climate change	A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods. ^{vi}
Climate change adaptation	The process of adjustment in ecological, social and economic systems in response to both the current effects of climate change and the predicted impacts in the future. ^{vii} Adaptation actions range from setting up early warning systems for cyclones to switching to drought-resistant crops, among others.
Climate change mitigation	Avoiding and reducing emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere to prevent the planet from warming to more extreme temperatures or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Mitigation measures include use of renewable energy, waste minimisation processes and enhancing carbon sinks, among others. ^{viii}
Climate finance	It refers to local, national or transnational financing, which may be drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing used specifically to address climate change, both adaptation and mitigation.
Climate justice	Climate justice is a term that acknowledges that environmental changes can have differing social, economic, public health and other adverse impacts on vulnerable populations. As a result, climate justice looks at environmental changes through a human rights lens, striving to address these inequalities through long-term strategies.

Climate resilience	Broadly defined as the ability to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, absorb, and recover from the impacts of stresses imposed by climate change.
Climate-smart agriculture	Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach to help the people who manage food systems respond effectively to climate change. The CSA approach pursues the triple objectives of sustainably increasing productivity and incomes, adapting to climate change, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions where possible. It is not a set of practices that can be universally applied, but rather an approach that involves different elements embedded in local contexts. ^{ix}
Ecosystem services	 These are the contributions of ecosystems to benefits used in economic and other human activity.^x The following are three broadly agreed on categories of ecosystem services: a) Provisioning services, which represent the material and energy contributions generated by or in an ecosystem to economic and human activities – for example, fish or plants with pharmaceutical properties extracted for final consumption by households or intermediate consumption. b) Regulating services, which result from the ecosystems regulating climate, hydrologic and biochemical cycles, earth surface processes, and various biological processes. These services often have an important spatial aspect. c) Cultural services, which are generated from the physical settings, locations or situations that give rise to intellectual and symbolic benefits experienced by people from ecosystems through recreation, knowledge development, relaxation and spiritual reflection.
Greenhouse gases	The gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation. Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons are examples of greenhouse gases. ^{xi}
Integrated water resource management	It is a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems. ^{xii}
Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration	It is a low-cost land restoration technique used to combat poverty and hunger amongst poor farmers by increasing food and timber production and resilience to climate extremes. In practice, FMNR involves the systematic regrowth and management of trees and shrubs from felled tree stumps, sprouting root systems or seeds.
Nature-based solutions	Actions to protect, sustainably use, manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, which address societal challenges, effectively and adaptively, providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits. ^{xiii}
Net zero emissions	Net zero emissions are achieved when anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere are balanced globally by anthropogenic removals over a specified period (as defined by the IPCC's AR6 report).
Restoration (ecosystem)	Assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded. ^{xiv}

ANNEX 5. ACRONYMS

CBDRM	Community-based Disaster Risk Management
CEDRIG	Climate Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance
CSA	Climate-smart agriculture
ESCA	Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
MEER	Middle East and Eastern Europe Region
NEAT+	Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool
NRM	Natural resource management
RESILIENT-WE	Reducing Environmental Shocks, Improving Livelihoods and Inspiring Empowered Innovative and Thriving Women of Ethiopia
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene

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