

Environmental Sustainability Policy

1. Introduction

SHO recognizes the importance of environmental sustainability in achieving our mission of improving the well-being of communities in Sudan. This Environmental Sustainability Policy outlines our commitment to minimizing our environmental impact, promoting sustainable practices, and contributing to the conservation and protection of natural resources, in compliance with relevant international, national, and local laws and regulations, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and applicable Sudanese legislation.

2. Principles

- a) Commitment to Sustainability: SHO is committed to integrating environmental sustainability principles into our operations, programs, and decision-making processes, and to continually improving our environmental performance.
- b) Resource Conservation: SHO will minimize resource consumption, waste generation, and environmental pollution by adopting sustainable practices and technologies.
- c) Biodiversity Conservation: SHO will respect and protect biodiversity, ecosystems, and natural habitats in the areas where we operate, and will work to mitigate any adverse impacts of our activities on local flora and fauna.
- d) Climate Action: SHO will contribute to global efforts to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, and building resilience in vulnerable communities.
- e) Community Engagement: SHO will engage with local communities, stakeholders, and partners to raise awareness of environmental issues, foster environmental stewardship, and support community-led conservation initiatives.

3. Key Areas of Focus

- a. Energy Efficiency: SHO will strive to minimize energy consumption in our operations and facilities by implementing energy-efficient practices, using renewable energy sources where feasible, and investing in energy-saving technologies.
- b. Water Conservation: SHO will promote water conservation measures, such as rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation techniques, and water reuse/recycling, to reduce water consumption and preserve water resources.
- c. Waste Management: SHO will implement waste reduction, recycling, and waste segregation programs to minimize the generation of waste and promote responsible waste management practices among staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries.
- d. Sustainable Procurement: SHO will prioritize environmentally sustainable procurement practices, including the purchase of eco-friendly products, materials, and services, and the selection of suppliers with strong environmental credentials.

- e. Transportation: SHO will encourage sustainable transportation options, such as carpooling, public transit, cycling, and use of low-emission vehicles, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with staff travel and logistics.

4. Environmental Impact Assessment

- a. SHO will conduct environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for new projects, programs, or activities to identify potential environmental risks and opportunities, and to develop mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts.
- b. EIAs will consider factors such as biodiversity, water resources, air quality, land use, and climate change resilience, and will involve consultation with relevant stakeholders and experts.

5. Reporting and Accountability

- a. SHO will establish mechanisms for monitoring, measuring, and reporting on our environmental performance, including key performance indicators (KPIs) related to energy consumption, water usage, waste generation, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- b. Environmental sustainability targets and objectives will be set, reviewed regularly, and integrated into our organizational planning, budgeting, and reporting processes.
- c. SHO's leadership and management will be accountable for ensuring compliance with this policy and for driving continuous improvement in environmental sustainability across the organization.

6. Training and Capacity Building

- a. SHO will provide training and capacity-building opportunities for staff, volunteers, and partners on environmental sustainability best practices, policies, and procedures.
- b. Training will cover topics such as energy conservation, waste management, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable procurement.

7. Community Engagement and Collaboration

- a. SHO will engage with local communities, government agencies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to promote environmental awareness, share best practices, and collaborate on environmental conservation and restoration initiatives.
- b. Community-based participatory approaches will be utilized to empower local communities to take ownership of environmental sustainability efforts and to integrate traditional knowledge and practices into conservation activities.

8. Review and Revision

- a. This Environmental Sustainability Policy will be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect changes in organizational priorities, environmental regulations, and emerging sustainability challenges and opportunities.
- b. Feedback from stakeholders, including staff, volunteers, beneficiaries, and partners, will be solicited to inform the review process and ensure the policy remains relevant and effective.

This Environmental Sustainability Policy is designed to meet UN standards, international law, and local regulations in Sudan, demonstrating SHO's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development.