

# Nusa Tenggara Association

## Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Policy

v2.0 October 2023

### Preamble

The mission of the Nusa Tenggara Association (NTA) is to reduce poverty in the province of Nusa Tenggara Timur, Indonesia. The NTA sponsors economic and social development activities selected by our sponsored communities, ranging from building water tanks and wells, through providing farming equipment and training to local farmers, to supplying books for schools and training local teachers. We employ and provide training to over twenty Indonesian staff in West Timor and Flores through our counterpart organisation, Nusa Tenggara Association – Indonesia (NTA-I).

### Purpose and Guiding Principles of this Policy

The NTA is strongly committed to conducting its activities in an environmentally sustainable manner, to limiting any potential environmental impacts of its activities and to strengthening environmental resilience in NTT. As the NTA works with rural communities, largely dependent on subsistence agriculture, a commitment to environmental sustainability and resilience is especially important. In this context, environmental sustainability is the maintenance of natural capital including:

- Healthy soils;
- Water quantity and quality;
- Groundcover;
- Marine resources;
- Biodiversity;
- Plant resources
- Air quality.

The NTA is committed to supporting vulnerable communities to adapt to and mitigate against climate change. It is predicted climate change in NTT will increase the likelihood of domestic water shortages, decreased soil productivity and crop failure through drought, heat stress on humans and animals, increased fire risks and increased frequency of cyclones leading to localised flooding and landslides.

### Scope of this Policy

This policy applies to NTA staff, NTA Board members, volunteers and consultants retained by NTA, and NTA Indonesia.

**NTA's commitment to environmentally sustainable practices and reducing the impact of climate change.**

**Our guiding principle is "Do no Harm".**

NTA will promote the use of environmentally sustainable practices amongst its staff and local partners by:

- Considering protection of the above natural resources in project planning, monitoring and evaluation;
- Assessing all activities for potential environmental and climate change risks;
- Close liaison with the Indonesian Food Security and Extension Agency *Badan Ketahanan Pangan dan Penyuluhan* (BPTP) to understand and manage any potential environmental risks of NTA projects;
- Designing agricultural activities and infrastructure projects to suit local biophysical conditions, including soil type and availability of water;
- Ongoing research to better understand the long term environmental impacts of current and proposed NTA activities;
- Informing communities of how to prepare for major climate events (La Nina and El Nino) and to adapt to climate change;
- Promoting regenerative agriculture and composting;
- Making use of local materials wherever possible and where it is cost-effective to do so;
- Introducing cost effective technologies to communities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration;
- Creating incentives that will increase rather than reduce people's ability to adapt to climate change and disaster risks
- Engaging local practitioners to disseminate best environmental management practice with regards to agricultural and infrastructure projects;
- Sharing transport and other resources wherever possible to minimise our environmental footprint;
- During monitoring visits considering offsets for air travel where necessary and minimising waste such as food packaging;
- Promoting terracing and growing of ground cover or other measures to minimise soil loss and erosion; and
- Promoting biological pest control techniques, where feasible, rather than chemical pesticides.
- Protecting and conserving biodiversity and natural habitats, and avoiding damage to the ecosystems and natural resources, including through habitat loss and degradation
- Managing the generation of wastes and, where waste cannot be avoided, reducing, recovering and reusing waste. As a final option, treating, destroying, or disposing of waste in a manner that is safe for human health and the environment.

### **Education on the NTA environmental sustainability and climate change policy**

NTA staff, NTA Board members, and staff of partner organisations of the NTA will all be provided with a copy of the NTA environment and climate change policy on commencing their association with NTA and on updating of this document. The NTA environmental sustainability and climate change policy will be made available on the NTA website.

### **Reviewing this policy**

This policy will be reviewed every 5 years or as required to assess its effectiveness, appropriateness and accuracy.

### **Version control**

Version	Date	Approved by Board	Details
1.0	2016	2016	Policy developed and published

2.0	October 2023	October 2023	Policy updated and expanded to incorporate Climate Change matters. Review period set at 5 years
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