
Environment and Social Safeguard Policy

Approved by Board: 6 October 2020

Next review date: 30 June 2022

Managed on behalf of the CEO and Board by: Program Managers

*Revisions to this version are identified on the last page.

1. Purpose of this Policy

This policy outlines The Crawford Fund's Limited (Crawford Fund's) commitment to becoming a more environmentally conscious organisation and to operating in an environmentally sustainable way across all facets of the organisation and its activities. Crawford Fund acknowledges the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation in many of the countries where we work, including in Australia where Crawford Fund is based. Crawford Fund understands that its work in Australia and overseas can impact on the environment. Consequently, Crawford Fund works with partner organisations, local stakeholders and the Australian public to reduce and, where possible, mitigate the environmental impact of its work, and ensure it has the information required to make informed, environmentally sustainable choices.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to the following people:

- Crawford Fund staff members, contractors and consultants.
- Crawford Fund volunteers¹;
- Crawford Fund Board of Directors and Committee members.
- Partner organisations²; and
- Observers/visitors accompanying a Crawford Fund activity.

3. Definitions

The Crawford Fund defines the key terms in this policy as follows:

The environment as defined in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 includes:

-
- 1 Volunteers include mentors, and allied volunteers (allied journalist's for PAC and Masterclass), undertaking an activity overseas or participating in professional development in their own country or overseas, and non-staff volunteers, such as those in administrative, promotional or fundraising roles.
 - 2 Partners are individuals, groups of people or organisations that collaborate with Crawford Fund to achieve mutually agreed objectives in development activities.

- a) ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities.
- b) natural and physical.
- c) the qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas; and
- d) the social, economic and cultural aspects of a thing mentioned in (a), (b) or (c). An impact is defined as any direct or indirect activity which has a positive or negative effect on the environment. A significant negative impact is any activity which has potential to disrupt ecosystems or that is large scale or of a permanent or long-term nature.

An environmental mitigation plan (ESMP) A plan that is an output of the environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) and details measures to avoid, mitigate or offset negative impacts of the proposed action.

4. Legislative Framework and Standards

This policy assists The Crawford Fund to meet its obligations under Australian laws which apply to aid investments, including the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act) and the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011*. By requiring Australian aid investments to conserve and sustainably use natural resources and protect vulnerable and marginalised groups this policy contributes to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Australia's developing partner countries may have their own systems for protecting their environment and people. Consistent with globally agreed effective development principles, this policy supports efforts to use and strengthen partner country systems, enhance country ownership, increase the sustainability of development impacts, and reduce transaction costs.

This policy supports efforts of development partners to harmonise their safeguards and is closely aligned with the policies of key DFAT bilateral and multilateral partners, including the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank Group. Crawford Fund also recognises the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Environment Protection Policy for the Aid Program 2014 as well as all partner country laws, standards and/or policies relating to the environment.

Australia's *Foreign Policy White Paper* recognises the importance of robust social and environmental safeguards. The Australian Government's development policy *Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability* commits DFAT to mitigate 'adverse environmental and social impacts in the aid program through the application of mandatory safeguard policies:

5. Policy Statement

The Crawford Fund's objectives in relation to the environment, which are aligned with DFAT's Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy (version1.4):

- Comply with all applicable legal and other environmental requirements
- become a greener organisation.
- ensure its in-country programming is implemented with an understanding of the environmental impact and, as much as possible, in an environmentally sustainable way.

Support local implementing partners to identify key issues relating to environmental management (as they relate to Crawford Fund programs), and opportunities to address these:

- ensure its Australian domestic operations operate in an environmentally sustainable way and reduces its environmental impact; and
- continue to support the development of relationships with suppliers who have environmentally sustainable products and ways of operating.
- Crawford Fund recognises that this Environment Policy, and its broader efforts to minimise the impact of The Crawford Fund's programs on the environment, is part of its broader suite of safeguarding policies and processes – intended to protect and safeguard vulnerable people and places.

6. Policy in Practice

The Crawford Fund Program Managers, and ultimately the Chief Executive Officer hold overall accountability for this policy and its implementation.

Organisational Culture and Behaviour

- a) Crawford Fund will continually review its operational processes and practices to identify opportunities to strengthen its environmental sustainability, including working towards minimising paper files within the office and encouraging volunteers and other personnel to submit paperwork electronically.
- b) Crawford Fund will work to develop a stronger capacity for monitoring the environmental impact and sustainability of its in-country development programs as part of its strengthened program evaluation process, and its organisational Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

International Programs

- c) Implementing the policy will help to ensure that aid investments do not cause harm including injury or injustice to the people it is intended to assist, or to their wider communities or environment. The policy will assist compliance with Australian and partner government policies and laws for social and environmental protection; and improve the consistency, transparency and accountability of decisions.
- d) All Crawford Fund international programs will be screened for their potential environmental and social impacts. Screening quickly identifies aid investments with potential safeguard impacts that may require more detailed assessment. Where screening indicates that an impact may occur, the level of risk must be assessed and rated.
- e) Crawford Fund supports local implementing partners to develop and strengthen policies, processes and practices relating to environmental management, and ensuring they understand The Crawford Fund's commitment and requirements relating to environmental management.
- f) Crawford Fund ensures volunteers understand The Crawford Fund's commitment and requirements relating to environmental management, as relevant to their role delivering Crawford Fund programs overseas.
- g) Where possible, Crawford Fund makes decisions relating to the procurement and use of any investment and supplies which have minimal environmental impact.
- h) Where practical and possible, Crawford Fund makes decisions regarding program logistics (travel, accommodation etc) which minimise environmental impact, and support

suppliers who are investing in environmental sustainability.

Other Crawford Fund Activities (fundraising, events, supporter engagement)

- i) All activities supported by Crawford Fund (including those involving fundraising and communications with the Australian public) will be initially screened for their environmental impact. Projects that are assessed to have significant negative environmental impacts will not be supported by Crawford Fund.
- j) Crawford Fund will also seek to develop relationships with suppliers which share its environmental values and approach to becoming environmentally sustainable.
- k) Crawford Fund will consider environmental impact when assessing new donor partnerships.

7. Monitoring and Review of Policy

This policy will be monitored and reviewed in line with the process outlined in the Policy Framework. The Program Manager is accountable to the CEO and Board for managing and maintaining this policy.

Where compliance issues are identified, the Program Manager will work with staff and other relevant stakeholders to address these issues promptly.

Any updates and revisions to this policy must be endorsed by the Program Managers and CEO before being submitted to the Crawford Fund Board for its approval.

List of Acronyms

- DFAT** Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- NGO** Non-government organisation

***Revisions to Environment and Social Safeguard Policy**

Nature of proposed revisions	Date on which CEO endorsed	Date on which Board approved
Policy Initially approved	6 Oct 2020	6 Oct 2020

This Policy will be reviewed and adjusted, as required, by the CEO, staff and Board at least every two years.