



Environmental Policy



Introduction

The world is facing environmental challenges with complex causes and increasingly serious consequences. As part of its business approach to environmental sustainability, ICEP aims to strengthen the resilience of farmers, entrepreneurs, and businesses operating within market systems while contributing to the overall sustainability of those systems. We work with market actors to increase productivity and incomes while providing the tools and connections needed to cope with both short-term and longer-term environmental and climatic threats. We help reduce poor management practices that contribute to environmental degradation and climate change and identify new, innovative opportunities for wealth creation. ICEP believes that truly sustainable development cannot be achieved if such development degrades or erodes natural resources.

Environmental degradation, depletion of natural resources and climate change are global concerns. The negative effects of these phenomena are particularly felt by people in emerging and developing countries, resulting in a reduction of developmental potential in the longer term. The availability of arable land may diminish, economic development may be curtailed, food and water resources may become scarce, living standards may deteriorate. The focus of ICEP's work continues to be the creation of opportunities and the reduction of barriers to self-determined wealth creation. At the same time, the organization recognizes the need to address environmental topics to ensure that short-term economic benefits do not justify long-term environmental damages. Instead, ICEP fosters economic development that benefits future generations as well. Program work that benefits the local environment primarily includes private sector solutions that may address air pollution prevention, waste management, renewable energy promotion, soil degradation prevention, sustainable water management, and the development of energy-efficient technologies. ICEP ensures that awareness of the importance of environmental sustainability is integrated into its institutional framework and development programs.



Core Principles

ICEP's principles and approach to dealing with environmental challenges are based on international commitments and frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals and the Rio Conventions. The urgency of promoting environmentally sustainable growth is clearly highlighted in the SDGs. From clean water, to energy, to living and consumption – a number of SDGs either directly or indirectly mention the importance of environmentally conscious development.

The connection between environmental protection and poverty reduction cannot be denied and must therefore be considered in all developmental work. These commitments provide a solid foundation for ICEP's mission to promote environmentally and climatically sustainable economic growth. This approach integrates all people into economic cycles while protecting them from environmental and health damage, as well as the negative effects of climate change.





Policy Implementation

ICEP seeks to implement this policy through well-directed actions in its corporate practices as well as in its programs with its project partners. ICEP recognizes its responsibility in promoting environmental sustainability but acknowledges that a lasting impact cannot be achieved without establishing strong partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

Corporate Practice

In order to reach its self-defined objectives of promoting positive environmental impacts, ICEP recognizes that its first responsibility is to incorporate an environmentally positive attitude into its own work and structure. ICEP is committed to the following:

POLICY & COMMUNICATION

Environmental consciousness is lived in ICEP's day-to-day business and the importance and content of this policy are communicated to all staff.

AWARENESS

Environmental sensibility and awareness about individual or collective actions and their environmental impact are included in meetings and discussions.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

The environmental impact of all ICEP's work is regularly reviewed and evaluated, with adjustments made as needed to ensure that all activities meet ICEP's high environmental standards.

Programming

ICEP's projects transcend national borders, and their environmental impact is felt locally and regionally. Therefore, ICEP is fully committed not only to conserving the status quo but also to positively influencing national and international developments in economic and social growth that do not jeopardize the environment.

ANALYSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS & SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMMING

All of ICEP's development programs are designed to be environmentally sustainable. Before starting a project, the environmental conditions in the target regions are assessed and factored into the planning of new projects or programs. The do-no-harm approach is the baseline for each program, and a positive impact on the environment is sought wherever possible. Innovative approaches can provide competitive advantages.

MONITORING

ICEP monitors and evaluates all of its work from an environmental perspective in order to continuously improve the quality and impact of its programs and work.

CONSCIOUS PARTNERSHIPS

ICEP aims to include the private sector in its program work whenever possible, strengthen civil society, and raise awareness among the general population. Partnering with organizations that share the same values on environmental protection is key to making a long-lasting, positive change and enhancing the collective know-how. Creating a network of like-minded partners leverages the impact of ICEP's efforts. As such, ICEP carefully selects its partners, taking into account their environmental mindset.

MOBILIZATION

ICEP aims to ensure that its partner network aligns with its commitments to environmental protection and sustainability. Consequently, ICEP supports partners in organizing the appropriate human, technical, and financial resources necessary to ensure proper, efficient, and sustainable use of resources that enable sustainable development.



A smiling man wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat and a blue and black polo shirt stands in a lush green tea plantation. He is holding small tea leaves in his hands. The background is a dense forest of trees.

Accountability

All of ICEP's staff members, regardless of function or location, are responsible for the implementation of the requirements outlined in this policy. These requirements are reflected in recruitment processes, job descriptions and performance reviews at all levels.

ICEP management must ensure that all employees and related personnel understand and comply with this policy. They are also responsible for robust recruitment, induction, training and identifying future actions.

To support accountability for this policy, an effective review and monitoring process is established.



ICEP is an independent Austrian development organisation with a business-oriented focus. ICEP works with partner organisations in Africa and Latin America as well as with Austrian companies and implements projects worldwide with the aim of getting more people actively involved in economic life. The corporAID platform is an initiative of ICEP.

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