

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTION & DISASTER RISK REDUCTION POLICY

ORGANISATION:	Kokoda Track Foundation
ACN:	103 660 948
POLICY TITLE:	Climate Change Adaption & Disaster Risk Reduction Policy
VERSION:	2.0
STATUS:	FINAL
ALLIED POLICIES:	Code of Conduct Risk Management Policy Working with Communities Policy Environmental Sustainability & Management Policy
OWNER:	Senior Management
APPROVED BY:	CEO
LAST UPDATE:	12.01.2022
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### INTRODUCTION:

Located in the active Pacific Ring of Fire, Papua New Guinea (PNG) is ranked among the most disaster-prone countries globally due to its geophysical conditions (National Disaster Centre, 2017). Natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic activity, cyclones, flooding, landslides and droughts are contributing to the risks; PNG ranks highest in terms of population exposed to severe volcanic risk, and is among the top six countries for the highest percentage of population exposed to earthquakes (GFDRR, 2016). On the INFORM risk index of 2019, PNG has a high-risk ranking (5.6), with lack of coping capacity highlighted as the leading contributor to disaster risks (INFORM, 2019). Adding to the challenges, the intensity of hydrometeorological hazards is projected to grow more severe as a result of climate change.

The 2014 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment report affirmed that global warming was 'unequivocal'. It affirmed that the atmosphere and the ocean have warmed, that volumes of snow and ice have diminished, and that sea levels have risen.

Looking to the future, the IPCC projected that:

- By the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the global average surface temperature will increase by 1.5°C to more than 2°C from pre-industrial levels.
- The ocean will continue to warm and acidify and sea levels will continue to rise, very likely at a faster rate than that observed so far.

Increasing temperatures and sea levels have implications for extreme weather events such as temperature extremes, heavy rainfalls, storms and sea surges. Climate change is disrupting natural ecosystems, reducing people's access to natural resources and undermining agricultural practices.

The IPCC 2014 assessment report affirmed that:

- Many species have shifted their geographic ranges, seasonal activities, migration patterns, abundances and the way in which they interact with other species.

- Most plant species cannot naturally shift their geographical ranges fast enough to keep up with current and high projected rates of climate change; and under some projections, most small mammals and freshwater molluscs will also not be able to keep up.
- Climate change is expected to reduce renewable surface water and groundwater resources in most dry subtropical regions.

Climate change is also affecting agricultural, livestock and fisheries production:

- Global crop yields will almost certainly decrease (Porter et al 2014), with yields of rice, maize and wheat projected to decrease between 3 and 10 percent per degree of warming above historic levels (Challinor et al 2014).
- Livestock systems will likely be affected by reductions in the quality and quantity of fodder and changes in the prevalence of pests and diseases (Thornton and Gerber 2010).
- The global redistribution of marine species and reduction in marine biodiversity is expected to impact the productivity of fisheries (IPCC 2014), with some modelling projecting a 5-10% decrease in potential fish catch in marine tropical ecosystems (Campbell et al 2016).

All of these things reduce individuals' and households' abilities to withstand climate related shocks and disasters. PNG was ranked the eighth most 'at risk' nation of experiencing catastrophic failures as a result of disaster risk in the 2020 World Risk Report. In 2020 alone, Oro Province experienced several natural hazards including flooding and storms and earthquakes. The most vulnerable including women and girls, children, the elderly and people with a disability are most at risk from climate change and disasters and therefore are a core focus on KTF's policy on Climate Change Adaption and Disaster Risk Reduction.

KTF's work in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaption (CCA) is guided by the Sendai Framework, the Paris Climate Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and PNG's National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework 2017-2030.

#### POLICY STATEMENT:

KTF is committed to ensuring it takes every opportunity to build the resilience of communities to address the adverse effects of climate change and disasters. KTF will incorporate climate change adaption and disaster risk reduction into its programming and awareness initiatives for communities who are exposed to high levels of disaster risk and climate change. KTF is committed to ensure the most vulnerable are included and protected in all of its work. KTF formally adopts the [Core Humanitarian Standard](#) to improve the quality and effectiveness of its work supporting communities and people affected by crisis.

#### POLICY COMMITMENTS:

KTF is committed to the following:

1. Adhering to the 'Humanitarian Principles' of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality;
2. Raising awareness and providing training and capacity building on DRR and CCA across all of its offices in PNG and Australia including orientation to and training on the Core Humanitarian Standard in order to ensure its application is embedded in programming and response activities;
3. Integrating DRR and CCA into all projects that are located in disaster and climate change prone areas;

4. Working with local government, communities, primary stakeholders and partners to complement and strengthen systems, processes and capacity to anticipate, plan and adapt to climate change impacts and disaster risk;
5. Building community resilience across all disaster-prone communities where KTF operates;
6. Acknowledging that the most vulnerable are affected more adversely than others in climate and disaster related events. By acknowledging this, KTF will include gender, child, disability, socioeconomic status and age in its disaster risk assessments ensuring that the most vulnerable are included in all DRR and CCA programming.

#### MONITORING:

KTF commits to monitoring its performance against each of the 6 policy commitments regularly. KTF will create a forum for discussion on environmental sustainability via the Environment, Climate Change and Disasters Risk Reduction Working Group. In this working group, KTF will discuss its adherence to, training on and performance against the nine principles of the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability. KTF will provide annual updates on its approach to CCA and DRR.

KTF will undertake periodic assessments of its own and partners practices and compliance with this policy. KTF commits to a full review of this policy at least every three years.

END