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Climate change and the environment

What Enabel does

The world is facing huge challenges in realising the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Enabel wants to contribute with its experience and expertise in five specific domains: Peace and Security, Climate Change and the Environment, Social and Economic Inequality, Urbanisation, and Human Mobility. In our search for adapted solutions we take into account the inevitable ongoing population explosion and we strongly believe in empowering women and youths.

This brochure describes how we address climate issues in our projects.

Climate urgency

Climate change is one of the most disruptive challenges the world is facing. The negative impacts of climate change are accelerating and becoming more visible every day. Moreover, it is the least developed countries that suffer the most.

As underlined by the successive reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), there is a real climate urgency. Actions have to be taken within the next ten years to limit global warming to a manageable level. The EU has launched its European Green Deal, an ambitious climate plan that aims to eliminate all net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050. In 2019, some 20% of Belgian governmental cooperation expenses were related to climate actions. This figure is bound to increase in the coming years.

Enabel helps countries to adapt to the changing environment and to reduce emissions. The agency has twenty years of experience integrating environmental issues into its actions and ten years of experience providing solutions to deal with the effects of climate change.

Leading and inspiring by example, Enabel aims to have its offices in Belgium and abroad as well as its development projects become carbon neutral.



Since July 2019, Enabel is accredited by the Green Climate Fund (www.greenclimate.fund), making the agency qualified to implement environmental projects financed by the Fund.



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Enabel's expertise

- Our experts cover different fields, including: drinking and productive water, Integrated Water Resource Management, waste management, urban planning, eco-construction, agro-forestry, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forest management, climate finance, gender equality, renewable energy, private sector development, skills training (green skills and skills for the green economy).
- Enabel can easily mobilise Belgian expertise through framework agreements with national and regional institutions, including the Ministry of Health and Environment, the Walloon Water Company (Société Wallonne des Eaux - SWDE), city councils for solid waste management, the Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO), as well as universities (e.g. KU Leuven, Ghent University). Agreements with the private sector are being studied.
- Our expert network includes international organisations, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), World Agroforestry (ICRAF), the Cities Alliance, and Belgian NGOs.
- Rapid mobilisation of private consultants through a set of framework contracts and agreements.
- Enabel is an active member of different research networks at national and international levels, such as the Practitioners' Network, Learn4Dev, the European Experts Group on Climate led by DEVCO and the network of accredited agencies to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Increasing resilience of countries, cities and communities

Enabel's goal is to limit the critical root causes of climate change and increase resilience of countries, cities and communities. In order to tackle climate change in a comprehensive way, both adaptation and mitigation measures have to be developed. However, considering the fact that fragile countries in Africa are contributing the least to greenhouse gas emissions while being the most affected by their negative impacts, it is necessary to focus on adaptation. In its projects, Enabel promotes the following approaches:



Climate-resilient and smart agriculture, sustainable natural resources management

In a context of declining agricultural productivity due to climate change, Enabel is supporting the transformation of the agricultural sector in order to feed a growing global population in a sustainable and healthy way, providing the basis for economic growth and reducing inequalities. The agency's work is aimed at making food systems more efficient and resilient, from the farm to the global market. That is why climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forest management and forest landscape restoration are promoted, as well as skills for off-farm activities and the green economy. The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of land or agricultural product and the development of carbon sinks help mitigate climate change.

By doing so, Enabel ensures that more production land is being managed in a sustainable way. Improved governance of the different land types makes the inhabitants less vulnerable to climate change, and sustainable forest management leads to more CO₂ uptake.



Integrated and sustainable water management

Given the vital importance of drinking water and the negative effects of climate change on the access to drinking water, water security sits high on the international political agenda, as it is strongly embedded too in the SDG framework.

Sound water governance rules and Integrated Water Resource Management are key to preserving both drinking water and productive water, in a context of water scarcity. Water management is crucial to reduce inequalities, as the poor are generally living in vulnerable flooding areas, with less access to productive water and where the water chore in many cases remains a female responsibility. Focusing on these issues, Enabel contributes to more people having access to safe drinking water and to more land benefitting from Integrated Water Resource Management.



Green urban growth: renewable energy and eco-construction

It is estimated that, by 2030, over half of the African population will be living in urban areas. With this fast and uncontrolled urbanisation, sub-Saharan African cities are facing serious challenges, including an infrastructure deficit. Climate change is an additional burden.

Enabel supports the different levels of authority to address these issues, with a specific focus on secondary cities and their hinterland. Both the communities and the private sector are involved in the planning and implementation process. Enabel's work is aimed at bringing more cities and human settlements to adopt and implement integrated policies and plans for inclusion, resource efficiency, smart cities, circular economy and urban resilience, and to promote skills and jobs for the green and circular economy. That should reduce the risk of flooding, landslides and the existence of heat islands, amongst other issues.

In line with the 'do not harm' strategy, Enabel promotes renewable energy wherever energy production is concerned, it supports an enabling environment to renewable energy, and promotes energy efficiency in building construction, eco-friendly school construction, private sector development or public transport.

Global experience



Vietnam's green growth strategy

Funding: Belgium

From 2014 to 2019 Belgium supported a fund to assist Vietnam in pursuing its Green Growth Strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The fund is aimed at lifting the barriers hindering green growth, and in particular at financing the priority mitigating measures of the Vietnamese provinces.

In Binh Tuan Province the installation of solar-powered public lighting was funded. In Phu Yen Province greenhouses were equipped with solar panels to demonstrate high-tech solutions in agriculture. In Ha Tinh Province the reuse of agricultural waste was promoted to grow mushrooms and create organic fertilizer. In Ninh Thuan province drip irrigation systems were developed in local farms as a response to frequent droughts due to climate change.



Topping-up ongoing climate initiatives

Funding: Brussels-Capital Region

The objective of the project financed by the Brussels-Capital Region (2017-2020) is to implement adaptation and mitigation actions for vulnerable regions. They complement ('top-up' principle) ongoing actions of the Belgian governmental cooperation implemented by Enabel. Four projects are being realised:

- the installation of solar panels on the roofs of fifty schools in Palestine covering the schools' power needs;
- the rehabilitation of five hundred hectares of small productive forest plantations and the reforestation and conservation of the biosphere on two thousand hectares in Rwanda;
- the installation of low-energy cooking facilities, of solar water heating systems, of biogas systems and of brick manufacturing workshops in vocational education centres in Uganda;
- the installation of five solar-powered desalination and drinking water supply systems in the Gaza Province of Mozambique.



Inclusive sustainable secondary cities in Rwanda

Funding: Belgium

In Rwanda, the work of Enabel in secondary cities is focused on the urban ecosystem in a multidimensional and integrated way, trying to develop synergies between initiatives from both the private and the public sector.

The Belgian-Rwandan programme (2019-2023) is building economic infrastructure (such as handicraft and horticulture centres, markets, secondary connecting roads, drainage systems) as a lever to support the economic development of the cities of Rubavu, Musanze and Rwamagana. It promotes complementarity between public spaces, public economic infrastructure and value chains in the construction sector (clay and natural stones, agricultural waste, bamboo) and private investment. In parallel, technical training is provided with a view of creating a workforce that knows how to use local materials through innovative techniques. Districts were also supported in improving urban planning, elaborating participatory investment plans and achieving sustainable economic development.



Natural resource management in Tanzania

Funding: EU, Belgium

The Kilombero and Lower Rufiji Ecosystem Management Project (KILORWEMP, 2012-2018) helped the local authorities to implement the sustainable management policy and regulations in the wetlands ecosystem of the Kilombero Valley and Lower Rufiji. The purpose is to foster sustainable livelihoods and more effective natural resources governance within the country's decentralisation framework.

The focus of the project was on protected area management and related land conflicts, the protection of wetland habitats and ecological functions, safeguarding landscape connectivity and enabling stakeholder coordination. The actions were geared towards the local level for the devolution of user rights for wildlife, forestry and fisheries management. Second, the landscape level was aimed at in order to develop institutional environmental management capacity. Finally, the policy level was involved for reviewing policies and reforming regulatory frameworks.



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