



## Step 3 Adjust and Adapt



Diakonia wants to be an agile organisation and therefore we analyse our changing context, act upon our analysis and adapt and adjust our programmes.

You are now going to talk about how you can improve a strategy/programme or project to better respond to the environmental risks you have identified.

# Adjust and Adapt:

## Make strategic adjustment(s) to your strategy, programme or project

In **step 1** you analysed the context, who were the most vulnerable and what capacities and resources existed.

In **step 2** you assessed the interaction between the environment and your strategy, programme or project.

In **step 3** you are now going to use that information to identify what needs to be adjusted or adapted to respond better to the environmental risks that the rights-holders and the community face.

Adaptations and adjustments you identify can range from minor adjustments to more drastic changes.

It may include reconsidering the activity plan and include capacity building and information on future and present risks posed by climate change and how this might impact on people's livelihoods.

It may involve strengthening of people's coping strategies and promoting climate-adaptive measures.

Some of you may have a role to play in supporting the rights holder's access to natural, physical, human, social and financial resources.

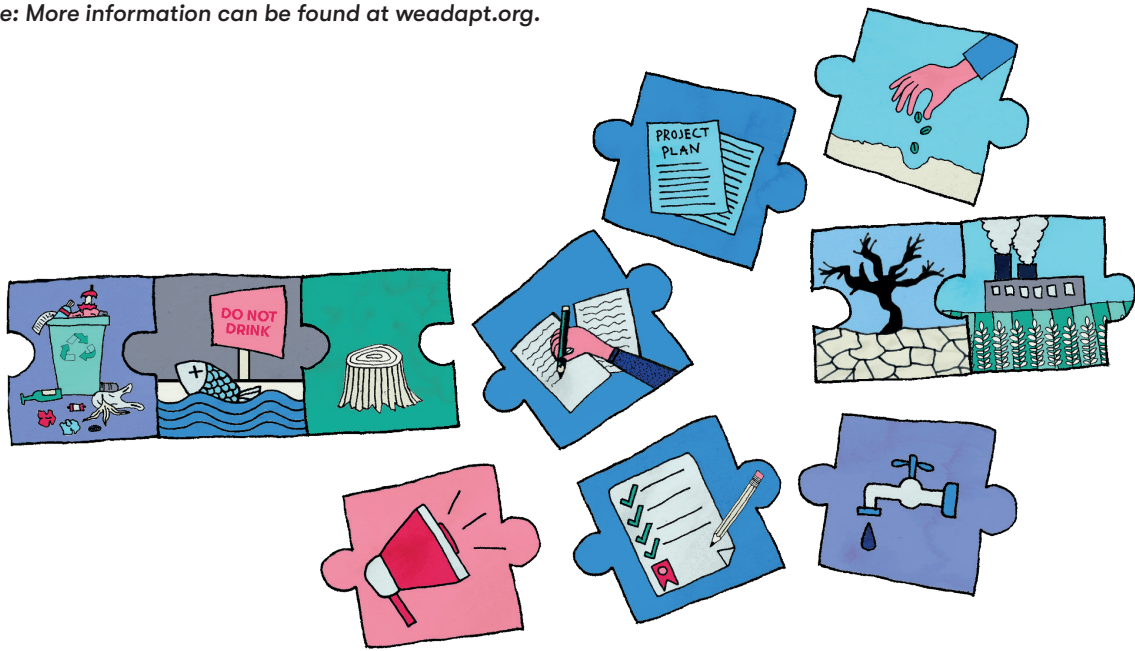
The ideas you come up with may also relate to disaster risk reduction i.e addressing factors that cause disasters, by reducing exposure to hazards (for example living in a flood plain or dangerous location), and strengthening people's capacity to deal with their impact.

Some ideas may develop into separate projects. If, for example, a community is cutting down trees and causing deforestation, one idea could be to explore new energy sources with the community.

Other ideas may involve advocacy, both at local and global level. Or strengthening rights holders' ability to influence political processes addressing environmental risks or the rootcauses of them.

A key approach is to network together with others, so that the stakeholders responsible for a problem are encouraged to take that responsibility.

*Footnote: More information can be found at [weadapt.org](http://weadapt.org).*



# 3.1 Are you doing the right things?

Based on the information you now have about the context and the situation rights holders face:

- How can you address environmental risks in your strategy, programme or project to reduce poverty, build sustainable societies and resilient communities?
- What can or should you do more of or do differently to reduce vulnerability or the negative impact of climate change, environmental degradation and hazards?
- What do you need to do to enhance capacity and increase the positive impact on the environment?

## Examples of how you can adjust and adapt

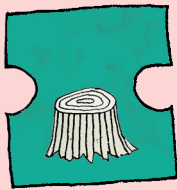


### Example 1

The context analysis reveals that the communities you are planning to work with are severely affected by flooding.

### Examples of action

- Explore a partnership with another organisation with competence in the area of disaster risk reduction to build capacity of the right holders. If you have the competence yourself you could train and equip disaster risk reduction committees, establish early warning systems, provide emergency evacuation drills, teach children to swim, facilitate access to alternative livelihoods or support construction of sustainable and safe housing.
- Provide support to affected communities to construct or repair river embankments, erosion protection, flood shelters or ensure these areas are included in the advocacy efforts directed towards district authorities.



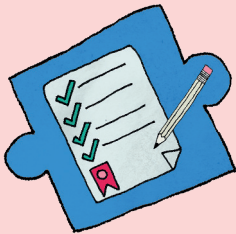
### Example 2

The context analysis reveals large scale logging and exploitation of natural resources in an area leading to communities losing their land and livelihood and human rights being abused.

### Examples of action

- Mobilize the community and support them in lobbying the authorities to protect the area from logging and human rights abuse.

- Support the youth who wants to do an awareness campaign about the needs to protect natural resources.
- Add an advocacy component on good governance of natural resources contributing to an improved human rights situation.

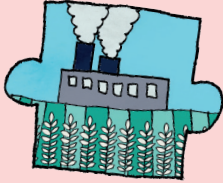


### Example 3

A human rights programme is planned in a country with increased frequency of cyclones, devastating the houses and livelihoods in parts of the country.

#### Example of action

- Include in the risk analysis of the programme, recurrent cyclones hindering development activities and analyse how project activities could be rescheduled.
- Include a component on awareness and capacity-building around climate risks, protection and preparedness.
- Support civil society to advocate for National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans.
- Advocate for inclusive and locally-led disaster responses, for more funding to be directed towards housing and diversified livelihoods, to increase the resilience of communities.



#### Example 4

A textile factory is polluting the environment and the water in the area. This impacts the health of the population, specially the marginalized communities living in the slums close to the factory.

#### Examples of actions

- The project can include awareness and training on how to increase people's awareness of their rights and how to mobilise for a change.
- The project could address the underlying cause of the problem by addressing exploitation of natural resources, economic interest, corruption and lack of voice of communities in decision making processes.
- Support people to access clean water and health services.

## 3.2 Are you doing things in the right way?

How are you implementing your programmes and projects?

Think in terms of resource or waste management, for example the use of natural resources such as water, energy, consumption or transport.

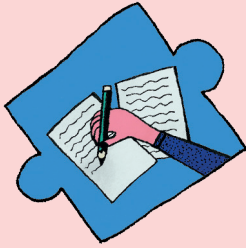


### Example 5

A democracy programme is carried out in an area frequently experiencing droughts and lack of clean water

### Example of action

- Analyse your water consumption in the programme and the root causes of the droughts/or lack of clean water.
- Encourage and train community on how to preserve and harvest water, providing necessary resources.
- Build capacity among program/project staff and rights holders on how to manage waste.
- Coordinate democracy work with the climate change work done by other organisations, to advocate for sustainable and transparent resource management and policies.



### Example 6

A youths programme plan to establish a community information and technology centre. There is no environmental sustainability analysis and plan.

#### Examples of action:

- Safeguard that the information centre has an environmental analysis, sustainability plan and policy including construction, energy, waste management, consumption, travel etc.
- Include environmental and climate education and capacity building at the youth centre.
- Establish linkages between the centre and environmental organisations, institutions or authorities responsible for environmental policy management in the country.

## 3.3 What new things can you do?

What role can the programme, project or organization play to reduce the impact of climate change, natural hazards or environmental degradation?

What role can the programme, project or organisation play to strengthen the capacity of right holders to handle environmental risks and to address the root causes of environmental risks?

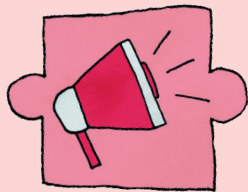


### Example 7

The context analysis reveals increased frequency of droughts causing water-related violent conflict between communities and severe impact on the women's ability to participate in community development.

### Examples of action

- Incorporate an awareness component about climate change and natural resource management.
- Support the establishment of a platform for community dialogue to promote social cohesion and inclusion in the community, ensuring that its set-up enables women's participation.
- Include capacity building for climate smart agriculture (water harvesting, drought resistant seeds etc.).
- Include an advocacy campaign for duty bearers to establish protection systems and food security programmes.

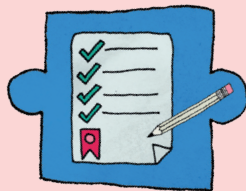


### Example 8

A project is planned to focus on protecting human rights defenders.

#### Example of action

- Include human rights defenders working with environmental protection in the project target group and ensure human rights defenders of all genders are included.



### Example 9

The project is focusing on accountability, where government policies are followed up and monitored.

#### Example of action

- Include monitoring of natural resource and climate change adaptation policies.

# Document

You have now gone through how Diakonia does Environmental mainstreaming and you have come to the final step in your analysis – to document what adjustments and adaptations you would like to do. This is important, as it will enable you to follow up your ability to reduce negative impact and increase the positive impact related to environmental risks.

The matrix is one example on how to do that. Enter your adaptation plans and new ideas under step 3 Adjust and adapt, either to the right or left in the table.

Besides this mainstreaming toolbox Diakonia also have an environmental policy and environmental management system to follow up and improve on our environmental commitments and to support Diakonia towards environmental sustainability.

This includes a system to monitor and report on its environmental impact annually.

As Diakonia where you aware of this?

As partner do you have something similar?

Step 3	Step 2	Step 1
<p><b>Adjust and adapt</b></p> <p>What can you do to reduce the impact of the programme on the environment?</p> <p>Reduce vulnerability to environmental risks or the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on rights holders.</p> <p>To strengthen the capacity of the rights holders and duty bearers.</p>	<p><b>Impact analysis</b></p> <p>Programme impact on the environment (positive and negative)</p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <p>The local environmental risk context</p> <p>Climate change degradation and Hazards</p>
<p><b>EXAMPLE</b></p> <p>Safeguard that the information centre have a sustainability/ environmental analysis, plan and policy including construction, energy resource, waste management, consumption, travel etc.</p> <p>Include environmental and climate education and capacity building at the youth centre.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the centre and environmental organisations/institutions or authorities responsible for environmental policy/management in the country.</p>	<p>A youth programme plans to establish a community information and technology centre. There is no environmental sustainability analysis and plan.</p>	<p>Landslides</p> <p>Floodings</p> <p>Large scale logging</p> <p>Soil erosion</p>
<p><b>EXAMPLE</b></p> <p>Include a component on capacity building on climate change and environmental degradation for all farmers/women.</p> <p>Empower and educate farmers/women on how to make organic fertilisers, wise water management, agroforestry , permaculture , fish farming or other farming techniques enriching the soil.</p>	<p>A Gender programme on economic empowerment includes women working to improve food security by using fertilisers and pesticides to increase agricultural yield having an impact on soil and water.</p>	

	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>
	<p><b>Impact analysis</b></p> <p>Environmental impact on the programme</p>	<p><b>Adjust and adapt</b></p> <p>What can you do to reduce the impact of the environment on the programme?</p> <p>Reduce vulnerability for environmental risks or the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on rights holders ?</p> <p>To strengthen the capacity of the rights holders and duty bearers?</p>
	<p>Democracy programme operates in an area with large-scale logging and exploitation of natural resources, leading to loss of land and livelihood, and human rights abuse in the community.</p>	<p>Include an awareness campaign on the need to protect natural resources in the project plan by for example mobilisation of the community and lobbying the authorities to protect the area from logging and human rights abuse.</p> <p>Add an advocacy component on good governance of natural resources.</p> <p>Support the community to safeguard their land and livelihood.</p>
	<p>A human rights programme is planned in an area affected by increased frequency of cyclones, devastating houses and livelihoods in parts of the country.</p>	<p>Include in the human rights training the right to basic services, protection systems, and disaster-prevention and response plans and lobby the government for the same.</p> <p>Create a platform between authorities and communities for consultation and inclusive preparedness, prevention and response plans and lobby authorities to institutionalise consultation mechanisms with civil society in their work.</p>



[www.diakonia.se/environmentalmainstreaming-toolbox](http://www.diakonia.se/environmentalmainstreaming-toolbox)

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