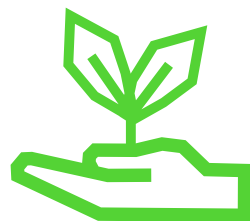


**RAINFOREST
FOUNDATION
NORWAY**
**ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE
POLICY**



RAINFOREST FOUNDATION NORWAY

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE POLICY

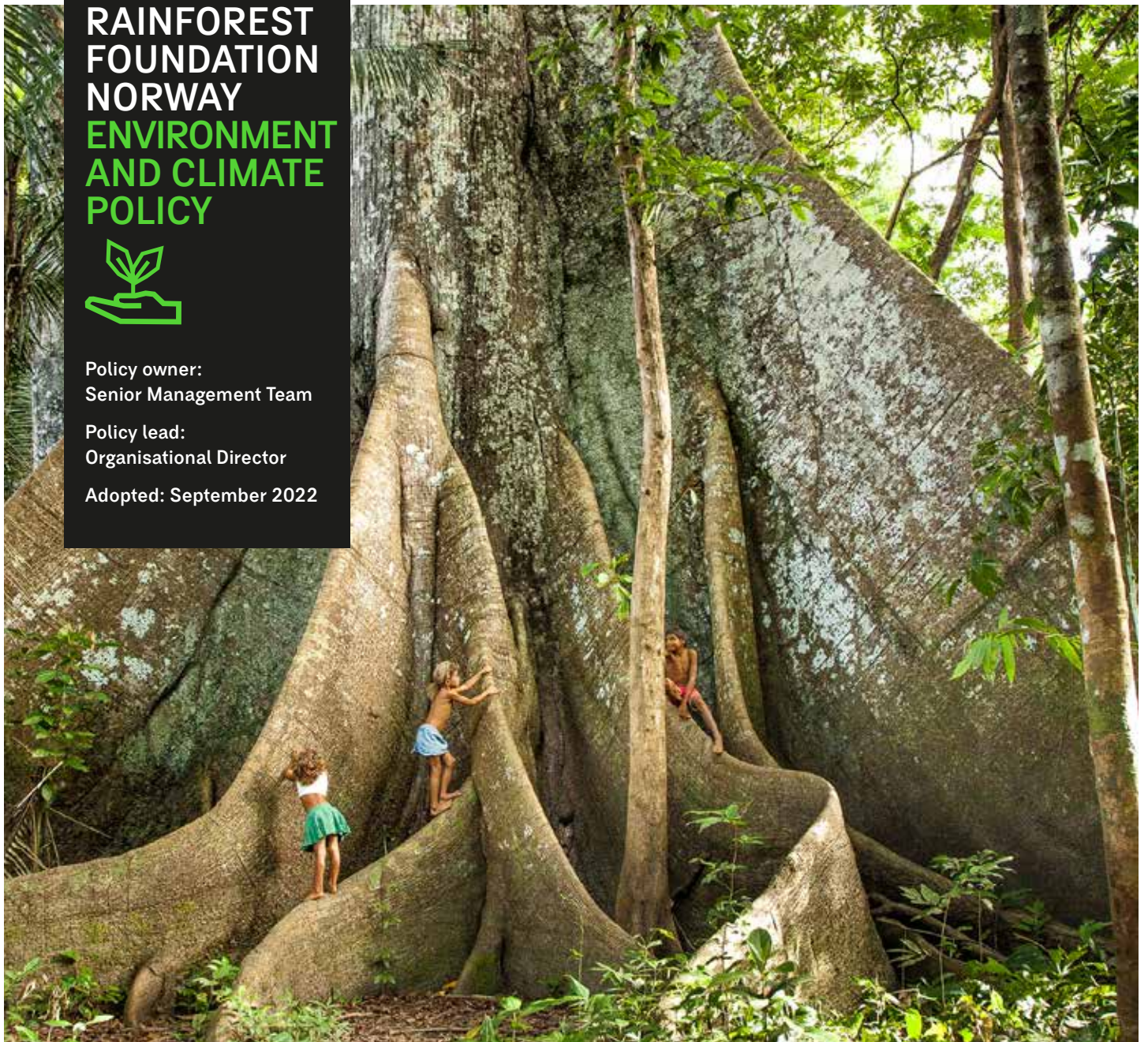


Policy owner:
Senior Management Team

Policy lead:
Organisational Director

Adopted: September 2022

Photo: Araquém Alcântara



1. Introduction

Rainforest Foundation Norway's (RFN) overall goal is that the world's large, contiguous rainforest areas are managed in ways that uphold biodiversity, forest ecosystem services and the human rights of indigenous and other forest-dependent peoples and communities. We are committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss are inextricably interlinked, and protection of the world's remaining rainforests is crucial to both.

RFN programmes are designed and implemented to maximise our positive contribution to climate, environment, and biodiversity agendas through rainforest protection

and rights-based, sustainable rainforest management, together with partners and allies. Our 2030 strategy, governing documents and plans of action outline these contributions.

Underpinned by our overall goal and strategy, RFN aims to reduce our environmental footprint and negative climate effects, to ensure our organisation and operations are environmentally sustainable. This policy outlines how RFN will integrate the environment and climate as a cross-cutting issue in all areas of our work.

The main tool for the operationalisation of this policy is the Environment and Climate Plan of Action, along with an Environmental Management System.

2. Principles

Reduce negative effects of RFN operations

Objective: RFN will reduce the known negative effects of our operations on the climate and the environment. All RFN activities have negative effects on climate and/or the environment, through energy and resource use, emissions, waste generation, etc. It is our duty to reduce these as much as possible, without endangering our mission and achievement of strategic objectives.

The focus in this area will be on reducing RFN's emission of climate gases.

Reduce carbon emissions from international travels

International travels are necessary for planning, implementation, and follow-up of RFN programmes, but climate effects must be considered in all decisions about travels. The Plan of Action will detail how this is to be achieved, based on the following principles:

- RFN will reduce air travel per capita.
- RFN will improve planning and prioritising of travel to reduce emissions. Routines and checklists for considering international travel will be integrated in appropriate procedures.
- Air travel and CO2 emissions will be recorded and reported to the Senior Management Team and the Board annually.

Establish environmental procurement regulations

RFN spends a considerable amount of money on procuring goods and services, and some of these have potentially negative consequences on the climate and the environment. RFN will reduce the negative effects of its procurements on climate and environment. The Plan of Action will detail how this is to be achieved, based on the following principles:

- RFN's procurement regulations will clearly state how climate and environmental concerns are to be safeguarded and considered in the procurement process.
- Climate and environmental concerns will be included in Calls for Tenders, Terms of Reference, and Contract Templates.
- Climate and environmental concerns will be amongst the criteria on which tenders are assessed, based on best practices from public procurement.

Reduce consumption and emissions from RFN offices

RFN offices consume energy and resources and produce waste. Negative climate and environmental effects of this will be minimised and RFN's resource use will be based on circular economy principles. The Plan of Action will detail how this is to be achieved, based on the following principles:

- Each office will regularly conduct an energy and waste analysis, to identify potentials for saving and improvement, and carry out measures to utilise these potentials.
- Energy and resource use will be minimised and based on renewables when possible. Waste and paper use will be reduced and recycled.
- Plant based and non-meat alternatives will be the main options served at RFN events. Food that contributes disproportionately to climate and land-use change should be avoided.
- Purchase of used furniture and other office equipment when possible.

Safeguard against climate and environmental risks

Objective: RFN will safeguard against the risk of negative, unintended consequences of its programmes on climate and the environment.

RFN's programmes are designed to have a positive effect on climate and the environment, but that does not preclude the risk that parts of these programmes may have negative, unintended effects. These risks must be safeguarded against through integrating climate and environmental risk management in RFN programme cycles.

The [RFN Risk Management Policy](#) includes consideration of climate and environmental risk. Additionally, these principles should be followed:

- Climate and environment will be considered a cross-cutting issue on par with human rights, gender, and anti-corruption.
- Climate and environmental risks and externalities will be considered in planning RFN programmes and projects, as part of regular planning and risk management.
- If negative risks or externalities are identified, risk reduction measures and/or measures to reduce damage will be considered and implemented.

Environmental Management System

Objective: RFN will implement an Environmental Management System to ensure that the above-mentioned concerns are integrated into RFN decision-making, systems, operations, and programmes.

For principles and objectives to take effect in RFN, the organisation must have an environmental management system as part of its overall management systems. The management system will help RFN use its resources effectively and efficiently, prioritise the most efficient climate and environment measures, and implement, monitor, and report on measures chosen.

RFN will continuously assess, learn, and improve our environmental management system and our environmental performance, to reduce our environmental footprint and negative climate effects.

Support partners

Objective: RFN will support partners and expects them to integrate environmental and climate considerations and demonstrate efforts to reduce any negative effects on environment and climate.

The partnership between partners and RFN is based on mutual respect. As active implementers in rainforest countries and elsewhere, their environmental practices matter. As partner and donor, RFN is committed to doing what we can to influence and support partners to improve their practices where needed, based on the following principles:

- RFN is accountable for the environmental and climate-friendly use of RFN funds throughout the value chain. We will integrate environmental requirements in our partner assessment and compliance systems and procedures.
- RFN will seek to learn from and inspire partners by sharing good practices, tools, and results.
- RFN will support partners in their efforts to protect their natural environment and mitigate and adapt to climate change, within a framework of climate and environmental justice.

Photo: Araquém Alcántara



3. Operationalisation of the policy

The main tool for the operationalisation of this policy is the Plan of Action, along with an Environmental Management System. The Senior Management Team is accountable for operationalisation and implementation and hold ownership of this policy. All staff are responsible for compliance with the policy within their areas of responsibility.

Rainforest Foundation Norway supports indigenous peoples and traditional populations of the world's rainforests in their efforts to protect their environment and secure their customary rights. RFN was established in 1989 and works with local environmental, indigenous and human rights organisations in the main rainforest countries in the Amazon region, Central Africa, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. RFN is an independent organisation, and part of the international Rainforest Foundation network, with sister organisations in the United Kingdom and the USA.



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