DNDi
Best Science
for the Most Neglected

# Environmental charter for suppliers and partners

The climate crisis is having a profound impact globally, with disproportionate effects on vulnerable communities, amplifying existing inequalities. DNDi has developed a multi-pronged approach to tackle the interrelated connections between health, climate, and the environment, focusing on:

- Addressing the treatment needs exacerbated by climate change;
- Advocating for innovation and investment for neglected patients in the global climate change response;
- Reducing the environmental footprint of our operations; and
- Working with partners to reduce the environmental impact of developing and manufacturing medicines.

DNDi produced its first Climate and Environmental Roadmap in 2023, which details a range of actions designed to drive DNDi in this important journey towards a sustainable future. This journey cannot be made without the commitment and actions of our suppliers and partners.

This charter outlines the principles to which we encourage all organizations working with DNDi to adhere. It reflects DNDi's values and expectations, and we invite our suppliers and partners to integrate these principles into their operations and to pursue continuous improvement in their environmental and social protection performance.

1. **Compliance**
    a. **Regulatory compliance**
    Providers must comply with all applicable sector-specific environmental and social laws, regulations, and standards in the regions they operate.
    b. **Permits**
    Providers must obtain and maintain all required environmental permits and licences required by regulatory authorities.

2. **Sustainable resource management**
    a. **Energy management**
    Implement energy-efficient processes to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Where possible, use renewable energy sources.
    b. **Water conservation**
    Employ practices that minimize water use and promote water conservation. Ensure responsible management of wastewater and avoid contamination of water bodies.
    c. **Materials and chemicals**
    Use chemicals and raw materials safely, responsibly, and efficiently. Prioritize sustainable, environmentally friendly, and/or non-toxic alternatives, and minimize hazardous waste. Use and supply high-quality and durable goods.

3. **Pollution prevention and waste management**
    a. **Emissions reduction**
    Implement measures to reduce emissions, such as regularly servicing equipment and vehicles at designated areas and in the required manner, optimizing transport routes, establishing alternative transportation modes to minimize fuel consumption, and acquiring hybrid/electric vehicles for new purchases, where possible.
    b. **Waste reduction and waste management**
    Develop strategies to minimize waste generation, manage and dispose of different types of waste, promote recycling and reuse, and ensure the safe disposal of hazardous waste. Where possible, promote circular economy by offering a take-back policy for end-of-life products and reducing packaging for goods.
    c. **Plastic reduction consumption**
    Encourage the reduction of plastic consumption, where feasible, and promote the use of practical alternatives such as reusable labware, recyclable materials, or sustainable packaging options, when available.
    d. **Management of chemical and other hazardous materials/green chemistry**
    Promote responsible handling and disposal of chemicals and other hazardous materials to reduce environmental risks, in line with local regulations and available infrastructure. Encourage, where possible, the adoption of safer and more sustainable practices aligned with green chemistry principles.

4. **Climate change**
    a. **Carbon footprint reduction**
    Measure and actively reduce the carbon footprint of the company's operations through energy efficiency and other mitigation strategies. Where possible, use locally obtained materials to minimize environmental impact through logistics, and use fuel-efficient equipment.
    b. **Adaptation**
    Develop strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change and enhance resilience.

5. **Engagement and training**
    a. **Global collaboration**
    Work collaboratively with key stakeholders to achieve environmental and social objectives and share best practices.
    b. **Awareness**
    Promote awareness among staff and partners on key environmental and social issues and good practices for sustainable operations through periodic communication and capacity-building activities, where possible.

6. **Transparency and reporting**
    a. **Environmental and social reporting**
    Provide transparent, accurate reports on environmental and social performance, including sustainability initiatives.
    b. **Stakeholder communication**
    Communicate openly with stakeholders about environmental and social policies and performance.

7. **Ethical and social responsibility**
    a. **Community engagement**
    Encourage engagement with local communities to raise awareness of environmental and social issues and support sustainability initiatives where feasible and relevant to the organization's activities.
    b. **Ethical practices**
    Conduct activities ethically, ensuring the organization's practices do not compromise the health, safety, and social rights of the local communities or the human and labour rights of employees.

8. **Environmental management system**
    a. **Implementation**
    Establish and maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) aligned with locally recognized standards and, where possible, international standards (e.g., ISO 14001) to manage environmental responsibilities systematically.
    b. **Continuous improvement**
    Regularly review and improve environmental policies, objectives, and performance through audits and management reviews

We at DNDi encourage your organization to join us in protecting the environment and social rights to work together to achieve a sustainable future.