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**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS POLICY**

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Foundation for Rural Development



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## Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy of FRD

### 1. Definitions

**Environmental** - concerning the environment in which humans, animals, and plants live.

**Social** - Pertaining to human society, individual, group interaction and the welfare of people as members of society.

**Safeguards** – set of guiding principles of an organization that ensures to protect someone or something from harm and damage.

### 2. Policy Statement:

The main purpose of the FRD environmental and social safeguard policy is to address environmental and social issues in the different stages of project planning, designing, implementation, and operations. There are eight (8) key themes of FRD environmental and social safeguards policy Sustainable Natural Resources Management, Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Resource Efficiency and Waste and Pollution Management, Climate Change, Protection and Human rights, Gender Equality, Community Health, Safety and Security and Accountability to Affected Populations. FRD main goal is to improve the socio-economic conditions and empowerment of the vulnerable and marginalized segments of the society through equitable and sustainable utilization of resources.

#### 2.1 Sustainable Natural Resources Management

As an important part of our mission, the FRD Organization is dedicated to the sustainable and ethical management of natural resources. Our commitment to protecting and maintaining the environment while achieving our corporate objectives. The management of natural resources sustainably is essential to ensuring the well-being of current and future generations.

#### 2.2. Ecosystems and Biodiversity

The FRD Organization is committed in its dedication to biodiversity and ecosystem preservation and sustainable management. We understand that healthy ecosystems and rich biodiversity are



critical to the future of all living things as well as to the health of our planet. To guarantee the resilience and strength of ecosystems and the rich tapestry of life they sustain, we will actively participate in conservation activities, nature based solutions in climate change adoption and mitigation, and work with relevant stakeholders. Our commitment to protecting the environment and promoting biodiversity conservation is demonstrated by this policy.

### **2.3 Resource Efficiency and Waste and Pollution Management**

FRD Organization is totally devoted to enhancing resource efficiency, eliminating waste, and limiting pollution. We recognize the crucial need of reducing our environmental impact and encouraging sustainable practices. To keep this promise, we will constantly evaluate and improve our resource use, waste reduction, and pollution control techniques. Our organization will work hard to raise awareness, encourage innovation, and foster collaboration in order to create a better, cleaner, and more sustainable society.

### **2.4 Climate Change**

FRD policy statement of climate change demonstrates the commitment to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and adjusting to the effects of climate change. We acknowledge the scientific consensus regarding the severity of climate change and its possible effects on the environment, society, and economies. FRD is dedicated to encourage the sustainable behaviors, and lobbying for legislation that promotes nature based solution in climate change adoption, renewable energy sources and environmental stewardship in the project designing and implementation stages. FRD believe that building a resilient future requires collaboration with key stakeholders i.e., governments, communities to achieve significant reductions in emissions, safeguard fragile ecosystems, and create a sustainable world for current and future generations.

### **2.5 Protection and Human Right**

Human rights protection is a fundamental principle of our FRD organization's values and mission. We are dedicated in our commitment to preserving the dignity, equality, and freedoms



of all people, regardless of their background, beliefs, or circumstances. FRD policy statement reflects our commitment to promoting and defending human rights on a national and global scale. We advocate for policies and practices that prevent discrimination, exploitation, and violence, as well as those that promote the rule of law, access to justice, and social inclusion.

## 2.6 Gender Equality

In addressing the pressing challenge of climate change, our organization recognizes that gender equality is not just a separate goal, but a vital component of sustainable and effective climate action. FRD policy statement on gender equality in climate change reflects our commitment to ensuring that climate policies, initiatives, and solutions are gender-responsive and inclusive. FRD advocate for the active involvement and leadership of women and marginalized genders in climate decision-making processes, acknowledging the exclusive vulnerabilities they face in the face of environmental changes. We strive to incorporate gender perspectives into climate strategies, with a focus on empowering women and marginalized communities to adapt to climate impacts and participate in mitigation efforts. By promoting gender equality within the context of climate change, FRD aim to create more resilient and equitable societies, ensuring that no one is left behind in the transition to a sustainable and climate-resilient future.

## 2.7 Community Health

Community Health is one of the key area of FRD organization prioritizes. FRD Community Health theme is dedicated to the well-being of individuals, groups and community, with the aim of increasing access to quality healthcare, promoting preventive measures, and improving the overall health of the communities. FRD is committed to collaborating with local partners and stakeholders to address health disparities and develop tailored solutions that meet the specific needs of the community. Our strategy prioritizes access to healthcare, health education, and disease prevention, with a focus on inclusivity and sustainability. FRD strive to build healthier and more resilient communities through our Community Health initiatives capacity building trainings, behavior change components to assist individuals in leading healthier lives.



## 2.8 Safety and Security and Accountability to Affected Populations

The FRD organization is dedicated in its commitment to affected populations' safety, security, and accountability. FRD emphasize to provide a safe and secure environment for all individuals and communities with whom we work. FRD understand how critical it is to protect the rights and dignity of those affected by humanitarian crises or development projects. To ensure that affected populations' voices are heard and their needs are met in project designing and implementation stages. FRD prioritized open and transparent communication, active participation, and meaningful engagement with the vulnerable and marginalized segments. FRD as an organization is committed to upholding the highest levels of accountability and ethics, working to build trust, prevent harm, and respond to concerns or grievances in a timely and effective manner.

## 3. FRD Policy Framework

FRD project interventions intent to develop and implement mitigation measures to minimized adverse environmental and social impacts. In the environmental safeguarding, FRD has already implemented various projects on promoting nature based solution in climate change adoption (Rain water harvesting techniques like construction of check dams, construction and rehabilitation of rain water ponds, flood protection walls, rehabilitation of springs, water storage ditches, and capacity building trainings. In climate mitigation, FRD has implemented different types of activities that include plantation drives, Integrated Fuel Efficient stoves, capacity building trainings and many others.

On social safeguarding theme, FRD has designed and implemented different types of initiatives for poverty reduction (conditional and unconditional cash transfer programmes, diversification of livelihoods, gender inclusion, promoting social cohesion and peace, provision of temporary livelihood initiatives, community health and safety measures (first aid and behavior change components), restriction to access to resources, community resilience and many others.

Additionally, FRD is also a signatory of Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC), Global Network of Civil Society Organization for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), Environment and Climate



Charter for Humanitarian Actions for the addressing and adjudicating the problems of climate change on vulnerable segments.

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