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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 reality of demographic growth and we firmly believe in empowering women and youths to help implement these sustainable development approaches.

This brochure presents how we are addressing climate issues in our projects.

# Climate urgency

Climate change remains one of the major challenges of the 21st century. The Paris Agreement targets of carbon neutrality and a transition to a net zero emissions world by 2050 will not be met. This means that a temperature rise of 3.4°C above pre-industrial levels is the most likely trajectory.

At the same time, we note that most of the SDG targets will not be met, such as access to water, energy and the preservation of biodiversity. The countries of Africa and the Middle East face the additional challenge of having to cater for the rising living standards of a rapidly growing population, which requires even more vigorous socio-economic development and a drastic increase in energy and water requirements.

Given the global nature of the issue, Belgium and its partners must respond to these challenges in a concerted manner. Growing inequalities and migratory flows only serve to amplify the urgent need for action. By getting involved in ambitious projects, Belgium can apply its expertise within European initiatives linked to the Green Deal and the Blue Deal.

Enabel therefore takes part in the 2023 federal climate strategy of the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation. We are promoting a comprehensive approach to climate change through both adaptation and mitigation measures and taking account of loss and damage.

By supporting the sustainable use of resources, we are contributing to a fair and equitable transition to a low-carbon economy, while creating jobs and improving living conditions for local people.



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## Enabel's expertise

- Our expertise covers three main areas:
  - climate finance;
  - sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems (drinking and productive water, Integrated Water Resources Management, agroforestry, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forest management);
  - low-carbon and resilient societies (energy, sustainable private sector development, waste management, vocational training (green skills and skills for the green economy), eco-construction, urban planning, smart cities and digitisation.
- Enabel can easily mobilise Belgian expertise thanks to framework agreements with national and regional institutions, including the Federal Public Service for Public Health and the Environment, the Walloon Water Company (SWDE), municipal councils for solid waste management, the Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO), as well as universities (KU Leuven, Ghent University, for example). Agreements with the private sector are also under consideration.
- Our network of expertise includes international organisations such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), World Agroforestry (CIFOR), Cities Alliance and Belgian NGOs.
- Enabel can rapidly mobilise private consultants thanks to a range of contracts and framework agreements.
- Enabel is an active member of various research networks at national and international level, such as the Practitioners' Network, Learn4Dev and the European Climate Experts Group led by INTPA. Enabel is also accredited by the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

# Increasing resilience of countries, cities and communities

Faced with the climate emergency and the interdependence of global challenges, Enabel is working for sustainable and resilient development. By combining the protection of ecosystems, the promotion of the green economy and support for sustainable food systems, Enabel aims to strengthen the resilience of local communities and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This integrated approach is based on a Theory of Change that recognises the close links between environmental, social and economic issues.



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## Preserve and sustainably manage natural resources and ecosystems

Enabel supports the development of efficient production systems that use fewer raw materials, reduce the impact of human activities on the environment and ecosystems, and stimulate the local economy.

To achieve this, Enabel is implementing an integrated approach that touches on a number of different sectors: the protection of forest ecosystems, particularly in the Congo Basin, the planet's second green lung and a global treasure trove of biodiversity; the restoration of 10,000 hectares of arable land in the Sahel region, where desertification and drought are threatening populations; setting up solid waste collection and management systems to improve public health and reduce environmental pollution; promoting Integrated Water Resources Management to guarantee sustainable access to water for all.

These actions are part of a global approach aimed at strengthening the resilience of local communities, stimulating the green economy and helping to adapt to climate change.

## Promoting low-carbon and resilient societies

Faced with rapid demographic growth and sometimes uncontrolled development, peri-urban areas and cities are responsible for a significant proportion, estimated at 70%, of global greenhouse gas emissions. In its partner countries, Enabel is promoting the emergence of resilient and sustainable cities and regions in the face of climate disruption (flooding, drought, heat, etc.) by working towards a low-carbon and circular economy. The systematic promotion of eco-construction and climate-resilient infrastructure and public spaces is central to the development and implementation of our projects.

This support includes building the capacity of local and national players, both public and private, and introducing institutional reforms that encourage the adoption of a global vision that takes account of interactions with other goals such as environmental protection, economic development and social justice.

As the climate emergency is forcing us to rethink our economies, the energy transition emerges as central in the fight against climate change. Enabel facilitates a fair energy transition in various parts of the economy: promotion of renewable energies (including biomass), energy efficiency measures, development of green hydrogen, desalination using renewable energies.



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## Supporting the development of sustainable food systems

In the face of climate variability, which threatens agricultural productivity and exacerbates the food insecurity affecting 800 million people worldwide, the transition to sustainable food systems is essential.

To achieve this, Enabel uses the agro-ecological transition and agro-forestry to promote production systems that have a smaller environmental footprint, while optimising interactions between humans and the environment. In order to reduce the carbon footprint associated with transporting products and to increase the incomes of small-scale producers, we are promoting regional approaches that make it easier to sell products on local and regional markets. We reinforce the use of agro-ecological practices and the construction of sustainable food systems among farmers and fishermen through training and the promotion of fish farming. Our actions also support entrepreneurs and MSMEs in the green and circular economy through incubation and training schemes, as well as access to financial services (credit, savings, insurance) to reduce the risks associated with agriculture and promote sustainable food systems that are resilient to climate shocks.

# Global experience



## Lake Tanganyika & Kivu Water Management (Takiwama)

Donor: European Union

### Approach

Lake Tanganyika borders Burundi, DR Congo, Tanzania and Zambia. It is a haven of biodiversity and home to no fewer than 1,500 aquatic species, but it is also under serious threat from pollution, the impact of climate change and human activity.

The project is implemented by Enabel and the Lake Tanganyika Authority, as well as national stakeholders. It aims to ensure a sustainable future for Lake Tanganyika and Lake Kivu, which is linked to it, and the two million or so people living along its shores who depend on it. Several regional activities are being implemented, such as the establishment of a cross-border network for environmental monitoring of the lake's waters and a common database for measuring water quality and providing input for political decisions in this area. There are also targeted actions on solid waste and wastewater management in areas bordering the lake along with capacity-building and communication activities.



## Urban Economic Development Initiative (UEDI)

Donor: Belgium

### Approach

The Belgium-Rwanda Urban Economic Development Initiative (UEDI) supports the construction of economic infrastructure (such as craft centres, markets and connecting roads) in three Rwandan cities (Musanze, Rubavu and Rwamagana).

One of the objectives of the initiative is to support the 'Made in Rwanda' building materials sector and help facilitate its growth and innovation capacity to meet the country's public infrastructure development needs. Enabel uses infrastructure projects to stimulate local and sustainable building materials, namely clay, stone, bamboo and agricultural by-products, and eco-construction methods. Companies in these sectors benefit from better access to technological innovation, business development services and improved access to financing, including through a fund offering financial products tailored to the needs of these companies.



## Climate change in the Sahel

Donor: Belgium

### Approach

The Sahel region is particularly exposed to climate change. This has serious consequences for local agricultural development in a region that is already vulnerable due to poverty and armed conflict. Further decline due to prolonged droughts and desertification would place even more pressure on the stability of the region and the subsistence prospects of its inhabitants.

Enabel is working to restore some 10,000 hectares of land to make it fertile again. Investments are being made to improve rainwater storage and to plant trees. The aim is to support sustainable local solutions and protect existing ecosystems, in particular by supporting regional projects such as the Great Green Wall. By combating desertification, local communities can continue to ensure long-term food security.



## Debt-for-climate swap in Mozambique

Donor: Belgium

### Approach

To ensure a fair and sustainable climate transition, a commitment from governments is necessary – but not only that: in addition to political will, a solid financial framework and innovative financing mechanisms must be established. This is why Enabel supports the introduction of debt swaps to combat climate change.

To support Mozambique in its fight against climate change, Enabel has facilitated a debt-for-climate swap. This mechanism has made it possible to cancel part of the country's debt to Belgium, thereby freeing up funds which are being invested in projects aimed at strengthening people's resilience to the effects of climate change.

Enabel is working with the Mozambican authorities to set up early warning systems for cyclones: Such systems are inexpensive and can considerably reduce the impact of a disaster by warning people of imminent danger. In addition, land planning makes it possible to understand the risks and potential associated with certain areas prone to natural disasters and to optimise land management.



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