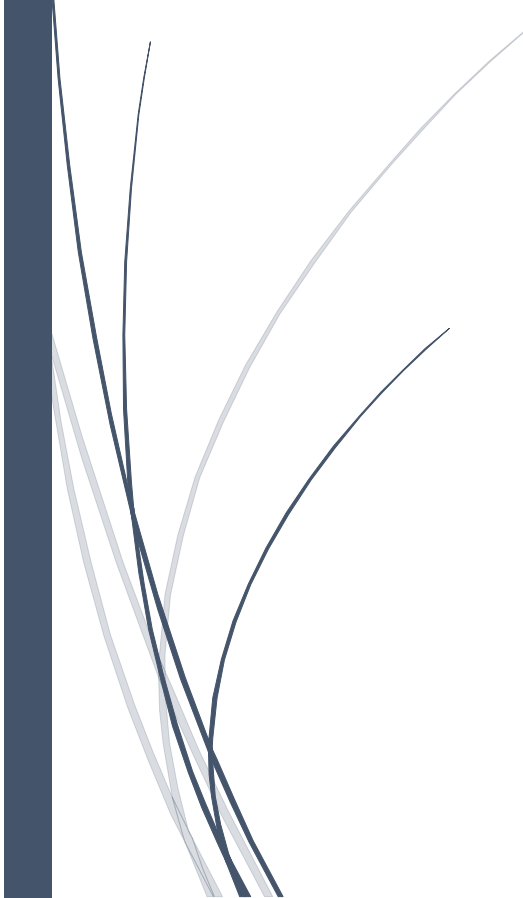




ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICY



**Center for Participatory Research
and Development (CPRD)**

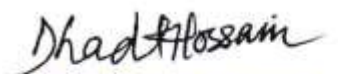
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This document has been approved by the 43rd Executive Committee Meeting of
Center for Participatory Research and Development-CPRD

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Approved by


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Environment and Social Responsibility Policy

1. Introduction: Responsibility Rooted in Justice and Participation

At the Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD), our work has always been driven by a vision of an equitable and sustainable world—one where policy is shaped by the lived realities of people and the imperatives of the planet. As an advocacy-focused policy research institute, CPRD does not implement projects in the traditional development sense; rather, we shape narratives, influence policy, generate evidence, and support grassroots movements and knowledge systems.

This Environment and Social Responsibility (ESR) Policy is an institutional articulation of CPRD's enduring commitment to environmental sustainability and social equity. It is not just a framework for ethical conduct, but a reaffirmation of our political and ecological conscience.

2. The Ethical Imperative Behind Our Policy

In a world grappling with interlinked crises of climate change, social inequality, ecological degradation, and policy inaction, CPRD believes that remaining neutral is not an option. Our Environment and Social Responsibility Policy is grounded in the belief that advocacy must begin at home.

As a thought leader and public policy advocate, CPRD recognizes that we must hold ourselves to the same standards we call for in national and global dialogues. How we work—how we engage with communities, how we produce knowledge, how we consume resources—must reflect the just and sustainable future we champion.

3. Purpose of the Policy

This policy has been developed with the following aims:

- To reflect CPRD's ethical and operational stance on environmental and social justice.
- To institutionalize practices that align CPRD's internal culture with the values of climate integrity and inclusive advocacy.
- To guide CPRD's research, publications, campaigns, and collaborative efforts in accordance with responsible and equitable principles.
- To provide a framework for ongoing reflection and improvement in CPRD's organizational conduct and public engagement.

4. Environmental Commitment Through a Research and Advocacy Lens

Although CPRD does not directly implement infrastructure or field-based interventions, our impact on environmental discourse is far-reaching. We shape narratives that influence national

policies, regional planning, and international negotiations—especially around climate adaptation, loss and damage, climate financing, and resilience.

4.1 Advocating for Climate Justice

CPRD’s environmental advocacy prioritizes the voices of climate-vulnerable populations—those most affected yet least responsible for environmental degradation. Our research and policy briefs emphasize the need for equitable climate financing, technology transfer, and compensation for climate-induced loss and damage.

4.2 Minimizing Our Environmental Footprint

Internally, CPRD commits to reducing its environmental footprint through deliberate practices:

- Paperless operations where possible, utilizing digital platforms for communication and documentation.
- Low-carbon work habits, including encouraging remote collaboration and minimizing air travel.
- Eco-conscious procurement for all office and event-related supplies, giving preference to local, recycled, and non-toxic materials.

These practices serve as both a mitigation measure and a moral alignment with our environmental advocacy goals.

5. Social Responsibility as an Inherent Mandate

At CPRD, social justice is not an additional concern—it is embedded in every area of our work. From the way we design studies to the way we frame policy recommendations, the inclusion of marginalized, underrepresented, and systematically disadvantaged groups is central.

5.1 Commitment to Human Rights and Dignity

CPRD upholds and promotes the rights of all individuals, particularly those who live at the intersection of multiple forms of vulnerability—such as climate-affected women, displaced indigenous groups, and informal sector workers. Our policy research is designed to highlight these intersections, ensuring that policy solutions do not replicate or worsen existing inequalities.

5.2 Gender Justice and Representation

Aligned with our Gender Policy, CPRD ensures that our internal operations and external messages consistently challenge patriarchal systems and advocate for gender-responsive policy making. Our research methodologies are informed by feminist and intersectional frameworks.

5.3 Promoting Inclusion in Knowledge Production

Our commitment to social responsibility includes a conscious effort to decolonize knowledge and uplift grassroots voices. Participatory action research, co-authored community briefs, and language-inclusive communication are part of our ethical knowledge ecosystem.

6. Internal Culture of Responsibility

The ESR Policy applies not only to CPRD's research and public-facing advocacy, but to its day-to-day organizational culture:

- Staff are encouraged and trained to be critically aware of their environmental impact.
- Gender sensitivity and cultural respect are part of the workplace ethos.
- The organization cultivates a workplace that is inclusive, non-discriminatory, and respectful of diversity in all forms—gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religion, age, and ability.

7. Responsible Stakeholder Engagement

CPRD operates through collaborative alliances—with academic institutions, civil society, global networks, and grassroots communities. In these engagements, CPRD maintains a strong code of environmental and social ethics:

- Ensuring that community participation in research or consultation processes is voluntary, informed, and respectful.
- Advocating for policies that enhance community ownership and environmental justice.
- Building long-term, trust-based relationships with partners rooted in mutual accountability.

CPRD's advocacy is not extractive—it is collaborative and restorative.

8. Safeguards, Risk Prevention, and Ethical Oversight

In line with our Safeguarding Policy, CPRD integrates environmental and social risk considerations into every stage of its research and advocacy process. While we do not engage in infrastructure or service delivery, we recognize that policy discourse has its own risks—including erasure, misrepresentation, and unintended policy harms.

To mitigate this:

- We conduct **Social and Environmental Risk Reviews** of our research designs and advocacy messaging.
- A **grievance redressal mechanism** is maintained for any individual or group who may feel adversely affected by CPRD's public outputs or processes.
- A designated ESR focal point within CPRD oversees ethical compliance and internal learning.

9. Monitoring, Reflection, and Continuous Learning

Accountability is central to this policy. CPRD believes that responsibility is not static—it is a process of learning, unlearning, and evolving. We therefore:

- Integrate environmental and social responsibility indicators into our organizational monitoring framework.
- Host reflective workshops annually to assess policy adherence and identify emerging risks or opportunities.
- Collect feedback from partners and communities to improve our conduct and positioning.

CPRD approaches ESR not as a checklist, but as a continuous moral and practical obligation.

10. Review and Adaptation

This Environment and Social Responsibility Policy is a living document. It will be reviewed every **three years**, with interim updates as needed, based on institutional learning, stakeholder feedback, and shifts in environmental and social contexts.

The review process will be participatory, involving input from staff, advisors, research partners, and community collaborators.

Closing Reflection

For CPRD, environmental sustainability and social justice are not policy add-ons—they are foundational principles that define who we are and what we do. As a knowledge-driven advocacy institution, CPRD is aware of the power of ideas, the risks of neglect, and the hope embedded in participatory dialogue.

Through this policy, we make a collective promise: to act with care, advocate with clarity, and engage with integrity—so that our work today becomes part of a just and regenerative future for all.