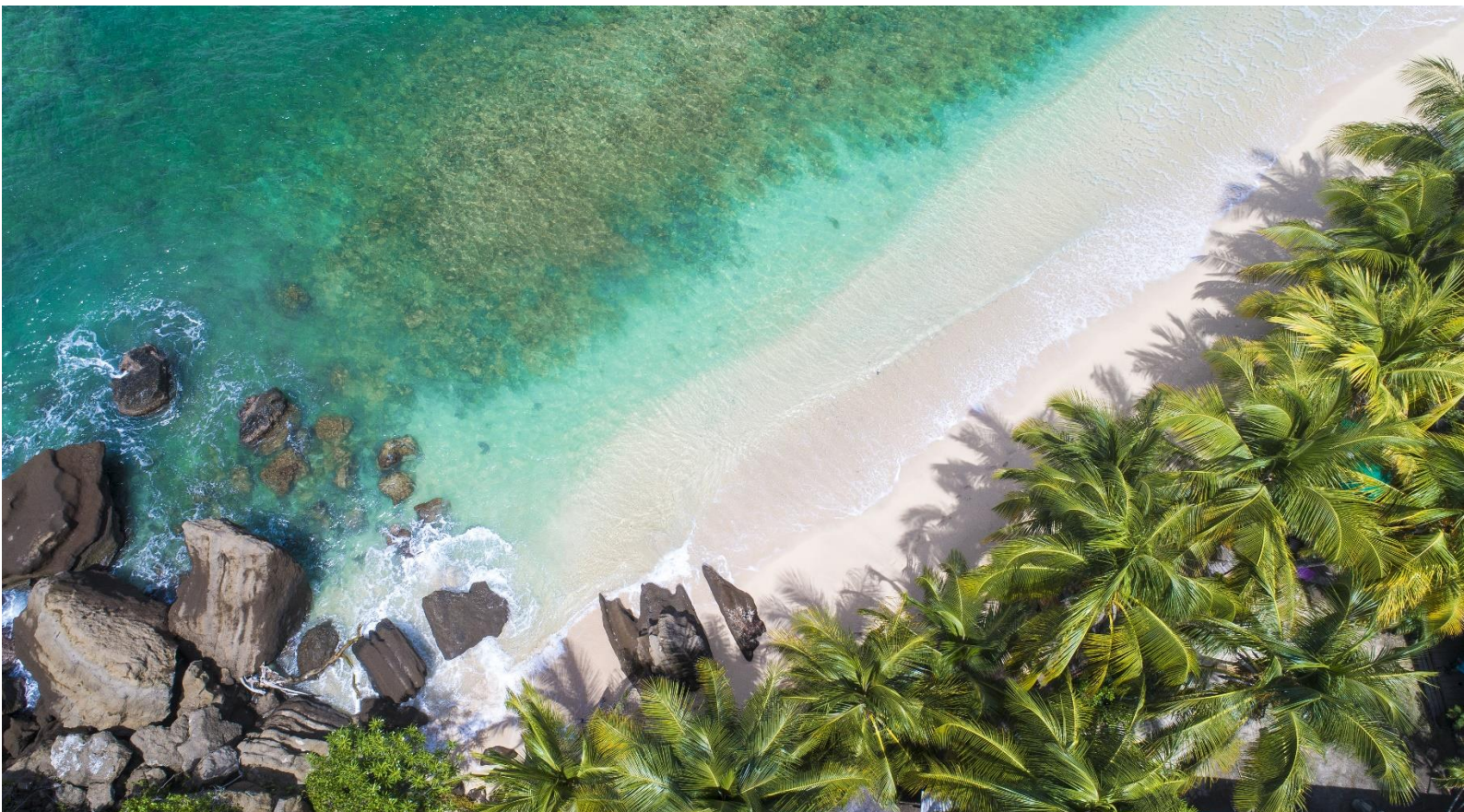




Carbon Offsetting Policy



Credit: Hugh Whyte / Ocean Image Bank

[IUCN](#)

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Carbon Offsetting Policy

Owner	Director General
Last approved review	April 2024
Date Issued	December 2008
Approved by	Director General
Applicable to	IUCN Secretariat
Purpose	The aim of the IUCN Carbon Offsetting Policy is to provide guidance on the basic operative principles and procedures needed to ensure that the IUCN Secretariat moves towards carbon neutrality.
Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics (June 2023) • Anti-Fraud and Anti-corruption Policy (June 2023) • Enterprise Risk Management Policy (April 2022) • IUCN Sustainable Convenings and Events Policy
Source language	English
Published in French under the title	Politique de compensation Carbone
Published in Spanish under the title	Política de Compensación de Carbono
Language disclaimer	The original language of this policy is English; French and Spanish translations provided are approximate versions, and in the event of discrepancies, the English version shall prevail.
Contact	Corporate Coordination Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

As the world's foremost conservation organization, IUCN has a strong duty to ensure that its operations are designed and implemented in an environmentally, economically, and socially responsible manner. The Carbon Offsetting Policy, aligned with relevant international recognised initiatives and agreements such as United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, aims to work towards climate neutrality by 2050.

2. PURPOSE

This Policy aims to reflect mitigation efforts consistent with the Paris Agreement and to assess the climate change risks of IUCN's built and financial assets¹. This policy updates and replaces all previous policies on carbon offsetting.

3. SCOPE

The Policy applies to the entire IUCN Secretariat Staff including, for purposes of this Policy, temporary staff, staff hired on a temporary basis through recruitment companies, secondees, trainees, interns, and students ("Staff" or "Staff Members"). It is implemented in a uniform, consistent and coordinated manner across all operations and locations.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

4.1 Measure

- IUCN Secretariat commits to:
 - measuring its estimated greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) using internationally accepted methodologies and standards.
 - progressively broadening the scope of measurement through continuous improvement.

4.2 Reduce as much as possible

- The IUCN Secretariat seeks to actively reduce its carbon footprint.
- It will regularly assess and aim to reduce the climate change risks of IUCN's built and financial assets.
- It will monitor the effectiveness of initiatives aimed at reducing the carbon footprint.

4.3 Compensate unavoidable emissions

- The IUCN Secretariat will compensate unavoidable GHG emissions by purchasing carbon offsets through accredited platforms using internationally recognised standards and methodologies, and prioritizing projects involving IUCN Members registered in these platforms.
- IUCN offsets emissions from air travel, train travel, and travel in IUCN-owned vehicles. Emission calculations should be provided by the service supplier. In cases where this is not feasible, emissions can be calculated using the platforms below. If neither of these options is viable, IUCN will apply a carbon charge equivalent to 2% of the total ticket cost.
 - [International Civil Aviation Organisation - Carbon Emissions Calculator](#) (air travel only)
 - [My Climate](#)

¹ See [Resolution WCC-2016-Res-056-EN: IUCN response to the Paris Climate Change Agreement](#)

- The IUCN Carbon Offsetting Fund (the Fund) represents the financial mechanism of the Secretariat's Carbon Offsetting Policy. This fund provides a vehicle for collecting payments aimed at offsetting unavoidable emissions.
- The Fund is centrally managed by the Global Finance Group. Regional Offices may choose to calculate their own travel emissions and manage their own Fund, covering all country and project offices in their region, report to the Global Finance Group annually on their statement of activities, and follow the procedure to procure of offsets as described in this Policy.
- Procedure to Procure Carbon Offsets:
 - Select accredited carbon offset platforms that ensure independent verification, certification, and traceability of projects to guarantee the realisation of benefits.
 - Select and prioritize projects involving IUCN Members and alignment with regions and programme.
 - Seek approval of the platforms and projects from the Executive Board before purchasing credit offsets.
- The Global Finance Group will provide an annual report to the Executive Board on the activities of the IUCN Carbon Offsetting Fund.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Director General

- The Director General and its delegates have overall responsibility for approving the policy and ensuring alignment with institutional objectives.

5.2 Executive Board

- Approve the platforms and projects identified to offset unavoidable GHG emissions.

5.3 Chief Financial Officer

- Manage the IUCN Carbon Offsetting Fund.
- Present an annual report on climate change risks of IUCN's built and financial assets to Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) of Council.
- Manage the procurement of offsets for, on an annual basis or as often as needed, unavoidable GHG emissions for Gland and any other Regional Offices as indicated by them.
- Report annually to the Executive Board the statement of activity of the IUCN Carbon Offsetting Fund.

5.4 Regional Directors

- Calculate travel carbon emissions for the Region.
- If opted for the Regional Carbon Offsetting Fund:
 - manage the Regional Fund including the procurement of carbon offsets and reporting annually to the Global Finance Group, and
 - seek approval from the Executive Board for the platforms and projects to procure carbon offsets.
- Build GHG inventory (covering all Regional, Country and Project Offices) and share annually with the General Services Unit Head.

5.5 Global Policy Lead, Climate Change

- Provide technical advice to ensure alignment with international standards and IUCN Resolutions.

5.6 Corporate Coordination Officer

- Define and inform relevant staff of scope of greenhouse gas inventory as well as relevant methodologies, standards, tools, and templates. Liaise with the Global Policy Lead, Climate Change for technical assistance.
- Ensure carbon offsetting is included as agenda item of Executive Board meetings as needed and decisions are documented in the minutes, as appropriate.
- Submit to the Executive Board for approval the use of platforms and projects to offset emissions.
- Ensure alignment with best international practices to measure and report carbon emissions.
- Review IUCN Policies and Procedures to ensure compatibility with the carbon neutrality objective of the organization. Liaise with relevant staff to amend Policies and Procedures as necessary.

5.7 General Services Unit Head

- Compile and submit to the Executive Board, annually, Secretariat-wide, a GHG report covering all IUCN offices worldwide to the extent possible with regards to emission from local operations (heating, cooling, electricity, water and transportation with IUCN vehicles). Liaise with Regional Directors to compile information from offices worldwide.

6. POLICY UPDATE

The Policy will be reviewed every three years and/or as needed.

7. GLOSSARY

Accredited Carbon Offsetting Platform:	A credible platform that has been internationally recognized by using standard-setting methodologies developed by the UNFCCC and/or in alignment with international agreements such as the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol in the field of carbon offsetting or environmental conservation.
Carbon Offset:	Is the act of claiming or procuring environmental benefits of greenhouse gas mitigation activities and/or certificates in order to compensate for unavoidable emissions elsewhere. The environmental benefit of mitigation activities is represented in offset certificates. Each unit is equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide (CO ₂) avoided or removed from the atmosphere.
Carbon footprint:	A calculation that estimates the amount of emissions in carbon dioxide equivalent that a country, a business, an organization, an individual or another stakeholder is responsible for.
Carbon Neutrality:	A state in which the GHG emissions released to the atmosphere by a stakeholder (individual, organization, company, country, etc.) have been reduced or avoided and the remaining ones are compensated with carbon credits.
Climate Neutrality:	Achieving a balance between emissions and removals of GHGs from the atmosphere. A state where GHG emissions are reduced or avoided, and the remaining ones are compensated with carbon credits from projects that capture GHGs in the long term.

<p>Green House Gas Emissions:</p>	<p>Any gas that absorbs infrared radiation² in the Earth’s atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include, but are not limited to, water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), ozone (O₃), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).</p> <p>GHGs are gases that trap heat or longwave radiation in the atmosphere. Their presence in the atmosphere makes the Earth’s surface warmer. Sunlight or shortwave radiation easily passes through these gases and the atmosphere, is absorbed by the surface of the earth and is released again as heat or longwave radiation. The molecular structure of GHGs allows them to absorb this released heat and re-emit it back to the earth. This heat-trapping phenomenon is known as the greenhouse effect.</p>
<p>Unavoidable Green House Gas Emissions:</p>	<p>Refers to greenhouse gas emissions that are considered difficult or impractical to eliminate completely due to specific constraints or limitations.</p>
<p>Greenhouse gas inventory:</p>	<p>A list of emission sources and the associated emissions quantified using standardized methods.</p>

² As per UNFCCC definition: The heat energy that is emitted from all solids, liquids, and gases. In the context of the greenhouse issue, the term refers to the heat energy emitted by the Earth's surface and its atmosphere. Greenhouse gases strongly absorb this radiation in the Earth's atmosphere, and re-radiate some of it back towards the surface, creating the greenhouse effect.