



HUMANITARIANS AS CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT CHAMPIONS

26 MARCH | 4-5.30PM UTC+1



WELCOME

Verónica Ruiz -

Climate and Disaster Resilience Manager, IUCN

KEYNOTE

Elisa Morgera -

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change

Hugo Slim -

Senior Research Fellow, University of Oxford

PANEL DISCUSION

Bruno Jochum- Executive Director, Climate Action Accelerator **(MODERATOR)**

William Anderson - Director of Sphere

Faizah Slehat – Nature-based Solutions Manager West Asia, IUCN

Amor J. Tan Singco - Humanitarian Programmes Officer, World Vision Philippines

Kevin Douglas – Nature-based Solutions Senior Officer, IFRC

CALL FOR ACTION

Natasha Westheimer -

Co-coordinator Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations

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Climate & Disaster Resilience Manager
IUCN



ELISA MORGERA



**United Nations Special Rapporteur
on the promotion and protection of
human rights in the context of climate change**



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Casas Institute for Social Justice
University of Oxford**





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Speakers

Moderator



Bruno Jochum

**Climate Action
Accelerator**



**William
Anderson**
Sphere



**Amor J. Tan
Singco**
World Vision



**Faizah
Slehat**
IUCN



**Kevin
Douglas**
IFRC

BRUNO JOCHUM

**Executive Director
Climate ActionAccelerator**



Who we are

The **Climate Action Accelerator** is a non-profit initiative based in Geneva that aims to mobilize a critical mass of high-social trust organisations around the world to scale up implementation of climate solutions within planetary boundaries, keep global warming well below 2°C and avoid the risk of dangerous drift.

The goal is to help move the aid, health and higher education sectors towards greater resilience and a radical transformation of their practices, pursuing emission reduction targets (-50% by 2030) and a 'net zero' trajectory, in line with the Paris Agreement.



AID



HEALTH



HIGHER EDUCATION
& RESEARCH

Our pillars

EMPOWER

Empower organizations to at least halve their emissions by 2030 and prepare for greater resilience through a hub of expertise and resources.

CHAMPION

Transform them into ambassadors of change within their networks, capable of influencing their peers.

COMMUNITY

Build a global community of action, sharing climate solutions as a universal common good, to scale up their deployment.



More than 30 partners on board



Framing the debate

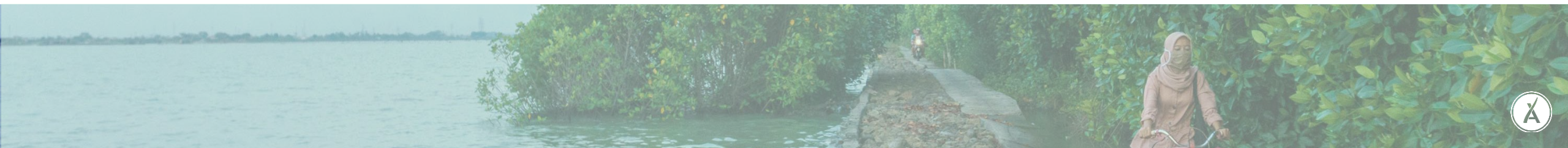
1. **The climate/biodiversity crisis is an absolute emergency**, with a narrowing window of opportunity for action at all levels to stabilise the situation, avoid the worst damages and strengthen resilience.

2. **An explosion in humanitarian needs is expected** linked to geopolitical instability, climate impacts, insufficient adaptation and shrinking of funding. Humanitarians more than ever confronted to their limits.

3. For humanitarian actors, a key question is **how to deliver their mission and meet growing needs while learning how to operate within planetary boundaries ?**

4. **“Fit for purpose”**: could climate and nature transformation strengthen rather than hinder the ability to deliver ? Better programmes. Operational benefits. Localisation to enhance capacity. Efficiency gains. Less exposure to energy and raw material price volatility. Organizational resilience in a constrained world.

5. **Critical importance of renewed thinking on principles**, whether in terms of purpose, ethics and operationalisation, integrating the threat to humanity of the planetary emergency, beyond traditional conflict situations & classic natural disasters.



Key findings - 2022 baseline estimate

Global footprint of the International Humanitarian Aid Sector by nature

Global total 35 MtCO₂e 2022

- National Health Service UK 25 MtCO₂e 2019
- An EU city of 4.6m inhabitants, consumption-based

Main sources of emissions

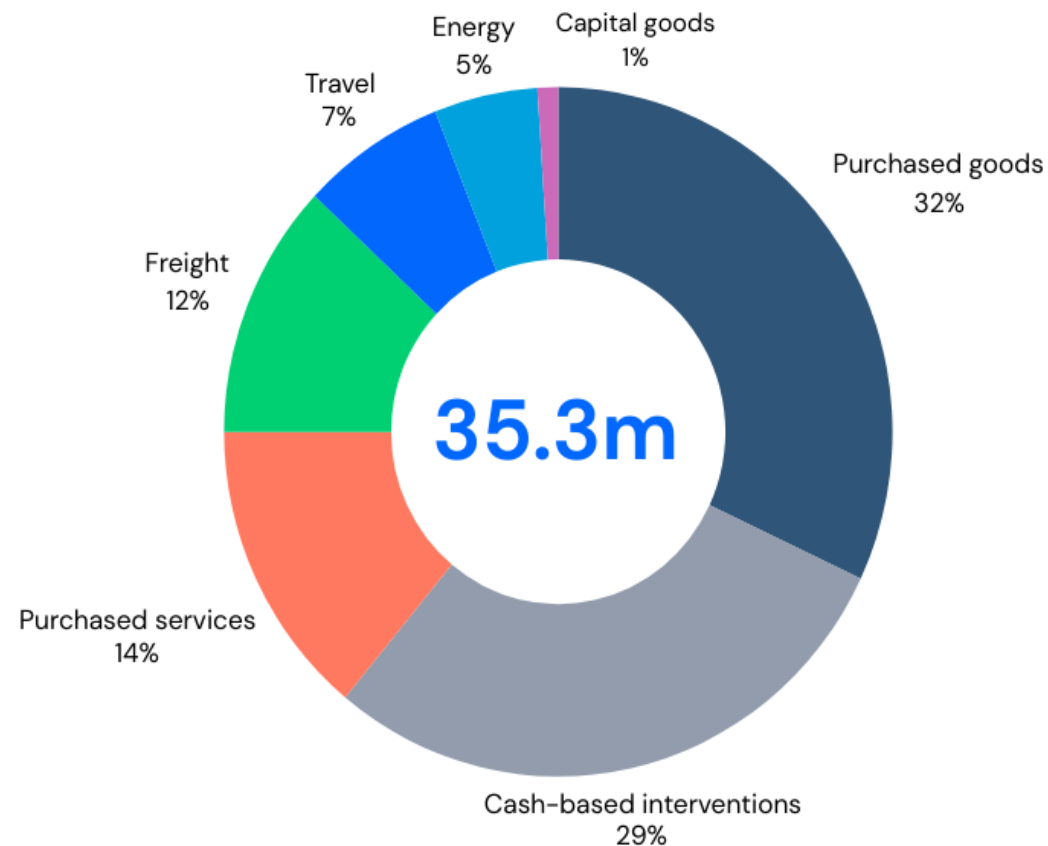
1. Purchased goods 32%,
2. Purchased services 14%
3. CVA 29%
4. Energy, freight, travel 24%



Procurement =
75% of
emissions

Emissions intensity

0.90 kg CO₂e/EUR in 2022 (twice the level of manufacturing sector in the EU)



Overview of global emissions for the humanitarian aid sector in 2022



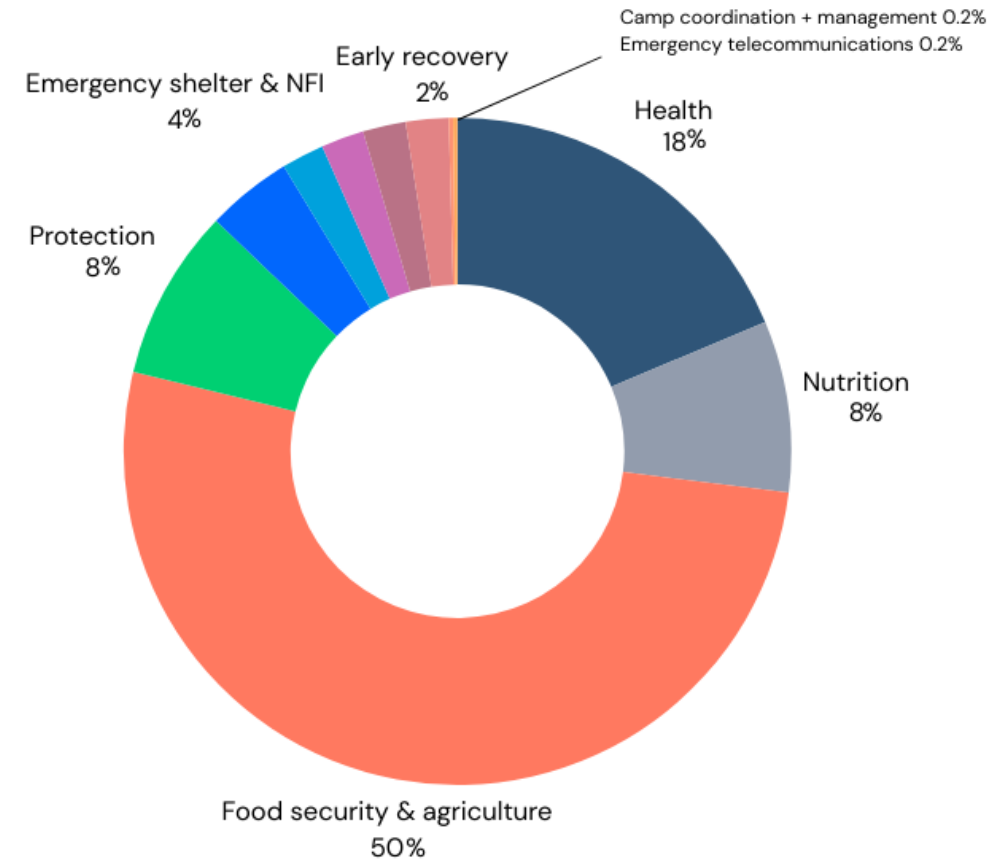
Key findings - 2022 baseline estimate

Global footprint of the Humanitarian Aid Sector by cluster

92% of the
sector's
emissions

Top 6 cluster emissions sources:

1. Food security and agriculture (50%)
2. Health cluster (18%)
3. Nutrition cluster (8%)
4. Protection (8%)
5. WASH (4%)
6. Emergency Shelter (4%)



Roadmap for halving emissions in the humanitarian sector by 2030

A PATH TO CLIMATE-SMART HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Analysis of the sector's emissions profile, decarbonisation levers and solutions journey for halving emissions by 2030



OPERATIONAL PLAYBOOK FOR ORGANISATIONS

Formulating a pathway for transformation

- 9 Guiding principles
- 8 high impact solutions ("Top 8")
- Transformation levers
- Financial impact assessment



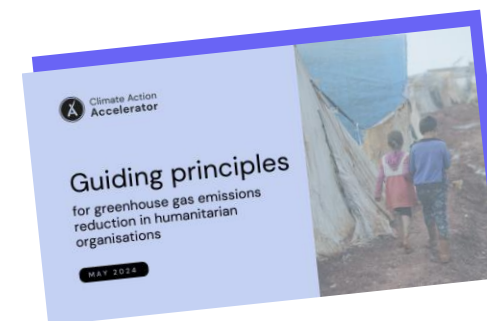
ENABLING CHANGE

How donors and UN can lead the way, and further enable and incentivise humanitarian organisations in their decarbonisation journeys



INFLUENCING OUR COMMUNITY

Supporting the acceleration of change across humanitarian actors, through policy recommendations and a dedicated influence strategy



WILLIAM ANDERSON

**Director
Sphere**





Farming for the Future

A Guide to Conservation Agriculture in Zimbabwe¹



Nature-based Solutions for Humanitarians

e-learning | 90 minutes | 2024 | English | By **Sphere**

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- explain the connections between climate change and humanitarian crises;
- describe what Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are and the role they play in humanitarian action;
- use the Sphere Unpacked Guide: Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience in Humanitarian Action; and
- identify ways to integrate NbS into your own work to improve outcomes for human well-being and environmental protection.

LAUNCH

**ONLINE
COURSE**
**Nature-based
Solutions for
humanitarians**



FAIZAH SLEHAT

**Nature-based Solutions
West Asia
IUCN**



NbS – Experience in the Middle East

- The Middle East is a region facing severe **humanitarian crises** driven by **conflict, climate change, and resource scarcity**. With millions of refugees and displaced persons, there is an urgent need for **sustainable solutions** that restore ecosystems while improving livelihoods.
- **Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)** provide an integrated approach that addresses environmental degradation while enhancing resilience for refugees and host communities.
- IUCN has been at the forefront of **promoting NbS in humanitarian settings**, particularly in **water-scarce and degraded environments**. By leveraging NbS, IUCN fosters sustainable resource management, ecosystem restoration, and climate resilience in refugee-hosting areas across the Middle East.



Benefits of NbS in the Middle East

The Middle East faces severe environmental challenges, including **water scarcity, desertification, extreme heat, biodiversity loss, and land degradation**. NbS offer sustainable and cost-effective solutions to address these issues while providing multiple co-benefits for people and ecosystems.

1. Water Security and Management
2. Climate Resilience and Desertification Control
3. Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security
5. Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Development
6. Biodiversity Conservation & Ecotourism
7. Social & Economic Benefits (Livelihoods, Refugee Resilience)



AMOR J. TAN SINGCO

Humanitarian Programmes Officer World Vision Philippines



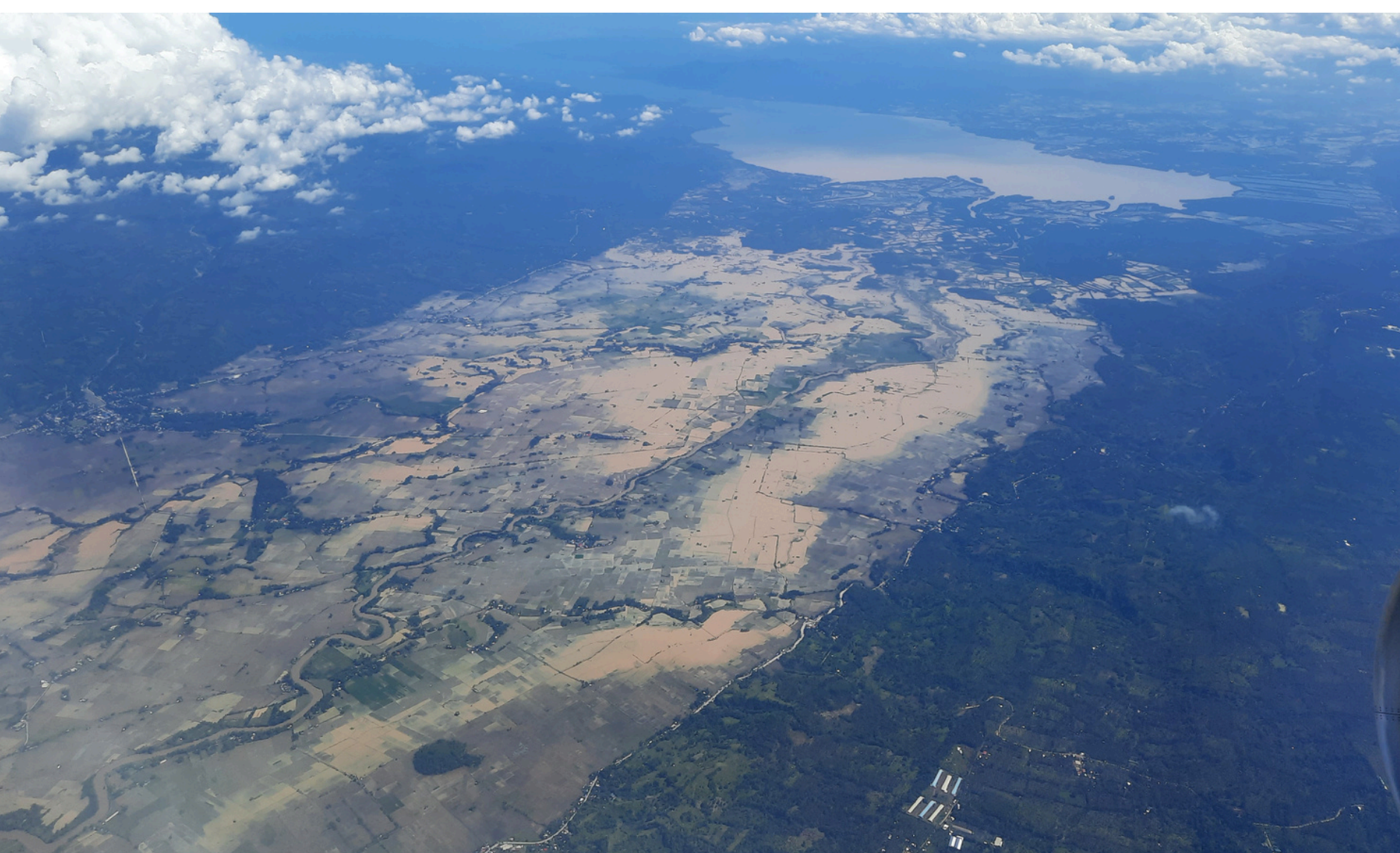


It takes a community to better manage and protect the environment and the whole landscape to make our actions sustainable.

- **Policies are not enough:** Laws, ordinances are good as its implementation. Why are laws not implemented?
- **Effective comms and accessible training:** Reference materials and scientific data can be formed into age and audience-appropriate IEC materials and can be integrated in OUR training programs.
- **We have to keep singing about the environment:** Cultural traditions and artistic spaces are effective advocacy areas that have maximum impact on behavioural change.



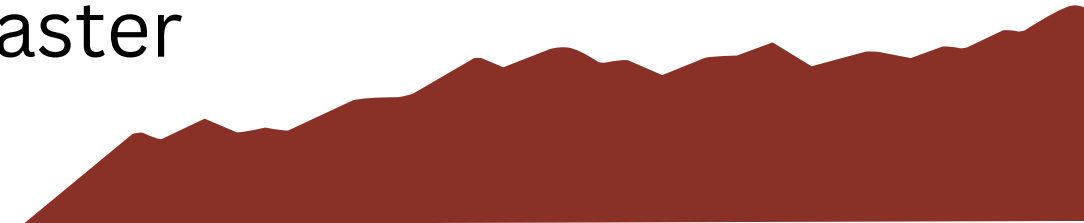
**Disaster Risk Reduction
Network Philippines
DRRNetPhils**



About the Network

Disaster Risk Reduction Network Philippines (DRRNetPhils) was established in 2008 by DRRM practitioners, the academe, and civil society organizations who are advocating for improved DRRM Law in the Philippines. The Philippine DRRM Act of 2010 was enacted but more remains to be done, especially in harnessing the strength of the environment in tandem with community's capacity.

DRRNetPhils works on not just influencing policies with evidence-based needs and learnings from communities but also ensuring that everyone is part of the conversation on climate and disaster risk reduction.



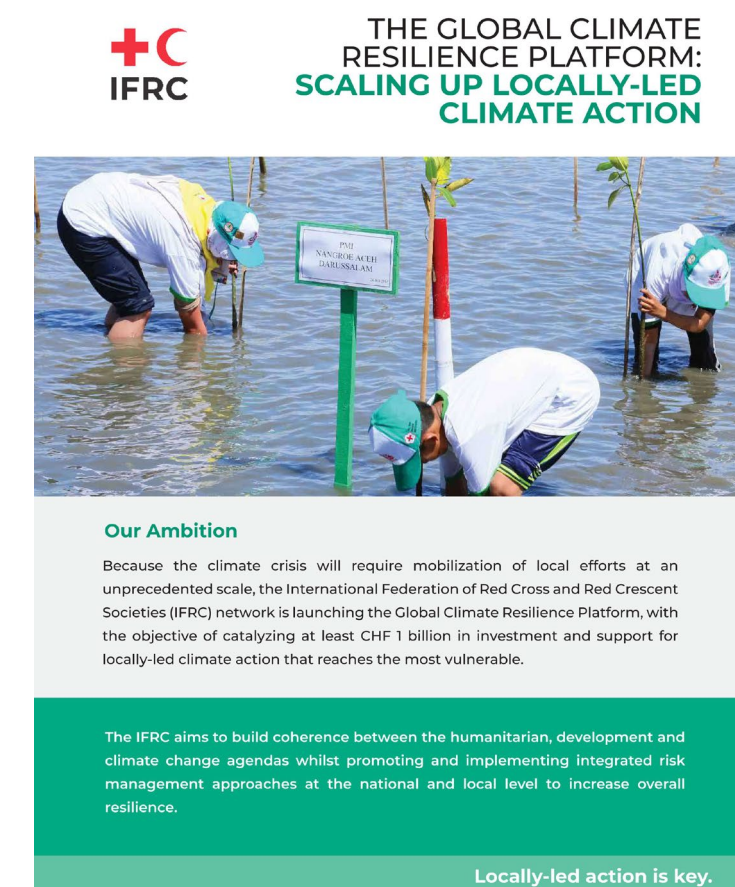
KEVIN DOUGLAS

**Nature-based Solutions
Senior Officer
IFRC**





THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT
CHARTER FOR HUMANITARIAN
ORGANIZATIONS



Increase in IFRC ambition on climate and environment & nature integration into operational principles



ACCOMPANY



ENABLE



CONNECT





NATASHA WESTHEIMER



**Co-coordinator
Climate and Environment Charter
for Humanitarian Organisations**



Humanitarians as Climate and Environmental Champions

26 March 2025

Charter Commitments

1. Step up our response to growing humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the impacts of the climate and environmental crises.

2. Maximize the environmental sustainability of our work and rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

3. Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities

4. Increase our capacity to understand climate and environmental risks and develop evidence-based solutions

5. Work collaboratively across the humanitarian, development and environmental sectors and beyond to strengthen climate action

6. Use our influence to mobilize urgent and more ambitious climate action and environmental protection.

7. Develop and improve targets and standards as we implement our commitments

What

How

Mutual accountability

ON TARGET?

Accelerating Humanitarian
Climate Programming Through the
Climate and Environment Charter

February 2025



Humanitarians as Climate and Environmental Champions





Take-away



Join **FEBA**

Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA)

- **100+ organizations** advancing ecosystem-based approaches for climate adaptation and resilience
- **Expert working groups**
 - NbS in Humanitarian Settings
 - Psychological Resilience and NbS
 - Loss & Damage
 - Nature for Peace
- Join FEBA through **your organization**

LET'S WORK *Together*

