



WFP EVALUATION

Evaluation of WFP's Environmental Policy

First Regular Session of the WFP Executive Board 2025



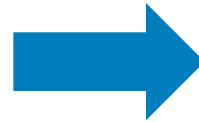
WFP
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Environmental Policy: objectives and tools

Policy objectives:

- 1) Enhance the sustainability of activities and operations
- 2) Manage risks and maximize environmental opportunities
- 3) Minimize WFP's carbon footprint and increase resource efficiency
- 4) Align WFP's approach with global standards and practice
- 5) Strengthen understanding and capacities of partners



Policy tools:

- Environmental Standards
- Environmental risk screening and categorization ("Safeguards")
- Environmental management system (EMS)

Rationale and approach to environmental and social sustainability



Clear policy vision and approach generally coherent with other WFP policies



Aligned with multilateral frameworks, national priorities and donor requirements



Social dimensions not adequately considered, partially addressed through the Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF)



Policy tools were narrow in scope and application



Divided institutional ownership of the policy affected implementation

Application of safeguards



Aligned with global standards, but implementation largely focused on longer-term, development-focused activities



Safeguards do not have associated accountability mechanisms to support or incentivize compliance



Application of safeguards helps risk management and is key to WFP's ability to maintain and access funding and meet donor requirements which are increasingly more stringent

Implementation of environmental management system



WFP approach is more systematic and structured than is evident across other agencies, but covers a small part of WFP's carbon footprint



EMS is yielding a positive trajectory for WFP's environmental performance: Emissions per staff member are trending slightly downwards and WFP's waste generation has decreased by 70 percent



Limited efforts to advocate for environmental sustainability

Staffing and capacity for policy implementation



Structures established for implementing both Safeguards and EMS at headquarters and regional level



Limited CO-level resources, capacity and expertise; reliance on consultants; and current restructuring undermines sustainability



Governments and Cooperating Partners are supportive of WFP's environmental efforts but face similar resource and capacity constraints to WFP for implementation

Policy monitoring and reporting framework



Current policy monitoring processes do not provide information to support decision making



Corporate indicators focus on the progress implementation and do not provide a basis for measuring broader progress against objectives



The forthcoming WFP's Environmental Plan of Action (EPACT) and other reports have potential for providing a stronger foundation for policy monitoring, covering areas beyond safeguards and EMS

Recommendations

1

Establish a stronger approach and governance structure

2

Ensure that safeguards are applied across all WFP activities that are implemented through CSPs

3

Improve the extent to which environmental and social sustainability is addressed by the Environmental Management System and broaden its application

4

Strengthen the monitoring of environmental and social sustainability across WFP