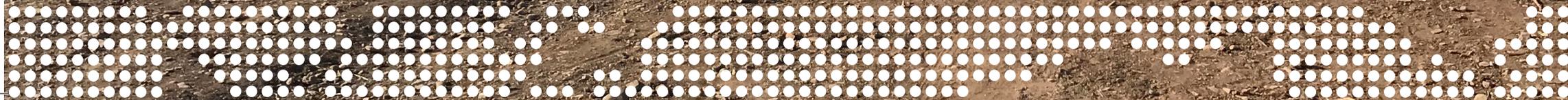


Climate and Environmental Performance Report 2021



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Introduction

Being a Humanitarian Organization in a Changing Climate and Environment

This report outlines DRC's new environmental performance targets, in line with our Climate and Environment Framework, our Strategy 2025 and our commitments under the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations. It also shows examples of our climate and environment actions within the three core pillars of our Climate and Environment Framework:

- Adaptation in Programmatic Response,
- Mitigating DRC's Environmental and Climate Footprint, and
- Advocacy for Displaced Persons in the Context of Climate Change.

These three pillars shape our response to the climate and environment crises and its interaction with forced displacement, where impacts on areas such as food, water and economic security increasingly interact with conflict dynamics and increase the impact of other drivers of conflict and fragility. Further, resilience to climate shocks, environmental degradation and displacement is often very low in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and is affecting the world's most vulnerable the hardest. In this context, the

relationship between climate change, conflict, poverty, and persecution greatly increases the complexity of humanitarian crises, refugee emergencies as well as in protracted situations. In effect, the climate lens is becoming increasingly important for a humanitarian organization like DRC.

The environmental performance targets we outline in this report serve to ensure that we adapt to these changing circumstances, in our programming, operations and advocacy, and measure our progress. DRC wants to remain relevant in a changing humanitarian context. And we want to be part of the solution to the climate and environment crisis. With this report we set out an ambitious agenda for ourselves in this field.

This is the inaugural annual report, and it sets the baseline against which we will measure progress. Going forward, and beginning with the next annual report, in 2023, we will be reporting on progress against the targets and continue to showcase examples of our and our partners' work in the field of climate and environment.

DRC Taking Action

During 2021 DRC has set an ambitious course of action for the organization, outlined in several publications and commitments setting the direction for the years to come:

- In January 2021, DRC published **The Framework on Climate Change and Environment**, which provides a framework for DRC's approach under three core pillars of action: Climate **Adaptation** in Programmatic Responses; **Mitigation** to reduce DRC environmental and climate footprint; and **Advocacy** for displaced persons in the context of climate change.
- **The Framework on Climate Change and Environment** is reflected and included in the recently published **DRC Strategy 2025**, where reinforcement of climate and conflict resilience is a strategic priority and climate and environmental considerations are identified as a crosscutting principle across DRC operations and sectors.
- In June, DRC adopted **The Climate and Environment Charter for the Humanitarian Organizations**¹ developed by and for humanitarian organisations. By adopting the Charter, DRC commits to ensuring that we have specific targets that demonstrate how changes are being implemented, leading to real reductions in our environmental impacts. This report, and the targets we outline in the following sections, is part of our commitments under this charter. In subsequent reports we will measure and report on these targets in line with our commitments. The targets will be reviewed on a regular basis, as our knowledge and capacity develop and as we form new partnerships to realize our ambitions.
- During 2020 and 2021, DRC participated in the development and piloting of a **Climate and Environment Mainstreaming Tool** with a range of other NGOs. The tool allows DRC to assess whether our ambitions to have minimal impact on the climate & environment are integrated at organisational, partnership and intervention level. Such analysis serves as the first internal review of key policies, strategies and guidelines with regards to DRC's climate and environmental commitments. Based on this analysis, we are identifying gaps and areas for improvement of existing policies at organisational, partnership and intervention level.

¹ <https://www.climate-charter.org/>

The DRC Framework on Climate Change and Environment

Three core pillars of action shape the approach of DRC, each with its objective and ambitious targets. In addition to the specific objectives and targets within each core pillar of action, we also set targets for mainstreaming of climate and environmental considerations into DRC's cross-cutting policies and program cycle.

Adaptation in Programmatic Responses

Objective:

Strengthen the resilience of displacement-affected communities to the impact of climate change and environmental degradation.

Target:

By 2025, climate and environmental risks will be identified and managed across all our programs and humanitarian operations in a strategic manner, for example by the use of tools like NEAT+.

Mitigation to reduce DRC's environmental and climate footprint

Objective:

Improve the Climate and Environment footprint of DRC's practices by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing the negative impacts on the environment.

Targets:

1. DRC aims at reducing its carbon emissions by 2030 with minimum 50% compared to 2019 levels.
2. By 2025 each country operation throughout DRC will have elaborated a carbon baseline, updated carbon footprints and developed their own specific roadmap to reach the organizational target.

Advocacy for displaced persons in the context of climate change

Objective:

Support the rights of displaced persons affected by climate change addressing climate related protection needs.

Target:

By 2025, DRC is a leading advocate for displaced persons in the context of climate change and collaborates with climate experts, humanitarian and development agencies and others to ensure that displacement responses stand on solid analysis and evidence of linkages between climate change, environment and displacement.

Cross-cutting: Mainstreaming of climate and environmental considerations into DRC policies and sectors

By 2025, climate and environmental considerations will be mainstreamed into all relevant DRC policies and sectors, and DRC staff and partners will be equipped to ensure environmental management throughout the programme cycle addressing climate and environmental risks.

DRC's Climate and Environment Framework aligns with the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations

DRC's Climate and Environment Framework aligns with the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations, signed by 242 organizations as of June 2022. Below we map where our commitments under the charter match with the pillars of action in our Climate and Environment Framework.

Adaptation in Programmatic Responses

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

Commitment 3 Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities.

Mitigation to reduce DRC's environmental and climate footprint

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

Advocacy for displaced persons in the context of climate change

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

Commitment 3 Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities.

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

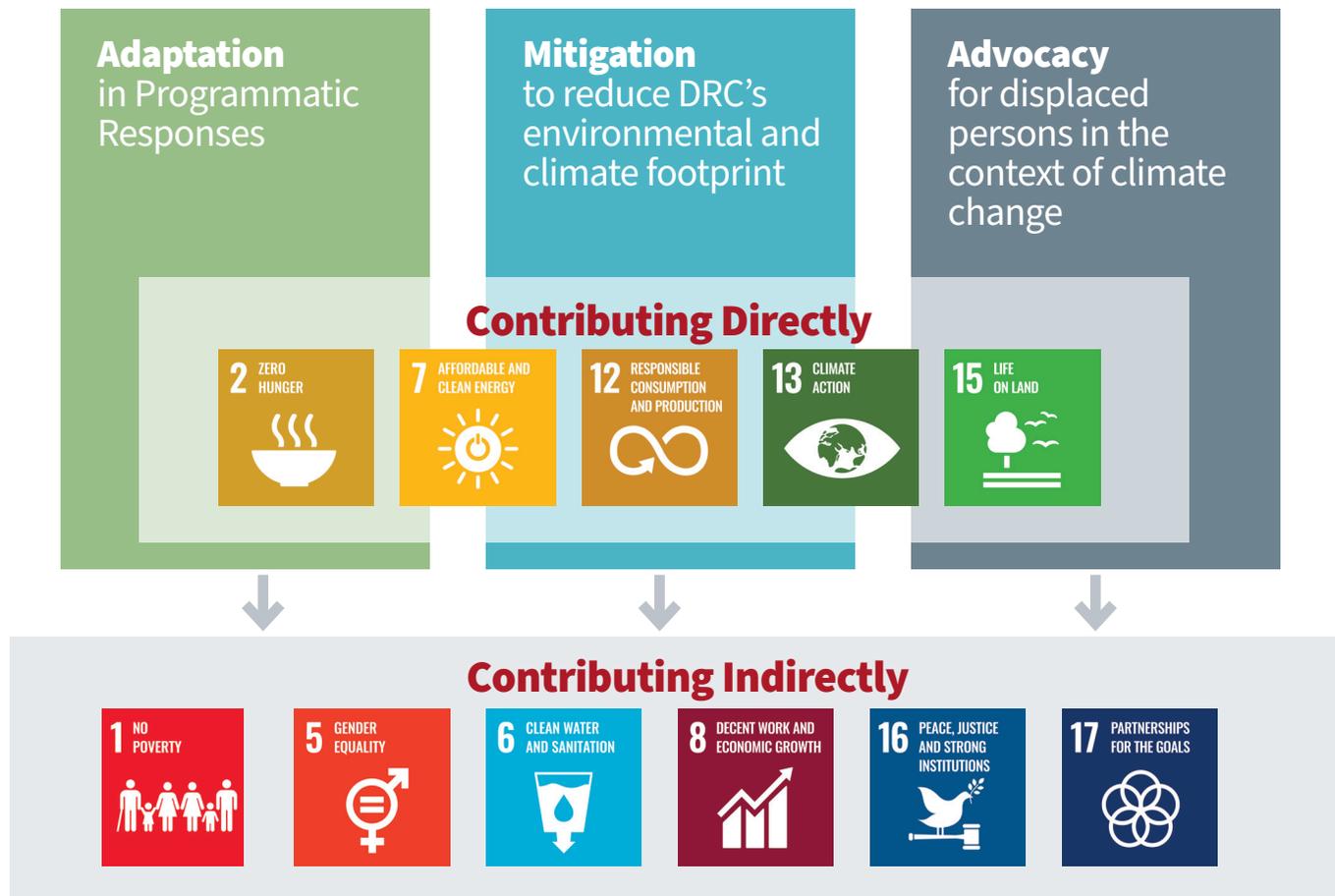
Cross-cutting across all pillars

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

Commitment 5 Work collaboratively across the humanitarian sector and beyond to strengthen climate and environmental action, and

Commitment 7 Develop targets and measure our progress as we implement our commitments.

In pursuit of the targets within the pillars of action in our Framework on Climate Change and Environment, we contribute to a range of SDGs



Pillar 1: Adaptation in Programmatic Response

Under this pillar we will increase integration of adaptation to climate change in our programmatic response across sectors and through adaptation focused initiatives, such as resilience programming, disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action.

Initiatives under this pillar will contribute to reducing risk and vulnerability to shocks and stresses, strengthen climate and environmental resilience among displacement affected populations, and thereby improve protection and livelihoods.

Adaptation in programmatic response features prominently in DRC's Global Strategy 2025. This includes a global change project focusing on Conflict and Climate Resilience, and a cross cutting operational principle of 'Going Green' for the entire organization.

Target by 2025

By 2025, climate and environmental risks will be identified and managed across all our programs and humanitarian operations in a strategic manner.

This target is reached through the integrating of climate and environmental considerations into existing global DRC strategies and policies (e.g. Programme and Operational handbooks, sector strategies) as well as the integration of customized tools, such as NEAT+, into programming.



DRC, Somalia

An example of adaptation in DRC's programmatic response is our work to apply **regenerative design in programming to strengthen community resilience**

With the aim of strengthening resilience to climate change and environmental degradation of the displacement affected communities, and inspired by circular bio-economy approaches, DRC has conducted trainings on regenerative practices with a blend of refugees, host communities, IDPs, returnees, DRC staff, local government and community leaders in countries such as Kenya, Burundi, Somalia, Uganda, Yemen, Tanzania and South Sudan, amongst others. In several countries, DRC and partner pilot initiatives on regenerative agricultural practices and permaculture have shown promising results in increasing resilience of displacement affected communities.

These initiatives integrate localized and holistic ways of rural and urban farming to support biodiversity, rebuild and rejuvenate soils, reduce and reuse waste, improve water management and build resilience to climatic shocks and stressors.

The use of permaculture and agroecosystem restoration to inform resilience programming aims to transform and improve the lives and livelihoods of affected populations long-term, whilst simultaneously increasing the adaptive capacity of communities' agroecosystems, and thereby reducing vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change impacts.



Pillar 2: Mitigation - Reducing DRC’s Carbon Footprint

2030 reduction target

DRC will aim at reducing its carbon emissions by 2030 with minimum 50% compared to 2019 levels.

By 2025 each country operation throughout DRC will have elaborated a carbon baseline, updated carbon footprints and developed their own specific roadmap to reach the organizational target.

Reducing our carbon emissions with minimum 50% in 2020 compared to 2019 levels sets a very ambitious course for DRC. It requires new ways of programing and operating across the organization, new technical expertise and new partnerships, and in some areas the cost implications are not fully known. Depending on the country, the context, and the nature of our activities, the sources of CO2 emissions vary, and therefore there is no universal solution.

In January 2021, DRC initiated the development of a customized carbon accounting tool to start assessing the DRC carbon footprint. This was a first step to start quantifying the impact of our activities and conduct with the aim of rethinking and designing new types of operations and programmes.

2021 has been a pilot year with the aim of elaborating a customized carbon accounting tool unifying data collection throughout DRC. The carbon baselines will allow the country operations to elaborate specific carbon emission reduction initiatives within priority areas where main emissions are found.

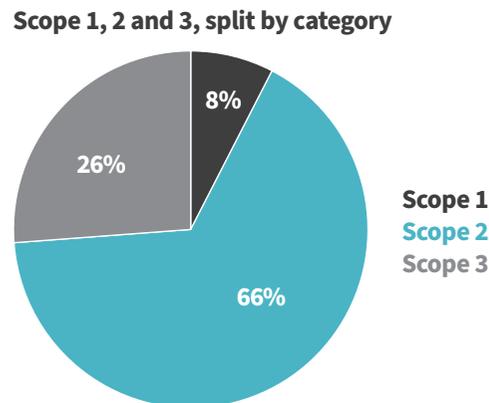
As introduced by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, an organization’s greenhouse gas emissions are classified as falling within Scopes 1, 2, or 3:

- Scope 1 emissions include all direct emissions under the control of an organization.
- Scope 2 emissions encompass those emissions under the indirect control of an organization, such as emissions from electricity that is purchased and eventually used by an organization.
- Scope 3 emissions cover all other indirect emissions occurring from sources not under the control of an organization, including emissions from travel, procurement, logistics, waste, and water usage.

In 2021, the DRC Kosovo country operation tested the tool and elaborated its carbon footprint entailing the mandatory scope 1 and 2, as well as selected categories in scope 3.

It is the aim of DRC that all country operations elaborate their carbon footprint representing scope 1, 2 and expand to entail all the relevant categories in scope 3 by 2024.

Figure 1 The DRCKosovo carbon footprint is based on data regarding emissions from company facilities and vehicles, purchased electricity and heating as well as emissions from business travels. The carbon baseline shows that 8% of total emissions stems from company facilities and vehicles, 66% from purchased electricity and heating, and 26% from business travels.



Initiatives to reduce the DRC's carbon footprint

Through 2021 DRC has taken several initial steps to reduce our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and minimize the negative environmental impacts associated with our internal conduct and operations. These include:

- A Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Green Travel Guidelines
- Guidelines for DRC's own premises and compounds

Further, DRC has signed up for The Clean Energy Challenge - a multi-stakeholder initiative to provide green and safe energy to forcibly displaced populations. The Clean Energy Challenge has set the ambitious goal of bringing affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy to all settlements of forcibly displaced people and nearby host communities by 2030. As part of this initiative, DRC will explore new clean energy solutions to reduce use of fossil fuels in our operations and across our programs.

Green Travel guidelines

In 2021 DRC published the first Green Travel guidelines for the organization, to introduce a responsible and conscious travel culture throughout the DRC operations and programming.

Through different options of minimizing the carbon footprint, a responsible travel culture is introduced without negatively affecting the ability of the organization to deliver its mandate, thus supporting the reduction of carbon emissions of the transport sector at a global level that currently accounts for around one-fifth of global carbon emissions.

To travel environmentally sustainable whether by air or by land will require a new travel culture in DRC with introduction of simple measures to reduce the carbon footprint as for example: consider whether each journey is necessary, replacing physical workshops with virtual workshops when possible, consider the number of people participating and consider which is the most climate-efficient way of travelling.

DRC adhering to International standards and conventions

DRC's targets represent our ambitions to contribute to reaching the targets of the Paris agreement. The Paris Agreement's Article 2's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Pillar 2: Mitigation - Reducing DRC's Environmental Footprint

DRC commits to respond to the global climate crisis and environmental degradation by a conscious and ambitious environmental management throughout all country operations and programs to make a true difference for the people that DRC serves and to ensure that our own conduct and activities not only limit our negative impact but also have a positive impact.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

The crisis of the climate and of the environment is deeply interlinked and have key societal and economic consequences and impact on vulnerable and marginalized groups.

DRC has started the work of integrating responses to the crises into programming and operations aiming at strengthening the full spectrum of our response from planning and designing to building-back-better.

In the course of 2022, it is our aim to identify specific targets and initiatives aiming at reducing DRC's environmental footprint and/or having a positive impact, in particular within the following areas:

- Natural resource management including water and soil
- Single-use plastic
- Energy and Fossil-fuels
- Waste management and recycling



DRC works ambitiously towards reducing our Environmental Impact. **The Fair Recycling Initiative** is an example of inclusive and formalised plastic recycling ecosystems in Kenya as a way to reach this target.

One of the major challenges in Kenya's waste and recycling sector is that urban waste is either not collected and recycled at all, or it is collected by waste pickers who are marginalized and live in poverty, under poor working conditions.

At the same time, the approximately 500.000 registered refugees, hosted by Kenya, generally face substantial barriers to access employment opportunities. The low income of waste pickers and the plastic waste challenge in areas hosting refugees are closely connected. Both are a result of low-value chain efficiency, limited value addition and a lack of formal organisation.

The Danish Refugee Council, in partnership with Unilever and Mr Green Africa, aim to integrate informal and marginalised waste pickers and refugees in Kenya, to a formalised plastics recycling value chain. The 'Fair Recycling Project', supported by Danida Market Development Partnerships, seeks to achieve this aim through innovative and financially sustainable interventions in the value chain, with a refugee focus. Over the next three years, the project will contribute to safer working conditions, increased income and decent jobs, and help drive the transition to a localized circular plastic economy.



DRC, Kenya

Pillar 3: Advocacy for Displaced Persons in the Context of Climate

Target 2025

By 2025, DRC is a leading advocate for displaced persons in the context of climate change and collaborates with climate experts, humanitarian and development agencies and others to ensure that displacement responses stand on solid analysis and evidence of linkages between climate change, environment and displacement.

Under this pillar, DRC aims to increase our contribution to better understanding and acting on the increasing linkages between climate change, environmental degradation and forced displacement.

In our advocacy efforts we will draw on our programming, global presence and data, collaborate with leading experts and displacement affected communities as well as local and international partners.

Building on initial DRC and partner research on climate, environment and displacement in 2021, we will set out an advocacy and research agenda for this pillar. This agenda will support and inform programming, operations and policy, for DRC and the sector more broadly.



Understanding the drivers of displacement and mixed migration

DRC and The Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) commit to work jointly on enhancing the evidence base for the increasingly complex intersection between climate change and mixed migration flows.

MMC is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, information, research, and analysis on mixed migration. The MMC is part of, and governed by, the Danish Refugee Council. While its institutional link to DRC that ensures MMC's work is grounded in operational reality, it acts as an independent source of data, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration.

MMC aims to support agencies, policy makers and practitioners to make well-informed decisions, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to contribute to protection and assistance responses for people on the move and to stimulate forward thinking in the sector responding to mixed migration. (<http://www.mixedmigration.org/about/>)

Flagship products:

The Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) offers a regular, standardized, quantitative system of collecting globally comparable primary data on mixed migration flows collecting data directly from refugees and migrants on the move since 2014.

The Mixed Migration Review (MMR) is the flagship annual report of the Mixed Migration Centre, first published in 2018. The report offers a deep analytical dive into the world of mixed migration including on the relation with environmental and climate issues.



DRC, Lebanon

Understanding the complex interlinkages between climate change, conflict and forced displacement

During 2021 DRC has engaged with The Overseas Development Institute, ODI, and the Stockholm Environment Institute, SEI, two globally renowned research institutions to build an evidence base on linkages between climate change, environment, conflict and forced displacement that can inform DRC displacement response and programming.

The Overseas Development Institute

Building upon the work of the Nansen Initiative, the Platform of Disaster Displacement (PDD), and DRC's 2021 global event on Climate Change and Displacement, DRC and ODI undertook joint research to better understand the protection risks resulting from climate-induced forced displacement and how protection actors can better address protection risks related to climate change in forced displacement contexts.

The Stockholm Environment Institute

Together with SEI, DRC undertook a study to provide a deeper understanding of the climate-migration-conflict nexus in the Asia-Pacific region, with a focus on Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. The study includes a research report on this topic as well as recommendations for DRC in Asia in the areas of programme, research, and policy interventions, both at country and regional levels, to strengthen the resilience of displacement-affected communities to the impact of climate change and environmental degradation.



Understanding displacement drivers in the context of climate change

With support from IBM and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DRC has developed Foresight. Foresight is an innovative, analytical software model that uses predictive analyses of factors such as economy, conflict level, climate, governance and other data to forecast large-scale forced displacement, allowing governments and humanitarian organisations to plan and respond earlier and more efficiently. The model has been deployed to provide forecasts for 26 countries, covering approximately 87% of all global forced displacement.

In the West Africa context DRC is seeking to forecast how many forcibly displaced persons there will be 3-4 months into the future at the regional level. It has now been applied in the Liptako-Gourma area of the Sahel spanning across Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The Foresight model is based on a theoretical framework that focuses on the root causes or macro-level drivers of displacement including indicators on environment and climate disasters, access to water, agricultural stress, food security and violence.

In East Africa DRC has funded the development of a slow-onset drought related displacement model to understand the complex system of variables driving displacement of pastoralist in the Horn of Africa. The model can be used to predict how below average rainfall and drought conditions can lead to displacement up to 72 months in the future. Further, the model makes it possible to factor in how different interventions might mitigate the displacement. In the coming years, DRC will further develop this model and link anticipatory action and forecast based financing mechanisms to the foresight data.



DRC, Bangladesh

Mainstreaming of Climate and Environmental Considerations into DRC Policies and Sectors

Target 2025

By 2025, climate and environmental considerations will be mainstreamed into all relevant DRC policies and sectors, and DRC staff and partners will be equipped to ensure environmental management throughout the programme cycle addressing climate and environmental risks.

Accounting for the environmental impact of humanitarian programs at every stage of the program cycle is a critical step towards “doing no harm” to the natural environment. This should be understood as a process of evaluating the potential impacts that humanitarian programs can have on the natural environment and ensuring that mitigating actions are included in the design and ultimately implemented.

DRC aims at integrating climate and environmental considerations into existing policies and sector guidelines. Part of this objective includes environmental and climate concerns being incorporated and mainstreamed into existing sector assessment tools in the five core sectors: **Protection, Economic Recovery, Shelter and Settlements, Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM).**



DRC adhering to The Paris Agreement

DRC works in line with The Paris Agreement Article 7 that establishes a global goal on adaptation – of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change in the context of the temperature goal of the Agreement.



DRC DANISH
REFUGEE
COUNCIL