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# Environmental Responsibility

## SEC Annual Event 2020

# Environmental Challenges – Facts & Figures

: POLLUTION

Pollution causes 4.2 Million deaths per year and affects the health of over 100 million people.

# Environmental Challenges – Facts & Figures

## SOIL DEGRADATION

Half of the topsoil has been lost in the last 150 years.

It takes 500-1000 years for one inch of topsoil to be produced naturally.

# Environmental Challenges – Facts & Figures

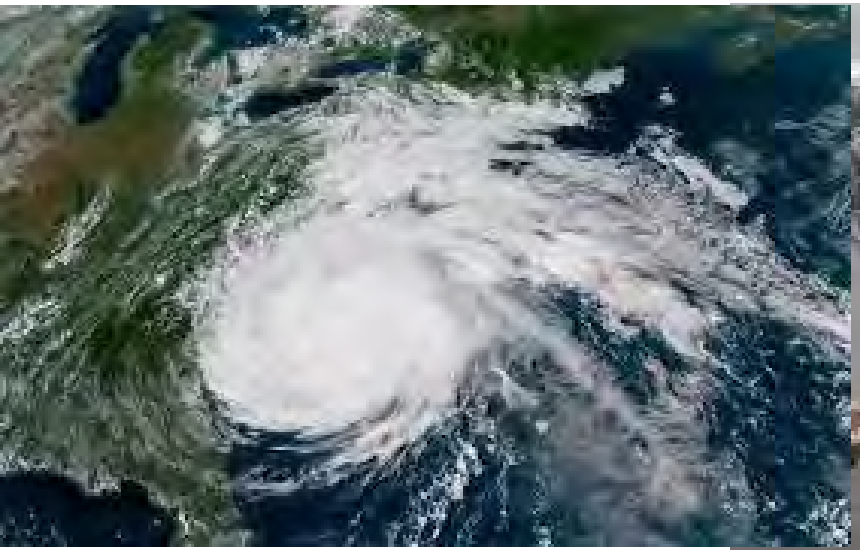
## WATER SCARCITY

- Over 2 billion people currently experience severe water scarcity.
- Water use has grown at more than twice the rate of population increase globally.

# Environmental Challenges – Facts & Figures

## CLIMATE CHANGE

A one-meter sea-level rise may eliminate entire small island nations and tens of million people may be displaced in Bangladesh.



# Environmental Challenges – Facts & Figures

## BIODIVERSITY

- An estimated 80% of the original forest that covered the Earth has been cleared, damaged or fragmented.
- We lost 2/3 of our wildlife biodiversity globally over the past 50 years.

# Environmental Challenges – Facts & Figures

## WASTE

- There is a “plastic island” in the middle of the North Pacific. It’s the size of India, Europe and Mexico combined.
- Roughly one third of the food produced in the world gets lost or wasted.

# Why is Environmental Responsibility important for Poverty Alleviation?

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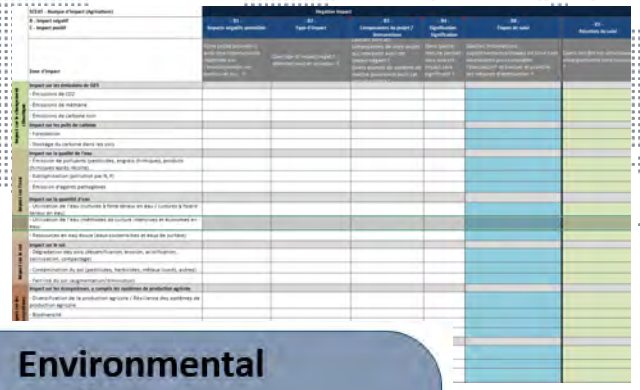
- Economic development is based on the use of natural resources
- Poor people suffer most from environmental degradation, pollution and climate change
- In developing countries environmental awareness is often lower and no environmental management in place

# Environmental Responsibility at Swisscontact



**Environmental Toolbox**

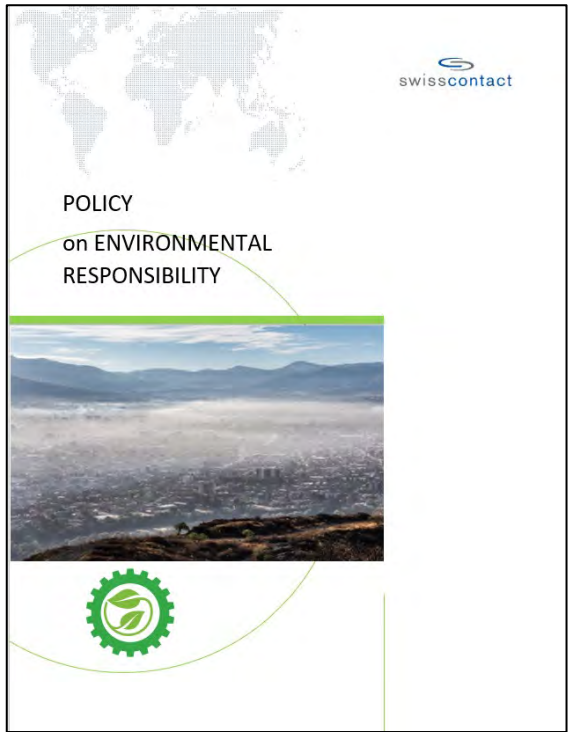
- Environmental Risk & Impact Assessment
- Mitigation Brainstorming
- Environmental Change Matrix
- Environmental Actors Mapping
- Incentives Mapping

Awareness

Environmental Responsibility in projects

**Environmental Responsibility a Sustainability Criterion**

Institutional integration



# How can the SEC apply Environmental Responsibility?

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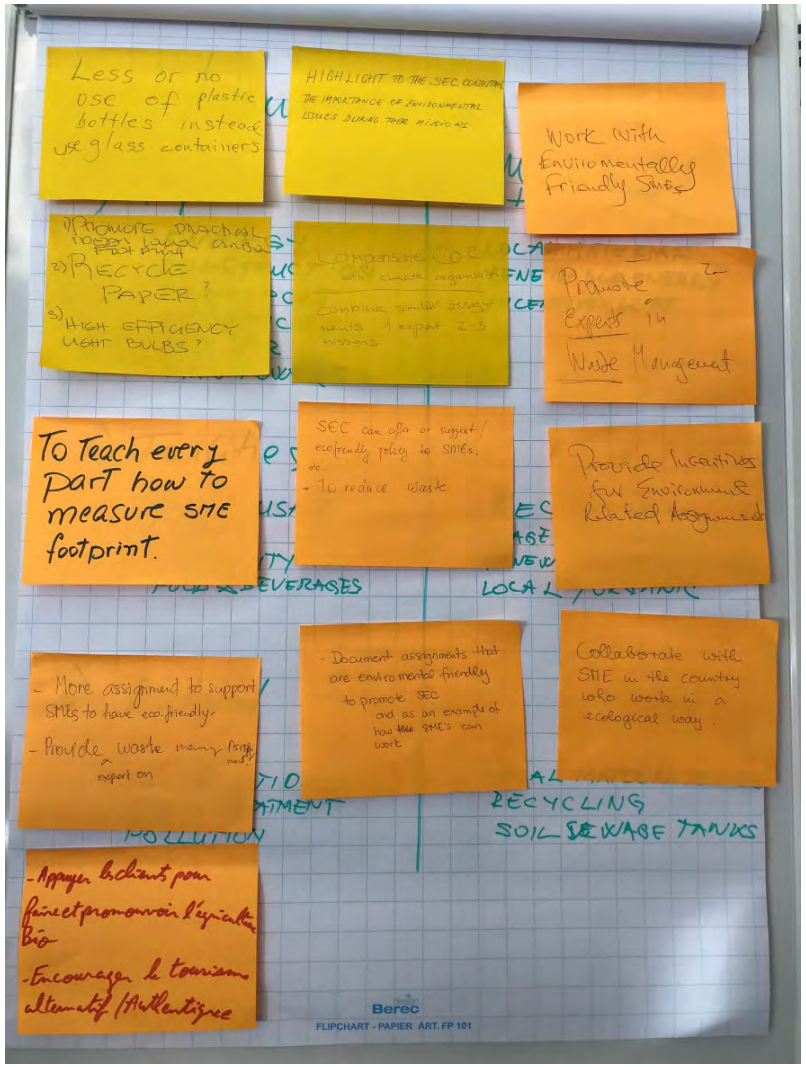
- ✓ Reduce flights and compensate CO2
- ✓ Highlight the importance of environmental issues
- ✓ Work with partners / SMEs who are
  - a) environmentally friendly
  - b) willing to improve practices
- ✓ Highlight good practice examples




# Example – Fish Farming in Bénin

# Key problems of fish farmers at Toho Lagoon

- Low productivity due to inefficient fish breeding techniques

- Limited access to good quality fish feed

- Lack of modern & efficient smocking equipment

**Increase Production & Income**

# Environmental Aspects

**Highly vulnerable ecosystem**
Pressure through human activities

**Environmental impacts of fish farming**

- Pollution through inadequate breeding practices
- Pollution through home-made fish feed

**Water pollution in turn leads to lower productivity**

**Will increasing fish production lead to additional environmental damage?**

# Key Questions

- What is the current state of the lagoon ecosystem?
- How can more fish be produced and at the same time negative impacts on the environment reduced?

**SEC expert supports Fisheries Association:**

- **Measure and analyse water quality parameters**
- **Recommendations regarding breeding techniques and feeding practices**

**Increase Production & Income & Environmental Health**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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!