

Environmental Policy

Context and Objectives

Realising that the world's natural resources are limited and fragile, GOPA considers environmental protection to be an important component of its corporate responsibility and consistent with its overall goals and values. We are committed to providing quality services in a manner that ensures a safe and healthy workplace for our employees while minimizing potential harmful environmental impacts.

Protecting the natural systems upon which all life depends, lifting people out of poverty and advancing economic development are among the greatest challenges confronting humanity. These three pillars of sustainable development are central to our work and to the UN Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000. We recognise that preventing environmental degradation is essential to alleviating poverty and ensuring sustainable development.

GOPA, a member of the UN Global Compact - the largest international network for Corporate Social Responsibility -, which is grounded on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, acknowledges that a healthy environment benefits everyone. With this in mind, our commitment to environmental stewardship will be a long-term one.

Basic Principles

We will:

- integrate the consideration of environmental concerns and impacts into all of our decision making and activities;
- promote environmental awareness among our employees by training, educating and informing them about environmental issues and encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner;
- promote responsible and efficient use of office materials and resources throughout our facilities including paper, water, electricity, and other resources - particularly those that are non-renewable. We will also give preference to renewable over non-renewable energy sources when feasible;
- reduce, and where possible, eliminate waste to conserve natural resources. This will be done - inter alia - by promoting recycling and by purchasing recycled, recyclable or re-furbished products and materials where these alternatives are available, economical and suitable;
- handle and dispose of all waste through safe and responsible methods (including waste separation and recycling);
- reduce business trips by using video conferences, and internet conferences etc;
- aspire for carbon neutrality in the long term by budgeting and reimbursing carbon off-sets where possible;
- purchase and use energy saving appliances (LCD screens with the 'Energy Star', CFLs, intelligent heating control systems, etc.);

- regularly communicate our environmental programme to our clients, customers and the public and encourage them to support it;
- minimise the environmental risks to our employees and the countries where we operate and provide a safe and healthful workplace;
- be environmentally responsible wherever we operate and act promptly and responsibly to correct incidents or conditions that endanger health, safety, or the environment.

Implementation and Coordination

It is essential that employees are involved and understand the implementation of this environmental policy. Every employee receives a copy of this policy and is regularly educated about our company's efforts to improve our environmental performance. Employees at all levels of the company are involved in supporting our goals.

GOPA will operate in compliance with all relevant German federal, state and municipal environmental legislation and the relevant legislation in place in the countries where it carries out its services. In doing so, GOPA will provide a mechanism for self-monitoring to ensure compliance and continual improvement of our policy. As part of our internal quality management system, we will conduct regular audits and self-assessments of GOPA's compliance with this policy, measuring progress and reporting regularly to the company's executive management.