Strategy to Secure a Resilient Global Future
2024 – 2030

Peace Corps

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2024–2030

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Peace Corps

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Contents

A Message from the Director

Since the Peace Corps was founded in 1961, Volunteers have been supporting communities around the world to address some of their most urgent needs: from smallpox in the '70s and small business development in the '90s to HIV for the past two decades. By working side-by-side with partners at the grassroots level, and as part of an ecosystem of development actors, we have seen how every intentional action can make a difference.

Today, we are facing the devastating impact of changing weather patterns, increased natural disasters, and environmental shocks. The future of our planet is at stake. While no country has been spared, vulnerable communities have been disproportionately impacted and are struggling with food insecurity, disruption of livelihoods, and loss of property. This is particularly true for communities that rely on subsistence agriculture, as they are on the frontlines of increasingly unpredictable weather patterns.

We all must be a part of the solution. The Peace Corps has contributed to climate-smart agriculture and environment programming since 2009. As part of this strategy, we are doubling down on our commitment and expanding our efforts to include climate literacy and sustainable operations.

It is our responsibility to serve the needs of our partners and global neighbors as we work together to preserve our shared environment for future generations. To that end, we present the Peace Corps' *Strategy to Secure a Resilient Global Future (2024–2030)*. As an agency dedicated to promoting peace and friendship around the world, the Peace Corps recognizes the vital importance of supporting communities by conserving our planet's natural resources— and harnessing the power and energy of young people around the world who are fighting for their future.

Carol Spahn
Director
Peace Corps

A Message from the Office of Global Operations Leadership

The Peace Corps began producing annual Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans in 2010 and continued to produce them through 2016. The Peace Corps adopted an agency-wide Climate Change Adaptation Policy in 2011 and produced annual Climate Change Adaptation Plans from 2014–2016. Now, this *Strategy to Secure a Resilient Global Future* is designed to provide cohesive direction to agency decision making across a wide variety of functions and activities. Such activities include the greening of our agency's infrastructure and a reduction of its own greenhouse gas emissions; agency efforts to drive a culture of resilience and sustainability at home and abroad; agency work with communities; and its support for host countries as they strive to meet their sustainable development goals and international commitments.

In our operations, the Peace Corps is committed to reducing its carbon footprint through a range of measures, such as increasing energy efficiency in buildings and vehicles, and reducing waste production and water consumption. We're also committing to incorporating sustainability more deeply into our procurement; implementing new guidance regarding environmentally responsible travel for staff at headquarters and posts; and increasing the literacy and awareness of our staff regarding all aspects of adaptation and resilience to global environmental change.

In our programming, the Peace Corps will carry on our long history of working alongside communities as they seek to adapt to a changing global environment. We will continue to implement projects that promote sustainable development by providing education, training, and support to community members, especially women and youth; adapting and improving natural resources management; increasing access to health information; and promoting sustainable livelihoods and community economic development.

The agency recognizes that resilience in the face of ongoing environmental change is a key component of long-term community prosperity, and we will continue to prioritize our commitment to these efforts in all areas of our work. By working together, we can create a more sustainable future, protect our planet's natural resources, and build a more peaceful and just world.

Scott Beale
Associate Director
Office of Global Operations
Peace Corps

"*The time is now for decisive action, and the United States is boldly tackling the climate challenge.*"

— The Long-Term Strategy of the United States, November 2021

Strategy to Secure a Resilient Global Future

2024 – 2030

Executive Summary

Since its founding, the Peace Corps has been responsive to the challenges posed by a rapidly changing global environment. The agency is now rising to meet the formidable challenge of ensuring a healthy and sustainable environmental future for all in the face of climate change.

The Peace Corps' *Strategy to Secure a Resilient Global Future* builds on previous agency efforts to improve the sustainability of our operations and shift our programming to be responsive to the requests of host countries for more climate and environment activities.

Foundational Principle 1

Leading with Integrity: Improving the Sustainability of Peace Corps Operations at Home and Abroad

Strategic Objective 1: Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure and Operations

Goal 1 — 100% carbon pollution-free electricity (CFE) by 2030, including 50% on a 24/7 basis

Goal 2 — 100% zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) acquisitions by 2035, including 100% light-duty ZEV acquisitions by 2027

Goal 3 — Net-zero emissions buildings by 2045, including a 50% reduction by 2032

Goal 4 — Net-zero emissions procurement by 2050

Goal 5 — Net-zero emissions operations by 2050, including a 65% reduction by 2030

Strategic Objective 2: Fostering a Culture of Sustainability

Goal 6 — Establish permanent staff capacity to lead sustainability, adaptation, and resilience actions by 2025

Goal 7 — Dedicate funding to support sustainable operations

Goal 8 — Adopt policies to direct sustainable behaviors at the Peace Corps

Goal 9 — Host events that celebrate sustainability at the Peace Corps

Goal 10 — Issue annual agency progress reports on sustainability, from 2025 onward

Goal 11 — 100% of Peace Corps staff trained in mitigation, adaptation, and resilience by 2025

Foundational Principle 2

Advancing Global Adaptation: Programming to Support Climate-Resilient Development

Strategic Objective 3: Programming that Supports Resilient and Sustainable Development

Goal 12 — 100% of Peace Corps Volunteers trained in adaptation and resilience by 2025

Goal 13 — Support 50+ countries to carry out programming in support of adaptation and resilience by 2025

Goal 14 — Celebrate leadership in adaptation and resilience before, during, and after Peace Corps service and partnership

Responding to the challenges posed by global climate change, the Peace Corps will adopt best practices that center on the well-being of people, communities, and nature—affirming that all are intrinsically valuable parts of a resilient global future. We seek to follow evidence-based practices in the following areas:

- **Sustainable Development and Sustainability**: Our work must continue to be underpinned by promotion of social and economic development that is both long-lasting and self-sustaining, and which supports livelihoods without destroying natural assets, increasing climate burdens, or exacerbating social inequalities.

- **One Health**: We must recognize the inextricable connections among human, environmental, and animal health in the actions we take. Such an approach is particularly necessary to respond to linked, emerging threats, such as global pandemics and food shortages.

- **Inclusive and Just Transition**: The global transition away from old modes of production and consumption (e.g., away from fossil fuel use and toward the increased use of renewable energy) calls for massive infrastructural, social, and economic changes. Decisive but thoughtful action is required to ensure that these shifts do not further exacerbate existing inequities for historically marginalized or frontline communities.

- **Biodiversity Preservation and Nature-Based Solutions**: We must leverage the power of nature to provide solutions to the quandaries humans face in a changing global environment. Technology can and should be applied as needed to preserve nature and human livelihoods, but such technology should work in concert with protection of nature and preservation of global biodiversity.
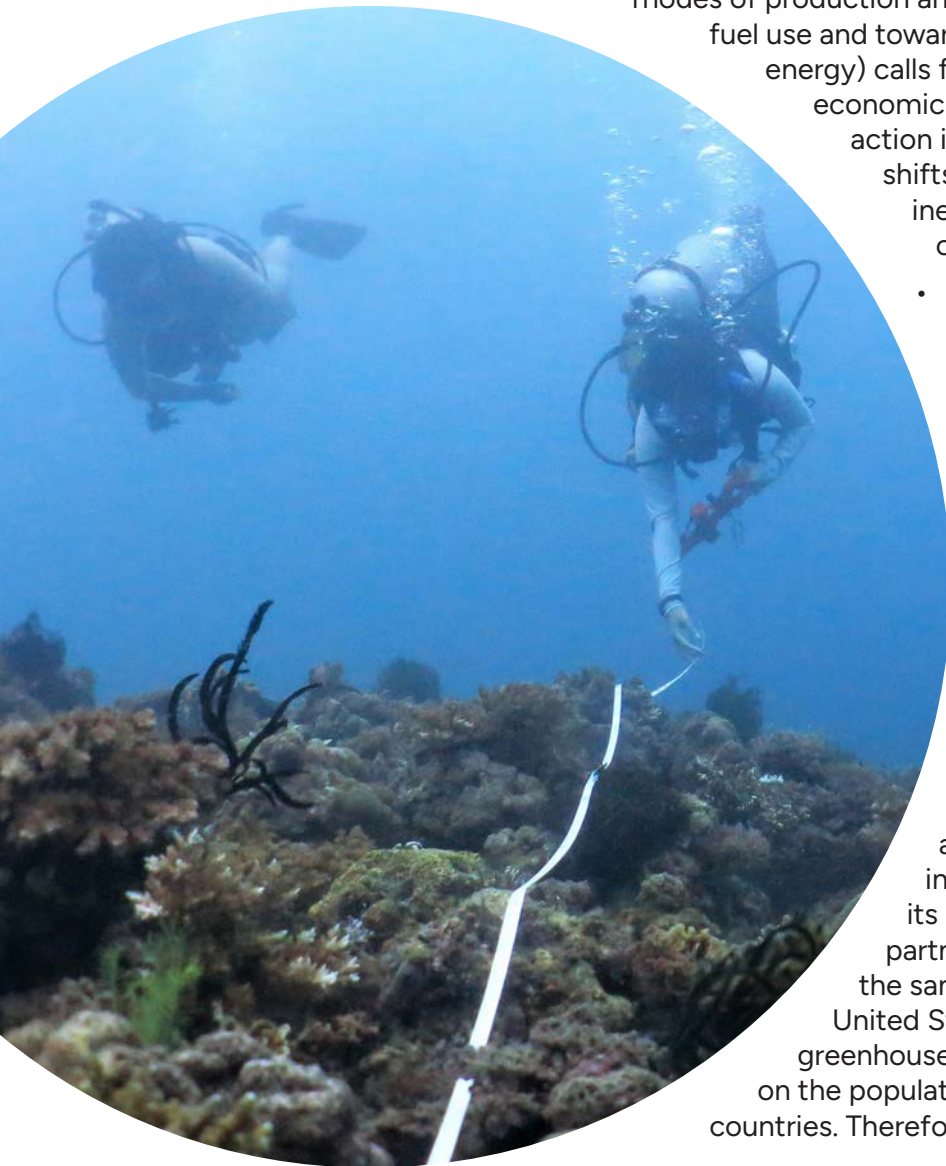
The Peace Corps seeks to promote a greater understanding of the urgent impacts of global change through its development programming and partnerships with host countries. At the same time, it is understood that the United States remains a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, a fact that is not lost on the populations of the most climate vulnerable countries. Therefore, the Peace Corps must ensure that

> *"The climate crisis is existential and the impacts of climate change are being felt around the world. Leading scientists have told us that we face unavoidable climate hazards over the next two decades, even if we succeed in keeping global warming to 1.5°C, including sea level rise, unpredictable rainfall, flooding, drought, heatwaves and heat extremes, forest fires, and melting glaciers and permafrost. The impacts of these changes will undermine development gains, exacerbate geopolitical tensions, accelerate the food security crisis, and result in greater instability and humanitarian need."*
>
> *— The President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE) Action Plan, September 2022*

its leadership on adaptation and resilience incorporates a sense of humility and a framework of climate justice, and that there is clear commitment to and demonstration of its own actions to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

The Peace Corps will engage in an intentional shift toward sustainability and resilience by implementing and integrating the following:

- **Leadership Commitment**: Clearly and broadly communicating a commitment from the highest levels of leadership that supports cultural change and involves a demonstrable effort to exemplify that change.

- **Organizational Values Alignment**: Aligning the Peace Corps' values and proposed cultural changes, and ensuring that Peace Corps policies reflect these goals and values—including those pertaining to justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity.

- **Training and Education**: Teaching new norms around sustainability, adaptation, and resilience; providing role models and presenting positive reinforcement to high performers; and providing accessible evidence-based best practices, adaptable to a variety of contexts.

- **Assessment and Evaluation**: Establishing implementation plans for resilient and sustainable operations, collecting baseline data, and creating evaluation and accountability systems for future analysis.

Introduction

For more than six decades, the Peace Corps has partnered with over 140 countries to support the strengthening of their resilience and adaptation capacities, and those of their citizens, in response to a variety of community-identified challenges. Today, communities around the world grapple with the deadly and dangerous impacts of environmental shocks and stressors, including the following, all of which are expected to increase in frequency and severity over the next few decades:

- Flooding and sea-level rise leading to coastal inundation and the destruction of coastal infrastructure
- Increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes, typhoons, cyclones, and other storms
- Migration and refugee crises
- The decline and collapse of fisheries
- Widespread famine
- Ice melt and glacial loss
- Introduction and spread of harmful invasive plants and insects
- Infrastructure failures that exacerbate flooding and landslides/mudslides
- Loss of wetlands, drought and deforestation, soil erosion, and crop failure
- Extreme temperature events leading to loss of human and animal life, crop failure, and wildfire
- Extreme weather events leading to ecosystem or infrastructure collapse and loss of human life

The Peace Corps will work to reduce community risks associated with environmental change, demonstrating its integrity through its commitment to sustainable development with host countries and communities abroad. The agency possesses a unique ability to do so around the world. This ability stems from several factors: the Peace Corps' visibility in host countries at the community level in remote regions; Volunteers' integration into host communities; the visibility of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and their capacity to raise awareness in the United States about climate impacts; and a keen interest on the part of staff and Volunteers to support local actions to address resilience and adaptation to the changing climate.

The foremost global challenge of the twenty-first century is predicting, mitigating, and adapting to the unprecedented and unpredictable effects of climate and environmental change. In 2015, the United Nations clearly articulated the need to take immediate action to address climate change globally by establishing Sustainable Development Goal 13, "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" (UN 2022a). In 2016, this "urgent action" was further elucidated in the Paris Agreement, which declared the urgency of limiting warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and set out a road map for achieving that goal through global cooperation and action.

In 2023, it is clear that the world will not successfully meet this goal. The global community has thus far failed in its efforts to restrict carbon emissions so that global warming (the "climate crisis"[1]) is limited to less than a 1.5°C temperature increase above pre-industrial levels. However, limiting global warming to below 2°C above those levels remains possible and is therefore still a critical target. Any warming beyond this threshold is likely to have catastrophic consequences for the planet and its inhabitants. Limiting global warming to 2°C could still preclude the worst potential effects.

While changes to the global climate are the most significant and complex long-term threat to humankind, these changes must be viewed in combination with other stressors, including ecosystem degradation, violent conflict, social/economic inequity, the spread of preventable disease, pandemics, poor governance, population growth, and poverty. In the 2014 Quadrennial Defense review, the U.S. Department of Defense aptly referred to climate change as a "threat multiplier" because it amplifies threats associated with other resilience stressors.

The loss of natural habitat also threatens community resilience. Large-scale, human-driven species extinctions are occurring at extraordinary rates worldwide (the "Sixth Mass Extinction,"[2] "biodiversity crisis,"[3] or the "nature crisis"[3]). The extinction rates of plants and animals are currently estimated to be 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than normal.[5] This loss is considered the most severe and rapid extinction event in the history of the planet, and it is primarily caused by human activities such as habitat destruction, pollution, overharvesting, and the unchecked growth of invasive animal and plant species.

Global Social Inequities and Environmental Change

The impacts of global environmental change are distributed unevenly among nations, within nations, and within communities. **Most countries in which the Peace Corps serves are disproportionately impacted, despite many of those countries—small island developing states in particular—having contributed the least to the problem.** Within countries and communities, these impacts intersect with other aspects of marginalization—including social identities related to sex or gender, national origin, indigeneity, ethnicity, religion, race or color, age, disability status, and economic strata. In particular, women and girls suffer disproportionately from the climate crisis,[6] as do Afro-descendant peoples,[7] Indigenous peoples,[8] nomadic peoples,[9]

people living with disabilities, the economically disadvantaged,[10] and people living at the nexus of several of these identities.[11]

In the United States, the White House has made an unambiguous commitment to securing a resilient global future by addressing both the climate and nature crises. In addition to signing into law the Inflation Reduction Act, providing billions of dollars toward activities that increase national and global resilience to environmental change, the President has issued more than 12 executive orders addressing these global challenges (see Appendix B).

The President and his administration have also taken several actions to assist marginalized communities in the United States at greater risk of harm from environmental changes. These include Executive Order 14096 (Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All) and establishing the following climate-related initiatives and programs:

- the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council
- the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council
- the American Climate Corps
- the Justice40 Initiative (directing that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments into sustainability and resilience go to communities suffering from environmental injustice)

Such considerations are part of a broader re-envisioning of the federal government's approach to its operations and goals. This re-envisioning includes challenging prior assumptions about the nature of global development and seeks to advance equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.[12] Here at the Peace Corps, our mission of global friendship and world peace drives us to seek opportunities for the agency to align with the federal government's direction to prioritize inclusion, oppose gender-based discrimination and oppression, minimize economic and social marginalization, and elevate the knowledge and needs of unjustly marginalized minorities.

International Accords on Environmental Sustainability, Resilience, and Adaptation

The Paris Agreement, which the United States re-entered in 2021, is the most significant of a series of accords, compacts, and agreements that have been developed to tackle these critical global problems. Each of these accords has its own unique history, goals, and mechanisms; but together they represent a concerted, international effort to mitigate emissions, prevent the catastrophic loss of nature, and improve global adaptation and resilience.

1. **The Montreal Protocol**, adopted in 1987, was designed to address the depletion of the ozone layer and phase out the production of substances that contributed to its loss. This protocol has been hailed as one of the most successful international environmental agreements, and it has led to a very significant reduction in the production and use of ozone-depleting substances.

2. **The Kyoto Protocol**, adopted in 1997, was the first international agreement that set binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The agreement was signed by 191 countries and required wealthier nations to reduce their emissions by a specified amount by 2012. To date, this protocol has yielded mixed success.

3. **The Paris Agreement**, adopted in 2015, is a more recent and ambitious climate accord that aims to limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with a goal of limiting it to 1.5°C. The Paris Agreement has been signed by almost every country in the world (except for Iran, Libya, and Yemen as of April 2023) and has set the stage for increased global cooperation on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Foundational Principle 1

Leading with Integrity: Improving the Sustainability of Peace Corps Operations at Home and Abroad

> *"Extreme weather events, exacerbated by climate change, cost our nation $99 billion in economic damages last year—a record we are poised to break this year.* **The time is now to take bold action to make our entire nation more resilient and sustainable.** *Some of this work will be difficult—but I know that, together, we will be up to the task."*
>
> *— Federal Sustainability Plan: Catalyzing America's Clean Energy Industries and Jobs, December 2021*

Summary

The U.S. federal government has a crucial role to play in setting sustainability standards and providing leadership in global environmental stewardship. These federal sustainability efforts contribute to the protection of our nation's heritage and prosperity, including its natural assets, built assets, human assets, and cultural assets.

As an agency with a global reach, the Peace Corps faces both operational vulnerabilities and opportunities regarding adaptation and resilience when confronting global change. The choices it makes not only set an example for other small federal agencies, but also demonstrate integrity and commitment to agency principles to host countries and partners abroad.

In 2015, the agency set four goals for increasing operational resilience and sustainability; these goals have now been subsumed into the goals provided by the Federal Sustainability Plan, and further outlined as actions in the Federal Sustainability Plan Strategy Matrix.[13]

In 2021, Executive Order 14057 set out a range of ambitious sustainability goals intended to reduce the emissions burden created by Federal Government operations. Though the Peace Corps is not subject to mandated compliance with the Federal Sustainability Plan, in keeping with its mission of world peace and friendship, it will nevertheless work to align its operations with these ambitious and shared sustainability goals. It will do this as an active demonstration of the principles of good global citizenship upon which our agency was founded. Reducing the agency's carbon footprint, improving operational efficiency, ensuring intentionality in procurement and acquisitions, and raising staff awareness and understanding of environmental issues and challenges are key to meeting our mission and contributing to a better world for all.

Strategic Objective 1: Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure and Operations

The resilience of the Peace Corps' domestic and international operations and infrastructure has cascading impacts on mission effectiveness, financial efficiency, and national security. Understanding the threats and stressors that emerge from a changing global environment—and how they impact various aspects of our operations and infrastructure—will be key to creating adaptive management plans and successfully responding to challenges.

Peace Corps Headquarters and Peace Corps Posts Aligning with the Federal Sustainability Plan

Headquarters operations will aim for alignment with the Federal Sustainability Plan. For countries in which the Peace Corps operates and that (1) have joined the Greening Government Initiative[14] or the Net-Zero Government Initiative;[15] (2) have enacted Net-Zero policies;[16] or (3) rank above the United States in the Yale Environmental Performance Index,[17] posts will also be asked to aim for alignment with the Federal Sustainability Plan.

Posts Following National Adaptation Plans

For all other posts, the Peace Corps will aim to meet or exceed the standards set by each country in their most recent National Adaptation Plan (NAP),[18] Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs),[19] and/or National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).[20]

Goal 1

100% carbon pollution-free electricity (CFE) by 2030, including 50% on a 24/7 basis

Carbon pollution poses a significant threat to our shared environmental future and is the major driving factor in global climate change. Making a thoughtful, intentional transition to carbon pollution-free electricity is necessary to ensure the future sustainability of our operations, to ensure operational security in our federal energy mix, and to reduce the agency's contribution to global emissions.

Goal 2

100% zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) acquisitions by 2035, including 100% light-duty ZEV acquisitions by 2027

Transportation is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, and the widespread adoption of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) can provide a direct reduction in global emissions.

The Peace Corps operates fleets of vehicles both in the United States and abroad. Choosing a vehicle-management strategy that encourages transition to ZEVs and reduces global carbon emissions is critical for responsible operations of the agency.

Goal 3

Net-zero emissions buildings by 2045, including a 50% reduction by 2032

Buildings make a significant contribution to emissions and global environmental change. The construction, operation, and maintenance of buildings are resource-intensive activities that consume energy and produce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Emissions from energy consumption (e.g., heating, cooling, lighting, powering appliances, cooking); emissions associated with the production of building materials and their transport; water consumption and management; and waste production are all factors in the footprint of buildings.

For headquarters and posts aligned with the Federal Sustainability Plan, getting to net-zero emissions buildings is best achieved by following the Federal Building Performance Standard (FBPS).[21] The first ever FBPS was issued in December 2022 by the Council on Environmental Quality and provides guidance on calculating emissions and quantifying the impact of improved efficiency practices.

For posts generally, alignment should be sought with host countries' NAPs, NDCs, and NBSAPs. Opportunities to adjust building maintenance may be determined by the availability of appropriate technology and infrastructure in host countries, as well as by the individual opportunities presented in our leasing agreements to apply changes to leased properties.

Goal 4

Net-zero emissions procurement by 2050

Procurement plays a significant role in operational sustainability because of its impact on the energy and resources consumed at both agency and federal levels. Establishing net-zero emissions procurement creates cascading levels of necessary change to how acquisitions will be made, what products and services the agency selects for use and/or consumption, how those products and services are acquired, and by what standards those products and services are sourced and assessed. This process helps establish reliable evaluation and reporting while actively engaging with suppliers to understand sources and life-cycle assessments for procurement choices.

At the Peace Corps, we will explore opportunities for reducing the carbon footprint of procurement at both headquarters and posts, including (1) use of the global disclosure system provided by the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP);[22] (2) research and selection of preferred providers who are certified sustainable businesses, or those with improved sustainability or decarbonization practices (e.g., those engaging in circular economic practices[23] or those engaging in use of innovative decarbonization tools like Virtual or Physical Power Purchase Agreements[24]); and (3) preferential selection of local sourcing where possible to reduce shipping, and planning for increased shipping efficiency, including by aggregating regional purchases.

Goal 5

Net-zero emissions operations by 2050, including a 65% reduction by 2030

Achieving this goal will require success on the foregoing four goals, in addition to intentional and consistent reductions in other key areas of significant carbon consumption.

Foremost among these other key areas for the Peace Corps is staff and Volunteer travel. The nature of agency operations—Volunteer training and distribution; global post operations and staffing; regular regional and global conferences and workshops; supply chains and shipping to posts; etc.—has historically required frequent, long-distance air travel that incurs a significant carbon cost.

Thus, reducing air travel emissions through a combination of agency policy changes and technology solutions will represent a significant portion of what is required to reach the strategic objective of sustainable and resilient infrastructure and operations.

In order to most effectively measure and evaluate progress toward this goal, an assessment of the agency's baseline air travel emissions should take place no later than June 2024, and a policy promoting sustainable air travel for Peace Corps staff and Volunteers should be adopted no later than December 2024.

Strategic Objective 2: Fostering a Culture of Sustainability

Fostering a culture of sustainability and resilience within our agency will be critical to achieving all the previously identified goals. Such a culture requires awareness, education, motivation, commitment, and accountability at multiple reporting levels throughout the agency, and for each individual as they carry out their work at the Peace Corps.

Goal 6

Establish permanent staff capacity to lead sustainability, adaptation, and resilience actions by 2025

To ensure the Peace Corps' continuing commitment to securing a resilient global future, the agency must act to create at least three permanent roles with direct responsibility for leading and assessing progress on sustainability, adaptation, and resilience at the Peace Corps.

Goal 7 — Dedicate funding to support sustainable operations

An earmarked pool of funding to support sustainable operations is necessary to ensure the activities identified in this strategy can be successfully carried out. Funds to support actions such as solar panel installation, water management system upgrades, and use of energy monitoring technology could be used both at our headquarters and at posts.

Goal 8 — Adopt policies to direct sustainable behaviors at the Peace Corps

Enshrining sustainable choices and recommendations in agency policy ensures that our impact will be long lasting and universal. Specifically, setting agency-level policies around such practices as energy choice and use; employee air travel; e-waste recycling and green technology procurement; single-use plastics and/or plant-based plastics requirements; shipping efficiency; and vehicle procurement and usage will not only encourage but ensure that sustainable choices become a regular part of Peace Corps operations.

Other policies may be modified to maximize sustainability. For example, individual and team performance evaluations could be revised to include "contribution to the sustainability mission of the Peace Corps" as an area of consideration. Doing so would provide managers and supervisors with an opportunity to incentivize sustainable behaviors among staff.

Goal 9 — Host events that celebrate sustainability at the Peace Corps

Celebrating our staff during an annual or a biennial rewards-and-acknowledgment initiative would give an opportunity to reinforce the benefits of making sustainable

choices; to uplift the individuals spearheading our sustainability efforts; and to provide new models of sustainable global leadership to current and future Peace Corps employees.

Hosting events that encourage sustainability, climate literacy, and connection to nature such as clothing swaps; in-office farmer's markets; rooftop gardens or pollinator roof plantings; plant or seed giveaways; e-waste recycling drives; and waste-reduction challenges can help support Peace Corps staff in making and enjoying sustainable choices at and outside of work.

Goal 10 — Issue annual agency progress reports on sustainability, from 2025 onward

Understanding our progress as an agency, as well as planning for future needs, will require regular quantitative and qualitative assessments. The Peace Corps will resume annual public reporting of scorecards on Agency-Specific Progress on Sustainability and Climate Resilience Goals,[25] in alignment with federal requirements for larger agencies.

Goal 11 — 100% of Peace Corps staff trained in mitigation, adaptation, and resilience by 2025

To effectively implement the entirety of this strategic approach, all Peace Corps staff need to be literate in the terminology, issues, and landscape of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. Education empowers individual Peace Corps staff members to make the best possible choices to operationalize resilience and adaptation in their daily lives and work.

Increasing environmental literacy in this manner will have cascading positive impacts for both our programming and our operational work, improving staff understanding of sustainability goals and justifications; encouraging sustainability innovations; and increasing staff cohesion by creating a common core of sustainable thinking across all facets of the agency.

Summary

The Peace Corps must increase its readiness to support the members of many of the communities in which it serves, working alongside them to increase their capacity to adapt to the changing global environment to avoid catastrophic disruptions to their livelihoods and ensure resilient, prosperous futures for themselves and their communities. Adopting a climate-resilient development approach will improve the sustainability of development projects in an increasingly unpredictable world ecosystem.

Climate-resilient development helps decision makers and practitioners integrate climate considerations directly into development activities, keeping the focus on achieving development goals despite a changing climate.[26]

For the Peace Corps, such climate considerations are part of a broader re-envisioning by the agency of its approach to its mission. This re-envisioning challenges prior assumptions about the nature of global development, engages with the contemporary dialogue of inclusion and equity, and seeks to affirmatively advance equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity for all.

Peace Corps projects partner with communities to strengthen individual, collective, and organizational capacity to use available resources, knowledge, and skills to achieve locally defined development goals—all while aligning with host countries' national priorities. Doing so requires extraordinary skill and awareness on the part of our Volunteers, who use the Participatory Analysis for Community Action (PACA) methodology to facilitate inclusive, people-centered, grassroots development efforts for long-term, sustainable outcomes.

This PACA methodology guides Volunteers to support communities in addressing increased environmental uncertainties, while making development progress and improving social equity.

Threats to Resilience: Environmental Shocks and Stressors to Peace Corps Communities

We have identified the following key resilience shocks and stressors for Peace Corps programming and activities abroad:

Shocks (individual events that test community resilience) such as:

- **Coastal land loss**
- **Extreme weather events** (e.g., heat waves, cold waves, heavy rains, periods of drought or flooding, and severe storms)
- **Flooding**
- **Landslides**
- **Wildfires**
- **Other disasters** (e.g., earthquakes, volcanic eruptions)

Stressors (ongoing conditions that test community resilience) such as:

- **Air quality**: Affects the health and comfort of community members. Climate-driven weather conditions can increase ground-level pollutants, including dust and smoke.
- **Climate-exacerbated disease**: Diseases that are increasing in either prevalence or presence because of the effects of climate change, such as milder winters, warmer summers, fewer days of frost, or rising water tables. Such diseases include malaria, cholera, dengue fever, and Lyme disease. Many climate-related diseases are linked to worse maternal and neonatal health outcomes.
- **Climate migration**: Movement of people because of climate impacts within and across international borders, which may lead to crises and amplify or accelerate conflict in countries or regions already facing instability and fragility.
- **Climate variability**: Variability may present as more intense precipitation and/or wind, less predictable and more variable weather patterns, or shifting seasonality—all of which can impact food production and food/water availability.
- **Drought**: A period of abnormally dry weather that lasts long enough to cause water shortages for natural systems and people. This can accelerate desertification, lead to food insecurity and conflict, create climate refuges, and contribute significantly to regional instability.
- **Ecosystem decline**: Climate change may exacerbate the stress on land and may force some key species to relocate or go extinct, shifting the ranges of various plant and animal species and impacting environmental food chains and ecological systems and services.

- **Extreme heat**: A period of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90°F (32°C) for at least two to three days.
- **Food security**: Climate impacts people's ability to have both physical and economic access to sufficient food for a productive and healthy life. This can force people to eat unfamiliar food types or migrate to obtain food elsewhere, leading to potential conflict and nutritional or health problems, while potentially contributing to regional instability. These issues are exacerbated for women and girls. In many regions, women bear a greater responsibility for securing food, water, and fuel. Agriculture is the most important employment sector for women in low- and lower-middle income countries, and climate changes lead women and girls to work harder to secure income and resources for their families.[27]
- **Ocean acidification**: The process by which ocean waters become more acidic owing to the absorption of atmospheric carbon dioxide at rates much higher than normal. Acidity reduces the capacity of key plankton species and shelled animals to form and maintain shells, triggering changes in marine food webs that create ecological consequences.
- **Saltwater intrusion**: The movement of salty/saline water into surface or subsurface freshwater, which negatively impacts access to water for drinking, cooking, bathing, and irrigation as well as natural habitats.
- **Sea-level rise**: The process of the thermal expansion of seawater caused by melting mountain glaciers and melting in Greenland and Antarctica, contributing to coastal flooding and more extreme major storm outcomes.

Strategic Objective 3: Programming that Supports Resilient and Sustainable Development

Climate-resilient development enables communities to enhance their resilience by strengthening their capacity to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant threats and hazards with minimum damage to social well-being, the economy, and the environment. It also helps communities to adapt by increasing their capacity to adjust within natural or social systems to a new or changing environment that exploits beneficial opportunities or moderates negative effects.

This strategic objective envisions all Peace Corps Volunteers to be literate in the terminology, issues, and landscape of adaptation, resilience, and global environmental change. This will have positive effects similar to those of Goal 11, which highlights such training for staff.

Strategic Approach: Literacy, Landscape, and Lens

The Peace Corps' approach to climate-resilient development is a three-pronged approach:

- promote **climate literacy**,
- understand the **climate landscape** of the communities it serves, and
- enhance projects with a **climate lens**.

Through this three-pronged approach, activities and projects can be strengthened and continuously adjusted in response to the effects of climate on the social, economic, and/or environmental conditions of host communities.

Goal 12 · 100% of Peace Corps Volunteers trained in adaptation and resilience by 2025

Increasing Volunteer knowledge of climate change and basic climate science will be a catalyst for positive impacts on programming activities and will be essential to creating a common understanding across our agency.

Consistent with the agency's legal authority to do so, we will also offer this training additionally to Virtual Service Pilot Participants, whose experiences and ability to work with our host community partners could be enhanced by increased climate literacy and understanding.

Further, by providing additional resources and training on sustainability, adaptation, and resilience to participants and partner institutions in our World Wise Schools Global Connection and Peace Corps Prep programs, we can prepare rising generations for impactful service in a resilient global future.

Goal 13 · Support 50+ countries to carry out programming in support of adaptation and resilience by 2025

Also, in keeping with Peace Corps commitments made during the Global Citizen event in 2022, at least 50 host countries will, at their request, engage with new or enhanced programming to support adaptation and resilience by 2025, with guidance and support on programming and training provided. In the most vulnerable host countries, this will include working alongside communities to plan and implement activities that contribute to reducing local risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, sustainable use and management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.

Four Pathways to Programming

Peace Corps' six programming sectors and three service models (Volunteers, Peace Corps Response Volunteers, and Virtual Service Pilot Participants) each have a unique opportunity in advancing climate adaptation and resilience and supporting a positive relationship with nature.

Volunteer activities support communities' work to improve livelihoods and food security, to expand environmental awareness, and to decrease environmental degradation. While the majority of the Peace Corps' resilience and adaptation work takes place within the Environment and Agriculture sectors, climate-resilient development applies across all sectors, with Volunteers in the Community Economic Development, Education, Health, and Youth in Development sectors also integrating climate-resilient themes and approaches into their work.

The four pathways to support Peace Corps programming:

1. **Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) Activities** *(All Service Models, All Sectors, All Staff)* Provide guidance to staff and Volunteers for adaptation and resilience activities, complementary to their primary work or assigned sector, that address local climate risks/impacts identified during community assessment. For examples of CARE Activities, see Appendix F.

2. **Integrate Adaptation & Resilience into Sector Projects** *(All Service Models, CED, YD, HE, ED Sectors)* Apply a climate lens to activities in Health, Youth in Development, Community Economic Development, and Education sectors to achieve more sustainable outcomes.

3. **Implement Focused Sector Projects** *(All Service Models, AG & ENV Sectors Only)* Implement Agriculture or Environment sector projects that support climate-resilient development. For example, activities can focus on food and livelihood security; coastal resources management; reforestation; agroforestry; climate-smart agriculture; and nature-based solutions.

4. **Develop Adaptation and Resilience-Specific Assignments** *(Response & Virtual Service Pilot Models Only)* Create Peace Corps Response positions and Virtual Service Pilot opportunities that support host countries in addressing adaptation and resilience at institutional, local, regional, or national levels.

Goal 14 | **Celebrate leadership in adaptation and resilience before, during, and after Peace Corps service and partnership**

Peace Corps touches the lives of all Americans, and our Volunteers are the heart of our work. By elevating the sustainability, adaptation, and resilience leadership and successes of currently serving Volunteers; returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs); returned Peace Corps Response Volunteers (RPCRVs); Virtual Service Pilot participants; and our staff at headquarters and posts, we can provide new models of resilient global leadership to current and future Peace Corps Volunteers.

As we celebrate our staff, Volunteers, and donors, we must also recognize that our work would not be possible without the meaningful efforts of our partners in host countries; to this end, we must also establish specific opportunities to elevate and celebrate the leadership of our host country partners, particularly when those partners represent communities at the frontlines of climate impacts.

Appendix A. Historical Documents

Peace Corps Climate Change Adaptation Policy (2011)

To address the vulnerabilities and risks of climate change, the Peace Corps intends to adopt the following policy framework:

Policy Purpose

The Peace Corps aims to provide leadership in enhancing programs that build capacity and strengthen resilience in the most vulnerable countries where Volunteers serve. Policies, programs, and operations related to climate change are designed to help preserve the Peace Corps' mission, enhance the resilience of climate-sensitive program sectors, reduce risks to the continuity of operations with implications for regional operations, and preserve the health of people and the planet.

Process

Consistent with the framework and principles of Executive Order 13514 and 13653, **the agency will design, implement, monitor, and evaluate programs to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change with meaningful input from offices across the agency**. Peace Corps programs will incorporate the best available science and technology, prioritize the most-vulnerable communities and populations, and integrate adaptation into development plans and programs in a way that maximizes benefits, reduces risks, and increases ecosystem resilience.

The Peace Corps works in collaboration with host country counterparts and partner organizations to achieve host country goals. In the spirit of collaboration, the agency will focus on development and implementation of effective adaptation policies and programs and will promote the integration of adaptation considerations into programs and management initiatives in sectors that will be impacted by climate change, such as agriculture and environment programs, in addition to the health, safety, and security of staff and Volunteers. The Peace Corps will work with other agencies, in particular the U.S. Agency for International Development, and will leverage the technical expertise and financial resources of other agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of State.

The Peace Corps will also integrate adaptation considerations into its operations, including country post logistics and services. The agency will work to leverage existing resources and build systems to measure and monitor the Peace Corps' facilities abroad to conduct long-term planning and minimize operational disruptions caused by climate change. The Peace Corps will establish and maintain a dialogue with interagency partners to exchange information on operational challenges and solutions related to managing the impacts of climate change. The Peace Corps will also work domestically and abroad with communities of practice to further facilitate and promote exchanges on operational best practices in response to climate change. Climate change will be integrated into all sector programming considerations and relevant activities. To achieve this goal, the Peace Corps will recruit, prepare, and train Volunteers who are climate-change informed, understand the human contributions to global warming (including those from the U.S.), and show a commitment to promote climate justice by assisting vulnerable and exposed communities to adapt and build resilience to climate change impacts.

Peace Corps Vision for a Resilient Global Future (2014)

Communities depend on clean air, clean water, healthy soils, trees, and biodiverse resources to help maintain healthy livelihoods. However, a changing environment negatively impacts a community's ability to plan for the future.

To counteract this, Peace Corps Volunteers and staff build host communities' capacity and availability of social resources for diverse adaptation activities.

By applying the same principles of adaptation and resilience to its own operations, the Peace Corps models comprehensive sustainable business-management strategies for Volunteers and host country partners alike.

The Peace Corps aims to provide leadership in enhancing programs that build capacity and strengthen resilience among the most vulnerable communities where Volunteers serve. Policies and programs related to climate change are designed to help preserve the Peace Corps' mission, enhance the resilience of climate-sensitive program sectors, and reduce the agency's risks to the continuity of operations worldwide.

Appendix B. National Context: Executive Orders on Climate (January 2021 – September 2023)

President Biden has signed multiple executive orders relating to climate resilience and adaptation. These include the following, as summarized by *The Hill*:[28]

- Upon inauguration, President Biden signed Executive Order 13990 in January 2021 to conduct an immediate review of all agency actions taken throughout former President Trump's administration as they relate to public health and the environment. The order also placed a temporary moratorium on activities related to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

- Executive Order 14007, signed in January 2021, created a council of advisers on science and technology to enable decisions based on evidence. The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology would consist of a maximum of 26 members to guide the administration's decisions.

- Also in January 2021, the President signed Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, which in part was aimed at prioritizing the crisis in foreign policy and national security decisions. President Biden also called for a government-wide approach for meeting climate-related challenges in the United States and prompted agencies to empower workers to advance reforestation and conservation.

- In February 2021, the President signed Executive Order 14013, Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration. The order directs agencies to report on climate change's impacts on migration patterns, as well as on the security implications of climate migration.

- Also in February of 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14017 to bolster the country's supply chains in the face of global disruptions, such as climate shock and extreme weather events. Rebuilding the country's domestic manufacturing capacity will also result in less distance traveled for goods, cutting down on the use of fossil fuels for shipping and transportation.

- May of 2021 saw the creation of the Climate Change Support Office via Executive Order 14027. The temporary office will be part of the Department of State and serve to advance the country's efforts to meet the global climate crisis. It will also support the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, the first of whom is John Kerry, the former Secretary of State under former President Obama.

- Executive Order 14030 was also signed in May 2021. Climate-Related Financial Risk aimed to advance disclosure of climate-related financial risk information, including that of transitional and physical risks. It would also account for the disparate impact of climate change on underserved communities and communities of color.

- In August 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14037, Strengthening American Leadership in Clean Cars and Trucks. As part of this order, by 2030 half of all new passenger cars and light trucks sold in 2030 will be zero-emission. The order also called on the EPA administrator to consider rule making under the Clean Air Act to establish new emissions standards for certain vehicles manufactured between 2027 and 2030.

- In November 2021, Executive Order 14052 implemented the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Act aims to improve access to safe drinking water, advance environmental justice, and invest in underserved communities. These actions will be achieved through numerous initiatives such as building resilient infrastructure and

coordinating with state and tribal governments to better target interventions.

- In December 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14057, Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability. The move bolsters the country's efforts to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 and aims to achieve 100% carbon-pollution-free electricity by 2030. The order also involves provisions aimed at training and educating the federal workforce to incorporate sustainability and climate adaptation into their work.

- As part of Executive Order 14067, Ensuring Responsible Development of Digital Assets, signed in March 2022, the President directed appropriate agencies to research how certain technologies impede or advance efforts to combat climate change and investigate the potential use of blockchain technology to monitor or mitigate climate impacts.

- Signed on Earth Day 2022, Executive Order 14072 looks to strengthen the nation's forests by pursuing sustainable and science-based land management. The government will collaborate with local and Tribal governments, along with the scientific community, to do so. It will also work to promote forest resilience on federal lands and promote sustainable local economic development.

Appendix C. Peace Corps Strategic Plan (2022 – 2026) Alignment

This strategy addresses multiple goals of the Peace Corps, including the integration of climate change into Peace Corps operations and programming, and presents opportunities to align our activities with some of our stated performance goals.

Performance Goal 1.2 – Contribute to Host Country Efforts to Combat Climate Change

- **Goal**: "The agency will develop a programmatic approach to integrate climate change activities into all sectors and service models. The Peace Corps will incorporate climate change programming into the annual agency planning and budgeting cycle. Further, the agency will develop strategies to recruit Volunteers with an expressed interest in climate change and strengthen staff and Volunteer capacity to design and implement evidence-informed, climate-resilient programming at both national and community-levels."

- **Opportunity**: The *Strategy to Secure a Resilient Global Future* would be an opportunity to expand climate-related programming across all sectors and service models within Peace Corps that are consistent with the agency's legal authority.

Performance Goal 1.4 – Expand Peace Corps Response

- **Goal**: "Initially created in 1996 as Crisis Corps, Peace Corps Response (PCR) allows Peace Corps posts to request Volunteers with specialized skills to serve in short-term, high-impact assignments . . . expanding the reach of the PCR program is crucial to reimagining service, as PCR Volunteers are uniquely positioned to meet host country requests for more specialized Volunteers."

- **Opportunity**: Resilient Global Future Implementation Plans in the Office of Global Operations and the Office of Overseas Programming and Training Support could include expanded opportunities for engaging qualified U.S. citizens in Peace Corps Response and the Virtual Service Pilot, where consistent with the agency's legal authority to do so.

Performance Goal 1.5 – Advance Alternative Service Models

- **Goal**: "Virtual service expands potential opportunities to meet host country partner needs, increase the placement of uniquely skilled Volunteers, and provide support to host country partners using technology. Virtual service also allows the Peace Corps to reduce service barriers for Americans, including financial, medical, personal, or other reasons that limit a qualified person's ability to serve in person."

- **Opportunity**: As in PG 1.4, Resilient Global Future Implementation Plans in the Office of Global Operations and the Office of Overseas Programming and Training Support could contain expanded opportunities for engaging qualified U.S. citizens in Peace Corps Response and the Virtual Service Pilot, where consistent with the agency's legal authority to do so.

Performance Goal 1.8 – Volunteer Service Initiatives (now: Host Country Volunteerism)

- **Goal**: "The Host Country Volunteerism program will support leaders and organizations to implement inclusive volunteerism principles and sustainable service initiatives. The program will support mutual learning and sharing among a network of Peace Corps staff, Volunteers, and host country partners in the design of systems, structures, and activities to increase community service of host country citizens across sectors, such as youth in development, health, and community resilience."

- **Opportunity**: Resilient Global Future Implementation Plans in the Office of Global Operations and the Office of Overseas Programming and Training Support could contain expanded opportunities for supporting host country priorities relating to adaptation and resilience through partnership with host country volunteerism initiatives.

Performance Goal 2.1 – Diversify the Volunteer Corps

- **Goal**: "Establishing a Volunteer corps that reflects the diversity of America is an integral aspect of advancing the Peace Corps mission. This performance goal will establish and strengthen systems that attract historically underserved communities to Peace Corps service and support them through their close of service (COS)."

- **Opportunity**: Implementation plans in the offices of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection and Peace Corps Response, and the Office of Overseas Programming and Training Support could identify ways to increase the appeal of service among members of frontline environmental justice communities, who possess unique experiences with resilience and adaptation, and who are historically underrepresented in the Volunteer corps. Specifically, this strategy presents an opportunity to support effective outreach to Indigenous communities and Afro-descendant communities with a simplified and equitable application process that identifies diverse lived experiences that have been traditionally overlooked and/or diminished.

Performance Goal 2.4 – Integrate Equity

- **Goal**: "Through evaluating current practices and developing endorsed benchmarks, resources, and accountability mechanisms, it aims to foster an enabling environment that champions intercultural competence, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (ICDEIA) across the agency."

- **Opportunity**: Securing a resilient global future means securing a shared global future; thus, by its nature, accomplishing this goal will require us to incorporate equity throughout our programming, operations, and administrative efforts. Resilient Global Future Implementation Plans in the Global Office of Belonging & Equity (GLOBE), the Office of Staff Learning & Development (OSLD), the Office of Human Resources (OHR), the Office of Global Operations (OGO), the Management Office, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) can identify opportunities to leverage resilience to advance internal equity.

Performance Goal 2.5 – Expand Third Goal Engagement

- **Goal**: "The Office of the Third Goal has set a concrete target for reaching communities in the United States with Title I eligible schools. By prioritizing these communities, the Peace Corps will broaden access to learning about the transformative power of intercultural connections and provide concrete examples of how individuals from diverse backgrounds can successfully work together toward common goals."

- **Opportunity**: Resilient Global Future Implementation Plans in the Office of the Third Goal can be leveraged to create new opportunities after service to engage Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in resilience and adaptation activities, particularly in ways that engage recruits from frontline environmental justice communities in the United States. .

Performance Goal 3.5 – Promote Collaboration & Effectiveness

- **Goal**: "As a global agency with presence in over 60 countries, it is imperative that the Peace Corps continues to evolve and exhibit excellence in interoffice, international, and cross-cultural collaboration. While offices and posts each play roles in achieving the Peace Corps' mission of world peace and friendship, no office or post can do it alone."

- **Opportunity**: The *Strategy to Secure a Resilient Global Future* inherently requires cross-office collaboration within the Peace Corps, as well as close intercultural collaboration with host country partners and counterparts. Implementation plans associated with the strategy could also create office and role-specific training plans for improving collaboration and effectiveness both internally and externally at the Peace Corps.

Performance Goal 3.8 – Standardize Practices Across Posts

- **Goal**: "This performance goal seeks to identify key post-level policies, practices, and resources that, if standardized, would enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, and integration of equity into the Peace Corps' business practices across posts (complementing Performance Goal 2.4)."

- **Opportunity**: At present, sustainability and resilience activities are being implemented irregularly across posts, with varying approaches, frameworks, and efficacy. The *Strategy to Secure a Resilient Global Future* provides clear direction for establishing standardized, sustainable operations across posts in alignment with federal guidelines.

Appendix D. Federal Guidance Alignment

This strategic plan outlines the positioning, posture, and approach of the Peace Corps with regard to resilience and adaptation to the risks and realities of global environmental change, in alignment with the following federal guidance:

- Federal Sustainability Plan
- President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation & Resilience (PREPARE)
- The Long-Term Strategy of the United States
- Executive Order 13990 (Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis)
- Executive Order 14008 (Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad)
- Executive Order 14057 (Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability)
- Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful

The Peace Corps has also sought to align its strategic plan with those of our peer agencies in the United States government, including the following:

- The National Global Change Research Plan 2022–2031
- USAID Climate Change Strategy 2022–2030
- Department of State – Office of Global Change Strategy
- Millennium Challenge Corporation – Climate Strategy
- USDA Climate Hubs Strategic Plan 2020–2025

The Peace Corps further seeks alignment with the following international accords, ascribed to by the United States:

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Declaration of the Regional Conference of the Americas (Preparatory meeting for the Third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance), held in Santiago, Chile, in 2000
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Paris Agreement

Appendix E. Key Term Definitions

All definitions following reflect the United States Global Change Research Program glossary[29] standards, unless cited or indicated otherwise.

General Terms

- **Climate**: Long-term average patterns in weather conditions in a given geographic area.
- **Climate change**: Changes in average weather conditions that persist over multiple decades or longer. Climate change encompasses both increases and decreases in temperature, as well as temporal and spatial shifts in precipitation, changing risk of certain types of severe weather events, and changes to other features of the climate system.
- **Global change**: Changes in the global environment that may alter the capacity of the Earth to sustain life. Global change encompasses climate change, but it also includes other critical drivers of environmental change that may interact with climate change, such as land use change, the alteration of the water cycle, changes in biogeochemical cycles, and biodiversity loss.
- **Global warming**: The observed increase in average temperature near the Earth's surface and in the lowest layer of the atmosphere. In common usage, global warming often refers to the warming that has occurred as a result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities. Global warming is a type of climate change; it can also lead to other changes in climate conditions, such as changes in precipitation patterns.
- **Weather**: Immediate atmospheric conditions in a given area at a given time, with regard to temperature, precipitation, moisture, wind, etc.

Climate Change Terms

- **Adaptation**: Adjustment in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment that exploits beneficial opportunities or moderates negative effects.
- **Adaptive capacity**: The potential of a system to adjust to climate change (including climate variability and extremes) to moderate potential damages, take advantage of opportunities, and cope with the consequences.
- **Climate anxiety**: The American Psychological Association (APA) defines climate anxiety as "a chronic fear of environmental doom." In 2020, environmental non-profit Friends of the Earth estimated that over two-thirds of young people (18-24 year olds) experience climate anxiety.[30]
- **Mitigation**: Measures to reduce the amount and speed of future climate change by reducing emissions of heat-trapping gases or removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- **Preparedness**: Actions taken to build, apply, and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, and ameliorate negative effects.
- **Resilience**: A capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, the economy, and the environment.
- **Vulnerability**: The degree to which physical, biological, and socio-economic systems are susceptible to and unable to cope with adverse impacts of climate change.

Nature Crisis Terms

- **Biodiversity**: The diversity of life on earth, from genes to species to ecosystems.
- **Ecosystem**: All the living things in a particular area, as well as components of the physical environment with which they interact, such as air, soil, water, and sunlight.
- **Ecosystem services**: The benefits produced by ecosystems on which people depend, including, for example, fisheries, drinking water, fertile soils for growing crops, climate regulation, and aesthetic and cultural value.
- **Invasive species**: A non-native organism whose introduction within a particular ecosystem causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health.
- **Nature-based solutions**: Actions to: (1) protect, conserve, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems or (2) plan engineering practices that integrate natural features or process into the built environment, to address social, economic, and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being, resilience, ecosystem services, and biodiversity benefits.
- **Ocean acidification**: The process by which ocean waters have become more acidic because of the absorption of human-produced carbon dioxide, which interacts with ocean water to form carbonic acid and lower the ocean's pH. Acidity reduces the capacity of key plankton species and shelled animals to form and maintain shells.

Renewable Energy & Just Transition Terms

- **Carbon capture and storage**: The process of capturing carbon dioxide and injecting it into geologic formations underground for long-term storage.
- **Carbon sequestration**: Storage of carbon through natural or technological processes in biomass or in deep geological formations.
- **Frontline communities**: Those communities that experience climate change first and often feel the worst effects. They are communities that have higher exposures, are more sensitive, and are less able to adapt to climate change impacts for a variety of reasons.
- **Greenhouse gases**: Gases that absorb heat in the atmosphere near the Earth's surface, preventing the heat from escaping into space. If the atmospheric concentrations of these gases rise, the average temperature of the lower atmosphere will gradually increase, a phenomenon known as the greenhouse effect. Greenhouse gases include, for example, carbon dioxide, water vapor, and methane.

- **Just transition**: A framework by which the rights and well-being of marginalized individuals, communities, and workers are protected during the global transition toward renewable energy.

Environmental Justice Terms

- **Afro-descendants/Afrodescendientes**: A term used to describe peoples of African ancestry who live in the Americas and in the region of the African Diaspora as a result of slavery[31] and who have been systematically thwarted in the enjoyment and exercise of their fundamental rights.[32]
- **Environmental justice**: The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.
- **Indigenous**: A term used to describe peoples having first-order connections (usually at small scale) between group and locality. It connotes belonging and originalness and deeply felt processes of attachment and identification, and thus it distinguishes "natives" from others.[33] It can be further predicated on a combination of factors, including: (1) original, communally held or recognized tenure, ownership, stewardship, or control of a discrete spatial territory (land/sea/inland water); (2) cultural/physical/spiritual sense of connectedness to place; (3) deep ecological knowledge of place built from multigenerational data-gathering (transmission of said data is usually conducted only under conditions requiring embeddedness in the Indigenous culture) with the intent of maximizing the long-term sustainable use of a local ecology; (4) ongoing, relatively continuous adherence to specific lifeways (e.g., systems of governance, subsistence, culture, or communication), which are practiced in recognizably similar or connected forms over multiple generations.

- **Indigenous knowledge**: A body of observations, oral and written knowledge, innovations, practices, and beliefs developed by Tribes and Indigenous peoples through interaction and experience with the environment.[34] It is applied to phenomena across biological, physical, social, cultural, and spiritual systems. Indigenous knowledge can be developed over millennia, continues to develop, and includes understanding based on evidence acquired through direct contact with the environment and long-term experiences, as well as extensive observations, lessons, and skills passed from generation to generation. Indigenous knowledge is developed by Indigenous peoples including, but not limited to, Tribal Nations, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Each Tribe or Indigenous community has its own place-based body of knowledge that may overlap with that of other Tribes.
- **Subsistence**: Taken broadly, refers to any human system that seeks to secure survival and flourishing within particular ecosystems. In some legal and policy contexts, the term may be used more narrowly to refer to the provision of food that is a necessary part of a household's or a community's regular diet or legal entitlements to harvesting rights in particular situations. In some contexts, subsistence means the harvest or use of natural resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, transportation, or production of handicrafts for customary and traditional trade, barter, or sharing.
- **Traditional ecological knowledge**: Knowledge that (1) has a patterned distribution, (2) is about how to interact with the local environment, (3) is shared by members of the same cultural group, and (4) is transmitted across generations.[35]

Appendix F. Community Adaptation and Resilience Activity Examples

Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) Activities and Climate Impact Linkages

Cross-cutting SDGs
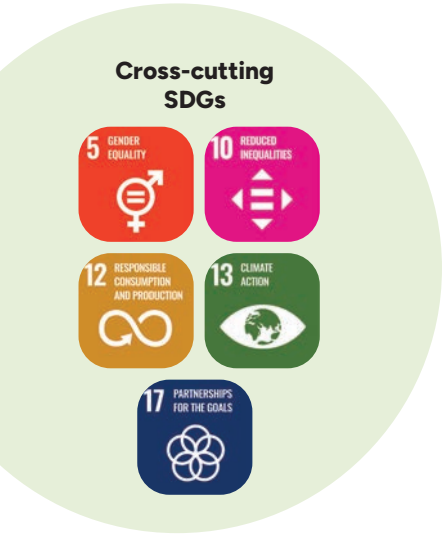
		Climate Information and Education				Food Security				Water Security			
		Environmental education (which may include experiential learning with tree-growing, gardening, or other topics)	Climate literacy integrated into education programming	Youth club/camp supporting climate action (which may include experiential learning with tree-growing, gardening, or other topics)	Weather station	School gardens to contribute to agriculture or school feeding program	Growing trees for food generation (agro-forestry)	Nutrition classes	Composting for improved food production	Rainwater harvesting	Rain gardens	Access to potable water	Bed nets
Shocks	Forest Fires	●	●	●	●								
	Tornadoes	●	●	●	●								
	Hurricanes	●	●	●	●								
	Cyclones	●	●	●	●								
	Flash Flooding	●	●	●	●					●	●		
	Landslides	●	●	●	●								
	Land Loss (Coastal)	●	●	●	●								
Stressors	Irregular Weather Patterns	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
	Drought/Dry Periods	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
	Ecological Degradation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
	Zoonoses (Diseases)	●	●	●									●
	Extreme Heat	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
	Air Quality	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
	Lower Agricultural Production	●	●	●	●					●			
	Ocean Acidification	●	●	●	●								
	Sea Level Rise	●	●	●	●								
	Climate Migration	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				

Hygiene (handwashing with soap and other similar activities)	Sanitation (latrines and tippy taps)	Solid waste management (with links to extreme heat and climate-related impacts)	Adapting small businesses for climate impacts	Climate-smart income generating activities	Financial literacy	Growing trees to mitigate extreme heat	Growing trees to stabilize slopes and counter erosion	Growing trees to support and manage inland flooding	Growing mangrove trees to support coastal resilience	Eco-stoves	Trainings for the community to support resilience	Cultural resilience planning	Mapping of hazards	Development of disaster risk management planning for host country organizational development	Supporting early warning system development	Activities that contribute to preparedness for climate shocks (Other)
			●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●
			●	●	●						●	●	●	●	●	●
			●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
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