



**acted**



# Climate & Environment

# Framework

# 2026-2030





# foreword from the ceo

Wherever Acted operates, we witness how people's lives, livelihoods and ecosystems are increasingly shaped by the accelerating climate and environmental crisis. This reality compels us to rethink how we respond, how we support long-term resilience, and how we operate as an organisation.

From the very beginning, Acted has worked at the intersection of urgent human needs and constrained environments. Early on, this meant asking difficult questions: how to meet essential

needs, such as energy in crisis contexts, while recognising the pressures placed on already fragile ecosystems. This tension has never disappeared. Today, it has become central. It is no longer a question at the margins of our work; it is at the core of our identity.

Acted is today one of the few international organisations working simultaneously across humanitarian response, development pathways, and environmental action. This position brings both responsibility and opportunity: to break silos that traditionally separate programmes, operations, research, policy dialogue and

financing, and to influence how these come together at scale. Across our countries of intervention, climate pressures now intersect with conflict, poverty and fragility in ways that intensify humanitarian crises and undermine development gains. A growing understanding guides our work: the human crisis and the planetary crisis are inseparable. We cannot support people without sustaining the ecosystems they depend on. Their resilience is one of the same, and so must be our response.

In recent years, Acted has taken important steps in climate adaptation and mitigation, reducing its environmental



footprint, expanding its climate and environment programming, and strengthening its role in climate and impact investment. These efforts have confirmed a fundamental shift: environmental responsibility is not an add-on, rather, a transformation in how we design programmes, manage risks, measure impact and investment. This shift strengthens Acted's role as a catalytic climate and impact finance actor, particularly in high-risk environments where climate finance is most needed yet rarely flows.

This transformation also requires us to go beyond our own actions. To achieve the scale required, we must actively influence the practices of the wider ecosystem, partners, institutions, public and private actors alike, so that climate and environmental responsibility becomes a shared standard.

This is why the environment must now become the second nature of our organisation. It must inform how we recruit and train our teams; how we procure goods and services; how we operate; and how we build partnerships. It cannot sit in a single team - it must be embedded across every pillar of Acted and reflected in all that we do, in our organisational DNA.

Anchored in our 3ZERO vision - Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty - the Climate and Environment Framework 2026-2030 sets out how we will deepen this transformation. It reinforces our role as a global convener through the 3ZERO ecosystem; embeds environmental responsibility across our operations and scales climate-resilient solutions for the communities most exposed to risks.

Acted works on the frontline of climate impacts. With this framework, we also choose to stand on the frontline of climate solutions, together with the communities we serve, the partners we collaborate with, and the ecosystems we seek to influence. I am confident that, united in this purpose, we can meet the challenges ahead with ambition, determination, and a commitment to lasting change.

**Marie-Pierre CALEY**  
Co-founder & CEO



Photo: Afghanistan

# executive summary

The climate and environmental crisis is rapidly reshaping the contexts where Acted operates, particularly across fragile and crisis-affected regions. Communities face growing exposure to droughts, floods, land degradation, biodiversity loss and water scarcity. These pressures interact with conflict, poverty and displacement, amplifying needs and undermining livelihoods. Globally, between 3.3 and 3.6 billion people live in highly climate-vulnerable settings, with fragile and conflict-affected contexts among the most exposed. Responding to these interconnected challenges requires going beyond immediate crisis response to support long-term, inclusive and sustainable pathways.



Acted began this transition with its Greening Strategy 2021–2025, which established the foundations for change. Over this period, Acted institutionalised **annual carbon footprint reporting**, significantly reduced emissions from energy by **68%** and travel by **53%**, and **doubled** the share of climate and environmental programming within its portfolio. At the same time, the organisation strengthened its role in **climate and impact finance**, including **accreditation to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)**, the issuance of a €10 million sustainability bond, and the expansion of green lending

and blended finance initiatives. Building on these foundations, the Climate and Environment Framework 2026-2030 marks a shift from incremental greening to **organisation-wide transformation**.

Driven by the ambition

**“Act on climate crises, invest in climate solutions,”**

the framework positions Acted as both an **operational actor** and a **convener and catalyst**, working to influence systems, mobilise partnerships, and unlock finance at scale, particularly in high-risk contexts where climate finance

remains limited. Acted’s added value lies in its ability to **operate across the full contiguum** - from humanitarian response to development programming and investment - linking local **knowledge, operational presence** and **financial innovation** to scale solutions in contexts where few actors can operate effectively.

The framework provides a structured pathway to embed climate and environmental responsibility across programmes, operations, partnerships and investments, translating strategic commitments into a coherent and actionable approach.

The framework is structured around

## 3 strategic pillars



### ENGAGE

a 3ZERO ecosystem

This pillar focuses on mobilising a broad ecosystem of actors to co-design and implement climate and environmental solutions. Climate crises require collective responses involving communities, civil society, governments, private sector actors, research institutions and donors. Acted aims to strengthen its role as a convener through its 3ZERO ecosystem, fostering collaboration and innovation to support climate action across at least 50 countries by 2030.



### TRANSFORM

organisational practices

This pillar focuses on embedding environmental responsibility across all operations and programmes. Acted aims to implement a comprehensive Environmental Management System aligned with international standards across all missions and support functions, while cutting its absolute greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030.



### SCALE

climate and environmental solutions

This pillar focuses on expanding climate and environmental programming across the contexts where Acted operates. Acted aims to ensure that at least 30% of its global portfolio contributes to climate mitigation and adaptation by 2030, while mobilising at least €350 million in climate finance, including €30-50 million through catalytic, impact-oriented investment instruments designed to unlock private capital in high-risk environments.



Photo: Syria



# ENGAGE a 3ZERO ecosystem

By 2030, Acted strengthens its role as a convener through its 3ZERO ecosystem to co-design and deliver collective climate and environmental action across 50 countries.

Climate crises are systemic by nature. They cut across sectors, mandates and borders, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable while requiring collective responses that no single organisation can deliver alone. Addressing them requires moving beyond fragmented approaches towards coordinated, multi-actor action. The 3ZERO ecosystem brings together a broad community of actors

working towards a shared vision of Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon and Zero Poverty. This includes citizens and grassroots actors, youth movements, civil society organisations, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), social and impact entrepreneurs, private sector actors as well as local authorities, national governments, research institutions, international organisations, and donors.

Through this pillar, Acted strengthens its role as an ecosystem convener, facilitating alignment, fostering collaboration, and helping shape shared priorities to catalyse systemic change. Beyond its operational role, Acted will increasingly act as a bridge between actors, enabling dialogue, sourcing solutions, and supporting collective action at scale.

## 1. From project delivery to ecosystem convening

### Thinking outside the box,

Acted has consistently demonstrated its convening capacity beyond siloed traditional types of collaborations in the sector. One example is Acted's multi-year partnerships with research institutes in Lebanon, resulting in gap filling analyses on the state of water resources which inform concrete adaptation and awareness programs as well as

policy making. Similarly, Acted regularly creates spaces for ideation, dialogue, and shared learning, bringing together trailblazers and decision-makers around topics such as coastal resilience, resource preservation, and circular economy transitions. To help Lebanese businesses switch to circularity, it is essential to start by re-shaping business plans. For this, Acted partners

with a renowned business school, leveraging the highest quality expertise otherwise not accessible to small and medium enterprises. Acted is also gradually strengthening its role as a bridge builder between donors and investors, helping improve alignment between public, philanthropic and private capital actors whenever relevant.

By 2030, Acted will therefore embed structured ecosystem engagement within its Country Strategies, ensuring that climate and environmental action is grounded in multi-actor collaboration at territorial level. This includes:

**Connecting** local communities and civil society with national policy processes

**Fostering** integrated approaches across humanitarian, development and environmental actors

**Supporting** co-designed, locally grounded climate initiatives

**Aligning** public and private actors around climate financing priorities

**By strengthening ecosystem dynamics at local level, Acted aims to reinforce ownership, accountability and long-term sustainability of climate action.**

## 2. Anchoring local action in global climate dialogue

Acted's ecosystem approach is rooted in local realities but connected to the global agenda. Through its convening platforms, notably the **3ZERO Houses** and **Convergences Forums**, Acted will strengthen the articulation between territorial ecosystems and global climate agendas. Guided by its “think local, act global” approach, Acted works to identify, support and source locally driven solutions, while connecting them to global dialogue, partnerships and opportunities for scale and influence.

Between 2026 and 2030, Acted will act as a connector and matchmaker across actors, geographies and levels of action around shared climate challenges. It will also facilitate cross-country peer learning, enabling actors facing similar climate risks to exchange practices, adapt solutions and build collective intelligence beyond borders.

This includes:



Connecting a network of at least 15 **3ZERO Houses** and partner hubs



Organising over 400 climate dialogue events by 2030



Engaging more than 12,000 participants each year



Identifying, documenting and disseminating practical climate solutions to support replication and scale.

Through Pillar 1, Acted affirms that climate transformation is not only technical or financial - it is collective and systemic. Achieving scale requires engaging and influencing the wider ecosystem to enable coordinated and sustained climate action.



Photo: 3ZERO House Kenya



# TRANSFORM

## organisational practices

By 2030, Acted embeds a comprehensive Environmental Management System within all operations and programmes, while reducing its absolute greenhouse gas emissions by 50%.

Acted operates in environments where climate and environmental pressures directly affect the communities it serves. At the same time, its own operations - through procurement, energy use, transport and supply chains - generate environmental impacts. Addressing this dual responsibility requires both reducing emissions and systematically integrating

environmental considerations into all aspects of decision-making.

Through this pillar, Acted moves from progressive improvements to a structured, of its practices. It combines ambitious emissions reduction targets with the implementation of a comprehensive Environmental Management System (EMS), ensuring that environmental

responsibility is embedded throughout all missions, functions and programmes.

Acted will also progressively share its tools, methodologies and lessons learned with partners throughout its ecosystem, reinforcing its role as a convener and contributing to the wider adoption of responsible environmental practices.

## 1. Integrating environmental standards within all operations

Under the 2026-2030 framework, Acted will establish a comprehensive **Environmental Management System (EMS)** that embeds environmental standards within all aspects of its operations and project cycles. It establishes a consistent approach to managing environmental risks and impacts, ensuring that

environmental responsibility is systematically embedded throughout the organisation.

Acted's EMS will be aligned with internationally recognised standards, notably the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards, which provide a

robust framework for identifying, mitigating and monitoring environmental and social risks. This alignment strengthens the quality, credibility and consistency of Acted's environmental practices across diverse operational contexts

The EMS will include:

- **Early identification** and assessment of environmental risks
- **Integration** of mitigation measures into project design and operations
- **Continuous monitoring** and reporting of environmental performance
- **Regular review** and improvement of practices.

The EMS will apply at all levels of the organisation, from country offices to headquarters, and all sectors of intervention. It will support more consistent decision-making by providing clear standards, processes and tools for staff, while also strengthening internal accountability mechanisms. In practice, this means that environmental considerations will be systematically integrated into project design, procurement, logistics, infrastructure management and day-to-day operations. The EMS will also clarify expectations for partners and suppliers, progressively strengthening environmental due diligence throughout Acted's operational chain.

**By aligning internal systems and practices, the EMS enables Acted to move from fragmented approaches to a coherent, organisation-wide standard for environmental performance.**

## 2. Advancing decarbonisation across operations

Building on progress achieved since 2021, Acted will accelerate efforts to reduce its carbon footprint across all emission scopes, in line with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG). This transition reflects a shift from isolated mitigation measures towards a more systematic approach to decarbonisation throughout all operational activities.

Key operational areas, including procurement, transport, energy use and construction, represent the most significant sources of emissions and therefore the greatest opportunities for reduction. Acted will prioritise targeted interventions across these areas, scaling proven solutions while adapting approaches to the constraints of fragile and crisis-affected contexts.



This include:  
**Transitioning** to renewable and energy-efficient solutions wherever feasible



**Strengthening** sustainable procurement by promoting local sourcing and embedding a 10% sustainability and ESG weighting into procurement tenders



**Optimising** transport and logistics to reduce emissions throughout supply chains



**Reducing** waste and improving resource efficiency across offices and programmes

### Acted's Decarbonisation Roadmap at a Glance

Acted is committed to cutting its organisational emissions by **50% by 2030** from a 2021 baseline of 92,600 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, having already reduced **energy related emissions by 68%** and **travel emissions by 53%** by 2024.

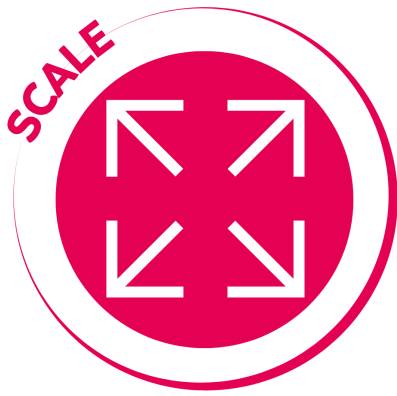
Acted's pathway focuses on concrete measures:

- Greener procurement of food and NFIs
- Bioclimatic design and use of sustainable materials
- Efficiency, solarisation, and cleaner gases
- Optimised freight, direct flights, and increased local sourcing

This roadmap drives Acted's 3ZERO vision of embedding sustainability throughout operations and making decarbonisation a core pillar of responsible impact.



Through Pillar 2, Acted embeds environmental responsibility at the core of its operations, translating commitments into consistent practices, strengthening organisational accountability, and ensuring that environmental performance becomes a standard dimension of how we operate throughout all contexts



# SCALE

## climate and environmental solutions

By 2030, Acted scales climate and environmental solutions, expanding its programming and mobilising finance at scale, while directing at least 30% of its portfolio towards climate action and raising €350 million in climate finance, including €30–50 million through catalytic investment instruments, to deliver impact at scale for the communities most exposed to climate risks.

Building on the 3ZERO ecosystems (pillar 1) and internal environment management systems strengthened (pillar 2), pillar 3 focuses on resourcing and scaling locally grounded solutions, connecting them to the knowledge, partnerships and financing required to achieve impact at scale.

### 1. Expanding climate and environmental programming

In many of the contexts where Acted operates, climate pressures intersect with fragility, conflict and insecurity, intensifying competition over already limited resources and increasing vulnerability. These dynamics are further compounded by demographic growth, which

places increasing pressure on already limited natural resources. In this context, Acted will scale up its climate and environmental programming to deliver integrated, context-adapted solutions that strengthen resilience across both communities and ecosystems.

This expansion reflects a shift from integrating environmental considerations within projects to developing dedicated, large-scale programmes that address climate mitigation, adaptation and ecosystem resilience in a more systematic and integrated way.

By 2030, Acted will:



**Ensure that at least 30% of its portfolio** contributes to climate mitigation, adaptation and environmental protection



**Focus its programming on key areas** including collaborative and resilient ecosystem management, citizen-driven climate action, sustainable infrastructure, and circular economy



**Support at least 10 million people** globally through climate and environmental programmes

Within these priorities, Acted will expand beyond its current areas of expertise, such as rangeland restoration, water and energy efficiency, watershed management, and circular economy, by developing context-specific approaches tailored to local ecosystems. Working across

diverse environments, including coastal zones, river basins, forests, drylands, agricultural and urban systems, Acted will strengthen the link between ecosystem health and socio-economic resilience. In practice, this includes expanding into areas such as soil restoration in degraded and conflict-affected

contexts, coastal resilience, bioclimatic infrastructure, urban greening, and nature-based solutions for water management, building in particular on Acted's water and sanitation expertise to advance integrated approaches in rapidly growing urban environments.

In parallel, Acted will strengthen the generation and dissemination of evidence to support the scaling of effective solutions. This includes developing, testing and documenting locally adapted solutions in partnership with governments, research institutions and the private sector, as well as reinforcing technical partnerships through the 3ZERO ecosystem. By publishing results and methodologies, Acted will contribute to bridging the research–practice gap and enabling replication across contexts.

## 2. Mobilising climate finance and investment

A key challenge remains ensuring that climate finance reaches the “**first mile**”, i.e. local actors and communities who are most exposed to climate risks but often least able to access funding. Acted will strengthen its role as a catalytic actor by mobilising and connecting public, philanthropic and private finance to bring proven solutions to scale, particularly in fragile and high-risk contexts. This includes expanding the use of financial instruments such

as green and sustainability-linked lending, blended finance mechanisms, guarantees and revolving funds, which help reduce investment risks and make climate solutions more viable in challenging environments. At the same time, Acted will continue to strengthen its internal capacities to structure, manage and monitor climate finance interventions, ensuring strong environmental and social safeguards and alignment with international standards.

By 2030, Acted will:



Mobilise at least €350 million in climate finance



Channel €30-50 million through catalytic, impact-oriented investment instruments



Build long-term partnerships with investors, development finance institutions and other financial actors

### Acted's approach to water scarcity

Water scarcity is a growing challenge across many of the fragile and climate-affected contexts where Acted operates, driven by climate variability, environmental degradation and increasing demand. Acted addresses water scarcity through integrated, ecosystem-based and systems-level approaches. Through the **THRIVE initiative**, active since 2018 in twelve countries, Acted implements large-scale rangeland restoration programmes

adapted to local ecological and social conditions. These include planned grazing, soil and water conservation measures such as half-moons and bunds, farmer-managed natural regeneration, and targeted reseeded. By improving soil structure and vegetation cover, these interventions increase water infiltration, reduce runoff, and help recharge local water systems, while also sequestering carbon. In parallel, Acted promotes climate-resilient integrated water resource

management (IWRM) to address growing pressure on groundwater. This includes strengthening institutional capacities, improving monitoring systems, developing predictive models, and integrating climate data into planning. By combining improved governance, climate-resilient infrastructure, and climate-smart agriculture and ecosystem-based practices, Acted contributes to reducing water demand and safeguarding water resources for future generations.



Photo: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Through this approach, Acted will act as both a convener and a bridge between communities, donors and investors, connecting locally developed solutions with the resources and partnerships required to scale them and contributing to more effective and inclusive climate finance.

Through Pillar 3, Acted moves from piloting solutions to scaling impact, mobilising finance, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that climate and environmental solutions reach the communities most exposed to risk, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

# acted Global Action Plan

2026 2027 2028 2029 2030

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
ENGAGE	500 unique participants involved in 3ZERO platforms (events, dialogues, co-design) over the course of the year	8 3ZERO Houses or operational and active <sup>1</sup> partner hubs  10 countries taking part in documented transnational exchanges (peer learning, workshops or joint projects)	At least 15 countries establish a climate and environmental multi-stakeholder dialogue initiative <sup>2</sup>	6 documented and published local climate solutions by 2029 <sup>3</sup>  ≥1 co-led climate initiative per country	2,000 participants engaged per year  ≥400 interconnected global climate events by 2030  15 3ZERO Houses and partner hubs by 2030
TRANSFORM	At least two countries pilot the integration of 10% sustainability criteria in procurement tenders EMS roadmap developed	10% sustainability criteria in procurement tenders rolled out across all missions  20% of new construction projects apply bioclimatic design principles  100% of Acted policies and operational manuals updated to integrate EMS procedures  Environmental risk management integrated in all relevant Acted management processes as documented through internal audit	60% of procurement tenders aligned with low-carbon and circular procurement approaches  At least 50% of construction projects apply bioclimatic design principles  Environmental screening conducted on 100% of new projects and operational mitigation measures implemented	80% of procurement tenders aligned with low-carbon and circular procurement approaches  At least 75% of international flights are direct where feasible  External audit of EMS carried out	100% of procurement tenders apply 10% sustainability criteria  Overall electricity consumption reduced by 40% (as compared to 2024)  At least 40% of electricity sourced from renewable energy  90% of EMS KPIs met in the annual performance report  50% <sup>4</sup> reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
SCALE	3 million people supported through adaptation and mitigation interventions  €100 million mobilised in climate finance	5 million people supported through adaptation and mitigation interventions  2 research papers published on innovations in climate adaptation or mitigation  Technical guidance notes or practitioner guides developed for adaptation or mitigation pathways  Impact measurement frameworks for at least of Acted's flagship approaches developed  €170 million mobilised in climate finance	8 million people supported through adaptation and mitigation interventions  Engagement in global climate, biodiversity or desertification fora (e.g. COPs) to share evidence and pilot results  Frameworks piloted and refined  €240 million mobilised in climate finance	Application of impact frameworks across priority programmes  €300 million mobilised in climate finance	10 million people supported through adaptation and mitigation interventions  Consolidated reporting on impact measurement frameworks  €350 million mobilised in climate finance  Restore at least 200,000 hectares of rangelands, supporting pastoral livelihoods

1 each hosting at least three events a year.

2 at least two meetings per year, with at least five types of stakeholders represented.

3 with dissemination format: publication, platform or international event.

4 from a 2021 baseline, consistent with the IPCC 1.5°C pathway.



Photo: Jordan

