

Comprehensive Climate Management

The projects' carbon footprint

The Challenge

GIZ stands for sustainability. Consequently, we do not only actively promote measures for climate protection and adaptation to climate change in partner countries, we also aim at avoiding greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the implementation of the projects.

The challenge is to identify the project carbon footprint in the projects' conception phase to avoid or minimize possible emissions through countermeasures. The carbon footprint includes emissions caused by project-financed infrastructure or travel activities of the projects' target group or representatives of the partner institutions.

The projects' carbon footprint supplements GIZ's cooperate climate management, which includes emissions from energy consumption in GIZ offices or business trips of GIZ employees. Through cooperate climate management and the project carbon footprint, GIZ contributes to achieving the climate goals of the Paris Agreement.

The Carbon Footprint of Projects

The Safeguard+Gender management system ensures the environmental and social compatibility of the projects. Here, our own high standards meet those of our clients. Already during the conceptual phase of each project, potential negative impacts of the planned activities on humans and the environment are analyzed. If necessary, countermeasures are identified and integrated into the project design. Their implementation is actively monitored.

This also applies to GHG emissions. If significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions are expected, a carbon footprint assessment needs to be conducted. It includes the calculation of the GHG emissions in tons CO₂ equivalents and the implementation of respective reduction measures.



To support the climate-friendly project design, tools for estimating GHG emissions and catalogues of avoidance and mitigation measures are provided. However, an evaluation of approximately 900 projects has shown that the majority does not generate significant amounts of GHG emissions. In these cases, an extensive carbon footprint assessment is not necessary. Nonetheless, minor emissions are also taken into account through a pre-defined CO₂ value.



The aggregated carbon footprint of all projects that pass through GIZ's Safeguard+Gender management system is reported annually to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Impact of the Carbon Footprint calculation

Through the carbon footprint, GIZ systematically estimates the GHG emissions that may be generated during the implementation of projects.

About 90 percent of the projects do not have a significant negative impact on the climate. For the remaining 10 percent, in particular two kinds of activities are significant GHG sources:

- Emissions caused by energy consumption of infrastructure use, such as school buildings or water pumps.
- Emissions caused by air travel to attend workshops, training sessions or conferences.

Due to travel restrictions during the Corona pandemic, emissions from travel activities have already been reduced considerably. A survey has shown that virtual formats can successfully replace many personal meetings and therefore avoid air travel. We are convinced that virtual work will

remain important in the future and that our travel volume will not reach pre-Corona levels again.

For infrastructure financed through the projects, the aforementioned catalog proposes specific measures to increase energy efficiency, the use of renewable energies, and to apply environmentally and climate friendly construction standards and norms.



For GIZ, the carbon footprint is an effective tool to prevent and reduce GHG emissions and therefore contribute to global climate protection and sustainability.

Impressum

Editor:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Headquarters Bonn und Eschborn

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

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Contact:

CC Environment and CC Climate Change:
Dr. Andrea Kramer und Dr. Jörg Linke
Umwelt-klima@giz.de

Safeguard+Gender:
Peter Hauschnik
safeguardsandgender@giz.de

Design:
CMUK Design

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