

Position paper environment - climate



**ENTREPRENEURS
du Monde**
FONDS DE DOTATION

FONDATION
ENTREPRENEURS
du Monde
Sous égide de la
Fondation Caritas France

micro
FINANCE
solidaire

InVestisseurs
Solidaires
par Entrepreneurs du Monde

The ecosystem includes Microfinance Solidaire, Entrepreneurs du Monde's Foundation and InVestisseurs Solidaires. For ease of reading, the name Entrepreneurs du Monde includes the association and its ecosystem.

**ENTREPRENEURS
du Monde**

2022

By adopting the 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Member States of the United Nations have created a global framework for national action and global cooperation on sustainable development to preserve the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations.

The latest report of the IPCC, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published in 2021 recalls the reality of current and future climate changes and the responsibility of human activities in these changes¹. The ecological crisis (loss of biodiversity, pollution, climate change) is likely to increase poverty in the world: 100 million additional people would become poor by 2030.

This consequence highlights the climate injustice suffered by the poorest who are the first to be affected², while the richest 1% in the world have an average carbon footprint 175 times higher than the poorest 10%³.



Entrepreneurs du Monde has been working alongside the most vulnerable people for 25 years and is already seeing the impact of the ecological crisis on the ground. The team is therefore mobilising to help mitigate climate changes and promote the resilience of people in extremely precarious situations and the organizations that support them.

It has built a logical framework for integrating the climate and environmental dimension in all actions and to promote best practices in the fight against climate change.

This note formalises the commitments around environmental and climate issues in the missions and actions of Entrepreneurs du Monde and its incubated organizations. It is an official and strategic resource document.

1. Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Working Group I Contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

2. Worldwide Bank Annual report, 2015

3. Oxfam, Extreme inequality and CO2 emissions, December 2015 (in French)

A. Definitions⁴ used by Entrepreneurs du Monde

- ➔ **Climate change** are changes in climate that are attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and that are in addition to the natural variability of climate observed over comparable time periods.
- ➔ **Adverse effects of climate changes** are any changes in the physical environment or biota due to climate change that have significant adverse effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems, on the functioning of socio-economic systems, or on human health and well-being.
- ➔ **Greenhouse gas emissions** are the release of gases or gas precursors that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation over a given area and time period.
- ➔ **The environment** is the set of physical, chemical and biological agents and social factors that affect living organisms and human activities.
- ➔ **Biodiversity** refers to the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; it includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.



4. These definitions are mainly based on the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

B. Entrepreneurs du Monde's vision and mission on the environment and climate change

The vision of Entrepreneurs du Monde is “ A fair and sustainable world in which everyone has access to basic services, opportunities for entrepreneurship and self-empowerment and the means to take care of themselves, their families, their communities and the planet”. It clearly expresses the importance of acting in favour of a climate system compatible with human life, where Entrepreneurs du Monde's activities contribute to mitigating climate change and fostering the resilience of the people we support.

Its mission statement also states that “The Entrepreneurs du Monde association supports the social and economic inclusion of highly vulnerable people in the world. The organisation helps them to set up businesses, access energy and adapt to climate change in order to achieve personal empowerment. In order to fulfill its mission, Entrepreneurs du Monde creates and incubates local organisations until they achieve autonomy.”

This mission refers directly to Entrepreneurs du Monde's ambition to help people in very precarious situations to adapt to climate change because they are the most exposed to its harmful effects. It is estimated that Africa and South-East Asia are about 90% exposed to climate risks, and that within these regions, the poorest people are the most exposed.

Entrepreneurs du Monde's vision of social transformation and justice goes hand in hand with the values of respecting national and international environmental commitments, preserving biodiversity and taking into account local environmental specificities. Entrepreneurs du Monde creates and supports local organisations that seek to reconcile economic balance, social mission and sustainability. Consequently, it creates and supports local organisations that seek to reconcile economic balance, social mission and sustainability. It therefore takes the climate issue into account when setting up these organisations and relevant and sustainable services that respect women and men and their environment.

This is a vision of another economy, innovative in most countries, and which sometimes challenges established practices. It is committed to sharing its pragmatic and action-based vision on the climate issue in all the contexts where Entrepreneurs du Monde and its incubated organisations are active.



C. A global approach focussing on beneficiaries

Entrepreneurs du Monde now places at the heart of its approach not only the social and economic issues of its beneficiaries, but also their adaptation to the adverse effects of climate changes. It has rethought the way it acts to serve all of these challenges.

1. Actions in favor of highly vulnerable people

Entrepreneurs du Monde deploys solutions for :

- **Access to high-performance cooking equipment and solar lighting** to struggle fuel poverty while fighting deforestation and limiting greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Agroecological training and agricultural advice** to facilitate the implementation of a positive green agriculture for people and their environment, using no chemical products and relying on biodiversity as a lever for improving production.
- **Support for employment or the creation of businesses** with a positive impact on waste reduction to limit the environmental impact of human activities: recycling of solar lamps, collection and recycling of plastic and organic waste, manufacture and distribution of alternatives to disposable products, etc...
- **Enhancing the value of local production** and know-how to promote a responsible local economy: storage of agricultural products to avoid losses and waste, marketing of processed fruit products, traditional weaving from locally produced cotton, etc.

It raising awareness among people in precarious situations on:

- the climatic risks to which they are subjected,
- the need to improve their resilience,
- the reduction of behaviours that have a negative impact on the climate and biodiversity,
- and the alternatives available.

All these activities take into account the practical needs and strategic interests of women and men in order to reduce inequalities in accordance with the positioning paper for Entrepreneurs du Monde, its ecosystem and its programs on gender. (June 2019)



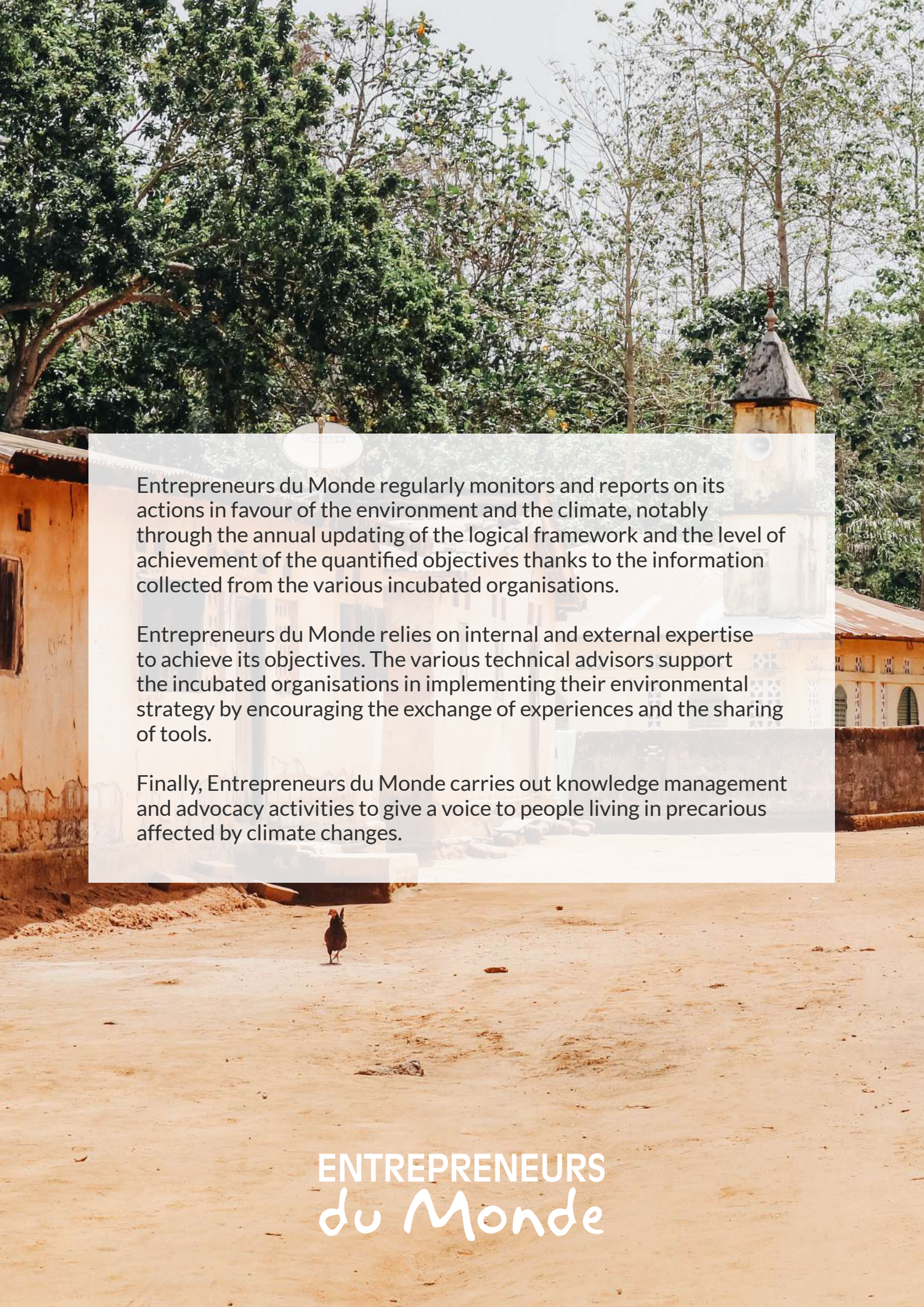
2. Actions to harmonise ambitions and functioning of Entrepreneurs du Monde and its incubated organisations

To meet the ambitions outlined above and to ensure coherence between its mission and operations, Entrepreneurs du Monde:

- ➔ Supports incubated organisations in integrating the environmental and climate dimension into their visions, missions and objectives. Each incubated organisation appoints a contact person on the issue to facilitate the integration of the environmental dimension throughout the organisation.
- ➔ Raise awareness among all teams and promote collective commitment to environmental and climate issues through training, debates, and symbolic events (e.g., a “waste collection” walk, a “clean up day” on digital pollution).
- ➔ Adapt its procedures and support incubated organisations in adapting theirs to integrate environmental impact, particularly in purchasing procedures.
- ➔ Measures its carbon footprint and seeks to reduce or offset it.
- ➔ Sets up a committee on ethics and partnerships to ensure that its financial partners are consistent with the principles set out in its charter.

Concerned about the consequences of climate changes, Entrepreneurs du Monde measures its environmental risks, those of its incubated organisations and its beneficiaries through their integration into the various risk management tools. A watch will be kept on the development of climate insurance to assess its relevance to the incubated organisations and their beneficiaries.



A photograph of a rural street scene. In the foreground, a dirt road is visible with a single chicken standing in the middle. To the left, there is a building with a yellowish wall and a dark window. To the right, there is a building with a white wall and a small tower-like structure on the roof. The background is filled with lush green trees under a clear sky. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing three paragraphs of text.

Entrepreneurs du Monde regularly monitors and reports on its actions in favour of the environment and the climate, notably through the annual updating of the logical framework and the level of achievement of the quantified objectives thanks to the information collected from the various incubated organisations.

Entrepreneurs du Monde relies on internal and external expertise to achieve its objectives. The various technical advisors support the incubated organisations in implementing their environmental strategy by encouraging the exchange of experiences and the sharing of tools.

Finally, Entrepreneurs du Monde carries out knowledge management and advocacy activities to give a voice to people living in precarious areas affected by climate changes.

ENTREPRENEURS
du Monde