



Environmental policy

PRESENTATION OF IDAY-INTERNATIONAL

IDAY-International is an advocacy network of African civil society organisations committed to defending the right to quality basic education for all children and youth in Africa. Since 2005, the network has been working to strengthen a constructive dialogue between African civil society and the authorities with the aim of getting them to take the necessary steps to end the basic education deficit in Africa. The network comprises some 20 coalitions currently present in 20 African countries.

IDAY-International is an International Non-Profit Association (AISBL) under Belgian law since 2008. Its head office is located in Braine-l'Alleud, rue des Jambes 19, in Belgium.

VISION AND MISSION

Vision

The network works to contribute to a society where all individuals, especially young people, have access without discrimination to quality basic education (pre-school initiation, primary education, functional literacy).

Mission

Promote, through constructive dialogue between African civil society and African authorities, policies, systems and practices that ensure quality basic education for all children and youth in Africa.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN AISBL

Aware of the environmental impacts that can be generated by the activities within our ASBL, eco-management principles have been put in place, both at the level of the head office and the network in general. Our aim is to develop our activities in a more sustainable manner and to initiate a process of continuous improvement of our impact on the environment.

We undertake to make available the resources and means necessary to pursue the following objectives:

- To contribute to improving the environmental performance of the ASBL in a dynamic of permanent progress;
- Promote responsible behaviour and develop the environmental knowledge of the staff and members of the ASBL through information and awareness raising;
- Raise awareness among the ASBL's partners of the need to take this environmental policy into account.

In terms of our day-to-day practices, we aim to have as little impact as possible on the environment. To do this, we aim to achieve the following objectives as much as possible:

- Reduce paper consumption in the office and use digital technology in a sustainable way. Digital technology allows us to print less and to store our files on a computer cloud, i.e. a remote server accessible via the Internet on which our data is stored. Moreover, as digital technology is also a source of pollution due to energy-consuming servers, we



tend to use it sensibly and sustainably. To do this, we must regularly sort through our mailboxes and other platforms. We also favour certain search engines such as *Lilo* or *Ecosia* which allow us to compensate for the harmful impact of the Internet on the environment.

- Promoting sustainable office design. Having chosen quality second-hand furniture for our computers, printers and desks, our premises are fitted out sustainably. We encourage the implementation of eco-consumption behaviours.
- Use natural biodegradable products or labelled products to clean our premises.
- Sorting our waste and limiting its production. In the office, we are aiming for zero waste by not using disposable containers, by sorting our waste and by composting our organic waste.
- Keep energy consumption to a minimum.
- Favour public transport. We also aim to limit air travel for support and monitoring missions. As far as possible, we give priority to short-distance travel. Local or regional expertise is thus given priority.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN IDAY'S ACTIONS

Within the network, the environmental theme has been defined as a transversal theme of IDAY-International's projects and as such, is included in the 2020-2024 strategic plan. There is a real will on the part of the network that its activities are approached in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.

Climate change threatens the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their entirety and therefore appears to the IDAY network as an unavoidable theme to which to contribute, in complementarity and partnership with active actors with expertise.

The SDGs specifically refer to environmental education through target 4.7: "By 2030, ensure that all students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable development, including through education for sustainable development and lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and the contribution of culture to sustainable development". Many studies and research suggest that children should be targeted as a priority (Feisinger 1997; Jakobson and McDuff 1998; Rivas and Owens 1999; Kellert 2002). Indeed, children are particularly receptive to messages related to the environment and climate change. They are also one of the best ways to reach adults. Children build and develop positive attitudes and a keen interest in the environment at an early age and carry these to an age when they can be actors and decision-makers. The role of school education here is essential in reaching large numbers of children.¹

The IDAY network therefore proposes to act through two axes of intervention:

- on the one hand, environmental education for schoolchildren, i.e. preparing children and young people for environmental challenges and making them responsible citizens.

¹ Diallo & Yogo (2017), *Strategic study on school-based environmental education in the Sahel region*. Retrieved from http://www.oss-online.org/rep-sahel/images/Docs-2017/Annexe-11-tude-stratgique-sur-LEE-et-ICC-au-Sahel_version-REPSAHEL.pdf



Raising voices for African education
Voice for **education** in Africa

Each school can decide to adapt, to move, to take up challenges according to its possibilities. Becoming a Sustainable School means preparing its pupils for the challenges of climate change and reducing its footprint on its immediate environment to a minimum.

- ecological school equipment, which allows the school to adapt to the increasing drought in some sub-Saharan areas, and to promote equipment that respects environmental standards and favours renewable energy.