

# *Guiding Principles for Microenterprise and the Environment*

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## **Guiding Principles**

- The environment is a sacred trust.
  - The earth and all its life are interconnected and sacred
- Addressing the human spirit is essential.
  - Environmental and human integrity are inextricably linked.
  - Improving inner human quality results in improving the environment.
- Each person is responsible.
  - Responsibility means personal ownership and action.
  - Agencies should help people understand why the environment is important to their lives.
  - Donors and agencies should model good environmental behavior.

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- All microenterprises impact the environment.
  - Do no harm.
  - Eliminate or mitigate negative impacts.
  - Seek positive impacts
- Protecting the environment is an opportunity.
  - Environmental protection makes good economic sense.
- Creating financially cost-effective solutions is vital.

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- Benefits and costs are both short and long term.
  - True costs include environmental costs.
  - Agencies should identify, account for and mitigate environmental costs.
  - Environmental benefits created should be recognized.
  - Costs of creating environmental benefits should not be borne solely by MFIs or clients.

## **Guiding Principles**

- Creating partnerships is crucial.
  - Partnership with stakeholders is the key to appropriate environmental protection in development.
- Participation is for everyone.
  - Participation must be inclusive, equal and fair.