

AirOps Unit



Humanitarian Aviation Environmental Summit,

ICRC AirOps Environmental and Sustainability briefing



Egypt,
14th-15th March 2022



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ICRC / AirOps in brief



The work of the ICRC is based on the **Geneva Conventions** of 1949, their Additional Protocols. The ICRC is an **impartial, neutral and independent** organization ensuring humanitarian **protection** and **assistance** for **victims of armed conflict** and other **situations of violence**.

➤ 20,000 staff

➤ in over 100 countries

Air Operations :

➤ Over 60 AirOps staff

➤ in 11 countries

20 
Aircrafts
Permanently Chartered -
+20 Ad-Hoc Chartered Flights

224 
Actual
Destinations
In mostly remote airfields

11,037 
Flight
Hours

35,090 
Passengers
Including Medical Patients

4,755 
Metric Tons
Cargo
▲ 5%*



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ICRC

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REASONS FOR THE ICRC'S COMMITMENT

Climate change and conflict



In 2020, the ICRC released [When Rain turns to Dust](#). The report illustrates how **countries mired in conflict are disproportionately impacted** by climate variability and extremes, **due to the limited adaptive capacity of people**, systems, and institutions already **cop**ing with the consequences of conflicts.

The objective is to enable populations **to start functioning normally again after a crisis period**. For that it is essential that consideration be given to **the services provided by ecosystems** (food production, water supplies and any other natural resources)

Sustainable development in our humanitarian action is thus a means of improving the quality of the aid provided and of **preparing post-conflict reconstruction**.



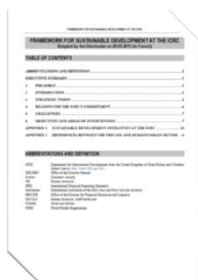
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FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE ICRC (2011)



The ICRC committed to work in an **environmentally, economically & socially** responsible away.

Among main Objectives :



no. 1: Reducing the potential impact of environmental degradation and climate change on victims of conflict and other situations of violence.

no. 2: Controlling the **environmental footprint** of ICRC operational & support activities.

no. 5: Defining **Reference indicators** for sustainable development parameters



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ICRC/LOG Strategy 2019–2022



The ICRC seeks to reinforce **conflict-affected communities' ability to absorb** the combined **consequences of conflict and climate shocks**, and will:

- **support communities to adapt** their capacities and resources to better manage future **stresses caused by the combined effects of conflict and climate change**
- adapt its programming to **systematically prevent degradation of the environment** on which populations affected rely for their livelihood and well-being
- **enhance its own environmental responsibilities and policies** by, ..., ensuring proper treatment of hazardous waste in the field and demanding higher quality and sounder environmental practices of its suppliers

SP2: SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN

Contribute to a sustainable humanitarian response through the development of a reliable, environmentally conscious and ethical Supply Chain (...).



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www.climate-charter.org (2022)



This Charter is intended to galvanize and **steer collective action in response to the climate and environmental crises** (...) through organization-specific targets and action plans, informed by the need for urgent action (...).

The ICRC 3 organizational targets :

- **Factoring climate and environmental risks** in all programs by **2025**.
- **Reducing** ICRC's greenhouse gas emissions by **at least 50% by 2030**, compared to 2018 levels, including all direct and indirect emissions.
- Strengthening awareness, understanding and **implementation of IHL protecting the environment** among States and parties to conflict (...) by **2025**.



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AirOps Action plans



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Tender policy



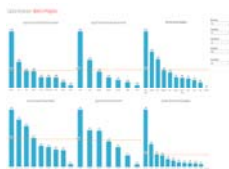
By the end of 2022, ICRC tenders will include clauses :

- **Promoting the sustainable development** of aviation and implementation of ICRC environmental commitments
- Progressively enhancing the **environmental sustainability of AirOps activities**
- **Preventing pollution** and **minimizing the carbon footprint** of Air Operations
- Improving the efficiency of resource use and **waste management**.
- Promoting awareness and gradually **incorporating international best practices to reduce the environmental impact** of Air operations



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Short term : Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance Project



- Define sustainability indicators to measure our impact (Quantify emissions, Identify main sources,...)



- Map the different policies and actions of our operators and service providers related to environmental impact and sustainable development



- Assess Aviation Waste management in the fields (used oil, used tires, fuel sample, used batteries...)
- Develop an Aviation waste management plan and program



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Medium term - Reduce (1/2): Flexible AirDrop system



- In some contexts, due to environmental conditions and/or damaged infrastructure (large area flooded, no Airstrip,...), large areas are only accessible by Air drop and/or Helicopter
- Climate change is most likely to accentuate these difficulties.

But, dedicated Airdrop aircraft and/or Helicopter =

- are expensive and/or with high environmental impact.



In collaboration with MSF, we had the opportunity to test a versatile Airdrop System (HPI) for small quantity of cargo (500-1000kg per flight) :

- Flexible, using already available aircrafts (TwinOtter, Caravan)
- Same logistic operation with least amount of CO2 emission
- Cost effective with reduced environmental impact



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Medium term (2/2): Carbon offset ?



Very Interesting approach for the transition period

Question : how to make sure we comply with “Do not harm principal” ?

- Monoculture tree plantation could negatively impact biodiversity
- Project that could trigger conflict over limited resources between vulnerable communities

Standard of Nature Based solutions

“Nature-based solutions are **actions** to protect, sustainably manage and restore **natural and modified ecosystems** in ways that address **societal challenges** effectively and adaptively, to provide both **human well-being** and **biodiversity benefits**.” (IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature , 2016)

Projects : Internal / external environmental agencies ?
Reducing Emissions from Deforestation & Forest Degradation (REDD+)



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Long term: integrating Multiple capabilities ?



“Conventional” fleet

- with Operational/environmental constraints/Optimization ?



Cargo Drone operations

- environmental Optimization ? Payload/Range constraints ?



Airship capabilities

- Technical watch and WG for research & Innovation (FLYING WHALES)
- To complement our “conventional” fleet

Despite technical/operational challenges , Airship could be a game-changer to reduce environmental impact and facilitate access to isolated areas

- Towards Zero CO2 emission



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Thank you for your attention

