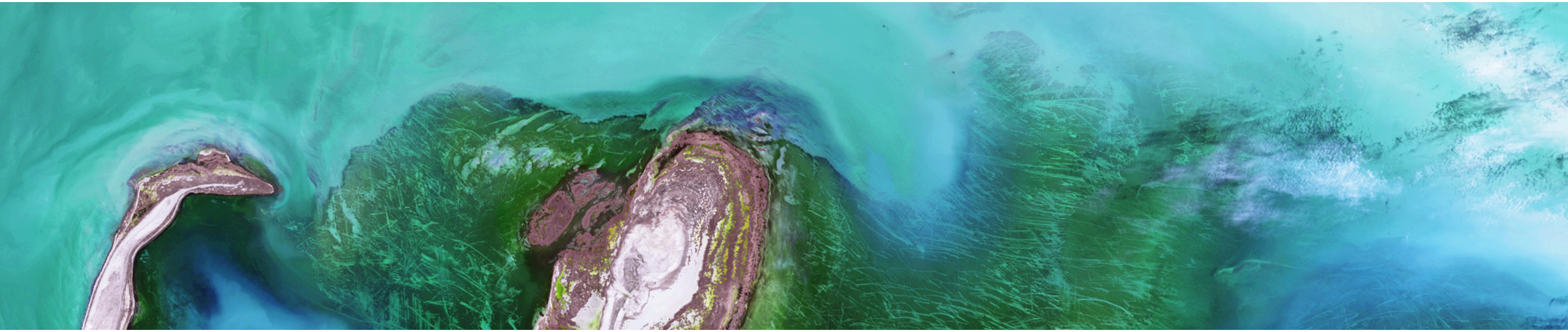
Climate Action
Accelerator



Climate and environment progress report
2024

Carbon footprint 2023 | Commitments 2025

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Introduction

At Climate Action Accelerator, we are committed to a low-carbon and sustainable operating model, in line with our values, IPCC recommendations and the Paris Agreement goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. As a relatively young and growing initiative launched in 2021, our primary focus is to minimise our own emissions at the lowest level and operate within other planetary boundaries. While pursuing our ambition of accelerating climate action with our partners, we aim at being exemplary and to that effect integrate climate and environmental considerations across all aspects of our functioning, with a particular emphasis on travel, digital equipment and the procurement of services which altogether account for nearly 80% of our footprint.

Our climate and environmental reporting

This report outlines the progress of Climate Action Accelerator from its launch to the publication of its first carbon footprint report. Initially centered on supporting partner organisations through pilot programmes, we now turn inward to refine and publish our own commitments, guiding our future growth. This document provides an overview of our original commitments, along with the 2025 updates shaped by lessons learned over the past four years. It highlights our key achievements and the challenges that lie ahead.

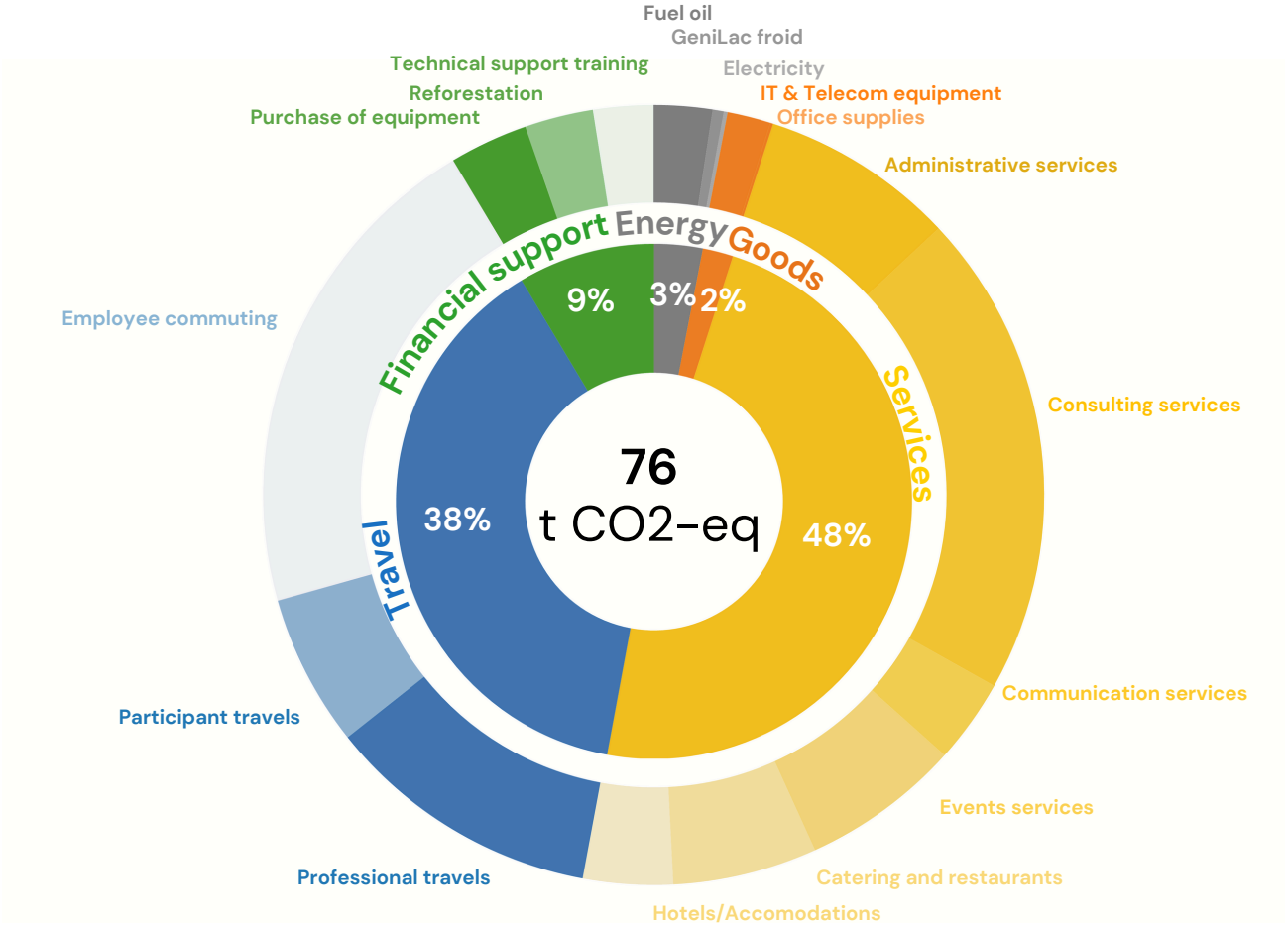
Key highlights

1. Publishing our first Carbon Footprint on scope 1, 2 and 3.
2. Evaluating our initial 2021 Commitments
3. Upgrading our initial Commitments to 2025

‘At Climate Action Accelerator we approach our own way of functioning and delivering activities as a laboratory to pilot new practices, learn further and extract lessons. To contribute to climate action acceleration we must be exemplary ourselves and showcase what it means to deliver impact while operating within planetary boundaries. It speaks to the core values of our team, and we are all dedicated to making it happen’

Bruno Jochum Executive Director of Climate Action Accelerator

Where our Greenhouse gas emissions came from in 2023



In 2024, we measured our 2023 Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, based on a 2023 budget of 2150 kCHF and our 17.4 full time staff equivalent. We noticed that our main sources of emissions came from Services (48%), primarily due to the contracting of consulting services, administrative services, and event-related catering in Geneva. Then from Professional Travel (39%), which includes employee commuting to headquarters, as well as participant and professional travel for meetings in Geneva and Dakar and the COP28 in Dubai.

Where our Greenhouse gas emissions came from in 2023

As such, this has helped us focus our reduction priorities on:

- Procurement of services (48%)
- Professional travel (39%)
- Data storage (incl. in the Energy 3%)

The Financial support will be excluded from the scope of our priorities as it consists of an exceptional ad hoc transfer of funds for environmental training, waste management and reforestation to our African Partners within the pilot Collective Cycle Program initiated in 2023.

	Climate Action Accelerator 2023	PWC World 2023	Exponential Roadmap 2023	
Per employee				
Total of GHG emissions	4.4	~5.9	~7.7	t CO2-eq / FTE
Per CHF spent				
Total of GHG emissions	35.4	~40.5	~56.8	kg CO2-eq /kCHF

As a comparison, on a different spectrum of activities, our partner organisations such as **Alima** are at 6.7 *tCO2-eq/FTE* and 227 *kgCO2e/kCHF* in 2023 and **GCSP** are at *26.8 tCO2-eq/FTE* and 143 *kgCO2-eq /kCHF* in 2019.

Throwback to our 2021 commitments

Hereunder are our initial Commitments published back in 2021 at the launch of the Accelerator. They have been subject to an evaluation of our progress overtime and until 2025.

	Commitments	Status in 2024
1	Each year, we will measure the environmental footprint of the Accelerator initiative and make the results public.	Started 2023 onwards
2	We will put in place an internal carbon tax on our purchases and allocate it to internal or external projects that contribute to global carbon neutrality by reducing emissions.	To be adapted and included in 2025
3	Our purchases of products and supplies meet environmental purchasing criteria and are recyclable.	On track • Second-hand IT equipment • No paper use
4	For business travel, we privilege the train if the difference with a flight is less than 3h door to door. We encourage our employees to use public transport or soft mobility for their commuting to work.	On track • Transport allowance for public transport for all employees • Currently no vehicles with combustion engines are used by our employees
5	We choose a low carbon electricity supplier.	On track • Services Industriels de Geneve[1] provides 100% renewable energy for Geneva • Switzerland energy is highly decarbonised[2]

[1]SIG supplies its customers with 100% renewable electricity, 32% of which is produced locally, mainly with the Verbois Dam (SIG, 2025).
[2]In 2024, Switzerland produced a total of 75.7 TWh of electricity. The electricity mix was dominated by hydropower, which generated 48.3 TWh (64% of total), split between run-of-river plants (19.4 TWh) and storage plants (28.9 TWh). Nuclear power contributed 23 TWh (30%). The remaining 9.2 TWh (12%) came from thermal power plants and other renewables, such as solar and wind (Association faîtière du secteur électrique Suisse, 2025).

	Commitments	Status in 2024
6	In our office practices, we save energy by making reasonable use of lighting, heating and air conditioning.	On track • Shared and optimised office space with automatic detectors for all lights • Genilac – a structuring thermal network from the Lac Léman providing cooling and heating to our building[3]
7	We streamline the storage and exchange of digital data (image, videos, shared documents).	Nearly on track • Our cloud storage- source of energy- is of 1.3 Tb, one of our good practices is to shift towards Sharepoint and have a massive clean-up of our system ◦ Eg. Through an initial clean up, our files on OneDrive have reduced by 16% in the last 6 months • A new Digital Policy on the cleaning of stored documents every 6 months is being developed[4]
8	We sort out waste and recycle, we eliminate the use of single use plastics and reduce our packaging.	Nearly on track • We do not purchase or use single use plastics for professional reasons • Our staff commits to recycling but we depend on our office provider (Regus) for the disposal of waste
9	We pool electronic devices and increase their duration of use. When buying, we prefer eco-designed devices.	On track • Our staff uses their own devices, and these are used until they show little efficiency • If needed, purchase of second-hand IT equipment

[3]Genilac is a renewable thermal energy system in Geneva that uses water from Lake Geneva to provide heating and cooling to buildings in the city center. Operated by SIG, it has supplied international organisations and companies in the Nations district for over a decade. By replacing traditional systems, Genilac reduces CO_2 emissions by 80%, eliminates the use of greenhouse refrigerant gases, cuts electricity consumption for cooling by 80%, and lowers water use by 10%.

[4]According to our Microsoft 365 licence (admin center under Settings > Org settings > Organisation profile > Data location), the location of our data centers are distributed between Switzerland and the European Union (we do not have specific information about the later).

	Commitments	Status in 2024
10	We will develop our website according to low carbon principles.	Nearly on track
11	We favour a sustainable diet during our internal and external events.	On track

Upgrading our commitments in 2025

As part of our journey toward greater sustainability, we are elevating our commitments to align with the ambitious goals of a low-carbon development model. By focusing on services and goods, professional travel, events, digital practices and our organisational development, we are embedding climate-smart practices across all aspects of our operations. This upgraded approach reflects our determination to lead by example, reduce our footprint, and contribute to meaningful impact.

SERVICES AND GOODS

1. We inform suppliers about our climate and environmental strategy, communicate our expectations, and favour systematically those who measure and disclose their carbon footprint across Scopes 1, 2, and 3 (including energy, travel, and procurement).
2. We privilege suppliers using low-carbon energy and/or with a robust decarbonisation plan in place (e.g., SBTi or aligned with the Paris Agreements), that undertake concrete actions to reduce their environmental and climate impacts and verify their progress through external mechanisms. This applies to our administrative, financial, pension fund, consulting, communication, event, catering and hotel services.
3. The Digital equipment and furniture we purchase are second-hand by default or certified with eco-labels (e.g., EU Ecolabel, Blue Angel, TCO, Energy Star, EPEAT). We limit the number of purchased devices by mutualising professional and private use, extend the lifespan of existing equipment to 6 years and support a circular economy by selecting durable, repairable, and second-hand digital equipment.
4. The office supplies we source, including paper and small items are sustainable. We limit paper use to the minimum and opt for lightweight paper with a high recycled fiber content and FSC or PEFC certified paper.
5. We ban the purchase of single use plastic items.

PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL

6 We reduce kilometers travelled to a maximum by privileging online meetings and events, optimising the number of participants for in person meetings, carpooling and planning multi-purpose trips.

7 We mandate the use of trains for travels within a 1,000 km radius and with a travel duration of under 12 hours from origin to destination. We encourage the use of train connections for European flights via Zurich, Lyon, Paris and Frankfurt.

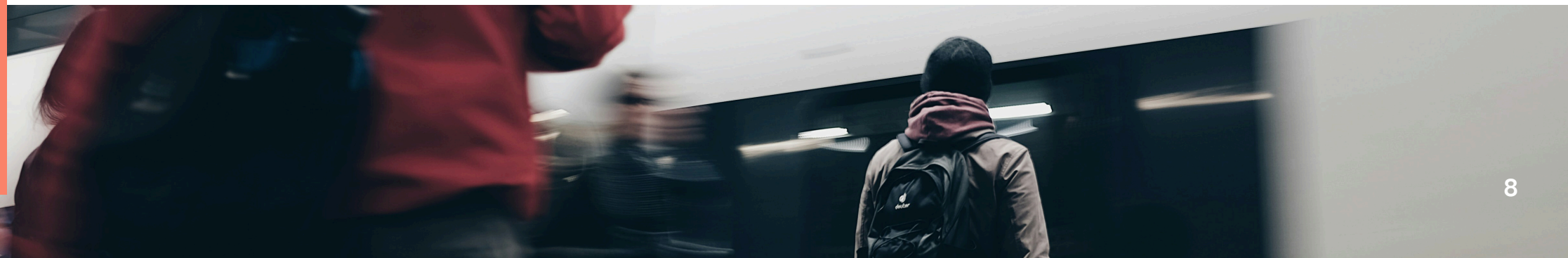
8 When flying is unavoidable, we set economy class as the standard rule, take the most optimised route, use direct flights, and choose "carbon efficient" airlines[5].

9 We allow staff to combine holidays with professional trips and consider professional travel time as work time.

10 We encourage our staff to commute through public transport and soft mobility to our office. We reimburse 50% of their public transport costs.

11 To encourage our staff in their efforts to reduce their personal carbon footprint, we offer up to two additional "responsible travel time" days per year as paid time off. These days are intended to support employees who choose long distance train travel instead of flying to holiday destinations in Europe, provided that the train journey exceeds 6 hours and requires an extra day to compensate for the longer travel time.

[5]Following the recommendation of Atmosfair Airline index and Google Flights search engine



EVENTS

12 We reduce the climate and environmental impact of our events by complying to best practices such as:

- Evaluating the added-value of in-person events, offering online participation and carefully selecting the venue location to limit participant travel.
- Contracting caterers that provide a planetary health diet, eliminate single-use plastics, strive for zero waste, and implement robust food, beverage, and recycling plan while actively promoting sustainable practices.
- Supporting the local economy by carefully selecting local suppliers.
- Favour venues based on the high energetic performance of the building, low-carbon energy source and recycling plan.
- We do not distribute goodies to avoid waste.

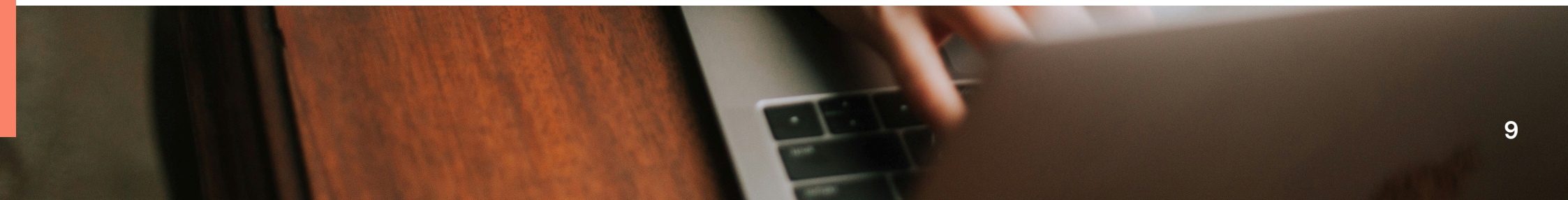
DIGITAL USAGE

13 We develop eco-friendly digital practices throughout our website, social medias, applications and software, and rationalise the use of Artificial Intelligence[6].

14 We ensure our data storage is located in a low-carbon energy mix country or facility.

15 We control the volume of data stored by cleaning up our data every 6 months.

[6]Following the general recommandations of Green IT Switzerland.



ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

16 Our HQ is located in an optimised coworking space powered by low-carbon energy. Still, we aim to influence the ban of single-use items, reduce waste, and improve waste management in our shared premises.

17 Our climate action acceleration model focuses on an international development approach hiring local talent and prioritising regional Accelerators to support partners outside Europe. This approach minimises travel needs, reduces technical support trips, and promotes hybrid working arrangements.

CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL NET ZERO AMBITIONS

18 To support the global net-zero ambitions, we annually provision an internal fund based on our emissions' level and a credible price per ton of CO2e. This fund will be directed towards a high quality, effective, nature-based solution project, contributing to global carbon neutrality through carbon-removal and following a principles-based approach. To avoid green-washing or diminish our efforts towards net zero, this funding stream is not considered as an offset included in our carbon accounting or the calculation of our footprint.

Participating in the global net zero efforts

Aligned with our Commitment 18 to support the global net-zero ambition, we have decided to provision each year an internal fund based on our emissions' level and allocate it to a high-quality Nature-Based Solution (NbS) project annually. This initiative reflects our commitment to addressing the environmental aspects of our strategy in a holistic way. NbS are actions that protect, manage, and restore ecosystems to address societal challenges while delivering benefits for biodiversity and human well-being. Different from only renewable energy production, NbS take a broader perspective, sequestering carbon, fostering biodiversity, simultaneously addressing issues such as global warming, nature conservation, food and water security, and disaster resilience.

Following a standard

The selection of the project will be based on The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Global Standard on NbS for achieving sustainable development[7]. Indeed, the standard provides "a robust framework for designing and verifying NbS" and is "a systematic learning framework so that lessons can improve and evolve the applications". Here under are the 8 criterions for a successful NbS[8]:

1. Effective in addressing societal challenges
2. Designed in a way that understands human and environmental interactions in and around the targeted land- or seascape
3. A creator of net gains for biodiversity and ecosystem integrity
4. Economically viable
5. Based on inclusive, transparent and empowering governance processes
6. Able to balance trade-offs between its primary goals and other benefits
7. Managed adaptively, based on evidence – including both scientific and local, indigenous or traditional sources of knowledge
8. Sustainable in the long term and supported by policy frameworks.

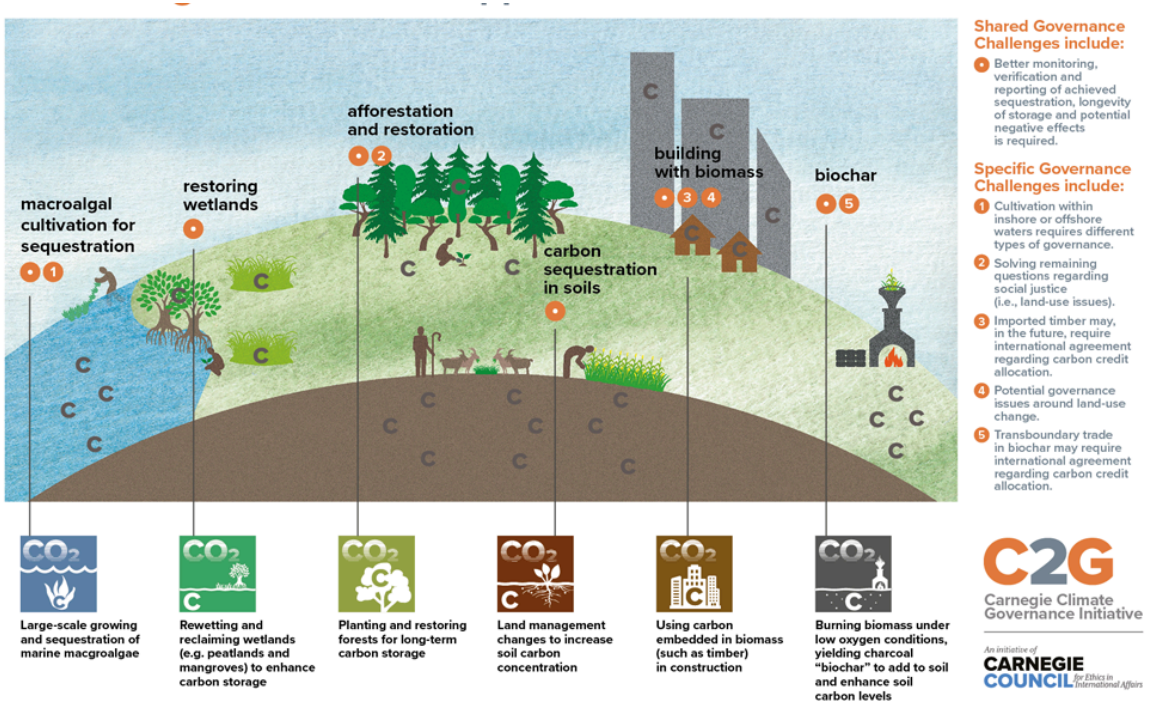
[7] https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2020-020-En.pdf
[8] https://www.ifad.org/en/w/explainers/what-are-nature-based-solutions-your-questions-answered

Focus on carbon removal

As an initiative working on Climate Change Mitigation — and increasingly on Adaptation and Resilience — our focus will be on selecting a nature-based project that supports carbon removal while strengthening biodiversity restoration. The project selected will be located in a low- and middle-income country where we are already active, such as Bangladesh or Senegal. This will ensure that, when traveling for climate-related activities, we can visit the project site, support its long-term continuity, and confirm that it remains aligned with our objectives.

Example of NbS projects for carbon removal[9]

Source: Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative, 2025.



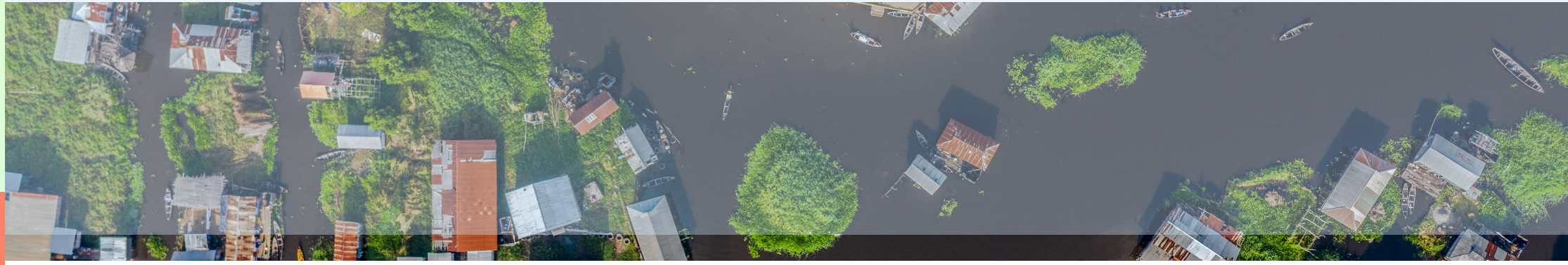
[9] https://c2g2.net/project/infographic-governing-nature-based-solutions-to-carbon-dioxide-removal/

The allocated fund

There is currently no universally accepted fair price for the social cost of carbon[10] [11]. Although there is no consensus, we will nevertheless strive to align with recommendations from leading reference institutions. The Gold Standard, for example, advocates for pricing that better reflects the social cost of carbon and the economic value delivered, using market mechanisms to ensure efficiency.

A collaborative approach

As with everything we do, we want our team to be at the heart of this project. A call for ideas will be launched internally so that staff can propose a selection of high-quality long-term projects aligned with their principles and that meet these standards. We will select those that are most relevant — based on the previously mentioned requirements — and submit them to a vote among the Accelerator's staff.



[10] https://climateactionaccelerator.org/carbon-offsetting/

[11] The pricing is not standardised and varies depending on many international factors: ranging from just a few cents per metric ton of CO2 emissions to as high as $300/mtCO2e for advanced technology removal projects like CCS. Afforestation and reforestation projects may fall in the range of $15 to $20/mtCO2e (2021) - This is very low. According to the OECD, about half of this carbon absorption could be done in a cost-effective way, with an ideal social cost of carbon set at $100 to $200/mtCO2e (OECD, 2021); (Climate Action Accelerator, 2024).

Steps we are taking to continue our progress and implement change

After a year full process of measuring our 2023 carbon footprint, we have been able to understand where our main emissions come from and where to start. Together with this, we have been able to reevaluate our initial commitments published in 2021, assess our progress and determine whether we are on track. We found our previous commitments to be insufficient and in need of greater depth. Consequently, we have focused on selecting a new set of priority actions and are now able to publish updated commitments for 2025, which we are fully committed to upholding.

The key steps we are taking to ensure progress toward a low-carbon development model include:

- **Measuring our carbon footprint annually** to track and understand our impact.
- **Publishing updated commitments** that will guide and frame our growth strategy.
- **Establishing a dedicated Sustainability Team**, drawing members across teams such as Programmes, Metrics, Solutions, and Administration, to drive our efforts.
- **Developing an internal implementation checklist**, outlining specific actions to be undertaken, monitored, and tracked over time.
- Our **key areas of improvement** relate to Procurement of services, Professional travel and Data storage.
- **Allocating responsibilities across teams** ensuring that all staff contribute to implementing the action plan directly.
- **Benchmarking initiatives** by comparing our growth model to similar business models to identify best practices.
- **Testing and learning from pilot implementations**, enabling us to refine our approach and gather insights to share with partners, specifically on the procurement of services.
- **Setting high level indicators that we must track annually**, to track out progress and improve key emission categories.
- **Setting a quantitative intensity target per staff** to control the carbon impact of our Initiative and an objective for emissions intensity reduction. Working on more concrete objectives, metrics and targets will be a major second step following this first progress report.

These measures will create opportunities for us to learn and improve alongside our partners while testing tools for amplification.

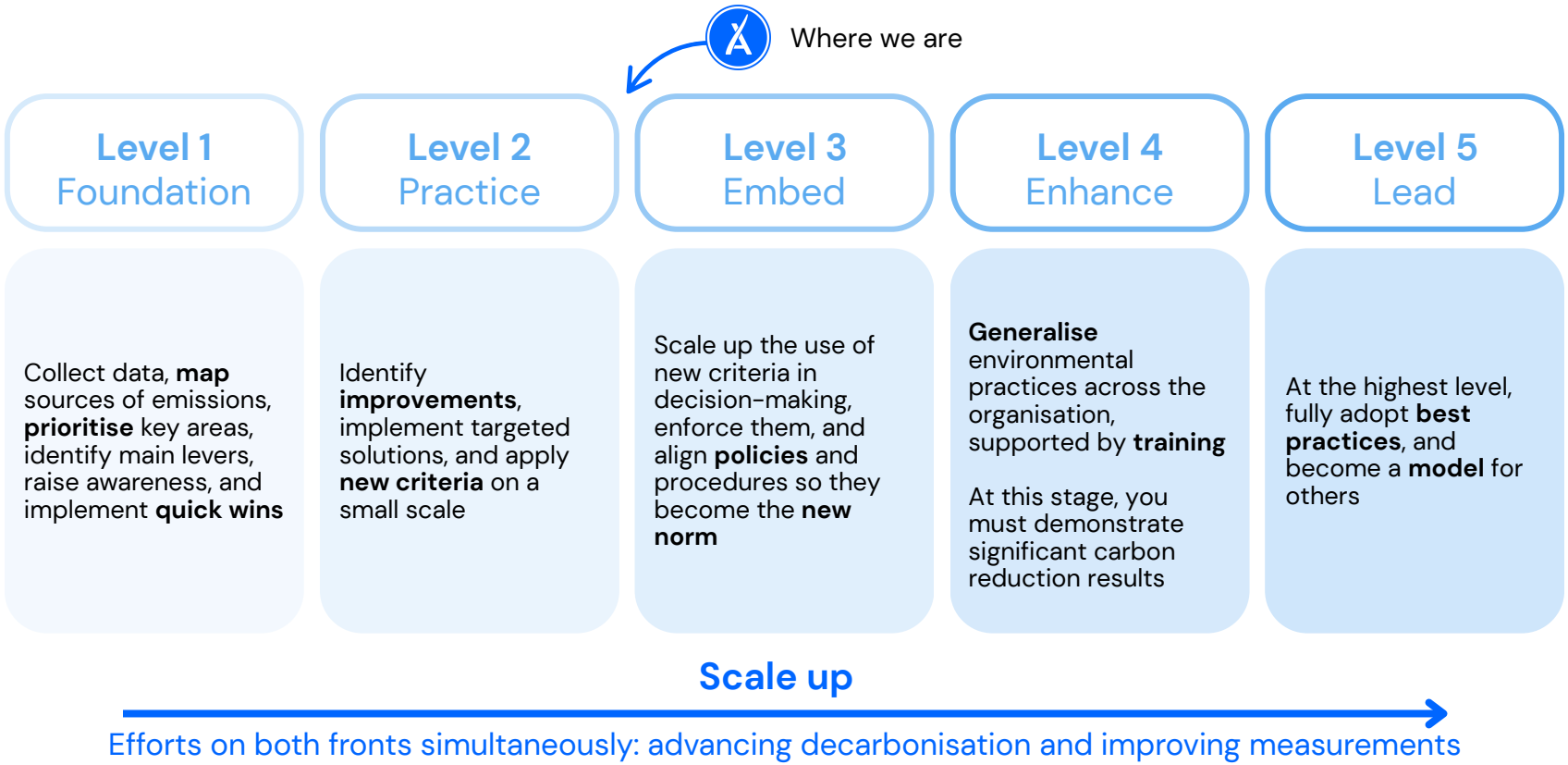
Monitoring and evaluating our progress

The coordination and monitoring of our strategy is based on a monitoring and evaluation framework in line with our commitments in two parts:

1. **High-level indicators** to monitor and communicate the Accelerator's key results to management and all stakeholders

High-lever indicator	Unit	Baseline 2023
Carbon emissions	Total tCO2e	76.09
Carbon intensity	kgCO2e/kCHF	35.4
Travel	km.passenger by air (professional and participant travel)	66385
Fuel	L of fuel consumed	599
Energy	Total kWh consumed (considering heating, cooling and electricity)	12587
Electricity mix	% kWh from low-carbon electricity (renewables)	100%
Freight	t.km transported by air	0
Purchasing emissions	tCO2e from Purchased Goods and Services (considering accounting)	37.9
Purchasing intensity	kgCO2e/kCHF spent	17.6
Procure greener*	% of spend meeting environmental specifications	Data is currently not collected
Pool of items*	Emission factor for a selected set of items	Data is currently not collected
Transparency*	Number of purchased goods with Carbon Footprint Data	Data is currently not collected
Suppliers' energy mix*	% of Suppliers Using Low-carbon energy **	Data is currently not collected
Suppliers' commitment*	% of Suppliers Committed to Paris-Aligned Emissions Reductions**	Data is currently not collected
Waste	Kg of waste	Data is currently not collected
Plastic	Proportion of facilities banning single-use plastic	To be evaluated

2. A **maturity model** under the responsibility of the roadmap coordinator, aimed at measuring the integration of environmental requirements into our daily practices



This framework ensures transparent governance and facilitates decision-making, by providing reliable data and points of comparison with other organisations. **From our standpoint, we estimate that the Accelerator is at the end of Level 2 - making sustainability an ongoing practice and going onto Level 3 - having embedded their principles into the core of the Initiative**. It is an indispensable steering tool to guide our sustainable growth model and encourage best practices.

Building and Maintaining a Sustainable Culture within the Accelerator

The Climate Action Accelerator is a purpose-driven organisation guided by strong values that shape our expectations and ability to deliver. Our team members strive to support partners and collaborate with experts to offer Science based reduction strategies. Aligned with our core principle of accountability, all staff are expected to take responsibility for advancing our sustainability strategy and to actively contribute to raising awareness and fostering understanding around climate change within our networks and communities. We would like to thank them for everyday, being part of the change.

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