

OPTIMUM POPULATION TRUST DISBURSEMENT POLICY FOR POPOFFSETS PROJECT FUNDING

1. PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY:

The policy is intended to meet the following objectives:

- **Consistency with Donation Objectives:** The policy needs to ensure that the final actual use of the funds is consistent with the description of the intended use of the donation made by PopOffsets at the time the donation was made.
- **Appropriate Use of Funds:** The policy needs to ensure that the organizations receiving the monies are bona-fide, i.e. that the credentials, reputation and references of the organizations receiving the disbursed PopOffsets funds give OPT sufficient comfort that the substantial part of the disbursed monies will be used in delivering the agreed objectives.
- **Preservation of OPT Reputation:** The policy needs to ensure that the political platform of the receiving organization, its applied policies and the quality of its organisational management are unlikely to put the reputation of the OPT at risk of “collateral political damage”.
- **Transparency:** The policy needs to ensure that the OPT is in a continuing position to demonstrate that donated funds have been used consistently with the objectives agreed with the donor and in an appropriate manner.

The following sections consider each the above four aspects in greater detail.

2. CONSISTENCY WITH DONATION OBJECTIVES:

The PopOffsets web-site makes the following salient statements:

We intend to use all donated funds less minimal/unavoidable costs for directly supporting family planning and wider reproductive health programs, and sex and relationships education – to meet, in particular, the needs of over 200 million women worldwide who do not have access to family planning.

We also recognize the power of social media and effective campaigning to change attitudes and values. We intend to develop a program of action to promote the case for optimum population as the best means of ensuring a peaceful, equitable future for mankind and a thriving and diverse natural environment. This means bringing about cultural, attitudinal and behavioural change by promoting the advantages of greater equity, security and access to resources for future generations through supporting an optimum population.

The above statements indicate that donated funds will be used initially to support:

- (a) family planning and wider reproductive health programs;
 - (b) sex and relationships education;
- and in due course, after research and notification,
- (c) promoting the case for optimum population;
- with (a) and (b) focused in particular to meet the needs of women who do not have access to these type of services.

Fundamental Aims of PopOffsets: Over and above the above explicit statements made on the PopOffsets web-site is the more fundamental and implicit objective of a “carbon-offset” project: by reducing population, to reduce the global carbon footprint.

3. FUNDING DIRECTIONS:

We intend to;

a) Allocate funds to those organizations active in developing countries that are empowering poor women with “the freedom of choice” in the size of their family:

Help to solve the immediate issue of the 200 million women world-wide with an unmet need for family planning services. This is a humanitarian and developmental effort to reduce poverty by respecting human rights, and empowering poor women to take control of their own fertility. The fact is that it will also help to ease all the global problems of climate change, for a modest proportion of the available funding, four times more cost-effectively than the conventional techno-solutions which, coupled with the wider environmental benefits, clearly produce a win-win situation.

OPT is conscious, however, of possible pending accusations, that this is merely a hidden strategy of financing de-population of the developing world and needs to be balanced with other carbon offset projects which may be, in tonnage terms, more effective.

b) Allocate funds focused upon per capita carbon-emission and per-capita wealth:

Clearly carbon emissions per capita in the ‘developed’ world exceed those in the ‘developing’ world. However, there are areas of the world where people are fast approaching their aspirations of living a western consumer lifestyle but, for other reasons, may not have access to family planning. Our policy will seek a balance between funding FP programmes of current high emitters and future potential high emitters.

4. PRESERVATION OF THE OPT REPUTATION:

For a charity to qualify as a recipient of PopOffsets funds it will need to demonstrate that its applied policies and the quality of its organisational management are unlikely to put the reputation of the OPT at risk of “collateral damage”. Qualifying organizations, in addition to meeting this criterion, must, in their actions, demonstrate that they are supportive of women’s rights and empowerment and that they show respect for all individuals, regardless of their race, creed or colour. In particular such organizations must NOT:

- Use OPT donations to fund abortions;
- Pursue reductions in births by means of coercion;
- Exercise selection criteria for the provision of their services based on racial, religious, ethnic or political grounds;
- Express views that are hostile to any racial, religious, ethnic or political group.

5. TRANSPARENCY:

For a charity to qualify as a recipient of PopOffsets funds it will need to be able to provide the OPT with:

- A SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timed) set of charitable objectives to which it will direct the funds;
- A reporting methodology showing the progress it is making in delivering the agreed charitable objectives;
- Detailed accounts demonstrating that the substantial majority of the provided funds have been used in appropriate support of the agreed charitable objectives.

6. KEY CRITERIA

- a) Verification – the project needs to be able to prove that carbon has been offset by the actions taken.
- b) Permanence – it needs to be clear that such actions will last and not disappear in a few years (clearly through FP this is achieved).
- c) Double Counting – the project must not count its carbon offset for any other funding organisation(s) and thus be used as basis for more carbon savings than have actually occurred.