SADC Papineau-Collines
Sustainable Development (SD) Policy

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2. Preamble

Since the end of the 1960s, the environmental and social limits to economic growth began to reveal themselves. During this period marked by increasingly frequent ecological and natural disasters, the race for intensive production constituted a serious threat to the environment and population.

Given this fact, States, economic actors and international organizations set up programs to end poverty and preserve the planet. In September 2015, the 193 member states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, whose objective was to meet the needs of all in a fair and equitable manner, while preserving the environment, in order that it meet the needs of future generations.

As a pioneer in this field, Quebec was among the first to adopt a Sustainable Development Act in 2006. This Act was adopted in response to the call of the United Nations during the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit.

The Government Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) 2015-2020 resulted from this Act, and its 6th guideline calls for ensuring sustainable land use and supporting the vitality of its communities.

As such, the SADC Papineau-Collines has been committed to a sustainable development approach since 2016, with initiatives such as the grouping of SADCs for Sustainable Development (SD Group), involvement in the Synergie Outaouais initiative, implementation of the Carbon Credit program throughout its territory, facilitation of a Sustainable Recovery Cohort, etc. The SADC Papineau-Collines wishes to continue along this path by prioritizing projects that promote the principles of sustainable development and fostering the long-term economic, social and ecological viability of the territory.

This policy constitutes the reference framework for the SADC Papineau-Collines in the implementation of this commitment.

3. Definition

The concept of Sustainable Development was initiated by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in its World Conservation Strategy published in 1980.

The universally adopted definition first appeared in the World Commission on Environment and Development's report, Our Common Future in 1987: "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

In its 2006 Sustainable Development Act, the Government of Quebec supplemented this definition with the following wording: "Sustainable development is based on a long-term vision that takes into account the inseparable nature of the environmental, social and economic dimensions of development activities."

4. Guiding Principles

The SADC Papineau-Collines, a key player in the economic development of its territory, implements, organizes and supports projects with sustainable economic benefits in its community by adopting the following sustainable development principles according to its scope of action and in accordance with the Sustainable Development Act:

1. Health and quality of life
2. Equity and social solidarity
3. Protection of the environment
4. Economic effectiveness
5. Participation and engagement
6. Access to knowledge
7. Partnership and intergovernmental cooperation
8. Prevention
9. Caution
10. Respect for the capacity of ecosystems
11. Responsible production and consumption
12. Polluter Payer

5. Scope of Action

This policy covers all areas of activity of the SADC Papineau-Collines and applies to its employees and members of its board of directors.

This policy allows the SADC Papineau-Collines to inform its various stakeholders as to its direction concerning sustainable development and to promote collaboration in achieving its objectives in this area.

6. Policy Objectives

The SADC Papineau-Collines, in accordance with its mission to increase regional economic development by supporting and helping structure businesses, organizations and communities, has been able to make a major contribution towards understanding, promoting and implementing sustainable development within its territory.

In this context, the SADC Papineau-Collines wishes to integrate the principles of sustainable development into all of its activities. This approach is broken down into four orientations:

- Orientation 1: Make the SADC Papineau-Collines carbon neutral and resilient to climate change;
- Orientation 2: Make the SADC Papineau-Collines socially responsible and inclusive;
- Orientation 3: Make the SADC Papineau-Collines a vehicle for sustainable and resilient economic growth throughout its territory;
- Orientation 4: Make the SADC Papineau-Collines a transparent and accountable organization.

7. Sustainable Development Committee

7.1 Objective

The SADC Papineau-Collines adopted sound practices of governance and continued improvement and commitment to its various stakeholders. To this end, a sustainable development committee was created.

7.2 Mandate

The SADC Papineau-Collines has mandated the sustainable development committee to recommend major orientations and provide advice in matters of sustainable development.

More specifically, the committee's mandate is as follows:

- Identify the priorities of sustainable development;

- Promote the process; mobilize and obtain active participation in this collective process;

- Collaborate in the elaboration of the sustainable development policy;

- Collaborate in the development of knowledge regarding sustainable development within the organization and raise awareness with respect to the importance of achieving the objectives of the sustainable development policy;

- Collaborate in the development of sustainable development tools;

- Collaborate in the development of an annual action plan, as well as indicators to measure and monitor the implementation of the policy;

- Collaborate in the promotion of the SADC's sustainable development policy both internally and externally;

- Present an annual report to the Board of Directors to assess the achievement of the policy's objectives and disseminate this annual report throughout the entire network;

- Re-evaluate the policy and present as needed, improvements and appropriate recommendations to the Board of Directors.

7.3 Composition

This committee is composed of:

- Two administrators;
- General management;
- At least two SADC employees.

Given the objective of inclusion and diversity, the SADC Papineau-Collines encourages a diversified and equitable composition of its members.

8. Responsibilities

The SADC Papineau-Collines commits to allocating all the material, financial and human resources necessary to ensure the efficient implementation of this policy.

Board of Directors (BOD):

- Adopts the SD policy;
- Approves the budget for the action plan.

Management:

- Authorizes the action plan, informs the BOD and ensures its implementation;
- Collaborates in the implementation of the SD action plan;
- Integrates SD principles into management, work processes and procedures;
- Ensures the dissemination of SD objectives and achievements in the annual report.

The Sustainable Development Committee:

- Carries out its mandate as defined in section 7.2

Employees:

- Participates in the improvement of SD on a daily basis, by working according to the principles of this policy and the annual action plan;
- Suggests improvements or modifications to the action plan to the SD Committee and informs it of situations that do not comply with this policy.

Sustainable Development Consultant:

- Plays a principal acting role in the dissemination and implementation of this policy and the directives that stem from it.
- Actively participates in the continued improvement of the policy and its directives.

9. Policy Implementation

The guidelines derived from this policy will be used to describe the application framework and the terms and conditions of the policy.

All sustainable development actors of the SADC Papineau-Collines contribute to the implementation and application of the policy in their area of jurisdiction.

10. Policy Revision

This policy is subject to revision and may be subject to continued adjustments for its improvement. Any revision must be approved by the Sustainable Development Committee and adopted by the Board of Directors.

11. Policy Comes into Effect

This policy becomes effective upon adoption by the Sustainability Committee.