Geological Survey of Finland
Finance and Management System

17.9.2026 GTK/554/00.00.03/2025

Geological Survey of Finland Environmental Policy

Standing operating procedure PO-1.6

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF FINLAND **DESCRIPTION PAGE**

GTK/554/00.00.03/2025

Authors
Lotta Knuutinen
Mari Kolehmainen
Sanna Tuominen

Report type
Administrative guidelines,
standing operating procedure PO-1.6

Commissioned by
Director General

Report title
Environmental Policy of the Geological Survey of Finland

Summary
The management of operations at the Geological Survey of Finland GTK follows an approved strategy. Management is supported by shared values, an organisation aligned with strategy and defined operating processes. To ensure compliance with the principles of good governance and cohesive operating culture, GTK’s management is committed to common operating procedures described in its operational policies. GTK's Environmental Policy is one of these policies.

Environmental policy is based on the statutory requirements and other binding obligations that govern GTK's operations. In addition, GTK has commitments related to environmental sustainability and sustainable development. Environmental policy outlines the material environmental impacts of GTK’s operations and defines the organisation’s environmental objectives, roles and responsibilities, and principles for monitoring and evaluation. It is founded on a risk-based approach, effectiveness and the principle of continuous improvement.

This document replaces the previous Quality and Environmental Policy.

Updates
Autumn 2022 documents combined as described in the summary
8/2025 reformatted Risk Management Policy and Quality and Environmental Policy into PO-1.2 and PO-1.3 documents
Autumn 2026 Environmental Policy updated, and document changed to PO-1.6

Signature / Name in block letters
Saku Vuori
Director General

Signature / Name in block letters
Lotta Knuutinen
Director, Communications and Sustainability

Description Page

Environmental Policy

Table of Contents

1. **Background**
2. **Commitments**
3. **Stakeholders and interaction**
4. **Environmental objectives**
5. **Roles and responsibilities**
6. **Monitoring and continuous improvement**

17.9.2026

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. Background

The foundation of our environmental policy is formed by the ***statutory requirements applicable to our operations, as well as national and international agreements***. The Geological Survey of Finland GTK provides solutions based on geoscientific understanding to society and industry to accelerate the transition to a sustainable, carbon-neutral world. This mission also guides GTK's environmental policy.

GTK's environmental policy covers the ***environmental impacts of our operations***. The policy is based on a risk-based and impact-based approach: we identify and monitor our ***material environmental impacts***.

We use our expertise and knowledge to ***mitigate negative impacts and strengthen positive impacts and opportunities***, to continuously improve and to make informed decisions.

2. Commitments

Our environmental policy is part of the ***sustainable development framework***, which guides the environmental, social and governance aspects of our operations. Environmental policy sets out our commitments to environmental protection, preventing climate change and the mitigation of adverse environmental impacts of our operations and value chain.

We adhere to the ***principles of the UN Global Compact*** relating to human rights, labour standards, environmental responsibility and anti-corruption.

We are committed to ***continuously improving the level of environmental protection*** in our operations and to the principles of ***nature-positive governance.*** We follow the principle of continuous improvement when evaluating our activities, setting environmental objectives and monitoring our progress.

Environmental policy is based on the ***strategic commitments*** of GTK, its supervising ministry and central government, as well as ***key international agreements*** to which Finland is committed at the state level. We identify and fulfil applicable compliance obligations, including obligations related to environmental legislation and environmental permitting.

GTK does not operate under an organisation-wide standardised quality certificate. The Circular Economy Solutions unit applies the latest valid ***ISO 9001 quality certificate*** covering the management of environmental impacts in the mining industry and the development of circular economy solutions.

3. Stakeholders and interaction

We ensure the ***necessary engagement with relevant stakeholders*** when assessing environmental aspects of our activities. The setting of environmental objectives and related reporting are part of the strategy and annual planning processes.

Key stakeholders in GTK's operations are the owner, i.e. the Finnish State represented by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, customers, personnel, funding bodies, partners, public authorities, suppliers, local communities and other parties connected to our activities.

We maintain ***regular dialogue with our stakeholders*** and take their perspectives into consideration when developing our operations. We support decision-making by providing independent geological research data, expert services and statements on the environment, natural resources and land use.

Under the Finnish Environmental Protection Act, GTK is designated as an expert organisation for statements concerning environmental permits. Upon request, we assist ***public authorities*** in decision-making by issuing statements on matters within the scope of our expertise, most of which are related to the environmental impacts of planned activities.

Our personnel play a central role in implementing the environmental policy. Environmental considerations are integrated into GTK's internal instructions. The procurement guidelines describe how environmental impacts are considered in tendering processes. The fieldwork checklist provides instructions for assessing environmental conditions and checking for any required follow-up measures, which are marked as completed once the fieldwork is finished. In line with GTK's organisational structure, supervisors are responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental guidelines.

Depending on the service or product provided, we require ***suppliers*** to be familiar with the objectives of GTK's Environmental Policy and encourage them to follow the same principles. GTK applies the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle in its procurement policy.

For customers and partners, including companies, organisations and municipalities, we provide research data and expert services that help prevent actions that may negatively affect environmental conditions and mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of their operations.

For funding bodies, we describe the environmental impacts of our projects and research activities in accordance with the objectives and reporting requirements of each funder.

For local communities, our research provides regional information on environmental conditions and the environmental impacts of different forms of land use. This research data supports the reconciliation of local needs and decision-making processes. We share information with local communities about the objectives, impacts and methods of our research.

4. Environmental objectives

GTK's most significant environmental contribution is the development of sustainable solutions for society and business. Scientific research, knowledge sharing and collaborative networks and partnerships are our primary means of creating positive impact.

Based on GTK's sustainability impact assessment, the ***most material environmental impacts of our activities*** relate to the availability and sustainable use of natural resources, the energy transition, environmental risk management and biodiversity.

Impacts of research projects

Adapting to the impacts of climate change requires extensive action across society. Our research provides a geoscientific approach to the sustainable use of the environment and the conservation of biodiversity.

In our research activities, we strive to create a ***positive handprint*** by enabling solutions that promote sustainable development and a healthy environment while minimising adverse impacts.

The research data we produce ***supports the energy transition and reduces fossil emissions*** in our customers' projects. This knowledge base promotes investments in renewable and low-emission energy production, increasing the generation of clean energy and reducing emissions.

GTK's services for the land use sector support risk management planning to mitigate the impacts of acidification and reduce the metal load released into surface waters, groundwater and the environment.

Our research on marine areas, inland waters, groundwater resources and soils supports the management of nutrient loads and nature values. Research data used in decision-making leads to improved planning solutions, ***reducing waste material and environmental harm***.

Our research services enable the assessment of valuable substances in primary and secondary mineral raw materials, which contributes to the utilisation of side streams and waste as well as the circular economy of materials. Our research helps ***reduce resource waste and implement the principles of circular economy.***

Management of environmental impacts

We seek to minimise our impacts on biodiversity loss and ***gather additional data on the impacts of our activities.***

We support the business sector in developing ***innovative solutions that improve environmental conditions*** and create new business opportunities.

We identify and reduce the environmental load of our operations and ***improve the resource and energy efficiency of our operating methods.*** In regard to our premises, we emphasise energy and material efficiency and circular economy solutions in cooperation with the property owner.

In procurement, we aim to ***reduce the carbon and ecological footprints of each procurement and promote circular economy.*** We apply the Finnish Government's resolution regarding the ecological objectives of public procurement.

We support the national implementation of legislation, strategies and directives on ***combatting biodiversity loss.***

5. Roles and responsibilities

Each employee at GTK is responsible for implementing the environmental policy.

The management is in charge of creating the prerequisites for environmental sustainability, monitoring progress towards environmental objectives and managing deviations.

Supervisors are responsible for taking environmental aspects into account within their areas of responsibility, and all employees are expected to consider environmental responsibility in their own work.

6. Monitoring and continuous improvement

We regularly monitor the implementation of our environmental policy and related practices. Environmental impacts are monitored using the data sources available to GTK.

The implementation of our environmental policy is monitored as part of GTK's ***management, sustainability and operational development***. We utilise available data and continuously improve our assessment, monitoring and reporting of environmental impacts. We follow the principle of continuous improvement in the development of our environmental sustainability.

The management's annual review identifies the measures required to advance the environmental objectives and reviews the status of the development measures agreed in the previous review. GTK's annual sustainability report is an important monitoring mechanism that provides stakeholders with information on the measures taken.

Our monitoring practices utilise e.g. the key indicators of the sustainability report, carbon footprint data of procurements and other available data on environmental impacts. In addition, we assess environmental sustainability through information generated by our research, expert services and project activities, as ***geoscientific information and research results support responsible decision-making, sustainable use of natural resources and the sustainability transition of society.***