

## HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT

### Key Statements

Nurses recognise that:

The health and well-being of people, indeed their survival, depends fundamentally, on a healthy environment: clean atmosphere and water, fertile soils, pollution free oceans and biological diversity.

Marginal groups within societies are particularly vulnerable to the identified threats to health through the impact of changing environments due to climate change and other influences.

Nurses have a shared responsibility to sustain and protect the environment and be instrumental in measures to mitigate any negative impact on individuals, communities and populations whilst fulfilling their role of promoting, restoring and maintaining health in people.

Nurses have a role in protecting the health of individuals by:

Seeking to preserve a healthy environment as fundamental to the health of all communities and future generations;

Assisting communities and governments to reverse environmental degradation and destruction of the life support systems of the planet;

Utilising their expertise and provide leadership to assist communities to apply the principles of public health in building healthy communities;

Participating in partnerships to lobby and advocate for actions to reduce impacts on health through environmental changes.

[Link to Background, Rationale, and Literature References for further information.](#)