

Chapter 1:

The [Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development “Our Common Future”](#) contains the modern definition of the concept sustainable development.

[The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) was adopted by the United Nations in 2015. It aims at addressing and eradicating poverty in all of its forms and dimensions, and promotes collaborative partnerships between countries and stakeholders in order to realize this goal.

The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) comprise 17 interrelated goals and 169 targets guiding action over the next 15 years in order to achieve sustainable development in all three dimensions: economic, social and environmental.

The origins of modern international human rights law lie in the [Charter of the United Nations](#) and it contains a separate chapter on human rights.

The [17 Principles of Environmental Justice](#) were adopted by the delegates of the 1991 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. They have served as an important defining document for the environmental justice movement.

The [Bali Principles of Climate Justice](#) adopted in 2002 by the International Climate Justice Network redefined climate change from a human rights and environmental justice perspective.

Chapter 2:

The 1972 [Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment](#) or **Stockholm Declaration** is the outcome document of the first ever global conference on the environment. It mentions that environmental protection is essential to the enjoyment of basic human rights.

The 1992 [Rio Declaration on Environment and Development](#), also known as the Rio Declaration, is the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit. It consists of 27 principles that serve as guidance for countries to achieving sustainable development in the future.

There are nine [Core International Human Rights Instruments](#) in the United Nations system. Each of them is monitored by a committee of experts called the monitoring (treaty) body.

In the United Nations human rights monitoring mechanisms we differentiate between [Treaty-Based Bodies](#) and [Charter-Based Bodies](#).

The [Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment](#) presented to the Human Rights Council by the former Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, John Knox, contain the main human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The website of the current [Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment](#), David Boyd, contains important information and resources in relation to a human right to a healthy and sustainable environment.

In this 2013 [Mapping Report](#), former Independent Expert on Human Rights and the Environment, John Knox, systematically analyzes substantive and procedural human rights obligations of states in relation to the environment.

[UN Environment's Environmental Rights Initiative](#) is a good source for the link between human rights and environment. It includes topics from around the world.

[Earthrights International](#) is a good source for the link between human rights, environment and businesses.

Chapter 3:

The report [Climate Change and Human Rights: A Rough Guide](#) published in 2008 by the International Council on Human Rights Policy has been among the first to discuss the pros and cons of a human rights-based approach to climate change.

This document published by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights explains how to apply a [Human Rights-Based Approach to Climate Change Negotiations, Policies and Measures](#).

The report [A Brighter Tomorrow: Climate Change, Child Rights and Intergenerational Justice](#) published by UNICEF in 2010 discusses the future of children in the context of climate change from an intergenerational justice perspective.

The [Network of Institutions for Future Generations](#) shares knowledge and best practices to safeguard the interests of future generations as well as to foster sustainable development.

The website of [Hungary's Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations](#) contains reports, project activities and resources relating to a right to a healthy environment and sustainability.

Chapter 4:

The [African \(Banjul\) Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights](#) adopted in 1981 contains a collective "right to a general satisfactory environment" (Art. 24).

The 1988 [Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights](#) includes a right to a healthy environment. It obliges state parties to protect, preserve and improve the environment.

The Council of Europe published a [Manual on Human Rights and the Environment](#) in 2006 to foster a better understanding between the human rights protected under the European Convention on Human Rights and Environmental Protection.

The 2012 [ASEAN Human Rights Declaration](#) embodies a provision on the right to a healthy environment under economic, social and cultural rights (ASEAN Declaration, Article 284).

The [Arab Charter on Human Rights](#) was adopted by the League of Arab Nations in 1994 and was revised in 2004. The Charter includes a right to a healthy environment as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living.

The [Asian Human Rights Charter](#) was adopted in 1998 by academics and non-governmental organizations and experts from the Asian Human Rights Commission. It can be understood as an attempt to foster the human rights debate and human rights commitment in Asia. The Charter includes a right to a healthy environment within the right to life provision.

The [Global Legal Action Network](#) supports a group of children to bring a climate change case to the European Court of Human Rights via crowdfunding. They plan to sue all 47 European countries for inaction in relation to climate change that infringes upon these children's human rights.

Chapter 5:

[General Comment No. 15](#) (2002) adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights elaborates on the legal bases of the right to water explaining that the right to water is a prerequisite for realizing other human rights.

[General Comment No. 14](#) (2000) acknowledges that the right to health embraces a wide range of socio-economic factors, including food and nutrition, safe water and adequate sanitation as well as a healthy environment.

The [Case of the Mayagna \(Sumo\) Awas Tingni Community v. Nicaragua](#) (2001) is significant because the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, for the first time, issued a judgment in favor of indigenous peoples' rights to their ancestral land.

The [Case López Ostra vs. Spain](#) (1990) demonstrates the interdependence of protecting civil rights, such as the right to private and family life, and respect for the home, with protecting economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to a healthy environment and the right to health.

In the [Case Öneriyildiz v. Turkey](#) (2004) involving Articles 2, 8, and 13 of the European Convention of Human Rights, the applicants argued that the national authorities were responsible for the deaths of close relatives and for the destruction of their property as a result of a methane explosion at a municipal rubbish tip near Istanbul.

Chapter 6:

The 1998 [UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters](#) is a regional treaty embodying procedural human rights in a binding environmental instrument.

The 2018 [Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) is closely aligned with the Aarhus Convention. It recognizes the right of all persons to have access to information, to participate in making the decisions that affect their lives and their environment, and to have access to justice when those rights have been infringed.

The website of [Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders](#) provides resources and documents in relation to this mandate but also contains country examples, case studies and fact sheets.

The [Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms](#) also known as “Declaration on Human Rights Defenders” was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999.

Chapter 7:

The [Constitution of South Africa](#) (adopted in 1996) includes a right to a healthy environment and recognizes the right to water.

The [Constitution of Argentina](#) (adopted in 1853, amended in 1994) contains a right to a healthy and balanced environment and refers to future generations as well as human development.

The [Constitution of Ukraine](#) (adopted in 1996, amended in 2004) contains a right to a safe environment and places an emphasis on access to information in the context of the environment.

[Global Environmental Constitutionalism](#) by James May and Erin Daly (CUP, 2014) has a rich array of sources includes cases

Chapter 8:

In [Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar](#), the petitioner filed a public interest litigation claim against two companies asserting that they allegedly created health risks to the public by dumping factory waste into the nearby river. The Court dismissed the petition.

In [Juliana et al. v. the United States of America](#), youth filed a constitutional lawsuit claiming that the government violates the youngest generation’s rights to life, liberty, property and does not protect essential public trust resources.

In [Urgenda Foundation v. the State of the Netherlands](#), the District Court of The Hague ruled that the government must take immediate action on climate change and cut its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 25% until the end of 2020 (compared to 1990).

In [Plan B v UK](#), the non-governmental organization Plan B and 11 citizens demanded that the UK government revises the 2050 carbon target under the Climate Change Act. In January 2019, the Court of Appeal rejected the appeal to have the case heard.

Chapter 9:

The 1992 [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) sets the broad framework for climate action, including establishing an institutional framework and some broad objectives and commitments. It also includes the ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’ principle.

The [Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice](#) provides resources, links to case studies and materials as well as media news in relation to protecting vulnerable groups and promoting climate justice.

The [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) adopted in 2015 is a non-binding agreement outlining states' primary role in reducing disaster risk and sharing responsibility in partnership with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and others.

The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is an expert body for assessing the science related to climate change and for making policy recommendations on the basis of these assessments.

[The United Nations Climate Change](#) is a good source that contains all official documents adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change by the Conference of Parties.

The 2015 [Paris Agreement](#) is a hybrid document combining voluntary commitments, i.e. Nationally Determined Contributions, with binding obligations. It raises the level of ambition to endeavor to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C and it is the first binding environmental treaty to include a specific provision on human rights.

The [World Bank website](#) on climate change has information and many documents relating to climate change.

Chapter 10:

At the 2015 climate negotiations in Paris, [Amnesty International and Greenpeace issued a joined statement](#) for including human rights in article two, which sets out the purpose of the new climate agreement. This close collaboration between an environmental and a human rights non-governmental organization (NGO) is unique and emphasizes that protecting human rights in the context of climate change has become a common objective.

The [Human Rights and Climate Change Working Group](#) has initiated the inter-constituency alliance, a network of different constituencies promoting the inclusion of human rights in the Paris Agreement in 2015. The website contains relevant resources, publications, case studies and links for further research.

The civil society network [Climate Justice Now](#) is convinced that many solutions to the climate crisis promoted by governments, international organizations, financial institutions, and multinational corporations are wrong. They oppose many of the solutions discussed at the international climate negotiations, including forest carbon markets, agrofuels, and carbon offsetting – and promote alternative ways to ecological, social and gender justice.

A report published by Global Witness in 2018 on Environmental Human Rights Defenders entitled [‘At What Cost?’](#) uses latest figures and facts to emphasize the situation of activists fighting for climate justice, the conservation of biodiversity and environmental rights.

Chapter 11:

In this 2015 report [Children and the Changing Climate](#), UNICEF analyzes and discusses the situation of children's rights in the context of climatic challenges and introduces case studies from various world regions.

The [United Nations Task Force on Displacement](#) was established at the 21st Conference of the Parties in Paris in order to make recommendations in relation to climate-induced displacement.

In this 2018 publication [Environmental Migration and Indigenous Peoples: What is at Stake?](#), the International Organization for Migration explains the complex situation of indigenous peoples who are forced to migrate due to environmental challenges.

In this scoping study on [Gender and Climate Change](#) (2008) published by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), gender impacts of climate change and the implications for gender equality are analyzed and discussed in detail.

The report [Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change](#) published by the International Labour Organization in 2017 analyzes the situation of indigenous peoples in the context of climatic challenges in depths and investigates how they can become agents of change addressing these challenges.

Chapter 12:

On its website, the non-governmental organization (NGO) International Rivers has collected resources, compiled fact sheets and provides further links for studying the [Gibe III hydroelectric dam project](#) and its impact on indigenous peoples rights.

The report [There is No Time Left](#) published in 2015 by Human Rights Watch analyzes the rights impact of the Gibe III hydroelectric dam project in Ethiopia on indigenous peoples living around Lake Turkana in Kenya.

The NGO Carbon Market Watch publishes news, press releases and reports in relation to [Human Rights in Climate Action](#) on their website. Their work particularly focuses on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

The Island Rights initiative, a non-profit think tank supporting small island communities, proposes a [Human Rights-based Approach to Loss and Damage](#) (Warsaw Mechanism).

The think tank Center for Global Development published critical analyses, blog posts and further resources exploring [REDD+ programmes](#) (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) from the perspective of indigenous peoples' rights.

Chapter 13:

The [Maastricht Principles](#) were adopted in 2011 by 40 human rights experts and they clarify extraterritorial obligations of states in the area of economic, social and cultural rights based on standing international law.

In the [Pulp Mills Case](#) (2006), the International Court of Justice recognized that carrying out environmental impact assessments, especially in the context of transboundary environmental damage, is now part of general international law.

In 2001, the International Law Commission adopted [Draft Articles of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts](#) and submitted them to the United Nations General Assembly.

Chapter 14:

The [United Nations Global Compact](#) contains 10 principles based on international law and relating to human rights, labor standards, environmental protection and anti-corruption that multinational corporations can voluntarily commit to.

The website of the [Special Representative on Human Rights and Business](#) contains important resources, reports, and links for further study relating to rights responsibilities of transnational corporations and other businesses.

The 2011 [OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#) provide standards for responsible business conduct that governments have committed to and that entail recommendations for corporations operating within or from these countries.

The [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) were developed by the Special Representative, John Ruggie, and clarify states' obligation to protect human rights, corporate responsibility to respect human rights and access to remedies for those adversely affected by business conduct.

This [Amicus Brief](#) outlines important arguments and provides a legal analysis concerning the petition requesting the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines to investigate the responsibility of the so-called Carbon Majors, for example Shell and Exxon, for human rights violations resulting from climate change impacts.

[Business and Human Rights Resource Center](#) is a rich source of information on businesses and their human rights/environmental impact.

[EarthRights International](#) is a good source for the link between human rights, environment and businesses.

Chapter 15:

[People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals](#) (PETA) is one of the largest animal rights organizations world-wide focusing on protecting animals in laboratories, in the food industry, in the clothing trade, and in the entertainment industry.

[Great Ape Project \(GAP\)](#) is an international animal rights movement created in 1994. Its main purpose is to raise awareness on and protect basic rights of the non-human great apes, including chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans and bonobos.

The [Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador](#) treats the environment as a rights-bearing entity, equal to humans, and includes inalienable, substantive rights of nature.

The [International Rights of Nature Tribunal](#) can be understood as a platform for informed legal analysis of diverse cases based on Rights of Nature. Considering Rights of Nature jurisprudence, environmental and social justice cases are reframed and adjudicated. This has an important awareness-raising function.

Chapter 16:

The 1986 [United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development](#) has been adopted by the General Assembly as a non-binding resolution and proclaims the right to development as an inalienable human right (Article 1).

The Council of Europe has published [12 Principles of Good Governance](#) in 2008. These include participation, human rights, ethical conduct, sustainability and accountability.

The non-governmental organization Transparency International publishes its [Corruption Perception Index](#) on an annual basis measuring the perceived level of corruption in every country in the world.

The [Environmental Rights Initiative](#) launched by UN Environment promotes action at the intersection of environmental and human rights protection in partnership with governments, non-state actors and the media.