

The Human Rights Guide to the Sustainable Development Goals

Linking human rights with all Sustainable Development Goals and targets

Click on goal, target or instrument to expand details.

Use switch to change which column to be first.

Show first:

Targets

instruments

Goal	Target	Instrument	Article / Description
 <p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p> <p>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.</p>	<p>14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.</p> <p>Indicators 14.1.1 (a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) plastic debris density</p>	<p>ICESCR International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</p>	<p>Show all articles 12.1 The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.</p> <p>12.2 The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for: 12.2.b The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene;</p>
		<p>Escazú Agreement Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean</p>	<p>Show all articles 1 The objective of the present Agreement is to guarantee the full and effective implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in the environmental decision-making process and access to justice in environmental matters, and the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation, contributing to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development.</p> <p>4.1 Each Party shall guarantee the right of every person to live in a healthy environment and any other universally-recognized human right related to the present Agreement.</p> <p>4.2 Each Party shall ensure that the rights recognized in the present Agreement are freely exercised.</p> <p>4.3 Each Party shall adopt the necessary measures, of a legislative, regulatory, administrative or any other nature, in the framework of its domestic provisions, to guarantee the implementation of the provisions of the present Agreement.</p> <p>4.6 Each Party shall guarantee an enabling environment for the work of persons, associations, organizations or groups that promote environmental protection, by recognizing and protecting them.</p> <p>5.2 The exercise of the right of access to environmental information includes: 5.2.a requesting and receiving information from competent authorities without mentioning any special interest or explaining the reasons for the request; 5.2.b being informed promptly whether the requested information is in possession or not of the competent authority receiving the request; 5.2.c being informed of the right to challenge and appeal when information is not delivered, and of the requirements for exercising this right.</p> <p>5.3 Each Party shall facilitate access to environmental information for persons or groups in vulnerable situations, establishing procedures for the provision of assistance, from the formulation of requests through to the delivery of the information, taking into account their conditions and specificities, for the purpose of promoting access and participation under equal conditions.</p> <p>5.4 Each Party shall guarantee that the above-mentioned persons or groups in vulnerable situations, including indigenous peoples and ethnic groups, receive assistance in preparing their requests and obtain a response.</p> <p>6.1 Each Party shall guarantee, to the extent possible within available resources, that the competent authorities generate, collect, publicize and disseminate environmental information relevant to their functions in a systematic, proactive, timely, regular, accessible and comprehensible manner, and periodically update this information and encourage the disaggregation and decentralization of environmental information at the subnational and local levels. Each Party shall strengthen coordination between the different authorities of the State.</p>

6.2	The competent authorities shall endeavour to ensure, to the extent possible, that environmental information is reusable, processable and available in formats that are accessible, and that no restrictions are placed on its reproduction or use, in accordance with domestic legislation.
6.3	Each Party shall have in place one or more up-to-date environmental information systems, which may include, inter alia:
6.3.b	reports on the state of the environment;
6.3.c	a list of public entities competent in environmental matters and, where possible, their respective areas of operation;
6.3.d	a list of polluted areas, by type of pollutant and location;
6.3.e	information on the use and conservation of natural resources and ecosystem services;
6.3.f	scientific, technical or technological reports, studies and information on environmental matters produced by academic and research institutions, whether public or private, national or foreign;
6.3.h	information on environmental impact assessment processes and on other environmental management instruments, where applicable, and environmental licences or permits granted by the public authorities;
6.3.i	an estimated list of waste by type and, when possible, by volume, location and year; and
6.3.j	information on the imposition of administrative sanctions in environmental matters.
6.4	Each Party shall take steps to establish a pollutant release and transfer register covering air, water, soil and subsoil pollutants, as well as materials and waste in its jurisdiction. This register will be established progressively and updated periodically.
6.5	Each Party shall guarantee that in the case of an imminent threat to public health or the environment, the relevant competent authority shall immediately disclose and disseminate through the most effective means all pertinent information in its possession that could help the public take measures to prevent or limit potential damage. Each Party shall develop and implement an early warning system using available mechanisms.
6.6	In order to facilitate access by persons or groups in vulnerable situations to information that particularly affects them, each Party shall endeavour, where applicable, to ensure that the competent authorities disseminate environmental information in the various languages used in the country, and prepare alternative formats that are comprehensible to those groups, using suitable channels of communication.
6.7	Each Party shall use its best endeavours to publish and disseminate at regular intervals, not exceeding five years, a national report on the state of the environment, which may contain:
6.7.a	information on the state of the environment and natural resources, including quantitative data, where possible;
6.7.z	Such reports shall be drafted in an easily comprehensible manner and accessible to the public in different formats and disseminated through appropriate means, taking into account cultural realities. Each Party may invite the public to make contributions to these reports.
6.8	Each Party shall encourage independent environmental performance reviews that take into account nationally or internationally agreed criteria and guides and common indicators, with a view to evaluating the efficacy, effectiveness and progress of its national environmental policies in fulfilment of their national and international commitments. The reviews shall include participation by the various stakeholders.
6.12	Each Party shall take the necessary measures, through legal or administrative frameworks, among others, to promote access to environmental information in the possession of private entities, in particular information on their operations and the possible risks and effects on human health and the environment.
7.2	Each Party shall guarantee mechanisms for the participation of the public in decision-making processes, revisions, re-examinations or updates with respect to projects and activities, and in other processes for granting environmental permits that have or may have a significant impact on the environment, including when they may affect health.
7.3	Each Party shall promote the participation of the public in decision-making processes, revisions, re-examinations or updates other than those referred to in paragraph 2 of the present article with respect to environmental matters of public interest, such as land-use planning, policies, strategies, plans, programmes, rules and regulations, which have or may have a significant impact on the environment.

		<p>7.4 Each Party shall adopt measures to ensure that the public can participate in the decision-making process from the early stages, so that due consideration can be given to the observations of the public, thus contributing to the process. To that effect, each Party shall provide the public with the necessary information in a clear, timely and comprehensive manner, to give effect to its right to participate in the decision-making process.</p>
		<p>7.5 The public participation procedure will provide for reasonable timeframes that allow sufficient time to inform the public and for its effective participation.</p>
		<p>7.7 The public's right to participate in environmental decision-making processes shall include the opportunity to present observations through appropriate means available, according to the circumstances of the process. Before adopting the decision, the relevant public authority shall give due consideration to the outcome of the participation process.</p>
		<p>7.9 The dissemination of the decisions resulting from environmental impact assessments and other environmental decision-making processes in which the public has participated shall be carried out through appropriate means, which may include written, electronic or oral means and customary methods, in an effective and prompt manner. The information disseminated shall include the established procedure to allow the public to take the relevant administrative and judicial actions.</p>
		<p>7.12 Each Party shall promote, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic legislation, public participation in international forums and negotiations on environmental matters or with an environmental impact, in accordance with the procedural rules on participation of each forum. The participation of the public at the national level on matters of international environmental forums shall also be promoted, where appropriate.</p>
		<p>7.17 With respect to the environmental decision-making processes referred to in paragraph 2 of the present article, as a minimum, the following information shall be made public:</p>
		<p>7.17.a a description of the area of influence and physical and technical characteristics of the proposed project or activity;</p>
		<p>7.17.b a description of the main environmental impacts of the project or activity and, as appropriate, the cumulative environmental impact;</p>
		<p>7.17.c a description of the measures foreseen with respect to those impacts;</p>
		<p>7.17.d a summary of (a), (b) and (c) of the present paragraph in comprehensible, non-technical language;</p>
		<p>7.17.e the public reports and opinions of the involved entities addressed to the public authority related to the project or activity under consideration;</p>
		<p>7.17.f a description of the available technologies to be used and alternative locations for executing the project or activity subject to assessment, when the information is available; and</p>
		<p>7.17.g actions taken to monitor the implementation and results of environmental impact assessment measures.</p>
		<p>7.17.z The aforementioned information shall be made available free of charge to the public in accordance with paragraph 17 of article 5 of the present Agreement.</p>
		<p>9.1 Each Party shall guarantee a safe and enabling environment for persons, groups and organizations that promote and defend human rights in environmental matters, so that they are able to act free from threat, restriction and insecurity</p>
		<p>13 Each Party, to the extent of its ability and in accordance with its national priorities, commits to provide the resources for national activities that are needed to fulfil the obligations derived from the present Agreement.</p>
	<p>ADRDM American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man</p>	<p>Show all articles XI Every person has the right to the preservation of his health through sanitary and social measures relating to food, clothing, housing and medical care, to the extent permitted by public and community resources</p>
	<p>Protocol of San Salvador Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural rights (Protocol of San Salvador)</p>	<p>Show all articles 11.1 Everyone shall have the right to live in a healthy environment and to have access to basic public services. 11.2 The States Parties shall promote the protection, preservation, and improvement of the environment.</p>
	<p>ACHPR African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights</p>	<p>Show all articles 16.1 Every individual shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical and mental health. 16.2 States parties to the present Charter shall take the necessary measures to protect the health of their people and to ensure that they receive medical attention when they are sick.</p>

		24 All peoples shall have the right to a general satisfactory environment favourable to their development.
	Maputo Protocol Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa	Show all articles 18.1 Women shall have the right to live in a healthy and sustainable environment.
		18.2 States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to:
		18.2.a ensure greater participation of women in the planning, management and preservation of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources at all levels;
	CBD Convention on Biological Diversity	Show all articles 3 States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
		6 Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:
		6.a Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned;
		6.b Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.
		10 Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate:
		10.a Integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making;
		10.b Adopt measures relating to the use of biological resources to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity;
		10.c Protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements;
		10.d Support local populations to develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced;
		10.e Encourage cooperation between its governmental authorities and its private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological resources.
		14.1.e Promote national arrangements for emergency responses to activities or events, whether caused naturally or otherwise, which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity and encourage international cooperation to supplement such national efforts and, where appropriate and agreed by the States or regional economic Integration organizations concerned, to establish joint contingency plans;
	UNCLOS UN Convention on the Law of the Sea	Show all articles 193 States have the sovereign right to exploit their natural resources pursuant to their environmental policies and in accordance with their duty to protect and preserve the marine environment.
		194.1 States shall take, individually or jointly as appropriate, all measures consistent with this Convention that are necessary to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from any source, using for this purpose the best practicable means at their disposal and in accordance with their capabilities, and they shall endeavour to harmonize their policies in this connection.
		196.1 States shall take all measures necessary to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment resulting from the use of technologies under their jurisdiction or control, or the intentional or accidental introduction of species, alien or new, to a particular part of the marine environment, which may cause significant and harmful changes thereto.
		207.1 States shall adopt laws and regulations to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources, including rivers, estuaries, pipelines and outfall structures, taking into account internationally agreed rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures.
		207.2 States shall take other measures as may be necessary to prevent, reduce and control such pollution.
		207.3 States shall endeavour to harmonize their policies in this connection at the appropriate regional level.

207.4	States, acting especially through competent international organizations or diplomatic conference, shall endeavour to establish global and regional rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources, taking into account characteristic regional features, the economic capacity of developing States and their need for economic development. Such rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures shall be re-examined from time to time as necessary.
207.5	Laws, regulations, measures, rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 shall include those designed to minimize, to the fullest extent possible, the release of toxic, harmful or noxious substances, especially those which are persistent, into the marine environment.
208.1	Coastal States shall adopt laws and regulations to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment arising from or in connection with seabed activities subject to their jurisdiction and from artificial islands, installations and structures under their jurisdiction, pursuant to articles 60 and 80.
208.2	States shall take other measures as may be necessary to prevent, reduce and control such pollution.
208.3	Such laws, regulations and measures shall be no less effective than international rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures.
208.4	States shall endeavour to harmonize their policies in this connection at the appropriate regional level.
208.5	States, acting especially through competent international organizations or diplomatic conference, shall establish global and regional rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment referred to in paragraph 1. Such rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures shall be re-examined from time to time as necessary.
209.2	Subject to the relevant provisions of this section, States shall adopt laws and regulations to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from activities in the Area undertaken by vessels, installations, structures and other devices flying their flag or of their registry or operating under their authority, as the case may be. The requirements of such laws and regulations shall be no less effective than the international rules, regulations and procedures referred to in paragraph 1.
210.1	States shall adopt laws and regulations to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment by dumping.
210.2	States shall take other measures as may be necessary to prevent, reduce and control such pollution.
210.3	Such laws, regulations and measures shall ensure that dumping is not carried out without the permission of the competent authorities of States.
210.4	States, acting especially through competent international organizations or diplomatic conference, shall endeavour to establish global and regional rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures to prevent, reduce and control such pollution. Such rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures shall be re-examined from time to time as necessary.
210.5	Dumping within the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone or onto the continental shelf shall not be carried out without the express prior approval of the coastal State, which has the right to permit, regulate and control such dumping after due consideration of the matter with other States which by reason of their geographical situation may be adversely affected thereby.
210.6	National laws, regulations and measures shall be no less effective in preventing, reducing and controlling such pollution than the global rules and standards.
211.1	States, acting through the competent international organization or general diplomatic conference, shall establish international rules and standards to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from vessels and promote the adoption, in the same manner, wherever appropriate, of routing systems designed to minimize the threat of accidents which might cause pollution of the marine environment, including the coastline, and pollution damage to the related interests of coastal States. Such rules and standards shall, in the same manner, be re-examined from time to time as necessary.
211.2	States shall adopt laws and regulations for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution of the marine environment from vessels flying their flag or of their registry. Such laws and regulations shall at least have the same effect as that of generally accepted international rules and standards established through the competent international organization or general diplomatic conference.
211.3	States which establish particular requirements for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution of the marine environment as a condition for the entry of foreign vessels into their ports or internal waters or for a call at their off-shore terminals shall give due publicity to such requirements and shall communicate them to the competent international organization. Whenever such requirements are established in identical form by two or more coastal States in an endeavour to harmonize policy, the communication shall indicate which States are participating in such cooperative arrangements. Every State shall require the master of a vessel flying its flag or of its registry, when navigating within the territorial sea of a State participating in such cooperative arrangements, to furnish, upon the request of that State, information as to whether it is proceeding to a State of the same region participating in such cooperative arrangements and, if so, to indicate whether it complies with the port entry requirements of that State. This article is without prejudice to the continued exercise by a vessel of its right of innocent passage or to the application of article 25, paragraph 2.

			<p>211.4 Coastal States may, in the exercise of their sovereignty within their territorial sea, adopt laws and regulations for the prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution from foreign vessels, including vessels exercising the right of innocent passage. Such laws and regulations shall, in accordance with Part II, section 3, not hamper innocent passage of foreign vessels.</p>
			<p>211.5 Coastal States, for the purpose of enforcement as provided for in section 6, may in respect of their exclusive economic zones adopt laws and regulations for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution from vessels conforming to and giving effect to generally accepted international rules and standards established through the competent international organization or general diplomatic conference.</p>
			<p>212.1 States shall adopt laws and regulations to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from or through the atmosphere, applicable to the air space under their sovereignty and to vessels flying their flag or vessels or aircraft of their registry, taking into account internationally agreed rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures and the safety of air navigation.</p>
			<p>212.2 States shall take other measures as may be necessary to prevent, reduce and control such pollution.</p>
			<p>212.3 States, acting especially through competent international organizations or diplomatic conference, shall endeavour to establish global and regional rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures to prevent, reduce and control such pollution.</p>
			<p>214 States shall enforce their laws and regulations adopted in accordance with article 208 and shall adopt laws and regulations and take other measures necessary to implement applicable international rules and standards established through competent international organizations or diplomatic conference to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment arising from or in connection with seabed activities subject to their jurisdiction and from artificial islands, installations and structures under their jurisdiction, pursuant to articles 60 and 80.</p>

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