

# 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>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.</p>	<b>14.2</b> By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.  <b>Indicators</b> <b>14.2.1</b> Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas	<b>ICCPR</b> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	<b>Show all articles</b> 1.2 All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.
		<b>ICESCR</b> International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	<b>Show all articles</b> 1.2 All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.  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;
		<b>UNDRIP</b> United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	<b>Show all articles</b> 25 Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
			26.1 Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
			26.2 Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
		<b>Escazú Agreement</b> Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean	<b>Show all articles</b> 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.
			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.
			4.2 Each Party shall ensure that the rights recognized in the present Agreement are freely exercised.
			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.
			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.
			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;

		<p>5.2.b being informed promptly whether the requested information is in possession or not of the competent authority receiving the request;</p>
		<p>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>
		<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.</p>
		<p>6.3 Each Party shall have in place one or more up-to-date environmental information systems, which may include, inter alia:</p>
		<p>6.3.b reports on the state of the environment;</p>
		<p>6.3.c a list of public entities competent in environmental matters and, where possible, their respective areas of operation;</p>
		<p>6.3.d a list of polluted areas, by type of pollutant and location;</p>
		<p>6.3.e information on the use and conservation of natural resources and ecosystem services;</p>
		<p>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;</p>
		<p>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;</p>
		<p>6.3.i an estimated list of waste by type and, when possible, by volume, location and year; and</p>
		<p>6.3.j information on the imposition of administrative sanctions in environmental matters.</p>
		<p>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.</p>
		<p>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.</p>
		<p>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.</p>
		<p>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:</p>
		<p>6.7.a information on the state of the environment and natural resources, including quantitative data, where possible;</p>

		<p>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.</p>
		<p>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.</p>
		<p>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.</p>
		<p>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.</p>
		<p>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>
		<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><b>Protocol of San Salvador</b> Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural rights (Protocol of San Salvador)</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>11.1 Everyone shall have the right to live in a healthy environment and to have access to basic public services.</p> <p>11.2 The States Parties shall promote the protection, preservation, and improvement of the environment.</p>
		<p><b>ACHPR</b> African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>21.1 All peoples shall freely dispose of their wealth and natural resources. This right shall be exercised in the exclusive interest of the people. In no case shall a people be deprived of it.</p> <p>24 All peoples shall have the right to a general satisfactory environment favourable to their development.</p>
		<p><b>Maputo Protocol</b> Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>18.1 Women shall have the right to live in a healthy and sustainable environment.</p>
		<p><b>UNFCCC</b> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>3 In their actions to achieve the objective of the Convention and to implement its provisions, the Parties shall be guided, inter alia, by the following:</p> <p>3.3 The Parties should take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing such measures, taking into account that policies and measures to deal with climate change should be cost-effective so as to ensure global benefits at the lowest possible cost. To achieve this, such policies and measures should take into account different socio-economic contexts, be comprehensive, cover all relevant sources, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and adaptation, and comprise all economic sectors. Efforts to address climate change may be carried out cooperatively by interested Parties.</p> <p>4.1 All Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, shall:</p> <p>4.1.d Promote sustainable management, and promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of sinks and reservoirs of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems;</p> <p>4.2 The developed country Parties and other Parties included in Annex I commit themselves specifically as provided for in the following:</p> <p>4.2.a Each of these Parties shall adopt national policies and take corresponding measures on the mitigation of climate change, by limiting its anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and protecting and enhancing its greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs. These policies and measures will demonstrate that developed countries are taking the lead in modifying longer-term trends in anthropogenic emissions consistent with the objective of the Convention, recognizing that the return by the end of the present decade to earlier levels of anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol would contribute to such modification, and taking into account the differences in these Parties' starting points and approaches, economic structures and resource bases, the need to maintain strong and sustainable economic growth, available technologies and other individual circumstances, as well as the need for equitable and appropriate contributions by each of these Parties to the global effort regarding that objective. These Parties may implement such policies and measures jointly with other Parties and may assist other Parties in contributing to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and, in particular, that of this subparagraph;</p>
		<p><b>CBD</b> Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>6 Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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.</p> <p>7 Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, in particular for the purposes of Articles 8 to 10:</p> <p>7.a Identify components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use having regard to the indicative list of categories set down in Annex I;</p> <p>7.b Monitor, through sampling and other techniques, the components of biological diversity identified pursuant to subparagraph (a) above, paying particular attention to those requiring urgent conservation measures and those which offer the greatest potential for sustainable use;</p>

		<p>7.c Identify processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and monitor their effects through sampling and other techniques;</p>
		<p>7.d Maintain and organize, by any mechanism data, derived from identification and monitoring activities pursuant to subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) above.</p>
		<p>8 Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate:</p>
		<p>8.a Establish a system of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity;</p>
		<p>8.b Develop, where necessary, guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity;</p>
		<p>8.c Regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity whether within or outside protected areas, with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use;</p>
		<p>8.d Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings;</p>
		<p>8.e Promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas with a view to furthering protection of these areas;</p>
		<p>8.f Rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species, inter alia, through the development and implementation of plans or other management strategies;</p>
		<p>8.g Establish or maintain means to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts that could affect the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account the risks to human health;</p>
		<p>8.h Prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species;</p>
		<p>8.i Endeavour to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components;</p>
		<p>8.j Subject to its national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices;</p>
		<p>8.k Develop or maintain necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations</p>
		<p>8.l Where a significant adverse effect on biological diversity has been determined pursuant to Article 7, regulate or manage the relevant processes and categories of activities</p>
		<p>8.m Cooperate in providing financial and other support for in-situ conservation outlined in subparagraphs (a) to (1) above, particularly to developing countries</p>
		<p>9 Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, and predominantly for the purpose of complementing in-situ measures:</p>
		<p>9.a Adopt measures for the ex-situ conservation of components of biological diversity, preferably in the country of origin of such components</p>
		<p>9.b Establish and maintain facilities for ex-situ conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms, preferably in the country of origin of genetic resources;</p>
		<p>9.c Adopt measures for the recovery and rehabilitation of threatened species and for their reintroduction into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions;</p>
		<p>9.d Regulate and manage collection of biological resources from natural habitats for ex-situ conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and in-situ populations of species, except where special temporary ex-situ measures are required under subparagraph (c) above;</p>
		<p>9.e Cooperate in providing financial and other support for ex-situ conservation outlined in subparagraphs (a) to (d) above and in the establishment and maintenance of ex-situ conservation facilities in developing countries.</p>

			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.
			11 Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity.
			14.1 Each Contracting Party, as far as possible and as appropriate, shall:
			14.1.a Introduce appropriate procedures requiring environmental impact assessment of its proposed projects that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity with a view to avoiding or minimizing such effects and, where appropriate, allow for public participation in such procedures;
			14.1.b Introduce appropriate arrangements to ensure that the environmental consequences of its programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account;
			14.1.c Promote, on the basis of reciprocity, notification, exchange of information and consultation on activities under their jurisdiction or control which are likely to significantly affect adversely the biological diversity of other States or areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, by encouraging the conclusion of bilateral, regional or multilateral arrangements, as appropriate;
			14.1.d In the case of imminent or grave danger or damage, originating under its jurisdiction or control, to biological diversity within the area under jurisdiction of other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, notify immediately the potentially affected States of such danger or damage, as well as initiate action to prevent or minimize such danger or damage;
			14.2 The Conference of the Parties shall examine, on the basis of studies to be carried out, the issue of liability and redress, including restoration and compensation, for damage to biological diversity, except where such liability is a purely internal matter.
			18.1 The Contracting Parties shall promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, where necessary, through the appropriate international and national institutions.
			18.2 Each Contracting Party shall promote technical and scientific cooperation with other Contracting Parties, in particular developing countries, in implementing this Convention, inter alia, through the development and implementation of national policies. In promoting such cooperation, special attention should be given to the development and strengthening of national capabilities, by means of human resources development and institution building.
			18.3 The Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting, shall determine how to establish a clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation.
			18.4 The Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with national legislation and policies, encourage and develop methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention. For this purpose, the Contracting Parties shall also promote cooperation in the training of personnel and exchange of experts.
			18.5 The Contracting Parties shall, subject to mutual agreement, promote the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of this Convention.
		<b>Ramsar convention</b> Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat	<b>Show all articles</b> 3.1 The Contracting Parties shall formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List, and as far as possible the wise use of wetlands in their territory.

			4.1 Each Contracting Party shall promote the conservation of wetlands and waterfowl by establishing nature reserves on wetlands, whether they are included in the List or not, and provide adequately for their wardening.
			4.2 Where a Contracting Party in its urgent national interest, deletes or restricts the boundaries of a wetland included in the List, it should as far as possible compensate for any loss of wetland resources, and in particular it should create additional nature reserves for waterfowl and for the protection, either in the same area or elsewhere, of an adequate portion of the original habitat.
			4.3 The Contracting Parties shall encourage research and the exchange of data and publications regarding wetlands and their flora and fauna.
			4.4 The Contracting Parties shall endeavour through management to increase waterfowl populations on appropriate wetlands.
			4.5 The Contracting Parties shall promote the training of personnel competent in the fields of wetland research, management and wardening.
		UNCLOS UN Convention on the Law of the Sea	<b>Show all articles</b> 61.2 The coastal State, taking into account the best scientific evidence available to it, shall ensure through proper conservation and management measures that the maintenance of the living resources in the exclusive economic zone is not endangered by over-exploitation. As appropriate, the coastal State and competent international organizations, whether subregional, regional or global, shall cooperate to this end.
			145 Necessary measures shall be taken in accordance with this Convention with respect to activities in the Area to ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from such activities. To this end the Authority shall adopt appropriate rules, regulations and procedures for inter alia:
			145.a the prevention, reduction and control of pollution and other hazards to the marine environment, including the coastline, and of interference with the ecological balance of the marine environment, particular attention being paid to the need for protection from harmful effects of such activities as drilling, dredging, excavation, disposal of waste, construction and operation or maintenance of installations, pipelines and other devices related to such activities;
			145.b the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Area and the prevention of damage to the flora and fauna of 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.
			194.2 States shall take all measures necessary to ensure that activities under their jurisdiction or control are so conducted as not to cause damage by pollution to other States and their environment, and that pollution arising from incidents or activities under their jurisdiction or control does not spread beyond the areas where they exercise sovereign rights in accordance with this Convention.
			194.5 The measures taken in accordance with this Part shall include those necessary to protect and preserve rare or fragile ecosystems as well as the habitat of depleted, threatened or endangered species and other forms of marine life.
			197 States shall cooperate on a global basis and, as appropriate, on a regional basis, directly or through competent international organizations, in formulating and elaborating international rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures consistent with this Convention, for the protection and preservation of the marine environment, taking into account characteristic regional features.
			204.2 In particular, States shall keep under surveillance the effects of any activities which they permit or in which they engage in order to determine whether these activities are likely to pollute the marine environment.
			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.