

Incorporating Human Rights in Climate Action

opportunities to address linkages at COP-24



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Importance of human rights in climate policies



- Public participation and collective design of climate policies ensure that climate policies are more effective and strengthened by local support.



- Empowerment of men and women to contribute to climate action.



- Climate education enables children to act as agents of change as well as fully understand ongoing and future impacts of climate change.



- Considering the right to development and social and economic rights is key to a just transition and to leaving “no one behind” through the decarbonization of the economy.

Importance of human rights in climate policies

- Through a human rights lens, governments can guarantee that adaptation policies contribute to promoting and fulfilling the right to livelihood, food, access to water and housing.
- Addressing climate-related displacement through right-based frameworks and placing people at the core of disaster risk reduction contributes to
- Recognizing and protecting the forest and land rights of indigenous peoples and local communities helps prevent deforestation.
- Establishing adequate social and environmental safeguards guarantees that projects implemented in the name of climate action benefits local communities and contribute to sustainable development.

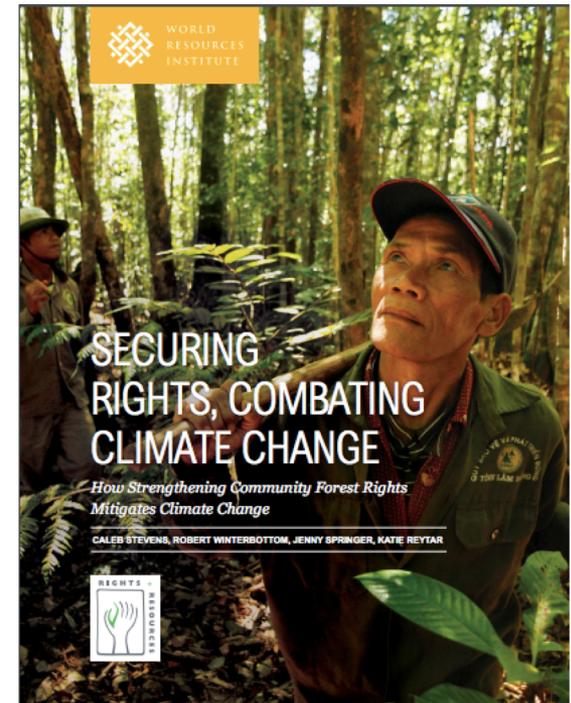


Example: Land tenure rights and carbon sequestration

Research focusing on relation between land tenure and forest rights for indigenous peoples and local communities in 14 forests-rich countries

Key findings:

1. When Indigenous Peoples and local communities have no or weak legal rights, their forests tend to be vulnerable to deforestation and thus become the source of carbon dioxide emissions.
2. Legal forest rights for communities and government protection of their rights tend to lower carbon dioxide emissions and deforestation.
3. Indigenous Peoples and local communities with legal forest rights maintain or improve their forests' carbon storage.



Linkages between Human Rights and Ambition

- Ambition and equity are required to guarantee the ability of all states to protect the rights of their people.



- Land tenure rights are key to carbon sequestration.
- Public participation and traditional knowledge strengthens design of policies.
- Empowerment of communities increase engagement and support.

Human Rights in the Implementation of the UNFCCC

Reporting of Climate Action



In the UNFCCC, considering both National Communications and NAPAs, 49 countries have made explicit references to human rights.



13% Substantive Rights
1% Developed
12% Developing



20% Procedural Rights
10% Developed
10% Developing

Climate Commitments

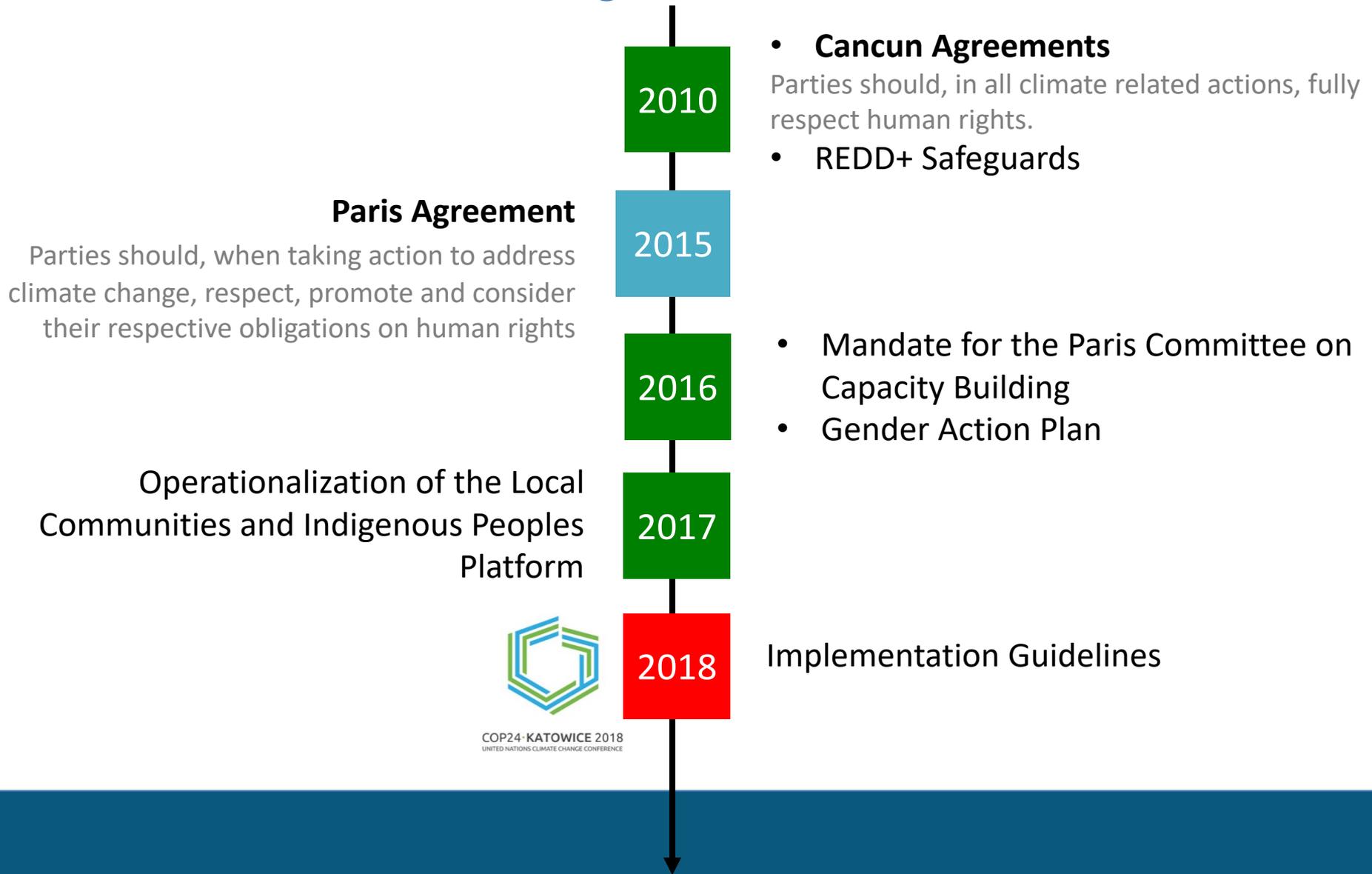


24 countries referred to human rights in their INDCs

The “Paris Spirit”



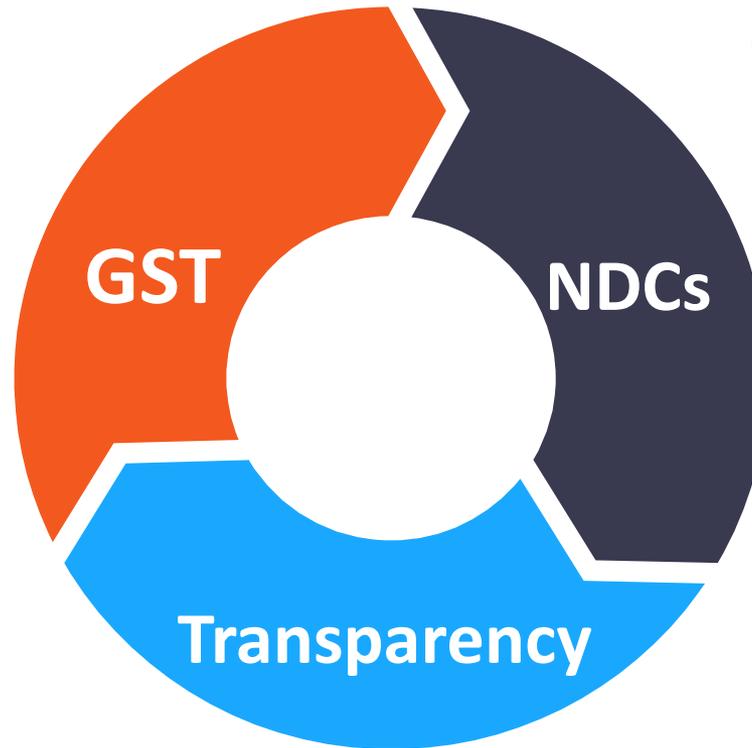
References to human rights under the UNFCCC



Human Rights and the Implementation of the Paris Agreement

3 Global Stocktake

Collective assessment of progress and lessons learned related to the incorporation of human rights in climate action



1 NDCs

Invitation to share information regarding participatory processes and the integration of human rights in the planning of their NDCs.

2 Transparency

Sharing by Parties of their national experience related to human rights aspects of climate policies

Virtuous learning cycles

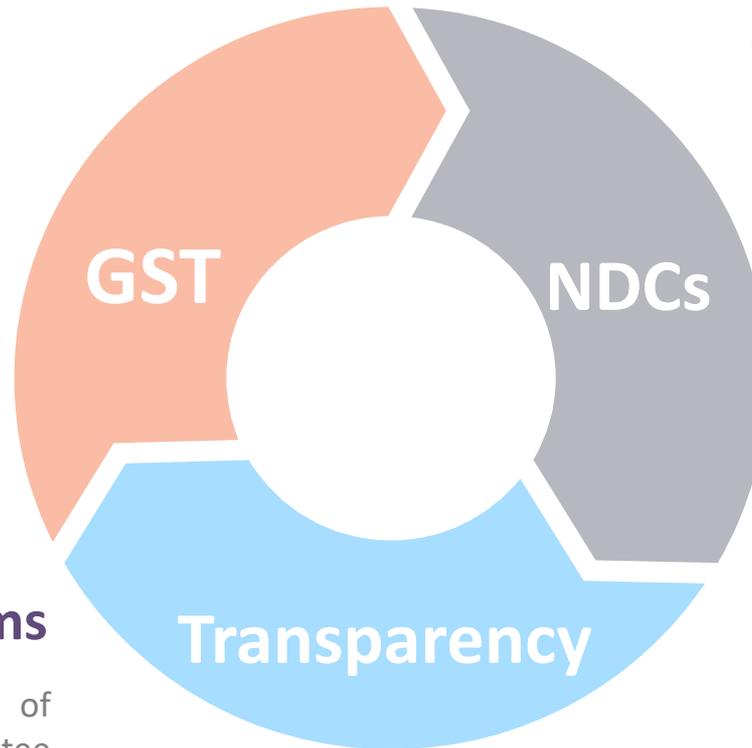
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4 Article 6 Mechanisms

Ensure that establishment of adequate safeguards to guarantee the social and environmental integrity of the mechanisms



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Virtuous learning cycles

Incorporation of human rights considerations under the UNFCCC

Integrating human rights considerations in the implementation of the Paris Agreement **would**:

Strengthen **effectiveness** of climate action and **empower communities** to contribute to policies

Promote **policy coherence and synergies** between climate action and the promotion

Enhance **public support** for climate policies

Integrating human rights considerations in the implementation of the Paris Agreement **would not**:

Create new obligations beyond those already provided in the human rights framework

Impose human rights frameworks that States have chose not to recognize

Lead to any comprehensive review by UNFCCC bodies of human rights compliance



Beyond Katowice: support for implementation

- Role for the Paris Committee on Capacity Building
- Importance to strengthen the institutional capacity of the UNFCCC secretariat so that it can support parties' implementation
- Potential synergies with existing workstreams:
 - Gender Action Plan
 - Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture
 - Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
 - Warsaw International Mechanism

Thank You for Your Attention

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Resources

- SECURING RIGHTS, COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE - WRI and RRI (2014)
<https://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/securingrights-full-report-english.pdf>
- Key Messages on Human Rights and Climate Change - OHCHR (2015)
https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/KeyMessages_on_HR_CC.pdf
- Incorporating Human Rights into Climate Action - MRFCJ (2016)
<https://www.mrfcj.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Incorporating-Human-Rights-into-Climate-Action-Version-2-May-2016.pdf>
- Climate justice and the use of human rights law in reducing greenhouse gas emissions – QUNO (2016)
http://www.quno.org/sites/default/files/resources/Climate%20Justice_August_2016.pdf
- Delivering on the Paris Promise – CIEL, CARE, WEDO, IWGIA, ITUC, AIPP and RFN (2016)
<https://www.deliveringonparis.com/>

