

Respecting and Promoting Human Rights in the Implementation of the Paris Agreement

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Human rights in Article 12 of the Paris Agreement

- Article 12 states: Parties shall cooperate in taking measures, as appropriate, to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information, recognizing the importance of these steps with respect to enhancing actions under this Agreement.
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international human rights instruments establish that participation and access to information are human rights. This is reaffirmed in the specific context of environmental matters by Rio Principle 10, the Aarhus Convention and the Escazu Agreement.
- Education is also a right. And according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children are entitled to education directed toward respect for the natural environment.



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Why and how to promote ACE in the implementation of the Paris Agreement

- It is a human rights obligation
- It results in better outcomes (see e.g. Human Rights Council Resolution 35/20, the findings of the IPCC, research on collective land tenure, etc.)
- Key Entry points at the UNFCCC: the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform, the Gender Action Plan, ACE, the Guidelines for Implementation of the Paris Agreement.



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Facilitating participation in international processes



Spotlight on indigenous rights at COP22 climate talks

Nina Gualinga is at the forefront of the fight to make indigenous rights a priority in climate action.

Losing your land to climate change

Climate change threatens the very existence of Kiribati and other small island states in the Pacific. “If we have to migrate because of climate change, we will have no land to return to. We don’t want to lose our fundamental rights – if our country goes under water because of climate change,” says Kiribati youth activist Rae Bainteiti.

Children at forefront of climate action urge focus on child rights

“The battle against climate change is one that we can’t afford to lose because it’s the greatest threat to our survival,” 16-year-old Kehkashan Basu told the Human Rights Council.



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What we do:

***Promote and protect
all human rights***

Help empower people

Assist governments

***Inject a human rights
perspective into all UN
programmes***

***Human rights and
climate change focal
point***

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Promoting people-centred development

For more information about rights-based, people-centred climate action please visit:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/HRAndClimateChange/Pages/HRClimateChangeIndex.aspx>



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