

Building Capacity For Integrating Human Rights Into Climate Action

Integrating human rights in NDCs



Sébastien Duyck
Senior Attorney, Climate & Energy Programme
Center for International Environmental Law

Importance of human rights in climate policies



- “Civil society is to a great extent the only reliable motor for driving institutions to change at the pace required.”
- “Equitable outcomes are enhanced when they pay attention to just outcomes for those negatively affected by change and promote human rights, increase equality, and reduce power asymmetries within societies.”
- “Education, information, and community approaches, including those that are informed by indigenous knowledge and local knowledge, can accelerate the wide-scale behaviour changes consistent with adapting to and limiting global warming to 1.5°C.”

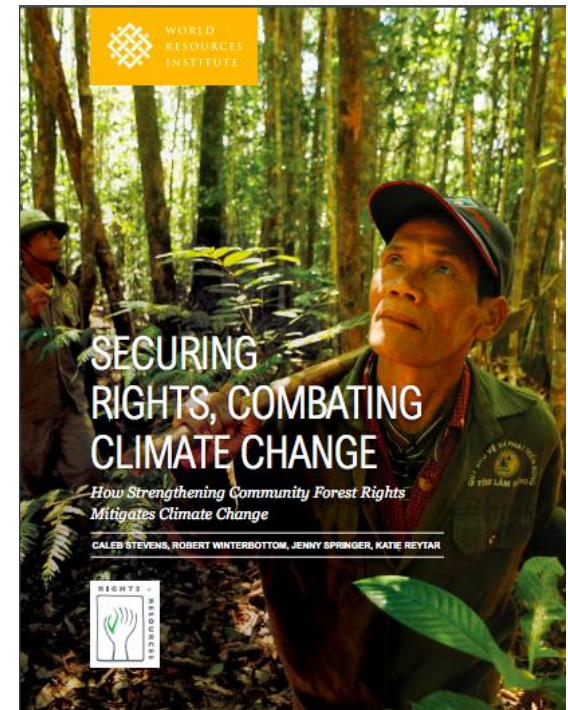


Example: Land tenure rights and carbon sequestration

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.



Source: *Rights and Resources Initiative and World Resources Institutes* (2014)

The “Paris Vision”



Human Rights in the Implementation of the UNFCCC and of the Paris Agreement

Reporting of Climate Action



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

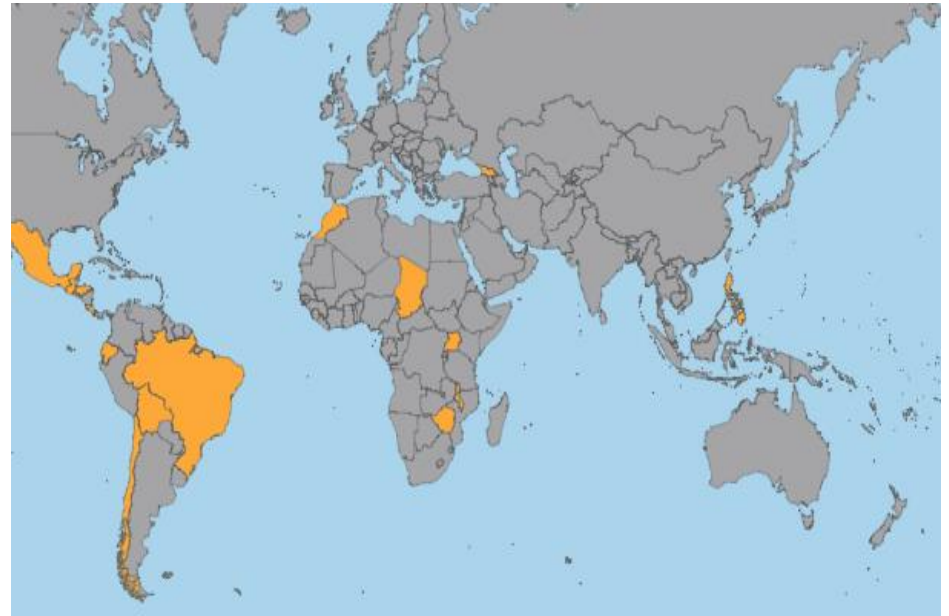


13% Substantive Rights
1% Developed
12% Developing



20% Procedural Rights
10% Developed
10% Developing

Climate Commitments



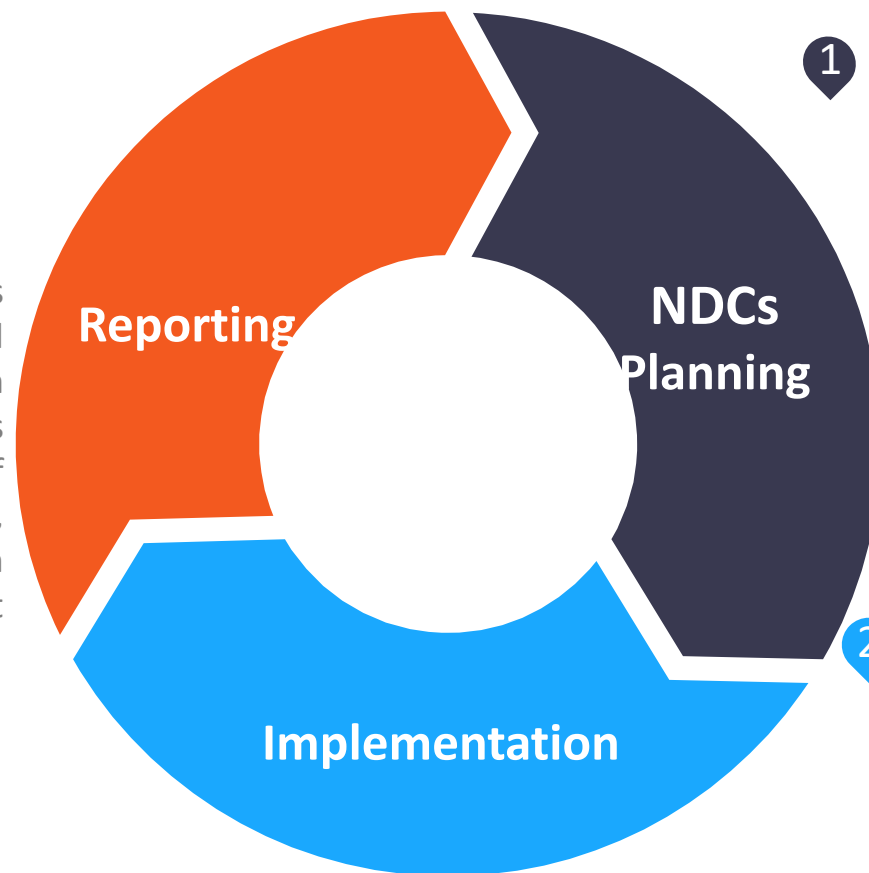
24 countries referred to human rights in their INDCs

Source: Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice (2015)

Integrating Human Rights in the Implementation of the Paris Agreement

3 Reporting

Communicating progress made, good practices and lessons learned when reporting on progress towards implementation of the Paris Agreement, including highlighting gaps in knowledge and support needed.



1 NDCs Planning

Ensuring that human rights considerations inform the planning of climate commitments and that the public and indigenous peoples can participate in the process.

2 Implementation

Working with relevant institutions, stakeholders and indigenous peoples to ensure that human rights are effectively integrated in the implementation of climate action.

Virtuous learning cycles

Incorporation of human rights considerations in the planning and implementation of NDCs

Integrating human rights considerations in the planning 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 of other social objectives and existing legal obligations
- ✓ 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 recognized by each individual country



Towards a blueprint for the integration of human rights in the planning of NDCs

Objective: develop a blueprint to guide civil servants, implementing agencies, and civil society throughout the planning process



Expert workshops to build on the expertise and experience of governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and indigenous peoples representatives



Exchanges at the COP-25 to broaden perspectives and build on the experiences of broader range of actors



Build on synergies with existing initiatives focusing on support for NDCs planning and implementation or on civil society engagement



Towards a blueprint for the integration of human rights in the planning of NDCs

Format: identifying key questions with specific benchmarks towards an inclusive NDC planning process informed by human rights



Effective and meaningful public participation in the planning process

- Identify the public concerned
- Access to all necessary information
- Due account to be taken of public participation
- Reasonable time-frames with options
- Public entitled to comment/be heard



Institutional arrangements for an effective planning process

- Inter-ministerial coordination
- National Human Rights Institutions
- Gender Machineries



Towards a blueprint for the integration of human rights in the planning of NDCs

Format: identifying key questions with specific benchmarks towards an inclusive NDC planning process informed by human rights

Substantive issues to consider throughout the process



Gender equality



Economic and social rights



Participatory implementation



Indigenous Peoples Rights
& FPIC



Just Transition



Land tenure

Thank You for Your Attention

www.ciel.org
sduyck@ciel.org

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