

Human Rights and Nature Rights



Overview

Human Rights are inherit rights attributed to all human beings, regardless of their race, religion, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, or other status. Everyone is entitled to these rights without discrimination.

Climate Change is a direct threat to our Pacific community and its consequences affects the enjoyment of human rights including the right to life, self-determination, development, culture, health, food security, water and sanitation, housing, and the right of indigenous people.

Key policy risks:

- 1** Human Rights must be at the centre of all United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP negotiations.
- 2** Actions to address climate change must respect, promote and implement respective obligations on human rights including the right to health, education, decent work, right of those providing unpaid care, domestic and communal work, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants and refugees, children and young people, persons with non-heteronormative gender, people with disabilities, and people in poor and vulnerable situations. This includes attention to the right to development, gender equality, human rights of women, rights of nature, and intergenerational equity.
- 3** Bold actions need to be taken to prompt and give real effect to the right to a healthy environment, and clearly recognise environmental degradation and climate change as interconnected human rights crises.
- 4** Acknowledge the value of Nature Based Solutions as a practical approach to sustainably managing the environment, while also addressing the impact on human wellbeing such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk and reduction, economic and social development.
- 5** Parties must fulfill their obligations to inalienable rights to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the right to life, gender equality and women's human rights, and intergenerational equity.

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