

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

UN Common Understanding HRBA

1. All programmes of development co-operation, policies and technical assistance **should further the realisation of human rights** as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.
2. Human rights standards contained in, and principles derived from, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments **guide all development cooperation and programming in all sectors and in all phases of the programming process.**
3. Development cooperation contributes to the development of the **capacities of ‘duty-bearers’ to meet their obligations and/or of ‘rights-holders’ to claim their rights.**

Evolution of environmental rights

1. **Linking the environment to already recognized human rights**
 - a) (substantive) rights whose enjoyment is particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation e.g. rights to life, health and property;
 - b) (procedural) rights whose exercise supports better environmental protection e.g. rights to freedom of expression and association, to information, to participation in decision-making and to effective remedies
2. adoption of an explicit new **right to an environment** of a certain quality (characterized in terms such as healthy, safe, satisfactory or sustainable)
3. Rights of mother earth or **nature rights**, i.e. Earth and lifecosystems as rights-bearers (takes us beyond an anthropocentric notion of rights)