**Human rights**
Namati, Community Paralegals - Communities trained in basic law and mediation participate in governance. They handle thousands of cases for communities’ rights on health, livelihoods, and local environment, to counter unjust practices and environmental degradation.

**Gender**
Rural and Indigenous women document their own practices and author their own research to promote democratic participation in policy making, increasing access to highly skilled aspects of environmental work that normally excludes them.

**Biodiversity and ecosystems**
Handover of public forests to traditional users, Nepal. Indigenous peoples and local communities manage, use products and protect the forest from encroachment. From 1976–2000 the highest net improvement and gain in forest cover against deforestation occurred in these forests.

**Indigenous Peoples**
Lumos Energy - Collective land rights of Indigenous peoples and communities are upheld. Direct involvement of Indigenous peoples ensures fair benefit and protection what of matters to them. The results include publicly available clean energy, reduction of potential harm to Indigenous peoples, and the avoidance of lawsuits and protests.

**Public Participation**
IUCN & IIED published a paper on their work with communities to stop illegal wildlife trade in Kenya through participatory action research to develop perceived fairness of laws and ensure that Indigenous Peoples and local communities have robust protection in their area.

**Displacement and peacebuilding: Vanuatu**
Government and non-governmental partners working together to mainstream displacement and migration considerations into national policies, prioritizing public participation and the role of women with their positive peacebuilding affect.

**Just Transition**
Spanish Transition from coal production - On coal mine closure, the Spanish government and labour unions negotiated a fair transition for workers, including early retirement, retraining and redundancy payment. The Government also plans to redevelop affected areas for future employment opportunities.

**Intergenerational equity**
Climate Tracker: The Gambia aligns its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to a 1.5C limit, including enacting new renewable energy systems. Vision and ambition are essential to intergenerational equity, committing to urgent, ambitious climate action to protect future generations.

**Food security**
Malawi Agroforestry Food Security Programme Addressing desertification, increasing food security and biodiversity with technical assistance and training for farmers. Agro-ecological production is more resilient to climate change. Productivity is increased under small-scale methods.

**Effective mitigation and adaptation**
Rights-based approaches to climate action effective mitigation and adaptation.
WHAT? Incorporating human rights in climate policies and actions is known as a rights-based approach. This leads to public inclusion, greater policy acceptance and more successful mitigation and adaption outcomes. Rights-based approaches, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples, involve the full range of rights and protections to which States are already committed, and include them in policies which affect citizens. If a rights-based approach is adopted from the outset, it can improve lives, realize policy coherence with legitimate and sustainable outcomes, and thus increase mitigation success.

WHY? Based on the experience of countries that have adopted constitutional rights to a healthy environment, recognition of this right has proved to have real advantages, including access to mitigation approaches that can be both equitable and cost-effective. Effective rights-based action is fairer to those who may bear the brunt of the policy implementation. Fairness brings community support and leads to more effective policy. Failure to incorporate rights can result in ambitious projects failing if communities reject them, increasing the likelihood of legal challenges due to rights violations and abuses. A rights-based approach can transcend these challenges, aligning projects with existing obligations.

WHO & HOW? Any decision maker or organisation which carries out projects that affect people has the power to take a rights-based approach. A robust impact assessment is the first step in identifying whose rights would need to be taken into account in any given project and why. With the correct information, a project can be anchored in and strengthened by the body of relevant international and national law. Approaching development from a rights perspective involves informing people of their legal rights and entitlements and empowering them to achieve those rights. Enabling communities to participate without discrimination in the design and implementation of these projects can preempt violations which could otherwise delay implementation and frustrate long-term success. Environmental decision-making obligations include: assessment of environmental impacts; making environmental information public; facilitating participation and protecting the rights of expression and association; and access to remedies for harm.

WHEN? Now. Countries integrating a rights-based approach into their constitutions have a better environmental record. Three quarters of countries already have legal recognition of a right to a healthy and sustainable environment. Efforts to reduce poverty and gender inequalities, and to enhance food, health and water security, can reduce vulnerability to climate change. The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development recognised that environmental issues are best handled with public participation. As outlined in the Aarhus Convention, participation means arrangements by public authorities to enable public comment, and for these comments to be considered in decision-making with reasons for final decisions.

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IN CONCLUSION: People whose lives are affected by climate change policy are more likely to support climate action when rights are promoted, respected and protected, creating more fair and successful mitigation and environmental action.

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