

OHCHR: Environmental Mandate & Activities

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Environmental mandate

The OHCHR works on issues related to human rights as a component of sustainable development. The many linkages between protection of human rights and protection of the environment have long been recognized. The 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment declared that "man's environment, the natural and the man-made, are essential to his well-being and to the enjoyment of basic human rights--even the right to life itself."The World Summit on Sustainable Development provides the international community with the opportunity to review progress on implementation of Agenda 21 and to reactivate a global commitment to sustainable development, building now on the international development and human rights goals set by the Millennium Summit and Declaration.

Environmental activities

The OHCHR conducts work in the field of MDGs and poverty. OHCHR provides assistance to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights. In addition, the OHCHR conducts research on the linkages between human rights and sustainable development.