

A RIGHT TO HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT: THE NEXUS BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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Abstract

This paper begins by considering the incorporation of the right to healthy environment under the Constitution of Rwanda or an obligation for the government to protect the environment or to make careful use of the country's natural resources. Primarily, the paper discusses the link between the environmental protection and human rights, as constructed within the international human rights legal framework and identifying some of the benefits of applying human rights to environmental protection. The paper also sheds light on some of the theoretical challenges to the recognition of such a right, both from within human rights discourse. Finally, the paper explores the right of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in relation to environmental protection.