



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment

1 September 2016

Dear friends and colleagues,

I'm writing to tell you about several upcoming activities concerning the mandate, including events at the IUCN Congress this week and meetings later this month in Geneva.

IUCN Congress. In advance of the IUCN World Conservation Congress this week in Hawai'i, I joined Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, in issuing [a joint press release](#) stating that effective and sustainable conservation requires respect for human rights. We emphasized that “The escalating incidence of killings of environmentalists, among them many indigenous leaders, underlines the urgency that conservationists and indigenous peoples join forces to protect land and biodiversity from external threats, notably lucrative resource exploitation.”

On July 29, Vicky issued [an important report](#) to the General Assembly, describing measures to advance a human rights-based paradigm in conservation, as well as identifying key remaining challenges. The report recommends specific ways that conservation should respect the rights of indigenous peoples. For those who are at the Congress, I encourage you to come to an open dialogue with Vicky to learn more about her report. The meeting is on Saturday, Sept. 3, from 1.00 to 2.30 pm in room 314 of the Hawai'i Convention Center.

I am also preparing a report on the relationship of conservation and human rights, to be presented to the Human Rights Council in March 2017. My report will build on Vicky's, by examining the relationship of conservation and human rights beyond the specific context of indigenous peoples. If you are at the Congress and would like to give me your inputs into the report, I invite you to come to an open meeting with me, hosted by the Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights, Earthjustice, and the United Nations Association, which will take place at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, in classroom 1 and seminar room 3A of the William Richardson School of Law, on Saturday, Sept. 3, from 9.30 to 11.30 am.

I'll be speaking at several other events at the IUCN Congress this week, including:

- at a dialogue hosted by the UNDP Equator Initiative on empowering indigenous peoples and local community action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, on Sunday, Sept. 4, from 11.00 to 12.50, in room 314 of the Hawai'i Convention Center;

- on Sunday, Sept. 4, from 14.30 to 16.30, in room 313A, at a workshop on conservation, rights, and sustainable development;

- on Monday, Sept. 5, from 8.30 to 10.30, in room 311-10, at a “knowledge café” on using a rights-based approach to protect the environment in international development;

- on Monday, from 15.30 to 15.50, at a conference on “judges and nature” organized by the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, at the Supreme Court of Hawai’i; and

- on Monday at 17.00, at a discussion on strengthening the responsibility of the private section and the State for ecosystem degradation, in room 315 of the Convention Center.

Geneva meetings. On Sept. 22, from 13:00 to 15:30, I will hold a public meeting in Geneva, in Room XXIII of the Palais des Nations, with a view to receive contributions and views for the preparation of my upcoming thematic report on biodiversity and human rights to the Human Rights Council. We will send additional information closer to the meeting, but again, if you would like more information now, please let us know by return email.

Questionnaire. One month ago, we sent out a questionnaire to recipients of this newsletter inviting you to reply to questions about the intersection of biodiversity conservation and human rights. **The deadline for replies is September 30.** If you did not receive the questionnaire, we will be happy to send you another!

Children’s rights and the environment. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has decided to devote its 2016 day of general discussion (DGD) to the issue of children’s rights and the environment. The DGD will take place in Geneva on Friday, 23 September 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Room XIX, Palais des Nations (UN Office). Representatives of Governments, non-governmental organizations, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, national human rights institutions, the business sector, as well as individual experts and children are welcome to take part. For more information on the DGD, please see the CRC website: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/Discussion2016.aspx> .

As always, thank you for your interest in and support for the mandate!

Best regards,



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