



Environmental rights enrich human rights law with the sense of mankind's full responsibility for the destiny of the environment, natural ecosystems and other species. As posited by the Strasbourg Principles, this responsibility can be formulated legally in negative and in positive terms. In negative terms, the safeguarding of the environment and animal life constitutes an implicit restriction on the exercise of human rights. In positive terms, it constitutes an inherent obligation on the States bound by international human rights instruments. From this perspective, environmental rights straddle all three classical generations of human rights, showing that international human rights law has considerable potential for environmental and animal protection.

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The Strasbourg Principles of International Environmental Human Rights Law