

Environmental Rights: Challenges and Opportunities

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🌳 **Outline of the presentation**

- Historical background
- Environmental Justice
- The context
- Challenge
- Perspectives from national and global contexts
- Opportunities



- **International Historical Background**

- **1972** Stockholm Conference: man's capability to transform his surroundings, if used wisely, can bring **to all peoples the benefits of development** and the opportunity to enhance the quality of life and will also **demand acceptance of responsibility- sharing Equitably in common efforts**

1982 UN World Charter for Nature: "Every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to man, and to accord other organisms"

- **1987** World Commission on Environment and Development: (Brundtland Report) Our Common Future "A global agenda for change".

- **1992** Rio de Janeiro (Earth Summit): an equitable global partnership among **States, societies and people.**



● **National Historical Background**

- **1982** **Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency**
- **1994** **Egyptian Environmental Law(law 4/1994)**
- **1997** **Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs**
- **2009** **Amendments of Egyptian Environmental Law**

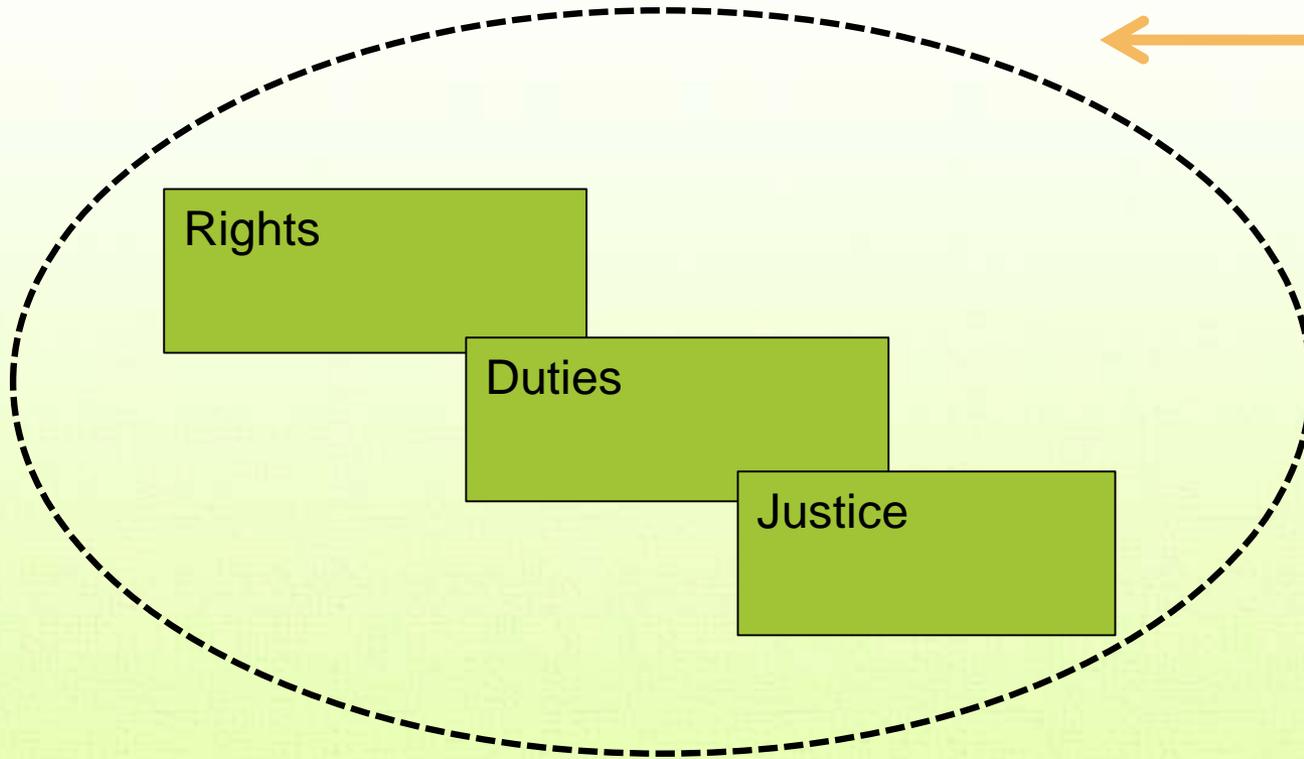


- **Environmental Justice:** usually refers to the belief that all citizens,, should equally share in the **benefits** of environmental amenities and the **burdens** of environmental health hazards.
- **Environmental Justice:** is the fair treatment and **meaningful involvement** of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.
Fair treatment means that people, should **bear** the share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.



The Context

Sustainable Development



Example: Proper Management of Natural Resources



Challenge

Capacity Development

- The process by which **individuals, groups, organizations**, institutions and society increase their ability to: perform core functions, solve problems, define and achieve objectives; understand and deal with their development needs in a broader context and in a **sustainable** manner (OECD Definition).



Three levels of capacities needed to achieve environmental justice

Individual: Includes the ability of the person to deal with the development process. Examples (education and training to operate the systems in the short, medium and long term perspective) (BD)

Institutional: Ability of the institution to execute its mandate and functions. Examples (institutional set up, related policy, relation between different departments among the institution to achieve the overall goal) (PERSCO)

Systemic: Development and enforcement of legal, regulatory framework that would enable the individual and institutions to function in an enabling environment (CC)



Overcoming challenge





- **Environmental Awareness and Communications Department**

Working on different environmental issues to raise awareness of the public especially the **young generation** (Green Corner, Bezra). **Media** is also an important target audience for raising their awareness.

- **Gender Unit**

Empowerment of women at national and local level through various awareness , participation and consultation workshops(water resources Management project in Nuberia, Local consultation sessions for identification of environmental needs)

- **EIA Department**

Amendments to the regulations to include Public hearing as a prerequisite for EIA approval

- **NGO Department**

Strengthen our own capacity as well as NGOs capacity to support implementation of local initiatives and/or projects



Perspectives from National and Global context

Environmental Management

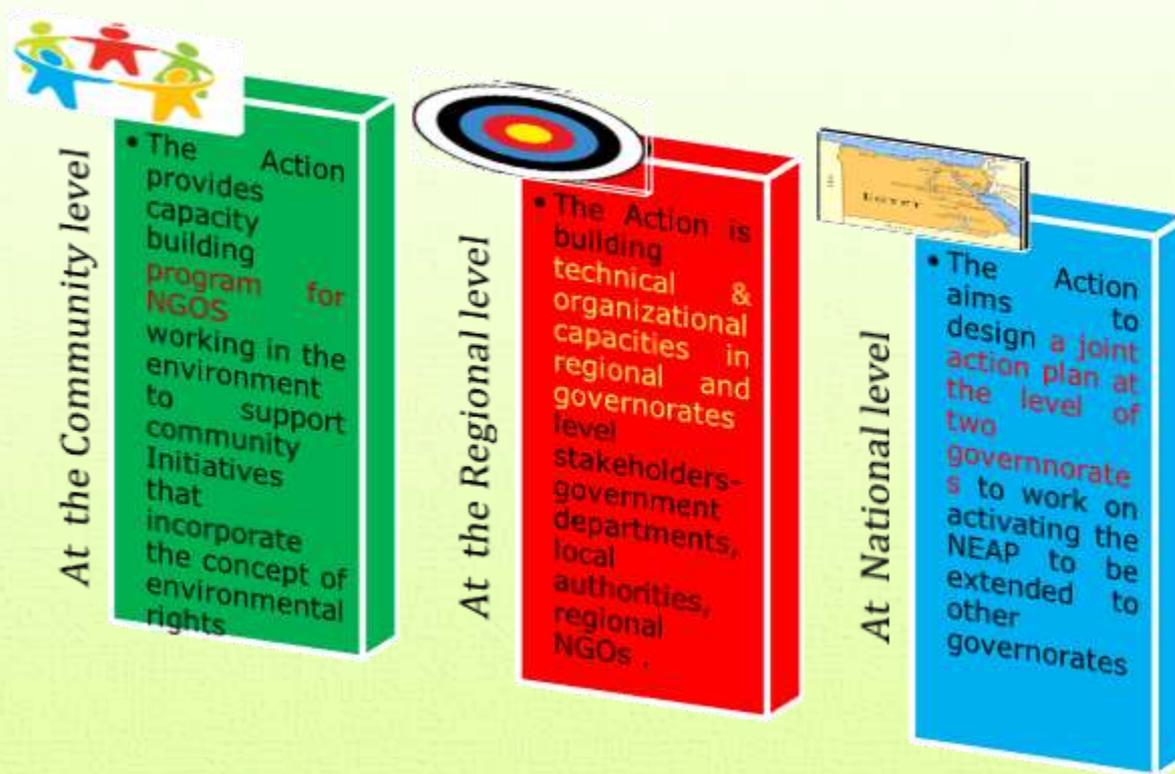
Biodiversity

Climate Change



Promotion of Environmental Rights through CSOs

- Target Beneficiaries: The NGO General Department of EEAA, RBOs, EMUs, Gender focal point , Environmental NGOs, Women Federations





Conservation of Medicinal Plant Project

Problem : Local community using the Medicinal plant in cooking in Saint Catherine in Sinai and viewing this as their right to use the surrounding natural resources for their livelihoods.

Project Objective: Ensuring the conservation of the Medicinal plant as part of the UNCBD obligation

Project outcomes:

- Raising awareness of the community of the importance of the Medicinal plant
- Support the establishment of NGOs from local community
- General and tailored training on conservation methods of medicinal plants
- Establishment of market outlet for the community with participation of women, men and children

Project results

- Conservation of medicinal achieved, increase of income and social inclusiveness



A “climate injustice”

- Global warming would have a harsh impact on many particularly **marginalized communities**, which suffer from poor resilience and inadequate ability to respond to climate change.
- Many of the countries that have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions **will be the worst affected by global warming (Egypt)**.
- Future forecasts vary from 25 million to 1 billion environmental migrants by 2050
- **climate induced migration** is expected in cases of floods, drought, sea level rise a complete change in the livelihood of the people



Capacity Development including global, national and local capacities is the solution to overcome the climate injustice



Opportunities

- **Fulfillment of International commitments** under the various MEAs mainly RIO conventions
- Boosting the **sustainable development process** to ensure economic development, social inclusiveness and environmental sustainability... Environmental justice will be an outcome
- Full integration of private sector through **public private partnership** in various environmental thematic areas (agriculture waste, PAs,...)



Thank You