



Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS

UNDP environmental justice approaches

- “Judicial protection of human rights and public interests against environmental pollution from chemicals and wastes”
- Geneva, 3-4 April 2023

UNDP strategies addressing pollution/chemicals and wastes



- Support to **legal environment** for the implementation of Montreal Protocol, Stockholm Convention, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Minamata Convention, Plasticsthe
- **Greening the production and consumption**
- **Converting Waste to Resource** towards a Circular Economy
- Acting to **end Plastic Pollution**
- **Zero Waste Strategy** in countries and cities
- Transforming to **sustainable cooling technology**

NEW

- ❖ Strengthening **accountability and protection of environmental rights and justice**
- ❖ Promoting responsible business conduct (**environmental and human rights due diligence of businesses**)



UNDP Regional Hub for Europe and Central Asia
in Istanbul covers:

- Central Asia:** *Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan*
- South Caucasus and Eastern Europe:** *Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine*
- The Western Balkans and Türkiye:** *Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia and Türkiye.*

UNDP global strategy for environmental justice



Three-pronged approach:



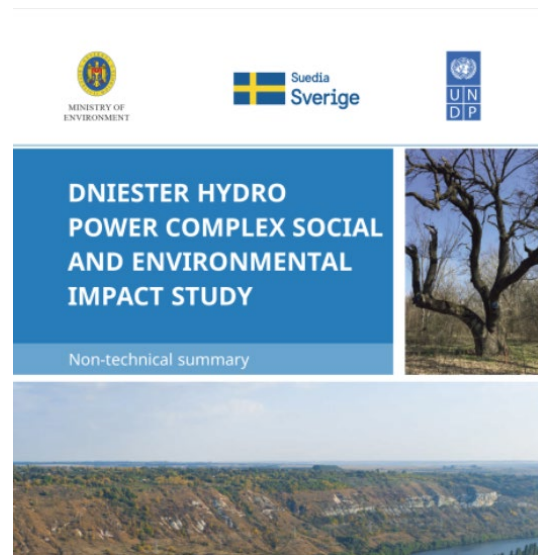
Building,
enforcing and
implementing
enabling legal
and policy
frameworks



Supporting
people-centred,
effective
institutions as
key agents of
enforcement and
implementation
of these
frameworks



Legal
empowerment
and access to
justice on
environmental
matters



Enabling legal frameworks - Support for development, implementation and enforcement (examples)

- **Panama** (Science for all – connecting public, scientists, tech industry, and lawyers)
- **Argentina** ('Participatory Air Quality Monitoring Experiment' done by students through low-cost sensors designed to measure pollution)
- **BiH** (Gap analysis on harmonization of BiH criminal codes with the EU Directive on the Protection of Environment through Criminal Law)
- **Moldova** (Social and Environmental Impact Study of Dniester River basin Hydropower complex)



Access to Justice/legal empowerment (examples)

- **India** (supporting specialized environmental courts or adjudicating bodies to increase access to justice and legal aid for environmental matters)
- **Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan** (Facilitate free legal aid and empowerment efforts regarding environmental justice issues for women, youth, human rights defenders, and those affected by environmental disasters)
- **Mongolia, Philippines, Central Asia NHRIs/**Offices of Ombudspersons (Support to NHRIs in their role as central independent state actors in the promotion and protection of human rights related to the environment at the national level and as bridges between the national and international protection of human rights)

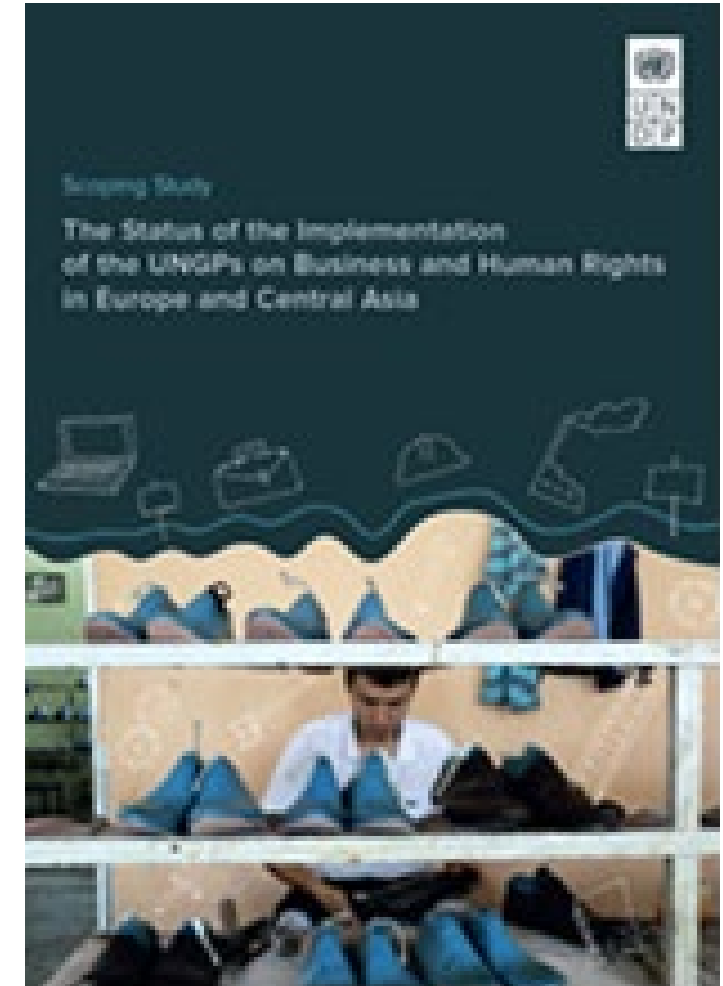


NATIONAL INQUIRY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Accountability of businesses for environmental justice

- **Human rights abuses often overlap with environmental abuses** (esp. prominent in large-scale extractive activities and recently in the Hydropower sector)
- People **seldom obtain efficient remedies** and have to navigate legal, financial, and other obstacles on their own.
- The **shortage of resources, capacity, and technical expertise to guide businesses** and monitor their activities in the region
- UNDP currently runs **training academies for companies on environmental and human rights due diligence** in Türkiye, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan (with support of Japan)

UNDP regional scoping Study on the implementation of UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (BHR) in Europe and Central Asia (2023)



Thank you!

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