

HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA

DISCOURSES AND CONTESTATIONS



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Environmental Governance and Human Rights in India

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Introduction

Environmental governance is the processes and institutions through which societies make decisions that affect the environment. It is a specific form of the wider term 'governance'. In addition environmental governance is primarily about how to reach environmental goals and can be measured by the effectiveness of strategies as well as initiatives implemented to achieve environmental goals. Good environmental governance needs the participation of stakeholders, access to information, adequate funding, transparency, accountability etc. Organisations, policy instruments, financing mechanisms, rules, procedures and norms which regulate the process of global environmental protection are involved in the global environmental governance (Wingqvist et al. 2012: 14-15). Thus, the term environmental governance can be defined as: 'the ability of a state to govern its resources as prescribed in forms of legal instruments and supplemented by policy, programme and institutional interventions, all operating in a holistic manner with effective synergies among and within the various entities, taking into consideration the social, cultural, environmental and economic factors (Singh 2014: 604).' On the other hand, human rights are the basic rights and freedoms entitled to all human beings, as reflected in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, in Principle 1 of the Stockholm Declaration, in the Millennium Development Goals, and in the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Human rights include civil and political rights, such as the rights to life, liberty and freedom of