

Climate Change, Poverty and the Role of International Environmental Law



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Introduction

- Interaction between poverty and climate change?
 - 40% of world's population (416 million people) live on less than US\$ 2 per day
 - 11 of the 12 hottest years have occurred since 1995

Linking Poverty and Climate Change

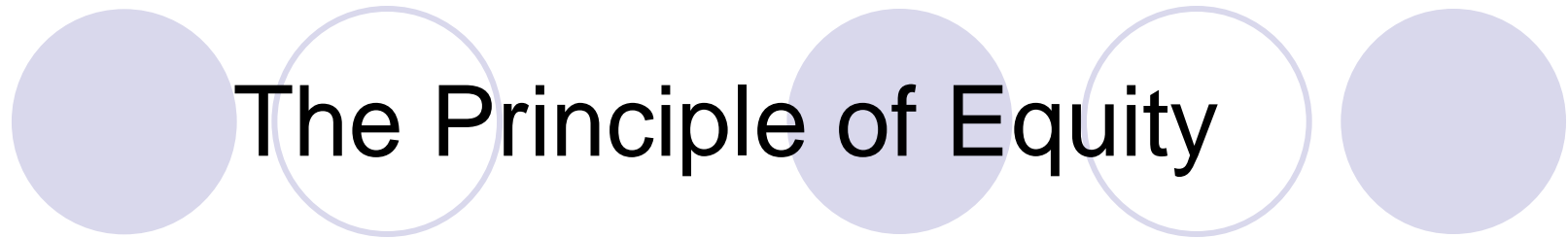
- Climate Change Impacts on Poverty
 - Clean water supplies
 - Food security
 - Human health
 - Population displacement / conflict

Linking Poverty and Climate Change

- Poverty Impacts on Climate Change
 - Deforestation
 - (Economic) Capacity
 - Global Negotiations

Employing the Sustainable Development Framework

- Sustainable development shapes, and is shaped by, poverty and climate change
- Integration of environmental, economic and social interests



The Principle of Equity

- Intergenerational Equity
 - Conservation of options for future generations
- Intra-generational Equity
 - Equity within our current generation
(redistributive justice: MDGs)



The Principle of Integration

Sustainable development is not only an “attempt to reconcile environmental protection and human development; ...[but]... a belief that only by attaining all of these things concurrently can sustainable development ever be truly achieved.”

International Law Association (2006)

Is Sustainable Development the Answer?

- Need framework to focus on *relationship* between poverty & climate change
- Concept enjoys global recognition
- Sustainable development embodies both poverty & climate change discourse
- Focus on principles & values of concept