
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Significance of Environmental Justice for Human Dignity: A Nexus between Right to life and Right to Environment

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ABSTRACT

The impact of environmental pollution, climate change, and loss of biodiversity poses a direct threat to the existence of human beings. This article examines the development and interaction of these two fields through references to legal instruments, constitutional provisions, and cases that support a sustainable environment for human rights. It posits that environmental rights should no longer be seen as secondary or optional, but as core, justiciable elements of contemporary human rights systems. The Article considers international and regional instruments both directly related to the environment, such as the 'Stockholm Declaration' and the 'Aarhus Convention', and those that are more general but have shown a strong environmental jurisprudence, including 'the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights', which constitutional courts, and human rights, bodies have interpreted in a manner supportive of environmental rights. From climate litigation in Europe and Asia to indigenous land defense in Latin America, the research uncovers an increasing acknowledgment that environmental degradation is a denial of human dignity and equity. There are overwhelming challenges, such as corporate impunity, weak implementation processes, and disparate impact on communities at risk, to advance environmental governance as an enforcement tool for human rights. This is emerging as a global trend where environmental and human rights enforcement are increasingly intertwining. This article argues that to realize green justice, strong legal structures are necessary, but it does not suffice to set boundaries. Even politics, judicial creativity, and public involvement for civil society may need to be included.

KEYWORDS

Environmental Rights, Human Dignity, Climate Justice, Constitutional Environmentalism, International Human Rights

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1. Introduction

In the twenty-first century, environmental degradation is one of the most serious threats to human rights and human dignity. The consequences of air pollution, contaminated water, deforestation, biodiversity loss, climate change, industrial hazards and improper waste management affect people's health, life, livelihood and security. These problems are not shared equally. Marginalized communities like children, women, tribals, and coastal populations, as well as individuals living in the vicinity of industries or waste-disposal sites often bear the maximum environmental burden but receive minimal benefits from development. As a result, environmental justice concerns not just the wellbeing of nature but also equity, participation, accountability and effective remedy for people victimized by environmental harm.

The international link between protection of the environment and human rights is given recognition through the 1972 Stockholm Declaration and has been further developed by the 1992 Rio Declaration. Recently the United Nations General Assembly resolved and recognized the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment through Resolution 76/300 adopted on 28 July 2022. Although the resolution itself is not a legally binding treaty, it establishes the growing international understanding that environmental quality is a prerequisite for the enjoyment of human rights. The Aarhus

Convention identifies three important elements of environmental justice. These are access to environmental information, public participation and access to justice.

The right to life plays a critical role in establishing the legal link between human rights and the environment. Modern constitutional interpretation is no longer limited to protection against killing or physical annihilation as mere right to life. One of the fundamental rights is a right to healthy and dignified life. Without clean air, safe drinking water, adequate food, healthy surroundings and ecological security, right to life cannot be effectively enjoyed. In Bangladesh, the judiciary interpreted the constitutional right to life in articles 31 and 32 included environment, ecological balance and freedom from pollution.

Human dignity is the moral basis of this relation. A people's dignity cannot be preserved when their air is polluted, water is toxic, livelihood destroyed because of the environment, or they are repeatedly displaced by climate disaster. As such, harm to the environment is not just damage to ecosystems. It is also a constraint on conditions for freedom, health, equality and human development.

Article highlights the Importance of Environmental Justice for Human Dignity by examining the relationship between a right to life and a right to environment. It concentrates on global and regional legal advancements, court judgments, and the constitutional and legal framework of Bangladesh. The paper argues that environmental rights should be recognized as enforceable human rights facilitated by effective courts and accountable institutions along with public participation and accessible remedies. Environmental laws' implementation and participation of vulnerable communities in decision-making processes that affects their lives and surroundings is essential for legal recognition.

2. Literature Review

The existing literature shows that environmental rights evolved from abstract political principles to important components of human-rights law in a contemporary context. Karel Vasak categorized environmental rights as third-generation due to its collective and solidarity natureⁱ. However, David Boyd asserts that environmental rights have gained greater constitutionalizing and association with rights that are health, life as well as well-being, which can be enforced.ⁱⁱ John Knox also explains how environmental protection can be drawn from current human-rights obligations, such as the duty to prevent damage that is foreseeable, and afford access to information, partaking as well as remedies.ⁱⁱⁱ

The notion of environmental dignity strengthens this connection further. Daly and May suggest that human dignity requires environmental conditions that allow people to enjoy health, autonomy, meaningful participation, etc.^{iv} Environmental degradation is thus not just a regulatory failure; it can undermine the basic conditions of human existence.

International instruments are playing important role in the development of this field. The Stockholm Declaration established a connection between human rights and environmental quality. The Rio Declaration introduced sustainable development, precaution and public participation. The Aarhus Convention emphasized participation, access to information and access to justice for environmental democracy.^v Resolution 76/300 further reaffirmed the universal significance of a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.^{vi} Comparative case law supports this development too. SERAC v. Nigeria linked oil pollution to infringements of the rights to life, health, property and environment. In the case of Lopez Ostra v Spain, serious pollution was found to be an interference with private and family life. Urgenda and Leghari showed insufficient climate action may violate human-rights and constitutional obligations.^{vii}

The Bangladeshi scholarship primarily concerns the Dr Mohiuddin Farooque v Bangladesh where it was acknowledged through the courts that the right to life includes a healthy and pollution free environment.^{viii} Nevertheless, existing literature reveals continuing problems including weak implementation, limited access to environmental courts, administrative delay, lack of technical expertise and lack of public participation.

This paper fills a significant gap by linking environmental justice with human dignity and the right to life in a Bangladesh context.

3. Legal Meaning of Green Justice, Environmental Rights, and Human Dignity

Green Justice Green Justice is the application of laws and institutions that provide ingress to courts in environmental matters, protect the environment, and facilitate citizen participation in environmental affairs.^{ix} This can take the form of specialized environmental courts or tribunals to hear public interest environmental cases, which helps to increase public access to environmental justice. To be eligible to be classified as an Environmental Court, a court must have jurisdiction over legal matters on the protection of the environment, enforce environmental laws, and protect the public concerning natural resource

use. Examples include the Supreme Court of India Green Bench and the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales, Australia. Green Justice will work to enhance best practices and legal institutions that enable and defend communities and environmental defenders.^x

Environmental rights: Environmental Rights are increasingly viewed as one of the primary human rights essential for every person's full enjoyment of a healthy, balanced, clean environment. These rights are increasingly becoming constitutionalized globally, recognizing that an environment that is healthy is necessary to the full enjoyment of human rights, such as the rights to life, health, and well-being. The environmental right comprised three aspects: the right to be involved in the decision-making process about the environment, ingress to fairness when the environment is harmed, and the duty to protect natural resources for the present and future world. They also include rights of groups that are particularly at risk, such as children, indigenous peoples, and future generations, and they place duties on states and people to keep the environment safe.^{xi}

Human Dignity: In the actual environmental context, human dignity is the inherent right of every human being to live in an environment that enables a life of dignity and well-being. It is a principle which animates environmental justice and environmental rights and speaks to the fact that it is incumbent upon society to protect the environment to protect and promote human dignity.^{xii} This is enshrined in international declarations, such as the Stockholm Declaration, which proclaimed the right of all people "to enjoy the benefits of human rights and fundamental freedoms" and the obligation that everyone should be concerned about exercising these rights in such a way as to protect the world for both the present and for generations of to come. Environmental dignity approach: Human dignity and environmental outcomes are combined in the conception of environmental dignity rights, suggesting that environmental law and policy should be shaped by consideration for human dignity if sustainable and just environmental governance is to be achieved.^{xiii}

4. Environmental Rights as a Human Rights

Environmental rights are widely regarded as third-generation human rights, that is, in addition to civil, political, economic and social rights.^{xiv} These rights are intended to guarantee that people and communities are able to live in environments that do not negatively impact health, survival or quality of life.^{xv} The mutual relation between quality environment and fundamental rights which after the 1972 Stockholm Conference on Human Rights has started to be understood following the Rio Declaration and the UN's sustainable development goals.^{xvi} The human rights to water, to food, to shelter, and to life itself all depend on ecological integrity.^{xvii} Indeed, A deprivation of clean air and potable water is in itself an infringement on the right to life. As such, environmental rights are enabling rights; their realization makes the enjoyment of other rights possible.^{xviii}

5. Legal Frameworks Recognizing Environmental Rights

International Instruments: Global legal instruments have ensured that environmental rights support human flourishing. The initial worldwide binding instrument to do so was the "Stockholm Declaration" (1972), the first significant international agreement to officially declare that human rights are intrinsically tied to environmental issues and recognize that people have a right to live in an environment of quality.^{xix} The "Rio Declaration" (1992) consolidated this through the concept of 'sustainable development' and by introducing principles such as precaution and public participation.^{xx}

The "Aarhus Convention" (1998) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe provides a standard for environmental democracy.^{xxi} It makes access to information, public participation in making environmental decisions, and access to justice obligatory for states. Most recently, UN General Assembly Resolution 76/300 (2022) officially recognized a fresh and sustainable environment as a universal human right.^{xxii} While non-binding, this declaration is legally and politically significant, laying the foundation for national and regional legal structures.^{xxiii} Forms of environmental rights are recognized and protected in several international legal instruments:

Regional Instruments of human rights: Environmental rights have been adopted to differing extents by the local HR system. The "African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights" (1981) sets out the right of all peoples to a general satisfactory environment in Article 24. These provisions ensured the right of all peoples to a general satisfactory environment favorable to their development. This article has been interpreted in various ways, including as a "right to a satisfactory environment," a "right of the environment," and environmental rights. The SERAC v. Nigeria case is a significant example of how this right has been dealt with by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.^{xxiv} It has been referred to in significant rulings of the African Commission. Article 11 of the 1988 San Salvador Protocol within the Inter-American human rights system

acknowledges the right to a healthy environment.^{xxv} The 2012 ASEAN Human Rights Declaration declares in Article 28(f) that "Every person has the right to a safe, clean, and sustainable environment." This right is included in a larger article (28) that describes the right to a sufficient measure of life, which includes safe drinking water, food, clothing, shelter, and medical treatment. The proclamation highlights how crucial it is for people and their families to live in a sustainable and safe environment. Although its provisions are not enforceable, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights through guidance. Second, the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (2012) specifically mentions environmental rights in Article 28(f).^{xxvi} The natural basis of life and animals are protected by Article 20a of the German Grundgesetz (Basic Law). Within the parameters of the constitutional order, it requires the state to protect these foundations through legislation as well as executive and judicial measures. Future generations are likewise covered by this protection. In 2002, the article was changed to specifically mention animals. According to the Bundesverfassungsgericht (Federal Constitutional Court), the state must strike a balance between environmental preservation and other constitutional values and interests.^{xxvii} Enforcement varies, but these regional instruments serve as the normative foundation for litigation, advocacy, and legislation.

National Constitutions: Environmental rights are also enshrined in many national constitutions, providing residents with the right to hold their governments accountable. Germany's Basic Law places environmental protection under Article 20A, making sure ecology is a national purpose.^{xxviii} South Africa's Constitution is progressive, explicitly granting in Article 24 the right to an environment that supports well-being. Everyone is entitled to a healthy environment and the protection of the environment for the current and future world, according to Article 24 of the South African Constitution. This encompasses the right to a healthy and safe environment, as well as the right to environmental protection through policies that ensure ecologically sustainable development, avoid pollution, and encourage conservation.^{xxix} In India, though, where the constitution doesn't include a specific right to the environment, the judiciary has read right to life (Article 21) to mean right to a clean environment.^{xxx} When the Indian Supreme Court acknowledged the right to be free from the negative effects of climate change as a distinct basic right, it significantly advanced the cause of sustainable development and a healthy environment. On March 21, 2024, a three-judge panel made up of Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud, Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra rendered a decision in a case involving the preservation of the severely endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB).^{xxxi} Article 18A of the Bangladesh Constitution mandates that the state protect and improve the environment and natural resources, such as biodiversity, wetlands, forests, and wildlife, for the benefit of present and future generations. Despite being a recognized responsibility, the right to a fresh and clean environment is not a basic right that may be actively enforced.^{xxxii}

There are various criticisms and limitations regarding the state's implementation of the right to a healthy environment, most of which are due to the state's failure to implement this right. According to Professor Boyd's research, 92 countries have added the appropriate right in their constitutions, of which 78 improved their environmental laws. In Bangladesh, there are around 200 eco-friendly laws. However, the manner such laws are implemented and enforced is never satisfying. If those laws have significant constitutional legitimacy, they will find a strong base and gain momentum.^{xxxiii}

6. The Role of the Judiciary in Environmental Justice

The Court has now adopted over the last few decades the role of the judiciary throughout the world by rights of the environment as an essential part of the basic rights of humans. Environmental degradation, global climate change, and unmanaged exploitation of natural resources are negatively affecting human life, health, and dignity. Accordingly, international and national courts in many countries are recognizing environmental rights as legally justiciable in accordance with constitutions and international agreements. Even the courts are refusing to look the other way, and are deeming crimes against the environment as a violation of fundamental rights, most especially the right to life, health, and dignity. Under these circumstances, it is highly relevant to consider the act of the judiciary in creating and defending environmental rights.

In this context, this point stresses the growing judicial activism in the sphere of environmental justice with touches of some leading cases from different countries.

Landmark Cases: The European Court of Human Rights held in *Lopez Ostra v Spain* (1994) that excessive industrial pollution constituted a breach of the applicant's right to respect for private and family life under Article 8 of the ECHR.^{xxxiv} The African Commission's decision of *SERAC v Nigeria* (2001), which held Nigeria responsible for the oil pollution as well as violations of

social rights.^{xxxv} Global cannonball in a global first, the Ubundaga Foundation vs Netherlands (2019), the Dutch Supreme Court held that insufficient climate action was a violation of human rights.^{xxxvi} In the same way, in Leghari v Pakistan(2015), the Lahore High Court adjudicated against the non-implementation of climate policy, as being in contravention of constitutional rights.^{xxxvii} These principles, such as the public trust doctrine and the polluter-pays, were pioneered in India by the judiciary under the MC Mehta cases of India.^{xxxviii} Intergenerational Equities: In the Philippines, Minors Oposa v Factoran (1993), the Philippine Supreme Court recognized the application of the principle of intergenerational equity in environmental conservation.^{xxxix} These cases illustrate the increasing activism of the judiciary in the context of environmental governance and the prosecution of green justice.^{xl}

On an international scale, environmental rights are still in the process of being conceived and articulated into a binding body of law. It is now easier to declare environmental rights as human rights, because several courts in the past few years have declared this: courts in South Africa, Europe, the United States, Nigeria, India, and Pakistan. Yet there remain many challenges for implementation, regulation, political leadership, bureaucratic capacity, and public awareness; the decisions and judicial action are acting as a benchmark to many countries. For environmental justice, it is essential to have special courts, legal enactments, and a sound enforcement machinery, in addition to the proper access for the weaker sections, including the disadvantaged and weaker parts of society, particularly in developing and least developed countries. Nevertheless, there have been recent historical decisions that are perceived as a substantial advance in the action and creative application of the judicial act when it comes to recognizing environmental rights. As a result of these decisions, there is a possibility that environmental rights will be enforced more fully and effectively in the future from a more comprehensive perspective of achieving “green justice” or environmental justice.

Therefore, this significant judicial development demonstrates that the journey towards the recognition of environmental rights is being paved and each such case is a game changer and a source of hope for the future. The most important lesson and the possible result of these measures is that thanks to the joint endeavors on the part of legislative workers, public authorities, courts, and civil society, environmental rights and green justice will enjoy better forms of realization and application in the future.

Judicial Restraint and Dilemma of Environmental Adjudication in Bangladesh: Although the right to the environment is recognized in the Constitution of Bangladesh, the ability of the judiciary to enforce principles of environmental justice is severely limited. Landmark decisions like *Dr Mohiuddin Faruk v Bangladesh* have recognized that the right to a healthy environment is a part and parcel of the right to life as guaranteed under Article 32 of the Constitution of Bangladesh, secured by the state to its citizens.^{xli} Yet, environmental offense litigation is hindered by several structural barriers. Under the Environment Courts Act 2010, direct access to environmental courts is limited and complaints must first be filed with the Department of Environment, leading to less public involvement and slower justice.^{xlii} Moreover, bureaucratic barriers, political intervention, and inadequate technical expertise frequently yield ineffective enforcement of environmental laws and limited relief for victims.^{xliii} These barriers are compounded by poor public knowledge and restricted legal assistance, which lead to exclusion of the affected populations.^{xliv} Therefore, although the judiciary is capable of playing a transformative role for environmental justice, much is yet to be done for Bangladesh to reach global trends and guarantee an effective access to green justice in the future.

7. The human cost of environmental degradation

South Asia at large, particularly Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, bears some of the most intense levels of environmental pollution in the world, suffering from high levels of air and water pollution, deforestation, and climate-related disasters like floods and rising sea levels. Those environmental challenges have resulted in serious health burdens; respiratory infections, diseases, and malnutrition are common. For example, in Bangladesh alone, there were more than 2.7 million premature deaths due to pollution in 2019, as well as an estimated economic cost of 17.6% of GDP driven by environmental degradation.^{xlv xlvii}

The air quality in South Asian cities is very poor overall; Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, had an annual mean PM 2.5 average level of 83.3 ug/m in 2019, which is well above the World Health Organization’s guideline of 5 ug/m.^{xlviii} India and Pakistan also

figure among the world's most polluted countries, with several cities featuring in the list of the world's most polluted urban areas.^{xlviii} Beyond South Asia, issues of environmental health disproportionately impact marginalized populations around the globe. In Africa, waste pollution and land degradation risk food security and public health, while in well-industrialized countries like the UK, minority ethnic groups and low-income populations present higher concentrations of residents living in polluted regions and suffering from the largest impacts on environmental health.^{xlix} These disparities are part of a larger pattern of environmental injustice at a planetary level that has exacerbated the threat to health, both in the form of deaths as well as growing social and economic inequality faced by deprived communities.^{li}

At the global level, environmental justice is increasingly incorporated in national legislation, bringing to the fore of the political agenda action on environmental risks and the protection of weaker communities. In countries like South Asia, Africa, and industrialized nations where the burden of environmental degradation and health inequities is the highest, rigorous laws on pollution control and environmental protection have been enacted and implemented.^{lii} Consider, for example, the Environmental Court Act 2010 in Bangladesh, which has enabled fast-tracking of judgments on environmental violations and protection of the rights of the victims of environmental degradation.^{liii} Furthermore, the UN's climate justice framework promotes fair sharing of responsibilities and rewards with global social and environmental justice assurance.^{liv} These legal mechanisms have led to tangible advances in pollution reduction, and have helped to amplify the voices and resilience of the most marginalized, including small-scale farmers, indigenous groups, or those living in slums.^{lv} There are, however, formidable obstacles, including powerful economic elites and persistent inequities, that prevent full recognition of environmental justice.^{lvi}

In the future, the development and implementation of stronger and broader inclusive, transparent, and enforceable environmental laws and policies will be essential to decreasing environmental risks and social inequities. As such, environmental justice laws will serve to protect ecosystems as well as provide an important vehicle for promoting social and economic equity on a global scale.

8. Emerging Trends: Climate Litigation and Youth Movement

Climate litigation has proliferated worldwide, with more than 2,000 climate-related lawsuits by 2022, in response to people wanting government and corporate accountability.^{lvii} This wave of litigation, in turn, is characterized by a rising tide of strategic cases by youth and grassroots movements: It is one that foregrounds the banner and the clarion call of intergenerational justice. For the scarily pragmatic³ to the Greta Thunbergs of the world, who are actually suing their governments in the hope of action, there's Juliana v United States, and KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz, a Swiss group of elderly women trying through the courts to force their government to take more aggressive action on climate.^{lviii} These examples illustrate a trend in the use of legal systems to implore compliance and protection of future generations, illuminating youth activism as a key tool in climate governance.

9. Problem Regarding Environmental Rights and Human Dignity in Bangladesh

While Bangladesh does have some environmental laws, such as the Environment Conservation Act, 1995, the Environment Court Act, 2010, the Brick Manufacturing and Brick Kiln Establishment (Control) Act, 2013, and the Bangladesh Water Act, 2013, crucial legal gaps exist to achieve effective protection of rights, environment and dignity of the person. In Bangladesh, it is the responsibility of the State to protect and improve the environment. In Article 18A of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, as it is not guaranteed as a fundamental right, the writ seeking public accountability for environmental degradation is remote for the Citizens. Weak implementation of the Environment Conservation Act 1995. The Environment Conservation Act, 1995 has been established and acts as a legal framework for environmental regulation; however, monitoring and enforcement of environmental regulations were undercut by an ambiguous institutional arrangement, lack of coordination, and limited resource support in the Department of Environment. Environmental Courts have been established through the Environment Court Act, 2010, however, in practice, they suffer from delays, the absence of technical expertise, and are least accessible to the affected communities. The delectable Open-pit brick field without a chimney, open spaces, unhealthy side-by-side composition of both habitation and brick kilns, the abandoned ones, and not least the pile of potassium nitrate to the open sky, the act with other cries and control to play a good deal forcing 50 million people to raise against pollution. The Brick Manufacturing and Brick Kiln Establishment (Control) Act, 2013 and the Bangladesh Water Act, 2013 are environment-friendly and business customer-centered acts, these acts, were manufactured in a tailor-made way to encounter those specific environmental and business needs. But these tailor-made acts lack enforcement authority and surveillance to down its arms

beating the air pollution and water pollution. In reality, public participation and access to environmental facts, as envisioned in the Right to Information Act, 2009, are feeble - a reality that undermines the transparency and accountability that the system promises. These lacunae in law and institutions combine to render environmental rights as justiciable rights poorly protected and enforced and thus allow those who are most vulnerable and marginalized to be disproportionately harmed by the environment and the attendant violations of human dignity. Generating awareness and legal rights is not more than half the battle; there is a need to do more than situate environmental rights as fundamental rights, not less, also strengthening enforcement, judicial capacity, and mainstream inclusive governance.

10. Recommendations

Rights associated with the environment should be specifically recognized as a fundamental right of the human being in the national constitutions and laws. Not only will it help establish a rigorous legal foundation on environmental safeguards, it will also give the power to their citizens to go to the courts to claim for justice in instances of infringement of their rights.

Special environmental courts or tribunals must be formed or re-enforced to ensure speedy redressal of environmental cases. Away from the courts, judges own more positive legal tools such as judicial creativity and 'pro-active' interpretation of laws (as noted in key cases in India, Europe, and Latin America) which should be part of the solution to protect peoples of the present and the future.

Introduce Aarhus Convention-based principles to ensure public ingress to environmental facts, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice. This will allow for civil society organizations and marginalized communities to have agency in the safeguarding of their environmental rights.

Environmental protection laws and regulations should be strictly implemented. This entails a strict enforcement, holding the violators (including corporate parties) accountable, and allocating sufficient resources for the oversight agencies.

Particular attention should be devoted to the children's rights, indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable groups, who are affected to a greater extent by environmental degradation. Policies need to be adjusted to facilitate their meaningful engagement and safety.

The rights of future generations should be made explicit in legal and policy frameworks so that environmental protection today does not come at the expense of the future.

Regionally and globally, states could come together to share best practices, standards could be harmonized, and transboundary environmental issues could be collectively addressed. They are tools as the "Stockholm Declaration" (1972), "Rio Declaration" (1992), and UNGA Resolution 76/300 should orient national actions.

11. Conclusion

In general, protecting the environment is also concerned with environmental right protection, since a pollution-free, and healthy environment is necessary for the existence and enjoyment of human rights. On the other hand, in Bangladesh, although there exist constitutional responsibilities and numerous environmental laws and policies, there are apparently a number of lacunae in the acknowledgment and practice of environmental rights. The absence of environmental rights as an inherent right in itself, weak institutions, citizen lack of participation of citizens makes systematic protection of the environment and people living in high-risk conditions impossible. Additionally, human activities, which include industrialization among others, contribute to the ever-rising pollution and climate change. This problem is most severe to the poor and other vulnerable groups. To safeguard human dignity and to achieve development that is inclusive, as well as sustainable, Bangladesh needs to continue to work on legal and institutional development, as well as mechanisms of civil society engagement, to entrench environmental human rights as a justiciable fundamental right. Because justice in the environment and dignified life for our lives and those of future generations is only possible through systemic change.

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