



Environmental and climate justice



Faced with the environmental and climate emergency, AFD's Justice Group offers to support its partner countries to **strengthen their environmental law** and ensuring **access for all to justice in environmental and climate matters**.

AFD's vision

Despite the proliferation of national and international environmental laws since the 1970s, universal recognition of the climate emergency and a commitment by States to fight against climate change through the Paris Agreement, the environmental deterioration is accelerating. This raises the question of the application and scope of these laws, but also that of information and citizen participation in environmental and climate matters. Faced with the need to take action and provide a more effective framework for a fair ecological transition, protecting everyone's rights, particularly those who are the most vulnerable, AFD is committed to **working in favor of the environmental rule of law**.

AFD's involvement

The projects in the field of environmental and climate justice aim to adapt normative frameworks to the environmental and climate context as well as a stricter application of the environmental law in force in our partner countries. These projects require a cross-cutting, inclusive approach that involves all stakeholders concerned by the issue: Ministries of Justice and the Environment¹; environmental institutions (climate change committees, sustainable development commissions) and the judiciary (courts and tribunals); members of parliament; local communities; research centers; the media; and civil society organizations. Given the scope of the topic on all national levels, these projects can be implemented at the local, regional, national, and transnational levels.

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1

Ensuring a legal solution to the ecological crisis

In line with the Paris Agreement and the commitments made by the States to protect the environment, AFD supports public policy dialogues on climate change, environmental law and the protection of human rights in its partner countries.

This translates into support for the development and/or revision of regulatory frameworks (codes, laws, rulings, decrees, circulars, etc.) dedicated to the protection of the environment and human rights in a context marked by the threat of climate change.

This also translates into capacity building for the institutions guaranteeing these frameworks and access for all to environmental and climate justice (first and foremost the Ministries of Justice and the Environment) through targeted activities (e.g., organizational support; training; digital equipment; construction/rehabilitation of dedicated infrastructure).

2

Encouraging civil engagement

Supporting citizens' participation and consultation with stakeholder in environmental matters is a key step in preventing environmental law violations and the emergence of disputes.

In this respect, AFD wishes to promote multi-stakeholder discussions on environmental and climate issues by strengthening the space for consultation and mediation. To do this, it will support local structures in order to facilitate an open and accessible exchange to all on local environmental and climate perspectives.

3

Informing and raising awareness about rights

In order to strengthen accessibility to environmental and climate justice, it is necessary to inform and raise the awareness of all actors about environmental law and the correlation between climate change, environmental protection, and human rights.

In this respect, AFD may support workshops and/or awareness-raising campaigns, with the implementation of digital information tools. This could also include strengthening the media to enable citizens to have access to reliable and quality information on environmental and climate issues. These activities can be divided according to the type of target audience: public actors, companies or civil-society organizations. Particular emphasis will be placed on information aimed at vulnerable populations.

(1) Departments of Justice, sometimes alongside a "Chief Justice" in some English-speaking countries, or a "federal judiciary" in Federated States; Ministries of the Environment which may have different names depending on the target country (see Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change, etc.).