

**Green citizenship:  
a legal international tool to be created**

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## I- Definitions

### Green citizenship

**“It is ‘an attempt to make environmental conservation and sustainability an important duty of citizenship that citizens all over the world should be aware of” (UN Environment Program 2002).**

# Characteristics of Green Citizenship

Environmental citizens make a commitment to the common good.

A recognition that environmental responsibilities follow from environmental rights as a matter of natural justice.

A recognition that rights and responsibilities transcend national and generational boundaries.

Working for all of the above in private and in public .

No reciprocity: expect nothing in return from future generations and others species.

The duty of the environmental citizen is to live sustainably so that others may live well, and this takes us to the link to the right of a healthy environment.

**Source: Andrew Dobson ,Professor of Politics at the Open University, UK, Citizen and the Environment 2004**



# Green citizenship toward Human Rights

**« What is a citizen who has to prove himself every moment? Of his citizenship? » Pierre Bourdieu, *Les Inrockuptibles*, 1997**

Citizenship is a status in society.

It generally describes a person with legal rights within a given political order. It almost always has an element of exclusion, meaning that some people are not citizens, and that this distinction can sometimes be very important, or not important, depending on a particular society.



# Green citizenship toward Human Rights

## Characteristics of Human Rights

Universal

Internationally guaranteed

Legally protected

Protects individuals and groups

Cannot be taken away

Equal and indivisible



# DEMOCRACY

Democracy is a universally recognized ideal and is one of the core values and principles of the United Nations. It provides an environment for the protection and effective realization of human rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in 1948, clearly projected the concept of democracy by stating “The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.”



# NATIONALITY

The right to a nationality is a fundamental human right. It implies the right of each individual to acquire, change and retain a nationality.

The Right to a Nationality: Women and Children Human Rights Council: 20th Session, July, 5 2012.

The Human Rights Council in Geneva, its members adopted by consensus a resolution on “The Right to a Nationality: Women and Children.” This resolution aimed to address an important but under-recognized human right, the right to a nationality, with a specific focus on women and children. This is the first time that the Human Rights Council has addressed the issue of discriminatory nationality laws targeting women, which can lead to statelessness.



# PARTICIPATION

## **Rio Declaration, 1992, principle 10:**

“Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.”



# Paradigm: Green citizenship a legal tool to implement a Human Right to Environment

## Indivisibility and Interdependence

Integral link between the right to a healthy environment and other human rights.

Easier to address environmental concerns through other human rights than through the as yet not well-defined right to a healthy environment.

The deterioration of the environment affects the right to life, health, work and education, among other rights.

Environmental degradation caused by economic activities is often accompanied by and related to violations of civil and political rights, including lack of public access to information, citizen participation, freedom of speech and association

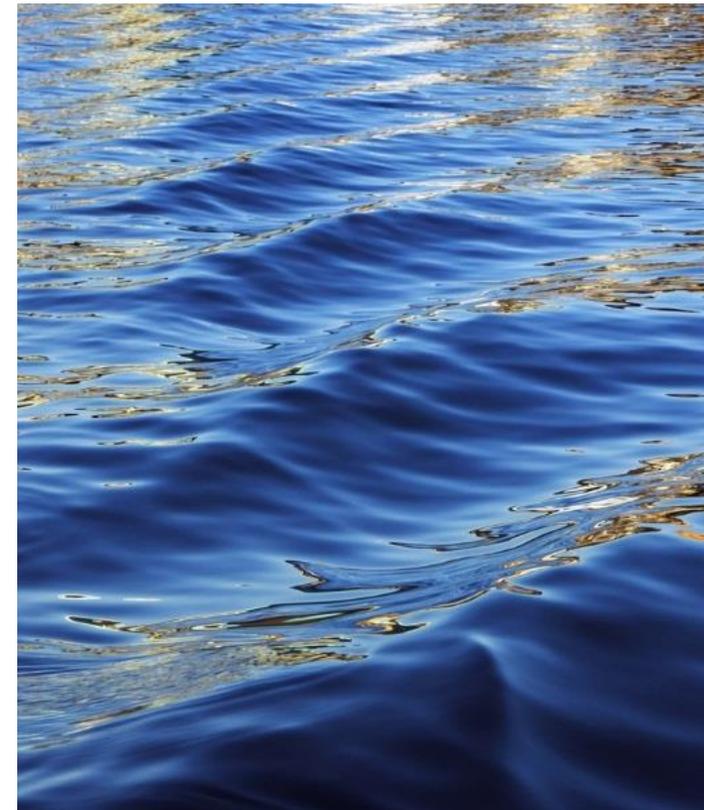




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