



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Partners in
Transformation
Helpdesk Business
and Human Rights

30 April 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 CET

Integrating the Environment in Human Rights Due Diligence

in cooperation with



Implemented by:

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Webex Webinar

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...enjoy the event!

The Helpdesk on Business and Human Rights



A support service offered by the Federal German Government

The Helpdesk is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



Confidential counselling



Customised training courses



Events & Webinars



Online Tools

Environmental Impacts of Cobalt Mining on Workers and Local Communities

Bou Azzer, Morocco



Human Rights Risks with Environmental Dimensions

High-risk business sectors

mining, agriculture, textiles, electronics, oil & gas

Drivers of environmental degradation

Pollution, excessive water consumption, deforestation, land conversion / soil degradation, exploitation of natural resources, climate change

Possible adverse impacts on rights to

- Health, water, livelihood
- Land and property (indigenous rights)
- Clean, healthy and sustainable environment (2022)



Legislative Acts on Corporate Due Diligence – EU/Germany (Selection)



Disclosure and Transparency

Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive
(CSRD)

General Due Diligence

German Supply Chain
Due Diligence Act
(LkSG)

Corporate Sustainability Due
Diligence Directive
(CSDDD)

Specific Due Diligence

EU-Conflict
Minerals
Regulation

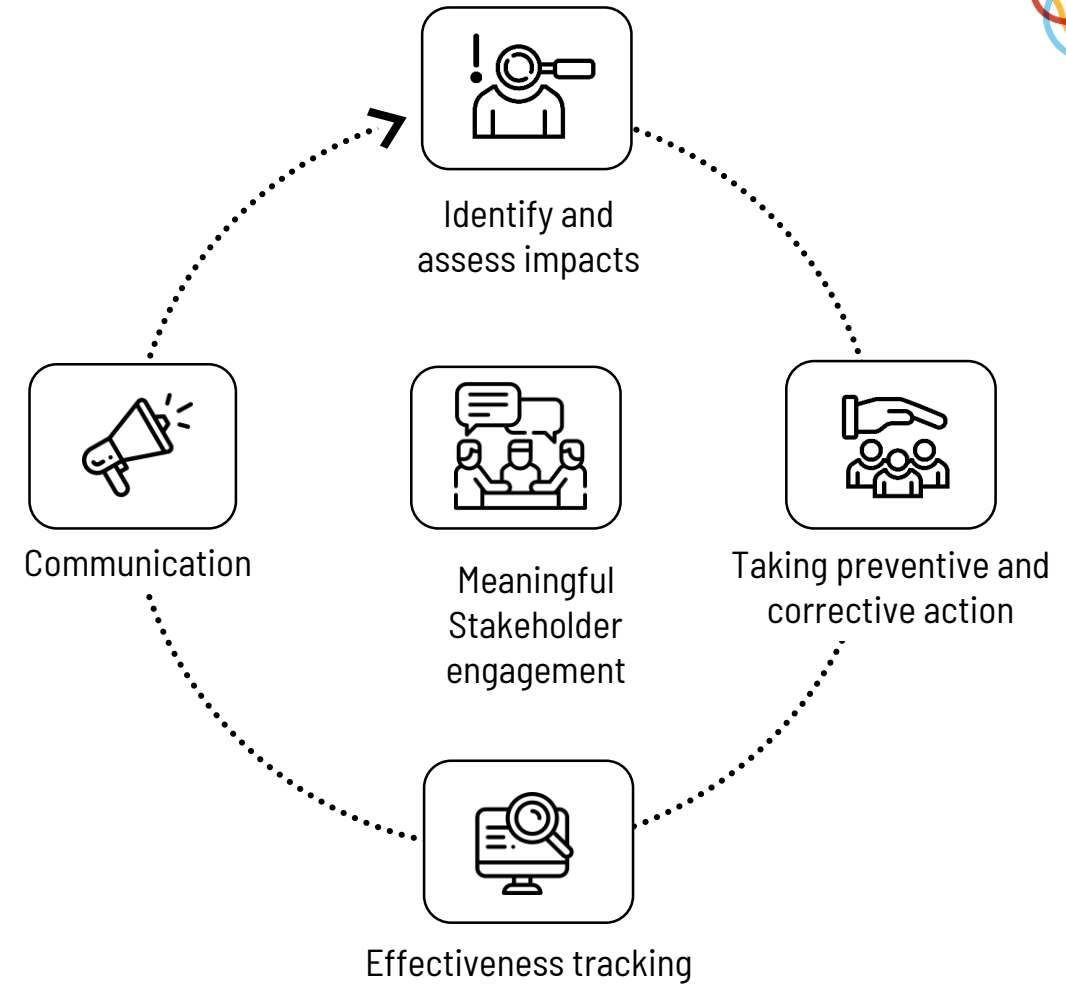
EU-
Battery
Regulation

EU-Forced
Labour
Regulation

EU-
Deforestation
Regulation



Core Elements of the UNGP Due Diligence Process



German LkSG: Harmful environmental impacts with human rights implications

Prohibitions

Causing **harmful soil degradation, water pollution, air pollution, harmful noise emissions, or excessive water consumption** with human rights consequences:

- Significant impairment of the foundations for the preservation and production of food
- Disruption of access to clean drinking water
- Difficulty or destruction of access to sanitation facilities
- Health damage

Section 2, § 2, No.9 LkSG



Protected environmental obligations, Annex part II, CSDDD



Specific prohibitions and obligations from

UN Convention on Biological
Diversity and the Cartagena
and Nagoya Protocol

Washington Convention
on Endangered Species
(CITES)

UN Convention on the Law
of the Sea (UNCLOS)

International Convention for
the Prevention of Pollution
from Ships (MARPOL 73/78)

Rotterdam Convention on
the Prior Informed
Consent Procedure (PIC)

Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic
Pollutants (POPs)

Minamata Convention on
Mercury

Basel Convention on
Hazardous Waste

UNESCO Convention on the
Protection of the World
Cultural and Natural Heritage
(World Heritage Convention)

Vienna Convention for the
Protection of the Ozone
Layer and Montreal
Protocol

Ramsar Convention on
Wetlands of International
Importance



Destruction of natural resources through pollution (including deterioration of soil and deforestation) governed as human right
Additionally: Plan to combat climate change, Article 22



Over to you, Sean....

HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Presentation by Seán O'Connell
30 April 2025



OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (Why listen)
- II. Global Trends (Why)
- III. Corporate Context (What)
- IV. UNDP Practical Tool for Business (How)
- V. Conclusion

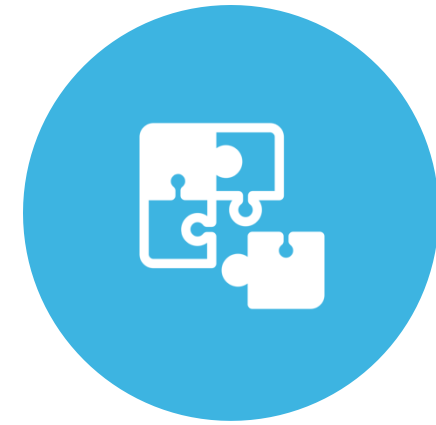
QUICK FACTS



UN leading
agency on
development



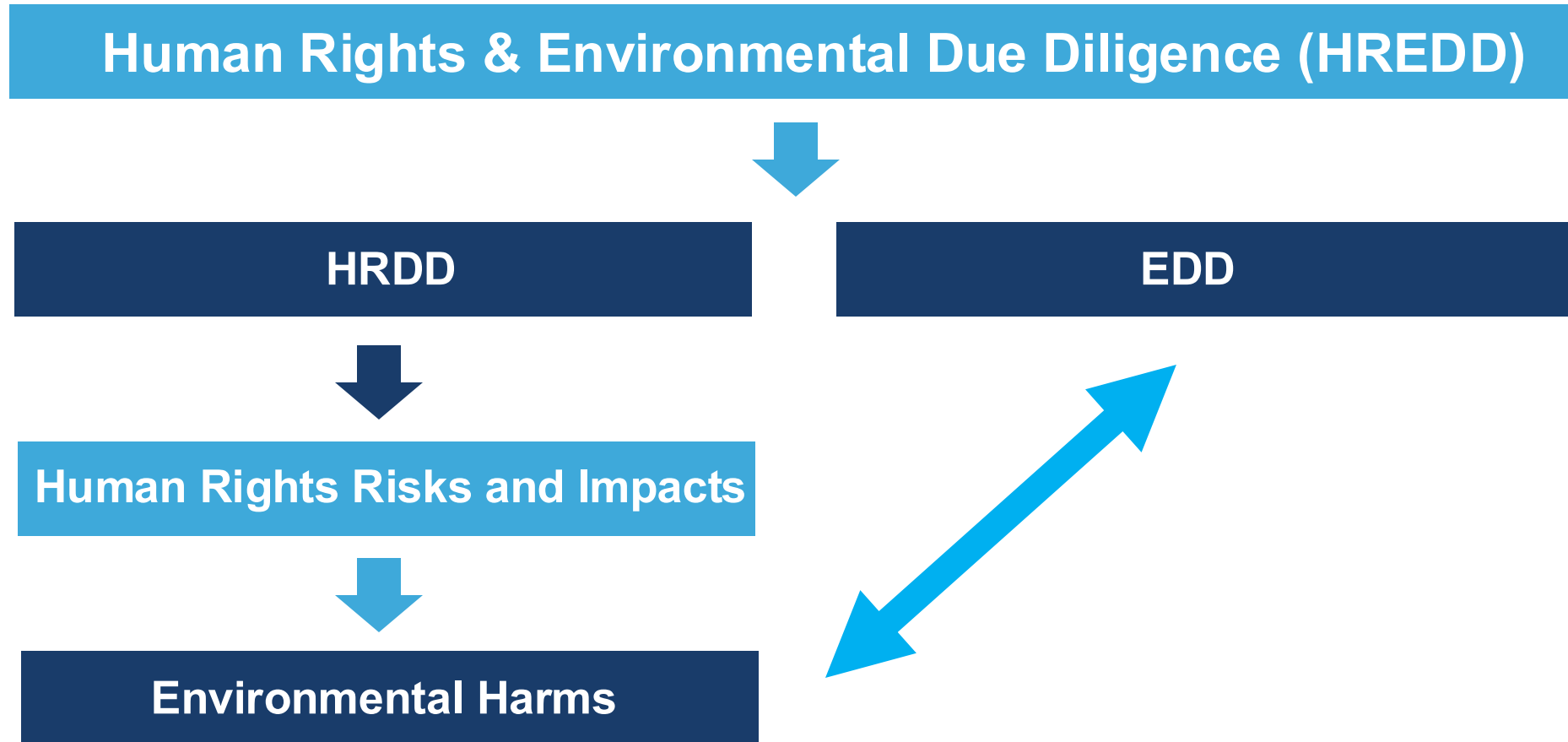
170 countries &
territories



23,000 personnel



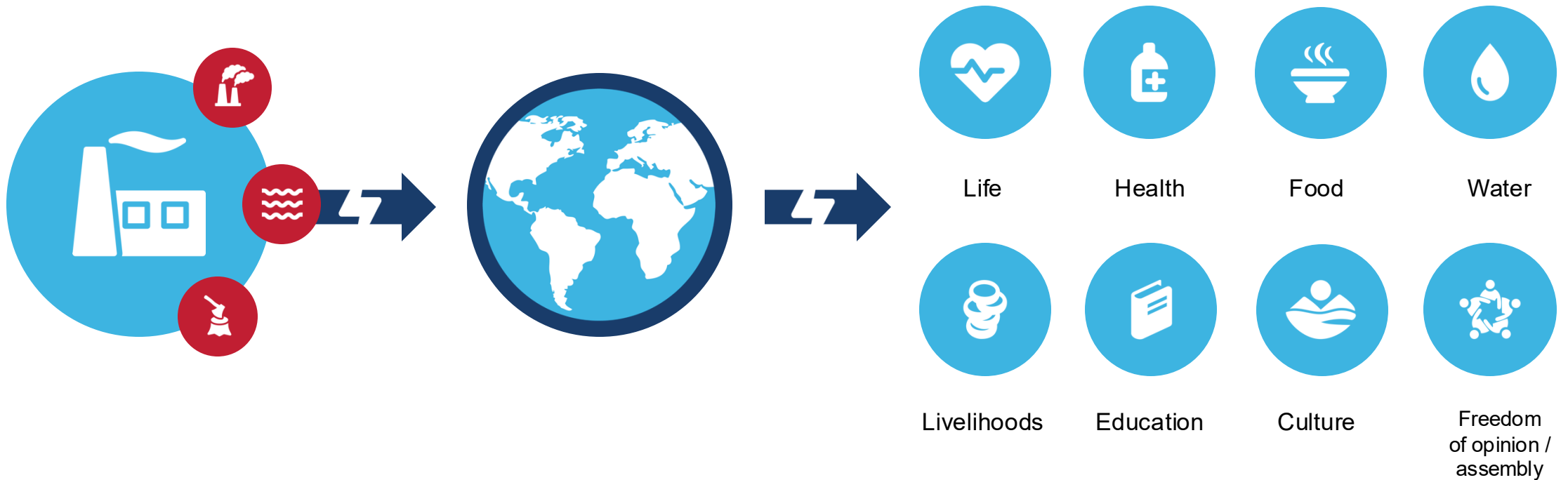
BASIC CONCEPT





I — WHY A PRACTICAL TOOL

BUSINESS IMPACTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS



GLOBAL TRENDS



UN Resolution R2HE

Reputational



Management + E

Operational
and Financial



Environmental human rights

Legal



II — WHAT ARE BUSINESSES DOING

CORPORATE CONTEXT



Growing reporting standards
& frameworks



Separate human rights &
environment functions

1 — GROWING REPORTING STANDARDS & FRAMEWORKS



**Task Force on
Inequality-related
Financial
Disclosures**



United Nations
Global Compact



SCIENCE BASED TARGETS NETWORK
GLOBAL COMMONS ALLIANCE



**GREENHOUSE
GAS PROTOCOL**



IRIS
ETHICAL RECRUITMENT



WDi
Workforce Disclosure Initiative

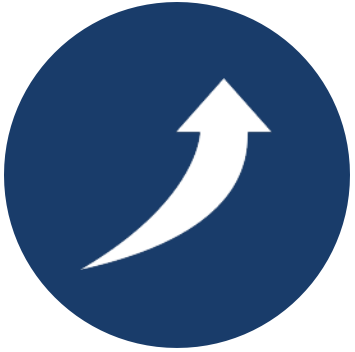
2 — SEPARATE FUNCTIONS



- Lived experience data
- Qualitative indicators
- Human rights remediation
- **Process:** HRIA/HRDD



- Scientific data
- Quantitative indicators
- Environmental restoration
- **Process:** EIA/EDD/EMS



Business impacts on human rights resulting from environmental harms



Applying environment to HRDD and break silos



Guidance for business required on HRDD+E



III — HOW TO USE THE TOOL

HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A PRACTICAL TOOL FOR BUSINESS

HRDD+E PRACTICE-SETTING

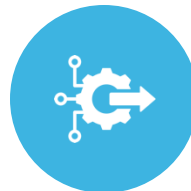
Guidance & B+HR Academy training:



Nothing new: environmental dimensions of HRDD per the UNGPs



Audience: corporate human rights & environment functions



Help reduce the number of corporate siloed processes

HRDD=HRDD+E



Objective: identify, prevent, mitigate, & account for how they address potential & actual adverse human rights impacts



Objective: identify, prevent, mitigate, & account for how they address potential & actual adverse human rights impacts resulting from environmental harms, incl. on R2HE

ENVIRONMENTAL HARMS



POLLUTION

Land
Water
Air



CLIMATE CHANGE

Physical
(Mal)adaptation
(Mal)transition



BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Physical
Biopiracy

STRUCTURE

1

IDENTIFY & ASSESS adverse human rights impacts

Human rights impacts resulting from environmental harms, incl. R2HE

2

ACT to prevent & mitigate adverse human rights impacts

By applying environmental conservation & mitigation hierarchies

3

TRACK the effectiveness of actions taken

By combining scientific & lived experience data

4

COMMUNICATE how the adverse human rights impacts have been addressed

Accessible formats data



1 — IDENTIFY



Value chain



Geographical locations



Affected rights-holders

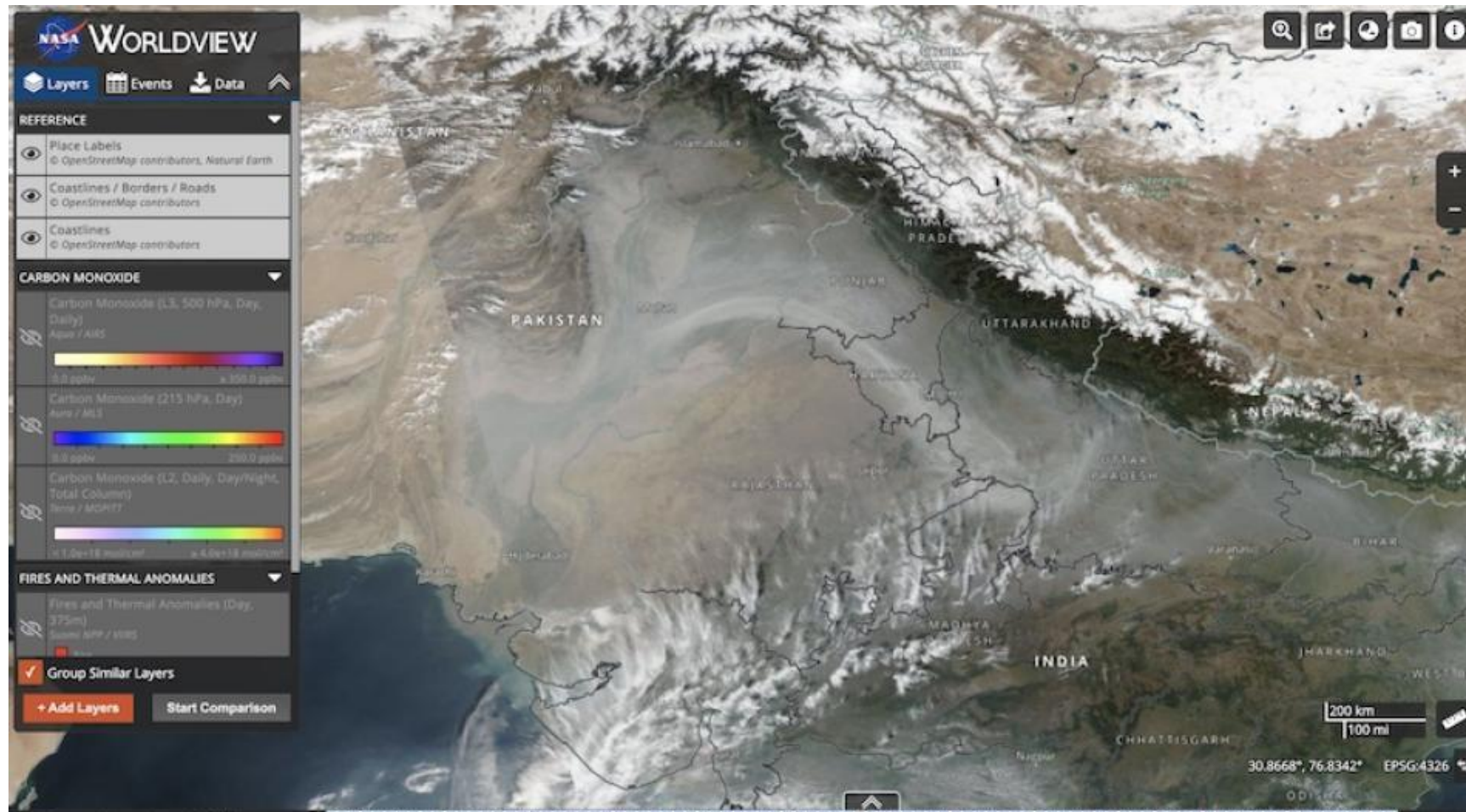


Draft impacts

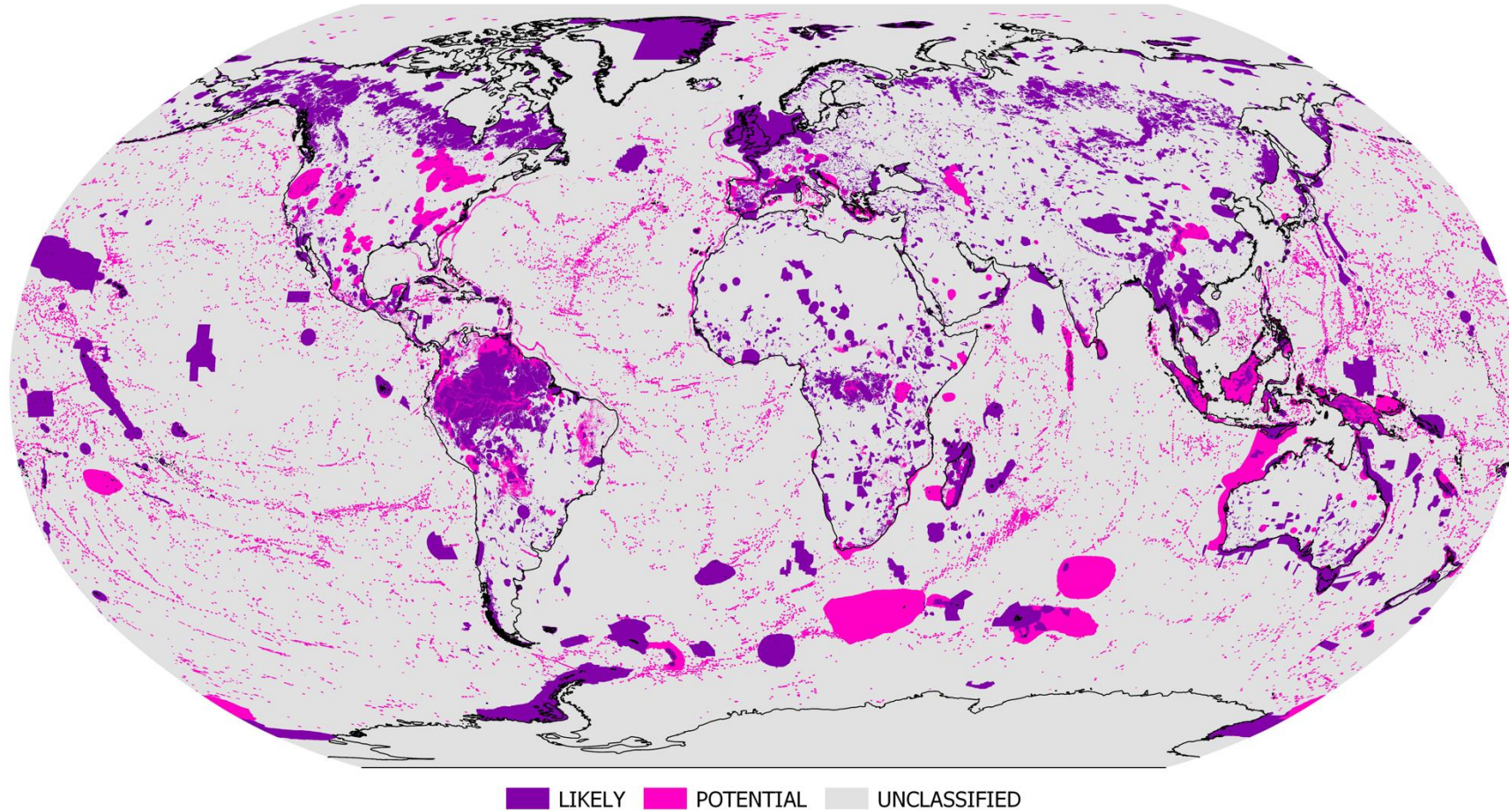


Final impacts

1 — IDENTIFY: POLLUTION



1 — IDENTIFY: BIODIVERSITY





2 — ACT



Impact prioritization for response



Involvement in & response to each impact



Action Plan



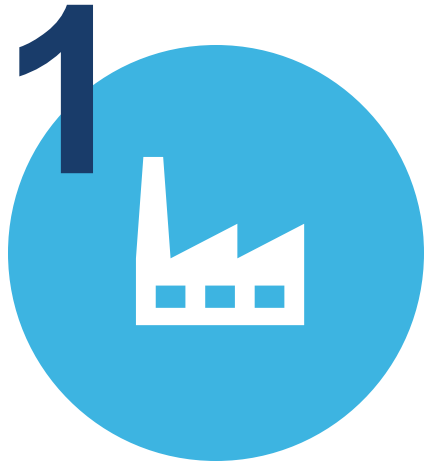
Leverage



Continuing or ending relationships

2 — ACT: CLIMATE

Greenhouse Gas Protocols



Direct and owned



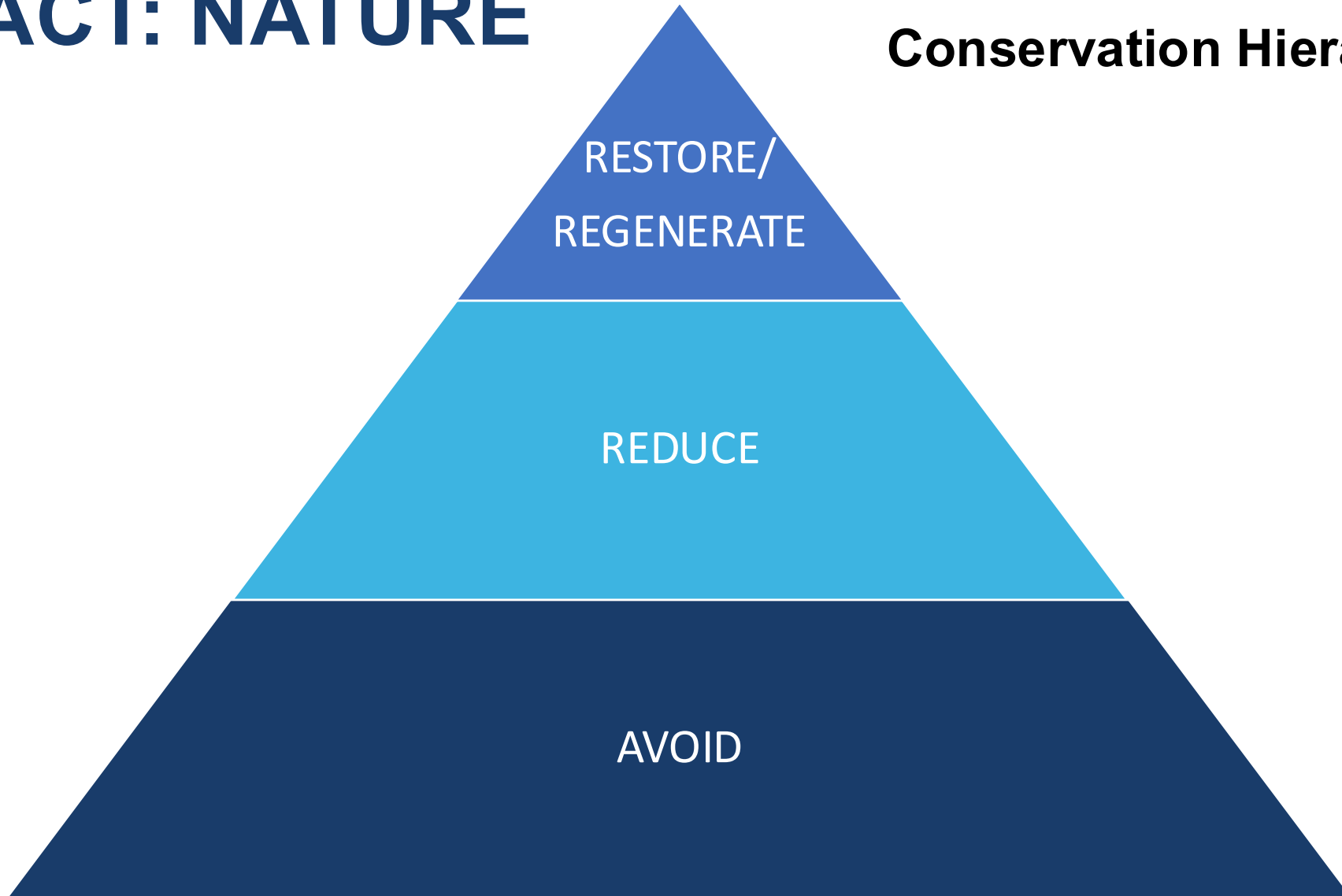
Indirect and owned



Indirect and not owned

2 — ACT: NATURE

Conservation Hierarchies





3 — TRACK



Effectiveness indicators



Effectiveness of the value chain actors



Effectiveness verification



4 — COMMUNICATE



Information compilation

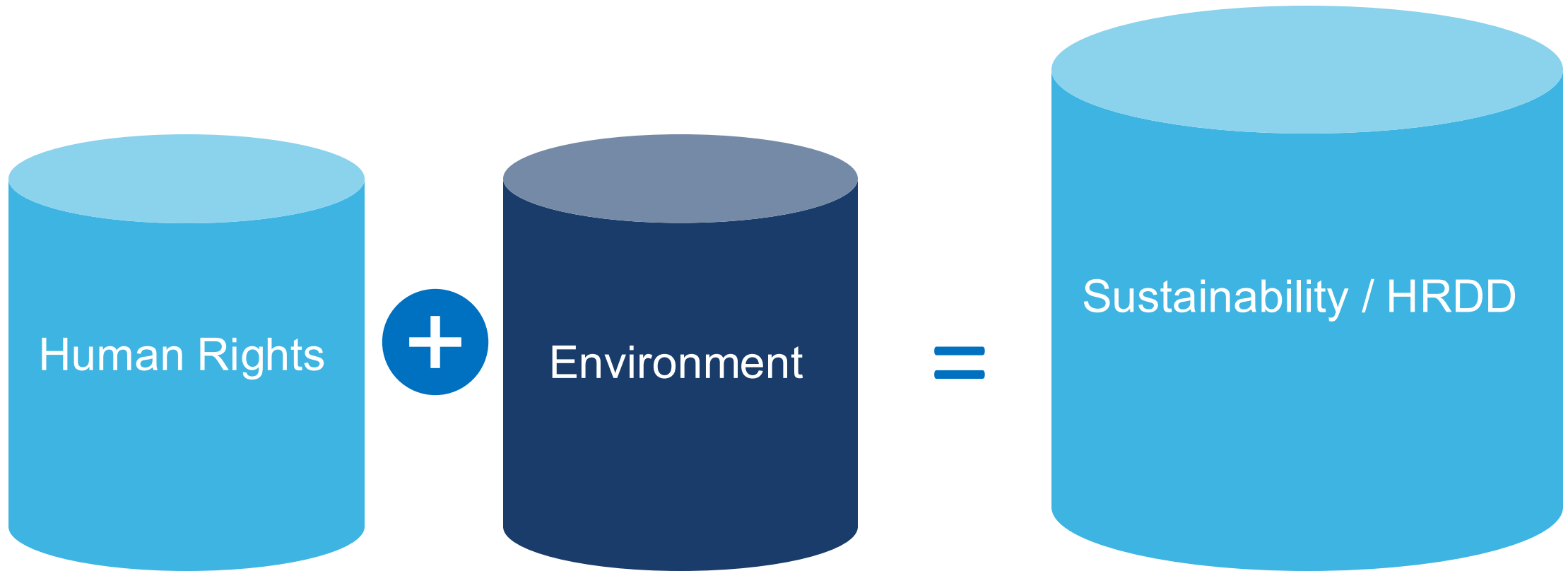


Communications with affected rights-holders



Formal reporting

EXAMPLES: FULL INTEGRATION



EXAMPLES: PARTIAL INTEGRATION



EXAMPLES: HRDD+E





CONCLUSIONS

CONCLUSIONS

1. HRDD requires understanding of the human rights risks and impacts from environmental harms
2. UNDP Practical Tool on HRDD+E can help businesses integrate the environment into HRDD processes
3. Nuances and specific elements for industry still needed, including in mining, tech, retail, service etc.

THANK YOU!



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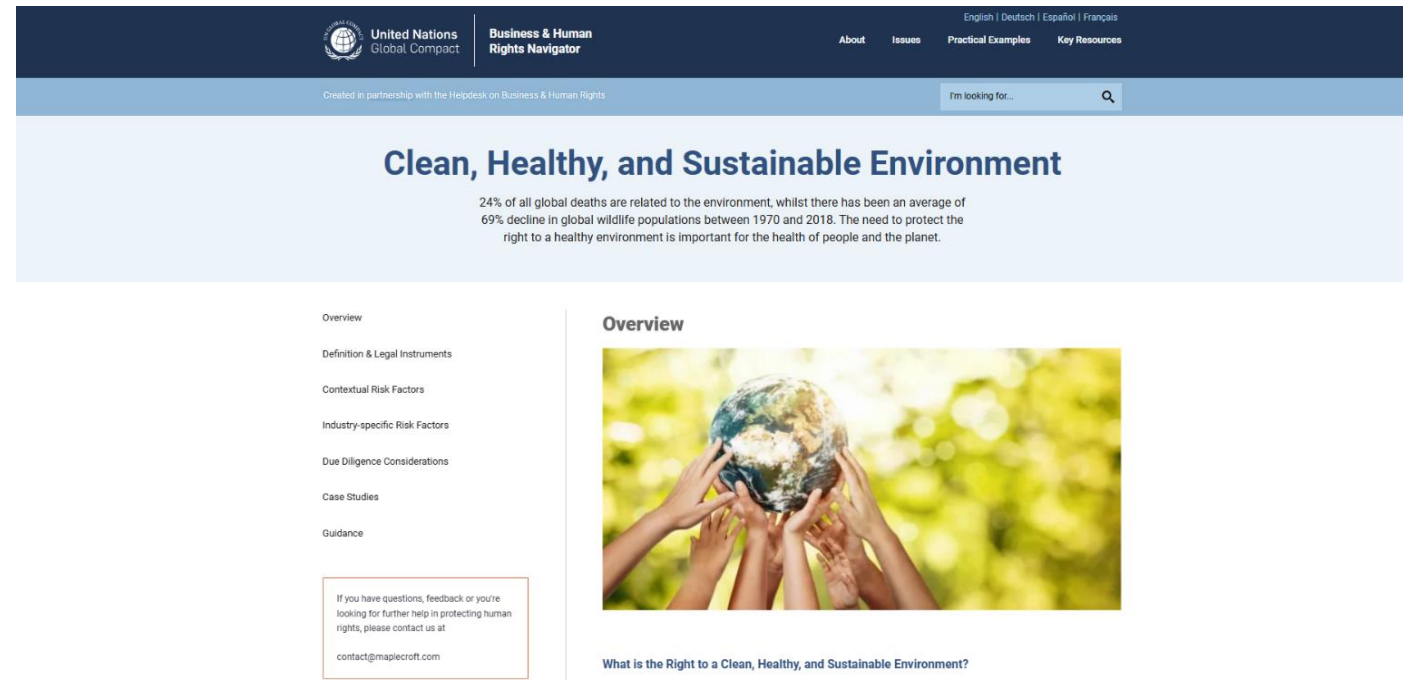


The Business & Human Rights Navigator



Guidance and case studies on 11 human rights issues

- Joint tool offered by Helpdesk BHR, UN Global Compact & Verisk Maplecroft
- Relevant information on 11 key human rights issues in one portal
- In-depth analysis and due diligence recommendations
- Case studies and best practices from other businesses
- Latest publication: new issue on the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment → **upcoming introductory Webinar on 24 June 2025**



To the [Business & Human Rights Navigator](#)

The Helpdesk on LinkedIn

Are you interested in current developments, **support, tools and practical examples** on the topic of "business and human rights" and sustainable supply chains?

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[Helpdesk Business and Human Rights](#)





Thank you for your attention

Further Information & Contacts

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