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# International Law Principles for REDD+. The Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Obligations of REDD+ Actors

Resource  
September 2013

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- [10]
- [Safeguards and co-benefits](#) [11]

[international law principles for REDD.PNG](#) [12]

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### International Law Principles for REDD+ The Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Obligations of REDD+ Actors

By Leonardo A. Rojas R. Executive Director  
Updated September 2013

#### WARNING NOTICE

These principles of International Law on Safeguarding Indigenous Peoples, Cultural Heritage and Forest Dependence (REDD+) address the questions that rights holders and stakeholders may have regarding the legal obligations and rights implications of REDD+ activities. The working group was established as a starting point for further discussions and will be revised as needed by the Indian Law Resource Center. Please direct feedback to [indianlaw@indianlaw.org](mailto:indianlaw@indianlaw.org).

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[13]

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## Summary

“Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation” (REDD+) initiatives have been proposed as a means of combating climate change, while at the same time providing development opportunities for developing countries, indigenous peoples, and other communities who possess forested lands. For indigenous peoples and other forest communities, however, REDD+, poses significant risks. In order to reorient REDD+ to respect the rights of indigenous peoples and address substantial risks to their livelihoods and ways of life, the Indian Law Resource Center proposes the International Law Principles for REDD+: The Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Legal Obligations of REDD+ Actors

The REDD+ Principles identify a pathway to implement a human rights-based approach to development within REDD+ initiatives. The goal of the REDD+ Principles is to educate actors engaged in REDD+ and indigenous communities potentially affected by REDD+, regarding the human rights implications of these initiatives. For States and international agencies engaged in REDD+, the REDD+ Principles identify both the applicable international legal obligations and the rights of indigenous peoples that must be protected.

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- [REDD+ Safeguards: Practical Considerations for Developing a Summary of Information](#) [17]
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