

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IS THE EQUAL RIGHT TO A SECURE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL PEOPLE, IN A WORLD WHERE ECOSYSTEMS CAN THRIVE AND SUSTAIN HUMANITY.

The global environmental crisis violates and jeopardizes the human rights of billions of people.

The burden of the crisis falls disproportionately and unfairly on the poorest communities that have contributed least to the damage to ecosystems and biodiversity, and to our heating climate.

The term 'environmental justice' was coined in the USA in response to discrimination that disproportionately impacted communities of colour: in effect, environmental policies were used as an attack on civil rights. Our broader iteration of environmental justice reflects the growing and disproportionate impact of business interests and government decision making on remote, poor, marginalised and disenfranchised communities across the globe.



THE NEED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Our vision

EJF's vision of environmental justice recognises that human lives and livelihoods are inextricably linked to the protection of the natural environment with thriving ecosystems that, in turn, sustain humanity.

Environmental justice is about protecting the most fundamental human right to a healthy environment regardless of factors such as ethnicity; gender; religious, cultural or political beliefs; or financial wealth. To achieve justice, the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental policies

and laws must enshrine fairness, equality and participation in decision-making, especially for the traditional custodians and beneficiaries of natural resources.

Environmental justice is about social justice, redressing the balance of power and combating human rights abuses that accompany damage and environmental crimes. It ensures justice for vulnerable communities and for environmental defenders who are silenced, brutalised or murdered by powerful and corrupt business interests and prevents the eviction, impoverishment and disenfranchisement of marginalised peoples.

Environmental justice is about giving people a strong voice and the power to articulate their concerns and defend the

natural environment and biodiversity they live alongside. It is vital to the understanding and resolution of fundamental concerns of social and economic justice. If we continue to artificially compartmentalise issues of justice from the protection for our natural world, we will ultimately fail in all aspects of human development.



FAIR FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

THE FUTURE

Environmental justice in this sense has never been more important.

Humanity is facing a planetary crisis of a scale and severity that is unprecedented for our species and for all species, which will impact all areas of our lives, curtailing basic freedoms and rights and degrading our ability to house, feed, clothe and educate ourselves. How we approach this central issue of environmental justice will either prevent or cause wars and conflict; it will either lead to greater equality or cause even sharper divisions; it will determine our future, not just as communities or nations, but as a species.

Environmental justice is a global issue with a shared obligation to protect our planet's life support systems. It is essential for all peoples, in all locations. We call on leaders globally, in government, business and across civil society to adopt environmental justice as a central guiding principle in all areas of operation. We call for action now to realise this most fundamental and important form of justice.

Steve Trent | Co-founder
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