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## NABU's commitment to human rights

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Human rights are universal, inalienable and indivisible. In keeping with our motto "We are what we do. Living and breathing nature conservation" human rights are a given and indispensable part of our values.

They are based on values which form the basis for our commitment as NABU to biodiversity and the protection of intact habitats, clean air and water, healthy soils and the careful use of our finite resources.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948. It was followed in 1966 by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was ratified by more than 170 states. States bear the main responsibility for implementing human rights.

As NABU, we stand for determined and effective protection of nature, the environment and the climate, and in particular for the conservation of biological diversity. More than 100 years of successful work of conserving and protecting our natural environment both motivate and oblige us to actively intervene and participate in society, the economy and politics. Protecting the environment and nature is therefore a key task for our future, both in Germany and worldwide.

This is one reason why NABU is one of the longest-serving members of BirdLife International as well as one of its largest. With more than 120 partners, BirdLife is the world's biggest network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) committed to conserve habitats and global biodiversity and to empower people and contribute to the alleviation of poverty.

### Our commitment

The future well-being of people all over the world is closely linked to the health and resilience of ecosystems. In our work for people and nature, we are committed to ensuring that the world becomes and remains worth living in.

In our work, we are committed to respecting human rights. This applies the activities of our NABU members and our programmes in Germany and internationally, in our



### Contact

**Thomas Tennhardt**

Director International Department /  
Executive Management Board  
Member

Phone +49 (0)30.28 49 84-1720

Fax +49 (0)30.28 49 84-3720

[Thomas.Tennhardt@NABU.de](mailto:Thomas.Tennhardt@NABU.de)

collaboration with people and especially in cooperation with local and international partners.

We will focus in particular on the following risks to human rights and their management:

#### **1. Impacts of our work on indigenous peoples and local communities**

The economic, social and cultural rights of many indigenous peoples and local communities are particularly at risk. As NABU, we have a responsibility to respect the human rights of these particularly vulnerable people and to support them in exercising their rights to the best of our ability.

#### **2. Cooperation with authorities and other actors**

In our work we are often dependent on state authorities and other partners. Most of the protected areas we work in are under government administration. We work constantly and also in cooperation with governments to ensure and, where necessary, improve their management of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities as part of our work of conserving and protecting our natural environment.

#### **3. Cooperation with security forces**

In our work we rely in part on cooperation with security forces to support rangers employed by us or our partners. We insist that both security forces and rangers respect human rights and provide appropriate training.

#### **4. Impact of our work on social justice and gender roles**

As NABU, we often work with or in communities where the socio-economic and cultural living conditions of women and men differ greatly. This includes their access to and decision-making authority over natural resources. We are committed to not increasing these differences in our projects and to contributing to their reduction as far as possible. In the design and implementation of projects that restrict, impede or prevent access to natural resources, these changes are decided and implemented together with those affected and alternatives are created.

#### **5. Fundamental labour rights**

We at NABU consider the freedom of association, the right to form trade unions, the right to equal local pay for the same work for women and men, the elimination of discrimination in working life and the prohibition of forced and child labour to be important basic principles of our work. We will not only follow these principles for our own employees, but also support our partners in complying with them.