

# **CENTRE INTERNATIONAL de DROIT COMPARÉ de l'ENVIRONNEMENT**

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF COMPARATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW  
Special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)  
Observer to the United Nations Environment Assembly and its Subsidiary Bodies  
Consultative status with La Francophonie



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## **ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CENTER INTERNATION DE DROIT COMPARE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

The Centre International de Droit Comparé de l'Environnement (CIDCE) is an international association founded in Limoges in 1982, bringing together lawyers from all over the world specializing in international and comparative environmental law. It has some 70 national correspondents in Europe, Africa, North and South America, Asia and the Pacific.

CIDCE is the only French NGO specializing in environmental law to enjoy official status with the UN. It is headquartered in Limoges, the capital of environmental law, with the CRIDEAU research center at the University of Limoges.

Its aim is to develop, improve and innovate in international and comparative environmental law. To this end, it conducts research, organizes symposia and seminars and publishes works, participates in international meetings on the environment and in conferences of the Parties to international and regional conventions on the environment, organizes side events to promote the development of international and national environmental law, and drafts new conventions on the environment. The CIDCE also contributes to the drafting of *amicus curiae*<sup>1</sup> before international or national courts.

As an international NGO, CIDCE has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is an observer at the United Nations Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies in Nairobi (Kenya). It has consultative status with the Organisation Internationale de La Francophonie (OIF). It is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It is an observer to the Barcelona Convention (2001), the Aarhus Convention (2004) and the Espoo Convention (2004); accredited by the UN at the Rio (1992), Johannesburg (2002) and Rio (2012) Conferences. As a result, CIDCE played an active part in the COP21 for the adoption of the Paris climate agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> An *amicus curiae* is a written opinion, drafted by a third party and addressed to a court or advisory body in connection with a pending case. The CIDCE has carried out 3 *amicus curiae*: - in 2019 and 2023 before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in 2024 before the International Court of Justice.

## **CIDCE ACTIVITIES**

### **1- *Advances in international environmental law***

The CIDCE has contributed in various circumstances to significant advances in international environmental law:

#### *a- International recognition of landscape law*

CIDCE took part in the drafting and international negotiation of the European Landscape Convention, signed in Florence in 2000. It also contributed to the opening of this convention for signature by non-European states in 2017.

#### *b- Legal recognition of integrated coastal zone management*

CIDCE took part in the drafting and international negotiation of the 2008 Madrid Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, in application of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean.

#### *c- Introducing the principle of non-regression into international environmental law and French law*

For several years, CIDCE has campaigned, through publications and symposia, for the recognition of non-regression in environmental law as a principle of international law, in line with the aim of international environmental conventions "to improve the protection of the environment" and to achieve "a high level of environmental protection". CIDCE thus facilitated the inclusion of the principle of non-regression in the final declaration of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on the Environment in June 2012 (paragraph 20 of the document entitled "The Future We Want"). CIDCE contributed to the integration of the principle of non-regression into French law, into the laws of Cote d'Ivoire and Uruguay, into the Escazu Convention in 2018 and into Tunisia's environmental code in 2023.

#### *d- Development of public participation in the drafting of environmental regulations in France and in comparative law*

The CIDCE took part in research for the Ministry of the Environment and ADEME's Concertation, Décision Environnement (CDE) program on public participation procedures in France and abroad (2013).

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*e- Taking human rights into account in disaster law*

On the occasion of a research project for the French National Research Agency (ANR), the CIDCE produced a scientific study on international and comparative law, noting the failure to take human rights into account when dealing with disasters. The CIDCE formulated precise legal proposals for integrating human rights into disaster law. CIDCE thus contributed to the integration of human rights in disasters on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in the 2015-2030 Agenda (Sendai, March 18, 2015).

At the same time, CIDCE had contributed to the drafting and negotiation of the Council of Europe's ethical charter on "Ethical principles for disaster risk reduction and human resilience" (2009).

*f. Creation of a draft international convention on the legal status of environmental displaced persons*

In 2008, the CIDCE and the CRIDEAU of the University of Limoges drew up a draft convention on environmentally displaced persons, which was revised several times (4th version in 2018) and circulated at various meetings on climate, disasters and human rights. This draft was completely overhauled and updated in 2024.

*g- Drafting a third international covenant on the human right to the environment*

In 2017, the CIDCE drew up and sent to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva a draft International Convention on the Human Right to the Environment, which will complement the two existing 1966 Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. This draft was updated and translated into several languages in 2024, with a view to its adoption by the international community at the UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly.

*h- Creation of legal indicators to assess the effectiveness of international environmental law*

As part of La Francophonie, the CIDCE proposed the creation of environmental legal indicators at the congresses of African environmental lawyers in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) in 2013 and Rabat (Morocco) in 2016. As a result, a scientific study was undertaken on this subject by the Institut Francophone du Développement Durable (IFDD) in 2017, which was evaluated and validated by IUCN, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Yaoundé (Cameroon) in 2018. In 2019 CIDCE helped to integrate for the first time the need for legal indicators for the implementation of

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the Barcelona Convention and its protocols on the Mediterranean Sea. In 2021, CIDCE was commissioned by Plan Bleu to test legal indicators in France, Tunisia and Turkey for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention. In 2023, the CIDCE developed legal indicators for the Blue Plan concerning the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

## *i. Contribution to the recognition of natural entities as subjects of law*

*CIDCE took part in the research and work that led to the drafting of the environmental code of the Loyalty Islands Province in New Caledonia (code, 2nd ed. March 2024).*

## **2- Publications**

- Le CIDCE a publié de 1997 à 2010, la Revue Européenne de Droit de l'Environnement (accessible gratuitement en ligne : <https://www.persee.fr/collection/reden> )
- **Droit et environnement**, Bulletin de liaison du Réseau "Droit de l'environnement" de l'Agence Universitaire de La Francophonie (AUF), de 1992 à 2012.
- Forêts et environnement, PUF, 1984
- Déchets industriels et environnement, PUF, 1985
- Evolution et perspectives du droit de l'environnement en droit comparé, CIDCE, 1986
- Droit de propriété et environnement en droit comparé, CIDCE, 1988
- Europe des régions et environnement, PUF, 1989
- Déclaration de Limoges : réunion mondiale des associations de droit de l'environnement, novembre 1990.
- Réunion mondiale de Limoges : - Textes, CIDCE, 1991 - Rapports, PUF, 1992
- La protection juridique des sols dans les Etats de la Communauté européenne, PULIM, 1993
- Droit de l'environnement et développement durable, PULIM, 1994
- Mondialisation et droit de l'environnement, CIDCE, Rio 2002
- Réunion mondiale des juristes et associations de droit de l'environnement : Recommandations :
  - Déclaration de Limoges II et Charte Rio+10, CIDCE, 2002
  - Rapports : Vers un nouveau droit de l'environnement ? CIDCE, 2003
- L'évaluation des incidences de certains plans et programmes sur l'environnement, CIDCE, 2003
- Déclaration de Limoges sur le droit et les politiques d'environnement et de développement durable, particulièrement dans les rapports Brésil-France, 2005
- Appel de Limoges sur les réfugiés écologiques, 2005
- Projet de Convention relative au statut international des déplacés environnementaux, REDE, n° 4, 2009

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- L'économie verte dans le contexte du développement durable. La gouvernance des acteurs publics et privés. Fondation Gétulio Vargas, Programme droit de l'environnement, Rio de Janeiro, Brésil, 2011
- Les catastrophes écologiques et le droit : échecs du droit, appels au droit, Bruylant, 2012
- La non régression en droit de l'environnement, Bruylant, 2012
- Réunion mondiale des juristes et associations de droit de l'environnement :
  - Appel des juristes et des associations de droit de l'environnement sous la forme d'une pétition. Ouvert à la signature le 1er octobre 2011. Adressé aux Etats participant à la Conférence de Rio + 20.
  - Recommandations de Limoges (26), adoptées le 1er octobre 2011 à Limoges, en ligne sur le site du CIDCE
  - Déclaration des juristes de l'environnement sur les engagements post Rio+20, adoptée le 17 juin 2012 à Rio de Janeiro (Brésil), en ligne sur le site du CIDCE
- Legal Instruments for the Implementation of Sustainable Development, Michel Prieur, José Antônio Tietzmann e Silva, Ed. PUC Goiás, Goiânia, Brésil, 2012.
- Hommage à un printemps environnemental, mélanges en l'honneur des professeurs Soukaina Bouraoui, Mahfoud Ghézali et Ali Mékouar, Pulim, Limoges, 2016
- Les indicateurs juridiques outils d'évaluation de l'effectivité du droit de l'environnement, IUCN, OIF, ONU environnement, CIDCE, CEDEAO, IFDD, 2018, en ligne IFDD
- L'Accord régional sur l'accès à l'information, la participation du public et l'accès à la justice en matière d'environnement en Amérique latine et dans le Caraïbe adopté à Escazú (Costa Rica) le 4 mars 2018, publié en espagnol avec FARN et Université nationale du Littoral de Santa Fe, Argentine, 2020.
- Mesurer l'effectivité du droit de l'environnement, des indicateurs juridiques au service du développement durable par M. Prieur, Ch. Bastin, A. Mékouar, Peter Lang, 2021, et en ligne en français, anglais et espagnol.
- Acuerdo regional de Escazu, enfoque internacional, regional y nacional, M.Prieur y Jorge Franza, ed. poder judicial de la ciudad de Buenos Aires, Jusbairens editorial, 2022
- Comentario al Acuerdo de Escazu sobre derechos ambientales en America Latina y el Caribe, Henry Jimenez Guanipa, Lina Munoz Avila ed., contribution M. Prieur, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Bogota, Colombia, 2023
- M. Prieur, A. Mékouar, E. Gaillard, dir. Immersion dans les coulisses de la diplomatie environnementale internationale, mare et martin, Chaire Normandie pour la Paix, 2023
- Mesurer l'efficacité du droit de l'environnement à travers des indicateurs juridiques et des analyses de qualité, IUCN, Environmental policy and law paper n° 91, en français et anglais, 2024

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### **3- Participation in national and international bodies**

The Chairman of the CIDCE has been a member of the Compliance Committee of the Espoo Convention on transboundary impact studies, and of the Compliance Committee of the Barcelona Convention on the protection of the marine environment, the coastline and the Mediterranean.

At national level, he was appointed by the government as a member of the Sustainable Development Commission and Vice-Chairman of the Grenelle de l'Environnement working group on governance, democracy and participation.

In 2021, the CIDCE was appointed a member of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), a body of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

In December 2023, CIDCE was awarded the United Nations Human Rights Prize as part of an international consortium that contributed to the universal enshrinement of the human right to the environment by the United Nations General Assembly in 2022.

### **4- Communication**

The CIDCE has :

- a website: <https://cidce.org/fr/>
- a bimonthly newsletter (subscription via the website)
- a YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBCf7oPWjVPqPMwkYZGEfbg>
- an account on X: <https://twitter.com/cidcelaw>
- a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CIDCElaw/>