

Ethical Values and the Integrity of the Climate Change Regime: Law, Ethics, and Governance

The climate change regime is a complex and evolving system of international agreements, national laws, and policies designed to address the challenge of climate change. At the heart of this regime are a set of ethical values that shape the way we think about climate change and the actions we take to address it.



Ethical Values and the Integrity of the Climate Change Regime (Law, Ethics and Governance) by Forrest Stuart

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This book examines the ethical values that underpin the climate change regime, exploring how they shape the legal and policy frameworks that govern climate action. It argues that ethical values are essential for ensuring the integrity of the climate change regime and achieving its

objectives of mitigating climate change and promoting sustainable development.

The Ethical Foundations of the Climate Change Regime

The ethical values that underpin the climate change regime can be traced back to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which was adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit. The Rio Declaration sets out a number of principles that are now widely recognized as the foundation of international environmental law, including the principle of intergenerational equity, the precautionary principle, and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

These principles reflect the ethical values of justice, fairness, and sustainability. They recognize that climate change is a problem that affects everyone, both present and future generations, and that we have a responsibility to act to address it. They also recognize that the responsibility for addressing climate change is not equally shared, and that developed countries have a greater responsibility to act than developing countries.

The Role of Ethical Values in Climate Change Law and Policy

The ethical values that underpin the climate change regime have a significant impact on the legal and policy frameworks that govern climate action. For example, the principle of intergenerational equity has been used to justify the adoption of long-term climate goals, such as the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The precautionary principle has been used to justify the adoption of precautionary measures to address climate change, even in the face of scientific uncertainty. And the principle of common but differentiated

responsibilities has been used to justify the principle of equity in the distribution of the costs and benefits of climate action.

These are just a few examples of how ethical values shape climate change law and policy. By understanding the ethical values that underpin the climate change regime, we can better understand the legal and policy frameworks that govern climate action and the decisions that are made in the name of climate change.

The Challenges to Ethical Integrity in the Climate Change Regime

The climate change regime is not immune to the challenges of ethical integrity. There are a number of challenges that can threaten the integrity of the regime, including:

- **The lack of political will:** There is a lack of political will to take the necessary action to address climate change. This is due in part to the fact that climate change is a complex and long-term problem, and the benefits of taking action are not always immediately apparent.
- **The influence of vested interests:** The fossil fuel industry has a vested interest in maintaining the status quo, and it has been successful in lobbying against climate action. This has made it difficult to adopt and implement effective climate policies.
- **The lack of public understanding:** There is a lack of public understanding about climate change and the need for action. This is due in part to the fact that climate change is a complex issue, and the scientific evidence can be difficult to understand.

These are just a few of the challenges to ethical integrity in the climate change regime. It is important to be aware of these challenges so that we can take steps to address them. By ng so, we can help to ensure that the climate change regime is based on sound ethical values and that it is capable of achieving its objectives of mitigating climate change and promoting sustainable development.

The climate change regime is a complex and evolving system of international agreements, national laws, and policies. At the heart of this regime are a set of ethical values that shape the way we think about climate change and the actions we take to address it. These ethical values are essential for ensuring the integrity of the climate change regime and achieving its objectives of mitigating climate change and promoting sustainable development.

However, the climate change regime is not immune to the challenges of ethical integrity. There are a number of challenges that can threaten the integrity of the regime, including the lack of political will, the influence of vested interests, and the lack of public understanding. It is important to be aware of these challenges so that we can take steps to address them. By ng so, we can help to ensure that the climate change regime is based on sound ethical values and that it is capable of achieving its objectives.



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