

# 11 Sustainability and human rights issues in tourism

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**When reading this chapter, you will engage with these key concepts:**

- Sustainability research spans various disciplines.
- Cultural differences influence environmental perception in tourism.
- Human rights issues in tourism, including conflicts over jurisdiction and responsibilities.
- The universality of human rights, influenced by cultural relativism and national differences.
- Human rights issues in tourism encompass diverse areas such as labour conditions, displacement, and indigenous rights.
- Political and legal dimensions influencing human rights protection in tourism destinations.
- Privacy concerns for tourists and locals, regarding data collection and surveillance measures.
- Displacement and gentrification associated with tourism affecting local communities.
- Indigenous rights issues in tourism, including representation and cultural commodification.

## Introduction

Sustainability research encompasses a wide range of disciplines. Under the tutorage of Dr Chris Cooper, my PhD focused on cultural differences in environmental perception between tourism practitioners and university students. If I have to choose one thing I learned from Dr Cooper's supervision it is recognising the importance of the multidisciplinary nature of tourism research. My undergraduate degree in psychology clearly directed my interests to the human aspects of tourism development. While I was doing my PhD, the terminology and concept of 'sustainability' was still in its infancy, despite the fact the same concept under different names had been researched since the 1960s and the Brundtland Report - '*Our Common Future*' was published in 1987. In