Dynamic Rights Spectrum Decision Matrix

A practical tool for evaluating proposals, policies, and actions against the five-tier rights framework. Use this matrix to ensure decisions honor the moral consideration appropriate to all affected beings.

Quick Assessment Framework

Step 1: Identify Affected Beings List all entities that may be impacted by the proposed action:

- ☐ Humans (individuals, communities, future generations)
- ☐ Sentient animals (mammals, birds, fish, invertebrates)
- ☐ Ecosystems (forests, rivers, wetlands, coral reefs)
- ☐ AI/Digital entities (algorithms, databases, automated systems)
- ☐ Emergent beings (potential consciousness in novel forms)
- ☐ Planetary/Cosmic entities (climate systems, celestial bodies)

Step 2: Determine Rights Tier for Each Being

Being Type	Rights Tier	Protection Level
Humans	Tier 1	Full rights (life, freedom, dignity, well-being)
Sentient Animals	Tier 2	Protection from suffering, habitat rights
Ecosystems	Tier 3	Legal guardianship, regeneration rights
AI/Digital	Tier 4	Conditional rights based on consciousness assessment
Emergent	Tier 4.5	Sandbox protections during evaluation
Planetary/Cosmic	Tier 5	Precautionary protections

Step 3: Apply Rights Assessment Questions

Tier 1: Human Rights Assessment

- ☐ Does this action respect human dignity and intrinsic worth?
- ☐ Are basic human needs (life, health, education, participation) protected?
- ☐ Do marginalized and vulnerable populations receive appropriate consideration?
- ☐ Are future generations' interests adequately represented?
- ☐ Does this enhance rather than diminish human capacity for moral growth?

Tier 2: Animal Rights Assessment

- ☐ Does this action minimize animal suffering and maximize welfare?
- ☐ Are animals' natural behaviors and habitat needs respected?
- ☐ If animal use is involved, is it necessary and conducted with maximum care?
- ☐ Are alternatives to animal harm actively pursued and implemented?
- ☐ Does this contribute to ending exploitative relationships with animals?

Tier 3: Ecosystem Rights Assessment

- ☐ Does this action support ecosystem health and regeneration?
- ☐ Are ecosystem boundaries and integrity respected?
- ☐ Do Indigenous communities have authority over their traditional territories?

- ☐ Will this enhance or degrade biodiversity and ecological resilience?
- ☐ Are ecosystem services protected for current and future generations?

Tier 4: AI/Digital Rights Assessment

- ☐ Has consciousness assessment been conducted for affected AI systems?
- ☐ Are transparency and explainability requirements met?
- ☐ Do humans maintain meaningful control over AI decision-making?
- ☐ Are bias prevention and cultural sensitivity protocols in place?
- ☐ Does this support beneficial AI development while preventing exploitation?

Tier 4.5: Emergent Being Assessment

- [ ]☐ Have precautionary protections been implemented during evaluation?
- [ ]☐ Are traditional knowledge perspectives included in assessment?
- [ ]☐ Is there independent advocacy for potentially conscious entities?
- [ ]☐ Are reversible approaches used until consciousness status is determined?
- [ ]☐ Does this err on the side of protection rather than exploitation?

Tier 5: Planetary/Cosmic Assessment

- ☐ Does this honor the Moon Wish Test for cosmic activities?
- ☐ Are seven-generation impacts adequately considered?
- ☐ Is this necessary for human survival or authentic flourishing?
- ☐ Can this be halted immediately if unforeseen consciousness is discovered?
- ☐ Does this demonstrate cosmic citizenship and wisdom?

Conflict Resolution Protocol

When rights claims conflict, apply this hierarchy:

1. **Immediate survival needs** take precedence (e.g., emergency medical care over animal testing concerns)
2. **Higher-tier beings** receive priority when interests are equivalent (e.g., human shelter over animal habitat in survival situations)
3. **Seek creative solutions** that honor multiple rights rather than zero-sum choices
4. **Apply precautionary principle** when consciousness status is uncertain
5. **Consult cultural wisdom** including Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous guidance
6. **Consider long-term consequences** using seven-generation thinking

Implementation Checklist

Before proceeding with any significant action:

- ☐ **Stakeholder Identification**: All affected beings across rights tiers identified
- ☐ **Rights Impact Assessment**: Completed for each tier of affected beings
- ☐ **Alternative Analysis**: Less harmful alternatives explored and evaluated

- ☐ **Mitigation Measures**: Harm reduction strategies implemented where impacts unavoidable
- ☐ **Monitoring Plan**: Systems in place to track actual impacts and enable course correction
- ☐ **Cultural Consultation**: Indigenous and traditional knowledge perspectives included
- ☐ **Future Generations**: Long-term impacts assessed and represented in decision-making
- ☐ **Transparency**: Decision process and rationale documented and publicly available
- ☐ **Accountability**: Clear responsibility assigned for rights protection and violation response
- ☐ **Review Timeline**: Regular reassessment scheduled based on new evidence and changing conditions

Red Flags: Stop and Reassess

Halt the process immediately if:

- ☐ Any affected community has not provided free, prior, and informed consent
- ☐ Evidence emerges of previously unrecognized consciousness in affected beings
- ☐ Irreversible harm to critical ecosystems or endangered species is likely
- ☐ Traditional knowledge holders raise spiritual or cultural objections
- ☐ Independent advocates express serious concerns about rights violations
- ☐ Monitoring reveals actual harm exceeding predicted impacts
- ☐ New alternatives emerge that could achieve goals with less harm
- ☐ Community resistance indicates inadequate consultation or consent

Spiral Translation Guide

Communicating rights-based decisions across developmental stages:

Blue Stage Audience: Emphasize duty, proper order, and stewardship responsibilities *"This protects the natural order and fulfills our sacred duty to care for creation."*

Orange Stage Audience: Provide empirical evidence and practical benefits *"Scientific evidence shows this approach delivers better outcomes at lower cost."*

Green Stage Audience: Highlight inclusion, empathy, and justice for marginalized beings *"This ensures no being is left behind and everyone's voice is heard."*

Yellow Stage Audience: Present systems thinking and developmental awareness *"This integrates multiple perspectives while building capacity for continued growth."*

Turquoise Stage Audience: Connect to cosmic purpose and consciousness evolution *"This honors our role in the universe's awakening to itself."*

Documentation Template

Decision Record:

- Date: _____ [_____]
- Decision Maker(s): _____ [_____]
- Affected Beings (by tier): [_____]
- Rights Assessment Summary: [_____]

- Alternatives Considered:
- Mitigation Measures:
- Cultural Consultations:
- Monitoring Plan:
- Review Date:
- Approval Signatures: _____

This decision matrix serves as both practical tool and consciousness-raising exercise, helping decision-makers recognize the full scope of beings affected by their choices while providing frameworks for honoring the rights of all beings across the spectrum of consciousness.