

Global Major Groups & Stakeholders Meeting 23 March, 2014

Key issue of OECPR:

*Environmental Rule of Law with special focus on
Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Timber*

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ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

Global illegal wildlife trade (excl. timber) worth \$15-20 billion annually – together recognized as the fourth largest global illegal trade, behind drugs, humans, and arms.

TIMBER & ILLEGAL LOGGING

**Globally, an estimated
USD 30-100 billion is lost each
year through illegal logging**



The background image shows a landscape where a large portion of a forest has been cleared. The ground is dark, charred, and covered with a layer of ash and scattered, dry branches. In the distance, a thick wall of green trees remains standing, illustrating the extent of deforestation. A single, thin tree trunk stands in the middle ground on the right side.

ILLEGAL TIMBER TRADE

Organized crime is estimated to be responsible for between 50-90% of deforestation in tropical countries

Scope of UNEP's work on illegal trade in wildlife and timber

1. Maintaining and strengthening political momentum;
 - Analysis and synthesis of the evidence base – eg RRA for UNEA
 - Analysis of the policy and legal frameworks for action
 - Building on existing initiatives to strengthen collaboration and mobilize action
2. Strengthening environmental rule of law;
 - Support Governments in development and implementation of legal measures
 - Improve coordination and coherence across UN in support of national efforts
 - Promote information exchange among relevant communities
3. Awareness raising and communications.
 - Develop an integrated advocacy and outreach initiative
 - Focus on demand reduction for illegal products



Environmental Rule of Law as a Key to Sustainable Development



GC Decision 27/9:

- ‘the violation of environmental law has the potential to undermine sustainable development and the implementation of agreed environmental goals and objectives at all levels and plays an essential role in reducing such violations’
- First internationally agreed document establishing the term ‘environmental rule of law’



Constituent Elements of Environmental Rule of Law

- Adequate and implementable laws
- Access to justice and information
- Public participation
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Liability for environmental damage
- Fair and just enforcement
- Human rights



Environmental Rule of Law as a Key to Sustainable Development



World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability:

- Critical nexus between the rule of law and environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development

Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development:

- Democracy, good governance and the rule of law as essential for sustainable development



Environmental Rule of Law as a Key to Sustainable Development



Public participation, accountability, and using a rights-based approach to guide decision-making will lead to better results in:

- implementing development objectives
- addressing the impact of environmental degradation, in particular for the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations
- encouraging a green economy and healthy ecosystems as preconditions for poverty reduction



Environmental Rule of Law as Justice

- Political, social, economic and environmental justice through the promulgation and application of fair, just and equitable laws binding on all, including the State itself
- Transparent, predictable and fair enforcement and adjudication of these laws through a means accessible to the whole population
- Environmental protection as a necessary precondition to the enjoyment of human rights, such as the rights to life and health



Public Participation and Accountability

- Effective access to information, public participation and access to justice as essential for transparent and accountable governance
- The right to a remedy as a fundamental attribute of the rule of law
- The judiciary as the guardian of rule of law and key actor in the enhancement of the public interest in a healthy and secure environment

