



Montevideo Environmental Law Programme National Focal Points

A Decade of Action on Environmental Law




***Strong environmental laws** and institutions are essential for planetary health, nature, pandemic recovery, and resilience. They underpin the successful implementation of any environmental goal, policy or commitment, including the Sustainable Development Goals.*



What is Montevideo Environmental Law Programme?

The Montevideo Environmental Law Programme is a global programme to support the development and implementation of environmental law

It was adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly in 2019 and shall run for an entire decade until 31 December 2029.



How does it work?

Montevideo Environmental Law Programme will:

- **Support the development of adequate and effective environmental legislation** and legal frameworks at all levels to address environmental issues;
- **Strengthen the effective implementation of environmental law** at the national level;
- **Support enhanced capacity-building for increased effectiveness of environmental law** for all stakeholders and at all levels;
- **Support national Governments**, upon their request, in the development and implementation of environmental rule of law; and
- **Promote the role of environmental law** in the context of environmental governance.


The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) implements the programme in partnership with national focal points, a steering committee for implementation, and other partners and stakeholders. Implementation will be in accordance with the objective, strategic activities and implementation guidelines set out in the programme.

A guiding principle for the programme is for activities to be implemented through partnerships, including with other UN entities, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, civil society, the private sector, and academics with expertise in environmental law.



What is the UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform?

The UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform (UNEP-LEAP) is the digital backbone for the programme. It contains a clearing house function for requesting support under the programme, a knowledge hub for all relevant information on environmental law, and country profiles.



Who are national focal points and what is their role?

National focal points are key actors in the delivery and success of the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme. Every Member State is invited to designate a national focal point, pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/19. National focal points should preferably be senior government officials who are expert in environmental law. The focal points will:

- Identify the priority areas for the implementation of Montevideo Environmental Law Programme;
- Collaborate with and guide UNEP in the implementation of Montevideo Environmental Law Programme;
- Review, as appropriate, Montevideo Environmental Law Programme, including progress reports prepared by UNEP, and promote its implementation, with the support of UNEP;
- Provide the UNEP with available national data in the field of environmental law development and implementation to fulfil its tasks and identify needs and priorities at all relevant levels;
- Support efforts to liaise and collaborate among other government officials and key stakeholders at all relevant levels appropriate to the implementation of activities under Montevideo Environmental Law Programme;
- Participate in the biennial global and other relevant meetings of the national focal points, which will be held face to face or remotely, as appropriate;
- Provide strategic advice, guidance and direction to UNEP in the delivery of Montevideo Environmental Law Programme; and
- Contribute to catalysing action to address emerging environmental issues through the law.

How does a country access support?

Countries can request support online at UNEP-LEAP or write to: unep-montevideo@un.org. Requests are vetted against the objectives and requirements of the programme and assessed in consultation with a steering committee for implementation. Support is subject to resources under the programme.

Requests for support can be sent anytime, but it is important to note that country support under the programme can only formally begin after the conclusion of the First Global Meeting of National Focal Points, proposed to be held in late 2020 or as soon as possible in 2021, subject to COVID-19 pandemic related travel restrictions.

For more information:

Email: unep-montevideo@un.org

[Find more information on UNEP's website >>](#)

