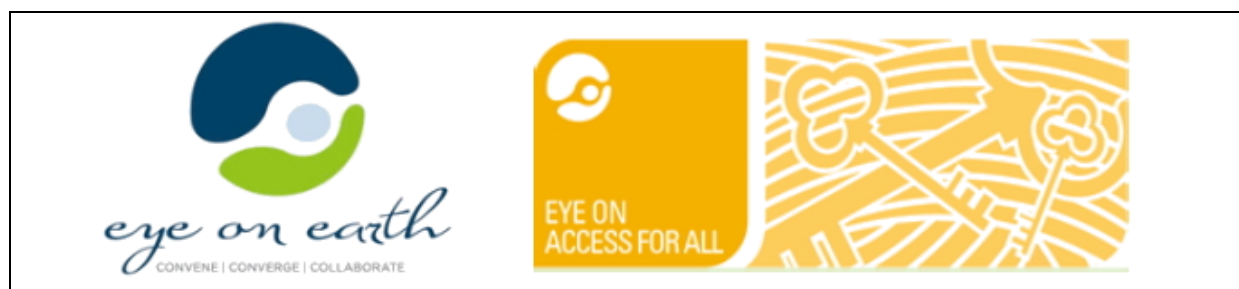


Regional Workshop on the Implementation of Rio Principle 10 in the Middle East and North Africa

Amman, Jordan 12th-13th May 2014

Preliminary Programme

This workshop is part of the Eye on Earth Special Initiative “Access for All”



Background

Strengthening effective engagement of all stakeholders in environmental decision-making is considered an important pre-requisite of sustainable development. **Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration** ("Rio Principle 10") was adopted at the 1992 Rio Summit by Heads of State and Government with the goal to strengthen access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters.

In February 2010 a milestone was achieved in the field of environmental law and application of Principle 10 when the Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council, Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) in Bali, Indonesia, unanimously adopted the '**Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters**' (Bali Guidelines). These Guidelines seek to assist countries in filling possible gaps in their respective relevant national legislation, and -where relevant and appropriate- in sub-national legal norms and regulations at the State or district levels etc., to facilitate broad access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters. Responding to country requests for capacity development for Principle 10 implementation and implementation of the Bali Guidelines, UNEP and UNITAR have launched a 2-year joint global capacity development initiative, including a regional workshop component. The project is part of the "Access for All" Special Initiative an initiative endorsed at the 2011 Eye on Earth Summit in Abu Dhabi.

In the preparations and during the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (**Rio+20**) Governments and stakeholder groups have pointed to the need for global, regional and national steps to enhance implementation of Principle 10. In view of the above mentioned developments, UNEP, UNITAR, the World Resources Institute and others have joined forces to cooperatively support the development of Principle 10 and the application of the Bali Guidelines the MENA region. This workshop presents a joint effort to raise awareness among countries in the region on Principle 10 and the Bali Guidelines and will be followed by targeted activities to assist interested and committed countries to implement the Bali Guidelines at the national level.

The workshop will target relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

Workshop Objectives

- Raise awareness and inform about Principle 10
- Take stock and identify key issues for effective implementation of Principle 10 in the region
- Introduce and discuss relevance of the *Guidelines for Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters* (Bali Guidelines).
- Exchange good practices and lessons learned for the three pillars of Principle 10 (public participation, access to information, access to Justice)
- Identify opportunities for capacity development and networking
- Identify countries needs for the implementation of the Bali Guidelines

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Cite good practices of Principle 10 implementation in the region
- Analyze key provisions of the Bali Guidelines and their relevance for national legislation
- Participate effectively in international processes related to Principle 10 implementation

Preliminary Program

Day 1:

9.00h – 9.20h: Welcome Remarks and Inauguration of the Workshop

- NN, Representative of Host Country Government(5 minutes)
- Alexander Juras, Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, Division of Regional Cooperation, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (on behalf of UNEP and UNITAR, 5 minutes)
- NN, Representative of local partner organisation
- Lalanath deSilva, Director, The Access Initiative, World Resources Institute (WRI, 5 minutes).

9.20h – 9.40h: Workshop Objectives and Methodology and Introduction of Participants

- Achim Halpaap, Associate Director, Training Department, Head Environment Unit, UNITAR (20 minutes)

9.40h – 10.00h Eye on Earth, Principle 10 and the Access for All Special Initiative

- **Presentation by NN, AGEDI**

10.00h – 10.40h: Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration from 1992 and its application worldwide

- Panel Discussion with
 - Lalanath deSilva (10 minutes)
 - NN, Aarhus Convention Secretariat (10 minutes)
 - NN (MENA Region, 10 minutes)
- Questions and Answers

10.40h – 11.00h: Coffee break

Session 1 : The Bali Guidelines

Objective: to present and discuss the three pillars of the Bali Guidelines

11.00h – 12.00h Principle 10 and the Bali Guidelines, an overview about the history and application of the Guidelines

- **Presentation by Alexander Juras, UNEP**
- **Questions and Answers**

12.00h – 13.00: Theme 1: Access to Information

- Brief introduction to relevant provisions of the Bali Guidelines and the Bali Guideline Implementation Handbook (Steven Stec, 20 minutes)
- Experiences with Access to Information in NN (Indonesia) (NN, 20 minutes)
- Questions and Answers

13.00h – 14.00h: Lunch Break

14.00h – 15.30h Theme 2: Public Participation

- Brief introduction to relevant provisions of the Bali Guidelines (Steven Stec, 20 minutes)
- Experiences with Public Participation in environmental matters in NN (NN, 20 minutes)
- Questions and Answers

15.30h – 17.00h: Theme 3: Access to Justice

- Brief introduction to relevant provisions of the Bali Guidelines and the Rio + 20 Declaration on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability (Steven Stec, UNEP, 20 minutes)
- Access to justice in environmental matters in NN (NN, 10 minutes)
- Questions and Answers?

Day 2

Session 1 (cont.)

Session 2: Advancing Capacity Development

Objective: Explore opportunities for national action and capacity development to effectively implement Principle 10 at the national level, addressing also regional synergies

9.00h – 10.00: National Implementation of the Bali Guidelines: Opportunities for Capacity Development Support (Achim Halpaap/UNITAR and Alexander Juras/UNEP)

- Presentation by UNITAR (Achim Halpaap, 20 minutes)
- Questions and Answers

Session: 3: Conclusion and Follow-up Action

10.00h – 11.30h: Review key outcomes of the workshop discussion and identify recommendations for follow-up/Workshop Closure

- Open discussion in plenary
- Workshop evaluation
- Workshop closure