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LAW DIVISION

Report of
Achievements

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Introduction

The law division is the lead division charged with carrying out the functions of UN Environment that involve the development and facilitation of international environmental law, governance and policy. To fulfil its mandate, the law division work focuses on:

- **National environmental law**

Laws designed to prevent and minimise different forms of pollution and prevent the exploitation of natural resources are the backbone of sound environmental governance. No form of sustainable development is possible without well designed environmental laws.

We work with governments and organizations to:

- ✓ Design model laws for replication and application by states
- ✓ Build the capacity of judges to make more informed rulings on cases of an environmental nature
- ✓ Produce guidebooks for legislators on the design of environmental laws
- ✓ Promote access to information and justice through Principle 10 and the Bali Guidelines
- ✓ Improve cooperation between law makers the world over working on our behalf to safeguard the environment
- ✓ Set standards for legislators to meet

- **Environmental Treaties**

International environmental treaties set benchmarks and standards for states to meet their obligations to their citizens and to neighbouring states, and through them technical and legal support can be provided to support implementation of environmental policies.

We work with governments to:

- ✓ Strengthen the implementation, negotiation and reporting capacities of national focal points for biodiversity, chemicals and wastes, and climate conventions
- ✓ Provide support to countries for the coherent planning and implementation of the biodiversity, chemicals and waste, and climate conventions

- **Strong Institutions**

Through strong institutions environmental laws can be enforced and more effective management of natural resources assured through the provision of environmental services, gender equity and risk mitigation.

We work with governments and organisations to:

- ✓ Strengthen and streamline institutional arrangements and capacities for tackling environmental issues
- ✓ Strengthen capacities to enforce environmental laws

- ✓ Strengthen transboundary cooperation, national capacities, awareness raising and communication with regard to environmental laws and regulations

- **Environmental Rights**

Promoting, respecting and protecting environmental rights is key to sustainable development. A human rights perspective on environmental protection not only promotes human dignity, equality and freedom but also improves the effectiveness of policy making generally.

We work with state and non-state actors to:

- ✓ Strengthen institutional capacities to develop and implement policy and legal frameworks that protect environmental rights effectively and inclusively
- ✓ Encourage businesses to respect environmental rights
- ✓ Help businesses to better understand what their environmental rights obligations are and provide guidance on how to move from a compliance culture to championing environmental rights
- ✓ Support the dissemination of information on environmental rights to the public, and particularly to vulnerable populations and peoples

Establish networks to support this outreach and implement a media training curriculum on environmental rights in all major regions.

- **Achieving the Global Goals**

UN Environment promotes synergies in the multilateral system by strengthening the capacities of countries to coherently implement internationally agreed environmental goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. In order to achieve the internationally agreed environmental goals and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

We work with state and non-state actors to:

- ✓ Enables institutions to better address the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals
- ✓ Supports the development of national policies that promote poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and
- ✓ Provides technical support to promote public and private investments that support poverty eradication and environmental sustainability

- **Promoting Sound Environmental Governance**

We facilitate the flow of information between the law division of UN Environment and their partners, so as to promote more integrated work and provide up-to-date information between stakeholders building environmental governance around the world.

Highlights

1) Strengthening Institutions

UN Environment Strengthens Institutional Capacity for Development, Implementation and Enforcement of National Environmental Law

PROVIDING TECHNICAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY LEGAL SERVICES TO COUNTRIES

Strengthening National Policy and Planning on Sand Mining in the Cook Islands

In a first for the region, the Cook Islands embarked on the development of national sand mining guidelines, with the support of the law division.

Strengthening National Policies and Legal Frameworks on Wildlife Management in Vietnam

Vietnam has taken steps to strengthen its national policies and legal framework on wildlife management and to comply with the legal requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Technical legal assistance was provided to the Vietnam Environment Administration for the identification of legislative gaps or regulatory challenges in the existing framework, and for the development of specific recommendations designed to address these. Once enacted, the recommendations will streamline and strengthen Vietnam's national wildlife legislation in a number of key areas, removing persistent barriers to implementation, providing more effective tools for enforcement and ensuring that it is uniformly compliant with the requirements under CITES.

Complying with CITES Requirements for National Legislation in Angola

Angola is also one step closer to complying with the requirements for domestic legislation under CITES. As part of the UN Environment/CITES National Legislation Project, technical legal assistance was provided to the Ministry of Environment of Angola for the preparation of a draft bill enhancing the domestic implementation of CITES. Once enacted, international trade in CITES species and non-CITES species found within Angolan national territory will be prohibited. In addition, a 10-year moratorium is to be imposed on the international trade of flora and fauna species native to Angola, as the country lacks scientific data that can be used as a baseline for the management of these species.

Strengthening National Legislation to Address Illicit Trade in Wildlife in Paraguay

Paraguay has moved to strengthen its national legislation to address the challenges posed by the illicit trade in wildlife. The Commission on Environment of the Senate of Paraguay endorsed a draft law on the protection of biodiversity and sustainable use of wildlife, and a proposal to incorporate environmental wildlife crimes into the country's national Penal Code. The law and proposal were drafted on the basis of technical legal assistance provided by the law division.

Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment Legislation in Nigeria

The Federal Ministry of Environment of Nigeria is taking positive steps to enhance the environmental sustainability of development projects in the country through a review of its Environmental Impact Assessment Act of 1992, pursuant to technical legal assistance provided by the law division. The law division facilitated a technical and stakeholder review workshop, held in Abuja between 23 and 26 October 2017, to assess the existing legislative framework, intended to identify and address regulatory gaps, and proposed the expansion of the Act's legislative coverage to reflect global trends of good practices, including the incorporation of climate change, strategic environmental assessments, health and social assessments and environmental audits. The draft bill is now ready to be tabled for submission to the National Assembly.

Supporting the Development and Implementation of the Environmental Rule of Law in Kenya

The law division supported the development and implementation of environmental rule of law in Kenya through the organization of a two-day training for members of the National Environmental Tribunal of Kenya, held in Nairobi on 8 and 9 February 2017. Utilising the law division's 2016 guidance material on 'Environmental Courts & Tribunals: A Guide for Policy Makers,' the workshop enhanced the capacity of tribunal members to adjudicate environmental matters, providing the members with practical examples and reinforcing their understanding of the key concepts and overriding objectives of environmental governance in Kenya.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL SETS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IMPARTED AT THE REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL LEVELS

Enhancing the Capacity of National Stakeholders to Articulate Positions and Negotiate at Intergovernmental Processes

The capacity of 32 Sudanese ministers and civil servants to participate effectively in negotiations relating to the rules for the implementation of the Paris Agreement at COP 23 was reinforced at the Third Capacity Building Workshop for Climate Change Negotiators, held in Khartoum, Sudan on 24 and 25 September 2017. The workshop focused on those issues that are particularly relevant to the Sudanese position, and enabled representatives of the national delegation to identify possible allies in the ongoing negotiations, based on a commonality of interests and a convergence of priorities.

The ability of the Africa Group of Negotiators and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to understand key issues being considered in these negotiations and to formulate and articulate their positions was strengthened during the pre-session period of COP 23, held in Bonn, Germany.

Steps were also taken to enhance the capacity of over 40 Permanent Representatives of the Africa Group accredited to UN Environment to raise the African regional voice at the First Dialogue on Environmental Diplomacy for the Africa Diplomatic Corps, held at the United Nations Offices in Nairobi, Kenya from 18 to 20 September 2017.¹ The dialogue focused on preparing the group for the third

¹ A Press Release for the Dialogue can be accessed at <http://web.unep.org/africa/news/un-environment-organises-first-dialogue-environmental-diplomacy-african-diplomats>.

session of the United Nations Environment (UNEA 3) Assembly in December 2017. Technical sessions, delivered by the law division, introduced the group to the key themes, regional perspectives and issues likely to be faced at the Assembly.

Twenty-five participants from 23 developed and developing countries elevated their understanding with respect to international environmental law-making, negotiation and diplomacy in the context of 'Trade and Environment' at the 14th Joint UN Environment-University of Eastern Finland Multilateral Environmental Agreement Course, held in Chambéry, France from 9 to 19 October 2017.² The course enhanced the capacity of participants, composed of government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations and private sector stakeholders, to engage in trade-related environmental negotiations, address trade and environment-related issues in their respective countries, and to implement trade provisions found in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

Promoting the Gathering and Analysing of Environmental Data in Pacific Nations

Pacific Islands need to undertake periodic stocktaking exercises through the State of Environment reports, which then feed into National Environment Management Strategies. The law division supported four countries in equipping their national environment monitoring infrastructure and national planning tools/instruments. Cook Islands and the Republic of Marshall Islands launched their updated State of Environment Reports; Vanuatu launched its National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan and Tuvalu released its National Environment Management Strategy, through an event organized by the Pacific Hub.

Promoting Environmental Sustainability in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining

Regional platforms for dialogue between seven African countries were established, and capacity development for sustainable environmental practices in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) enhanced at the Regional Workshop for Building Capacity for Environmental Sustainability in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining in Africa, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 23 to 25 May 2017.³ The meeting brought together partners involved in the integrated environmental governance of the extractive industries, and entailed the sharing of experiences, case studies and best practices in order to identify gaps and opportunities for the development of Country Mining Visions that promote safer and more sustainable environmental practices in ASM development, and respond to the Sustainable Development Goals. The workshop was jointly organized between UN Environment and the African Minerals Development Centre.

Developing Legal Concepts to Advance Sustainable Management of Soils in Africa

Legal instruments, as an alternative option to enhance the sustainable management of soils in Africa and as a precondition for sustainable development and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal Target 15.3, 'Land Degradation Neutral World,' were identified at an international workshop on Legal Instruments for the Effective Protection and Sustainable Management of Soils, held in Kampala,

² 'International Environmental Law-making and Diplomacy Review: 2016,' featuring papers that were presented at the 2016 Course, can be accessed at <http://www.uef.fi/documents/241889/917065/Review+2016.pdf/2b69e274-c758-4a97-8e64-b0b3c40dc9fe>.

³ The Workshop Report can be accessed at https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/asm_workshop_2017.pdf.

Uganda on 26 and 27 September 2017.⁴ Thirty-three experts representing the Ugandan government, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and academia, exchanged experiences and best practices in sustainable soil management, including challenges faced, and explored possible avenues to strengthen international legislation on soil governance under existing instruments, such as through the addition of a 'Protocol' to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

First Year of UN Environment-Georgetown Fellowship Programme Successfully Concluded

In July 2017, two fellows were admitted to UN Environment-Georgetown Law Center Global Environment & Sustainability Law Fellows Program (the Program) and began their assignments at the UN Environment North America Office. This fellowship was created to give fellows from developing countries the opportunity to engage in deeper study and to gain experience working in environmental law. The two fellows will be awarded an LL.M. in Environmental Law from Georgetown University and will return to their home country to continue working in public sector environmental law and policy.

THE PROVISION OF LEGAL BEST PRACTICES TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND RELATED STAKEHOLDERS

Promoting the Effective Enforcement of National Environmental Laws

The law division enhanced regional South-South cooperation and promoted the effective enforcement of environmental laws by national institutions at the Africa-Asia Inter-Regional Expert Review Meeting on Compilation of Good Practices on Enforcement of Environmental Law, held in Beijing, China between 8 and 10 May 2017. Discussions focused on joint enforcement action, measuring the effectiveness of enforcement action, and the calculation of environmental damages and compensation, with an outline of draft guidelines for the calculation of compensation and environmental damages agreed between the participants. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the China University of Political Science and Law, the China Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Environmental Cooperation Centre and the UN Environment China Office.

Best practices in the effective enforcement of environmental laws that were first generated at an Africa-Asia Inter-Regional Meeting of Experts on Enforcement of Environmental Law held in December 2015, and then subjected to an expert peer review at the Expert Review Meeting detailed above, informed the second volume of the publication 'Enforcement of Environmental Law: Good Practices from Africa, Central Asia, ASEAN Countries and China,' which was released in December 2017.⁵ The report compiles and documents selected good practices on the enforcement of environmental laws by national institutions in China and the African, Central Asian and ASEAN regions, and is a tool to guide countries to address key enforcement challenges

⁴ A Press Release for the Workshop can be accessed at <http://www.kas.de/wf/en/33.50303/>.

⁵ An electronic version of the Report can be accessed at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22310/enforcement_env_law_africa.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

Reinforcing the Role of Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks and Rule of Law to Address Environmental Challenges

The indispensable role of legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks and rule of law to address environmental challenges, in the context of pollution, was reinforced at a high-level Leadership Dialogue on Regulatory Frameworks, Institutions and the Rule of Law to Address Pollution, held on 5 December 2017 at UNEA-3.⁶ The dialogue provided participating ministers with an interactive platform from which to share experiences and best practices in the effective use of legal frameworks to combat pollution. Key messages identified during the dialogue, including the establishment of robust institutions as a prerequisite for implementation, the capacity of law to empower stakeholders, and the need for greater international cooperation to address environmental challenges, were presented to the Plenary of the Assembly, to guide future legislative endeavours at the national level.

Enhancing the Capacity of Commonwealth Countries to Develop, Implement and Enforce Environmental Laws

Engagement with legislators to strengthen national legislation, deepen public debate and enhance accountability in the management of natural resources was advanced through the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UN Environment and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in London, United Kingdom on 21 November 2017.⁷ The law division provided training and development programmes to a network of over 180 parliaments and legislators across the Commonwealth, facilitating an international exchange on the sharing of best practices and enhancing the capacity of parliamentarians to formulate and review appropriate legislation to pursue sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The programmes will also provide effective oversight on the negotiation and implementation of MEAs and the enforcement of national environmental law, with a particular focus on those relating to sustainable development, climate change, the green economy and the conservation of nature.

Enhancing Environmental Decision-Making and Strengthening Environmental Reviews in Urban Development Processes

Environmental reviews now play a central role in urban development decision-making, and the Law division has taken steps to promote the integration of environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) into broader decision-making processes and frameworks. The law division contributed to enhancing the capacity of policymakers and practitioners to develop and implement national laws and policies relating to the use of EIAs and SEAs in urban development decision-making at an Expert Group Meeting held in Oslo, Norway between 30 August and 1 September 2017. Participants identified guidelines on best practice and reinforced the central role of environmental reviews in urban development processes, compiling empirical evidence on the relationship between environmental and developmental decision-making in an urban context through an analysis of six city case studies. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Human Settlements Program in

⁶ A short video displaying highlights of the Leadership Dialogues can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZkmZoRwoOI&t=114s>.

⁷ A Press Release on the Execution of the Memorandum of Understanding can be accessed at http://www.cpahq.org/cpahq/Main/News/News_Items/CPA_and_UNEP_partnership_signing.aspx.

partnership with the Centre for the Inter-Disciplinary Environmental and Social Research, a leading Norwegian research institute on EIAs and SEAs.

Expanding South-South Cooperation to Strengthen the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Further steps were taken to expand South-South cooperation on the strengthening of environmental law and the enhancement of the capacity of judges and prosecutors to enforce these laws, through the inauguration of the joint UN Environment-China University of Political Science and Law Academy on 12 September 2017. The Academy will provide a platform to disseminate the good practice of the Chinese government in developing and implementing environmental rule of law to other Southern countries and will augment the work of the annual Africa-Asia inter-regional expert meetings on the enforcement of environmental law. Key areas of focus for the academy will be research on environmental rule of law and other specific topics, including climate change, green finance, wildlife and mercury, and training and capacity building for environmental legal stakeholders, including environmental officials, judges, lawyers and the staff of environmental NGOs.

ENHANCING ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Enhancing the Capacity of Customs and Other Relevant Border Control Officers to Detect and Prevent Illegal Trade in Environmentally-Sensitive Commodities

The law division, under the auspices of the Green Customs Initiative (GCI), enhanced the capacity of customs and other relevant border control officers to monitor and facilitate the legal trade, and to detect and prevent illegal trade, in environmentally sensitive commodities covered by the relevant conventions and MEAs.

The commitment of the GCI partners to this common objective was strengthened during the 12th Green Customs Partners' Meeting, held in Brussels, Belgium on 3 and 4 October 2017,⁸ and at which the World Customs Organization (WCO) identified contemporary trends and challenges faced by Customs officials in the fight against environmental crime.

The work of the law division in capacitating officials included:

- The ability of over 45 enforcement officers to detect and prevent illegal trade, and facilitate legal trade, in environmentally sensitive items covered by related MEAs was enhanced at the Regional Workshop on Green Customs for English-speaking West-African countries, held in Accra, Ghana between 14 and 16 November 2017.
- The capacity of a further 45 customs officers, representing the East Africa Community (EAC) to detect and prevent the illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive goods was enhanced through the EAC Workshop on Green Customs, held in Kigali, Rwanda between 11 and 13 October 2017.⁹

⁸ A Press Release for the Meeting can be accessed at <http://www.greencustoms.org/news/world-customs-organization-hosts-12th-partners-meeting-green-customs-initiative>.

⁹ A Press Release for the Workshop can be accessed at <http://www.greencustoms.org/events/regional-green-customs-workshop-east-africa>.

- The capacity of 43 Cambodian customs officers and environment ministers to monitor and control the illegal trade in chemicals and waste, and ozone depleting substances, was enhanced at the National Capacity Building Workshop on Controlling Illegal Trade in Chemicals and Waste in Cambodia, held in Sihanouk Ville, Cambodia between 13 and 16 June 2017.¹⁰
- Thirty-nine more national customs and environmental officers were trained on various MEAs relating to waste and chemicals, ozone depleting substances and on the trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora at the National GCI National Training Workshop held in Cheonan, South Korea on 7 and 8 June 2017.¹¹
- The capacity of customs officers representing 16 countries in the Asia region to combat and tackle pollution crime was enhanced at a Foreign Law Enforcement Community in China meeting, held in Ningbo, China between 8 and 10 November 2017. More than 50 national enforcement officers, representing customs and the police, were trained on the enforcement of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions at the National Capacity Building Workshop on the Illegal Trade in Chemicals and Waste, held in Yangon, Myanmar on 24 and 25 October 2017.¹²
- The capacity of 40 national customs officers to control the illegal trade in chemicals and waste was enhanced at the National Capacity Building Workshop on Controlling Illegal Trade in Chemicals and Waste, held in Mumbai, India between 13 and 15 December 2017.
- Fifty customs officers from eight Central American countries interacted with representatives from the WCO, the CITES Secretariat and Joint Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to address the challenges being faced in Central American region by illegal trade in environmentally regulated substances and commodities at a Central American Regional Green Customs Workshop, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic between 3 and 5 May 2017.¹³

Reinforcing and Strengthening the Work of the Regional Enforcement Network

The commitment of country and stakeholder participants to the continuation of REN was strengthened and reinforced at the 6th Annual Workshop of the Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste held in Shenzhen, China on 21 and 22 November 2017. Forty-one customs and environment officers, representing 15 Asian countries and in collaboration with representatives from UN Environment, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the WCO, explored proposals on the scope and design for a follow-on phase of a strengthened network, including the provision of technical and financial support to enhance the Network's capacity to combat environmental crime.

Reinforcing the Ability of Investigators and Prosecutors to Investigate and Prosecute Wildlife Crime in Tanzania

UN Environment through the work of the law division reinforced the ability of Tanzanian investigators and prosecutors to investigate and prosecute wildlife crime through the launching of Standard

¹⁰ The Workshop Report can be accessed at [http://www.projectren.org/files/partsnews/Report-WS-13-16-Jun-2017-SHNV-Cambodia%20\(005\).pdf](http://www.projectren.org/files/partsnews/Report-WS-13-16-Jun-2017-SHNV-Cambodia%20(005).pdf).

¹¹ A Summary Report of the Workshop can be accessed at http://www.greencustoms.org/sites/default/files/documents/Summary%20report-Korean%20GC%20Workshop%202017_0_1.pdf.

¹² A Press Release for the Workshop can be accessed at http://projectren.org/partner_s_newsletter_detail.php?id=127.

¹³ A Press Release on the Workshop can be accessed at <http://www.greencustoms.org/blog/165>.

Operating Procedures and a Rapid Assessment Guide for the investigation and prosecution of environmental crimes relating to wildlife and forestry, at a Training the Trainers Programme held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania between 28 and 30 June 2017.¹⁴ The Standard Operating Procedures and Rapid Assessment Guide were developed in collaboration with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Department of Public Prosecution of Tanzania, with several regional training programs organized to educate investigators and prosecutors on the contents of the guide following its launch. The first such program, held in Tanga, between 12 to 15 September, engaged 24 investigators and prosecutors working in the region. The second one, held in Pwani between 31 October and 3 November 2017, engaged 19 stakeholders, with subsequent programs held in Kilimanjaro and Rukwa. Sentencing submission guidelines prescribed in the guide have subsequently been applied by Tanzanian prosecutors to cases on trial, with positive effects.¹⁵

Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Wildlife Crime

Ninety participants from 22 countries in the African and Asia Pacific regions advanced national efforts to strengthen legal frameworks and proposed inter-regional cooperation to dismantle criminal networks in the fight against wildlife crime at the Africa-Asia Pacific Symposium on Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Wildlife Crime, held in Bangkok, Thailand on 4 and 5 July 2017.¹⁶ The participants advanced their common understanding on the key elements and provisions needed for effective legal frameworks, presenting concrete recommendations on the minimum elements that should be included and identifying capacity-building needs in the implementation of wildlife crime laws. The symposium was the first major event convened by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products.

Reinforcing Best Practices to Combat Environmental Crime in Asia

UN Environment recognised and celebrated excellence in the fight against environment crime in Asia, at the Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards, held in Bangkok, Thailand on 7 September 2017.¹⁷ The theme for the 2017 Awards was 'Fighting Pollution Crime in Asia,' with awards presented to four public institutions and four individuals that had demonstrated outstanding leadership in tackling fast-growing illegal trade in chemicals and harmful waste in the region. The awards are presented annually by UN Environment, and supported by the Swedish International Development Agency through REN. UN Environment was represented by Erik Solheim, who commented on the increasing difficulties of enforcement and welcomed the opportunity to celebrate those who are doing the difficult work on the ground.

¹⁴ A UNODC Press Release on the Rapid Assessment Guide can be accessed at https://www.unodc.org/documents/easternafrika/FrontOffice/ROEA_Newsletter_Q1-_2017b.pdf.

¹⁵ <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/home-news/48526-couple-behind-bar-for-illegal-ivory-haul> (last accessed 15 November 2017).

¹⁶ The Symposium Report can be accessed at <https://www.unodc.org/documents/southeastasiaandpacific/Publications/wildlife/Africa-AsiaPac-Wildlife-law-symposium-REPORT-FINAL-SHARE.PDF>. The Executive Summary can be accessed at <https://www.unodc.org/documents/southeastasiaandpacific/Publications/wildlife/Africa-AsiaPac-Wildlife-law-symposium-SUMMARY-FINAL-SHARE.PDF>.

¹⁷ A Press Release for the Awards Ceremony can be accessed at http://www.projectren.org/partner_s_newsletter_detail.php?id=125.

2) Promoting Environmental Rule of Law

Ensuring the progressive development of environmental law across different environmental sectors and levels of governance

ENHANCING JUDICIAL ENGAGEMENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Promoting the Integration of Environmental Law into Judicial Education in Africa

Six African countries have taken concrete positive steps towards integrating environmental law into their judicial training curricula pursuant to the Johannesburg Plan of Action on Judicial Education on Environmental Law¹⁸ in Africa, and under the auspices of the Africa Judicial Network on Environmental Law. Ethiopia is in the process of revising its judicial education curriculum to incorporate environmental law training; Mauritius held a train-the-trainers workshop in environmental law in the second half of 2017; Rwanda's Judicial Education Committee has added environmental law training into its continuing legal education programme for the judiciary; South Africa's Judicial Education Institute has included environmental law as part of the annual training schedule for Judges and Magistrates in South Africa; the Judiciary Training Institute in Kenya is reviewing its strategic plan to incorporate environmental law training; and the Chief Justice of Ghana has tasked the Judiciary Training Institute of Ghana to build the capacities of Judges, sitting in seven specialised national courts around the country, in handling environmental matters.

The Plan of Action and Judicial Network were established at the Colloquium on Integrating Environmental Law into Judicial Education Programmes in Africa, held in Johannesburg, South Africa between 25 and 27 January 2017,¹⁹ and a training-the-trainers workshop was organized for the members of the network in June.²⁰ The integration process has been championed and monitored by a core team of eight countries, represented by seven judges, and led by Ghana. The South Africa Judicial Education Institute has provided secretariat functions, with the law division providing technical and legal support throughout the process.

Advancing the Role of the Judiciary in Safeguarding the Environment and Natural Resources

Steps have been taken to advance the important role played by the judiciary in safeguarding the environment and natural resources through the execution of a MoU between UN Environment and the Supreme People's Court of China, which took place on 12 September 2017.²¹ Key, overarching areas for cooperation include the exchange of information and views on the adjudication of the environment and

¹⁸ The Johannesburg Plan of Action on Judicial Education on Environmental Law

<http://web.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/johannesburg-plan-action-judicial-education-environmental-law-africa>.

¹⁹ A Press Release for the Colloquium can be accessed at <http://web.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/colloquium-integrating-environmental-law-training-judicial-curricula-africa>.

²⁰ A Press Release for the Workshop can be accessed at <http://drustage.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/integrating-environmental-law-judicial-education>.

²¹ A Press Release on the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding can be accessed at http://english.court.gov.cn/2017-09/13/content_31944015.htm.

natural resources in both China and globally; joint research on environment and natural resources legislation and jurisprudence; capacity building and the training of judges specialised in environmental and natural resources law at China's National Judges College; raising public awareness of judicial protection of the environment and natural resources; and exploring the development of a global database and special information network for judicial cases on the environment and natural resources.

Supporting judges in the implementation of constitutional environmental provisions

In May 2017, the law division convened a Regional Judicial Colloquium for Latin America and the Caribbean on "Constitutions, Environment and Human Rights: Practice and Implementation," in Brasilia. The colloquium engaged over 60 judges and scholars representing 20 countries, different jurisdictions, courts and tribunals across the Latin America and the Caribbean region, Africa, Asia, and the US on judicial issues and opportunities related to environmental constitutionalism. It was part of UN Environment's global process to sensitize the judiciary on the operationalization of constitutional environmental rights and was organized by the law division and its partners including the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment.

During the colloquium, UN Environment's publication [New Frontiers in Environmental Constitutionalism](#), was launched. The publication describes constitutional responses to environmental challenges and new frontiers in the implementation of constitutional, international, and regional rights-based approaches to promote environmental protection.

Disseminating Knowledge to Francophone Policymakers and the Judiciary on Green Courts

The capacity of policymakers in Francophone countries to strengthen their national court systems in an environmental context has been enhanced through the translation of 'Environmental Courts & Tribunals: A Guide for Policy Makers' into French.²² The Guide, which was published in English in October 2016, is intended to guide national decision-makers in the establishment of environmental courts, or the strengthening of existing ones.

Providing secretarial support to the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment

On the 19 - 21 May 2017 the second meeting on the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (Institute) was convened in Brasilia. The meeting was organized by UN Environment, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Brazilian Association of Judges, and the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law. The main outcomes of the Institute meetings included the appointment of an Interim Governing Committee, as well as the adoption and signature of the Statute of the [Global Judicial Institute on the Environment](#) by the judges present.

²² The French translation is currently being peer reviewed.



STRENGTHENS LINKAGES BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The law division assisted the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, Professor John Knox, in advancing the recognition of the linkages between human rights and the environment and in sharing good practices relating to the use of human rights in environmental policymaking. The law division's active engagement with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has given UN Environment an amplified profile in the human rights arena.

In March 2017, the UN Human Rights Council adopted Resolution 34/20 on Human Rights and Environment. The Resolution specifically welcomes the work undertaken by UN Environment in support of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.

Supporting to the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment

The law division assisted the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment to develop a thematic report on the linkages between biodiversity and human rights presented at the 34th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council. The outcomes of an expert consultation co-organized by UN Environment produced the content for this thematic report. The report highlights the linkages between the full enjoyment of human rights and healthy ecosystems.

In June 2017, the law division collaborated with the Special Rapporteur to convene an expert consultation to discuss States' obligations regarding children's rights and the environment. The meeting identified good practices and lessons learned and produced recommendations for the Human Rights Council, governments, civil society organizations and international organizations.

In October 2017, UN Environment supported the Special Rapporteur's final expert seminar on good practices, lessons learned, and the way forward with regard to human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The outputs of the seminar will inform the development of guidelines on human rights and the environment, to be presented by the Special Rapporteur to the Human Rights Council at the 37th Session in March 2018.

Advancing Pollution Controls through a Rights-based Approach

On 4 December 2017 at UNEA-3, the law division hosted a side event on Human Rights and Pollution: Advancing Pollution Controls through a Rights-based Approach in partnership with OHCHR and the Government of Costa Rica which was opened by Honourable Minister Edgar Gutierrez, President of the UN Environment Assembly. The event examined the human rights harms caused by all forms of pollution and the corresponding human rights obligations of duty-bearers to prevent and remedy them. The event also promoted effective action to prevent and remedy pollution-related human rights harms and preserve a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment for current and future generations

Planet Unplugged on the Right to a Healthy Environment

On the 5th July 2017, two renowned judicial champions of the environment, Justice Antonio Benjamin and Justice Ragnhild Noer, were invited by UN Environment to engage in discussions on environmental justice during a Planet Unplugged meeting. Attendees included ambassadors and diplomats, students from universities in Kenya, as well as representatives from human rights organizations, UN Habitat and the UNODC. Litigation was highlighted as a common way of enforcing some of the most basic environmental human rights, along with proper administrative compliance and enforcement procedures. Defining the “environment” was identified as a major challenge for courts in adjudicating constitutionally enshrined environmental rights.



Advancing Discussions on the Relationship between Gender, Human Rights and Environmental Crime

The law division advanced regional discussions on the relationship between gender, human rights and environmental crime at the 18th meeting of the Asian Regional Partners Forum on Combating Environmental Crime, hosted by UN Environment in Bangkok, Thailand on 15 February 2017.²³ Twenty participants, representing a broad range of organizations engaged in the fight against environmental crime, explored the different dimensions of gender and human rights issues in relation to environmental

²³ The Meeting Summary can be accessed at http://www.projectren.org/files/partsnews/18th%20ARPEC%20meeting_summary.pdf.

crime and agreed to collaborate to enhance knowledge the knowledge base in these areas and spur action to tackle these crimes.

DEFENDING the DEFENDERS

As a direct result of the law division's efforts, UN Environment now has an official policy on environmental defenders. In August 2017, UN Environment agreed on the need for a common and coherent approach to promote greater protection for environmental defenders. The approach recognizes that UN Environment must immediately position itself against the growing wave of abuse committed against environmental defenders and the prevailing impunity with which these acts are committed. The proposed way forward, commended by UN Environment Leadership, will help the organization:

- Speak out for environmental defenders;
- Create awareness of environmental rights and how to safely exercise them;
- Provide legal support to environmental defenders;
- Strengthen cooperation with relevant partners'

UN Environment is not only a champion in the field of human rights and the environment, but is also responding directly to several UN system-wide priorities. Most importantly, through the approach, UN Environment ensures that people are well-informed to successfully exercise human rights related to environmental protection and conservation, and that state and non-state actors are able to understand and operationalize human rights and environment linkages. In 2018, the law division will launch a new project and campaign on Environmental Rights to further advance the increasingly high profile nature of UN Environment's work on environment and human rights.

Defending our Right to a Clean and Healthy environment

On Friday, 22 September 2017 UN Environment hosted a Planet Unplugged on Environmental Defenders: Defending our right to a clean and healthy environment with Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the UN Environment, renowned environmental journalist Jonathan Watts of The Guardian (UK) and Phyllis Omido, environmental rights defender and winner of the 2015 Goldman Prize for Africa.



It was stated that for every environmental defender murdered, many more are at risk of losing their livelihoods, food security, ancestral lands, fresh drinking water, their homes – and even their lives. Jonathan Watts, the Guardian’s Global Environment Editor pointed out that the media can also be an essential tool in the fight for transparency, justice and advocacy for environmental issues.

Mapping and Overcoming the Risks, Threats, and Challenges Faced by Environmental Human Rights Defenders in Latin America

On the 8 and 9 of November 2017, UN Environment contributed to the regional consultation on mapping and overcoming the risks, threats, and challenges faced by Environmental Human Rights Defenders in Latin America with a particular focus on indigenous and rural defenders in Bogota, Colombia. The consultation, coordinated by Professor John Knox, Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment was co-hosted by International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Netherlands, and the Spanish Cooperation Agency for International Development and Universal Rights Group.

The consultation provided rural and indigenous environmental defenders the opportunity to share and express their major concerns, interests, and objectives before some key stakeholders, including States representatives and the international community, as well as to propose solutions for their situations. The consultation further created a space for dialogue, good practice sharing, exchange of ideas and experiences between the indigenous and rural environmental defenders.

Raising Awareness of Environmental Rights

UN Environment, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, the Universal Rights Groups and others, collaborated to launch a [resource portal](#) on environmental human rights defenders. This resource tool provides vital information on the situation of environmental human rights defenders, as well as provides a forum for people engaged in environmental protection to access relevant information about their rights.

PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RULE OF LAW

Second Inter-American Congress Advances Environmental Rule of Law in the Americas

In September, 2017 UN Environment took part in the Second Inter-American Congress on the Environmental Rule of Law in Santiago. The congress was convened by UN Environment, the General Secretariat of the OAS, and the World Commission on Environmental Law of IUCN, along with other key partners. The theme of the Congress, “Environmental Rule of Law Trends from the Americas: Pollution Free, Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development”, was closely linked to the UN Environment Assembly theme of pollution.

The law division provided support to 35 Member States of OAS in developing and strengthening their legal-institutional framework for sustainable development and environmental protection. A key result of the Congress was clear commitment to greater environmental justice in the Americas.

Providing technical expertise to the initiative for a Global Pact on the Environment

On 19 September 2017, a “Summit on a Global Pact for the Environment” was held in New York during the ministerial opening week of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly. The summit was chaired by the President of the French Republic, in the presence of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Heads of State and Government, representatives from UN institutions and civil society. At the summit, the law division participated in the group of environmental law experts who discussed the draft Global Pact on the Environment and provided legal expertise. This pact is under the leadership of Laurent Fabius, President of the French Constitutional Council and UN Environment Champion of Environmental Governance

Engaging National Focal Points for the Montevideo Programme

Pursuant to UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/19, a network of national focal points for the Montevideo Programme was established in 2017. Since then the law division has been formalizing and institutionalizing collaboration with the national focal points in view of the final assessment of the fourth programme and the development of a new programme for 2020 and beyond.

The 86 nominated national focal points were invited to two electronic meetings. Participants agreed that the substantive work of the Montevideo Programme IV for the remaining implementation period shall be prioritized in accordance with relevant UNEA Resolutions, such as Resolution 2/19, marine litter, lead in paint, and environmental crime (including illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products).

It was proposed that in 2018 national focal points would select a steering committee to move forward the process of coordination between UN Environment and the national focal points. UN Environment has already involved the focal points in a number of existing activities including the development of the forthcoming Global Environmental Rule of Law Report, the Environmental Crime Experts Process and in reviewing information on InforMEA and ECOLEX (environmental knowledge management tools hosted by UN Environment).

FIGHTING ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

Experts Identify Gaps and Current Knowledge on Environmental Crime

The law division played an important role in developing baseline information towards building networks and enhancing the capacity of Member States and stakeholders in the fight against environmental crimes. The law division, in collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, developed a report on the current status of knowledge on crimes that have serious impacts on the environment as mandated by the UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/14 and presented an information document to UNEA-3.

On the 15 and 16 June 2017 in Turin, Italy, the draft report was reviewed by the technical advisory committee. They advised that the report should:

- Address the needs of policy makers with emphasis on actionable and practical recommendations for combating these forms of crime
- Link drivers of these forms of crime with the goals outlined in the 2030
- Highlight how the inter-linkages between corruption and/or organized crime and environmental crime undermines the rule of law, especially in developing countries
- Include a section on the nexus between technology and environmental crime
- Make reference to the definition of “environmental crime” in the UN Environment Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs (at section 38) and which were adopted by the UN Environment Governing Council through resolution GC.SS.VII/4 titled Compliance with and enforcement MEAs
- Include a section on consequences of environmental crime, major environmental crimes or threats and obstacles to tackling environmental and
- Contain an analysis of good practices on combatting environmental crimes

The draft report was revised in July to incorporate the input from the technical advisory committee. It was then shared with the country nominated experts as well as the Montevideo focal points in preparation for the experts meeting in September 2017.

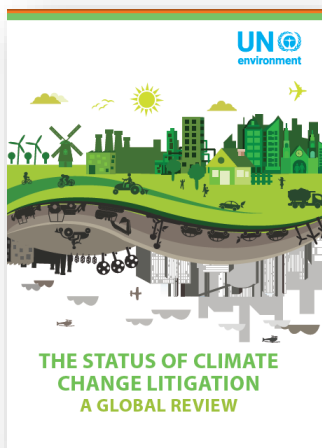
Participating in Global Enforcement Operations to Combat Illegal Trade in Waste

More than 1.5 million tonnes of illegal waste were discovered worldwide during a month-long global operation targeting the illegal shipment and disposal of waste. A total of 226 waste crimes were reported during the month, including the identification of 141 shipments carrying a total of 14,000 tonnes of illegal waste, and 85 sites at which more than 1 million tonnes of waste had been illegally disposed. 413 administrative violations were also detailed, with 326 individuals and 244 companies implicated in criminal or administrative violations during the course of the operation. The operational results confirmed that Asia and Africa remain the main destinations for waste illegally exported from Europe and North America, with trafficking also occurring between European countries. The ‘30 Days of Action’ was coordinated by INTERPOL and supported by UN Environment’s Regional Enforcement

Network (REN) project in Asia, in close cooperation with the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law.

FIRST EVER GLOBAL REVIEW OF TRENDS IN CLIMATE LITIGATION DEVELOPED BY UN ENVIRONMENT

UN Environment and the Sabin Centre for Climate Change Law of Columbia University released the first ever global climate change litigation survey. This report provides judges, advocates, researchers and the international community with a prompt survey of global climate change litigation, an overview of litigation trends, and descriptions of key issues that courts must resolve in the course of climate change cases. The main purpose of this report is to assist judges in understanding the nature and goals of different types of climate change cases and issues that are common to these cases, and how the particularities of political, legal, and environmental settings factor in to their resolution.



Heinrich Böll Foundation generously made available the report in French, Spanish and German. This [report](#) is available online.

3) Achieving the Global Goals

Focusing on influencing institutional and governance mechanisms to bring greater efficacy and coherence to the way environmental issues are addressed in the pursuit of sustainable development

ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The law division coordinated the United Nations Environment Assembly's inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and supported Member States in developing a resolution that will support our contribution to the HLPF. This resolution was adopted at UNEA-3 (UNEP/EA.3/L.7). We also initiated a thematic debate on how to enhance UN Environment and UNEA contributions to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) platform. The thematic debate resulted in several concrete suggestions, including initiating the preparation of "issue briefs" and the "Sustainability Gap Report" to better define and deliver on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Some of the main actions and results included:

- Updated the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the discussions related to ongoing efforts to improve international environmental governance (May 2017)

- Contributed to the workshop on international environmental governance organized by the Government of Switzerland (June 2017)
- Coordinated UN Environment's contributions to and participation in HLPF (July 2017)
- Drafted a comprehensive paper on UN Environment's engagement with HLPF that resulted in a thematic debate convened by the Deputy Executive Director, which produced a set of concrete action plans for stronger engagement (November 2017)
- Supported Member States in negotiating and adopting a resolution on the "Contributions of the UN Environment Assembly to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development" at UNEA-3, (UNEP/EA.3/L.7) (December 2017)
- Coordinated the law division's contributions to the reports of the Secretary-General on the proposed reform of the UN development system (June and December 2017);

SUPPORT AND ACHIEVEMENTS AT UNEA-3

Secretarial Support

The law division provided vital secretarial support during UNEA-3 as well as for the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representative Meetings in preparation for the Assembly.

We additionally organized the joint meeting of the Executive Director with the heads of secretariats of MEAs devoted to the strategic cooperation in implementing the Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goals and global environmental goals. Moreover, the participation of the heads of MEAs secretariats in the Environment Assembly was supported by us.

Contributing to Resolutions

UNEA-3 resulted in the adoption of 11 Resolutions and a Ministerial Declaration. Support from the law division contributed to the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. **UNEP/EA.3/L.6/REV.2:** Pollution Mitigation by Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Key Sectors
2. **UNEP/EA.3/L.7:** Contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
3. **UNEP/EA.3/L.8/REV.1:** Environment and Health
4. **UNEP/EA.3/L.14:** Managing soil pollution to achieve Sustainable Development
5. **UNEP/EA.3/L.20:** Marine litter and micro-plastics
6. **UNEP/EA.3/L.23:** Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally
7. **UNEP/EA.3/L.27:** Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems
8. **UNEP/EA.3/L.24:** Eliminating Exposure to Lead Paint and Promoting Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead-Acid Batteries

The law division provided information that informed the discussions, highlighted the importance of addressing these issues, recommended solutions and generally aided in forming elements of these resolutions.

Meeting on the Global Pact for the Environment

The law division held two successful events during UNEA-3 to promote the Global Pact for the Environment which addresses the need for a global response to environmental crises. UN Environment is well positioned to facilitate negotiations and support governments on the scientific, legal, and policy issues to be considered towards the successful conclusion of the Global Pact.

ENHANCING EFFORTS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Reinforcing Legal Efforts at the National and Regional Level to Tackle Climate Change

The fundamental role of parliamentarians, and the challenges that they are likely to face in respect of the effects of climate change, was reinforced at the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Dhaka, Bangladesh between 1 and 8 November 2017.²⁴ Under the theme of ‘Continuing to enhance high standards of performance of Parliamentarians,’ over 500 Parliamentary representatives from the 52 Commonwealth countries adopted two recommendations on strengthening national and regional efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. The law division facilitated discussions on the role of law in combatting climate change, providing expert technical input and presenting legal reform as a catalyst for the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient development pathway. UN Environment also identified key processes on the development of carbon credits under the Kyoto Protocol, in order to present a comparative analysis on current negotiations relating to ‘cooperative measures’ under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, at a Preparatory Meeting held with the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) group on 1 November 2017.

Enhancing Capacity of Parliamentarians to Tackle Climate Change in Context of Sustainable Development Goals in Sub-Saharan Africa

Tackling climate change in the context of the SDGs was placed on the agenda of parliamentarians representing the forty-nine sub-Saharan African States at the Regional Seminar on Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments of Sub-Saharan Africa, held in Kampala, Uganda between 28 February and 3 March 2017.²⁵ UN Environment presented a session entitled ‘Achieving Sustainable Development through Tackling Climate Change,’ designed to facilitate greater regional cooperation and strengthened national commitments to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, and enhance the capacity of parliamentarians to implement climate change legislation in their own countries. The Seminar was held in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Enhancing Capacity of Countries to Implement Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement

The capacity of countries to put in place the legal and institutional frameworks necessary for effective national implementation of the Paris Agreement and the NDCs of Parties to the Agreement has been

²⁴ The Conference’s Concluding Statement can be accessed at <http://www.cpahq.org/cpahq/cpadocs/63rd%20CPC%20Concluding%20Statement%20Bangladesh%20November%202017%20FINAL.pdf>.

²⁵ The Outcome Document from the Regional Seminar can be accessed at <http://archive.ipu.org/splz-e/kampala17/outcome.pdf>.

significantly enhanced by the development and launch of the 'Law and Climate Change Toolkit,' which was developed jointly by UN Environment, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, and the Commonwealth Secretariat.²⁶ The Toolkit represents a contribution to normative policy guidance on climate change, one of the impact areas for the UN Strategic Approach on Climate Change. It will provide a global resource to assist countries in the assessment of their legislative and institutional arrangements, and needs relating to these, on the basis of nationally determined priorities and circumstances. A beta version of the Toolkit was launched on 8 November 2017 at the 23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 23), held in Bonn, Germany.

Strengthening the Legal Preparedness of Developing Countries for Carbon Markets under the Paris Agreement

The law division has also furthered its support to developing countries, in the preparation and implementation of their plans to address climate change under their NDCs, through the Nairobi Framework Partnership.²⁷ This support has focused on strengthening the legal preparedness of developing countries for carbon markets, with three regional forums underpinning the Unit's work in this area.

The capacity of African policymakers and practitioners to cooperate on climate action was enhanced, and regional cooperation and engagement strengthened at the 9th African Carbon Forum, held in Cotonou, Benin from 28 to 30 June 2017.²⁸ The forum provided a platform for over 600 regional stakeholders to engage in the latest developments relating to climate change policy, carbon markets and climate finance; to share knowledge on innovative solutions in the context of NDCs; and to explore possibilities for collaboration on regional and global climate change initiatives.

In the Latin American and Caribbean regions, the capacity of over 480 local, regional and international participants, from the private, public and financial sectors of thirty-eight countries, to participate in the carbon markets that will emerge under the Paris Agreement was advanced at the 11th Latin America and Caribbean Carbon Forum, held in Mexico City, Mexico from 18 to 20 October 2017.²⁹ Participants agreed to develop concrete initiatives designed to enhance the capacities of stakeholders involved in the planning and implementation of NDCs through new and existing market mechanisms, including the mobilisation of private investment for climate action, the role of carbon pricing in delivering on the Paris Agreement, and climate finance and cross-border cooperation.

The capacity of up to 200 government officials, policymakers and private stakeholders, representing fifteen countries in Asia and the Pacific, to advance regional climate action and support the

²⁶ A Press Release on the Toolkit can be accessed at <http://web.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/new-toolkit-help-countries-implement-paris-agreement>. Information on the launch of the Toolkit can be accessed at https://seors.unfccc.int/seors/attachments/get_attachment?code=JA044200J3TIP579EB8EPUYCBQIV5PCC.

²⁷ Information on the Nairobi Framework Partnership can be accessed at <https://nfpartnership.org/about/>.

²⁸ The Ministers' Declaration can be accessed at http://africacarbonforum.com/sites/default/files/2017/ACF%202017_Ministers%20declaration_ENG.pdf. A Press Release for the Forum can be accessed at <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/africa-needs-to-work-closer-together-on-climate-action-and-sustainable-development/>.

²⁹ A Press Release for the Forum can be accessed at <https://cop23.unfccc.int/news/subnationals-non-state-actors-are-crucial-for-paris-success>.

implementation of countries' NDCs under the Paris Agreement was enhanced at the Asia Pacific Carbon Forum, held in Bangkok, Thailand between 13 and 15 December 2017.³⁰ The forum is the leading regional conference and exhibition on financial investment in climate action through market-based approaches and carbon pricing instruments.

ENGAGING IN COLLABORATION TO ACHIEVE THE GLOBAL GOALS

Enhancing the Operations of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The law division has enhanced the operations of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) through the provision of legal advice to the IPBES Secretariat, Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP), including at the Fifth Session of the Plenary of the Platform, held in Bonn, Germany between 7 and 10 March 2017, and at the 10th Meetings of the Bureau and MEP, also held in Bonn between 21 and 28 October 2017.³¹ IPBES is an intergovernmental body which assesses the global state of biodiversity, and the ecosystem services that it provides to society, in response to requests from decision makers. The Sixth Session of the Plenary of the Platform will be held in Medellin, Colombia from 17 to 24 March 2018, and will present four regional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and one global assessment on land degradation and restoration.

Mobilisation of Finance to Strengthen National Implementation of International Environmental Laws

The national implementation of international environmental laws, and in particular MEAs relating to chemicals and waste, was strengthened through the execution of a Framework Agreement on Strategic Cooperation between UN Environment and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China, at the 11th UN Environment – China Annual Consultation on 13 September 2017.³² The agreement relates to a new tranche of the China Trust Fund, and allocated funding to support UN Environment activities in five priority areas for cooperation.

Increased Coordination within UN on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

The law division in collaboration with the science division, ecosystems division and policy and programmes division jointly work together in response to the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/5 on "Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"; which requests, among other things, UN Environment to enhance its activities in cooperation with other United Nations entities in support of the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national, regional and global levels. The project proposal "Towards coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals" was

³⁰ More information on the Forum can be accessed at <https://cop23.unfccc.int/news/asia-pacific-carbon-forum-2017>.

³¹ A Report of the Plenary on the work of its fifth session can be accessed at https://www.ipbes.net/system/tdf/ipbes-5-15_en.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=15537.

³² A Press Release for the Consultation can be accessed at <http://web.unep.org/about/funding/resources/news-and-media>.

finalized and approved in 2017. The project will support five pilot countries (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Guyana and Peru) in developing national policies or strategies that include multi-sectoral priorities and build technical capacity to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and MEAs in a coordinated and integrated manner.

Working with China

Additionally, the law division participated at the signing and discussion on implementation of the MoU between UN Environment and the Supreme People's Court of China, at the inauguration of the Law Academy of the China University of Political Science and Law. The law division participated in discussion on main areas of cooperation at the 11th Annual consultations between UN Environment and Ministry of Environmental Protection of China in Beijing on 12-13 September 2018; presented on current development in the field of MEAs; and delivered the opening speech at the International Symposium on Judicial Protection of Biodiversity on development under biodiversity related MEAs and on the work of UN Environment in biodiversity agenda- on 14 September 2018.

PROVIDING EASY ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA)

The InforMEA Initiative brings together more than 20 secretariats to MEAs dealing with Climate, Ozone, Chemicals and Wastes, and Biodiversity. Members' secretariats are deeply committed to knowledge sharing and harnessing technological advances to support their parties with the implementation and further development of international environmental law and internationally agreed goals.

There were over 120 000 unique visitors to the InforMEA Platform, which is supported by the European Union and collaborates with six different UN bodies³³. In 2017, InforMEA's reach more than doubled overall, and tripled in the developing world. As part of an outreach strategy which was peer reviewed by communication officers of MEAs, InforMEA featured prominently in the regular Environmental Governance updates and InforMEA courses were launched close to relevant global events, such as on the Legal Framework for Climate Change³⁴ in time for UNFCCC COP 23 and the course "Towards a Pollution-free Planet"³⁵ ahead of the third session of the UN Environment Assembly. Looking to expand the range of services and tools on InforMEA, additional resources were raised in 2017 towards supporting designated focal points in curating and developing national reports to biodiversity related conventions.

³³ In addition to UN Environment participation comes from the Food and Agricultural Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and the United Nations Development Programme.

³⁴ <https://e-learning.informea.org/enrol/index.php?id=37>

³⁵ <https://e-learning.informea.org/course/view.php?id=42>

Five additional courses were launched on the InforMEA [E-learning tool](#), with the “Introduction to Human Rights and the Environment”³⁶ generating particular interest. Registered users from 195 countries grew from about 2,000 to over 10,000. A number of universities around the world, including the Mount Kenya University (Kenya), the Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia), and University of British Columbia (Canada) have integrated the courses into reading lists and curricular of environmental law courses or programs.



8th Meeting of the InforMEA the Steering Committee in Montreux, Switzerland in June 2017

Strategic Outreach Support and Promotion of InforMEA in Universities in Kenya

As part of a new outreach strategy, presentations on InforMEA were made to the University of Nairobi, Strathmore University, Kenyatta University, Riara University, and Mount Kenya University, enabling more than 200 students and a dozen lecturers to take an in-depth look at the platform.

The informational sessions aimed to integrate InforMEA into university curricula. The next step is to organize a one-day training for Deans and Lecturers with UN Environment experts in late 2018. The InforMEA learning section will be enhanced to support lecturer-customized virtual classrooms that could lead to a joint certificate by the respective academic institution and the InforMEA Platform.

PUBLICATIONS

1. UN Environment Programme (2017), Strengthening the Science-policy Interface: A Gap Analysis (Nairobi)
https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22261/Gap_Analysis_2017.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
2. UN Environment Programme (2017), Towards a Pollution-Free Planet: Background Report (Nairobi, Kenya)
https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21800/UNEA_towardspollution_long%20version_Web.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
3. UN Environment Programme (2017), Combating marine plastic litter and microplastics: An assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches.

³⁶ [“Introduction to Human Rights and the Environment”](#)

4) Meeting International Environmental Commitments

Support the implementation and synergies of MEAs through Global, Regional and National Collaboration between UN Environment and MEAs

SUPPORTING COHERENT AND INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION OF BIODIVERSITY-RELATED MEAS

Providing Programmatic and Administrative Reports for Conferences

The law division coordinated and contributed to timely preparations of the UN Environment programmatic and administrative reports to the 12th meeting of the Standing Committee of Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds in January 2017, 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention in June 2017, 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in October 2017 and the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee of CITES in December 2017. These reports, outcomes of UNEA-2 and specific programmatic cooperation with UN Environment were reflected in many resolutions and decisions adopted by these governing and subsidiary bodies; promoting collaboration and synergies with UN Environment and with biodiversity related MEAs.

Strengthening the Link Between the Convention on Migratory Species and Sustainable Development

During the Conference of the Parties to CMS, the law division successfully supported the Leaders' Breakfast Dialogue, which was organized by UN Environment in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat. More than 37 leaders, including representatives of governments, international organizations and the private sector, attended the dialogue that contributed to the adopted of the Ministerial "Manila Declaration on Sustainable Development and Migratory Species", which emphasizes the links between the conservation of wildlife and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Enhancing Synergies Among Biodiversity-related Conventions

The project 'Elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions' was concluded and a follow-up project was designed and initiated at the end of 2017. The new project builds on the results of the previous one and aims to promote practical synergies and cooperation on multilateral biodiversity governance. It is implementing UN Environment Assembly 2/17 on "Enhancing the work of UN Environment in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions". Work on some of its deliverables has already begun, including the preparation of materials for the promotion and realization of synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, outreach and engagement with public information officers of biodiversity-related conventions and

organizations, and development of a data and reporting tool for national reporting in cooperation with the InforMEA project.

Preparing for the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Together with the economy division, the extractives hub of UN Environment and UNEP-WCMC, the law division organized a series of workshops and side events on mainstreaming biodiversity into energy and mining. The division also developed an information document³⁷ for the 21st meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Technical, Technological and Scientific Advice to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in December 2017. This work will continue towards the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Moreover, in collaboration with the secretariat of the CBD, and in partnership with the Trans Disciplinary University of Bangalore, India, the law division launched in July 2017 a "Special Seminar Series" focusing on 'Synthetic Biology: Policy and Implementation Issues' and bringing together international experts working on the science and policy issues. The series applies to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety's work on synthetic biology and will also provide inputs to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in November 2018.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES IN BIODIVERSITY-RELATED MEAs

Developing Implementing Legislation for CITES

The law division successfully engaged 12 African Parties to CITES and enhanced their understanding of the essential legal and institutional requirements required to strengthen national legal frameworks in order to fully comply with CITES requirements. At the Joint UN Environment-CITES Secretariat Second National Legislation Needs Assessment Workshop, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 13 and 14 February 2017,³⁸ a clear picture of the status of participating countries was provided, and time-bound legislative work plans for the strengthening of CITES implementing national legislation agreed with 11 of these countries. In this context, the law division committed to reviewing the draft legislation of Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and Eritrea, and to provide technical legal assistance to strengthen the national legislation of those countries requesting support.

Complying with the Convention on Biological Diversity Requirements for National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans

The law division supported the revision of Sierra Leone's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (to be launched in mid-2018). The revised national level strategic instrument encompasses the country's key biodiversity priorities and an action plan in achieving its international obligations in the biodiversity cluster of MEAs. Special focus was put on integrating biodiversity priorities into the

³⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/d9d0/7a53/95df6ca3ac3515b5ad812b04/sbstta-21-inf-09-en.pdf>

³⁸ A Summary of the Workshop, provided in a report entitled 'National Laws for Implementation of the Convention: Report of the Secretariat,' and which was presented to the Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee of CITES, can be accessed at <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/69/E-SC69-27-R1.pdf> [25]-[27].

country's relevant national legislation, plans, and policies, and addressing sensitive issues such as intellectual property rights and climate change, overlapping mandates and conflict of interest among government agencies.

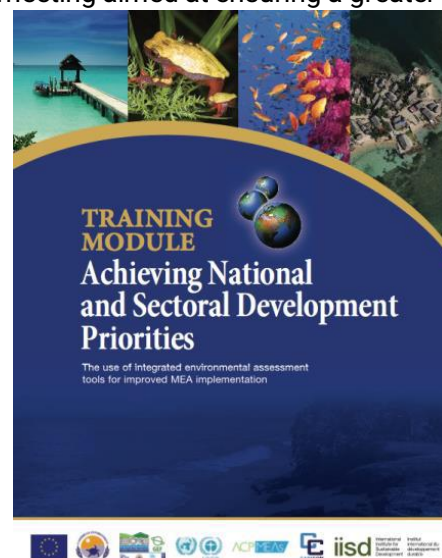
The law division ran The Caribbean Regional Workshop on NBSAPs – “Strengthening MEA-SDG linkages, legal preparedness and financing for NBSAP implementation” that took place from 5-7 July in Freeport, Grand Bahamas. The workshop saw the participation of 12 Caribbean countries, and representatives from the CBD, CITES Secretariats, the CARICOM Secretariat and the International Development and Law Organization. The meeting provided an opportunity to identify linkages between the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Enhancing African Nations Capacity to Implement the Nagoya and Kuala Lumpur Protocols

The law division organised a workshop with attendance from country representatives of Africa at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa in December 2017. The meeting aimed at ensuring a greater understanding of the significance of the protocols, their ratification process, their global and local benefits, as well as looking at ways to address challenges of implementation. In addition, support was provided for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in francophone Africa through a regional workshop held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in November 2017.

Training Module on Achieving National and Sectoral Development Priorities Developed

In May 2017, the African Caribbean and Pacific MEAs Caribbean Hub's mainstreaming module for MEAs and SDG priorities in national policy planning was accepted into the United Nation Development Group's SDG Acceleration Toolkit. The toolkit is an online compendium of models, methodologies, guidance to help governments, UN Country Teams and experts at all levels understand synergies and trade-offs, and identify and unlock bottlenecks for strategizing, prioritizing, and accelerating the progress towards the SDGs.



Enhancing National Capacity to Implement Biodiversity MEAs

Law division work on the above included:

- Building capacity of biodiversity officers and compliance officers on compliance and enforcement of biodiversity MEAs in Africa through a workshop in Arusha in August 2017;
- Developing a training manual on compliance and enforcement for member states and Regional Economic Commissions.
- Building the capacity of officers tasked with ensuring environmental compliance and enforcement in Fiji and Samoa in October 2017;

- Providing training on environmental impact assessment in the Federated States of Micronesia.
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Prepared Delegations to Participate in CMS COP12



The law division supported and prepared the Oceania delegation ahead of the CMS COP 12 through a preparatory meeting held in August 2017 in Brisbane, Australia. The preparatory meeting brought together not just the focal points that will be representing their countries at the conference but also: technical experts from the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the US-based Pew Charitable Trust, representation from UN Environment as well as the civil society.

"My country started the implementation of a whale sanctuary, and the Cook Islands Marine Parc Act just passed in Parliament two months ago. This means that we are banning commercial fishing and deep-sea mining activities from a surface of 50 miles away from the islands. We want to make sure that our current and future regulations are in line with international agreements."

Mr Marino-O-Te-Au WICHMAN

Ministry of Marine Resources in Cook Islands participating in the CMS COP

SUCCESSFUL FACILITATION IN THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS (LMOs)

Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH III)

The law division organized five regional training workshops for Biosafety Clearing House National Focal Points (BCH NFPs), for Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Pacific. The workshops enhanced countries' knowledge of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the BCH III project objectives and expected outcomes. The law division also organized five public webinars on "the introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety" and the "Cartagena Protocol roster of experts" in English, French and Arabic which were attended by over 75 people including National Focal Points.

Strengthening Implementation and Cooperation for the Biosafety Clearing House

UN Environment's five regional training workshops culminated in the development of five roadmaps for Africa, Pacific, Caribbean, Asia and Central and Eastern Europe which consist of national and regional strategies to further increase participation in the BCH and concrete action plans to promote biosafety-related public awareness, education, and participation. The roadmaps aim to address compliance gaps and enhance the availability and exchange of relevant information at the Biosafety Clearing House.

In addition, five regional networks of cooperation were established among the five regions to fulfil the provisions of Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties decisions on the Biosafety Clearing House, sharing and exchange of best practices, lessons learnt, information and resources. The implementation of the regional roadmaps will contribute to ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

ENSURING FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING FROM THE UTILIZATION OF GENETIC RESOURCES

Strengthening Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

The Global Environment Facility has approved the medium-sized project for an effective National Implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Valorization of Botanicals (Medicinal, Cosmetic and Nutraceutical) Plants in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to create greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources. UN Environment will support DRC in implementing this project

The law division also supported 10 member countries of the Central Africa Forests Commission to conduct a review of institutional frameworks, laws, policies and regulations regarding needs and capacities for implementing the Nagoya Protocol. The countries have amended or are in the process of amending their national laws to include access and benefit sharing of genetic resources requirements. Lessons learned and best practices emerging from the ratification/implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in partner countries have been compiled into an e-book which will be available online to disseminate reliable information on project results and lessons.

Creating Partnerships in the Utilisation of Genetic Resources

In addition, participating countries have engaged in consultations and awareness raising activities for key stakeholder groups to inform them of the advantages and implications of adopting the Nagoya Protocol. Within the framework of the ABS principle, indigenous people and local communities have a new source of revenue by signing agreements with the private sector for the commercialization of genetic resources to be used as promising ingredients for cosmetic, pharmaceutical, industrial biotechnology and nutraceutical industries. Through ABS the cosmetic company V Mane & Fils has signed Mutually Agreed Terms on the use of *Echinops giganteus* roots (Photo A) and *Mondia whitei* roots (Photo B) in the Cameroon.

Managing Wastewater through Tree Planting in Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana and Morocco

The law division continued to support countries to mitigate land degradation and biodiversity loss (Photo 1 and 2) using treated wastewater for trees planting and greening dry lands (Photo 3) or restoring wetlands (Photo 4). This resulted in environmentally safe disposal of wastewater, improved local livelihoods through jobs creation and wellbeing of the local population. Partnerships were developed, and the private sector was encouraged to contribute to the on-going project.

The impacts of these projects include:

- 286 hectares of degraded lands were rehabilitated by planting trees to support the local communities through wood production, non-timber forest
- Longer-term employment opportunities were created for local communities
- The outcomes of this tree planting project were shared with the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties in Ordos, China in September 2017. UN Environment has received positive feedback from the donor (Korea Forest Service) on the implementation of the project with potential replication in other African countries
- Raised awareness on the value of utilizing treated wastewater and solar energy to create a greenbelt and rehabilitation of degraded lands
- Encouraged use of clean solar energy to treat wastewater to further mitigate the effects of climate change



Photo 1 : Degraded drylands before the project



Photo 3 : Green belt irrigated with treated wastewater after the project



Photo 2 : Degraded wetlands before the project



Photo 4: Coconut trees plantations on restored wetlands after the project

SUPPORTING THE UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)

Achievements at the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to UNCCD

The law division represented UN Environment at the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD and aided in the following outcomes:

- A pre-session and session engagement contributed to the adoption of “The UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework” **to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral work consistent with the 2030 Agenda.**
- The Conference adopted “**The Policy Advocacy Framework to Combat Sand and Dust Storms**” based on the joint work with WMO and UN Environment.

Growing Collaboration between UN Environment and UNCCD

The 13th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD resulted in decisions that created space for UN Environment to continue engagement with the Convention:

- The UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework invited multilateral and bilateral partners, including UN Environment, to support Parties in implementation of the Strategic Framework.
- UN Environment will be also part of the implementation of the ***decision on the integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and related target 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)***.
- The Conference of the Parties also adopted "The Drought Resilience, Adaptation and Management Policy Framework" as a tool for the use by Parties to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of drought. This decision provides platform for further cooperation between UN Environment and the Convention and other partners on drought.

Sharing Lessons and Encouraging Discussion between Stakeholders on Combating Desertification

The law division provided keynote speakers at the side event on "The Next Phase of the Changwon Initiative Towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality" sharing the lessons from the implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality under the Greening Drylands Partnership in Africa. The collaboration with the Korea Forest Service in this area is basis for scaling-up further activities in other African countries. The law division also supported the Head of UN Environment in moderating a Ministerial round table on drought and sand dust and storms with participation of more than 40 Ministers and heads of delegation among others (civil society organizations, private sector, UN agencies).

Finally, UN Environment in cooperation with the State Forestry Administration of China, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, All China Youth Federation and in partnership with Chinese Academy of Forestry organized the Youth Forum and presented the opening speech on the theme 'Youth, Land and Sustainability'. The Youth Forum adopted the outcome document "The Youth Initiative on Global Desertification Control".

COHERENT GOVERNANCE FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTES

Contributing to the 2017 Conferences of the Parties to the Minamata, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eight meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention were held back to back from 24 April to 5 May 2017. The theme of the meetings and the high-level segment was "A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste". The law division substantively contributed to the preparations for the meetings and discussions on relevant agenda items. The law division provided inputs to the negotiations on individual agenda items of the Minamata Convention first conference of the Parties in particular on legal matters and hosting arrangements of the secretariat.

The law division successfully supported and contributed to side event: ***'How could the Basel Convention support implementation of Regional Conventions on Transboundary movement of Hazardous Waste: Opportunities for strengthening governance mechanisms and synergies.'***

Preparing nations for the Minamata COP-1

The law division successfully prepared and held the ***'Caribbean sub-regional preparatory meeting for the 2017 first meeting of the conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention and introductory MEAs negotiation training.'*** The objectives of the meetings were to:



The meeting contributed to the Caribbean states discussions on how the Minamata Convention affects SIDS. The meeting further encouraged countries to have an enhanced capacity to implement the chemicals and wastes agreements. Finally, the meeting supported specific processes or mechanisms that facilitate the sharing of information and experiences, and synergies in implementation.

Participant at the negotiations training in Port of Spain, ahead of the first Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention in September 2017. ©BCRC Caribbean

Similar technical support was provided to the African Group of Negotiators ahead of Minamata COP1.

Enhancing the Capacity of Enforcement Officers to Tackle Ozone Depleting Substances and Environmental Crime in Afghanistan

Capacity building for 35 national Customs officers on MEAs relating to chemicals and waste, the Montreal Protocol and environmental crime was achieved at the Green Customs Train the Trainers Workshop, held in Kabul, Afghanistan between 23 and 25 July 2017.³⁹ The workshop was jointly organized by UN Environment and the National Ozone Unit of the National Environmental Protection Agency of Afghanistan, and addressed the role of customs officers in environmental protection, chemicals and waste MEAs, and the Montreal Protocol 2020 control measure on the illegal importation of hydrochlorofluorocarbons, including the implementation of Hydrofluorocarbons Phase Out Management Plans.

Enhancing the Capacity of Enforcement Officers to Manage and Control Imported Pesticides

A regional workshop held in Saint Lucia in March 2017 trained 25 inspectors and customs officials from 11 African and Caribbean countries on better managing and controlling imported pesticides. The

³⁹ The Workshop Report can be accessed at http://www.projectren.org/files/partsnews/NOU_AFG_GCL_report_V1.pdf.

training method focused on teacher training – a successful method of capacity building in Caribbean Hub – which enables participants to carry forward the knowledge and train others at the national level. As a follow up, a national level workshop was held in Suriname in December 2017, focused on enhancing capacity of pesticide inspectors and customs officers, including on the legal frameworks of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Capacitating Countries to Soundly Manage their Chemicals and Waste

- Supporting the development of integrated waste management strategies in Zambia and Gabon
- Assisting Liberia and Burkina Faso, to develop legislative and regulatory framework strategy for sound management of persistent organic pollutants
- Helping to promote environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and other waste in Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) by funding their delegation to attend the sixth Committee of Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee for Waigani Convention in February 2017. As RMI is not currently part of the Waigani Convention, this exercise helped the delegation understand the ratification process and how the convention could strengthen their national frameworks for banning the importation of hazardous and radioactive wastes as well as controlling its transboundary movement in the South Pacific region.
- Finalized a regional guidance document for Africa: the guidelines to develop national strategy for integrated waste management, including chemical waste are currently being approved by the African Union Commission

PROTECTING AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

The law division hosts the African Elephant Fund (AEF) Secretariat, which was negotiated under the auspices of the CITES. The Fund works with donor countries and African elephant range States to finance projects that work to achieve objectives laid out in the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP); these include illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade of elephant products, maintaining elephant habitats and restoring connectivity, reducing human-elephant conflict, and awareness-raising on elephant conservation among various stakeholders.

The AEF has managed to secure 1 Million Euros from the European Commission, 120,000 Euros from the Netherlands and 50,000 Euros from Belgium with additional funding to combat poaching incidents across the African continent. The AEF has initiated 10 new projects in 2017.

Our achievements this year include:

- 141 arrests made in Nigeria for trespassing and poaching, indicating our contribution to a stronger enforcement of wildlife laws.
- Training of over 300 enforcement personnel in Ethiopia and Ghana in the conduct of anti-poaching missions and the identification, collecting and handling of wildlife products.

- The AEF also built fencing for bees in many range states with more than 163 active colonies involved, which improved the welfare of communities through increased household income.
- Recognition by CMS member states of the significance of adoption of the African Elephant Action Plan.

Partnership between AEF and CMS

The AEF opened a new era of partnership with the CMS through the adoption of the AEAP by the CMS parties. These have led to:

- CMS endorsing the implementation of the AEAP through effective partnerships with African elephant range States
- Conservation efforts focusing on the implementation of one plan, unanimously agreed by all African elephant range States
- Additional technical expertise and resources pooled towards implementation of the Plan
- Increased awareness of the existence of the AEAP and the plight of conservation of African elephants.



Side Event: Safeguarding Africa's Elephant for Future Generations CMS COP12 - 25 October 2017 Manila, Philippines

African Elephant Fund Publication launched at the CMS COP 12

To raise visibility of the African Elephant Fund, the fund produced a new publication entitled ***"African Elephant Fund: Transforming Strategies into Action"***. The report explores the current methods and strategies employed by African elephant range States to address the threats to their elephant populations. Although their initiatives vary from country to country, their projects have succeeded in protecting their elephant populations by:

- Reducing illegal killing and illegal trade of wildlife products
- Mitigating human-elephant conflict, in negotiating improved wildlife laws and policies
- Improving the livelihoods of affected populations in close proximity to elephants
- Developing new technologies for the better
- Monitoring and tracking of elephants

5) Promoting Sound Environmental Governance

Promoting the importance of sound environmental governance through clear and well developed content shared through digital and traditional channels

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND GOVERNANCE CONTENT SHARED DURING UNEA-3

A number of publications as well as brochures and factsheets were displayed at the booth, which attracted hundreds of delegates.



MEDIA TENT MEDIA TENT TALK: ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

During UNEA-3 an informal style talk on ***The Right to a Healthy Environment (Environmental Defenders)*** was organized by the law and the communication divisions. The discussion was aimed at media houses and featured discussions by Professor John Knox, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the

Environment, Phyllis Omido (environmental activist and Director of the Centre for Justice Governance and Environmental Action), and Julius Opiyo (environmental activist and former artisanal gold miner). The talk centred on the questions: "What weighs heavier, economic development or the right to a healthy environment? And who decides?" The aim was to have a frank discussion about the nexus between economy, environment and health.



UPDATING PARTNERS ON THE PROGRESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE NEWS

The law division issued three environmental governance updates in 2017 reaching almost 8000 law and governance stakeholders. The environmental governance updates capture the key activities of UN Environment in the promotion of environmental governance, as well as media coverage of environmental rights violations and environmental defenders, new publications, and videos.

March 2017 EG Update: <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/publications/environmental-governance-update-july-2017>

November 2017 EG Update: <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/newsletter/environmental-governance-update-november-2017>

PROMOTING SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

More people heading to court to spur action on climate change, study finds:

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/may/23/climate-change-government-court-cases-study?CMP=share_btn_link

Climate change court cases on the rise globally, majority in U.S.:

<https://in.reuters.com/article/climatechange-law-idINL8N1IP59D>

Les déchets chimiques, un fléau qu'il est temps de combattre:

<https://www.letemps.ch/opinions/dechets-chimiques-un-fleau-quil-temps-combattre>

UN Environment identifies trends in global climate change litigation:

<http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/Unep-identifies-trends-climate-change/2558-3953210-xqetfez/index.html>

Women of childbearing age around world suffering toxic levels of mercury:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/sep/18/women-of-childbearing-age-around-world-suffering-toxic-levels-of-mercury>

We are all at risk from poisonous mercury. It's time to take action:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/sep/29/we-are-at-risk-poisonous-mercury-time-to-take-action>

Mercury rising: Gold mining's toxic side effect: <https://mg.co.za/article/2017-09-27-mercury-rising-gold-minings-toxic-side-effect>

La Suisse sonne la mobilisation contre le mercure: <https://www.lematin.ch/suisse/La-Suisse-sonne-la-mobilisation-contre-le-mercure/story/27360844>

Something in the water: life after mercury poisoning:

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/something-in-the-water-life-after-mercury-poisoning-a7961281.html

Mercurio: 7 anni di negoziati per bandirlo mentre le miniere aumentano:

<http://www.rinnovabili.it/ambiente/mercurio-miniere/>

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The law division designed and implemented a monitoring system across all law division projects. Surveys are designed in the cloud and administered following every training and workshop the law division organises. So far feedback from hundreds of partners and beneficiaries has been harvested for analysis in 2019. The objective of the new monitoring system is to standardise monitoring of project and programmes in order to effectively measure the quality, relevance and impact of law and governance interventions.

