

Advancing Environmental Law Together
Regional Meeting of UN Environment Montevideo Focal Points in Asia Pacific
UN Conference Centre, Room H, Bangkok, 24-26 July 2018

Background

Asia Pacific is the largest and fastest growing region in the world. Implementation of environmental commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in this dynamic and diverse region requires good laws and strong institutions. The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) supports countries in Asia and the Pacific to achieve this goal. It works with a broad range of partners to support the development or strengthening of environmental laws and their enforcement to achieve countries' environmental goals in the context of sustainable development, as well as advance environmental justice. The development and implementation of environmental law has been going through material changes in this region and globally, leading to the development of good practices in various countries that can address legal and institutional issues relating to the environment.

The Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environment Law (Montevideo Programme) refers to a series of ten-year programmes that organize the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) to support the development and review of environmental law. The current and fourth such programme (Montevideo Programme IV) runs from 2010 to 2020. At its second universal session in 2016 the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted Resolution 2/19 which requests UN Environment, in close collaboration with the national focal points, to prepare an assessment of Montevideo IV and proposals for the work of UN Environment in the area of environmental law for a specific period beginning in 2020, for consideration by the UNEA in 2019.

Purpose of the meeting

The key purpose of the meeting is to provide a forum for Montevideo Focal Points from Asia Pacific to:

- (a) **share and exchange information** on latest developments, trends, and good practices in the development and enforcement of environmental law in their countries, as well as regionally and globally;
- (b) contribute to UN Environment's **preparation of the assessment of the Montevideo Programme IV**, including through sharing information on the status of implementation of the Montevideo Programme IV in their countries; and

(c) **identifying priorities from the region and proposals for the work of UN Environment in environmental law for the coming years**, including for the next Montevideo Programme period commencing 2020. Priorities already identified by focal points and relevant UN Environment Assembly resolutions include: air pollution, public health, and marine litter. These and others will be discussed in the meeting.

The meeting will also serve to create an **important platform to increase partnerships and networks** in the region for Montevideo Focal Points and other stakeholders working on environmental law issues.

Participants and format

As at 11 July 2018, the Asia Pacific region has Montevideo Focal Points for the following 21 Member States: Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Maldives, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Niue, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam. Eighteen of these Member States will be represented in the meeting. Environmental law experts and other stakeholders (e.g. UN agencies, NGOs etc.) will also be invited to participate.

AGENDA

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 24 JULY 2018	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
SESSION 1: OPENING	
09:30 – 09:35	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isabelle Louis, Deputy Director of Asia and Pacific Office, UN Environment
09:35 – 10:00	Setting the scene: overview and objectives for the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andy Raine, Regional Coordinator for Environmental Law and Governance, UN Environment Johanna Bernstein, Senior International Environmental Law Consultant, UN Environment Jost Wagner, Facilitator, The Change Initiative
10:00 – 10:30	Introductions exercise and group photo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jost Wagner, Facilitator, The Change Initiative
SESSION 2: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES	
10:30 – 11:15	Thematic dialogue one: Environment and human rights – developments and trends, challenges and priorities in Asia and the Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben Boer, Emeritus Professor at the University of Sydney and Visiting Professor

	<p><i>Wuhan University</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presentation (20 mins) followed by facilitated group and table discussions</i>
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee
11:45 - 12:45	<p>Thematic dialogue two - marine pollution: What will it take to effectively regulate marine litter and single-use plastics in Asia and the Pacific?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Panel Moderator: Andy Raine, Regional Coordinator for Environmental Law and Governance, UN Environment</i> • <i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Jerker Tamelander, Head of Coral Reefs Unit, UN Environment</i> ○ <i>Clark Peteru, Legal Advisor, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme</i> ○ <i>Lye Lin-Heng, Former Director of Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law</i> ○ <i>Shirley Malielegaoi, ACEO and Head of Legal Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Samoa</i> ○ <i>Xiao Recio-Blanco, Director of the Ocean Program Environmental Law Institute</i>
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Thematic dialogue three: Environmental and social safeguards – what are the key challenges and opportunities for ensuring fit for purpose safeguards in Asia and the Pacific?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Matthew Baird, Environmental Counsel</i> • <i>Presentation (20 mins) followed by facilitated group and table discussions</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 16:30	<p>Thematic dialogue four: climate change – what is the role of national legal frameworks to implement the Paris Agreement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Priyalal Kurukulasuriya, Former Chief of Environmental Law at UN Environment</i> • <i>Presentation (20 mins) followed by plenary discussions</i>
16:30 – 17:00	<p>Wrap-up of day one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jost Wagner, Facilitator, The Change Initiative</i>
DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY 2018	
SESSION 3: ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW TOGETHER	
09:00 – 10:00	<p>Trends and Emerging Issues in Environmental Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regulation of air pollution – the silent killer: Wanhua Yang, Former Legal Officer, UN Environment</i> • <i>Legal innovations to combat illegal trade in wildlife: Jenny Feltham, Wildlife and</i>

	<p><i>Forest Crime Advisor, UNODC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Short presentations (15 minutes) structured to (a) share knowledge on key developments; (b) main challenges; (c) trends influencing our work in next ten years; and (d) success stories we can build on. Group discussion will follow.</i>
10:00 – 10:15	<p>Introduction into the Open Space Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jost Wagner, Facilitator, The Change Initiative</i>
10:15 – 10:45	<p>Coffee</p>
10:45 – 13:00	<p>Open Space: Sharing knowledge, finding solutions, and building coherence on future actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Participants will propose specific topics and issues to be discussed, either generated from day one and day two or completely new. Participants join tables on topics that are of interest and relevance to them, and rotate through facilitated table discussions.</i>
13:00 – 14:30	<p>Lunch</p>
SESSION 4: INNOVATIONS IN ENFORCEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
14:30 – 16:00	<p>New frontiers in enforcement – Changing the narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tony Oposa, Environmentalist and Recipient of the UNEP Global 500 Roll of Honor and the 2009 Ramon Magsaysay Award</i> • <i>Presentation followed by facilitated discussions</i>
16:00 – 16:30	<p>Coffee break</p>
16:30 – 17:00	<p>Wrap-up and Outlook for Day 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Andy Raine, Regional Coordinator for Environmental Law and Governance, UN Environment</i> • <i>Johanna Bernstein, Senior International Environmental Law Consultant, UN Environment</i> • <i>Jost Wagner, Facilitator, The Change Initiative</i>
17:00 – 20:00	<p>Dinner reception and ceremony for innovations in enforcement</p>
DAY 3: THURSDAY, 26 JULY 2018	
SESSION 5: MONTEVIDEO PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIES	
09:00 – 10:00	<p>Global impact of the Montevideo IV Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Johanna Bernstein, Senior International Environmental Law Consultant, UN Environment</i> • <i>Presentation on Montevideo IV achievements and shortcomings</i> • <i>Group discussion on the impact of Montevideo IV Programme</i>

10:00 – 11:00	<p>Regional impact of the Montevideo IV Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Johanna Bernstein, Senior International Environmental Law Consultant, UN Environment</i> • <i>Presentation on key findings from regional consultations in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia</i> • <i>Synthesis of findings from interviews with Asia and Pacific focal points</i> • <i>Discussion on the impact of Montevideo IV Programme in Asia and the Pacific</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Domestic environmental law-making in Asia-Pacific countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Johanna Bernstein, Senior International Environmental Law Consultant, UN Environment</i> • <i>Group discussion on developments and innovations in domestic environmental law-making</i> • <i>Discussion on challenges in domestic environmental law-making</i> • <i>Discussion on country needs for a new UN programme in environmental law</i>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Optimizing the impact of Montevideo V in Asia-Pacific countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Johanna Bernstein, Senior International Environmental Law Consultant, UN Environment</i> • <i>Group discussion on responding to country needs with a new UN programme in environmental law</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Problem-framing</i> ○ <i>Public consultation</i> ○ <i>Legislative drafting, review and updating</i> ○ <i>Implementation, enforcement and compliance</i> ○ <i>Harmonization, coordination and synergies</i> ○ <i>Monitoring</i> ○ <i>Public awareness-raising</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break (participants respond in writing to Montevideo IV assessment questionnaire)
16:30 – 17:30	<p>Closing plenary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Johanna Bernstein, Senior International Environmental Law Consultant, UN Environment</i> • <i>Andy Raine, Regional Coordinator for Environmental Law and Governance, UN Environment</i> • <i>Synthesis of main conclusions of the meetings</i> • <i>Evaluation and closing</i>