

In the framework of:

UN environment programme

GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

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BRIEFING

Montevideo Programme V: A Decade of Action on Environmental Law

3 November 2026 | 9:30–11:00 CET
International Environment House 1 & Webex

As part of UNEP Environmental Law Week | 2 - 6 November 2026

BRIEFING

Montevideo Programme V: A Decade of Action on Environmental Law

In the framework of:

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GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK



Diana RIZZOLIO

Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network

GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

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EVENT

UNEP Environmental Law Week 2026



Start date
2 NOV 2026

End Date
6 NOV 2026

Format
Online

Organiser
UNEP

unep.org/en/events/unep-event/unep-environmental-law-week-2026

UN environment programme

Montevideo Programme V

For the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law

THIRD GLOBAL MEETING

# of National Focal Points for the Fifth Montevideo Programme

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PERIODIC REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

4–5 NOVEMBER 2026
Online

SIDE EVENTS: 6 NOVEMBER 2026
Online

leap.unep.org

BRIEFING

Montevideo Programme V: A Decade of Action on Environmental Law

In the framework of:

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SPEAKERS



Patricia MBOTE
UN Environment Programme



Andrea RIZZO
UN Environment Programme



Tina HOČEVAR
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN Office in Geneva



Maryna YANUSH
UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat



Gibrilla KAMARA
Environment Protection Agency, Sierra Leone | Steering Committee member



Sara TUSEVLJAK
Environmental human rights defender | Co-Chair, First European Forum on EHRDs

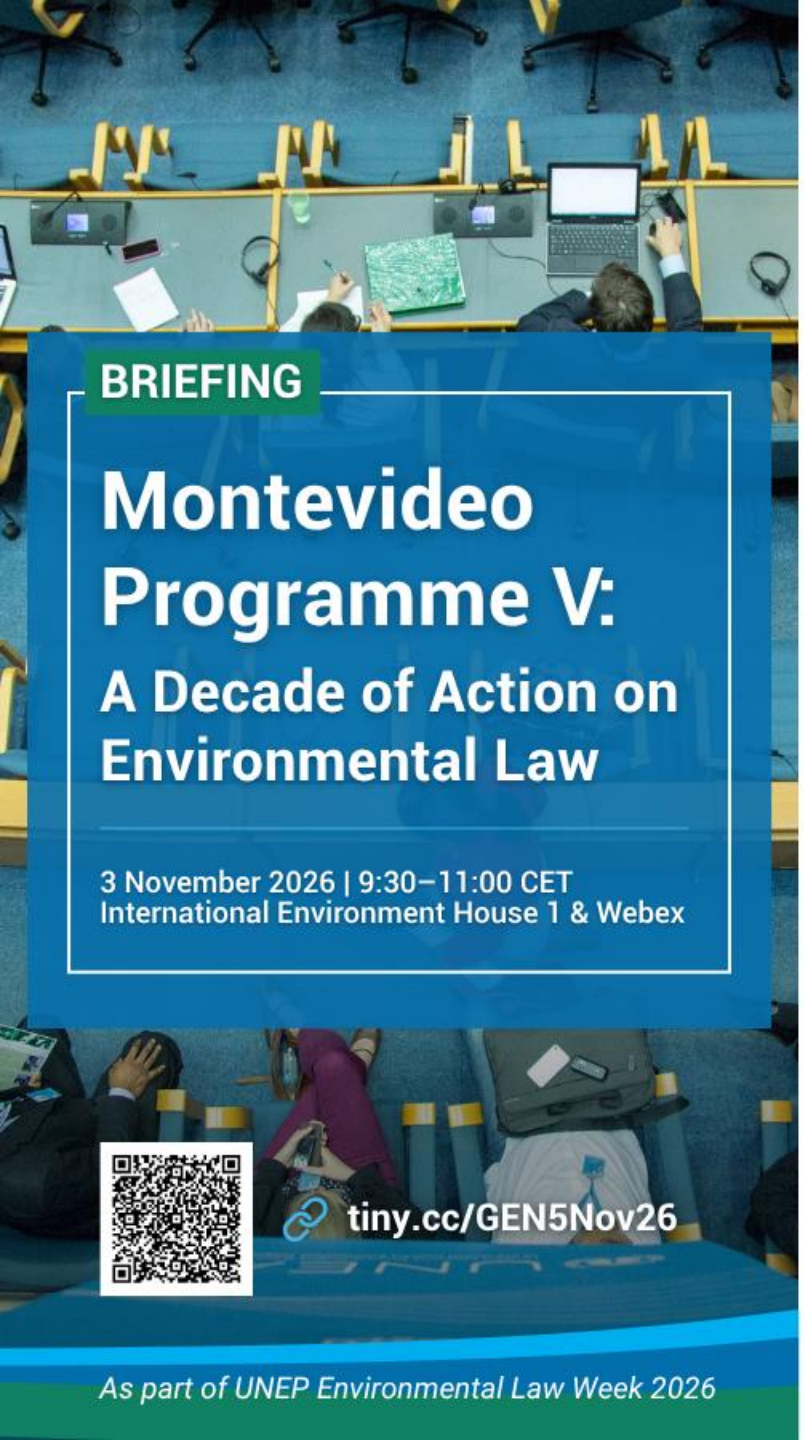


Alejandro IZA
International Union for Conservation of Nature



Marianna BOLSHAKOVA
UN Environment Programme | Moderator

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BRIEFING

Montevideo Programme V:

A Decade of Action on Environmental Law

3 November 2026 | 9:30–11:00 CET
International Environment House 1 & Webex

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As part of UNEP Environmental Law Week 2026

AGENDA

*Moderated by **Marianna BOLSHAKOVA**, Regional Coordinator, Environmental Law and Governance, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, UN Environment Programme*

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Patricia MBOTE** | Director, Law Division, UN Environment Programme

Overview of the Montevideo Programme V: Achievements and Future Trends

- **Andrea RIZZO** | Programme Management Officer, Law Division, UN Environment Programme

Panel Discussion

- **Tina HOČEVAR** | Environmental Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
- **Maryna YANUSH** | Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat
- **Gibrilla KAMARA** | Manager, Legal Affairs, Compliance and Enforcement Department, Environment Protection Agency, Sierra Leone | National Focal Point and Steering Committee member Montevideo Programme V
- **Sara TUSEVLJAK** | River activist and environmental human rights defender | Co-Chair, First European Forum on EHRDs
- **Alejandro IZA** | Director, Environmental Law Team, Centre for Policy and Law, International Union for Conservation of Nature

Open Discussion

Closing Remarks

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Patricia MBOTE

Director, Law Division,
UN Environment Programme

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OVERVIEW OF THE MONTEVIDEO PROGRAMME V:

Achievements and Future Trends

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Montevideo Programme V: A Decade of Action on Environmental Law

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Andrea RIZZO

Programme Management Officer,
Law Division, UN Environment Programme

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3 November 2026 | Online

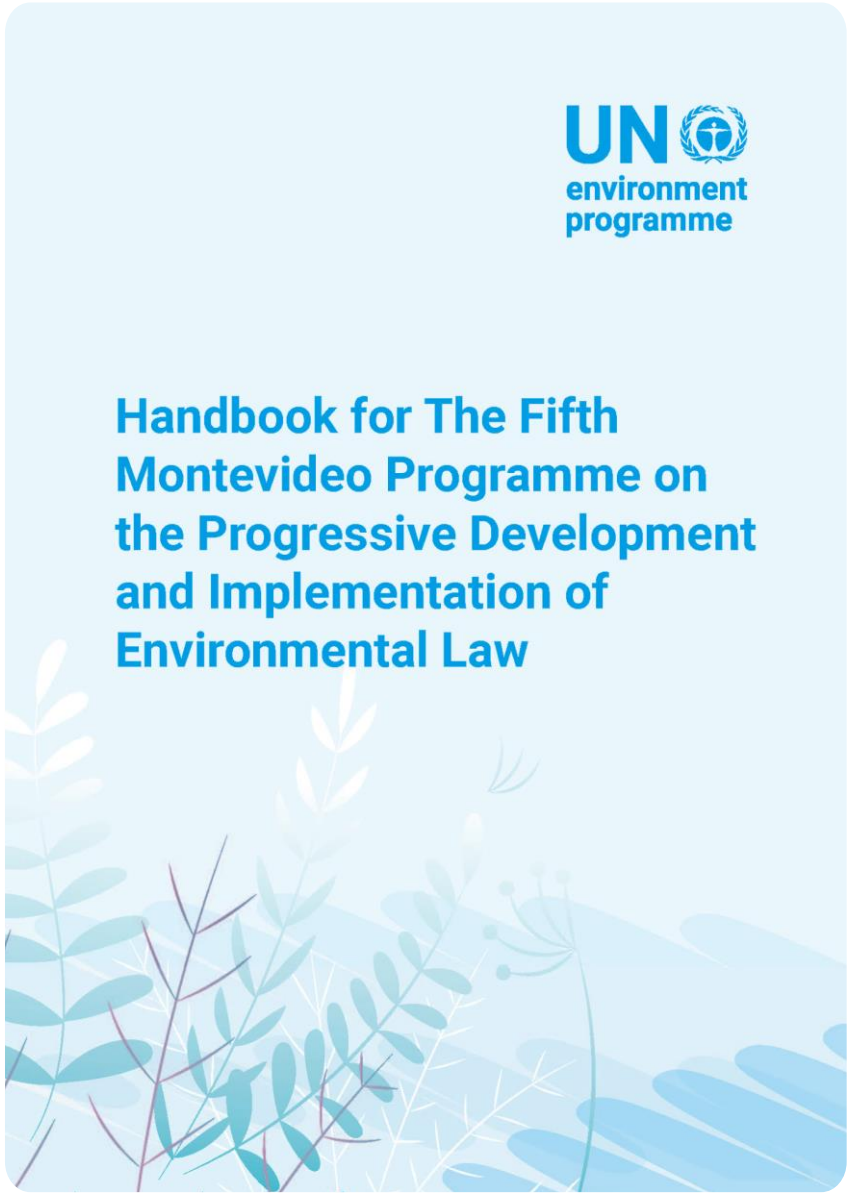
The Montevideo Programme V: Delivering for People and the Planet

Andrea Rizzo

Head, Environmental Governance Section

UNEP Law Division

Montevideo Programme V at a glance



Link to Montevideo V Programme Handbook

- UNEP's intergovernmental programme to promote the **development** and **periodic review** of environmental law, strengthen capacities in countries, and implement the SDGs.
- **10-year programme**: 2020 – 2029.
- Adopted by **UNEA resolution 4/20.**
- **National Focal Points**: senior government officials, experts in environmental law.
- **Steering committee for implementation.**
- Rooted in UNEP's Medium-term Strategy and delivered through its Programme of Work.
- Delivery through **partnerships – Partnerships and Stakeholders Engagement Strategy.**
- **Trust Fund.**

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Priority areas for implementation

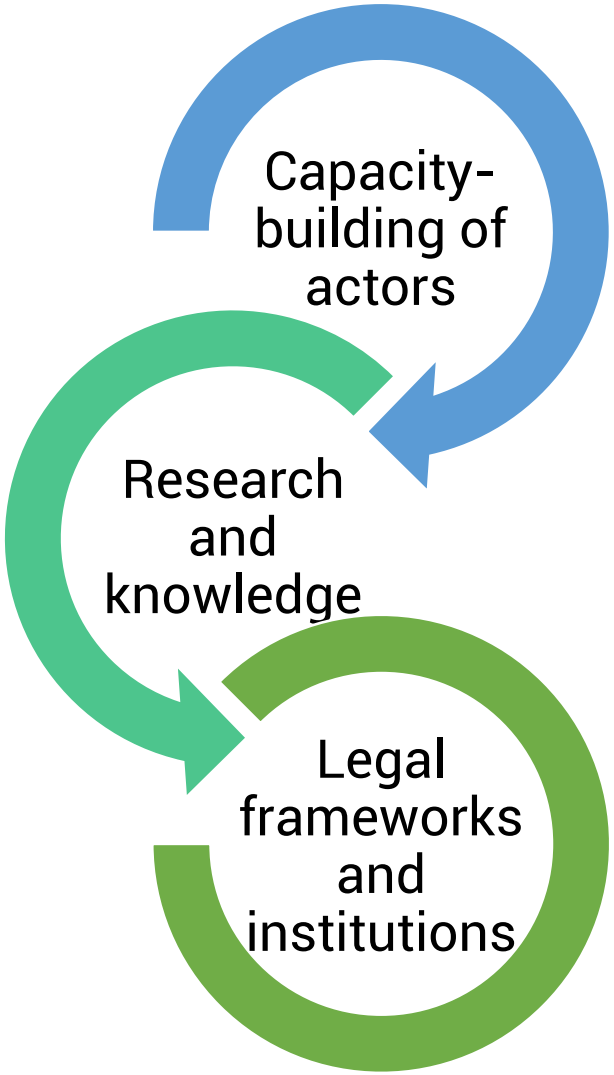
Legal responses to combat the **climate crisis**

Legal responses to combat the **biodiversity crisis**

Legal responses to address the **pollution crisis**

Enhancing **access rights**

Strengthening **education and capacity-building** on environmental law



UN environment programme

Montevideo Programme V strategic activities

UN Charter: Promote the recognition of the mutually reinforcing relationship between environmental law and the three pillars of the Charter of the United Nations.

Guidance tools: Provide practical guidance, tools, innovative approaches and resources (model laws, best practices, model indicators) to countries for effective and inclusive development and implementation of environmental law.

Training: Promote training in the field of environmental law, especially for legal professionals such as lawyers, judges, prosecutors and other enforcement officials.

Information and data exchange: Develop and promote information and data exchange among legal stakeholders involved in the development and implementation of environmental law.

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Montevideo Programme V strategic activities

Research: Encourage research, including studies and reports, on emerging environmental issues and the relationship between environmental law and other, related legal fields.

Education: Encourage and facilitate education on environmental law, with a view to empowering people and communities and strengthening institutional capacity of countries to address environmental issues.

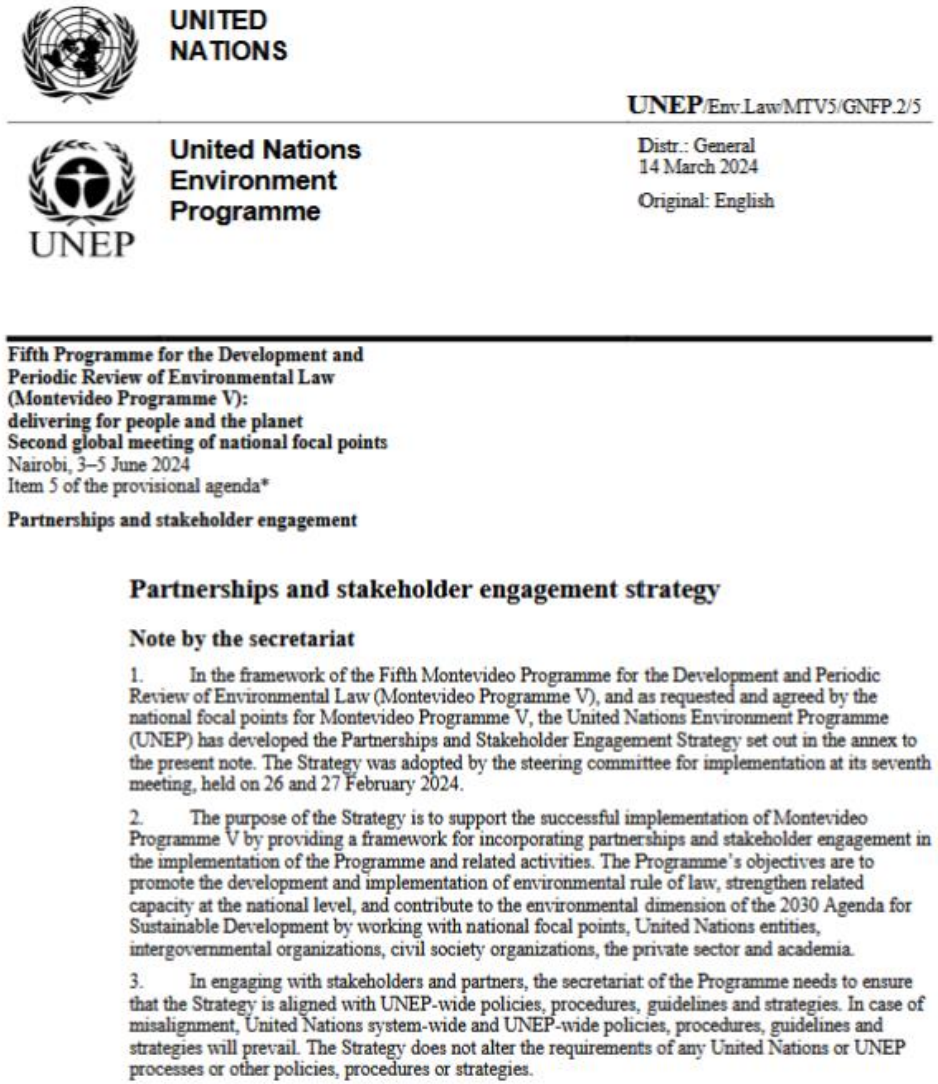
Awareness-raising: Support environmental law awareness-raising initiatives at different levels.

Partnerships: Support collaboration and promotion of partnerships across the United Nations and with other relevant entities, including civil society organizations, in the field of environmental law.

Access rights: Promote public participation, access to information and access to justice in environmental matters.

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Partners and stakeholders



UNITED NATIONS

UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.2/5

United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP

Distr.: General
14 March 2024

Original: English

Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V): delivering for people and the planet
Second global meeting of national focal points
Nairobi, 3–5 June 2024
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Partnerships and stakeholder engagement

Partnerships and stakeholder engagement strategy

Note by the secretariat

1. In the framework of the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V), and as requested and agreed by the national focal points for Montevideo Programme V, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has developed the Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy set out in the annex to the present note. The Strategy was adopted by the steering committee for implementation at its seventh meeting, held on 26 and 27 February 2024.

2. The purpose of the Strategy is to support the successful implementation of Montevideo Programme V by providing a framework for incorporating partnerships and stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the Programme and related activities. The Programme's objectives are to promote the development and implementation of environmental rule of law, strengthen related capacity at the national level, and contribute to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by working with national focal points, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia.

3. In engaging with stakeholders and partners, the secretariat of the Programme needs to ensure that the Strategy is aligned with UNEP-wide policies, procedures, guidelines and strategies. In case of misalignment, United Nations system-wide and UNEP-wide policies, procedures, guidelines and strategies will prevail. The Strategy does not alter the requirements of any United Nations or UNEP processes or other policies, procedures or strategies.

- Central the vision of the Montevideo Programme V.
- **Inclusive collaboration, knowledge exchange, transparent engagement** in the Programme's delivery.
- **Research** and analysis; good practice, **knowledge** and **values**; **information** sharing, **outreach** and networks; **implementation** support, sustainability and uptake.
- Approximately **365** **partners and stakeholders** are part of the network of the Programme (as of October 2026).

Link to Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

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Advancing legal responses to combat the climate crisis

Develop and strengthen legal and institutional frameworks - **17 countries** have received assistance on issues such as climate legislation and transparency, carbon markets, ozone depleting substances renewable energy, human rights and climate change, climate justice.

Partnerships and capacity building for policymakers, parliamentarians, legal practitioners, judiciary and other stakeholders:

- **PARLATINO** – Latin American and Caribbean parliamentarians / climate governance.
- **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** – NDC implementation, COP engagement.
- **Global Judicial Institute on the Environment** – elevate judges' role in environmental adjudication.
- **GANHRI** – rights-based climate governance and climate justice.



Partnership with PARLATINO, to strengthen regional parliamentary cooperation on climate action



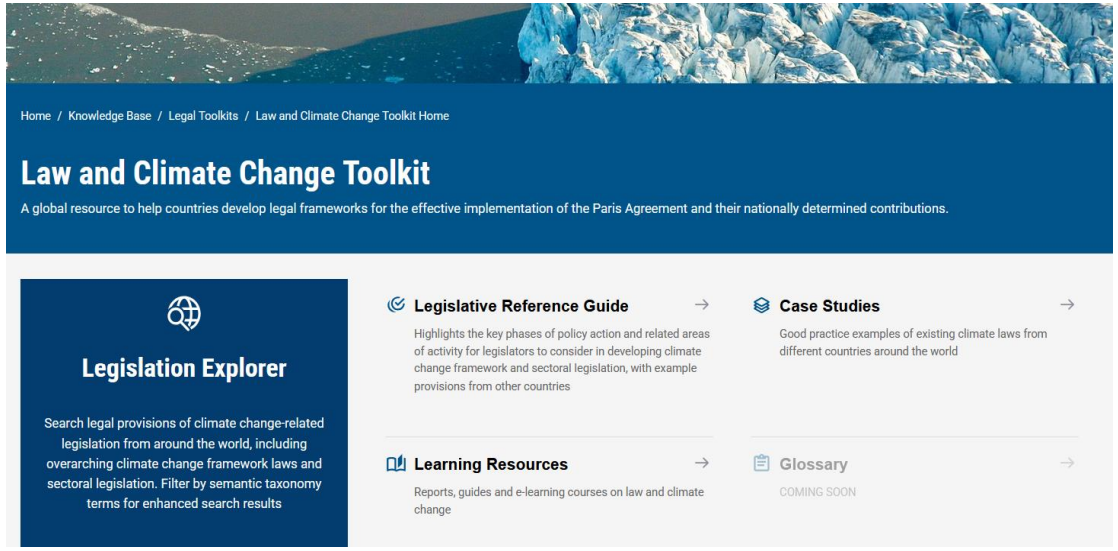
Partnership with IPU to strengthen parliamentary leadership to engage in climate action, design climate change legislation and advance the implementation of NDCs.

Advancing legal responses to combat the climate crisis

UN environment programme

Research, knowledge development and thought leadership

- 2025 Climate Litigation report
- Law and Climate Change Toolkit
- Practical Guidance for NHRIs on Addressing Human Rights and Climate Change (2022)
- Model Forest Act Initiative (MoFAI) (2026)







Advancing legal responses to combat the biodiversity crisis

Develop and strengthen legal and institutional frameworks - **18 countries** have received assistance on issues such as biosafety, wildlife conservation and crimes that affect the environment, protected areas, desertification, BBNJ Agreement.

Partnerships and capacity building for legal professionals and practitioners, judges, prosecutors, parliamentarians and enforcement officials:

- **UNODC/FAO** - EU-funded "Safety across Asia for the Global Environment" (SAFE) project.
- **IPU** –African parliamentarians / land degradation.
- **IUCN** - judges and justice sector practitioners in Latin America and the Caribbean / biodiversity protection.
- **CMS** Legislation Programme.

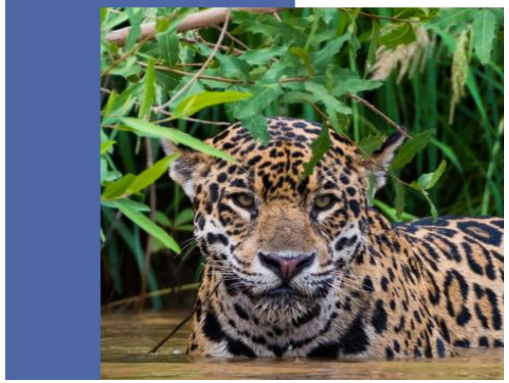


Partnership with UNODC and FAO (EU SAFE project), to strengthen cooperation to improve biosafety and biosecurity in Asia-Pacific.

CMS

Global Workshop on CMS Legislation

UNEP's Montevideo Environmental Law Programme

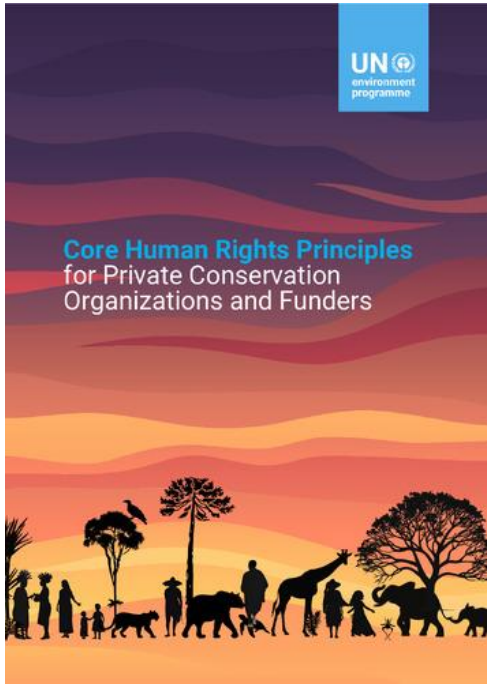


Advancing legal responses to combat the biodiversity crisis

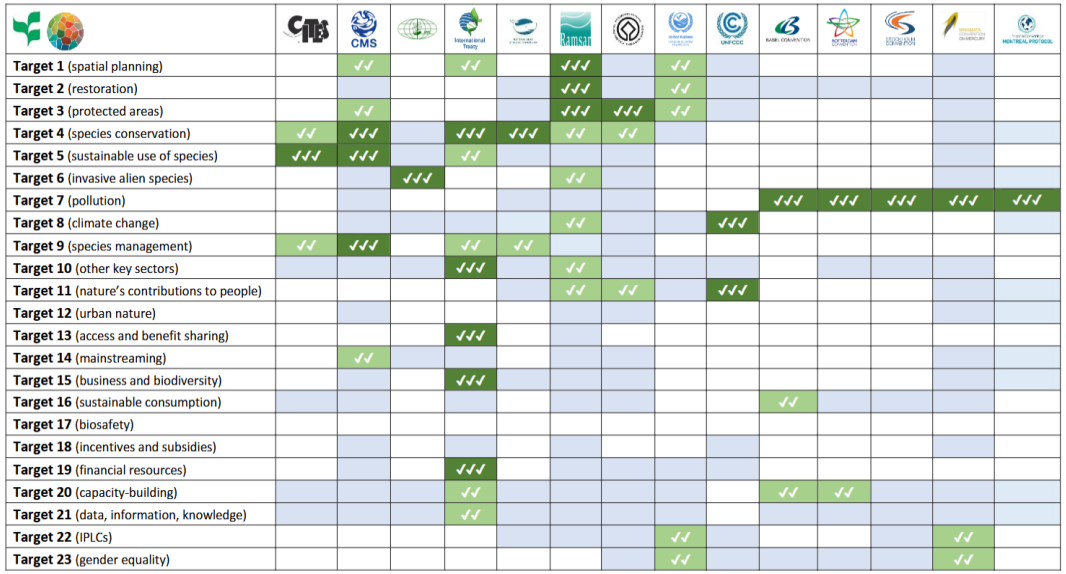
UN environment programme

Research, knowledge development and thought leadership

- Guidance on Integrating Human Rights in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) (2023)
- Core Human Rights Principles for Private Conservation Organizations and Funders (2024)
- MEA synergies: Key Entry Points for Cooperation and Collaboration amongst MEAs (Bern Process) – with UNEP-WCMC
- Preventing the Next Pandemic: Strengthening Biosafety and Biosecurity in ASEAN Captive Wildlife Facilities (2024)



UNITED NATIONS EMG



	CITES	CMS				Ramsar								
Target 1 (spatial planning)		✓✓		✓✓		✓✓✓		✓✓						
Target 2 (restoration)						✓✓✓		✓✓						
Target 3 (protected areas)		✓✓				✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓						
Target 4 (species conservation)	✓✓	✓✓✓		✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓							
Target 5 (sustainable use of species)	✓✓✓	✓✓✓		✓✓										
Target 6 (invasive alien species)			✓✓✓			✓✓								
Target 7 (pollution)										✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
Target 8 (climate change)						✓✓			✓✓✓					
Target 9 (species management)	✓✓	✓✓✓		✓✓	✓✓									
Target 10 (other key sectors)				✓✓✓		✓✓								
Target 11 (nature's contributions to people)						✓✓	✓✓		✓✓✓					
Target 12 (urban nature)														
Target 13 (access and benefit sharing)				✓✓✓										
Target 14 (mainstreaming)		✓✓												
Target 15 (business and biodiversity)				✓✓✓										
Target 16 (sustainable consumption)										✓✓				
Target 17 (biosafety)														
Target 18 (incentives and subsidies)														
Target 19 (financial resources)				✓✓✓										
Target 20 (capacity-building)				✓✓						✓✓	✓✓			
Target 21 (data, information, knowledge)				✓✓										
Target 22 (IPLCs)								✓✓					✓✓	
Target 23 (gender equality)								✓✓					✓✓	

Advancing legal responses to combat the pollution crisis

Develop and strengthen legal and institutional frameworks - **33 countries** have received assistance on issues such as waste prevention and mismanagement, chemicals, marine litter, air pollution, circular economy for plastics.

Partnerships and capacity building to advance prevention, compliance and enforcement through an integrated approach:

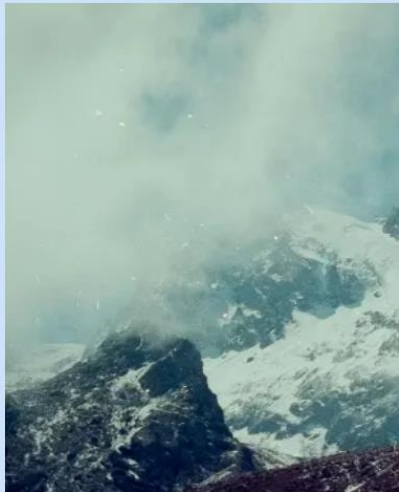
- **FAO/WHO/WOA -** Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance.
- **BRS, Minamata, GFC secretariats** –national implementation and compliance; accession.
- **Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals** – 'Leapfrogging' guidance on chemicals regulation, to support the Global Framework on Chemicals implementation.
- **Green Customs Initiative** - customs and border enforcement authorities / illegal trade and transboundary movement of environmentally sensitive commodities and waste.



Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance (FAO,UNEP, WHO, WOAH)

EVENT

Advancing effective MEA implementation in Central Asia: Promoting synergies and rights-based approaches to combat pollution



Advancing legal responses to combat the pollution crisis

UN environment programme

Research, knowledge development and thought leadership

- Regulating Air Quality: The First Global Assessment of Air Pollution Legislation (2021)
- Guide on Ambient Air Quality Legislation (2023)
- Law and Air Quality Toolkit (2025)
- Tackling Plastic Pollution: Legislative Guide for the Regulation of Single-Use Plastic Products (2021)
- Supporting the Transition to a Sustainable Textile Value Chain: The Role of Environmental Permitting Systems (2026)







Enhancing access rights and environmental rule of law

Develop and strengthen legal and institutional frameworks - **25 countries** have received assistance on issues such as framework laws and codification, environmental defenders, rights and justice, awareness raising and training.

Partnerships and capacity building for public administration, legal professionals, judiciaries, national institutions and NGOs, research centers and civil society:

- **Council of Europe** – EROL, Montevideo Programme, Council of Europe treaties and other MEAs; knowledge exchange, capacity-building, joint initiatives.
- **UNECE and ECLAC** – Aarhus Convention and Escazú Agreement implementation; accession.
- **ASEAN** - Declaration on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment and Regional Plan of Action.



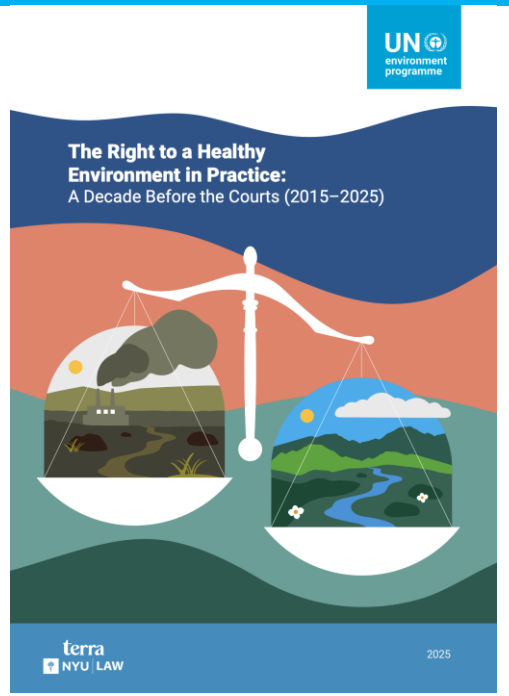


Partnership with ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

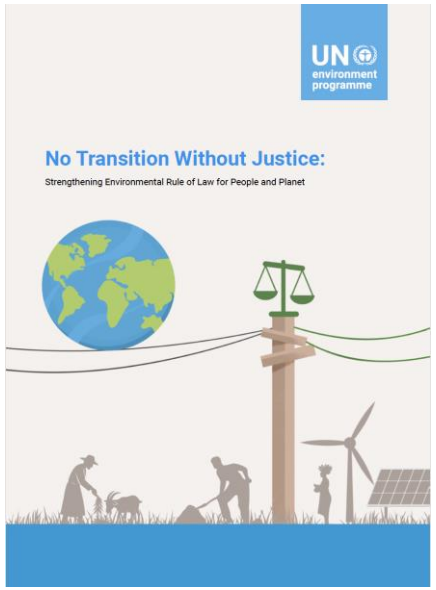
Enhancing access rights and environmental rule of law

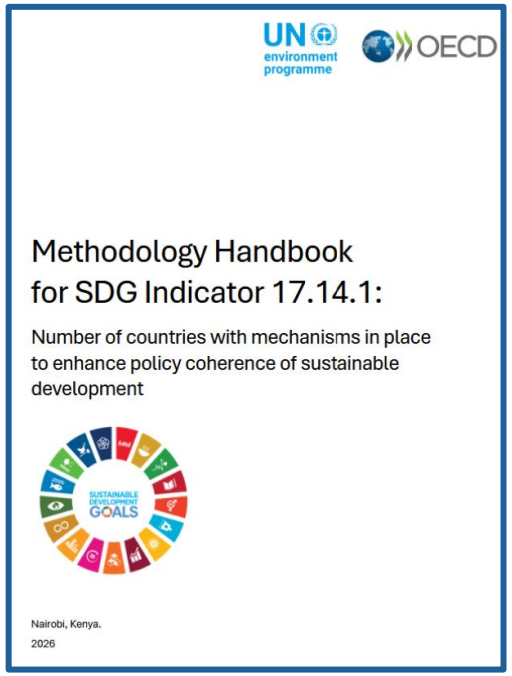
Research, knowledge development and thought leadership

- The Right to a Healthy Environment in Practice: A Decade Before the Courts (2025)
- Environmental Rule of Law Report (3rd edition under preparation)
- No Transition Without Justice - Strengthening Environmental Rule of Law for People and Planet (2026)
- Methodology Handbook on Policy Coherence (2026)









Strengthening environmental law education

Supported a global community of environmental law educators, students and practitioners, in partnership with academia, education or research institutions and networks:

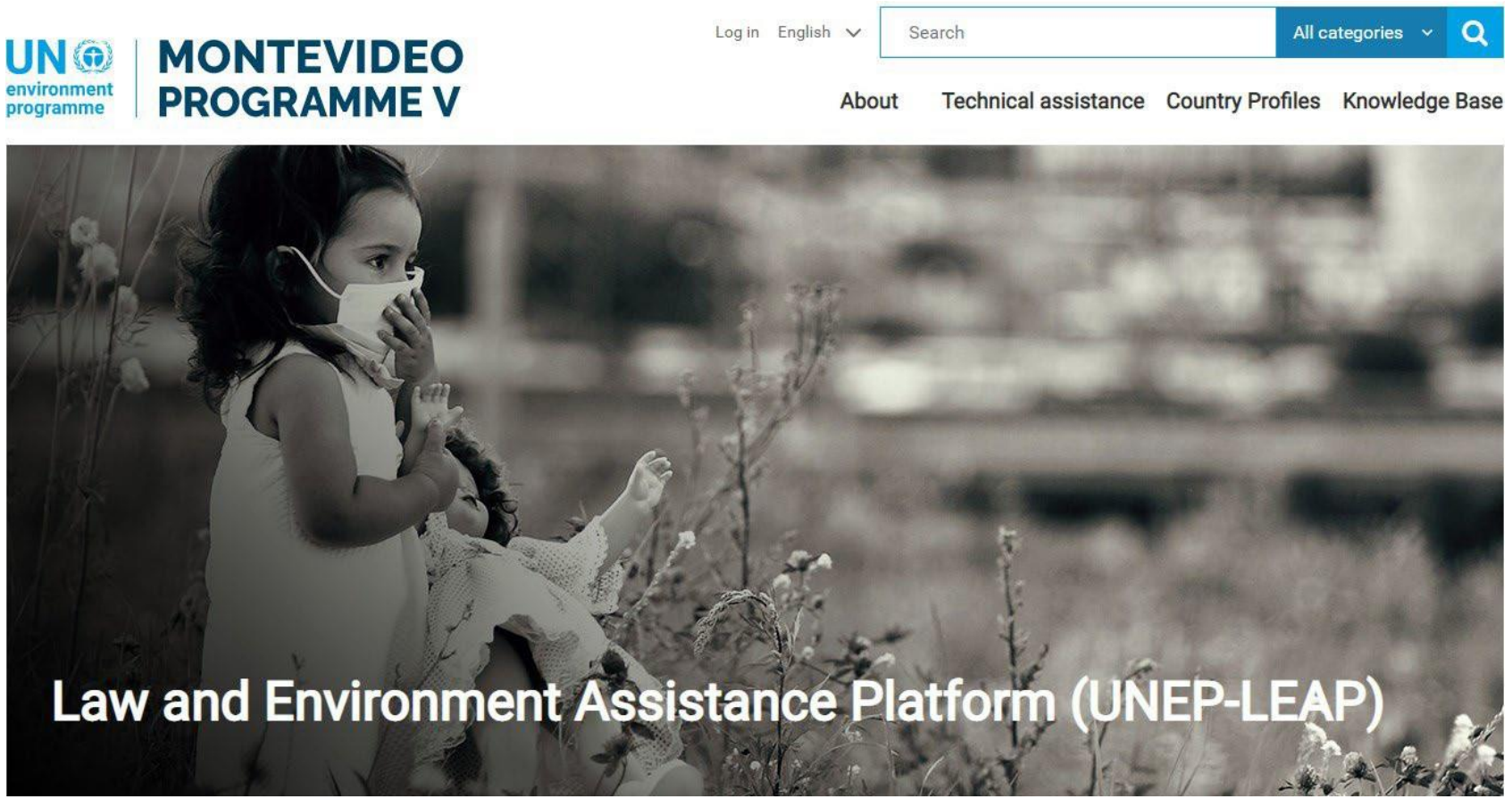
- **University of Eastern Finland** – Annual course on MEAs.
- **Environmental Law Clinics Alliances and Networks** (Asia Pacific - Latin America and the Caribbean – Middle East and North Africa - Europe).
- **E-learning courses** through InforMEA – and access to more than **220,000 legislative and case-law records** through **UNEP-LEAP** alongside toolkits, guidance documents, model laws, publications and reports, e-learning courses and tools and resources from partners – reaching **3.5 million users** in 2026.



Partnership with UEF for the annual course on MEAs



UNEP-LEAP: digital backbone of the Montevideo Programme V



- Technical legal assistance: submission of requests through Online form or via e-mail to the Montevideo secretariat unep-montevideo@un.org
- Publications and other knowledge products
- Free online courses **(InforMEA)**

https://leap.unep.org/en

LEAP
MONTEVIDEO ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROGRAMME
Law and Environment Assistance Platform

Funding the Montevideo Programme V

- **Financing sources:** (a) Montevideo Trust Fund and (b) Other extrabudgetary funds, including UNEP's core budget.
- As of June 2026, total programme implementation at **USD 12.8 million**: 89% from other extrabudgetary funds and **11 % Trust Fund**
- As of June 2026, **USD 3.1 million** received contributions to Trust Fund.
- Indicative total implementation costs (programmatic and secretariat) from 2022-2029 estimated at **USD 38.1 million.**
- Funding shortfall: **USD 25 million** or **USD 7.2 million annually** to raise to implement the core activities of the Programme until 2029 – with a specific target to contribute to the Trust Fund.



The road to the Third Global Meeting and UNEA-8

June-July 2026
Regional consultations with National Focal Points

Thought leadership of national focal points, partners and stakeholders

22 September 2026
Partners and Stakeholders consultation

UNEP Environmental Law Week

4-5 November 2026
Third Global Meeting of National Focal Points (online)

6 November 2026
Side events of the Third Global Meeting of National Focal Points (online)

Midterm review

December 2027
UNEA-8

Expectations for Third Global Meeting

- Review progress (2024-2026)
- Midterm review
- Partners and stakeholders
- Steering Committee for Implementation

UN environment programme

UNEP Environmental Law Week 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14:00 - 16:00 15th Steering Committee Meeting	11:30 –13:00 Geneva Environment Network Briefing	14:00 – 17:30 Day 1 of the Third global meeting of national focal points	14:00 – 17:30 Day 2 of the Third global meeting of national focal points	14:00 – 15:30 Side Event 1: Environmental Law Clinics 16:00 – 17:30 Side event 2: Illegal Trade and Crimes that Affect the Environment

All times in EAT (UCT+3). Registration is required.

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UN environment programme

www.unep.org

Thank you

Andrea Rizzo
Head of the Environmental Governance Section, UNEP Law Division

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
PO Box 30552 – 00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya



BRIEFING

Montevideo Programme V: A Decade of Action on Environmental Law

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OVERVIEW OF THE MONTEVIDEO PROGRAMME V:

Achievements and Future Trends

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Marianna BOLSHAKOVA

Regional Coordinator, Environmental Law and Governance, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, UN Environment Programme | Moderator

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Tina HOČEVAR

Environmental Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

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Maryna YANUSH

Environmental Affairs Officer,
UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat

INFORMATION PARTICIPATION JUSTICE
AARHUS CONVENTION for our environment

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Gibrilla KAMARA

Manager, Legal Affairs, Compliance and Enforcement Department, Environment Protection Agency, Sierra Leone | National Focal Point and Steering Committee member Montevideo Programme V

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Sara TUSEVLJAK

River activist and environmental human rights defender | Co-Chair, First European Forum on EHRDs

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Alejandro IZA

Director, Environmental Law Team, Centre for Policy and Law, International Union for Conservation of Nature

IUCN

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Closing

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BRIEFING

Montevideo Programme V: A Decade of Action on Environmental Law

In the framework of:

UN environment programme

GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

THANK YOU!



Patricia MBOTE
UN Environment Programme



Andrea RIZZO
UN Environment Programme



Tina HOČEVAR
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN Office in Geneva



Maryna YANUSH
UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat



Gibrilla KAMARA
Environment Protection Agency, Sierra Leone | Steering Committee member



Sara TUSEVLJAK
Environmental human rights defender | Co-Chair, First European Forum on EHRDs



Alejandro IZA
International Union for Conservation of Nature



Marianna BOLSHAKOVA
UN Environment Programme | Moderator

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In the framework of:

UN environment programme

GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

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BRIEFING

Montevideo Programme V: A Decade of Action on Environmental Law

3 November 2026 | 9:30–11:00 CET
International Environment House 1 & Webex

As part of UNEP Environmental Law Week | 2 - 6 November 2026