

Concept Note and Agenda for Side Event

“Strengthening Environmental Rule of Law through Environmental Law Clinics: Regional Experiences and Global Collaboration under the Montevideo Programme V”

At the margins of the Montevideo Programme Third Global Meeting

6 November 2026 (online via Microsoft Teams)

Event webpage: [Third Global Meeting of National Focal Points – Montevideo Programme V](#)

Registration: [Register for the side event](#)

Background: In recent years, environmental law clinics have increasingly organized themselves through national, regional and global networks. These collaborative initiatives facilitate knowledge exchange, peer learning, joint capacity-building, comparative research and cross-border cooperation. They create new opportunities to strengthen environmental governance while respecting regional diversity, local leadership and context-specific approaches.

Such networks can advance access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters by supporting collaboration and peer exchange in environmental clinical legal education.

Clinical legal education is a vital enabler of environmental rights and access to justice. Environmental law clinics can also serve as important links between communities and legal information, helping communities understand legal developments and potential remedies for environmental harm.

This online side event will explore the role of environmental law clinics in strengthening the environmental rule of law. It will bring together regional experiences and perspectives on environmental law clinics and explore opportunities for knowledge exchange and global collaboration under the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V).

The side event will be held online through Microsoft Teams in English. Presentations will be recorded and made available on the Montevideo Programme V website.

Title	Strengthening Environmental Rule of Law through Environmental Law Clinics: Regional Experiences and Global Collaboration under the Montevideo Programme V
Date & Venue	Friday 6 November 2026 Online via Microsoft Teams
Time	14:00–15:30 EAT (90 minutes) ○ 08:00–09:30 Lima ○ 11:00–12:30 Bangkok ○ 15:00–16:30 Cape Town ○ 16:00–17:30 Nairobi
Objectives	• Strengthen understanding among National Focal Points and other participants of the important role that environmental law clinics play in advancing the objectives of Montevideo Programme V, including by promoting the environmental rule of

	law, strengthening legal capacity, expanding access to environmental justice, fostering environmental legal education, and demonstrating the benefits of networks in supporting and scaling the impact of environmental law clinics. • Demonstrate how emerging global initiatives, such as the Global Network of Environmental Law Clinics (GNELC), can facilitate knowledge exchange, ethical partnerships, comparative research and collaborative responses to transboundary environmental challenges, while respecting regional diversity, local leadership and equitable partnerships. • Inform future collaboration among UNEP's Law Division, National Focal Points and environmental law clinic networks in support of capacity-building, environmental legal education and the implementation of Montevideo Programme V.
Expected Outcomes	• Participants will gain practical insights from diverse regional experiences, demonstrating how universities and environmental law clinics contribute to the implementation of environmental law through community engagement, public-interest legal practice, interdisciplinary collaboration, and partnerships with governments, civil society organisations and local communities. • Participants will identify concrete opportunities for enhanced collaboration among regional environmental law clinic networks while strengthening the foundations of a global community of practice connecting environmental law clinics, National Focal Points, universities, governments, international organisations, and partner institutions. • Environmental law clinics will be further recognised as strategic partners in advancing environmental governance, strengthening the environmental rule of law, supporting the effective implementation of Montevideo Programme V and advancing environmental justice worldwide.
Target audience	The event will target: • Environmental law practitioners, particularly women practitioners; • Montevideo Programme V National Focal Points, with particular emphasis on the Caribbean; • Focal Points for the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, including members of the gender group; and • Other relevant partners and stakeholders interested in environmental legal education, environmental governance and access to environmental justice.
Organizers	• Global Network of Environmental Law Clinics (GNELC) • Alliance of Environmental Law Clinics of Latin America and the Caribbean • Alliance of Environmental Law Clinics and Legal Aid Centres of Asia-Pacific • Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in Africa (ASSELLAU) • UNEP Law Division
Focal Points	Georgina Lloyd Regional Coordinator, Environmental Law and Governance UNEP georgina.lloyd@un.org Catalina Pizarro Legal Officer UNEP catalina.pizarro@un.org

Programme

Time	Session	Speakers
14:00-14:05	Opening Keynote: Environmental Law Clinics as Strategic Partners in Advancing Montevideo Programme V Introduction to the role of environmental law clinics, universities and collaborative regional networks in supporting the implementation of Montevideo Programme V through capacity-building, environmental rule of law, legal education, environmental governance and access to environmental justice.	Georgina Lloyd UNEP Officer / Asia-Pacific Environmental Law Clinics Network
14:05-14:30	First Round – Regional Perspectives Moderator: TBC Guiding Question: How are environmental law clinics contributing to the implementation of Montevideo Programme V by strengthening environmental governance, the environmental rule of law and access to environmental justice in your region? 5 minutes per speaker	Andrea Domínguez – Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú / ALCJA / GNELC – Latin America and the Caribbean David Rossati – GNELC Clearing House System, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam – Europe Prof. Robert Kibugi – University of Nairobi, Kenya – Africa Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio – Professor, University of Cebu School of Law – Asia-Pacific William Piermattei – University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic Program – North America
14:30-14:40	Benefits of Collective Action and Collaboration in Asia-Pacific: Showcase of the Alliance of Environmental Law Clinics and Legal Aid Centres in Asia-Pacific	Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio – Professor, University of Cebu School of Law – Asia-Pacific
14:40-14:50	Benefits of Collective Action and Collaboration in Latin America and the Caribbean: Showcase of the Alliance of Environmental Law Clinics of Latin America and the Caribbean	Joaquin Chacin Environmental Law Clinic Professor, University of Cochabamba, Bolivia
14:50-15:15	Second Round – Strengthening Collaboration Moderator: TBC Guiding Question: How can stronger collaboration among regional environmental law clinic networks, and emerging global initiatives such as the Global Network of Environmental Law Clinics (GNELC),	Joaquin Chacin – Environmental Law Clinic Professor, University of Cochabamba, Bolivia – Latin America and the Caribbean David Rossati – GNELC Clearing House System, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam – Europe

	accelerate the implementation of Montevideo Programme V while respecting regional diversity, local leadership and equitable partnerships? 5 minutes per speaker	Prof. Robert Kibugi – University of Nairobi, Kenya – Africa Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio – Professor, University of Cebu School of Law – Asia-Pacific William Piermattei – University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic Program – North America
15:15-15:25	From Regional Experiences to Global Collaboration: Connecting Environmental Law Clinics through GNELC Introduction to the Global Network of Environmental Law Clinics (GNELC), which facilitates knowledge exchange, ethical partnerships, comparative research and collaborative responses to transboundary environmental challenges while respecting regional diversity, local leadership and equitable partnerships.	Andrea Domínguez – Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú / ALCJA / GNELC David Rossati – GNELC Clearing House System, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
15:25-15:30	Closing Reflections and Next Steps Closing reflections on key messages emerging from the dialogue and opportunities for continued engagement with environmental law clinics and collaborative networks under Montevideo Programme V.	UNEP

Event Format

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