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Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V): delivering for people and the planet
Third global meeting of national focal points
Online, 4 and 5 November 2026
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law: status of implementation, activities and funding

Status of implementation, activities and funding

Report of the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 4/20 of 15 March 2019, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted the Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V),[1] to start on 1 January 2020 and conclude on 31 December 2029. In accordance with paragraph 6 (a) of Montevideo Programme V, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is to serve, within the scope of its current mandate and available resources, as the secretariat for Montevideo Programme V and to perform certain institutional and monitoring functions, including reporting on the implementation, activities and funding of the Programme on a biennial basis.

2. During the second global meeting of national focal points for Montevideo Programme V, held from 3 to 5 June 2024 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the secretariat presented a progress report in accordance with paragraph 6 (a) (x) of the Programme. The present report contains information on the progress made and activities carried out since the previous report of the secretariat on the status of implementation, activities and funding (UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.2/2).[2]

* UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.3/1.

[1] UNEP/EA.4/19, annex I.

[2] The documents for the second global meeting of national focal points are available at https://leap.unep.org/en/about/meetings/second-global-meeting-national-focal-points#meeting-documents.

II. Status of implementation

A. Institutional arrangements

1. National focal points

3. Since the second global meeting of national focal points, the secretariat has made continuous efforts to invite Member States to nominate national focal points, and to keep track of changes in their designations to prevent possible gaps in representation.

4. As of June 2026, 193 national focal points had been designated by 156 Member States, as well as by the European Union, the State of Palestine, the Cook Islands and Niue, with designations received from all United Nations geographical regions.[3] This represents an increase from the 150 national focal point designations that had been made prior to the second global meeting.

2. Steering committee for implementation

5. According to the modalities of work for the steering committee for implementation (UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.1/6, annex), the committee should meet at least once a year, either online or in person. Between March 2024 and June 2026, the committee held six meetings:

(a) The eighth meeting, held in person at the United Nations Office at Nairobi on 3 June 2024, focused on the preparations for the second global meeting of national focal points;

(b) The ninth meeting, held online on 14 November 2024, focused on electing the office bearers of the steering committee for implementation, including the co-chairs and the rapporteur;

(c) The tenth meeting, held online on 4 September 2025, focused on providing updates on the midterm review of Montevideo Programme V and provided an opportunity to gather feedback from the members of the steering committee for implementation;

(d) The eleventh meeting, held online on 4 December 2025, focused on providing an update on the implementation of priority areas, namely, pollution, climate change, biodiversity and cross-cutting thematic support, as well as providing an update on the financial status of the Programme;

(e) The twelfth meeting, held online on 25 February 2026, focused on presenting the new organizational structure of the UNEP Law Division, which is aligned with the thematic priorities of UNEP and those identified by the national focal points under Montevideo Programme V. During the meeting, an update on the organization of the third global meeting of national focal points was provided, including a presentation of the provisional agenda and organization of work, and the steering committee requested the secretariat to conduct outreach to national focal points, including an invitation for expressions of interest to host or finance a third global meeting of national focal points in person;

(f) The thirteenth meeting, held online on 7 May 2026, focused on providing an update on the organization of the third global meeting of national focal points, including the availability of financial resources to host the meeting in person. Since no expressions of interest had been received, the decision was taken to hold the third global meeting online. In preparation for the third global meeting, the steering committee also decided to hold regional online consultations to maintain the regional engagement of national focal points. It was decided that those regional consultations would be led by national focal points and regional representatives of the committee, with the support of the secretariat.

6. Since the previous report, there have been a number of changes in the membership of the steering committee. For Colombia, Alejandra Rodríguez Cortés replaced Daniela Almario Aristizábal, who had replaced María Teresa Becerra Ramírez; for Saint Lucia, Anita Montoute replaced Kate Wilson; for Uganda, Doreen Tumuhaire replaced Sarah Naigaga; and for the United States of America, Patrick Huber replaced Rachel Westrate.

[3] More information is available at https://leap.unep.org/about/nfps.

B. Priority areas for implementation

7. During the reporting period, building on the outcomes of the second global meeting of national focal points and guided by the thematic and cross-cutting areas identified by national focal points and the related priorities,[4] the secretariat and its partners advanced legal responses to address the pollution crisis, to combat the climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis, to enhance access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice, and to strengthen education and capacity-building on environmental law.

8. Following the guidance provided by national focal points at the second global meeting and by the steering committee for implementation, the present progress report sets out an improved approach to the presentation of Montevideo Programme V results. This was done in an effort to present the achievements of the Programme in a more compelling, measurable and verifiable manner that focuses on impact, improves attribution to the Programme and recognizes the contributions of partners and stakeholders to its implementation. Ultimately, the new approach is aimed at enabling national focal points, partners and stakeholders of the Programme to better understand and measure its achievements to date and assess its intended future direction.

9. The annex to the present report provides a comprehensive overview of all the activities carried out under Montevideo Programme V and the related results, clustered according to measurable and verifiable indicators that remain fully aligned with the Programme's nine strategic activities,[5] the implementation guidelines and the priority areas identified by national focal points, while also providing regionally disaggregated data. Several examples of the activities carried out under the Programme are also described below.

10. **Advancing legal responses to address the pollution crisis.** During the reporting period, the Montevideo Programme supported countries in strengthening, developing or implementing legislation on issues such as waste prevention and mismanagement, air pollution and circular economy for plastics. In the period 2024–2026, the Programme responded to technical assistance requests from countries such as Argentina, Azerbaijan, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand and Uzbekistan on air quality governance and legislation; requests from Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Sierra Leone on waste management; requests from Sri Lanka and Trinidad and Tobago on nitrogen management; and a request from Georgia on the development of legislation on single-use plastic products and chemicals.

11. The Programme supported national and regional dialogues, training activities and capacity-building workshops and initiatives, bringing together relevant stakeholders and partners to discuss common challenges, share best practices, foster exchanges of knowledge and advance solutions in the enforcement of legislation to manage pollution and to support the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. Examples included workshops on good legislative and regulatory practices for the sustainable management of e-waste in the Southern African Development Community and the Asia-Pacific region (November 2025); regional dialogues on the environmental aspects of minerals and metals, engaging stakeholders from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and West Asia (October 2025); regional seminars on waste trafficking and circular economy, including in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in the Asia-Pacific region and the Latin American and Caribbean region (May and October 2024); the third annual conference of the Air Quality Central Asia platform (September 2024); the 2026 Better Air Quality Conference (March 2026); and the second World

[4] During the in-person segment of their first global meeting, national focal points identified three core and interlinked thematic areas for the implementation of the Programme, namely legal responses to address the pollution crisis, legal responses to combat the climate crisis, and legal responses to combat the biodiversity crisis, supplemented by the cross-cutting activities of enhancing access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice, and strengthening education and capacity-building on environmental law (UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.1/6/Add.1, annex and appendix I thereto). The secretariat prepared option papers for clearly defined priority areas to combat the biodiversity crisis (UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.2/3) and the climate crisis (UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.2/4), which were presented at the second global meeting. At the request of national focal points, the secretariat also developed implementation road maps for the period 2023–2026, which were discussed and approved by the steering committee at its fifth meeting, in 2023, with a view to supporting the implementation of the identified priority areas. Together, those documents guided the secretariat in the implementation of Montevideo Programme V during the reporting period.

[5] See https://www.unep.org/resources/policy-and-strategy/delivering-people-and-planet-fifth-montevideo-programme-development.

Health Organization (WHO) Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health (March 2025), along with a multitude of other workshops and events on air quality law and governance.

12. The Programme also supported the creation of guidance documents, materials and capacity-building tools (e.g. reports, studies and other knowledge products) on waste management and air pollution, including emerging and innovative compliance mechanisms. Those resources included the Law and Air Quality Toolkit (currently in its pilot phase), a global resource to assist national lawmakers and policymakers in developing or improving ambient air quality legislation; and the report entitled "Supporting the transition to a sustainable textile value chain: the role of environmental permitting systems" (February 2026), which examines how environmental permitting systems regulate environmental impacts across textile value chain activities.

13. Through the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA) e-learning platform,[6] the Programme also launched the e-learning course entitled "Lead paint: reformulation is entirely possible" (June 2026), equipping manufacturers, policymakers and small and medium-sized enterprises with practical knowledge for the transition to lead-free paints, as well as three e-learning courses to support the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

14. The Programme also participated in or provided substantive and procedural support to relevant intergovernmental bodies and processes, including the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment; the process of establishing the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution; the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia; and the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against Antimicrobial Resistance.

15. **Advancing legal responses to combat the climate crisis.** During the reporting period, the Programme supported countries in strengthening, developing and implementing legislation or regulations to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including with regard to issues such as climate legislation, carbon markets and renewable energy. In the period 2024–2026, the Programme responded to technical assistance requests from Kenya, Mozambique, Pakistan and other countries on the development of carbon markets legislation and regulations; from Viet Nam on updating regulations on forest carbon sequestration and storage services; from Botswana, Seychelles, Thailand and Zimbabwe on the development of climate change legislation; and from Malawi on renewable energy development.

16. The Programme supported national and regional dialogues, training activities, capacity-building workshops and initiatives, bringing together relevant stakeholders and partners, including legal professionals, judges, prosecutors, practitioners, parliamentarians and enforcement officials to advance national climate governance, promote youth engagement in climate action and address issues such as climate justice, methane emissions and just transitions. Examples included the Model Forest Act Initiative round table and consultations, organized jointly by UNEP, the Asian Development Bank Institute and the Asian Development Bank in September 2025 with a view to advancing climate action by modernizing forest laws, strengthening conservation and restoration efforts and integrating forest governance into broader environmental, social and economic priorities; the Youth Forum on Climate Protection (October 2024), organized in partnership with the children and youth major group; the Leader and Executive Training Workshop on Climate Justice and Environmental Law, organized jointly with the Ministry of Justice and the People's Supreme Court of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (February 2025) and as part of the Judicial Services Training, Institutions and Capacity Enhancement (JuSTICE) project, which resulted in strengthened institutional capacity to enhance and implement environmental rule of law; the Pacific Climate Justice and Sea-Level Rise Week, organized jointly by UNEP and the Government of Vanuatu, the Pacific Community, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (May 2026); and meetings of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, including the first Parliamentary Climate Action Forum on Methane Emissions and the meeting of the Parliamentary Alliance for Climate Action and a Just Transition held in June 2026.

[6] https://elearning.informea.org/.

17. Montevideo Programme V also supported the creation of guidance documents, materials and capacity-building tools (e.g. reports, studies and other knowledge products). These included the Law and Climate Change Toolkit, which is available on the UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform and continues to serve as the basis for several capacity-building initiatives in the context of climate change; and the report entitled *Climate Litigation Report 2025: Climate Change in the Courtroom – Trends, Impacts and Emerging Lessons* (September 2025), which provides an authoritative resource to help interested parties understand the current state of global climate litigation and global trends.

18. The Programme also participated in and provided procedural support to relevant intergovernmental bodies and processes, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

19. **Advancing legal responses to combat the biodiversity crisis.** During the reporting period, the Programme supported countries in strengthening, developing and implementing legislation on issues such as biosafety, wildlife conservation and crimes that affect the environment, and in acceding to and implementing the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction. In the period 2024–2026, the Programme responded to technical assistance requests from Burundi, the Dominican Republic, Gabon, Guinea, Morocco, Saint Lucia, Seychelles and other countries on drafting national biosafety laws to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity; from India and Somalia on accession to and implementation of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction; from Kuwait on the development of a national strategic plan to combat desertification to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; and from Cambodia and Malaysia on community protected areas and wildlife conservation, respectively.

20. The Programme supported national and regional dialogues, training activities, capacity-building workshops and initiatives, bringing together relevant stakeholders and partners, including legal professionals, judges, prosecutors, practitioners, parliamentarians and enforcement officials, to tackle issues such as biodiversity, wildlife and forest crimes, the prevention of zoonotic diseases, the implementation of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, and the protection of human rights defenders. Examples included training events on crimes that affect the environment involving information and communications technologies for prosecutors, investigators and environment ministry officials in Guatemala (September 2024), conducted in partnership with UNODC; training on the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction for national focal points for Montevideo Programme V, organized by UNEP on the margins of the second global meeting of national focal points (June 2024); an event entitled “From principles to practice: how the Core Principles can help advance the rights and safety of environmental human rights defenders” (March 2025), organized by UNEP and the Economic Commission for Europe at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) in order to promote the Core Human Rights Principles for Private Conservation Organizations and Funders, the development of which was facilitated by UNEP; and the Judicial Colloquium on Adjudication of Cases related to Damage to Nature, which brought together more than 20 senior justices to exchange perspectives on challenges, good practices and innovative tools for adjudicating damage to nature, including SireneJud and the BIOVAL project (June 2026).

21. The Programme also supported the development of a guidance document entitled “Key entry points for cooperation and collaboration amongst MEAs” (August 2024) in preparation for the Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

22. The Programme also participated in and provided substantive and procedural support to relevant intergovernmental bodies and processes, including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention).

23. **Enhancing access rights and other cross-cutting issues.** During the reporting period, the Programme supported countries in strengthening environmental rule of law and advancing environmental justice. In the period 2024–2026, the Programme responded to many technical assistance requests, including from Cameroon on revising its framework environmental law; from China and Kenya on building the capacities of the judiciary; from Uzbekistan for support in its accession to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and in the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution; from Mexico for support in the organization of a judicial summit on access to justice; from Uganda regarding synergies between chemicals management and national biodiversity strategies and action plans; and from the Philippines for the development and enforcement of a manual of operations consolidating enforcement procedures on issues such as forestry, land, biodiversity, protected areas, mining, and waste and pollution management.

24. The Programme supported national and regional dialogues, training activities, capacity-building workshops and initiatives, bringing together government representatives, secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations entities, supreme courts, judges, academics, researchers and training institutions, as well as civil society and non-governmental organizations, to advance environmental rule of law and environmental justice, to support the national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and to address issues such as synergies, just transitions, human rights and environmental rights, green customs and emerging issues. Examples included training activities and regional judicial dialogues on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for government officials and other stakeholders in the African and Asia-Pacific regions (2024–2026); events targeting legal professionals in the Pacific region on key environmental law theories and trends, including on strategic litigation against public participation and on the "polluter pays" principle (October and November 2024); judicial dialogues and training activities on environmental rule of law, green development, rights-based governance and climate resilience in the Asia-Pacific region (2024–2025); meetings of the Green Customs Initiative and its Operation Demeter XI (2024–2025); a workshop on policy coherence for environmental governance in the climate-nature nexus for Pacific and small island developing States (May 2025); expert consultations on human rights and the environment in Africa (July 2025); the fourth Asia-Pacific Environmental Human Rights Defenders Forum (October 2025); and the first European Forum on Environmental Human Rights Defenders, organized by the Council of Europe and supported by UNEP (June 2026).

25. The Programme also supported the creation of guidance documents, materials and capacity-building tools (e.g. reports, studies and other knowledge products). These included the report entitled *The Right to a Healthy Environment in Practice: A Decade Before the Courts (2015–2025)* (October 2025); the "Methodology handbook for SDG indicator 17.14.1: number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development", produced in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (April 2026); and the white paper entitled "From silos to synergies: linking planning, finance, and monitoring for coherent action on climate, biodiversity, and land" (November 2025).

26. The Programme also participated in and provided substantive and procedural support to relevant intergovernmental bodies and processes, including the tenth special session and the twentieth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, and the Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

27. **Education and capacity-building.** During the reporting period, the Programme continued to benefit from a long-standing partnership with the University of Eastern Finland as a co-organizer of an annual course on multilateral environmental agreements. The course reached its twentieth anniversary in 2026 and continues to make a meaningful contribution to education on environmental law and governance worldwide. In addition, the Programme's engagement with environmental law clinics reached new heights, with support provided to the following initiatives: the launch of the Asia-Pacific Environmental Law Clinics Alliance, in partnership with the University of Cebu; the fifth meeting of the Alliance of Environmental Legal Clinics of Latin America and the Caribbean; the seventh Conference of the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in Middle East and North African Universities, under the theme "Environmental law in a digital age"; and the launch and operationalization of the first Global Network of Environmental Law Clinics, in partnership with the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

28. Notwithstanding the thematic and cross-cutting areas identified by national focal points and the related priorities, countries may still request support on any matter related to environmental law, including emerging issues, that is aligned with the vision and objectives of the Programme. This is in

accordance with paragraph 5 (a) of the Programme, under which activities of the Programme must respond to the needs and priorities of countries.

C. Enabling conditions for implementation

1. Partnerships and stakeholder engagement

29. Pursuant to paragraph 4 (e) of Montevideo Programme V, one of the Programme's strategic activities is to support collaboration and the promotion of partnerships across the United Nations and with other relevant entities, including civil society organizations, in the field of environmental law. During their first global meeting, national focal points highlighted the need to strengthen this area of work and tasked the secretariat with preparing a draft strategy on partnerships and stakeholder engagement. In response, the strategy was prepared through a comprehensive process and ultimately adopted by the steering committee at its seventh meeting, in February 2024, in the lead-up to the second global meeting (UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.2/5, para. 1).[7]

30. The Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy has promoted a more structured and systematic engagement of partners and stakeholders in the implementation of the Programme, establishing a framework for inclusive collaboration, knowledge exchange and the transparent engagement of partners and stakeholders in the Programme's delivery. Expressly emphasizing guiding principles and modalities of engagement, as well as providing examples of roles and responsibilities for partners and stakeholders, the Strategy has enabled them to provide expertise, knowledge, innovation, practical experience, perspectives and networks that have been instrumental in the Programme's delivery.

31. The Strategy has also enabled the Programme to expand its overall reach and impact through greater awareness and dissemination of its activities and results at all levels. With outreach support provided by the secretariat, as of June 2026, the Programme benefited from a network of around 365 partners and stakeholders who operate in the field of environmental law and governance and are regularly involved in the Programme's implementation and awareness-raising activities.

32. The annex to the present report provides a comprehensive overview of all activities pertinent to partnerships and stakeholder engagement carried out during the reporting period. Examples of how partners and stakeholders have been engaged in the implementation of the Programme include the following:

(a) **Advancing legal responses to address the pollution crisis.** Under the work of the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WHO and the World Organization for Animal Health, Montevideo Programme V contributed to a global response to antimicrobial resistance, convening multi-stakeholder consultations that contributed to the revision of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, subsequently adopted by the seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, held in May 2026;

(b) In partnership with the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Aarhus Convention and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the Programme organized workshops to build the capacities of national experts, including national focal points for the Montevideo Programme and multilateral environmental agreements, policymakers and United Nations country teams, to implement and comply with multilateral environmental agreements across the following regions and subregions: Africa (October 2024, November 2024, March 2025 and November 2025); Latin America and the Caribbean (October 2024); Central Asia (June 2025); and Asia and the Pacific (November 2025). Moreover, in the framework of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, and in collaboration with the partners of the Inter-Organization Programme, Montevideo Programme V contributed to the development of guidance on chemicals management legislation that promoted practical "leapfrogging" approaches to strengthen national legal and institutional frameworks for chemicals management, in support of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;

(c) **Advancing legal responses to combat the climate crisis.** The Programme partnered with the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament and its Parliamentary Alliance for Climate Action and a Just Transition to strengthen regional parliamentary cooperation on climate action. Those efforts included supporting the development of a draft parliamentary charter for climate action and

[7] The documents for the second global meeting of national focal points are available at https://leap.unep.org/en/about/meetings/second-global-meeting-national-focal-points#meeting-documents.

sustainability for Latin America and the Caribbean, which was submitted to the Executive Board of the Parliament for consideration and potential adoption by the end of 2026;

(d) In partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Programme strengthened parliamentary leadership to engage in climate action, design climate change legislation and advance the implementation of nationally determined contributions. Activities to that end included global capacity-building support through the workshop entitled "Empowering parliamentarians to implement NDCs and advance the climate agenda at the national level" (Geneva, 18 October 2024); national-level training events on strengthening the capacities to develop a robust and coordinated enhanced transparency framework in Seychelles (online, 17 April 2026; Victoria, 27–30 April 2026); and awareness-raising through the event entitled "Strengthening parliamentary leadership for the realization of NDCs", held at the IPU Parliamentary Meeting during the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (Belém, Brazil, 14 November 2025);

(e) **Advancing legal responses to combat the biodiversity crisis.** The Programme partnered with UNODC and FAO under the European Union-funded Safety across Asia for the Global Environment (SAFE) project, supporting the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam with legal and policy advice to strengthen regulatory frameworks governing the licensing and management of wildlife facilities. The project, which concluded in the second half of 2024, strengthened awareness and capacities to address zoonotic disease risks through improved licensing, management, and biosafety and biosecurity measures, while providing a model that can be replicated in other countries and jurisdictions;

(f) The Programme also partnered with IPU to engage parliamentarians in the African region in combating land degradation, desertification and drought (October 2024); with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources to engage judges and justice sector practitioners from Latin America and the Caribbean in biodiversity protection through environmental rule of law (June 2026); and with the secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species to support the review of national legislation in the context of the National Legislation Programme through a global workshop on relevant legislation targeting legal professionals from 21 countries (June 2025);

(g) **Enhancing access rights and other cross-cutting issues.** Through its long-standing collaboration with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, Montevideo Programme V has continued to support regional efforts to promote rights-based approaches to environmental governance and access to environmental justice across South-East Asia. In particular, the Programme's support for the Commission's Environmental Rights Working Group in the development of the ASEAN Declaration on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment finally culminated in the adoption of the Declaration by ASEAN leaders at the forty-seventh ASEAN Summit, held in October 2025. Since then, the Programme's collaboration with the Commission has continued to support the implementation of the Declaration, including through contributions to the development of a regional plan of action;

(h) Under Montevideo Programme V, moreover, UNEP has concluded or renewed memorandums of understanding with a number of strategic partners, including IPU, the Council of Europe and the Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Procuratorate of China. Some of the results achieved under those partnerships include the development of the Human Rights Education for Youth training course on the environment, in cooperation with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, for young people from Europe, Africa and the Middle East (3–30 November 2025); the organization of the first European Forum on Environmental Human Rights Defenders (Strasbourg, France, 3 and 4 June 2026), in partnership with the Council; the 2026 Judges Training Week and the International Workshop on Judicial Services for Green and Low-carbon Transition and Development (Hangzhou, China, 23–25 June 2026), in partnership with the Supreme People's Court; and a round table on the role of prosecutors in global environmental governance (Beijing, 9 June 2026), in partnership with the Supreme People's Procuratorate. In the future, those partnerships will continue to advance cooperation across a range of areas, including the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, crimes that affect the environment, the protection of environmental human rights defenders, nature-based solutions, access to justice and human rights-based approaches, environmental adjudication and environmental public interest litigation.

2. Digital services through the Law and Environment Assistance Platform

33. The UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform comprises three interconnected substantive sections: (a) technical assistance, which includes a clearing-house mechanism for countries

to request technical assistance connected to the core objectives of Montevideo Programme V and a public activity tracker which, together, facilitate the management, assessment and monitoring of those requests; (b) a knowledge base facilitating public access to information on environmental law and governance; and (c) country profiles featuring information on environmental law.

34. The Platform provides access to more than 220,000 legislative and case-law records, alongside toolkits, guidance documents, model laws, publications and reports, e-learning courses and tools and resources from partners. In terms of user engagement, in the period from 1 March 2024 to 30 June 2026, the Platform recorded more than 3.5 million users, with 31 per cent of user sessions classified as "engaged".[8] The main audience countries were the United States of America, Brazil, India, Iraq and Bangladesh. The figures do not include automated traffic detected during the reporting period. Beyond the thematic toolkits, the most frequently consulted resources on the Platform were the legislation and case-law collections, followed by the search and country profile pages.

35. Maintenance issues and structural limitations observed during the reporting period, however, have prevented the Platform from operating fully as intended. Issues encountered include inconsistent evolutionary maintenance of the Platform, compounded by a lack of dedicated staffing from the secretariat and a lack of financial resources to support its back-end functions; malfunctions in the public activity tracker, which have also prevented the secretariat from adequately acknowledging and responding to requests for assistance; and a lack of systematic publicization of capacity-building events and training activities organized under the Programme, which would have otherwise ensured more consistent tracking and outcome dissemination.

36. Subject to the availability of resources, the secretariat intends to continue to update and improve the Platform in terms of design, structure and content, including aligning it with the broader UNEP digital transformation agenda. In this regard, data held on the Platform have been used to support related UNEP knowledge and tracking products, illustrating the value of interoperability across the organization's digital tools, such as InforMEA. Priorities for the further development, enhancement and maintenance of the Platform have been identified and costed.

III. Resource mobilization and status of funding of Montevideo Programme V

37. One of the functions of UNEP, in its role as the secretariat of Montevideo Programme V, is to seek to procure appropriate funding for the implementation of activities under the Programme, for the associated costs of meetings of national focal points and of the steering committee for implementation, and for other related costs, including through the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy.[9]

38. The secretariat continuously strives to implement the strategy and mobilize the necessary resources for the implementation of activities, in continued consultation with the steering committee for implementation. To that end, the secretariat has developed a clear funding needs assessment for the Programme, based on the priority areas for implementation identified by national focal points; it has also developed and disseminated information materials highlighting the comparative advantages and key achievements of Montevideo Programme V, as well as uploading fact sheets and other communication tools targeting national focal points, partners and donors to the UNEP website or the Law and Environment Assistance Platform;[10] it has increased efforts in building relationships with a range of donors through meetings, consultations and the sharing of information with actors such as private foundations and development banks; it has established a clear and coordinated approach to resource mobilization within UNEP offices and among partners, facilitated by the preparation of programmatic documents co-created with other UNEP divisions and offices, as well as secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements; and it has ensured that resource mobilization efforts are consistent with UNEP-wide policies and procedures, including in relation to partners and stakeholder engagement.

[8] An engaged session is one in which the visitor remained on the Platform beyond a minimum threshold, viewed multiple pages or actively interacted with content, indicating meaningful use rather than an immediate exit.

[9] At their first global meeting, national focal points invited the secretariat to develop a resource mobilization strategy for Montevideo Programme V (UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.1/6/Add.1, annex, para. 5), which was later discussed by the steering committee for implementation in March 2023. The strategy is available at https://leap.unep.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/EN_3.pdf.

[10] See https://www.unep.org/topics/environmental-law-and-governance/promoting-environmental-rule-law/montevideo-environmental.

39. Through those efforts, the secretariat has broadened and diversified the funding for the Montevideo trust fund[11] as well as extrabudgetary resources to support the implementation of the Programme. Since the previous report on the status of implementation, activities and funding, the trust fund has received new contributions from the German Agency for International Cooperation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Ford Foundation. In addition, extrabudgetary contributions have been received to support the Programme. Contributors include the European Commission, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Japan, Switzerland, the Partnership Action Fund, the Global Environment Facility, UNODC, the United Nations Development Account, the Environment Fund and the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention.

40. In 2025, global funding constraints, which also affected UNEP, had a significant impact on the financial and human resources available to support Montevideo Programme V activities and related secretariat functions. UNEP has nevertheless made every effort to maintain adequate staffing to support the continuation of activities under the Programme and to perform its secretariat functions, including by securing contributions from Member States for human resources (e.g. Junior Professional Officers).

41. According to the funding needs assessment for the implementation of thematic and cross-cutting areas included in the resource mobilization strategy, the indicative programmatic and secretariat costs of implementing Montevideo Programme V from 2022 to 2029 are still estimated at $38,108,652.[12]

42. Up to June 2026, the Programme funded activities and the programme personnel costs of the secretariat through the general trust fund for the core activities of Montevideo Programme V and other extrabudgetary contributions in a total amount of $12,845,878. Of that sum, 11 per cent came from the trust fund and 89 per cent from extrabudgetary funds. With regard to the use of extrabudgetary funds, 73 per cent were used for programmatic activities and 16 per cent, from the Environment Fund, for the personnel costs of the secretariat. Based on an assessment by the secretariat of the current funding performance trends, achieving the full funding estimate to deliver the planned programme results by 2029 will require the programme to raise financial resources of $25,262,774, or $7,217,935 each year. If those resource needs are not met, the secretariat may need to review the scale of the Programme's activities in the light of the current level of financial resources, in continued consultation with the steering committee for implementation.

43. In collaboration with national focal points and members of the steering committee for implementation, the secretariat will continue to strive to increase resources and find more sustained financing modalities to implement activities under the Programme. To that end, the secretariat continues to encourage and welcome additional voluntary contributions from Governments, including through the efforts of national focal points, the private sector, foundations and other entities.

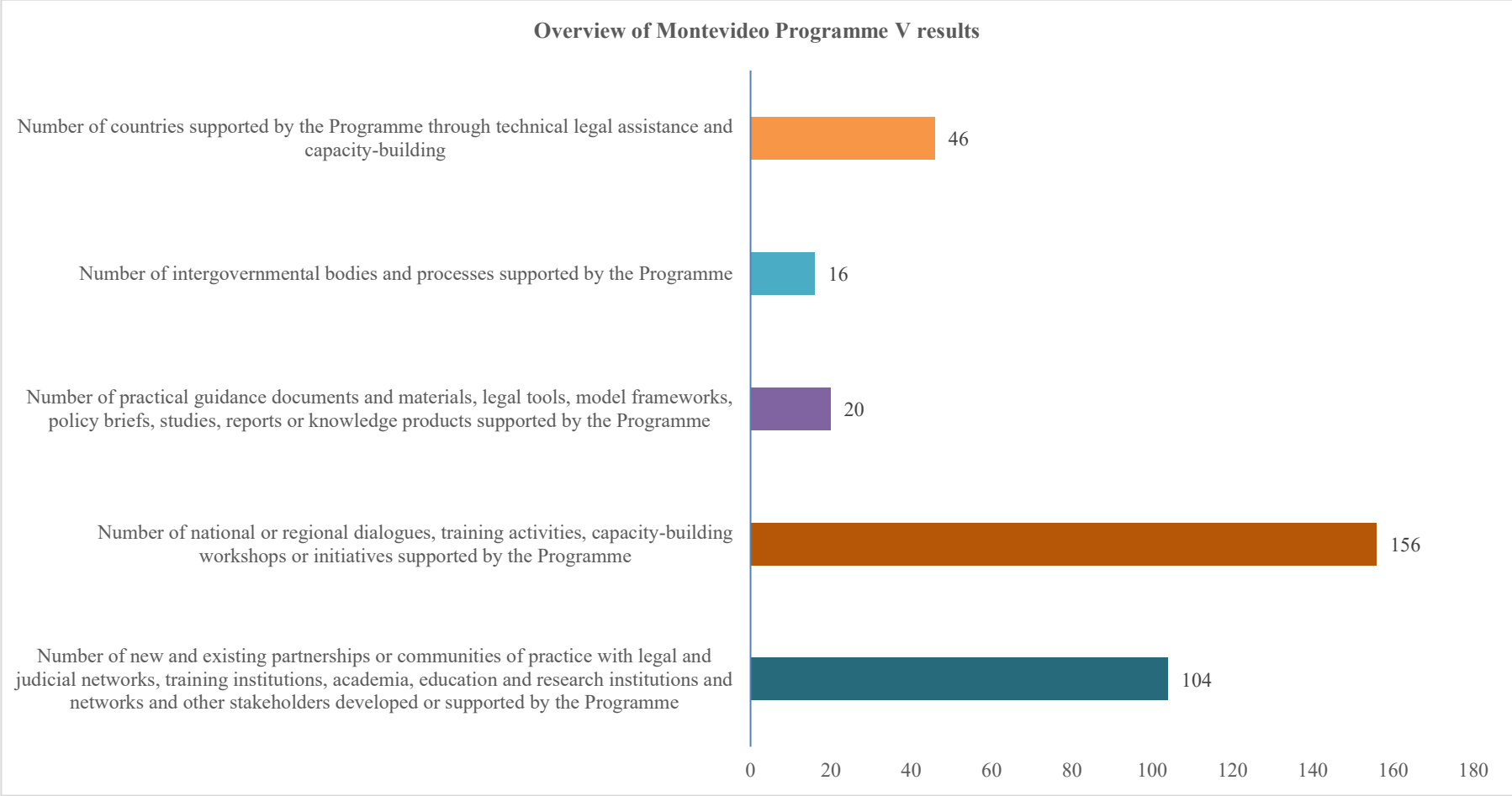
[11] In accordance with its mandate under the Programme (UNEP/EA.4/19, annex I, para. 6 (a) (xi)), in September 2021 the secretariat established a trust fund for the core activities of the Programme (the Montevideo trust fund), which became operational in May 2022.

[12] The estimate may vary depending on the requests received from countries for assistance and activities related to the institutional arrangements for the Programme (e.g. regional meetings of national focal points). The estimate includes programmatic costs (e.g. technical assistance, guidance materials) anticipated on the basis of the priorities for implementation to be identified during the global meetings of national focal points.

Annex

Overview of progress in advancing the priority areas for implementation of Montevideo Programme V and related activities (1 March 2024–30 June 2026)[1]

I. Overall results



[1] Where available, hyperlinks with evidence are provided for certain categories of results.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="5">Overall number of countries supported by the Programme through technical legal assistance and capacity-building</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Total number: 46</td></tr>
<tr><td>Regional and country breakdown</td><td>African States: 19
Botswana
Burundi
Cameroon
Côte d’Ivoire
Eswatini
Gabon
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Kenya
Malawi
Morocco
Mozambique
Nigeria
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Somalia
Uganda
Zimbabwe</td><td>Asia-Pacific States: 18
Azerbaijan
Cambodia
China
India
Indonesia
Kazakhstan
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People’s Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam</td><td>Eastern European States: 1
Georgia</td><td>Latin American and Caribbean States: 8
Argentina
Chile
Dominican Republic
Guatemala
Mexico
Panama
Saint Lucia
Trinidad and Tobago</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Overall number of national or regional dialogues, training activities, capacity-building workshops and initiatives supported by the Programme</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Total number: 156</td></tr>
<tr><td>Regional breakdown</td><td>African States: 23</td><td>Asia-Pacific States: 63</td><td>Latin American and Caribbean States: 24</td><td>Global: 46</td></tr>
</table>

II. Thematic area 1: legal responses to address the pollution crisis

Development, strengthening and implementation of legal and institutional frameworks
Montevideo Programme V strategic activities supported: (a), (b), (c), (d), (i)

Indicator: Number of countries supported by the Programme through technical legal assistance and capacity-building

Total number: *17*

Regional and country breakdown

African States: 6 countries

- **Côte d'Ivoire**: support for the development of environmental policy, extended producer responsibility and air quality management (2024)
- **Ghana**: support for the development of industrial and consumer chemicals regulations (2025)
- **Guinea-Bissau**: support for legislative and institutional reform on waste management (2025–2026)
- **Malawi**: support for the development of a legal and institutional framework for the housing sector (2025)
- **Nigeria**: support for legal and institutional reform on integrated environmental permitting systems and waste management (2025–2026)
- **Sierra Leone:** support for legislative and institutional reform on waste management (2025–2026)

Asia-Pacific States: 6 countries

- **Azerbaijan**: support for legislative reform on air quality (2024)
- **Kazakhstan**: support for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and accession to the Minamata Convention (2025)
- **Kyrgyzstan**: support for the development of legal frameworks for effective air quality governance (2025)
- **Sri Lanka**: support for the development of a national action plan on nitrogen (2025)
- **Thailand**: support for the development of an air quality management and pollution law (2024 and 2026)
- **Uzbekistan**: support for legal frameworks for effective air quality governance (2025)

Eastern European States: 1 country

- **Georgia**: support for the development of legislation on single-use plastic products and on a draft code on chemicals (2026)

Latin American and Caribbean States: 4 countries

- **Argentina**: support for the development of air quality governance legislation (2024)
- **Dominican Republic**: support for air quality governance (2025–2026)
- **Guatemala**: support for development of legislation on ambient air quality management, stationary sources, and vehicle emission standards (2024–2025)
- **Trinidad and Tobago**: support for development of a national action plan on nitrogen (2025)

Indicator: Number of intergovernmental bodies and processes related to pollution supported by the Programme

Total number: *4*

- **Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment**: continuous support in matters of substantive and procedural law, including during its fourth session (Ottawa, Canada, 23–29 April 2024) and the first, second and third parts of its fifth session (Busan, Republic of Korea, 25 November–1 December 2024; Geneva, 5–14 August 2025; Geneva, 7 February 2026)
- **Support for the process of establishing the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution:** continuous support in matters of procedural law, including during the first and second parts of the third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution (Geneva, 17–21 June 2024; Punta del Este, Uruguay, 15–18 June 2025); the intergovernmental meeting to establish the panel (Punta del Este, Uruguay, 19 and 20 June 2025); and the first plenary session of the Panel (Geneva, 2–6 February 2026)
- **Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia:** continuous support in matters of procedural law, including during the twenty-sixth session of the Intergovernmental Meeting of the Network (Kuala Lumpur, 27 and 28 November 2024, in hybrid format); the twenty-fifth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Network (Vientiane, 20–22 October 2025, in hybrid format); and the twenty-seventh session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (Bangkok, 27 and 28 November 2025)
- **Independent Panel on Evidence for Action Against Antimicrobial Resistance**: continuous legal advising on the process of establishing a new expert panel on antimicrobial resistance by the Quadripartite organizations (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)

Research, information and knowledge production and dissemination, including emerging issues

Montevideo Programme V strategic activities supported: (a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (h)

Indicator: Number of practical guidance documents and materials, legal tools, model frameworks, policy briefs, studies, reports or knowledge products supported by the Programme

Total number: *8*

- 2024: *Turning the Tide: A Look into the European Union-to-Southeast Asia Waste Trafficking Wave*, published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UNEP under the project entitled "Unwaste: tackling waste trafficking to support a circular economy" (link)
- 2024: *Legal Frameworks to Address Waste Trafficking in the ASEAN Region: Review and Gap Analysis*, published by UNODC and UNEP under the "Unwaste" project (link)
- 2025: Law and Air Quality Toolkit, published by UNEP on the Law and Environment Assistance Platform (link)
- 2025: Issue note entitled "Safeguarding space: environmental issues, risks and responsibilities", published by UNEP and the Office for Outer Space Affairs (link)
- 2026: *Supporting the Transition to a Sustainable Textile Value Chain: The Role of Environmental Permitting Systems*, published by UNEP (link)
- 2026: E-learning course entitled "Lead paint: reformulation is entirely possible", published by UNEP on the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA) e-learning platform (link)
- 2026: Three e-learning courses to support the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, published by UNEP and the secretariat of the conventions on the InforMEA e-learning platform (link)
- 2026: "Leapfrogging guidance on chemicals regulation", developed by UNEP (internal, for use in pilot cases)

Awareness-raising, training and capacity-building

Montevideo Programme V strategic activities supported: (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), (i)

Indicator: Number of national or regional dialogues, training activities, capacity-building workshops or initiatives supported by the Programme

Total number: *30*

Regional breakdown	**African States**: 4	**Asia-Pacific States**: 11	**Latin American and Caribbean States**: 6	**Global**: 9

2024

- Workshop on strengthening the capacities for air quality and health management in Central America and the Dominican Republic, targeting country representatives of the Central American Integration System, including Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, organized by the UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition (Medellín, Colombia, 12–14 March 2024) (link)
- Workshop on law and regulation for air quality management, with support provided by UNEP to the Pollution Control Department of Thailand, and bilateral engagements with the Governments of Indonesia and Singapore to review the draft Clean Air Act of Thailand (Bangkok, 27–29 March 2024) (link)
- Second in-person joint regional event for the "Unwaste" project: second joint regional meeting in South-East Asia, organized by UNODC and UNEP (Jakarta, 28–31 May 2024) (link)
- Side event on air quality good governance: facilitating access to procedural rights and access to justice for clean air, organized by UNEP on the margins of the second global meeting of national focal points for Montevideo Programme V (Nairobi, 3 June 2024) (link)
- Dialogue on strengthening the legislative response to air pollution, engaging parliamentarians of Thailand, organized by UNEP in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) (Bangkok, 19 July 2024)
- Webinar series on air quality and health to enhance capacities for air quality management and pollution health risk assessment in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, organized by UNEP and the Pan American Health Organization (online, 7 August–3 November 2024) (link)
- Third Air Quality Central Asia Conference, supported by UNEP with a presentation on the Law and Air Quality Toolkit (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 19 and 20 September 2024) (link)
- Regional workshop on the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal in the African region, organized by UNEP and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (Johannesburg, South Africa, 14–18 October 2024) (link)
- Regional workshop on legislative frameworks, illegal traffic and trade of hazardous chemicals and waste for Spanish-speaking countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region, organized by UNEP and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, with support from the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre in Panama (Santo Domingo, 29–31 October 2024) (link)

2025

- Regional technical seminar on waste trafficking and the circular economy, organized by UNODC and UNEP (Kuala Lumpur, January 2025) (link)
- Seventh East African Communications Organization Regional Awareness Conference on Sustainable E-Waste Management, organized by the East African Communications Organization and supported by UNEP (Nairobi, 24–26 March 2025) (link)
- Nineteenth annual course on multilateral environmental agreements: "One atmosphere: climate change, air pollution and ozone depletion", organized by UNEP and the University of Eastern Finland (Bangkok, 24 March–3 April 2025) (link)
- Second WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, supported by UNEP with a session on the theme "Legislation: planning and enforcing standards for health protection" (Cartagena, Colombia, 25–27 March 2025) (link)
- Subregional workshop on advancing the effective implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in Central Asia: promoting synergies and rights-based approaches to combat pollution, organized by UNEP and the Economic Commission for Europe in partnership with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 17–19 June 2025) (link)

- Event entitled “International Parliamentary Inquiry – Southeast Asia: Inquiry on the Impacts of Open Burning on the Environment and Local Communities”, organized by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Parliamentarians for Human Rights and supported by UNEP (Bangkok, 1 August 2025)
- Launch of the Law and Air Quality Toolkit in celebration of the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies 2025: “Accelerating clean air action: new tools for 2025 and beyond”, organized by the UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition (online, 7 September 2025) (link)
- Three regional dialogues on the environmental aspects of minerals and metals, engaging stakeholders from Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, Asia and the Pacific, West Asia, Africa and Europe, organized by UNEP (online, 27–29 October 2025) (link)
- Regional workshop on good legislative and regulatory practices for the environmentally sound management of e-waste in ASEAN member States, organized by UNEP and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (Bangkok, 11 and 12 November 2025) (link)
- Webinar on strengthening air quality legislation and governance, aimed at harmonizing the legislation of Latin America and the Caribbean with human rights standards, regional commitments and international best practices, organized by UNEP and the Clean Air Institute (online, 24 and 26 November 2025) (link)
- Regional workshop on good legislative and regulatory practices for the sustainable management of e-waste in Southern African Development Community countries, organized by UNEP in collaboration with the Africa Institute for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Pretoria, South Africa, 25 and 26 November 2025) (link)

2026

- Event entitled “Keeping the air we breathe safe”, organized by the Geneva Environment Network and supported by UNEP (Geneva and online, 9 March 2026) (link)
- 2026 Better Air Quality Conference, supported by UNEP with a session on national action to implement clean air and human rights in the Asia-Pacific region (Bangkok, 13 March 2026) (link)
- Training programme on environmental justice for Thai lawyers, enforcement officials and judges, with a focus on pollution law, organized by UNEP in partnership with the Thailand Institute of Justice and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (Thailand, 24–27 March 2026) (link)
- Technical round table to review the draft environmental technical regulation for the control of atmospheric pollutant emissions from stationary sources under public consultation, organized by UNEP with the Clean Air Institute and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo, 27 April 2026) (link)
- Seventeenth session of the Expert Group on Resource Management, organized by the Economic Commission for Europe and supported by UNEP with a presentation on “Principles to practice: implementing CETM-aligned strategies” (Geneva, 29 April 2026) (link)
- Regional webinar on regulatory compliance and the implementation of best available techniques and best environmental practices in the textile sector under the Stockholm Convention, organized by UNEP in collaboration with the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA), and in cooperation with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, under the Global Environment Facility project “Reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including POPs, in the textiles sector” (online, 11 May 2026) (link)
- Virtual information session on the United Nations Secretary-General’s Task Force on Critical Energy Transition Minerals, co-organized by UNEP, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and UNDP (online, 18 May 2026)
- Two stakeholder consultations on proposed legal reforms for waste management, including measures relating to the informal waste sector, organized by UNEP in Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau (Freetown, 11–14 May 2026; Bissau, 19–21 May 2026) (link; link)
- Twentieth annual course on multilateral environmental agreements: “Critical energy transition minerals”, organized by UNEP and the University of Eastern Finland (Helsinki, 1–10 June 2026) (link)
- Capacity-building activity for officials of the Ministry of the Environment of Guatemala on used vehicle import controls and air quality, organized by UNEP (online, 19 June 2026)

Indicator: Number of new and existing partnerships or communities of practice with legal and judicial networks, training institutions and other stakeholders developed or supported by the Programme

Total number: *16*

List of partnerships or communities of practice

United Nations system entities and multilateral environmental agreements

- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- Economic Commission for Europe
- Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- UNODC

International and regional organizations

- ASEAN
- ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights
- East African Communications Organization
- IPU
- Pan American Health Organization
- WHO
- WOAH
- World Meteorological Organization

Academia or training institutions

- University of Eastern Finland

Other stakeholders

- Clean Air Institute
- Climate and Clean Air Coalition

For further information on activities engaging partners and stakeholders, refer to the previous sections.

III. Thematic area 2: legal responses to combat the climate crisis

Development, strengthening and implementation of legal and institutional frameworks

Montevideo Programme V strategic activities supported: (a), (b), (c), (d), (i)

Indicator: Number of countries supported by the Programme through technical legal assistance and capacity-building

Total number: *13*

Regional and country breakdown

African States: 6 countries

- **Botswana**: support for the development of climate change legislation (2025)
- **Kenya**: support for the development of carbon markets regulation (2025)
- **Malawi**: capacity-building support regarding environmental governance in renewable energy development (2026)
- **Mozambique**: support for the development of a carbon markets decree (2026)
- **Seychelles**: support for the implementation of its nationally determined contribution and the development of climate policies (2025–2026)
- **Zimbabwe**: support for the drafting of a climate change management bill (2024–2025)

Asia-Pacific States: 6 countries

- **Lao People's Democratic Republic**: capacity-building support for government officials through the Leader and Executive Training Workshop on Climate Justice and Environmental Law (2025)
- **Pakistan**: support for the development of carbon markets regulation (2024)
- **Papua New Guinea**: capacity-building support for the organization of the tenth Asia-Pacific Mediation Forum (2024)
- **Thailand**: support for the development and implementation of climate change legislation (2025)
- **Vanuatu**: capacity-building support for the organization of Pacific Climate Justice and Sea-Level Rise Week, 25–28 May 2026 in Suva
- **Viet Nam**: support for updating a decree on regulations on forest carbon sequestration and storage services (2025)

Latin American and Caribbean States: 1 country

- **Chile:** support for the development and implementation of the climate framework law (2024–2026)

Indicator: Number of intergovernmental bodies and processes related to climate change supported by the Programme

Total number: *2*

- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:** support in procedural matters for the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Baku, 11–22 November 2024) and the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties (Belém, Brazil, 10–21 November 2025)
- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change:** support in procedural matters at the sixty-fourth session of the Panel (Nairobi, 24–27 March 2026)

Research, information and knowledge production and dissemination, including emerging issues

Montevideo Programme V strategic activities supported: (a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (h)

Indicator: Number of practical guidance documents and materials, legal tools, model frameworks, policy briefs, studies, reports or knowledge products supported by the Programme

Total number: *2*

- 2024–present: Law and Climate Change Toolkit (under ongoing enhancement), published by UNEP on the Law and Environment Assistance Platform (link)
- 2025: Report entitled *Climate Change in the Courtroom: Trends, Impacts and Emerging Lessons*, published by UNEP (link)

Awareness-raising, training and capacity-building

Montevideo Programme V strategic activities supported: (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), (i)

Indicator: Number of national or regional dialogues, training activities, capacity-building workshops or initiatives supported by the Programme

Total number: *17*

Regional breakdown	**African States**: 3	**Asia-Pacific States**: 5	**Latin American and Caribbean States**: 4	**Global**: 5

2024

- Workshop on empowering parliamentarians to implement nationally determined contributions and advance the climate agenda at the national level, organized jointly by UNEP, IPU and the Framework Convention on Climate Change to build the capacity of parliamentarians to implement nationally determined contributions (Geneva, 18 October 2024) (link)
- Fourth National Legal Aid Conference on Access to Justice, on the theme “Climate change and environmental justice”, organized by UNEP in partnership with the European Union and Egerton University (Naivasha, Kenya, 22–25 October 2024) (link)
- Tenth Asia-Pacific Mediation Forum, hosted by the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea and the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence and supported by UNEP (Port Moresby, 19–21 August 2024) (link)
- 2024 Youth Forum on Climate Protection, organized by the children and youth major group to UNEP and supported by UNEP (Bangkok, 27 October 2024) (link)

2025

- Leader and Executive Training Workshop on Climate Justice and Environmental Law, organized by the Ministry of Justice and People’s Supreme Court of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and UNEP under the Judicial Services Training, Institutions and Capacity Enhancement (JuSTICE) project (Vientiane, 5 February 2025) (link)
- Climate Law and Governance Day, organized by the University of Cambridge and others and held on the margins of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, supported by UNEP (online, 14 November 2025) (link)
- Event on strengthening parliamentary leadership for the realization of nationally determined contributions, organized by IPU during the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and supported by UNEP (Belém, Brazil, 14 November 2025) (link)
- Model Forest Act Initiative round table and consultations, organized jointly by UNEP, the Asian Development Bank Institute and the Asian Development Bank (Tokyo, 25 September 2025) (link)

- Side event entitled “Living at the water’s edge: harnessing the ICJ advisory opinion and strengthening environmental rule of law, health and access to justice in environmental matters across the Pacific”, organized by UNEP in collaboration with the Government of Fiji, WHO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) at the sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific (Nadi, Fiji, 27 August 2025) (link)
- Online workshop on legislative advances in climate action in Latin America: the Chilean case and the implementation of the framework law on climate change, organized by UNEP in collaboration with the Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership and the Ministry of the Environment of Chile (online, 3 December 2025) (link)

2026

- International conference on climate change advisory opinions from international courts: implications for the Caribbean region, hosted by the University of the West Indies Faculty of Law and supported by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) World Commission on Environmental Law and by UNEP (Barbados, 19 and 20 March 2026) (link)
- First Parliamentary Climate Action Forum on Methane Emissions, co-organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, the National Assembly of Panama and the Parliamentary Platform for Climate Action on Methane of the Andean Parliament, and supported by UNEP (Panama City, 12 May 2026) (link)
- Training events on strengthening capacities to develop a robust and coordinated enhanced transparency framework in Seychelles, organized by UNEP and IPU (online, 17 April 2026; Victoria, 27–30 April 2026) (link)
- Meetings of the Parliamentary Alliance for Climate Action and a Just Transition of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, organized by the Parliament and supported by UNEP with a review of progress on a draft parliamentary charter for climate action and sustainability for Latin America and the Caribbean (Willemstad, 21 May 2026; Panama City, 5 and 23 June 2026) (link; link)
- Workshop on the climate law and policy data ecosystem: synthesizing the evidence and understanding user needs, hosted by the London School of Economics Global School of Sustainability, Grantham Research Institute and TPI Global Climate Transition Centre and the Oxford Climate Policy Monitor during London Climate Action Week 2026, and supported by UNEP (London, 26 June 2026) (link)
- International Conference 2026: Governing climate in an age of retreat, risk and geopolitical realignment, organized by the Gender Inclusive Climate Change Governance initiative and supported by UNEP (online/Abuja, 24 and 25 June 2026) (link)
- Pacific Climate Justice and Sea-Level Rise Week, organized jointly by UNEP, the Government of Vanuatu, the Pacific Community, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, OHCHR and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Suva, 25–28 May 2026) (link)

Indicator: Number of new and existing partnerships or communities of practice with legal and judicial networks, training institutions and other stakeholders developed or supported by the Programme

Total number: *21*

List of partnerships or communities of practice

United Nations system entities and multilateral environmental agreements

- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- Economic Commission for Africa
- UNDP
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- WHO

International or regional organizations

- European Union
- IPU
- Latin American and Caribbean Parliament
- Pacific Community
- Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Academic or training institutions

- Egerton University
- Gender Inclusive Climate Change Governance initiative
- London School of Economics
- University of Bradford
- University of Cambridge

Other stakeholders

- Children and youth major group
- Global Judicial Institute on the Environment
- Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership
- Supreme Court of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea

IV. Thematic area 3: legal responses to combat the biodiversity crisis

Development, strengthening and implementation of legal and institutional frameworks

Montevideo Programme V strategic activities supported: (a), (b), (c), (d), (i)

Indicator: Number of countries supported by the Programme through technical legal assistance and capacity-building

Total number: *14*

Regional and country breakdown

African States: 6 countries

- **Burundi**: support for the development of a draft national biosafety law to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2025)
- **Gabon**: support for the development of national biosafety legislation to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2024)

- **Guinea**: support for the development of a draft national biosafety law to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2025)
- **Morocco**: support for the development of a draft national biosafety law to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2025–2026)
- **Seychelles**: support for the development of a draft national biosafety law to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2025)
- **Somalia**: support for the signing of and accession to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (2025)

Asia-Pacific States: 4 countries

- **Cambodia**: support for the development of a sub-decree on community protected areas under the 2023 Code on Environment and Natural Resources (2026)
- **India**: support for the development of legislation implementing the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (2026)
- **Kuwait**: support for the development of a national strategic plan to combat desertification for the period 2027–2040 (2025–present)
- **Malaysia**: support for the development of legislation on wildlife conservation (2024)

Latin American and Caribbean States: 4 countries

- **Dominican Republic:** support for the development of national biosafety legislation to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2024)
- **Guatemala:** training on environmental crimes involving information and communication technologies (2024)
- **Panama:** support for the organization of a seminar on biodiversity for judges and justice sector practitioners (2026)
- **Saint Lucia:** support for the development of a draft national biosafety law to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2025)

Indicator: Number of intergovernmental bodies and processes related to biodiversity supported by the Programme

Total number: *8*

- **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES):** support in procedural matters for the eleventh session of the Plenary (Windhoek, 10–16 December 2025) and the twelfth session of the Plenary (Manchester, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 3–8 February 2026)
- **Convention on Biological Diversity:** support in substantive and procedural matters for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Cali, Colombia, 21 October–1 November 2024) and associated protocols
- **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals:** support in substantive and procedural matters for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 12–17 February 2024), and the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Campo Grande, Brazil, 23–29 March 2025)
- **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa:** support in procedural matters for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (Riyadh, 2–13 December 2024)
- **Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor:** support to the secretariat during the first round of negotiations for a binding agreement to establish the Corridor (Panama City, 26 and 27 February 2026)
- **Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention):** support for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 23–31 July 2025) and for the meetings of the Standing Committee of the Conference, including its sixty-seventh meeting (Gland, Switzerland, 4–8 May 2026)
- **Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction:** participation in the organizational meeting of the Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (United Nations Headquarters, New York, 24–26 June 2024), and the first, second and third sessions of the Preparatory Commission, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York (14–25 April 2025; 18–29 August 2025; and 23 March–2 April 2026)

- **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**: participation in the first and second meetings of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the Convention and related offences covered by the Convention, for the development of a protocol on environmental crime under the Convention (Vienna, 30 June–2 July 2025 and 24–26 February 2026)

Research, information and knowledge production and dissemination, including emerging issues

Montevideo Programme V strategic activities supported: (a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (h)

Indicator: Number of practical guidance documents and materials, legal tools, model frameworks, policy briefs, studies, reports or knowledge products supported by the Programme

Total number: *3*

- 2024: "Key entry points for cooperation and collaboration amongst MEAs", outcome document of the Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, published by UNEP (link)
- 2024: Core Human Rights Principles for Private Conservation Organizations and Funders, published by UNEP (link)
- 2024: "Preventing the next pandemic: strengthening biosafety and biosecurity in ASEAN captive wildlife facilities", discussion paper developed by UNODC in cooperation with FAO and UNEP under the Safety across Asia for the Global Environment (SAFE) project

Awareness-raising, training and capacity-building

Montevideo Programme V strategic activities supported: (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), (i)

Indicator: Number of national or regional dialogues, training activities, capacity-building workshops or initiatives supported by the Programme

Total number: *23*

Regional breakdown	**African States:** 3	**Asia-Pacific States:** 6	**Latin American and Caribbean States:** 5	**Global:** 9

2024

- Expert group meeting on the legislative guide on combating forest crime, convened by UNODC and supported by UNEP (Vienna, 23–27 April 2024)
- Legal consultation with the Sabah Wildlife Department under the SAFE project, organized by UNEP with support from UNODC and Conservation Medicine (Sabah, Malaysia, 24 and 25 April 2024)
- Training on the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction for Montevideo Programme national focal points, organized by UNEP in collaboration with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea on the margins of the second global meeting of national focal points (Nairobi, 6 June 2024) (link)
- Second regional expert group meeting under the SAFE project on the prevention of zoonotic diseases, organized by UNEP (Bangkok, 11 and 12 July 2024) (link)
- Good regulatory practice workshop on multi-stakeholder consultations for proposed amendments to the Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997, hosted by the Sabah Wildlife Department and supported by the SAFE project and by UNEP (Sabah, Malaysia, 6 August 2024)
- Training on crimes that affect the environment involving information and communication technologies, organized by UNODC and supported by UNEP (Guatemala, 10–13 September 2024)
- Regional dialogue for African parliaments on combating land degradation, desertification and drought: insights from the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, organized by UNEP and IPU (online, 2 October 2024) (link)

- Regional joint training-of-trainers workshop for the African region on the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House, organized by UNEP (Nairobi, 7–11 October 2024)
- Cross-regional dialogue on preventing zoonotic diseases and wildlife spillover: leveraging SAFE project insights for enhanced biosafety and biosecurity, held under the SAFE project and organized by UNEP, UNODC and FAO (Bangkok, 3 and 4 December 2024) (link)

2025

- Side event on the Core Human Rights Principles for Private Conservation Organizations and Funders organized by UNEP and other partners on the margins of the fifty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva, 12 March 2025) (link)
- Global workshop on legislation relating to the Convention on Migratory Species, organized by the secretariat of the Convention and supported by UNEP (Bonn, Germany, 3–5 June 2025) (link)
- Two-part webinar series on exploring potential interlinkages between the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and biodiversity, chemicals and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements, organized by UNEP (online, 18 and 19 March 2025) (link)
- Seminar on the rights of nature, supported by UNEP at the Regen Asia Summit 2025 (Singapore, 4 and 5 July 2025) (link)
- Virtual award ceremony announcing the recipients of the 2024–2025 Asia Environmental Enforcement Recognition of Excellence, organized by UNEP (online, 17 October 2025) (link)
- National workshop on interministerial contributions to the signing of and accession to the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, organized by UNEP in collaboration with the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (Mogadishu, 1 and 2 September 2025)

2026

- Special event on the role of law and judges, supported by UNEP during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (Campo Grande, Brazil, 24 March 2026) (link)
- Side event entitled “From principles to practice: how the Core Principles can help advance the rights and safety of environmental human rights defenders”, organized by UNEP and the Economic Commission for Europe at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) (online, 22 April 2026) (link)
- Training on how to navigate the legal structures of conferences of the parties, organized by the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification and supported by UNEP (Panama City, 24 and 25 April 2026) (link)
- Side event on advancing planetary and Indigenous health through rights, organized by UNEP during the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (online, 28 April 2026) (link)
- Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament Environment Commission, organized by the Parliament with support from UNEP in the development of a draft model law on One Health (online, 23 June 2026)
- Regional seminar for judges and justice sector practitioners from Latin America and the Caribbean entitled “Justice, biodiversity and global change: building on the legacy of the Amphictyonic Congress”, organized jointly by UNEP, IUCN, the Supreme Court of Panama and the Inter-American Institute on Justice and Sustainability (Panama City, 23 and 24 June 2026) (link)
- World Water Law Congress 2026, organized by the International Association for Water Law and supported by UNEP (online/Oslo, 24–26 June 2026) (link)
- Judicial Colloquium on Adjudication of Cases related to Damage to Nature, organized jointly by UNEP, the Economic Commission for Europe, UNDP, the European Forum of Judges for the Environment and the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (Geneva, 26 June 2026) (link)

Indicator: Number of new and existing partnerships or communities of practice with legal and judicial networks, training institutions and other stakeholders developed or supported by the Programme

Total number: *17*

List of partnerships or communities of practice

United Nations system entities and multilateral environmental agreements

- Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
- Economic Commission for Europe
- FAO
- IPBES
- Ramsar Convention
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species
- Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification
- UNDP
- United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia
- UNODC

International and regional organizations

- IPU
- IUCN
- Latin American and Caribbean Parliament

Other stakeholders

- European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment
- Global Judicial Institute on the Environment
- Supreme Court of Panama

For further information on activities engaging partners and stakeholders, refer to the previous sections.

V. Cross-cutting area: enhancing access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice (and other cross-cutting issues)

Development, strengthening and implementation of legal and institutional frameworks

Montevideo Programme V strategic activities supported: (a), (b), (c), (d), (i)

Indicator: Number of countries supported by the Programme through technical legal assistance and capacity-building

Total number: *11*

Regional and country breakdown

African States: 4 countries

- **Cameroon**: support in revising the framework environmental law (2024)
- **Eswatini**: support for environmental policy and diplomacy training (2025)
- **Kenya**: support for the Kenya Judiciary Academy (2025)
- **Uganda**: support for synergies between chemicals management and national biodiversity strategies and action plans (2025)

Asia-Pacific States: 6 countries

- **China**: support and engagement with the judiciary and prosecutors on capacity-building (2024 and 2026)
- **Indonesia**: support for the second Regional Judicial Dialogue on Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience (2025)
- **Lao People's Democratic Republic**: training on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (2024) and support for the National Environmental Law Forum (2025)
- **Philippines**: support for the organization of a national summit on sustainability and environmental law (2024) and for the development of an enforcement manual of operations (2025–2026)
- **Uzbekistan**: support for accession to the Aarhus Convention and for the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (2025)
- **Viet Nam**: support regarding crimes that affect the environment and transboundary issues (2026)

Latin American and Caribbean States: 1 country

- **Mexico:** support for the organization of a judicial summit on access to justice (2026)

Indicator: Number of intergovernmental bodies and processes related to access rights and other cross-cutting issues supported by the Programme

Total number: *2*

- **ASEAN:** support for the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights since 2014 to advance human rights and the environment, in particular the Environmental Rights Working Group under the Commission to prepare the draft ASEAN declaration. The Declaration on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment was adopted at the forty-seventh ASEAN Summit (28 October 2025). UNEP has continued to support the development of a regional plan of action to follow up on the Declaration

- **African Ministerial Conference on the Environment:** support in substantive and procedural matters, including for the tenth special session (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 3–6 September 2024) and the twentieth ordinary session (Nairobi, 14–18 July 2025)

Research, information and knowledge production and dissemination, including emerging issues

Montevideo Programme V strategic activities supported: (a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (h)

Indicator: Number of practical guidance documents and materials, legal tools, model frameworks, policy briefs, studies, reports or knowledge products supported by the Programme

Total number: *7*

- 2025: *The Right to a Healthy Environment in Practice: A Decade Before the Courts (2015–2025)*, published by UNEP (link)
- 2025: Council of Europe Human Rights Education for Youth online training course on the environment, held from 3 to 30 November 2025, developed by the North-South Centre and supported by UNEP in its development and delivery (link)
- 2025: Compilation of case studies on learning from experiences to facilitate national synergies in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, prepared by UNEP and its World Conservation Monitoring Centre as a background document under item 10, on cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements, of the agenda of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (link)
- 2025: "From silos to synergies: linking planning, finance, and monitoring for coherent action on climate, biodiversity, and land", white paper published by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany and co-developed with UNEP (link)
- 2025: Mapping of multilateral environmental agreement strategies showing links between the different objectives, goals and targets of multilateral environmental agreement plans and frameworks, supported by UNEP and published on the InforMEA portal (link)
- 2026: "Methodology handbook for SDG indicator 17.14.1: number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development", published by UNEP in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (link)
- 2026: *Asia-Pacific Synergies Report: Advancing Synergistic Solutions to the Triple Planetary Crisis and the SDGs*, published by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP and the Asian Development Bank (link)

Awareness-raising, training and capacity-building

Montevideo Programme V strategic activities supported: (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), (i)

Indicator: Number of national or regional dialogues, training activities, capacity-building workshops or initiatives supported by the Programme

Total number: *86*

Regional breakdown	**African States:** 13	**Asia-Pacific States:** 41	**Latin American and Caribbean States:** 9	**Global:** 23

2024

- Eighteenth annual course on multilateral environmental agreements: "20th anniversary of the MEA course: taking stock of multilateral environmental agreements and the way forward", organized by UNEP and the University of Eastern Finland (Helsinki, 27 May–6 June 2024) (link)
- Symposium on emerging issues in environmental rule of law: contributions from academia and civil society towards the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme, organized by UNEP with the International Council of Environmental Law, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, the University of Vigo and the University of Nairobi (Nairobi, 30 and 31 May 2024, in hybrid format) (link)

- Twenty-first Annual Colloquium of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, supported by UNEP (Gandhinagar, India, 4–7 July 2024) (link)
- Webinar on environmental rule of law in the Caribbean: tracking progress and charting future directions, organized by UNEP (online, 20 August 2024) (link)
- Tenth Asia-Pacific Mediation Forum, organized jointly by UNEP, the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea and the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (Port Moresby, 19–21 August 2024) (link)
- Training for the United Nations country team in Papua New Guinea on human rights and environmental rule of law: upholding the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, organized by UNEP jointly with OHCHR and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (Port Moresby, 22 and 23 August 2024)
- First in-person meeting of the Platform of Environmental Law Lecturers for Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by UNEP with partner universities (Montevideo, 27 August 2024) (link)
- Training on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for government officials in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, organized jointly by UNEP, OHCHR and the Resident Coordinator's Office (Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic, 27 and 28 August 2024)
- Side event on advancing environmental rights in the Pacific to support the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, organized jointly by UNEP, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources of Tonga, the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications of Tonga, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, OHCHR and IUCN Oceania at the fifty-third Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (Nuku'alofa, 28 August 2024) (link)
- Human rights dialogue on rights-based pathways to climate mitigation and just energy transition in Asia and the Pacific, organized by OHCHR, the secretariat of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights and UNEP (Bangkok, 22 and 23 September 2024) (link)
- Pacific Regional Lawyers Workshop on Environmental Rule of Law, organized by the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and IUCN and supported by UNEP (Nadi, Fiji, 23–25 September 2024) (link)
- Sixth United Nations Asia-Pacific Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum, co-organized by the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP, OHCHR, UNEP, UN-Women and the Working Group on Business and Human Rights (Bangkok, 24–27 September 2024) (link)
- Regional judicial dialogue organized by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, together with the International Commission of Jurists and the Thailand Institute of Justice, and supported by UNEP (Bangkok, 26 and 27 September 2024) (link)
- Second Tripartite Judicial Dialogue between the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Court of Justice and the East African Court of Justice, supported by UNEP (Arusha, 18–20 September 2024) (link)
- National workshop to revise the Framework Environmental Law (Law 96/12 of 1996) of Cameroon, organized jointly by UNODC and UNEP (Ebolowa, Cameroon, 16–21 September 2024) (link)
- Webinar on the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on environmental rule of law, organized jointly by UNEP and the Environmental Law Institute (online, 17 September 2024) (link)
- Webinar on climate change and environmental rule of law, organized jointly by UNEP and the Environmental Law Institute (online, 15 October 2024) (link)
- Informal briefing on efforts under the UNEP-OHCHR memorandum of understanding to advance environmental rights, organized by UNEP and OHCHR (online, 9 October 2024) (link)
- Informal briefing on the margins of the seventy-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, organized jointly by UNEP, OHCHR and the Special Rapporteurs on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, and on toxics and human rights (New York, 17 October 2024)
- Webinar for lawyers in the Pacific region on key environmental law theories and trends, including on strategic litigation against public participation, organized jointly by UNEP, IUCN Oceania and the Asian Development Bank (online, 17 October 2024) (link)
- National Chinese Judicial Training and High-Level International Workshop on Environmental Rule of Law and Green Development, organized jointly by UNEP, the Supreme Court of China and ClientEarth (Beijing and Chengdu, China, 4–7 November 2024) (link)

- Conference on the theme "Achieving just societies: inclusive justice pathways for people and planet in Asia and the Pacific", organized jointly by UNEP and UNDP, the Thailand Institute of Justice, UN-Women, the World Justice Project, the International Development Law Organization and the Court of Justice of Thailand (Bangkok, 11–13 November 2024) (link)
- ASEAN Committee on Women and Children Strategic Partnership Collaborative Plan of Action for the Protection and Well-Being of Children, supported by UNEP (Bangkok, 14 November 2024)
- Webinar on the importance of justice and equity in environmental rule of law, organized jointly by UNEP and the Environmental Law Institute (online, 15 November 2024) (link)
- Webinar for lawyers in the Pacific region on key environmental law theories and trends, including on the "polluter pays" principle, organized jointly by UNEP, IUCN Oceania and the Asian Development Bank (online, 15 November 2024) (link)
- High-level debriefing and interim evaluation meeting of Operation Demeter, organized by UNEP, the World Customs Organization and partners in the context of the Green Customs Initiative (Xiamen, China, 19–21 November 2024) (link)
- Subregional workshop for West and Central Africa on the implementation of biodiversity, chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and Montevideo Programme V, organized by UNEP in partnership with the secretariats of several multilateral environmental agreements (Dakar, 26–28 November 2024) (link)

2025

- Second Regional Judicial Dialogue on Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience, organized by the International Commission of Jurists and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and supported by UNEP (Jakarta, 17 and 18 February 2025) (link)
- Nineteenth Green Customs Initiative partners meeting, organized by UNEP and partners in the context of the Initiative (The Hague, Kingdom of the Netherlands, 19 and 20 February 2025) (link)
- Subregional workshop on mainstreaming multilateral environmental agreement objectives in United Nations country teams to catalyse Sustainable Development Goal transitions, organized by UNEP in partnership with the Southern African Development Community secretariat under the third phase of the capacity-building programme for multilateral environmental agreements in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions (ACP MEAs 3) (Gaborone, 4–6 March 2025) (link)
- Informal briefing on efforts under the UNEP-OHCHR memorandum of understanding to advance environmental rights, organized by UNEP and OHCHR (Geneva, 13 March 2025)
- 2025 Corporate Sustainability and Environmental Rights in Asia Conference, organized by UNEP with UNDP, UNICEF and IUCN (18 and 19 March 2025) (link)
- Training course for law students in the Asia-Pacific region on emerging issues in international law: theory and practice, supported by UNEP (online, 11 April 2025) (link)
- Regional consultation on the World Justice Project Environmental Rule of Law Index, organized by the KAS Rule of Law Programme Asia in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank and supported by UNEP (Manila, 28 April 2025) (link)
- Panel session on strengthening access to justice through clinical legal education in environmental matters, organized by UNEP at the third Asia Clinical Legal Education Conference (Chiang Mai, Thailand, 24 May 2025) (link)
- Subregional workshop on promoting policy coherence for environmental governance in the climate-nature nexus, organized jointly by UNEP and the secretariats of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Convention on Biological Diversity, under the third phase of the capacity-building programme for multilateral environmental agreements in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions (ACP MEAs 3) (Apia, 26–28 May 2025) (link)
- Environmental Human Rights Defenders Toolkit training for South Asia, organized by the Asia-Pacific Network of Environment Defenders and supported by UNEP (Kathmandu, 21–23 June 2025) (link)
- Webinar on environmental impact assessment and environmental rule of law, organized by the University of Rotterdam, Erasmus School of Law, and supported by UNEP within the 2025 Law Clinic of the International and European Union Law Programme (online, June 2025)
- 2025 symposium on navigating sustainable legal compliance challenges in the digital age, organized by the Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, and supported by UNEP (Bangkok, 24 June 2025) (link)
- Webinar entitled "From Bern to action: advancing synergies across MEAs", organized by UNEP in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Governments of Mexico, Sweden and Switzerland (online, 25 June 2025) (link)

- Expert consultation on human rights and the environment in Africa, organized by UNEP during the regional consultative meeting of the UNEP major groups and stakeholders, Africa, (Nairobi, 12 and 13 July 2025) (link)
- Technical meeting to support the development of a general comment on the right to a healthy environment, organized by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and supported by UNEP (Nairobi, 14 July 2025)
- Kenya Judiciary Academy round-table breakfast meeting targeting key stakeholders in the justice sector, organized by the Academy and the Law Society of Kenya and supported by UNEP (Nairobi, 4 August 2025) (link)
- Capacity-building course on strengthening legal responses to environmental harm: advancing environmental justice and human rights in South-East Asia, organized by UNEP in partnership with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (Bangkok, 2–4 September 2025) (link)
- Capacity-building for customs officers involved in Operation Demeter XI, organized by UNEP and partners in the context of the Green Customs Initiative (Gulangyu Island, Xiamen, China, 9–11 September 2025) (link)
- United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum, Asia-Pacific, organized by multiple United Nations agencies, including UNEP (Bangkok, 16–19 September 2025) (link)
- ASEAN Human Rights Advocacy Academy on environmental rights and the development of the ASEAN Declaration on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment, organized by ASEAN and supported by UNEP (online, 18 September 2025) (link)
- Workshop on the detection and identification of living modified organisms and the role of customs officials in implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, organized by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and supported by UNEP (Ljubljana, 22–26 September 2025) (link)
- Fourth Asia Environmental Human Rights Defenders Forum, organized by UNEP in partnership with OHCHR and UN-Women (Thailand, 27–29 October 2025) (link)
- Environmental diplomacy and negotiation dialogue/training workshop on empowering national experts for effective environmental policy negotiations, organized by UNEP jointly with the Regional Office for Africa of the United Nations Development Coordination Office and experts from the Framework Convention on Climate Change, FAO, the Economic Commission for Africa and UNDP (Ezulwini, Eswatini/online, 13–15 October 2025) (link)
- Summit of African Bar Association Presidents, held under the theme "Catalysing environmental rule of law for environmental action in the African region", organized by UNEP jointly with the Law Society of Kenya, the East African Law Society and Daystar University (Nairobi, 8 and 9 October 2025) (link)
- Consultation meeting on advancing environmental rights in the Pacific, organized by the Government of Vanuatu, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, OHCHR and the Pacific Community, and supported by UNEP (Suva, 3 and 4 November 2025) (link)
- Midterm evaluation meeting of Operation Demeter XI, organized by UNEP and partners in the context of the Green Customs Initiative (Mombasa, Kenya, 10–12 November 2025) (link)
- Subregional workshop on the integrated implementation of biodiversity and chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements, organized by UNEP and secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements (Nairobi, 11–13 November 2025) (link)
- National workshop on chemicals in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, organized by UNEP jointly with the National Environment Management Authority of Uganda (Kampala, 26–28 November 2025) (link)
- Lao People's Democratic Republic Environmental Law Forum, convened by the JuSTICE project in collaboration with the Lao Bar Association, supported by UNEP (Lao People's Democratic Republic, 4 and 5 December 2025) (link)
- Regional round-table dialogue on operationalizing access to environmental justice under the ASEAN Declaration on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment, organized by the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and supported by UNEP (Manila, 9 and 10 December 2025) (link)
- Webinars on female perspectives on international environmental law and governance, organized by UNEP (online, 16 and 18 December 2025) (link)
- Second in-person meeting of the Platform of Environmental Law Lecturers for Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by UNEP and the Environmental Law Center, Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires (Buenos Aires, 6 and 7 February 2025)
- Third in-person meeting of the Platform of Environmental Law Lecturers for Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by UNEP (Panama City, 25 April 2025)

2026

- Seventh Conference of the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in Middle East and North African Universities, held under the theme "Environmental law in the digital age", supported by UNEP (Abu Dhabi, 9 and 10 February 2026) (link)
- Regional consultation on the preparation of the guidebook on rules of procedure for environmental cases in South-East Asia, organized by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and the International Commission of Jurists and supported by UNEP (Indonesia, 11 and 12 February 2026) (link)
- Information session of the Viet Nam Environmental Law Clinic, supported by UNEP with regard to crimes that affect the environment and transboundary issues (online, 4 March 2026) (link)
- Regional webinar entitled "Environmental rule of law in West Asia", organized by UNEP in collaboration with the Hariri Foundation (5 March 2026)
- Corporate Sustainability and Environmental Rights in Asia Conference, organized by UNDP and supported by UNEP (Malaysia, 30 and 31 March 2026) (link)
- Webinar entitled "The future of environmental law: pathways for impact in a rapidly changing world", organized by the Environmental Law Institute and supported by UNEP (online, 17 April 2026) (link)
- Webinar entitled "Stewards of the Earth: strengthening legal protections for environmental human rights defenders", organized by the University of Cebu and UNEP (online, 22 April 2026) (link)
- Side event entitled "Access to justice across regions: lessons from Escazú and Aarhus", organized by UNEP, the World Bank, UNDP and the Economic Commission for Europe at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement (online, 23 April 2026) (link)
- Side event on participatory analysis, capacity-building and multi-level articulation: lessons from PARES for the implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Latin American landscapes, organized by the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center – Solutions for Inclusive Green Development, UNEP and the European Union at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement (online, 23 April 2026) (link)
- Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, convened jointly by UNEP and the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide, the Community Resource Centre Foundation, the Faculty of Law at Chulalongkorn University, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, and Rivers and Rights (Bangkok, 24 and 25 April 2026) (link)
- Workshop on an environmental rights blended learning course for national human rights institution officials, organized by the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and OHCHR (Kuala Lumpur, 29 and 30 April 2026) (link)
- Fifth meeting of the Alliance of Environmental Legal Clinics of Latin America and the Caribbean, supported by UNEP (Santiago, 6–8 May 2026) (link)
- Event on leveraging partnerships to enhance multi-stakeholder engagement in decision-making processes, organized jointly by UNEP, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and OHCHR (Bangkok, 18 May 2026) (link)
- Webinar entitled "Environmental human rights defenders in Asia: regional trends, subregional perspectives and policy developments", organized by UNEP jointly with OHCHR and partner organizations of the fourth Asia Environmental Human Rights Defenders Forum (online, 19 May 2026) (link)
- Seminar on environmental rule of law and environmental legal innovation, supported by UNEP during the annual course of the Earth Law Center (online, 1 June 2026)
- Clinical legal education workshop on environmental justice, organized by UNEP with Agence Française de Développement under the JuSTICE project (Vientiane, 2 and 3 June 2026) (link)
- First European Forum on Environmental Human Rights Defenders, organized by the Council of Europe and supported by UNEP (Strasbourg, France, 4 June 2026) (link)
- Forum on access to justice in the face of the triple environmental crisis in Mexico, held in the framework of World Environment Day, organized jointly by UNEP and the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, Mexico (Mexico City, 5 June 2026) (link)
- Round table on the role of prosecutors in global environmental governance, hosted by the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China and supported by UNEP (Beijing, 8 June 2026) (link)
- Workshop on the Ecological and Environmental Code of China and global environmental rule of law: implementation and collaboration, hosted by the Chinese Society of Environmental and Resource Law and supported by UNEP (Beijing, 9 June 2026) (link)

- In-person phase of the environmental rights blended learning course for national human rights institution officials, organized by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and UNEP (Bangkok, 9 and 10 June 2026) (link)
- Webinar on environmental transparency and citizen participation: best practices for sustainable development, organized by UNEP with the Red de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información, Órgano Garante del Derecho de Acceso a la Información (Argentina), the Agency for Access to Public Information of Argentina and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (online, 17 June 2026) (link)
- International Conference on Ecological Transition and Educational Policy for a Sustainable Future, organized by Université Hassan 1er of Morocco and supported by UNEP (online/Settat, Morocco, 18–20 June 2026) (link)
- 2026 Judges Training Week and International Workshop on Judicial Services for Green and Low-carbon Transition and Development, organized by the Supreme People's Court of China and supported by UNEP (Hangzhou, China, 23–25 June 2026) (link)
- Thirtieth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, supported by UNEP (Geneva, 25 and 26 June 2026) (link)
- Webinar on water governance and environmental rule of law, organized by the University of Rotterdam, Erasmus School of Law, and supported by UNEP within the 2026 Law Clinic of the International and European Union Law Programme (online, 25 June 2026)

Indicator: Number of new and existing partnerships or communities of practice with legal and judicial networks, training institutions and other stakeholders developed or supported by the Programme

Total number: *77*

List of partnerships or communities of practice

United Nations system entities and multilateral environmental agreements

- Development Coordination Office
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- Economic Commission for Europe
- FAO
- International Labour Organization
- International Organization for Migration
- OHCHR
- Ramsar Convention
- Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention
- Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species
- Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification
- Secretariat of the Espoo Convention
- UNDP

- UNICEF
- UN-Women

International or regional organizations

- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Development Bank
- African Union Commission
- ASEAN, including the Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
- Asian Development Bank
- Council of Europe, including the North-South Centre
- East African Court of Justice
- ECOWAS
- European Union
- IPU
- IUCN
- IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law
- OECD
- Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- World Bank
- World Customs Organization

Academic or training institutions

- Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in Middle East and North African Universities
- Chulalongkorn University
- Earth Law Center
- Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide
- Global Network of Environmental Law Clinics
- International Council of Environmental Law
- New York University
- Rotterdam University, Erasmus School of Law
- Stockholm University

- Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
- Université Hassan 1er
- University of Bangkok
- University of Cebu
- University of Eastern Finland
- University of Nairobi
- University of Oslo
- University of Vigo
- University of the West Indies

Other stakeholders

- Africa Judicial Education Network on Environmental Law
- Asia Pacific Network of Environmental Defenders
- Chinese Society of Environmental and Resource Law
- ClientEarth China
- Environmental Law Institute
- Hariri Foundation
- International Commission of Jurists
- Kenya Judiciary Academy
- Lao Bar Association
- Law Society of Kenya
- Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
- Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, Mexico
- Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea
- Supreme Court of the Philippines
- Supreme People's Court of China
- Supreme People's Procuratorate of China
- Thailand Institute of Justice
- Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center
- World Justice Project

For further information on activities engaging partners and stakeholders, refer to the previous sections.

VI. Cross-cutting area: strengthening education and capacity-building on environmental law

Awareness-raising, training and capacity-building

Montevideo Programme V strategic activities supported: (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i)

Indicator: Number of new and existing partnerships and communities of practice with academia, education or research institutions and networks developed or supported by the Programme

Total number: *24*

List of partnerships or communities of practice

- Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in Middle East and North African Universities
- Chulalongkorn University
- Earth Law Center
- Egerton University
- Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide
- Global Network of Environmental Law Clinics
- International Council on Environmental Law
- IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law
- London School of Economics
- New York University
- Rotterdam University, Erasmus School of Law
- Sabin Center (Columbia University)
- Stockholm University
- Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
- Université Hassan 1er
- University of Bangkok
- University of Bradford
- University of Cambridge
- University of Cebu
- University of Eastern Finland

- University of Nairobi
- University of Oslo
- University of Vigo
- University of the West Indies

For further information on activities engaging partners and stakeholders, refer to the previous sections.