Concept Note and Agenda for Side Event

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

At the margins of the Montevideo Programme Third Global Meeting

Friday, 6 November 2026, 2:00pm-3:30pm (EAT) I Online

Event webpage: https://leap.unep.org/en/about/meetings/third-global-meeting-national-focal-points#side-events

Registration:https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/38243095-9668-44b1-85e8-48902ec9d1a0@0f9e35db-544f-4f60-bdcc-5ea416e6dc70

Background: In recent years, environmental law clinics have increasingly organized themselves through national, regional and global networks. These collaborative initiatives facilitate knowledge exchange, peer learning, joint capacity-building, comparative research and cross-border cooperation, creating new opportunities to strengthen environmental governance while respecting regional diversity, local leadership and context-specific approaches. Such networks advance access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters through collaboration and peer exchange support to environmental clinical legal education.

Clinical legal education is a vital enabler for the realisation of environmental rights and access to justice. Further, clinics are critical to provide links for communities to information on legal developments and potential remedies for environmental harm.

This online event will explore the role of environmental law clinics in strengthening the environmental rule of law. The event will bring together regional experiences and perspectives on environmental law clinics and explore opportunities for knowledge exchange and global collaboration under the Fifth Montevideo Programme.

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

Title	Strengthening Environmental Rule of Law through Environmental Law Clinics: Regional Experiences and Global Collaboration under the Montevideo Programme V
Date & Venue	Friday 6 November 2026, online (Microsoft Teams)
Time	90 minutes (14:00-15:30 EAT) - 8:00 - 9:30 Lima / 11-12:30 Bangkok / 15:00 - 16:30 Cape Town / 16:00 - 17:30 Nairobi
Objectives	- Strengthen understanding among National Focal Points and other participants of the important role that environmental law clinics play in advancing the objectives of the Montevideo Program V by promoting environmental rule of law, strengthening legal capacity,

	expanding access to environmental justice, and fostering environmental legal education and the benefits of networks to support and scale up the impact of environmental law clinics. - Demonstrate how emerging global initiatives—such as the Global Network of Environmental Law Clinics (GNELC)—can facilitate knowledge exchange, ethical partnerships, comparative research, and collaborative responses to transboundary environmental challenges while respecting regional diversity, local leadership, and equitable partnerships. - Inform future collaboration among UNEP's Law Division, National Focal Points, and environmental law clinic networks in support of capacity-building, environmental legal education, and the implementation of the Montevideo Program V.
Outcomes	- Participants will gain practical insights from diverse regional experiences, demonstrating how universities and environmental law clinics contribute to implementing environmental law through community engagement, public-interest legal practice, interdisciplinary collaboration, and partnerships with governments, civil society organizations, and local communities. - Identify concrete opportunities for enhanced collaboration among regional environmental law clinic networks while strengthening the foundations of a global community of practice connecting environmental law clinics, National Focal Points, universities, governments, international organizations, and partner institutions. - Promote greater recognition of environmental law clinics as strategic partners in advancing environmental governance and the effective implementation of the Montevideo Programme V and the advancement of environmental rule of law worldwide.
Target audience	Female practitioners of environmental law, law students, Montevideo Programme national focal points from the Caribbean, focal points for the Forum of Ministers for Latin America and the Caribbean (gender group)
Organizers	Global Network of Environmental Law Clinics (GNELC), Alliance of Environmental Law Clinics of Latin America and the Caribbean, Alliance of Environmental Law Clinics and Legal Aid Centres of Asia-Pacific, Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in Africa (ASSELLAU), UNEP Law Division
Focal Points	Georgina Lloyd, Regional Coordinator Environmental Law and Governance, Georgina.lloyd@un.org; Catalina Pizarro, Legal Officer, catalina.pizarro@un.org

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
14:00-14:05	**Opening Keynote: Environmental Law Clinics as Strategic Partners in Advancing the Montevideo Programme V** Introduction to the role of environmental law clinics, universities and collaborative regional networks in supporting the implementation of the Montevideo Programme V through capacity-building, environmental rule of law, legal education, environmental governance and access to environmental justice.	**Georgina Loyd** *(Asia-Pacific Environmental Law Clinics Network – UNEP Officer)*
14:05-14:30	**First Round – Regional Perspectives** ***Georgina Loyd*** *(Asia-Pacific Environmental Law Clinics Network – UNEP Officer* **GQ:** *How are environmental law clinics contributing to the implementation of the Montevideo Programme V by strengthening environmental governance, environmental rule of law and access to environmental justice in your region?* (5 min per speaker)	**Andrea Domínguez** ***(****Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú / ALCJA/ GNELC - Latin America and the Caribbean)* **David Rossati** (GNLEC Clearing House System, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam - *Europe)* **Prof. Robert Kibugi**, (*University of Nairobi, Kenya – Africa)* **Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio**, *(Professor, University of Cebu School of Law – Asia Pacific)* **William Piermattei,** *(University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic Program - North America)*
14:30- 14:40	Benefits of collective action and collaboration in **Asia-Pacific:** The Alliance of Environmental Law Clinics and Legal Aid Centers in Asia Pacific – Showcase.	**Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio**, *(Professor, University of Cebu School of Law)*
14:40-14:50	Benefits of collective action and collaboration in **Latin America:** Alliance of Environmental Law Clinics of Latin America and the Caribbean **-** Showcase.	**Joaquin Chacin,** (*Environmental Law Clinic Professor, University of Cochabamba, Bolivia*)

14:50 – 15:15	**Second round – Strengthening Collaboration** **Georgina Loyd** *(Asia-Pacific Environmental Law Clinics Network – UNEP Officer* **GQ:** *How can stronger collaboration among regional environmental law clinic network, and emerging global initiatives such as the Global Network of Environmental Law Clinics (GNELC), accelerate the implementation of the Montevideo Programme V while respecting regional diversity, local leadership and equitable partnerships?* (5 min per speaker)	**Joaquin Chacin,** (*Environmental Law Clinic Professor, University of Cochabamba, Bolivia – Latin America and the Caribbean*) **David Rossati** (GNLEC Clearing House System, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam - *Europe)* **Prof. Robert Kibugi**, (*University of Nairobi, Kenya – Africa)* **Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio**, *(Professor, University of Cebu School of Law – Asia Pacific)* **William Piermattei,** *(University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic Program - North America)*
15:15-15:25	**From Regional Experiences to Global Collaboration: Connecting Environmental Law Clinics through GNELC** Introducing the Global Network of Environmental Law Clinics (GNELC) that facilitates knowledge exchange, ethical partnerships, comparative research, and collaborative responses to transboundary environmental challenges while respecting regional diversity, local leadership, and equitable partnerships.	**Andrea Domínguez** ***(****Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú / ALCJA/ GNELC)* **David Rossati** *(GNLEC Clearing House System, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam)*
15:25-15:30	**Closing reflections and next steps** Closing reflections on key messages emerging from the dialogue and opportunities for continued engagement with environmental law clinics and collaborative networks under the Montevideo Programme V.	**Margaret Oduk,** *(UNEP Officer)*