

## FOREWORD

Over the past decade UNEP has, in partnership with Chief Justices and other Senior Judges from almost all the countries in the world, carried out a global initiative to engage the judiciaries in the pursuit of applying the Rule of Law to promote sustainable development. We have been much encouraged by the overwhelming support that these senior judges have given to the UNEP Global Judges Programme, which resulted in the adoption by the UNEP Governing Council of its decision 22/17 B on supporting capacity building of judges and other legal stakeholders in the field of environmental law.

This publication and the accompanying CD Rom responds to repeated requests from judges in almost all legal systems and regions of the world, for continued support from UNEP's Law Programme, in their efforts to sensitize judges at all levels to this rapidly growing area of law.

The outcome of this global initiative may be summarized as follows:

- Formation of a UNEP Global Alliance of Chief Justices and Senior Judges from over 100 countries, supportive of the UNEP Judges Programme, who have declared their commitment to carry out capacity building of Judges *at the national level* with the support of UNEP and its partner agencies.
- Creation of Regional Judges Forums for the Environment in Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Southern Africa, Eastern and Western Africa, the Arab States, the Francophone States and the Caribbean.
- Development of a significant collection of legal materials that respond to a continuing call from judiciaries and other legal stakeholders in developing countries, for urgently required books on environmental law. It has become evident that most lawyers, academics and students from many developing countries do not have access to books on environmental law.
- Mobilization of a consortium of partners for the UNEP capacity building programme on environmental law of judiciaries, prosecutors, and other legal stakeholders. The organizations and institutions that have collaborated with UNEP in the above programme include, UNDP, the World Bank Institute, United Nations University, UNITAR, IUCN and its Academy of Environmental Law, INECE, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Francophone Secretariat, the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association, the Asia Foundation, the Hanns Seidel Foundation, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), South Asian Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), Environmental Law Foundation of the UK, Environmental Law Institute and the Centre for International Environmental Law.
- Commencement of systematic national training of judges through national judicial institutions with support of UNEP and partner agencies. Such national judges training programmes have so far been held under UNEP auspices in Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Seychelles, Ghana and Nigeria. This publication and the accompanying CD Rom would facilitate

the organization and conduct of more national judicial training programmes in the coming years.

Henceforth, the UNEP programme will focus primarily on activities at the regional, sub-regional and national levels with the aim of sensitizing judges and related legal stakeholders and building institutional capacity of judicial training institutions and environmental protection agencies. Our objective is to assist countries to strengthen and retain the necessary capacity to ensure that environmental law is incorporated into their on-going legal education programmes. We are committed to working in close collaboration with our partner agencies in pursuing this objective.

We look forward to making this material available as widely as possible, to judges and other legal stakeholders especially in developing countries and countries with transition economies, including the translation of materials into the official languages, of the United Nations and other languages, as necessary.

I wish to express our deep appreciation to the Chief Justices and other Senior Judges for the important contribution that they have made to the global and regional judges symposia and the review of the judicial training materials, and for their sincere commitment to collaborate with UNEP in the development and implementation of national activities on capacity-building in the area of environmental law.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Dr. Iwona Rummel-Bulska, the Principal Legal Officer and Chief of the Environmental Law Branch, for the outstanding contribution that she has made to the UNEP Environmental Law Programme and in developing these most impressive legal materials.

I sincerely hope that these Judicial Training Materials on Environmental Law will contribute to meeting the information and training needs of judges and other legal stakeholders. I look forward to working closely with governments, judiciaries and our partner agencies in achieving our shared objectives and goals in the area of capacity building in environmental law.

Bakary Kante  
Director  
Division of Environmental Law and Conventions