



**PARTNERSHIP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND
INSTITUTIONS IN AFRICA (PADELIA)**

CONCEPT PAPER FOR THE

**2nd SYMPOSIUM FOR LECTURERS TEACHING
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES**

**THEME: NEW HORIZONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, NATURAL
RESOURCES AND POVERTY REDUCTION**

2ND SYMPOSIUM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW LECTURERS OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

I. Introduction

The second Symposium of lecturers teaching environmental law from selected African Universities is planned to be held with a view to consolidating the achievements from the first Colloquium held in Nakuru, Kenya in September 2004. It is also expected that this symposium will provide a platform for sharing and exchanging information as well as stimulating the teaching of the subject in Africa.

The 2nd Symposium will be held from 25-28 September 2006 in Entebbe, Uganda. It is sponsored by UNEP's Project on Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa (PADELIA) whose objectives include, *inter alia*, enhancement of legal capacities through the promotion of teaching and research in environmental law in African universities.

II. Background

The 1st Symposium for environmental lecturers was held from 29th September to 2nd October 2004 in Nakuru, Kenya. It was attended by 35 scholars and lecturers from 23 universities in Africa. The main theme was to deliberate on modalities of how to mainstream environmental legal education into universities curriculum and identify and search for African environmental solutions to the regions environmental problems. The purpose of the Symposium was to:

- (a) share and facilitate the development of environmental law teaching materials,
- (b) identify research priorities and opportunities for collaboration, and
- (c) discuss the status of development and implementation of environmental law in their respective countries.

Key issues that were discussed and agreed for future action included the need to:

- (a) increase the capacity of judges, lawyers, policy-makers, legislators, civil society etc to address regional environmental concerns,
- (b) find African environmental solutions to African environmental problems to suit local circumstances,
- (c) develop, compile and publish text books and other teaching materials related to African environmental law for use in African universities,
- (d) create and maintain a databank for relevant environmental law materials and profiles of African environmental law scholars to encourage collaborative and inter-disciplinary research,
- (e) mainstream environmental legal education into all applicable university curricula, and
- (f) compile and prepare an African environmental reader and a journal of environmental law and policy in Africa.

A first step that was agreed upon to implement the above goals and ensure practical outcomes for future action was the proposal that an association of African environmental law academics be hosted at the Centre of Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy (CASELAP) at the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

A Steering Committee composed of six members was created to take the process forward. Consequent to the 1st Symposium, the Steering Committee held its first meeting in Nairobi on the 10-11 August 2005. During the meeting of the Steering Committee, a draft constitution for the association was discussed, and proposals for the journal and database were reviewed.

Consequently, a draft constitution and proposals for the journal and database have been developed but are yet to be adopted or agreed upon. It is expected that these documents will be considered during the 2nd Symposium.

III. The Second Symposium

The 2nd Colloquium unlike the first symposium will focus on scholarly presentations and comparative papers and at the same time propel the process of creating the association forward. The theme of this Symposium will be: *New Horizons in Environmental Law, Natural Resources and Poverty Eradication*.

A. Objectives

The Symposium is intended to fulfill the following objectives:

1. To review and approve-
 - (a) the Constitutive Instrument establishing the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in African Universities,
 - (b) the introduction of a Journal of African Environmental Law and Policy,
 - (c) the creation of an African Database of Environmental Law,
 - (d) the proposals and initiatives of the Steering Committee activities, and
 - (e) elect office bearers of the Association.
2. To exchange ideas and discuss scholarly papers on trends and scope of environmental law especially on the theme: New Horizons in Environmental Law, Natural Resources and Poverty Eradication.
3. To agree on how to implement activities of the Association and its future role on the teaching of environmental law in Africa.

B. Methodology

The Symposium will be held for four (4) days and will comprise of plenary sessions where papers are presented and discussed, break-out groups to discuss issues as deemed necessary and a plenary session to discuss and adopt the Constitutive Instrument Establishing the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in African Universities and other documents prepared by the Steering Committee.

- (a) To ensure effective and interactive discussions, the 2nd Symposium will be held in English (French simultaneous translation is available) for at least forty (40) lecturers teaching environmental law and/or related courses from selected universities in Africa.

To ensure a well coordinated approach, Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, of the University of Nairobi who is also the Interim Chairperson of Association for Environmental Law Lecturers in Africa (ASSELLAU) has been designated as the principle facilitator for the Symposium.

IV. Expected Outputs

The following outputs are expected from the 2nd Symposium:

1. Diverse and stimulating presentations on the theme of the Symposium,
2. Adoption of Constitutive Instrument,
3. Agreement on a way forward for the Association,
4. Publication of the papers presented at the Symposium in a journal,
5. Agreement on the hosting of a website,
6. Agreement on modalities and frequency of publication of the journal.

V. Venue and Dates

The Symposium will be held from 25-28 September 2006 with the Steering Committee meeting on 24 September 2006 in Entebbe, Uganda.

VI. Inquiries

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