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**Workshop on the UN Development Account Project Relating to the Development
of National Legal Databases on Access to Environmental Law Information in
Africa for English Speaking Participating Countries
Nairobi, June 16-17 2005**

**Report of the Workshop on the UN Development Account Project Relating to the
Development of National Legal Databases on Access to Environmental Law
Information in Africa for English Speaking Participating Countries**

INTRODUCTION

1. An inaugural workshop, on the Project on Development of National Legal Databases on Environmental Law Information in Africa for 10 Anglophone Participating Countries, organized by UNEP, was held at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya from 16th to 17th June, 2005.

Attendance

2. The workshop was attended by representatives from 10 participating countries, namely, Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania. It was also attended by UNEP and UNFAO staff members (See Annexure 1: for List of Participants and the adopted agenda: Annexure 2 for Agenda).

DAY I

SESSION 1

Opening Remarks by the Director, DPDL

3. The workshop commenced at 9:20 am with opening remarks by Mr. Bakary Kante, Director, Division of Policy Development and Law (DPDL), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Mr. Kante welcomed the participants and the representative of FAO, Ms. Barbara Moauro on behalf of Dr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director, UNEP. He emphasized the

importance of the workshop, especially relating to Principle 10 of the Rio-Declaration, which requests the availability of information for the public. He outlined the importance to preserve the ecosystems in connection with poverty reduction as in many areas people depended on the resources of the ecosystem in their everyday life. By using the methods of information technology, people need the information to fight degradation of the ecosystems.

Introduction of the Project and its Activities

4. The Project and its activities were introduced by Robert A. Wabunoha, Legal Officer, DPDL, UNEP, by emphasizing that Montevideo Programme III requires the use of information technology in the development and implementation of environmental law. Regarding the Project itself, he focused on the problems of African countries to access information on environmental law, which has in turn led to major problems in implementation of international and national environmental law. The categories of people who needed access to information on environmental law included decision-makers in governments, judiciary, legislators, legal practitioners, students and the public. The goals of the project were to build capacity create, update, maintain and use web-based national legal databases.

Information Communication, Technology: Importance of Accessing and Sharing Information for Web-based Legal Databases

5. The second presentation was given by Mr. Kelly Kabiru, Assistant Officer, Information and Communications, Division of Policy Implementation, (DEPI), UNEP. The presentation outlined the theoretical and practical importance of the use of the web-based information. Mr. Kabiru focused on the value of information sharing on the web as a cost reducing way of information access that enhanced the convenience of end-users. He emphasized that traditional ways of handling information on law could no longer secure accessibility due to the growth of information in this area. Thus law was a prime candidate for web-information. Regarding the design of databases, Mr. Kabiru proposed a hybrid approach between structured and free text databases.
6. The participants appreciated the presentation and made some comments on the presentation. Mr. Yaw Amoyaw-Osei from Ghana enquired about the limit of the content of the legal databases. In reply a UNEP official stated that the national databases were not to be restricted to classical environmental law but could also include other environment related sectors and crosscutting issues. It also depended on the available space for the databases. Another comment was from Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin from Malawi who requested specific training on the technology of the databases. It was, however, noted that there were provisions for capacity-building and use of national experts in the Project activities.

SESSION 2

Presentation of FAOLEX and ECOLEX

7. Ms Barbara Moauro, Manager of FAOLEX, FAO presented the experience of FAOLEX, the largest web-based database of environmental law, including its history. The presentation outlined FAO's process of creating such a database, including, training of staff, maintaining the database, use of strict criteria for selecting relevant material to be included in the database, selection of keywords, appropriate software, host server for the database and the importance of links to and from other sites. She stated that FAOLEX abstracts are presented in English, French or Spanish, but that the substance of legislation is multi-lingual; there is material of Hebrew, Russian, Arabic, Croatian, Albanian origin, with more than 200 countries represented.
8. She further stated that while FAOLEX relies on information provided by FAO members, the FAO Constitution provides that FAO member states to provide the national legislation to FAOLEX. Ms. Moauro then demonstrated how to use the FAOLEX database, by conducting a search using different terms and search paths. She, however, stressed that in some cases a simple Google search function may be sufficient for the countries' collection of legislation, rather than creating a database.
9. In her advise, Ms Moauro recommended that web-based databases should be:
 - user-friendly in terms of the search options, keywords and display options, e.g. the database should have the full text available in one document rather than splitting the act into sections;
 - updated and reliable: there should be routine quality checks;
 - complete, in that the responsible people must be vigilant with indexation, description, full texts as soon as basic work has been done, decide how to publish, how to cover user agreements, how to link to other databases, within region or globally, within portals like UNEP's.
 - copyright compliant: if databases are using pictures or text from other sources, then one must ensure that they have permission to use such materials;
 - linked to different texts through hyperlinks, for example, to show amendments or repealed acts;
 - linked to other environmental sites; and
 - be backed-up every day.
10. Ms Moauro offered the free software used by FAOLEX to all participants. She also offered to supply the list of keywords from FAO, which the participants could use, if appropriate for their databases.

Discussion of capabilities to create and maintain database

11. The participants had a lengthy discussion on the capabilities of creation and maintenance of databases. The participants discussed the appropriate

institutional arrangements in their respective countries to develop and maintain the national legal databases. Issues of appropriate IT support, web host server and the high price of access to legal information were common concerns to most countries. It was pointed out by many participants that while the Governments were the most appropriate institution to obtain the necessary information, at times the only way to obtain such information was through unofficial channels such as paying a registry clerk. This was mainly due to the high cost and extreme delay that official channels have.

12. Synoptic presentation was then made country-by-country on the possible institutional arrangements for the databases as follows:

(a) **Botswana**

Ms. Lillian Motshabi Motlhatlhedi stated that as there was no IT office in the Ministry of the Environment. She stated that a university would be the more appropriate institution to create and maintain the environmental law database.

(b) **Ghana**

Mr. Larsey Mensah stated that the Environmental Protection Agency would be the most appropriate institution. That already EPA has some kind of infrastructure, and that there is a proposal on the table to create a national environmental information centre, hosted within the EPA. That there are also plans to develop databases in other sectors. That in Ghana the rights to the legislation is given to private company – subscribed but disclaimers prevent publishing.

(c) **Kenya**

Ms. Anne Nyaboke Angwenyi and Mr. Joseph Ngaira Masinde stated that the Government of Kenya would be the most appropriate institution. Currently, there are websites for all the ministries, however, most have just skeleton information. The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) have their own website where environmental legislation, such as environmental impact assessment requirements and environmental standards, have been deposited. The NEMA website, however, does not have the other sectoral legislation relating to the environment. Ms Angwenyi stated that the “Laws of Kenya” is a good website, however, it requires subscription of \$2666 per year, which is too expensive for everyday use. Regarding court decisions/judgments, Ms Angwenyi stated that it is very difficult to access such decisions in a reasonable time unless one privately pays a court clerk or registry staff.

(d) **Lesotho**

Ms. Qongqong Hoohlo stated that the Government or more specifically the Department of Environment would be the most appropriate institution to maintain the environmental law site. Lesotho has a government website which

is not always online and ministerial websites are currently being developed. Lesotho also has a Department of Environment site which is to be upgraded.

(e) **Malawi**

Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin and Mr. Kenyatta K. Nyirenda stated that Malawi already has an environmental law website controlled by the Ministry of Information (the central service link between all departments) and hosted by the government website at www.malawi.gov.mw. Mr Yassin recommended that the web site could be made more user-friendly if it contained the full text in one document rather than splitting the act into sections. He also recommended that links with other environmental websites be created.

(f) **Mauritius**

Ms. Gaitree Jugessur Manna of Mauritius identified the Government as the proper institution, with an appropriate technical infrastructure. The government recently launched online databases but that many of the environmental laws are still scattered across different ministries websites and offices. She inquired whether the environmental law website would duplicate existing websites or the laws or whether it would provide links to the various relevant ministries. It was suggested that one should start from the government website then move on to find the ministry in charge of particular components of the environment and that sometimes duplication is acceptable and necessary.

(g) **Mozambique**

Mrs. Jadwiga Soltys Massinga stated that the Government is the best agency as they have the most qualified IT technicians. However, collaboration with others will be necessary e.g. they need an environmental legal specialist.

(h) **Nigeria**

Ms. Ebukiba Edem Ekpo stated that the Ministry of the Environment is the appropriate agency, although they have 'a long way to go.' She stated that Nigeria is just starting to make proposals on development of websites for Government. She further stated that a CD-Rom of Environmental Laws for Nigeria is to be created by a South African consultant but the package is unaffordable to most people. It was noted that IT training is needed to build capacity. She further stated that Supreme Court decisions are only available through a private company and a high cost.

(i) **South Africa**

Dr. Johannes Rudolph Pretorius explained that even though there was online information on environmental law available on certain Government websites in South Africa, some having simple search facilities, and that the information was scattered between different departments. Furthermore, South Africa has several commercial databases, but that access depends on an expensive

subscription. He proposed either a joint venture with a commercial company or the government department for communications or the committee for environmental coordination.

(j) **Tanzania**

Mr. Rajab Hassan Rajab stated that Tanzania has a national website including one on environment. He stated that the Vice-Presidents office, Division of Environment has prepared a specific environment website which was soon to be launched.

SESSION 3

Basic Web page creation

13. The presentation on how to create a web page was made by Ms. Lucie Sewe, of UNEP. Ms. Sewe outlined how and the steps to develop a web page and create links by using Netscape Composer. She stated that due to the limited capacity of the Netscape Composer it is usually necessary to create a link to an existing web-based document outside the page. She also explained the necessity to be affiliated to an internet service provider in order to create a domain.
14. During the discussions, copyright issues on the use of images, free access to laws were raised. It was noted that in practice only trained lawyers know how to apply and interpret the laws and that the public would still depend upon them for professional legal advice. It was also noted that access to environmental information was a human right.

UNEP Environmental Law Website

15. A presentation was made by Ms. Maria Cristina Zucca, Associate Legal Officer, DPDL, UNEP, focusing on the UNEP Environmental law webpage. Ms. Zucca explained how to access different documents relating to UNEP including the program of work, which was useful to governments requesting assistance by UNEP. She emphasized that by using links to other websites, including those of international treaties and to the ECOLEX website, it was possible to always access the updated version of the specific documents as these pages were frequently maintained, for example, by the secretariats of the international treaties.

Role of participating Agencies and Governments

16. Mr. Robert Wabunoha of UNEP outlined the different roles that should be played by the participating agencies and the Governments relating to this Project. He stated that Governments would facilitate and encourage public awareness, appoint national focal points, collect materials, develop and continuously maintain and update the databases. UNEP, working jointly with FAO and IUCN, would prepare training materials and programmes on

developing and maintaining the databases, oversee implementation of the project and provide advisory services in accordance with agreed standards.

17. During subsequent discussions, it was noted that each country should have different templates but that there was a need to have certain common components of the templates.

Overview of the draft Contents of the National Databases on Environmental Law and Policies

18. Mr. Wabunoha presented a short paper on the highlights of the contents of a national website on environmental law and policy. He pointed out that it was logical to place policy and law on the same webpage, as law is a means of implementing policy. He also stated that a webpage on legal information should contain information which is easily accessible and downloadable. Mr. Wabunoha also outlined the various categories of content which could be included on the website: primary legislation, subsidiary legislation, bylaws, ordinances, rules, licenses, permits, forms, courts and tribunals (or judgments and rulings), MEAs- when ratified by the country, implementation activities for the MEA, policies, plans, guidelines and other reports.
19. During the discussions, it was suggested that the materials to be included on the website should include links to and from other national and international sites, general relevant information such as current news and contact addresses. It was also noted that even where a government website does not have an overall search function, the environmental law page could have a search function purely for its own content. It was also suggested that it is good to manage user expectations by listing the topic areas covered by the environmental law somewhere conspicuous such as the one on the Mauritius environmental law site.

DAY II

SESSION 4

Presentation on the LexisNexis database

20. A presentation was made by Mr. Constant Serge Bounda, Chief Librarian, Sergio Vieira De Mello Library, UNEP on the LexisNexis database. He stated that LexisNexis is a private law database with predominantly US and commonwealth related law (international and national legislation, case law, articles) information to which users have to subscribe. He stated further that there is free access for universities and a low fee access available for users in developing countries. Mr. Bounda explained how to use the database for research underlining the possibility to access all world-newspapers within the last 20 years and documents in the online library with focus on environmental law by using the LexisNexis search-machine. He offered participants to send them information in case they needed articles or any other information on environmental law.

21. In addition, a presentation was made by Ms. Erika Henson, Intern, Environmental Law Branch DPDL, UNEP on Westlaw (a free-of-charge database). Ms. Henson talked briefly about how Westlaw holds a wide range of case law, legal reviews, legislation and articles focused on US and Commonwealth.
22. During the discussions it was noted that in some countries private companies which had been engaged by Government to build up commercial legal databases were now charging the public for access to such information. It was therefore recommended that Governments should make sure that they do not to lose control over such public information once it handed over to private companies. That the Governments still must make the information available to the public for free.

Internet as a Tool of Socio-Economic Development

23. A presentation was made by Mr. Kelly Kabiru, of UNEP on how internet can be used as a tool for socio-economic development. He stressed that information was considered to be the engine of socio-economic development and that Governments in developing nations needed to make special effort in giving the poor better access to knowledge on the internet, and the skills to make use of it. He emphasized that the success of the internet should be measured less in terms of sheer numbers of connected individuals and more in terms of accessibility and contribution to social progress. He further stated that the beneficial use of the internet demanded investment in the underlying technical and social infrastructure in a way that was compatible with local cultures and abilities. Mr. Kabiru explained that website creators had to try to find out how to meet the respective demands of the audience of their website.
24. During the discussions, it was noted that an interactive format of a website can help retain interest among the users and that Governments should always evaluate the possibilities of improving their website by requesting for feedback by the users.

Strategies for Collection of Data on Environmental Laws and Policies

25. Ms. Moauro made a brief statement regarding the collection and management of data on environmental law and policies. She related it to her experience with the development and maintenance of FAOLEX. In summary her intervention was that:
 - (a) It is possible and sometimes preferable to publish the website cheaply in Canada or the US to avoid unreliable local lines.
 - (b) FAO could provide participants with details of the reliable and relatively inexpensive providers.

- (c) Databases must be continually developed and improved, for example, keywords should be periodically reviewed and updated. The use of a thesaurus in the search function, meaning you can enter any word, which will pick up synonyms or similar words. The process of inputting these similar words for the thesaurus is lengthy. Once the FAOLEX thesaurus has been built it can be used by the participating countries.
- (d) ISIS (the free software used by FAO to maintain FAOLEX) must be adapted to suit the needs of the particular databases of the participants.
- (e) MS Access will not handle more than 2000 records, therefore making it unsuitable for use for the purposes of a legal database.
- (f) Once the text of legal documents is sent to FAOLEX, it is indexed.
- (g) Free text search may be appropriate, depending on the kind of database being created. A 'google' search function within the system may be sufficient. As indexing requires a minimum of 3 months training, there is no point in having indexing and then having free search as well.
- (h) Software can simplify the indexing procedure.
- (i) Scanners are a necessary piece of equipment for hard copy law to be inputted into the database.

Presentations of the Status and Experiences of Participating Country's Databases

26. Participating countries were provided with a short questionnaire on the status of their national databases. Participants presented their responses to the questionnaires, sought clarification and exchanged information on the functioning of the status of their existing national databases.
27. The following are the main issues which were discussed:
 - Technically, a site can be hosted anywhere, so countries may choose overseas hosts which may provide a more reliable service than local servers.
 - Pentium 4 technology is needed to process instructions quickly for a database.
 - Site developers must consider the possibility for exponential growth of usage of the site. It is therefore important to know what processing capacity and RAM is available to ensure planning for the future.
 - It is important to plan information management strategies, particularly if there is decentralized management of content. UNEP offered to send

advice about information management on request from participating countries.

- While Linux may be a cheaper operating system and may be altered to suit specific purposes, Microsoft, has troubleshooting support which may justify the additional initial expense.
- If a consultant is hired to advise which operating system (Microsoft or Linux) to purchase, countries must be aware of pre-existing affiliations with either system, as this will tend to bias advice. They are contracting for a new website design and for better access.
- If a website designer is contracted, then specific instructions should be provided to assist the designer. UNEP will provide guidelines.
- Website content should be provided in both PDF and Word format to ensure all users can access information.
- PDF is a good format to lock information to prevent users from changing information.
- As there are different levels of expertise of those who will be handling the legal database, some countries require more guidance or training than others.
- Back-up of legal database information is extremely important, especially for countries using old servers.
- A good scanner is vital for the uploading of hard copies of law, for example old laws that are not available in electronic format.

SESSION 5

Conclusion and Adoption of Recommendations

28. The UNEP secretariat presented a draft of the recommendations made from the preceding two days of discussions during the workshop and invited comments on the text. The participating countries discussed, modified and adopted recommendations for the way forward in the implementation of the Project (see Annexure 3 for Recommendations).
29. Participants were provided with forms to assess the success of the workshop. Participants highlighted the usefulness of the specific technical advice provided during the workshop, particularly for those without IT training and also to clarify the knowledge of the IT specialists. Some participants felt that the different levels of capacity may be a challenge to the success of the programme. Others thought that an even broader range of stakeholders needed to be involved in the project. Across the board regardless of the stages in development of the Environmental Law information databases, all

participants agreed the project and workshop were useful to their respective countries.

Closing Remarks

30. Ms. Sylvia Bankobeza thanked all support staff and participants and assured that the workshop would be followed up soon. Ms Elizabeth Mrema encouraged participants to continue to collaborate with PADELIA. Mr. Robert Wabunoha thanked all participants and colleagues and promised continued learning and improvement the Project and its implementation. He confirmed UNEP's continued assistance to the participating countries and wished all a good journey. Ms Moauro said it was an honour to have been invited and hoped that she had been useful to all. Ms. Ebukiba Edem Ekpo, of Nigeria on behalf of all participants, thanked UNEP for their patience useful information and continued assistance.

31. The Workshop was closed at 5.00pm, 17 June 2005.

**PROJECT ON DEVELOPMENT OF
NATIONAL LEGAL DATABASES
TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
INFORMATION IN AFRICA
NAIROBI, 16-17 JUNE 2005
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**WORKSHOP ON PROJECT ON DEVELOPMENT OF
NATIONAL LEGAL DATABASES ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
INFORMATION IN AFRICA FOR ENGLISH SPEAKING
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**

June 16-17 2005

VENUE: UNEP GIGIRI, Nairobi, Kenya (Room C226- UNESCO BLOCK)

Final Annotated Agenda

DAY I	
Session 1	
8:45-9.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of Participants
9.20-9.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Remarks by Bakary Kante, Director, DPDL • Introduction of Participants • Organisational matters • Adoption of the Agenda
9.45 – 10.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the Project and its Activities: by Robert Wabunoha <p>The presentation will concentrate on the background of the project, rationale, objectives, activities, and expected accomplishments.</p>
10.15 - 11.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Communications, Technology: Importance of Accessing and Sharing Information for Web-based Legal Databases: by Kelly Kabiru <p>The presentation will give a theoretical and practical importance of using web-based internet information and how far the world is advancing in the use of internet services.</p>
11.00-11.20	TEA/COFFEE BREAK

16.00 – 17.00	<p>programme on developing and maintaining the databases, oversee implementation of the project and providing advisory services in accordance with agreed standards. The ensuing discussion should lead to the participating countries, UNEP, FAO and IUCN agreeing on the details of the roles that will be performed. Since the participating countries are at different levels of development of legal databases, the roles will be discussed taking into account the capacity of each country. Participants are encouraged to discuss their roles and what UNEP and other partners can provide including the critical issues of ownership, location and sustainability of the national databases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the Contents for the draft Guidelines for Development of National Databases on Environmental Law and Policies: by Robert Wabunoha <p>To ensure uniformity and accessibility to databases, introduction to the contents of the draft guidelines will be made. The contents of the draft guidelines contain a sketch of the areas that can be covered. The sketch is meant to show what information can be included taking into account the needs of each participating country, level of development and capacity of existing national databases. Participants are encouraged to discuss and suggest items that should to be included on their national databases.</p>
DAY II	
Session 4	Chair: Sylvia Bankobeza
9.00-10.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Research on the Internet: by Serge Bounda <p>This presentation will focus on the use of Lexis Nexis as a research tool on the internet that can be used to legal data collection and also as model of a search based website.</p>
10.15-10.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Internet and Socio-economic Development: Trends in Development Thinking: by Kelly Kabiru <p>The presentation addresses the important role the internet can play in assisting socio-economic development including poverty eradication strategies. The presenter looks at the need to assess the local culture to understand the appropriate use of the Internet for a web-based legal database.</p>
10.45-11.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations of the Status and Experiences of Participating Country's Databases <p>Participating countries were provided with a short questionnaire on the status of their national databases. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarifications and exchange information on the functioning of the existing national databases. Participating countries will make presentations as follows: Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Lesotho and Malawi</p>
11.00-11.30	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
11.30-12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with Presentations and discussion on the Status and

12.30 – 13.00	<p>Experiences of Participating Country Databases: Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa and Mauritius</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of ECOLEX and General Comments and Suggestions, by Barbara Mauro
13.00 – 14.00	<p style="text-align: center;">LUNCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of recommendations: UNEP/ELB staff
<p>Session 5 14.00-17.00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusion and Adoption of Recommendations: Chair <p>To enable clear understanding of the project activities, a summary of the outcome and recommendations of the workshop will be made arising out of the discussions from the two days. Participants are encouraged to raise any issue that will make the national databases function in a better manner including the best possible location of national databases.</p>
17.00 – 17.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing Remarks by Sylvia Bankobeza



United Nations
Environment
Programme

21 June 2005



**WORKSHOP FOR ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES ON THE UN
DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECT RELATING TO THE
DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL LEGAL DATABASES ON ACCESS TO
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INFORMATION IN AFRICA**

16-17 June 2005

Nairobi, Kenya

Recommendations

Government representatives from Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania who participated in the inaugural workshop on the *UN Development Account Project Relating to the Development of National Legal Databases for Capacity-Building to Enhance Access to Environmental Information in Africa* (“the Project”) held at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi 16-17th June 2005 discussed the issues in the agenda and agreed on the following **general points**:

1. It is important to appreciate the contribution of web-based environmental law databases in the achievement of sustainable development goals including poverty alleviation and environmental protection taking into account local cultures and needs.
2. In order for the Project to be successful, it is important for national policies, legislation and practices for information sharing to be in place.
3. It is important to note that Government information should remain easily accessible to the public.
4. Public institutions should not withdraw from the responsibility of providing access to information, as required under Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

5. Where information is provided by public institutions to private entities for the development of commercial products, the provider of information should ensure that full control and right of use is retained by the public institution.
6. The promotion of institutional capacity-building at a national level and technology transfer are essential for the implementation of the Project.

The participants also agreed on the following main technical points:

7. Databases should be designed in a user-friendly manner for easy access.
8. The nature of the web-based database websites will be defined by the type of data that will go into them.
9. Standards for information management and presentation, including indexing, where appropriate, need to be defined.
10. Where possible and at an early stage, decide on the preferred nature and design of the web-based database so that the appropriate software can be selected.
11. A choice has to be made by the participating countries on whether to use indexed databases or free text search engines.
12. Appropriate hosts for the websites need to be identified.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the following **Recommendations** were made as follow-up activities:

13. Participating Governments will endeavour to:
 - (a) Within one month, nominate a National Focal Point for the implementation of the project activities;
 - (b) Within two months, carry out a detailed country-specific needs assessment and provide a report on the findings to UNEP;
 - (c) Within three months, prepare a costed workplan leading to the creation of a web-based environmental law database; and
 - (d) Collect and collate environmental law information including case law.
14. **UNEP will:**
 - (a) Within 1 month, prepare draft guidelines and a generic workplan defining management aspects related to implementation of the Project including human resource requirements, equipment, information collection and management systems; and

- (b) Based on the findings of the country-specific needs assessment, the costed workplan and within available resources, immediately draft MOUs to be negotiated between UNEP and the relevant institution in the participating countries for the implementation of the Project.

15. FAO will:

Provide advice, depending on availability of resources, on methodology, tools and database software for the development of national environmental law databases.

16. UNEP and FAO will:

- (a) Develop draft standards and procedures for the Project for use by the Governments; and
- (b) Provide technical assistance and advice relating to the implementation of the Project.

17. Participating Governments, UNEP and FAO will:

- (a) Within their respective mandates, facilitate the creation of awareness on environmental law as well as on availability of information sources; and
- (b) Collaborate with all parties to ensure that national web-based environmental law databases developed are linked to and from ECOLEX environmental portal.

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