



**Human Rights and the Environment: A Comparative Review
Works in Progress Workshop
Call for Submissions**

Organized by the Research Committee of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law and the
IUCN Environmental Law Centre, Bonn
at Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium
Monday, September 13, 2010

Overview

The IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Research Committee and the IUCN Environmental Law Center are jointly organizing a one day workshop to focus on human rights and the environment/ environmental justice issues and examine the national legal systems that lead to inequitable treatment of disadvantaged communities. This workshop will coincide with the IUCN Academy's Eighth Annual Colloquium in Ghent, but will involve a separate call for submissions and participant selection process.

Many conferences and international legal regimes have focused on international human rights and various procedural mechanisms to ensure public participation in environmental decision making. Unlike those conferences – which have already contributed a wealth of information to the field of environmental justice – this workshop will use a comparative approach to explore various countries' national legal systems and the environmental inequities they create. The goal of this workshop is to explore how substantive – as opposed to procedural – laws lead to environmental inequity and to discuss ways that substantive laws can more adequately address environmental injustice.

Selected participants will be expected to present a brief case study to the rest of the workshop participants. The presentation should identify the environmental injustice concerns and explain how substantive laws create or contribute to the human rights concerns. After the participants

have presented their case studies, all workshop participants will discuss the various national case studies, attempt to identify common legal elements that may create environmental inequity, and explore substantive solutions that could ameliorate the human rights concerns.

The workshop organizers therefore invite proposals for papers on this topic focusing on domestic or national case studies regarding environmental injustice/human rights and the environment. Please note that we do not intend for the workshop to discuss international law or public participation rights. The proposals should:

1. Identify how disadvantaged persons in a particular country face disproportionate effects from environmental harm;
2. Explain how substantive laws in that country cause or contribute to the inequity; and
3. Explain how and whether changes in the substantive laws could redress some of the disproportionate environmental harms.

Submissions

Abstracts for the workshop are invited, through this call for submissions, for consideration by the Research Committee.

Abstracts not exceeding 500 words may be submitted by email to the principal workshop organizer, Professor Melissa Powers, at powers@lclark.edu, with a copy to the IUCN Academy Secretariat at iucnael@uottawa.ca. Abstracts should have a title and include the name and contact details of the submitter.

Please submit your abstract by 15 August 2010. Abstracts submitted earlier may be approved before the submission deadline. Space in the workshop is limited, so we encourage early submissions.

Selected participants should submit working draft papers by 7 September 2010 for distribution to the workshop participants. These drafts should expand upon the three topics identified above. The Research Committee is exploring possible avenues for publication and distribution of the papers. We will notify participants of developments regarding publication.

Working Language

The working language for the workshop will be English.

Registration

There is no charge for attending the workshop. However, all participants, including both presenters and observers, must register for the event. Because space will be limited in the venue, you must register in advance by contacting the IUCN Secretariat at iucnael@uottawa.ca