



Keep It Legal - Innovation Towards Climate Change

UNFCCC COP23 Side Event

Adaptive Governance

Formulating a flexible legal framework for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in the context of water

12th November 2017 — 13:00 to 14:15

IUCN Pavilion — Bonn Zone

IUCN Environmental Law Centre

BACKGROUND

The direct reliance of human kind on freshwater availability cannot be understated. Characterized by scientific uncertainty, adaptation to the impacts of climate change particularly in the face of growing water scarcity should be at the forefront of global concerns, with efforts to formulate strong but flexible legal frameworks capable of coping with the devastating effects of climate change. Perhaps the biggest challenge when talking about freshwater resources is the fact that, like climate change, much of the existing water resources on the planet including groundwater transcend national borders. This implies an interdependency of social, economic and hydrological nature between nations sharing water resources and specific ecosystems, which cannot be neglected when considering the relationship between water and climate change. A mechanism to address these international dimensions is pivotal to provide effective adaptation to climate change, particularly when dealing with transboundary water resources. Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) can provide such mechanism. An EbA approach employs a multi-sectoral lens, including elements ranging from water to agriculture, forestry to biodiversity conservations at the basin level, identifying holistic strategies to adapt but also mitigate the effects of climate change.

OBJECTIVE

This session adopts a multi-disciplinary and multi-level lens to provide an overview of adaptive governance in relation to shared water resources in the face of climate change. The aim of this meeting is to promote Ecosystem-based Adaptation as a viable tool to enable sovereign states to cooperate and to jointly manage water resources and adapt to, but also mitigate, the effects of climate change most effectively, by bridging the gap between different sectors and providing a more holistic management of resources. This session provides a platform for discussion of climate change adaptation in the context of shared resources. Lastly, this session aims to identify the best practices in terms of legal and policy instruments which enable Ecosystem-based Adaptation to climate change.

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Ministerio Federal
de Medio Ambiente, Protección de la Naturaleza,
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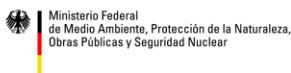
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SCHEDULE

Time	Description of the Session	Speakers
13:00 13:10	Introduction	Juan Carlos Sanchez, Legal Officer IUCN ELC
13:10 13:20	Climate Change and Water	Technical Presentation John Matthews, AGWA
13:20 13:30	Cooperation on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins Good practices and lessons learned under the UNECE Task Force on Water and Climate since 2006 and beyond	Technical Presentation Sonja Koepfel, UNECE
13:40 13:50	Regional Perspective EbA experiences from Central America	Technical Presentation Rocío Córdoba, Representative of the Republic of Costa Rica Delegation
13:50 14:00	National Level National challenges and perspectives – the case of the Honduras	Speech Representative of the Republic of Honduras Delegation, (speaker tbc)
	Open Floor Discussion	
14:10 14:15	Concluding Remarks	Juan Carlos Sanchez, Legal Officer IUCN ELC

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PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONS

Governments	Non - Governments
Republic of Costa Rica Republic of Honduras	UNECE Water Convention IUCN ELC AGWA

CONTACT INFORMATION

Juan Carlos Sánchez
Legal Officer
Environmental Law Centre
IUCN
E mail – Juancarlos.sanchez@iucn.org

Lavinia Giulia Pomarico
Intern
Environmental Law Centre
IUCN
Email - Lavinia.Pomarico@iucn.org

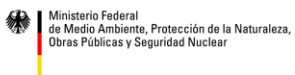
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