The general theme of the Congress is *Environmental Law 2030 and Beyond*. The focus on the future, in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is an innovative look forward to and beyond the next decade for the legal discipline. This theme is a departure from the common approach in previous events that reflect primarily on past or present issues.

In light of emerging and continuing global challenges, and the [2030 Sustainable Development Agenda](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/2030-agenda/), the Congress will reaffirm, further develop, and advance the [2016 World Declaration on the Environmental Rule of Law](https://www.ucc.wvu.edu/esr/RulesOfLaw.pdf) and set the stage for the design of its implementation guidelines.

The Congress is hosted by the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Organization of American States (OAS), with support from the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (GJIE), the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL), the Supreme Court, the Judicial Academy, and the Association of Judges of Rio de Janeiro, the Museu do Amanhã (Museum of Tomorrow), and several other international and national institutions.

With participants from over 120 countries anticipated, the Congress will be the largest gathering ever of environmental law experts from around the world. All speakers are invited to examine and contribute to the update of the Declaration as the defining tool for strengthening environmental law in the coming decades.

Starting on Monday 23 March through Wednesday 25 March, six other major environmental law events will be held in coordination with the Congress: UNEP Fifth Montevideo Programme for
the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo V); 3rd General Assembly of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment; International Council of Environmental Law Meeting; 2nd OAS Inter-American Colloquium on the Environmental Rule of Law; WCEL Global Colloquium of Early Career Environmental Law Experts; and WCEL Moot Court.

These combined global events will bring together a variety of distinguished actors involved in the development, compliance, and implementation of environmental law - including judges, legislators, prosecutors, scholars, government agencies, intergovernmental organizations, multilateral financial institutions, public interest organizations and the private sector.

**Wednesday, 25 March**

13:00 –16:00  **Registration**

16:00 - 17:00  **Opening**

   Speaker: Claudio de Mello Tavares, Chief Justice, Supreme Court, State of Rio de Janeiro

17:00 - 18:30  **Keynote Opening Addresses**

   Chair: [TBD]

   Speakers:

   ● Inger Andersen (Executive Director, UNEP)
   ● Ricardo Salles (Minister of the Environment, Brazil)
   ● Sylvia Earle (Oceanographer, United States of America)

18:30 - 20:00  **High Level Dialogue**

   Toward 2030: Foundations for the Environmental Law Super Decade

   Chair: Christina Voigt (Professor, University of Oslo, Norway)

   Speakers:

   ● Elizabeth Mrema (Acting Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity)
   ● Nicholas Robinson (WCEL Chair Emeritus)
   ● Michel Prieur (Professor Emeritus, University of Limoges)
   ● Ricardo Lorenzetti (Justice, Supreme Court of Argentina)

20:00 - 20:20  **From Hawai‘i to Rio: Outcomes from the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment’s Second Symposium**

   Distinguished Speaker: Mark Recktenwald (Chief Justice, Hawai‘i Supreme Court)

20:20 – 22:00  **Reception**
Thursday, 26 March

The Congress will be divided into four parallel streams that will run simultaneously:

A. Environmental Rule of Law  
B. Biodiversity & the Post-2020 Framework  
C. Water Justice & Security  
D. Oceans & Islands

The streams will be focused on the global environmental crises and on the challenge of advancing the environmental rule of law. Each stream will include keynote speakers, panels of presentations selected from the Congress’ call for papers, and roundtable dialogues on key issues for the future of environmental law. The Congress will culminate Friday afternoon by bringing together insights and recommendations from each stream to a closing plenary to define a global path for environmental law.

Speakers and streams are invited to address the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the 2016 World Declaration on the Environmental Rule of Law, and the following seven cross-cutting themes: Environmental Ethics; Climate Change; Indigenous Peoples & Vulnerable Communities; Youth & Gender Equity; Human Rights, Peace & Security; Science, Innovation, Technology & Energy; and Sustainable Agriculture.

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**Session 1: Streams A B C D**  
**9:00 - 12:00**

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**Session 1 - Stream A: Environmental Rule of Law**  
**Venue: Supreme Court Complex**

9:00 - 9:15 **Introduction**  
Stream Coordinators:  
- Nick Bryner (Professor, Louisiana State University, United States of America)  
- Alejandra Rabasa (Jurisprudential Researcher, Center of Constitutional Studies, Mexican Supreme Court of Justice, Mexico)

9:15 - 10:00 **Keynote Presentations**  
Chair: Claudia de Windt (Senior Specialist, Environmental Security and Justice, Organization of American States)  
Keynote Speakers:  
- Eckhard Rehbinder (Professor, University Frankfurt am Main, Germany)  
- James Thornton (Chief Executive Officer, Client Earth, United Kingdom)
10:00 - 11:00 **Concurrent Panel 1: Submitted Papers**

*Legal Status of Nature*

Chair (woman): [TBD]

Presentations (10 min. each):
- Catherine J. Iorns Magallanes, *Using the Legal Status of Nature To Better Achieve Human Responsibility*
- Grant Wilson, *Rights of Forests as a Solution to the Environmental Crisis*
- Trevor Daya-Winterbottom, *Personality and Representation in Environmental Law*
- Akhtar Uz Zaman (Senior Assistant Judge, National Legal Aid Services Organization, of Bangladesh), *Judicial Activism on Rights of Nature in Bangladesh: An Appraisal*

10:00 - 11:00 **Concurrent Panel 2: Submitted Papers**

*General Theory of the Environmental Rule of Law*

Chair (woman):

Presentations (10 min. each):
- Andy Raine, *State of Global Environmental Rule of Law: Tracking and Advancing Progress*
- Patryck de Araújo Ayala & Mariana Carvalho Victor Coelho, *Taking Nature Seriously: the Ethics and Justice of an Ecological Rule of Law in Times of the Anthropocene*
- Nathan John Cooper, *Reimagining the Rule of Law for Ecological Integrity in the Anthropocene*
- Ivano Alogna (Arthur Watts Research Fellow, British Institute of International and Comparative Law, London), *The Evolution of Environmental Law Through the Circulation of Legal Models*

11:00 - 12:00 **Roundtable Dialogue**

Chair: [TBD]

Roundtable Participants: WCEL Early Career Group, Montevideo V, Organization of American States, Parliamentarians, Public Interest Litigators
Session 1 - Stream B: Biodiversity & the Post-2020 Framework
Venue: Supreme Court Complex

9:00 - 9:15  **Introduction**  
Stream Coordinators:
- Maria-Goreti Muavesi (Senior Environmental Legal Officer, IUCN Oceania Regional Office, Fiji)
- Raul Silva Telles do Valle (Socioenvironmental Justice Director, World Wildlife Fund, Brazil)

9:15 - 10:00  **Keynote Presentations**  
Chair: [TBD]  
Keynote Speakers:
- Christina Voigt (Professor, University of Oslo, Norway), *An Implementation Mechanism for the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework – Inspirations from the UN Paris Agreement*
- Braulio Dias (Former Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity, Brazil)

10:00 - 11:00  **Submitted Papers**  
**Ethical & Legal Challenges in Biodiversity Conservation**  
Chair: [TBD]  
Presentations (10 min. each):
- Angel Daen Morales Garcia, *El Jaguar (Panthera onca), Retos y Mecanismos para su Conservación Desde una Dimension Política y Socio-Jurídica Continental*
- Fernando López Ramón, *El Principio de no Regresión de los Ecosistemas Protegidos*
- Zhou Jinfeng, *Classic Cases of Chinese NGOs Deep Engagement in Global Environmental Governance*
- Jennifer R. B. Miller, Alejandra Goyenechea & Vasco Chavez-Molina, *Variability in Seized Wildlife from Latin America to the US Reveals Unique Challenges*

11:00 - 12:00  **Roundtable Dialogue**  
Chair: [TBD]  
Roundtable Participants: WCEL Early Career Group, Montevideo V, Organization of American States, Parliamentarians, Public Interest Litigators
Session 1 - Stream C: Water Justice & Security
Venue: Supreme Court Complex

9:00 - 9:15 Introduction
Stream Coordinators:
  ● Stefano Burchi (Executive Chairman, International Association for Water Law)
  ● Michael Hantke (Former Chief Justice, Third Environment Court, Chile)

9:15 - 11:00 Brasilia Declaration of Judges on Water Justice
Chair: Raquel Dodge (Former Federal Public Prosecutor, Former Attorney General, Brazil)
Speakers (15 min. each):
  ● Antonio Benjamin (WCEL Chair)
  ● Arnold Kreilhuber (Acting Director, UNEP-Law Division)
  ● Maria Luiza Machado Granziera (Professor, Catholic University of Santos, Brazil)
  ● Brian Preston (Chief Judge, Land and Environment Court of New South Wales, Australia)

11:00 - 12:00 Roundtable Dialogue
Chair: [TBD]
Roundtable Participants: WCEL Early Career Group, Montevideo V, Organization of American States, Parliamentarians, Public Interest Litigators

Session 1 - Stream D: Oceans & Islands
Venue: Museu do Amanhã (Museum of Tomorrow)

9:00 - 9:10 Welcome Remarks
Speaker: Ricardo Piquet (Diretor Presidente do Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Gestão, Museu do Amanhã)

9:10 - 9:30 Welcome Remarks
Speaker: Honorable Chief of the Navy of Brazil

9:30 - 9:45 Introduction
Stream Coordinators:
  ● Cymie Payne (Professor, Rutgers University, United States of America)
  ● Rose-Liza Osorio (Professor, University of Cebu, Philippines)

9:45 - 10:00 Keynote Presentations
Chair: [TBD]
Keynote Speakers:
  ● Nilüfer Oral (Chair, International Council of Environmental Law)
  ● BBNJ Secretariat [TBC]
10:00 - 11:00 Submitted Papers  
**Plastic Pollution Crisis**  
Chair: [TBD]  
Presentations (10 min. each):  
- Emily Gaskin (WCEL Executive Officer)  
- Brazilian Speaker  
- UNEP Speaker

11:00 - 12:00 Roundtable Dialogue  
Chair: [TBD]  
Roundtable Participants: WCEL Early Career Group, Montevideo V, Organization of American States, Parliamentarians, Public Interest Litigators

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**Lunch**  
12:00 - 14:00

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**Session 2: Streams A B C D**  
14:00 - 18:00

**Session 2 - Stream A: Environmental Rule of Law**  
Venue: Supreme Court Complex

14:00 - 15:00 Keynote Presentations  
Chair (woman): [TBD]  
Keynote Speakers:  
- Luc Lavrysen (Judge, Constitutional Court, Belgium)  
- David Boyd (UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment)

15:00 - 16:30 Concurrent Panel 1: Submitted Papers  
**Environmental Rule of Law & Climate Change**  
Chair: [TBD]  
Presentations (10 min. each):  
- Douglas Ruley (Chief Counsel, Global Programmes, ClientEarth) & Karla Hill, *Law as a Driver of Transition During the Crucial 2020 – 2030 Decade*
● David Estrin, Patrícia Galvão Ferreira, New IBA Model Climate Remedies Statute to Advance Citizen Climate Justice
● Tara Smith, Climate Change and International Criminal Law: Is It Time to Redefine the ‘Crime of Crimes’?
● Sébastien Mabile, Le Droit des Sociétés au Secours du Climat
● Benoit Mayer (Professor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong), Interpreting States’ General Obligations on Climate Change mitigation: A Methodological Review

15:00 - 16:30 Concurrent Panel 2: Submitted Papers

Environmental Defenders
Chair: [TBD]
Presentations (10 min. each):
● Astrid Puentes (Co-Executive Director, Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense), Invited Speaker
● Patrícia Galvão Ferreira & Noah Hall, To What Extent Can IL Protect Environmental Defenders? A Latin America Perspective
● Heidi Michalski Ribeiro, Indigenous Women in Latin American Climate Regulations: Contributions to the Environmental Rule of Law
● Bruno Martins Morais & Victor Alcantara e Silva, Not Quite Isolated: Indigenous Peoples on Voluntary Isolation Contributions on the Protection of the Amazon
● Carl Bruch, Environmental Rule of Law in Conflict-Affected Situations

16:30 - 18:00 Roundtable Dialogue
Chair: [TBD]
Roundtable Participants: WCEL Early Career Group, Montevideo V, Organization of American States, Parliamentarians, Public Interest Litigators

Session 2 - Stream B: Biodiversity & the Post-2020 Framework

Venue: Supreme Court Complex

14:00 - 15:00 Keynote Presentations
Chair: [TBD]
Keynote Speakers:
● Emmanuel Ugirashebuja (President, East African Court of Justice, Tanzania)
● Denise Hamú (UNEP Representative, Brazil)

15:00 - 16:30 Submitted Papers

Natural Resources Management Law & Sustainability
Chair: [TBD]
Presentations (10 min. each):
- Noriko Okubo Date, *Management of Natural Resources and Community Rights in Asian Region*
- Oyeniyi Abe, *Environmental Protection and Resource Extraction in Sub-Saharan Africa*
- Patrice Bigombe Logo, *Public Timber Procurement Policies and Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin*
- Evangelos Raftopoulos, *Relational Environmental Law: The Public Trust Approach and Sustainability Governance of the Mediterranean Region*
- Invited Speaker

16:30 - 18:00 **Roundtable Dialogue**
Chair: [TBD]
Roundtable Participants: WCEL Early Career Group, Montevideo V, Organization of American States, Parliamentarians, Public Interest Litigators

**Session 2 - Stream C: Water Justice & Security**
**Venue: Supreme Court Complex**

14:00 - 15:00 **Keynote Presentations**
Chair: [TBD]
Keynote Speakers: [TBD]

15:00 - 16:30 **Submitted Papers**
*Fresh Water Protection*
Chair: [TBD]
Presentations (10 min. each):
- José Irivaldo Alves Oliveira Silva, *Water Injustice in the Global South: Brazilian Water Policy and the Construction of a Water Citizenship*
- Antonio Embid, *Water Security and Consequences in Water Management*
- Gayathri D. Naik, *Brazilian Declaration & Beyond: Role of Courts in Ensuring Water Justice and Environmental Rule of Law in India*
- Brazilian Speaker

16:30 - 18:00 **Roundtable Dialogue**
Chair: [TBD]
Roundtable Participants: WCEL Early Career Group, Montevideo V, Organization of American States, Parliamentarians, Public Interest Litigators
Session 2 - Stream D: Oceans & Islands
Venue: Museu do Amanhã

14:00 - 15:00 Keynote Presentations
Chair: Commandant (Brazilian Navy, Rio de Janeiro)
Keynote Speakers:
- Meg Taylor (Director General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Papua New Guinea)
- Invited Speaker

15:00 - 16:30 Submitted Papers
Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) & Marine Protected Areas
Chair: [TBD]
Presentations (10 min. each):
- Erik J. Molenaar, Creeping Coastal State Jurisdiction and the BBNJ Negotiations and Evolution, Law of the Sea, Creeping Jurisdiction, Adjacency, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
- Christian Prip, Identifying Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs): A key tool for legal protection of ocean biodiversity
- Do Viet Cuong, The Evolution of the Law and Politics of Marine Protected Areas
- Achinthi Vithanage, Intergenerational Equity and Ex Situ Conservation under the BBNJ Instrument

16:30 - 18:00 Roundtable Dialogue
Chair: [TBD]
Roundtable Participants: WCEL Early Career Group, Montevideo V, Organization of American States, Parliamentarians, Public Interest Litigators

Friday, 27 March

During the morning, the Congress will focus on only three of the simultaneous streams:

A. Environmental Rule of Law
B. Biodiversity & the Post-2020 Framework
D. Oceans & Islands

Session 3: Streams A B D
9:00 - 12:00
Session 3 - Stream A: Environmental Rule of Law
Venue: Supreme Court Complex

9:00 - 9:45  Keynote Presentations
Chair: Andy Raine (Head of International Environmental Law Unit, UNEP-Law Division)
Keynote Speakers:
- Kristen Walker Painemilla (Chair, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy)
- Scott Fulton (President, Environmental Law Institute)

9:45 - 11:00  Concurrent Panel 1: Submitted Papers
Compliance & Enforcement Systems
Chair: [TBD]
Presentations (10 min. each):
- Rachel Pepper, *Constitutional Recognition of an Environmental Rule of Law: Does it Lead to Better Environmental Outcomes?*
- Burcu Zobu, Kristin Meyer, Franziska Albrecht, Peter Langdahl, *Earth Observation Services for Environmental Law Enforcement and Compliance*
- Stephen M. Kohn, *Environmental Whistleblowers: Key to Accountability, Enforcement and the Rule of Law*
- Merideth Wright, *Effective Implementation of Judicial Orders: Making a Difference on the Ground*
- Nicola Pain, *Restorative Justice: Judicial Remedies that Address All Aspects of Environmental Harm*

9:45 - 11:00  Concurrent Panel 2: Submitted Papers
Innovative Legal Procedures & Remedies
Chair: [TBD]
Presentations (10 min. each):
- James R. May, *Environmental Rights, Responses and the Rule of Law*
- Carol Adaire Jones, *Addressing Challenges to Valuing Damages in Environmental Liability Suits*
- Susan D. Shaw, *Risks of Environmental Problem-Shifting in the Anthropocene: Stewardship of the Earth-System*
- Mari Anniina Pihalehto, *On Sustainability Aspects of Environmental Damages and Liability Legislation*
9:45 - 11:00  Concurrent Panel 3: Submitted Papers
Intergenerational Equity & Climate
Chair: [TBD]
Presentations (10 min. each):
- Warren Lavey, *Training All Law Students and Lawyers for Climate-Affected Practice*
- Miranda Steed, *Youth Climate Movements, Green Economy, and the Environmental Rule of Law*
- Erick Pajares G., Jorge Iván Palacio Palacio, Carlos Loret de Mola & Juan José Munar M., *Por un Defensor de las Generaciones Futuras: Fundamentos Frente a la Emergencia Planetaria*
- Invited Speaker

11:00 - 12:00  Summary Dialogue
Chairs:
- Nick Bryner (Professor, Louisiana State University, United States of America)
- Alejandra Rabasa (Jurisprudential Researcher, Mexican Supreme Court of Justice Center of Constitutional Studies, Mexico)

Stream Rapporteurs:

**Session 3 - Stream B: Biodiversity & the Post-2020 Framework**
**Venue: Supreme Court Complex**

9:00 - 9:45  Keynote Presentations
Chair: [TBD]
Keynote Speakers:
- Angela Andrade (Chair, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management)
- Spencer Thomas (Ambassador and Special Envoy for Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Grenada)

9:45 - 11:00  Submitted Papers
New Frameworks: IPBES Global Assessment, Soil Management & Ecosystems
Chair: Jon Paul Rodriguez (Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission)
Presentations (10 min each):
- Ana Maria Hernandez (IPBES Chair), *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: The Crises Reframed*, Invited Speaker
- Ian Hannam, *Legislative and Policy Framework To Manage Soil Carbon Sequestration*
- Invited Speaker (Post-2020 Framework/Secretariat)
- Invited Speaker
11:00 - 12:00 **Summary Dialogue**

Chairs:
- Maria-Goreti Muavesi (Senior Environmental Legal Officer, IUCN Oceania Regional Office, Fiji)
- Raul Silva Telles do Valle (Socioenvironmental Justice Director, World Wildlife Fund, Brazil)

Stream Rapporteurs:

**Session 3 - Stream D: Oceans & Islands**
**Venue: Supreme Court Complex**

9:00 - 9:45 **Keynote Presentations**

Chair: [TBD]

Keynote Speakers:
- Clement Mulalap (Legal Advisor, Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Federated States of Micronesia, Yap)
- Invited Speaker

9:45 - 11:00 **Submitted Papers**

*Marine & Coastal Protection*

Chair: TBD

Presentations (10 min. each):
- Olga Koubrak, *Marine Species at Risk and Environmental Assessments in Canada: New Law, New Beginning?*
- Veda Phoolchund-Bhadain & Mokshda Pertaub, *Environmental Justice, Marine Tourism & Economic Development: The Environmental and Land Use Appeal Tribunal in Mauritius*
- Bruno Monteferrer (Conservationist, Environmental Lawyer and Filmmaker, Conservamos por Naturaleza), *Protection of Surf Breaks*, Invited Speaker
- Brazilian Speaker
- Invited Speaker

11:00 - 12:00 **Summary Dialogue**

Chairs:
- Cymie Payne (Professor, Professor, Rutgers University, United States of America)
- Rose-Liza Osorio (Professor, University of Cebu, Philippines)

Stream Rapporteurs:

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**Lunch**

12:00 - 14:00
14:00 - 15:00  **Plenary Session**  
*Cities & the Environment*  
Chair: Ayman Rabi (Executive Director, Palestinian Hydrology Group, Palestine)  
Speakers:  
- Isabella Teixeira (Former Minister of the Environment, Brazil)  
- Johnny Hughes (Director of Conservation, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scotland)

15:00 - 16:00  **High Level Closing Dialogue**  
*Ethics of Environmental Law*  
Chair: [TBD]  
Speakers:  
- Marina Silva (Former Senator and Minister of the Environment of Brazil)  
- Klaus Bosselmann (Professor, University of Auckland, New Zealand)  
- Antonio Oposa Jr. (Normandie Chair for Peace, Philippines)  
- Francois Ost (Professor, Saint-Louis University, Brussels)

16:00 - 17:00  **Summary Report from Streams**  
Chair: [TBD]  
Speakers: Stream Coordinators/Rapporteurs

17:00 - 17:30  **Presentation of Awards**

17:30 - 17:45  **A Voice for the Future**  
Speaker: AnnMary Naduva (Youth Activist, Fiji)

17:45 – 18:00  **Closing Keynote Speaker**  
Speaker: Achim Steiner (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme)

18:00 - 18:30  **Farewell Address**  
Speakers:  
- Christina Voigt (Professor, University of Oslo, Norway)  
- Denise Antolini (WCEL, Deputy Chair)

19:30 – 22:30  **Reception**