

IUCN - The World Conservation Union
IUCN Commission on Environmental Law

Symposium on Environmental Law for European Judges

Adelaide House, 10 – 11 October 2002

London Bridge Statement'

From 10-11 October 2002 judges from across Europe met with judges and scholars from across the globe to take initial steps in advancing the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, insofar as it relates to the role of the judiciary in achieving sustainable development.

The Symposium agreed by acclamation to:

1. Establish, as of today, a European Judicial Forum to progress the outcomes of the Symposium, with its initial membership to comprise the European members of the judiciary who attended the Symposium.
2. Invite the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law Judiciary Specialist Group, Chaired by the Hon Justice Paul Stein, AM (Australia), to facilitate co-ordination of the work of the European Judicial Forum with broader global initiatives.
3. Commend the development of the IUCN/UNEP Judicial Portal by the IUCN Environmental Law Centre as an innovative and effective means to facilitate communication on environmental law amongst judges, and in particular the sharing of judgements, and to encourage judges from across Europe to participate actively in the Portal.
4. Endorse the need to draw upon fellow members of the judiciary and organisations such as IUCN and its partners to work actively with the judiciary at all levels to help enhance its knowledge base in environmental law and sustainable development law more generally.
5. Support the value of further investigating the pros and cons of establishing specialist environment courts, including specialist divisions of existing courts, and the appointment of judges with specialised knowledge in environmental law.
6. Recognise the value to society of enhancing the ability of citizens to obtain access to the courts to further enhance the effective implementation, compliance with, and enforcement of, environmental laws.
7. Extend a vote of thanks to the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law for taking the initiative in convening the Symposium, to each of the co sponsors, and to the staff of Berwin Leighton Paisner and the IUCN Environmental Law Centre for organising the event.

The Symposium also took note of the Johannesburg Principles adopted at the UNEP Global Judicial Symposium in August 2002, and commended UNEP and its cosponsors, including IUCN, on taking this global initiative.

Adelaide House
11 October 2002