



24 January 2017

Media Advisory

Mainstreaming environmental law in the judicial training curricula

Interpol and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have released a joint report in December 2016 titled 'Environment, Peace and Security – A Convergence of Threats', focusing on the links between global environmental crime, valued at USD 91 – 258 billion annually, and other criminal activities, including organised crime and terrorism.

According to the report, more than 60% of surveyed countries stated they were witnessing new environmental crimes and modus operandi, indicating growing sophistication and adaptation by transnational organised crime groups.

In the African continent, environmental crimes remain a huge challenge, inflicting immense damage to the continent's environment, and undermining conservation efforts. There have been a number of initiatives implemented in various African countries to reverse the trend of environmental crimes.

A critical element of these efforts is ensuring that judicial systems in the continent are adequately capacitated to deal with environmental crimes, especially transnational crimes, and that a regional strategy is in place to curb such activities.

It is for this reason that the UNEP and the South African Judicial Education Institute (SAJEI) in the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ) have collaborated on a Regional Programme for mainstreaming environmental law in the judicial training Institutes in Africa.

The long term objective of the Programme is to integrate environmental law and have sustainable judicial training curricula. This objective will be achieved through a multi-pronged approach including capacity building within Judicial Institutes as well as development of respective Judicial curricula.

As such, from 25 to 27 January 2017 UNEP and SAJEI will host the first training-of-the-trainers programme for mainstreaming environmental law in the judicial training Institutes in Africa. Countries that will participate in the Programme include Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Kenya, Ghana, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, Malawi and Swaziland, just to name a few.

The Programme will also play a critical role of creating a platform for African countries to share expertise on judicial education as well as share best practice on establishing institutes of judicial education for those that do not have them.

Members of the media are invited to the open session of on the first day of the programme, scheduled as follows:

Date: 25 January 2017

Time: 09h00

Place: Indaba Hotel, William Nicol Drive, Fourways, Johannesburg

Media RSVPs may be sent to Ms Lusanda Ntuli at LNtuli@judiciary.org.za

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Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice