The Francoise Burhenne Fellowship

The IUCN Council has unanimously adopted a resolution proposing to name an international environmental law prize after Francoise Burhenne-Guilmin. The Prize would be "the Francoise Burhenne Fellowship in Environmental Law in Recognition of Francoise's Burhenne-Guilmin's inspiring force behind the scenes of international environmental law since the 1960s, her contribution to IUCN's leading position in international environmental law, and encouragement and support of the 2013 International Environmental Law Conference (IUCN ELC). The Council mentioned her work with others in the field, how she is known for her efforts in the development of international environmental law, and her work with stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and grassroots organizations.

United States:
- Nominee to Head Department of Interior

President Obama has nominated Sally Jewell, former CEO of REI, to replace Ken Salazar, who resigned that post, effective 31 March 2013. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has contact to support the President, but must still receive the approval of a majority of the Senate. Jewell is renowned for her role in the Administration's past environmental efforts, and the fact that under her tenure as President of REI Fortune magazine included her on its list of the “100 Best Companies to Work For”. Conservatives have criticized her work with organizations that challenge the government for environmentally damaging choices, while liberals have expressed concern about her outspoken support for the expansion of exploration and exploitation on public lands. Jewell is expected to face a confirmation hearing in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with a vote expected in early April 2013.

Law of the Sea Tribunal to Advise on IUU Fishing

With the goal of “shaping a sustainable development agenda on Environment and Development and the implications, from a regional perspective, of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The participants also addressed preparations for the 2014 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCHD) and the 2015 UNGA – Environmental Leadership in the Post-2015 Agenda – New Venture Capital Framework Linked to Energy Issues

The EU Environmental Endowment Fund has launched a new venture capital framework to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Europe. The framework aims to provide funding for projects that demonstrate successful business models, with a focus on technologies and markets that are ready for commercialization. The framework is open to companies that have demonstrated viable business models, and is intended to complement existing funding mechanisms. Projects that align with the European Commission's energy goals will receive priority.

Waste Management

Japanese Apparel Maker and Retailer Onward Kashiyama Co. has been found in violation of law in the state of California, with the EDF (Earthjustice) filing a lawsuit against the company for its use of hazardous chemicals in its products. The lawsuit was filed under the California Hazardous Substance Recycling and Disposal Act (HSRDA), with the goal of protecting public health and the environment.

Biofuels

Biomass from the processing of the algae can also be used as a fuel source. The algae can be grown in open ponds or in closed systems, such as photobioreactors. The resulting fuel can be used in a variety of applications, such as power generation or transportation.

Victory! EDF Drops Lawsuit Against Environmental Activists After State of California Agrees to Pay $300,000

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United Nations Environment Programme activities to be taken in coordination with States and others in the development and implementation of Environmental law for the decade beginning in 2010. Acknowledges the work of chief justices, heads of jurisdiction, attorneys general, auditors general, chief prosecutors and other high-ranking representatives of the judicial, legal and auditing professions at the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability, 17–20 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

1. **Notes** that an independent judiciary and judicial process are vital for the implementation, development and enforcement of environmental law;

2. **Emphasizes** that environmental and sustainability auditing are important in ensuring transparency, access to information, accountability and the efficient use of public finances while protecting the environment for future generations;

3. **Emphasizes** also that justice, including participatory decision-making, access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings as well as the protection of vulnerable groups from disproportionate adverse environmental impacts, should be seen as an intrinsic element of environmental sustainability;

4. **Recognizes** that the violation of environmental law has the potential to undermine sustainable development and the implementation of agreed environmental goals and objectives at all levels and that the rule of law and effective governance play an essential role in reducing such violations and invites Governments and relevant organizations to further strengthen mechanisms and explore initiatives for exchanging information and sharing experiences in order to reinforce international, regional and subregional cooperation to combat the noncompliance with environmental laws, including, inter alia, measures to increase the effectiveness of administrative, civil and criminal enforcement mechanisms, institutions and laws in the field of environment as well as applicable education and training;

5. **Requests** the Executive Director:

(a) To lead the United Nations system and support national Governments upon their request in the development and implementation of environmental rule of law with attention at all levels to mutually supporting governance features, including information disclosure, public participation, implementable and enforceable laws, and implementation and accountability mechanisms including coordination of roles as well as environmental auditing and criminal, civil and administrative enforcement with timely, impartial and independent dispute resolution;

(b) To improve coherence and coordination, seek opportunities to collaborate and promote partnership with, and avoid duplication among, United Nations entities and other relevant entities working to promote improved environmental governance at the national level and to provide support for existing efforts and initiatives in coordination with the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group;

(c) To promote quality information and data exchange among the legal and auditing communities and improve education, capacity-building and technical assistance, including with the aim of strengthening effective national environmental governance systems and improving the effectiveness of rule of law systems;

(d) To encourage the further expansion of information sharing about environmental jurisprudence and the development of specialized expertise in environmental law among judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials;

(e) To promote the continued engagement in the work referred to above of judges, prosecutors, auditors and other related authorities such as inspectors, investigators, police, regulatory enforcement officials and other components of the environmental, legal and law enforcement community and the institutions they represent, including associated networks, and exploring the possible establishment of an international institutional network;

6. **Invites** Governments to cooperate to build and support the capacity of courts and tribunals as well as prosecutors, auditors and other related authorities such as inspectors, investigators, police and regulatory enforcement officials at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement environmental law so as to promote effective domestic judiciary and enforcement institutions in environmental matters and to facilitate exchanges of best practices in order to achieve environmental sustainability, including through networks at the international and regional levels;

7. **Acknowledges** with appreciation the significant work and initiatives already undertaken by individual countries, international organizations and other entities to promote improved environmental governance at the national level;

8. **Requests** the Executive Director to present a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision, as part of a report on the mid-term review of the Fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law envisaged in Decision 25/11 (I), to the Governing Council at its twenty-eighth session.

**Notes**


2. UNEP/GC.27/13.

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**High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law and the Environment**

Held on the eve of the 27th session of UNEP/GC, this one-day event was attended by judicial, legal and auditing experts with the aim of providing a platform to discuss important recent developments and new opportunities regarding the rule of law in the field of the environment; and to consider how the rule of law can be promoted for greater effect to achieve sustainable development and social justice. Sessions included “UNEP, UNCSD (Rio+20) and new perspectives for the rule of law in the environment”; “The mutually supportive relationship between the adherence to the rule of law and respect for human rights”; and “Access to justice, public participation and information; and the challenges to sustainable development and the rule of law”.

Briefing Note: [http://www.iisd.ca/unepgc/27unepgc/hlmrle/brief/brief_hlmrle.html](http://www.iisd.ca/unepgc/27unepgc/hlmrle/brief/brief_hlmrle.html)

[Editor-in-Chief]