

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INECE

FROM THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

During the Conference's panels, interactive workshops, and discussions, participants urged INECE to support projects that demonstrate how strengthening compliance programs can create value; both public value, in the form of better protection of public health and ecosystem services, and private value, in the form of improved competitiveness of firms and accelerated technological innovation. Underlying Conference discussions was a renewed urgency about the need to raise awareness of the importance of environmental compliance and enforcement; strengthen capacity to implement and enforce environmental requirements across the regulatory cycle; and to develop and support networks for enforcement cooperation.

Conference participants underscored the need for INECE to continue to support the development and growth of regional compliance and enforcement networks. Such networks are critical for leveraging best practices and expertise, building capacity, and responding to transboundary challenges. The 8th Conference helped advance these efforts with the formation of the Sub-Saharan African Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement. This informal regional network was founded at the Conference by environmental compliance and enforcement officials and experts from Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. The objective of the network is to enhance environmental compliance and enforcement in the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa by sharing information and experience.

Conference participants recommended that INECE promote successful environmental compliance and enforcement practices relevant to climate mitigation and adaptation and to build capacity for assuring compliance with national environmental requirements that have climate co-benefits – such as protecting the world's forests, limiting illegal trade in ozone depleting substances, and controlling emissions of carbon dioxide and black carbon particulates. Participants encouraged INECE to facilitate expert groups to help ensure the integrity of existing and emerging greenhouse gas market platforms and to evaluate specific language on compliance mechanisms that could be considered in the international climate treaty negotiation process.

Participants provided valuable input into ongoing thematic projects. Recommendations addressed issues associated with the development of a Seaport Environmental Security Network; INECE's training program for Customs and Environmental Officials; its work on supporting country pilot projects to design and implement environmental compliance and enforcement indicators; and on the content of the *Principals of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Handbook*

and Statement. Participants also recommended that INECE continue to develop its new International Network for Environmental Compliance Training Professionals, which will enable information sharing and exchange of training best practices and materials.

Participants contributed important comments regarding the need for INECE to help build support for the enforcement of laws to protect biodiversity and ecosystems. Because a number of organizations are already working in the areas of forest protection, illegal logging, and combating the smuggling of flora and fauna, participants suggested that INECE could work in partnership with these organizations to highlight the need for countries around the world to redouble their efforts to combat organized crime's growing influence in habitat and species destruction.

To support the implementation of these and other recommendations that can be found throughout these Proceedings, participants recommended that INECE refine and expand the capabilities of its web site to better support communication and collaboration among participants, facilitate regional and topical networking, provide more direct access to training materials and other resources, and introduce films and other new media content to users.

The Conference concluded with an open session for participants to express any ideas related to the Conference or to the activities of INECE. Participants raised a number of important issues and ideas, including suggestions on improving communications with other environmental organizations, expanding efforts to include students and youth groups in INECE activities, promoting greater involvement of the private sector, and increasing the visibility of INECE activities.

Excerpt from the Proceedings of the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement's (INECE) Eighth International Conference, Linking Concepts to Actions: Successful Strategies for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, held 5-11 April 2008, in Cape Town, South Africa.

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