



SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL  
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**UNDP-SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAM (EGP):  
STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW IN  
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

## **EGP NEWS UPDATE, ISSUE 4, JUNE 2016**

“In recent years, the relationship between human rights and environmental protection has become clearer. A healthy environment is necessary for the enjoyment of a vast range of human rights. In turn, the exercise of human rights, including rights of access to information, participation, and remedy, is critical for the protection of the environment. UNDP and Swedish EPA efforts to strengthen good governance in the mining sector... are of vital importance for the protection of the environment and human rights.”

- *John Knox, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment*

Dear Partners and Colleagues,

Over the last two months, EGP and partners have advanced work in each of the four focus countries, strengthened partnerships at the regional and global level, and refined our methodologies for assessing and integrating human rights and gender equality principles into public administration of the mining sector. In this fourth issue of the EGP News Update, we highlight: the results of a national capacity building and consultation workshop held in Naivasha, Kenya in May; ongoing consultations in Bogota, Colombia; contributions to the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi; and collaboration with UNITAR and UNEP on a global e-course on Human Rights and Environment.

### **Human Rights, Environment and Mining Workshop in Naivasha, Kenya**

The EGP organized a capacity building workshop and consultation on human rights in environmental public administration of the mining sector in Naivasha, Kenya from 18-19 May, 2016. The event brought together over twenty senior representatives and experts from the Kenyan government and civil society including: the Ministry of Mining, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities, Kwale County Government, Department of Occupational Health and Safety Services, Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights, Nairobi process (NGO), Huria (NGO), and the Chamber of Mines. An expert from the UNDP Country Office in Mozambique also attended, where a similar national workshop is under preparation.



*Participants of the workshop posing for a picture between sessions.*

The event provided a platform for exchanging country experiences and standards that strengthen human rights, rule of law and gender equality in environmental public administration of the mining sector. Participants identified additional learning needs and policy implementation gaps for the programme to address, including opportunities for ensuring more meaningful community engagement throughout the mining cycle, and greater levels of transparency and accountability. In addition, the workshop helped to strengthen longer-term working relationships between the government and civil society participants. Just after the workshop, the government held a coordination meeting for all Kenya participants to discuss programme activities in more detail, including plans for a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment of the sector.



*Workshop participants involved in discussions on unsustainable use of resources and strengthening of human rights principles and rule of law in environmental public administration.*

“It was like an eye opener - I learnt new ways of approaching and solving problems”

“It gave a broader understanding of the things we have always overlooked when planning projects e.g. the human rights perspective”

“Project closure process is something I had not thought about. This will now be incorporated in our environment management and monitoring within communities”

“Previously I thought environmental management and human rights did not have much in common”

- *Comments from the evaluation of the workshop*

### **Colombia Consultations**

The EGP team organized consultations in Bogota, Colombia from 25-29 April with government counterparts, civil society organizations and other partners to identify challenges and gaps in ensuring a rights-based approach to environmental management of the mining sector. These consultations have informed planned rule of law assessment of the mining cycle in Colombia, as well as linked community engagement and partnership plans, including with the Virtual School.



*Meeting with the Virtual School in Bogota on efforts to share Colombia and regional experiences on mining and environmental governance.*

### **EGP at UN Environment Assembly, Nairobi, Kenya**

EGP contributed to the second session of the [UN Environment Assembly \(UNEA\)](#) from 23-27 May in Nairobi, Kenya, the highest level of governance on global environmental affairs in the UN system, bringing together over 2,500 delegates, including 123 ministerial participants from 174 countries, and over 600 civil society and private sector groups.

EGP used UNEA-2 to showcase our work on environment, mining, gender, and human rights; strengthen partnerships with sister agencies, governments, and civil society; and speak at a series of side events and coordination meetings on extractive industries and environmental governance.

UNEA adopted 24 resolutions, including on Principle 10 and the Bali Guidelines for National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, which underpin EGP work.



*UNDP, UNEP, UNITAR, WRI and partners discussing Principle 10 implementation during UNEA side event.*

### Global e-course on Human Rights and Environment

In partnership with UNITAR, UNEP and the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, EGP contributed to the design and launch of a global e-course on Human Rights for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development. The course aims to empower policy makers, experts and advocates with basic concepts, tools, and examples for implementing policies and laws that protect the environment and human rights as part of broader efforts to achieve the SDGs. The course includes EGP examples from the mining sector. The first session of the course runs from 13 June to 4 July 2016, with a second session planned for fall 2016. Participants include governments and civil society experts from EGP partner countries. More information on the course is available [here](#).



**Human Rights and Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development**

Online Course  
13 June - 4 July 2016 | 500 USD  
[Click here to register](#)  
More info: [info.hip@unitar.org](mailto:info.hip@unitar.org)

### Upcoming events and plans

Over the next two months, EGP will: advance technical work in Colombia, Mongolia, Mozambique, and Kenya; organize the first meeting of the EGP Advisory Board; prepare for the annual EGP conference being held in Stockholm, Sweden in November 2016; and launch the EGP web-site and linked e-group on [GOXI](#).

Best regards on behalf of the entire EGP-team!

#### The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

SEPA's mission is to work for a better environment and sustainable development, in Sweden and around the world. Global environmental cooperation is important for Sweden, and since the early 1990s SEPA has been involved in various forms of development cooperation. SEPA's special area of expertise is capacity development for more efficient and effective environmental public administration, based on democracy, human rights and rule of law.

#### United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, UNDP offers global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

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