

Concept paper

Global Summit on Implementing and Enforcing Environmental Law

We are better together: A summit for regulators that will strengthen global cooperation and capabilities to better implement environmental law and build trust and confidence in regulatory systems.

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE:

The effectiveness and efficiency of environmental regulators and law enforcement is critical to maintain public confidence and trust in the regulatory system. When public trust and confidence is high, governments, industry, and the environment enjoys a more sustainable and certain future.

A healthy and sustainable environment doesn't rely solely on an appropriate legal and policy framework but is largely dependent on effective actions for its implementation and law enforcement. Triple environment crisis, lack of resources, inefficiency, corruption, fading public confidence and trust in governments, transnational criminal organizations, new *modus operandi* for trafficking, are just some of the issues that regulatory and law enforcement agencies are facing around the world. To properly address them, agencies need to collaborate at higher levels to share information on common challenges and identified best practices, and to strengthen regional and global cooperation.

This Summit is an action-orientated event aimed to facilitate and strengthen worldwide collaboration and support for regulatory practitioners who implement and enforce environmental law, making them more efficient and effective. The Summit will also grow our global capability to solve complex regulatory and law enforcement problems together.

Participants of the Summit will replicate and disseminate best practice approaches and tools designed for the effective implementation of environmental laws, exercising the environmental rule of law, leveling the playing field for businesses, and environmental governance within their ministries or organisations upon returning home.

The Summit will enable future worldwide collaboration and regulatory support in four specific streams:

- Climate change & air quality
- Emerging waste streams
- Biodiversity regulation, wildlife crime, protected areas, and land management
- Natural resources management (water, fisheries, vegetation, soil, and forestry), and regulating energy and resources (energy, gas, and oil)

The Summit will also significantly advance capability and regulatory practice in universally shared streams including:

- Indigenous voice in environmental law and regulatory practice
- Public participation, stakeholder engagement and citizen science in regulation
- Law design for implementation
- Advanced monitoring technologies and remote sensing in law enforcement
- Local actions to deliver regional outcomes
- Protecting environmental defenders – health and safety for regulatory staff
- Regulatory assurance, organisational maturity and practitioner capability - maintaining integrity and resilience of the whole regulatory system

Participating regulatory leaders and practitioners will embark upon a clear path toward interagency sharing and collaboration for 2025-2026 to solve complex transnational regulatory problems.

During the Summit we expect senior agency leaders to land agreements outlining coordinated approaches for the implementation of specific environmental laws and regulations; including a clear statement to disseminate across government and to business on the Summit's worldwide regulatory focus and risk within these specific regulatory subjects. It is also an opportunity to upscale projects that promote increased compliance with environmental laws.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Day 1: Combining plenary on generic regulatory subjects.

Day 1 Keynote (plenary) 2 x keynote topics – “the pillars of implementing environmental law”:

1. *Indigenous voice in environment regulation and law (open and close summit)*
2. *Law design for effective and efficient implementation.*

Day 1 Plenary – 2 x Generic topics:

1. *Public participation, stakeholder & community engagement:*
2. *Local action – regional outcomes*

Day 2: Combining plenary and breakout sessions on generic and specific regulatory subjects.

Day 2 Plenary – 4 x Generic topics “worldwide collaboration and sharing”:

1. *International Network engagement*
2. *Outcomes based performance reporting*
3. *Advanced monitoring*
4. *Keeping regulators safe & well*

Day 2 Breakout Session 1: Delegate presentations – 4 x specific topics (introductions & case studies)

1. *Climate change and air quality regulation for implementers breakout presentations*
2. *Emerging waste streams and plastics treaty for implementers breakout presentations*
3. *Biodiversity, environmental planners, park management best regulatory practice breakout presentations*
4. *Natural resources, energy, and resources best regulatory practice breakout presentations*

Day 3: Combining plenary and breakout sessions on specific regulatory subjects.

Day 3 Keynote (plenary): 4 x Generic topics – “building your regulatory engine”

1. *Building the health of ‘the whole regulatory system’*
2. *Building mature, strong and resilient regulatory organisations*
3. *Setting regulatory posture, culture and priorities*
4. *Building practitioner capabilities*

Day 3 Breakout Session 2: – 4 x specific topics (continued)

Landing a cooperative path for future collaboration to solve complex regulatory problems and build regulatory capability

1. *Climate change and air quality regulation for implementers breakout presentations.*
2. *Emerging waste streams and plastics treaty for implementers breakout presentations.*
3. *Biodiversity, environmental planners and park management best regulatory practice breakout presentations.*
4. *Natural resources, energy, and resources best regulatory practice breakout presentations.*

Final plenary session: Indigenous voice in environment regulation and law.

Day 4: Offsite tours (optional)