



## SISEI PROGRAMME



### Technical note 7: Sub-regional workshop on legal issues

#### Introduction

The ITU and UNITAR together with the Observatory for Sahel and Sahara (OSS), have embarked a capacity building programme on the applications of information technologies for the establishment of an Environmental Information Circulation and Monitoring System on the Internet. The main objectives of the programme are (i) to generate an appropriate institutional framework for the development of an information sharing policy between institutions active in the field of environmental management and (ii) to set-up a network of institutional Internet web sites to serve the community of environmental information users and suppliers by providing access to useful data and products for efficient natural resource and environmental management.

In the framework of the SISEI programme, ITU and UNITAR are starting a new cycle of activities titled "Integrated Management of Data and Information to Implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements". In a first phase, the SISEI programme will be developed in collaboration with ten African countries, including The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia (English-speaking countries) and Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco and Niger (French-speaking countries), which have been selected on the basis of being the first ten countries to express interest in joining the programme.

With view to ensure a concerted, coordinated and efficient implementation of the SISEI programme in these countries, a Modus Operandi has been set up. This Modus operandi recognizes and takes into account the differences among these 10 countries, with regard to their level of awareness on the topic, their institutional context, technical capacity, and communication infrastructure.

Execution modalities are conceived on a modular approach, over a 30-month period, and will include series of activities carried out either at regional level, or country level, as follows:

**Module 1** will focus on institutional issues and will aim at preparing the implementation of the programme in each country by (i) raising the awareness on the SISEI concept and approach in programme associated countries and (ii) providing technical assistance and methodological guidance. The major expected result of this module is that countries acquire the know-how for preparing an institutional profile of environmental information sharing mechanisms.

**Module 2** will focus on the technical and legal aspects of capacity building for information sharing. Two series of technical training activities will be carried out at the regional level and the country level, one in the field of integrated management of environmental data, and one on the legal aspects of environmental information circulation.

After the institutional and technical work completed, following the workshops in Accra, this new legal work forms the third and last shutter of the general framework required for a functional, operational and viable SISEI network. This legal workshop will then be of much importance and a critical step in the process of setting-up national SISEI networks. Also each country needs to give particular attention to this phase of activity by ensuring its responsible, qualified and efficient commitment.

This technical note presents the objectives and the expected results of the workshop. It also indicates the participants profile, representing the English-speaking countries associated with the SISEI programme (Module 2 - Activity 2).

## **Module 2 - Activity 2: Sub-regional legal workshop of the SISEI programme**

### **Venue and dates of the workshop**

According operational modalities for the SISEI programme implementation, UNITAR and ITU are organizing a training workshop for the associated English-speaking countries on legal issues relating to the dissemination of environmental information.

The workshop will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2004.

### **Workshop agenda**

During the first three (3) days, the participants will be sensitised on the importance to introduce legal aspects into the implementation process of the SISEI network and its sustainability.

This first part will particularly aim at:

- 1) informing the participants about the international context relating to the management and dissemination of environmental information
- 2) presenting and analysing the relevant international conventions and/or regional agreements
- 3) allowing the participants to acquire a basic knowledge and the tools to undertake successfully the required work within the framework of their respective national SISEI network.

The awareness raising sessions on legal aspects will be followed by two (2) days of restitution during which each country will report on the follow-up activities to implement the results and the recommendations of the technical workshop, held in Accra, June/July 2004. These two days will also aim at completing the technical training on the use, management and updating of the national SISEI portals.

### **Expected results and applications**

As a result of the workshop each country associated with the SISEI programme will have to ensure the implementation of the training within the framework of its commitment to contribute in kind to the process by undertaking the following actions within a 3-month period after the related training workshop:

- to draw up an exhaustive inventory of all existing national legislation relating to environmental information management and circulation (including ratified international and regional conventions)
- to analyse remaining areas of environmental activities which have still to be covered to ensure the respect of all engagements of the country at the international and national level
- to organize and publish the results of this work on the national SISEI portal.

### **Selection of participants**

As for the previous sub-regional workshops ITU will provide two (2) fellowship grants per country, covering expenses for travel and accommodation for two (2) representatives per country. Due to the characteristics and the importance of the workshop it is recommended that:

- one of those two fellowships is granted to one country representative who participated in the technical workshop in Accra in order to ensure the continuity of the process.
- the second fellowship will be granted to an environmental lawyer or a person in charge of legal environmental questions in the administrations of the associated countries.

The candidate selected among those who hold the administrative responsibility of the national regulation should have a good knowledge of existing legal texts and mechanisms and procedures of elaboration, coordination and approval of such texts. They should also be able to

play a dynamic role in steering and implementing the work on the inventory, the analysis and the organisation mentioned above at the national level.

A CV of the proposed candidate benefiting from this fellowship grant should be submitted to UNITAR with a brief statement not exceeding two (2) pages relating to the subject of the workshop on the existing national legal texts and the national mechanisms of development and approval of laws.

### **Taking care of the participants**

As indicated in the invitation ITU/BDT will bear the cost of the participation of two (2) representatives of each associated country in the sub-regional SISEI workshop on legal issues. This will comprise travel (return ticket) and accommodation.

#### (i) Travel

A return plane ticket for the most direct flight in economic class of an African airline will be placed at the disposal of the participants through UNDP in their country of origin.

#### (ii) Accommodation of participants

The participants will be accommodated in the hotel at half-board (the hotel will be specified later)

The hotel bill (half board) will be paid by ITU/BDT. The accommodation includes:

- Overnight stays
- Breakfasts
- Lunch

The participants will have to pay any other additional expenses.

#### (iii) Accommodation allowance

In addition to the flight tickets each participant will receive through UNDP a lump sum for an amount of two hundred forty US dollars (240 USD). This sum is granted to cover the following costs:

- Terminal expenses
- Dinner
- Miscellaneous expenses

### **Inscription formalities**

The registration and fellowship request forms will be sent by e-mail to the selected candidates. They should be returned to us, duly completed and signed by the competent authority before 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2004.