



Putting Rio Principle 10 Into Action

Launch of the “Implementation Guide for the UNEP Bali
*Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation
on Access to Information, Public Participation and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters*”



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Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)

- *Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate **access to information** concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the **opportunity to participate in decision-making** processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective **access to judicial and administrative proceedings**, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.*



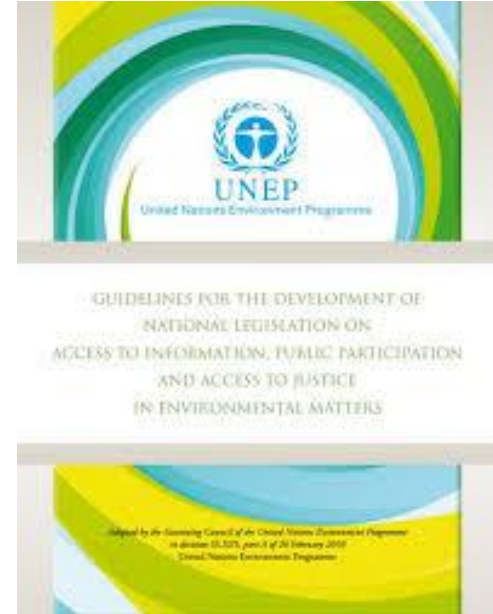
How Principle 10 has been implemented around the world

- National legislation
- Aarhus Convention
- LAC Initiative
- Bali Guidelines



What are the Bali Guidelines?

- Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (2010)



The Guidelines Themselves

- **Guideline 1:** Any natural or legal person should have affordable, effective and timely access to environmental information held by public authorities upon request (subject to guideline 3), without having to prove a legal or other interest.
- **Guideline 2:** Environmental information in the public domain should include, among other things, information about environmental quality, environmental impacts on health and factors that influence them, in addition to information about legislation and policy, and advice about how to obtain information.
- **Guideline 3:** States should clearly define in their law the specific grounds on which a request for environmental information can be refused. The grounds for refusal are to be interpreted narrowly, taking into account the public interest served by disclosure.



Promoting the Bali Guidelines

- Several projects under Access for All SI (UNEP/UNITAR/WRI/UNDP):
 - **Implementation Guide to the Bali Guidelines**



How the Guide was Drafted

- Partnership:
 - UNEP MGSB and DELC
 - World Resources Institute
 - UNITAR
- Advisory Group
- Public Commenting



What It Contains

- Examples
- Options
- Analysis
- Strategies
- Interactive web platform/ebook –

www.unep.org/civil-society



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Promoting Rio Principle 10 through the Bali Guidelines

- Get involved and get more information:
 - UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch - Alexander.Juras@unep.org
 - Guide – Stephen Stec, stecs@ceu.edu

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