

Launch of the Arab Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (ANECE)

18 – 19 June, 2009

Description: This document is the Joint Statement by the participants of the Launch of the Arab Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement highlighting the agreement of the delegates toward cooperation in the field of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in the Arab Region and establishing the Arab Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (ANECE).

Joint Statement by the Participants

On the Launching Meeting of the Arab Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (ANECE):

Sen officials from the Ministries of Environment, the Environmental Enforcement Agencies, and the Judiciary from Jordan, Yemen, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt and Morocco; observers from the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), the Environment Agency for England and Wales, the Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in the Maghreb (NECEMA), the European Network for Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL), the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network for Accession (ECENA), and diplomats and development organizations from the Netherlands and the United States met at the Dead Sea, Jordan to discuss and agree upon cooperation in the field of Environmental Governance in the Arab region and the establishment of the Arab Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement.

The participants acknowledge and emphasize that:

- environmental good governance and the Rule of Law are key to achieve sustainable development;
- laws are ineffective without proper implementation and enforcement;
- well designed environmental regulations can increase business competitiveness, drive innovation, and ensure equity in the regulated community.
- improvements in institutional and legal frameworks and increases in financial and human resources of the environmental enforcement agencies in the Arab countries will result in more effective environmental compliance and enforcement;
- institutional, legal, financial and technical capacity building is needed to strengthen enforcement authorities;
- experience of other networks and countries demonstrates that increased communication and cooperation can help countries resolve these issues and that experience provides a good strategic framework for developing networks; and
- Arab representatives present recognize an increased need to cooperate and collaborate in the area of environmental compliance and enforcement.

The United State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), the Government of the Netherlands and INECE's support for efforts to establish ANECE provides an important impetus to the Arab countries to improve their environmental compliance and enforcement programs.

The long-term objective of ANECE is to increase the effectiveness of the enforcement agencies at the national level and to promote compliance with environmental requirements to ensure high levels of environmental protection and ensure a level playing field in the region.

The participants agree to establish and support ANECE, and welcome Jordan's agreement to host the secretariat.

During this launch phase, the participants agree to support the secretariat as it works with INECE to seek the financial assistance from a range of potential donors such as Arab governments, the European Commission, the governments of the United States, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and other governments, The World Bank, Islamic Development Bank, appropriate U.N. Agencies, the IUCN, and other potential financial supporters.

Participants recommended short, medium, and long range activities and priorities to guide the development of the ANECE strategic plan and developed the draft Terms of Reference for the network. The secretariat will develop a communication strategy and agreed to ensure participants and other interested parties are kept fully informed. The INECE secretariat agrees to host and maintain a website (<http://inece.org/mena/arabregion/>) where the network participants can share information and resources of common interest.

The participants further agree to inform and involve all concerned parties within their own governments, other governments in the Arab region not present, regional organizations, and the donor community of the establishment of the Arab Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement and encourage their support and participation in the network.

Delegates extend their warm thanks to the funding organizations and to the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), the Jordan Ministry of Environment, and the Royal Rangers for organizing the meeting and agreeing to serve as the ANECE Secretariat in charge of executing the multi-year work program to be developed pursuant to the draft ANECE Terms of Reference.

Participants of the First Setup Meeting for environmental Enforcement cooperation in the Arab region.

*Dead Sea, Jordan
19 June 2009*