

COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (CEL)

Antonio Herman Benjamin, Brazil

Personal

Name: Antonio Herman Benjamin
Date of Birth: 13 November 1957
Nationality: Brazilian

Education

Bachelor in Law, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro Law School (Brazil)
LLM Master in Law, University of Illinois College of Law (United States)

Current position

Deputy-Chair, Commission on Environmental Law
Justice, High Court of Brazil (STJ)
Professor, Catholic University of Brasilia School of Law
Visiting Professor of Comparative Environmental Law, University of Texas School of Law at Austin
Emeritus Editor in Chief, Brazilian Environmental Law Review
Co-Chair, INECE – International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
Co-Chair, UNEP Advisory Committee of the Rio+20 Conference of Chief Justices & Attorneys General
Member, President Dilma Rousseff's Rio+20 National Committee

Professional background

Public Prosecutor in the State of São Paulo (1982-2006), former Chair of the Environmental Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General of the State of São Paulo. Founder of the Brazilian Environmental Law Review and Law for a Green Planet Institute (an IUCN Member). Former President of the Brazilian Fulbright Alumni Association. General-Rapporteur of the Legal Experts Committee that drafted the Brazilian 1998 Crimes against the Environment Act. One of the drafters of the Brazilian Forest Code. Member of the Legal Experts Committee of the United Nations on Crimes against the Environment. Author, co-author and editor of over 30 books and articles published both in Brazil and abroad.

Experience and past involvement with IUCN

Associated with the Commission on Environmental Law for over 15 years. A member of its Steering Committee for the past 8 years, its Deputy-Chair for 4 years.

Future priorities for the Commission

Since its establishment, the Commission on Environmental Law – CEL (originally, in 1963, Commission on Legislation, later, in 1970, Commission on Environmental Policy, Law and Administration – CEPLA) has played a crucial role in advancing worldwide the drafting and implementation of both international and domestic environmental law.

In the next four years, CEL should work in close cooperation with the other Commissions along the lines and priorities of the 2013-2016 Programme. It should implement its mandate in coordination with the activities of the Secretariat of the Union and its Regional Offices. Emphasis should be given to strengthening the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) related to the conservation of Nature, especially the Biodiversity Convention. Areas of particular interest for inter-commission work are the legal frameworks of the Red List of Species, the Red List of Ecosystems, indigenous peoples, protected areas, biodiversity offsets, payment for ecosystem services, among others. CEL, in conjunction with UNEP and INECE, should launch the Judicial Environmental Portal. Besides, it should support ECOLEX, a legal databank that, in the field of Environmental Law, is one of the most comprehensive in the world. Capacity building initiatives should be specifically designed for

judges, public prosecutors, environmental agencies, and law professors, in coordination with the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law and the Bonn Environmental Law Centre. Specialist Groups, the heart of the global reach of CEL, should be closely linked to the Programme of the Union and MEAs, and share their expertise with the other Commissions.

Institutional support

The office of IUCN in Brazil has indicated that it will provide office space and give logistical support to the work of the Commission on Environmental Law.