INECE Strategic Plan: 2012-2017
11 November 2012

1 PURPOSE OF THE INECE STRATEGIC PLAN

This plan outlines the strategy for International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) to implement its annual work plans over the next five years. The INECE Strategic Plan serves as the basis for INECE to secure the funding and other resources necessary to carry out its mission and achieve its goals.

2 INECE MISSION AND SCOPE

INECE develops and implements practical and innovative activities that strengthen environmental compliance and enforcement at all levels of governance – local, national, regional, and international. INECE builds the capacity of compliance and enforcement stakeholders to contribute to the rule of law and good governance in areas that advance sustainable development.

The Network is comprised of environmental regulators, investigators, prosecutors, judges, and employees of international environmental and development organizations. Officials from customs, the police, non-governmental organizations, academia, the media, and business also participate.

Founded in 1989, INECE is the only global organization focused exclusively on achieving compliance with environmental law through effective compliance promotion and enforcement strategies, including administrative, civil, criminal, and judicial enforcement. INECE works on both national implementation of domestic environmental laws and on improving the effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements.

3 INECE GOALS

INECE’s goals are to facilitate enforcement and compliance cooperation; strengthen capacity throughout the regulatory cycle to implement and secure compliance with environmental requirements; and raise awareness of the importance of environmental compliance and enforcement to sustainable development.

3.1 Improve enforcement and compliance through better cooperation.

INECE facilitates communication and cooperation among government actors to advance common enforcement objectives across thematic priority areas. Through the establishment and advancement of regional and topical networks, INECE brings together authorities from various countries to exchange good practices on environmental compliance and enforcement. Cooperation and information sharing help resolve transboundary environmental problems, create efficiencies in capacity building, and support a level playing field for the regulated industries. These efforts ultimately can foster the political will needed to reform weak implementation of environmental standards.
3.2 Strengthen capacity throughout the regulatory cycle to implement and secure compliance with environmental requirements.

INECE strengthens capacity among environmental compliance and enforcement practitioners by developing resource materials, identifying best practices, delivering training on the implementation of environmental law across the regulatory cycle, and serving as the leading online resource for compliance and enforcement information. INECE implements projects that improve the ability of program managers, inspectors, police, border officials, prosecutors, judges, and other practitioners to implement, enforce, and assure compliance with environmental laws. INECE communicates best practices including on the basic principles of environmental compliance and enforcement, investigation and monitoring techniques, deterrence and punitive measures, and non-traditional approaches to compliance promotion. INECE serves as a hub to identify synergies in the efforts of international development organizations and bilateral donors to deliver capacity building on rule of law and governance. Through these efforts, INECE leverages resources, creates efficiencies, and strengthens the delivery of training and education on environmental compliance and enforcement.

3.3 Raise awareness of the importance of environmental compliance and enforcement to sustainable development.

INECE raises the awareness of government stakeholders, policy makers, businesses, and the public of the importance of compliance with and enforcement of environmental laws for achieving environmental protection goals of both domestic laws and multilateral agreements. INECE works to make all stakeholders aware that the rule of law and good governance are essential to achieving environmental protection and sustainable development objectives by implementing effective communications, including through its web site, publications, e-dialogues, discussion groups, workshops, conferences etc.; conducting research and issue analysis; and distributing information though regional and topical networks.

4 INECE Governance

The INECE Executive Committee and the Secretariat have primary responsibility for the execution of the Strategic Plan, and the INECE Global Council, regional networks, and participants play significant roles in carrying out INECE’s work.

4.1 Executive Committee

INECE operates through a decision making body called the Executive Committee, which is responsible for approving and assuring the implementation of the INECE strategic plan and work plans, in cooperation with the Secretariat.

4.2 Global Council

The Global Council provides expertise and advice on the development and implementation of INECE’s Strategic Plan. INECE’s Operating Protocols provide detailed information on the network’s governance structure.
4.3 Secretariat
The Secretariat provides technical, managerial, administrative, and communications support for INECE and implements INECE’s work plans. The Secretariat coordinates financial and in-kind support from INECE partners and ensures that INECE participants communicate effectively on cooperative compliance and enforcement activities.

4.4 Evaluation Mechanisms
INECE operates in accordance with the principles of transparency and accountability and prepares regular reports for distribution to all interested stakeholders. INECE utilizes evaluation mechanisms including review and input from the Executive Committee and Global Council, review and feedback from project partners and outside experts, and regular internal assessment processes to assure high quality products and responsiveness to the INECE Strategic Plan and work plans, and the effectiveness of its governance.

5 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

5.1 Thematic Priorities
INECE will undertake projects corresponding to its three goals to strengthen environmental compliance and enforcement, taking into consideration the interests of its stakeholders, emerging trends in the protection of human health and the environment, and the interests of its funders. Thematic priority areas for INECE activities are listed below, all of which support the three INECE goals.

a) Governance and rule of law.

b) Air pollution and climate change.

c) Illegal trade of waste, and of commodities that may have adverse impacts on the environment.

d) Environmental impact assessment and permitting.

e) Biodiversity, natural resources, and illegal trade in species.

f) Water pollution and management.

g) Enforcement and compliance activities that promote sustainable consumption.

Details of specific INECE projects are provided for in annual work plans that attach as annexes to this Strategic Plan.

5.2 Project Selection Criteria
INECE uses the following criteria to evaluate and prioritize which projects to include in its annual work plan:

- Relevance to INECE mission and goals.
• Importance to the protection of human health, water supply, agriculture and food security, ecosystem services, and the broader environment.
• Value added by INECE.
• Potential to attract funding and other support.
• Potential partners.
• Feasibility of carrying out the work with successful outcomes.
• Synergies with the activities of the regional environmental enforcement networks and with existing sustainable development initiatives with broader global outreach.

5.3 Project Implementation
The INECE Executive Committee oversees the development and implementation of INECE priority projects. The Executive Committee, with the advice of the Global Council and the support of the INECE Secretariat, will prioritize the INECE annual work plan and project selection, identify partnerships, provide funding and other resources to support project implementation, and assess progress. The INECE Secretariat manages project implementation, communications, and partner coordination. Funders may have additional requirements.

6 Communication Strategy
Central to INECE activities are effective communications to raise awareness, build capacity, and promote cooperation for effective environmental compliance and enforcement. INECE will expand www.inece.org, the world’s most extensive online library on environmental compliance and enforcement materials. INECE will use social media tools to engage practitioners and new audiences through its website and to enhance connections among practitioners. INECE will utilize electronic communications to the maximum extent practical to carry out its work, including when it hosts international conferences, meetings, and workshops, shares best practices, builds relationships, and advances INECE project activities. INECE also will play a key role in global, regional, and national forums to raise awareness of the importance of compliance and enforcement.