

Conference Programme

Please note that the programme below is preliminary and subject to change. Programme as at **18 March 2026**.

Wednesday 19 August 2026	
4.00 pm	Conference Registration
5.00 pm	Welcome reception at APEC Haus, Port Moresby
Thursday 20 August 2026	
9.00 am	<p>Session 1: Opening session</p> <p>Opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAWASIA: Mr Yap Teong Liang, President of LAWASIA • Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea: Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika GCL KBE CSM OBE, Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea • Law Society of Papua New Guinea: Mr Hubert Numane, President of Law Society of Papua New Guinea • Commonwealth Lawyers: Mr Steven Thiru, President of Commonwealth Lawyers Association • South Pacific Lawyers Association: Mr William Wylie Clarke, Chair of the South Pacific Lawyers Association
9.30 am	<p>Opening address:</p> <p>Speaker: The Hon. James Marape, MP, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, and Member for Tari Pori</p>
10.00 am	<p>Keynote address: The Hon. Justice Ambeng Kandakasi GCL, CBE, Deputy Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea.</p> <p><i>“Rising to the challenge: How to uphold the environmental rule of law today”</i></p>
10.45 am	<i>Morning tea</i>
11.15 am	<p>Session 2: <u>Content of the Environmental Rule of Law</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Georgina Lloyd, Regional Co-ordinator Environmental Law and Governance, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Asia and the Pacific Office, Bangkok, Thailand. <i>“UNEP’s work in developing the environmental rule of law”</i> 2. Mr Robert White, Barrister and Vice-President of the Environment and Planning Law Association of NSW, Sydney, Australia. <i>“The meaning and content of the environmental rule of law”</i> 3. Mr Shyam Divan, Senior Advocate, Delhi, India and Immediate Past President of LAWASIA. <i>“Translating the normative principles of the environmental rule of law into functioning institutions, enforceable standards and accountable governance”</i>

	<p>4. The Hon. Justice Vergil Los Narokobi, National and Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea, Resident Judge, Madang National Court, Madang, Papua New Guinea. <i>“Concentric constitutionalism – A Melanesian/Papua New Guinean response to ecocentric constitutionalism”</i></p> <p>5. Ms Nina Pindham, Barrister and Chair of the U.K. Environmental Law Association, London, United Kingdom. <i>“The influence of the International Court of Justice’s Advisory Opinion on the Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change in Developing the Environmental Rule of Law”</i></p>
12.45 pm	Lunch
1.45 pm	<p>Session 3: <u>Implementation of the Environmental Rule of Law</u></p> <p>1. Ms Maria-Goreti Muavesi, Protected Areas and Oceans Legal Advisor, Conservation International Pacific, Suva, Fiji. <i>“From global diversity commitments to domestic law: Closing the implementation gap”</i></p> <p>2. Mr David Denniston, Lawyer, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. <i>“Implementation and enforcement of PNG environmental law”</i></p> <p>3. Ms Ana Coculescu, Barrister, Wellington, New Zealand. <i>“Light at the end of the tunnel? The trend towards hybrid environmental governance”</i></p> <p>4. Mr Felix Aglen Ndaru, Policy Analyst and Criminal Investigator, Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia. <i>“Can law enforcement agencies synergize: Reactivating multidoor institutions for natural resource law enforcement in Indonesia”</i></p> <p>5. Dr Bui Thi Bich Lien, Law lecturer, FPT University, Hanoi, Vietnam <i>“Flood governance in practice: Policy execution, normative orders and environmental justice in Vietnam”</i></p>
3.15 pm	Afternoon tea
3.45 pm	<p>Session 4: <u>Threats to the Environmental Rule of Law</u></p> <p>1. Ms Melinda Janki, Environmental Lawyer, Georgetown, Guyana. <i>“Jewel in the Crown or attack on the environmental rule of law – a look at Exxon Mobil’s oil production offshore South America”</i></p> <p>2. Mr Dirk Heinz, Solicitor at Macpherson Kelley, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and Mr William Kadi, Barrister and Vice President of the Solomon Islands Environmental Law Society, Honiara, Solomon Islands. <i>“Getting environmental justice in Melanesia: The hard road to do the right thing”</i></p> <p>3. Mr Mimin Dwi Hartono, Senior Policy Analyst, National Commission on Human Rights of Indonesia (Komnas HAM), Indonesia. <i>“COP 30 and the rights of Indigenous Peoples to the environment”</i></p> <p>4. The Hon. Lady Justice Jacqueline Kamau, High Court of Kenya, Vihiga, Kenya. <i>“Integrity of combatting noise pollution in Kenya”</i></p> <p>5. Ms Lily Morton and Ms Ilona Millar, Lawyers, Gilbert + Tobin, Sydney, Australia.</p>

	<i>“Upholding the environmental rule of law through carbon markets: legal and institutional pathways in Papua New Guinea and the Asia Pacific”</i>
5.15 pm	Close of Day 1
6.30 pm	<i>Conference dinner</i>
Friday 21 August 2026	
9.00 am	<p>Session 5: <u>Institutions for the Environmental Rule of Law</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Steven Thiru, Lawyer and President of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. <i>“Silenced for speaking out: Protecting environmental defenders from SLAPPs”</i> Dr Judith A Preston, Solicitor and Distinguished Research Fellow, Environmental Law Research Centre, Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW, Australia. <i>“SLAPPED: Challenges lawyers face in upholding the environmental rule of law”</i> Mr Matthew Baird, Director, Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law, Bangkok, Thailand and Executive Director, Centre for ESG Law and Practice, College of Law, Australia. <i>“Environmental and human rights defenders and the protection of lawyers – the role of the Luxembourg Convention”</i> Professor Jennifer McKay, Professor of Business Law, Adelaide University, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia. <i>“Environmental human rights defenders and the courts: Ensuring justice in a changing climate”</i> Dr Venkat Iyer, Barrister and Lecturer, Ulster University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. <i>“The role of the media in upholding the environmental rule of law”</i>
10.30 am	<i>Morning break</i>
11.00 am	<p>Session 6: <u>Courts for the Environmental Rule of Law</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Amanda Kennedy, Head of School of Law, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia and the Hon. Justice Brian J Preston AO SC, Chief Judge of the Land and Environment Court of NSW, Sydney, NSW, Australia. <i>“Judicial capacity-building in environmental law in Cambodia and Lao PDR”</i> The Hon. Justice Bambang H Mulyono, Chief Judge of the Denpasar High Court, Bali, Indonesia. <i>“Environmental law training and Environmental Judge Certification in Indonesia”</i> The Hon. Justice John Carey, Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea and Judge Administrator of the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. <i>“Judicial capacity-building in environmental law in Papua New Guinea”</i> Dr Chandra Kanta Gyawali, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Nepal, Nepal. <i>“The central role of Nepal’s judiciary in institutionalising the environmental rule of law in Nepal’s constitutional democracy”</i>

	<p>5. Mr Solomon Yeo, President and campaign director of the Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change, PhD candidate at Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand. <i>“From Pacific to the World: How a student and government-led campaign have transformed international and global climate law”</i></p>
12.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm	<p>Session 7: <u>Environmental Dispute Resolution</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Sheila Ramalingam, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. <i>“The establishment of a regional court in Southeast Asia to safeguard environmental rights”</i> 2. Ms Deborah Lockhart, CEO of Australian Disputes Centre, Sydney, NSW, Australia. <i>“Beyond the Western lens: Adapting ADR for environmental justice in the Pacific – The ADC Partnership Process”</i> 3. Ms Susan Dixon, Senior Commissioner of the Land and Environment Court of NSW, Sydney, NSW, Australia. <i>“Framing the Forum to Fit the Fuss: Bespoke Environmental Dispute Resolution”</i> 4. Ms Briony Eales, Consultant to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Team Leader for Judicial Capacity Building in Environmental and Climate Change Law, Manila, Philippines. <i>“Remedies at the frontline: Can Community-Level Dispute Resolution deliver environmental accountability?”</i> 5. Mr Bryce D Williams, Legal Counsel, Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague, The Netherlands. <i>“The Permanent Court of Arbitration’s international perspective and expertise on environmental dispute settlement”</i>
3.00 pm	Afternoon tea
3.30 – 4:30pm	<p>Session 8: Closing Session</p> <p>Keynote address: The Hon. Justice Antonio H Benjamin, Chief Justice of the National High Court of Brazil <i>“The enduring importance of the environmental rule of law in times of change”</i></p> <p>Closing remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAWASIA: Mr Shyam Divan, Immediate Past President of LAWASIA. • Supreme and National Courts of PNG: The Hon. Justice Derek Wood, Justice of the Supreme and National Courts, and Judge Administrator, Resources, Environment and Climate Change Track, National Court, Papua New Guinea. • Law Society of Papua New Guinea: Mr Hubert Numane, President of the Law Society of Papua New Guinea. • Commonwealth Lawyers Association: Mr Steven Thiru, President of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• South Pacific Lawyers' Association: Mr Gordon Hughes, Deputy Chair of South Pacific Lawyers Association
4:45pm	Closing address: His Excellency Grand Chief Sir Bob Bofeng Dadae GCL, GCMG, KStJ , Governor General of Papua New Guinea
5.15 pm	Close of conference