

# STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC : DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CHAMPIONS

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## SESSION 3 : Drafting exercise on definition of “Environment”

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# The scope of environmental law

- 20 minute class exercise
- Discuss the scope of environmental law
  1. Divide class into small groups of 5 students per group
  2. Groups to define the word “environment”
  3. Groups to list the various subjects that environmental law covers
  4. Each group to report back

Teaching/learning Methodology: Group exercise in class

Learning outcome: understanding scope of the legislation through definition of “environment”



## The scope of environmental law

- The scope of environmental law is potentially very broad. It covers at least:
  - Environmental planning and impact assessment
  - Environmental protection and pollution
  - Terrestrial and marine nature conservation
  - Protection of natural and cultural heritage
  - The protection and exploitation of all natural resources



# Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999

“Environment” includes:

- (a) ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and
- (b) natural and physical resources; and
- (c) the qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas; and
- (d) heritage values of places; and
- (e) the social, economic and cultural aspects of a thing mentioned in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d).



# New Zealand — Resource Management Act 1991

## Environment includes—

- (a) ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and
- (b) all natural and physical resources; and
- (c) amenity values; and
- (d) the social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions which affect the matters stated in paragraphs (a) to (c) or which are affected by those matters



health and safety laws?

- Light pollution?
- ~~New particles?~~ ~~Q?~~ health and safety laws?
- Light pollution?
- Nano particles?

