FOR ASIL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Meeting of April 8, 2015

Annual Interest Group Report
from

International Environmental Law

Current Elected Officers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Originally Elected to Current Position in (Year):</th>
<th>Last Elected to Current Position in (Year):</th>
<th>Elected Officer of Any Type in This IG Since (Year):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timo Koivurova</td>
<td>Co-Chair</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Peel</td>
<td>Co-Chair</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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Please fill in or correct above any missing information.

Please fill in or correct below any non-elected IG leaders (e.g. advisory body members or newsletter editor):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Since (Year):</th>
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<tr>
<td>Edith Brown- Weiss</td>
<td>Advisory Body</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>Marie Soveroski</td>
<td>Advisory Body</td>
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<td>Nicholas Robinson</td>
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<td>Don Anton</td>
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<td>Jutta Brunnée</td>
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<td>Cymie Payne</td>
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<td>Dan Bodansky</td>
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<td>Wil Burns</td>
<td>Advisory Body</td>
<td>2014</td>
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Name of Person Completing this Report: Jacqueline Peel and Timo Koivurova

Email of Person Completing this Report: j.peel@unimelb.edu.au

Phone of Person Completing this Report: +1 650 497 7983

Year group established: 1984
International Environmental Law Interest Group
Annual Report -- 2015

Governance
1) Please describe how your IG is governed, the allocation of responsibilities, etc.

The IEnLIG is run by two co-chairs. There is no official distribution of responsibilities or tasks. Work is shared by the co-chairs in a collaborative matter. All decisions and correspondence by the IG are discussed and approved by both co-chairs.

In 2014 the IEnLIG recruited an Advisory Body of international environmental law ‘elders’ – former IG co-chairs. Advisory Body members are appointed for a 3-year term with the option for this term to be renewed. This group provides advice to the co-chairs on events and matters of policy relevance to the group. For instance, comment was sought from the Advisory Body members in relation to the IG’s approach for charging fees under the new IG funding model. Advisory Body members are also involved in events the IG is organizing such as the upcoming ASIL/Stanford workshop on How can international environmental law reduce disaster risk?

In addition to engaging with the Advisory Body, the co-chairs continue to encourage IG members to become involved with group activities such as coordination of joint research, developing proposals for panels to the ASIL Annual Meeting, contributing to ASIL publications and organizing seminars and conferences. Following the elections for a new co-chair in 2014, at which Jackie was elected, the co-chairs reached out to other candidates in the election to see if they would like to be involved more closely in the Group’s activities. The idea was that this would build future IG leadership capacity. Myanna Dellinger and Anastasia Telesetsky both enthusiastically responded to these approaches and have been involved in planning for IG activities, especially the forthcoming disaster law workshop.

2) By what means and how often do IG officers communicate with IG members?

IG officers communicate with IG members primarily via the IG webpage (Group Documents, Public Documents, Blog Posts) and email function. Emails are sent out regularly to advise members of upcoming events, deadlines or other matters of interest to the group. An annual meeting of members is held each year at the ASIL Annual Meeting where the Group’s activities are discussed and ideas solicited from the members.

The IG also has a very active sub-group; the Elephant Law Forum. This group coordinates with a similar group in the European Society of International Law. A list of Elephant Law Forum ASIL members is maintained by Rachelle Adam. Emails are regularly shared within forum members by Rachelle, with a copy provided to the IG co-chairs.

Interest Group Mission
1) What are the purpose and direction of the IG? Please reply with particular attention to the following objectives: fulfilling the educational and public awareness mission of ASIL; providing
additional opportunities for active participation by ASIL members; making a contribution to the development and use of international law.

The IEnLIG works to provide a forum for lawyers in practice and in academia, as well as law students and others, active or interested in the field of international environmental law, to receive information, share ideas and learn about new developments, publications, reports, initiatives and events. The Group encourages members to organize conferences, workshops and events in addition to co-sponsoring other events focused on international environmental law. Through encouraging collaboration of its members – including in sub-groups such as the ASIL-ESIL Elephant Law Forum – the IG seeks to encourage research and other activities that would foster the development and discussion of international law in the areas of natural resources, pollution, sustainable development, climate change and the environment.

2) Please indicate if and where this marks a change from the Interest Group’s previous statements of purpose and direction.

This has been the consistent purpose and direction of the Interest Group. The co-chairs plan no change in direction but have implemented measures in 2014 to enhance participation of IG members and raise the IG profile. These measures have included encouragement of the work of the Elephant Law Forum, greater use of the website for communication with members, development of innovative, cross-cutting events on international environmental law topics and establishment of the Advisory Body to assist with governance of the IG.

3) Please indicate what process of consultation was undertaken within the IG to determine IG agreement with the above stated purpose and objective.

The co-chairs have shared the annual reports, where the IG purpose and direction are elaborated, with the IG membership, and have made regular efforts to get feedback from the IG and the Advisory Board on these, as well as IG plans. These issues are also discussed during the IG business meetings at the ASIL Annual Meetings.

The Year in Review
1) Please share some of the successes and challenges faced by your IG in the past year.

It has been a busy year for the IG with planning for several events and other activities.

A primary focus in 2014-2015 has been developing the Elephant Law Forum sub-group of the IG. This group was in a fledgling state in early 2014 but now has a solid core of members and is actively pursuing a range of activities. These have included development of a research plan, preparation of an online symposium on elephant law for AJIL Unbound and development of a session on wildlife protection law that was accepted for inclusion in the ASIL 2015 meeting program. In recognition of the fact that some of the most active members of the forum are also members of the European Society of International Law, ASIL approved collaboration of the Elephant Law Forum with ESIL members. The informal platform for this purpose is named the ASIL-ESIL Elephant Law Forum.
The Elephant Law Forum continues to develop proposals for new work in the year ahead. Currently the group is planning a joint event with the AALS animal law group on the topic of global animal law. The event will be held in November 2014 at GW Law School and will be sponsored by the IEnLIG.

Another significant area of activity of the IG in 2014-2015 has involved planning for an event on *How can international environmental law reduce disaster risk?* This event is being held in conjunction with the ASIL Disaster Law IG. Stanford Law School agreed to host the event which is co-sponsored by UNEP, IFRC and the Stanford Journal of International Law. The workshop will be held in May 2015. A call for papers was sent out to ASIL members to solicit papers for panels at the event. A selection of papers from the event will appear in a special symposium issue to be published by the Stanford Journal of International Law.

In the lead-up to the ASIL Annual Meeting for 2015 the co-chairs worked extensively with IG members to develop session proposals. Two such proposals were accepted: the wildlife protection session developed by the Elephant Law Forum and a session on ‘The Limits of Judicial Mechanisms in Developing and Enforcing International Environmental Norms’. The latter proposal was developed in conjunction with the International Courts and Tribunals Interest Group.

2) Are there things that ASIL could be doing to enhance the interest group program and your experience with it?

The relaunch of the IG websites has been a major boon for enhancing communication of IG officers with members of the IG.

Sufficient funding to undertake a full program of events relevant for IG members remains a challenge. The new IG funding proposal may offer the chance to generate a stream of income that can support future event planning though we remain concerned about the potential impact of charging fees on membership levels. Locating suitable sponsors for IG events can be a very time-consuming and difficult task and any further assistance ASIL is able to provide in this regard would be appreciated.

**Anticipated Program of Activity**

**1) Short-term.** Please detail programs and activities planned for 2015, with particular emphasis on how IG members will be involved. Also include what measures, if any, your group plans to take to supplement its $600 allotment from ASIL for this year.

IG sponsored events in 2015:

*How Can International Environmental Law Reduce Disaster Risk?,* Stanford Law School, May 21-22, 2015. This workshop will feature papers from IEnLIG members who will also have the opportunity to publish their work with the Stanford Journal of International Law.

Brown Bag seminar on Deep Seabed Mining, Stimson Center, March 27, 2015. This event will feature a presentation from Don Anton, an IG Advisory Board member.
Conference on Global Animal Law, GW University Law School, November 2015 (in conjunction with the AALS Animal Law section). This conference is being organized by members of the IG’s Elephant Law Forum.

The $600 allotment for 2015 will be put towards the disaster law workshop being held at Stanford. Other funding for the event is being contributed by sponsors recruited by the IEnLIG and Disaster Law IG co-chairs. The IG co-chairs have canvassed various options for charging a fee for members of the IG to supplement this allotment. On the advice of Advisory Body members we are likely to proceed with a modest $5-$10 fee proposal.

2) Long-term. Please describe any objectives beyond 2015.

The Elephant Law Forum has emerged as a vibrant sub-group of the IG and is likely to continue to be a focus of research and activity for the IG in the years to come.

We will continue to co-sponsor events of interest to members of the IG. We have been proactive this year in seeking co-sponsorship for events to raise the group’s profile, though it has to be said that planning events and seeking sponsorship is very consuming of IG officers’ time.