

## The Access Initiative



## Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration

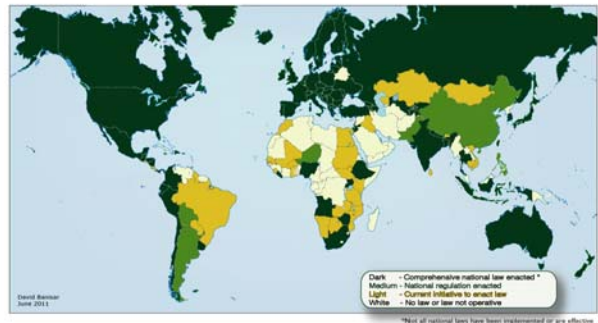
Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned individuals, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate **access to information** concerning the environment that is held by public authorities...

and the **opportunity to participate** in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective **access to justice** and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

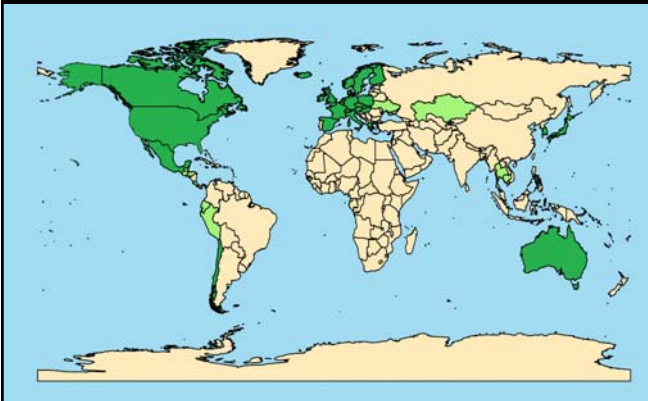
## Sunita Video

## Freedom of Information Laws 2011

National Right to Information Laws, Regulations and Bills 2011



## Spread of Pollution Release and Transfer Registers



## Environmental Impact Assessment



\*Please note, research still underway. This is a draft map – do

## Spread of Environmental Courts



## Access Delivery Mechanism

TABLE 1.1 COMMON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TOOLS INTEGRATING ACCESS	
Access to Information	Freedom of information mechanisms State of the environment reports Toxics release inventories/pollutant release and transfer registers Emergency warning systems Air and water quality monitoring systems
Public Participation	Environmental impact assessment Strategic environmental assessment Planning and permitting hearings Legislative hearings
Access to Justice	Litigation Alternative dispute resolution Administrative justice mechanisms (planning councils, etc.)

## The method

- Create a tool that can be used by interested civil society and a rigorous method to test the recognition by government of citizens rights and their implementation.
- Advocate for change of law and practice

## Four Approaches to Access Work

- Improving access delivery mechanisms
- Improving laws & closing implementation gaps
- Overcoming the four Hurdles
- Functional approach to capacity building

## Our publications

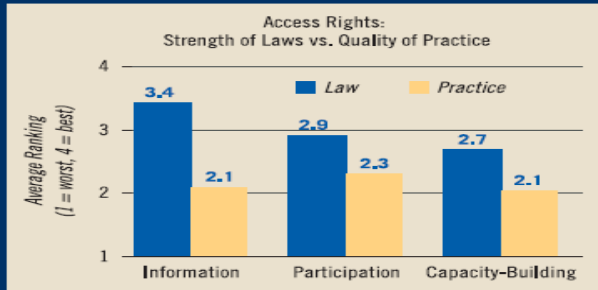


## V & C Findings

- Gap between law/implementation
- 4 Hurdles to access

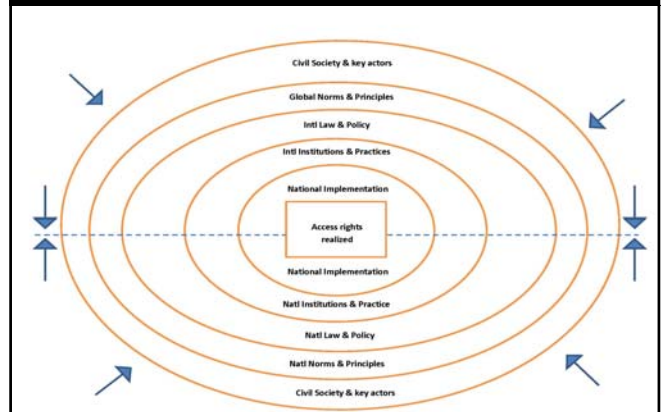
## Gap between Law/Implementation

FIGURE 1.4 MEAN RANKINGS FOR LAW AND PRACTICE INDICATORS (VALUE)



Source: TAI Assessments

## Influence Targets & Landscape



## Overcoming 4 Hurdles

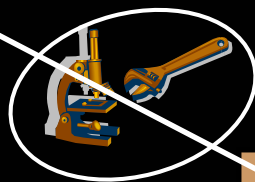
- Vested interests/Politics of access
- Closing Info system gaps
- A culture of openness
- Capacity building

## Vested interests/Politics of access

- Laws/policy
  - Broader alliances/campaigns
  - Messaging (narrative) & timing
  - Litigation/challenge
  - Political parties
- YES
  - YES
  - YES
  - Not done by us
  - Not done by us

## TAI strategy is to...

CSO teams



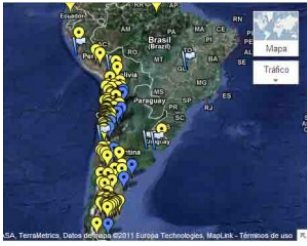
Laws, practices and institutions



## Passage of New Access to Information Laws in Africa



## Development of Virtual Platforms



Argentina

<http://wp.cedha.net/>  
India

<http://www.erciindia.org/>

**ERC** EIA Resource and Response Centre  
for accountability in EIA

## Work at the International Level

### UNEP ACCESS GUIDELINES

Guidelines for the Development Of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public participation in decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Bali Guidelines)



## significant revisions to Green Tribunal Bill



National Green Tribunal

## Capacity Building- Cameroon



**Philippines: World's largest system of environmental courts throws the doors of justice wide open to environmental concerns.**



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