

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE SCOPE AND APPLICATION OF UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

As outlined in our previous submissions, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) believes that universal jurisdiction could play a significant role in bridging the gaps in the enforcement of international environmental law. However, to date, the international community has not applied the principle of universal jurisdiction in the field of the environment.

UNEP recognizes that environmental crimes are widespread serious crimes interlinked with other forms of transnational