Speakers:

Mr. Chetan Agarwal, Forest and Environmental Services Analyst, India
Mr. Agarwal specializes in natural resources management and policy analysis, and application of institutional and cost-benefit analysis to the same, with an emphasis on pro-poor approaches, especially in the context of securing environmental services and adapting to climate change. He has expertise in promoting management for ecosystem services including forest watershed services and biodiversity at multiple scales and using diverse instruments including zoning, institutions and incentive systems. He has experience with Payments for Environmental Services in India, USA, Vietnam and Laos that are aimed at preventing and reducing forest and landscape degradation especially with community based management. He has undertaken field work in several states in India and (1) facilitated ecological and economic research on Joint Forest Management,(2) analysed participatory forest policies, and (3) developed, implemented and monitored forest, pasture and agriculture and micro-water harvesting projects with rural NGOs. He has extensive field-experience in mountain, arid zone and the central Indian tribal belt. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from St. Stephen's College, University of Delphi, an MBA in Rural Management from the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand, India, and a Masters in Public Policy and Natural Resource Management from the School of Public & Environmental Affairs (SPEA), Indiana University-Bloomington, USA.

Ms. Saima Amin Khawaja, Partner, Progressive Advocates and Legal Consultants, Lahore, Pakistan
Ms Khawaja’s initial experience was in corporate and constitutional litigation, which subsequently expanded to transactional work and consultancy relating to legal reforms and development. Her areas of interest include the Constitution, Environmental Laws, Not for Profit Laws, Public Interest Litigation, Regulatory Laws and Corporate Governance. She has handled numerous development consultancies which vary from environment enforcement, development of SMEs, improvement in the Lower Judiciary, development in legal and regulatory framework for not for profit organizations, bringing in policy change in regulatory frame work of taxation regime, improving Urban development, Governance and corruption issues in water and sanitation and reforms in acquisition laws. She has recently re-drafted EIA Regulations, Administrative Penalty Rules and reviewed Water Conservation Law (for SAARC countries). She have also handled a number of litigations challenging environmental issues for over 15 years now. Ms Khawaja received specialized training in Environment laws from LEADs Pakistan and M.C Metha Foundation Rishkish, India. She has also been trained in mediation and as a master trainer and has a keen interest in teaching and has taught various subjects including environmental laws.
Mr. Nayana Mawilmada, Urban Development Specialist, Founder and Managing Director, Total Management Solutions, Sri Lanka

Mr. Mawilmada is the Co-Founder/Managing Director of York Street Partners (Pvt) Ltd., which provided development strategy and real estate investment advisory services to a range of private-sector clients undertaking real estate and tourism sector investments in Sri Lanka. He is also the founder and director of Total Management Solutions (Pvt) Ltd., which provided urban development, investment project formulation/management, and strategic advisory services for a range of international development and government agencies. He has previously worked with the World Bank as an urban planning and research consultant, with the UNDP as an Advisor to the Parliament of Timor-Leste, and with the ADB as Urban Development Specialist and as Strategic Planning Specialist for the development of Sri Lanka’s first National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Mr. Mawilmada has a Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture from Hampton University in Virginia, USA, a Masters Degree in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Masters in Business Administration from the Harvard Business School.

Justice Ananda Mohan Bhattarai, Acting Chief Judge, Court of Appeal, Nepal

Dr. Ananda Mohan Bhattarai currently works as acting Chief Judge at the Court of Appeal, Nepal. He was formerly a faculty member at the National Judicial Academy Nepal – an institution established to cater to educational and research needs of the Nepali judiciary. After graduating in Law from Nepal in 1982 and working in the Judiciary for over a decade, Dr. Bhattarai went to National Law School of India in 1994 and obtained his LL.M in 1996, and JSD in 2000. He is a Hubert Humphrey Fellow at MIT, Cambridge, USA and Alexander von Humboldt Fellow to Max Planck Institute of Comparative and Public International Law, Heidelberg. He has authored three books and dozens of articles on law and justice. His book titled “Protection of Himalayan Biodiversity” has been widely reviewed in Nepali and international journals.

Panelists:

Mr. Bakary Kante (Africa Sustainability Centre)

Dr. Bakary Kante, the founder and CEO of the Africa Sustainability Centre is a leading African thinker-practitioner on sustainability, rule of law and environmental justice at global and national levels. From his early professional life as the Director General of the Ministry of Environment, in his native Senegal, he has been imbued with a deep passion for helping to lift Africa from its technology, sustainability, environmental justice deficit, shaped largely by the Continent’s colonial history. Dr. Kante counts over 25 years of experience in diplomacy and high level political negotiations at international and national levels towards promoting international environmental governance, environmental justice and rule of law, having successfully provided visionary leadership within UNEP, first, as Special Policy Advisor to the Executive Director and later successively, as the Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Development and Law (DPDL) Law and Director of the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELC). Prior to his appointment with UNEP, Dr. Kante had already distinguished himself as a sensitive, skilled and astute negotiator, having played a key role in forging African and Group of 77 consensus at global environmental negotiations. Born in Dakar, Senegal, Bakary Kante studied International Public Law at the University of Dakar, and received his Master’s Degree and subsequently a Ph.D. in Environmental Science.

Justice Sarmad Jalal Osmany (Pakistan)

Justice Osmany worked as an associate with a leading law firm in Karachi from 1979 to 1982 then in the USA with the law firm of Shearman & Sterling New York City from 1983 to 1984. He practiced mostly in the international trade and banking areas. He established his own Law Firm in Karachi in 1985, appeared before Sindh High Court as well as Arbitration Tribunals, practiced in the banking and shipping areas and also handled merger and acquisition matters while advising the Privatization Commission of Pakistan. He was elevated as a Judge of the Sindh High Court in 1998. He was a member of the Provincial Steering Committee for the Province of Sindh in the Government of Pakistan’s Judicial and Legal Reform Project funded by the ADB and entails reforms in a number of areas including Judicial Policy and Administration, Delay Reduction Programme, Access to Justice, Legal Education, Judicial Training, Strengthening Commercial Dispute Resolution Procedures, Drafting /Amendment of Legislation etc. Justice Osmany was appointed Chief Justice Sindh High
Court on 3rd August 2009 and elevated to the Supreme Court of Pakistan on 14th February 2011. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Peshawar, an LLB from the University of Punjab (1975), and an LLM from the University of London (1978).

Justice Tshering Wangchuk (Bhutan)
Honorable Tshering Wangchuk has been Justice at the Supreme Court of Bhutan since 2010. Previously, he held positions as Justice of the High Court, Judge of the district court in Samdrup Jongkhar; Judicial Officer of the High Court, among other positions. He also served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Bhutan Army. He holds a Masters in Law from George Washington University in the United States.

Mr. Sanith de Silva Wijeyeratne (Sri Lanka)
Mr. Wijeyeratne, an attorney-at-law, is CEO of Crabon Consulting Company. Sanith’s achievements in the field of Environmental Sustainability have led to him being nominated as an Expert Panelist at the 6th South Asian Economic Summit under the plenary theme “Managing Water Resources, Food Security and Climate Change in South Asia” in 2013. He has also represented Private Sector Enterprises in providing input into Green Economy and Green Growth Options for SME’s for implementation into the SME Policy Action Plan for Sri Lanka. He was invited by the German Government for Technical Training on Renewable Energy in Bavaria in November 2013. In addition he was a delegate to the international conference on Entrepreneurship in Socially Responsible Business for development in Asia and the Pacific Region as well as the Young Business Leaders Programme in Ahmedabad India, where he was Chairman of the sessions on Business Response to Human Rights and Labour in Asia and the Pacific, and Human Rights and Labour Relations. He was also invited by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka to speak at the National Law Conference 2014 under the theme of Corporate Focus on Sustainable Development.