

From: Carol Jones [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 2nd World Environmental Law Congress - Request for followup guidance to participants regarding COVID-19
Date: March 8, 2020 at 13:23
To: BENJAMIN Antonio (private [REDACTED]), ANTOLINI Denise [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
Cc: Jay Pendergrass pendergrass@eli.org, Justice Pepper [REDACTED], Sébastien MABILE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Organizers –

The 2nd World Environmental Law Congress, and the related events preceding it, represent important opportunities for all participants, and a lot of work has gone into planning them!

As someone who is in the “older” category and also planning a 10-day vacation in Brazil following the conference, I have been monitoring carefully the intelligence about COVID-19: re the situation in Brazil and advice for international travel, as well as the evolving information (still highly uncertain) about the infectiousness and lethality of this virus strain.

- As you note, there currently are no travel restrictions in Brazil.
 - the Brazilian tracking system reports the numbers are going up every day, though still relatively small As of today (March 8): 25 confirmed cases, 663 suspected cases (symptoms plus travel to high-risk areas or exposure at home to individuals with the virus) and 632 tested and found *without* the virus. For Rio the numbers are: 3, 110, and 67.
- [REDACTED]

Based on this information (as of today), it appears **the greater risk to conference participation of potential infection is from the participants who are coming in from all over the world.**

I am writing to ask that you communicate with registrants, to reinforce the relevant elements in the UN meeting guidance you sent –

- Highlighting the need for participants to not be physically present at the conference if they have symptoms or have been directly exposed to the virus (or are coming from an area where the levels of confirmed cases are high)
- Providing alternative ways to participate, such as speaking by telephone or via videoconference, depending upon technology available in individual rooms

Also to ease a secondary level of participants’ concerns, it would be helpful if you could inform **us** about what medical capacity is available if someone becomes ill with coronavirus symptoms during their time in Brazil

(I ask this because *it is not being handled effectively in the US.*)

- Is COVID-19 testing available in Rio, and what are the prerequisites for receiving testing? (I am assuming individuals will come with international health insurance, as you recommend.)
- If a participant develops a very bad case of the disease (affecting lung function), are there facilities that can provide the quarantine environment in which to provide the case?

Many thanks,
Carol Jones

PS I note the UN has cancelled many large meetings this month planned for NYC (as well as elsewhere).

From: IUCN WCEL [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 3:53 PM

To: BENJAMIN Antonio (private) [REDACTED]; ANTOLINI Denise <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Subject: 2nd World Environmental Law Congress - Notice regarding COVID-19

External Email - If suspicious, please contact blain@eli.org

Dear Participants,

The IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law places the highest priority on people's health. This is why we are monitoring the COVID-19 virus outbreak carefully and in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

There are no known current travel restrictions in Brazil.

Preparations for the the 2nd World Environmental Law Congress and related events in Rio de Janeiro this March are continuing as planned.

Should this change, we will immediately share any information on the [Congress website](#) as well as by email.

To support participants, please find attached a meeting guide regarding COV-19 that has been prepared by the United Nations Department for Operational Support.

Best Regards,

The Congress Organizers

[REDACTED]
Executive Officer

World Commission on Environmental Law

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

<https://www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-environmental-law>

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