

# Environmental Regulatory Bodies

There is a need to create and restructure regulatory institutions for better environmental governance. The independent environmental regulator could contribute towards effective environmental governance. This could help to stop the overuse and misuse of natural resources as well as protect the rights of the marginal communities. It could also help in the process of project appraisal and monitoring which has been criticized for their ineffectiveness. The institutional restructuring in environmental governance will also contribute towards the goals of sustainable development.

## International

### Africa

#### [Environmental Regulatory bodies of Africa](#)

##### **Environment Statutory bodies**

<https://www.environment.gov.za/statutorybodies>

- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- South African National Parks (SANParks)
- iSimangaliso Wetland Park

##### **Environment Regulatory Authorities**

- Department of Environmental Affairs: This department issues environmental authorisations, permits and licenses. It is also responsible for compliance and enforcement monitoring.  
[www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za)
- Department of Water Affairs: This department issues water use licenses. It is also primarily responsible for the formulation and implementation of policy governing water use management, monitoring compliance and enforcement.  
[www.dwaf.gov.za](http://www.dwaf.gov.za)
- Department of Mineral Resources: This department grants mining and prospecting applications and approving environmental management plans or programmes.  
[www.dmr.gov.za](http://www.dmr.gov.za)

##### **National Energy Regulator (NERSA)**

<http://www.nersa.org.za/>

##### **The Directory of Environmental Organizations and Environmental Government Agencies**

<http://earthdirectory.net/africa>

## Australia

### Environmental Regulatory bodies of Australia

- Department of Environment Regulation (DER): Main activities. DER's purpose is to advise on and implement strategies for a healthy environment for the benefit of all current and future Western Australians.  
[www.der.wa.gov.au/](http://www.der.wa.gov.au/)
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA): Main activities. The EPA is a five-member board with statutory obligations under the EP Act to conduct EIAs, implement procedures to protect the environment and to provide advice to the Minister for Environment on environmental matters.  
[www.epa.wa.gov.au](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au), <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/>
- Department of the Environment (DOE): Main activities-The DOE is the Commonwealth body with responsibility for environment protection and conservation of biodiversity, air quality, national fuel quality standards, land contamination and water policy.  
[www.environment.gov.au/](http://www.environment.gov.au/)

## Canada

### Environmental Assessment by a Responsible Authority

#### **The responsibility for conducting an environmental assessment rests with:**

- The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (for nuclear projects);
- The National Energy Board (for international and interprovincial pipelines and transmission lines); or
- The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (for all other designated projects).

<https://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=16254939-1>

#### **The Directory of Environmental Organizations and Environmental Government Agencies**

<http://www.earthdirectory.net/canada>

## China

- National People's Congress (NPC): Main activities-The NPC is responsible for enacting and amending all statutes including environmentally related statutes.  
[www.npc.gov.cn/englishnpc/news/](http://www.npc.gov.cn/englishnpc/news/)
- Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP): Main activities-The MEP is responsible for environmental management such as implementing environmental legislation, policies, and guidelines on environmental issues.  
<http://english.mep.gov.cn>
- National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC): Main activities-The NDRC is the management agency under the State Council with broad administrative and planning control over the Chinese economy including sustainable development, climate change, and environmental matters. The NDRC is China's designated national authority under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

<http://en.ndrc.gov.cn>

## France

- Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (Ministère de l'Ecologie, du Développement Durable et de l'Energie) (MEDDE): Main activities-The Ministry drafts bills, enacts Decrees and Orders, implements and enforces Acts in the fields of energy, air and climate (including energy transition), water and biodiversity, prevention of natural and technological risks, sustainable development, transports, sustainable territory planning, areas and landscapes, sea and coastlines.  
[www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr)
- Classified Facilities Inspectorate (Inspection des Installations Classées): Main activities - It works at preventing and reducing environmental hazards and drawbacks to protect environment and public health. It reviews applications for ICPE permits, monitors operation of ICPE and proposes sanctions to the préfet in case of non-compliance with applicable requirements.  
[www.installationsclassees.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/](http://www.installationsclassees.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/)
- Regional Directorates of Environment, Land Development and Housing (Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement) (DREALs): Main activities- It guides the implementation of environmental policies and enforces prevention and control measures at the regional level.  
[www.\[name of region\].developpement-durable.gouv.fr](http://www.[name of region].developpement-durable.gouv.fr)
- Agency for Environment and Energy Management (Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie) (ADEME): Main activities-It provides expertise and advice in waste management, soil protection, energy efficiency, renewable energy, air quality and noise prevention. It is also responsible for remediating abandoned sites.  
[www.ademe.fr](http://www.ademe.fr)
- Nuclear Safety Authority (Autorité de sûreté nucléaire) (ASN): Main activities-It is in charge of controlling the nuclear safety and public information in the nuclear field and contributes to the creation of regulations by giving its opinion to the government or making technical decisions.  
[www.asn.fr](http://www.asn.fr)

## Japan

Ministry of the Environment: Main activities- It plays a major role in the environmental administration and has exclusive jurisdiction over matters involving waste, environmental pollution, natural conservation and wildlife protection. The Ministry has joint jurisdiction with other ministries over other environmental issues.

[www.env.go.jp/en](http://www.env.go.jp/en)

## New Zealand

New Zealand has a range of government agencies responsible for maintaining, preserving and managing our unique environment.

- Environmental Protection Authority: Its purpose is to safeguard people and the environment by regulating the introduction and use of hazardous substances and new organisms under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act. EPA regulates the importation, development and use of plants, animals and other new organisms including genetically modified organisms.  
<http://www.epa.govt.nz/Pages/default.aspx>
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority: It is a Crown entity that encourages, supports and promotes energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the use of renewable sources of energy. EECA sets and monitors minimum energy performance standards and mandatory energy rating labels for a range of products including vehicles.  
<https://www.eeca.govt.nz/>
- The Ministry for the Environment (MFE): It advises the Government on all matters related to the environment and is one of its major advisers on the sustainable development of New Zealand. The Ministry is responsible for policy advice and implementation of government decisions in both the Environment and Climate Change portfolios, covering both domestic and international matters.  
<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/>
- The Department of Conservation (DOC): It is responsible for the conservation of New Zealand's natural and historic heritage. It works to protect marine mammals, indigenous freshwater fisheries, recreational fisheries and freshwater habitats, and is responsible for conserving indigenous wildlife wherever it lives.  
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

## Russia

### Regulatory authorities

**Key regulatory authorities in the environmental protection area include:**

- Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNR). MNR is responsible for public policy making and statutory regulation in the study, use, renewal and conservation of natural resources, environmental monitoring and pollution control.  
[www.mnr.gov.ru](http://www.mnr.gov.ru)
- Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resources (Rosprirodnadzor). It supervises and monitors the use of natural resources, providing safety and reasonable nature management.  
<http://rpn.gov.ru/>
- Federal Agencies for Subsoil, Water Resources and Forestry. These agencies regulate relevant natural resources.

- Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (Rosgidromet). Rosgidromet manages government property and provides government services in hydrometeorology and related areas, and monitors the environment and environmental pollution.
- Environmental Public Prosecutor's Department under the Prosecutor General's Office. This department enforces environmental law.
- Federal Supervisory Service for the Environment, Technology and Nuclear Management (Rostekhnadzor). Rostekhnadzor drafts government policy and legal regulation for environmental, technological and nuclear power.

[www.gosnadzor.ru](http://www.gosnadzor.ru)

## **United Kingdom (England and Wales)**

### The Regulatory authorities

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA): Main activities. DEFRA has responsibility for the environment as well as food and farming and rural matters.  
[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)
- Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC): Main activities. DECC has responsibility for energy policy and tackling climate change.  
[www.decc.gov.uk](http://www.decc.gov.uk)
- Environment Agency (EA): Main activities. The EA is an executive non-departmental body accountable to DEFRA and the National Assembly for Wales. The EA's main aims are protecting and improving the environment, and promoting sustainable development.  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)
- National Resources Wales (NRW): Main activities. NRW is a statutory body accountable to the Welsh government and the National Assembly for Wales which became operational on 1 April 2013. It has a broader remit than the EA, its main objective being to ensure that the environment and natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, sustainably enhanced and sustainably used.  
[www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](http://www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

## **United States of America**

### The Regulatory authorities

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Main activities- Implementing federal environmental laws concerning (among others): Water pollution, Air pollution, Hazardous waste, Toxic substances, and Pesticides Contaminated properties.  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

- Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division: Main activities- Enforcing civil and criminal pollution laws, defending environmental challenges brought against the US government, and bringing and defending cases under the wildlife protection laws.
- [www.usdog.gov/enrd](http://www.usdog.gov/enrd)
- Department of Interior: Main activities- Preservation of public lands and natural and cultural resources through: Protecting land and water resources, maintaining recreational sites, managing energy projects on federal land and Conserving fish and wildlife.  
[www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov)
- US Army Corps of Engineers: Main activities-Implements the Clean Water Act in relation to dredge, fill, and construction permitting and otherwise manage federal navigational channels pursuant to the Rivers and Harbors Act.  
[www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil)
- White House Council on Environmental Quality: Main activities-Co-ordinating federal environmental efforts to ensure that federal agencies consider the effects of their policies on the environment.  
[www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce: Main activities- Manages living marine resources and their habitats..  
[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor: Main activities- Regulates the health and safety of workers.  
[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)