

International Law Book Facility



The International Law Book Facility (ILBF) is a UK-based registered charity with a simple goal – to provide printed legal texts to legal professional bodies, advice centres, pro bono groups, law schools, institutions and individuals involved in access to justice in Africa, Asia, Europe, South America and the Caribbean.



Established in 2005, the ILBF has gone from strength to strength. From its conception in 2005, the charity has sent approximately ten tonnes of books donated by law firms, government departments, barristers' chambers and universities to partner organisations across the world.



The running of the charity to date has been managed at a very low cost because of the number and dedication of the volunteers and partners from across the legal community. However, for the ILBF to continue to succeed there is a very real need to secure significant ongoing funding so that the charity can meet the cost of shipment of the books to our partners.

This brochure explains the work of the ILBF in more detail. We take a look at what being a volunteer for the ILBF involves and share with you some feedback from organisations who have received donated books. There are some interesting statistics and a map showing where we've shipped to over the last 5 years. Finally we share our future hopes and aspirations, and how you can get involved.

'[T]here is a huge amount of work still to be done to alert the legal profession around the world to the importance of the Rule of Law and to their obligations to uphold it. In many countries, including the US and the UK, I believe this obligation goes much further than merely to carry on one's professional practice in accordance with the relevant codes of ethics.'

*Francis Neate,
Former ILBF Trustee*



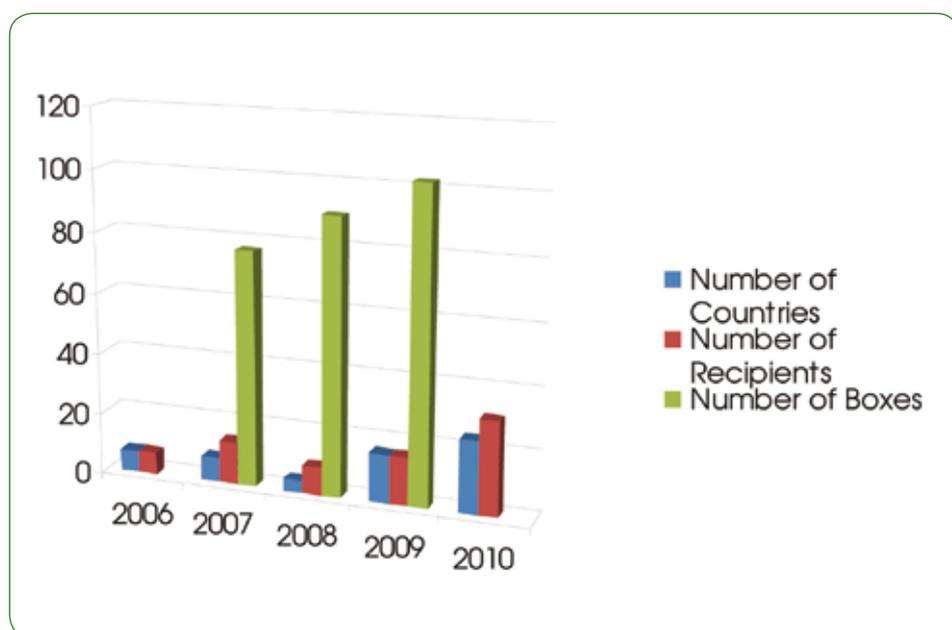
Number Crunching

102...

boxes shipped in 2009

373...

books shipped to Cambodia in June 2010



31...

boxes sent to Uganda in 2008 in partnership with the African Prisons Project

1...

tonne of books sent to the Law Society of Swaziland in 2006

Spotlight on Volunteers

“On 4th August 2010 I attended a book packing day for ILBF at Big Yellow Storage. The amount of donation is staggering and it’s great to know that volumes that would ordinarily be scrapped are being put to good use and it’s heartening to realise many still value and require printed matter. I felt privileged to be a small part of a worthwhile and useful organisation.”



A group of LexisNexis volunteers who packed 52 boxes of books at the offices of Clifford Chance to ship to 4 organisations in Cambodia



A group of volunteers who packed 30 boxes of books to ship to Bangladesh

“The ILBF book packing day was a great way to spend time with colleagues outside of the office, helping a very worthwhile charity”

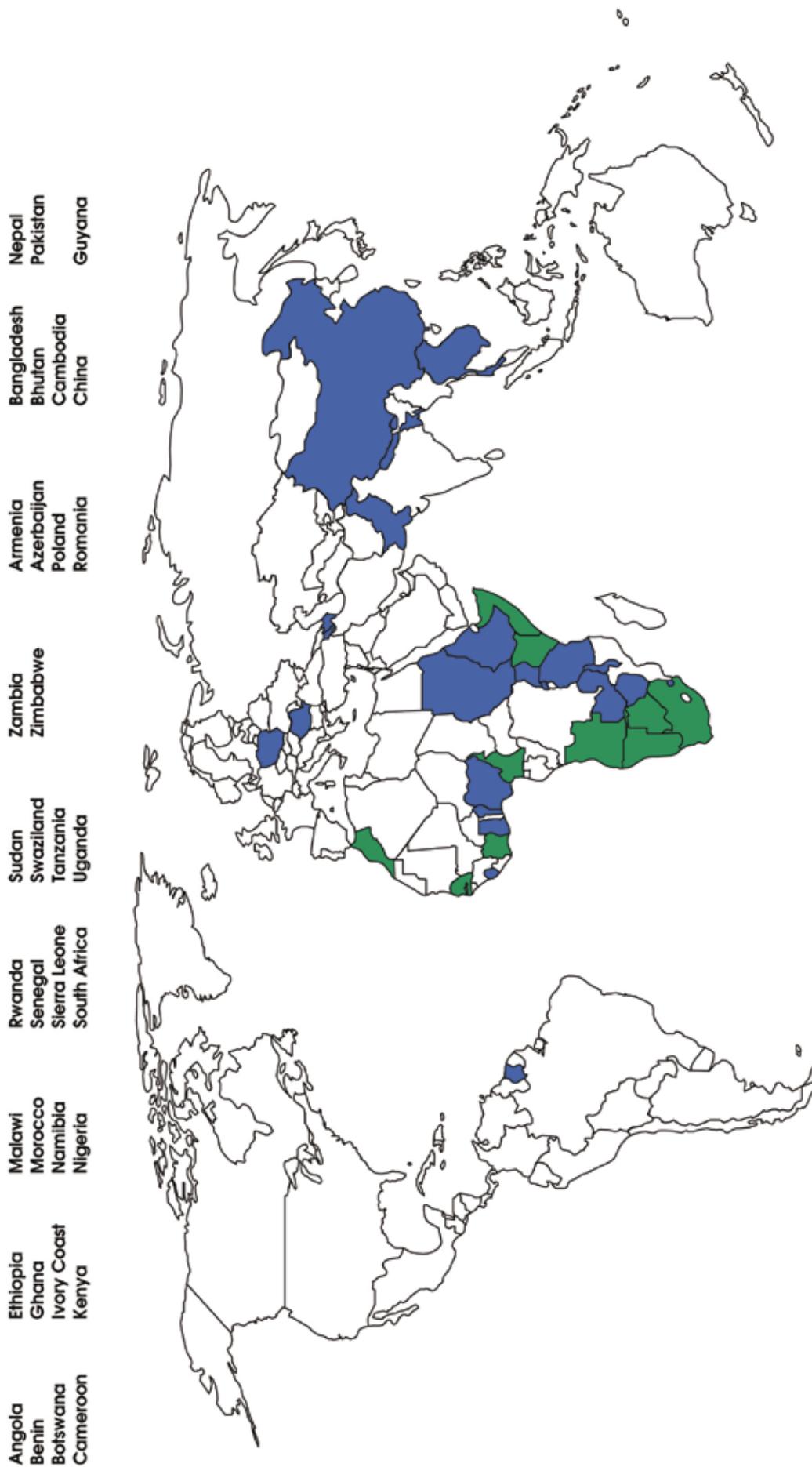
“It was a privilege to spend a day working with the ILBF. The team identified, sorted and packed relevant legal titles for shipment.

Donated books now enjoy a new lease of life abroad, where they will help to shape the law and lawyers of tomorrow.”



Countries the ILBF has shipped to, and is planning to ship to

The map below shows the countries the ILBF has shipped to (blue) and plans to ship to in the future (green). The charity often has various recipients in one country, meaning that the books are gratefully received by numerous organisations. In April 2010 for example, 48 boxes of books were sent in a shipment to five recipients in Sudan. We are confident that our partnership with the Asia Foundation will mean that more shipments can be made to countries in Asia.



Focus on Recipients ... Bhutan

Organisation: Office of the Attorney General of Bhutan.

Shipment date: January 2010

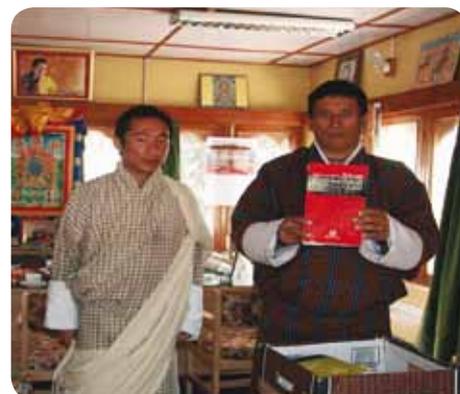
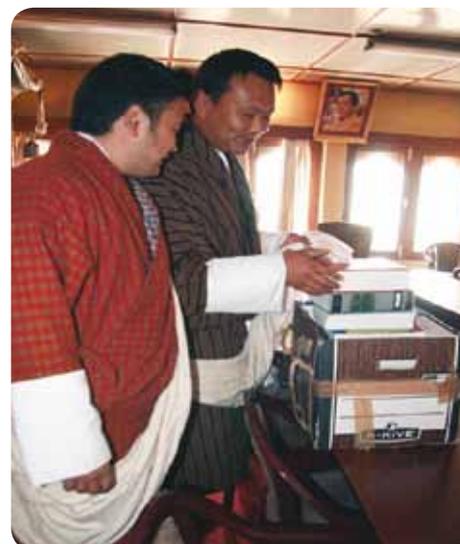
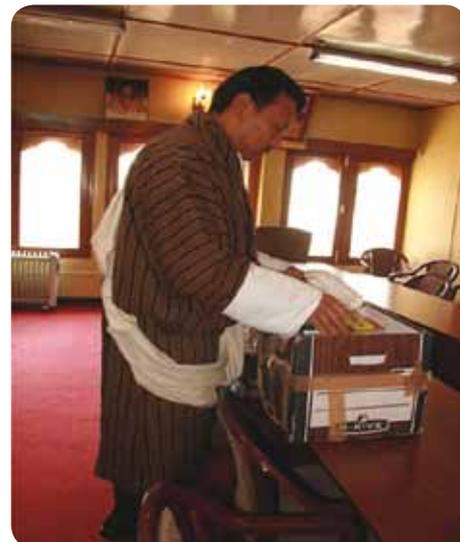
Feedback:

Firstly on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General and on my own behalf I would like to thank you and your organization personally and would like to inform you that I just received the books today that you have sent. Thank you so much for taking the time to consider the request that I made on behalf of the Attorney General and processing it and following through till we got the book here.

Now to update you a little about the recent happening here in Bhutan with regard to the Judiciary here, recently the first Chief Justices were appointed and one of which is our very own Attorney General and so everyone at office is a little busy but nevertheless your deliveries were at a right time especially because now we do have the Supreme Court in place and the principles of Jurisprudence is guaranteed and the safeguarding of our Constitution assured.

Once again thank you very much for this great gift as the books that ILBF has sent to us will go a long way into taking us forward as an institution for the betterment of the Rule of Law here in Bhutan.

Namgay Dorji
Office of the Attorney General
Thimphu, Bhutan



Focus on Recipients ... Sudan

Organisations: This single shipment was able to help five individual organizations:

- Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development (MoLACD)
- Rule of Law Promoters Association/Justice and Confidence Centre
- Prisons Library
- SSPS (Police) Library
- Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly library

Shipment date: April 2009

Feedback:

UNDP, Governance and Rule of Law Unit recently delivered books donated by the International Law Books Facility (ILBF) organization based in the UK. The law books which were mainly for the rule of law institutions came in 35 boxes. The book donations are aimed at supporting the rule of law sector institutions in Southern Sudan through access to knowledge and best practices.

Ms. Thusitha Pilapitiya, the Team Leader of the Governance and Rule of Law Unit formerly handed over the books to recipient institutions through the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development represented by Hon. Filberto Mayuot, the Acting Undersecretary. This was done at the Ministry's main Library in Juba, Southern Sudan on 20th November 2009.

Ms. Thusitha in her handover speech informed the Acting Under Secretary, Ministry of Legal Affairs how her unit worked with the organizations that donated the books to help boost the knowledge and information sharing within the rule of law institutions.

Responding, the Acting Undersecretary Hon. Filberto Mayuot expressed delight at the donated books and expressed his sincere appreciation to the organizations behind the donation particularly ILBF which is the first organization to make such donation to the Ministry and key rule of law institutions, adding that this indeed has opened up a window of opportunities for the rule of law sector to further benefit from such well-meaning nonprofit organizations.



Focus on Recipients ... Bangladesh

Organisation: Bangladeshi Bar Council

Shipment date: March 2009

Feedback:

What does your organisation plan to achieve in the next twelve months through the partnership with the ILBF?

"We propose to eiveiate the information about the new books available to the images library and supreme court bar library and Dhaka University Law Library and who are welcome to use our library."

Please describe any action you have taken to lobby/advocate for the role of legal libraries in the last 12 months ...

"Each of our class rooms has a small reference library and they are encouraged to use our main library."

What initiatives are you employing to encourage lawyers and law students to make use of your legal library?

"We are going to announce, through posters and publications, the arrival of new books."

A note from Dr Sumaiya Khair, Professor and Chair of the Department of Law, University of Dhaka...

"This is to gratefully acknowledge the receipt of books donated by the ILBF to the Department of Law, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. I believe that the books will significantly enrich our seminar library and benefit our students, teachers and researchers immensely. I look forward to similar collaboration in the future."



Where we are going ...

'I am delighted that the ILBF is celebrating its 5th anniversary. From the germ of an idea no more than 6 or so years ago, we have created a charity which is bringing real benefits to law students, lawyers and judges and many others involved in access to justice across the world. Providing access to the appropriate legal texts is vital and it is through the identification, collection, housing, packing and shipping of books that the ILBF is making such a difference. I would like to thank the many individuals and organisations throughout the legal profession without whom the work of the ILBF would not be possible.

The next five years will be vitally important for the charity. As our reputation grows with our partner recipients, and there are more books available to be donated, we have new challenges to face. There is enormous potential for the ILBF to make a lasting contribution by bringing together those who have the printed resources they no longer need with those who are struggling to find the texts which will help them to qualify, to practise and ultimately to contribute to the development of the rule of law in their countries. Our vision of the next five years will see us shipping more books to more recipients and helping recipients build and develop their resources. We will also continue to work in partnership with other organisations to reach recipients in more countries around the world. We want to expand operations with the help of our existing supporters and the supporters of the future we hope to attract. Please join us in celebrating where we are now and our hopes for the future.'

The Rt. Hon.

Lord Justice John Thomas, Judge of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales

What you can do to help

The International Law Book Facility is administered on a voluntary basis but it needs financial assistance to store books, ship books overseas and distribute them in recipient countries.

If you would like to make a donation of books or money to support this effort please contact us by emailing info@ILBF.org.uk

You can support ILBF in other ways:

- put us in touch with overseas institutions in desperate need of legal texts
- help with storage of the books
- help with the shipping and distribution of books

If you can assist with any of the above, please contact us with a description of how you can help by emailing info@ILBF.org.uk.



To contact the ILBF, please email: info@ILBF.org.uk

The International Law Book Facility is administered on a voluntary basis: please be patient when waiting for a response.