

Validated Terminal Review of the UNEP Project 'Collective Intelligence for Environmental Governance' (InforMEA Phase III) (PIMS ID 02090) 2020-2023



UNEP Law Division

Validation date: June 2026



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*Terminal Review of the UNEP Project
“Collective Intelligence for Environmental Governance”
(InforMEA Phase III, 2020-2023)
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Acknowledgements

This Terminal Review was prepared for UNEP by Giovanni Ferraiolo (email: giovanni.ferraiolo@gmail.com) as an independent consultant.

The reviewer would like to express their gratitude to all persons who contributed to this terminal review, as listed in *Annex II*.

The reviewer would like to thank the InforMEA project team and in particular Ms. Eva Duer (Project Manager) and Ms. Lillian Onyango (Programme Management Assistant) for their contribution and collaboration throughout the terminal review process. Sincere appreciation is also expressed to the members of the Steering Committee and Working Group who took time to provide their input to this report.

The terminal review consultant hopes that the findings, conclusions and recommendations will contribute to the successful finalisation of the current project and to the formulation of a next phase.

About the Terminal Review

Joint Terminal Review: No

Report Language(s): English.

Evaluation Type: Terminal Review

Brief Description: This report is a Terminal Review of a UNEP project implemented between 2020 and 2023. The project's overall development goal was to develop harmonized and interoperable information systems for the benefit of MEAs Parties and the environment community at large. The Terminal Review sought to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project, including their sustainability. The Terminal Review has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, and the relevant agencies and countries participating to the project.

Key words: Access to Information, Capacity Building, Data Analysis, e-learning, Environmental Governance, Environmental Policy, Environmental Treaties, Harmonization of Data, Institutional Capacities, International Treaties, Interoperability, Knowledge Management, Legal Frameworks, Monitoring of Data Quality, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Outreach, Policy Makers, Semantic Indexing, Synergies, Technical Implementation, Technology Transfer.

Primary data collection period: November 2023 – January 2024

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List of acronyms and abbreviations

AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
API	Application Programming Interface
ASCOBANS	Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas
BRS	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLRTAP	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
DaRT	Data Reporting Tool for MEAs
DOALOS	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EMG	Environment Management Group
ENB	Earth Negotiations Bulletin
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GJIE	Global Judicial Institute on the Environment
IEL	International Environmental Law
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IKM	Information and Knowledge Management Initiative
InforMEA	Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWC	International Whaling Commission
KMS	Knowledge Management System
LEAP	Law and Environment Assistance Platform
LEO	Law and Environment Outlook
LRTAP	Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MLF	Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
MTR	Mid-Term Review
MTS	Medium-Term Strategy

NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NFPs	National Focal Points
PSC	Programme Support Costs
PoW	Programme of Work
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SC	InforMEA Steering Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPs	Strategic Priorities
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WESR	World Environment Situation Room
WG	InforMEA Working Group
WHC	World Heritage Convention
WTO	World Trade Organization

Project identification

Table 1. Project Identification Table (source: UNEP)

UNEP PIMS ID:	PIMS no.: 02090	Umoja no.:SB-015426	PoW Number: 421.8
Implementing Partners	Zoi Environment Network, University of Strathclyde; Trustees of Columbia University; Laws.Africa		
Relevant SDG(s):	Goal 16, particularly targets 16.3 and 16.10; Goal 17, specifically targets 17.14, 17.16 and 17.18 (substantively MEAs in general – SDG 12 through 15, and SDG 1.		
Sub-programme:	Environmental Governance (SP4)		
Expected Accomplishment(s):	PoW 2020-2021: (b) Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks enhanced to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. PoW 2022 -2023: Climate Change direct outcome 1.1, Nature direct outcome 2.9, Pollution direct outcome 3.10		
UNEP approval date:	07/2020		
Programme of Work Output(s):	1. The user base of InforMEA is further expanded. 2. Resources and guidance are provided to MEAs Secretariats to enhance technical interoperability and semantic indexing. 3. Stakeholders have access to updated and expanded e-learning material. 4. An analysis of MEAs' contribution to internationally agreed goals (including the post 2020 biodiversity framework and the 2030 Agenda) available on InforMEA.		
Expected start date:	07/2020	Actual start date:	07/2020
Planned completion date:	12/2022	Actual operational completion date:	06/2023
Planned project budget at approval:	USD 1,441,074	Actual total expenditures reported as of June 2023:	USD 1,262,363
Planned Environment Fund allocation:	USD 151,535	Actual Environment Fund expenditures reported as of [June 2023]:	USD 110,813
Planned Extra-Budgetary Financing:	European Commission USD 750,070 Austria USD 47,004 Law Division (Old CP) USD 432,466 Norway USD 60,000	Secured Extra-Budgetary Financing:	USD 1,289,540
		Actual Extra-Budgetary Financing expenditures reported as of [June 2023]:	USD 932,181
First disbursement:	USD 75,790	Planned date of financial closure:	31/12/2023
No. of formal project revisions:	2	Date of last approved project revision:	7/11/2022

No. of Steering Committee meetings:	3 in the current phase (13 in total)	Date of last/next Steering Committee meeting:	11-13/10/2022
Mid-term Review/ Terminal Review (planned date):	10/2021	Mid-term Review/ Terminal Review (actual date):	07/2022
Terminal Review (planned date):	07/2023	Terminal Review (actual date):	2/2024
Coverage - Country(ies):	All	Coverage - Region(s):	All
Dates of previous project phases:	Phase 1: 2013-2016 Phase 2: 2016-2019	Status of future project phases:	InforMEA Phase 4 project under preparation

Executive Summary

Project background

1. The activities of the *InforMEA Initiative* started in 2010 with the “*MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative*” and then continued with the “*Law and Environment Outlook project*” in 2013, the “*InforMEA Phase II project*” in 2016, and the current project, started in July 2020 and named “*Collective Intelligence for Environmental Governance project*” (or *InforMEA Phase III project*). All InforMEA project phases have been managed by the UNEP Law Division as parts of the UNEP Environmental Governance SP4 Programme.
2. The Logical Framework, contained in the InforMEA Phase 3 Project Document, indicates four Project Outputs leading to the main Project Outcome, defined as: *Countries, international organizations and major groups’ uptake for Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks is enhanced through access to information and knowledge on MEAs and International Environmental Law.*

This terminal review

3. According to the terms defined in its project document, the InforMEA Phase III project is subject, by the end of its project activities, to a *Terminal Review*. The Terminal Review main purpose, as stated in its Terms of Reference, is to *assess the concept and design of the overall scope of the InforMEA Phase III project, including an assessment of the appropriateness of the objectives, planned outputs, activities, and inputs as compared to cost- effective alternatives.*
4. This Terminal Review started in November 2023 and was completed in February 2024. In line with the Terminal Review Terms of Reference, and in agreement with the InforMEA III Project Manager, the gathering of information for the Terminal Review progressed along three lines of enquiry: *Desk review* of InforMEA Phase III Project documentation, *Surveys* of main stakeholders groups, and *Interviews* on a pool of interviewees representing a reliable sample of the different groups of InforMEA stakeholders.

Key findings

5. The InforMEA Phase 3 Project has been operating in an extremely fragmented world of multilateral, regional and global, environmental agreements. The initial gathering of information from MEAs partner organizations was soon flanked by more in-depth types of parallel activities, such as: a) the provision and management of online learning courses on different MEAs aspects; and b) the text analysis of the MEA documents hosted by the InforMEA portal, through the use of semantic management tools, and the consequent elaboration of a specific glossary and thesaurus currently used for the indexing, tagging and cross-linking of relevant texts.
6. In its Project Document, InforMEA’s primary stakeholders are identified as the MEA national focal points, national government officials tasked with negotiating, implementing, and reporting of progress in the context of MEAs. Various audience groups are also identified in the same document as additional stakeholders groups: environmental lawyers, the judiciary system, students and academics, officials from international organizations, science and international law communities, and UN country teams working on mainstreaming environmental goals into development targets. Three more significant groups of users are also deeply engaged with parallel InforMEA sub-portals: the *e-learning platform*, the *Global Judicial Portal* and the *Law and Environment Assistance Platform* (LEAP) of the UNEP Montevideo Environmental Law Programme. In further adding to the above extensive audience, the InforMEA project document identifies an important intermediary level of clients/stakeholders

in the MEA Secretariats, which actively contributed to the project implementation through their participation to both the project Steering Committee and the Working Group.

7. In terms of *Strategic Relevance*, the InforMEA Phase 3 Project is assessed, by this Terminal Review, as fully integrated in UNEP activity and totally in line with its Programme of Work, Medium- Term Strategy and Strategic Priorities. The *Quality of Project Design* is assessed as heavily affected by the accumulation of different activities initiated in the previous phases and the consequence is an ambitious design with extremely limited resources in terms of both personnel and budget. With reference to the *Nature of External Context*, an effective Team and good support from the already engaged MEA partners insufficiently counterbalanced the extremely fragmented context due to a) the very large number of existing environmental treaties; b) the diversification of the knowledge management systems (KMS) adopted for filing their documents; and c) some resistance from a number of MEAs Secretariats to invest into the interoperability.

8. As for the project *Effectiveness*, the findings of this Terminal Review confirm that better access to information and knowledge on MEAs and International Environmental Law has been provided by InforMEA Phase 3 project, to a large audience:

- 27 MEA and Partner Institutions are currently actively sharing their data through the interoperability mechanism with various degrees of completion;
- about 3.9 million visitors accessed the InforMEA Platform since its inception (+200% in Phase 3);
- 53 active e-learning courses were made available during the Phase 3 project (+56% in Phase 3); and
- the e-learning platform dashboard reports about 57 thousand of registered users (+78% in Phase 3); 119 thousand enrolments (+153% in Phase 3) and 46 thousand certificates of completion issued (+142% in Phase 3).

9. On the other hand, the limited impact of the Project outreach activities has been only partially effective in transferring the knowledge of this improved access to MEA National Focal Points and negotiators, identified in the project document as its main group of stakeholders.

10. The results obtained by the Phase 3 Project, notwithstanding the diversification of the tasked activities, are proposed as evidences of the project *Efficiency*. However, it is also highlighted that there is an overall inefficient use of resources by tasking a small team with responsibilities that would have been more adequate to be managed in three different projects and that, in most cases, also overlapped in scope with a major plan, such as the *Digital Transformation*, on which UNEP is investing more in terms of resources and mandate.

11. The project produced two intermediate activity reports and three intermediate financial reports and that reporting is assessed, by this Terminal Review, as moderately satisfactory (because of the limitations produced by the poor monitoring of some indicators). However, the whole *Monitoring and Reporting* is assessed as *moderately unsatisfactory* due to the absence of a final official report, on both finance and results, by the time this Terminal Review was conducted. In this context the financial documentation provided was found comprehensive, though incomplete for lack of the final official report, and the *Financial Management* is assessed as complying with UN Environment standards and procedures.

12. In terms of *Sustainability* the InforMEA Phase 3 Project is considered as *likely* to achieve its desired impact. However, the *sustainability risk* of the whole process comes out as high and could cause significant negative impact on MEAs and UNEP, unless the project activities are moved under a more solid umbrella and mainstreamed on more solid basis in the main UNEP PoW.

Conclusions

13. The InforMEA Phase 3 Project has been effective, and its approaches have been appropriate, in establishing and implementing partnerships aimed to deliver the project and engaging with MEAs and other international organizations.
14. There has been a great effort by UNEP and the Project Team in capturing and operationalizing the lessons learned and the recommendations contained in the Phase 3 Mid-Term Review.
15. In considering the highly balanced gender ratio in the list of registered users of the e-learning platform, it is confirmed that the project managed to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender into project implementation.
16. The excessive diversification of project targets, without the addition of adequate human and financial resources, has significantly limited the project efficiency.
17. Overall, according to this Terminal Review and notwithstanding the serious challenges posed by an ambitious design and an acute diversification of activities, the Project has successfully managed to make available all the outputs and meet the main outcome, as defined in the project document. The *Project Performance* is therefore rated as *Satisfactory*.

Lessons Learned

Lesson #1: Synergy among MEAs is the key for successful progress toward developing better access and understanding of international environmental laws.

Lesson #2: The identification of clear priorities in project design is fundamental in the definition of targets, activities, indicators, as well of the human resources and budget needed to accomplish the desired goals.

Lesson #3: Efficient monitoring plans should be designed in order to track progress against SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-oriented) results towards the provision of the project's outputs and achievement of project outcomes.

Recommendations

Recommendation #1: *Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should be planned in full integration with the UNEP Digital Transformation Subprogramme in order to gain the maximum synergy from the combined efforts.*

Recommendation #2: *Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should either assign the carry-over of former project activities to different UNEP teams, or build up a larger UNEP Team which a) includes programme officers with different specializations (i.e. knowledge management, IT, semantic, e-learning and outreach) and b) could rely on a proper budget for the management of the necessary consultants/contractors as well as for the funding of capacity building activities (i.e. training NFPs/Negotiators in the use of the InforMEA Platform).*

Recommendation #3: *Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should include: a) the compilation of an updated list of all existing MEAs and b) periodical reports on the status of each Treaty/Agreement in relation to its interoperability with the InforMEA Platform for the sharing of their digital documentation.*

Recommendation #4: *Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should aim to incorporate, in the InforMEA repository, digital documents from the more-than-200 environmental agreements currently existing.*

Recommendation #5: *Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should be planned in order to assist available environmental treaties' Secretariats (both in terms of financial and*

technical support) to either set up functional APIs for InforMEA interoperability on their servers, or transfer their digital repositories on more functional servers, for the sharing of their digital documentation with the InforMEA repository.

Recommendation #6: *Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should confirm NFPs and national government officials operating in the context of MEAs as the main group of stakeholders, it is recommended to establish InforMEA national contact points in all environmental authorities worldwide for improving the efficiency of outreach activities.*

Validation

The report has been subject to an independent validation exercise performed by UNEP's Evaluation Office. The performance ratings for the UNEP Project 'Collective Intelligence for Environmental Governance' (InforMEA Phase III) (PIMS ID 02090), set out in the Conclusions and Recommendations section, have been adjusted as a result. The overall project performance is validated at the **Satisfactory** level. Moreover, the Evaluation Office has found the overall quality of the report to be Satisfactory (see Annex IX).

1 INTRODUCTION

18. In the extremely fragmented word of *Multilateral Environmental Agreements* (MEAs), the *InforMEA Initiative* aims to develop harmonized and interoperable information systems for the benefit of MEAs Parties and the environment community at large.

19. InforMEA is facilitated by *UN Environment* (UNEP) and financially supported by the *European Union* (EU); it is co-chaired by UNEP and the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES) and brings together 26 MEA Secretariats¹ hosted by 5 UN organizations and the *International Union for Conservation of Nature* (IUCN), in addition to observers and partners. The *InforMEA Steering Committee* (SC) meets annually to provide strategic direction and the *InforMEA Working Group* (WG) meets periodically during the year and is responsible for the technical implementation of projects.

20. The activities of what is now named the *InforMEA Initiative* started in 2010 with the “*MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative*” (IKM 2010-2013), and then continued with the “*Law and Environment Outlook project*” (LEO, 2013-2016), the “*InforMEA Phase II project*” (2016-2020), and the current project “*Collective Intelligence for Environmental Governance project*” (InforMEA Phase III, 2020-2023). All InforMEA project phases have been managed by the UNEP *Law Division* as parts of the UNEP *Environmental Governance (SP4) Programme*.

21. The current InforMEA Phase III project started in July 2020 with the following outcome stated in its logical framework: *Countries, international organizations and major groups’ uptake for Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks is enhanced through access to information and knowledge on MEAs and International Environmental Law* (IEL).

22. The InforMEA Phase III project was initially planned to complete its activities in December 2022. A Project Revision was approved in June 2021 and a *Mid-Term Review* (MTR) was conducted between January and July 2022. As a consequence of some delay in its project activities, mainly due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, in January 2023 the project duration was extended till June 2023 at no additional cost.

23. According to the terms defined in its project document, the InforMEA Phase III project is subject, by the end of project activities, to a Terminal Review. The Terminal Review stated purpose is to *assess the concept and design of the overall scope of the InforMEA Phase III project, including an assessment of the appropriateness of the objectives, planned outputs, activities, and inputs as compared to cost-effective alternatives*. The Terminal Review is also asked to *identify niche areas where UNEP can further add advantage and efficiency to the programme/project, and to review the strategic positioning and design of the project against the strategic questions of interest to UNEP and to which the project is believed to be able to make a substantive contribution*.

¹ InforMEA membership: Aarhus Convention (UNECE), African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), Barcelona Convention and Protocols (UNEP-MAP), Basel Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), Escazu Convention (UNECLAC), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), International Whaling Commission (IWC), Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), Minamata Convention, Ozone, Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol, Ramsar Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM-UNEP), United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), World Heritage Centre (WHC-UNESCO).

24. The Terminal Review *Terms of Reference* identifies three main responsibilities for the review:
- i. *assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of the implementation partnerships and approaches that were established to deliver the project and the engagement with MEAs and other international organizations.*
 - ii. *assess how lessons learned have been captured and operationalized throughout the period under investigation*
 - iii. *assess the extent to which the project sought to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender into project implementation*
25. Further, under *Specific Tasks and Responsibilities* the Terminal Review is requested to *assess the concept and design of the overall scope of the InforMEA Phase III project, including an assessment of the appropriateness of the objectives, planned outputs, activities, and inputs as compared to cost-effective alternatives.*
26. Finally, the Terminal Review is also asked to *explore opportunities for UNEP to position itself as the anchor for cooperation and synergies among the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).*
27. This Terminal Review started in November 2023 and was completed in February 2024.

2 REVIEW METHODS

28. In line with the Terminal Review-ToR, and in agreement with the InforMEA III Project Manager, the gathering of information for the Terminal Review progressed along three lines of enquiry: *Desk review* of InforMEA Phase III Project documentation, *Surveys* of main stakeholders groups, and *Interviews* on a pool of interviewees representing a reliable sample of the different groups of InforMEA stakeholders.

Desk review of InforMEA Phase III Project documentation

29. The desk review comprised all relevant documentation produced by the project in its third phase, including among others: the initial project document and subsequent revisions; the content and relevant updates of the main *InforMEA web portal*²; periodical activities and financial reports to *UNEP Legal Division* and *EU Partner*; periodical reports to, and recommendations of, the project *Steering Committee*³; reports on the activities of the *Working Group*⁴; agreements with *Implementing Partners*; staff mission reports; the *Mid Term Review* final document; the dashboard of the *InforMEA E-learning Section*⁵; the recently developed *Negotiator Toolkit* section⁶; the InforMEA contributions to portals of InforMEA- related initiatives, such as the *Law And Environment Assistance Platform (LEAP)*⁷, the *Global*

² The main InforMEA web portal is available at <https://www.informea.org>

³ The reports and background documents of the *InforMEA Steering Committee Meetings* are available at <https://www.informea.org/en/process-governance>

⁴ The reports of the *InforMEA Working Group Meetings* are available at <https://www.informea.org/en/process-governance>

⁵ The *InforMEA e-learning* section is available at <https://elearning.informea.org/>

⁶ The *InforMEA Negotiator Toolkit* section is available at <https://www.informea.org/en/negotiators-toolkit>

⁷ The *LEAP* web portal is available at <https://leap.unep.org/>

*Judicial Portal*⁸ and *EcoLex* (the gateway to environmental law Environmental Law Portal)⁹; the *Newsletters* and all other outreach material produced in the current phase.

Surveys of main stakeholders groups

30. Two different on-line surveys were carried-on through the *SurveyMonkey.com* online platform: one main survey targeting *National Focal Points* (NFPs) of the MEAs Parties and one more "informal" survey of the main *MEAs Officers* directly working with the InforMEA.

31. The NFPs survey was drafted having in mind one the main recommendations of the Mid-Term Review: *The InforMEA Initiative should be providing higher quality Outreach activities and documentation, directed specifically to the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the MEAs Parties, identified as the main stakeholders of the Initiative*. One of the main objectives of this survey was, in fact, to assess if there had been an improvement in the NFPs awareness of the InforMEA services offered to them and which benefits in their work they did recognize as derived from the InforMEA project.

32. The *NFPs* survey invitations were sent in November 2023 to all NFPs of the different MEAs sharing their data with InforMEA and, in particular, by using the contacts contained in the *InforMEA Contacts Hub*¹⁰ list (as of November 2023 the InforMEA Contact Hub listed 6308 results) and additional NFPs lists forwarded by other MEAs not yet fully interoperable with InforMEA protocols.

33. Once removed duplications and incorrect format addresses, a total of 4,705 InforMEA primary stakeholders (mainly MEAs NFPs and or negotiators) were invited to take the survey and asked to submit their response no later than two weeks from the invitation date. By the closing date of the survey, a total of **304 responses** had been collected and the results are reported, together with the survey text and logic, in *Annex I*.

34. The second survey targeted the list of *MEAs Officers* who had somehow worked with InforMEA during its third phase project, including those attending a Steering Committee meeting or participating in the Working Group. This selected audience was asked to provide opinions about the work done with InforMEA and suggestions on how to improve the InforMEA services to clients and stakeholders. This survey was drafted in the sort of a *short form* offered to the *MEAs Officers* for sharing their opinion with the reviewer and the invitation text clearly specified the possibility of phone interviews or direct messages exchanges in alternative to taking the survey.

35. A total of 117 *MEA Officers* were invited to take the survey and asked to submit their response no later than two weeks from the invitation date. By the closing date of the survey a total of **17 responses**¹¹ had been collected and the results are reported, together with the survey text, in *Annex I*.

36. In consideration of the relatively short time passed between the MTR and this Terminal Review, it was decided, in agreement with the InforMEA III Project Manager, of not targeting again with an additional survey the large InforMEA e-learning community, which had already provided in great numbers, extremely positive comments (about 46 thousand invitations were sent by the MTR survey to this specific community which was then represented, in the survey results, by more than 85% of the total responses).

⁸ The *Global Judicial Portal* is available at <https://judicialportal.informea.org/>

⁹ The *EcoLex* web portal is available at <https://www.ecolex.org>

¹⁰ Available at https://www.informea.org/en/search?f%5B0%5D=type%3Acontact_person

¹¹ One MEA informed the reviewer of having provided a consolidated response for multiple officers and the final number of responses was calculated accordingly.

37. It was therefore decided to use the limited time available to the Terminal Review in focusing on the other progresses accomplished by the project, and in particular on the weaker points identified by the previous MTR, such as: the interaction with the NFPs and the monitoring of the inter-exchange of information with the client MEAs.

Interviews

38. Interviews were carried-on by the reviewer on a pool of interviewees defined in agreement with the InforMEA III Project Manager and representing a reliable sample of the different groups of InforMEA stakeholders. This pool included: a number of MEAs Parties NFPs, members of Steering Committee, participants to the Working Group and relevant partners of the Phase 3 Project. The list of persons consulted during the review is available in *Annex II*.

39. As for the previous lines of enquiry, also the interviews aimed, among other things, to assess the awareness of the NFPs of the services offered to them by InforMEA, as well as, for all the categories involved by the InforMEA activities, their general level of satisfaction with the services provided and possible suggestions on how to improve the quality of these services.

Languages

40. Due to time and budget limitations, the text of the survey and the invitation sent were only in the English language; interviews and personal communications were mainly conducted in English or Spanish.

3 THE PROJECT

3.1 Context

41. As mentioned in the Introduction, the InforMEA Initiative (and its current Phase 3 Project) operates in an extremely fragmented word of multilateral, environmental, regional and global agreements¹².

42. National Focal Points (NFPs) and negotiators from Parties to the hundreds of conventions and protocols, operating within the international framework of global environment, have frequently stressed the huge effort required to cope with the amount of legal issues related to the different ongoing negotiations. An even more difficult task is the reporting activity, expected on parties' progresses by the same environmental conventions and protocols, for which continuous assistance, in terms of both know-how and finance, is required by developing countries¹³.

43. Since their inception in 2010¹⁴, the activities related to the current InforMEA Phase 3 Project aimed specifically to improve the capacity of Governments, international organizations and, at large, of the international community, in dealing with environmental policies and legal frameworks by facilitating their access to information and knowledge on MEAs and IEL.

¹² The MTR reports, on this subject, the document *Register of International Treaties and other Agreements in the Field of the Environment*, prepared in 2005 by the UNEP Division of Policy Development and Law and listing 272 international treaties in the field of the environment and related instruments, clustered under 38 main subject areas.

¹³ Only during the GEF-7 replenishment cycle (2018-2022), about USD 200 million were approved for projects aiming to the assistance of developing countries in activities of report preparation.

¹⁴ The *MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative* (IKM, 2010-2013)

44. The basic gathering of information from MEAs partner organizations has then evolved into more in-depth types of parallel activities such as a) the provision of information on (and later, the in-house development of) online learning courses on different MEAs aspects; and b) the text analysis of the MEA documents hosted by the InforMEA portal, through the use of semantic management tools, and the consequent elaboration of a specific glossary and thesaurus currently used for the indexing, tagging and cross-linking of relevant texts.

45. These activities, in the past years, have been on-going in the total absence of any alternative infrastructure for the gathering and analysis of MEAs information, other than what was provided, again in a very fragmented way, by each specific MEAs. The major challenges in this context have been related, and still are, to a) the coordination and homogenization of the many different, and not much flexible, knowledge management systems already established in the different MEAs and b) in establishing an effective two- way channel of communication with the thousands of NFPs and negotiators of MEAs’ Parties who are identified in the project document as the main group of stakeholders.

3.2 Results Framework

46. The *Logical Framework*, contained in the InforMEA Phase 3 Project Document approved in July 2020, indicates one *Project Outcome* and four *Project Outputs* (summarized in *Table 2*), all associated with *Indicators*, *Project milestones* and *Expected Milestone Delivery Date* (listed and discussed under the *Effectiveness* section). None of the two project revisions, later approved, reported any change to the expected result framework.

Table 2. Project Outcome and Outputs of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project (source: InforMEA Project Document)

Project Outcome	Project Outputs
Countries, international organizations and major groups’ uptake for Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks is enhanced through access to information and knowledge on MEAs and IEL	1. The user base of InforMEA is further expanded.
	2. Resources and guidance are provided to MEAs Secretariats to enhance technical interoperability and semantic indexing.
	3. Stakeholders have access to updated and expanded e-learning material.
	4. An analysis of MEAs’ contribution to internationally agreed goals (including the post 2020 biodiversity framework and the 2030 Agenda) available on InforMEA.

3.3 Stakeholders

47. InforMEA’s primary stakeholders are identified, in its Project Document, as the MEA national focal points, national government officials tasked with negotiating, implementing, and reporting of progress in the context of MEAs. In addition, the platform seeks to inform civil society, environmental lawyers, the judiciary, students and academics, officials from international organizations, and UN country teams working on mainstreaming environmental goals into development targets.¹⁵

¹⁵ InforMEA Phase III Project Document, Project Justification, Problem and Situation Analysis.

48. The Project Document *Theory of Change* (ToC) identifies an even broader group of stakeholders who could be serviced, *by expanding the interoperability approach to other areas of environmental action*, such as the science and international law communities.

49. The 2022 MTR underlines that, as a matter of fact, in addition to the above, the InforMEA Project faces an important intermediary level of clients/stakeholders, represented by the MEA Secretariats, which actively contribute either in defining the priorities of the Project through general requests from their staff or specific recommendations at the Steering Committee level as well as in implementing them by participating with their resources, staff competence and time to the InforMEA operations and Working Group.

50. The same MTR also identifies three more significant groups of users of the InforMEA Portals: the large community of students engaged with the InforMEA e-learning platform and the audiences of two more portals recently attached to the InforMEA web management (i.e. the *Global Judicial Portal* and the *Law and Environment Assistance Platform* - LEAP of the UNEP Montevideo Environmental Law Programme).

3.4 Project implementation structure and partners

51. The InforMEA Phase 3 Project has been facilitated by UNEP Law Division and financially supported initially only by the European Union and later also by the Government of Austria and the Kingdom of Norway. Its activities were guided by a Steering Committee composed of representatives of 22 UN Organizations and MEAs¹⁶, and co-chaired by UNEP and CITES.

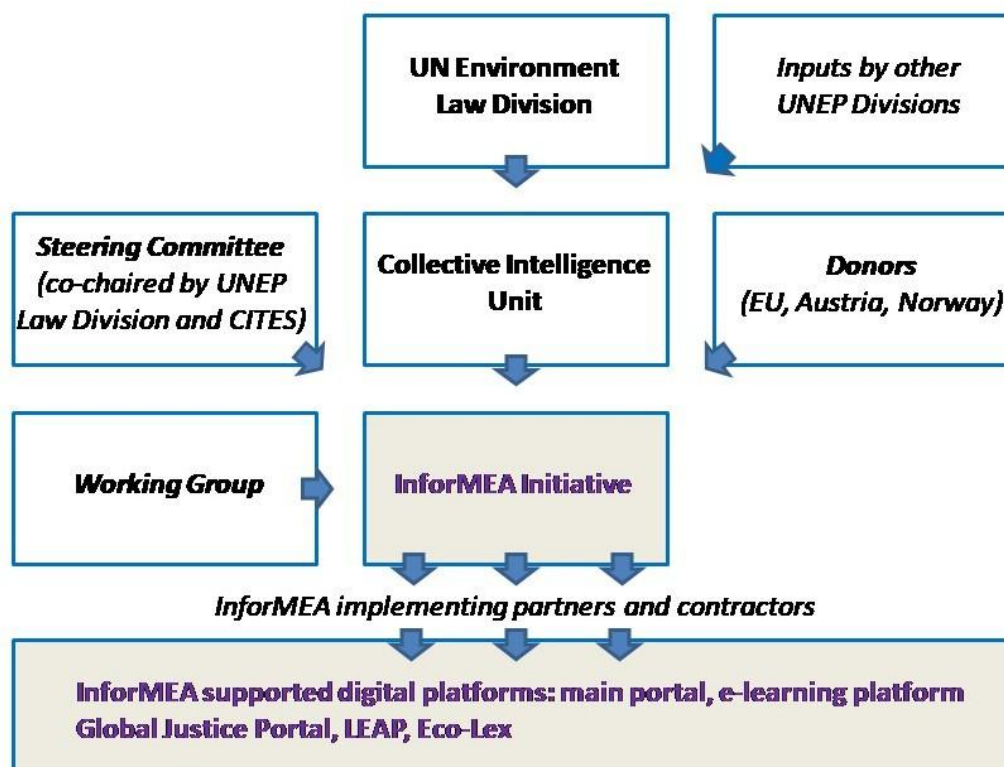
52. A recent change in the project structure has emerged as very significant in terms of sustainability of the future actions and possible impact of the InforMEA activities on its services to the stakeholder groups: the UNEP Law Division established, in 2023, a *Collective Intelligence Unit* and *de facto* transformed the InforMEA project into a structural component of the division and of the whole UN Environment Programme. This change was deemed highly auspicious in the conclusions of the MTR and will hopefully improve the capacity of the InforMEA Initiative to positively contribute to the ongoing UNEP Digital Transformation process.

53. Main partners of the InforMEA Initiative are the *Zoi Environment Network* (a non-profit organization with the aim of contributing to the development of visibility material and promotion of InforMEA on Social Media); *Laws.Africa* (for activities on the Akoma Ntoso platform, Climate Change Toolkit and Systems Management Training and Documentation); the *Sabin Center* (for activities on the Climate Litigation Database); and the *University of Strathclyde* in Glasgow, Scotland (for activities on e-learning courses and integration of content with the knowledge tools of the UNEP Law Division, including the glossaries of InforMEA, the Judicial Portal and LEAP). The private firm *Eau de Web* provides, as project contractor, the maintenance of the Project main servers and technical assistance on the data management.

¹⁶ UN Organizations and MEAs attending the last InforMEA Steering Committee (October 2022): Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention (BRS), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (FAO-ITPGRFA), International Whaling Commission (IWC), Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (MLF), Minamata Convention on Mercury, UNEP Ozone Secretariat, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC), Barcelona Convention and Protocols (UNEP-MAP), United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UN Environment Management Group (UN-EMG), UNEP-WCMC, UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC), and World Trade Organization (WTO).

54. A tentative organizational chart of the new structure supporting the InforMEA Initiative is presented in *Figure 1*¹⁷.

Figure 1: Organizational chart of the new structure supporting the InforMEA initiative



3.5 Changes in design during implementation

55. The InforMEA Phase 3 Project underwent two project revisions. The first revision, approved in July '21, registered an increase in the project budget from USD 750,070 (the project document approved budget) to USD 1,381,074 thanks to the contribution of the Republic of Austria (USD 47,004), UNEP Law Division (USD 432,466), and UNEP Environment Fund (USD 151,534).

56. The increase in the project budget was triggered by the expressed desire from the main donor of the InforMEA Project, the European Union, to continue working with InforMEA for the foreseeable future, provided a broadening of the donor base to the project funds. Furthermore, the additional funding was also meant to secure the technology environment of the entire collective intelligence base by extending the availability and operational capacity of the outputs of this project by several years after the end of the project phase.

57. Concrete deliverables, foreseen on the first Project revision, included an organisation - wide and improved meetings online calendar and the availability of relevant legislation on the plastics toolkit and enhanced tagging and retrievability of information in particular with relevance to plastic waste. The overall duration of the project remained unchanged.

¹⁷ A more complex diagram flow of the InforMEA infrastructure, developed by the InforMEA Team, is available at <https://www.figma.com/proto/MVpRidakYkZggUayQzcFgO/InforMEA-Diagram-Flow?page-id=0%3A1&type=design&node-id=20-672&viewport=2540%2C705%2C0.44&t=wm5CslSM51hY9E4X-1&scaling=contain&starting-point-node-id=20%3A672>

58. The second project revision, approved in November '22, registered an additional increase in the project budget (from USD 1,381,074 to USD 1,441,074 thanks to the contribution of USD 60,000 from the Kingdom of Norway), and a no-cost extension of its expiry date from 31 December 2022 to 30 June 2023 (increase in the project total duration from 30 to 36 months).

59. While updating the baseline of the logical framework indicators, the two project revisions maintained constant almost all their targets with the only exceptions in the targets related to Output C (Stakeholders have access to updated and expanded e-learning material) where the targets were increased a) from 13,000 to 40,000 for the number of certificates issued on the InforMEA E-Learning Portal; and b) from 40 to 43 for the number of courses available on the platform.

3.6 Project financing

60. *Table 3* reports the InforMEA Phase 3 Project funding sources as planned and secured¹⁸ from regular and extra budgetary funding.

Table 3. Project Funding Sources Table (source: UNEP; all figures are in USD)

Funding sources	Planned funding	% of planned funding	Secured funding	% of secured funding
Cash				
Funds from the Environment Fund	151,534	11%	110,813	9%
Funds from the Regular Budget	0	0%	0	0%
Extra-budgetary funding (listed per donor):				
<i>European Commission</i>	750,070	52%	750,070	58%
<i>Republic of Austria</i>	47,004	3%	47,790	4%
<i>Kingdom of Norway</i>	60,000	4%	60,000	5%
<i>Law Division (CP funds)</i>	432,466	30%	321,266	25%
Sub-total: Cash contributions	1,441,074	100%	1,289,939	100%
In-kind				
Environment Fund staff-post costs	97,509	100%	97,509	100%
Regular Budget staff-post costs	0	0%	0	0%
Extra-budgetary funding for staff-posts (listed per donor)	0	0%	0	0%
Sub-total: In-kind contributions	97,509	100%	97,509	100%
Co-financing				
Co-financing cash contribution	0	0%	0	0%
Co-financing in-kind contribution	0	0%	0	0%
Sub-total: Co-financing contributions	0		0	
Total	1,538,583		1,387,448	

¹⁸Secured funding refers to received funds and does not include funding commitments not yet realized.

4 THEORY OF CHANGE AT REVIEW

61. The InforMEA Phase 3 Project Document provides a *Theory of Change* (ToC) for the project in which the leading idea is that to allow institutions and practitioners to make informed choices on the environment and perform their functions effectively, they need to understand the goals needed to be achieved, the available options for action and how others have performed. The expected impact in the original ToC is then reported as *internationally agreed environmental objectives are achieved based on adequate policy, legal and institutional frameworks in an inclusive, coherent and sustainable manner*.

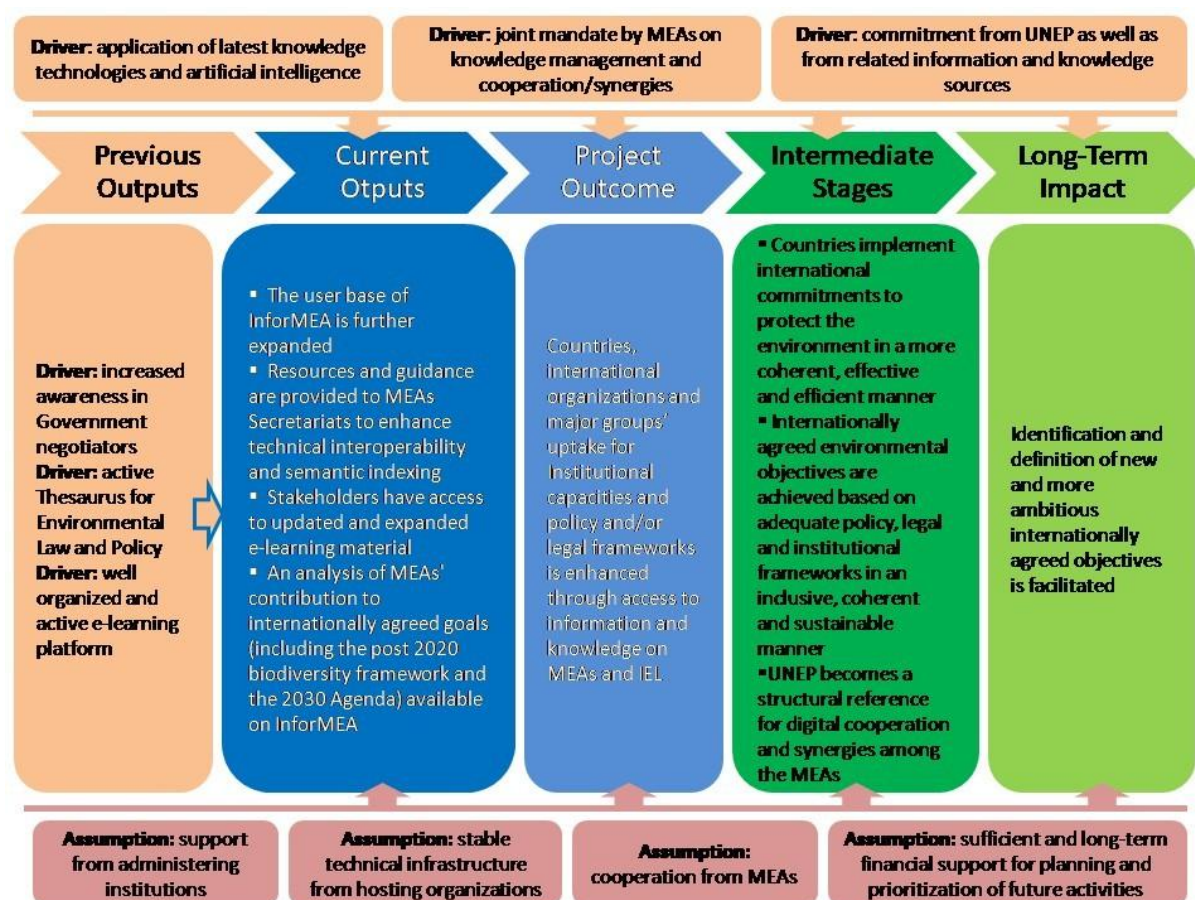
62. The 2022 MTR confirmed that, in the light of its findings, the original ToC appeared *still sound and well-founded* and did not require a full reconstruction. The MTR, however, proposed an integration of the original ToC based on elements coming out from the review. In particular, the consolidated results of the previous phases (such as the large user base of the InforMEA Project, the number of general visitors of the e-learning platform, the number of MEAs and non-MEA institutions joining and/or partnering the InforMEA Initiative) were identified as acquired *drivers for the current process*, and, in that context, a) the expected impact proposed by the Project Document was suggested to become part of the *Intermediate Stages* products and b) a new *long-term impact* was proposed: *Identification and definition of new and more ambitious internationally agreed objectives is facilitated*. This new proposed long-term impact was also based on a newly introduced assumption highlighting the need for *sufficient and long-term financial support for planning and prioritization of future activities*.¹⁹

63. While the general findings of this Terminal Review keep confirming that the original ToC appears well-founded and does not require a full ToC reconstruction, a new important element, namely the establishment of the *Collective Intelligence Unit* within the UNEP Law Division, partially confirms the MTR introduced assumption mentioned above and it is worth to be mentioned in a newly integrated ToC. What had been a UNEP Project in the past 13 years has now become the mandated activity of a UNEP Unit with UNEP full-time staff working on it. As mentioned above, this change was highly auspicated in the conclusions of the MTR in terms of project result sustainability and provides the basis for a further integration of the *ToC at Terminal Review*. The newly proposed ToC, therefore, confirms the previous MTR integrations and further introduces UNEP commitment as both a new driver element of the process and the new result (in the *Intermediate Stages*) of *UNEP becoming a structural reference for digital cooperation and synergies among the MEAs* in the realization of the foreseen long-term impact.

64. A diagram of the newly integrated *ToC at Terminal Review* is provided in *Figure 2*.

¹⁹ According to the *Use of Theory of Change in Project Evaluations*, produced by UNEP Evaluation Office: *assumptions* are significant external factors or conditions that need to be present for the realization of the intended results but that are beyond the influence of the project and its partners; *drivers* are significant external factors that, if present, are expected to contribute to the realization of the intended results of a project and which can be influenced by the project and its partners.

Figure 2. Theory of Change at Terminal Review



5 TERMINAL REVIEW FINDINGS

5.1 Strategic Relevance

65. Since 2010, the activities related to what is now the InforMEA Initiative have greatly contributed to the slow but effective process of digital transformation of the United Nations and in particular to the transitioning of UNEP and MEAs into a process of mutual sharing and analysis of digital information.

66. The management of the InforMEA Project by the UN Environment Law Division, the involvement of other UNEP Divisions in the project execution²⁰ and the close collaboration with those MEAs which are part of the InforMEA Initiative, make this project fully integrated in the vast UNEP activity and fully in line with its Programme of Work (PoW), Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and Strategic Priorities (SPs).

67. In particular, the UNEP Programme of Work 2022-2023 recognizes *Digital Transformation* as an enabler for its activities: *the digital transformations subprogramme will support digital guidelines, architecture and governance, as well as enhanced digital literacy, to*

²⁰ UNEP Divisions collaborating with the InforMEA Project are: the Ecosystems Division (Regional Seas Programme); the Science Division; the Communication Division (Outreach), the Economy Division, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), and the Regional Offices (Outreach).

*encourage transformative use of environmental digital public goods and accelerate progress towards environmental sustainability*²¹.

68. The UNEP MTS 2022-2025 goes even further in recognizing the importance of digitalization in the achievement of its goals: *UNEP integrates environmental and sustainability norms and goals into the global digital economy. It will use digital tools to accelerate and amplify impact across the three thematic subprogrammes and bring more transparency to our knowledge of the state of our planet*²².

69. Similarly, the digital transformation is identified as one of the two enabling subprogrammes aimed to facilitate the reaching of the three interconnected strategic objectives marked for the four-year period covered by UNEP MTS 2022-2025: *In parallel, as the world sees ever-increasing connectivity, digitalization will become key to systematizing, integrating and democratizing environmental data, knowledge and insight for new collaboration opportunities and enhanced impact. This will be the focus of an enabling subprogramme on digital transformation*²³.

70. In addition to the above, Outcome and Outputs of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project are fully in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (particularly, with targets 16.3 and 16.10)²⁴ and 17 (specifically targets 17.14, 17.16 and 17.18)²⁵; with UNEP Foundational subprogramme on Environmental Governance; and with UNEP PoW 2020-2021²⁶ and PoW 2022 -2023²⁷.

Rating for Strategic Relevance:	Highly Satisfactory
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5.2 Quality of Project Design

71. InforMEA Phase 3 Project is built on the results of the previous phases and carries-on the "burden" of new activities, added throughout the ten years before the approval of the current project document. In particular, to the original task of ensuring, through interoperability of different systems, a common repository and public interface to the digital information produced by the MEAs participating to the Initiative, the current phase of the Project has been facing even more serious challenges such as the refinement and management of a vast e-learning platform and the semantic analysis approach to the large collection of documents shared by the MEAs.

²¹ UNEP Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023; Annex 1 to the Medium-Term Strategy 2022—2025 "For People and Planet", page 15, Section I, Chapter 4.

²² UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2022—2025 "For People and Planet", page 44, Digital transformations.

²³ UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2022—2025 "For People and Planet", page 20, UNEP focus.

²⁴ SDGs Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all. Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

²⁵ SDGs Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Target 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development. Target 17.16: Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries. Target 17.18: By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

²⁶ UNEP PoW 2020-2021: (b) Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks enhanced to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

²⁷ UNEP PoW 2022 -2023: Climate Change direct outcome 1.1, Nature direct outcome 2.9, Pollution direct outcome 3.10.

72. As already reported by the MTR, the result of these efforts is a small project, in terms of personnel and budget, with an ambitious design: harvesting the MEAs data in an harmonized format, adding to the data gathered a significant amount of metadata and making them available to the public, extending this data framework to compatible communities and/or projects (e.g. the Judicial and the LEAP portals), and, on top of all of this, providing a new standard framework for e-learning on MEAs related subjects, and leading the process of developing new educational courses and making them available on the project e-learning platform.

73. The undeniable success of this ambitious project has been mainly due to the strong collaboration between MEA Secretariats and the Project Team. This collaboration, evident both at the governance level (through the discussions and decision of the Steering Committee) and at technical level (with the strong participation of both Project and MEAs staff to the activities of the Working Group), ensured that the whole *Initiative* took care of the interoperability process (requested for the sharing of data) as well as of the management of the large e-learning community, the semantic analysis of selected categories of documents, and of the needs of the other small communities, somehow interlinked with InforMEA, such as the judges (through Eco-lex and the Judge Portal) and the users of the LEAP portal.

74. On the other side the weakest point of the Project Design has been definitely the limited number of staff directly assigned to the project which forced the management to decide among different priorities and necessarily reschedule the implementation of some important aspects to future phases. The MTR identified the scarce interaction with the National Focal Points (NFPs) and the limited monitoring activity of the shared data as the main deficits of the current phase, both mainly due to staff limitations that were already evident in the project design. Though some important actions have been taken on both issues, the limited number of staff assigned to the project remains, as for this Terminal Review, the weakest points in the project design.

75. Still related to the limited number of personnel, it is the lack of a systematic monitoring of the project indicators (listed in *Table 4*). Some of the indicators were also poorly defined in terms of verifiability (e.g. 0.1, 0.2, 1.2, 4.2), but the main problem on the indicators aspect in the project design was the lack of active measures in place aimed to monitor them and, more in general, to systematically produce an assessment of the many results that the InforMEA multifaceted activity has been producing (this aspect is also dealt with in the *Effectiveness* and *Monitoring and Reporting* sections).

76. An additional design problem identified by the MTR was an apparent contradiction between the necessary long-term strategy for building up a data infrastructure, the so-called digital backbone, of the MEAs information management system and the InforMEA status of Project. As already mentioned above in this review, this problem, highlighted in the MTR as a major limitation to the sustainability of the project, has been somehow addressed by UNEP within the interval between the MTR and the current Terminal Review with the establishment of the *Collective Intelligence Unit* within the UNEP Law Division. The passage from Project to Unit is definitely a significant correction in this substantial flaw in the Project design; however, as mentioned above, the major problem faced was related (and it will be, most certainly, related again in the future) to the availability of budget and personnel linked to this initiative.

Rating for Project Design:	Satisfactory
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5.3 Nature of the External Context

77. The context in which the InforMEA Initiative operated is, as already mentioned, extremely fragmented because, before InforMEA positive impact on data interaction, the participating MEAs had been left to cope, on their own terms, with the digital transformation.

This meant for the MEAs developing their own *knowledge management systems* (KMSs), each of them, eventually based on a large number of different platforms and digital tools.

78. The result of this lack of harmonizing efforts, in the initial phases of this crucial process (approximately dated between 2000 and 2015), is that MEAs, as of today, do not share a common KMS and that the interoperability requested by the InforMEA Project has to be dealt with in a different targeted manner for almost each of the participating MEA. Notwithstanding the huge progress made in this direction by the MEAs technical staff in collaboration with the InforMEA team, this KMS diversity and the resistance of the different Secretariat to effectively overcome these differences are still the major obstacles toward full interoperability and data sharing and remain an outstanding problem that the current phase has not fully solved yet (see the paragraphs on KMS integration in the *Effectiveness section*).

79. The period of InforMEA Phase 3 Project activities (2020-2023) has also been marked by Covid-19 pandemic and its related delays in all world-wide scheduled activities. However, most probably due to the advanced “tech” level of the InforMEA and MEAs personnel involved in the Initiative, the Project coped quite well, internally, with this additional problem through online interactions of the Working Group / Steering Committee and remote activities. On the other hand, external contacts and outreach were severely penalized, as in most of the other UN activities worldwide.

Rating for Nature of the external context:	Moderately Favourable
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5.4 Effectiveness

80. According to the logical framework, contained in the InforMEA project document, the main project outcome and the four project outputs are linked to a series of indicators that have been (partially) monitored along the project life and are used in this Terminal Review, among other findings, to assess the availability of outputs and the level of achievement of the project outcome.

Availability of Outputs

81. *Output 1* of the Project logical framework foresees that *the user base of InforMEA is further expanded*, and two *indicators* were set to verify the final availability of this output:

1.1. *Overall reception and uptake of the services available on the InforMEA website by the audience;*

1.2. *Outreach strategy developed and implemented.*

82. *Table 4* summarizes the progresses, as reported in the project *Annual Reports* or assessed by the MTR and this Terminal Review for *Output 1*.

83. *Indicator 1.1* indicated an initial baseline of 850,000 users at Phase 3 inception, and set a target of 2.5 million by the end of the project phase. To measure this indicator the project set up a monitoring mechanism for its websites under Google Analytics²⁸ and directly managed by InforMEA. According to this service, in the period covered by Phase 3 (July 2020 - June 2023), the main InforMEA website received about 2.5 million visitors plus about 120 thousand of visitors on the e-learning platform. Overall, the two websites have received

²⁸ Google Analytics (at <http://analytics.google.com>) is a web analytics service offered by Google that tracks and reports website traffic and also the mobile app traffic & events, currently as a platform inside the Google Marketing Platform brand (source: Wikipedia).

about 2.6 million visitors in the period covered by Phase 3 and 3.9 million visitors since the whole Project inception.

Table 4. Reporting and assessment of Output 1 indicators according to Annual Reports (AR 2021 and AR 2022), Medium-Term Review (MTR 2022) and Terminal Review (Terminal Review 2023)

Indicators	Progress reported
Project Output 1: <i>The user base of InforMEA is further expanded.</i>	
1.1. Overall reception and uptake of the services available on the InforMEA website by the audience: <i>Baseline: 850,000 users;</i> <i>Target: 2,500,000 users</i>	AR 2021: The overall usage by 28 December stands at 1.94M users which does not include the users on the e-learning section of additional 200K users. Milestone(s) attained: Users of InforMEA related tools have increased by 80% since project start. InforMEA content is connected through LEAP, ECOLEX and Judicial Portal contributing an increasing share of users. MTR 2022: 1.3M visitors for the main site (+49% compared to Phase 2) + 79K visitors for the e-learning platform (+123%). Overall 1.4M visitors in Phase 3; 2.3M since inception. AR 2022: The overall usage by 31 December stands at 2.7M users which does not include the users on the e-learning section – additional 200K users. Milestone(s) attained: Users from developing countries have tripled. Overall users have reached 2.5M. Terminal Review 2023: 2.5M visitors for the main site (about 3x compared to Phase 2) + 120K visitors for the e-learning platform (about 5x compared to Phase 2). Overall about 2.6M visitors in Phase 3 and 3.9M since inception.
1.2. Outreach strategy developed and implemented: <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 1</i>	AR 2021: An outreach strategy has been developed and endorsed by the 12th InforMEA SC Meeting in November 2021. A joint calendar, social media, web stories and content were developed and shared in implementation of this outreach plan. MTR 2022: <i>Communication Strategy InforMEA III</i> document presented to the 11th SC meeting in November 2020 and an update on the same subject, and related <i>Outreach Plan</i>, presented to the 12th SC Committee Meeting. AR 2022: The stakeholder analysis indicated that InforMEA is not sufficiently reaching out directly to national focal points (NFPs), something that has been taken on board in the second half of the year by careful inclusion of all NFPs in all communications and conducting surveys among MEA negotiators. Terminal Review 2023: The implementation of the strategy continued throughout newsletter, social media, etc. as well as within the outreach activity of the UNEP Law Division's team. A stakeholder survey was launched by the Project Team in May '23 but with limited response.

84. *Tables 5 and 6* show the total number of visitors, returning visitors²⁹ and visitors from countries different from developed countries³⁰, respectively of the main InforMEA portal and the e-learning platform during the different phases of the InforMEA Project.

Table 5. Total visitors of the main InforMEA Portal³¹

Project Phases	Total Visitors	Returning Visitors	Visitors from countries different from developed countries ³⁰	
Phase 1 (Nov 2013 – Jul 2016)	40,868	14%	20,047	49%
Phase II (Jul 2016 – Jun 2020)	858,956	12%	584,068	68%
Phase III (Jul 2020 – Jun 2023)	2,473,500	8%	2,057,296	84%
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,373,324</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>2,641,364</i>	<i>78%</i>

Table 6. Total visitors of the InforMEA e-learning platform³¹

Project Phases	Visitors	Returning Visitors	Visitors from countries different from developed countries ³⁰	
Phase II (Jul 2016 – Jun 2020)	24,432	26%	18,706	77%
Phase III (Jul 2020 – Jun 2023)	119,957	23%	91,490	75%
<i>Total</i>	<i>144,389</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>110,196</i>	<i>76%</i>

85. On the basis of the above mentioned data, *Indicator 1.1 is considered, by this Terminal Review, as fully met.*

86. *Indicator 1.2* foresees the development and implementation of an outreach strategy. This issue has been discussed in at least two meetings of the Steering Committee (SC) and an outreach strategy was finally approved at the 12th SC; further outreach recommendations were approved by the 13th SC, including holding one annual dedicated outreach Sub-Working Group. The InforMEA team has been also relying on the Law Division's outreach activity; however, no specific report about the outreach strategy implementation has been produced so far.

²⁹ Returning visitors shows the number of users who have visited the website at least once before (source Google at <https://support.google.com>).

³⁰ For the purpose of this review, the classification of countries different from developed countries has been taken from the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2022, a report produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), in partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five United Nations regional commissions.

³¹ Data collected from Google Analytics in November 2023.

87. In the period covered by this review, InforMEA has made itself visible to its audience with three newsletters³²; a limited presence over the social media³³, an informative flyer available from the main website³⁴ and presentations to many meetings, COP and other MEAs events.

88. The need to better interact with the stakeholders audience has also been strongly pointed out by the MTR as one of the two main weaknesses of the project. A renewed attempt to interact with the MEAs National Focal Points (NFPs), the main stakeholder group identified in the project document, took place after the MTR by increasing their presence in all outgoing communications and a special survey was launched to this purpose.

89. In an effort for enhanced outreach, the InforMEA Team has also recently agreed, with the *International Institute for Sustainable Development* (IISD)³⁵, on an integration of relevant InforMEA-based content within the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* (ENB)³⁶, which should be implemented soon.

90. In the last months of Phase 3, on the basis of the MTR and SC recommendations, a *Negotiator's toolkit*³⁷ was developed by the project team, and made available from the InforMEA main website, with the scope to offer a comprehensive knowledge base to help negotiators to understand and navigate multilateral environmental negotiations and related processes.

91. The Negotiator's toolkit currently includes a *Negotiator's handbook* (downloadable as PDF document), selected *training material*, a dedicated collection of *case studies/examples*, a selection of *rules of procedure and financial rules*, as produced by the different treaties participating to InforMEA, and a dedicated *Glossary of Terms* for negotiators of MEAs.

92. Notwithstanding these significant efforts, the overall awareness of the MEA NFPs of the InforMEA Initiative remains extremely scarce because of the lack of an effective and systematic interaction strategy with this main category of the project stakeholders.

93. These considerations are fully corroborated by the Terminal Review survey data. On a group of 304 NFPs and negotiators responding to the Terminal Review survey (all contacts extracted from the InforMEA Contact Hub³⁸) only 40% declared to be familiar with the main InforMEA portal and, among these, a large part (almost half of them) commented: a) that their knowledge of the platform was quite scarce, b) to open sporadically the InforMEA web pages and c) not having increased their frequentation of the portal in the last year. Even lower numbers scored, with the same audience, the brand new *Negotiator Toolkit* section (of which existence only 20% of the respondents indicated of being aware) and the e-learning platform, well known by other audience groups, for which only 26% of the survey respondents declared to be familiar with³⁹.

³² At <https://www.informea.org/en/node/493128>

³³ InforMEA is present on X (former Twitter) since May 2017 (at <https://twitter.com/informeaportal>) and on Facebook since May 2013 (at <https://www.facebook.com/informea.org>).

³⁴ At <https://www.informea.org/en/node/493128>

³⁵ At <https://www.iisd.org/>

³⁶ The Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) an independent reporting service on United Nations environment and development negotiations (available at <https://enb.iisd.org/>)

³⁷ Available at <https://www.informea.org/en/negotiators-toolkit>

³⁸ At https://www.informea.org/en/search?f%5B0%5D=type%3Acontact_person

³⁹ The complete set of NPF survey results is available in *Annex I*

94. In order to ascertain the audience of the whole InforMEA Initiative, questions related to the other dedicated portals maintained by the project were also included in the survey; however, in consideration that the target group of respondents to the survey was identified with NFPs and negotiators, a group with a different focus than the targeted users of the other two portals, it does not surprise that the familiarity declared by the main group of InforMEA stakeholders was of 6% for the *Global Judicial Portal* and 11% for the *Law and Environment Assistance Platform* (LEAP).

95. On the basis of the above data, *Indicator 1.2 is considered, by this Terminal Review not fully met because an outreach strategy has been developed, but only partially implemented* and with very limited effectiveness toward the main group of the project stakeholders.

96. Overall, *this Terminal Review can confirm that Project Output 1 has been reached and the user base of InforMEA has - in fact - been expanded*; however, the results from Terminal Review interviews and survey confirmed that this expansion included groups different from the one of main stakeholders and that a large percentage (about 60%) of the NFPs and negotiators, whose contact details are present in the InforMEA Contact Hub, still totally ignore the existence of the InforMEA initiative and of the services thereby offered. It is therefore suggested that, in future follow up activities of the project, a specific outcome foresees the increase of the number of specific stakeholder categories who are aware of the project and that specific indicators are set to monitor and verify this outcome.

97. *Output 2 of the Project logical framework foresees that Resources and guidance are provided to MEAs Secretariats to enhance technical interoperability and semantic indexing*, and two indicators were set to verify the final availability of this output:

2.1. Number of institutions participating in the Inter-operability mechanism;

2.2. Number of MEA Secretariats supported on tagging approaches.

98. *Table 7 summarizes the progresses, as reported in the project Annual Reports or assessed by the MTR and this Terminal Review for Output 2.*

Table 7. Reporting and assessment of Output 2 indicators according to Annual Reports (AR 2021 and AR 2022), Medium-Term Review (MTR 2022) and Terminal Review (Terminal Review 2023)

Indicators	Progress reported
Project Output 2: <i>Resources and guidance are provided to MEAs Secretariats to enhance technical interoperability and semantic indexing.</i>	
2.1. Number of institutions participating in the Inter-operability mechanism: <i>Baseline: 23 including MEA Secretariats;</i> <i>Target: 30 partner institutions and processes</i>	AR 2021: Since the start of the project, the GJI on the Environment, the IWC, the WTO, the Montevideo Programme V have all joined the interoperability mechanism. Milestone(s) attained: Through the joint calendar UNEP and overall, three additional institutions/organisations are interoperable in one category of information with InforMEA or one of its tools MTR 2022: 30 partner institutions actively participating in the implementation of the interoperability mechanism with various degrees of completion or, in some cases, actively working toward it. AR 2022: no further reporting on this indicator. Terminal Review 2023: 27 MEA and Partner Institutions are actively sharing their data through the interoperability mechanism with various degrees of completion.

Indicators	Progress reported
2.2. Number of MEA Secretariats supported on tagging approaches: <i>Baseline: 8</i> <i>Target :15</i>	AR 2021: While all MEAs participating in InforMEA have been supported with trainings and training materials, the Secretariats of UNFCCC, CMS, IPBES, CITES, BRS have been supported in the development of their concrete taxonomies and/or in testing automated tagging on their systems and documents. Milestone(s) attained: Additional categories of information have been identified and standards developed. Best practices and options for joint archiving have been identified and broadly endorsed. MTR 2022: A background document on tagging was developed and made available to all MEAs, as a kick starter guide, and indicating guidelines on how to establish taxonomy, terminology, etc. As of May 2022, eight MEA Secretariats have also been specifically supported on tagging approaches AR 2022: Milestone(s) attained: Semantic Indexing support is provided to and used by 4 institutions/MEAs which leads to harmonized terminologies and linked vocabularies including in the context of plastics and marine litter. 2000 indexed documents improve search results on three websites, including InforMEA. Terminal Review 2023: no further data provided on this indicator.

99. *Indicator 2.1.* indicated an initial baseline of 23 institutions, including MEA Secretariats, participating in the Inter-operability mechanism at phase 3 inception, and set a target of 30 partner institutions and processes by the end of the project phase. The monitoring of the progresses under this indicator has been partially conducted through a shared document (named *OData API functional status*⁴⁰) where the MEAs staff, involved with the InforMEA Initiative, manually updated the relevant information related to their side of the implementation of the interoperability mechanism. In following up one of the critical MTR recommendations about the lack of active monitoring on quality control of the data shared through API interoperability, an automatic migration reporting system was set up to provide the total number of documents and the last updates by MEA and category of shared document.

100. As for the last migration report received from the InforMEA Team, 19 MEAs had set up specific *application programming interface*⁴¹ (API) according to the technical specifications agreed with InforMEA⁴² and initiated the exporting of information to InforMEA servers. Out of these, 15 were mostly successful, while for the remaining 4 MEAs, the interoperability and the consequent sharing of online documents is still work-in-progress and not implemented yet.

101. *Table 8* summarizes the amount of data shared through interoperability by the core group of MEAs actively participating to the initiative.

⁴⁰ Available at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ceS099YBTXA8w1NsPVofRsz9Wgql0BDjR6f2hsim2Kk/edit#gid=0>

⁴¹ An *application programming interface (API)* is a way for two or more computer programs to communicate with each other. It is a type of software interface, offering a service to other pieces of software (source: Wikipedia).

⁴² See *Resources for Developers* page at <https://www.informea.org/en/about/api>

Table 8. Data shared by MEAs' InforMEA Partners through interoperability (source: InforMEA)

MEAs	Contacts	Meetings	Country Reports	National Plans	Sites	Decisions	Documents
AEWA	110	82	305	-	-	150	134
ASCOBANS	12	88	148	-	-	34	47
Basel Convention	586	566	-	-	-	655	5302
CBD	688	1300	828	337	-	687	-
CITES	1262	291	584	-	-	921	-
CMS	153	105	562	-	-	314	194
ITPGRFA	137	95	-	-	-	63	-
IWC	89	75	-	-	-	104	-
Minamata Convention	263	213	250	33	-	62	-
Ozone	-	59	-	-	-	1292	-
RAMSAR Convention	304	14	1105	-	2591	353	744
Rotterdam Convention	634	582	-	-	-	163	-
Stockholm Convention	432	616	-	529	-	363	-
UNCCD	338	57	-	-	-	475	-
UNFCCC	481	30	1854	-	-	443	-
Barcelona Convention	Work in Progress - No data shared yet						
EUROBATS							
Montreal							
WHC							

102. InforMEA has also established interoperability and data exchange with 9 more partner institutions, namely: the *Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DART)*⁴³, *EcoLex*⁴⁴, the *FAOLEX Database*⁴⁵, the *Global Environment Facility (GEF)*⁴⁶, the *Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (GJIE)*⁴⁷, the *International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)*⁴⁸, the *Law and Environment Assistance Platform (LEAP)* of the *UNEP Montevideo Environmental Law Programme*⁴⁹, the *National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP)* forum⁵⁰ and the *World Environment Situation Room (WESR)*⁵¹.

⁴³ At <https://dart.informea.org/>

⁴⁴ At <https://www.ecolex.org/>

⁴⁵ At <https://www.fao.org/faolex/en/>

⁴⁶ At <https://www.thegef.org/>

⁴⁷ At <https://judicialportal.informea.org/>

⁴⁸ At <https://www.iisd.org/>

⁴⁹ At <https://leap.unep.org/en>

103. The total number of MEA and Partner Institutions participating in the interoperability mechanism, at the time of this Terminal Review, is therefore 28.

104. Other than the core group of the MEA and partner institutions, the project aims to extend the interoperability mechanism to all MEA-related institutions and treaty Secretariats which are willing to share their information through the InforMEA pages. Over the 54 regional and 36 global treaties, available on the InforMEA *All Treaties and MEAs* pages, by the time of this Terminal Review assessment, major documents such as official Text(s), Protocol(s), Amendment(s) and/or Strategic Plan(s) were available from the vast majority of listed institutions (95%); while other categories of documents (e.g. treaties decisions or contacts) were available from a smaller group of the listed Treaties.

105. *Table 9* summarizes the availability of treaties documents available from the InforMEA *All Treaties and MEAs* pages and *Annex V* provides a full list of all Treaties and MEAs hosted by the InforMEA Portal and the amount of data shared, broken down by document categories.

Table 9. Availability of treaties documents from the InforMEA “All Treaties and MEAs” pages⁵² (breakdown by Global and Regional Treaties)⁵³

Data available	Regional Treaties (%)	Global Treaties (%)	Total (%)
Number of Treaties listed	54 (100%)	36 (100%)	90 (100%)
Availability of official Text(s), Protocol(s), Amendment(s) and/or Strategic Plan(s)	54 (100%)	32 (89%)	86 (95%)
Availability of Decisions	19 (35%)	23 (64%)	42 (47%)
Availability of National Reports	3 (6%)	11 (31%)	14 (16%)
Availability of National Plans	0 (0%)	3 (8%)	3 (3%)
Availability of other documents	14 (26%)	12 (33%)	26 (29%)
Availability of Contacts	8 (15%)	21 (58%)	29 (32%)

106. From interviews, survey and/or written contributions of members of the InforMEA technical Working Group it appears quite evident, as for this Terminal Review, that: a) good technical support to implement InforMEA interoperability is available, b) technical staff has been extremely involved and available to implement the interoperability mechanism (94% of appreciation from the MEA survey on partnership and coordination), c) API interoperability is a good technical choice (94% of appreciation from the MEA survey); and that d) the diversity of knowledge management systems already established by the different MEAs is, in fact, a hindrance but does not represent a real obstacle toward full interoperability.

107. The major obstacle in the implementation of a successful interoperability mechanism appears, therefore, to be found in a sort of inertia, as well as in the lack of will and/or

⁵⁰ At <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/nbsap-forum/>

⁵¹ At <https://wesr.unep.org/>

⁵² At <https://www.informeaa.org/en/treaties>

⁵³ Data collected from the InforMEA main website in November 2023; the raw data, from which the information contained in this table has been extracted, are available in *Annex V*.

resources, made available from the different MEA Secretariats, in "making the extra mile" that figuratively separates each of their data management systems from the otherwise agreed goal of sharing MEAs information into the common repository set up by InforMEA.

108. On the basis of the above data, *Indicator 2.1 is considered, by this Terminal Review, as partially met* because the number of institutions participating in the Inter-operability mechanism has increased, since Phase 3 inception, but has not reached the expected target.

109. *Indicator 2.2 indicated an initial baseline of 8 MEA Secretariats supported by InforMEA on tagging approaches, at Phase 3 inception, and set a target of 15 by the end of the project phase. As for this Terminal Review assessment, no efficient monitoring system was set in place for measuring this specific indicator and the last useful official information on this aspect, as provided by the MTR, is that a background document on tagging was developed and made available to all MEAs, as a kick starter guide, and indicating guidelines on how to establish taxonomy, terminology, etc. As of May 2022, eight MEA Secretariats have also been specifically supported on tagging approaches⁵⁴. On the basis of the above data, Indicator 2.2 is considered, by this Terminal Review, as not met.*

110. *Overall, this Terminal Review can confirm that Project Output 2 has been reached and resources and guidance have been provided to MEAs Secretariats to enhance technical interoperability and semantic indexing. Notwithstanding the availability of Output 2, as set in the project log- frame, it is also observed that: a) the implementation of both the interoperability and tagging (semantic indexing) mechanisms is not yet fully shared within the core group of the MEA Secretariats and b) the co-existence of these two very different type of activities, the poor definition of the adopted indicators and their only partial monitoring, did not serve well the pursuing of these specific objectives during the project life. It is suggested that, in future follow ups of the project, the two activities of further developing and implementing both an interoperability mechanism for data sharing and a semantic indexing of the shared documents, are clearly separated in two different outputs of the logical framework, with specific and more suitable indicators, as well as with different, appropriate and effective ways of monitoring the different progresses of these two main activities of the InforMEA Initiative.*

111. *Output 3 of the Project logical framework foresees that Stakeholders have access to updated and expanded e-learning material, and two indicators were set to verify the final availability of this output:*

3.1. Number of registered users and certificates issued on the InforMEA E-learning Portal;

3.2. Number of courses available on the platform.

112. *Table 10 summarizes the progresses, as reported in the project Annual Reports or assessed by the MTR and this Terminal Review for Output 3.*

113. To implement the e-learning platform the project set up, in its Phase 2, a Moodle⁵⁵ platform through which InforMEA students may: a) register and attend to online courses, b) download courses Syllabus (for an overview of the specific courses and the completion requirements) and Workbooks (to help student with limited internet) and, eventually, c) receive a Certificate of completion for each successfully completed courses.

⁵⁴ The MEA Secretariats reported by the MTR as having been specifically supported on tagging approach are the following: Basel Convention, CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention and UNFCCC.

⁵⁵ Moodle is a free and open-source learning management system used for blended learning, distance education, flipped classroom and other online learning projects in schools, universities, workplaces and other sectors (source Wikipedia).

Table 10. Reporting and assessment of Output 3 indicators according to Annual Reports (AR 2021 and AR 2022), Medium-Term Review (MTR 2022) and Terminal Review (Terminal Review 2023)

Indicators	Progress reported
Project Output 3: Stakeholders have access to updated and expanded e-learning material.	
3.1. Number of registered users and certificates issued on the InforMEA E-learning Portal: <i>Users Baseline: 30,000</i> <i>Target: 80,000</i> <i>Certificates Baseline: 6,500</i> <i>Target: 40,000</i>	AR 2021: Users have been redefined as those who have registered with the platform as opposed to enrolments into courses. The figures as compared to the beginning of the project period are: 30K registrations vs. 45K; course enrolments: about 50K to now 98K; certificates: 24K to 39K. Milestone(s) attained: Registered users have increased by 20K MTR 2022: 49K registered users, 113K enrolments and 46K certificates. AR 2022: Users have been redefined as accounts registered with the platform as opposed to enrolments into courses. The figures as compared to the beginning of the project period are: Registrations: 30K to now 54K. Course enrolments: ≈50K to now 140K; Certificates: 24K to now 53K. Terminal Review 2023: a total of 57K of total registered users (+25K in Phase 3); 119K enrolments (+72K in Phase 3) and 46K certificates (+27K in Phase 3) is currently reported by the Moodle Dashboard.
3.2. Number of courses available on the platform: <i>Baseline: 34</i> <i>Target: 43</i>	AR 2021: The courses on Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm have been re-launched, and Ozone and CMS are about to do so. A course was developed in English and Thai with the Thai Judicial Training Institute. Milestone(s) attained: Two additional courses launched. 4 courses have been updated and re-launched MTR 2022: 42 courses available through the InforMEA portal and additional 14 in the pipeline and expected before December 2022. AR 2022: Introductory courses on Ozone, CMS, and Ramsar have been overhauled. A deeper-level Gender and Mercury course was developed with Minamata. 4 cross-cutting and thematic courses launched (SDG 14; Marine Litter and Plastic; Environment and Trade; Environment and Gender), alongside 4 new courses for regions or specific user groups (Climate Rights Litigation; IEL for Pacific Lawyers and Judges; Online Negotiations; Our Rights, Our Planet (environmental human rights for children). Terminal Review 2023: 1 new thematic course (NHRIs) and 8 deeper-level MEA courses (UNFCCC Participant Guide, National Implementation, and Compliance Committee; Course for BRS Chairs; Plastic Waste and Basel Convention; SAICM; CBD Access and Benefit-sharing; Ramsar STRP). 53 active courses in Phase 3 (+56% compared to Phase 2)

114. *Indicator 3.1* indicated an initial baseline of 30 thousand registered users of the e-learning platform and 6.5 thousand certifications, at Phase 3 inception, and set the target of 80 thousand registered users and 40 thousand certifications by the end of the project phase. To measure this indicator the project used the Moodle Dashboard, but due to some confusion on the meaning of the terms “users”, “registrations” and “enrolments”, as used by Moodle, the data used in setting the baseline and for reporting have been incorrect. As for the data extracted from the InforMEA Moodle Dashboard during this Terminal Review, the correct

baselines at Phase 3 inception were the following: *about 29 thousand of registered users, 46 thousand enrolments and 19 thousand certifications.*

115. According to InforMEA Moodle Dashboard, in the period covered by Phase 3: a) the InforMEA e-learning platform enlisted about *25 thousand new registrations*; b) the total number of registered users reached about 54 thousand (by November 2023 this number is further increased to about 57 thousand), of which the majority group, in terms of gender, are women; c) about 78% of the total number of the currently registered users is from countries different from developed countries⁵⁶; d) *the number of new enrolments in the courses available online during Phase 3 was about 72 thousand* (for a total of about 119 thousand enrolments since the platform inception); e) *the number of certificates of completion issued in Phase 3 was about 27 thousand* (bringing the total number of certifications to 46 thousand since the platform inception); and f) the completion rate (i.e. the percentage of enrolments reaching the final certification) for Phase 3 was of 37% and for the three phases together of 39%.

116. *Tables 11 and 12* summarize the data of the registered users of the InforMEA e-learning platform and the number of active/new/archived courses, enrolments, certifications and completion rates; in both tables the data are reported by project phase.

117. In consideration of the initial error in the baselines estimation, the assessments of this Terminal Review of the data provided by the InforMEA Moodle Dashboard, are the following: an increase of +87% of registered users during Phase 3 of the project (54K vs. a baseline of 29K), +157% of enrolments (119K vs. a baseline of 46K) and +140% of certifications (46K vs. a baseline of 19K). On the basis of these results and in consideration of the changed baseline, *Indicator 3.1 is considered, by this Terminal Review, as partially met.*

Table 11. Registered users of the InforMEA e-learning platform⁵⁷

InforMEA Project Phases	Registered Users	%	Visitors from countries different from developed countries ⁵⁶	
Phase 1 (Nov 2013 – Jul 2016)	2,563	4%	1,571	61%
Phase II (Jul 2016 – Jun 2020)	26,339	46%	19,776	75%
Phase III (Jul 2020 – Jun 2023)	25,062	44%	20,873	83%
Current period (Jun 2023 – Nov 2023)	3,054	5%	2,217	73%
<i>Total</i>	<i>57,018</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>44,437</i>	<i>78%</i>

⁵⁶ See note 29

⁵⁷ Data collected from the InforMEA e-learning dashboard in November 2023

Table 12. Summary of active courses, enrolments and certifications in the InforMEA e-learning⁵⁷

InforMEA Project Phases	No. of active courses	No. of new courses	No. of updated courses	No. of Enrolments (a)	No. of Certifications (b)	Completion Rate (b/a %)
Phase 1 (Nov 2013 – Jul 2016)	21	21	0	2,487	903	36%
Phase II (Jul 2016 – Jun 2020)	34	13	2	43,674	18,264	42%
Phase III (Jul 2020 – Jun 2023)	53	19	6	72,460	26,875	37%
<i>Total</i>	53			118,621	46,042	39%

118. *Indicator 3.2* indicated an initial baseline of 34 courses available on the InforMEA e-learning platform at Phase 3 inception, and set a target of 43 courses (+26%) by the end of the project phase. During Phase 3 the e-learning platform launched 19 new courses, and updated and/or enhanced 6 old courses. The total number of courses available on the e-learning platform by the end of Phase 3 was 53 (+56% compared to the baseline, see *Table 12*). On the basis of the above data, *Indicator 3.2 is considered, by this Terminal Review, as fully met.*

119. *In light of the data mentioned above, this Terminal Review considers that Project Output 3 has been fully reached and that Stakeholders have – indeed – access to updated and expanded e- learning material.*

120. Notwithstanding the miscalculation in terms of baselines and reports, the e-learning platform is assessed, by this Terminal Review, as the most successful component of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project. In order to maintain full control of the courses administration, it is suggested that the Dashboard is fully revamped and cleaned of all tests, registrations and courses duplications and incomplete or outdated reports so that, in future, it could provide, at a glance, a good insight of the progresses of this otherwise excellent online learning tool.

121. *Output 4* of the Project logical framework foresees *an analysis of MEAs' contribution to internationally agreed goals (including the post 2020 biodiversity framework and the 2030 Agenda) available on InforMEA*, and two indicators were set to verify the final availability of this output:

4.1. *Number of MEAs who provided their feedback on this analysis;*

4.2. *Number of users who consider this analysis useful.*

122. *Table 13* summarizes the progress, as reported in the project *Annual Reports* or assessed by the MTR and this Terminal Review for *Output 4*.

123. *Output 4* essentially refers to a tagging / data mining exercise of harnessing data from MEA national reports and completed, so far, only on the list of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁵⁸. In particular, under the supervision of a sub-group of the InforMEA Working Group, the main documents (i.e. treaty and protocol texts, decisions, recommendations, and other related informational documents such as publications,

⁵⁸ Available, on the InforMEA website at <https://www.informea.org/en/goals/sdg>

meetings, documents or reports), produced by 19 MEAs⁵⁹, were analyzed and tagged for references to each specific SDG. The results of this analysis are currently listed under each SDG InforMEA page with links to specific and relevant items contained in the above mentioned documents and broken down by different MEAs.

Table 13. Reporting and assessment of Output 4 indicators according to Annual Reports (AR 2021 and AR 2022), Medium-Term Review (MTR 2022) and Terminal Review (Terminal Review 2023)

Indicators	Progress reported
Project Output 4: <i>An analysis of MEAs' contribution to internationally agreed goals (including the post 2020 biodiversity framework and the 2030 Agenda) available on InforMEA.</i>	
4.1. Number of MEAs who provided their feedback on this analysis: <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 5</i>	AR 2021: Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm, Ramsar and CBD, as well as UNFCCC have provided their feedback on the methodology during the discussion which was registered on Teams. Milestone(s) attained: The three goals against which MEA strategies are mapped identified and endorsed. An additional set of goals has been mapped (2020+). A methodology on how to analyse data in national reports has been considered by MEAs. MTR 2022: 9 MEAs provided their feedback on the results of the analysis obtained AR 2022: no further reporting on this indicator. Terminal Review 2023: SDG analysis was presented to, and welcomed by, the 13 th Steering Committee meeting in 2022 attended by representatives of 17 MEA Secretariats.
4.2. Number of users who consider this analysis useful: <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 10,000</i>	AR 2021: A look on Google analytics shows that about 8000 people visited the goals section on 2021. MTR 2022: <i>indicator discarded</i> AR 2022: Milestone(s) attained: The Goals section and analysis available has been accessed by 10,000 users (mostly achieved) Terminal Review 2023: <i>indicator discarded</i>

124. *Indicator 4.1* foresees the provision of specific feedback, on the final result of the analysis, to be provided from at least five different participating MEAs. As far as this Terminal Review has ascertained, these feedback were only informal and no official documents were produced by different MEAs to specifically support this indicator. On the other hand, the analysis done was presented to the 13th Steering Committee meeting (attended by

⁵⁹ The 19 MEAs (included, when mentioned, their Protocols), on which SDG contributions the analysis indicated in Output 4 has been carried on, are the following: Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS), Bamako Convention, Basel Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, including its Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Minamata Convention on Mercury, Ramsar Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention, The Water Convention (including its Protocol on Water and Health), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, including its Kyoto Protocol), Vienna Convention, World Heritage Convention (WHC).

representatives of 17 MEA Secretariats⁶⁰) which welcomed its results and encouraged the sub-group to explore further national reporting tagging with SDGs. The MTR also reports *nine MEAs having provided their feedback on the results of the analysis obtained so far*⁶¹; on this basis, *Indicator 4.1 is considered, by this Terminal Review, as fully met.*

125. *Indicator 4.2.* foresees a target of 10 thousand users, by the end of the project phase, considering the analysis useful. As already noted by the MTR, for Indicator 4.2 there is no real monitoring provision in place and, in agreement with the Project Manager, this indicator has been discarded.

126. *Overall, this Terminal Review can confirm that Project Output 4 has been partially reached and that an analysis of MEAs' contribution to SDG has been conducted and that the results are available on the InforMEA website.* No further lists of internationally agreed goals (i.e. the post 2020 biodiversity framework or the 2030 Agenda) have been fully analyzed or made available yet. The general data mining exercise has been ongoing through all Phase 3 period and a new design of the InforMEA Goals Page, aiming to better help users to navigate through the results so far obtained, is currently in an advanced phase of development.

Achievement of Project Outcome

127. The overall *Project Outcome*, as set in the Project Document Logical Framework is that *Countries, international organizations and major groups' uptake for Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks is enhanced through access to information and knowledge on MEAs and IEL.* In addition to the indicators, attached to the 4 project outputs and already analyzed, above in this section, four additional and specific *indicators* were also set to verify the final achievement of the main Project Outcome:

- 0.1. Number of surveyed stakeholders including countries that increasingly use InforMEA in MEA implementation or related policy development;*
- 0.2. Number of processes or projects that mainstream aspects of InforMEA in their capacity building efforts;*
- 0.3. Institutions making InforMEA courses part of their curricular or website;*
- 0.4. Increase in overall reception of InforMEA services as compared to previous project phase.*

128. *Table 14* summarizes the progress, as reported in the project *Annual Reports* or assessed by the MTR and this Terminal Review for *the main Project Outcome.*

129. *Indicator 0.1* set a target of 50 surveyed stakeholders, including countries, which increasingly use InforMEA in MEA implementation or related policy development. Other than the MTR and the current Terminal Review surveys the project did not set up any specific mechanism to monitor this indicator and, even in these two surveys, the audience, composed by individuals only and not by institutions, have been asked general questions about their familiarity with the platform (assessed at 40% in the Terminal Review survey), the frequency they used it (the highest frequency assessed by the Terminal Review survey is 28% for *More than three times a year*) and whether this frequency had increased in the last year (in the Terminal Review survey this question was answered as *Yes* from 49% of the respondents).

⁶⁰ The following MEA Secretariats attended the last InforMEA Steering Committee meeting on 11-13 October, 2022: BRS Conventions, CBD, CITES, CMS, IPPC, ITPGRFAO, Minamata Convention, MLF-Multilateral Fund, Ozone, Ramsar Convention, UN ECLAC Escazú Regional Agreement, UNCCD, UNCLOS, UNECE, UNEP/MAP, UNESCO-WHC and UNFCCC.

⁶¹ According to the MTR: as of May 2020, the following MEAs have provided their feedback on the ongoing process of *Analysis of MEAs' contribution to internationally agreed goals* (as foreseen by Outcome 4, Indicator 1): Basel Convention, CITES, IPBES, ITPGRFA, Ramsar Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention, UNCCD, and UNFCCC.

Table 14. Reporting and assessment of the main Project Outcome indicators according to Annual Reports (AR 2021 and AR 2022), Medium-Term Review (MTR 2022) and Terminal Review (Terminal Review 2023)

Indicators	Progress reported
Project Outcome: <i>Countries, international organizations and major groups' uptake for Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks is enhanced through access to information and knowledge on MEAs and IEL.</i>	
0.1. Number of surveyed stakeholders including countries that increasingly use InforMEA in MEA implementation or related policy development: <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 50</i>	AR 2021: A survey was undertaken among InforMEA users, and some described in detail how the access to information helps them make an impact on the ground. To be expanded with review process. Milestone(s) attained: Stakeholders and countries list compiled for regular surveying and outreach on InforMEA services. MTR 2022: on a total audience of 1,192 respondents to the survey, 55% of the respondents declared to be familiar with InforMEA Portal and 56% indicated having increased, in that year, their use of the InforMEA Portal in respect to the past. AR 2022: Target attained in May 2022 through survey. Terminal Review 2023: on a total audience of 304 respondents to the survey, 40% of the respondents declared to be familiar with InforMEA Portal, 49% of which also declared having increased in the past year their visits to the platform.
0.2. Number of processes or projects that mainstream aspects of InforMEA in their capacity building efforts: <i>Baseline: 3</i> <i>Target: 8</i>	AR 2021: The GJI on the Environment, the Montevideo V Programme, and the Ministry of Environment of Saudi Arabia, used InforMEA content in 2021. Milestone(s) attained: Additional two processes/projects mainstream InforMEA into their capacity building efforts. MTR 2022: 7 partner institutions reported having mainstreamed aspects of InforMEA in their capacity building efforts. AR 2022: WESR, The GJI on the Environment, the Montevideo V Programme, and the Ministry of Environment of Saudi Arabia, used InforMEA content. Milestone(s) attained: The number of projects that harvest information from InforMEA has reached five (WESR; JP; LEAP; DART; ECOLEX). Terminal Review 2023: A list of 8 processes and/or processes mainstreaming aspect of InforMEA has been produced by the InforMEA Team.
0.3. Institutions making InforMEA courses part of their curricular or website: <i>Baseline: 3</i> <i>Target: 9</i>	AR 2021: The Judicial Training Institute of Thailand mainstreams InforMEA courses into their education programme. Milestone(s) attained: Additional two training and learning institutions make InforMEA courses part of their learning requirements/curricular. MTR 2022: 7 partner institutions reported having officially integrated some of the InforMEA courses as part of their curricular activity. AR 2022: no further reporting on this indicator Terminal Review 2023: A list of 8 Institutions making InforMEA courses part of their curricular or website has been produced by the InforMEA Team.

Indicators	Progress reported
0.4. Increase in overall reception of InforMEA services as compared to previous project phase: <i>Baseline: 900,000</i> <i>Target: 2,500,000</i>	AR 2021: Google Analytics from InforMEA alone reached 1.94M users, and in combination with another 200K from e-learning the 2M have been surpassed already. MTR 2022: +49% of visitors of the main site compared to Phase 2 and +123% of visitors of the e-learning platform. Overall 1.4M visitors in Phase 3; 2.3M since inception. AR 2022: no further reporting on this indicator Terminal Review 2023: about +287% the number of visitors of the main site and +490% for the e-learning platform compared to Phase 2. Overall 2.6M visitors in Phase 3 and 3.9M since inception

130. In following up with MTR recommendations, the InforMEA Team identified, from interested NFPs and negotiators who confirmed through the MTR survey their availability to further interaction, a list of potential stakeholders to use for the purpose of verifying this indicator. A survey directed to this group in May 2023 for better understanding the different needs of InforMEA user groups collected responses that were used as input for new concepts of the InforMEA web pages and, more in general, drafting the future phases InforMEA activities.

131. In more general terms, from interviews and survey results, it is possible to estimate that InforMEA has so far reached a significant number of individuals in terms of awareness. In terms of efficiency, however, the InforMEA platform has not yet become a routine tool for negotiators and focal points who still clearly requested, when contacted by this Terminal Review through the survey or interviews, to receive much better and more frequent information on the services provided by the InforMEA initiative. On this basis, *Indicator 0.1 is considered, by this Terminal Review, as met with some limitations.*

132. *Indicator 0.2* identified a baseline of 3 processes or projects that mainstream aspects of InforMEA in their capacity building efforts and set a target of 8 by the end of the project. As for other indicators included in the project logical framework, no specific monitoring system was set up by the project for measuring this indicator; however the InforMEA Team, in the occasion of this Terminal Review, produced a list, reported in *Table 15*, of processes or projects that mainstream aspects of InforMEA. On this basis, *Indicator 0.2 is considered, by this Terminal Review, as met.*

133. *Indicator 0.3* identified a baseline of 3 Institutions making InforMEA courses part of their curricular or website and set a target of 9 by the end of the project. Also for this indicator, no specific monitoring mechanism was set up by the Project; for the purposes of this Terminal Review, a list of institutions making InforMEA courses part of their curricular or website was compiled by the InforMEA team and an *ad-hoc* analysis of the e-learning platform audience was also produced, with indications of world-wide universities attended by InforMEA students. Although this list could not be counted as evidence of InforMEA courses having become part of institutional curricula, some of the highest frequencies reported in the list may suggest a trend, even though only by proxy, in this direction. Notwithstanding the lack of monitoring system in place and the not fully reached target, *Indicator 0.3 is considered, by this Terminal Review, as met with some limitations.*

134. *Table 16* lists Institutions making InforMEA courses part of their curricular or website, and *Table 17* shows the results of the InforMEA analysis of universities attended by InforMEA students.

Table 15. Processes or projects that mainstream aspects of InforMEA (source: InforMEA)

Institutions	URL
Geneva Environment Network (GEN)	https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/fr/environnement-geneve/organisations/united-nations-information-portal-on-multilateral-environmental-agreements/
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Partnership	https://ndcpartnership.org/knowledge-portal/climate-toolbox/infornea
Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability at Duke University	https://nicholasinstitute.duke.edu/plastics-policies/cbd-cop-decision-1310-addressing-impacts-marine-debris-and-anthropogenic
PlanetGOLD Programme	https://www.planetgold.org/information-knowledge-management-secretariat-minamata-convention-launches-new-website
Republic of Marshall Islands Environmental Data Portal	https://rmi-data.sprep.org/resource/e-learning-platform
UN Development Programme (UNDP) learning for nature	https://www.learningfornature.org/en/tag/russian/?post_type=sfwd-courses
UN Environment World Environment Situation Room (UNEP-WESR) Data integration	https://datacatalog.unep.org/app/advanced-search
UN Regional Information Centre (UNRIC)	https://unric.org/en/sharpen-your-skills-during-lockdown-with-united-nations-e-learning-courses/

Table 16. Institutions making InforMEA courses part of their curricular or website (source: InforMEA)

Institutions	URL
ECOLEX	https://www.ecolex.org/result/?q=InforMEA
Global Judicial Portal (GJIE)	https://judicialportal.infornea.org/resources/elearning
Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP)	https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/course/online-course-industrial-chemicals-databases-and-information-sharing
Minamata Convention	https://minamataconvention.org/en/resources?f%5B0%5D=type%3Aelearning
Montevideo Environmental Law Programme - Law and Environment Assistance Platform (LEAP)	https://leap.unep.org/en/knowledge/elearning
Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM)	https://saicmknowledge.org/library/e-learning-multilateral-environmental-agreements
UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)	https://unitar.org/courses/climate-change-international-legal-regime-5955
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn)	https://www.uncclearn.org/courses/climate-change-international-legal-regime-2/

Table 17. Main universities from which InforMEA students have also been obtaining certificates (source: InforMEA)

<i>Universities from which InforMEA students have also obtained certificates</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of students</i>
University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva,	Fiji	462
Instituto Superior Tecnológico Vicente Rocafuerte	Ecuador	254
The Education University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	196
Ateneo de Manila University	Philippines	189
Macquarie University	Australia	176
Western Sydney University	Australia	175
Maricopa Community Colleges	Arizona, USA	53
Fairfield University	Connecticut, USA	43
Hamad Bin Khalifa University	Qatar	29
University of the Philippines	Philippines	27

135. *Indicator 0.4* indicated an initial baseline of 900 thousand visitors of InforMEA platforms at Phase 3 inception, and set a target of 2.5 million visitors by the end of the project phase. *This indicator, basically, overlaps with Indicator 1.1 and, as discussed above, is considered, by this Terminal Review, as met.*

136. In looking at the achievement of the main Project Outcome, and in general to Project effectiveness, some of the main ratings, as provided by the NFPs/Negotiators and MEAs officers, through the Terminal Review surveys, might also help in the overall assessment. *Table 18 and 19* summarize some of the ratings scored respectively in the NFPs and MEAs surveys.

Table 18. Rating assigned by the NFPs/Negotiators audience through the Terminal Review survey (extract from Annex I).

<i>NFPs Survey Questions (extracts)</i>	<i>Rating (from 0 to 5)</i>
<i>On a scale from 0 (min) to 5 (max)...</i>	
...how easy is it for you to find the information you are looking for on the main InforMEA Portal?	3.70
...how many stars would you rate your satisfaction with the InforMEA main portal?	3.89
...how many stars would you rate your satisfaction with the InforMEA Negotiator's toolkit?	3.74
...how easy is it for you to find the information you are looking for on the InforMEA learning platform?	4.00

<i>NFPs Survey Questions (extracts)</i>	<i>Rating (from 0 to 5)</i>
...how many stars would you rate your satisfaction with the InforMEA learning platform?	4.03
...how easy is it for you to find the information you are looking for on the Global Judicial Portal?	3.67
...how many stars would you rate your satisfaction with the Global Judicial Portal?	3.67
...how easy is it for you to find the information you are looking for on the Law and Environment Assistance Platform – LEAP?	3.31
...how many stars would you rate your satisfaction with the Law and Environment Assistance Platform – LEAP?	3.54
...how useful do you rate the services of the InforMEA project in supporting the management of the national and international environmental agenda of your Government?	3.10

Table 19. Rating assigned by the MEAs Officers through the Terminal Review survey (extract from Annex I).

<i>InforMEA services and activities (extracts)</i>	<i>Rating (from 0 to 5)</i>
Public web interface	3.94
Data and API management	4.06
Formats and schemas used in the interoperability protocols	4.60
Activity on the semantic management	3.94
Activity on the Akoma Ntoso initiative	3.93
Activity on the Glossary-Thesaurus activity	4.24
Activity on Sustainable Development Goals SDGs	4.27
Activity on extracting common information from National Reports	3.20
Activity on the Negotiator Toolkit	4.13
Activity on outreach	3.80
Activity on partnership and coordination	4.69
Services/interaction with the <i>LEAP platform</i>	4.45
Services /interaction with the <i>Global Judicial Portal</i>	4.10
Services /interaction with the <i>EcoLex platform</i>	4.45
Activity on the UNEP-MEA joint calendar	4.38

<i>InforMEA services and activities (extracts)</i>	<i>Rating (from 0 to 5)</i>
Activity on the e-learning	4.69
Overall satisfaction with the InforMEA performance in its 3rd project phase	4.59

137. Overall, this Terminal Review can confirm that better access to information and knowledge on MEAs and IEL has been provided, by InforMEA Phase 3 project, to a large audience. On the other hand, the limited impact of the Project outreach targeted activities has been only partially effective in transferring the knowledge of this improved access to NFPs and negotiators, identified in the project document as its main group of stakeholders.

138. On this basis, this Terminal Review, consider the main Project Outcome was met, though with some limitations, and suggests that, in future phases, less ambitious, more realistic and more specific outputs and outcomes are identified in the logical framework, with clearer and measurable indicators and target groups, as well as with better defined monitoring mechanisms.

139. Furthermore, and in considerations of the real availability of resources in terms of finance and personnel, it is suggested that future project outcomes are defined as an integral part of the larger and currently ongoing UNEP digital transformation process.⁶²

Achievement of Likelihood of Impact

140. The *Theory of Change* (ToC), elaborated in the Phase 3 project document, identified as an expected consequence of the Project Outcome, at an intermediate stage toward a long term impact, that *Countries implement international commitments to protect the environment in a more coherent, effective and efficient manner*. The consequent, long term, expected *Impact* of this project was that *Internationally agreed environmental objectives are achieved based on adequate policy, legal and institutional frameworks in an inclusive, coherent and sustainable manner*.

141. This ambitious plan was based on the availability of three specific *drivers*⁶³:

- a) application of latest knowledge technologies and artificial intelligence;
- b) joint mandate by MEAs on knowledge management and cooperation/synergies;
- c) commitment from related information and knowledge sources;

and was depending on three important *assumptions*⁶²:

- i. support from administering institutions;
- ii. stable technical infrastructure from hosting organizations;
- iii. cooperation from MEAs.

142. The MTR added to this vision an even longer-term impact: *Identification and definition of new and more ambitious internationally agreed objectives is facilitated*, on the basis of the availability of previous phases' outputs and of a new assumption of *sufficient and long-term financial support for planning and prioritization of future activities*.

⁶² At <https://www.unep.org/topics/digital-transformations>

⁶³ For the definitions of *drivers* and *assumptions*, see note 18 in the Theory of Change section.

143. Finally, this Terminal Review, in light of the establishment of the *Collective Intelligence Unit* in UNEP Law Division, added to the ToC a new intermediate stage impact for UNEP to *become a structural reference for digital cooperation and synergies among the MEAs* and slightly modified driver (c) above as *commitment from UNEP as well as from related information and knowledge sources*.

144. All the above are long-term impacts for which it is difficult to assess a likelihood of impact, but some considerations on facts and results, at the end of the Phase 3 Project, may assist in this estimation.

145. The larger and *better access to information and knowledge on MEAs and IEL provided by InforMEA Phase 3 project* is effective in facilitating governments’ negotiators in better implementing international environment-related commitments. In order for this intermediate stage to be effective in contributing to the expected impacts, these results should be perfected and further targeting the large community of MEA NFPs and negotiators.

146. The Negotiator Toolkit, recently developed by InforMEA, is an important step toward this direction. However, as already mentioned by both the MTR and this Terminal Review, it is evident that this Phase has been missing a stronger interaction with the above mentioned community, and this might have happened, mainly, because of both a flaw in the project design and the lack of adequate resources in terms of finance and personnel.

147. Looking at the *drivers* of the ToC, it is then suggested to refresh and consolidate the *MEA joint mandate* and to strengthen *UNEP commitment* by including InforMEA future Outcomes among those planned for the digital transformation.

148. It goes “almost” without saying, that the assumption about *sufficient and long-term financial support for planning and prioritization of future activities* is indispensable in order for this (or any other) project to be successful.

149. *Based on the above, this Terminal Review consider the likelihood of impact of this project as likely, or in other words credible/feasible, if the drivers and the assumptions foreseen in the Project ToC, as well as in the MTR and this review, are kept available.*

Rating for Effectiveness:	Satisfactory
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5.5 Financial Management

150. The InforMEA Project reports administratively to UNEP Law Division with activities and finance annual reports. By the time this Terminal Review was conducted, three financial reports had been produced for the expenditure of the EU funds for the years 2020-2022, while the financial report of the EU funds for the first semester 2023 as well as the overall final report of project activities and total expenditure were still in a draft form and not finalized yet.

151. The InforMEA Phase 3 Project total expenditure is estimated at about USD 1.26 million (inclusive of Programme Support Cost - PSC). The next three tables report the estimated InforMEA expenditure by year (*Table 20*) and by funding source (*Table 21*) as well as the ratio of the estimated expenditure at operational completion date (June 30, 2023) vs. the estimated cost at design (*Table 22*); all reports are broken down by project components. All figures were provided by UNEP Administration specifically for this Terminal Review and for the actual duration of the project (July 2020 – June 2023).

Table 20. Report of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project estimated expenditure at operational completion date (30/06/2023) by year and project component (data source: UNEP; all figures are in USD and include Programme Support Cost - PSC)

<i>Component</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>Estimated Expenditures 2020 to 2023</i>
Component 1: Outreach	8,515	69,555	134,257	85,573	297,900
Component 2a: Technical Cooperation	20,355	34,240	122,712	33,055	210,361
Component 2b: Tagging/Indexing	10,737	154,938	68,897	34,526	269,099
Component 3: E-learning	84,707	152,930	72,286	49,938	359,861
Component 4: Goals	4,267	77,699	1,369	16,495	99,831
Terminal Review	-	-	25,312	-	25,312
Grand Total	128,581	489,361	424,834	219,588	1,262,363

Table 21. Report of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project estimated expenditure at operational completion date (30/06/2023) by funding source and project component (data source: UNEP; all figures are in USD and include Programme Support Cost - PSC)

<i>Component</i> <i>Programme Support Cost (PSC)</i>	<i>Environment Fund</i> <i>0%</i>	<i>Law Division</i> <i>13%</i>	<i>European Commission</i> <i>7%</i>	<i>Gov. of Austria</i> <i>13%</i>	<i>Gov. of Norway</i> <i>8%</i>	<i>Estimated Expenditures 2020 to 2023</i>
Component 1: Outreach	-	32,666	172,143	46,547	46,545	297,900
Component 2a: Technical Cooperation	-	5,321	192,997	1,243	10,800	210,361
Component 2b: Tagging/Indexing	19,905	86,889	162,305	-	-	269,099
Component 3: E-learning	90,908	129,197	139,756	-	-	359,861
Component 4: Goals	-	54,431	45,399	-	-	99,831
Terminal Review	-	25,312	-	-	-	25,312
Grand Total	110,813	333,816	712,599	47,790	57,345	1,262,363

Table 22. Ratio of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project estimated expenditure at operational completion date (30/06/2023) vs. the estimated cost at design, by project component (data source: UNEP; all figures are in USD and include Programme Support Cost - PSC)

<i>Component</i>	<i>Estimated cost at design</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure ratio (actual/planned)</i>
Component 1: Outreach	267,012	297,900	1.1
Component 2a: Technical Cooperation	254,614	210,361	0.8
Component 2b: Tagging/Indexing	340,116	269,099	0.8
Component 3: E-learning	380,605	359,861	0.9
Component 4: Goals	162,714	99,831	0.6
Terminal Review	36,012	25,312	0.7
Grand Total	1,441,073	1,262,363	0.9

152. Overall, the financial documentation provided was found comprehensive (though incomplete for the absence of an official final report), and the financial management is assessed as complying with UN Environment standards and procedures.

Rating for Financial Management:	Moderately Satisfactory
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5.6 Efficiency

153. While the *Effectiveness* section above has been focusing on the availability of outputs and outcome, as defined by the InforMEA Phase 3 project document, this *Efficiency* section, in line with this Terminal Review Terms of Reference, looks at the concept and design of the overall scope of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project, including an assessment of the appropriateness of the objectives, planned outputs, activities, and inputs as compared to cost-effective alternatives.

154. In looking at the multifaceted activity of the InforMEA Project, with special focus on its Phase 3 currently under review, it appears that the project has been following at least three very different (and not fully homogeneous) lines of activities for the benefit of various distinct groups of audience.

155. The main lines of activity of InforMEA Project, both in the current and in the previous phases, have been the following:

- a) *Data collection*: gathering digital data from MEA Secretariats and make them available online through a search engine interface enabled to categorize the information by pre-defined categories (i.e. Treaties, National Submissions, Law and Cases, Document and Literature, News and Events, Goals and Declarations, and Contact Hub), by topic (i.e. Biological Diversity, Chemical and Waste, Climate and Atmosphere, Environmental Governance, Land and Agriculture, and Marine and Freshwater), by geographical zone (i.e. Regions, Parties), by year and/or by source (i.e. where the data come from).
- b) *Semantic indexing*: applying to the collected data the most innovative semantic technology (including the almost pioneering use of *Artificial Intelligence* in this field) in order to: i) extract glossary(ies)/thesaurus and definition sets of the main terms and concepts common to most MEAs; and ii) use these terms to tag the large

document collection of the InforMEA repository, allow further filtering and categorization, and enable users to extract even more relevant and useful information.

c) *e-learning*: setting-up an educational platform offering free online courses on environmental topics to all interested users. These courses have been prepared by MEA Secretariats and/or by the InforMEA Team and offer certificates of completion that, in the aim of the initiative, could become part of larger educational curricula around the world.

156. These three main lines of work were implemented with difference target audience in mind. According to the Phase 3 Project Document, in facts, *InforMEA's primary stakeholders are identified as MEA national focal points, national government officials tasked with negotiating, implementing, and reporting of progress in the context of MEAs. In addition, the platform seeks to inform civil society, environmental lawyers, the judiciary, students and academics, officials from international organizations, and UN country teams working on mainstreaming environmental goals into development targets.*

157. In addition to the above, the stakeholder analysis of the Phase 3 Project Document, recognizes, among the project key player stakeholders, the *MEA Secretariats as the main contributors and beneficiaries of this project* and identifies them as *closely engaged with each other through the InforMEA Initiative, forming a community practicing resource and knowledge sharing across their institutions.*

158. As already pointed out by the MTR, the different range of activities, as well as the extent of the different type of interests of the audience groups, raise some questions on why UNEP is dealing with all these extremely important issues with so limited resources in terms both of personnel and budget (and, all of it, within a single project).

159. The type of *data collection* activity is currently unique in UNEP, and most certainly in UN too and, alone, would deserve more encouragement and resources. In giving for granted the main steps defined in the project *Theory of Change* (i.e. *that a common repository of documentation on MEAs and IEL is the basis for enhanced access and searchability, and that this enhancement will allow countries to implement international commitments to protect the environment in a more coherent, effective and efficient manner*) it would appear more efficient, as per this Terminal Review assessment, an activity specifically dedicated to this task with specific resources and a stronger mandate (and/or higher level agreement) within UNEP, and among the over 200 existing MEAs.

160. As of today, on this specific issue, the InforMEA project has demonstrated that a digital sharing among MEAs is possible and the project is effectively alone in leading the way forward. On the other hand, the limited resources available and the lack of a common drive, and/or will, among all MEAs Secretariats, has allowed interoperability just among 27 partners and institutions, and very little sharing among the about 90 treaties present on the InforMEA platform (see *Table 9* and *Annex V*). In looking at appropriateness of the objectives, as compared to cost-effective alternatives, it would seem more logical, as per this Terminal Review, that a larger dedicated framework, possibly supported by official decisions at higher UNEP levels, could be uniquely dedicated to continue building this information sharing mechanism, and bring it to completion, at least within UNEP capability, while offering its help to external MEAs⁶⁴.

161. The *semantic indexing* is, as per this Terminal Review assessment, a crucial work to be conducted on the shared documents in order to allow better indexing and search. The basic concept of

⁶⁴ In an interview it has been suggested that InforMEA could host/support the website presence of small MEAs in order to both offer them a functional digital infrastructure and facilitate the gathering/share of relevant data.

this activity assumes that a document repository is available, but does not necessarily imply that the same group of people, in charge of granting MEAs interoperability, is also in charge to carry on and implement this analysis. The overlapping of these two different activities on the same team clashes on two different aspects: the over-stretching of the limited resources allocated for any of these activities and the necessary different skills and background needed to carry them on.

162. Notwithstanding the limited resources available, the InforMEA Team managed to conclude the tagging analysis of the available documentation on the Sustainable Development Goals and proved that the use of advanced technology in this line of work could gain significant progresses.

163. The extraction of relevant data from official documents (e.g. from national reports on implementation of environmental treaties) is also at the basis of all the *Digital Transformations Priorities* set up by the UNEP digital transformation plan and, as per this Terminal Review, it seems inefficient to keep the progresses and results obtained by the InforMEA Team on this aspect as a separate activity from the larger digital transformation on which UNEP is currently investing much larger resources.

164. The *e-learning* activity has been without doubts a great success of the InforMEA Initiative and the 53 courses currently available and the almost 50 thousands certifications issued so far are, as per this Terminal Review, a clear evidence of it. This line of activity was started by InforMEA as a further gathering and sharing of e-learning courses, *ad-hoc* developed by different MEAs, and most MEA Secretariats welcomed the establishment of a repository of these courses that, otherwise (i.e. if only available through the MEAs websites), could be somehow less reachable by a wider audience.

165. Once again, as for the two previous lines of activities already analyzed in this section, InforMEA has been the successful solution to an existent problem and the same limited resources (once again, in terms of both finance and personnel) were used just because they were available. However, at the end of a project phase, and in looking at appropriateness of the objectives as compared to cost-effective alternatives, it would seem more logical that a dedicated initiative in UNEP, with specific resources and skills, would deal with the crucial aspect of education on environmental issues as a part of the more general UNEP mandate.

166. All the above is meant to underline the extreme efficiency, assessed by this Terminal Review, of the InforMEA Project Team, which has been able to successfully manage the pressure of all these different audiences and tasks with impressively positive results. It is also meant to underline the inefficient use of resources in UNEP by tasking a small team with responsibilities that would have been more adequate to be managed in three different projects/activities, with different focus and staff, and that, in most cases, also overlap in scope with a major plan, such as the UNEP digital transformation, on which UNEP is investing much more in terms of resources and mandate.

167. In focusing then on Project efficiency, this Terminal Review considers that the lack of efficiency in the *monitoring of data quality*, pointed out by the MTR, has been successfully addressed and resolved (see section on effectiveness, *Indicator 2.1*).

168. On the other hand, the *outreach* impediment (also highlighted by the MTR as lack of awareness about InforMEA among NFPs and Negotiators, identified as the primary group of stakeholders), clearly remains and appears even more significant when looking at the Terminal Review surveys and interview results (e.g. 60% of the NFPs/Negotiators addressed by the Terminal Review survey stated not being familiar with the InforMEA Portal) when compared to the MTR results (45% of the respondents, belonging to different audience groups, stated not being familiar). This NFPs/Negotiators lack of awareness is considered by this Terminal Review as the main obstacle in the achievement of the project plan and it is highlighted, among others, in this

section because it is also a relevant element of low efficiency when considering that the major group of stakeholders is largely unaware of everything the Project is doing for them.

169. An additional and minor inefficiency, only in terms of project design and not of significant impact on the results, has been assessed on the definition and measuring of the logical frame indicators (see section on *Monitoring and Reporting*), which have often resulted either too vague and not easily measurable or unmonitored and therefore useless.

170. In both cases addressed above (lack of efficiency in outreach and poor indicator management and monitoring) it is clearly feasible, as per this Terminal Review assessment, to increase significantly the efficiency of follow up activities, by including more accurate and targeted definitions of project outputs by stakeholders group and *ad-hoc* indicators, inclusive of monitoring systems to be set in place since the beginning of the new project and frequently measured (e.g. every three months) in order to impact on the pace and priorities of all related activities.

Rating for Efficiency: Moderately Satisfactory
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5.7 Monitoring and Reporting

171. According to the Review Criteria provided by UNEP⁶⁵, *each project should be supported by a sound monitoring plan that is designed to track progress against SMART⁶⁶ results towards the provision of the project's outputs and achievement of project outcomes*. In particular, the Terminal Review is required to *assess the relevance and appropriateness of the project indicators as well as the methods used for tracking progress against them as part of conscious results-based management*.

172. In looking in details at this aspect, the setting up of both *Google Analytics* and *Moodle Dashboard* monitoring systems has allowed the InforMEA Project to effectively measure progresses on both the general audience of the whole platform and on the more complex interaction of students with the e-learning opportunities offered by the initiative.

173. The Project Team, however, has not taken the best advantage of both infrastructures, by not investing enough time and resources, as per this Terminal Review assessment, in setting up easily readable reporting templates (a feature potentially available in both infrastructures) that could have been used in providing more reliable data in project activity reports and in the project reviews.

174. Other than the above mentioned monitoring systems, the project results, outputs and indicators have been monitored with different degrees of details. In particular this Terminal Review found no effective monitoring system in place for indicators 0.2, 0.3, 1.2, 2.2, 4.1 and 4.2 (see sections on *Quality of Project Design* and *Effectiveness*).

175. In following up a specific request of the InforMEA Project Manager, this Terminal Review is proposing, in *Table 23*, some suggestions for new indicators, which could possibly be considered in measuring the results currently drafted for the Phase 4 Proposal of the InforMEA project (the baselines proposed are those already assessed by this Terminal Review, while targets are all to be defined).

⁶⁵ Independent Evaluation Tools and Templates; UNEP Evaluation Office, 2023.

⁶⁶ SMART refers to results that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-oriented. Indicators help to make results measurable.

Table 23. Suggested indicators to be used for measuring the results currently drafted for the Phase 4 Proposal of the InforMEA Project.

Currently drafted results for the Phase 4 Proposal of the InforMEA Project	Proposed Indicators
<i>Project Outcome:</i> Stakeholders have strengthened institutional capacity in collaboratively sharing information and knowledge, enhanced uptake of which leads to their more effectively addressing of environmental challenges.	<i>Indicator 0.1: Number of visitors of the main InforMEA Portal</i> (to be measured, through Google Analytics, on a three/six month interval; for baselines, as of June 2023, see Table 5): • Number of visitors since Phase 4 inception; • Number of visitors from developing countries since Phase 4 inception; • Percentage of returning visitors since Phase 4 inception.
	<i>Indicator 0.2: Number of MEA Secretariats making available their documents through the InforMEA Portal</i> (to be measured, through the counter available at the at the "All treaties and MEAs" page of the InforMEA Portal, on a three/six month interval; for baselines, as of June 2023, see Table 9): • Total number of Treaties listed • Availability of official Text(s), Protocol(s), Amendment(s) • Availability of Strategic Plan(s) • Availability of Decisions • Availability of National Reports • Availability of National Plans • Availability of other documents • Availability of Contacts
	<i>Indicator 0.3: Overall appreciation of the InforMEA services by the Government stakeholders listed in the InforMEA Contact Hub</i> (to be measured through MTR and Terminal Review surveys; for baselines, as of June 2023, see Terminal Review Survey of InforMEA stakeholders' results in <i>Annex I</i>): • Familiarity with the portals/services; • Overall satisfaction.
<i>Project Output 1:</i> MEA Secretariats collaboration is expanded, and institutional capacity strengthened to enhance interoperability and semantic indexing	<i>Indicator 1.1: Number of MEA Secretariats successfully sharing their documents through interoperability</i> (to be measured through the OData API functional status and the migration reports documents, on a three/six month interval; for baselines, as of June 2023, see Table 8).

	<i>Indicator 1.2: Number of Glossary/Thesaurus terms used for indexing shared documents</i> (to be measured vs. the terms contained in the InforMEA Glossary page - 602 terms as of Jan 2024 - on a three/six month interval; baseline to be defined).
	<i>Indicator 1.3: Number of shared documents indexed by the Working Group and made available through the InforMEA Portal.</i> (It is suggested that through the search engine of the Portal it could be possible: a) to specifically search indexed documents and b) that the complete list of all indexed documents could be easily retrieved; baseline to be defined).
	<i>Indicator 1.4: Qualitative feedback provided by MEA focal points</i> (to be measured through MTR and Terminal Review surveys; for baselines, as of June 2023, see Collection of MEAs inputs in <i>Annex I</i> and, specifically, ratings in Table 19).
<i>Project Output 2:</i> Stakeholders have access to updated and expanded learning material and knowledge /services on InforMEA and its related tools	<i>Indicator 2.1: Number of visitors of the InforMEA e-learning Portal</i> (to be measured through Google Analytics, on a three/six month interval; for baselines, as of June 2023, see Table 6): • Number of visitors since Phase 4 inception; • Number of visitors from developing countries since Phase 4 inception; • Percentage of returning visitors since Phase 4 inception.
	<i>Indicator 2.2: Number of registered users of the InforMEA e-learning Portal</i> (to be measured through the InforMEA e-learning dashboard, on a three/six month interval; for baselines, as of June 2023, see Table 11): • Number of registered users since Phase 4 inception; • Breakdowns of registered users, since Phase 4 inception, by geographical origin (e.g. developing countries), gender and category of users (e.g. governmental agencies, universities, groups of interest); a specific survey targeting registered users could be used for this purpose.

	<i>Indicator 2.3: Number of active courses available from the InforMEA e-learning Portal (to be measured through the InforMEA e-learning dashboard, on a three/six month interval; for baselines, as of June 2023, see Table 12):</i> • Number of active courses by year; • Number of enrolments since Phase 4 inception; • Number of certifications since Phase 4 inception; • Completion rate (%) by year.
<i>Project Output 3: InforMEA is better known among its core user groups due to enhanced outreach, and an improved user interface based on feedback.</i>	<i>Indicator 3.1: Number of InforMEA national environmental authorities with confirmed InforMEA contact points (no baseline available)</i>
	<i>Indicator 3.2: Number of direct communications (e.g. newsletters) mailed to all stakeholders, including the list of contacts available in the InforMEA Contact Hub (to be measured through the information made available in an ad hoc Outreach page, made available on the main InforMEA Portal; baseline to be defined).</i>
	<i>Indicator 3.3: Number of stakeholders from the InforMEA Contact Hub participating to surveys (to be measured through MTR and Terminal Review surveys; for baselines, as of June 2023, see Survey of InforMEA stakeholders' results in Annex I).</i>
	<i>Indicator 3.4: Qualitative feedback provided by users of the InforMEA platform's services, including the list of contacts available in the InforMEA Contact Hub, broken down by geographical origin (e.g. developing countries) gender and category of users (e.g. governmental agencies, universities, groups of interest). To be measured through MTR and Terminal Review surveys (for baselines, as of June 2023, see Survey of InforMEA stakeholders' results in Annex I and, specifically, rating in Table 18):</i>

176. Within the limitations produced by the poor monitoring of some indicators mentioned above, the project produced two intermediate activity reports and three intermediate financial reports; that reporting is assessed, by this Terminal Review, as *moderately satisfactory*. However, the absence of final reports, on both finance and results, by the time this Terminal Review was conducted, is assessed as an important limitation to its scope.

Rating for Monitoring and Reporting: Moderately Unsatisfactory

5.8 Sustainability

177. The overall value of the data shared, the semantic analysis and the e-learning opportunities offered by the InforMEA Initiative, is directly related to the continuous update of the data and the continuance of these activities. This is to say that the way the InforMEA Initiative is designed, much of its produced value will cease to exist with the end of the project activities.

178. As for the MTR before, this Terminal Review assesses sustainability as the critical point, or the *key weakness*, of this project. As already mentioned, the establishment of a UNEP *Collective Intelligence Unit* unit is hereby considered an important step toward ensuring some sustainability of the produced values; however it is still the general idea of a *project*, in charge of building up an important digital infrastructure, that is not convincing in this context. A wider vision, where the technical activities of the InforMEA Team could merge with the broader UNEP plans on digital transformation, would ensure, according to this Terminal Review, more solid grounds for both financial and institutional sustainability.

179. One more critical element in the sustainability assessment is the *joint MEAs mandate on knowledge management and cooperation/synergies* (as defined by one of the project drivers in the project document *Theory of Change*). While the existence of this driver is currently confirmed for the 28 MEA and Partner Institutions actively sharing (or attempting to share) their data through the interoperability mechanism, there is a much larger number of MEAs that for different reasons have not chosen (yet) to take part in the *Initiative*. This Terminal Review suggests that the critical mass of shared data offered by the InforMEA platform is a significant element for granting sustainability to the whole *Initiative* and invites UNEP to invest, in follow up activities, on ensuring that more MEAs Secretariats might critically consider the advantages of taking part to the InforMEA Initiative.

180. The InforMEA Phase 3 Project is considered, by this Terminal Review, as *likely* to achieve its desired impact. However, this Terminal Review assessment concurs with the MTR in stating that *the sustainability risk of this whole process comes out [...] as 'high' and could cause significant negative impact on MEAs and UNEP, unless the project activities are moved under a more solid umbrella and mainstreamed on more solid basis in the main UNEP PoW.*

Rating for Sustainability:	Likely
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6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

181. It has been mentioned several times in this review, and even before by the MTR, that the InforMEA Phase 3 Project has been operating, as for its ambitious design, with a “heavy luggage” of non homogenous activities aimed to achieve different goals set for, and by, different audience and/or target groups. Notwithstanding the serious challenges posed by this diversification, the Project has successfully managed, according to this Terminal Review, to make available all the outputs and meet the main outcome, as defined in its project document and confirmed by the findings discussed in the previous section.

182. The success of this Project however, again according to this Terminal Review assessment, is by far due to the unwavering dedication of its enlarged team (composed by the Project Team and the MEAs officers of the Working Group) rather than to an efficient project which, if better supported in term of personnel and financial resources, could have, possibly, allowed much better results.

183. On the other hand, and as an added value to what has been accomplished by the Project, it is undeniable the central role that InforMEA has been playing in the past years in creating a community forum for partner MEAs where common approaches have been developed (and solutions shared) on knowledge management, information sharing, semantic analysis, outreach and e-learning.

184. In looking at the Terminal Review main responsibilities, as identified in its *Term of Reference*, the main conclusions of this review are the following:

- i. *The InforMEA Phase 3 Project has been effective, and its approaches have been appropriate, in establishing and implementing partnerships aimed to deliver the project and engaging with MEAs and other international organizations.*
- ii. *There has been a great effort by UNEP and the Project Team in capturing and operationalizing the lessons learned and the recommendations contained in the Phase 3 MTR.*
- iii. *In considering the highly balanced gender ratio in the list of registered users of the e-learning platform, it is confirmed that the project managed to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender into project implementation.*

185. Furthermore, in looking at ToR's Specific Tasks and Responsibilities (i.e. assessing the concept and design of the project, including of appropriateness of the objectives, outputs, activities, and inputs as compared to cost-effective alternatives), an additional conclusion of this Terminal Review is that *the excessive diversification of project targets, without the addition of adequate human and financial resources, has significantly limited the project efficiency* and it is recommended that future follow up of this Project should seriously consider the possibility of branching the activities encompassed by Phase 3 in different programs, managed by different teams.

186. In particular, it is envisioned that a possible follow up of the Project activities should be focusing, as its main priority, on *gathering information/data from MEAs* and aiming at increasing the number/quality of the shared data as well as the number of Treaties/MEAs which set up interoperability mechanisms for sharing their documents with the InforMEA platform.

187. It is suggested that the long-term goal of the InforMEA Initiative should aim to slowly incorporate documents from the more-than-200 environmental agreements currently existing, by offering specific and *ad hoc* assistance to all Secretariats, either in terms of setting compatible APIs on their servers or by directly hosting, when feasible and accepted by the Secretariats, their document repositories (or the whole treaty website) on the InforMEA server/platform.

188. This suggested line of activity, would necessarily require UNEP guidelines/decisions at a higher level than InforMEA could afford on itself and, as mentioned, should be somehow associated with the larger UNEP Digital Transformation process in order to gain from synergism and avoid duplication of activities.

189. In considering the many different *status* of the hundreds of existing environmental treaties, it is suggested that it could be more efficient for UNEP to set up different guidelines for the MEA Secretariats directly hosted by UNEP vs. those managed independently or by other Programs/Institutions, in order to allocate and maintain a priority channel for the incorporation of the whole content of UNEP-based repositories on the InforMEA Portal.

190. It is also suggested that, in the following up of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project activities, it is enlisted the compilation of an updated list of all existing Treaties/MEAs⁶⁷ and the periodical report on the status of each Treaty/Agreement in relation to interoperability with InforMEA and an update of the specific activities carried on to secure each of these integrations with the InforMEA Platform.

191. Having identified the limited number of staff directly assigned to the project as one the weakest point of the Project Design, this Terminal Review is also providing in these conclusions some consideration on the number of human resources required to carry on future activities. On a very general estimation, based on previous and similar experiences, the above mentioned activities alone (gathering information/data from MEAs), would require in terms of staff, at least one *knowledge management specialist* (for the setting and maintenance of the user data interface) and one *IT specialist* (for coordinating and managing the implementation and monitoring of all the project-related APIs); in addition, a project *Task Manager* could take care, beside the supervision of the overall activities, of the relations with all MEA Secretariats. A proper budget should then be calculated in consideration of the large number of contractors/consultants that would be needed by the project to achieve its goals, with the understanding that the role of the team specialists mentioned above would be limited to managing and coordinative activities.

192. Different considerations apply to the other lines of activities conducted by the InforMEA Phase 3 Project.

193. On *semantic analysis and indexing*, the conclusions of this Terminal Review are *that the current project has clearly shown a good and functional approach on this subject; however, it is suggested that the continuation of this activity should be carried on by specialists, specifically selected for this purpose, and coordinated within the wider framework of the UNEP Digital Transformation process.*

194. In particular, in looking at the indexing activity from the users point of view, it could be useful to highlight (e.g. within the Glossary/Thesaurus page) a list of the indexed terms with links to the associated texts/paragraphs of the InforMEA shared repository, in order to facilitate users' wider searches on specific subjects.

195. Though it is strongly suggested to carry on this important activity on a separate budget, the continuation of the semantic indexing within the InforMEA Initiative would require, as for this Terminal Review assessment, at least the addition of one *semantic specialist* to the Team, with proper technical skills, for coordinating both the activities of the Working Group on this aspect and the presentation of their results on the InforMEA Platform. Once again a proper budget should be considered for the outsourcing of most of the text analysis.

196. The *e-learning platform*, as mentioned, is assessed by this Terminal Review as the most successful component of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project. Based on the above findings, the conclusions of this Terminal Review on this aspect are that *the managing by the InforMEA Team of the e-learning platform, including the registrations of users, enrolments and certifications is definitely an important asset for UNEP; however, the activity of the e-courses preparation, content management and update are suggested to be carried on exclusively by MEA staff or by specialists specifically contracted by the MEA Secretariats for this purpose.*

197. The reasons, for this Terminal Review, for recommending no further authoring or participation in the development of future e-courses are based on two different considerations: a) the view that the InforMEA Initiative should aim to gain a clearer and more definite identity,

⁶⁷ A suggested major reference for this list would be an update of the *Register of International Treaties and other Agreements in the field of the Environment* (UNEP/Env. Law/2005/3).

both in UNEP and among the MEAs and their NFPs, by focusing its efforts, as much as possible, on increasing the quality and number of shared MEAs' data/documents, and b) the view that educational activities should be developed within a dedicated and overall UN/UNEP framework, by specialists specifically selected for this purpose.

198. It is suggested, therefore, that the gathering on the InforMEA platform of all access links to existing educational tools developed by MEA Secretariats is definitely a good service to the wider community of environmental students, practitioners and governmental officers. On the other hand, it is also suggested that these tools should be properly developed by dedicated professionals, possibly under specific UN or UNEP Guidelines and with much stronger links to the academic world and other professional communities which could promote and assist the integration of these courses in larger curricula of studies.

199. If limited to the simple management of the e-learning platform (as suggested above), future activities on this aspect could be administered, according to this Terminal Review, by the addition of one additional, dedicated, *assistant / technical operator* to the Team staff. Should the future activities encompass the development of new e-courses, it is strongly recommended that at least *two e-learning specialists* are added to the team.

200. Finally, on *outreach*, the conclusions of this Terminal Review are that *UNEP might greatly increase the efficiency of the InforMEA activities by better defining the main targets of this Initiative so that the InforMEA Team might focus its outreach activities on a selected audience*. If the main targets of InforMEA are identified with the MEA Secretariats, then the whole operation should become purely technical, with no front-line activities from InforMEA, and the whole of the outreach activities could be entirely passed to the MEA Secretariats which would decide, according to their specific needs, when and how promoting, within their respective audience, the advantages of sharing on a single platform all MEAs digital products.

201. On the other hand, should the primary stakeholders and targets of the InforMEA Initiative remain the *national focal points, national government officials tasked with negotiating, implementing, and reporting of progress in the context of MEAs*, then future InforMEA activities are strongly recommended to focus on the continuous interaction with its main stakeholders, by clearly establishing contact persons in each environmental authority of the UN member states and providing, through them, constant updates to NFPs and negotiators on the services provided by InforMEA to this large community.

202. It is the view of this Terminal Review that this second option would necessarily require one additional *outreach specialist* to the Team and a dedicated budget for the periodical organization of capacity building workshops (to be conducted physically or online) for the proper use of the InforMEA Platform by the NFPs/Negotiators who are constantly subject to a very fast turn-over and have loudly requested this type of training through survey and interviews

203. In the end, the Terminal Review is also asked, in its ToR, to *explore opportunities for UNEP to position itself as the anchor for cooperation and synergies among the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)*.

204. It has been mentioned that the InforMEA Initiative operates with good support from some partner MEAs, but in an extremely fragmented context due to: a) the existence of more than 200 environmental treaties, within many different institutions, and b) the implementation, in these institutions, of different knowledge management systems used for the management/storage/archiving of their digital resources.

205. It is the assessment of this Terminal Review that the InforMEA approach to this diversification is a solid one and that, in order to develop a compact and flexible repository of the overall MEAs digital documentation (necessary for cross-indexing and further analysis), the

export/migration of these data through APIs (the InforMEA interoperability mechanism) is a simple and inexpensive process compared to existing alternatives.

206. It is then suggested that, *by reaching out to each and every one of the environmental treaties' Secretariats and offering them concrete assistance (both in terms of financial and technical support) in developing further accessibility to their digital documentation through the InforMEA Platform, UNEP could gain a unique and advantageous position in both leading the MEAs digital transformation process and developing the largest repository world-wide of environmental law documentation.*

207. Overall, the establishment of the *Collective Intelligence Unit* in UNEP Law Division is assessed, by this Terminal Review, as an important step toward the above proposed process, as well as toward the sustainability of the InforMEA Initiative; however, it is strongly recommended the full integration of these activities within the UNEP Digital Transformation (DT) Subprogramme in order to gain the maximum synergy from all these efforts.

208. *Table 24* provides a summary of the ratings and finding discussed in Section 5. The overall rating of the Phase III of the InforMEA Project is assessed as *Satisfactory*⁶⁸.

UNEP Evaluation Office Validation of Performance Ratings:

The UNEP Evaluation Office formally quality assesses (see Annex IX) management led Terminal Review reports and validates the performance ratings therein by ensuring that the performance judgments made are consistent with evidence presented in the Review report and in-line with the performance standards set out for independent evaluations.

The Evaluation Office assesses a Terminal Review report in the same way as it assesses the initial draft of a Terminal Evaluation report. It applies the following assumptions in its validation process:

- That what is being assessed is the contents of the report and the extent to which it makes a consistent and justifiable case for the performance ratings it records.
- That the consultant has, within the report, presented all the evidence that was made available to them.
- That the Review has been based on a robust Theory of Change, reconstructed where necessary, which reflects UNEP's definitions at all levels of results.
- That the project team and key stakeholders have already reviewed a draft version of the report and provided substantive comments and made factual corrections to the Review Consultant, who has responded to them. The Evaluation Office assumes, therefore, that it has received the Final (revised) version of the report.

In this instance the Evaluation Office assesses the quality of the Report at the Satisfactory level and validates the overall project performance rating at the **'Satisfactory'** level.

Table 24. Summary of project findings and ratings

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Finding summary</i>	<i>Rating</i>	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
Strategic Relevance			Rating is validated	HS
Strategic Relevance	The InforMEA Phase 3 Project is fully integrated in UNEP activity and fully in line with its Programme of Work (PoW), Medium- Term Strategy (MTS) and Strategic Priorities (SPs). Outcome and Outputs of the Project are also fully in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16 and 17, with UNEP Foundational subprogramme on Environmental Governance and with UNEP PoW 2020-2021 and PoW 2022 -2023.	Highly Satisfactory	1. Alignment to UNEP's MTS, POW and strategic priorities 2. Alignment to Donor/Partner strategic priorities 3. Relevance to regional, sub-regional and national environmental priorities 4. Complementarity with relevant existing interventions <i>Complements UNEP's new approach to digital transformations in its own Subprogramme and some named projects.</i>	HS HS HS S
Quality of Project Design	The definition of the Phase 3 Project design was heavily affected by the accumulation of different activities initiated in the previous phases; the result was of an ambitious design with extremely limited resources in terms of both personnel and budget. An additional weakness identified was the lack of a planned systematic monitoring, as well as the poor definition in the design, of some project indicators.	Satisfactory	Rating is validated	S
Nature of External Context	The InforMEA Initiative operates with good support from MEAs personnel, but in an extremely fragmented context due to the diversification of the knowledge management systems (KMS) adopted by the MEAs. This diversification, added to some resistance from MEAs Secretariats to invest into the interoperability, remain an outstanding problem that the current phase has not fully solved yet.	Moderately Favourable	Rating is validated <i>The consultant takes an unusual perspective on Nature of External Context, and the rating is adjusted</i>	F

⁶⁸ The Overall Project Performance Rating was calculated according to the Weighted Ratings Table produced by the Evaluation Office of UNEP available at <https://communities.unep.org/display/EOU/INDEPENDENT+EVALUATION+TOOLS+AND+TEMPLATES>

Criterion	Finding summary	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
Effectiveness			Rating is validated	S
Effectiveness	A better access to information and knowledge on MEAs and IEL has been provided, by InforMEA Phase 3 project, to a large audience. On the other hand, the limited impact of the Project outreach activities has been only partially effective in transferring the knowledge of this improved access to NFPs and negotiators, identified in the project document as its main group of stakeholders.	Satisfactory	1. Availability of outputs 2. Achievement of project outcomes 3. Likelihood of impact	S S L
			Rating validated	MS
Financial Management	The financial documentation provided was found comprehensive, though incomplete for lack of its final report, and the financial management is assessed as complying with UN Environment standards and procedures.	Moderately Satisfactory	1. Adherence to UNEP's policies and procedures 2. Completeness of project financial information	MS MS
Efficiency	The results obtained by the Phase 3 Project, notwithstanding the diversification of the tasked activities, are proposed as evidences of the Project efficiency. However, it is also highlighted the inefficient use of resources in tasking a small team with responsibilities that would have been more adequate to be managed in three different projects and that, in most cases, also overlap in scope with a major plan, such as the UNEP digital transformation, on which UNEP is investing much more in terms of resources and mandate.	Moderately Satisfactory	Rating validated	MS
			Rating validated	MU

Monitoring and Reporting	Within the limitations produced by the poor monitoring of some indicators, the project produced two main intermediate reports and that reporting is assessed, by this Terminal Review, as satisfactory. However, the absence of final reports, on both finance and results, by the time this Terminal Review was conducted, is assessed as an important limitation to its scope.	Moderately Unsatisfactory	<i>1. Monitoring of project implementation</i> <i>2. Project reporting</i>	MU MS
Sustainability	The InforMEA Phase 3 Project is considered as <i>likely</i> to achieve its desired impact. However, the sustainability risk of this whole process comes out as <i>high</i> and could cause significant negative impact on MEAs and UNEP, unless the project activities are moved under a more solid umbrella and mainstreamed on more solid basis in the main UNEP PoW.	Likely	Rating validated <i>The EOU notes that ratings were not provided for each of the sub-categories.</i> <i>1. Socio-political sustainability</i> <i>2. Financial sustainability</i> <i>3. Institutional sustainability</i>	L
Factors Affecting Performance			Not rated <i>The Evaluation Office notes that no ratings were provided for this criterion and these sub-categories.</i> <i>1. Quality of project management and supervision</i> <i>1.1 UNEP/Implementing Agency:</i> <i>1.2 Partners/Executing Agency:</i> <i>2. Stakeholders participation and cooperation</i> <i>3. Responsiveness to human rights and gender equality</i> <i>4. Environmental and social safeguards</i> <i>5. Country ownership and driven-ness</i> <i>6. Communication and public awareness</i>	Not Rated
Overall Project Performance Rating	The InforMEA Phase 3 Project has been operating, as for its ambitious design, with a heavy luggage of non homogenous activities aimed to achieve different goals set for, and by, different audience and/or target groups. Notwithstanding the serious challenges posed by this diversification, the Project has successfully managed, to make available all the outputs and meet the main outcome, as defined in its project document and confirmed by the findings discussed in section 5.	Satisfactory	Rating validated	S

6.2 Lessons learned

Lesson Learned #1:	<i>Synergy among MEAs is the key for successful progress toward developing better access and understanding of international environmental laws.</i>
Context/comment:	The success of the InforMEA Project is by far due to the unwavering dedication of its enlarged team composed by the Project Team and the MEAs officers of the Working Group.
Cross-reference(s) to rationale and supporting discussions:	See Sections on Quality of Project Design and Conclusions

Lesson Learned #2:	<i>The identification of clear priorities in project design is fundamental in the definition of targets, activities, indicators, as well of the human resources and budget needed to accomplish the desired goals.</i>
Context/comment:	The InforMEA Phase 3 Project has been overstretched to carry on very different (and not fully homogeneous) lines of activities for the benefit of various distinct groups of audience.
Cross-reference(s) to rationale and supporting discussions:	See Section on Efficiency

Lesson Learned #3:	<i>Efficient monitoring plans should be designed in order to track progress against SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-oriented) results towards the provision of the project's outputs and achievement of project outcomes.</i>
Context/comment:	Some of the project indicators were poorly defined in terms of verifiability, but the main problem in the project design was the lack of active measures in place aimed to monitor them and, more in general, to systematically produce an assessment of the many results that the InforMEA activity has been producing.
Cross-reference(s) to rationale and supporting discussions:	See Sections on Quality of Project Design and Monitoring and Reporting

6.3 Recommendations

Recommendation #1:	<i>Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should be planned in full integration with the UNEP Digital Transformation Subprogramme in order to gain the maximum synergy from the combined efforts.</i>
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	This Terminal Review has highlighted an overlapping in the areas of activities and an apparent lack of coordination between InforMEA and the UNEP Digital Transformation Subprogramme.
Priority Level:	Critical
Type of Recommendation / Responsibility:	UNEP-wide
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Before any further approval of follow up activities
Cross-reference(s) to rationale and supporting discussions:	See Sections on Strategic Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Conclusions

Recommendation #2:	<i>Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should either assign the carry-over of former project activities to different UNEP teams, or build up a larger UNEP Team which a) includes programme officers with different specializations (i.e. knowledge management, IT, semantic, e-learning and outreach) and b) could rely on a proper budget for the management of the necessary consultants/contractors as well as for the funding of capacity building activities (i.e. training NFPs/Negotiators in the use of the InforMEA Platform).</i>
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	The InforMEA Project has been overstretched to carry on very different (and not fully homogeneous) lines of activities for the benefit of various distinct groups of audience.
Priority Level:	Critical
Type of Recommendation / Responsibility:	UNEP-wide OR Activity level (depending on UNEP decision)
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Before any further approval of follow up activities
Cross-reference(s) to rationale and supporting discussions:	See Sections on Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Conclusions

Recommendation #3:	<i>Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should include: a) the compilation of an updated list of all existing MEAs and b) periodical reports on the status of each Treaty/Agreement in relation to its interoperability with the InforMEA Platform for the sharing of their digital documentation.</i>
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	A very limited group of MEAs has been so far participating in the digital data exchange (interoperability mechanism) and the Project has not yet gathered a significant number of partner MEAs.
Priority Level:	Important
Type of Recommendation / Responsibility:	Activity level
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Within the first year after approval of follow up activities
Cross-reference(s) to rationale and supporting discussions:	See Sections on Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Conclusions

Recommendation #4:	<i>Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should aim to incorporate, in the InforMEA repository, digital documents from the more than 200 environmental agreements currently existing.</i>
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	A very limited group of MEAs has been so far participating in the digital data exchange (interoperability mechanism) and the Project has not yet gathered a significant number of partner MEAs.
Priority Level:	Important
Type of Recommendation / Responsibility:	Activity level
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Long-term activity
Cross-reference(s) to rationale and supporting discussions:	See Sections on Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Conclusions

Recommendation #5:	<i>Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should be planned in order to assist available environmental treaties' Secretariats (both in terms of financial and technical support) to either set up functional APIs for InforMEA interoperability on their servers, or transfer their digital repositories on more functional servers, for the sharing of their digital documentation with the InforMEA repository.</i>
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	Many MEA Secretariats have not joined (or have withdrawn from) the interoperability mechanism for lack of the necessary human, technical or financial resources.
Priority Level:	Important
Type of Recommendation / Responsibility:	Activity level
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Long-term activity to be started just after the approval of follow up activities
Cross-reference(s) to rationale and supporting discussions:	See Sections on Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Conclusions

Recommendation #6:	<i>Should follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project confirm NFPs and national government officials operating in the context of MEAs as the main group of stakeholders, it is recommended to establish InforMEA national contact points in all environmental authorities worldwide for improving the efficiency of outreach activities.</i>
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	InforMEA has not established yet a functional channel of communication with its main group of stakeholders.
Priority Level:	Important
Type of Recommendation / Responsibility:	Activity level
Proposed implementation time-frame:	First year after approval of follow up activities
Cross-reference(s) to rationale and supporting discussions:	See Sections on Effectiveness, Efficiency and Conclusions

Annex I. Survey texts, logic and results

Terminal Review of the InforMEA Phase III - Survey of InforMEA stakeholders

Note: Questions marked with an asterisk were mandatory

Survey Questions	Responses / Options	Results	%
InforMEA is the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). It is a one-stop portal for information on MEAs, searchable by key terms across treaty texts, COP decisions, national plans and reports, laws, court decisions and more. This survey is part of the Terminal Review of the InforMEA Phase III project and addresses all main InforMEA stakeholders, with a special focus to MEAs' National Focal Points (NFPs), identified by the project as the primary stakeholder group. Thank you for assisting this review in assessing how much this project has been beneficial to your activity as MEA-NFP for your country.			
Section 1 - The main InforMEA Portal			
Q1. Are you familiar with the main InforMEA Portal at https://www.informea.org? *	Number of Responses:	304	100%
	Yes	122	40%
	No	182	60%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	57 comments	19%
Note on survey logic: if user answer is "Yes" it continues to question 2 otherwise it jumps to section 2			
Q2. On average, how often do you use the main InforMEA Portal (at https://www.informea.org?)*	Number of Responses:	98	100%
	More than once a week	9	9%
	At least once a week	11	11%
	More than once a month	21	21%
	More than three times a year	27	28%
	At least once a year	19	19%
	Less than once a year	11	11%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	10 comments	19%
Q3. In the current year have you increased your use of the main InforMEA Portal (at https://www.informea.org) in respect to the past?*	Number of Responses:	98	100%
	Yes	48	49%
	No	50	51%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	12 comments	12%

Survey Questions	Responses / Options	Results	%
Q4. Which are the section(s) of the main InforMEA Portal (at https://www.informea.org) you use more often? (please indicate from min. 1 to max. 3 sections)*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	98	100%
	All categories search engine	22	22%
	Treaties	54	55%
	Parties	23	23%
	Law & Cases	12	12%
	Events	34	35%
	Glossary	11	11%
	Goals	7	7%
	Negotiator's toolkit	24	24%
	Documents and Literature	30	31%
	Contacts Hub	3	3%
	About InforMEA	9	9%
	Free online courses	36	37%
	Browse all	5	5%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	10 comments	10%
Q5. In general, on a scale from 0 (very difficult) to 5 (very easy), how easy is it for you to find the information you are looking for on the main InforMEA Portal (at https://www.informea.org)?*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	98	100%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.70/5	74%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	8 comments	8%
Q6. Is there any additional category of MEA-related information you would like to find on the main InforMEA Portal (at https://www.informea.org)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	43	44%
Q7. Overall, how many stars would you rate your satisfaction with the InforMEA main portal (at https://www.informea.org)?*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	98	100%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.89/5	78%
Q8. Please, feel free to add your comment to the question above (optional)	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	11	11%

Survey Questions	Responses / Options	Results	%
Section 2 - InforMEA Negotiator's toolkit			
In the past year the InforMEA project launched a new service for negotiators of MEAs, named InforMEA Negotiator's toolkit (at https://www.informea.org/en/negotiators-toolkit) aimed to help understanding and navigating multilateral environmental negotiations and related processes.			
Q9. Were you aware of the existence of the InforMEA Negotiator's toolkit?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	268	100%
	Yes	54	20%
	No	214	80%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	35 comments	13%
<i>Note on survey logic: if user answer is "Yes" it continues to question 10 otherwise it jumps to section 3</i>			
Q10. The current version of the InforMEA Negotiator's toolkit contains several components as listed below. Are you familiar with any of these components? And, in case you are, how would you rate them on a scale from 0 (not useful) to 5 (very useful)?*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	47	100%
The Negotiator's Handbook (<i>an interactive version of the newly updated Multilateral Environmental Negotiator's Handbook; an essential tool for both new and experienced negotiators</i>)	I am not familiar with this section of the portal	11	23%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4	80%
Training materials (<i>training resources on MEA negotiations including e-learning courses, presentations, manuals and reports</i>)	I am not familiar with this section of the portal	9	19%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.79	76%
Case studies/examples (<i>real and simulated MEA negotiation examples</i>)	I am not familiar with this section of the portal	9	19%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.68	74%
Rules of procedure and Financial rules (<i>rules of procedure for conferences/meetings of the parties and general treaty information</i>)	I am not familiar with this section of the portal	10	21%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.57	71%
Glossary (<i>UNEP Glossary of Terms for Negotiators of Multilateral Environmental Agreements</i>)	I am not familiar with this section of the portal	9	19%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4	80%

Survey Questions	Responses / Options	Results	%
Q11. Please, feel free to add your comment to the question above (optional)	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	12	26%
Q12. Overall, how many stars would you rate your satisfaction with the InforMEA Negotiator's toolkit (at https://www.informea.org/en/negotiators-toolkit)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	47	100%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.74	75%
Q13. Please, feel free to add your comment to the question above (optional)	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	11	23%
Section 3 - The InforMEA e-learning platform			
In addition to its main portal, the InforMEA project is also managing, in association with other stakeholder groups, several other portals. The InforMEA learning platform (at https://elearning.informea.org/) is a learning section with links to more than 70 free online courses, already supporting 50,000 learners from over 190 countries.			
Q14. Are you familiar with the InforMEA learning platform (at https://elearning.informea.org/)?*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	256	100%
	Yes	66	26%
	No	190	74%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	32 comments	13%
Note on survey logic: if user answer is "Yes" it continues to question 15 otherwise it jumps to section 4			
Q15. On average, how often do you use the InforMEA learning platform (at https://elearning.informea.org/)?*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	62	100%
	I use it more than once a week	6	10%
	I use it at least once a week	4	6%
	I use it more than once a month	8	13%
	I use it more than three times a year	17	27%
	I use it at least once a year	20	32%
	I use it less than once a year	7	11%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	6 comments	10%

Survey Questions	Responses / Options	Results	%
Q16. In the current year have you increased your use of the InforMEA learning platform (at https://elearning.informea.org/) in respect to the past?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	62	100%
	Yes	27	44%
	No	35	56%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	5X comments	8%
Q17. In general, on a scale from 0 (very difficult) to 5 (very easy), how easy is it for you to find the information you are looking for on the InforMEA learning platform (at https://elearning.informea.org/)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	62	100%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4.00/5	80%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	4 comments	6%
Q18. Is there any additional category of MEA-related courses you would like to find on the InforMEA learning platform (at https://elearning.informea.org/)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	21	34%
Q19. Overall, how many stars would you rate your satisfaction with the InforMEA learning platform (at https://elearning.informea.org/)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	62	100%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4.03/5	81%
Q20. Please, feel free to add your comment to the question above (optional)	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	4	6%
Section 4 - The Global Judicial Portal			
In addition to its main portal, the InforMEA project is also managing, in association with other stakeholder groups, several other portals. The Global Judicial Portal (at https://judicialportal.informea.org/) is a platform that promotes and provides greater access to judges and the global environmental law community with environmental law information and jurisprudence. The portal is an innovative project developed by a Joint Working Group comprised of the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (GJIE), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).			
Q21. Are you familiar with the Global Judicial Portal (at https://judicialportal.informea.org/)?*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	245	100%
	Yes	15	6%
	No	230	94%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	18 comments	7%
<i>Note on survey logic: if user answer is "Yes" it continues to question 22 otherwise it jumps to section 5</i>			

Survey Questions	Responses / Options	Results	%
Q22. On average, how often do you use the Global Judicial Portal (at https://judicialportal.informea.org/)?*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	15	100%
	I use it more than once a week	3	20%
	I use it at least once a week	2	13%
	I use it more than once a month	0	0%
	I use it more than three times a year	4	27%
	I use it at least once a year	4	27%
	I use it less than once a year	2	13%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	1 comments	7%
Q23. In the current year have you increased your use of the Global Judicial Portal (at https://judicialportal.informea.org/) in respect to the past?*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	15	100%
	Yes	5	33%
	No	10	67%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	0 comments	0%
Q24. In general, on a scale from 0 (very difficult) to 5 (very easy), how easy is it for you to find the information you are looking for on the Global Judicial Portal (at https://judicialportal.informea.org/)?*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	15	100%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.67/5	73%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	1 comments	7%
Q25. Is there any additional category of MEA-related information you would like to find on the Global Judicial Portal (at https://judicialportal.informea.org/)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	6	40%
Q26. Overall, how many stars would you rate your satisfaction with the Global Judicial Portal (at https://judicialportal.informea.org/)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	15	100%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.67/5	73%
Q27. Please, feel free to add your comment to the question above (optional)	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	1	7%

Survey Questions	Responses / Options	Results	%
Section 5 - The Law and Environment Assistance Platform (LEAP)			
In addition to its main portal, the InforMEA project is also managing, in association with other stakeholder groups, several other portals. The UNEP's Law and Environment Assistance Platform - UNEP-LEAP (at https://leap.unep.org/) is the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme's digital backbone. Member States can directly request support from UNEP and partners via the Clearing House Mechanism within the technical assistance section. Likewise, they can use the knowledge base and country profile sections to access relevant environmental news, legislation, jurisprudence, model laws, legislative toolkits, and other environmental law guidance products and resources.			
Q28. Are you familiar with the Law and Environment Assistance Platform - LEAP (at https://leap.unep.org/)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	244	100%
	Yes	26	11%
	No	218	89%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	19 comments	8%
<i>Note on survey logic: if user answer is "Yes" it continues to question 29 otherwise it jumps to section 6</i>			
Q29. On average, how often do you use the Law and Environment Assistance Platform - LEAP (at https://leap.unep.org/)?*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	26	100%
	I use it more than once a week	3	12%
	I use it at least once a week	2	8%
	I use it more than once a month	3	12%
	I use it more than three times a year	7	27%
	I use it at least once a year	9	35%
	I use it less than once a year	2	8%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	1 comment	4%
Q30. In the current year have you increased your use of the Law and Environment Assistance Platform - LEAP (at https://leap.unep.org/) in respect to the past?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	26	100%
	Yes	15	58%
	No	11	42%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	1 comment	4%
Q31. In general, on a scale from 0 (very difficult) to 5 (very easy), how easy is it for you to find the information you are looking for on the Law and Environment Assistance Platform - LEAP (at https://leap.unep.org/)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	26	100%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.31/5	66%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	2 comments	8%

Survey Questions	Responses / Options	Results	%
Q32. Is there any additional category of MEA-related information you would like to find on the Law and Environment Assistance Platform - LEAP (at https://leap.unep.org/)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	7	27%
Q33. Overall, how many stars would you rate your satisfaction with the Law and Environment Assistance Platform - LEAP (at https://leap.unep.org/)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	26	100%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.54/5	71%
Q34. Please, feel free to add your comment to the question above	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	1	4%
Section 6 – Overall appreciation			
Q35. Overall, on a scale from 0 (not useful) to 5 (very useful), how useful do you rate the services of the InforMEA project in supporting the management of the national and international environmental agenda of your Government?*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	223	100%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.10/5	62%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	65 comments	29%
Q36. How do you think the InforMEA project could improve its services to your work and your Government?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	121	54%
Q37. Any final comment on the InforMEA Phase III project?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	90	40%
Q38. Any comment on this Survey?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	73	33%
Section 7 – Your contact details (optional)			
Q39. Would you be available for a short interview on this subject? (in case, please make sure to provide your e-mail address and contact details in the questions below)*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	208	100%
	Yes	75	36%
	No	133	64%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	28 comments	13%
Q40. Your name	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	109	52%
Q41. Your e-mail address	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	108	52%
Q42. Your phone number	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	90	43%
Q43. Your postal address	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	77	37%
End of the survey			

Terminal Review of the InforMEA Phase III - Collection of MEAs inputs

Note: Questions marked with an asterisk were mandatory

Survey Questions	Responses / Options	Results	%
This form aims to collect opinions from MEA officers on the performance of the InforMEA Initiative in its third project phase (June 2020 - June 2023). Answers to questions 1 and 19 are required before submitting the form; for all other questions, please feel free to tackle only with those you feel confident about. Please also feel free to request additional invitations (by replying to your own invitation) for any of your colleagues who might have some direct experience in any of the several activities covered by the InforMEA project.			
Q1. On a scale from 0 (not familiar) to 5 (very familiar), how would you rate your familiarity with the InforMEA Initiative? *	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	17	100%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4.71	94%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	5 comments	
Q2. On a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the InforMEA public web interface (at https://www.informe.org)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	16	94%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.94	79%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	7 comments	
Q3. On a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the InforMEA data and API management?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	16	94%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4.06	81%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	5 comments	
Q4. On a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the formats and schemas used by InforMEA in its interoperability protocols?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	15	88%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4.60	92%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	1 comments	
Q5. On a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the InforMEA activity on the semantic management (including PoolParty, Law Ontology LEO, indexing & taxonomy)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	16	94%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.94	79%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	5 comments	
Q6. On a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the InforMEA activity on the Akoma Ntoso initiative?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	15	88%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.93	79%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	6 comments	

Survey Questions	Responses / Options	Results	%
Q7. On a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the InforMEA activity on the Glossary-Thesaurus activity (see the Glossary page at https://www.informea.org/en/terms)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	17	100%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4.24	85%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	4 comments	
Q8. On a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the InforMEA activity on Sustainable Development Goals SDGs (see the Global goals page at https://www.informea.org/en/goals)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	15	88%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4.27	85%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	1 comments	
Q9. On a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the InforMEA activity on extracting common information from National Reports?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	15	88%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.20	64%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	5 comments	
Q10. On a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the InforMEA activity on the Negotiator Toolkit (at https://www.informea.org/en/negotiators-toolkit)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	15	88%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4.13	83%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	2 comments	
Q11. On a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the InforMEA activity on outreach (including material produced/collected, interaction with National Focal Points-NFPs, MEAs, Students)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	15	88%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	3.80	76%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	0 comments	
Q12. On a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the InforMEA activity on partnership and coordination (including interactions with UN organizations, other institutions, other digital platforms)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	16	94%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4.69	94%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	0 comments	

Survey Questions	Responses / Options	Results	%
Q13. In particular, on a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the InforMEA services/interaction with the following InforMEA-related platforms?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	11	65%
	<i>LEAP (Law And Environment Assistance Platform at https://leap.unep.org/) Weighted average</i>	4.45	89%
	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	10	59%
	<i>Global Judicial Portal (at https://judicialportal.inforMEA.org/) Weighted average</i>	4.10	82%
	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	11	65%
	<i>EcoLex (Environmental Law at https://www.ecolex.org) Weighted average</i>	4.45	89%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	4 comments	
Q14. On a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the InforMEA activity on the UNEP-MEA joint calendar (see the Events page at https://www.inforMEA.org/en/events)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	16	94%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4.38	88%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	1 comments	
Q15. On a scale from 0 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful), how would you rate the InforMEA activity on the e-learning (including e-learning dashboard, portfolios of MEA courses, monitoring of courses performance, courses updating, draft course creation guide; see the InforMEA learning section at https://elearning.inforMEA.org/)?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	16	94%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4.69	94%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	1 comments	

Survey Questions	Responses / Options	Results	%
Q16. Would you consider web archiving a useful service to add to those provided by InforMEA?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	14	82%
	Yes	13	93%
	No	1	7%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	3 comments	
Q17. Would you like to suggest other possible addition(s) to the services currently provided by the InforMEA?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	3	18%
Q18. Are you satisfied with the current format of interaction among InforMEA and the partner MEAs? Please also tell us, in the comment space below, if you would prefer more or less meetings, in person vs. online, all groups together vs. specific groups, and if you would keep the current format and frequency of the Steering Committee.	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	14	82%
	Yes	14	100%
	No	0	0%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	3 comments	
Q19. Overall, how many stars would you rate your satisfaction with the InforMEA performance in its 3rd project phase (June 2020-June 2023)?*	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	17	100%
	<i>Weighted average</i>	4.59	92%
	<i>Please, feel free to add your comment to the above question (optional)</i>	1 comments	
Q20. How do you think the InforMEA Initiative could improve its services to the MEAs, the Parties' National Focal Points, the e-learning students using InforMEA online courses and to all the other "clients" of this important and multifaceted program?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	7	41%
Q21. Any final comment on the InforMEA Initiative?	<i>Number of Responses:</i>	1	6%
<i>End of the survey</i>			

Annex II. People consulted during the Terminal Review

<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Name</i>
Albania; Ministry of Tourism and Environment; Department of Nature and Forests, Director (CBD-CP-NP NFP)	Ms. Klodiana Marika
Benin; Ministère du Cadre de Vie et du Développement Durable (CBD-CP-BCH NFP)	Mr. Felicien Amakpe
Burundi; Office Burundais pour la Protection de l'Environnement (OBPE); Directeur des Forêts (AEWA NFP)	Mr. Samuel Nibitanga
Colombia; Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt; Dirección de Relacionamiento; Gerencia de Política Pública y Cooperación; Coordinador Senior de Cooperación y Asuntos Internacionales, (Asistente a CHM NFP).	Ms. Diana Estefania Pulido Mojica
Equatorial Guinea; Ministerio de Bosques y Medio Ambiente; Técnico de Dirección General de Conservación de Medio Ambiente	Mr. Jose Armando Mañana Nsene
Senegal; Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, CITES Senegal Management Authority (retired)	Mr. Abba Sonko
Sweden; Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (AEWA NFP)	Mr. Jörgen Eriksson
Zambia; Ministry of Tourism and Arts; Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), Senior Ecologist (RAMSAR NFP)	Ms. Sandra Ponde Imbuwa
CBD Secretariat; Implementation Support Division; Capacity Building and Knowledge Management Unit, Knowledge Management Officer	Mr. Frederic Vogel
CBD Secretariat; Implementation Support Division; Capacity Building and Knowledge Management Unit, Information Systems Officer	Mr. Ray Goh
CITES Secretariat; Outreach and Project Unit, Chief Of Section	Ms. Haruko Okusu
CITES Secretariat; Governing Bodies Unit, Programme and Documentation Officer	Ms. Helene Gandois
Minamata Convention Secretariat; Communications and Knowledge Management Officer	Ms. Anna García Sans
UN Environment; Digital Transformation Team, Regional Coordinator for Europe and North America	Mr. David Jensen
UN Environment; Law Division, InforMEA Project Manager	Ms. Eva Duer
UNECE; Information System Unit, Information Officer (former InforMEA staff)	Ms. Idah Kamau
Eau de Web, Consultant	Mr. Abdul Ghani Rajput
Eau de Web, Software Engineer	Mr. Cristian Romanescu
Zoi Environment Network, Consultant	Mr. Peter Speelman
Zoi Environment Network, Consultant	Ms. Katy Ayres

Annex III. Key documents consulted

InforMEA Project

2020	InforMEA Phase 3 Project Document.
2021	Project Revision #1.
2022	Annual Project Progress Report (01/01/2021-31/12/2021).
2022	Provisional Annual Financial Report (01/01/2021-31/12/2021).
2022	Project Revision #2.
2023	Annual Project Progress Report (01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022).
2022	Mid-term Review of the UNEP Project “Collective Intelligence for Environmental Governance” (InforMEA Phase III, 2020-2022).
2023	Provisional Annual Financial Report (01/01/2022-31/12/2022).
2020-2023	InforMEA Team mission reports.
2009-2023	Working Group Meetings final reports.
2010-2022	Steering Committee Meetings, background documentation and final reports.
2013	InforMEA Phase 1 (LEO) Project Document.
2015	InforMEA OData Toolkit, Deployment Guide.
2016	InforMEA Phase 2 Project Document.
2020	InforMEA Outreach Implementation Plan.
2020	InforMEA Outreach Strategy.
2021	Analysis of multilateral environmental agreements relative to SDG indicators and relevant data available on InforMEA, by Zöi Environment Network.
2021	Data mining feasibility study, by Zöi Environment Network.
2021	Minamata Convention Reporting Tool, by Richard Gutierrez & Anna García Sans, Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury .
2022	Analysis of synergies between MEA reports and SDG indicators, by Zöi Environment Network.
2022	Data Mining, Reporting to MEAs against SDG indicators, by Zöi Environment Network.
2023	Report of the Multilateral Environmental Negotiators Survey.

Other documents

2005	Register Of International Treaties And Other Agreements In The Field Of The Environment (UNEP/Env. Law/2005/3).
2007	Multilateral Environmental Agreement, Negotiator’s Handbook, Second Edition, by University of Joensuu, Finland.
2021	UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2022—2025 (including Annex I: UNEP Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023).

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| 2022 | Action Plan for a Sustainable Planet in the Digital Age, by Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability (CODES). |
| 2022 | UNEP Digital Transformation, Becoming an Innovative, Agile and Collaborative Organization, Fit For Purpose in the Digital Age. |
| 2023 | Independent Evaluation Tools and Templates, by Evaluation Office of UNEP. |

Annex IV. Online courses available on the InforMEA e-learning platform

Titles of new e-learning courses made available on the InforMEA e-learning platform by project phases⁶⁹

InforMEA Project Phases	e-learning courses
Phase 1 (Nov 2013 – Jul 2016) 21 active courses	1. Course for the National Focal Points for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and its Instruments 2. Introductory Course on the International Legal Framework on Transboundary Air Pollution 3. Introductory Course to Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 4. Introductory Course to Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 5. Introductory course to International Environmental Law 6. Introductory Course to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and Regional Instruments on Hazardous Wastes 7. Introductory Course to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 8. Introductory Course to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) 9. Introductory course to the international legal framework on Environmental Impact Assessment 10. Introductory Course to the International Legal Framework on Freshwater Resources 11. Introductory Course to the International Legal Framework on Marine Biodiversity 12. Introductory Course to the International Legal Framework on Marine Pollution 13. Introductory Course to the International Legal Framework on Ozone Depletion 14. Introductory Course to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 15. Introductory Course to the Minamata Convention on Mercury 16. Introductory Course to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization 17. Introductory Course to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 18. Introductory Course to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade 19. Introductory Course to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

⁶⁹ As of November, 2023

	20. Introductory Course to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol 21. Introductory Course to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD)
Phase II (Jul 2016 – Jun 2020) 34 active courses (13 new courses, plus 21 from Phase 1 of which 2 old courses replaced)	1. Climate Change International Legal Regime <i>[replaced Introductory Course on UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement]</i> 2. Effectiveness and Compliance of Multilateral Environmental Agreements 3. Farmers' Rights in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 4. Global framework for a pollution-free planet 5. Introduction to Environmental Governance 6. Introduction to Human Rights and the Environment 7. Introductory Course on SDG 16 and access rights, the Aarhus Convention, and the Escazú Agreement 8. Introductory Course to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) <i>[replaced older version]</i> 9. Introductory Course to the International Legal Framework on Marine Biodiversity 10. Introductory course to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 11. Introductory Course to the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention 12. Introductory Course to the Minamata Convention on Mercury 13. Mini course on Environmental Defenders 14. Mini Course on Regional Economic Integration Organizations 15. The "Greening" of Water Law: Implementing Environment-Friendly Principles in Contemporary Water Law
Phase III (Jul 2020 – Jun 2023) 53 active courses (19 new courses, plus 34 from Phase2 of which 6 old courses replaced)	1. A participant guide of the UN Climate Change process 2. Basic Principles of Chairing and Role of the Chairs of Meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions 3. Environment and Trade 4. Industrial Chemicals Databases and Information Sharing 5. Introduction to Access and Benefit-Sharing 6. Introduction to Environment and Climate Law for Pacific Lawyers and Judges 7. Introductory Course on Climate Rights Litigation 8. Introductory Course on International and National Environmental Law and Governance in Thailand 9. Introductory Course on SDG 14 and Ocean Governance 10. Introductory Course to Gender and the Environment 11. Introductory Course to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and Regional Instruments on Hazardous Wastes <i>[Replaced older version]</i> 12. Introductory Course to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) <i>[Replaced older version]</i> 13. Introductory Course to the International Legal Framework on Ozone Depletion <i>[Replaced older version]</i>

	14. Introductory Course to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands <i>[Replaced older version]</i> 15. Introductory Course to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade <i>[Replaced older version]</i> 16. Introductory Course to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants <i>[Replaced older version]</i> 17. Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution - Legal Frameworks 18. Mercury and Gender 19. National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Environmental Rights 20. Online Negotiations 21. Our Rights, Our Planet 22. Plastic Waste and the Basel Convention 23. Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) Induction Training 24. The National Implementation of the Paris Agreement 25. The Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee
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Annex V. Treaties available on the InforMEA Portal

Global and Regional Treaties available on the InforMEA portal with categories and amount of data shared⁷⁰

<i>Hosting Organization</i>	<i>Secretariat</i>	<i>Treaty</i>	<i>Type of Treaty</i>	<i>Text, Protocol(s), Amendment(s) and Strategic Action Plan</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>No. of Parties</i>	<i>National reports</i>	<i>National Plans</i>	<i>Other Documents</i>	<i>Contacts</i>
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP)	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	n/a
CCAMLR	CCAMLR	Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)	Regional	1	3	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean	Regional	1	n/a	15	n/a	n/a	1	n/a
FAO	ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)	Global	n/a	19	52	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
FAO	IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)	Global	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	2
FAO	ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	Global	2	65	150	93	n/a	n/a	151
IMO	MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)	Global	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
IMO	UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	Global	1	n/a	169	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
IUCN	Ramsar	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)	Global	2	354	170	1105	n/a	886	345
IWC	IWC	The International Whaling Commission (IWC)	Global	1	101	91	n/a	n/a	n/a	89

⁷⁰ As of November, 2023

<i>Hosting Organization</i>	<i>Secretariat</i>	<i>Treaty</i>	<i>Type of Treaty</i>	<i>Text, Protocol(s), Amendment(s) and Strategic</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>No. of Parties</i>	<i>National reports</i>	<i>National Plans</i>	<i>Other Documents</i>	<i>Contacts</i>
ROPME	Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)	Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution ; Protocol concerning regional co-operation in combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in case of emergency	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	Apia Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	Noumea Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	Waigani Convention to Ban the importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous wastes within the South Pacific Region	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UK Government		London Fisheries Convention	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNCCD	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Global	2	475	197	1	n/a	n/a	336
UNCTAD	ITTO	International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTO)	Regional	1	6	68	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNECE	CTEIA	Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (CTEIA)	Regional	1	n/a	42	n/a	n/a	8	n/a
UNECE	EIA	Espoo Convention on assessing the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning (EIA)	Regional	2	n/a	45	n/a	n/a	2	n/a
UNECE	EIA	Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment	Regional	1	n/a	33	n/a	n/a	3	n/a
UNECE	LRTAP	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP)	Regional	9	n/a	51	n/a	n/a	10	n/a
UNECE	LRTAP	Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

<i>Hosting Organization</i>	<i>Secretariat</i>	<i>Treaty</i>	<i>Type of Treaty</i>	<i>Text, Protocol(s), Amendment(s) and Strategic Action Plan</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>No. of Parties</i>	<i>National reports</i>	<i>National Plans</i>	<i>Other Documents</i>	<i>Contacts</i>
UNECE	LRTAP	Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNECE	LRTAP	Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNECE	LRTAP	Protocol on Heavy Metals	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNECE	LRTAP	Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNECE	LRTAP	Protocol on the Financing of the Co-operative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNECE	LRTAP	Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNECE	LRTAP	Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNECE	Aarhus Convention	Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	Global	2	n/a	48	n/a	n/a	n/a	1
UNECE	Aarhus Convention	Kyiv Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)	Global	1	n/a	38	n/a	n/a	n/a	1
UNECE	Water Convention	Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)	Regional	2	n/a	52	n/a	n/a	1	n/a
UNECE	Water Convention	Protocol on Water and Health	Regional	1	n/a	38	n/a	n/a	2	n/a
UNEP	Abidjan Convention	Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal environment of the West and Central African Region and protocol (Abidjan Convention)	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	52
UNEP	Bamako Convention	Bamako Convention on prohibiting the import into Africa of any hazardous (including radioactive) waste	Regional	1	28	31	n/a	n/a	1	1

<i>Hosting Organization</i>	<i>Secretariat</i>	<i>Treaty</i>	<i>Type of Treaty</i>	<i>Text, Protocol(s), Amendment(s) and Strategic Action Plan</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>No. of Parties</i>	<i>National reports</i>	<i>National Plans</i>	<i>Other Documents</i>	<i>Contacts</i>
UNEP	Barcelona Convention	Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, 1995	Regional	8	122	22	n/a	n/a	n/a	99
UNEP	Barcelona Convention	Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, 1976	Regional	1	15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Barcelona Convention	Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol), 2002	Regional	1	3	22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Barcelona Convention	Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol), 1976	Regional	1	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Barcelona Convention	Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Protocol)	Regional	1	18	21	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Barcelona Convention	Protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean sea by dumping from ships and aircraft (Barcelona Dumping), 1995	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Barcelona Convention	Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol), 1976	Regional	1	n/a	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Barcelona Convention	Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (Land-Based Sources Protocol)	Regional	1	1	22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Barcelona Convention	Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol)	Regional	1	4	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

<i>Hosting Organization</i>	<i>Secretariat</i>	<i>Treaty</i>	<i>Type of Treaty</i>	<i>Text, Protocol(s), Amendment(s) and Strategic Action Plan</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>No. of Parties</i>	<i>National reports</i>	<i>National Plans</i>	<i>Other Documents</i>	<i>Contacts</i>
UNEP	Barcelona Convention	Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean	Regional	1	5	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Barcelona Convention	Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol)	Regional	1	1	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)	Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (BC)	Global	3	693	191	1895	n/a	9054	574
UNEP	Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)	Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation	Global	1	n/a	12	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (RC)	Global	1	164	165	n/a	n/a	3127	676
UNEP	Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (SC)	Global	1	388	186	179	804	9293	468
UNEP	Carpathian Convention	Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention)	Regional	6	128	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Carpathian Convention	Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity	Regional	1	n/a	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Carpathian Convention	Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development	Regional	1	n/a	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Carpathian Convention	Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management	Regional	1	n/a	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Carpathian Convention	Protocol on Sustainable Tourism	Regional	1	n/a	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Carpathian Convention	Protocol on Sustainable Transport	Regional	1	n/a	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Cartagena Convention	Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region	Regional	4	6	25	n/a	n/a	n/a	18

<i>Hosting Organization</i>	<i>Secretariat</i>	<i>Treaty</i>	<i>Type of Treaty</i>	<i>Text, Protocol(s), Amendment(s) and Strategic Plan</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>No. of Parties</i>	<i>National reports</i>	<i>National Plans</i>	<i>Other Documents</i>	<i>Contacts</i>
UNEP	Cartagena Convention	Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region (Oil Spills Protocol)	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Cartagena Convention	Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol)	Regional	1	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7
UNEP	Cartagena Convention	Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean	Regional	1	11	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7
UNEP	CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Global	5	470	196	936	339	1	895
UNEP	CBD	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP)	Global	3	162	173	n/a	n/a	n/a	354
UNEP	CBD	Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization	Global	2	61	141	n/a	n/a	n/a	223
UNEP	CBD	Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on liability and redress for damage resulting from the transboundary movements of LMOs	Global	1	n/a	54	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	Global	2	921	184	584	n/a	n/a	1260
UNEP	CITES	Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora	Regional	1	n/a	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	Global	2	315	134	564	n/a	229	153
UNEP	CMS	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)	Regional	1	150	85	305	n/a	160	121
UNEP	CMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats	Regional	1	65	1	222	n/a	19	n/a
UNEP	CMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)	Regional	1	45	9	147	n/a	64	13

<i>Hosting Organization</i>	<i>Secretariat</i>	<i>Treaty</i>	<i>Type of Treaty</i>	<i>Text, Protocol(s), Amendment(s) and Strategic Action Plan</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>No. of Parties</i>	<i>National reports</i>	<i>National Plans</i>	<i>Other Documents</i>	<i>Contacts</i>
UNEP	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)	Antigua Convention for the Strengthening Of The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Jeddah Convention	Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment (Jeddah Convention)	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	n/a
UNEP	Minamata Convention on Mercury	Minamata Convention on Mercury	Global	1	62	148	250	33	20	263
UNEP	Nairobi Convention	Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of Coastal and Marine Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region	Regional	1	n/a	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Ozone Secretariat	Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (VC)	Global	2	92	198	n/a	n/a	n/a	1
UNEP	Ozone Secretariat	Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	Global	6	1199	198	n/a	n/a	n/a	1
UNEP	Ozone Secretariat	The Beijing Amendment to the Montreal Protocol (1999)	Global	1	n/a	198	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Ozone Secretariat	The Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol (1992)	Global	1	n/a	197	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Ozone Secretariat	The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol (2016)	Global	1	n/a	155	n/a	n/a	1	n/a
UNEP	Ozone Secretariat	The London Amendment to the Montreal Protocol (1990)	Global	1	n/a	197	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	Ozone Secretariat	The Montreal Amendment to the Montreal Protocol (1997)	Global	1	n/a	198	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)	Global	n/a	27	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	n/a
UNEP	Tehran Convention	Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)	Regional	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	n/a
UNEP	UNEP	UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)	Global	n/a	86	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNEP	UNEP	UN Environment Governing Council (UNEGC)	Global	n/a	57	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	n/a
UNESCO	UNESCO	World Heritage Convention (WHC)	Global	2	6830	n/a	3134	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNFCCC	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Global	3	535	198	1827	n/a	1	481

<i>Hosting Organization</i>	<i>Secretariat</i>	<i>Treaty</i>	<i>Type of Treaty</i>	<i>Text, Protocol(s), Amendment(s) and Strategic</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>No. of Parties</i>	<i>National reports</i>	<i>National Plans</i>	<i>Other Documents</i>	<i>Contacts</i>
UNFCCC	UNFCCC	Kyoto Protocol	Global	1	202	193	n/a	n/a	n/a	481
UNFCCC	UNFCCC	Paris Agreement	Global	1	86	195	n/a	n/a	n/a	481
UNWC	UNWC	UN Watercourses Convention (UNWC)	Global	1	n/a	38	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Annex VI. Brief CV of the reviewer

Name:	Giovanni Ferraiolo
Contact:	e-mail: giovanni.ferraiolo@gmail.com
Profession:	Independent consultant
Nationality:	Italian
Country experience:	Global (Programme Officer in a UNEP-GEF Global Project for 5 years and then in CBD Secretariat for 7.5 years)
Education:	• Higher degree in Plant Genetics • Post-degree Specialization Diploma in Plant Biotechnology
Short biography	Mr. Ferraiolo is a former UNEP officer and nowadays an independent consultant. He gained long term experience in knowledge management (KM), clearing-houses and information sharing, project design-review and review, analysis and disaggregation of statistical data for United Nations and other international organizations. Other primary areas of specialties are biotechnology, biosafety, training and organization of capacity building activities. Mr. Ferraiolo has a good knowledge of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), a solid scientific background, certified UN language proficiencies in English and Spanish, advanced knowledge of information technology (IT) and, in particular, of development of database concepts and data-management web-related applications. He also has good teamwork habits and has, in the past, successfully supervised groups of UN professionals and IT specialists in developing training and/or communication tools.
Independent evaluations:	• <i>Consultancy (Environmental Governance):</i> "Second Review of the Financial Mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury". <i>UN Environment, Minamata Convention Secretariat; December 2022-April 2023.</i> • <i>Consultancy (Knowledge management / Environmental Governance):</i> "Mid-term Review of the UNEP Project 'Collective Intelligence for Environmental Governance' (InforMEA Phase III)". <i>UN Environment, Law Division; April-July 2022.</i> • <i>Consultancy (Environmental Governance / Biosafety):</i> "Mid-term Review of the UNEP/GEF Project Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework in Venezuela in Accordance to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety". <i>UNDP Venezuela / UN Environment, ROLAC; January-May 2021.</i> • <i>Consultancy (Knowledge management):</i> "Support the SCBD in the implementation of the various COP-MOP requests with a special focus on the migration of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) to a new platform consistent with the larger CBD Clearing-House Mechanism". <i>UN Environment, CBD Secretariat; April-June 2019.</i>

Annex VII. Terminal Review TORs

Terms of reference

Job Opening number : 23-United Nations Environment Programme-214230-Consultant

Job Title : End Term Review

Evaluator

General Expertise : Programme Management

Category : Evaluation

Department/ Office : United Nations Environment Programme

Organizational Unit : UNEP

Purpose

Strategic Positioning, Concept and Design: The End Term Review Evaluator will assess the concept and design of the overall scope of the InforMEA Phase III project, including an assessment of the appropriateness of the objectives, planned outputs, activities, and inputs as compared to cost-effective alternatives. Identify niche areas where UNEP can further add advantage and efficiency to the programme/project. The strategic positioning and design of the project will also be reviewed against the strategic questions of interest to UNEP and to which the project is believed to be able to make a substantive contribution.

Duties and Responsibilities

Organizational Setting and Reporting:

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the United Nations systems designated entity for addressing environmental issues at the global and regional level. Its mandate is to coordinate the development of environmental policy consensus by keeping the global environment under review and bringing emerging issues to the attention of governments and the international community for action.

The InforMEA Initiative brings together over 20 MEA Secretariats and their hosting institutions to enhance knowledge-sharing across MEAs for the benefit of Parties and the environment community at large. It promotes harmonized voluntary standards and horizontal interoperable information systems as it steers the development and evolution of the project.

The Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements, InforMEA, is the online home of MEAs. It seeks to do justice complexity and broad range of information available from MEAs and intends to reduce the time effort by stakeholders to obtain relevant knowledge and process available information. It is entirely committed to horizontal interoperability" of information and knowledge systems among MEAs and organizations, a key principle in the SG' s Data Policy in overcoming misaligned standards, and mixed quality data. By building a sustained and reliable shared knowledge base for better analysis and policy information it contributes to greater coherence to the implementation and enforcement of international environmental law.

This position is in the InforMEA Phase III project of the Law Division at the Nairobi Duty Station.

Responsibilities:

1. Partnership and Coordination: The End Term Review (ETR) will assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of the implementation partnerships and approaches that were established to deliver the project and the engagement with MEAs and other international organizations.
2. Monitoring, Evaluation and Risk Management: A further focus of the ETR will be on the extent to which adequate monitoring has been undertaken throughout the period. The review will assess how lessons learned have been captured and operationalized throughout the period under investigation. It will examine how effectively the project management incorporated relevant technical knowledge on good practices.
3. Gender Mainstreaming: The ETR expert will assess the extent to which the project sought to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender into project implementation. The Review will weigh measures taken to this end and how successful those have been in addressing specific rights and gender-related aspects.

Specific Tasks and Responsibilities:

Strategic Positioning, Concept and Design: The End Term Review Evaluator will assess the concept and design of the overall scope of the InforMEA Phase III project, including an assessment of the appropriateness of the objectives, planned outputs, activities, and inputs as compared to cost-effective alternatives. Identify niche areas where UNEP can further add advantage and efficiency to the programme/project. The strategic positioning and design of the project will also be reviewed against the strategic questions of interest to UNEP and to which the project is believed to be able to make a substantive contribution.

The questions are structured to address two levels:

1. Addressing the InforMEA Project, and the balance between its components.
2. Addressing the question of strengthening the Environmental Treaties Programme and making it genuinely an umbrella programme for activities under UNEP's Environmental Governance and Conventions branch at the Law Division.

The End Term Review Evaluator will also be forward-looking and explore opportunities for UNEP to position itself as the anchor for cooperation and synergies among the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Reporting lines:

Under the overall supervision of the Director, UNEP Law Division, the Consultant shall report directly to and take day-to-day direction from the InforMEA III Project Manager, Ms. Eva Duer.

Ultimate result of service

End Term Review of project performance will assess project performance to date (in terms of relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of the project achieving its intended outcomes and supporting their sustainability.

The Expert will analyze whether the project is on-track, what problems or challenges the programme/project is encountering, and what corrective actions are required.

The Expert will also advise on the best approach to address the programme vis-à-vis the project relationship and theory of change.

[...]

Annex VIII. Implementation Plan of Recommendations

Project Title and Reference No.: Collective Intelligence for Environmental Governance (InforMEA Phase III) – PIMS 02090 / SB-015426

Contact Person (TM/PM): Angela Kariuki, Eva Duer (Law Division)

	PLANS			
RECOMMENDATIONS	ACCEPTED (YES/NO/PARTIALLY)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER/ UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
Integrate InforMEA follow up activities within UNEP Digital Transformation Subprogramme ¹	YES	InforMEA activities were aligned with UNEP Digital Transformation through establishment of the Collective Intelligence Unit, integration with WESR and UNEP digital tools, and alignment with Programme of Work frameworks Specifically, the project was established (through InforMEA Phase IV) as a Digital Transformation project whose outputs are reported on by the Digital Transformation Sub-programme, and channelling Collective Intelligence content to the World Environment Situation Room (WESR) and other flagship tools.	December 2023	Law Division's Collective Intelligence Unit, Digital Transformation Subprogramme, UNEP Science Division
Strengthen resourcing model (team size, specialization and	PARTIALLY	Additional staffing approved including a P-3 post and transition to a Unit-based structure under the Law Division. The structural element of the recommendation was therefore	June 2023	Collective Intelligence Unit

¹ Recommendation #1: Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should be planned in full integration with the UNEP Digital Transformation Subprogramme in order to gain the maximum synergy from the combined efforts.

	PLANS			
RECOMMENDATIONS	ACCEPTED (YES/NO/PARTIALLY)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER/ UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
budget) ²		met. Resourcing for consultants and capacity-building activities remains dependent on funding availability from European Commission, Law Division and Environmental Governance Sub Programme		
Develop systematic MEA mapping and interoperability monitoring ³	YES	Expanded MEA partner mapping and tracking through Working Group processes and Steering Committee reporting, with integration into Phase IV monitoring framework.	July 2023	Collective Intelligence Unit, MEA Secretariats and Project steering committee for InforMEA IV
Expand repository to include broader set of environmental agreements ⁴	PARTIALLY	The InforMEA searchable treaty repository now covers over 2,000 treaties and protocols, well beyond the 200+ environmental agreements referenced in the recommendation. Full interoperability integration with active document harvesting (decisions, national reports, contacts via API) remains concentrated among approximately 25 core MEA Secretariats and continues to expand through onboarding, semantic indexing, and Phase IV partnerships.	July 2023	Collective Intelligence Unit, MEA Secretariats, technical project partners.

² Recommendation #2: Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should either assign the carry-over of former project activities to different UNEP teams, or build up a larger UNEP Team which a) includes programme officers with different specializations (i.e. knowledge management, IT, semantic, e-learning and outreach) and b) could rely on a proper budget for the management of the necessary consultants/contractors as well as for the funding of capacity building activities (i.e. training NFPs/Negotiators in the use of the InforMEA Platform).

³ Recommendation #3: Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should include: a) the compilation of an updated list of all existing MEAs and b) periodical reports on the status of each Treaty/Agreement in relation to its interoperability with the InforMEA Platform for the sharing of their digital documentation.

⁴ Recommendation #4: Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should aim to incorporate, in the InforMEA repository, digital documents from the more-than-200 environmental agreements currently existing.

	PLANS			
RECOMMENDATIONS	ACCEPTED (YES/NO/PARTIALLY)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER/ UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
Provide technical and financial support to MEAs for interoperability ⁵	YES	Provided technical guidance and financial support (for e.g. UNFCCC Secretariat), training and tools for APIs, tagging, and interoperability, with continued support embedded in partnerships.	December 2023	Collective Intelligence Unit, Technical teams and vendors, partners institutions
Strengthen outreach to National Focal Points and establish contact points ⁶	PARTIALLY	Implemented outreach strategy, surveys, and negotiators toolkit. Full establishment of national contact points in all environmental authorities worldwide remains a longer-term ambition pursued on a rolling basis beyond this phase.	June 2023	Collective Intelligence Unit, Law Division, MEA Secretariats

⁵ Recommendation #5: Follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project should be planned in order to assist available environmental treaties' Secretariats (both in terms of financial and technical support) to either set up functional APIs for InforMEA interoperability on their servers, or transfer their digital repositories on more functional servers, for the sharing of their digital documentation with the InforMEA repository.

⁶ Recommendation #6: Should follow up activities of the InforMEA Phase 3 Project confirm NFPs and national government officials operating in the context of MEAs as the main group of stakeholders, it is recommended to establish InforMEA national contact points in all environmental authorities worldwide for improving the efficiency of outreach activities.

Annex IX. Quality Assessment of the Terminal Review Report

Review Title: Terminal Review of the UNEP Project 'Collective Intelligence for Environmental Governance' (InforMEA Phase III) (PIMS ID 02090) 2020-2023
Consultant: Giovanni Ferraiolo

All UNEP Reviews are subject to a quality assessment by the UNEP Evaluation Office. This is an assessment of the quality of the review product (i.e. Main Review Report).

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
Section A: Executive Summary	Assessment	
1. Does the Executive Summary act as a concise, accurate standalone section, especially to inform decision-making? Consider how clearly and concisely the report presents: - a clear summary of the review object - review objectives, scope and methodology - the overall project review rating - a summary of main review findings, including key features of performance (strengths and weaknesses) - summary responses to key strategic review questions - summary of main conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> Required elements are addressed. More information on the project background would have been appreciated. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The Executive Summary presents a brief summary of the main findings based on the assessment of the review criteria.	5
Section B: The Project	Assessment	
2. Does the report clearly describe the key parameters, scale and complexity of the evaluand? Consider how well the report presents: - an overview of the main issue that the project is trying to address - timeline, including dates of project approval, duration and number of phases (where appropriate) - geographic coverage (regions/countries) - total secured budget and project financing, including a table with funding sources - implementing and funding partners - institutional context (i.e. UNEP sub-programme, Division, Branch etc) - implementation structure with diagram - UNEP results frameworks to which it contributes (e.g. PoW Direct Outcome) - summary of results framework as stated in the ProDoc (or as officially revised) - stakeholder groups organised according to relevant common characteristics - whether the project has been evaluated in the past (e.g. mid-term, by an external agency, etc.) - substantive or significant changes in design during implementation	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> Elements are adequately addressed. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The report presents a brief introduction and description of the evaluand.	5
Section C: Review Methods and Theory of Change	Assessment	

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
3. Does the report present a clear, comprehensive and adequate description of the review methodology? Consider how well it presents the following elements, and their adequacy based on the scope of the review: - statement of the purpose of the review and the key intended audience for the review findings - data collection methods and information sources - justification for methods used (e.g. electronic/face-to-face interviews, qualitative/quantitative analysis) - criteria and sampling strategies used to select stakeholders for consultations, and for sites/countries visited - number and types of respondents (<i>including in a table broken down by gender</i>) - strategies used to increase stakeholder engagement and response rate - methods used to include the voices/experiences of different and potentially excluded groups (e.g. women, marginalised) - data verification methods (e.g. triangulation) - data analysis methods (e.g. scoring, thematic analysis) - review limitations and mitigation measures (e.g. how these were addressed by the evaluator) - consideration for ethics and human rights issues, including how anonymity and confidentiality were protected	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> Most elements adequately addressed. More details on the review limitations and mitigation measures would have been appreciated. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section describes the three lines of enquiry used as part of the Terminal Review.	5
4. Does the report describe an assessment and reformulation of the Theory of Change, and present an adequate articulation of the TOC causal pathways that were used to assess project performance (<i>narratively and diagrammatically</i>)? Consider how well the report presents: - whether the project design included a TOC - how the <i>TOC at review</i>⁷ was designed (e.g. who was involved, etc) - confirmation/reconstruction of results in accordance with UNEP definitions (<i>including reformulation table, which may have initially been presented in the Inception Report and should appear in the Main Review report.</i>) - articulation of causal pathways - identification of drivers and assumptions - identification of key actors in the change process	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> Most elements adequately addressed. The Evaluation Office noted that the ToC was not reconstructed at Terminal Review. At Mid-Term Review (2022), the project ToC was slightly revised and this version was adopted at Terminal Review. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The main weakness of this section is the lack in the narrative section of a clear articulation of the causal pathways, identification of key actors, drivers and assumptions.	3
Section D: Evidence and Analysis	Assessment	
5. Is the report based on sufficient and adequate data and clear and credible evidence? Consider how well the report presents: - sufficient evidence that is consistent throughout the report - evidence that is supported by data sources (e.g. quotes, reports, etc) - evidence that is explicitly triangulated, unless noted as having a single source - gaps in data are explained and justified - data sources that are reliable, adequate, sufficient for the scope of the review	<u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> In most sections, the report presents sufficient and adequate data. The evidence is also clear.	4.5

⁷ During the Inception Phase of the review process a *TOC at review Inception* is created based on the information contained in the approved project documents (these may include either logical framework or a TOC or narrative descriptions), formal revisions and annual reports etc. During the review process this TOC is revised based on changes made during project intervention and becomes the *TOC at review*.

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
6. Does the report include rigorous analysis and logical findings? Consider the extent to which the findings are: - supported by clear analysis that is consistent with the evidence presented - logical, clear and coherent - aligned with UNEP's Criteria Ratings Matrix - aligned with the review framework - more than descriptions and provide insights into 'how' and/or 'why' the project performed a certain way - balanced, presenting both successes and weaknesses	<u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> To a certain extent, findings are supported by analysis that is consistent with the evidence presented in the report.	4.5
Section E: Review Findings	Assessment	
7. Does the report present evidence and analysis of project Strategic Relevance with respect to UNEP, partner and geographic policies and strategies at the time of project approval? Consider how well the report addresses: - Alignment to the UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS), Programme of Work (POW) and Strategic Priorities - Alignment to Donor/GEF/Partners Strategic Priorities - Relevance to Regional, Sub-regional and National Environmental Priorities - Complementarity with Existing Interventions: complementarity of the project at design (or during inception/mobilisation⁸), with other interventions addressing the needs of the same target groups.	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section presents a brief analysis of this review criterion. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section should have provided a clearer assessment at the sub-criterion level including a clear indication of the sub-criteria ratings.	4.5
8. Does the report present a summary of the strengths and weaknesses of the Quality of Project Design, based on the detailed assessment presented in the Inception Report?	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The summary table with ratings of the design elements assessed should have been included in this section. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section provides a concise analysis of the project design's strengths and weaknesses is presented.	⁹ NOT RATED
9. Does the report recognise and describe, when appropriate, key features of the Nature of the External Context under which the project was implemented that limited the project's performance (e.g. conflict, natural disaster, political upheaval¹⁰), and how they affected performance?	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section does not well describe the key features of the Nature of the External Context (e.g. conflict, natural disaster, political upheaval) under which the project was implemented. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The report briefly describes some of the circumstances that affected the project implementation.	¹¹ NOT RATED
10. Does the report present a well-reasoned, complete and evidence-based assessment of the Availability of Outputs to the intended beneficiaries? Consider how well the report presents: a convincing, evidence-supported and clear presentation of the outputs made available by the project compared to its approved plans and budget	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> All elements well addressed. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The reviewer provided a detailed evidence-based assessment of the availability	6

⁸ A project's inception or mobilization period is understood as the time between project approval and first disbursement. Complementarity during project implementation is considered under Efficiency, see below.

⁹ The Quality of Project Design criterion is not rated in this table because the majority of the analysis is presented in the Inception Report and the Final Terminal Review report only contains a summary.

¹⁰ Note that 'political upheaval' does not include regular national election cycles, but unanticipated unrest or prolonged disruption. The potential delays or changes in political support that are often associated with the regular national election cycle should be part of the project's design and addressed through adaptive management of the project team.

¹¹ The Nature of External Context is not rated in this table because it is not consistently applicable across all projects. Some review reports will simply record that there was no unexpected unfavourable external factors, while others may have to describe critical external events.

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
- assessment of the nature and scale of outputs versus the project indicators and targets - assessment of the timeliness, quality and utility of outputs to intended beneficiaries - identification of positive or negative effects of the project on disadvantaged groups, including those with specific needs due to gender, vulnerability or marginalisation (e.g. through disability).	of the four project outputs based on the achievement of their respective indicators.	
11. Does the report present a well-reasoned, complete and evidence-based assessment of the Achievement of Outcomes, as a result of the uptake, adoption and/or implementation of outputs by the intended beneficiaries? This may include behaviour changes at an individual or collective level. Consider how well the report presents: - a convincing and evidence-supported analysis of the uptake of outputs by intended beneficiaries - assessment of the nature, depth and scale of outcomes versus the project indicators and targets - discussion of the contribution, credible association and/or attribution of outcome level changes to the work of the project itself - any constraints to attributing effects to the projects' work - identification of positive or negative effects of the project on disadvantaged groups, including those with specific needs due to gender, vulnerability or marginalisation (e.g. through disability).	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> All elements well addressed. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The reviewer provided a detailed evidence-based assessment of this sub-criterion considering the level of achievement of the four outcome-level indicators.	6
12. Does the report present an integrated analysis, guided by the causal pathways represented by the TOC, of all evidence relating to Likelihood of Impact? Consider how well the report presents: - an explanation of how causal pathways emerged and the resulting change processes - an explicit discussion of how drivers and assumptions played out - an explanation of roles played by key actors and change agents - identification of any unintended negative effects of the project, especially on disadvantaged groups, including those with specific needs due to gender, vulnerability or marginalisation (e.g. through disability).	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> Elements adequately addressed. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The reviewer provided a brief analysis on the 'Likelihood of Impact' including whether the key drivers and assumptions were in place by the end of project implementation.	5
13. Does the report present an integrated analysis of all dimensions evaluated under Financial Management and include a completed 'financial management' table? Consider how well the report addresses the following: <i>adherence</i> to UNEP's financial policies and procedures <i>completeness</i> of financial information, including the actual project costs and actual co-financing used and explanation of any variances between planned and actual expenditures	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section presents a brief analysis of this review criterion. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section should have provided a clearer assessment at the sub-criterion level including a clear indication of the sub-criteria ratings.	4.5
14. Does the report present an integrated analysis of all dimensions evaluated under Efficiency? Consider how well the report presents: - cost-effective or time-saving measures put in place to maximise results within the secured budget and agreed project timeframe - implications of any delays and no cost extensions - discussion of making use, during project implementation, of/building on pre-existing institutions, partnerships and complementarities with other initiatives, programmes and projects etc. - the extent to which the management of the project minimised UNEP's environmental footprint.	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> All elements well addressed. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The factors that affected project delivery/efficiency and the measures that were taken to address the issues are presented in this section.	5

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
15. Does the report present a well-reasoned, complete and evidence-based assessment of the project's Monitoring and Reporting? Consider how well the report addresses the following: - the quality of <i>monitoring of project implementation</i> (including use of monitoring data for adaptive management) - the quality of <i>project reporting</i> (e.g. PIMS and donor reports)	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section presents a brief analysis of this review criterion. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section should have provided a clearer assessment at the sub-criterion level including a clear indication of the sub-criteria ratings.	4.5
16. Does the report present an integrated analysis of all dimensions evaluated under Sustainability (i.e. the endurance of benefits achieved at outcome level)? Consider how well the report addresses the following: - socio-political sustainability - financial sustainability - institutional sustainability	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section presents a brief analysis of the dimensions of this review criterion. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section should have provided a more detailed assessment at the sub-criterion level including a clear indication of the sub-criteria ratings.	4
17. Does the report present a well-evidence analysis of the Factors Affecting Performance, <u>either in this section or in cross-referenced sections?</u> <i>These factors are not always discussed in stand-alone sections and may be integrated in the other performance criteria as appropriate. However, if not addressed substantively in this section, a cross reference must be given to where the topic is addressed, and that entry must be sufficient to justify the performance rating for these factors.</i> Consider how well the report addresses the following cross-cutting issues: - quality of project management and supervision¹² - stakeholder participation and co-operation - responsiveness to human rights and gender equality - environmental and social safeguards - country ownership and driven-ness - communication and public awareness	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The report did not include a section with an analysis of the Factors Affecting Performance.	1
Section F: Conclusions, Lessons Learned and Recommendations	Assessment	
18. Do the Conclusions present a summative assessment of the evaluand as a whole, reflecting on prominent aspects of the project's performance? Consider how well the conclusions: - provide a compelling narrative and integrated assessment of project project's performance (i.e. achievements and limitations) - add deeper insights and analysis beyond the findings under each individual criterion - are derived from the synthesized analysis of evidence gathered during the review process - provide clear and succinct response to the key strategic questions - address the human rights and gender dimensions of the intervention explicitly (e.g. how these dimensions were considered, addressed or impacted on)	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> Elements are well addressed. Lessons learned from project implementation are also presented. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section presents an integrated summary of the project's achievements, challenges, strengths and weaknesses.	5.5

¹² In some cases, 'project management and supervision' will refer to the supervision and guidance provided by UNEP to implementing partners and national governments while in others, specifically for GEF funded projects, it will refer to the project management performance of the executing agency and the technical backstopping provided by UNEP. This includes providing the answers to the questions on Core Indicator Targets, stakeholder engagement, gender responsiveness, safeguards and knowledge management, required for the GEF portal.

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
provide lessons that are rooted in real project experiences, describe the context from which they are derived, and do not duplicate recommendations		
19. Does the report present Recommendations for specific action to be taken by identified people/position-holders to resolve concrete problems affecting the project or the sustainability of its results? Consider how well the recommendations: - are clearly formulated and logically derived from the findings and/or conclusions - are feasible to implement within the timeframe and resources available (including local capacities) and specific in terms of who would do what and when - include at least one recommendation relating to strengthening the human rights and gender dimensions of UNEP interventions - represent a measurable performance target in order that the Evaluation Office can monitor and assess compliance with the recommendations. <u>NOTES:</u> (i) In cases where the recommendation is addressed to a third party, compliance can only be monitored and assessed where a contractual/legal agreement remains in place. Without such an agreement, the recommendation should be formulated to say that UNEP project staff should pass on the recommendation to the relevant third party in an effective or substantive manner. The effective transmission by UNEP of the recommendation will then be monitored for compliance. (ii) Where a new project phase is already under discussion or in preparation with the same third party, a recommendation can be made to address the issue in the next phase.	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The Review identified six recommendations. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> In some instances, the 'Type of Recommendation' is indicated as 'Activity-level'. However, the Evaluation Office notes that the recommendation type can be UNEP-wide, Partners or Project-level.	5
Section G: Report Structure and Presentation	Assessment	
20. Is the report well-structured and complete? Does it: - follow the Evaluation Office structure and formatting guidelines - include all required sections and annexes, as applicable - not exceed 50 pages in length from the Executive Summary to the end of the Conclusion Does the report present information clearly and appropriately? Is it written: - in clear and accessible language - largely free from grammar, spelling and punctuation errors - in an adequate and professional tone - with the use of visual aids, such as maps, graphs tables and photos	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> Overall, the report follows the Evaluation Office structure and formatting guidelines. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The report is clear and well written. The tone is professional and adequate for an official document. The major weakness of the report is the lack of an explicit discussion at the sub-criteria level and the absence of the section on the 'Factors Affecting Performance'. The lack of indication of the ratings at the sub-criterion level is also a significant weakness. Page numbers are also missing.	4.5
OVERALL REPORT QUALITY RATING		4.6

A number rating 1-6 is used for each criterion: Highly Satisfactory = 6, Satisfactory = 5, Moderately Satisfactory = 4, Moderately Unsatisfactory = 3, Unsatisfactory = 2, Highly Unsatisfactory = 1. The overall quality of the review report is calculated by taking the mean score of all rated quality criteria.

Rating the Report Quality Criteria

Rating (1–6)	Description
6	Provides all content with high quality.
5	Provides all content with minor weaknesses.
4	Provides most content with minor weaknesses.
3	Provides most content with significant weaknesses.

2	Omits substantive content with significant weaknesses.
1	Omits almost all content with major weaknesses.