



United Nations Environment Programme

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25 October 2011
ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Rome, Italy, 3-4 November 2011

CORRIGENDUM

The MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM Initiative)

THE MEA INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (IKM) AND **InforMEA** - THE UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

I The MEA IKM Initiative

The UNEP supported *MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative* harmonizes MEA information systems to enable the development knowledge tools for Parties and the environmental community. It currently includes 17 international instruments from 13 MEA Secretariats¹ hosted by three UN organizations and IUCN. The Initiative welcomes the participation of observers² involved in MEA information and data management.

At its 2nd Steering Committee Meeting in June 2011, the IKM Initiative welcomed the Barcelona Convention as the first regional instrument and the first MEA belonging to the regional seas conventions.

II InforMEA

The InforMEA Portal (www.informea.org) is the first project developed under the MEA IKM Initiative and compiles the following categories of information:

- COP decisions and resolutions,
- News and events,
- MEA membership,
- National focal points, and
- National reports and implementation plans.

Information is organized according to a set of terms agreed by MEAs and harvested directly from MEA Secretariats, who remain the custodians of their data. As data is displayed in InforMEA whenever an MEA secretariat enters it into its database system, information is always accurate and new applications can be developed in a timely and cost-effective manner. Once developed, they are maintained at minimal costs.

A topic like alien species could be presented in the context of trade in species (CITES), introduction via ships' ballast water (Barcelona), and of sites and protected areas (Ramsar, CBD, WHC). The Convention on Migratory Species and CITES could display species listed on both of their respective appendices, and the Stockholm Convention could display decisions related to endangered migratory species threatened by POPs.

¹ Basel Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the International Plant Treaty (ITPGR-FA), Montreal Protocol, Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention, Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO-WHC), and the Barcelona Convention for Protection against Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea,

² Environmental Management Group (EMG), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

The 2nd MEA IKM Steering Committee (SC) Meeting agreed to add **capacity building and e-learning material** as new categories of information to InforMEA and to develop an introductory course to MEAs. The SC also agreed to explore collaboration with regard to the development and management of on-line reporting systems

Since the portal's launch in June 2011, the Global Environment Facility offered to provide its news items for display in InforMEA, the International Maritime Organization has expressed interest in joining the initiative, and the DTIE-supported Green Customs Initiative and DEWA's data project "UNEP live" are discussing cooperation. The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) is building a customized application based on InforMEA country pages to make its information more widely available. InforMEA was also well received at side events of this year's Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel COPs and at the CITES Standing Committee in August.

III Governance Structure

The MEA IKM Steering Committee (SC) is the main driver of this initiative. It consists of representatives designated by the Executive Heads of MEA Secretariats and observers and meets once a year.

The terms of Reference of the Steering Committee were agreed at the 1st MEA IKM SC Meeting and subsequently endorsed by MEA Executive Heads.

Working Groups meet about every two months through video-conferencing to work on the implementation of proof of concept activities and pilot projects as directed by the SC (www.informea.org/about).

IV Steps for the Barcelona Convention

Currently technical experts of the Barcelona Convention explore how best to implement the harvesting mechanism behind InforMEA. Implementation will be effected with the assistance of UNEP's technical team who developed a comprehensive toolkit to facilitate this process (ISPRA already works with eau de web, the company supporting InforMEA, on other EC related issues).

Making the Barcelona Convention's systems "speak" to InforMEA and the systems of other MEAs will not only need technical but also semantic interoperability. Therefore the Barcelona Convention and UNEP will identify terms relevant to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols to be included in the overall terminology of TEMATEA.

Lastly, both entities will consider sketching out a plan for the incremental integration of other regional seas conventions with InforMEA.

www.informea.org

Homepage with search function, news, calendar, term cloud:

<http://informea.org/>

Treaties with regional Tab:

<http://informea.org/treaties>

<http://informea.org/treaties/regional>

Country page (Kenya demonstrates what pages will look like once harvesting mechanism implemented)

<http://informea.org/countries/84>

Examples of how terms weave across MEA treaty texts and decisions

<http://informea.org/terms/198/treaties>

<http://informea.org/terms/198/decisions>

Information on Initiative, process and technical specifications

<http://informea.org/about>

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InforMEA UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

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What is InforMEA?

InforMEA harvests COP decisions, news, events, membership, national focal points and reports from MEAs. Information is organised by terms from MEA COP agendas. InforMEA is a project of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative with the support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

ME Explorer

Search text

Topics ☒ Biodiversity ☒ Chemicals / Waste ☒ Climate / Ozone / Deserts

Search in ☒ Decisions & Resolutions ☒ Treaties ☒ Meetin

[Advanced search »](#)

principles indigenous communities conservation Species information relations btw instruments agrobiodiversity fin. biodiversity fin. mechanism technology ABS treaty cooperation

Latest news

21 Oct 2011
UNESCO convenes Libyan and International ...
Source: World Heritage Convention

20 Oct 2011
GEF Small Grants Programme Regional ...
Source: GEF

20 Oct 2011
Launch of new publication (executive ...
Source: Basel Convention

Calendar of events

« **OCTOBER 2011** »

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Featured Tool

Featured Country

Kenya
Republic of Kenya profile

NEWS - 14 October, 2011

Cape Floral Region Protected Areas get Conservation Boost from World Heritage Centre Partner [read more »](#)

The MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties

Barcelona Convention, Athens, 3-4 November 2011



UNFCCC



UNCCD



OZONE



BASEL



ROTTERDAM



STOCKHOLM



CBD



CITES



WHO



RAMSAR



ITPGRFA



CMS

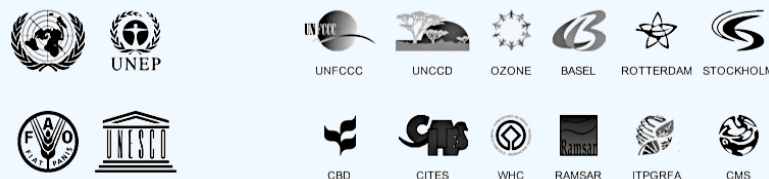
Promoting collaboration and exchange
of expertise among MEAs



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UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS



Members



The MEA IKM Initiative supported by UNEP

Members:

CBD	Basel
CITES	Rotterdam
CMS and AEWA	Stockholm
ITPGR-FA	Montreal Protocol
WHC-UNESCO	UNCCD
Ramsar	UNFCCC

Barcelona Convention

Observers:

UNEP-WCMC (harmonized reporting)
IUCN/FAO (Ecolex), IISD (MEA Bulletin)

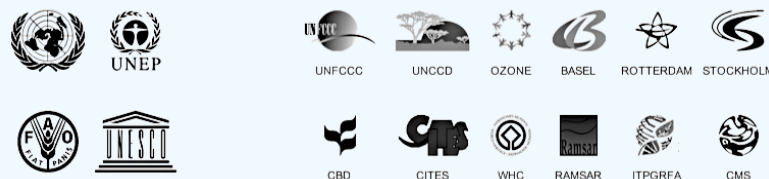
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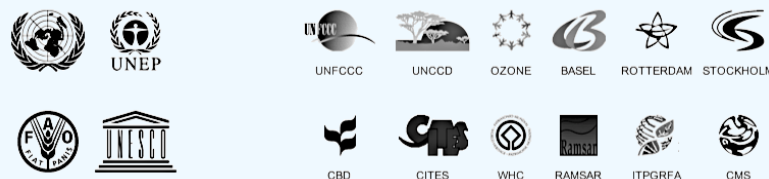
Goal



Terms of Reference

- Assist Parties to implement their obligations
- Harmonize information standards across MEAs
- Enhance technical capacity at MEA secretariats
- Promote a joint approach to common challenges
 - Example: support from Chemicals Cluster to other MEAs

InforMEA



The 1st Project

As a first step towards meeting these goals, InforMEA makes key categories of data sets ‘interoperable’ (*speak to one another*).

These categories of information are harvested from participating MEAs and can be searched against a set of 200 hierarchical terms culled from MEA COP Agendas:

- **Decisions and resolutions**
- **News**
- **Events**
- **Membership to MEAs**
- **National focal points**
- **National Reports *and National Plans***

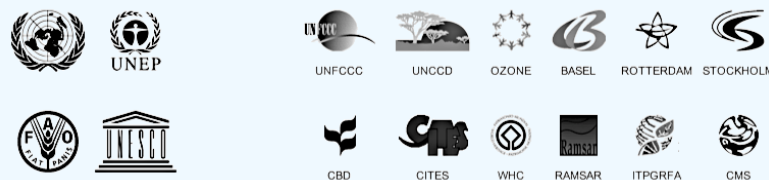
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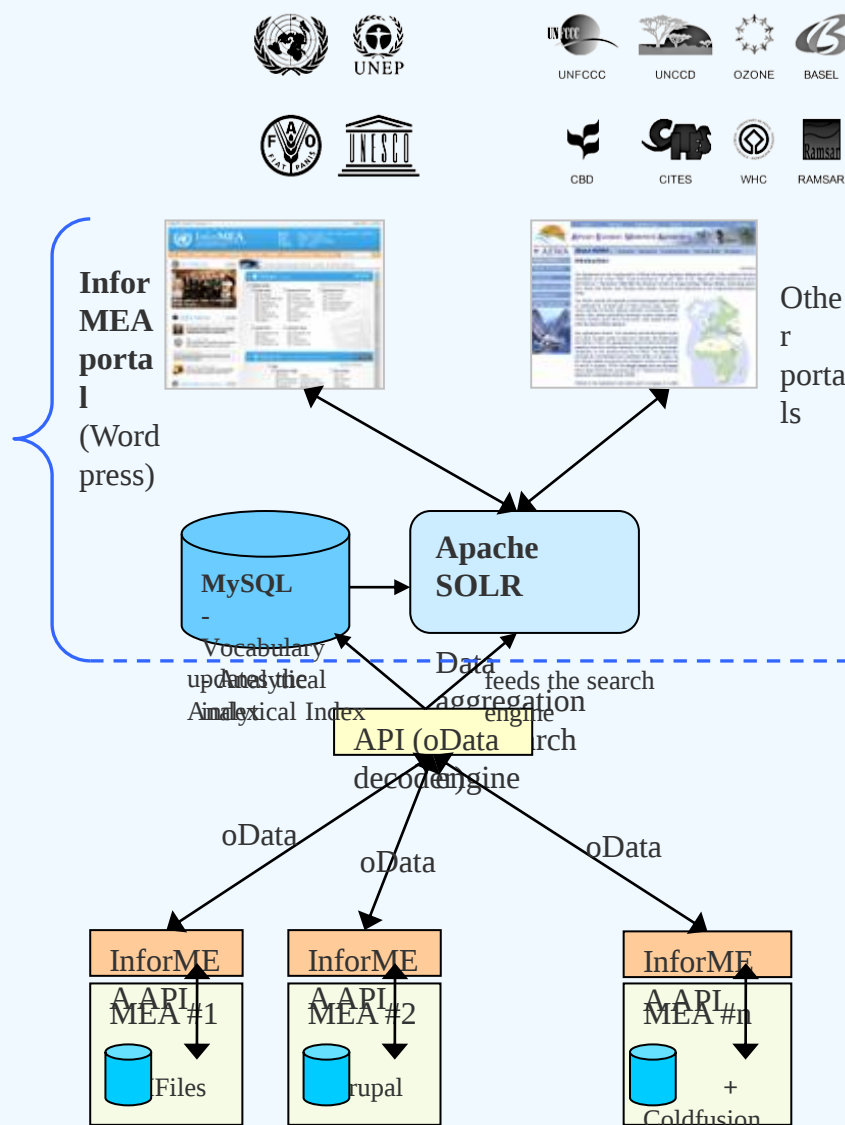
Benefits



- A one stop portal harvests and organises key information from 17 global MEAs (**front end**)
- Harmonized data standards allow for easier and more cost-effective development of information systems and products in general (**back end**)
- Collaboration has enhanced technical expertise and collaboration across MEA Secretariats (**process**)

How?

MEA Secretariats remain the custodians of their data which is harvested using agreed to *APIs (Application Programming Interface)*.



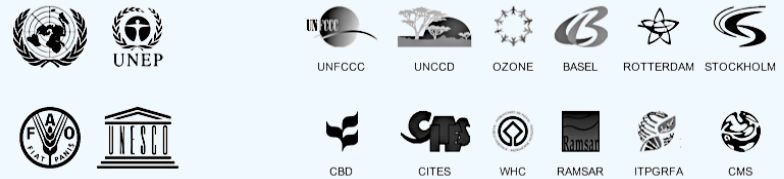
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Steps

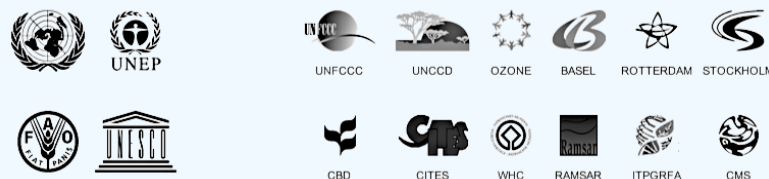


Participating MEAs agreed on the following:

- Data formats, protocols and standards
- Information architecture
- Data harvesting mechanism
- Common set of terms – “*Controlled Vocabulary*”
- Web-portal design and interface
- Implementation of the harvesting mechanism at Secretariat level by end 2011

Way Ahead

2nd SC Meeting Outcomes



1. Improvement and Extension of InforMEA

- Next step on Back End (MEA Feeds) and Front End

2. MEA Virtual College

- New tab with capacity building material, 2-3 courses per MEA

3. On-line Reporting

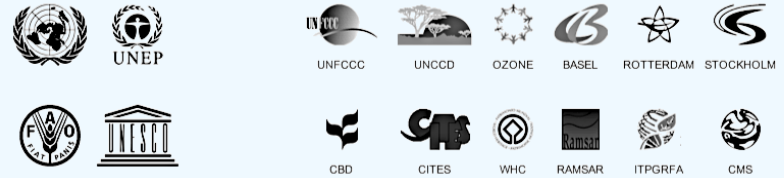
- Inventory of reporting obligations, explore use of CMS and UNCCD Report Generator (WCMC) and generic analyzing software

4. Fundraising

- Outreach and targeted fundraising for specific projects

Governance

www.informea.org/about



- MEA IKM Steering Committee
 - meets annually
 - gives direction to the initiative and agrees on projects
 - Third SC meeting : June 2012, Glion, Switzerland
- MEA IKM Working Group
 - meets regularly by video link and works on project implementation
 - represents a network of peers and community of practice
 - 9th WG Meeting: 9 November 2011

Coming Soon

- Application for hand held devices



Promoting collaboration and exchange
of expertise among MEAs

Barcelona/MAP

Steps to take



1. Technical Implementation

- Adjust Schemas to Standards
- Implement Application Programming Interface (supported by UNEP)

2. Semantic “interoperability”

- Contribute key terms to the Controlled Vocabulary
- Map terminologies

3. Going Beyond

- Explore integration of other Regional Seas Convention



Portal

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Thank You



UNFCCC



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CMS

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