

UNEP Workshop on Knowledge Management and MEAs

22-24 September 2009

Chexbres, Switzerland

CBD Update on Knowledge Management and Interoperability

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Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

*CBD Update on
KM & Interop*

Content

Questionnaire
Info Sharing Needs
Interop Initiatives
Final Comments



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Content

Questionnaire

Information Sharing Needs with MEAs

Interoperability Initiatives

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- ▶ Questionnaire
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Questionnaire (1/2)

1. Data Standardization
 - CBD not standardized with MEAs
 - Use of some international standard formats & protocols (country & language codes, SOAP, REST, Atom/RSS Feeds)
2. Technical Resources for Data Harmonization (UN standards)
 - Need guidance about "UN standards"
 - Need a Documentation/Knowledge Officer
 - Need IT expertise for implementation (web developer)
3. Data Harmonization Project & Information Needs
 - Interested in an inter-MEA proof-of-concept project
 - Need high-level commitment from each MEA
 - Start with simple and useful information services (e.g. calendar)
 - Proceed with additional items (news, decisions, contacts, projects, case studies, documents, ...)

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Questionnaire (2/2)

4. Harmonized Reporting
 - Report templates for past reports (NR2, NR3 & Thematic)
 - NR4 is narrative with high-level chapter structure (from COP)
5. KM Reports & Activities
 - UN & UNEP reports are very valuable general references
 - Extra step needed to define specific activities for MEAs
 - Should take into account available time, resources & expertise
 - Importance of overall coordination/leadership across MEAs
 - KM initiative with CBD (KM team & consultancy)
 - Challenge ahead to implement recommendations
6. Mechanisms for Issue-Based Approach to Problem Solving
 - Can be debated during this meeting / Be pragmatic & realistic
 - Define scope & services to address specific needs
 - Use existing Web 2.0 services and do not reinvent the wheel

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Information Sharing Needs with MEAs

- Frequent Information Sharing Needs
 - Shared calendar of events (Rio, BLG, UNEP, IYB 2010)
 - Who's who & yellow pages (persons, organizations, roles)
 - Meeting outcomes
 - Decisions
 - Reports
 - MEA Parties
- Other Information Sharing Needs
 - Case studies
 - Projects & Initiatives (fact sheets)
 - Country profiles
 - References (documents, websites, databases, etc)
 - ...

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Interoperability Initiatives

Initiative	Protocol	Format	Comments
Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)	SOAP	Custom XML	- Single central server - 2 full-time IT experts - OK but few implementations
Rio Interoperability (NFP & Events)	SOAP	Custom XML	- Joint specs by Rio Conventions - Implementation issues - Multi-server issues - Operational but unused
European CHM Portal Toolkit (News)	RSS Feeds	RDF with extensions	- Custom software package - OK if same package
GFIS (News, events)	RSS Feeds	RSS with extensions	- Good specs at www.gfis.net - OK
Technology Transfer	Atom Feeds	Atom with extensions	- Draft specs by CBD - Not implemented by partners
Google Calendar (<i>ongoing</i>)	REST & Atom Feeds	Atom with extensions	- Public specs by Google - API & documentation available - Widely implemented - OK

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Slide 7

Final Comments

- Importance of well-designed comprehensive specifications
 - Communication protocol, data formats & classifications
 - Special features (security, synchronization, errors, ...)
 - Sample data & scenarios to facilitate implementation
 - ➔ Difficult to achieve with limited expertise & resources
- Take advantage of existing Web 2.0 services (e.g. Google)
 - Designed by experts (reliable protocols with docs & samples)
 - Consistent API for various services (Calendar, Contacts, ...)
 - Custom formats & extensions can sometimes be defined
- Our focus
 - Evaluate web 2.0 providers & services ➔ select service(s)
 - Prepare specifications / guidelines for service customization
 - Focus on client-side implementation
 - ➔ More details tomorrow

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Questions & Answers

Thank you

Any Question / Comment?

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