



The MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative

1st MEA (IKM) Steering Committee Meeting
Glion (Switzerland), 22-24 June 2010



Environmental Law Perspective

- Why is IKM important for MEAs?

“MEAs are not self-contained”

- Consistency and coherence are the foundations of strong international law
- Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties - Art 31: *The Interpretation of a treaty must take account of all other relevant treaties and subsequent practices*

- How can Parties to MEAs keep track?

- Outreach and capacity-building to promote coherent development of law
- examples of other international law fields (ILO lex, FAO lex, WTO analytical index)

- UNEP’s Mandate (Programme of Work 2010/2011)

“Access to knowledge on evolution and implementation of MEAs enhanced by integrating web-based databases and tools through a coordinated multi-stakeholder process”



First MEA IKM Meeting in Chexbres

22-24 September 2009

Participation

9 MEAs (Basel, CBD, CITES, CMS, ITPGR-FA, PIC, POPs, Ramsar, WHC) and

- 2 partners (IUCN and WCMC), UNEP DELC and DCPI

Recommendations

“Conscious of previous efforts involving MEAs” to develop:

1. MEA IKM Pilot Project on inter-operability for four categories of information:
 - COP decisions and resolutions
 - National focal points and contacts
 - Calendars & Events
 - Official documents
2. Long-term MEA KM strategy in cooperation with UNEP’s KM strategy



What is the MEA IKM Pilot project

- A jointly established web-portal where decisions/events/focal points/official documents from MEAs can be “searched” or browsed per terms (legal terms, scientific names of species/chemicals), countries, dates or date ranges, etc...
- The project is sustainable because MEA Secretariats remain the custodians of their data. They agree to adhere to common formats, protocols and standards to facilitating communication between their systems – ***“interoperability”***.
- This project aims to build capacity to develop much needed knowledge tools in a more timely and cost effective manner.
- Implementing this project demands a Knowledge Management approach: (joint work, sharing of expertise, a culture of learning, capacity building and the establishment of a network of peers).



Process and Governance

Steering Committee (SC)

SC is the main driver of this initiative, members designated by their heads of secretariats; decisions of the SC will need endorsement by the respective ES;

Members: Basel, CBD, CITES, CMS, ITPGR-FA, WHC, Ramsar, UNCCD, POPs, PIC, Montreal P, UNFCCC

Observers: IUCN (TEMATEA and ECOLEX), WCMC, CIESIN, EMG, CIEL

UNEP: CSS (EO),

Working Group (WG)

The working group works inter-sessionally on the implementation of the proof of concept to the pilot project. It provides recommendations to the Steering Committee for the pilot project and an MEA IKM Strategy

Members: Basel, CBD, CITES, CMS, WHC, POPs, PIC, Montreal P,



Working Group Meetings

Informal WG Meeting: Teleconference, 7 December 2009

Recap of Mandate, identification of issues for the 1st WG Meeting, assessment of resources amongst WG members,

1st WG Meeting: Teleconference, 7 January 2010:

Identification of processes at Secretariat level and in joint forum, assignment of tasks

2nd WG Meeting: MIE I, 3-4 February 2010

Schemas and format, hosting solution, controlled vocabulary, technical architecture

3rd WG Meeting: MIE I and video link, 20-21 April 2010

Refinement of Controlled Vocabulary, API development, guidance for participating MEAs, refined work plan,



This Meeting

- What have we achieved on the Proof of Concept to the MEA IKM Pilot?
- What were the lessons learned on the way ?
- Where do we go with this project in the coming year ?
 - Who will join the process, which categories next,
 - Underlying architecture
 - Sustainability
 - Capacity at Secretariat level; and
 - Fundraising strategies
- Where do we go with this Initiative ?
 - TORs of Steering Committees
 - Other projects/components of a MEA IKM Strategy



Thank you

