



Outcomes from the UNEP Knowledge Management retreat and roles of MEAs

The MEA and UNEP Information and Knowledge
Management Initiative

1st Steering Committee Meeting

22-24 June 2010, Glion, Switzerland

MEAs, UNEP and Knowledge Management

UNEP KM Retreat Objectives:

Bring together members of the **newly established** UNEP Working Group on Knowledge Management (UNEP-KM)

Discover a **shared understanding** among colleagues on the need for KM

Start work on **developing a KM strategy** and implementation plan **for UNEP**



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Two persons from the MEAs were invited in their personal capacity to participate in the retreat:

Mr. Osmany Pereira Gonzalez, coordinator of the Joint Services of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;

and

Mr. Marcos Silva, Senior Programme Officer, CITES.

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- Discussions were organized around 4 tracks:
 - Management
 - Collaboration
 - Content Management, and
 - Web Content Management

Marcos participated in the Management group while Osmany participated in the Content Management group.

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The outcomes of the Retreat included:

Increased awareness of KM initiatives in UNEP, the MEAs (UNEP administered and others), UN-Habitat, UN Secretariat and the UN System Organizations

An **agreed upon KM competency** for UNEP

A **draft UNEP KM strategy with an implementation plan**



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The KM Strategy:

A KM strategy for UNEP and **its partners** which ensures that the objectives and scope for KM in the long-term is coherent and mutually supportive

Partners:

UNEP, Regional Offices, Liaison Offices, Out-posted Offices, Collaborating Centres, **Convention Secretariats (UNEP administered MEAs)**, etc.

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Budgeting:

Of interest is that all four groups raised the issue of budgeting, and whether much needed KM activities and initiatives would be supported through **in-house resources** or through the use of **external consultants/new positions**.

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Each working group produced a workplan that will serve as the foundation for the UNEP wide KM strategy.

The meeting agreed that the different working groups will meet again to finalize their workplans and submit the final drafts to John Kamea for further integration into a UNEP-KM strategy.

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Four factors impressed the MEA participants:

1. The level of knowledge held by UNEP was striking.
2. The issue of budgeting was not resolved, and participants left the meeting unsure if the requisite support to implement the KM strategy would be made available

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3. There is an **urgent** need to **align MEA KM activities** with those **proposed by UNEP**

Many of the proposed **UNEP KM activities** are **complementary** to those of the MEAs, particularly with regard to capacity building, metadata, controlled vocabularies, etc.

The MEAs were invited to **nominate representatives** to the UNEP KM Steering Committee. Mr. John Kamea will represent UNEP in the MEA IKM Steering Committee.

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Four factors impressed the MEA participants:

4. With regard to the proof of concept project, the MEAs have instituted a KM approach to sharing expertise and joint work.

UNEP still needs to reflect on how they will implement such a culture of collaboration and learning. In many ways, UNEP's task may be more challenging given the heterogeneity of projects and departments and outposted offices.

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Emphasis on a culture of learning and knowledge sharing:

Participants to the meeting emphasized very much that there is an urgent need for UNEP to promote further a **culture of learning and knowledge sharing**. Various proposals toward this end were discussed (PAS, incentives, recognition, etc.)



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Conclusion:

The UNEP KM strategy has exceptional staff implementing it, and has a very good chance of success should sufficient support be accorded to its activities.



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Conclusion:

The MEAs should cooperate with and participate in the UNEP KM project. This can be done by aligning our respective strategies, identifying mutually supportive activities and sharing of expertise and knowledge.



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Thank you!

Mr. John Kamea (UNEP)

**Mr. Osmany Pereira (Stockholm
Convention)**

Mr. Marcos Regis Silva (CITES)