

MEA IKM Initiative: InforMEA

THE UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

1st Meeting of the Task Force on Access to Information
Aarhus Convention, (Geneva, 7-8 February 2013)



Promoting collaboration and exchange
of expertise among MEAs



InforMEA
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON
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Challenge

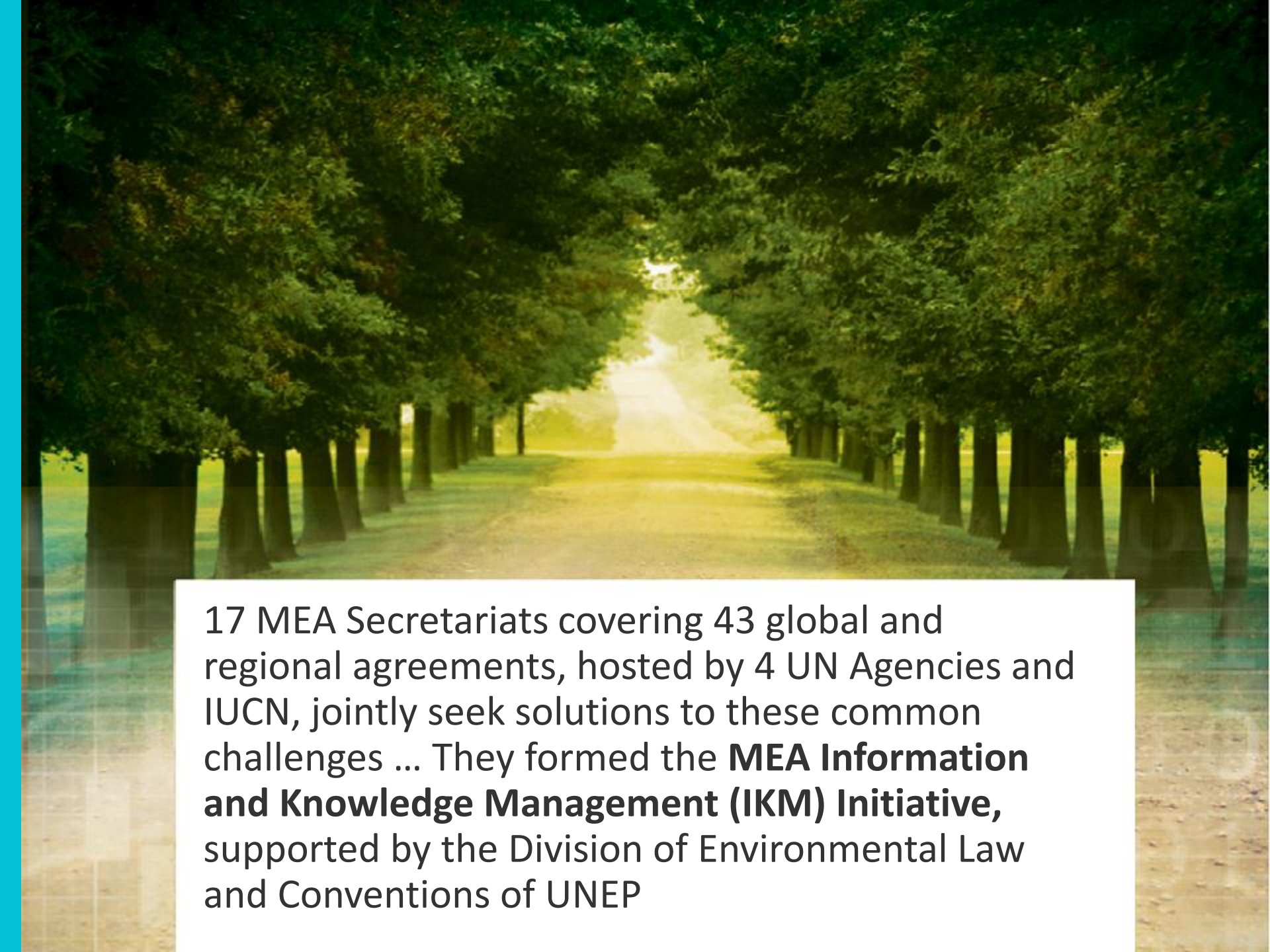
Different MEAs seek to respond to different challenges.
All of them contain obligations for countries:

- Most of them require periodic reporting and the designation of dedicated national focal points
- Many of them contain Annexes of substances, species or sites and procedures of how they are “listed”
- Most of the have their own governing bodies with periodical meetings where further decisions are taken to refine the content and Annexes of an Agreement.

Filling the Gap

- How can Parties with limited resources keep track of their obligations?
- How can Parties participating in different fora achieve more coherence in decision making?
- How can Parties contribute to ONE strong and coherent body of International Environmental Law?



A photograph of a long, straight path lined with tall, leafy trees, leading towards a bright light at the end of the path. The path is flanked by rows of trees on both sides, creating a tunnel effect. The light at the end of the path is bright and yellowish, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

17 MEA Secretariats covering 43 global and regional agreements, hosted by 4 UN Agencies and IUCN, jointly seek solutions to these common challenges ... They formed the **MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative**, supported by the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of UNEP

InforMEA

InforMEA is the first project under the MEA IKM Initiative. It offers access to

- Parties and national focal points
- COP Decisions and Resolutions
- Events and News
- Soon: National Reports and National Plans

Information is harvested from MEAs through a jointly developed system. MEA Secretariats remain the custodians of their data, their information is harvested using *APIs* (Application Programming Interface).



Features of InforMEA

- Terms-Search: Explore how selected themes and concepts weave through the entire body of MEA treaties and decisions (“Rio Principle 10”, “alien species”, “budget”).
- Free Text Search (MEA Explorer): Search agreements, decisions and resolutions
- Calendar of MEA Events and News: Find events and highlights organized by themes
- Countries: Discover which countries are Parties to which Treaties, find their NFPs, Ramsar & WHC sites, national reports & plans, national legislation and case law.



What lies ahead?

1. Enhancing InforMEA
 - Document library, translation, improve usability
2. MEA E-learning facility
 - (CITES virtual college), UNU, MEA material, UNEP DELC
3. **Thesaurus on Environmental Law**
 - (GEMET – EEA, UNEP, IUCN, FAO, Academia, ...)
4. Single Window on Trade Related MEAs
5. Report and National Plan Depositories
 - (based on ReportNet of Eionet, on-line reporting UNEP-WCMC)
6. Pilot CB activities – testing “on the ground”
 - Web 0.2 tools, feed back from key target group, ...

Thank You

InforMEA UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

ABOUT | TREATIES | DECISIONS | COUNTRIES | TERMS | HIGHLIGHTS | EVENTS

What is InforMEA?
InforMEA harvests ODP decisions, news, events, membership, national focal points and reports from MEAs. Information is organised by items from MEA ODP agencies. 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 Meetings
 Advanced search >

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

Calendar of events
 NOVEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Featured Country
Kenya
 Republic of Kenya profile

Latest news
 10 Nov 2011
 GEF Setting in Motion the ...
 Source: GEF

9 Nov 2011
 Statement by Mr. Ahmed Djaziri,
 Source: CBD

8 Nov 2011
 World Heritage Centre and
 Tourism ...
 Source: World Heritage Convention

Featured Tool

ME Explorer

 NEWS - 10 November 2011
 GEF Setting in Motion the Protection of the Ocean
 Commons - read more >

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