

# The MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative

*Meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee of the Clearing-House Mechanism,  
Convention on Biological Diversity*

*13-14 June 2014, Montreal, Canada*



Promoting collaboration and exchange  
of expertise among MEAs

# Why the MEA IKM Initiative



Promoting collaboration and exchange  
of expertise among MEAs



**InforMEA**  
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON  
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS



# Context

Many different events where decisions made where access to information is essential, for example:

- Report of *the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20–22 June 2012 (Rio+20)*, Paragraphs in the *Outcome document* referring to the need for access to or sharing of information:
- Pararagraphs 42-44, 47, 53, 66, 73, 78, 85(k), 88(d-e) (UNEP), 90, 98-100, 104, 114, 117, 136, 146, 154, 176-177, 187, 202, 204 (IPBES), 209, 220, 230, 251, 259, 269, 274, and 283

# The MEA IKM Initiative

18 MEA Secretariats covering 35 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





# Benefits

- Harmonized data standards across MEA secretariats allow for easier and more cost-effective development of information and knowledge products in general
- Collaboration has enhanced technical expertise and exchanges across MEA Secretariats
- A one stop portal harvests key information from 30 global and regional MEAs

# InforMEA

InforMEA is the first project of the MEA IKM Initiative.

It presents the following information:

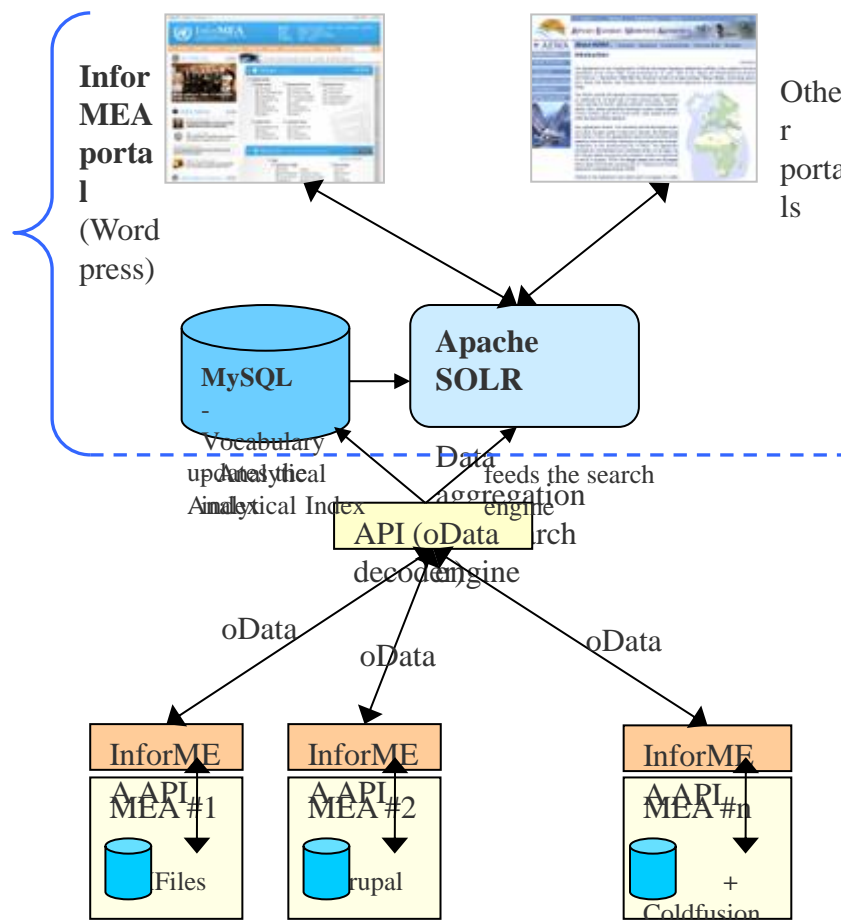
- COP Decisions and Resolutions
- News and events
- Parties and national focal points
- Soon: national reports and implementation plans

Information is harvested directly from MEAs through a jointly interoperable system.

# “Interoperability”

MEA Secretariats remain the custodians of their data.

Information is harvested using **APIs** (Application Programming Interface).





# “Interoperability”

Members of the IKM Initiative have agreed on interoperability standards related to the:

Syntactical level (XML Schemas)

Structural level (Odata information exchange protocol)

Semantic level (MEA Controlled Vocabulary)

Work is ongoing...

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# Current projects

- A electronic library of official documents published by the MEAs
- A portal on capacity building serving as the platform for the establishment of an MEA-wide Virtual University
- The establishment of an MEA Thesaurus to improve knowledge management



# Current projects

- Information on National reporting leading eventually to platforms that are able to “speak to one another”



- Information on trade related information leading eventually to a “Single Window” on regulatory trade information

# Thank you! The IKM Initiative



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