

62nd Working Group Meeting of the MEA IKM Initiative

Tuesday, October 06, 2020 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM CET

Audio Conference – Bonn, Geneva, Nairobi, Montreal, Rome, Singapore

Report

Meeting Participants

BRS – Osmany PEREIRA, Julien HORTONEDA
CBD –Frederic VOGEL, Blaise FONSECA
CITES- Haruko OKUSU, Helene GANDOIS
CMS – Maria Jose ORTIZ
IPPC - Paola SENTINELLI
ITPGRFA - Francisco LOPEZ
IWC – Mark TANDY
Minamata Convention – Anna GARCIA SANS
Ozone Secretariat- Gerald MUTISYA
Ramsar- Manuel KERN, Ed JENNINGS
UNCCD - Jeroen Van DALEN
UNFCCC Secretariat- Jingwen YANG
UNEP MAP – Maria Luisa Rodriguez LUCAS

UNEP – Eva DUER, Kelly KABIRU, Iddah KAMAU, Lillian ONYANGO

Meeting Summary

Ms. Eva Duer welcomed the participants to the meeting dedicated to preparing for the upcoming Steering Committee Meeting (SCM). She introduced a new member to the team, Mark Tandy, from the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Mark considered that InforMEA was a great resource for MEAs to share their information. IWC would consider how their decisions could be reflected in the InforMEA model given the long standing and relatively complicated decision-making process.

The InforMEA Team reaffirmed that the SCM would need to be held virtually. Instead of the usual face to face event which takes 2.5 to 3 days, the working group might work towards formulating work program and recommendations through a month long period of a series of meeting, culminating in a 2.5 hour affair for the high level segment with executive heads for the endorsement of the recommendations.

The time of the Executive heads would focus on the priorities that have been formulated by the MEAs for their strategic direction and represent again an opportunity of enhancing awareness among them and senior Management about the work of the Initiative.

Ms. Duer invited one/two MEAs to take the lead on a workstream they are enthusiastic about with the task to arrive at the best possible draft formulation with the support of the entire working group. The

draft recommendations should then be reviewed and refined with input from the whole inter-sessional group.

The proposed date for the high level virtual SCM will be set between 26 November to 10 December 2020 and a doodle link with options would be shared. The main areas of possible recommendations are to be inspired by

- previous recommendations,
- the Logical framework of InforMEA phase II
- the priorities of the MEAs as gathered from the ongoing survey; and
- contextual developments such as UNEP's Digital Transformation, the LEAP project, DART, and the Judicial Portal, among others.

Round of feedback by MEAs

- Minamata Secretariat will fully support in whichever area help may be needed in the SCM.
- CBD endorsed the format and confirmed their excitement to participate in the proposed SCM.
- CITES joined in and would do their best to contribute as much as possible.
- UNCCD informed of their new Deputy Executive Secretary, Ms. Tina Birmpili, formerly at the Ozone Secretariat.
- UNFCCC also looked forward to the SC and informed that its website is currently being enhanced and upgraded. The organization has recently been restructured and Ms. Jingwen Yang's team to the department of Operations Coordination.
- BRS supported the format of the SCM, noting that the online modality would enable participants to contribute to all workstreams rather than having to decide their focus during the in-person meetings for lack of time. BRS also informed the group that the new InforMEA server had been delivered and that the Secretariat was still awaiting additional hardware ahead of its full installation.
- The Plant Treaty also supported the SCM format and informed of their closer cooperation with colleagues on Climate Change.
- The Ramsar Secretariat pressed for the date to be shared soon to ensure attendance by their Secretary General for any high-level segment.
- CMS supported the meeting format proposal and mentioned updating their website to Drupal 8 and their testing of PoolParty to integrate new practices within their website. The also informed of their new Executive Secretary, Ms. Amy Fraenkel.
- IPPC also endorsed the format of the Steering Committee Meeting and requested learning statistics and feedback from their online course for their review and planning.
- UNEP MAP recently launched their new website and looked forward to exchanges with UNEP headquarters to reconnect to InforMEA.

Assigning leads for the workstreams in preparation of SCM 11

- **Technical cooperation/ API implementation** would be led by the Ozone Secretariat (Gerald Mutisya) with the Ramsar Secretariat (Manuel and Ed) acting as a back-up.

- **Archiving** would be led by UNFCCC (Jingwen Yang) pending approval from their Senior Management.
- **Akoma Ntoso** would be guided by IPBES (Benedict Omare) & CBD (Fredrick Vogel). Ms. Duer referred to work on a WTO Matrix in the context of the collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and invited anyone interested in finalizing the Legislation Schema to also join this group.
- **Semantic indexing** would be led by CITES- (Helene Gandois & Haruko Okusu) and BRS (Osmany Pereira & Julien Hortonedo). Ramsar Secretariat (Manuel and Ed) will provide back-up.
- **Capacity building** through InforMEA would cover e-learning as the bridge within MEA Secretariats and CMS (Maria Ortiz) volunteered to take the lead in this group with UNEP MAP (Maria Luisa Rodriguez) volunteering to support it.
- **COVID as an accelerator/opportunity – outreach.** This group would be led by Minamata (Anna Garcia Sans). UNEP MAP (Maria Luisa Rodriguez) volunteered to support this group. Eva mentioned that currently, the UNITAR courses have the biggest following due to their large alumni base which may hold lessons to be learned for UNEP/InforMEA.
- **Interaction with contextual processes - WESR/Digitalization.** This is to be led by UNFCCC and BRS. Ramsar Secretariat (Manuel and Ed) will act as a back-up. Eva stated that David Jensen may possibly present this topic to this forum about the digitalization process.

Further to the areas recommended above, BRS (Osmany) raised the importance of data quality in the context of the data shared with and in InforMEA and proposed to have this item included - potentially embedded in one of already existing groups such as outreach or capacity building. The data quality issue was also becoming apparent in the context of calendar entries being not recent enough/outdated or vague in content. Ms. Iddah Kamau informed that feedback has been received from the MEAs regarding the suggested joint calendar and a survey has already been circulated seeking for further information on the same.

UNFCCC (Ms. Jingwen Yang) echoed the point on the importance of data quality referring to it as a reputational issue and the importance of reliable and truthful data. UNFCCC recently launched a new dashboard for the UNFCCC calendar, which can be found via the following link: <https://unfccc.int/calendar/dashboard> which may serve as an inspiration.

Any Other Business

Mark Tandy (IWC) thanked CITES for introducing their organization to the InforMEA group.

Ms. Duer concluded anticipating swift individual follow-ups with the lead volunteers of the specific recommendations' groups and announcing that the doodle link on the date of the high-level Steering Committee Meeting would be shared soon.