

InforMEA is a one-stop portal for information on Multilateral Environmental Agreements – or MEAs – searchable by key terms across treaty texts, COP decisions, national plans and reports, laws, court decisions and more.

The initiative behind InforMEA is co-chaired by **UNEP** and **CITES** and brings together **22 MEA Secretariats** hosted by **5 UN** organizations and **IUCN**, in addition to observers and partners. InforMEA is facilitated by UNEP and financially supported by the **European Union**.

The MEAs contributing to InforMEA cut across environmental issue areas, from **Chemicals and Waste** (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions); to **Biodiversity** (CBD); **Trade in Wildlife** (CITES); **Plants** (IPPC and Plant Treaty); **Ozone** (Vienna Convention); **Wetlands** (Ramsar Convention); **Migratory Species** (CMS); **World Heritage** (UNESCO-WHC); **Deserts** (UNCCD); **Climate Change** (UNFCCC and Paris Agreement); **Marine and Freshwater** (Regional Seas Conventions, UNCLOS, and Water Convention) and **Environmental Governance** (Aarhus Convention and Escazu Agreement).

For further information visit
www.informea.org

Or contact us at ikm@un.org



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InforMEA - The United Nations Information Portal on **Multilateral Environmental Agreements**



InforMEA
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS



InforMEA



Land and
Agriculture



Chemicals and
Waste



Biological
Diversity



Environmental
Governance



Climate and
Atmosphere



Marine and
Freshwater

InforMEA facilitates greater understanding of environmental law by offering users intuitive access to:

- ▶ 40 Analyzed Treaty and Protocol texts (analyzed at article and paragraph level)
- ▶ 12,000 decisions by Governing Bodies of MEAs (i.e. COPs)
- ▶ Country Profiles, including:
 - Ratification information
 - National reports to MEAs
 - National implementation plans
 - Laws and court decisions
 - Sites and protected areas
 - Contacts and national focal points
- ▶ A joint calendar of events and news related to MEAs
- ▶ A **Glossary** containing over 500 key terms and concepts related to international environmental law and conventions, providing definitions, term relationships, hierarchies, and synonyms
- ▶ An **E-learning** platform containing more than 30 courses in over 60 language versions. All courses are free of charge, self-paced, multilingual, and offer certificates of completion
- ▶ A Goals Page, connecting the SDGs and other global goals to the Strategic Plans of the MEAs
- ▶ A collection of national laws, court decisions, literature, and additional bilateral and regional treaties.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements are largely issue-specific, having arisen in response to a particular environmental threat identified by the international community at a certain point in time — for example the effects of certain substances on depleting the ozone layer, or the effect of international trade in endangered species on biodiversity. It can therefore be difficult to gain a comprehensive picture of any one environmental issue and the relevant legal framework.

Take the issue of an invasive species like the water hyacinth, an aquatic plant native to South America that is now present on all continents except Antarctica. The spread of water hyacinth can have disastrous consequences to ecosystems and livelihoods, depleting fish stocks and native plants. The management of invasive species like the water hyacinth illustrates the interdependence of the environment and the framework of laws and policies we have in place to protect it. The use of pesticides to control them, for instance, involves both the MEAs regulating the use of chemicals as well as those promoting biodiversity. Invasive species can also affect crops, where land-use and agriculture MEAs can be instrumental through interventions like crop rotation. Meanwhile the reality of a warming planet means that certain invasive species suited to warmer climates, such as water hyacinth, may spread to new areas, implicating the adaptation measures of climate-related MEAs, as well as those dealing with marine and freshwater.

So successful management and use of invasive species cuts across environmental issue areas and MEA mandates. For this reason it is essential that information across MEAs is available and searchable in an intelligent and accessible way – from COP decisions on biological control agents, to national plans on alternative uses. The home of this dispersed material is InforMEA, the information portal on MEAs.