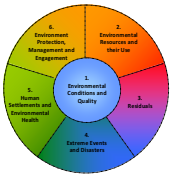

Environment and Energy Statistics Workshop for the Arab Region

Handout 5: Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Source: FDES 2013, **Annex C**

This Annex presents the most relevant global MEAs as they relate to the field of environment statistics. Most environmental problems have a transboundary nature and often a global scope, and can only be addressed effectively through international cooperation. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to promote measures at international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems, and in particular combating climate change.[1]

For each of the selected MEAs, a synthetic depiction is presented, followed by a description of its implications in terms of potential demand for data and statistics. It is usually the case that for the most relevant MEAs, participant or signatory countries face the need to periodically report on progress either on a mandatory or voluntary basis.

The Basel Convention

The late 1980s witnessed greater enforcement of environmental regulations in industrialized countries and consequent greater pressure to find environmentally responsible means of disposing of hazardous waste. This was a major impetus for drafting and adopting the Basel Convention.[2]

During its first decade (1989-1999), the Basel Convention was principally devoted to setting up a framework for controlling the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes across international borders. It also developed criteria for "environmentally sound management (ESM)" (of such wastes) and established a Control System, based on prior written notification. In the 2000-2010 decade, the focus shifted from remedial to preventive aspects, with the following areas of concern being explicitly recognized:

i. Prevention, minimization, recycling, recovery and disposal of hazardous and other wastes, taking into account social, technological and economic concerns;
ii. Active promotion and use of cleaner technologies and production methods;
iii. Further reduction of movement of hazardous and other wastes;
iv. Prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic;

[1] European Commission. "Environment – International Issues, Multilateral Environment Agreements". Available from http://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/agreements_en.htm (accessed 19 April 2013).
[2] Secretariat of the Basel Convention. Available from http://www.basel.int (accessed 30 November 2012).

v. Improvement of institutional and technical capabilities - through technology when appropriate - especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
vi. Further development of regional centres for training and technology transfer;
vii. Enhancement of information exchange, education and awareness-raising in all sectors of society; and
viii. Cooperation and partnership with the public authorities, international organizations, the industry sector, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

Since its entry into force, compliance requirements have dictated that the reporting needs for this Convention continue to centre on the generation, export and import of hazardous waste. As such these remain pressing data requirements.

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Rotterdam Convention is a multilateral treaty to promote shared responsibilities during the process of importation of hazardous chemicals.[3] Adopted in September 1998 in Rotterdam, this Convention promotes open exchange of information and calls on exporters of hazardous chemicals to: use proper labelling, include directions on safe handling, and inform purchasers of any known restrictions or bans. It fosters shared responsibility and joint efforts of the Parties to the Convention in international trade in hazardous chemicals to protect human health and the environment. Signatory nations can decide whether to allow or ban the importation of chemicals listed in the treaty, and exporting countries are obliged to make sure that producers within their jurisdiction comply. The Convention provides for procedures concerning: banned or severely restricted chemicals; severely hazardous pesticide formulations; obligations regarding the import and export of chemicals; and Parties cooperation and information exchange.

National reporting on the Rotterdam Convention, by Designated National Authorities, was developed to help in the identification of formulations meeting the criteria for inclusion in the Rotterdam Convention and to provide a clear description of incidents related to the use of severely hazardous pesticide formulations, including their adverse effects and the way in which the formulations were used.[4]

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

The Stockholm Convention is an international environmental treaty, signed in 2001 and effective from May 2004, that aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of POPs.[5] Co-

[3] Text of the Rotterdam Convention. Available from http://www.pic.int/TheConvention/Overview/TextoftheConvention/tabid/1048/language/en-US/Default.aspx (accessed 24 November 2012).
[4] Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention (2004). "Guidance to Designated National Authorities on the operation of the Rotterdam Convention", Rome/Geneva. Available from ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/007/y5423e/y5423e00.pdf (accessed 24 November 2012).
[5] Text on the Stockholm Convention on POPs. Available from http://chm.pops.int/Convention/ConventionText/tabid/2232/language/en-GB/Default.aspx (accessed 25 November 2012).

signatories agree to outlaw nine of the “dirty dozen” chemicals identified, limit the use of DDT to malaria control, and curtail inadvertent production of dioxins and furans.

POPs are defined as "chemical substances that persist in the environment, bio-accumulate through the food web, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment".[6] In 1995, the Governing Council of UNEP called for global action to be taken on POPs.

Parties to the Stockholm Convention have agreed to a process by which persistent toxic compounds can be reviewed and added to the Convention, if they meet certain criteria for persistence and transboundary threat. A first set of new chemicals to be added to the Convention was agreed in May 2009. Compliance is monitored through required national reporting by Parties under the Convention. Reporting information relates to the initial 12 (dirty dozen) pollutants and the nine additional new pollutants, as well as to listed chemicals.

In pursuing the goal of promoting synergies among the Rotterdam Convention, the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention, commitment has been made to the establishment of a clearing house mechanism that would service the monitoring and information needs of all three of these Conventions.[7] The intent is that these synergies would foster sound chemicals management of the relevant pollutants over their life-cycles.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The CBD entered into force on 29 December 1993.[8] This Convention arose from a growing commitment, at the international level, to sustainable development. It represented a dramatic step forward in the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. Among the objectives of the CBD is the thrust for national and regional systems to be established for effective monitoring of protected-area coverage, status and trends at national, regional and global scales. It is also to assist in evaluating progress and meeting global diversity targets. This creates pressing data requirements at the national level. Following are the stated strategic goals of the Convention:

i. Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society;
ii. Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use;
iii. To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity;
iv. Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services; and

[6] UNEP, “Persistent Organic Pollutants”. Available from http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops/ (accessed 4 August 2012).
[7] Text on the Stockholm Convention on POPs. Available from http://chm.pops.int/Portals/0/Repository/COP4/UNEP-POPS-COP.4-19.English.PDF (accessed 3 August 2012).
[8] Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Available from http://www.cbd.int/convention/text (accessed 3 August 2012).

v. Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

CITES is an international agreement between governments.[9] Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The trade is diverse, ranging from live animals and plants to a vast array of wildlife products derived from them. Levels of exploitation of some animal and plant species are high and the trade in them, together with other factors, such as habitat loss, is capable of heavily depleting their populations and even bringing some species close to extinction. Many wildlife species in trade are not endangered, but the existence of an agreement to ensure the sustainability of the trade is important in order to safeguard these resources for the future. Because the trade in wild animals and plants crosses borders between countries, efforts to regulate it require international cooperation to safeguard certain species from over-exploitation. CITES provides varying degrees of protection to more than 30,000 species of animals and plants, whether or not they are traded as live specimens. CITES entered into force on 1 July 1975. Countries adopt their own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level. Parties to CITES are required to submit reporting on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken to enforce its provisions. National reporting is intended to be supportive of the monitoring of the following objectives of CITES:

i. Ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention;
ii. Secure the necessary financial resources and means for the operation and implementation of the Convention; and
iii. Contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive.

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

The CMS or Bonn Convention is an intergovernmental treaty that aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.[10] Concluded under the aegis of UNEP, it is concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale. Its steadily growing membership includes Parties from Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

CMS Parties strive towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them. Besides establishing obligations for each State joining the Convention, CMS

[9] Text of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Available from http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.php (accessed 6 August 2012).
[10] Convention on Migratory Species. Available from http://www.cms.int/documents/convtxt/cms_convtxt.htm (accessed 7 August 2012).

promotes concerted action among the Range States of many of these species. CMS acts as a framework Convention. The Agreements may range from legally binding treaties to less formal instruments, such as Memoranda of Understanding, and can be adapted to the requirements of particular regions. The development of models tailored according to the conservation needs throughout the migratory range is a unique capacity of CMS.

Submission of an annual report under specified guidelines is a requirement. This reporting covers imports, exports and re-exports of the animals covered under the Convention, including of manufactured products derived from those species.

World Heritage Convention

A United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site is a place (such as a forest, mountain, lake, desert, monument, building, complex, or city) that is listed by UNESCO as having special cultural or physical significance. The list is maintained by the international World Heritage Programme administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee which is composed of 21 of the States Parties to the Convention. They are elected by their General Assembly.[11]

The programme catalogues, names, and monitors sites of outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common heritage of humanity. Under certain conditions, listed sites can obtain funds from the World Heritage Fund. The programme was founded with the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage which was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 16 November 1972. As of September 2012, 190 States Parties have ratified the Convention. Periodic reporting is intended to provide information on general policy development, status of services provided, scientific and technical studies and research and other aspects relating to the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage.

Montreal Protocol

The chief aim of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is to reduce and eventually eliminate the production and use of man-made ODSs (chlorofluorocarbons, halons. hydrochlorofluorocarbons, bromofluorocarbons, methyl chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, methyl bromide, and others).[12] By agreeing to the terms of the Montreal Protocol, signatory nations commit to take actions to protect the ozone layer, hoping in the long-term to reverse the damage that has been done by the use of ODS. National monitoring and reporting focuses on accurate tracking of transboundary shipments of ODS.[13] A number of UNEP Ozone

[11] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Heritage Convention. Available from http://whc.unesco.org/en/convention/ (accessed 6 August 2012).
[12] The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (2000). Available from http://ozone.unep.org/pdfs/Montreal-Protocol2000.pdf (accessed 6 August 2012).
[13] United Nations Industrial Development Organization (2009). "Manual on operations under multilateral environmental agreements, Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer and Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants", Introduction, pg 5. Available

indicators[14] are used for tracking the production and consumption of ODS under the Montreal Protocol.

Among the MDGs, Goal 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability, Target 7A - Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources) identifies the consumption of ODS as one of its indicators on which reporting should be done.

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (The Ramsar Convention)

The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of wetlands.[15] Signed in 1971, it is an intergovernmental treaty that provides a framework for national action and international cooperation. It encourages the "wise use" of wetlands and the maintenance of their "ecological character".[16] It is intended to stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future, recognising the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value. Parties are charged with identifying suitable wetlands for placement on the List of Wetlands of International Importance (also called 'Ramsar Sites'). National reporting covers a well-developed set of indicators on the ecological character of sites, the conservation status of wetlands, bird populations, etc that cover its effectiveness at different levels of implementation.[17]

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

The UNCCD is a Convention to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through national action programmes that incorporate long-term strategies supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements.[18]

The Convention, stemming from a direct recommendation of Agenda 21, was adopted in Paris in June 1994 and entered into force in December 1996.[19] It is the first and only international legally binding framework set up to address the problem of desertification. The Convention is based on the principles of participation, partnership and decentralization - the backbone of good

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from http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media/Publications/Pub_free/Manual_on_operations_under_multilateral_environmental_agreements.pdf (accessed 7 August 2012).

[14] United Nations Environment Programme, "Data Access Centre". Available from http://ozone.unep.org/new_site/en/ozone_data_tools_access.php (accessed 31 January 2013).

[15] Text of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Available from http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-texts/main/ramsar/1-31-38_4000_0 (accessed 8 August 2012).

[16] The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (2005). "Resolutions on the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties – Resolution IX.1 Annex A. Available from http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key_res_ix_01_annexa_e.pdf (accessed 23 April 2012).

[17] International Expert Workshop on the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators and Post-2010 Indicator Development. Available from http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ind/emind-02/official/emind-02-08d-en.pdf (accessed 4 November 2012).

[18] Text of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Available from http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/Pages/Text-overview.aspx (accessed 5 November 2012).

[19] United Nations "Agenda 21", (United Nations Conference on Environment & Development), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 to 14 June 1992. Available from http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf (accessed 17 October 2012).

governance and sustainable development. The core set of impact indicators used for monitoring purposes are:[20]

i. Decrease in the number of people negatively impacted by the process of desertification/land degradation and drought;
ii. Increase in the proportion of households living above the poverty line in affected areas;
iii. Reduction in the proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption in affected areas;
iv. Reduction in the total area affected by desertification/land degradation and drought;
v. Increases in net primary productivity in affected areas;
vi. Increases in carbon stocks (soil and plant biomass) in affected areas; and
vii. Areas of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

The UNCLOS is the international agreement that resulted from the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), which took place from 1973 through 1982.[21] The Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations in their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources. The Convention, concluded in 1982, replacing four 1958 treaties. One of its implementing agreements, relating to the seabed and ocean floor and their subsoils beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, came into force in 1996 and the other relating to fish stocks came into force in 2001.

Enforcement of the Convention is facilitated by organizations such as the International Maritime Organization, the International Whaling Commission, and the International Seabed Authority (the last being established by the UN Convention).

Aside from its provisions defining ocean boundaries, Article 145 of the Convention explicitly provides for protection of the marine environment. Yet other articles of the Convention relate to freedom of scientific research on the high seas and creation of a legal system for controlling the exploitation of mineral resources in deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction.[22] Following are the fishery-related UNCLOS sustainability indicators which have been posited by the FAO for monitoring of this Convention. The fishery-related indicators are:[23]

i. Yield-related indicators such as Catches, Catch value, Pelagic/Demersal ratio (P/D);
ii. Capacity-related indicators such as Fishing effort, Fishing intensity;

[20] Report of the Conference of the Parties on its ninth session September to October 2009 ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1. Available from http://archive.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cop9/pdf/18add1eng.pdf (accessed 22 October 2012).
[21] Text of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Available from http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf (accessed 17 October 2012).
[22] United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. *op. cit.*
[23] FAO, Land quality indicators and their use in sustainable agriculture and rural development, Indicators of Sustainable Development of Fisheries, Appendix 2. Available from http://www.fao.org/docrep/W4745E/w4745e0f.htm (accessed 18 October 2012).

iii. Other economic indicators such as Investment, Level of subsidies;
iv. Technological indicators such as Lists of acceptable gear;
v. Social indicators such as Coastal populations and Ratio between fisheries and other revenues;
vi. Institutional indicators such as Per cent of fisheries covered by management committees;
vii. Ecosystem-related indicators such as Catch per unit of effort;
viii. Resource demographic structure such as School size where relevant or Fat index;
ix. Biological diversity such as Existence of protected marine areas;
x. Water quality indicators such as Algae index or Release of nitrogen components and phosphates; and
xi. Critical habitats indicators such as Area of live and dead coral.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol

The UNFCCC has the goal of preventing dangerous human interference with the climate system. Its immediate objectives included beginning "to cooperatively consider what they could do to limit average global temperature increases and the resulting climate change, and to cope with whatever impacts were, by then, inevitable."[24] A number of nations have approved an addition to the treaty, the Kyoto Protocol, which has more powerful (and legally binding) measures. The Kyoto Protocol, an international and legally binding agreement to reduce GHG emissions worldwide, entered into force in February 2005. With regard to national reporting/monitoring, Parties to the Convention submit national GHG inventories to the Climate Change secretariat GHG Inventory data categories are:

i. Energy;
ii. Industrial processes;
iii. Solvent and other product use;
iv. Agriculture;
v. Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)
vi. Waste; and
vii. Other.

[24] UNFCCC, Essential Background, The Convention and the Protocol. Available from http://unfccc.int/essential_background/items/6031.php (accessed 19 October 2012).