Promoting information exchange and awareness-raising through the clearing-house mechanism and new social media

1st meeting of the Task Force on Access to Information to the Aarhus Convention
Geneva, Switzerland

Michael S. Jones
Public Information Officer
Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

8 February 2013
Outline

• Synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/FAO)
• Joint clearing-house mechanism
• InforMEA
• Safe Planet campaign and Facebook community
• BRS Conventions on Twitter
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Basel Convention</th>
<th>Rotterdam Convention</th>
<th>Stockholm Convention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>22 March 1989</td>
<td>10 September 1998</td>
<td>22 May 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry into force</td>
<td>5 May 1992</td>
<td>24 February 2004</td>
<td>17 May 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Parties to date</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/FAO)

- Capitalizing on commonalities between the 3 conventions
- Overcoming fragmentation within sound management of hazardous chemicals & wastes
- Strengthening existing mechanisms & making them more efficient
- Fostering a regional approach towards implementation of activities
Omnibus decisions

*Simultaneous extraordinary meetings* of the *Conferences of the Parties, Bali, Indonesia*

February 2010: Main outcomes decisions *BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1 & SC.Ex-1/1* covering synergies within thematic areas, including among joint activities

- Joint information service
Joint clearing-house mechanism

- Integration of convention web sites
  - www.basel.int / www.pic.int / www.pops.int

- Launch of Synergies website
  - http://synergies.basel.int/ ..pic.int / ..pops.int

- Launch of expert platform, POPsSocial –
  http://networking.pops.int
Ongoing integration

Developing integrated systems across the three conventions:

• pages on the three convention’s websites on rules of procedures, publications, press releases, multimedia, status of ratification, meeting documents and decisions have been re-packaged following synergies principles

• providing for parties and other stakeholders one entry point for information related to the three conventions

• work on integrating country information into “country profiles” and a map with focal points for all three conventions will continue in 2013
InforMEA

InforMEA is the joint portal of the Information and Knowledge Management Initiative

- covering 43 international and regional legally binding instruments from 17 Secretariats
- hosted by three UN organizations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and with the support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- built on the platform customized by the BRS clearing-house
- allows for feeds of information shared across the InforMEA community
MEOA Explorer

Free search

Topics
- Biodiversity
- Chemicals & Waste
- Climate / Ozone / Deserts
- Other (Regional, etc.)

Search in
- Decisions & Resolutions
- Treaties

Advanced search »

Calendar of events

FEBRUARY 2013

Featured Country

Mexico

www.informea.org
Global public awareness campaign *Safe Planet*

- 75 events and activities in 16 countries since launch in Feb 2010
- Facebook community = 5,000 –
  
  www.facebook.com/safeplanet

- Friends of Safe Planet website launched in June 2011
  
  http://SafePla.net

- Art, adventure, body burden …
  
  graphic forms communication & public participation
Safe Planet Happening in Vancouver

18 Jul - 28 aug 2011, Geneva (Switzerland)

This summer, during July and August 2011, the Safe Planet Campaign produced and entertained a variety of events highlighting the serious issues of plastic pollution in the ocean, and other important global issues concerning hazardous chemicals and wastes as they affect our planet and our bodies. Via the arts and outreach, Friends of Safe Planet brought information and public awareness of our increasingly toxic body burden.

People | Products | Protection | Safe Planet

24 Jun 2011, Geneva (Switzerland)

Side event to the 5th Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention

An interactive discussion to raise global awareness of the solutions offered by instruments and practices of sound chemicals and waste management through their life-cycle.

The session explored ways to assist Parties to better meet their obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and maximise the benefits to their countries. This was achieved through raising the global and national profile of chemicals and wastes and engaging all stakeholders with special emphasis on consumers and other end users.

The launch of the Safe Planet web site

16 Jun 2011, Geneva (Switzerland)

The celebrating the launch of the Safe Planet Campaign web site.

"Map and Sip"; Safe Planet at Biennale, Venice

2-4 Jun, 2011, Venice The first thing one experiences entering Venice, is water. From the Stazione di Venezia Santa Lucia, the main train station, it’s a 20 step walk to the Biennale. From there it’s a 10 minute walk to the Ripa di Porta Venezia stop where the waterbus #85 leaves every 15 minutes for the Giardini. It is a scenic and relaxing ride.
ICVolunteers’ GreenVoice Programme wins WSIS e-Environment Prize

18 jul - 28 aug 2011, Geneva
Pops Out! Federal University of Rio de Janeiro Film Festival

21-23 Jun 2012, Rio de Janeiro

“Pops Out! Transformative Education, Creativity and Sustainable Development”, a film shorts festival and panel discussion, was held at Auditório Biofísica, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro – Cidade Universitária, on Thursday, 21 June, at 17:30. The event was organized by the Instituto de Biofísica, Czech NGO Art Dialogue and TERRE Policy Centre, India, in support of the UN Safe Planet Campaign during the Rio+20 Conference.

Friends of Safe Planet rallied on Ipanema Beach to raise awareness of plastic pollution in carnival costumes designed by Czech National Theatre costume designer Jana Prekova.

Safe Planet at Respect Festival in Prague

15-17 Jun 2012, Prague

Art Dialogue together with other organisations raised awareness of plastic and chemical pollution around the world by launching the Ahoj! Raft on the Vitava River, as part of the RESPECT World Music Festival, Prague.
BRS Conventions on Twitter

• Institutional, not personal communication channel
  www.twitter.com/brsmeas

• Demand from parties, in service of major meetings

« Twitter is the on-ramp, Facebook the highway, your website the destination «
Synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm conventions

http://synergies.basel.int
http://synergies.pic.int
http://synergies.pops.int