DaRT
Data Reporting Tool for MEAs
https://dart.informea.org/

The submission of national reports on the implementation of biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) is an essential requirement for Parties. For many countries, however, the compilation of national reports is a high burden, due to the number of reports to submitted, the involvement of numerous experts across ministries and, last but not least, the challenge of identifying pertinent information sources.

DaRT addresses this burden by promoting effective knowledge management across Ministries and administrative units enhancing synergies across conventions and increasing effectiveness of national efforts to achieve global environmental targets.

The aim of DaRT

The Data Reporting Tool for MEAs – DaRT is the first tool supporting Parties to effectively use synergies in the field of knowledge and information management for national reporting to biodiversity-related conventions.

The "Data Reporting Tool for MEAs – DaRT" provides private and secure national working spaces for Parties to organize, share, and maintain information, data and knowledge across conventions and according to national, regional and global environmental targets.

DaRT is a tool aiming at supporting Parties to MEAs in managing, organizing and storing and sharing their knowledge and information relevant for national reporting across conventions and the SDGs, but not is an additional reporting obligation.

How DaRT works

1. The DaRT national working spaces are built on the InforMEA knowledge base (grey box).
2. The national working space is automatically prefilled with (green boxes):
   - The national reports your country submitted to MEAs
   - The strategic plans of Biodiversity-related Conventions (e.g. CBD, CMS, CITES, ITPGRFA, Ramsar) and the SDGs
   - Regional strategies can be displayed in DaRT, e.g. the AEWA Strategic Plan or the European Biodiversity Strategy
3. Parties include their NBSAPs into DaRT and map the national goals and targets to the global ones (orange boxes and arrows).
4. The information and knowledge collected in DaRT is mapped to the national targets and can therewith be shared for multiple reporting processes across strategic plans of conventions and processes.
The benefits of using DaRT

By engaging in a cycle of collecting, structuring, sharing and auditing knowledge relevant for implementing MEAs by using Dart, the efficiency in developing and the effectiveness in using national reports is increased at several levels:

Experts compiling national reports benefit from:
- Searching an information base built-up across processes and Ministries;
- Finding texts and information (almost) ready for re-use;
- Easy and rapid retrieval of information for a specific report;

Parties benefit from:
- Systematically building-up institutional knowledge required for national reporting;
- Increased communication and collaboration across ministries, administrations, etc.;
- Facilitating the transition from one national/regional/global strategic plan to its successor;
- Facilitating the onboarding and training of new collaborators.

Secretariats benefit from:
- Increased quality of national reports;
- More coherent national reports.

The DaRT project

DaRT Phase I (2018) - DaRT established within InforMEA;
- A first version of the DaRT was developed

DaRT Phase II (2019-2020) - The first version of DaRT was tested and rolled out to African countries during an expert workshop held in Nairobi (Kenia, 29 - 30 October 2019);
- DaRT was improved based on the feedbacks received from the expert workshop.

DaRT Phase III (2020-) - Rollout of DaRT version 2 to countries globally
- Reinforcing interoperability with other tools to provide countries with a broad information base relevant for reporting purposes.

Vision for an automated data flows between DaRT and the
- Online Reporting System ORS used by e.g. Ramsar, the CMS Family, the ITPGRFA and regional conventions;
- CBD Bioland Clearing House Mechanism;
- UN Biodiversity Lab;
- Data and information provided by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and the Target Tracker Tool which is being developed as a response to the new post-2020 goals and targets.

DaRT implementation

DaRT is being developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with support of the SCBD (CoP decisions 14/25 and 14/27), was endorsed by the InforMEA Initiative which brings together Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and is financially supported by the European Union and Switzerland.

DaRT is recognized by CMS CoP as a tool to develop coherent and synergistic approaches across the conventions and increase effectiveness of national efforts ((Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP13)).

For further information
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