
SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP: ENFORCING DOMESTIC PROGRAMS THAT IMPLEMENT MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS (MEAS)

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GOALS

Find modes by which INECE can contribute in the area of implementing MEAs.

1 INTRODUCTION

This workshop discussed policy and institutional requirements to ensure appropriate and comprehensive transposition of the requirements of MEAs in national legislation, incorporation of additional requirements in inspectors schedules and the mobilization of adequate resources for increased or new enforcement burdens. The workshop also discussed the need for sharing information about the requirements of international agreements, strengthening capacities of enforcement agencies in overseeing the implementation of MEAs at the national level and strengthening involvement of enforcement agencies in co-operation among the Parties to various international agreements.

2 PAPERS

- Winston Anderson, *Domestic Programs for Implementing MEAs: Establishing MEA Implementation Mechanisms* (6th Conference Proceedings, Volume 2).
- Marcia E. Mulkey and Keith E. Chanon, *National Compliance and Enforcement of International Treaties*, published in this volume of the 6th Conference Proceedings.

3 DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Several themes surfaced during the discussion. The first, focusing on the Convention for International Trade of Endangered Species, highlighted the difficulties that signatories have at the ground level in implementing international treaties. Such difficulties arise due to lack of communication between the legislators who create regulations to implement the agreements and the enforcers who carry out the task. Notably, the NAFTA signatories have had more success dealing directly with other officials from the neighboring country than in carrying their work out through their top-level government officials. Conflicts with domestic laws and regulations as well as with other international commitments create obstacles that make implementation exceedingly difficult or, at times, impossible. The lack of communication between the policy makers and those who carry out enforcement results in a failure to implement MEAs

Although countries suffer from difficulties in implementation, it is noteworthy that the success Uganda has enjoyed from effective coordination at the ground level has contributed to the formation of international agreements based on these positive results. Also, success is somewhat greater with bilateral agreements and internal projects. In these areas, national regulations

are carried out with greater communication and understanding throughout the various levels of government and at the borders as a result of greater collaboration and prioritization among decision-makers and enforcers

3 CONCLUSION

Participants raised various key recommendations for ways that INECE can contribute in the area of implementing MEAs. One area needing support is training and capacity building in environmental agreements and issues. The groups who could benefit from such training include judges and other members of the judiciary, legislators, customs agencies, and members of civil society. Additionally, INECE should explore ways to enable a private right of enforcement for individuals and NGOs, as well as increased access to justice and information. Finally, it was also recommended that INECE champion a robust indicators project to provide information and support training programs that would assist with needs of developing countries