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CONVENTION
ON MERCURY



DIGITAL INNOVATION FOR MEAS: KNOWLEDGE PLATFORMS AND AI

22 SEP 2026 | 11:00 - 12:00 CEST INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT HOUSE & ONLINE

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DIGITAL INNOVATION FOR MEAS: KNOWLEDGE PLATFORMS AND AI

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DIANA RIZZOLIO

Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network
Moderator



22 SEPTEMBER 2026 | 11:00 - 12:00 CEST INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT HOUSE & ONLINE

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SPEAKERS



Angela KARIUKI

Legal Officer, Law Division, UNEP



Anna GARCÍA SANS

Communications and Knowledge Management Officer, Minamata Convention on Mercury Secretariat



Claire MOREL

Information Systems Officer, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions



Shashika SEDARA HETTIGE

Associate Information Systems Officer, CITES Secretariat



Elena SANTER

Secretary, Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA, UNECE



Jonas PASQUIER

Minister, Global Affairs, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva



Diana RIZZOLIO

Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network | Moderator



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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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ANGELA KARIUKI

Legal Officer, Law Division, UNEP



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InforMEA

The Information Portal on MEAs



InforMEA



Action funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION



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



InforMEA
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

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DIGITAL INNOVATION FOR MEAS: KNOWLEDGE PLATFORMS AND AI

AGENDA

Welcome and Introduction

- **Angela KARIUKI** | Legal Officer, Law Division, UNEP

Multilateral Environmental Agreements | Experiences with Digital Platforms, Knowledge Tools and Emerging Technologies

- **Anna GARCÍA SANS** | Communications and Knowledge Management Officer, Minamata Convention on Mercury Secretariat
- **Claire MOREL** | Information Systems Officer, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat
- **Shashika SEDARA HETTIGE** | Associate Information Systems Officer, CITES Secretariat
- **Elena SANTER** | Secretary, Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA, UNECE

Q&A

Closing

- **Jonas PASQUIER** | Minister, Global Affairs, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

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MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

EXPERIENCES WITH DIGITAL PLATFORMS, KNOWLEDGE TOOLS AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

22 SEPTEMBER 2026 | 11:00 - 12:00 CEST INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT HOUSE & ONLINE

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ANNA GARCÍA SANS

Communications and Knowledge Management
Officer, Minamata Convention on Mercury
Secretariat



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Digital strategy implementation

Minamata Convention on Mercury

Anna García Sans

Communications and Knowledge Management Officer

Geneva, 22 September 2026



MINAMATA ONLINE 2026



**Our conventions were built to move at the pace of consensus.
Artificial intelligence moves at the pace of code.**

As Multilateral Environmental Agreements, how do we harness that speed responsibly to serve people and the planet without leaving anyone's knowledge behind?



Minamata Convention - Digital strategy

Digital ecosystem

Building partnerships

Governance & innovation



COP-5 - 2023

COP-6 - 2025



<https://minamataconvention.org/en/topics/digital-strategy>

Minamata Convention Exchange Platform

- Mandated by COP-6 (Articles 17 & 24) and funded by the European Union.
- The Minamata Convention Exchange Platform is aimed at being a shared digital space where Parties and stakeholders can access reliable information, exchange experience, and collaborate to implement the Convention, turning scattered knowledge on mercury into something everyone can find, trust, and use.

We want to hear your voice

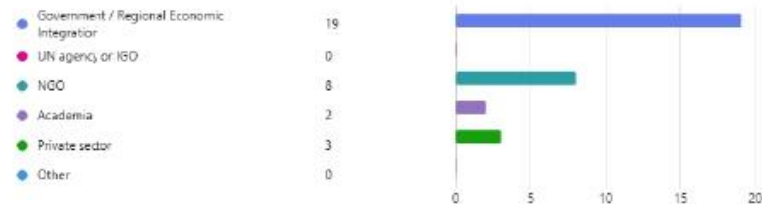
Every response shapes what we build first — share yours by 30 September 2026



**Funded by
the European Union**

Responses

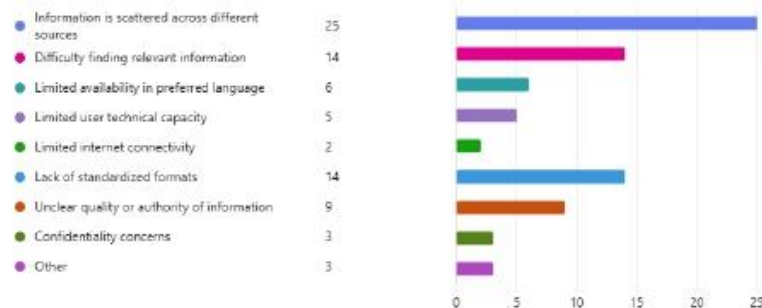
2. Type of organization

[More details](#)


11. Is your organization accredited with the Minamata Convention?

[More details](#)


14. What are the main barriers to accessing or sharing information?

[More details](#)


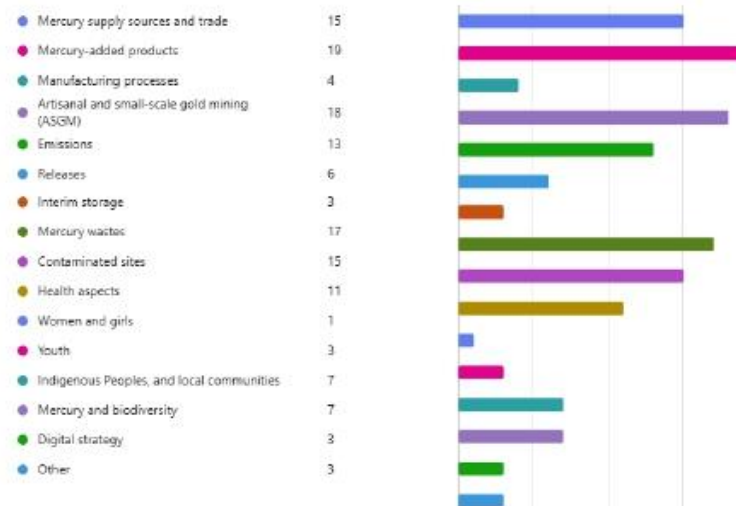
3. UN region

[More details](#)


12. Does your country/organization currently facilitate the exchange of information under article 17 of the Minamata Convention?

[More details](#)


16. Which Convention thematic areas are most relevant for your implementation needs?

[More details](#)


17. Which features and functionalities would be most important to you?

[More details](#)

Essential Useful Not priority



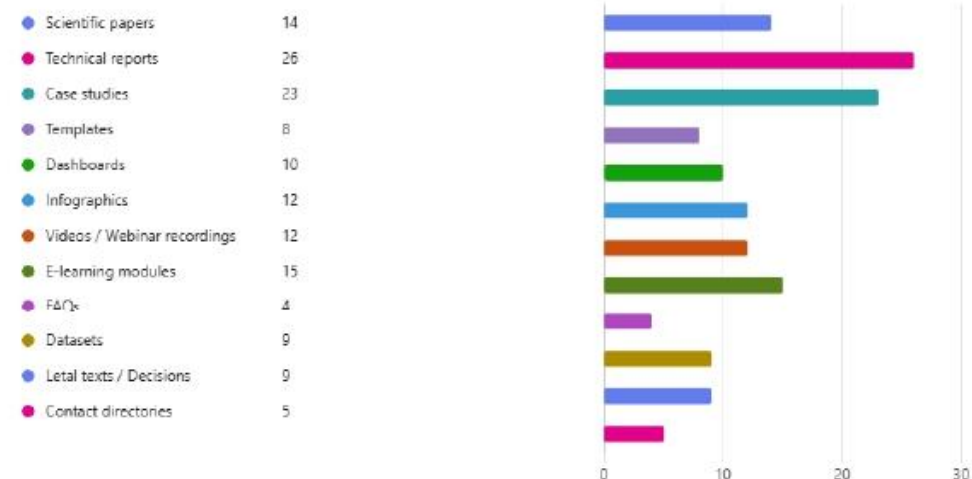
19. Would your country/organization be willing to contribute information to the Platform?

[More details](#)

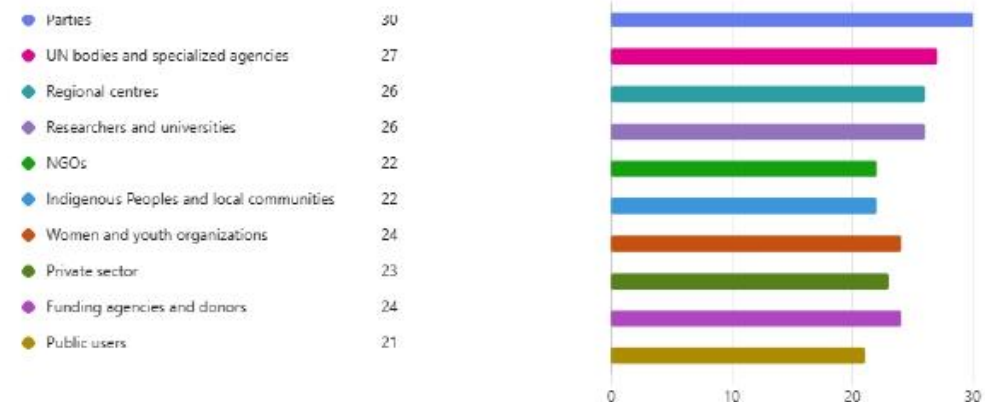
Yes No Maybe Need more information



18. What type of content format would be most useful?

[More details](#)


22. Which user groups should be able to access information on the Platform?

[More details](#)


Decision-tracking mechanism

- 104 decisions in **Markdown**.
- **Versioning + tagging** give each paragraph **context**.
- Future **AI-assisted** search will be **accurate, sustainable & interoperable**.



2026



Funded by
the European Union



2027

Mockups

- Decision overview page
- Decision detail page (paragraph-level tagging)
- Listing page
- Dashboard (3 charts)

These are mockup samples, not final data.



English  

The Convention  Meetings  Parties  Implementation  Focus areas  Resources  News 

Home / Decisions / COP-2 / Guidance on the management of sites contaminated by mercury and mercury compounds

MC-2/8 - Guidance on the management of sites contaminated by mercury and mercury compounds

 Implemented  6 December 2018  COP-2

 Overview  View Document

Language

AR

CH

EN

FR

RU

SP

Files

PDF

[UNEP-MC-COP2-Dec8-GuidanceContaminatedSites.EN.pdf](#) (175.63 KB)

PDF

[UNEP-MC-COP2-Dec8-GuidanceContaminatedSites.EN.pdf](#) (175.63 KB)

Related decisions

[MC-1/20 - Guidance on the management of contaminated sites](#)

Topics

Contaminated sites

Actors

Secretariat

Experts

 Get regular updates from Minamata Convention

Subscribe 

Mockups

- Decision overview page
- **Decision detail page**
(paragraph-level tagging)
- Listing page
- Dashboard (3 charts)

These are mockup samples, not final data.

MC-2/8 - Guidance on the management of sites contaminated by mercury and mercury compounds

✓ Implemented📅 20 October 2022🏢 COP-2Download as PDF

📄 Overview📄 View Document

Table of contents

Preamble

1. Paragraph

a. Subparagraph

i. Subparagraph

ii. Subparagraph

iii. Subparagraph

iv. Subparagraph

v. Subparagraph

vi. Subparagraph

vii. Subparagraph

viii. Subparagraph

b. Subparagraph

c. Subparagraph

i. Subparagraph

ii. Subparagraph

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the need to assist parties in the environmentally sound management of sites contaminated by mercury and mercury compounds through the provision of guidance,

Taking note of the draft guidance prepared by the secretariat in consultation with nominated experts,¹

1 UNEP/MC/COP.2/7, annex II.

Encouraging all parties that have experience and in particular those facing challenges in addressing sites contaminated by mercury and mercury compounds to contribute to the development of guidance,

Encouraging parties to cooperate in developing strategies and implementing activities for identifying, assessing, prioritizing, managing and, as appropriate, remediating contaminated sites.

1. Requests the secretariat:

a. To call for parties and stakeholders to submit, by 15 February 2019, additional comments and information to complement and further improve the draft guidance,² calling in particular for information and comments, including case studies, on:

Decision metadata

STATUS

Implemented

ACTORS

Secretariat

Experts

TOPICS

Contaminated sites

RELATED DECISIONS

MC-1/20 - Guidance on the management of contaminated sites

LINKS

COP-6 KM report (UNEP/MC/COP.6/19)

Mockups

- Decision overview page
- Decision detail page (paragraph-level tagging)
- Listing page
- Dashboard (3 charts)

These are mockup samples, not final data.

Decisions

Recent first

▼

Search

Clear filters

All Years

▼

All Topics

▼

Meeting

☐ COP1

☐ COP2

☐ COP3

☐ COP4

☐ COP5

☐ COP6

Decision number

☐ MC-1/1

☐ MC-6/17

Convention article

☐ Article 7

☐ Article 8

☐ Article 17

Status

☐ Active

☐ Implemented

☐ Standing mandate

☐ Superseded

☐ Retired

Showing 1 - 10 of 2478

MC-6/11 - Third review of the financial mechanism

[Download](#) Decision 24.11.2025 344.28 KB 10 RECORDS

[Hide all records](#)

- 1 ... **third meeting** to **review** the options and the list of criteria referred to above with a view to finalize them for consideration by the ...
- 2 ... of the **third meeting** of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on **Review** of Implementation, ...
- 3 ... Implementation, at its **third meeting**, to undertake an in-depth **review** of progress towards goals 1 and 4 of the current Strategic Plan; ...
- 4 ... 3/10 of the **third meeting** of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on **Review** of Implementation, ...
- 5 ... outcomes from the third meeting will guide the drafting of recommendations to enhance and **review** policy effectiveness across sectors and regions ...
- 6 ... participants at the **third meeting** emphasized the importance of integrating stakeholder feedback into the final evaluation framework ...
- 7 ... the **third meeting** also addressed challenges in data collection methodologies, proposing innovative solutions for more accurate reporting **review** ...
- 8 ... recommendations formulated during the **third meeting** will be presented at the upcoming plenary session for wider consultation and adoption ...
- 9 ... a summary report of the **third meeting** highlighted key progress indicators and identified areas requiring immediate attention ...
- 10 ... follow-up actions decided in the **third meeting** include establishing a task force dedicated to monitoring implementation milestones ...

MC-6/11 - Third review of the financial mechanism

[Download](#) Decision 24.11.2025 344.28 KB 10 RECORDS

[Show all records](#)

MC-6/13 - National reporting (article 21): second short national reports third review

... Having considered recommendation 3/10 of the **third meeting** of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on **Review** of Implementation, ...

[Download](#) Decision 24.11.2025 344.28 KB

Climate Change Act 2022

[Download](#) Decision 24.11.2025 344.28 KB 6 RECORDS

[Show all records](#)

MC-6/14 - Progress in the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

(c) To invite Parties to submit, on a voluntary basis, **review** reports for testing the open-ended forum at the **third meeting** of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

[Download](#) Decision 24.11.2025 344.28 KB

Mockups

- Decision overview page
- Decision detail page (paragraph-level tagging)
- Listing page
- **Dashboard** (3 charts)

These are mockup samples, not final data.

Decisions Dashboard

The Minamata Convention calls for the annual preparation of decisions reports. Each year, the Convention's Secretariat consolidates the relevant information, compiles the report, and then submits it to the Conference of the Parties for consideration. This process helps ensure that Parties have a clear up-to-date record of decisions and can review how implementation is developing over time.

[View all decisions](#)

These decisions are addressed to Parties, and the Secretariat, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of each group in carrying out the Convention's agreed actions.

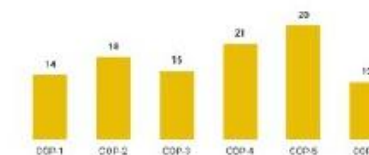


124
DECISIONS ADOPTED

Decisions Adopted by COP Session

Historical progress showing total count of formal decisions per Conference of the Parties.

[View by COP Session](#) →



50
DECISIONS IMPLEMENTED

Decisions Implemented by Status

Implementation status overview of current active mandates.

[View by Status](#) →



PARTIES

Decisions directed to Parties

142 ACTIONS/PARAGRAPHS TO PARTIES

Mandates directing action, compliance, or reporting requirements directly to the national governments of the Parties.

SECRETARIAT

Decisions directed to Secretariat

96 ACTIONS/PARAGRAPH TO SECRETARIAT

Instructions and mandates requesting the Secretariat to organize, analyze, prepare reports, or coordinate technical assistance.



23
THEMATIC AREAS

Decisions Broken Down by Theme

Distribution of decisions across the primary thematic areas of the Convention.

[View by Theme](#) →

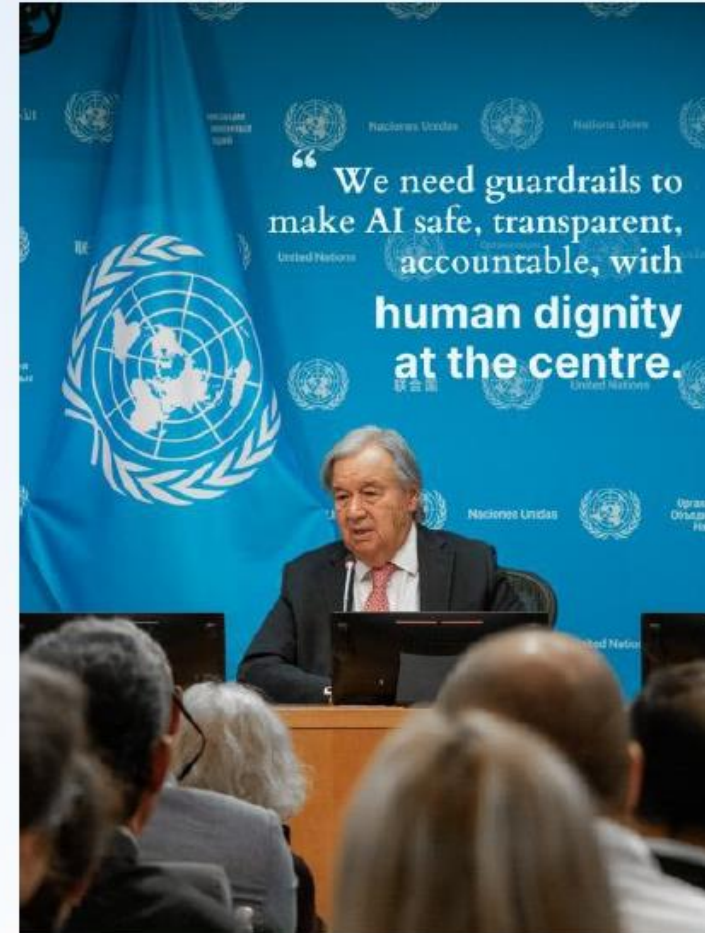
Mercury supply sources and
trade

Closing

**The race now is
between rising
risks of climate
change and
our commitment
to take action
and protect
people.**



Source: UN Secretary-General, statement on WMO El Niño advisory, Sept. 2026



Source: UN News, 16 September 2026

Thank you!

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13, Chemin des Anémones - 1219 Châtelaine, Switzerland

WEB: www.minamataconvention.org
MAIL: MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org
X: @minamataMEA
[#MakeMercuryHistory](https://twitter.com/MakeMercuryHistory)



UN 
environment
programme



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CLAIRE MOREL

Information Systems Officer, Basel,
Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions



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Digital Innovation for MEAs: Knowledge Platforms and AI

Joint Portal on Information from Regional Centres

Connecting regional knowledge for stronger implementation of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions

Claire MOREL

Information Systems Officer

22 September 2026



Why the portal?



23 Regional Centres for Basel and Stockholm Conventions

Regional Centres mandate

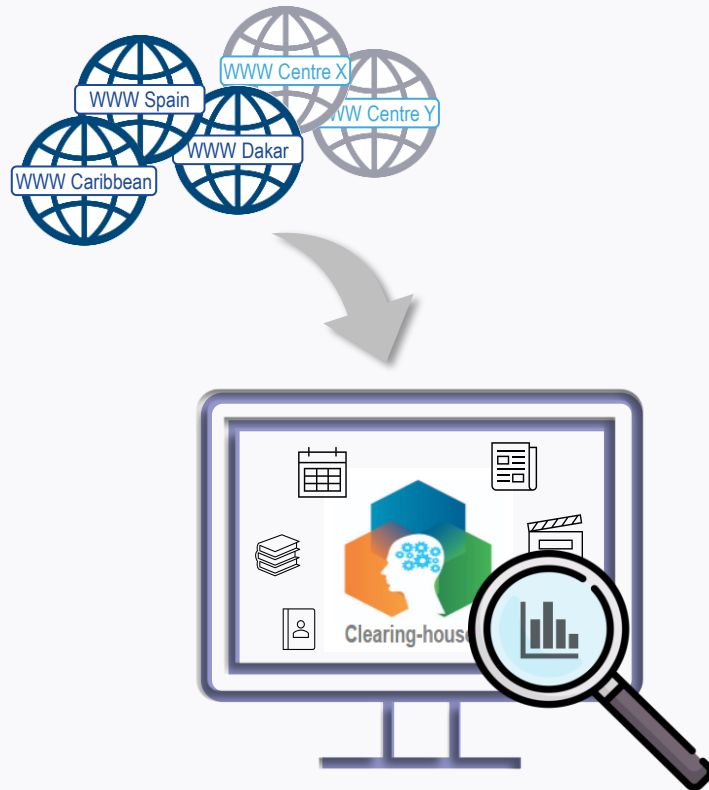
- Technical assistance
 - Capacity building
 - Technology transfer
- ⇒ Knowledge and resources

Challenges

- Information scattered across sources
- Variable formats
- Difficult discovery
- Limited visibility



How the Joint Portal works



Process

- Collect data from Regional Centres
- Harmonize and standardize data and metadata
- Aggregate content into a common repository
- Provide access through a user-friendly web portal

Objectives

- A one-stop shop for Regional Centres knowledge
- Greater visibility of Regional Centres expertise and activities
- Stronger regional and national online repositories
- Improved access to knowledge for Parties and stakeholders

How the Joint Portal works



Access to documents, meetings or activities, contacts, news and videos

Filter by Regional Centre

Filter by topic and chemical, or search by keywords

The screenshot displays the Joint Portal interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with a Norwegian flag and text: "This information tool was developed thanks to generous financial support provided by Norway". Below this is a "Filters" section. The "RECETOX" filter is expanded, showing a list of regional centres with checkboxes: SCRC-KUWAIT, SCRC India, BCRC-SCRC-China, BCRC-SCRC South Africa, ICIPE, CETESB, SPREP, SCRC-Russia, BCRC-Caribbean, BCCC-SCRC Uruguay, SCRC Spain, BCRC-SCRC Iran, BCRC-Argentina, BCRC-SEA, BCRC-EGYPT, BCCC-Africa, and BCRC-SCRC-Senegal. A "Clear selection" button is at the bottom of the list. The main content area has tabs for "Documents", "Meetings", "Contacts", "News", and "Videos". Below the tabs are two dropdown menus: "Select a Topic" and "Select a Chemical", followed by a "Search:" input field and a "Clear" button. The search results show three document entries. The first entry is titled "Actualización del plan nacional de aplicación del convenio de estocolmo sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes (cops) en la república Argentina" and includes a thumbnail image. The second entry is titled "Многовекторное хроматографическое профилирование как метод изучения стойких органических загрязнителей в объектах окружающей среды" and also includes a thumbnail. The third entry is titled "Malaria in eswatini, 2012–2019: a case study of the elimination effort" and includes a thumbnail. Each entry shows the source, year, and publisher. At the bottom of the page, there is a pagination bar showing "Page 1 of 86".



Interoperability and future innovation

Clearing-house mechanism



Interoperability

- Structured information
- Shared standards and metadata
- Reuse of knowledge across platforms
- Reduced duplication and fragmentation

Future innovation

- AI-ready information
- Better knowledge discovery
- Advanced search & insights
- Future digital tools & services

Thank you!

Contacts:

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julien.hortoned@un.org

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SHASHIKA SEDARA HETTIGE

Associate Information Systems Officer,
CITES Secretariat



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From documents to answers

What happened when we pointed AI at fifty years of CITES text

Shashika Sedara Hettige

Information Systems Officer, CITES Secretariat · Minamata Online, 22 September 2026

CITES in one slide

A trade Convention. Every inclusion in the CITES Appendices was decided by the Parties, in a meeting, and written down.

185

Parties

41,000+

species listed

3

Appendices

1975

in force since

At CoP20, Parties considered 51 proposals to change what is listed — 39 fauna, 12 flora.

13 rejected. 1 withdrawn. 2 rejected, then adopted in amended form. All 51 are still on our website, and they all read alike.

The permits went digital first

eCITES — electronic application, issuance, border control, reporting, and exchange of CITES permits between Parties.

WHAT eCITES IS

Digitised permitting for CITES permits and certificates — structured data moving between Management Authorities, customs, and other Parties.

- Electronic application and issuance
- Control and authentication at borders
- Annual reporting
- Permit exchange between Parties

Our documents are the other half.



Electronic Permit Issuance



Electronic Border Control



Electronic Reporting



Electronic Permit Data Exchange

Slide content: Salehin Khan, CITES Secretariat

The problem isn't access

CITES has been operating for just over fifty years. All of this is public.

The Convention

Resolutions

Decisions

Notifications to the Parties

Meeting documents — CoP, SC, AC, PC

● All of it is published

Every instrument is on our website, in three languages.

● But status lives outside the text

Whether something still applies is in the meeting record, not the document.

● Fine for a person. Not for a machine.

A reader infers status from context. A system cannot.

≈ 10,000 meeting documents

20 CoPs and 142 committee meetings since 1975. SC78 alone had 127 working documents. Each one in English, French and Spanish.



We built a pilot. It broke in three ways.

A helpdesk assistant, in development, to reduce the load on info@cites.org — where researchers and stakeholders ask us the same questions every week.

1

It quoted text that was never adopted

A draft working document and a final Decision use almost the same words. The draft is usually longer and more detailed, which makes it more attractive to the system, not less.

2

It reported a rejected proposal as an adopted listing

A document proposing a listing reads exactly like one establishing it. The fact that Parties rejected it is in the record of the meeting, not in the document.

3

It treated our instruments as interchangeable

Resolutions, Decisions and Notifications carry different weight and have different lifespans. To the system they were just text.

None of these were fixed by using a better AI model.

Every fix came from adding information that was not in the documents.

What the document doesn't say

A worked example from CoP20.

CoP20 Prop. 25

What the document says

Proposes including *Crotalus lepidus*, *C. ravus* and the genera *Crotalus* and *Sistrurus* in Appendix II. Sets out the rationale, the trade data trade data and the full supporting statement.

The outcome

What actually happened

Parties rejected it. No listing was made. Those species are not in Appendix II.

Nothing in the proposal records that outcome.

It is a pre-meeting submission. The decision exists only in the plenary summary record — a different document, filed separately.

There is already a standard for this

Akoma Ntoso for the United Nations System (AKN4UN) — published 2017. By September 2025 InforMEA had converted 48+ treaty texts and nearly 1,000 COP decisions into it, with amendment tracking, in test.

WHAT EACH PITFALL NEEDS

- A flag for draft versus adopted
- A record of which version is current
- A marker for rejected proposals
- A way to cite an exact paragraph



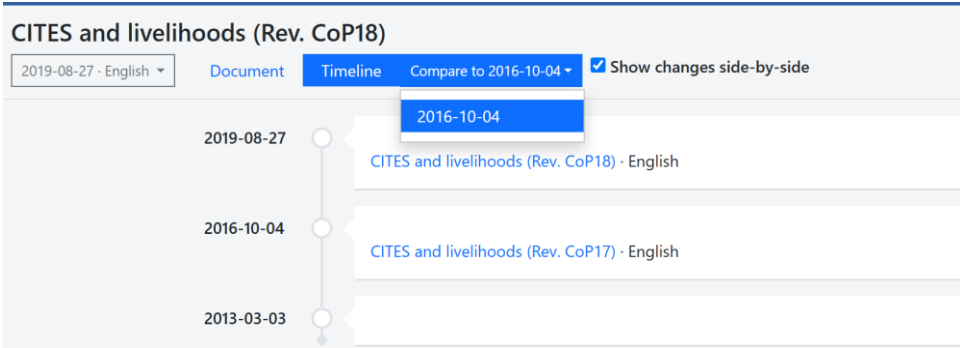
WHAT AKN4UN ALREADY DEFINES

- Separate categories for draft and approved text
- Version history: what replaced what, and when
- A defined place to record what happened in the process
- Permanent identifiers for every paragraph

One of ours, already converted

A CITES Resolution in InforMEA's reader — versioned, addressable, and comparable across revisions.

THREE REVISIONS, TRACKED



AND WHAT CHANGED BETWEEN THEM

3. RECOGNIZES that: a) empowerment of rural communities should be encouraged through measures that may include, as appropriate: i) engaging rural communities in territories under the Party's jurisdiction, in national processes when preparing and submitting proposals to amend the Appendices, draft resolutions, draft decisions, and other documents for consideration at meetings of the Conference of Parties and when reviewing such documents submitted by other Part ies;	3. RECOGNIZES that: a) empowerment of rural communities should be encouraged through measures that include, as appropriate: i) promoting transparency and participation of rural communities in the development and implementation of national CITES-related policies; ii) maximizing the benefits for rural communities of CITES implementation and trade concerned, in particular to support poverty eradication ;
---	---

FIVE FIELDS, TESTED AGAINST THE READER

- ✓ Which paragraph a sentence came from
- ✓ Which language version this is
- ✓ Which version is current, and what it replaced
- ✗ Whether it was actually adopted
- ✗ What kind of instrument this is

The hard part is already solved.

What is still missing is simpler — and it is the part that broke our pilot.



If you are building one of these

Five fields that would have saved us the most time.

- 1 What kind of instrument this is
- 2 Whether it was actually adopted
- 3 Which version is current, and what it replaced
- 4 Which language version this is
- 5 Which paragraph a sentence came from

Three of the five already exist in the reader. Two do not — yet.

Pooling knowledge and avoiding duplication is what InforMEA is for.

If several of us are solving the same problem over the same corpus, corpus, we should only have to solve it once.



Thank You Merci Gracias 谢谢 cnacubo شكراً

Shashika Sedara Hettige

Information Systems Officer, CITES Secretariat · Shashika.Sedara-Hettige@CITES.ORG

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ELENA SANTER

Secretary, Espoo Convention and
the Protocol on SEA, UNECE



22 SEPTEMBER 2026 | 11:00 - 12:00 CEST INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT HOUSE & ONLINE

Results of the roundtable on the application of artificial intelligence products, including open-source tools, during environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures

Elena Santer |
secretary to the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA



Content

- **Context**
- **Survey results**
- **Way forward**
- **Final thoughts**



INTRODUCTION

The event built on the strong interest and momentum generated at the previous Working Group meeting last December.

Co-organized with Denmark, Germany and the secretariat

Offered an opportunity to exchange experiences and understand where Parties stand, what they are ready for, and what support they may need in this evolving field

CONTEXT

Impact assessment is under pressure—pressure on the one hand from some politicians and developers; on the other, from growing data volumes, increasing complexity, and rising expectations.

AI can provide for suitable solutions—but we are not yet fully equipped to use it responsibly

NB: the UNECE region is highly diverse, with differing levels of AI uptake and capacity; challenges differ

Where AI can help

- AI is not a single solution—but a set of tools that can strengthen specific parts of the IA process.
- In practice, there is promising potential in areas where IA often performs inconsistently:
- **Early stages**, such as screening and scoping, where AI can help structure large volumes of information more systematically
- **Alternative analysis**, supporting the identification of more realistic development options and their impacts
- **Baseline data analysis**, helping in situations where data is fragmented or uneven
- **Public participation**, particularly in transboundary contexts, where AI tools can help aggregate and interpret large volumes of stakeholder input
- And increasingly, **interpretation of complex datasets**, including satellite or spatial data

Where AI can help

- Importantly, AI should be understood as **complementing—not replacing—human judgement**, especially in value-laden decisions.
- There is also emerging potential in capturing **non-textual knowledge**—for example, oral histories or participatory mapping—which are often central to meaningful impact assessment but difficult to incorporate systematically.

What is needed

- What is now needed is not more speculation—but **practical guidance**.
- In particular, a framework that supports more confident and measured integration of AI into IA practice. This could include:
- A **typology of EIA/SEA tasks** that genuinely benefit from AI assistance
- Clear indicators for when **human oversight is essential**, especially in relation to value judgements, trade-offs, and consent
- Defined **risk thresholds and safeguards** to avoid inappropriate automation
- And clear **boundary-setting guidance**, to avoid both underuse and over-reliance on AI

Survey results



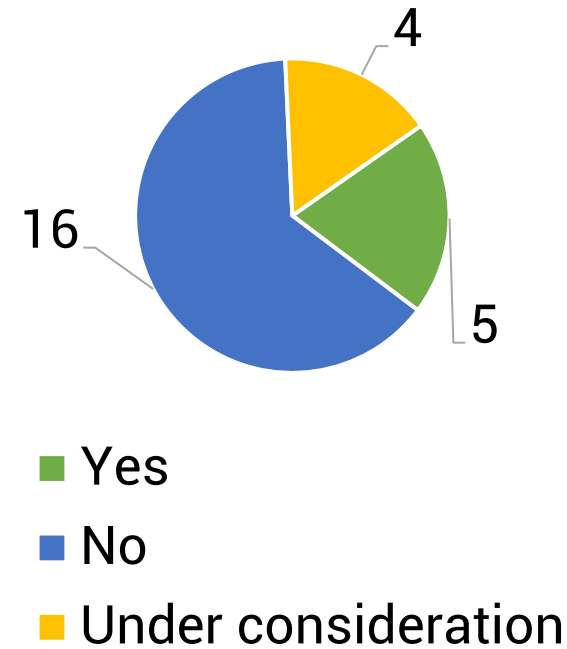
UNECE

13th meeting of the
Working Group on
EIA and SEA



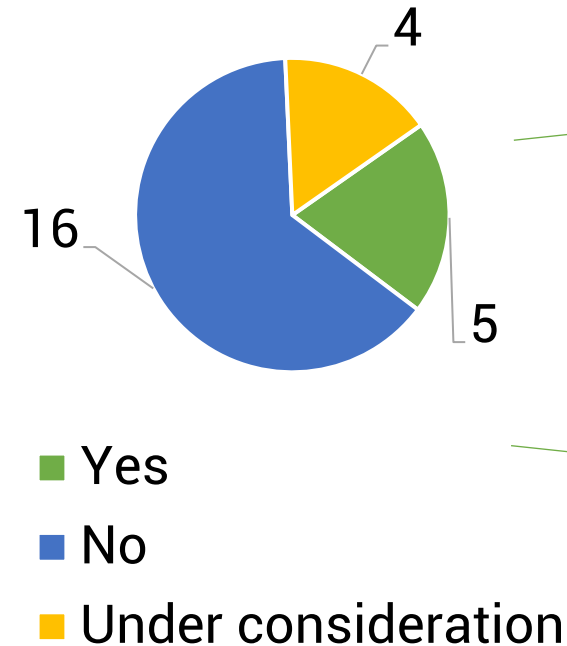
- **Survey response:** 25 countries
- **AI experimentation:** 5 countries have tested or used AI tools in EIA and SEA procedures

AI experimentation

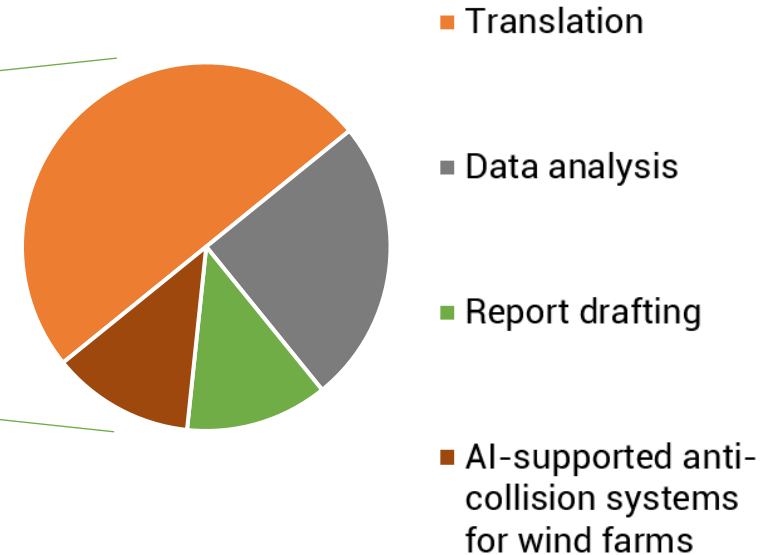


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- **Primary AI applications:**
 - Translation
 - Data analysis
 - Report drafting (using language models and automated translation tools)

AI experimentation

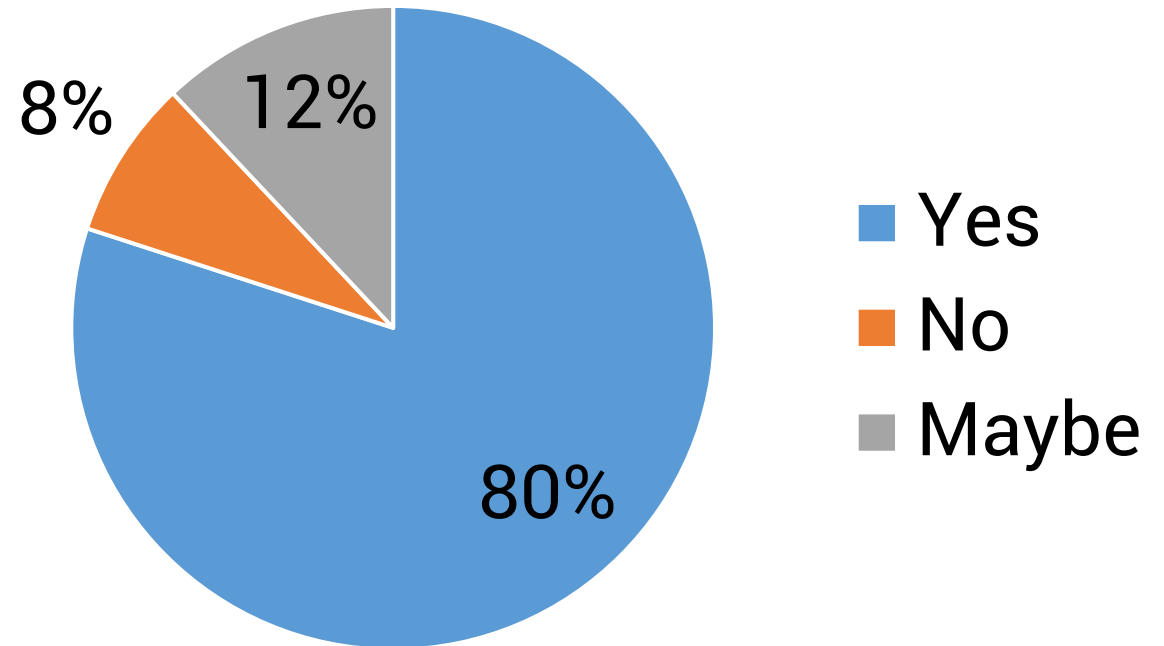


Primary AI applications

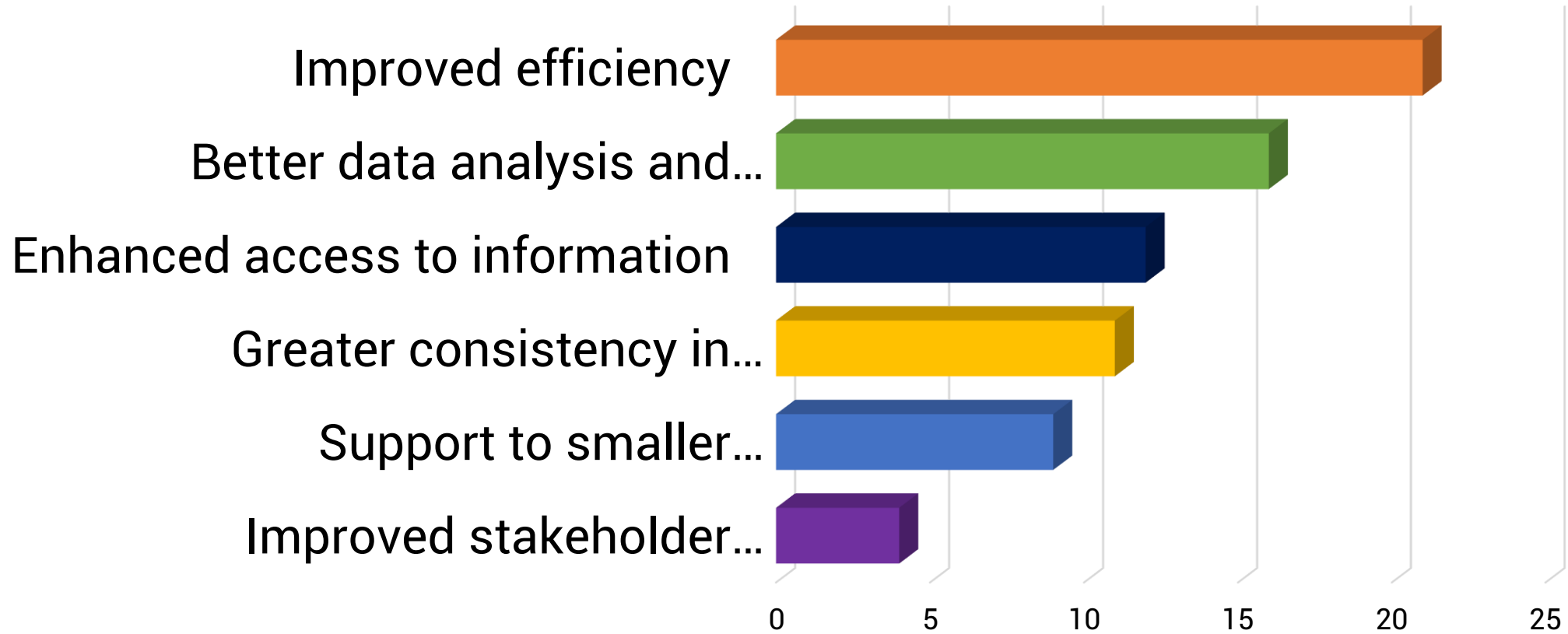


- **Survey response:** 25 countries
- **AI experimentation:** 5 countries have tested or used AI tools in EIA and SEA procedures
- **Primary AI applications:**
 - Translation
 - Data analysis
 - Report drafting (using language models and automated translation tools)
- **80% of respondents see the potential for AI**

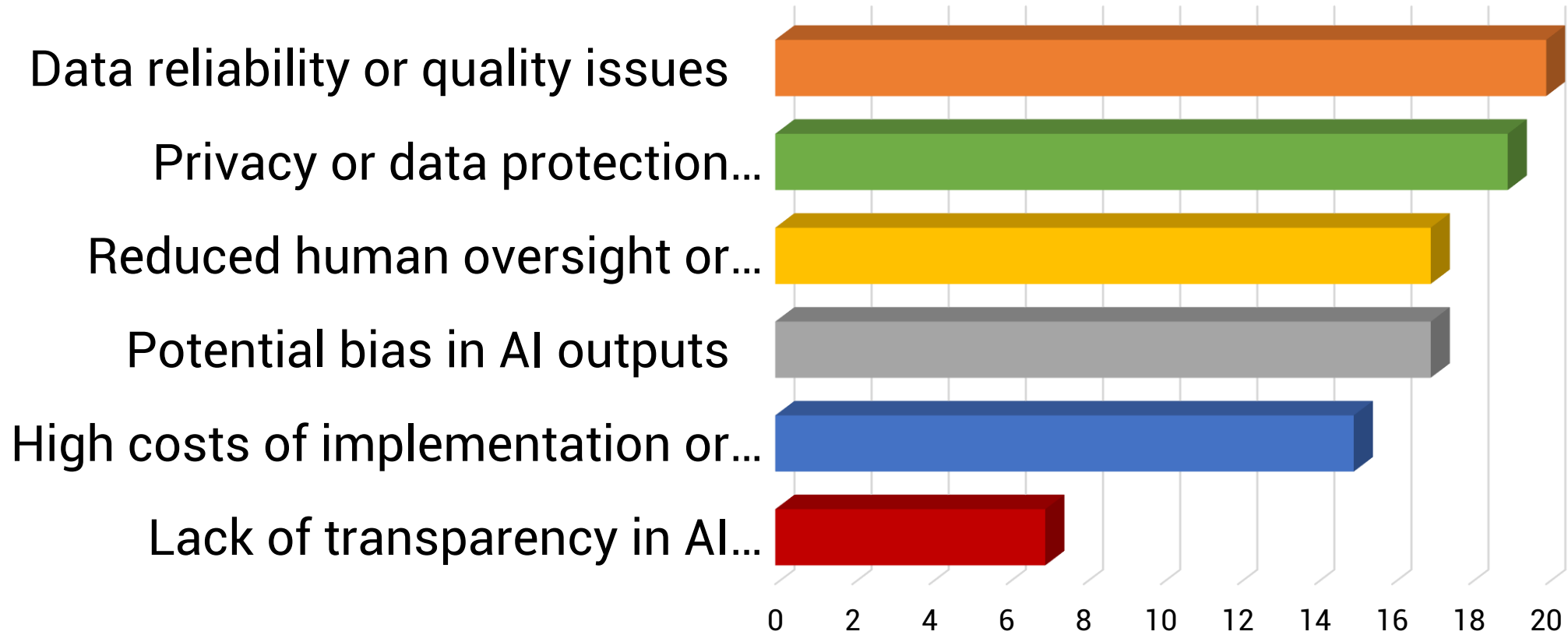
Potential of AI



Main benefits observed/anticipated



Potential risks



Problems identified

- Tools and software not yet available or adapted
- Limited technical capacity and expertise
- Uncertainty about how to use AI in workflows
- Lack of national discussions on requirements



Capacity Needs

- Comprehensive staff training
- Technical skills in data and modelling
- Practical guidance on interpreting AI outputs
- National rules on transparency, ethics and accuracy
- Awareness raising across institutions and public



Countries are at an early stage and require significant capacity-building before AI can be deployed

THE WAY FORWARD

- **Draft decision of the MoPs on AI in EIA and SEA**
- **At least one event per year**
- **Cook-book (non-binding guidance)**
- **Other activities**

Final thoughts: How do you see AI shaping the future of EIA and SEA practices in your country or region?

"If AI tools are implemented fully, securely and effectively in the administrative system and all the parties are well trained to use them, we can imagine faster and more efficient EIA and SEA processes...However the journey towards the fully working AI support is time and money consuming."

"As a decision-making tool, it cannot replace human judgement for assessment of environmental effects."

"In light of the rapid changes of our times, AI could be a useful tool for streamlining and optimising environmental assessment procedures."

"It can support faster data processing, automated screening, predictive modelling of environmental impacts. In the long term, AI could facilitate more transparent and evidence-based evaluations, improve public access to information, and strengthen cooperation between institutions. We will need time (maybe years) to start work for AI in EIA or SEA"

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EXPERIENCES WITH DIGITAL PLATFORMS, KNOWLEDGE TOOLS AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

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JONAS PASQUIER

Minister, Global Affairs, Permanent Mission
of Switzerland to the UN Office and other
international organizations in Geneva

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THANK YOU!



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Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network | Moderator



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WHAT'S NEXT?

 genevaenvironmentnetwork.org



COMMEMORATING:
5 YEARS SINCE THE
RECOGNITION OF THE HUMAN
RIGHT TO A CLEAN, HEALTHY
AND SUSTAINABLE
ENVIRONMENT

Thursday, September 24
12:00 – 13:00 hrs
Room Concordia 1, Palais des Nations, 53, Avenue de la Paix, Geneva
Bavaria Council

CONFERENCE
A Celebration and Stocktaking: Five years since the recognition of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment | HRC63 Side Event
24 SEP 2026 | 12:00 – 13:00
Palais des Nations | Concordia 1
Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia

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CONFERENCE
Indigenous World Heritage in Danger: 50,000 years of cultural legacy to be erased in Murujuga? | Geneva Rights and Environment Talks 2026
25 SEP 2026 | 10:00 – 11:00
Palais des Nations | Room 5-29 & Online | Webex
Earthjustice, GEN

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COASTAL CITIES, TOWNS & SETTLEMENTS ON THE FRONT LINE
Protecting people from sea-level rise
A human rights agenda for coastal, island, and mountain cities

25 SEPTEMBER 2026 12:00 – 13:00 CONCORDIA 1

CONFERENCE
Coastal Cities Towns & Settlements on the Front Line: Protecting People from Sea-Level Rise – Towards a human rights agenda for liveable, inclusive and resilient cities | HRC63 Side Event
25 SEP 2026 | 12:00 – 13:00
Palais des Nations | Concordia 1
Dominican Republic, The Bahamas, Cabo Verde, Cyprus, Ecuador, Maldives, Sovereign Order of Malta, OHCHR, UN-Habitat, Global Cities Hub - Geneva

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VIRTUAL
The Economics of Addressing Pharmaceuticals in the Environment | Addressing Pharmaceuticals in the Environment Series
01 OCT 2026 | 14:00 – 15:30
Online | Webex
UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, GEN

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CONFERENCE
Human Rights at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity | HRC63 Side Event
02 OCT 2026 | 12:00 – 13:00
Palais des Nations, Room XI
Armenia, OHCHR, GEN

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