



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**



Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/INF2000/WP/1  
11 September 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

INFOTERRA 2000 – Global Conference on Access to Environmental Information  
Dublin, Ireland  
11-15 September 2000

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING**

1. Opening of the Meeting
  - (a) Introduction by UNEP representative
  - (b) Opening remarks by Director of ENFO – the Environmental Information Service.
  - (c) Statement by Minister for the Environment and Local Government
  - (d) Statement by Deputy Executive Director of UNEP
2. Election of officers.
3. Organisation of the Meeting
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda (UNEP/INF2000/WP/1)
  - (b) Organisation of work
4. The catalytic role of UNEP in facilitating access to environmental information
  - (a) UNEP's vision for the Global Environmental Information Network
  - (b) Framework for a national environmental information service (UNEP/INF2000/WP/3)
5. Policy and legal aspects of access to environmental information
  - (a) Comparative policy and practice (UNEP/INF2000/WP/4)
  - (b) The Aarhus Convention (UNEP/INF2000/WP/5)
6. Assessing demand for environmental information
  - (a) Methodology for assessing user demand (UNEP/INF2000/WP/6)
  - (b) Application of the methodology – information needs assessment

/...

7. Assessing the supply of environmental information
  - (a) Methodology for assessing institutional capacities (UNEP/INF2000/WP/7)
  - (b) Application of the methodology – national institutional survey
  
8. Matching demand with supply: networking among suppliers and consortium building
  - (a) National thematic centres – the EIONET model of the European Environment Agency (UNEP/INF2000/WP/8)
  - (b) ENVIS – the Environmental Information System of India (UNEP/INF2000/WP/9)
  - (c) INFOTERRA-Cuba action plan (UNEP/INF2000/WP/10)
  - (d) Restructuring the Southern Africa Sub-regional INFOTERRA Network (SASIN) (UNEP/INF2000/WP/11)
  - (e) The Environmental Information Network of Uganda (UNEP/INF2000/WP/21)
  
9. Best practices for establishing and maintaining national consortia
  - (a) Planning phase – identifying and mobilising thematic centres
  - (b) Implementation phase - consortium workplan and timetable
  - (c) Scenario models for consortium operation
  - (d) Strengthening the capacity of suppliers
  - (e) Promoting dialogue among suppliers
  - (f) In-country coordination mechanism
  - (g) Communication channels with UNEP
  
10. Practical mechanisms and tools for facilitating access to environmental information
  - (a) The role of public access centres (UNEP/INF2000/WP/12)
  - (b) Tools and institutional networks (UNEP/INF2000/WP/13)
  - (c) Use of electronic tools
    - (i) Global Multilingual Environmental Thesaurus initiative (UNEP/INF2000/WP/14)
    - (ii) Global Catalogue of Data Sources initiative (UNEP/INF2000/WP/15)
    - (iii) National environmental portals – practical examples from Australia, South Africa and USA (UNEP/INF2000/WP/16, 17, 18 and 20)
    - (iv) Best practice in design of environmental portals
  
11. Marketing the UNEP-Infoterra global network and national information services
  - (a) Marketing environmental information products and services (UNEP/INF2000/WP/19)
  - (b) Unified global network to provide a globally integrated service
  - (c) National level marketing strategies – promotional materials
  - (d) Monitoring and evaluation of quality of service
  
12. Report on UNEP-Infoterra reform for the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Governing Council of UNEP
  - (a) Draft declaration for GC.21 (UNEP/INF2000/WP/22)

13. Drafting of recommendations
14. Adoption of recommendations and meeting report
15. Any other business
16. Closing remarks

**Provisional timetable**

Monday, 11 September 2000	Morning	Items 1, 2, 3 and 4
	Afternoon	Item 5 and 6
Tuesday, 12 September 2000	Morning	Item 7 and 8
	Afternoon	Item 9
Wednesday, 13 September 2000	Morning	Item 10
	Afternoon	Item 10 (contd) and 11
Thursday, 14 September 2000	Morning	Items 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16
	1.00 p.m.	Close of meeting