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Science-policy transfer: theory and practice

Mgr. Lukáš Pokorný

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Content

Ethics (principles, personalities)
Science-policy: global, national level
International organisations – UNEP and chemicals
Multilateral Environmental Agreements
Minamata Convention

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Few warm-up questions

Science-policy transfer: examples?
Sustainability – when and who?
Environmental heroes/organisations – do you know any?
Science to policy – any recent examples?

LUKAS POKORNY

- **Focus:** international environmental relations
- **Past**: 2008 – 2020 – Ministry of the Environment, Dept of International Relations
  - Member of several UN environemntal executive bodies (Geneva, Nairobi)
  - Coordinator/Chair:
    - **UNESCO** – assessment of the National Park Česko-saské Švýcarsko as to its UNESO World Heritage potential
    - **UN SDGs** – Czechia´s Implementation (2015)
    - **OECD** Environment Performance Review of the Czech Republic (2017)
    - **UNEA´s** 2019 Resolutions
- **Current activities**: science-policy transfer, lectures, EU Partnership PARC, WHO, UNEP projects

Ethics – main principles in the protection of environment

Sustainability (1987/1992) - meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Stewardship/community engagement (1992) - importance of individuals and communities acting as stewards of the natural world

Precautionary principle (1992) - caution should be exercised in the face of uncertainty

! Brundtland Commission – Our Common Future (1987) !

! EARTH SUMMIT: Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) !

Ethics – main personalities

Rachel Carson (1907-1964) - credited with sparking the modern environmental movement through her influential book, "Silent Spring" (1962).

Jane Goodall (1934) - best known for her long-term study of wild chimpanzees in Tanzania and emphasis on interconnectedness of humans, animals, and the environment

David Attenborough (1926) - British broadcaster, biologist, natural historian, and writer: A Life on our Planet series.

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2023…

Why Doctors Are Prescribing Nature Walks

“It’s pretty clear that it’s good for you,” says Razani. Research suggests living near green space and recreating in nature can improve mental health and reduce the risks of certain physical health conditions, like heart disease. Scientists are still trying to figure out why, but the leading theory is that spending time in nature reduces stress, a state that’s tied to many health problems.

https://time.com/6171174/nature-stress-benefits-doctors/

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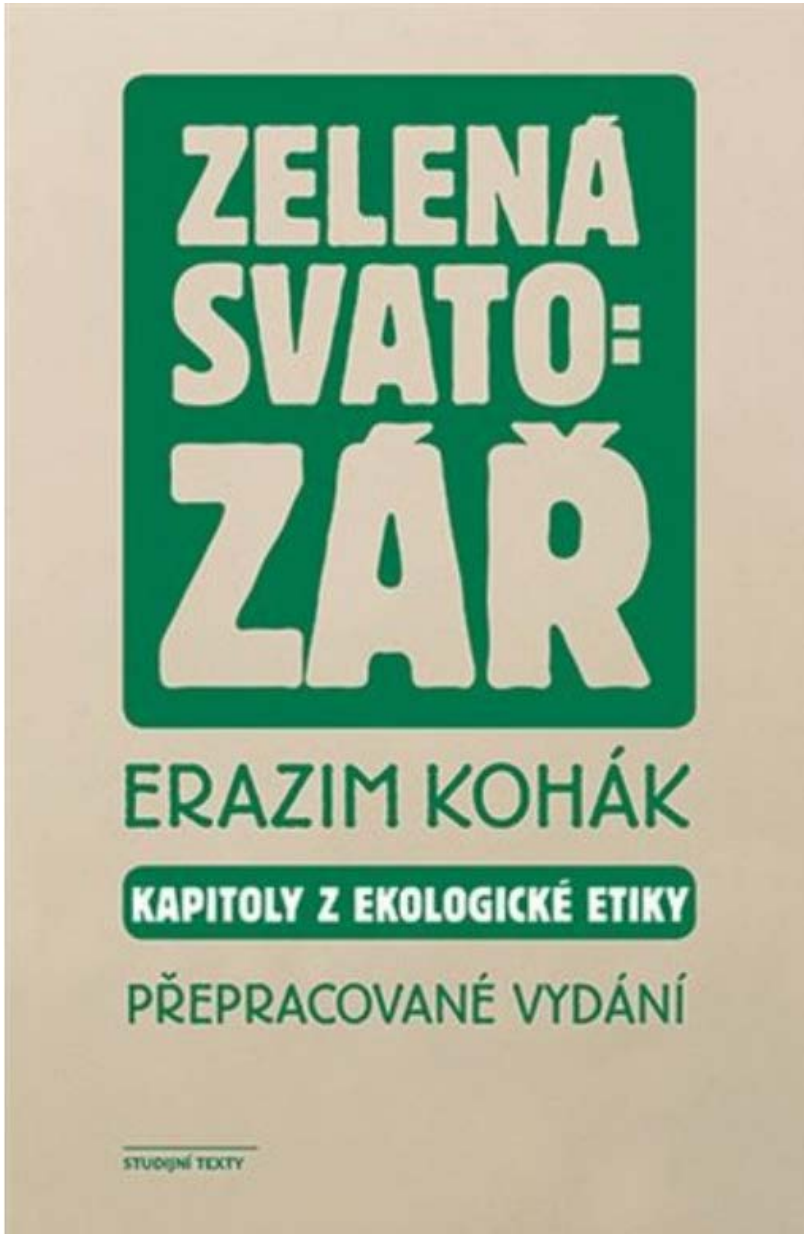
Ethics – what to read in Czech?



Ethics and science-policy: Silent Spring

Silent Spring - credited with sparking the modern environmental movement and raising public awareness about chemicals

-unregulated and indiscriminate use of synthetic pesticides, particularly DDT, was causing severe environmental and human health problems

-evidence presented of the harmful effects of these chemicals on non-target species

- concepts of bioaccumulation and biomagnification introduced

One of the main messages of "Silent Spring" was a call for increased government regulation of pesticide use.

Ethics and science-policy: Silent Spring

When my predecessors at TIME reviewed ecologist Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* 50 years ago this month, they were less than impressed. While the piece praised her graceful writing style, it argued that Carson's "emotional and inaccurate outburst" was "hysterically overemphatic," which I believe is a fancy way of saying that the lady writer let her feelings get the best of her. The title of the review — "Pesticides: The Price for Progress"— gave away the game.

Rachel Carson author of 'Silent Spring' on Nov. 29, 1962.

Carson's critics pushed her to the left end of the political spectrum, to a remote corner of the freaky fringe that at the time included organic farmers, food faddists, and anti-fluoridationists. One pesticide maker, which threatened to sue if *Silent Spring* was published, was more explicit: Carson, the company claimed, was in league with "sinister parties" whose goal was to undermine American agriculture and free enterprise in order to further the interests of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellites. The word *Communist*—in 1962 the most potent of insults—wasn't used, but it was understood. *Silent Spring*, said its more ardent detractors, was un-American.

Ethics and science-policy: Silent Spring

Results of Silent Spring

- **Increased public awareness about ecological interconectedness**
- **Formation of grassroots environmental protection groups**
- **Growing pressure on government to regulate chemical use**
- **A fundamental shift in how people viewed human interaction with nature**
- **In 1972**, the United States banned the use of DDT for agricultural purposes

  This ban marked a significant step in environmental regulation
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** established in 1970
- **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2iouxXeXjQ**

Science-policy today: complex and multi-layered

30 000 science journals

2 million science articles/year

Relevance of science: undermined by post-information age

International organisations and panels: powerful science platforms

Science-policy transfer: latest science

Science-policy transfer: a complex, multidirectional process of knowledge exchange between scientific researchers and policy makers.

Not a simple linear process. Instead, it involves multiple mechanisms:

- Direct communication through different media
- Intermediary organisations that translate scientific findings
- Embedded researches within government agencies
- Academic-government collaborative platforms
- Knowledge brokers who facilitate understanding between science and policy domains

RECETOX – involved in all of the above

- **National Centre for Toxic Compounds:** ministries, NGOs, agencies, academia
- **MONET** – cooperation accross environmental agencies for environmental monitoring
- **WHO Collaborating Centre** – collaborative platform/knowledge brokering

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Science-policy transfer: latest science

Science-policy transfer: a complex, multidirectional process of knowledge exchange between scientific researchers and policy makers.

Main challenges:

- Differences in communication styles and timescales between academics and policy makers
- Political considerations that may prioritize short-term goals over long-term scientific insights
- Uneven scientific literacy among policy makers
- Complexity of translating nuanced research into actionable policy recommendations

Science-policy transfer – practical examples

Challenges: seriousness varies depending on the level of policy making.

Local/regional – usually influenced by local commnunities (1992 – Rio)

- E.g. Waste management

National – more difficult, institutions and various bodies important

- E.g. National Centre for Toxic Compounds / Scientific Council of the Minister of Environment

International – extremely difficult, dozens of important players involved

- E.g. IPBES, IPCC

Science-policy transfer – practical examples

Local/regional

- **Reduced walking distance:** research indicates that reducing the physical effort required to recycle—such as minimizing the distance people need to walk to dispose of recyclables—can increase recycling rates by up to 30-40% (cities implementing)

- **Biodegradable waste:** single biggest component of municipal waste and „low-hanging fruit“ (European Environmental Agency, June 2023) – spreading accross Czech cities

Institutional set-up: simple advisory bodies of the Councils of respective towns/cities („Komise“ and „Výbory“)

Implementation timespan: weeks/months

CITIZENS – voters – IMPORTANT!

Science-policy transfer – practical examples

National – more difficult, institutions and various bodies important

- **MoE level: Scientific Council of the Minister / National Center for Toxic Compouds**

Vědecká rada ministra

Vědecká rada ministra životního prostředí byla zřízena příkazem ministra v roce 2008. Rada je zaměřena především na poradenskou činnost v oblasti důležitých koncepčních záměrů, identifikaci nových oblastí, na podporu při tvorbě strategických dokumentů ze sféry odborné a vědeckovýzkumné činnosti a koordinaci odborné a informační základny životního prostředí v působnosti resortu a výzkumu v oblasti životního prostředí.

Rada za svou činnost odpovídá ministrovi životního prostředí.

Stáhněte si...

- Příkaz č. 2/2024 ministra životního prostředí o vydání Statutu Vědecké rady ministra (PDF, 56 kB)
- Statut Vědecké rady ministra životního prostředí (PDF, 102 kB)
- Složení Vědecké rady ministra životního prostředí k 25. březnu 2024 (PDF, 50 kB)

Science-policy transfer – practical examples

National – more difficult, institutions and various bodies important

Competences of the Scientific Council

- suggests areas of research requiring priority support and ways of implementation of research results
- issues opinions recommending ways to address specific environmental issues environment in the Czech Republic, including opinions on cross-cutting strategic documents
- assesses proposals to promote the effective involvement of research, professional and outreach activities of the department in the European Research Area and participation in activities of the European Union

Membership: all major Czech Universities, Academy of Sciences, think-tanks (e.g. CzechGlobe), NGOs (AMO)…

Implementation Timespan – months/years

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Science-policy transfer – practical examples

International – extremely difficult, dozens of important players involved

- E.g. IPBES/IPCC negotiations
- **Implementation timespan: years/decades (later slides)**

Zuzana Harmáčková
16. prosince v 11:45 ·

🏏 po týdnu extrémně těžkých vyjednávání více než 140 členských států na plenárním zasedání #IPBES11 ve Windhoeku schválilo hodnotící zprávu IPBES #NexusAssessment. slavíme.

🦋💧🌽❤️‍🩹🌡️ je to důležitý moment, protože hodnotící zpráva přináší důkazy o propojených krizích biodiverzity, dostupnosti vody a potravin, zdraví a klimatu, i o konkrétních krocích k jejich řešení.

📈 na hodnotící zprávě pracovalo poslední tři roky 165 expertů a expertek z 57 zemí světa, kteří syntetizovali poznatky z několika tisíc vědeckých studií. ačkoli se hodnotící zprávy IPBES vytváří na základě dotazů členských států (podobně jako IPCC), a ačkoli jsou jejich vědecké výsledky opravdu robustní, ty samé státy v některý případech nemají zájem slyšet závěry, které jsou pro ně nepříjemné, nebo by pro ně znamenaly nutnost něco udělat/změnit (např. některé státy během vyjednávání blokovaly návrhy i tak racionálních opatření, jako je omezování znečištění ovzduší nebo zastavení odlesňování. nebo právo na zdravé životní prostředí.)

🇨🇿 na straně politických reprezentací Českou republiku zastupovali skvělí Ladislav Miko, Eliska Rolfova & Jan Plesník z Ministerstvo životního prostředí & Agentura ochrany přírody a krajiny

Science-policy transfer: latest science

Science-policy transfer: a complex, multidirectional process of knowledge exchange between scientific researchers and policy makers.

Vaccine development: typically 10-15 years in sequential steps

- **COVID-19 in less then ONE YEAR through simultaneous processes**
  - Concurrent manufacturing preparations
  - Expedited review process without compromising safety protocols
  - Rapid sharing of genetic sequencing data
  - Collaborative clinical trials across multiple countries
  - Shared technological platforms and research insights
  - Multinational manufacturing agreements
  - Unprecedented public-private partnerships

Challenges: e.g. vaccine equity and global distribution disparities / misinformation management

Science-policy today: complex and multi-layered

National level

e.g. National Council for Toxic Compounds in the Environment

- coordinator of national activities related to the implementation of international conventions on chemicals in the Czech Republic

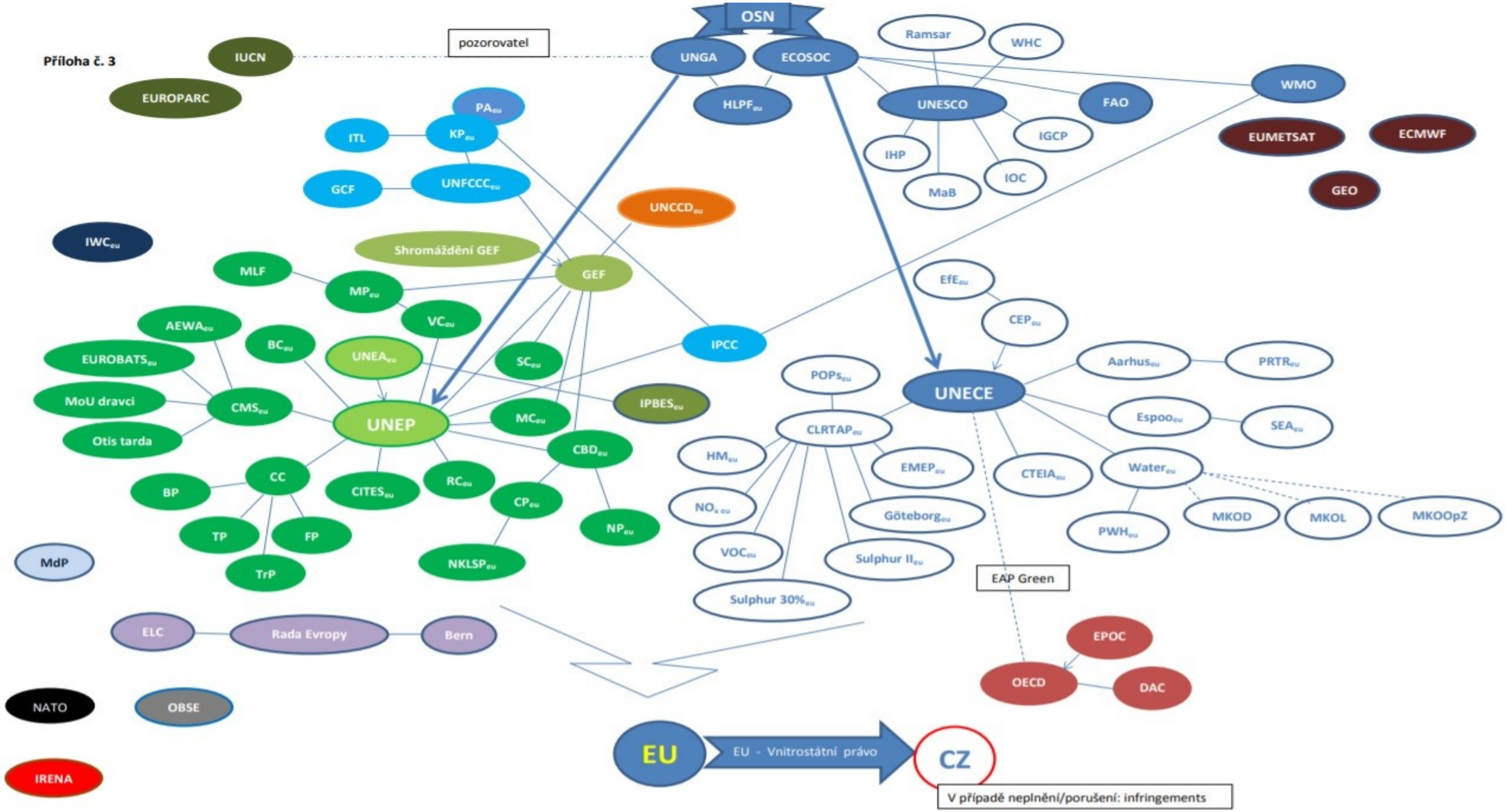
- technical support for the MoE

science-policy platform (genasis.cz)

- capacity building

- cross-sectoral activities

- awareness raising


Příloha č. 3
OSN
pozorovatel
IUCN
EUROPARC
UNGA
ECOSOC
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VC$_{eu}$
AEWA$_{eu}$
BC$_{eu}$
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IPCC
MoU dravci
CMS$_{eu}$
UNEP
MC$_{eu}$
IPBES$_{eu}$
Otis tarda
CBD$_{eu}$
CC
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CITES$_{eu}$
RC$_{eu}$
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PWH$_{eu}$
MKOD
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Sulphur II$_{eu}$
Sulphur 30%$_{eu}$
EAP Green
ELC
Rada Evropy
Bern
EPOC
OECD
DAC
NATO
OBSE
IRENA
EU
EU - Vnitrostátní právo
CZ
V případě neplnění/porušení: infringements

X

Press release: V4+ Conference on Environment and Health in Central Europe

The international conference on environment and health in Central Europe, organized on the occasion of the Czech Presidency of the Visegrad Four (V4), took place on Monday, 11 March 2024, at the library of the Masaryk University campus in Brno, Czech Republic. Organised jointly by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the RECETOX Centre of Masaryk University, the conference brought scientists and experts from nine Central European countries (extended V4+ format) to Brno, together with representatives of the best European research institutes dedicated to research on environmental exposures and public health, as well as high level representatives of the World Health Organisation and director of the European Environment Agency.

Photo: Lukáš Rýznar

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WHAT TO REMEMBER…

1987 – Brundtland Commission: definition of sustainable development
1992 – Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro: community engagement, precautionary principle
1962 – Rachel Carson´s Silent Spring: one of the first influential science books that influenced policy

Science-policy transfer enablers:

- Collaborative platforms (e.g. National Centre for Toxic Compounds, WHO Collaborating Centre)
- Knowledge brokers (e.g. Scientific Council of the Minister of Environment)
- Researchers´ participation in government agencies/offices
- Community engagement: all levels of policy-making

Science-policy today: complex and multi-layered

Climate change

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(IPCC, 1988) (https://www.ipcc.ch/)

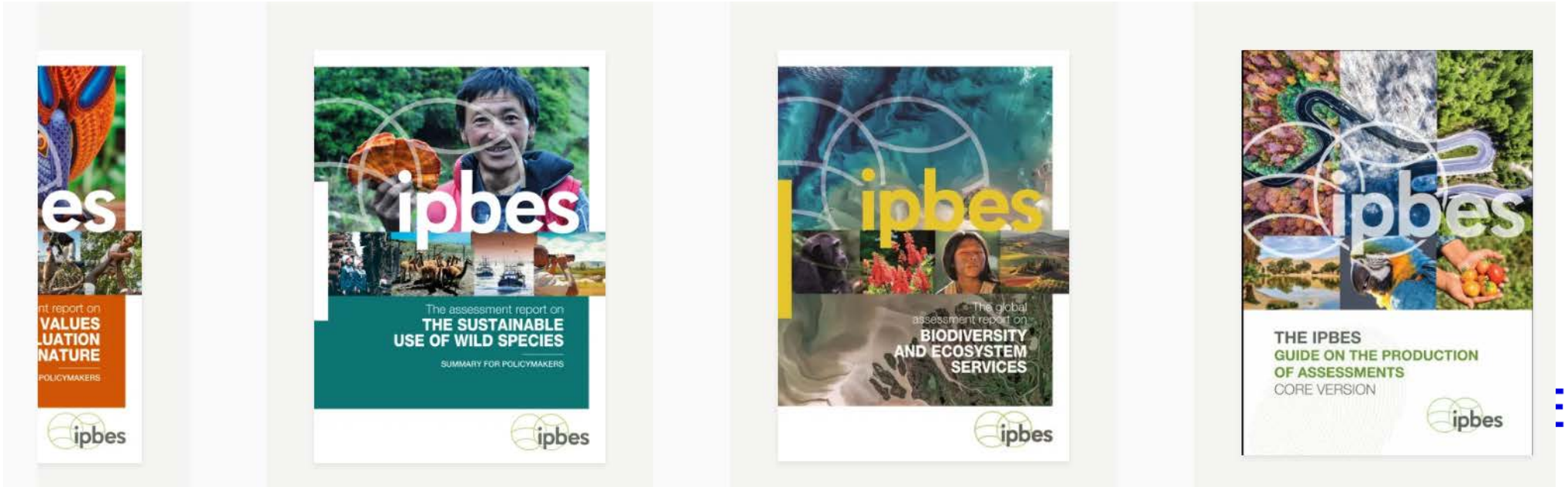
"The mission of the IPCC is to provide a comprehensive scientific assessment of current scientific, technical and socio-economic information from around the world on the risks of human-induced climate change, on its potential environmental and socio-economic consequences, and on options for adapting to or mitigating these consequences.“

The IPCC does not conduct original research or directly monitor climate change, but conducts a systematic review of all relevant published scientific literature to provide a comprehensive update on climate change, its effects and possible strategies

Science-policy today: complex and multi-layered Biodiversity

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2012) (https://www.ipbes.net/)

An intergovernmental body of the United Nations (UN) that assesses the status of biodiversity and the ecosystem services that biodiversity provides to human society. Established in 2012, its secretariat is based in Bonn, Germany.



ETOX

Science-policy today: complex and multi-layered

Chemicals

Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution (being negotiated – RECETOX involved)

United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Fifth session
Nairobi (hybrid), 22 and 23 February 2021
and 28 February–2 March 2022

Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 2 March 2022

5/8. Science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 4/8 on sound management of chemicals and wastes, and stressing the urgent need to strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels to support and promote science-based local, national, regional and global action on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020,

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POLICY FORUM | ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

We need a global science-policy body on chemicals and waste

Major gaps in current efforts limit policy responses

ZHANYUN WANG, ROLF ALTENBURGER, THOMAS BACKHAUS, ADRIAN COVACI, MIRIAM L. DIAMOND, JOAN O. GRIMALT, RAINER LOHMANN, ANDREAS SCHÄFFER, MARTIN SCHERINGER, [...], AND NORIYUKI SUZUKI +2 authors Authors Info & Affiliations

SCIENCE · 19 Feb 2021 · Vol 371, Issue 6531 · pp. 774-776 · DOI: 10.1126/science.abe9090

Abstract

Many countries and regional political unions have regulatory and policy frameworks for managing chemicals and waste associated with human activities to minimize harms to human health and the environment. These frameworks are complemented and expanded by joint international action, particularly related to pollutants that undergo long-range transport via air, water, and biota; move across national borders through international trade of resources, products, and waste; or are present in many countries (*1*). Some progress has been made, but the Global Chemicals Outlook (GCO-II) from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (*1*) has called for "strengthen[ing] the science-policy interface and the use of science in monitoring progress, priority-setting, and policy-making throughout the life cycle of chemicals and waste." With the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) soon meeting to discuss how to strengthen the science-policy interface on chemicals and waste (*2*), we analyze the landscape and outline recommendations for establishing an overarching body on chemicals and waste.

With the historic **resolution 5/8**, the United Nations Environment Assembly decided that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

By the same resolution, the Environment Assembly decided to convene an ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel. The OEWG commenced its work in 2022, with the ambition of completing it by the end of 2024.

The OEWG has convened for three sessions:

The first part of the third session (**OEWG 3.1**) took place from 17-21 June 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland, preceded by informal, regional and stakeholder consultations on 16 June 2024. **OEWG 3.1 documentation, written statements and practical information are available here.**

The second session (**OEWG 2**) took place from 11-15 December 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, preceded by informal, regional and stakeholder consultations from 9-10 December 2023. **OEWG 2 documentation and written statements are available here.**

The resumed first session (**OEWG 1.2**) was held from 30 January-3 February 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. **OEWG 1.2 documentation, written statements and information on Deep Dive Dialogues are available here.**

The first part of the first session (**OEWG 1.1**) was held on 6 October 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya, in a hybrid format. **OEWG 1.1 documentation and practical information is available here.**

Regional meetings were organised to allow for briefings and preparations in advance of OEWG 2 and

Shrnutí

Zasedání zahájila předsedkyně Gudi Alkemade, která zdůraznila potřebu soustředěných a konstruktivních diskusí. Katrin Schneeberger, ředitelka Spolkového úřadu pro životní prostředí ve Švýcarsku, zdůraznila význam SPP při podpoře příslušných úmluv a rámců. Sheila Aggarwal-Khanová z UNEP a Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus z WHO zdůraznili nutnost mezioborového přístupu, respektive potenciální přínos SPP pro zdraví. Zasedání připravilo dva klíčové návrhy rozhodnutí: jeden o doporučeních pro řídící orgán[1] a druhý o doporučeních pro mezivládní zasedání[2]. Tyto návrhy zahrnovaly procedurální pravidla, stanovení priorit pracovního programu, postupy přípravy a schvalování výstupů panelu a politiku střetu zájmů.

Z hlediska dynamiky jednání by se dalo říct, že hlavní překážky pro pokrok v jednání byly kladeny ze strany Ruské Federace, místy Saudské Arábie a případně Íránu, který se přidával dle vývoje jednání k různým blokujícím stranám. Bohužel, je nutné konstatovat, že ani předsedající, ani sekretariát proces vyjednávání neulehčili. Předsedající se z hlediska výkonu tak důležité funkce jeví spíše jako koordinátorka s diplomatickými schopnostmi než předsedající s kvalitami, které je potřeba pro takovou roli mít.

Závěr:
Předsedkyně Alkemade navrhla přerušit zasedání a pokračovat v něm před mezivládním zasedáním, aby se dokončily základní dokumenty. Zpráva ze zasedání byla předběžně přijata s tím, že se počká na dokončení na obnoveném zasedání.

Zasedání bylo z časových důvodů ukončeno bez závěrečných prohlášení, předsedkyně Alkemade však poděkovala všem účastníkům za jejich zapojení. Zdůraznila složitost

vytvoření nového vědecko-politického panelu přizpůsobeného specifickým výzvám v oblasti chemických látek, odpadů a znečištění a zdůraznila potřebu pokračovat v dialogu a dosahovat kompromisů.

UN Environment Programme - UNEP

- **UNEP: to provide science-based solutions to environmental problems such as climate change and biodiversity loss, and to advocate for remedial action based on these solutions.**
- **1972 – UN Conference on Environment:**
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3-TqHFkfy8

UNEP and chemicals – why deal with them?

- Bitter experience: poisoning, catastrophes and accidents (do you know any? – 1984 e.g.)
- problems stemming from huge industrial development after WWII (1950´s – 1970´s)
- currently: 50 million known substances / approx. 350 000 manufactured (set to increase)
- one or more dangerous properties that could cause big problems

Research action?

- ⇨ study of mixtures and environmental pollution (see ethics: precautionary principle) ⇨ potential/proven health/environmental impacts = impetus for regional/global action

Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

Global agreements that regulate chemicals in various ways and sectors:

- **Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol:** the most successful MEAs (record negotiating time, sense of urgency = skin cancer, substances: freons, methylbromid, fluorinated greenhouse gases)

- **Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm** – chemicals in waste, POPs, transboundary cooperation

- **Minamata Convention – hands-on experience of Kateřina Šebková in the negotiating process…**

Chemicals – international agreements

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Rotterdam Convention (2004) - promote shared responsibilities in relation to importation of hazardous chemicals. It promotes open exchange of information and calls on exporters of hazardous chemicals to use proper labeling, include directions on safe handling, and inform purchasers of any known restrictions or bans. **52 chemicals (mainly pesticides)**

Stockholm Convention (2001) - aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). **30 POPs as of 2023.**

Basel Convention (1989) - was designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations, and specifically to prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries. **45 categories of dangerous waste**

Minamata Convention (2012) - designed to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. **Mercury.**

Minamata Convention – why and how?

Mercury – neurotoxic: human/ecosystem problem; food contamination: fish

(impetus: Minamata poisoning – 1956 - 1974)

Long-range pollution – mainly fossil fuel emissions + mercury in products + volcanoes

International action: since 2001 – UNEP´s Global Mercury Assessment) – highlights problems but unsuccesful until 2012 (2005 and 2007 – major resolutions failed to garner support)

2009! – key resolution adopted (8 years after the first assessment!) = international negotiating committee mandated to start negotiation of new MEA: 6/2010 – 1/2013

Minamata Convention – why and how?

Specific mandate for the INC from the resolution: Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee…

27. *Agrees* that the intergovernmental negotiating committee, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, is to develop a comprehensive and suitable approach to mercury, including provisions:

(a) To specify the objectives of the instrument;

(b) To reduce the supply of mercury and enhance the capacity for its environmentally sound storage;

(c) To reduce the demand for mercury in products and processes;

(d) To reduce international trade in mercury;

(e) To reduce atmospheric emissions of mercury;

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[22] Final report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Mercury to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.25/5/Add.1, annex).

[23] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

Minamata Convention – why and how?

Specific mandate for the INC from the resolution:

(g) To increase knowledge through awareness-raising and scientific information exchange;

(h) To specify arrangements for capacity-building and technical and financial assistance, recognizing that the ability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement some legal obligations effectively under a legally binding instrument is dependent on the availability of capacity-building and technical and adequate financial assistance;

(i) To address compliance;

28. *Also agrees* that the intergovernmental negotiating committee, in its deliberations on the instrument that it develops, should consider the following:

(a) Flexibility in that some provisions could allow countries discretion in the implementation of their commitments;

(b) Approaches tailored to the characteristics of specific sectors to allow transition periods and phased implementation for proposed actions, where appropriate;

(c) Technical and economic availability of mercury-free alternative products and processes, recognizing the necessity of the trade in essential products for which no suitable alternatives exist and to facilitate the environmentally sound management of mercury;

(d) Need to achieve cooperation and coordination and to avoid the unnecessary duplication of proposed actions with relevant provisions contained in other international agreements and processes;

(e) Prioritization of the various sources of mercury releases for action, taking into account the necessity for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to achieve sustainable development;

(f) Possible co-benefits of conventional pollutant control measures and other environmental benefits;

(g) Efficient organization and streamlined secretariat arrangements;

(h) Measures to address risks to human health and the environment as a consequence of anthropogenic mercury releases;

(i) Any other aspects that the intergovernmental negotiating committee may consider relevant to mercury control;

Minamata Convention – why and how?

The Bureau of the INC: CEE represented by Kateřina Šebková (RECETOX)

Minamata Convention – why and how?

Negotiation timeline…

INC1 – 4 -10 June 2010 – Stockholm, Sweden

INC2 – 24 - 29 Jan 2011 – Chiba, Japan

INC3 – 31 Oct – 4. Nov 2011 – Nairobi, Kenya

INC4 – 25 - 29 June 2012 – Punta del Este, Uruguay

INC5 – 12-18 Jan 2013 – Geneva, Switzerland

Conference plenipotentiaries: Kumamoto/Minamata Japan (7 – 11 Oct 2013)

Finance: Σ12 mil USD

Minamata Convention – why and how?

Negotiations:

– long, demanding, expert-driven but policy influenced

- each state its own position,

often group into regional positions – G77, WEOG, CEE…)

Minamata Convention – why and how?

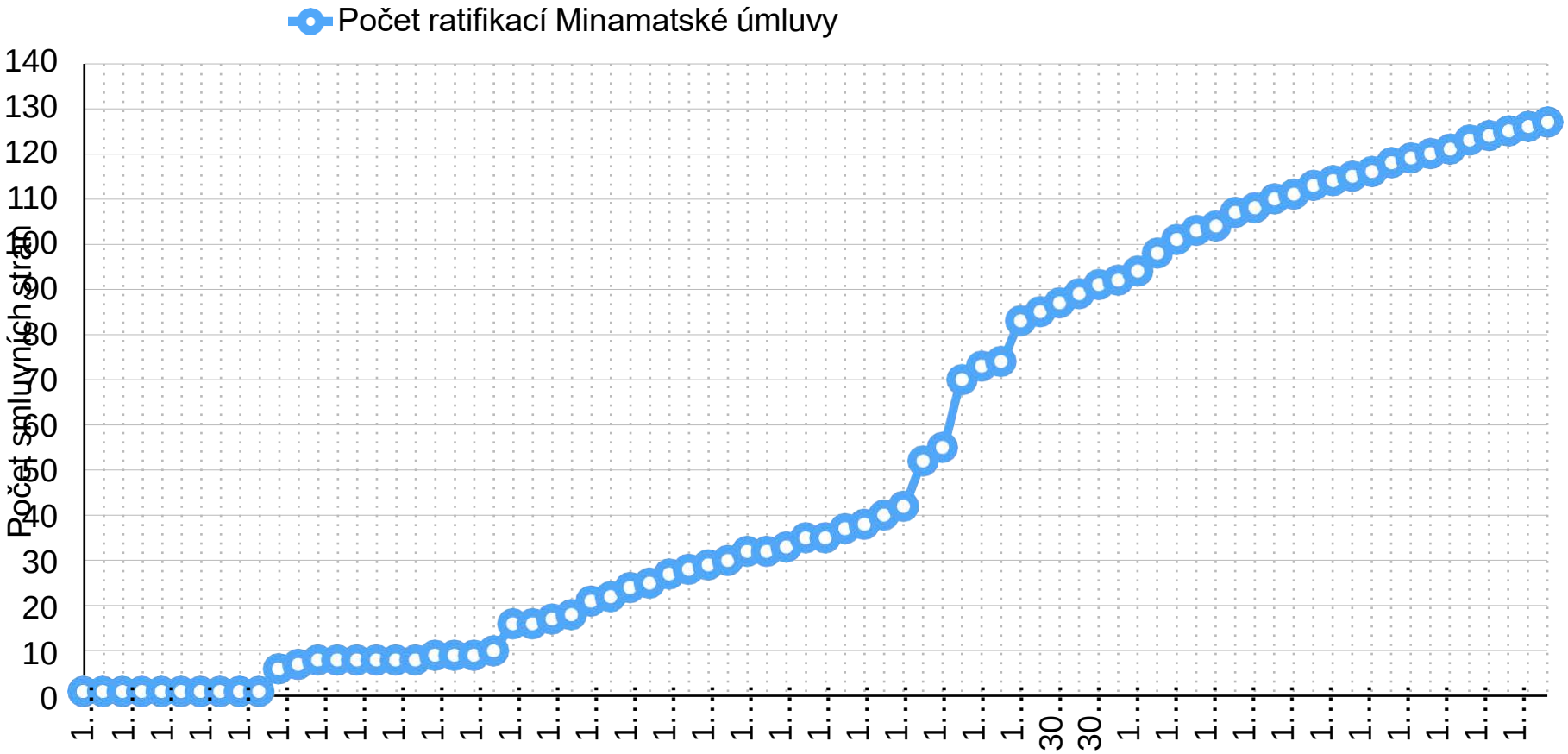
Outcome: signing of the Minamata Convention in Japan (10/2013)

= 95 countries + 33 later in New York

= success: 1st country to ratify: USA

Ratification – success!

Ratification: a long process (different national procedures)
50 needed in order for the MEA to enter into force: 9/2017!
CZ – 6/2017 / EU – 5/2017



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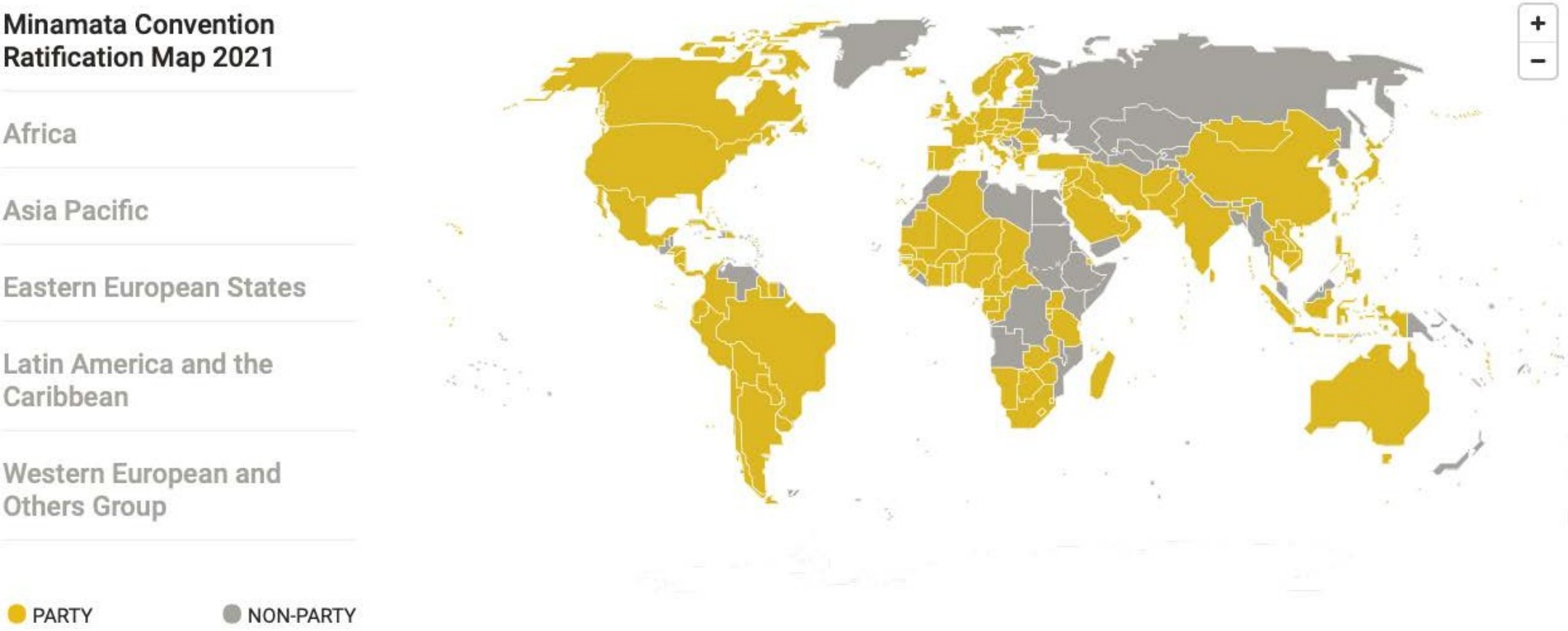
Ratification – success!



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Final remarks

Identifying the problem - scientists, politicians - getting support

Political consensus at global level - negotiating mandate

Actual negotiation = Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and within the mandate prepares the text of the legal instrument = unanimity!

Diplomatic conference = formal approval and signature of the convention by states (presidents/ministers),

Next step: national ratification process – work of Convention ad interim

Preparation of Convention working groups/bodies, implementation in the interim = still not legally binding

Entry into force = number of national ratifications achievedFirst Conference of the Parties (C

Final remarks

Timeline – „crazy“ amount of time needed for science to enter policy:

2001 – first assessment
2009 – landmark resolution
2010-13 –negotiations
10/2013 – ceremonial signing
2013 – 2017 – ratification process in Member States
ENTRY INTO FORCE (binding for all who ratified):

9/2017 = 16 years after first scientific initiative!

WHAT TO REMEMBER…

- **Climate, Biodiversity, Chemicals:** each has/will have a science-policy body (IPCC, IPBES, Science-policy panel)
- Most important environmental organisation: **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** – founded in 1972, seat: Nairobi, Kenya
  - **Several streams of work**
    - **Chemicals:** work under the framework of „chemical conventions“: Stockholm on POPs, Rotterdam and Basel on dangerous waste
    - **Most successful:** Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol (1980´s) – extremely short negotiating time, super quick effect, extremely efficient technology transfer
    - **Most recent:** Minamata Convention (2013) – historical legacy, well-research, single compound: relatively quick success

Thank you!

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