



# Data is meaningless but Information is beautiful

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### Information is data set on fire

Data is meaningless, and bunches of numbers and ratios mean nothing without a context.

Data on its own can't help us do anything better.

Information however is beautiful.

Information can make us laugh or cry.

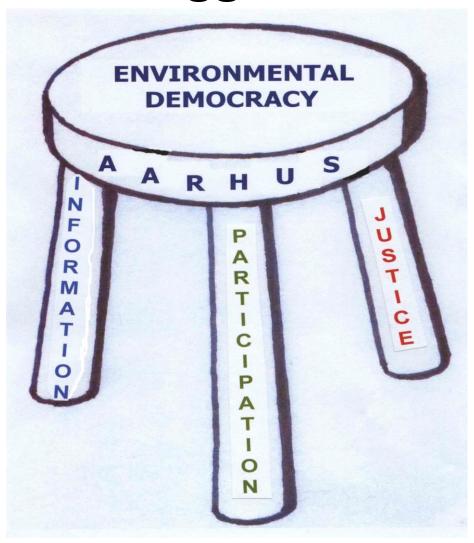
Information is data set on fire, data with a purpose.

Ventureburn.com

# **Key Legal Drivers for Provision of Information**

- Principle 10 Rio Declaration 1992
- Aarhus Convention 1998
  - Ratified by Ireland 2012
  - Requires access to environmental information on request
  - Public Authorities to collect catalogue and proactively disseminate information
- European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2011

# The Three Legged Convention



### **Aarhus Convention**

#### **Article 1 OBJECTIVE**

In order to contribute to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being, each Party shall guarantee the rights of access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

# **Aarhus Convention**

- Article 3 General Provisions
- Each Party shall
- Ensure that officials and authorities assist and provide guidance to the public in seeking access to information,
- promote environmental education and environmental awareness among the public, especially on how to obtain access to information,

# **Aarhus Convention**

#### Article 4

Requires a system that enables the public to request and receive environmental information from public authorities

#### Article 5

- Requires a system through which public authorities collect environmental information and actively disseminate it to the public without request
- Requires record-keeping and reporting by public authorities and from operators to public authorities
- Make lists, registers and files publicly accessible free of charge
- Develop environmental information offices and identify individual points of contact
- Use electronic databases and the Internet
- Create incentives for operators to give information directly to the public

# Evidence-based decision-making involving the public

- A New Context
- Public Participation Networks
- County/City
- Municipal Districts
- Vision for the well-being of this and future generations

#### **ECOSYSTEM SERVICES Provisioning** = FOOD FRESH WATER WOOD AND FIBER = FUEL ... Regulating Supporting CLIMATE REGULATION ■ NUTRIENT CYCLING FLOOD REGULATION SOIL FORMATION DISEASE REGULATION **PRIMARY PRODUCTION** WATER PURIFICATION Cultural **AESTHETIC SPIRITUAL** EDUCATIONAL **RECREATIONAL** LIFE ON EARTH - BIODIVERSITY ARROW'S COLOR ARROW'S WIDTH Intensity of linkages between ecosystem Potential for mediation by services and human well-being socioeconomic factors — Weak Low Medium Medium High Strong

#### CONSTITUENTS OF WELL-BEING

#### Security

- PERSONAL SAFETY
- SECURE RESOURCE ACCESS
- SECURITY FROM DISASTERS

### Basic material for good life

- **ADEQUATE LIVELIHOODS**
- SUFFICIENT NUTRITIOUS FOOD
- **SHELTER**
- ACCESS TO GOODS

#### Health

- **STRENGTH**
- FEELING WELL
- ACCESS TO CLEAN AIR AND WATER

#### **Good social relations**

- SOCIAL COHESION
- **MUTUAL RESPECT**
- **ABILITY TO HELP OTHERS**

Freedom of choice and action

OPPORTUNITY TO BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE WHAT AN INDIVIDUAL VALUES DOING AND BEING

Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment





# Thank You Go raibh maith agaibh

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