

MONTHLY INFORMATION DIGEST

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DEAR READER,

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is pleased to present you the Fourth Issue of the ACP MEAs 3 monthly Digest for April 2022. As an informative publication, the Digest provides a collection of key information from various sources, including from programme partners on issues related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), environmental governance, ocean governance, sustainable development, and South-South Cooperation relevant for the implementation of the ACP MEAs 3 Programme.

The key highlights of this month's issue include:

- Outcomes of the Geneva biodiversity conference
- Blue Deal for economic recovery and sustainable growth
- Roles of indigenous communities in biodiversity protection
- Rise in online wildlife trade
- Financing chemicals and waste management
- Plastic taxes as new environmental policies
- Regionalizing UNEA 5.2 plastic resolution in East Africa
- Promoting the Science-Policy-Society Interface of synthetic biology
- Launching ACP MEAs 3 Youth Engagement and Training Initiative in Europe

If your organization/Department wishes to showcase any of your activities and/or share key information, please send a summary text by the 20th of the month to Mr. Ladu Lemi, communications focal point for the programme at ladu.lemi@un.org

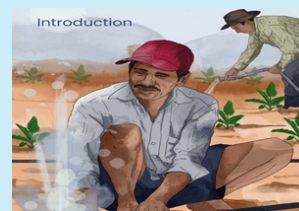
Happy Reading!



Sustainable Development Highlights

Resilient, Inclusive and Green Growth in the Caribbean

The economic and social growth achieved in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region that had played a leading role in poverty reduction and expansion of the middle class over the past decades is now undergoing immersed risk of collapse. Most of the region's social and economic development and growth has been fueled by water, which, if adequately managed, can drive the region's vision for greener and more inclusive and resilient sustainable development in the Caribbean a report by the World Bank notes. [Read more](#)



Outcomes of the Geneva Biodiversity Conference

After nearly two and half years of global lockdown that witnessed shifting of global meetings to virtual means, more than 2,000 participants attended the Geneva Biodiversity Conference convened from 14-29 March 2022. As a result, SBSTTA-24 adopted 11 recommendations for COP-15, SBI-3 adopted 20 recommendations and decisions, while WG2020 discussions on DSI on genetic resources reached some consensus on a way forward. [Read more](#)



Blue Deal for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Growth

For centuries, oceans have sustained livelihoods, promoted trade and mitigated climate change. More than 3 billion people derive their livelihoods from ocean-based goods and services whose value is estimated at \$2.5 trillion and expected to double by 2030. However, the health of the ocean is deteriorating due to unsustainable human activities causing a threat to the economies it supports. Protecting our ocean demands investment in trade and innovation like the Blue Deal for a resilient ocean economy. The 2022 UN Ocean Conference scheduled for June-July will examine how the "Blue Deal" to build a resilient ocean economy. [Read more](#)



Launching Sustainable Land Use Finance to Tackle the Triple Planetary Crisis

Tackling the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss, and pollution is the most urgent action to be taken to benefit both people and the planet. To minimize the ecological impact of business activities and restore degraded ecosystems, strong impact-measurement frameworks are key to driving public and private investor confidence, attracting diverse sources of concessional finance, and mainstreaming private capital across biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, climate mitigation, forest protection, and sustainable livelihoods. With UNEP's newly launched land use finance platform, financial institutions can now measure the positive impact of their investments on biodiversity conservation, adaptation and mitigation. [Read more](#)



Biodiversity Conservation Highlights

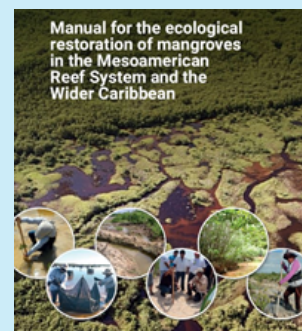
Indigenous communities crucial for biodiversity protection

Engaging with local and indigenous communities can benefit economic potential of nature and biodiversity protection. For example, the World Parks Congress held in Durban in 2003 on “People and Parks”, reached an agreement that people living in and around protected areas should participate in the management of protected areas. Embracing diversities in culture, traditions, and knowledge systems can increasing local communities’ participation in implementing adaptation measures in protected areas to provide a rich foundation for adaptation actions at local levels. [Read more](#)



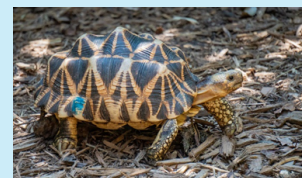
Ecological Restoration of Mangroves in The Wider Caribbean

Mangroves are the economic foundation of over 134 million people living in the Wider Caribbean coastal regions. Given the vulnerability of the region to climate shocks, mangroves provide protection against floods and buffer against storms and hurricanes in addition to the ecosystem services they provide. In order to revert the continuous decline of mangroves, the Cartagena Convention has developed a manual for the restoration of mangrove. The manual contributes to strengthening local, national, and regional capacities in the Wider Caribbean region. [Read more](#)



Illegal Online Wildlife Trade Still on Rise

Despite the ratification of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) by countries and the subsequent formulation of national and regional enforcement measures to deter trade on endanger species, the illegal trade in protected wild animals and their body parts which was previously transact through face-to-face has shifted online. A study by WWF shows that illegal trade in wild animal species and their body parts via the social media platform like Facebook rose by 74% in 2021 compared to the previous year in Myanmar, where sellers and buyers are reported to exchange chats, conduct mobile banking transactions and deliver products by courier. [Read more](#)



Coral Reef Restoration Using Sea Urchin

The healthy of the Caribbean coral reefs are essential, as they are a magnet for tourists and livelihoods. Unfortunately, disease in mid-1980s coupled with the emerging consequences of climate change have eroded most of the magnificent coral reefs of the Caribbean. A study by a group of researchers from the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance has shown that Sea urchin, a spiny and globular echinoderm living on the seabed of every ocean has a potential in supporting regional efforts to restore degraded coral reefs. It indicated that long-spined sea urchins play a critical role in maintaining healthy coral reefs when restored alongside corals, giving the corals higher chance to survive. [Read more](#)



Chemicals and Wastes Highlights

Financing Chemicals and Waste Management-GEF Reports

There is consensus among policymakers and industries that over 100 million human-made chemical formulations are used in every sector of the economy. Although their contribution to global economy is significant, when not managed properly or disposed off safely, they pose significant risks for the environment and human health. In a new report published by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the facility provided an overview for the evolution of its financing efforts for the reduction and elimination of chemicals through the Stockholm Convention, Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer as well as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

[Read more](#)

Plastic Taxes As new environmental policies

Carbon footprint has for long been prioritized by international agencies as an important tool to address the environmental impact of industries, although it failed to contain the rate of pollution. With the increasing challenges of plastic pollution, new policies and their enforcement mechanisms are driving ambitious targets to reduce plastic use. A new article shows that many countries and governments around the world are now adopting plastics tax policies to address the production, use and disposal of plastics.

[Read more](#)

Regionalizing UNEA 5.2 plastic resolution in East Africa

On March 2, 2022, heads of state, environment ministers and other representatives from 175 nations, endorsed a historic resolution to end plastic pollution, and forge an international legally binding agreement by the end of 2024. In the East Africa Community, Rwanda and Kenya have both banned single-use plastics in an effort to end plastic pollution. Given their transboundary nature, plastics are still getting into these countries, indicating the need for a regional or global approach. Energized by the resolution to end plastic pollution, Kenya has signaled bringing together all East African Community Member states to develop a regional pact to jointly address plastics menace facing the region.

[Read more](#)

Incentive Schemes: a solution for Tackling the Plastic Crisis

Experts have estimated that the volume of plastic waste flowing into oceans every year may triple by 2040. Although the historic UNEA 5.2 resolution is seen as the right step to end plastic pollution, innovators, policymakers and entrepreneurs are still looking for the best way forward to deal with the tonnes of plastic produced every year. In Abu Dhabi, incentive schemes are playing a role in recycling and reuse of plastic bottles, cans and other materials. By depositing empty bottles into the plastic machine at the bus stations accrued points for free trips on public buses.

[Read more](#)



News from Partners and Associates

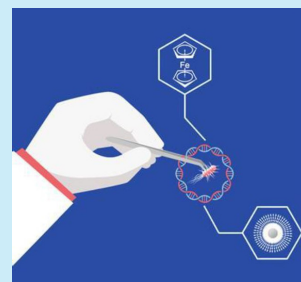
Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meetings for the 2021/2022 COPs of the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The regional preparatory meeting took place from 27 to 29 March 2022 in Bali, Indonesia, back-to-back with the fourth meeting of the Conference of Parties of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The event was organized with the support from the Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre located in Indonesia with financial support from Norway, Switzerland and the funded ACP MEAs 3 Programme. Thirty five (35) Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as 5 Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres and 3 observer organizations attended the meeting, and the next regional preparatory meeting will take place from 7 to 9 April 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya, back-to-back with the face-to-face segment of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention. Contact Giovanna Moire at giovanna.chiodi@un.org for details.



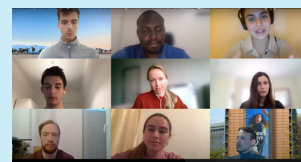
Promoting the Science-Policy-Society Interface of Synthetic Biology

The modern investment in synthetic biology has increased exponential hitting USD 46 billion in the first quarter of 2021. This growth indicates the potential and economic impact of the technology on the society. Consequently, a number of stakeholder groups including the Convention on Biological Diversity have started policy and regulatory discussions on the impact of this science on society. Between February and 8th March 2022, UNEP ACP MEAs 3 Programme in collaboration with the industry, academia and policy makers, organized two webinars focusing on science, industry, policy and regulatory perspectives of synthetic biology. These webinars brought together about 230 interested individuals representing academia, industry, governments, civil society, youth and women's organizations where experts shared their experiences of dealing with the science-policy issues related to synthetic biology. [Read more](#)



Launching ACP MEAs 3 Youth Engagement and Training Initiative in Europe

Following a successful mentorship programme for African youth on environmental management issues, the ACP MEAs 3 Programme on January 17th, 2022, launched its second cohort of youth engagement training initiative (YETI) in Europe with the aim of engaging with youth on mentoring, capacity building and providing them with the opportunity to become influencers of pro-environmental change. Sixteen youth have been selected and are now being capacitated with skills and expertise to become leaders capable to train, support and empower other youth and provide inputs to global, national and local positions on pro-environmental behaviour, management and governance. Contact Louise Dorner at louise.dorner@un.org for details.



Upcoming Relevant Events to ACP MEAs 3 Programme

- Media training in preparation for the upcoming meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions- 27-28 April 2022 (Contact: Giovanna Moire at giovanna.chiodi@un.org).
- Launch of ACP MEAs 3 YETI tool kit during the International Day for Biodiversity-22 May 2022 (Contact: Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- ACP member states negotiation skills training in support of CBD negotiations-May-June 2022 (Contact: Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- Regional briefing sessions for Parties to CBD and BRS conventions in preparation for COP meetings-May-June 2022 (Contact: Dr. Balakrishna at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- Launch of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat's 35th anniversary video on World Oceans Day- 8 June 2022 (Contact: Christopher Corbin at christopher.corbin@un.org).



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The ACP MEAs is a joint UNEP- EU-FAO-OACPS partnership programme. It aims to build the capacity of 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific to fulfill their obligations to multilateral environmental agreements. Phase III (ACP MEAs 3) of this programme is being implemented in Africa by the African Union Commission (AUC), Abidjan Convention and Nairobi Convention, in the Caribbean by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Cartagena Convention, in the Pacific by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is the civil society partner. This Newsletter has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views, policies or official opinion of the European Commission, UNEP or contributory organizations.

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