

## MONTHLY INFORMATION DIGEST

VOLUME 2  
ISSUE 7  
JULY 2022



**Lyn-Marie Lynton (Barbados)**  
ACP MEAs 3 Youth Biodiversity Video Winner-CARICOM

### DEAR READER,

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is pleased to present you the Seventh Issue of the ACP MEAs 3 monthly Digest for July 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:

- Linking ACP MEAs 3 programme with Buenos Aires plan of action;
- Protecting nature to save lives;
- Pacific judges trained on environmental and climate law;
- Addressing gaps in the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- Importance of protected areas in biodiversity conservation;
- Transforming biodiversity governance;
- Boosting SIDS' efforts in managing hazardous chemicals and waste;
- Role of Asian and Pacific countries in achieving healthy planet;
- National commitment to marine plastic pollution reduction;
- Managing marine litter in the Abidjan convention region;
- Youth and the environment in the ACP region;
- New training course on SDG 14 and ocean governance.

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](mailto:ladu.lemi@un.org)

Happy Reading!



## Sustainable Development Highlights

### Linking ACP MEAs 3 Programme with Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40)

In March 2019, the United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina to mark the 40th anniversary of the Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. This led to the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40) for the promotion and implementation of technical cooperation among developing countries. Bringing an integrated and synergetic approach its implementation in the global south, the ACP MEAs programme has developed a strategic document which links the programme with BAPA+40 with a focus on areas of regional cooperation, knowledge sharing, capacity building and technology transfer among others.. [Read more](#)

### Empowering the Next Generation of Environmental Journalists

With the impacts of environmental degradation becoming more acute globally, journalists have a critical role to play to provide accurate and actionable information. However, journalists still continue to face alarming challenges including shrinking press freedom and limited opportunities for young and aspiring journalists to gain training and firsthand experience. To address the skill gap, an environmental organization (Mongabay) is establishing a fellowship program to provide opportunities for journalists to gain valuable training to report on critical environmental issues. [Read more](#)

### Protecting Nature to Save Lives and Address Climate Crisis

In a world where over 3.3 billion people live in places that are highly vulnerable to climate change, nature-based solutions are central in reducing the intensity of climate and weather-related hazards. A report the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and WWF shows how nature-based solutions can reduce the likelihood of climate change and weather-related events occurring. It sets out how lives can be saved by working with nature-based solutions to prevent exposure to these hazards and support vulnerable communities in adapting to and withstanding the dangers of a warming world. [Read more](#)

### Pacific Judges Engage in Environmental and Climate Law Workshop

The protection of the environment and natural resources is critical for human survival. Yet the extraction of these resources requires the implementation, adjudication and enforcement of environmental and climate law to achieve sustainable development. From 18-20 May 2022, 49 Supreme and National Court Judges from Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu and Toga participated in a training workshop on environmental and climate law. The goal of the workshop was to strengthen the protection of human rights, the environment and natural resources and to promote sustainable development in the Pacific Islands through improved implementation, adjudication and enforcement of environmental and climate law. [Read more](#)



## Biodiversity Conservation Highlights

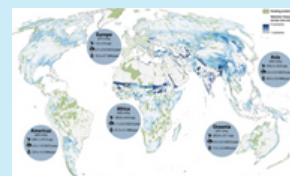
### Addressing Gaps in Draft Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

On 21 June 2022, negotiators gathered in Nairobi Kenya to discuss the draft biodiversity framework that will provide direction for the protection of global biodiversity for the next decades. However, a group of environmental scientists, ecologists and policy experts have published a letter which identified significant gaps in the draft Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework which fails to account for the totality of chemical pollutants that threaten ecosystems globally by limiting itself to nutrients, pesticides and plastics under target 7 of the draft framework. The group urged decision makers to broaden the scope of chemicals covered in the draft to include substances that are persistent and toxic. [Read more](#)



### Protected Areas Benefits Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem

Despite the importance of protected areas in safeguarding biodiversity, ensuring ecosystem functioning, and delivering ecosystem services to communities, only less than 16% of the world's land area is under protection, prompting international calls to protect at least 30% by 2030. Using the outcomes for achieving the 30 × 30 target, a group of scientists have showed that an addition of ~2.8 million ha of habitat to protected areas would benefit 1134 ± 175 species whose habitats currently lack protection, as well as contribute to either reducing carbon emissions or carbon dioxide sequestration, equivalent to 10.9 ± 3.6 GtCO<sub>2</sub> year<sup>-1</sup>. [Read more](#)



### Converging on the Triple Planetary Crisis: The Focus of Montevideo Programme V

During the Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law known as Montevideo Programme V held from 6-9 June 2022, National Focal Points dedicated the programme's work on the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The aim was for the programme to help countries with legal aspects in implementing their obligations under the relevant multilateral environmental agreements while cooperating with the related Secretariats to promote synergies. [Read more](#)



### The Urgency of Transforming Biodiversity Governance

Despite having several international law and policy instruments to protect nature and its ecosystems, biodiversity loss continues unabated because the existing governance efforts have not been effective in supporting the conservation and sustainable and equitable use of these resources. As indicated in SDG 14 and 15, biodiversity and healthy ecosystems provide the essential resources and ecosystem functions that directly support a range of societal sectors and economic activities. A new report observes that, the efforts to combat biodiversity loss and support the conservation and sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity, which create the need for fundamental, transformative changes to reverse these trends. [Read more](#)





## Chemicals and Wastes Highlights

### Boosting SIDS' Efforts in Managing Hazardous Chemicals and Waste

The environmental crisis has disproportionately impacted SIDS countries. Given their small size, limited disposal capacity, and high export cost, over 80% of mismanaged waste in SIDS ends up in the ocean leading to biodiversity loss, acceleration of climate change effects through emissions, loss of national tourism revenue, and health impacts for local people. UNEP with the financial support of GEF has launched a \$515 million initiative during the BRS COPs in Geneva to help SIDS countries prevent the release of over 23,000 metric tons of toxic chemicals and more than 185,000 metric tons of marine litter by 2027. [Read more](#)



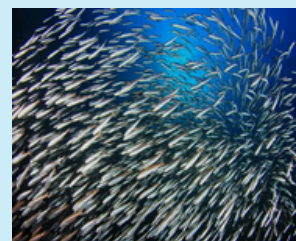
### Reducing Marine Pollution Using Smart Waste Collection System

Plastics pollution is a global challenge that is degrading marine ecosystems and the associated goods and services. New development in science and innovations driven by emerging private sector startups is bringing new approaches for sustainably tackling marine litter issues. In the northern African kingdom of Morocco, an environmental start-up is deploying a smart marine waste collection technology called "D-Rain" to recover plastic waste and collect real-time data on various water parameters via a mobile application. [Read more](#)



### The Role of Asian and Pacific Countries in Achieving Healthy Planet through Ocean Action

Due to the triple planetary crisis, governments in Asia and the Pacific have a major role to play in enhancing cooperation to address the ocean crisis threatening the livelihoods for millions of people in the region. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific notes that, strengthening science-policy interface to bridge practitioners and policymakers could contribute to a sound understanding of ocean-climate synergies for a better policy design. Aligning finance with ocean, climate and broader SDGs aspirations provides a crucial foundation for concerted actions. [Read more](#)



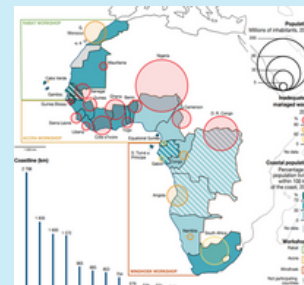
### National Commitment to Reduce Marine Plastic Pollution

The adoption of UNEA 5.2 resolution for a global legally binding treaty against plastic pollution has triggered national momentum to fight plastic pollution. In Africa, Nigeria has pledged its commitment to an international legally binding instrument to reduce the menace of marine plastic pollution from land-based sources and activities and formulated a national policy on plastic pollution and the road map to ensure the health and sustainability of oceans, seas and marine resources, Nigeria has. It also commits to participate in negotiations for various multilateral agreements, including on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. [Read more](#)



### Prevent and Managing Marine Litter in the Abidjan Convention Region

In the past few years, the West African region which the Abidjan Convention covers contribution to Africa's GDP rose from 7% in 2016 to more than 28% 2020. This growth has led to an increased volume of litter entering the marine litter environment from land in the West, Central and Southern African coastal region. To efficiently respond to marine litter management challenges, both land- and sea-based sources must be addressed. The Abidjan Convention, through the ACP-MEAs 3 programme is working with partners to develop a regional legal framework and national plans against plastic pollution in the region. A review developed by the convention has gathered knowledge to prevent and manage marine litter in West, Central and Southern African countries of the Abidjan Convention. [Read more](#)



### Youth and the Environment in the ACP Caribbean Region

As leaders around the world convene meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to negotiate and agree on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), it has been identified that inclusivity through a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and the private sector is important to ensure the integration of cross-sectoral strategies and actions to achieve the future we want for present and future generations, and a world living in harmony with nature. In this regard, active and informed youth participation is part of the process of empowerment and knowledge building in the Community. In realizing the significant role of youth in decision-making on biodiversity-related issues, the ACP MEAs 3 programme through the Caribbean hub organized a video competition in May 2022 for youth involved in environmental and biodiversity-related activities under the theme and topic: "Building a shared future for all life"; and national and regional youth priorities for the Global Biodiversity Framework. An inspiring youth Ms. Lyn-Marie Lynton from Barbados was selected as a winner. [Watch here](#)



### InforMEA Launches an Introductory Course on SDG 14 and Ocean Governance

The sustainable development goal (SDG 14), adopted as part of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aims to "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development." The goal provides a unifying framework for all the interventions needed to conserve and use resources the ocean provides. Across its 10 targets, SDG 14 tackles marine pollution, acidification, ecosystem management, fishing, livelihoods, protected areas, and other challenges. InforMEA, as the UN information portal on MEAs has launched a free and self-paced online course that outlines international environmental law's contribution towards achieving SDG 14 by examining how Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), undergirded by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), form the bedrock of international cooperation to protect and preserve the marine environment and conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity. You can find the details of the course [here](#) or information on SDG 14 [here](#).



## Upcoming Relevant Events to ACP MEAs 3 Programme

- Webinar: Mainstreaming biodiversity for sustainable development- 21 July 2022 (Contact: Teshia at [teshia.jnbaptiste@caricom.org](mailto:teshia.jnbaptiste@caricom.org)).
- UNEP webinar series: A science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention-25 July 2022 (Register [here](#)).
- My Sustainable Living Challenge- 18 July to 28 August 2022 (Details [here](#)).



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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.