

Dear Reader,

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is pleased to present you the ACP MEAs 3 Digest that provides a collation of key information through this Digest on issues related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), environmental governance, sustainable development and South-South Cooperation to effectively reach out to our partners and stakeholders who are intimately working with us to implement the European Union funded project “Enforcing environmental treaties’ implementation in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries- ACP-MEAs III”.

The project, being implemented in the Africa, Pacific and Caribbean regions through African Union Commission (AUC), the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and regional seas conventions such as the Cartagena Convention, the Nairobi Convention, the Abidjan Convention and the Noumea Convention focuses on enhancing compliance and enforcement to MEAs, strengthening ocean governance through a number of activities related to building capacities and raising awareness. Working in close collaboration with number of MEAs belonging to the biodiversity and chemicals cluster, the project aims to promote multilateral approaches to dealing with current and emerging environmental challenges.

The Digest will be launched on the last Monday of every month with information collected from various sources, including from project partners. If you wish to showcase any of your activities and/or share key information, please share the same by the 20th of the month with Mr. Ladu Lemi, communications focal point for the project at ladu.lemi@un.org

Happy reading!

Sustainable Development Highlights

New Developments in Sustainable Development Research



Following the approval of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the UN General Assembly, research and activities related to sustainable development have increased. Some key institutions such as the European School of Sustainability Science and Research (ESSSR) and the International Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRP) have spearheaded research and published their articles for policy makers and other practitioners on issues of sustainable development including:

- COVID-19: the impact of a global crisis on sustainable development research. [Here](#)
- Heading towards an unsustainable world: some of the implications of not achieving the SDGs. [Here](#)
- Higher education and food waste: assessing current trends. [Here](#)

UN High-Level Political Forum 2021



The high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) is the core United Nations platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The 2021 HLPF meeting will be held from 6 July, to 15 July including the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from 13 July, to 15 July 2021 under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), where the participants will explore various aspects of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the various measures and types of international cooperation that can control the pandemic and its impacts on the achievements of the SDGs by 2030. [Read more](#)



High-Ambition Coalition, Financial Disclosure Framework Gain Momentum

On 11 January 2021, the Government of France in partnership with the UN and the World Bank organized the One Planet Summit where leaders highlighted job creation, heritage preservation, and climate change mitigation as benefits of protecting biodiversity. Moving forward, a list of “action commitments for biodiversity,” including the launch of a High-Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, and momentum for the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosure. [Read more](#)

Biodiversity Highlights

7 policy recommendations harness the power of landscapes to defend biodiversity.



As the world wakes up to the strong links between biodiversity loss, global pandemics such as COVID-19, and climate change, the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) and Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL) have issued a powerful prescription for these crises, with seven recommendations to harness the power of landscapes to safeguard biodiversity in a report on the One World, One Health. [Read more](#)

Clear the Path for a Sustainable Future -The Harmonious Coexistence of Nature and Humankind in the COVID-19 era.



On 3rd February 2021, from 15:00-16:00 (JST, GMT+09:00), the the International Cosmos Prize will organize an Online Symposium hosted by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the Expo '90 Foundation, where speakers will discuss how imbalances in the relationship between nature and humans, such as climate change and deforestation might have caused the COVID-19 pandemic. The speakers will unveil possible ways that policymakers will take into account when considering the COVID-19 era and beyond to promote harmony with nature. [Register here](#)

Call for Nominations: The Global Network for Young Professionals in Forestry.



The Global Network for Young Professionals in Forestry (ForYP) is a membership based organization aimed to provide a platform for young professionals to meet, learn, and interact in a professional capacity in order to develop their advocacy skills and provide advice to the forestry sector on how it could sustainably be managed. This call for nominations seeks to attract experienced, passionate and enthusiastic young professionals to join the inaugural Executive Board and lead the establishment of a new Global Network for Young Professionals in Forestry for a period of two years. Read more and apply [here](#).

Oceans and Seas Highlights

Protecting the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities



Despite efforts, marine and coastal pollution from land-based sources increases. The experience of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities shows the double-edged nature of multi-stakeholder partnerships: they can increase the effectiveness of action, but also inhibit action due to self-interest. [Read more](#)

Bringing Sea Change: The Contribution of Marine Environmental Services to Sustainable Food Systems.



The global debate surrounding food systems and sustainable agricultural practices, often focuses on land conservation practices and solutions. However, innovative aquaculture solutions that are built on marine environmental services can address the most important issues for ecological and sustainable development, and thus benefit from land and sea problems. [Read more](#)



Environmental Flows and Sustainable Aquatic Ecosystems

Environmental flows (EFlows) refer to the quantity, timing, and quality of freshwater levels and flows necessary to sustain aquatic ecosystems. This concept illustrates the importance of EFlows in national policies and its implementation at various levels. [Read more](#)



Dredging up fish dinners does a lasting damage to the sea floor

Seas and oceans are important marine resources for the promotion of Blue Economies and Sustainable Development. However, fishing method called *bottom trawling* causes potentially irreversible erosion of the sea floor and could also reduce their ocean's carbon-storage ability. [Read more](#)



Global Agreement on Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources Yields Lessons: Policy Brief

In a policy briefing, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) looks back to the impact of a 25-year of global effort to reduce marine pollution from land-based sources and showed that the experience of the GPA indicates the value of issue framing and coalition building, as well as creating space for practical action and experimentation. [Read more](#)



Tools Improve Data Availability in Pacific for Decision Making and Environmental Reporting

Effective environmental reporting is a major challenge in the Pacific island countries due to the lack of historical and current environmental data, and inadequate information management and access for decision making. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), has executed a National and Regional Capacity Building Project (*The Inform Project*) to Implement MEAs by Strengthening Planning and the State of Environmental Assessment and Reporting in the Pacific, which played a key role in promoting environmental data availability, management, and access in the region by supporting the development of the Pacific Environment Portal, 14 national environment data portals, and the Indicator Reporting Tool. [Read more](#)

Chemicals Highlights

16th Meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to the Stockholm Convention (POPRC-16)



Since 2005, the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Review Committee to the Stockholm Convention has conducted on yearly basis a review of all substantive issues submitted to the convention for consideration. From 11-16th January 2021, the Review Committee held its 16th meeting online to draft risk profiles on Dieldrin and its syn-isomer and anti-isomer, and on methoxychlor, including examining a proposal to the Convention by the Government of Switzerland for the inclusion of UV-328 in Annexes A, B and or C. [Read more](#).

Disproportionate Impacts of Chemicals on Women



Chemicals and wastes have become a gender issue due to the positioning of men and women on account of their exposure and the differing levels of health reactions they experience when exposed to toxic chemicals. In a report published by the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) and the Strategic Alliance for International Chemicals Management (SAICM), women are found to have been impacted disproportionately yet gender inequalities re-lated to decision-making around chemicals and waste management continues to grow unabated in many economies. The report, however, suggests concrete steps to protect women's health and their decision-making role at all levels. [Read more](#)

Partners and Associates News

Policy Support Facility launched by OACPS Research and Innovation Programme



The Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Secretariat is glad has launched a Policy Support Facility (PSF), an innovative mechanism to boost research and

innovation (R&I) in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. It has further opened call for Expression of Interests for ACP countries to request a policy service. [Read more](#)



Upcoming Events Under the ACP MEAs Project

Discussion meeting on gender approaches in operationalizing the ACP MEAs 3 project – 10th February 2021 (Contact: ladu.lemi@un.org)

MEAs negotiations training – 8th February 2021, organized by Secretariat to Cartagena Convention (Contact: ileana.lopez@un.org)

ACP MEAs 3 project led regional preparatory events in support of participation during the Informal Session in Preparation for SBSTTA 24 - 11-12 February 2021 (Contact: balakrishna.pisupati@un.org)

Informal Session in preparation for SBSTTA 24 – 17-19 February and 24-26 February 2021 (More information: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/>)

Contacts

Email: balakrishna.pisupati@un.org or Ladu.lemi@un.org

Website: www.acpmeas.com;  [@MeasAcp](https://twitter.com/MeasAcp)  [@MeasAcp](https://www.facebook.com/MeasAcp)

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