

Dear Reader,

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is pleased to present you the fifth issue of the ACP MEAs 3 monthly Digest published on the first Monday of every month. As an informative publication, the Digest provides a collation of key information from various sources, including from project 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.

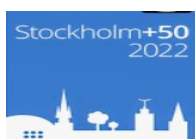
The key highlights of this month's issue include UNGA consensus to convene Stockholm +50 event, strengthening biodiversity, equity in the post-2020 biodiversity framework, science-policy interface for sound chemicals and waste management, marine litter and plastic waste policies, regulations and strategies and call for proposal on Small Scale Gold Mining (SGM) in African and the Caribbean.

If your organization/department wishes to showcase any of your activities and/or share key information, please send a summary text by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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

#### Stockholm +50 Meeting to Take Place in 2022



The 1972 Stockholm conference on Human Environment was the first international conference on environmental issues that culminated into the creation of UNEP and the establishment of its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. 50 years on, the UN General Assembly has agreed to convene an international event to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stockholm Conference in Stockholm, Sweden from 2-3 June 2022 under the theme "A health planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity". Happening during one of the most challenging moments of mankind, the meeting aims to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, promote sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and redefine humankind's relationship with nature. UNEP has been identified as the lead agency to prepare for the Meeting [here](#)

#### Green Financial Regulatory Policy for Latin America in the Aftermath of COVID-19



The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented human and economic suffering globally. Latin America, for example, is facing substantial risk of economic shock and exposure to socio-environmental conflicts, climate emergencies and long-term climate change. For the region to best recover from the COVID-19 pandemic amidst a weak financial regulatory sector, the Global Development Policy Center of Boston University convened a Working Group to review the region's financial regulatory policy. Working Group recommends that for the Latin America to recover sustainably, the adoption of an Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) system coupled with targeted policy instruments would cumulate in financial regulation policies that can ensure the long-term soundness of the financial system and that will contribute to the sustained evolution of the economy on a path more consistent with environmental requirements and climate change.

[Read more](#)

#### How much do we really care about nature? A new report reveals all



The "super year for nature" supposedly to start in 2020 meant that countries take all actions necessary to reverse the trend of biodiversity lost by embracing, acknowledging, integrating and acting for nature. A report titled, "An Eco-wakening: Measuring global awareness,

engagement and action for nature”, published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) and commissioned by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), indicates an increase of conversations in social media by the citizens of emerging economies on ‘nature-loss’. Those conversations reflect people’s shifting attitudes and the report found that policymakers have started taking actions that incorporates those attitudes in the decisions they make regarding the conservation of nature. [Read more](#)

## Biodiversity Conservation Highlights

### Coral Reef Restoration to Improve Ecosystem Services



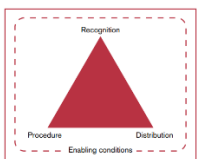
The economic value derive from Coral reefs ecosystem goods and services is estimated worth hundreds of billions of dollars globally every year. However, this economic importance is set to decline due to rising climate and anthropogenic disturbances and according the CBD’s 5<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Outlook report, coral reef is classified as the most at risk of extinction. Coral reef restoration is becoming a popular tool for a broader management strategy to combat declines in coral health globally as well as a mechanism to assist countries deliver on national and international commitments under various multilateral environmental agreements. [Read more](#)

### Trade and Biodiversity for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework



International trade policies including trade liberalization have a significant impact on the global biodiversity and biological resources which undermine national and international conservation efforts and policies. Over the past decades, the rate of biodiversity loss has been horrific and threatens the future of human livelihoods. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework set direction international and national biodiversity policies that will address the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss and find sustainable management solutions that also take into account the social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. When trade is legal and sustainable, it promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns which provides long-term livelihood opportunities for communities and will contribute to a successful post-2020 global biodiversity framework. [Read more](#)

### Strengthening equity in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework



The adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in the coming CBD COP15 is expected to set a global steppingstone for the achievement of the 2050 Vision of Living in harmony with nature. As negotiators converge to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, prior to CBD COP15, equity has been identified as an essential factor for driving the transformation required for achieving the 2050 vision. Hence, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) has released a guide for negotiators to strengthen equity considerations in the GBF. The guide provides negotiators with six key principles to help them develop national positions that covers the arguments for making equity provisions central to the GBF. [Read more](#)

### The role of forests and Trees in a changing world



In a changing global climate characterized by loss of biodiversity, poverty and pandemics, sustainably managed forests are crucial for combatting climate change, conserving biodiversity, protecting watersheds, eradicating poverty, and building food and energy security. Realizing the importance of forests in achieving sustainable development, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDEA) developed a Strategic Plan for Forest 2030 that aligned six Global Forest Goals with SDGs including national capacity building support in forest financing and monitoring, assessment and reporting. The 2021 inaugural Global Forest Goals Report released by UNDEA presented progress achieved so far since the

adoption of the Plan highlighting the actions taken, gaps and challenges as well as success stories for best practices in sustainable forest management. [Read more](#)

## Chemicals and Wastes Highlights

### Vital soil organisms being harmed by pesticides



The extensive use of chemical pesticides in agriculture are causing widespread damage to the tiny creatures which make up soil biodiversity that keep soils healthy. A study conducted by a group of researchers found that the impacts of farm chemicals on earthworms, beetles, springtails and other organisms were overwhelmingly negative. This analysis is the first comprehensive review of the issue and it warned that soil organisms thought to contain nearly a quarter of all the planet's biodiversity are rarely considered when assessing the environmental impact of pesticides. [Read more.](#)

### Assessment of Options for Strengthening the Science-policy Interface for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste.



Based on UNEA 4/8 Resolution on the sound management of chemicals and waste, strengthening the science-policy interface at all levels is crucial to support and promote science-based local, national, regional and global action on sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The science-policy interface provides platform for monitoring progress; priority setting and policy making throughout the life cycle of chemicals and waste. In line with the Resolution, UNEP has released a document that provides assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste. The report emphasizes on the use of new technologies, tracking progress and improving implementation of relevant MEAs at the national level. [Read more](#)

### Addressing Single-use Plastic Products Pollution Using a Life Cycle Approach.



Plastic pollution is a major environmental issue that requires urgent actions and commitments at various levels to reverse the growing trend given the scale of the problem and our increasing levels of consumption. By focusing on the lifecycle of plastic products, last solutions to plastic pollution could be developed. A report released by UNEP noted that, policymakers play a critical role in ensuring that the conditions and incentives for reducing single-use plastic products pollution are established and effectively support the technology and long-term behavioral change we need to eradicate plastic pollution. The report emphasizes on critical points that policymakers should consider when developing single-use plastic related policy interventions while taking into account local context where the policy will be implemented and enforced. [Read more](#)

### Policies, Regulations and Strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean to Prevent Marine Litter and Plastic Waste.



Marine litter is a global challenge that is affecting the effective management of marine ecosystems and leading to the disruption of marine based economic sectors such as tourism, fisheries, and maritime transport. Over the past decades, substantial evidence and awareness on the widespread pollution and related impacts has escalated marine litter issues to regional and international which take into account the significance of multilateralism. For the Latin America and the Caribbean region, UNEP has developed a document which identifies regional and national strategies, policies, and legal mechanisms for action to provide to governments and decision makers involve in the development and adoption of policies and regulations to address single-use plastics and marine litter. [Read more](#)

## News from Partners and Associates

### Introductory Course to Marine Biological Diversity of ABNJ



InforMEA's introductory course is designed to provide knowledge and skills in MEAs. At the end of this course, learners will be able to define areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and key milestones in the process relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), describe the relevant legal framework, and define the key issues in the process to develop an International Legally Binding Agreement under UNCLOS. Register for the course [here](#).

### Call for proposals for NGO projects on ASGM - Africa and Caribbean



The European Environmental Bureau has released a call for proposal for NGO projects on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining, under the framework of a UNEP/EC funded project in the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) region. EEB seeks to partner with one NGO in Africa and one in the Caribbean. For more details on the application process, please [click here](#).

### International Biodiversity Day in the Pacific



The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme commemorated the International Day for Biological Diversity in several different ways. Working with the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Samoa Conservation Society, SPREP participated in an open day at the Malolelei Recreational Reserve – a protected area on Upolu Island in Samoa. An open invite was made for people of Samoa to tour the site that included visits to several invasive species activities on the Reserve and learnt more about the ecosystems and biodiversity within the reserve to empower the “We are part of the solution” values. SPREP also commemorated actions to implement the 2016 Honolulu Challenge which called for greater action on addressing invasive alien species. Since 2016, SPREP has more than quadrupled the volume of operational multi-country projects by 2020. SPREP has also developed the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) which is delivering five regional programs with partners to the value of USD 12,500,000 - the current PRISMSS portfolio value. SPREP also launched the online “Pacific Biodiversity Quiz”, open for two weeks.

### Upcoming Events Under the ACP MEAs Project



Regional training on the monitoring and evaluation of NBSAP implementation, June 2021 (Contact: [teshia.jnbaptiste@caricom.org](mailto:teshia.jnbaptiste@caricom.org) and [shunae.samuels@caricom.org](mailto:shunae.samuels@caricom.org))

The Nineteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, June 2021 (Contact: [ileana.lopez@un.org](mailto:ileana.lopez@un.org) and [christopher.corbin@un.org](mailto:christopher.corbin@un.org))

Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean, June 2021 (Contact: [ileana.lopez@un.org](mailto:ileana.lopez@un.org) and [christopher.corbin@un.org](mailto:christopher.corbin@un.org))

Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, June 2021 (Contact: [ileana.lopez@un.org](mailto:ileana.lopez@un.org) and [christopher.corbin@un.org](mailto:christopher.corbin@un.org))

The Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, June 2021 (Contact: [ileana.lopez@un.org](mailto:ileana.lopez@un.org) and [christopher.corbin@un.org](mailto: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. This Digest 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.