

MONTHLY INFORMATION DIGEST

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DEAR READER,

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

- The role of indigenous peoples in environmental governance
- Using green financing mechanism to transform nature
- Green and digital technologies to reduce food waste
- Using butterflies to monitor global temperature
- Nature-based solutions for human livelihoods and the future
- Ecosystem restoration for people, nature and climate
- Impact of sustainable development goals on textile wastewater pollution
- 10 acceleration solutions for ending plastic pollution
- Synthetic biology and the future of plastic pollution
- Using DaRT webinar to build biodiversity MEAs reporting capacity in 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 20th of the month to Mr. Ladu Lemi, communications focal point for the programme at ladu.lemi@un.org

Happy Reading!

Sustainable Development Highlights

The Role of Indigenous Peoples in Environmental Governance

Traditional knowledge and systems of Indigenous Peoples are key in designing a sustainable future as they inhabit critical areas containing 80% of the world's biodiversity. Yet, global environmental negotiations do not integrate the views and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples to all resolutions. According to an article by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), respecting and promoting the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples is vital to strengthening their role as custodians of nature and agents of change. [Read more](#)



Using Green Financing Mechanism to Transform Nature

According to the International Panel on Climate Change, climate change is a grave and mounting threat to our health and the planet. To avoid loss of lives, biodiversity and infrastructure that is crucial for global economy, accelerated action is required to adapt to climate change. Green financing is an exceptional trajectory in this regard. This finance mechanism is designed to back initiatives that help lower carbon emissions and reduce global warming according to an article by the Irish Time. [Read more](#)



Using Green and Digital Technologies to Reduce Food Waste at The Consumer Level

Food loss and waste have negative environmental impacts that exacerbate our triple planetary crisis, generating 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions and affect biodiversity. It is estimated that one-third of the food produced in the world for human consumption is lost every year, costing 2.6 trillion USD. In a case study published by UNEP under the Building Back Better initiative indicates that deployment of green and digital technologies to reduce food waste at the consumer level is key to the transition towards an inclusive green economy and sustainable future. [Read more](#)



Launching Funding for Indigenous People's-led Organizations

Despite being recognized as leaders in biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation, Indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs) receive below 1% of climate finance. This has led to a rise in multiple funding initiatives such as the Community Land Rights and Conservation Finance Initiative (CLARIFI). CLARIFI aims to channel funds directly to IPLC-led initiatives by mobilizing public and private funds to secure community land tenure, conserve forests and biodiversity, safeguard traditional livelihoods, and achieve gender rights. According to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), building capacity and structures within Indigenous communities is also vital to effectively manage financial resources. [Read more](#)



Biodiversity Conservation Highlights

Biodiversity Receives Over \$5 billion Pledges to GEF

As the world convenes to commit to the transformative change needed to bend the curve on biodiversity loss and adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, twenty-nine countries on the 8th of April 2022 announced a pledged of \$5.25 billion for GEF's to boost international efforts to protect biodiversity and curb threats from climate change, plastics, and toxic chemicals through collaboration action this decade. With biodiversity protection representing the biggest share of the GEF's eighth programming period, these pledges are critically important for the successful implementation of the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework. [Read more](#)



Using Butterflies for Global Temperature in Biodiversity Hotspots

Studies have shown that changes in global temperatures over the past decades is driving the earth to the verge of its sixth mass extinction of biological species, with massive losses already observed in bigger creatures. However, insects which constitute the greatest biodiversity of the tropics remain virtually unexplored although statistics indicate a decreasing rate of 2.5% every year. Conservationists observed that using butterflies to analyze changes in insect abundance can provide beneficial scientific knowledge for conservation. [Read more](#)



Nature-based Solutions Sustain Human Livelihoods and Future

Healthy ecosystems have sustained human livelihoods for centuries providing food, water, fuel and protection. However, today we are confronted with a planetary emergency characterized with biodiversity, ecosystem degradation and climate change. Nature-based solutions such as restoration of degraded ecosystems and sustainable management of landscapes can help in sustaining livelihoods and providing protection from natural disasters if implemented and properly coordinated. [Read more](#)



Ecosystem Restoration for People, Nature and Climate

The triple planetary crisis facing humanity requires that we take immediate actions to cut greenhouse gas emissions to keep global warming below 2°C and avoid its negative impacts on most dangerous impacts. A health ecosystem provides significant goods and services which range from food and water to health and security. Without halting and reversing the degradation of lands and oceans, an estimated the loss of and estimated 1 million endangered species cannot be prevented. A report published by UNEP and FAO highlights the importance of ecosystem restoration and their carbon stores as key to the prosperity and well-being of people. [Read more](#)



Chemicals and Wastes Highlights

Marine Environment at Risk of Chemicals Pollution

Marine pollution through chemicals and plastics is threatening not just the environment but also the economic benefits derived from global oceans and seas. In order to salvage the environment by establishing urgent and coordinated actions, a recent report by the Back to Blue Initiative, titled “The Invisible Wave: Getting to zero chemical pollution in the ocean” recommends that regulators enact and enforce stricter rules on pollution, increase push for a circular economy, and educate the finance and investment communities as well as the public about the danger of marine chemical pollution to influence marine chemical pollution through purchasing decisions. [Read more](#)



Sustainable Development Goals and Textile Wastewater Pollution

Water contamination and pollution due to human activity has resulted in one of today’s most critical environmental challenges, with worsening water pollution affecting both developed and developing countries. Untreated wastewater containing a significant amount of hazardous industrial wastes has a detrimental impact on the environment and all types of life forms. Textile dyeing is the second-largest polluter of water worldwide, with the fashion industry producing 20% of the world’s wastewater. A new publication shows that, the adoption of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly SDG6, has increased research into wastewater pollution caused by the textiles industry over the past years. [Read more](#)



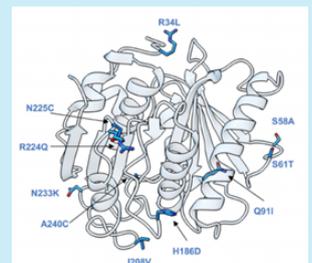
10 Acceleration Solutions for Ending Plastic Pollution

In the wake up to fight the global surge of plastic pollution, the UN Environment Assembly has called for concerted action, more cooperation, more finance, more ambition and more sustained commitment. In response to the call, UNEP convened the SEA of Solutions (SOS), which is an annually occurring partnership event that serves as a platform for multi-sectoral dialogue, collaboration, uniting seekers and providers of market-transforming policy, business, and technology solutions, and enabling networking among stakeholders in the plastic value-chain towards solving plastic pollution at source. In its 2021 three-day event, 10 acceleration solutions were agreed upon to step up collective actions to end plastic pollution. [Read more](#)



Synthetic biology and the future of plastic pollution

Plastic pollution is one of the world’s most pressing environmental problems to be dealt with. Synthetic biology which involves redesigning organisms to acquire new traits is bringing new hope for ending the plastic tragedy. A new report has described the development of a plastic-eating enzyme that uses a circular process to break down the plastic into smaller parts and then transforms it into a smaller, reusable plastic within 24 hours, setting a new dawn for industries to reduce their environmental impact. [Read more](#)



News from Partners and Associates

Holding Africa Regional Preparatory Meeting in the Lead-up to the 2021/2022 BRS' Face-to-Face COPs

The BRS COPs regional preparatory meeting took place back-to-back with the face-to-face segment of the 12th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention from 7 to 9 April 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya. Thanks to financial support from the European Union funded ACP MEAs 3 Programme and the Governments of Norway and Switzerland. The objective of the meeting was to give Parties within the Africa region the possibility to consult each other in ahead of the face-to-face segment of the 2021/2022 COPs, consider meeting documents, discuss substantive matters, identify regional priorities and challenges, and facilitate the preparation of regional positions. A total of 121 representatives attended the meeting, including 104 representatives from 44 country Parties to the conventions, and 17 representatives of 14 observer organizations, including regional centres. [Read more](#)



InforMEA: Enhancing Knowledge on Global MEAs through Free Self-Pace Trainings

In the first quarter of 2022, InforMEA continued to make strides towards its goals of providing a foundational introductory course for each MEA through a standard and engaging format to build knowledge and greater understanding of International Environmental Law (IEL) through free and self-paced courses. Two MEAs, the [Conservation of Migratory Species \(CMS\)](#) and [Ozone Secretariat](#) launched complete overhauls of their courses. InforMEA also worked with SAICM to host a new course on [Industrial Chemicals Databases](#) and Information Sharing, which will soon be available to the broader public. Visual updates into RISE program are ongoing for the 10 remaining MEAs and related courses, which is expected to attain a uniform look-and-feel in mid-2022. A new course on [Online Negotiations](#) capturing some of the best practices and developments in virtual intergovernmental meetings due to the COVID-19 has also been launched. Additionally, InforMEA has also launched a new free and self-paced interactive course on Climate Rights Litigation that surveys and explains a range of cases based on different rights and reasoning. Find out more [here](#).



Using DaRT Webinar to Build Biodiversity MEAs Reporting Capacity in the Caribbean

The most important requirement for MEAs implementation is national reporting. For many countries, however, the compilation of national reports is a high burden, due to the number of reports to be submitted, the involvement of numerous experts and the challenge of identifying pertinent information sources. In the Caribbean region, UNEP and the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community organized a webinar on the application of the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT) on 27 April 2022. The DaRT tool supports Parties by enhancing the use of synergies across biodiversity-related conventions and increasing effectiveness of national reporting. More than 45 participants representing 12 Caribbean countries and 3 organizations. Cameroon from the African region also participated to promote south-south cooperation and sharing of knowledge. Contact Dr. Wiedmer at eric.wiedmer@un.org and Teshia at teshia.jnbaptiste@caricom.org for more details.



Upcoming Relevant Events to ACP MEAs 3 Programme

- Briefing Session on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) for Africa- 10 May 2022 (Contact: Balakrishna at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- Launch of ACP MEAs 3 YETI tool kit during the International Day for Biodiversity-23 May 2022 (Contact: Balakrishna at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- Negotiation skills training and briefing on DSI for the Caribbean region-12-13 May 2022 (Contact: Balakrishna at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- Negotiation skills training and briefing on synthetic biology for the African region-19-20 May 2022 (Contact: Balakrishna at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- Briefing Session on DSI for the Caribbean region-25 May 2022 (Contact: Balakrishna at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- Webinar: In Observance of International Day for Biological Diversity: Building a shared future for all life-20 May 2022 (Contact: Teshia at teshia.jnbaptiste@caricom.org).
- Negotiation skills training for the Pacific region-27-27 May 2022 (Contact: Balakrishna at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- Briefing Session on Digital Sequence Information for Pacific Region-31 May 2022 (Contact: 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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