

MONTHLY INFORMATION DIGEST

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DEAR READER,

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

- Using blue economy to improve ocean health for sustainable development;
- Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs;
- Recommendations for strengthening the Post-2020 GBF;
- Empowering customs officials to combat illegal wildlife trade;
- Averting biodiversity crisis;
- Industry involvement in sound management of chemicals and waste;
- Boost e-waste collection and recycling in East Africa;
- Phasing out lead from paint manufacturing;
- Celebrating Cartagena convention @35 using a video;
- CARICOM launches second biodiversity webinar series;
- Preparing Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean for the 2021/2022 BRS COPS;
- Free Self-Pace Trainings course on marine litter and pollution prevention.

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!

NEWSLETTER

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Sustainable Development Highlights

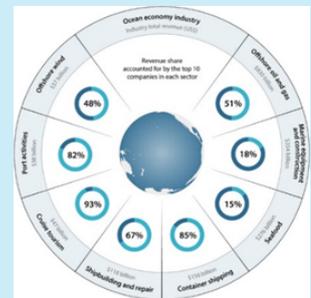
Major Groups Share Positions Ahead of the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

According to paragraph 85 of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, global stakeholders are required to periodically engage in thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Ahead of the July 2022 HLPF under the theme Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, major groups and other stakeholders have submitted a series of position papers which underscore the impacts of multiple environmental crises exacerbated by conflicts and call for international cooperation to solve the most pressing problems facing societies. [Read more](#)



Using Blue Economy to Improve Ocean Health to Meet the SDGs

As global populations and economies grow, the world needs more from the ocean – food, energy, materials and space. However, growth in Ocean-based industries despite providing income, and generating new opportunities, they have also contributed to the degradation of marine ecosystems, conflicts with small-scale users and the loss of biodiversity. Through the Ocean 100 Dialogues initiative, leaders across the blue economy are creating a science-business platform to protect the ocean and accelerate actions for a sustainable and equitable blue economy. [Read more](#)



Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda aims to achieve Sustainable Development using 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were synergistically created to ensure interlinkages between the environmental, economic and social aspects of development to transform our world. An integral element of the Agenda is the call for “Leaving no one behind” including nature, on which many lives depend on. To understand the extent of implementation, UNEP launched on 22 May 2021 the Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs report that informs on the 92 environment-related SDG indicators and analyses the progress made in achieving the SDG targets. [Read more](#)



How Carbon Pricing Can Support Green Recovery and Growth

Building Back Better has become a major theme for the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery trajectory for countries that provide a policy environment that create much-needed fiscal space while putting global economy on a green sustainable growth path. Green recovery strategies can build an economy that generates more and better jobs, catalyze capital at scale, accelerate climate resilience, and protect the environment and natural capital by reducing the negative impacts of local pollution on health, infrastructure, and agriculture. Carbon taxes and emission trading systems can help countries mobilize fiscal resources while enabling green economic recovery from COVID-19. [Read more](#)



Biodiversity Conservation Highlights

Advancing Global Biodiversity Governance: Recommendations for Strengthening the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Reversing ecosystem degradation and halting global biodiversity loss due to climate change are essential elements for socio-economic development. The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which establishes a blueprint for globally coordinated action towards the development of national and regional strategies targeting conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity. The framework emphasizes on the need for transformative strategies to conserve, monitor, and sustainably manage ecosystems by enhancing cooperation and influencing the development of implementation strategies and regulatory instruments at national and local levels. [Read more](#)



Boosting Species Conservation in Developing Countries

Despite hosting most of the world biodiversity hotspots, developing countries continues to face technical and financial resources challenges to conserve biodiversity. In preparation for the 2022 International Day for Biological Diversity celebration, UN agencies have pledged \$43 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to enable developing countries to implement projects that reverses species loss. According to a recent report, 139 developing countries grappling with escalating threats to natural habitats will benefit from the funding. UNEP and UNDP will provide the required technical expertise to enable the countries achieve the targets. [Read more](#)



Empowering Customs Officials to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade

Porous borders between countries are becoming potential routes for trafficking in illicit wildlife products and other protected species according to a recent report. ACP countries like Nigeria has stepped up enforcement actions a National Strategy Plan on Combating Illegal Wildlife and Forest Crime. The strategy strengthens the capacity of law enforcement officers to intercept and detect illegal shipments; as well as upgrades the capacity to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate wildlife and forest crime. This has resulted into a large seizure by the national customs services. [Read more](#)



Only Cash and Action Can Avert Biodiversity Crisis

Later this year, nations are expected to gather in Kunming for the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations CBD, where an agreement on the Global Biodiversity Framework aims at protecting global biodiversity will be reached. However, conflicts over financing the action plan are adding to the tension. Conservation groups and advocates suggest that to stop catastrophic losses of animal and plant species, countries need to move ahead with talks and rich nations should donate at least US\$60 billion annually compared to the current funding estimated at \$5.2 billion per year. A recent report indicates that, both private and public donors need to increase their pledges and provided a number of options that could be exploited to increase the budget needed to protect biodiversity. [Read more](#)



Chemicals and Wastes Highlights

Industry Involvement in Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste

The global production and demand for different types of chemicals continue to rise leading to unprecedented amount of wastes dumped into the environment. According to UNEP, an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste is crucial. A report published by the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) notes that, industry involvement as one of the pillars of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste is important and call for the establishment of an efficient tracking system to measure inputs, activities, outcomes and impact. [Read more](#)



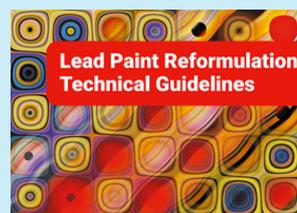
Boost E-Waste Collection and Recycling in East Africa

The production and use of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) continue to grow in both developing and developed countries, and given their shorter product lifespans, e-waste has now become one of the fastest growing waste streams that will be a global challenge in the coming years if not well handled. Improper disposal of e-waste poses numerous threats to the environment, the economy, and people's health. In support of countries for a sound management of e-waste, UNEP and the Rwandan Ministries of ICT and Innovation, and the Environment and other partners have launched a campaign to raise awareness about proper e-waste management to promote green growth and a circular economy. [Read more](#)



Phasing out Lead from Paint Manufacturing

Lead paint is an important source of exposure to children and the environment that can cause serious and irreversible neurological damage. A new technical guideline report developed by UNEP and the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint has shown that, despite the possibility to formulate paint without lead addition, lack of technical knowledge, awareness about the health and environmental hazard of lead and limited access to information on lead-free alternatives sources where to source lead-free alternatives, as well as a shortage of lead paint laws in the countries has made manufacturers to continue producing hazardous lead paint. [Read more](#)



The Risk of Mercury Pollution in the Food Threatens Human and Planetary Health

Studies indicate that almost everyone carries some traces of mercury in their bodies in varying levels as a result of exposure through food, air or cosmetics. Bioaccumulation of mercury in the food chain particularly larger fish poses great health risk to people who whose livelihoods depend on seafood due to exposure to high levels of mercury. Tackling the global challenge of mercury pollution, requires formulation of effective frameworks, policies and national legislations on phasing out mercury-containing products. [Read more](#)



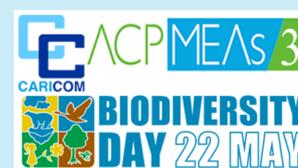
Launching Commemorative Video for Cartagena Convention @35 Celebrations.

On June 21, 2022, the Cartagena Convention will officially launch a commemorative video in celebration of its 35 years since entry into force. The video, financed through the ACP MEAs 3 programme will highlight the importance and benefit of the Convention and its Protocols to the governments and peoples of the Caribbean region and encourage ratification of the Convention and its Protocols by Non-Contracting Parties. The virtual launch will commence at 10:00 a.m. GMT-5. Please register here (<https://bit.ly/3m72wVAUNEPCEP>).



CARICOM Commemorates International Biodiversity Day and Launches Second Biodiversity Webinar Series

On Friday May 20, 2022, in commemoration of International Biodiversity Day, the CARICOM Secretariat launched a series of Biodiversity Webinars to prepare the region to continue negotiations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The first webinar was on negotiation techniques and tips. The webinar series are being convened under the ACP MEA 3 Programme to empower key stakeholders to address environmental challenges and to reap the benefits of improved environmental management at the national and regional levels. [Read more.](#)



Preparing Latin America and the Caribbean and Eastern Europe for the 2021/2022 BRS Conventions Face-to-Face COPs Meeting

From 3 to 5 and 9 to 11 May 2022, the bureaux of the COPs for BRS conventions through its regional offices in the Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Asia and Pacific held regional preparatory meetings in Montevideo, Uruguay and Prague, Czech Republic respectively. The objective of the meeting was enable Parties to consult each other in advance 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. Thanks for the financial support from the Governments of Norway and Switzerland for the Eastern Europe and Asia and Pacific meeting and the European Union through the ACP MEAs 3 Programme for the Latin America and the Caribbean meeting. The proceedings of the meetings are available [here](#).



InforMEA: Enhancing Knowledge through Free Self-Pace Trainings

In order to strengthen its objectives as an important online Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements, InforMEA has designed a Marine Litter Toolkit to provide information about plastic pollution to the public. The [Marine Litter Toolkit](#) will cover a range of SDG14 targets. As part of efforts to address the plastics pollution challenge as outlined in [UNEA Resolution 4/9](#) and [UNEA Resolution 4/6](#), the UNEP developed this legal toolkit on plastics pollution prevention to assist legislators and policymakers in the development and strengthening of their regulatory framework with features such as [legislation explorer](#); [glossary of terms](#); interactive guide for legislation on single use plastics; and case studies. The [Marine Litter and Plastics](#) course will be launched on June 8 2022. Other courses include [Environment and Climate Law](#) and [Transboundary Air Pollution](#).



Upcoming Relevant Events to ACP MEAs 3 Programme

- Webinar: In observance of World Oceans Day “Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean” in the the Caribbean region- 08 June 2022 (Contact: Teshia at teshia.jnbaptiste@caricom.org).
- Launch of ACP MEAs 3 YETI tool kit during the International Day for Biodiversity-20 June 2022 (Contact: Balakrishna at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- Negotiation skills training for the Pacific region-27-27 May 2022 (Contact: Balakrishna at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (OWG-4)- 21-26 June 2022 (Contact: Balakrishna at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- Launch of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat’s 35th anniversary video on World Oceans Day- 21 June 2022 (Contact: Christopher Corbin at christopher.corbin@un.org).
- Webinar: Addressing Sustainable Consumption and Production of CARICOM’s Forests Resources- 30 June 2022 (Contact: Teshia at teshia.jnbaptiste@caricom.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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