

Gearing Up to Deliver the UNEP MTS 2022-2025: Responses from the ACP MEAs 3 Programme

1. Introduction

The Medium Term Strategy (MTS) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the period 2022-2025 was approved during the UN Environment Assembly session 5.1 held during February 2021. This note identifies specific interventions and actions that the EU funded Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) programme (ACP MEAs 3), in its third phase (2020-2024) intends to deliver in support of the MTS.

UNEP MTS 2022-2025	Paragraph Number	ACP MEAs programme link ¹	Specific Activities ² ³ (2022-2024)
UNEP will support integrated and balanced implementation of Agenda 2030	33	The programme supports actions related increasing policy coherence between SDGs and MEAs; supports capacity building on strengthening the environmental dimension of SDGs; and aims to integrate environmental issues into UN Sustainable Development Country Frameworks in Africa	1.1.3, 1.2.2, 1.2.3 (UNEP),
UNEP will strengthen institutional capacity for gender responsive programme delivery	34	ACP MEAs 3 has developed an operational plan for considering all actions that are based in principles of gender equity and equality through a Gender Operational Plan that was launched on 8 th March 2021 here	Cross cutting focus.

¹ The ACP MEAs 3 programme is funded by the European Commission and is currently in its third phase of implementation. The programme covers 79 countries in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific. UNEP is the overall coordinator for the USD 18.2 million programme working with a number of institutions, including MEA Secretariats belonging to biodiversity and chemicals and waste cluster, European Environment Bureau. The programme has three strategic objectives, namely, supporting enhanced compliance to and implementation of MEAs, supporting ocean governance and mainstreaming agriculture and biodiversity. The third objective of the programme is being implemented by FAO.

² The activities identified here are merely sample of actions that are planned to be undertaken and not exhaustive.

³ AH - African Hub (African Union Commission), CH - Caribbean Hub (CARICOM), PH - Pacific Hub (SPREP), Abidjan Convention (ABC), Nairobi Convention (NC), Noumea Convention (Noumea), Cartagena Convention (CC) These organizations are the implementing partners, coordinating regional actions in respective regions with UNEP support.

UNEP, working with partners will deliver on transformational results	35	Overall objective of ACP MEAs programme focuses on working with multiple partners in delivering transformational results on issues of environmental governance (3 continents, 79 countries, multiple MEAs, engagement with varied stakeholders).	Strategic Objective 1 and Strategic Objective 2 (UNEP and all partners).
UNEP will strengthen the South-South and triangular cooperation	39	With enhanced inter-regional cooperation and coordination in programme delivery, a number of actions related to implementing the ACP MEAs 3 programme contributes to enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation.	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.4, 1.1.7, 1.2.5, 1.3.3, 1.3.6, 1.4.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.4 (UNEP) and several others of partners.
UNEP will work on a 3-pronged strategy: applying cutting-edge science, engaging with policy makers and delivering at multiple levels	47	Implementation of MEAs belonging to biodiversity and chemicals, waste and pollution cluster, strengthening ocean governance systems form the core of programme, supporting the science-policy links.	1.1.1, 1.1.2 (UNEP)
Collaboration with multilateral environmental agreement will be central to all actions. to secure stronger synergies and impacts	49	The strategic objective 1 of the ACP MEAs 3 programme directly contributes to this - focusing across issues relevant to biodiversity MEAs, chemicals and waste MEAs, pollution while the strategic objective 2 focus on enhancing ocean governance systems through regional seas programmes.	1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3 (UNEP); 2.1.7 (ABC); 2.1.5 (NC)
Nature Action - Nature underpins the functions and health of the planet and thereby the existence and health of humankind.	63	By the end of current phase of the ACP MEAs 3 programme (2024) actions in support of achieving the post 2020 global biodiversity framework would have been streamlined in the ACP regions with focus on (a) national planning, implementation and reporting processes; (b) actions to mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors: (c) integrating biodiversity into sectors like financing in place.	1.2.4 (UNEP)
Nature Action Outcome 1: An economically and socially sustainable pathway for halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity is established	65	The focus of the programme will be for mobilizing public support for the nature agenda; developing integrated national infrastructure plans that prioritize ecosystems and ecosystem-based approaches, including natural infrastructure.	1.2.5 (AH); 2.2.5 (NC)

UNEP will support countries in developing policies and incentives that address the drivers of biodiversity loss and promote sustainable and inclusive economic activities...and equitable benefit-sharing...	66	ACP MEAs 3 programme focuses on supporting implementation of national NBSAPs, revision of post 2020 NBSAPs, issues related to access and benefit sharing.	1.1.4, 1.1.5, 1.1.7, 1.2.1, 1.3.2 (UNEP);
UNEP will support countries in developing the necessary policies, legislation and strategies to make progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and implement their respective obligations under the multilateral environmental agreements	67	Integrating MEA obligations into SDGs, strengthening the environmental dimension of SDGs, enhancing policy coherence between MEAs and SDGs form the core of UNEP support to the ACP MEAs 3 programme.	1.1.3, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3 (UNEP); 2.1.6, 2.1.7, 2.2.1 (ABC); 1.2.2.1 (PH); 1.2.1, 1.2.2 (EEB); 2.1.2.1 (Noumea)
UNEP will promote social and behavioural change and support sustainable education and youth-led action	68	Working with regional hubs in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (AUC, CARICOM and SPREP), the programme is supporting targeted actions to promote social and behavioural change through youth engagement and strengthening youth networks, women's' groups and others and organizing specialized orientation programmes on issues such as environmental psychology and the related.	3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.3 (UNEP); 1.4.2 (EEB); 2.4.3 (ABC); 2.4.1.3 (Noumea)
Outcome 2 UNEP will assist Member States and support United Nations country teams in ensuring that nature is mainstreamed effectively into all key sectors	70	With specific, agreed focus on Africa, the ACP MEAs 3 programme charted work programme on supporting UNSDCF. Based on the outcomes, the results will be mainstreamed into actions in Caribbean and Pacific regions, as needed.	1.2.7 (AH),
UNEP will align its actions with the agreed objectives of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, without pre-empting its development, working with United Nations system entities and other partners to support countries in its implementation and mainstreaming it into national processes and development frameworks	71	A significant part of support to biodiversity related MEA focus is in helping CBD finalize the post 2020 global biodiversity framework and its subsequent implementation. Working in cooperation with agencies like OACPS, EU, SPREP, CARICOM, AUC, IGAD and EMG, the programme aims to support actions on national implementation of the framework, once adopted.	1.2.1 (CH); 1.2.4 (AH); 1.2.2.1, 1.2.2.6 (PH); 2.2.1 (ABC)

UNEP will develop and promote frameworks and norms for biodiversity-related financing and infrastructure	74	Supporting the IGAD region and working with the African Group of Negotiators (established by AMCEN), the programme will support developing and promoting biodiversity financing framework9s), including detailing options for a Global Biodiversity Fund (as being negotiated by the African group in CBD).	1.2.5 (UNEP)
UNEP will promote sustainable approaches to natural resource management	76	Focus on supporting integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning & provide guidance for increased knowledge and institutional capacity to implement equitable access and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and catalyze action for the sustainable use of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystem resources.	1.2.5 (AH); 1.3.1 (CH); 2.1.1.3, 2.2.1.1, 2.2.2.1 (Noumea)
UNEP will provide the necessary tools and guidance to develop sustainable blue economies	78	The strategic objective 2 of the ACP MEAs 3 programme focuses on strengthening ocean governance, in collaboration with select regional seas programmes and AUC. Such focus includes support to blue economy development (through CARICOM, Cartagena convention, Noumea convention and Abidjan conventions).	1.1.1 (AH); 2.2.3 (ABC); 2.1.2 (CC); 2.1.4.3, 2.1.4.4 (Noumea)
Chemicals and pollution action - Preventing, controlling and managing pollution is central to improving health, human well-being and prosperity for all.	79	The ACP MEAs 3 programme supports countries in the ACP regions to deal with issues of chemicals, waste, pollution, including mercury, through work under implementation of chemicals MEA cluster.	1.1.2 (AH); 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.3.1 (EEB); 2.3.2 (CC);
Outcome 1 Human health and environmental outcomes are optimized through enhanced capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste	82	Through support to implementing BRS, Minamata and Bamako conventions, the ACP MEAs 3 programme focuses on delivering results related to sound management of chemicals, waste and pollution.	1.15 (UNEP); 1.2.3, 1.3.1 (EEB); 2.3.1 (CC); 2.2.4 (NC)
UNEP will promote sound science and information- and knowledge-sharing on chemicals, waste and pollution	82	Through the ACP MEAs 3 programme, under the Bamako COP 3, countries were supported to deal with science-based decision making on issues of convention's mandate. Working with regional seas conventions and regional hubs, programmes are	1.1.9 (AH); 1.1.1.1 (PH), 1.4.1 (EEB); 2.1.6 (NC); 2.1.2.2, 2.1.3.1 (Noumea)

		underway to support knowledge and information sharing.	
UNEP will accelerate policy shifts towards the sound management of chemicals and waste.	83	In collaboration with BRS, Minamata and Bamako conventions, the programme will work at national level on both policy and legal measures to manage chemicals and waste.	1.1.5 (CH); 1.2.2 (AH); 2.3.1, 2.3.3 (ABC)
Outcome 2: Waste management is improved, including through circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw materials and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites		The programme will support a number of national actions in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific on issues of waste management.	1.4.2 (CH); 1.1.2 (AH); 2.4.3 (NC); 2.3.1.1, 2.3.1.4 (Noumea)
UNEP will support efforts to identify and close open dumpsites	88	In cooperation with chemicals and waste MEAs, the programme will develop guidelines for the identification and closure of open dump sites in ACP regions.	1.1.5, 1.1.7, 1.2.6 (UNEP)
Scale up ongoing efforts on greening waste and wastewater management infrastructure	89	In collaboration with relevant MEAs and regional seas programme, the ACP MEAs 3 programme will work on issues of appropriate governance systems, including strengthening institutional capacities to deal with waste management.	1.1.4, 1,2,2 (AH); 2.3.4 (CC)
Influence producer, procurement and investment decisions regarding chemicals use by fostering more informed consumer choices based on awareness of the environmental footprint of products consumed and used.	91	In collaboration with the sub-programme on chemicals and waste and relevant MEAs, the APC MEAs 3 programme has specific activities designed to deliver on this component of UNEP MTS. These include guidelines, awareness raising material and communication strategies.	1.3.7, 1.3.10 (CH); 1.1.9 (AH)
Scale up ongoing efforts to address land-based sources of freshwater and marine pollution, especially nutrients, chemicals and plastic and other forms of marine litter.	93	Working through the regional Seas conventions, the ACP MEAs 3 programme will work on enhancing awareness, guidance and capacities at national and local levels on issues of marine litter, plastics pollution, nutrient loads and the related.	1.2.2.1 (PH); 2.3.1 (ABC); 2.3.4 (CC); 2.3.1.2, 2.3.1.3 (Noumea)
Foundational Sub-programme - Science Policy Developing an inclusive science-policy interface that speaks to all	95 (e)	In collaboration with Science Division and the Chief Scientist of UNEP, the ACP MEAs 3 programme will develop specific guidance on improving the effectiveness of science-policy interface in all its programmes and activities.	1.2.1.1. (PH); 2.1.6 (NC)

Foundational Sub-programme - Environmental Governance Amplifying impact across the global environmental agenda through enhanced cooperation with the multilateral environmental agreements	97 (b)	Enhancing cooperation among and in between biodiversity and chemicals, waste MEAs form the strategic objective for the ACP MEAs 3 programme. A number of activities, at different levels, will deliver on this objective.	1.3.2, 1.3.3 (CH); 1.1.10 (AH); 2.1.7 (ABC); 2.1.1 (CC); 2.1.5 (NC)
Supporting countries in identifying integrated approaches to the three dimensions of sustainable development, including the incorporation of environmental considerations into sustainable development planning:	97 (c)	This issue will receive specific attention in sub-regions such as IGAD and others and link up with similar ideas detailed above.	1.2.2.1 (PH); 2.1.2.1 (Noumea)
Leading the United Nations system and supporting national governments, at their request, in the development and implementation of environmental rule of law	97 (e)	ACP MEAs 3 programme is currently developing specific programme inputs on issues of environmental rule of law with focus on national actions in ACP regions.	1.2.2, 1.2.4 (CH); 1.1.8 (AH)
Advancing human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment	97 (f)	The programme will develop an operational guidance plan to integrate human rights related issues in programme planning and delivery.	This is treated as a cross cutting issue with actions across the programme.
Enabling Sub-programme Financing and Economic Transformation Accelerating the alignment of finance with sustainability objectives and policy priorities	99 (c)	Working on issues of sustainable financing at national levels, the programme will support development of national financing plans for the countries in ACP region, including supporting the establishment of a global biodiversity fund, if decided so by CBD COP 15.	1.2.2.7 (PH)
Enabling Sub-programme Digital Transformation Catalyzing a transformative use of environmental digital public goods to amplify and accelerate progress towards global climate, biodiversity and pollution goals and targets	102 (b)	Supporting synergies among the chemicals, waste and pollution MEAs and biodiversity MEAs, the ACP MEAs 3 programme will work on coordinated delivery of actions in support of national, regional and global biodiversity, chemicals and pollution goals.	1.3.6 (UNEP); 1.1.1.2 (PH)
Strengthening environmental digital literacy and e-governance capacities of diverse stakeholders to engage in the	102 (c)	During 2022, specific focus will be provided on supporting digital transformation of all relevant actions to deliver the ACP MEAs 3 programme, in	1.1.2 (CH); 1.1.1.2 (PH); 1.3.5 (UNEP), 1.1.1.2 (PH)

environmental dimensions of digital transformation, with an emphasis on the global South		line with the UNEP Digital Transformation Programme. Necessary capacity building and training programmes will be organized in all 3 regions (ACP).	
Levers for Change for Better Delivery UNEP regional offices will be the anchor for delivering the organization's strategic aspirations and securing stronger engagement at the regional and country levels	111	Regional and sub-regional offices, focal points and sub-programme coordinators will be involved in programme delivery under the ACP MEAs 3 programme for better reach at regional and nations levels and to integrate the programmatic interests of UNEP in programme related activities.	All actions related to implementation are undertaken with support from regional offices
UNEP will participate actively in regional platforms and processes	112	The ACP MEAs 3 programme will develop specific briefs reflecting the outcomes of key regional platforms and processes (such as AMCEN) to support effective participation of UNEP and its partners in such processes.	This is a cross cutting issue for the programme with inputs to several platforms and processes
UNEP will contribute to key intergovernmental and inter-agency coordination mechanisms	113	Through the programme, UNEP will support a number of inter-governmental processes (like COPs, SBSTTA) and inter-regional processes (such as AMCEN, LAC Ministerial meeting) and others in support of better environmental governance. In preparation for this, a number of training and capacity building sessions will be organized involving key stakeholder groups, including national focal points.	1.3.3.2, 1.3.3.1 (PH); 1.3.2,
UNEP will take a highly innovative approach to its communications	120	Working with regional hubs (AUC, CARICOM and SPREP) the ACP MEAs 3 programme will initiate a number of activities targeting communications, including using social media platforms, for better reach and impact of implementation of the activities.	1.4.1 (AH); 1.4.1.4 (PH)