



MONTHLY INFORMATION DIGEST

VOLUME 2
ISSUES 10 & 11
OCTOBRE - NOVEMBER
2022

THE KEY HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- UNFCCC COP27's loss and damage fund
- The Agenda 2030 Compass tool
- GEMS Ocean programme's endorsement
- World Bank's Blue economy for resilient Africa programme launch
- Pacific SIDS Solution Forum on agrifood
- CITES COP19's achievements
- UNFCCC COP27: Call for an ambitious CBD COP 15
- UNEP-FI: statement on biodiversity
- UNEP: Multi-stakeholder forum on plastic
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DEAR READER,

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is pleased to present you the 10th and 11th issues of the ACP MEAs 3 Monthly Digest for October and November 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.

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 Emilie Vauchel at emilie.vauchel@un.org

Happy Reading!



Group picture during PSC Meeting in October 2022 in Brussels

UNFCCC COP27 announces decision to establish a loss and damage fund

COP27 that was held on 6–18 November 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, concluded with the decision to establish a loss and damage fund. The fund should benefit developing countries who are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change (droughts, floods, rising seas). Details on contributors to the fund, the scope and timeline of their contributions are yet to be negotiated. COP27 did not, however, call for a phase-down of fossil fuels. A recent UNEP report underlined the need to urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with an estimated 2.8°C temperature rise by the end of the century based on current policies in place, far from the 1.5°C target. [Read More.](#)



Launch of the Agenda 2030 Compass Tool to assess policies and projects against the SDGs

The Stockholm Environment Institute launched a new tool called Agenda 2030 Compass, in October 2022. This tool gives the possibility to quantify, visualize and compare different investment options, research strategies and policies, evaluating how they contribute to societal values across the 17 SDGs. The objective is to support decision-makers (governments, businesses, and civil society groups) to maximize investments options and achieve maximum social benefits. The main advantage of Agenda 2030 Compass is to help understanding synergies and trade-offs between SDGs. [Read More.](#)



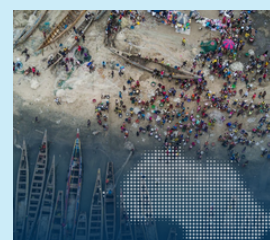
Endorsement of UNEP multi-stakeholder GEMS Ocean Programme

The Global Environment Monitoring System for the Ocean and Coasts (GEMS Ocean) Programme was endorsed in September 2022, with the goal of developing a global monitoring system that provides data, analysis, and information on marine and coastal resources. The programme also aims at promoting a transdisciplinary partnership for the sustainable use of ocean resources and developing ocean monitoring capacity of Small Islands Development States (SIDS). The programme was endorsed in response to the second call of action of UN Decade for Ocean Sciences (2021-2030). UNEP had started designing the programme in 2021 and developing a strategy in June 2022. [Read More.](#)



Launch of World Bank's "Blue Economy for Resilient Africa Program"

During UNFCCC COP27, the World Bank announced the launch of the "Blue Economy for Resilient Africa Program", that aims to protect and develop Africa's 'Blue Resources' for coastal countries and island states to spur economic growth and reduce poverty. The World Bank estimates that Blue Economy generated about USD 300 billion for the African continent and supported 49 million jobs in 2018. [Read More.](#)



Pacific SIDS Solutions Forum on sustainable Agrifood system approaches

The FAO, in partnership with the Government of Samoa, organized the Pacific SIDS Solutions Forum on 28–30 November 2022, in Apia, Samoa. The objective of this forum was to discuss Pacific-based innovative solutions and good practices to build resilient, inclusive and sustainable food agrifood systems and respond to the challenge of malnutrition. The FAO had underlined [the importance of transforming agrifood systems as part of the solution to the climate crisis](#), earlier in November during UNFCCC COP27. [Read More.](#)



Biodiversity Conservation Highlights

CITES COP19 achieves stricter trade regulations for species threatened by international trade

At COP19 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that took place in Panama on 14–25 November 2022, representatives from more than 160 governments adopted proposals to regulate international trade in more than 500 new species, including 100 new species of sharks and rays, 150 tree species, 160 amphibian species, 50 turtle and tortoise species and several species of songbirds. CITES also recognized the role it can have in reducing zoonotic diseases. This major step in efforts to regulate illegal wildlife trade and halt biodiversity loss caused by habitat loss, climate change and overexploitation paves the way for CBD COP15, which will be held in Montreal on 7–19 December 2022. [Read More.](#)



UNFCCC COP27 calls on world leaders to secure an ambitious and transformative global biodiversity agreement at CBD COP15

At COP 27 in Egypt, UN leaders and Paris Agreement champions called world leaders to secure a strong sister agreement for biodiversity, in support of climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals. They warned that failure to do so risk undermining climate action. With none of the 2011-2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets fully met, the focus of COP15 will be the adoption and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to reverse biodiversity loss. While the climate and biodiversity crises have been treated as separate issues, ecosystems play an important role in regulating climate and climate change is fast becoming the primary driver of biodiversity loss. [Read More.](#)



UNEP FI invites the private sector to commit ahead of CBD COP15

UNEP FI, alongside the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and the Finance for Biodiversity Foundation, is inviting the private financial institutions to sign a statement on biodiversity for COP15 by 9 December 2022. The goal is to call on governments to adopt a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) that sets a clear mandate for countries to require the financial sector to align its activities with biodiversity goals (GBF Goal D) and contribute to nature-based solutions, following the example of the Paris Climate



Agreement (Article 2.1 (c)). While global biodiversity funding gap is projected at USD 598-824 billion per year by 2030, the private sector's contribution remains voluntary and represents only 14% of total nature-based solutions investments (86% coming from public sources). [Read more.](#)

Chemicals and Wastes Highlights

UNEP hosts a multi-stakeholder forum on plastic pollution prior to INC-1

On November 26, UNEP organized a hybrid multi-stakeholder forum (online and in-person in Uruguay) prior to the first session on the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC-1) to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution by 2024, as requested by UNEA-5.2 (resolution 5/14). The forum, gathered 1,800 stakeholders across the plastic value chain to discuss key challenges, opportunities, knowledge and best-practices needed to end plastic pollution, including marine pollution. The first session of INC is taking place from 28 November to 2 December 2022, in Punta del Este (Uruguay), and will reflect on key outcomes and messages from the forum. [Read More.](#)



UNFCCC COP27 highlights the impact of plastic pollution on carbon emissions

During a COP27 side-event entitled "How combatting plastic pollution and illegal traffic in plastic waste can help reduce carbon emissions", co-organized by the BRS Secretariat, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNODC, UN agencies urged action to tackle the negative impact of plastic on climate change. They underlined the key role played by the Plastic Waste Amendments of the Basel Convention and the need for the establishment of an internationally legally binding agreement on plastic pollution. About 400 million tons of plastic waste are produced every year (more than nine billion tons produced since the 1950s) of which 75% becomes waste. The exponential growth in plastic production has been accompanied by an increase in illegal movement of plastic. [Read More.](#)



Turkey becomes the 138th Party of Minamata Convention

On October 4, Turkey became the 138th Party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, after successfully depositing its instrument of ratification. The convention is the most recent global agreement on environment and health. While the text of the Minamata Convention was adopted and opened for signature in 2013, it only entered into force in 2017. During Minamata COP4 (in 2021 and 2022) a decision was made to ensure that Minamata will be part of the global effort to address the triple planetary crisis (climate, nature, pollution) and possibly contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. [Read More.](#)



News from Partners and Associates

EU and OACPS call for an ambitious global agreement at CBD COP 15

In a joint statement published on November 29, the European Union (EU) and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) called for “an ambitious, comprehensive and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.” The ministers of the EU and OACPS had gathered in Brussels to discuss CBD COP15 and agreed that the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework needed to include quantifiable targets and a strong monitoring framework. [Read More.](#)



SPREP organizes a workshop on the sharing of biodiversity data

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) held a workshop on 14–18 November, in Apia, Samoa, to build capacity on sharing biodiversity data in the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) platform and introduce the Pacific Biodiversity Information Facility (PBIF). GBIF is an international network providing a scientific biodiversity database since 2001, whose secretariat is based in Copenhagen, Denmark. Publication of Pacific biodiversity data into the GBIF started in 2017. [Read More.](#)



ACP MEAs 3 Programme News

Planned side-events at CBD COP15

The ACP MEAs 3 programme and partners will co-host four events in the margins of CBD COP15 (second phase), that will take place on 7–19 December 2022. The first event, “[African, Caribbean and Pacific regional approaches: Knowledge management, innovations and implementation of GBF](#)” on 7 December, will showcase key activities and initiatives under ACP MEA 3 in support of CBD and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The second event, “[Biodiversity Action For and By the Global South](#)”, on 18 December, will be a high-level on ACP MEAs3 and future plans – with the participation of EU Commissioner, DG – EU INTPA, Executive Director of UNEP, Prime Minister of Belize, Ministers from Madagascar and Palau. The two other events will focus on other areas of interest for the programme, including the financing of biodiversity by multilateral development banks and the [science-policy interface](#) in the context of the GBF. [Read More.](#)



Contribution to the effective implementation of CITES

As CITES COP19 was held on 14–25 November 2022, UNEP submitted a Report on administrative matters to the Convention Secretariat (CoP19 Doc. 7.2). The report gave an update on programmatic support provided by UNEP since the CITES CoP 18 in 2019, including ACP MEAs 3 programme’s contribution through capacity-building activities for effective implementation of CITES in African, Caribbean

and Pacific countries. In the Caribbean, CARICOM Secretariat in partnership with CITES Secretariat held a regional workshop on a simplified e-CITES permit management process in June 2021. In the Pacific region, SREP, the CITES Secretariat and Vanuatu government held discussions which led to the review of Vanuatu's legislation for the implementation of e-CITES, while national consultations were held in Samoa which resulted in the development of a draft national bill for CITES. [Read more.](#)



Launch of a Pro-Environmental Youth Engagement Toolkit

Under the programme's Youth Empowerment and Training Initiative (YETI), the toolkit was launched on October 21, at the UN House in Brussels, Belgium. The toolkit provides hands on guidance by youth for youth on how to take sustainable actions and contribute towards pro-environmental change on four different levels: an individual, local & national, international and (social media) communication level. Access and Share the Toolkit. [Access and Share the Toolkit.](#)



Launch of ACP MEAs 3 Cross Regional YETI Alumni Network

The YETI Alumni network was launched on November 22 consisting of the 49 former youth mentees from YETI rolled out in Africa and Europe. With this network, ACP MEAs 3 aims to continue facilitating cross-regional peer-to-peer interchange, capacity building and empowerment of young people to engage in and lead pro-environmental change. This Network will steadily grow and will also include YETI Alumni from other regions once YETI rolled out there. [Read more.](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- [7 December 2022](#): ACP-MEAs-CB COP15 side-event "African, Caribbean and Pacific regional approaches : Knowledge management, innovations and implementation of GBF". [Link to event.](#)
- [11 December 2022](#): COP15 parallel event "Fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity And 8th International Conference on the Sustainability Science: Contributions from Science to Implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework". [Link to event.](#)
- [11 December 2022](#): COP15 side event "Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support – GEF-UNDP Inception Meeting". [Link to event](#)
- [14 December 2022](#): COP15 parallel event "Finance and Biodiversity Day on Integrating Biodiversity in Final Decision-Making, and Aligning Financial Flows with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework". [Link to event.](#)
- [18 December 2022](#): ACP-MEAs-CB COP15 "Biodiversity Action For and By the Global South". [Link to event.](#)

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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.

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