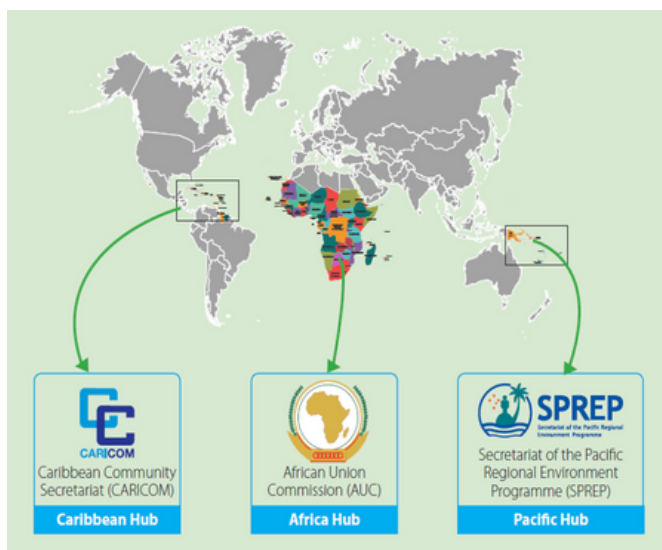




## A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ACP MEAS 3 PROGRAMME

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

MANAGED BY THE UNITED  
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PROGRAMME



ACP MEAs 3 Programme Partners

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## SOME SNIPPETS

The ACP MEAs is an EU-UNEP partnership programme that began in March 2009 as an initiative of the European Commission to address challenging environmental issues through the implementation of the MEAs in the African, Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP) regions. The programme is currently in its third phase of implementation, aiming to assist 79 ACP-countries to enforce and comply with MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste and to deal with issues of Ocean/Seas governance.

Key actions through the programme in the fourth quarter of 2022 include:

- Talanoa Session on Data Based Reporting in the Pacific at UNFCCC COP27
- Cook Island's National Environment Service Applauds Training Workshop on Environmental Governance and Sustainable Management
- Capacity Building in Drone Mapping for Samoa
- Pacific's Participation in the First Round of Plastic treaty Negotiations
- Presentation of the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021–2025 at CBD COP15
- The Republic of Marshall Islands Calls for Benefit-Sharing from Digital Sequence Information to be Part of the Biodiversity Framework
- CARICOM's Delegates Statements, Prior and During CBD COP15 in Canada
- Four Local Communities in The Caribbean Receive Support For Improved Water And Wastewater Management.

## Special Focus on the Pacific Region (SPREP)

### Talanoa Session on Data Based Reporting in the Pacific at UNFCCC COP27

The “Data Based Reporting in the Pacific” talanoa session (inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue), was organized at the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion during UNFCCC COP27, Sharm El-Sheikh, in November 2022, and formally closed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme's (SPREP) Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Coordinator, Ms. Anastacia Amoastowers.

During this session, panelists highlighted the issues concerning the collection, management, processing, integration and dissemination of environmental data. While data is critical to environment decision-making, data collection and management in the Pacific region remains challenging and expensive in terms of time, funds, and resources.



Director General of SPREP, Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra with fellow panelists on Data Collection and Management during the COP 27. Photo by SPREP.

The ACP MEA 3 programme is working together with the UNEP-SPREP Inform project, funded by GEF, to ensure that data and reporting processes from the national environment and climate change ministries meet requirements from the various multilateral environmental agreements that Pacific Island countries are parties to, such as the UNFCCC.

The Inform project was able to address several of these issues by establishing data tools, strategic partnerships, products and processes to assist Pacific Island countries in meeting identified priorities and reporting back on national, regional, and global reporting obligations. [Read more.](#)

### Cook Island's National Environment Service Applauds Training Workshop on Environmental Governance and Sustainable Management



Director of National Environmental Services (NES) of the Cook Islands with representatives from SPREP and NES Compliance Team. Photo by SPREP.

The ACP MEAs 3 programme, through the Environmental Planning Unit of the Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) programme of SPREP, has delivered an in-country training workshop to the National Environment Services (NES) of the Cook Islands from 7–11 November 2022.

The week-long workshop was hosted at the NES office in Rarotonga and attended by over 20 officers from the Service. The training focused on raising the capacity of NES on multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA). [Read more.](#)

### Capacity Building in Drone Mapping for Samoa

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), through the Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) programme and funding support from the UNEP-EU ACP MEAs 3 and UNEP-GEF SPREP Inform projects, conducted a two-day Drone Training and Mapping workshop. Targeted participants were key national environment stakeholders from Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and Ministry of Works, Transport, and Infrastructure (MWTI).

The two-day workshop was coordinated by the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme (EMG) and supported by MNRE. It was held at the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) on Thursday, 17 and Friday 18, November 2022.

The Drone Training and Mapping workshop was also part of the 2022 Global GIS Week event at SPREP organized by the Geospatial Information System (GIS) unit with the theme “Inspiring Spatial Citizens.” It was facilitated by SkyEye Pacific as the only local drone training provider with an accredited remote pilot licensed (RPL) officer to operate a drone in Samoa.



Participants to the Drone Training and Mapping workshop.  
Photo by SPREP.

The training objectives focused on the basic understanding of drones, regulations on drone flights, risk assessment, practical drone assembly, flight planning, basic manual flight training, and the drone software used for image export and processing.

The drone training components consisted of both theory and practical applications. Workshop participants took part in both the theory component on day one and the drone flight practical on day two, with a certificate awarded at the end of the training after successfully attending the two sessions.

Advancement in mapping technology skills is an asset for any organization in the field of GIS and Remote Sensing (RS). Drone mapping is an example of GIS technology for gathering data. It captures quality real-time ground information for spatial analysis to support efforts to protect, conserve and safeguard pristine, fragile environment.

Drone imagery is important to capture real-time ground information for GIS analysis and has been used in different fields, such as a monitoring and decision-making supporting tool in disaster management, forest resources management, landslides risk assessment, mining, flood control, hazardous waste considerations, Environmental Impact Analysis (EIA) and natural resources management to ensure sustainable development. With a drone, it is possible to carry out topographic surveys of the same quality as the highly accurate measurements collected by traditional methods, but in a fraction of the time.

In his opening remarks, Director EMG Mr. Jope Davetanivalu stated that “the training was a product of “talanoa” sessions and discussions on the need for capacity building on GIS technology skills for data management, which have led us here today for the Drone Training and Mapping, as outreach efforts within MNRE and across the sectors.” At the closing of the workshop DEMG Mr. Jope Davetanivalu acknowledged the engagement of the stakeholders in the training. SPREP looks forward to continuing its collaboration with their national counterparts to master the technology and use it to further their shared objectives for informed decision-making. [Read more.](#)

### Pacific's Participation in the First Round of Plastic treaty Negotiations



Pacific Delegation to the INC in Punta del Este, Uruguay.  
Photo by SPREP.

Pacific delegates amplified Pacific's voice during the first session of the International Negotiating Committee (INC1), from 28 November–2 December 2022, in Punta del Este, Uruguay, to develop a legally binding agreement on plastic pollution, including on the marine environment.



Plastic pollution is the biggest threat to the Pacific Ocean, as 90% of the Pacific region is ocean. As a region, Pacific contributes as little 1.3% of global plastic pollution, however, the region is grossly and disproportionately affected by its impacts on its land and ocean. Research shows that humanity produces around 460 million metric tons of plastic a year, and this volume is expected to triple by 2060 without urgent action. [Read more.](#)

### **Presentation of the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021–2025 at CBD COP15**

The important role of the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021–2025, in efforts to conserve the Pacific's unique biodiversity, was highlighted during a panel discussion organized by the ACP MEAs 3 programme at CBD COP15 held in Montreal, Canada, on 7–19 December 2022. The panel discussion aimed at presenting key activities and initiatives being undertaken in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific, to support the CBD and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) and related targets.



UNEP Representative Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati and SPREP Director of Islands and Oceans Ecosystems Mr. Stuart Chape at the CBD COP 15. Photo by SPREP.

The Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021–2025 is the regional strategy for environmental conservation in the Pacific which identifies key regional priorities for action. It is therefore important to ensure that the regional framework links and aligns with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The framework was one of the several regional initiatives supported by the ACP MEAs 3 programme, making a positive difference in the lives of the Pacific communities. In the lead up to COP15, ACP MEAs 3 also supported country participation to the preparatory meeting held in Fiji, empowering Pacific delegates to advocate and amplify Pacific's voice on national and regional priorities during the ongoing negotiations. [Read more.](#)

### **The Republic of Marshall Islands Calls for Benefit-Sharing from Digital Sequence Information to be Part of the Biodiversity Framework**



Mr. Warrick Harris representing the Republic of the Marshall Islands in the CBD COP 15. Photo by SPREP.

Marshall Islands representative, Mr. Warrick Harris, expressed Marshall Islands and the Pacific Islands' position with regards to digital sequence on genetic sources (DSI), on the need to adequately include and address issues of access and benefit-sharing from DSI into the post-2020 GBF. Mr. Harris indicated that Pacific Islands wish DSI to be part of the GBF, in efforts to ensure the management and protection of Pacific community's resources.

Parties to the CBD recognized the need of further capacity to access, use, generate and analyze the digital sequence information on genetic sources in many countries. Pacific Island countries are far from having fully operational database and adopting the Nagoya Protocol. While DSI is not yet discussed at the community level in the Pacific Islands, significant work is being done at the national level to ensure that community resources are managed and protected. [Read more.](#)



For further information on SPREP updates, please contact Anastacia Amoa-Stowers at [anastacias@sprep.org](mailto:anastacias@sprep.org)

## Updates from the Caribbean Region (CARICOM)

### CARICOM's Delegates Statements, Prior and During CBD COP15 in Canada

Seven days prior to their journey to Montreal in Montreal, Canada from December 7–19 for CBD COP15 (Part 2) to create international biodiversity goals, CARICOM Delegates were finalizing preparations and gearing up to create targets on biodiversity for the next decade.

Over the last six months, the CARICOM Secretariat, with capacity building support from the ACP MEAs 3 programme, worked with the Caribbean Biodiversity Focal Points and other partners to prepare for effective participation in the negotiations and other priorities under the CBD.

The CARICOM Secretariat utilized 2022 as an optimal opportunity to promote an urgency of action at the highest levels, in support of a post-2020 biodiversity framework that will contribute to the re-shaping of the Caribbean region's vision for biodiversity.

Highlighting the issue at stake with the adoption of the post-2020 GBF, the Secretariat noted that "our current reality sets a challenge before us that is well-known as we continue to grapple with our economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities. It is timely as a community that we re-examine our relationship with nature recognizing that, despite all our advances, we will always remain dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy. International conflict continues to exacerbate the existing food, energy, climate and finance crisis.

Here in the Caribbean, we are feeling the consequences of this conflict, deriving even more urgency in our actions to be more food and energy secure in a way that is in harmony with the Caribbean's unique biodiversity".

The CARICOM Secretariat noted the critical role biodiversity, as the foundation of the global economy, and the importance of sustainable agricultural practices, with 18% of total GDP for most CARICOM countries coming from agriculture. More than half of global GDP – equal to USD 41.7trillion – is dependent on the healthy functioning of the natural world. 95% of food is produced in the soil, yet up to 40% of the world's land is severely degraded by unsustainable agricultural practices.

CARICOM's delegates and Biodiversity Focal Points heading to COP15.2 shared their expectations in the following brief statements:

### Brief Statement from the Antigua and Barbuda Delegation



From left to right – Dr Helena Jeffrey Brown, Technical Coordinator, Mrs. Kishma Primus-Ormond, Biosafety Specialist and Ms. Nneka Nicolas, Legal Consultant. Photo by CARICOM.

"In anticipation for the upcoming meetings in Montreal in December, Antigua and Barbuda emphasizes the importance of having a GBF that takes into account the vulnerabilities of the Small Island Developing States. We are seeing increasing destruction in our islands that can be directly linked to the loss of critical biodiversity and ecosystems. While we are hopeful that the GBF can be finalized, we also note that without adequate financing, resource mobilization, capacity building and technology transfer as well as a sufficient means of implementation, the GBF will not be effective in halting and reversing biodiversity loss.

Access to these resources via the GBF will support our capacity to collect data consistently which would inform which activities are effective to implement targets under the GBF.

We also hope to see the finalization of the recognition of Digital Sequencing Information (DSI) as a genetic resource. We will at this meeting insist on the retention of the language related to DSI in applicable goals and targets or the GBF as well as the finalization of a Benefit Sharing Mechanism allowing developing countries to benefit from the utilization of their genetic resources including DSI.”

#### **Brief Statement from The Bahamas Delegate**



Mrs. Samantha Miller-Cartwright, Senior Environmental Officer.  
Photo by CARICOM.

“The Bahamas, like most countries in the Caribbean region, possesses some of the most unique terrestrial and marine ecosystems in the world. We identify with many of the issues met by our regional counterparts, in that we are most susceptible to biodiversity loss, and other negative impacts that plague our natural environment and most sensitive ecosystems.

The Bahamas seeks to demonstrate a sustained willingness for dialogue during these negotiations in order to reach consensus, which we hope will be reached by the end of COP15. It is our hope that that we arrive at a global biodiversity framework (GBF) that guides us toward the 2050 vision.

The Bahamas fully supports a post 2020-GBF with goals and targets that are clear, concise and achievable by all Parties. We also wish to see a GBF that fully incorporates the guiding principles of the Convention, but also integrates and captures the regional and national priorities and circumstances of each Party.

For us, the most critical discussions revolve around: means of implementation, resource mobilization, access and benefit sharing, capacity building and technology transfer, technical and scientific cooperation, impacts to local communities, and the active role of women and youth in biodiversity, among other necessary enabling conditions.

We have concluded rounds and rounds of negotiations on the GBF in Nairobi, Kenya and in Geneva, Switzerland. Therefore, The Bahamas is hopeful that negotiations at COP15 will be productive and results will be resolute, impartial and meaningful.

The Bahamas recognizes and understands that Biodiversity is declining and actions should be taken by all Parties to ensure there are no delays in the adoption of the post-2020 GBF, as it will set us on a path towards achieving the 2050 vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature.””

#### **Brief Statement from a Grenada Delegate at CBD COP**

“We need for a balanced outcome that reflects the progress done with the post-2020 GBF and work programme under all 3 pillars of the Convention (Conservation, Sustainable use, and Access and Benefit Sharing).

“The region remains concerned about implementation and in this light, unpacking “means of implementation” and access to resources will be a key part of the discussions and draft decisions being tabled. Means of implementation raise discussions on the gap in biodiversity finance which was identified as a stumbling block to achieving the Aichi targets.





Mrs. Aria R. St Louis, Head of Environment Division.  
Photo by CARICOM.

Climate is a driver of biodiversity loss and so looking at targets and decision language that ramps up biodiversity conservation and restoration with positive spin off benefits for carbon capture and storage, is another area where we anticipate and support action. Ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources is a complex but important issue linked to biosafety opportunities."

#### **Brief Statement from a Trinidad and Tobago Delegate at the CBD COP**

"Parties will demonstrate political will and agree on some form of a post-2020 GBF. They will also agree on further financial support to ensure that the new set of targets are both ambitious and achievable. The resultant post-2020 GBF will lead to improved collaborations by all stakeholders. Only a whole of government/society approach can ensure the effective implementation of the future GBF.

Coming out of the approval of the post-2020 GBF, I believe that there will be stronger collaborations between the global North and South. This will be as a result of the increased funds that will be available from the more developed countries to developing countries, to ensure the necessary means to implement the global framework."



Ms. Candace Amoroso, Biodiversity Specialist.  
Photo by CARICOM.

In addressing CARICOM negotiators during the region's preparatory process, Assistant Secretary General Joseph Cox reiterated the significance of this COP, as delegates take up the challenges of negotiating national and regional positions that will layout the next 10 years of biodiversity targets:

"There have been two sets of targets that we have not been able to meet; therefore, setting out the next set of very ambitious targets is critical. CARICOM's input to the post-GBF is of paramount importance as there will be many distractions due to the end of year celebrations and competing events. It was noted that the official text is expected to be signed off by December 17, on the eve of the FIFA World Cup final in Qatar, and right after the Climate Change COP27 in Egypt. However, it is optimistic and encouraging to note that the message and awareness of the climate and biodiversity crisis cannot be ignored as we continue to live and see for ourselves how important these global agreements are."



For further information on CARICOM updates, please Teshia JnBaptiste at [teshia.jnbaptiste@caricom.org](mailto:teshia.jnbaptiste@caricom.org)



## Updates from the Cartagena Convention

### Four Local Communities in The Caribbean Receive Support For Improved Water And Wastewater Management

Through the ACP MEAs 3 programme, the Cartagena Convention Secretariat is supporting the development of innovative small-scale projects on water and wastewater management for local communities in the Caribbean.

The Secretariat has been partnering with Global Water Partnership-Caribbean for the implementation of four projects in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Dominican Republic, and St. Vincent and Grenadines.

The aim is to improve wastewater management with a focus on nature-based solutions and the use of wastewater as a resource. These four projects will be executed by local partners and address the following:

Project Title	Partner	Project Overview
<b>"Water Treatment Systems in Antigua and Barbuda"</b>	Integrated Health Outreach	By developing water filtration systems to convert sewage into drinking water for rural regions, this initiative intends to increase farmers' access to clean water all year round, not only during the dry season. A minimum of 6 farmers will be trained in the construction and maintenance of the water filtration devices, and a system will be developed using recyclable garbage.
<b>"Constructed Wetland for Wastewater Treatment in the Dominican Republic"</b>	Brightline Institute and Global Partnership Inc.	The primary goal of the project is to build an efficient, decentralized, engineered wetland system to treat wastewater from households and their ecohotel facilities in order to improve water sustainability in small rural touristic communities. This will boost the nationals' abilities while also improving the country's sanitation infrastructure and services.
<b>"Constructed Wetland for Wastewater Treatment in the Dominican Republic"</b>	Brightline Institute and Global Partnership Inc.	The primary goal of the project is to build an efficient, decentralized, engineered wetland system to treat wastewater from households and their ecohotel facilities in order to improve water sustainability in small rural touristic communities. This will boost the nationals' abilities while also improving the country's sanitation infrastructure and services.



Project Title	Partner	Project Overview
"Greywater Systems in St. Vincent and the Grenadines"	Richmond Vale Academy (RVA)	This project's intervention aims to promote water security and boost resilience in an area that is very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and other environmental risks via the construction of 5 greywater management systems. It is expected that 500 individuals in each of the 3 target locations, 5 persons who own greywater systems and home gardens (at least 3 of whom are women), and 3 people who have been trained to install and maintain the systems would benefit from this initiative.



For further information on the Cartagena Convention updates, please contact Ashleigh Blythe at [ashleigh.blythe@un.org](mailto:ashleigh.blythe@un.org)

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**Angola**  
- Antigua and Barbuda -  
Belize - Cabo Verde - **Comoros**  
- Bahamas - Barbados - Benin - Botswana  
- **Burkina Faso** - Burundi - Cameroon - Central African Republic - Chad - Congo - Democratic Republic of the Congo - Cook Islands - Cote d'Ivoire - **Cuba** - Djibouti  
- Dominica - **Dominican Republic** - Eritrea - Ethiopia - Fiji  
- Gabon - Gambia - Ghana - Grenada - Guinea - Guinea-Bissau - Equatorial Guinea - **Guyana** - Haiti - Jamaica - Kenya - **Kiribati**  
- Lesotho - Liberia - Madagascar - Malawi - Mali - Marshall Islands  
- Mauritania - Mauritius - Micronesia - Mozambique - Namibia - Nauru - **Niger** - Nigeria - Niue - Palau - **Papua New Guinea**  
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