



Monthly Information Digest



Volume 3

Issue 4

April 2023



Dear Reader,

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is pleased to present you the fourth issue of the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) MEAs 3 Monthly Digest for April 2023. 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.

Since March 2023 onwards, ACP MEAs 3 merges its monthly Youth Empowerment and Training Initiative (YETI) Alumni Digest with the ACP MEAs 3 Monthly Digest by integrating a “**Youth Corner**” section in the latter. This Youth Corner provides news, resources, learning materials and engagement possibilities for YETI Alumni, youth networks related to ACP MEA 3 partners and beyond to empower youth to engage in and lead pro-environmental change.

Happy reading!

This Month's Highlights

- **Climate Finance:** Joint initiatives announced during the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF)
- **Plastic Pollution:** UNEP technical report to guide INC-2 negotiations and international treaty
- **Food and Water Security:** WFP and UNEP sign a partnership agreement
- **Biodiversity and Conservation:** Relevance of the Global Biodiversity Framework to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- **Biodiversity and Conservation:** European Union (EU) parliament adopts new law to fight global deforestation
- **Biodiversity and Conservation:** CITES Big Cats Task Force to combat illegal trade of in big cats
- **Chemicals and Wastes:** GEF-8: USD 800 million pledged to fight against harmful chemicals
- **ACP MEAs 3 News:** SPREP/Pacific Regional Preparatory Workshop for the Second Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2)
- **News from Partners:** InforMEA launches new Negotiator's Toolkit and three UNFCCC online courses

Sustainable Development Highlights

Climate Finance: Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate

On 20 April 2023, the United States organized the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF) virtual event, bringing together Heads of State or Government from nearly 20 countries. Government representatives recognized the urgent need to scale up climate finance from multilateral development banks. Joint announcements by countries included USD 1 billion provided by the US to the Green Climate Fund, a collective zero-emission vehicles goal, the adoption of 1.5°C-aligned goals for the shipping sector, coordination of investment for forest countries through the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership,

support for a robust replenishment of the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund (MLF), and the launch of a Carbon Management Challenge and of a Methane Finance Spring. These joint efforts aim to fast-track decarbonization of energy, ending tropical forests deforestation, tackling climate pollutants, and advancing carbon management. [Read more.](#)



Plastic Pollution: UNEP technical report to guide INC-2 negotiations and international treaty

Early May, in preparation of the INC-2 meeting scheduled from 29 May to 2 June 2023, in Paris, France, UNEP published a paper, "Chemicals in Plastics: A Technical Report". The technical report comprises elements that could be included in an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. Its objective is to "inform the global community about the chemical-related issues of plastic pollution and options to address them" and support the negotiation process based on UN Environment Assembly's (UNEA) "plastic pollution resolution" ([UNEP/EA.5/Res.14](#)). The report notably identifies ten groups of chemicals associated with plastics and major concerns due to their toxicity, as well as ten priority use sectors where chemicals of concern have been found in plastic products (including toys and other children's products, packaging, electronic equipment etc.). By outlining actionable recommendations to help reduce the chemical-related impacts of plastic pollution, capacity-building priorities, and multi-stakeholder effort along the plastic value-chain, this report ultimately seeks to "catalyze immediate action to transition to safe and sustainable material cycles, with the overall goal of protecting human health and the environment". [Read more.](#)



Food and Water Security: WFP and UNEP sign a partnership agreement

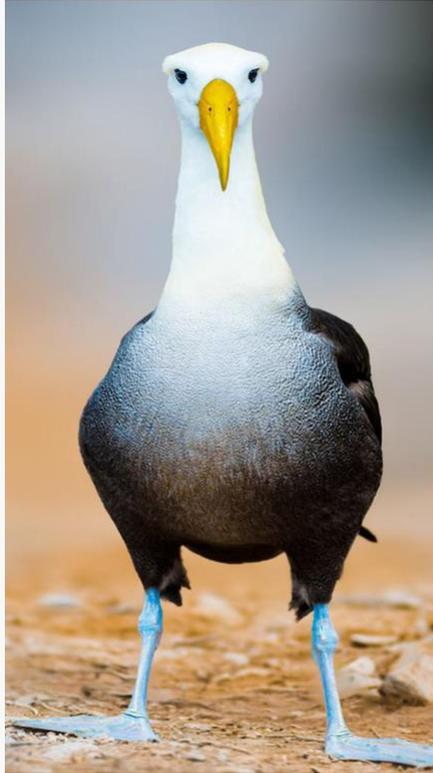
World Food Programme's Executive Director, **Cindy McCain**, and United Nations Environment Programme's Executive Director, **Inger Andersen**, signed an agreement on 5 May 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, to advance collaboration on climate change adaptation, nature-friendly food systems, water resource management and ecosystems restoration. The partnership aims at fast-tracking ecosystems restoration and climate change adaptation programs to mitigate the negative impact of the climate crisis on food and water security of million people worldwide (SDGs Goals 2,6 and 15). Increased intensity and frequency of droughts and floods are accelerating environmental degradation, ecosystem loss and ultimately people's ability to produce and access sufficient food. [Read more.](#)



Biodiversity Conservation highlights

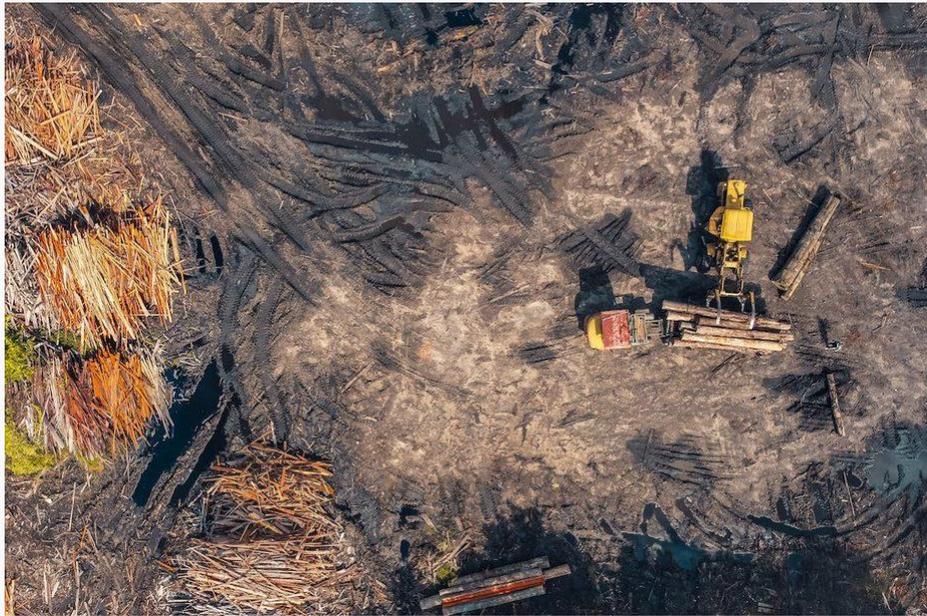
Relevance of the Global Biodiversity Framework to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

CMS Secretariat published in March 2023 an analysis paper on the relevance of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), adopted in December 2022, to the CMS. It provides a summary of the most relevant aspect of the GBF and related decisions, which include many of CMS key priorities set out in the Gandhinagar Declaration adopted at CMS COP13. [Goal A](#) of the GBF clearly recognizes the role of connectivity as a key and distinct aspect of ecosystems ([Decision 15/4](#)) and its importance for the assessment of integrated biodiversity ([Decision 15/9](#)). Connectivity is under [Targets](#) 1 (lands and sea use), 2 (ecosystem restoration), 3 (protect and conserve land and sea), and 12 (increase access to blue and green spaces). With regards to the extinction of species, Goal A and [Target 4](#) on active management of species and genetic diversity are important to CMS ([Decision 15/4](#)). Other relevant targets on species are Target 5 (harvest, use and trade of wild species) and Target 9 (sustainable use and benefit sharing). Migratory species are also integrated in Target 8 (minimize the impact of climate change), Target 7 (reduce pollution), Target 14 (the sustainable management of agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry), and Target 14 (mainstreaming biodiversity). Finally, decisions on international cooperation ([15/4](#), [15/6](#), [15/13](#)), NBSAPs ([15/6](#) para. 23, [15/13](#) para.11), the recognition of the role of CMS and other biodiversity-related conventions ([15/6](#), para. 22) and [GEF replenishment](#) ([15/5](#), para. 7,12 and 16) are also relevant to CMS. [Read more](#).



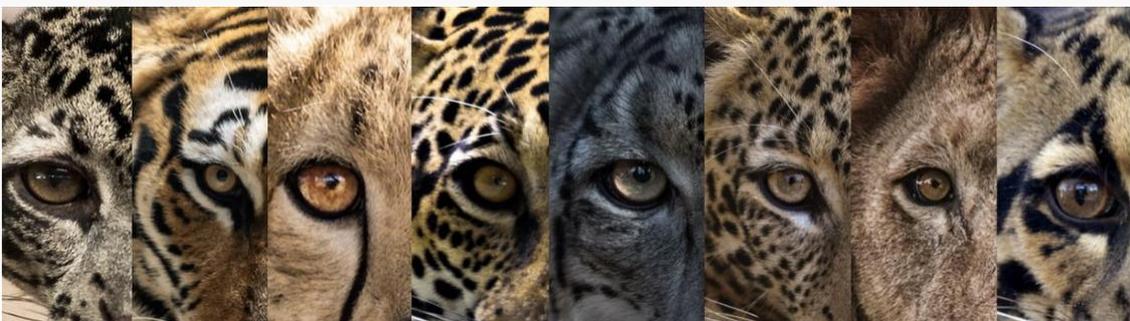
European Union (EU) parliament adopts new law to fight global deforestation

In an effort to reduce the level of land being cleared to produce goods for the EU, a [new regulation on deforestation-free products](#) was adopted by the European Union parliament on 19 April 2023. Under the new law, companies need to prove that they did not produce certain goods on land that has been deforested since 31 December 2020. The commodities targeted are palm oil, beef, coffee, cocoa, soya, wood, and rubber as well as derived products such as leather, chocolate, furniture, charcoal, and printed paper. Maize and biofuels were however not included. The new regulation is replacing existing [EU timber regulation law](#), and is part of EU's wider [Green Deal](#) plan to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. The EU is a major importer of commodities that have been linked to tropical deforestation and degradation, such as palm oil from Indonesia and beef from Brazil. [Read more](#)



CITES Big Cats Task Force to combat illegal trade of in big cats

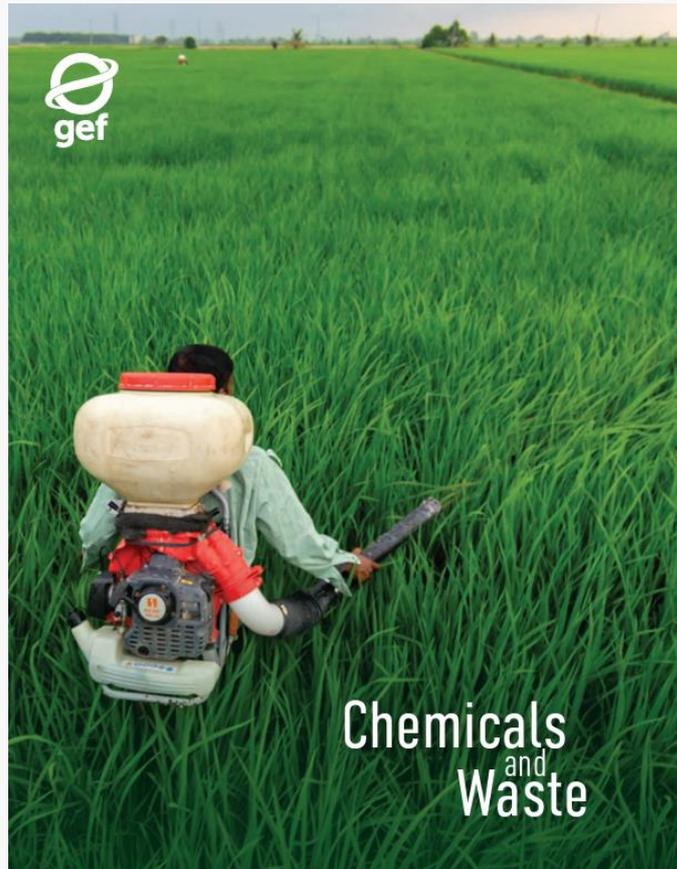
On 24-28 April 2023, a meeting of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flore) Big Cats Task Force was organized by the CITES Secretariat in Entebbe, Uganda, to strengthen responses to the global illegal trade of big cats. Over 70 representatives from 28 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America and representatives from the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), other international inter-governmental, Regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks and non-governmental organizations, attended the Task Force meeting. The objective of the meeting was to develop strategies to strengthen effective implementation and law enforcement responses, focusing on Cheetah, Mainland Clouded Leopard, Sunda Clouded Leopard, Lion, Jaguar, Leopard, Tiger, and Snow Leopard. Big cats are affected by illegal international trade and have been targeted over the last several decades for their furs, teeth, bones, and other body parts, as well as for live animal trade. The [outcomes from the meeting](#) of the CITES Big Cats Task Force will be presented to the 77th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 2023. [Read more.](#)



Chemicals and Wastes Highlights: News from Partners & Associates

GEF-8: USD 800 million pledged to fight against harmful chemicals

The GEF Secretariat published a [GEF-8 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy Report](#) in April 2023, that provides an overview of GEF-8 financing and strategic objectives regarding chemicals and waste. According to the strategic document, USD 800 million have been pledged by donors to provide new opportunities for implementation of the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, and the Montreal Protocol, and to support the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). The new strategy seeks to target gaps in chemicals and waste policy, legislation, finance, technology, and awareness, and to use GEF resources to unlock private and commercial finance. The three main objectives are to: 1) Create, strengthen, and support the enabling environment and policy coherence to transform the manufacture, use, and sound management of chemicals and to eliminate waste and chemical pollution, 2) Prevent future buildup of hazardous chemicals and waste in the environment, and 3) Eliminate hazardous chemicals and waste. In addition, eleven GEF-8 integrated programs will complement the GEF-8 chemicals and waste strategy. Financing to chemicals and waste (USD 800 million) will account for 15% of total GEF-8 replenishment, making it the third focal area after biodiversity and climate change. [Read more.](#)



ACP MEAs 3 News

AUC: Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific Conference on the implementation of the outcomes of the CBD COP15 and CITES COP19

The AUC, in collaboration with the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), CARICOM from the Caribbean and SPREP from the Pacific are keen to support member states in their effort to effectively implement the outcomes of the CITES and CBD COPs as well as the Oceans Treaty. To this end, a conference will be held at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 30 May - 2n June 2023. See also below in the “Upcoming Calendar of Events” section. [Read more.](#)



News from partners

InforMEA's New Negotiator's Toolkit

Acknowledging the need from Parties to enhance expertise and specialized knowledge of negotiators for multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), in a context of rapid expansion over the last 50 years (with a total of more than 500 MEAs currently), InforMEA recently launched its new [Negotiator's Toolkit](#). The toolkit has been developed to provide a comprehensive online knowledge base on all aspects of multilateral environmental negotiations and related processes, thus helping negotiators to prepare and participate more effectively in MEAs negotiations. It contains a wide range of key resources including the recently updated Multilateral Environmental Negotiator's Handbook, a database of rules of procedure, real and simulated examples of negotiation (case studies), a glossary of key terms and additional e-learning courses and resources. [Read more.](#)



InforMEA launches three UNFCCC online courses

[InforMEA](#), UN portal to access information on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), added three new courses on climate:

1. "[A Participant Guide of the UN Climate Change Process](#)" (click [here](#) to register), which gives a broad overview of the legal basis, structure, rules and workings of the UNFCCC process. Course target audience: Party and non-Party stakeholder participants of this process, including members of civil society.
2. "[The Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee](#)" (click [here](#) to register), that introduces the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee (PAICC). It notably provides a detailed description of the function, nature, and operation of the Committee.
3. "[The National Implementation of the Paris Agreement](#)" (click [here](#) to register).



Youth Corner

News and Resources Empowering Youth

In this Youth Corner you(th) can find a variety of news, resources, learning materials and engagement possibilities empowering YETI Alumni and ACPMEAs 3 partner related youth networks to engage in and lead pro-environmental change.

Most of the resources and information listed in this Digest are also stored and made accessible for YETI Alumni on the [YETI Alumni Network Knowledge Management Platform](#) (KMP).

News & Resources Related to the Youth

Youth Empowerment and Training Initiative in the Caribbean Region

UNEP is planning to roll-out their next Youth Empowerment and Training Initiative (YETI) in the Caribbean Region with support from the CARICOM Secretariat and other partners under the [ACP MEAs 3 Programme](#). On April 28th, ACP MEAs 3 organized a consultation session with young environmentalists from the Caribbean region to ensure that the YETI will respond to needs and interests of youth from the regions and connect to potential future YETI mentees.

Two potential ideas for YETI were discussed: Supporting urban and rural youth networking and learning from indigenous people on risk aversion actions related to climate change and biodiversity; and developing a behavioral change toolkit to effectively implement the new GBF. You can find more information as well as the presentation slides [here](#).



Turning the Tide on Youth Washing

The [Tide Turners](#), the worlds' largest youth movement on plastic pollution, kick-started their next phase, funded by the government of the United Kingdom in a launch event on April 20th 2023. The Tide Turner Plastic Challenge, an initiative by the UN Environmental Programme with educational partners is marking its footprint across 40 countries by committing young people to take action against plastic pollution globally engaging 588,740+ individuals since its inception in 2019.

The event outlined the vision for the next phase of the project, aimed to connect the dots with negotiations on the [Global Plastics Treaty](#) and launched the publication on how to effectively engage young people in your environmental advocacy. Read more [here](#).

What are 5 ways to effectively engage young people in your environmental advocacy? Read more in the Turning the Tide on Youth-Washing publication [here](#).

Global Young Influencers Group demand #EqualPowerNow

Plan International developed together with the [Global Young Influencers Group](#) the [Equal Power Youth Manifesto](#) demanding safe, inclusive, accessible, and sustainable pathways for girls and young women to become activists, leaders and changemakers. The Global Young Influencer Group consists of selected young environmental activists from across the globe who jointly demand that national governments and national laws increase their actions towards protecting girls' and women's right to participate. They want to pioneer their own future and claim equal access to inclusive and safe decision-making spaces! Watch the [Youth Manifesto Video](#) advocating for #EqualPowerNow.

Check out the following material linked to the Equal Power Now campaign with Plan International:

- The State of the World Girls Report 2022: Based on a survey of 29,000 girls, this report explores girls and young women's political participation around the world.
- Download and share the Youth Manifesto in English [here](#) and in many other languages [here](#).
- Use this [letter template](#), to reach out to decision-makers to ask them to uphold girls' fundamental right to participate in politics.

Courses & Training

EIT Food Launches Youth Mission programme

EIT Food launches the next phase in its Youth Mission to reach and engage teachers and school children about food education and agrifood careers. Teachers and young people play a critical role in shaping our future, and it is essential they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to develop and promote sustainable food systems.

The Youth Mission is helping to deepen learning experiences around food, promote health and sustainability, and motivate future generations to pursue careers in the agrifood sector. The programme focuses on inspiring leadership, conscious consumerism, food science literacy, entrepreneurial mindsets, and vocational possibilities among children aged 9 to 18 years old. EIT Food is supported by the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#), a body of the European Union. In 2022, the programme was successfully piloted in 5 countries reaching 382 teachers and 39,354 students and further expanded in 2023, involving 3 new pilot countries.

Learn more about EIT Food Youth Mission

- [Explore the webpage](#)
- [Download the 'Food Mission' resource pack](#)
- [Download the 'Food Careers' resource pack](#)
- Watch the [Day in the Life series](#), to get insights into the life of a Microbaker or a Research and Development Chef from PepsiCo.



Source EIT Food

Multilateral Environmental Agreements – Youth Capacity Building Sessions

The [Environmental Law Working Group](#) of the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) are currently organizing capacity building session around environmental law and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). All Youtube Links, InForMEA courses alongside slides of all the capacity building sessions organised so far can be found in this [document](#). An overview of upcoming sessions can be found [here](#). To join the working group's google group, please fill in [this form](#).

(Soft) Skills Learning Materials

Let's Talk Ecosystems – Podcast

Come and join the journey around the world into the activities led by fantastic young environmentalists and entrepreneurs who are making a difference on the ground. In the framework of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the UN Environment Programme Europe Office and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, launched the [Let's Talk Ecosystems Podcast](#).

Designed and produced with the aim of reaching a young and wide audience, the 10-episode series will take you on a journey around the world into impactful, youth led activities. Each episode - released every Wednesday - is dedicated to a specific topic which hopefully will inspire many people to make a difference on their own scale. Stay tuned, get inspired, share, and make a change!

Listen now to the second episode about "Who Wants to Live in Greener Cities" by [clicking here](#).

Find all podcast episodes [here](#) (For radios [here](#)).



LET'S TALK ECOSYSTEM PODCAST

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
2021-2030

Open Application & Engagement Possibilities

Youth Engagement - High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

There are exciting opportunities for young leaders to engage at the upcoming High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) (including the SDG Summit 2023). The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the central platform for the UN to assess progress on the 2030 Agenda, exchange experiences, identify gaps and share lessons learned. It provides a participatory and integrated follow-up and review platform at the global level (with many regional, thematic and substantive meetings feeding into it). Youth registrations for the HLPF July 2023 can be facilitated under the MGCY “umbrella” accreditation. Registration page on the UN website is available on the link [here](#).

If you are planning to come to the HLPF in July 2023 and need accreditation support from the constituency, please apply through the MGCY Accreditation request form from HLPF [here](#).

Deadline 1: 15th May, Deadline 2: 22nd May 2023

12-14 fully-funded spots are also available for participation of youth as speakers at the different sessions of HLPF. MGCY will nominate lead discussants and panelists. In case you are a young person from the global south country and interested to apply for the speaking roles/funded spots, please do so through the application form below. The same form can also be used to apply for being a self-funded speaker (i.e. if you are able to cover your own costs for participation).

Find the application form for funded or self-funded speaker [here](#).

Deadlines: 9th May 2023, 12 noon NY time (lead discussant); 11th May 2023, 12 noon NY time (panelist).

Save the Date

MAY 13 & OCT 14: [World Migratory Bird Day](#), **UNEP CMS and UNEP AEWA**, worldwide

MAY 15-16 : [Twelfth meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House, Cartagena Protocol](#), **Montreal, Canada**

MAY 17-19: [Sustainable Ocean Initiative \(SOI\) national workshop for Jamaica on other effective area-based conservation measures in the marine fishery sector](#), **Kingston, Jamaica**

MAY 19- 26: [Online Forum on Invasive Species, CBD](#), **Online**

MAY 22: [International Day for Biodiversity](#), **Worldwide**

MAY 24: [Beneath the Surface: Women and the Mine of the Future Global Report IGF/ISSD](#), **Webinar (English, French and Spanish)**

MAY 29 25 - JUNE 2: [Second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment \(INC-2\), Paris, France](#)

MAY 30 - JUNE 2: [Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Conference on the implementation of the outcomes of the CBD COP15 and CITES CoP19, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](#)

JUNE 5: [World Environment Day, with a focus on plastic pollution Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire](#)

JUNE 5 - 9: [Twenty-sixth meeting of the CITES Plants Committee, Switzerland](#)

JUNE 5-15: [Fifty-Eight Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies, Bonn, Germany](#)

JUNE 21-26: [WG2020-3/3, the fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, CBD, Nairobi, Kenya](#)

JUNE 26-30: [64th GEF Council Meeting, Brasilia, Brazil](#)

For more events, please check [InforMEA's Calendar of Events](#).



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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This digest is made for you and by you. Share your activities, information and stories of your organization/department by the 20th of the month with [Emilie Vauchel](#) and help build a more transparent and engaged ACP MEAs 3 Programme!

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