

Dear Readers,

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) is pleased to present you the eighth issue of the ACP MEAs 3 monthly Digest published on the first Monday of every month. 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 international ministerial conference draft resolution on marine litter, dealing with natural capital accounting, orientation sessions in support of CBD OWG 3.1 meeting, focus on traditional knowledge and biodiversity targets, fighting poverty by protecting the environment and the impacts of plastic pollution on migratory species.

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](mailto:ladu.lemi@un.org)

Happy reading!



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## Sustainable Development Highlights

### Mainstreaming Natural Capital Accounting into National Policy Development



Natural capital resources provide a number of ecosystem services essential for human survival. In developing countries, natural capital makes up a significant share of their total wealth. Since the livelihoods of many citizens in these countries depend on natural capital, there is a need to better manage these resources to ensure sustainable economic growth. The United Nations System of Environmental Economic Accounting (UN-SEEA) is one of the approaches of choice to measure and account for natural capital because it integrates economic and environmental data to provide a more comprehensive view of the interrelationships between the economy and the environment crucial for national policy development. [Read more](#)



### The 54th Session of the IPCC and 14th Session of the Working Group I Adopted IPCC's 6th Assessment Report

The first Working Group (WG I) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has adopted its contribution to the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report during the 54th session of the IPCC and the 14th session of WG I held virtually from 26 July – 6

August 2021. The WG I report assessed the science basis of climate change and the findings were presented as a Summary for Policymakers which provides an understanding of the current state of climate, including how it is changing and the role of human influence, the state of knowledge about possible climate futures, climate information relevant to regions and sectors, and limiting human-induced climate change. [Read more](#)

### **The Value of Nature in Africa: Mobilizing Action for Protecting Africa's Natural Assets**



It is now evident that the human destruction of nature not only causes serious harm to the planet, but also threatens the well-being and prosperity of people and economies. Transition towards nature-positive development pathways requires the recognition of the economic and social importance of our natural capital and biodiversity. In an event organized on 24th August 2021 to build ambitions and mobilize action for protecting Africa's natural assets, experts discussed ways needed to better recognize the value of nature in decision-making and demonstrate ambitions and actions to conserve the continent's biodiversity and natural capital, use it sustainably and increase investments. The Africa's Protected Natural Assets Report, which provides a comprehensive assessment of the social and economic importance of conservation areas in Africa including the role of conservation areas as nature-based solutions and safeguards for Africa's natural capital. [Read more](#)

### **Biodiversity Conservation Highlights**

#### **Virtual Briefing and Orientation Sessions in support of OWG 3.1 meeting on Global Biodiversity Framework**



From 11 to 19 August 2021, the ACP MEAs 3 Programme held a series of regional preparatory sessions for senior government officials from 57 countries in the five regions of Africa, Caribbean, the Pacific, South Asia and West Asia ahead of the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OWG 3) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). A special session to seek youth voices was also held with youth participating from Asia, Africa, GRULAC and Europe. The sessions provided a unique opportunity for countries to come together at the regional and sub-regional levels where key issues of concern to the regions were discussed. [Read more](#)

#### **Integrating Traditional knowledge and Indigenous Peoples' rights across the new global biodiversity targets**



Most of the world's biodiversity hotspots are located on the territories inhabited by Indigenous Peoples, who over the centuries have managed and conserved these resources using traditional knowledge. Yet, only 4 of the proposed 21 biodiversity targets to stem biodiversity loss by 2030 mention Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC) or traditional knowledge. In order to practically achieve these targets, the rights and responsibilities of local biodiversity stewards need to be recognized at both institutional and policy levels. Hence, biodiversity policymakers involved in the negotiation of the upcoming global biodiversity summit (CBD COP15) must ensure traditional knowledge and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC) are integrated across all post-2020 targets aimed at saving the world's biodiversity. [Read more](#)

## Catalyzing a transformative biodiversity governance: A contribution to post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework



The resumption of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) negotiations is expected to result in an agreement at CBD COP 15 in Kunming, China. The devastation caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the world's attention the interrelations between human health, globalization and the state of the world's biodiversity, and if adopted, the post-2020 GBF will be the new global framework for biodiversity conservation for the coming decade to achieve the agreed 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature. A new publication on the post-2020 GBF showed that one way to foster transformative change towards biodiversity conserve is by changing the way in which the governance and planning processes of natural resources is organized, especially in mixed landscapes involving people, agricultural production and nature conservation. [Read more](#)

### Fighting Poverty by Protecting the Environment through Payment for Ecosystem



Environmental protection is often deemed as important in sustaining human well-being, but usually fails to receive the necessary political and budgetary support to pursue action towards its conservation. Additionally, social objectives linked to poverty alleviation often easily gain more political traction. The establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provides an opportunity and a driving force needed to reshape how economic instruments are utilized to successfully tackle multiple objectives simultaneously. Combining market-based instruments, such as payments for ecosystem services and conditional social transfers, alleviate poverty while conserving ecosystems. [Read more](#)

### Fighting Poverty by Protecting the Environment through Payment for Ecosystem



Ever since the devastating pandemic hit the world, environmental discourse has shifted to focus on how our mismanagement of nature is not only causing ecological breakdown and exacerbating climate change but also driving the emergence of zoonotic diseases. Nature restoration is critical to prevent, halt, and reverse ecosystem degradation. Demonstrable solutions which tackles the environmental crisis like nature restoration can help recover invaluable ecosystem in order to reduce social inequalities in the face of biodiversity loss and climate change. However, restoration needs to be sustained and done at scale. Hence, the current post-pandemic recovery strategies and associated funds can become key entry points for mainstreaming of nature restoration initiatives, both at the national level and globally. [Read more](#)

### Timeline Set for the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols.



Faced with the global impact of COVID-19, the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has set timelines to convene the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-MOP 10), and Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya

Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP-MOP 4). The meeting will be conducted in two parts, with the first taking place virtually from 11 to 15 October 2021 and the second to be reconvene in a face-to-face format in Kunming, China from 25 April to 8 May 2022. [Read more](#)

## Chemicals and Wastes Highlights

### Migratory Species Impacted by Plastic Pollution



Plastics pollution is a globally recognized problem, with wide-ranging economic, health, social, environmental and ecological consequences that is likely to continue to increase with global plastic production and usage. About 80% of the known total amount of plastic wastes in the oceans comes from land-based sources. A report released by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) found that plastic pollution is not only impacting marine ecosystems, but also land and freshwater CMS-protected species, and calls for more effective waste management, recycling, and design of products, preventing plastic pollution at the source, including the need to increase research, particularly on terrestrial species that have been poorly studied. [Read more](#)

### International Ministerial Conference to combat marine litter and plastic pollution ends with draft resolution



While there have been multiple efforts to address plastic waste management globally, there is still an urgent need for action throughout the entire plastics life cycle, and in particular addressing those steps of the plastics life cycle that remain fragmented or in lack of global commitments and actions today. In an attempt to bring countries together, representatives from the governments of Germany, Ecuador, Ghana and Viet Nam hosted a first International Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution from 2nd – 3rd September 2021 to make a case for an agreement. The conference has resulted into a draft resolution that calls for more countries to support the ministerial statement proposing an intergovernmental negotiation at UNEA5.2 towards a new global agreement. [Read more](#)

## News from Partners and Associates

### Call for Expressions of Interest: ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme Phase II



The ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme aims to improve the livelihoods of people working in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Enterprises (ASMEs) along the Development Minerals value chains in ACP countries. Based on the success of Phase I of the programme that build the capacity of stakeholders in many OACPS member states, the programme is now rolling out Phase II through a call for Expression of Interest where each selected member state will receive financial support of US\$200,000. [Read more](#)

## Building Back Biodiversity in the Western Indian Ocean



The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region is home to a staggering degree of marine biodiversity, which makes it one of the most interesting ocean regions in the world. The will of the parties to the Convention to protect this treasure led to the 1985 adoption of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Flora and Fauna in the Eastern African Region. Despite this development, pressure from over-exploitation of natural resources, conversion of coastal habitats for other uses and climate change has continued to threaten the biodiversity of the region. Through the support of the ACP MEA 3 programme, Nairobi Convention is modernizing the Protocol to incorporate provisions for coastal and marine ecosystem-based management and strengthening the legal and policy framework for the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity in the WIO region. [Read more](#)

## Upcoming Events Under the ACP MEAs Programme



- 3-0th SPREP Meeting including Ministerial and High-Level Meeting, 7 – 10 September 2021 (Contact: [anastacias@sprep.org](mailto:anastacias@sprep.org))
- Regional Training Workshop on the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Mercury-Added Products - Group II, 15, 16 & 22 September 2021 (Contact: [teshia.jnbaptiste@caricom.org](mailto:teshia.jnbaptiste@caricom.org))
- Launch of new ACP MEAs 3 website, October 2021 (Contact: [balakrishna.pisupati@un.org](mailto:balakrishna.pisupati@un.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.