

MONTHLY INFORMATION DIGEST

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DEAR READER,

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is pleased to present you the combined Eighth and Ninth Issues of the ACP MEAs 3 monthly Digest for August and September 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.

The key highlights of this month's issue include:

- Mainstreaming Equity and Justice in the Ocean;
- Sustainable Blue Economy for Small Countries and Coastal Populations
- The need for a global Ocean Vision under BBNJ;
- Linking biodiversity loss with countries' bankruptcy;
- Transformative Change to Value Planet Over Profit;
- Scaling Up Conservation Efforts for Equitable and Sustainable Economies;
- Building synergies in Science-Policy Interface BRS Convention;
- Ending Mercury Pollution through Ratification of Minamata Convention;
- Post-2020 chemical and waste management priorities for Africa;
- Creation of First Marine Protected Areas in Republic of the Congo;
- Blue Economy: Revamping Aquaculture Policy in Seychelles Plans.

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

Happy Reading!

Sustainable Development Highlights

Mainstreaming Equity and Justice in the Ocean

Social injustices facing small-scale fisheries, coastal communities, genders and diverse racial and ethnic groups have recently sparked equity and justice consideration in policy discussions at management levels related to marine conservation, fisheries management and blue economy development. A new article published by the Centre for Tropical Marine Research recommends the mainstreaming of equity and justice in Ocean organization, policy and practice for sustainable marine conservation. [Read more](#)



Nature-Based Solutions for the Climate, Biodiversity and People

In verge of the global threats to human survival caused by climate change and biodiversity loss, Nature-based Solutions have been identified as the cornerstone for tackling the planetary crisis. In the recently concluded Nature-based Solutions Conference, experts discussed how the NbS concept could better be applied to reverse the loss of wildlife, provide economic boosts to local communities and strengthen resilience against climate impacts. [Read more](#)



Sustainable Blue Economy for Small Countries and Coastal Populations

Coastal areas are known to support livelihoods of over 40 percent of the world's population, which make a significant contribution to the global economy – estimated \$1.5 trillion per year and expected to grow as high as \$3 trillion by 2030. In line with the UN Ocean Conference under the theme: Strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, managing coastal ecosystems, a report by the United Nations indicates that ensuring ocean ecosystem health, supporting livelihoods and driving economic growth requires targeted support for key sectors, including fisheries and aquaculture, tourism and marine biotechnology among others. [Read more](#)



The need for a global Ocean Vision under BBNJ

The ocean is known as the largest biologically rich ecosystem on earth, covering more than two thirds of the planet's surface and supporting livelihoods of millions of people. A new scientific article has called attention to the need for an ecosystem-based global vision for the ocean, involving ocean health and productivity, ecosystem integrity and resilience in the Implementation Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). The authors stressed on a vision which is holistic and universally acceptable by all to guide future sustainable ocean policies, plans and programme. [Read more](#)



Biodiversity Conservation Highlights

Linking Biodiversity Loss with Countries' Bankruptcy

Threats to the biodiversity and the risk of socio-economic collapse due to human unsustainable activities is well documented. This, according to UN Environment Programme has put pressure on nature and increasing the risk of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19, as humans come into greater contact with wildlife. A study by world Bank showed that, "more than half of 26 nations studied would face downgrades" if partial ecosystems collapse, which would increase their risk of bankruptcy by more than 10 percent. [Read more](#)



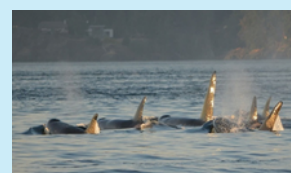
Transformative Change to Value Planet Over Profit

The global quest for power and economic growth that focus on short-term financial profits over the years have resulted to the current climate and biodiversity crisis. According to a new report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), a transformative political and social change is needed to help policymakers better understand how people conceive and value nature so as to devise government policies that facilitate shift towards achieving the Paris climate agreement and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. [Read more](#)



Scaling Up Conservation Efforts for Equitable and Sustainable Economies

Nature is the backbone for regulating balance within planetary boundaries. However, our commitments in conserving and restoring nature to realize real change on the ground are skew. Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity will soon agree the post-2020 global biodiversity framework which provides a strategic vision and a global roadmap for the conservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems for human and the planet. Learning from the shortcomings of the Aichi Targets, the framework embodies an all-hands-on-deck approach through its whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach. [Read more](#)



Species Extinction and the Threats to Human Livelihoods

For the past centuries, people have depended on wild flora and fauna for food, medicine, and energy. However, a new report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) warns that unless humanity adopt sustainability in the use of nature, the Earth is on its way to the risk of species extinction. The report recognized the role of Indigenous peoples in promoting sustainability on conserved lands and provides recommendations for policymakers including examples of the sustainable use of wild fauna and flora. [Read more](#)



Chemicals and Wastes Highlights

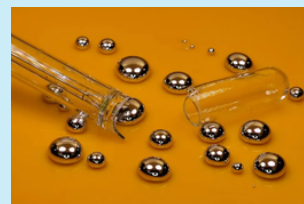
Building synergies in Science-Policy Interface BRS Convention

One of the resolutions adopted during 2022 UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 5/Res.8) was for the establishment of an independent intergovernmental panel to provide guidance on Science-Policy Interface to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste. A report by the BRS Conventions explains how the Conventions are structured in regard to the role of science in policymaking on which the science-policy panel could draw from lessons and examples. The report stresses on importance of representation, transparency, procedures, proprietary knowledge, networks and partnerships. [Read more](#)



Ending Mercury Pollution through Ratification of Minamata Convention

Mercury pollution is a serious global issue affecting both human and ecosystem health. In an effort to control and manage mercury pollution, countries have come together and established the Minamata convention to jointly address the environmental and health risk associated with mercury. To promote ratification, the secretariat of the Minamata convention has published a guide to help countries wishing to become parties to the convention. [Read more](#)



The Environmental Challenge of Plastics in Agriculture

The intensification of agriculture over the past decades has resulted in an increased contamination of the soil with degraded plastics from coated seeds, mulch film and biosolid fertilizers which impact biodiversity and soil health. According to UNEP's Foresight Brief that explores the use of plastic in agriculture, these plastics lead to reduced productivity and could threaten long-term food security. [Read more](#)



Post-2020 Chemical and Waste Management Priorities for Africa

Lack of institutional capacity in Africa has made the continent a dumping ground for outdated electronic and electrical products and hazardous chemicals, threatening the continent's human and environmental health standards. In advance of the 4th meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) convened regional meetings in Accra Ghana. The meeting provided opportunity for African countries to exchange information and knowledge on the sound management of chemicals and waste in the continent beyond 2020. [Read more](#)



News from Partners and Associates

The Republic of the Congo Creates First Marine Protected Areas

As one of the Contracting Parties that have ratified the Abidjan Convention, the Congo Government and partners have established the country's first three Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as part of a national Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) for the protection of marine resources and coastal habitats across more than 4,000 square kilometers. The area includes globally important nesting grounds for leatherback turtles, and critical migrating and breeding habitat for a number of marine mammals including the Atlantic humpback whale among other ocean's largest fish species. [Read more](#)



10th Summit of OACPS Heads of State and Government Scheduled for December in Luanda, Angola

The summit of the organization of African, Caribbean and the Pacific group of states (OACPS) heads of state and government is the supreme organ of the organization responsible for general policy orientation. The OACPS in collaboration with the Angolan government will host the 10th Summit from 6-10 December 2022 under the theme: 3 Continents, 3 Oceans, 1 Common Destination: Building a resilient and sustainable OACPS. This will be preceded by a business forum to address trade issues among OACPS members, Women forum on blue economy and youth forum. [Read more](#)



Blue Economy: Revamping Aquaculture Policy in Seychelles Plans

In the Western Indian Ocean island state (Seychelles), aquaculture is one the most significant sectors that the country has been exploring for the past decade in a bid to diversify its economy in a sustainable manner within the concept of the Blue Economy. Authorities have previously established mariculture master plan and a regulatory framework and plans to revamp the national aquaculture policy for the sustainable development of the sector. [Read more](#).



Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution - Legal Frameworks

This free online course begins with an introduction to marine litter and plastic pollution: the key facts and figures, the main sources and impacts (including in relation to human rights), and the applicable environmental law principles. It then outlines the relevant legal and policy frameworks at the global and regional levels, such as the recent decision by UN Member States to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Finally, the course provides a detailed overview of the main regulatory approaches being taken at the national level, with example laws and case-studies from a wide range of countries.

The course was launched on 8 June 2022 for World Oceans Day and is available [here](#).



Upcoming Relevant Events to ACP MEAs 3 Programme

- Eighteenth Meeting of Chemical Review Committee (CRC-18)- 19-23 September 2022, Rome-Italy. [Read more](#)
- Workshop on the Environment-Fisheries Nexus-26-28 Sept 2022 (Read more [here](#)).
- Eighteenth Meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC-18)-26-30 September, 2022, Rome. [Read more](#)
- 2022 ACP MEAs 3 Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting-19-20 October 2022 (Contact: Balakrishna at Balashrina.pisupat@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.

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