

Concept note and Agenda

The ACP-MEAs Programme Phase III Sub-Regional Workshop:

Strengthening technical capacity and collaborative work of National Focal Points and United Nations Country Teams in IGAD countries for implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), financing the Global Biodiversity Framework, and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals

25 – 28 July 2023, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

1. Background and Rationale

1.1 Background

The ACP-MEAs is a multi-year, multi-country partnership Programme established in 2009 with UNEP as the coordinating agency, in support of 79 Member States of Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) regions. Covering 49 countries in Africa, the ACP-MEAs Programme is now in its third phase and works in the region through the Africa Hub led by the African Union Commission (AUC) with its headquarters in Addis Ababa. In addition, the Programme partners with two Regional Seas conventions – Abidjan Convention and Nairobi Convention. The Programme supports ACP countries to effectively comply with and implement several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) within the clusters of biodiversity and chemicals and waste. Such support includes building capacity for effective integration of environmental safeguards into national plans, policies and laws; mainstreaming MEAs in national and regional development planning; formulation of national and regional positions and inputs into MEA processes; and strengthening implementation actions within and across diverse stakeholder groups through awareness raising, capacity building, and sharing of experiences between institutions, actors and sectors.

Focusing on reducing the impacts of chemicals and waste on natural environment, human health, and agriculture, including from Mercury, the ACP MEAs Programme supports national and regional activities to reduce and stop use of hazardous chemicals and waste, ensure safe movement of chemicals across regions, develop guidelines on safe handling of chemicals and support synergies between activities related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste. As such, targeted MEAs within the chemicals and waste cluster are the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, the Minamata Convention, and regional conventions such as the Bamako Convention. Through supporting the implementation of MEAs within the biodiversity cluster, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Programme also seeks to mitigate biodiversity loss and promote sustainable management and use of ecosystems including plant and animal species. Collaborating with the different conventions, the ACP-MEAs Programme further supports countries effective participation in the Conference of the Parties (COPs) of these MEAs and science-based decision making.

Considering the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) during the CBD COP 15 meeting, there is a need to not only look at the contributions of the GBF to work related to other MEAs, but also focus on raising adequate finances to ensure implementation of the GBF. The need to enhance the understanding

and capacities of stakeholders, including the financing institutions and focal points of MEAs are therefore critical.

1.2 The UN Cooperation Framework (CF) as a strategic tool for the implementation of MEAs and national planning processes

Increased awareness of MEAs and strengthened national capacities to generate, analyze and utilize environmental data will enable UNCTs and national MEA focal points to support host governments with contingency planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting to MEAs, as well as contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 in an appropriate matter. By engaging in the UN Cooperation Framework (CF) processes in countries through the UN Country Team (UNCT), the UN is committed to building effective, accountable, inclusive and gender-sensitive institutions at all levels, by promoting responsible societies, strengthening mechanisms, institutions, and national and local processes to monitor and report on progress in implementing the SDGs for all parts of society. The principle of leaving no one behind as a fundamental principle of the CF demands that the UN system gives priority to its programmatic interventions to address the situation of the most marginalized, discriminated and excluded people, whose livelihoods are often dependent on natural resources and healthy ecosystems. The six principles of the CF are also mandatory and indivisible, and their optimal implementation will only be achieved through equal consideration. Furthermore, implementation of the CF principles of Sustainability and Resilience is supported by the attainment of environmental data and its utilization.

The capacity-building training of UNCT representatives and national MEA focal points in the targeted IGAD countries will focus on the generation and use of accurate environmental data and statistics to aid countries implementation of MEAs and development goals during the formulation of CFs and their implementation while easing the CF result monitoring and evaluation. By strengthening the target groups capacity to support science-based decision-making, the activities will focus on promoting effective mainstreaming of MEAs into national and regional frameworks, policies, laws and regulations.

2. Key Objectives of the Training

2.1 Overall Objective

The overall objective of the training is to support IGAD countries to implement selected chemicals and waste and biodiversity MEAs as well as contextualize financing for MEA implementation at the national and regional levels and ultimately contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Focus of the workshops will be on strengthening the technical capacity of UNCTs together with national MEA focal points to support host countries to mainstream, implement and adhere to MEA obligations, including raising adequate finances. Specifically, for UNCTs to be able to integrate MEA obligations and objectives at different stages of the UN CF. Technical capacity includes capacity for data generation and utilization to ease CF strategic planning and result development, and to strengthen national MEA focal points of Biodiversity and Chemicals Clusters MEAs on modalities for implementation of national strategies and action plans for compliance and reporting through the formulation of stronger CF result areas.

2.2 Specific Objectives of the Training

Specifically, this training will have the following objectives:

- Increase coherence and synergy of actions on environmental issues through strengthening collaboration between national MEA focal points and the UNCTs.
- Establish the link between environmental statistical data generated for MEAs and the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) as a strategic intervention framework for the implementation of SDGs in the region.
- Conduct in plenary a self-assessment of the current capacities of national institutions (National Directorate of Statistics, Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests) to generate and use environmental statistics for CCA, UN CF implementation and national development planning.
- Identify tools to be promoted for strengthening the capacity of national institutions, including MEA Focal Points, to conduct integrated environmental assessments (identification of indicators and baseline data and their intelligence) in support of national development planning, produce periodic reports in support of the implementation of the UN CF and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- Contextualize MEA financing and explore innovative financing mechanisms to enhance/support MEA implementation at national and regional level.
- Lead participants to formulate actionable recommendations with immediate effect and identify the role of each key stakeholder in the implementation of these recommendations.
- Bring together stakeholders, including the national focal points and financing institutions.

2.3 Expected Outcomes

- The training is conducted, and a post evaluation session is done revealing a great satisfaction of the participants.
- Participants gained improved awareness and capacity to use the statistics tools, approaches and opportunities needed to generate and use environmental data, finances and the related in the implementation of MEAs.
- A training report summarizing the key recommendations is available and is followed up as post seminar work.

3. Methodological Approach

The workshop will be conducted in the form of training of trainers. The training participants are representatives from the UNCTs of the targeted countries and respective national MEA focal points for biodiversity and chemicals clusters. The idea is that the participants will replicate the training for their respective UNCT and MEA focal points home institution for national internalization.

The workshop will adopt a 4-day program with theoretical sessions and practical exercises and demonstrations. The training experts will be those of UNEP including staff, consultants, and national experts including development partners.

3.1 Participants

- Representative from UNCT in the IGAD countries (Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda)
- National biodiversity MEAs focal points from IGAD countries (Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda)
- National chemicals and waste MEAs focal points from IGAD countries (Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda)
- On day 4 of the workshop, the workshop participants will be joined by financing experts from the African Development Bank (AfDB) and UNEP colleagues to focus on financing discussions. The day will be organized in a hybrid mode.

3.2 Dates and Venue

The 4-day workshop is scheduled to take place 25th to 28th of July 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The sessions will be held at the Conference Centre in the UNECA complex.

Programme and Agenda

S/NO	AGENDA TOPIC	TIME
Day 1 – 25 July 2023		
1	Registration	8:30am - 9:00am
2	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcoming remarks 	9:00am - 9:30am
3	Introduction of the Training Workshop and Setting the scene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remarks from the Regional Development Coordinator of UNEP Africa Office and Head a.i of UNEP Addis Ababa Liaison Office Training workshop motivation, objectives, and the expected outcomes 	9:30am - 10:00am
4	Introduction to Biodiversity MEAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview on Biodiversity MEAs including CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar, World Heritage Convention (WHC – UNESCO), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA – FAO) 	10:00am - 11:00am
Health Break 11:00am – 11:30am		
5	Introduction to Chemicals and Waste MEAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overview on the Chemicals and Waste MEAs including Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Basel Convention and Minamata Convention 	11:30am - 12:30pm
6	Regional Assessment of the relevant MEAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case study: The experience from IGAD countries 	12:30pm - 1:30pm
Lunch Break 1:30pm – 2:30pm		
7	The role of MEAs Focal Points in the context of emerging responses for implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaborating the substantive roles of a MEA Focal Points, focus on interlinkages of MEA agendas Adapting to the evolving role of the MEA Focal Point 	2:30pm - 3:00pm
8	Contributions of MEAs to SDGs implementation, and integration into United Nations Cooperation Framework (UN-CF) and National Development Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to UN-CF processes Integration of MEAs in Common Country Assessment (CCAs) and UN-CF Country case study of successful mainstreaming of MEAs in UN-CF and National Development plans to attain the Sustainable Development Goals 	3.00pm - 4:00pm
Health Break 4:00pm - 4:15pm		
9	Plenary session (Questions and Answers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A following session 6, 7 & 8 	4:15pm - 4:30pm
10	Closing Remarks and wrap up of Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlights of the day Closing remarks from UNRC and Government of Ethiopia 	5:30pm - 5:00pm
End of Sessions for Day One		

Day 2 - 26 July 2023		
11	Recap of Key highlights/key messages of day 1 of the training workshop	9:00am - 9:30am
12	Introduction to the Global Biodiversity Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the Global Biodiversity Framework as a guiding tool for integrated implementation of actions across MEAs 	9:30am - 10:30am
Health Break 10:30am – 11:00pm		
13	Tools for strengthening science-policy interfaces in Environmental Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Role of MEAs in strengthening science-policy interfaces in Environmental Governance as a tool to address the triple planetary crisis MEAs contribution to the attainment of National Development Plans Use of digital platforms and big data to track and report on MEAs 	11:00am - 12:00am
14	Plenary session (Questions and Answers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A following session 12 and 13 	12:00pm – 12:30pm
Lunch 12:30pm – 1:30pm		
15	Group work – Challenges and opportunities for implementation and synergies between MEAs and SDGs implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group 1: The experience of MEA Focal Points in their country context in terms of MEA Focal Point support to the CFP model – challenges and opportunities Group 2: Elaborating the relationships between MEAs and environmental SDGs as well as the associated targets and indicators to establish the existing synergistic associations, data gaps, reporting, compliance challenges 	1:30pm – 2:45pm
16	Presentations from group work	2:45pm – 3:45pm
Health Break 3:45pm – 4:00pm		
17	Feedback plenary session	4:00pm – 4:30pm
18	Closing Remarks and wrap up of Day 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlights of the day Closing remarks 	4:30pm – 5:00pm
End of Sessions for Day Two		
Day 3 – 27 July 2023		
19	Recap of key highlights/messages of day 2 of the training workshop	9:00am – 9:30am
20	MEAs and SDGs implementation and the mandates from the UN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of UN wide contributions to biodiversity issues, discussing the Environment Management Group (EMG) process and contributions of UN to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) 	9:30am – 10:30am
21	Group work – Strengthening the collaborative work of MEA Focal Points and the UNCT for attaining MEAs and environmental SDGs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group 1: Evaluation of the contributions of MEAs in accelerating attaining of the SDGs Group 2: Exploring key challenges UN Programme Management Team (PMT) members face during the integration of strategic planning for MEAs and CF results formulation 	10:30am – 11:30am
Health Break 11:30am – 12:00pm		

22	Presentations from participants group work	12:00pm – 1:00pm
23	Feedback plenary session	1:00pm – 1:30pm
Lunch Break 1:30pm – 2:30pm		
24	Group work - Way forward and Road map for actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1: Which are the key lessons learnt by MEA Focal Points in the implementation and enforcing of MEAs in countries in the last three years. • Group 2: How can the knowledge from the training (Capacitation on data and knowledge of MEAs) ease PMT/UNCT work in the future 	2:30am - 3:45pm
Health Break 3:45pm – 4:00pm		
25	Presentations from participants group work with joint feedback plenary session	4:00pm – 4:30pm
26	Closing Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberations on the way forward • Closing remarks 	4:30am - 5:00pm
End of Sessions for Day Three		

Day 4 – 28 July 2023		
1	Registration	9:00am - 9:30am
2	Welcome remarks and setting the scene	9:30am - 10:00am
3	Why is financing a key issue in achieving environmental goals?	10:00am - 10:30am
4	Linking the financing discussions – climate finance, nature finance and ocean finance	10:30am – 11:00am
Health break 11:00am – 11:30am		
5	Group work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1: Financing the global biodiversity framework – Options for Africa • Group 2: Options for blending climate, green and blue finances 	11:30am – 1:00pm
Lunch Break 1:00pm – 2:00pm		
6	Presentations from group work	2:00pm - 3:00pm
Health Break 3:00pm – 3:15pm		
7	Interactive session focusing on elaborating the financing opportunities – facilitated session (based on the group work outcomes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflecting on the key challenges and opportunities from participants perspective 	3:15pm - 4:30pm
8	Closing session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberations on the way forward • Closing remarks 	4:30pm - 5:00pm

