



Monthly Information Digest



ACP MEAs 3

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Dear Reader,

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is pleased to present you **the twelfth issue of the ACP MEAs 3 Monthly Digest for December 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.

Happy reading!

This Month's Highlights

- FAO's article highlights that the success of the post-2020 GBF depends on food system transformation
- UN Report shows that Nature-based Solutions could create 20 million new jobs
- CBD COP15: Adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (post-2020 GBF)
- CBD COP15: Financing of the Kunming-Montreal GBF
- CBD COP15: Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms in the Kunming-Montreal GBF
- Basel Convention's Plastic Waste Partnership Meets in Uruguay prior to INC-1
- CBD COP15: Synergy between mercury pollution and conservation of biodiversity
- CP MOP10 & NP MOP4: Development of the Clearing House Mechanisms and Capacity Building Projects

- InforMEA New Introductory Course on Environmental and Climate Law for Pacific Lawyers and Judges
- CBD COP15: Biodiversity Action for and by the Global South Side Event
- ACP MEAs 3 Programme's 2022 Steering Committee Report
- Strategy Paper on Financing the Sustainable Blue Economy

Sustainability Highlights



FAO's article highlights that the success of the post-2020 GBF depends on food system transformation

An article by Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), highlights the key role of the food and agriculture sectors in protecting biodiversity. Unsustainable agriculture, one of the drivers of biodiversity loss, therefore, needs to be addressed. This will require the active involvement of the food and agriculture sectors to shift to sustainable agrifood systems that contribute to the conservation and restoration of biodiversity. [Read more.](#)

UN Report shows that Nature-based Solutions could create 20 million new jobs

The report "Decent Work in Nature-based Solutions" by [ILO](#), [UNEP](#), and [IUCN](#), launched at [CBD COP15](#), underscores the need for a fair and inclusive transition to green economy, estimating that 20 million jobs could be created by investing in policies that support [Nature-based Solutions](#). [Read more.](#)

Biodiversity Conservation Highlights



CBD COP15: Adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (post-2020 GBF)

The 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity ended on 19 December 2022, with the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework ([CBD/COP/15/L.25](#)) which includes 4 goals and 23 targets for achievements by 2030, among which putting 30% of the planet and 30% of degraded ecosystems under protection by 2030. [Read more.](#)

CBD COP15: Financing of the Kunming-Montreal GBF

As increased resource mobilization for developed countries was a sticking point during the negotiations, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was requested to establish a Trust Fund, the “Global Biodiversity Fund” ([CBD/COP/15/L.29](#)). GBF target 18 aims at mobilizing at least USD 200 billion per year from public and private sources for biodiversity-related funding, and target 19 includes raising international financial flows from developed to developing countries to at least USD 30 billion per year. [Read more.](#)

CBD COP15: Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms in the Kunming-Montreal GBF

Learning from Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2011-2022), mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, review and means of implementation were provided in the newly adopted GBF ([CBD/COP/15/L.27](#)). Parties are also provided with further guidance on updating and revising the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and aligning them with the GBF, as well as on the submission of the 7th and 8th national reports to the Secretariat of the CBD. [Read more.](#)

CBD COP15 & NP MOP4: Multilateral Fund for Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources

Recognizing that the benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI) should be shared fairly and equitably ([GBF GOAL C](#)), COP15 agreed to establish – as part of the post-2020 GBF – a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of DSI, including a global fund ([CBD/COP/15/L.30](#)). To operationalize this mechanism, an ad hoc open-ended working group was created to make recommendations to CBD COP16 and NP MOP5 ([CBD/NP/MOP/4.L.13](#)), in 2024 in Turkey. [Read more.](#)

CBD COP15: Further Development of Knowledge Management and the Clearing House Mechanism

COP15 requested the Secretariat to further develop the draft knowledge component of the post-2020 GBF, facilitate efforts by Parties to develop their Clearing House Mechanisms (CHM) – including through Bioland tool – and continue collaboration with biodiversity-related data tools and initiatives such as UNEP-WCMC, GBIF, GEO BON, IPBES, IUCN, InforMEA and DaRT ([CBD/COP15/L.32](#)). CHM, but also BCH and ABSCH, are information exchange mechanisms that promote technical and scientific cooperation among countries for effective implementation of

the CBD and its Protocols. [Read more.](#)

Chemicals and Wastes Highlights



Basel Convention's Plastic Waste Partnership Meets in Uruguay prior to INC-1

The BRS Secretariat convened a meeting of the Basel Conventions' [Plastic Waste Partnership \(PWP\)](#) from 23-25 November in Punta del Este, Uruguay, where representatives from 120 governments, industries and civil society organizations discussed plastic waste prevention, elimination of hazardous constituents in plastic products, trade control of plastic waste, promotion of the environmentally sound collection, separation and recycling of plastic waste and PWP's work for 2024-25. Established in 2019, the PWP aims to reduce the discharge of plastics into the environment, particularly in the oceans. [Read more.](#)

CBD COP15: Synergy between mercury pollution and conservation of biodiversity

In her remarks at the opening plenary in the High-Level Segment of COP15, Executive Secretary Monika Stankiewicz highlighted the importance of addressing mercury pollution in the context of biodiversity and of achieving synergy and coherence across the Minamata Convention, the CBD, and other conventions (UNCCD, CMS, CITES) to achieve to post-2020 GBF. These interlinkages were recognized during Minamata Convention on Mercury COP4 ([UNEP/MC/COP.4/Dec.12](#)), held in March 2022, in Indonesia. [Read more.](#)

News from Partners and Associates



CP MOP10 & NP MOP4: Development of the Clearing House Mechanisms and Capacity Building Projects

Alongside CBD COP15, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety MOP10 and Nagoya Protocol MOP4 requested the CBD Secretariat to respectively maintain and improve the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) ([CBD/CP/MOP/10/L.7](#)), and continue the development of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing House (ABSCH) ([CBD/NP/MOP/4/L.3](#)). While MOP10

welcomed the successful implementation of UNEP-GEF BCH III project and invited UNEP to further develop BCH capacity-building projects, MOP4 invited Parties, international organizations, and regional development banks to support capacity-building development activities. [BCH III](#) is a UNEP-GEF capacity building project supporting countries' effective participation in the new Biosafety Clearing House, launched on 15 December 2022. [Read more.](#)



InforMEA New Introductory Course on Environmental and Climate Law for Pacific Lawyers and Judges

InforMEA newly launched course is aimed at promoting the protection of the environment and natural resources and sustainable development in the Pacific islands through improved implementation, adjudication, and enforcement of environmental and climate law. Designed primarily for judges and lawyers of the Pacific Island countries, this course enhances knowledge and capacity regarding the environmental challenges affecting the Pacific islands, including the role of courts, and highlights the most common legal tools of environmental law and its enforcement. Enthusiasts of environmental law within and beyond the Pacific region can also enroll for the course, developed by UNEP, the Fiji Environmental Law Association (FELA) and IUCN Oceania. [Read more.](#)

ACP MEAs 3 Programme News



CBD COP15: Biodiversity Action for and by the Global South Side Event

The Organisation of Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS), in collaboration with the European Commission and UNEP ACP MEAs 3 programme, organized a [high-level side event](#) during CBD COP15, on 18 December 2022. The panelists discussed the opportunities of South-South cooperation among CARICOM, SPREP and AU for the implementation of the post-2020 GBF, with a focus on concessional finance mobilization, enhancing capacity-building as is done through the ACP MEAs 3, technology transfer and knowledge management. While the EU committed EUR 7 billion in bilateral and regional support for implementing biodiversity-related goals, OACPS also highlighted the need to secure concessional finance from the private

sector and philanthropists. [Read more.](#)



ACP MEAs 3 Programme's 2022 Steering Committee Report

Following the ACP MEAs 3 Programme's Third Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meeting, held on 19-20 October 2022, in Brussels, Belgium, a draft report was shared with ACP partners in December 2022. The annual meeting was the opportunity to bring together stakeholders from OACPS, EU, UNEP, FAO, the regional hubs, and Sea conventions, MEAs Secretariats, and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB). The objective was to reflect on progress and achievements made, challenges faced, lessons learnt, but also discuss 2023 workplan and budget and new ways to further synergies in joint implementation of activities. While the programme played a catalyst role in strengthening member states negotiation capacity prior to the CBD COP15, the launch of a South-South Cooperation Strategy during the PSC meeting seeks to further long-term capacity-building and collaboration among ACP MEAs partners.



Strategy Paper on Financing the Sustainable Blue Economy

The strategy paper "Financing the Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)," developed by Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Mr. Dennis Fritsch, and Mr. Ole Vestergaard from UNEP, was published in December 2022, prior to CBD COP15. The paper focuses on the achievement of the post-2020 GBF targets through the transition to an SBE, highlighting that the SBE framework is aligned with both the GBF's goals of reducing threats to biodiversity (Targets 1-8) and meeting people's sustainable use and benefit-sharing (Targets 9-13). At country level, the transition to a SBE needs to be done through a strong policy framework, economic planning, integrated ocean accounting, integrated ocean accounting, sustainable financing and close engagement with the private sector and civil society (Targets 14-21). UNEP is facilitating the SBE policy shift and financial flows alignment through the Sustainable Blue Economy Transition Framework and the [Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Initiative](#). [Read more.](#)

JAN 18-19

[Joint meeting of the bureaux to the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions](#) | Geneva, Switzerland

JAN 24

UNEP webinar series: Scope and functions of the Science-policy panel | Online

JAN 26 - FEB 2

[High-level online consultation on integrating gender issues in pesticide risk prevention and reduction strategies in Tunisia - An initiative of FAO and the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention for effective interventions for the protection of rural women against the risks posed by pesticides](#) | Tunisia, 26

JAN 30 - FEB 2

[1st Session of the Open-Ended Working Group \(OEWG1\) of the Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution](#) | Bangkok, Thailand

JAN 31 - FEB 2

[Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions and Joint Environment Unit \(JEU\) of the UN Environment and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(OCHA\) Sub-regional workshop on hazardous wastes and chemicals emergencies](#) | Lagos, Nigeria

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 (emilie.vauchel@un.org) and help build a more transparent and engaged ACP MEAs 3 Programme!

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