



**Dear Reader,**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is pleased to present you the first issue of the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) MEAs 3 Monthly Digest for January 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. Happy reading!

### **This Month's Highlights**

- IRENA High-level plenary session “World Energy Transition – The Global Stocktake”
- WEO: Climate and nature-related risks among the top 10 risks in the Global Risks Report 2023
- CBD COP15: Synergies among Rio Conventions
- UNEP and S&P Global Sustainable1 launch the Nature Risk Profile Methodology
- CBD COP15: Launch of Nature4Health Initiative
- WRI: Forests managed by Indigenous people in the Amazon are net carbon sinks
- UNEP-GEF project brief on circularity for electronic waste in Nigeria
- Basel Convention pilot project on natural packaging launched in Ghana
- CBD COP 15: Recognition of the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT) in several decisions
- ACP MEAs 3 in support of CBD COP 15 meeting
- ACP MEAs 3 supports participation of youth and journalists at CBD COP 15
- ACP MEAs 3 starts collaboration with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)

### **Sustainability Highlights**

#### **IRENA High-level plenary session “World Energy Transition – The Global Stocktake”**

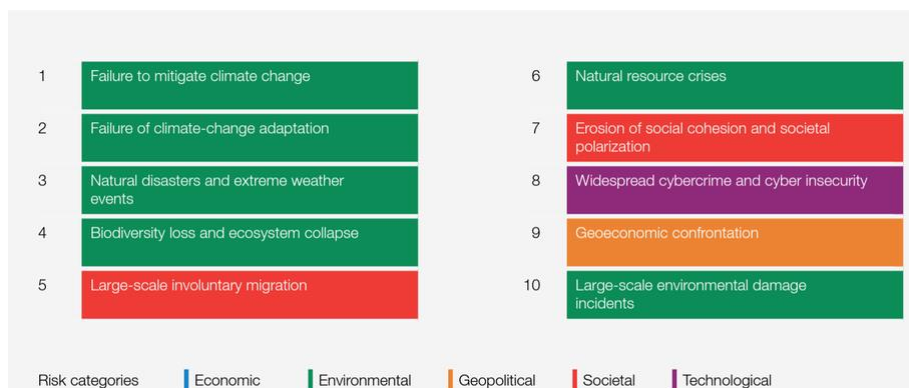
Following the 13th session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly that took place on 13-15 January 2023 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, IRENA members stated that “short-term must be given priority to urgently accelerate the energy transition and course correct the 1.5°C pathway to 2050”. The first Global Stocktake at COP28 in 2023, under UAE’s presidency represents a pivotal point to identify gaps and opportunities for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. [Read more.](#)



### WEO: Climate and nature-related risks among the top 10 risks in the Global Risks Report 2023

Based on the latest Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS) 2022-2023, conducted by the World Economic Forum, climate and nature-related risks rank at the top 10 of global risks that may have the most severe impacts over the next decade. Among them, failure to mitigate climate change, failure of climate change adaptation, natural disasters and extreme weather events, and biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse top the ranking. [Read more.](#)

Global risks ranked by severity over the long term (10 years)



### CBD COP15: Synergies among Rio Conventions

From 13-18 December 2022, the Rio Pavilion Convention hosted COP15 events focusing on the interlinkages between the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF), the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, food systems transformation and the contribution of biodiversity protection to climate objective. The final day focused more specifically on maximizing synergies and cooperation among the Rio Conventions, through a coherent and efficient implementation to meet biodiversity and climate targets and transforming food systems. Speakers notably highlighted the importance of clear monitoring of GEF-funded projects, joint data and information sharing, and coordination across institutions. [Read more.](#)



## Biodiversity Conservation highlights

### UNEP and S&P Global Sustainable1 launch the Nature Risk Profile Methodology

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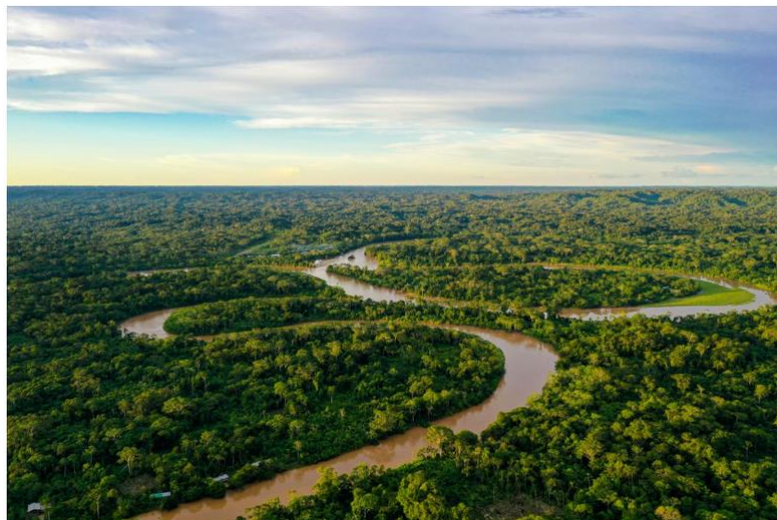
### CBD COP15: Launch of Nature4Health Initiative

The [Nature for Health Initiative \(N4H\)](#) was introduced during the side event “Unveiling the First Nature for Health Investment for Preventing Pandemics Together” at the 15th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in December 2022, in Montreal, Canada. The initiative aims at demonstrating the linkages between biodiversity, climate change and pandemics at the national level and implement the [One Health approach](#) at national level. Ecuador, Ghana, Mongolia, Rwanda, Vietnam, and Zambia were the first six countries to join N4H. [Read more.](#)



## **WRI: Forests managed by Indigenous people in the Amazon are net carbon sinks**

A research article from the World Resource Institute shows that 94% of forests in the Amazon bioregion managed by Indigenous people were a net carbon sink between 2000 and 2021. On the contrary, forests outside Indigenous lands were collectively a net carbon source with net emissions amounting to 270 million tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year (equivalent to the annual fossil fuel emissions of France), due to forest lost and removed. While the world's largest tropical forest globally remains a net carbon sink despite the loss of an estimated 17% of the Amazonian Forest over the last 40-50 years, the Southeastern Amazonia part already emits more carbon than it sequesters. Scientists estimate that deforesting 20% of the Amazon could push it past [a tipping point](#), triggering a large-scale dieback that would release more than [90 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>](#). [Read more.](#)



## Chemicals and Wastes Highlights

### **UNEP-GEF project brief on circularity for electronic waste in Nigeria**

A [brief](#) on the [Circular Economy approaches for the electronics sector in Nigeria project](#) was published in January 2023. Launched in 2019, this USD 15 million project is financed by GEF (Global Environment Facility), co-financed by project partners, and implemented by UNEP and the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency of Nigeria (NESREA).



The brief focuses on key project achievements, notably the creation of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme that extends the responsibility of manufacturers to the end-of-life treatment of their products, the amendment of National Electrical/Electronic sector, and the improvement of e-waste workers' conditions. In Nigeria, over half a million tons of discarded appliances are improperly processed every year. [Read more.](#)



### **Basel Convention pilot project on natural packaging launched in Ghana**

A pilot project to introduce natural packaging and reduce the use of single-use plastic was launched at the University of Ghana in Accra, Ghana. The pilot is part of an ongoing project on plastic waste, funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and implemented by The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the Africa Region. Ghana generates an estimated 900,000 tons of municipal plastic waste per year, almost half of which is not collected, but instead is typically burnt, dumped, or buried. [Read more.](#)

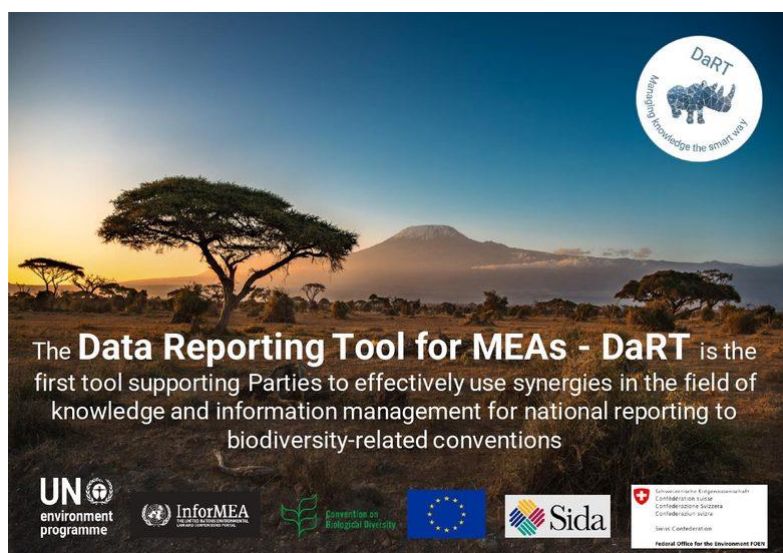


**BASEL / ROTTERDAM / STOCKHOLM  
CONVENTIONS**

## News from Partners and Associates

### **CBD COP 15: Recognition of the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT) in several decisions**

Following DaRT management team's active engagement, including with the CBD Secretariat, DaRT was mentioned in four CBD COP15 decisions. COP15 notably invited the governing bodies of other MEAs to use DaRT to support the implementation of the newly adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. More specifically, UNEP was invited to continue enhancing synergies in reporting for Parties through DaRT ([CBD/COP/15/L.21](#)). COP15 also requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the use of DaRT for reporting ([CBD/COP/15/L.26](#) and [L.27](#)). Recognizing DaRT as a knowledge-management tool, the Executive Secretary was further requested to continue its collaboration with DaRT, alongside further development of the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) and Bioland tool ([CBD/COP/15/L.32](#)).



### **InforMEA Introductory Course to Gender and the Environment**

[InforMEA](#), the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), launched a new course on gender and the environment. This new self-paced online course from InforMEA aims to increase understanding of these interactions and the links between gender equality and sustainable development. The course looks at how gender has been addressed in MEAs governing terrestrial biodiversity, freshwater, atmosphere, chemicals and waste and the marine environment. Environmental change affects the lives of men and women in diverse ways due to existing gender dynamics and inequalities. There is increasing understanding of the interactions between gender and the environment, including between efforts to ensure gender equality and environmental protection, and of the close links between gender equality and sustainable development. View the syllabus [here](#) and take the course [here](#) (Login required).



## ACP MEAs 3 Programme News

### ACP MEAs 3 in support of CBD COP 15 meeting

Recognizing the need to support countries to effectively negotiate and decide on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the ACP MEAs 3 programme organized several training and orientation sessions for negotiators besides developing technical support documents on key issues to assist the negotiations. These include the organization of regional preparatory events in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions, support to ministerial meetings in the region, one in-regional meeting bringing all the three regions together, supporting development of national and regional positions on key issues, development of an analyses paper on financing options for implementing the framework, and a policy paper on green and blue economies. The outcomes of these events and support contributed to the final outcomes of the CBD COP 15, including the adoption of the global biodiversity framework. [Read more.](#)

### ACP MEAs 3 supports participation of youth and journalists at CBD COP 15

Ensuring that youth and journalists are capacitated and empowered to understand and follow up on the discussions during CBD COP 15, the ACP MEAs 3 programme supported the participation of 6 youth delegates and 6 journalists during the meeting in Montreal. The participants actively engaged with several events related to ACP MEAs 3. The ACP youth representatives attended, held, and facilitated many COP15 side events, including the Pacific Ocean Conservation and Governance Side Event and the GBF implementation kick-off event, where they presented the flagship project #FasoBiodivConservHub. Some of them also participated in the Great March for the Living during COP15, that brought together and mobilized more than 80 organizations for the protection of biodiversity to pressure governments to adopt concrete and ambitious measures. The key messages focused on rights and equity in the GBF, and the involvement of IPLCs. During one of the ACP MEAs side events, ACP youth representative Bonita Bernard stressed that youth are not only the future but also the current drivers of change, and an integral part of successful GBF implementation. [Read more.](#)

### ACP MEAs 3 starts collaboration with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)

Realizing the importance of multilateral development banks (MDBs) in supporting the implementation of the CBD global biodiversity framework, the ACP MEAs 3 programme organized a breakfast meeting with senior officials of the MDBs in Montreal. With the participation of executive secretary to CBD, Ms. Elizabeth M. Mrema and colleagues from about twenty MDBs, the discussions focused on collaboration with UNEP on implementing the global biodiversity framework. [ACP MEAs 3 website.](#)

## Save the Date

**FEB 1-2:** [Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative \(GOBI\) Symposium 2023](#), **Vancouver, Canada**

**FEB 2:** [World Wetlands Day and anniversary of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands](#), **Global** ([check here for events in your region](#))

**FEB 20 - MAR 3:** [Resumed Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Conference on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction \(BBNJ IGC-5\)](#), **New York, USA**

**FEB 21 - FEB 23:** [13th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention \(OEWG-13\)](#), **Geneva, Switzerland**

**FEB 21 - FEB 26:** [Global Peatlands Initiative \(GPI\) 4th Partners' Meeting](#), **Lima, Peru**

**FEB 27 - MAR 3:** [4th meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 \(IP4\)](#), **Nairobi, Kenya**

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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[Browse all Monthly Digest here](#)

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