

MONTHLY INFORMATION DIGEST

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DEAR READER,

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is pleased to present you the First issue of the ACP MEAs 3 monthly Digest for 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:

- Launching of UNEP@50 website;
- Governing oceans and climate change;
- World restoration flagships;
- Destabilization of coastal ecosystem;
- Sustainable management of freshwater resources in SIDS;
- Role of regional seas programme under the post-2020 GBF;
- Great blue wall against threats to WIO;
- Circular waste management system;
- Ecolabeling in managing chemicals in electronics; and
- Caribbean addressing issue of nutrient pollution.

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

UNEP@50 Launches New Website

For 50 years the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has coordinated a worldwide effort to confront the planet's biggest environmental challenges. UNEP's convening power and rigorous scientific research has provided platform for countries to engage, act boldly and advance the global environmental agenda. As the organization heads towards its 50th anniversary, a UNEP@50 website has been launched to provide every information one needs to know about UNEP's milestones throughout the years. [Read more](#)



The War on Plastics in 2022 Could Be a Change of Climate

Not long ago that the world seemed hijacked and engulfed in plastic, sparking outrage over plastics and packaging industries. The emergence of the hapless sea turtle viral video struggling in plastic polluted water led many consumer brands to commit to ending plastic waste and made packaging recyclable or compostable, while others waging a war on plastic through bans meant to curb plastic's environmental excesses. The climate crisis represents a new front on the war on plastics. Carbon emissions from the plastic industries throughout the plastics lifecycle contribute to climate change and waste issues. [Read more](#)



Governing Oceans to Solve Global Climate Change Crisis

Global warming is exacerbating several planetary crises, oceans remind the hope in contributing to the solution. A recent article by the University of Auckland notes that, although global leaders at COP26 acknowledged the need to strengthen ocean-based action, they failed to specifically explain the kind of action. Oceans have, over the past decades slowed the rate of global warming and if we failed to make a shift in our approach to focus on them, we will lose that capacity to solve the planetary overheating problem. The article notes that with policy changes, Oceans can help us arrest the fast-track to planetary demise. [Read more](#)



Call for Countries to Nominate World Restoration Flagships

The partnership behind the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is on a quest to give prominence to the world's most significant restoration efforts. Official UN Decade Flagship status will be awarded to the first, best, or most promising global ecosystem restoration efforts. Identifying World Restoration Flagships will give visibility to initiatives in support of the global mission to restore Earth. The selected World Restoration Flagships will be celebrated and promoted widely. They will be feature prominently in the UN Decade's communication, digital ecosystem, knowledge products and monitoring efforts. [Read more](#)



Biodiversity Conservation Highlights

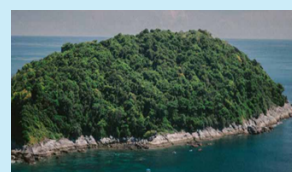
Coastal Ecosystem Being Destabilized by Climate Change

Coastal communities, despite having adaptive capacities for stress resistance are still being destabilized by the pressures of climate change. A study shows that ecological communities in coastal zone of Oregon like any other community living in similar context have grown less stable for at least a decade though their structure. Usually, resilient systems quickly bounce back to their original configurations after a disturbance and community's failure to bounce shows losing its resilience to unprecedented stresses. [Read more](#)



Sustainable Management of Freshwater Resources in Small Island Developing States

Coastal communities, despite having adaptive capacities for stress resistance are still being destabilized by the pressures of climate change. A study shows that ecological communities in coastal zone of Oregon like any other community living in similar context have grown less stable for at least a decade though their structure. Usually, resilient systems quickly bounce back to their original configurations after a disturbance and community's failure to bounce shows losing its resilience to unprecedented stresses. [Read more](#)



The Role of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme Under the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Despite a decade of global efforts to protect and restore biodiversity, not one of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets was fully achieved by the 2020 deadline. If not well designed, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) might follow the same track. A new report indicates that, UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and its 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans are in a better position to support States to achieve ocean related elements of the GBF, building on a recognized body of experience and achievements established over past years. [Read more](#)



Great Blue Wall Against Threats to Western Indian Ocean

The western Indian Ocean region is one of the richest regions in marine biodiversity covering the eastern side of the African continent. Despite the presence of this magnificent resources, studies show that less than 10% of the marine area is protected. Threats from global warming, oil and gas extraction are likely to erode the marine health of this region. In response, ten countries in the western Indian Ocean have committed to create a network of marine conservation areas to hasten progress toward the goal of protecting 30% of the oceans by 2030. [Read more](#)



Chemicals and Wastes Highlights

A Circular Waste Management System Benefits the Environment

The ineffectiveness of existing waste management systems threatens the environment and contribute to global warming. A study led by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) shows that circular waste management systems can help to effectively curb emissions of greenhouse gases. A circular waste management system is a sustainable system in which waste generation is minimized, waste collection schemes reach the entire population, open burning of waste and littering is eliminated, waste is diverted from landfills, materials are reused and recycled, and as a last resort, refuse is efficiently incinerated to generate energy. [Read more](#)



Biomedical Waste A Concern Amid Soaring Covid-19 Cases

The global challenge of waste management is a Major environmental issue facing over two billion people lacking access to waste collection and disposal facilities according to UN-Habitat report 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has imposed a layer of crisis characterized by issues of increased amount of used personal protective equipments waste such as facemasks, gloves, and other protective stuffs coupled with issues of waste management practices. An article that examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on waste management notes that instituting policies to ensure sustainable management of waste is critical to protect the safety of waste handlers. [Read more](#)



Establishing Plastic Value Chains in Mozambique

Mozambique has a small paradise called Vilanculos along the Indian Ocean well known for its biodiversity richness, with staggering issues of marine litter for decades. As a hub for the livelihoods of the local communities, the increase in the amount of waste has a direct impact on local environment and the communities. In this context Reduzir Reusar e Reciclar Limitada (3R) company implemented a pilot project to create integrated solutions for waste production in Mozambique. It also raised the awareness of the local population for waste reduction, including, better management of plastic waste at source. [Read more](#)



Ecolabeling A Critical Tool to Manage Chemicals in Electronics

Chemicals provide a variety of functions in electric and electronic products. However, some of these chemicals are hazardous and can cause adverse harm on human health and the environment throughout the product's life cycle from raw material extraction to the end-of-life. This suggest that, actions to address chemicals of concern in products need to consider the entire value chain. One of the actions to in this regard is "Ecolabeling" that a new report by UNEP recommends scaling it up to better and control the use of chemicals of concern in electronic value chain. [Read more](#)



News from Partners and Associates

IKI Small Grants Launches 3rd International Call for Proposals

The German Environment Ministry's (BMU) supports projects and organizations worldwide that tackle climate change, address local adaptation, and conserve forests and biodiversity through its International Climate Initiative (IKI). On 15 December 2021, the third call for proposals by IKI Small Grants was launched for all interested organization to apply till 15 April 2022. [Read more](#)



The Caribbean Steps Up to the Issue of Nutrient Pollution

The Wider Caribbean Region is experiencing the impacts of nutrient pollution including nitrogen-based eutrophication, harmful algal blooms, hypoxia resulting from wastewater treatment facilities, run off from land in urban areas, farming and the release of fossil fuels, which threatens its coastal and marine ecology and habitats. As the only regionally binding treaty in the Caribbean region, the Cartagena Convention in 2021, developed a Regional Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region as a framework for increasing collaboration and action to reduce the impacts of excess nutrient pollution on coastal and marine ecosystems in the region. [Read more](#)



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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.