

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE ACP MEAs 3
PROGRAMME

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EUROPEAN UNION
&
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NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME



ACP MEAs 3 Programme Partner

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SOME SNIPPETS

The ACP MEAs is an EU-UNEP partnership programme that began in March 2009 as an initiative of the European Commission to address challenging environmental issues through the implementation of the MEAs in the African, Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP) regions. The programme is currently in its third phase of implementation, aiming to assist 79 ACP-countries to enforce and comply with MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste and to deal with issues of Ocean/Seas governance.

Key actions through the programme in the third quarter of 2022 include:

- Preparations of regional environmental negotiators for COP15
- Supporting the management of marine litter and marine protected areas in the wider Caribbean
- Launching the state of environment report and national environment management strategy in Tuvalu
- Awareness meeting on the Vanuatu's state of environmental report
- The Pacific ACP MEAs 3 programme and the inform project team in-country mission to Cook Islands
- Launching of a regional comparative analysis of protected area management effectiveness evaluation tools in the Pacific

Regional Environmental Negotiators in Preparations for COP15



Environment negotiators during COP 15 Preparatory meeting. Photo credit-CARICOM

After several postponements of the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), parties have now agreed to convene the meeting from 7-19 December 2022 in Montreal, Canada.

In preparation for the anticipated negotiations, the ACP MEAs 3 programme through the CARICOM Secretariat convened a training workshop in Saint Lucia, from 13 to 14 September 2022 for environmental officials from Cuba, and the Dominican Republic as the Region continues preparations for COP 15. The work-shop familiarized the participants with the operational aspects of COP15 for better and regionally coordinated negotiations.

It featured a COP15 simulation exercise in which environmental negotiators participated in the drafting of statements and practice plenary sessions. They also created a COP15 programme of work that identified and analyzed issues most relevant to their national and regional interest and priorities. A refresher training in MEAs negotiations, including the art of drafting statements and making interventions during negotiation sessions was conducted during the workshop.


The workshop also included the participation and involvement of youth environmentalists as part of the capacity-building and youth initiatives of the ACP MEAs Programme.

A presentation by youth delegate Lyn Marie Lynton from Barbados was a high point of that element of the workshop on youth concerns about the Global Biodiversity Framework.

The workshop served as a critical platform for the exchange of views about key COP15 issues, desired outcomes, and potential negotiating strategies for the region. Member States are expected to conduct national preparatory consultations with the technical support of the CARICOM Secretariat and the OECS Commission particularly in drafting regional statements and coordinating strategic meetings ahead of the COP15 meeting in Montreal.

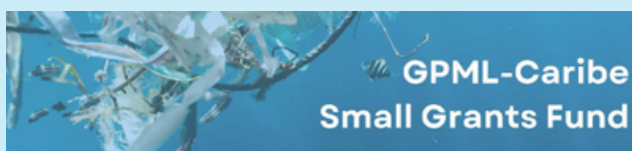
Environmental negotiators agreed at the workshop to pursue an equitable Global Biodiversity Framework with goals and targets that encompasses a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. They also agreed for the recognition of the importance of biological resources in sustainable development, the need for adequate resources, capacity building, technology transfer for the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework in the region.

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Supporting the Management of Marine Litter and Marine Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean

The Cartagena Convention Secretariat continues to strengthen cooperation on regional environmental management through partnership agreements. In May 2022, the Secretariat signed an agreement with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) to support the implementation of community-based projects for marine litter prevention and reduction, marine litter management in marine protected areas (MPAs), and capacity-building at site-specific marine protected areas within the Wider Caribbean Region.



GPML-Caribe, a partnership between the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, is pleased to offer small grants in support of marine litter prevention and reduction within the Wider Caribbean Region. The grants will be administered by GPML-Caribe with funding provided by the United Nations Environment Programme – Cartagena Convention Secretariat through the European Union's ACP MEA III project. The ACP MEAs program is a joint partnership between the European Union, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, UN Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations which aims at building capacity in 79 countries in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) to support them in fulfilling their obligations as parties to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to tackle the environmental issues they face.

Eligibility Criteria: This call is intended to benefit the managing organizations of marine litter issues within the Wider Caribbean Region, either directly or through efforts with their affiliated partners. The call excludes U.S. affiliated sites and in rare instances final consideration for funding may be dependent upon satisfying the requirements of the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Asset Control. Proposals from LBS Protocol Contracting Parties will be prioritized, though proposals from other countries within the Wider Caribbean Region will be considered.

Funding Priorities: Preference will be given to projects or approaches that are solutions-based. Research projects will be considered if they have a strong focus on solutions including an implementation phase. Potential projects focused on marine litter (including ALDFG) may include: Identification and removal approaches; Communications targeted to all stakeholders; Governance and policy-related solutions; Education-focused projects; Innovative community-based solutions; Innovative approaches for alternatives to single-use plastics and Styrofoam; Market-based approaches; Circular economy approaches; Reduction at source approaches; Development and/or implementation of local, national, or regional litter prevention/reduction plans.



Cartagena Convention's small grant criteria. Photo credit-SPREP

The ACP MEAs 3 Programme will provide 5 small grants funding based on the criteria developed in collaboration with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat that will be administered through MPACONnect and GPML-Caribe focusing on capacity-building at site-specific marine protected areas and marine litter prevention and reduction respectively. Further hybrid grants will also be offered to support marine litter prevention and reduction work in marine protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region.

The GCFI has a long-standing relationship with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. It co-hosts the Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML-Caribe) along with the Secretariat and is formally

recognized as part of the Secretariat's Regional Activity Network (RAN). These small grants are intended to assist these institutions in managing marine protected areas and marine litter issues within the Wider Caribbean Region.

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News From Other Regions

Launching the State of Environment Report and National Environment Management Strategy in Tuvalu

The Government of Tuvalu launched their State of Environment (SOE) Report 2022 and the National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) 2022-2026 during the national Environmental Week which was held on the 27 June 2022. The documents are guiding policy to ensure the protection and sound management of its environment. It is to ensure that environmental activities and planning are relevant to national priorities and action plans developed by the Government of Tuvalu and signals the commitment by Tuvalu towards the signed Multilateral Environment Agreements.





Tuvalu's 2022 environment report and strategy. Photo credit-SPREP

The SOE and NEMS were developed by the Tuvalu Government, through its Department of Environment and in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SREP). It was made possible with financial support of Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Environment

Programme through the Inform Project and UNEP coordinated programme for Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) in Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific States (ACP) Programme Phase 3 (ACP MEA 3). [Read more](#)

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Awareness Meeting on the Vanuatu's State of Environmental Report

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), through the Environment Monitoring Governance (EMG) Program, held a validation meeting of the Vanuatu State of Environment (SoE) report from 15-17 August. The meeting was jointly facilitated with the Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection & Conservation (DEPC).





Participants during an awareness meeting. Photo Credit-SPREP

The meeting gave SPREP the opportunity to inform the Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection & Conservation (DEPC) of UNEP ACP MEAs 3 Programme's support on Environmental Impact Assessment. They discuss how to best engage the ACP-MEAs 3 on important strategic environmental governance and monitoring issues.

This is in line with ACPMEAs 3 Programme support to member countries in strengthening best practices of environment assessment and planning for its member countries. A plan is in place to deliver a sector wide training for Vanuatu in 2023, with a focus on strengthening

integrated environment auditing of development projects in Vanuatu by relevant sectors. For further information, please contact

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The Pacific ACP MEAs 3 Programme and the Inform Project Team In-Country Mission to Cook Islands



SPREP, through two projects of the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme, completed its in-country mission to the Cook Islands from 25-29 July 2022. This was an opportunity to start on-the-ground engagement with member countries to discuss support provided by the ACP MEAs 3 Programme, through participatory dialogue (Talanoa session). Cook Islands is the first in-country mission for ACP MEAs 3, with more countries to follow such as Solomon Islands.



Pacific ACP MEAs 3 Programme Staff displaying Visibility material. Photo Credit-SPREP

During this session, Cook Islands National Environment Services (NES) representatives provided inputs and views on activities that are specific to their country and on the way forward in the implementation of these activities. The discussion highlighted areas that ACP MEAs 3 Programme, through SPREP, can support NES by providing technical services to assist national obligations to MEAs, such as reporting, monitoring and enforcement. ACP MEAs 3 promotional material were also presented to the Director of the National Environment Services Mr. Halatoa Fua.

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Launching of Regional Comparative Analysis of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) Evaluation Tools in the Pacific

The ACP-MEAs 3 Programme supported SREP's launch of the Comparative Analysis of Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (PAME) evaluation tools for the Pacific Islands' region. Through financial assistance of the ACP-MEAs 3 Programme, SREP contracted the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) to develop the PAME tools and received technical and advisory inputs from the EU-OACPS BIOPAMA programme.



Participants reviewing PAME evaluation tools. Photo credit-SPREP

PAME Evaluations are tools to assess how well managed protected and conserved areas are, primarily the degree to which management is safeguarding values and achieving goals and objectives. They will support the development of regional strategy and capacity-building. While Pacific Islands are under threat by unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, weak development planning, invasive species, population growth and pollution, the PAME evaluation tools seek to improve and promote the sustainable management of protected areas. During the launch, ACP-MEAs 3 Programme Manager, Dr. Pisupati, highlighted the key partnership between SREP, the APC-MEAs 3 Programme and the BIOPAMA programme. He indicated that this partnership has facilitated the development of the Comparative Analysis, which is relevant to current initiatives and processes including the 30x30 protected target in relation to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on plastics, and their regional seas programme. [Read more.](#)

The ACP MEAs 3 Programme Team

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- Angola**
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- Bahamas - Barbados - Benin - Botswana
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