



# Monthly Information Digest



ACP MEAs III

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## Dear Reader,

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is pleased to present you the first issue of the ACP MEAs III Digest for 2024. The Digest provides relevant updates from programme partners and other sources on issues related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), environmental governance, biodiversity, chemicals and waste, and ocean governance.

Happy reading!

## This Month's Highlights

- Subsidiary Bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Met in Nairobi
- ACP MEAs Partners Selected Among Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres for CBD
- ACP MEAs III Programme Supported Caribbean Nations' Preparations for CBD's SBSTTA and SBI
- Uganda Becomes First African Country to Submit National Targets Ahead of CBD COP16
- International Day for Biological Diversity: Guterres Urges Nations to Halt Environmental Decline
- Which Species Are Worst Affected by Trafficking? UN Report Paints Major Threats for Wildlife
- Minamata Convention Launched Knowledge Products on the Interlinkages Between Biodiversity and Mercury Pollution
- Fourth Round of Applications for the Specific International Programme to support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance from the Minamata Convention is Open
- EU-Funded Webinars on Mercury-Added Products
- Sustainable Harvest of Wildlife from Waters Beyond National Jurisdiction Discussed at CITES Workshop
- Bridging the Gap Between Research and Action to Combat Ocean Plastic Pollution

## Biodiversity Highlights

### Subsidiary Bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Met in Nairobi

Over 1,000 participants joined in Nairobi, Kenya, for two key meetings in the enhancement of biodiversity conservation and the effective implementation of global strategies: the twenty-sixth meeting of the [Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice](#) (SBSTTA-26), which took place from May 13 – 18, 2024 and the fourth meeting of the [Subsidiary Body on Implementation](#) (SBI-4), from May 21 – 29, 2024. Both meetings addressed issues on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) and the alignment of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with global goals. Marine and coastal biodiversity and synthetic biology were other topics of interest at SBSTTA-26, while SBI-4 provided advancements in the discussions regarding means of implementation including financial resources and mechanisms for capacity-building. More details on these two events can be found on [CBD's website](#) and IISD's [Earth Negotiations Bulletin](#).



# THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN

For Life on Earth

## **ACP MEAs Partners Selected among Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres for CBD**

Under agenda item 5 (a) on Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer, the SBI-4 Chair submitted a draft recommendation on capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer under the CBD. This recommendation highlights the progress made by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, and it called for the initiation of host agreements for regional support centres, development of capacity-building guidance, and resource mobilization to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. CARICOM was one of the three organizations selected in the Americas, while SPREP was the only one selected for Oceania. More details can be found in [this article](#) in CBD's website and the [full draft recommendation](#).



### **ACP MEAs III Programme Supported Caribbean Nations for their NBSAPs**

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity held a sub-regional dialogue and workshop to discuss their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) The event took place in Georgetown, Guyana, on April 15 – 19 2024. Representatives of indigenous peoples, youth, non-governmental organizations, regional and international organizations, local communities, and key sectors including agriculture and fisheries participated in the dialogue and workshop. [Opening remarks](#) were made by the Hon. Vickram Bharrat, Minister of Natural Resources of Guyana. An overview to this event can be found in a [video](#) from Teshia JnBaptiste, Project Coordinator for the ACP MEAs III at CARICOM.





### **Uganda Becomes First African Country to Submit National Targets Aligned with the KM-GBF**

Prior to the beginning of SBSTTA, [Uganda became the first African country to submit its national biodiversity targets aligned with the KM-GBF](#). This news was welcomed by the CBD Secretariat, as these submissions are essential for the integration of the internationally agreed biodiversity goals in the KM-GBF. These targets aim to enhance national and local efforts in protecting Uganda's rich natural heritage, and all parties are expected to make their submissions before COP16, to be held on October 21 – November 1 in Cali, Colombia.



## International Day for Biological Diversity: Guterres Urges Nations to Halt Environmental Decline

On International Day for Biological Diversity, UN Secretary-General António Guterres [called for immediate and decisive measures to reverse environmental degradation](#). He emphasized the critical importance of preserving biodiversity for future generations, urging nations to strengthen conservation efforts and implement sustainable practices. [This call](#) highlights the need for global cooperation to protect the planet's natural resources. In addition, UNEP's Executive Director and several distinguished participants in SBI made statements in the [celebrations](#) at the UN Complex in Nairobi.



## Which Species Are Worst Affected by Trafficking? UN Report Paints Major Threats for Wildlife

The [World Wildlife Crime Report](#), released by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on May 13, reveals more than 4,000 species severely impacted by illegal trafficking over the past 20 years. From pangolins to elephants, the study underscores the devastating effects on biodiversity and ecosystems. With overexploitation pushing many species towards extinction, urgent global action is required to combat this escalating crisis and protect vulnerable wildlife from further decline. More information can be found on [this article](#) from CITES

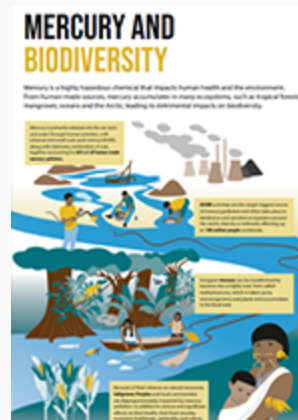




## Chemicals and Waste Highlights

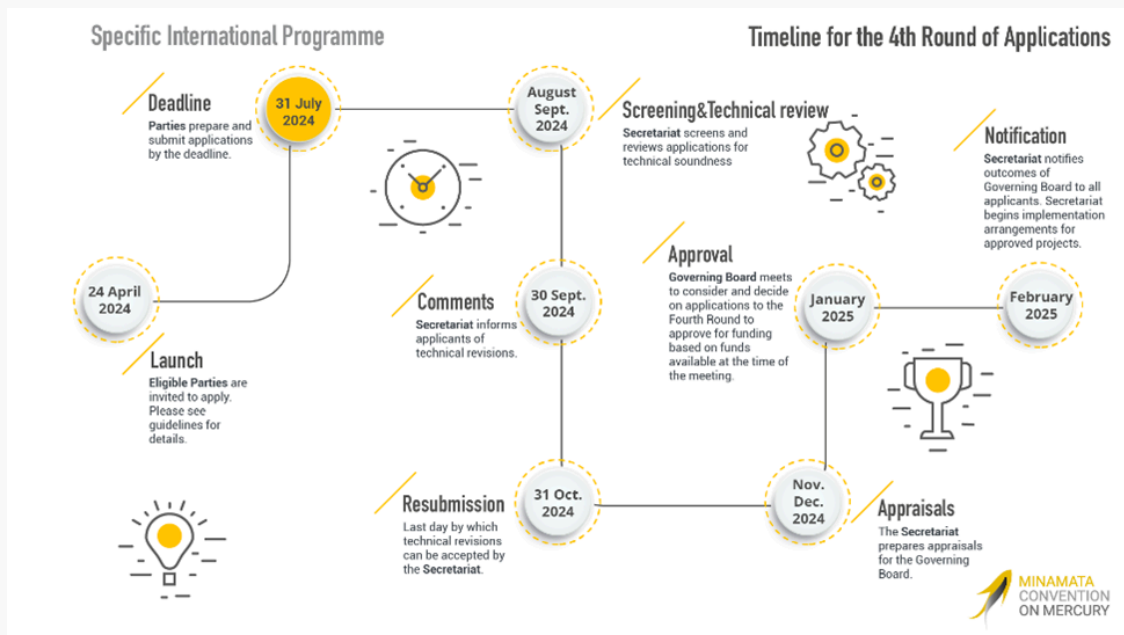
### **Knowledge Products on the Interlinkages Between Biodiversity and Mercury Pollution**

Mercury is a highly hazardous chemical that, once released into the environment through anthropogenic sources, puts further pressure on biodiversity and ecosystems. It poses a global threat to human health and biodiversity, as it persists in the environment, and bioaccumulates and biomagnifies in the food chain. In addition to a publication from January 2024, the Minamata Convention released an infographic illustrating some of the toxic impacts of mercury on biodiversity. [Both resources](#) can be found in the Convention's website



## Fourth Round of Applications for the Specific International Programme to support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance is Open

The [Specific International Programme](#) to support Capacity Building and Technical Assistance (SIP) is one of the two components of the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, together with the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The Fourth Round of applications to the SIP opened for submissions on Wednesday, 24 April 2024. Applications need to be submitted to the Secretariat by Wednesday, 31 July 2024. More information can be found in the link.



## EU-Funded Webinars on Mercury-Added Products

Funded by the EU, this webinar series on Minamata Convention and mercury-added products is organized in six UN languages by the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention in cooperation with partners. With the financial contribution from the European Union, a capacity-building material for controlling the mercury-added products is being developed in six languages. The material will be



presented at the webinar, as well as information on the recent amendment to the Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties. More information can be found in [the link](#).



## Ocean Governance Highlights

### Sustainable Harvest of Wildlife from Waters Beyond National Jurisdiction Discussed at CITES Workshop

On May 13, a [CITES workshop](#) in Geneva brought together experts to discuss the sustainable harvest of wildlife from areas beyond national jurisdiction, also known as the high seas. The workshop addressed the complexities of regulating international trade in CITES-listed species from these waters, emphasizing the importance of scientific data and international cooperation. Recommendations included enhancing collaboration with fisheries authorities and developing comprehensive guidelines to ensure the non-detrimental harvest of marine species.



### Bridging the Gap Between Research and Action to Combat Ocean Plastic Pollution

In the battle against ocean plastic pollution, translating research into actionable strategies is paramount. [This op-ed](#) explores the critical steps needed to bridge the gap between scientific findings and practical solutions. Emphasizing collaboration among policymakers, scientists, and industry leaders, the piece advocates for innovative approaches and stronger regulations to tackle the escalating crisis of marine debris.



## Relevant Events in June

**JUNE 11–14:** [Fourth meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies](#), **Republic of Korea**

**JUNE 12:** [Sixth meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources](#)

**JUNE 19-20:** [Thirteenth meeting of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species](#), **United Kingdom and Northern Ireland**

**JUNE 21–22:** [Annual Joint Meeting to enhance cooperation and coordination between the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions](#), **Switzerland**

**JUNE 23–24:** [Sixteenth meeting of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee \(ICC-16\)](#), **Switzerland**

**JUNE 23–24:** [Sixteenth meeting of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee \(ICC-16\)](#), **Switzerland**

**JUNE 25–28:** [Fourteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention \(OEWG-14\)](#), **Switzerland**



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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.

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