



# Monthly Information Digest



ACP MEAs 3

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**Dear Reader,**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is pleased to present you the Second issue of the ACP MEAs III Digest for June 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

- Nairobi Convention Prepares its 11th Conference of the Parties
- Open letter from SPREP's Director General on the occasion of the 31st Anniversary of SPREP
- SIDS4 Conference in Antigua and Barbuda
- Africa Conservation Forum organized by IUCN
- Virtual Launch of the 18th Caribbean Week of Agriculture
- PlanetGOLD Global Forum in Philippines
- ACP MEAs Partners strengthen their collaboration also on climate change
- InforMEA 14th Steering Committee Meeting

## Ocean Governance

### **Journey to the 11th Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention**

From 20th to 22nd August 2024, Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the protection, management and development of the coastal and marine environment of the Western Indian Ocean will convene in Antananarivo, Madagascar, to keep under review the implementation of this Convention and its protocols. As the date approaches, the Secretariat has launched a new set of [infographics](#) to shed light on the journey and key themes of this important event. Covering issues like

marine biodiversity, pollution control, and coastal management, these visuals provide a comprehensive overview of the convention's agenda.



#### **SPREP celebrates its 31st Anniversary**

Each year on 16th June, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) celebrates the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty which officially established the SPREP as an independent intergovernmental organisation. In his [open letter](#), Sefanaia Nawadra, Director-General of SPREP reflects on the milestones and future directions of the organization on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the signature of the SPREP Treaty. Highlighting achievements in environmental protection and sustainable development in the Pacific, this piece provides insights into the strategic priorities that will guide SPREP's efforts in the coming years.



#### **SIDS4 Conference adopts a ten-year plan of action that will deliver meaningful change for Small Island Developing States.**

From May 27 – 30 Small Island Developing states gathered in St John's, Antigua and Barbuda, for the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) which highlighted the pressing challenges and collaboration opportunities for these states, which include several ACP countries. Focusing on sustainable development and resilience on island nations, the conference addressed key issues such as climate adaptation and inclusive economic growth. The Conference attracted 3,000 participants, including 22 Heads of State and Government, private sector, civil society, academia and young people, advocating for the priorities of small island nations to be at the forefront of the global development agenda. The major outcome of the Conference included The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Declaration for Renewed Prosperity – puts forth a new,



## Biodiversity and Agriculture

### **The IUCN Africa Conservation Forum ends with a new call for action in preparation for the next IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in the United Arab Emirates in 2025.**

In partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife of Kenya, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) organized the first ever IUCN [Africa Conservation Forum](#) which was held from June 26 – 28 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Conference attracted over 700 delegates from across the continent to discuss critical issues on conservation. The forum highlighted innovative conservation strategies including on how to foster regional cooperation to protect Africa's rich biodiversity. Participants included eight ministers of environment, policymakers, conservationists, and community leaders, who showcased their collaborative efforts to tackle challenges such as habitat loss, wildlife trafficking, and climate change. More details on this event can be found in [this article](#).



### **Fourth Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue forges the way forward to catalyzing Regional Leadership in Implementing Major Global Frameworks for the Ocean**

[The fourth meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative \(SOI\) Global Dialogue](#) with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies took place on June 11 – 14, 2024 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The SOI Global Dialogue is a unique global platform that brings together representatives of regional seas organizations, regional fishery bodies, United Nations entities and global and regional organizations as well as governments and civil society. This event was coordinated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The meeting explored collaborative efforts to monitor and report the progress of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and support the future implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.





#### **Virtual Launch of the 18th Caribbean Week of Agriculture**

On June 14, the 18th Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) was launched on a virtual event. To be held from October 7 to 11 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines under the theme 'Climate Smart Agriculture for a Sustainable Future', this event will foster dialogue and action towards sustainable agricultural development, focusing on climate-smart agriculture as a key area for ensuring food security in the region. The event will include workshops, trade exhibitions, and field visits. Mr. [Joseph Cox](#), CARICOM Assistant Secretary-General, highlighted the importance of innovation and resilience in transforming the agricultural sector, while Dr. [Armstrong Alexis](#), Deputy Secretary-General, underscored the need for collaboration and investment to ensure food security and economic growth.



## Chemicals and Waste Highlights

### Stakeholders Meeting for Sustainable Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM)

Held on Batangas, Philippines, from June 3 – 5, 2024, the [PlanetGOLD Global Forum](#) gathered global leaders to discuss ASGM and the Minamata Convention's role in shaping national action plans. In her [opening remarks](#), Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury emphasized the need for collaborative strategies for sustainable mining and outlined future pathways towards a greener and safer ASGM sector. In addition, the Minamata Convention conducted a [Mercury Trade Workshop](#), which highlighted efforts to regulate mercury use and promote safer mining practices.



# planetGOLD Global Forum on ASGM

### Advancing Global Waste Management: Insights from the Basel Convention Meetings

The Basel Convention's recent gatherings, including the [14th Open-ended Working Group](#) (OEWG-14) and the [16th Implementation and Compliance Committee](#) (ICC) meeting, have underscored the international community's commitment to improving waste management practices. Key discussions focused on enhancing compliance mechanisms, promoting environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, and fostering global cooperation. For more information, the recordings from the [online briefings](#) on OEWG-14 and the presentations from some of the [side events](#) are available on the Convention's website





### **Online Briefings on the Second Meeting of the Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee**

With the goal to inform Parties, observers and other stakeholders on the outcomes of the Second Meeting of the Rotterdam Convention's Compliance Committee (RCCC-2), the secretariat facilitated two [online briefings](#) on June 11 and 13. The Compliance Committee meeting took place back in March 2024 at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. In total, eight decisions related to a specific submission and to systemic issues of general compliance were adopted.

## **Partnerships**

### **Strengthening Climate Collaboration Across Oceans**

Two ACP MEAs partners (SPREP and CARICOM) are strengthening their collaboration on climate change through their climate change centres. The Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC), hosted at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) are enhancing their South-South learning and collaboration efforts to address climate change challenges in their regions. This partnership aims to leverage shared knowledge and experiences, promoting innovative solutions and resilience across these vulnerable regions. More details on this partnership can be found on this [article from SPREP](#).





### **Strengthening Regional Collaboration: Joint Regional Centers Meeting 2024**

The 2024 [Annual Joint Meeting](#) of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centres took place from June 21 – 22 in Geneva, Switzerland. This meeting highlighted the importance of technical assistance and regional cooperation in managing hazardous chemicals and waste. Bringing together experts and stakeholders, the meeting focused on enhancing the capacity of regional centers to support implementation and compliance efforts.

### **Innovations in Environmental Governance: 14th InforMEA Steering Committee Meeting**

The [14th InforMEA Steering Committee meeting](#) was held in Monteux, Switzerland on 11-13 June 2024. It was attended by the Executive Heads of several Biodiversity and Chemicals and Waste MEAs, Knowledge Management officers and key partners. Participants discussed technological innovations for environmental protection including technical and semantic interoperability, Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications, joint efforts on online learning and capacity building, new governance mechanisms as well as outreach and partnerships.

In addition, the Steering Committee Meeting participants reviewed the work anticipated in the 4th project phase and decided on recommendations and outcomes to guide the work over the next year. More details on the deliberations of this meeting can be found [here](#)



## **Relevant Events in July**

**JULY 2:** [UNGA Preparatory Meeting for the Third UN Ocean Conference](#), **New York City, United States**

**JUNE 3:** [Global Stakeholder Dialogue on the Global Framework on Chemicals Implementation Programmes](#), **Virtual**

**JULY 5:** [International Day of South-South Cooperation 2024](#), **Worldwide**

**JULY 5:** [Seventh Local and Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda](#), **New York City,**

United States

**JULY 8:** [SDGs in Practice Opening Segment, New York City, United States](#)

**JULY 8–18:** [World Population Day 2024, Worldwide](#)

**JULY 11:** [International Day of South-South Cooperation 2024, Worldwide](#)

**JULY 8–18:** [36th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries \(COFI 36\), Rome, Italy](#)

**JULY 15 - 2 AUG:** [High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\) 2024, New York City, United States](#)

**JULY 15 - 19:** [29th Session of the International Seabed Authority Assembly and Council \(Part II\), Kingston, Jamaica](#)

**JULY 15 - 18:** [33rd meeting of the Animals Committee, Geneva, Switzerland](#)

**JULY 15 - 2 AUG:** [International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific 2024 Yokohama, Japan](#)

**JULY 16 :** [ECOSOC High-level Segment 2024, New York City, United States](#)

**JULY 16:** [Bridging the Ambition Gap for the Future We Want Through Climate and SDGs Synergy, New York City, United States](#)

**JULY 16:** [Parliamentary Forum at the 2024 HLPF New York City, United States](#)

**JULY 21 - 26:** [29th Session of the International Seabed Authority Assembly and Council \(Part II\) Kingston, Jamaica](#)

**JULY 21-26:** [16th meeting of the International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant \(ICMGP\) Cape Town, South Africa](#)

**JULY 23:** [27th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry \(COFO 27\) Rome, Italy](#)



**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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