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Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to
the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas
and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region

Roatán, Honduras, 3 June 2019

**Action Document for Capacity Building Related to Multilateral
Environmental Agreements in ACP Countries –
Phase III (ACP MEAs 3)**

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ANNEX 7

of the Commission Decision on the financing of the Annual Action Programme 2018 Part 4 in favour of intra-ACP cooperation

Action Document for Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in ACP Countries – Phase III (ACP MEAs 3)

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in ACP Countries – Phase III (ACP MEAs 3) CRIS number: ACP/2018/041-208 financed under the 11 th European Development Fund (EDF)
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	All African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries with global, regional and country level interventions. The action shall be carried out at the following location: all ACP countries.
3. Programming document	Intra-ACP Cooperation – 11 th European Development Fund – Strategy Paper and Indicative Programme 2014-2020
4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	The action will contribute in particular to: SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), but also SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), as well as SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships to achieve the Goal).
5. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Sector "Climate change, resilience building and the environment" Sub-sector "Environment" Objective 2.4 "Contribute to the mainstreaming and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements"
6. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 26 700 000 Total amount of EDF contribution: EUR 25 000 000 - Component 1 (UNEP) for an amount of EUR 6 200 000 - Component 2 (UNEP) for amount of EUR 9 200 000 - Component 3 (FAO) for an amount of EUR 9 000 000 This action is co-financed as followed:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Component 1 & 2 (UNEP) for an amount of EUR 850 000 - Component 3 (FAO) for an amount of EUR 850 000
7. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	<p>Project Modality with:</p> <p><u>Component/ Objective 2</u> – Better management of coasts and oceans and effective implementation of the related regional seas conventions: Indirect management with the UNEP</p>
b) main delivery channel	<p>Component 1 & 2: UN Environment (41116)</p> <p>Component 3: Food and Agriculture Organisation (47080)</p>
9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	<p>EU Biodiversity for Life Flagship initiative</p> <p>The EU Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) flagship initiative</p> <p>The Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme</p>

SUMMARY

The capacity building programme related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries results from a partnership between the European Commission, the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. The aim of this programme is to empower key stakeholders to address environmental challenges and to reap the benefits of improved environmental management at the national and regional levels.

Through capacity building activities during the first two phases of the programme, regional intergovernmental organisations, governments and stakeholders have been equipped with the appropriate knowledge and tools to: participate in international negotiations (i.e. Conventions of Parties); mainstream MEAs commitments into national policies; develop environmental legislations and management tools that serve the implementation of MEAs commitments; and ensure monitoring and reporting of the implementation of MEAs and on the impact of these efforts on the environment in their respective territories.

Throughout the first two phases of the programme, environmental management issues were mainstreamed into institutions and national development plans of many ACP countries. The Programme has enhanced the capacity of the agricultural sector to effectively implement the relevant Conventions on biodiversity and chemical and waste management. The need to continue this effort has been strongly expressed by evaluators as well as by all the partners involved in the programme.

The purpose of this third phase of the ACP MEAs programme is to enhance the mainstreaming and implementation of MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste, with a focus on the mainstreaming of biodiversity in agriculture, the management of chemicals and waste (including hazardous pesticides), the reinforcement of compliance and enforcement measures and the strengthening of the implementation of regional seas conventions in ACP countries.

The aim will be to ensure that environmental treaties, priorities, decisions, tools and best practices are shared, promoted and effectively transformed into effective actions on the ground. This will be done specifically by confirming the main needs and priorities of the countries and supporting and strengthening the main institutions involved and enhancing the relevant technical capacities of relevant stakeholders. This programme will assist countries that are Parties to MEAs to support decision-making, develop appropriate policies and legislations, as well as monitoring tools, where needed. The programme will also aim to mobilise non-Party countries to join existing treaties and begin the implementation process.

The third phase of the ACP MEAs programme will deepen the work that has been done by regional institutions and accompany them further in providing the adequate tools and knowledge to countries. It will also address ocean governance by supporting the implementation of Regional Seas conventions, which are MEAs. Ocean governance requires cross-border cooperation, notably for biodiversity and waste and chemicals management: The Regional Seas conventions are an example of sub-regional agreements aimed at bringing countries together in tackling issues of common interest.

1 CONTEXT ANALYSIS

1.1 Context Description

The **environmental crisis** is accelerating. According to a recent call¹ from 550 leading experts, from over 100 countries, biodiversity continues to decline in every region of the world. This endangers economies, livelihoods, food security and the quality of life of people everywhere. Projections for human population growth, combined with evolving consumption and production patterns, indicate that the environmental crisis will worsen considerably under a "business as usual" scenario. Urgent action is needed to halt or reverse the unsustainable use of natural resources.

Despite their importance, **oceans** are facing unprecedented threats as a result of human activity. Every year, an estimated 8 million tons of plastic waste end up in the world's oceans. At the same time, climate change is damaging coral reefs and other key marine ecosystems; overfishing is threatening the stability of fish stocks; nutrient pollution is contributing to the creation of dead zones; and nearly 80% of the world's wastewater is discharged without treatment. It is important to engage with partners to address these issues. The success of policies for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity will depend in part on utilising technology to access ocean life, to analyse it, and to implement measures for its conservation and sustainable use.

The African, Caribbean and Pacific states are facing significant challenges in developing national environmental governance frameworks that respond effectively to the environmental threats they face. The implementation of global environmental goals and frameworks, especially Multilateral Environmental Agreements (**MEAs**) – remains an important mission and a challenge, as it requires significant and specific knowledge, tools and institutional capacities. This is particularly relevant for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that have specific profiles and geographical landscapes. The sustainability of agriculture policies and practices is a challenge as well.

The capacity building programme related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in ACP countries aims at supporting and strengthening institutions and stakeholders to mainstream and implement MEAs². The third phase of the programme is designed to consolidate achievements of previous phases and focuses on the effective implementation, enforcement, monitoring, and reporting of MEAs and related commitments in the chemicals and waste and biodiversity clusters. Furthermore, a new component has been added to cover the Regional Seas Conventions in order to tackle pollution and strengthen protected areas and Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

The Regional Seas will be responsible for Component 2 of the Project:

Component/ Objective 2 – Better management of coasts and oceans and effective implementation of the related regional seas conventions;

The programme is expected to contribute to the achievement of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

¹ Assessment report of 23 March published by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

² It covers many Conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), on Migratory Species (CMS), on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), on wetlands (RAMSAR) the convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and for chemicals and waste, the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions (BRS) on the management of chemicals and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

² COM(2016) 740 final of 22.11.2016, adopted by the Council of the EU on 19 May 2017

1.2 Policy Framework (Global, EU)

The **Lisbon Treaty** established that one of the key objectives of EU environmental policy is to promote measures at the international level to address regional or worldwide environmental problems. Accordingly, the EU takes an active part in the elaboration, ratification and implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and supports developing countries to join and implement these MEAs. The **Intra-ACP Strategy Paper and Indicative Programme 2014-2020** includes the objective to increase capacity in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to participate effectively in the MEAs (objective 2.4).

The EU has played a decisive role throughout the process leading to the **United Nations 2030 Agenda**³, and is committed to its implementation within the EU and in partner countries. The new European Consensus on Development "our world, our dignity our future"⁴ highlights the need to enhance the integration of environmental considerations –as one of the three dimensions of sustainable development- across all sectors and to address the interlinkages between agriculture, nutrition and environment. This action contributes to the Planet component of the **Consensus**, but also to the People, Prosperity and Peace components. It will also support the synergetic implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Targets. It is also in line with the EU initiative on **Ocean Governance**⁵ which aims at improving the international ocean governance framework.

This programme will contribute to mobilising partners, ahead of the upcoming 15th Conference of the Parties (**COP 15**) of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2020, for the adoption of an ambitious global strategic framework on biodiversity for after 2020.

This action will contribute primarily to SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land) but also to SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 13 (Climate Action). Furthermore, SDGs 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships to achieve the Goal) are also covered as the actions will promote the rule of law at both the national and international level, increased participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance and partnerships for sustainable development.

1.3 Stakeholder analysis

The stakeholders involved in the project are the host institutions, sub-regional organisations, national government institutions and civil society organisations, including the private sector, that are involved in the negotiation and implementation of MEAs.

For this third phase, the main beneficiaries of this action will be officials and stakeholders at the national level, who will receive support to implement the MEAs and achieve more environmental sustainability in the agriculture sector. The following stakeholders are crucial for the success of the project and their involvement is key as well as the good coordination between them:

- The four wide-reaching intergovernmental organisations in the ACP region: the African Union Commission (AUC) and its Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) have been in the

³ Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, United Nations, 2015

⁴ OJ C 210 of 30.6.2017

⁵ Joint Communication of the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 10 November 2016 on "International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans" (JOIN(2016)0049).

midst of capacity building efforts undertaken through the ACP MEAs Programme in the past few years. Their capacities vary, as well as their mandates, but they are the best-placed institutions to drive change at the regional level. Great efforts should be made to work in a collaborative manner with the ACP states.

- National authorities: government officials across various ministries and enforcement authorities- each with different levels of engagement and needs.

The Secretariats of MEAs and Regional Sea Conventions which are in charge of steering the negotiation and implementation, developing guidelines and tools to support the elaboration of national policies and the monitoring, as well as the provision of technical assistance and capacity building for implementation of the MEAs (e.g. technical assistance programme of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; as well as technical assistance activities of the Minamata Convention).

- Relevant regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions as well as the regional offices of UNEP and FAO.
- Civil Society actors and, when relevant, the private sector and the media are key in leading to a change of behaviours and practices.
- Farmers' organisations are central to the promotion of more sustainable agricultural practices.

During the Inception Phase, this will be further detailed based on bottom-up needs assessments. Focus countries will be identified in consultation with EU delegations and the Commission, to maximise coherence and synergies with geographic programmes at national and regional levels.

For Component/objective 2: the priority is to support ACP countries in better managing their coastal areas and oceans; carrying out measures for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity; and effectively implementing the related regional seas conventions⁶. In order to substantially reduce marine litter levels, it will be essential to develop appropriate programmes and measures to stop waste from entering the marine environment, both from sea-based and land-based sources.

agricultural practices that contribute to the synergetic implementation of the conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification.

The programme will also consolidate the progress made in the previous phase in assisting countries in mitigating environmental and social risks associated with the use of pesticides by restricting and better regulating the use of highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture and promoting low-risk alternatives.

The programme will contribute to the preparations of the 15th Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP by mobilising actors for ambitious commitments.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

2.1 Objectives/results specific to Regional Seas

This programme is relevant for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG Goal(s) 15, but also promotes

⁶ Regional Seas Convention Cluster to focus on the Nairobi Convention (Western Indian Ocean), Abidjan Convention (West and central Africa, until Namibia), Cartagena Convention (Wider Caribbean), Noumea Convention (Pacific) and on related MEAs like the UN Framework

progress towards Goal(s) 14, 12 and 16. This does not imply a commitment by the ACP countries benefiting from this programme.

The **primary objective** of the programme is to promote environmental sustainability in ACP countries by strengthening environmental governance and the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

Specific Objective 2 – SO2: Improved ACP countries capacities for the management of coasts and oceans in line with the related regional seas conventions.

Expected output 2.1: Strengthened Governance Frameworks for Regional Seas Conventions and associated protocols

Under this component, it is expected that the existing mechanisms for the four regional seas conventions will be reinforced.

Main **activities** for each of the four Regional Seas conventions include:

- development of a Regional Seas strategy for the implementation of Ocean-related SDGs based on the guidelines prepared by UN Environment⁷; development of its own regional follow-up and review for relevant SDG targets, based on guidelines being developed through a joint UN Environment/European Commission project (GPGC Ocean SDG project);
- fully developed dialogues between the concerned Regional Seas programmes and relevant regional fisheries bodies based on the shared lessons learnt on the cross-sectoral cooperation from the ACP and the other regions; pilot national level policy dialogues among relevant ministries and departments for the development and agreement on integrated national Ocean policies;
- development of partnerships between the relevant daughter agreements of the Convention on Migratory Species and the four regional seas conventions;
- Capacity development in relation to marine genetic resources, environmental impact assessments, development of area-based management tools, including marine protected areas.

Expected output 2.2: Regionally representative networks of Marine Protected Areas developed

The expected result of this component is to develop regionally representative networks of Marine Protected Areas and other area-based conservation measures, including areas beyond national jurisdiction. The indicator used for this expected result is the Actual Area Covered by the Marine Protected Areas with proper management capacities created under this project.

The main **activities** include:

- development of scientifically sound guidelines for analysis of connectivity and representability of marine protected areas;
- identification of possible candidate areas for protection for regional networks;
- activities to support management capacity of the marine protected areas and other area-based management measures.

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http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/20866/RS_SDG_outlook_covered.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Expected output 2.3: Measures for reducing the influx of waste (plastics and other forms of human and industrial liquid and solid waste) entering the marine environment in the four regions developed

The expected result of this component is to reduce the generation of waste (plastics and other forms of human and industrial liquid and solid waste) at the identified major sources in each of the four regions. At the onset of the project, source-based hot spots and baseline waste generation will be established, and over the project duration, waste generation at these sources will be monitored.

The main **activities** related to this output are:

- application of market-based economic and financial instruments (such as private sector financing) and policy interventions (such as single-use plastic regulation); and
- development of six feasibility studies for a Plastics Management Strategy for SIDS and countries with islands in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific Countries as well as the initial implementation the strategy.

2.2 Intervention logic

The programme is built on the results of the evaluation, lessons learnt and needs assessment of the ACP MEAs 2 programme. The activities will be further detailed during contract negotiations and later inception phases.

The three components of the programme are interlinked and will favour an integrated and synergistic approach for national implementation of relevant MEAs' and other multilateral initiatives.

The intervention logic is to act at different levels: global, regional and national but with the main objective to achieve change at the local level. Tools developed at regional level will be used at national level. National mobilisation will impact regional and global engagement as well.

There will be no "one size fits all" approach but rather, interventions that are designed to effectively support partner countries specifically and drive change within the unique conditions of the country. For example, instead of organising one shot trainings, the idea will be to engage with partner governments on a process and to accompany change through the provision of concrete support.

There will be also a close link with the international agenda and a collective effort engaged toward the 15th COP of the CBD.

3 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the Secretariat of the ACP Group of States.

3.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative longest operational implementation period of the components of this action, during which the activities described in section 4 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **60 months** from the date of entry into force of the Financing Agreement.

5.3.1 Indirect management with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): Components 1 and 2

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the United Nations Environment Programme. This implementation entails the management of Components 1 and 2, as described in section 4 and contributing to the achievement of Specific Objectives 1 and 2 respectively. The envisaged entity has been selected based on the following criteria. First, the focus of the assistance on Multilateral Environmental Agreements: UNEP is the leading global environmental authority with recognised expertise and legitimacy. It is also providing the Secretariat to several MEAs (8) and is acting as their financial trustee. Other elements include the generally good experience of working with this organisation in the previous phases ACP MEAs 1 and 2, and the value of ensuring continuity and building on the established partnerships in this programme. The entrusted entity would carry out budget-implementation tasks such as grant agreements with partner institutions.

3.3 Indicative budget for the LBS and SPAW Protocols from CEP

Key components of ACP MEAs 3	EDF contribution (in EUR)	Total budget (in EUR)
Component 2 - Indirect management with UNEP	2 million	2 million
Total	2,000,000	2,000,000

3.4 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

Two international organisations will implement this action: FAO and UNEP.

The programme is organised around a governance structure and rules of procedure established by the Commission and UNEP/FAO, with due consideration of the provisions of the EU-UN Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA, as revised in May 2014). It is piloted by a Programme Steering Committee (PSC) co-chaired between the European Commission and the ACP Secretariat and meets on an annual basis. Representatives from the various regions will participate and representatives of MEA Secretariats will be invited.

UNEP Law Division will be the overall facilitator and coordinator of the action and will oversee mobilising political support and buy in from the regions and countries. It will work in close cooperation with the main stakeholders (see 1.4). UNEP will ensure the effective and synergistic implementation of all components of the action and organise the Steering Committee Meetings of the programme. UNEP will primarily be responsible for implementing the activities foreseen under component 1 and 2.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX SPECIFIC FOR REGIONAL SEAS

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action without an amendment to the financing decision. The indicative logframe matrix will be refined and updated during the inception phase and will further evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of results as measured by indicators.

	Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	<p>To promote environmental sustainability in ACP countries by strengthening environmental governance and the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halting the loss of biodiversity • Greener growth and more circular economies • Increased protection from hazardous substances for human health and the environment • More transparent and efficient management of natural resources 	<p>Progress in the implementation of relevant SDGs jointly selected by the Commission and UNEP / FAO.</p> <p>It is still to be determined which goals and targets will be monitored in the area of human health and chemicals; sustainable consumption and production; the marine environment; biodiversity; knowledge development and transfer, and the creation of partnerships</p>	<p>To be determined in 2019 based on an exercise of mapping of SDGs currently undertaken by UNEP</p>	<p>To be determined in 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN Reports on sustainable development, including in the framework of the High Level Political Forum - UNEP annual report Year Book - MEAs COP/MOPs decisions and reports - FAO reports to COAG (committee on agriculture), COFI (committee on fishery) and COFO (committee on forestry) 	<p>Developing countries translate policies and laws into practice</p> <p>No major crisis affects global efforts towards sustainable development</p>

	SO2: Improved ACP countries' capacities for the management of coasts and oceans in line with the related regional seas conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of ACP countries that are actively engaged in better managing coasts and oceans - Number of protected area created 	- Today, ACP countries still have major constraints in managing their coasts and associated ecosystems	At least 20 new activities are conducted to support the management of coastal areas;	- Regional Seas' Conventions reporting; Programme monitoring/annual reporting to their conferences of parties	- Parties to Regional seas conventions improve their efficiency in addressing biodiversity degradation and ocean pollution
	<p>EO 2.1: Strengthened Governance Frameworks for Regional Seas Conventions and associated protocols</p> <p>EO 2.2: Regionally representative networks of Marine Protected Areas developed</p> <p>EO 2.3: Measures for reducing the influx of waste (plastics and other forms of human and industrial liquid and solid waste) entering the marine environment in the four regions developed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - four Regional Seas strategy for the implementation and follow-up review of Ocean-related SDGs - Number of regional cooperation dialogues - Number of new marine protected areas to be included in the regional networks and with management capacity. Tonnage of plastic waste in major sources of marine litter 	<p>0 (in Caribbean, Convention revised strategy is under development)</p> <p>4 cooperation dialogue</p> <p>0</p> <p>At the onset of the project, source-based hot spots and baseline waste generation will be established, and over the project duration, waste generation at these sources will be monitored</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10</p> <p>4</p> <p>Target: 100 tons in each of the four regions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MEAs COP/MOPs decisions and reports - Programme monitoring/ annual reporting - Reports from workshops or events COP or inter-governmental approval of the strategies Reports to the conference of the parties or actual cooperation agreements 	<p>ACP countries participate actively in setting up the new stockpile inventories</p> <p>Relevant stakeholders will request support and attend the activities</p>