

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: 27 May 2023

VENUE: ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE OF AFRICA, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC ON BIO DIVERSITY

WHAT: The African Union Commission through its Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE) will organize the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific High Level Conference on the implementation of the Outcomes of the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nineteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP19) to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

WHEN: The conference will be held in two segments:
➤ Experts and Senior Officials meeting: **30 May – 01 June 2023**
➤ High-Level Ministerial Segment : **2nd June 2023**

WHERE: African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Live stream: <https://livestream.com/accounts/2466140/events/10870521>

WHO: The Conference is organized by the African Union Commission.

Media opportunities:

The event will be open for media. The official programme includes:

- Opening statements by: H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission (AUC); H.E. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Secretary General of Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS); H.E Minister of Environment and Biodiversity of Comoros; H.E Minister of Environment, Senegal.
- Group photo

Objectives of the conference include:

- To review the outcomes of CITES CoP19, CBD CoP15 and Ocean Treaty and identify cross-cutting strategic issues;
- To identify priority actions that need follow-up from Member States in terms of potential gaps and problems in implementation;
- To identify support needed for effective implementation of the action plan

- To develop an action plan that can support and drive the effective implementation of the key commitments and decisions made.
- To ensure alignment, synergies and complementarity in financing, developing and implementing of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as the national instruments to implement the Global Biodiversity framework (GBF).

Participants:

The conference will bring together, among others, the Secretariats of CBD, CITES, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Global Environment Facility (GEF), TRAFFIC, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, Convention on Migratory Species and the World Wildlife Fund.

Background:

The last quarter of 2022 was marked by an intense period of international engagement on environment and climate action, with critical negotiations, and the convening of meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COPs) to multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP19), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 27), United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP14) and most recently in March 2023, the adoption of the Ocean Treaty after a decade of negotiations. The Africa Union Commission (AUC) played a significant role by coordinating and supporting African Union Member States in their preparation for and participation in many of these meetings. These meetings delivered outcomes that will have significant impact on the conservation agenda of the AU Member States in the years to come.

The programme is available on: <https://au.int/en/newsevents/20230530/africa-caribbean-and-pacific-conference-implementation-outcomes-cbd-cop15-and>

For Media inquiry:

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