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# BIODIVERSITY AND THE GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY:

IUCN's Proposal for a Specific Article on *Biodiversity* Aspects in the Future Treaty

26 MARCH 2024 | 13:00 – 14:30 CET | IEH I, ROOM 3 & ONLINE (WEBEX)



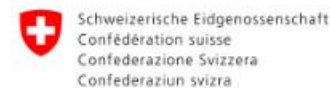
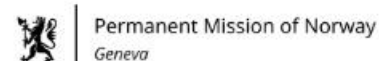


# GENEVA

# BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION

# DIALOGUES

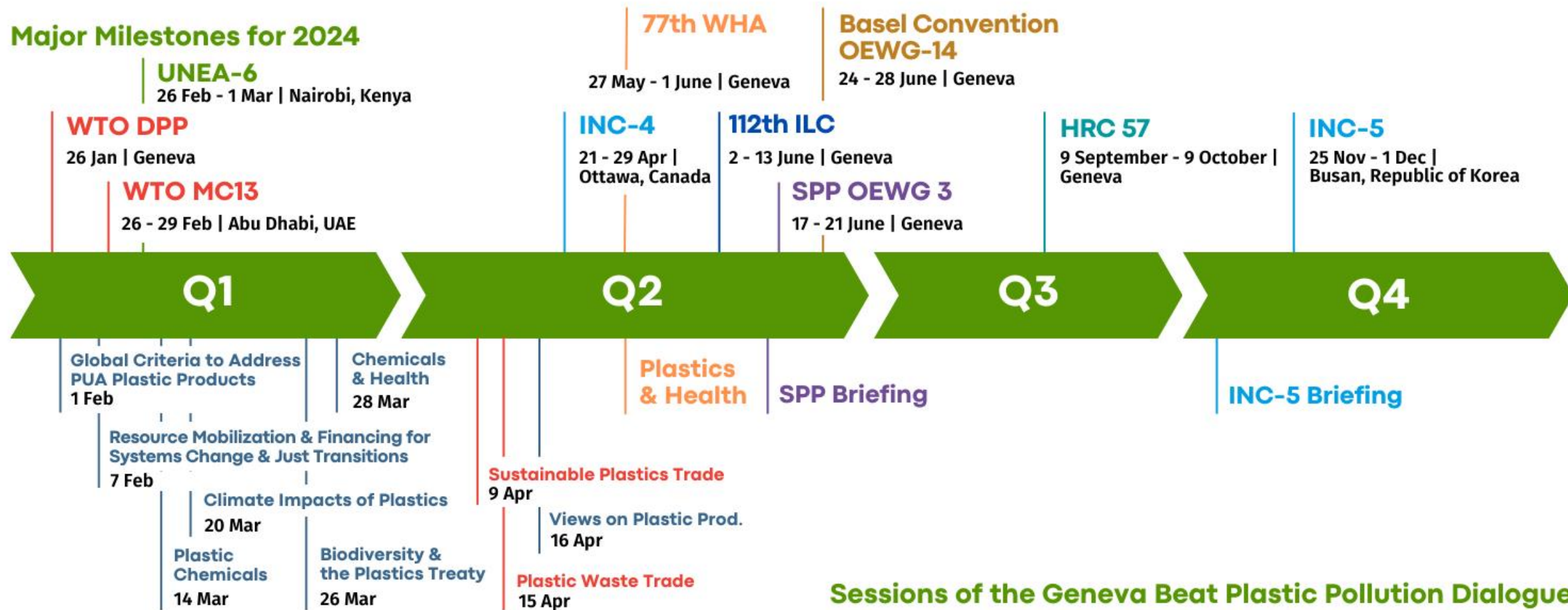
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# GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES

## Major Milestones for 2024



## Sessions of the Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues



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# BIODIVERSITY AND THE GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY: IUCN's Proposal for a Specific Article on *Biodiversity Aspects* in the Future Treaty

## SPEAKERS

By order of intervention.



**Bernardo ROCA-REY**



Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva



**H.E. Amb. Giovanna VALVERDE STARK**



Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to UN agencies, UNEP and UN Habitat in Kenya



**Catherine WELLER**



Director, Global Policy, Fauna & Flora



**Musonda MUMBA**



Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands



**Karine SIEGWART**



Senior Policy Advisor, IUCN | Chair



**Benchamaporn WATTANATONGCHAI**



Environmental, Senior Professional Level, Biodiversity Management Division, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Thailand



**Catrin NORRIS**



Programme Officer, Marine Plastics, Fauna & Flora



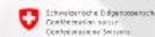
**Alexandra HARRINGTON**



Chair, Plastic Pollution Task Force, IUCN WCEL



**Niklaus WAGNER**



Senior Policy Advisor, International Affairs Division, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland



**Tallash KANTAI**



Digital Editor/Writer, IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin



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GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES



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## Bernardo ROCA-REY



Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva

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A COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY





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# BIODIVERSITY AND THE GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY: IUCN's Proposal for a Specific Article on *Biodiversity Aspects* in the Future Treaty



**Karine SIEGWART**

Senior Policy Advisor, IUCN | Chair



Photo by IISD/ENB | Anastasia Rodopoulou





# **Introduction to IUCN's Proposal on a Biodiversity Article in the future Global Plastics Treaty**

Dr Karine Siegwart

Senior Policy Advisor

International Policy Centre

IUCN



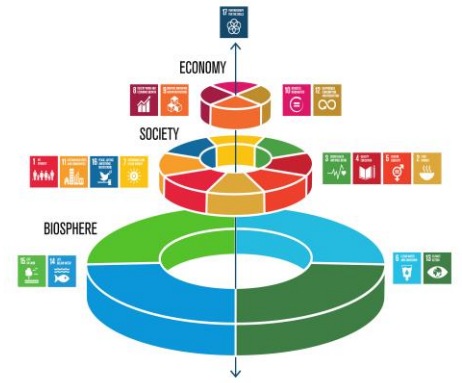
# Triple Planetary Crisis...

... **and Plastics:** Plastic pollution is a key driver of biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems (IPBES, IRP).

Most of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are affected by plastic pollution in some manner. All SDGs, especially in LDCs, SIDS, cannot be achieved if plastic pollution is not addressed.

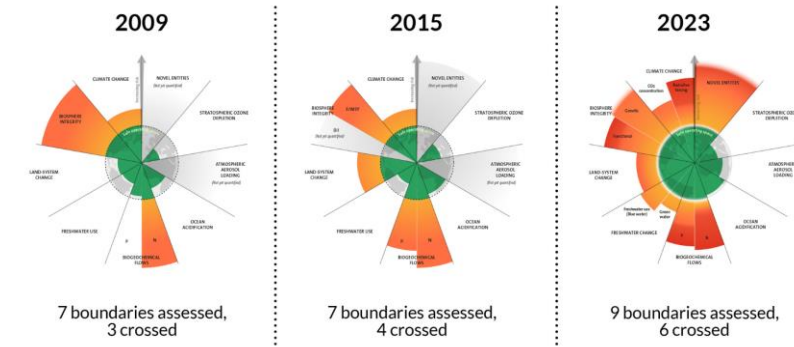
With the adoption of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**, Biodiversity has come to play a prominent role in international law and policy, including in multilateral environmental agreements as well as in other areas such as trade.

A focus on the connections between plastic pollution, biodiversity loss, and the degradation of ecosystems at the global, regional and national levels is important when directing efforts toward effective solutions to the triple planetary crisis.



Source: Stockholm Resilience Centre.

## Planetary boundaries



Source: Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University. Based on Richardson et al. 2023, Steffen et al. 2015, and Rockström et al. 2009.





# IUCN Resolutions and Projects on Plastics

Two **IUCN Resolutions** from the Marseille World Conservation Congress, adopted in 2021 regarding plastic pollution, require action from IUCN and Members, namely:

- [019](#) - Stopping the global plastic pollution crisis in marine environments by 2030
- [069](#) - Eliminate plastic pollution in protected areas, with priority action on single-use plastic products

... and IUCN's **plastics project experience**, as e.g.:

- IUCN and GRID-Arendal partner in a NORAD project: "[AFRIPAC: Effective plastic treaty capacity building: Africa and African SIDS](#)". This project aims to empower five African nations' negotiating skills for a strong Global Treaty on plastic pollution.
- End Plastic Pollution International Collaborative ([EPPIC](#)) Project, a new Public Private Partnership, hosted by IUCN with partners, the Aspen Institute (USA), The Ocean Foundation (USA), and Searious Business (NL), with initial seed funding from the U.S. Department of State, seeks to galvanize global action on plastic pollution by supporting projects around the world to make the full lifecycle of plastic more sustainable, starting with efforts to change the design and use of plastic products.
- Co-developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and IUCN, the [National Guidance on Plastic Pollution Hotspotting and Shaping Action](#) contributes to filling gaps in knowledge.
- The [Blueprint to zero plastic waste](#), developed by IUCN, with Searious Business is a complete Do-It-Yourself guide to reducing plastic waste on any island anywhere in the world.

... **underline the strong connections of plastics production and use with nature conservation and biodiversity, and people.**



# Alignment with Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

- New instruments and international undertakings, such as the **High Seas Treaty**, the **Global Chemicals Framework**, and the work of the **World Trade Organization Plastic Pollution Dialogue** demonstrate the steady increase in recognition of the linkages between plastic pollution and biodiversity loss as well as the GBF.
- The **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)** at its sixth session, in February 2024, stressed the need to address the interlinkages between all forms of pollution, including plastic pollution, and the 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
- The **three Rio Conventions** – the Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) - **will have their Conference of the Parties (COP) from October to December 2024.**

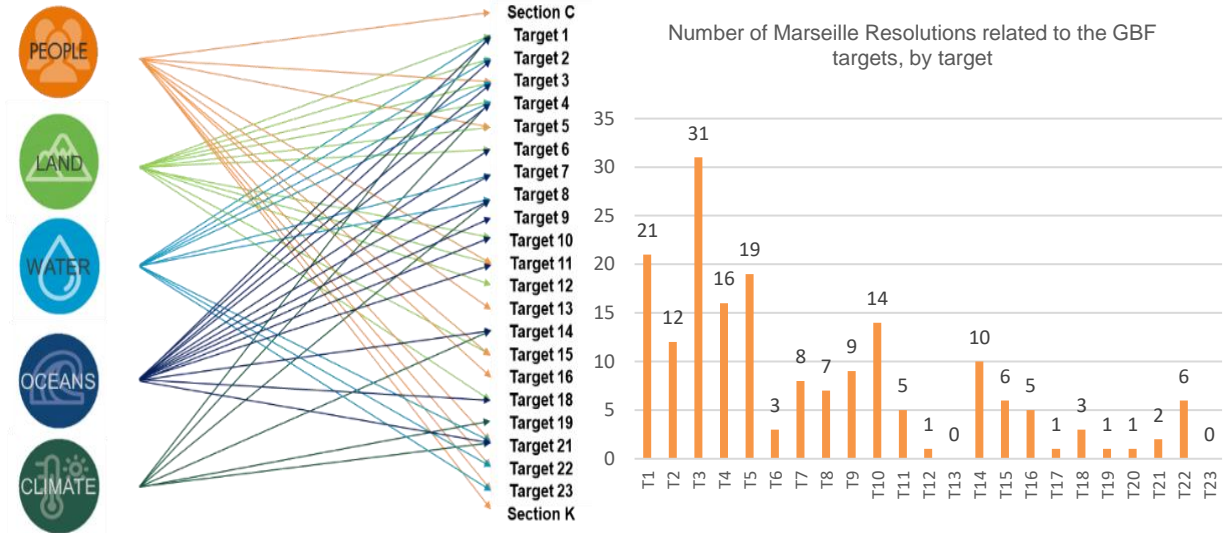


Figure: left: linkages between IUCN Nature 2030 and the GBF targets; right: number of Resolutions related to the GBF targets. Source: IUCN

This context presents an enormous opportunity for INC and the Global Plastics Treaty Negotiations to demonstrate **coherence, commitment and contributions to achieving the SDG and the GBF**, but also the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other global goals.







## Why is a dedicated article on biodiversity in a future Global Plastics Treaty important?

- Facilitate the coordination of obligations under existing MEAs due to a growing trend of incorporating biodiversity into their functions and implementation.
- Ensure that the legal and scientific connections between plastic pollution, circular economy, and innovations across all phases of the plastic lifecycle and the protection of biodiversity, as well as the requirements under the GBF, are rooted in international law and in the national laws that implement the respective commitments.
- Advance the interlinkages between plastic pollution and biodiversity in the context of international trade law.



Source: Stockholm Resilience Centre

# BIODIVERSITY AND THE GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY: IUCN's Proposal for a Specific Article on *Biodiversity Aspects* in the Future Treaty



**Alexandra HARRINGTON**

Chair, Plastic Pollution Task Force, IUCN WCEL







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COMMISSION MONDIALE DE DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
COMISIÓN MUNDIAL DE DERECHO AMBIENTAL

# **IUCN Proposed Biodiversity Article for the ILBI**

Dr Alexandra R Harrington

Chair, IUCN WCEL Plastic Pollution Task Force

Email: [arharrington@gmail.com](mailto:arharrington@gmail.com)



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# IUCN Proposed Biodiversity Article for the ILBI

## *8ter* Biodiversity aspects

**1. Recognising the critical intersections between plastic pollution, circular economy solutions and innovations across all phases of the plastic lifecycle and impacts on biodiversity at the international, regional, national and local levels, Parties shall:**

- a. Promote the development and implementation of strategies and programmes to identify and protect biodiversity, particularly species, including migratory species, ecosystems, terrestrial resources, and marine resources, from the short-, medium- and long-term impacts of plastic pollution across the plastics lifecycle. These measures shall include strategies and programmes relating to the impacts of and risks posed by legacy plastics to biodiversity, particularly species, including migratory species, ecosystems, terrestrial resources, and marine resources;
- b. Promote the development and implementation of science-based educational and preventive programmes on the intersections between plastic pollution and circular economy solutions, and innovations across all phases of the plastic lifecycle and impacts on biodiversity;
- c. Facilitate the incorporation of international, regional and national laws, policies and regulations addressing biodiversity in developing and implementing laws, policies, and regulations on plastic pollution, on circular economy solutions, on innovations across all phases of the plastic lifecycle, and in implementing this instrument;





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COMISION MUNDIAL DE DERECHO AMBIENTAL

# **IUCN Proposed Biodiversity Article for the ILBI**

## ***ster Biodiversity aspects continued***

- d. Facilitate the incorporation of laws, policies, and regulations on plastic pollution, circular economy solutions and innovations across all phases of the plastic lifecycle, and implementing this instrument into laws, policies, and regulations relating to biodiversity; and
- e. Ensure that biodiversity impact and assessment are included throughout the national plan communicated pursuant to [Part IV.1] and national reports communicated pursuant to [Part IV.3].



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# **IUCN Proposed Biodiversity Article for the ILBI**

**2. The governing body, in considering biodiversity and environment issues or activities, shall:**

- a. Consult and collaborate with the governing bodies of relevant international and regional treaty regimes, including the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- b. Promote cooperation and exchange of information with the intergovernmental organisations, and other relevant stakeholders as appropriate; and
- c. Take into account the commitments of Parties under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and related policies, standards, and guidelines.



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Environmentalist, Senior Professional Level, Biodiversity Management Division, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Thailand





# BIODIVERSITY

## and the *Global Plastics Treaty*

**Dr. Benchamaporn Wattanatongchai**

Director of Biodiversity National Focal Point Section  
Biodiversity Management Division (BMD)

Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)



Biodiversity and the Global Plastics Treaty: IUCN's Proposal for a Specific Article on "Biodiversity Aspects" in the Future Treaty  
26<sup>th</sup> March 2024



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Senior Policy Advisor, International Affairs Division,  
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 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



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**Catherine WELLER**

Director, Global Policy, Fauna & Flora



**Catrin NORRIS**

Programme Officer, Marine Plastics,  
Fauna & Flora





# Strengthening the rZD for biodiversity

**THE GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY**

MARCH 2024

CATHERINE WELLER & CATRIN NORRIS





- Biodiversity must not be considered an afterthought
  - Biodiversity positive language throughout
- Learn from local communities
  - Properly resourced, locally appropriate solutions
- Science-based solutions
  - Safeguard against ‘false solutions’ and negative biodiversity impacts
- Accountability & transparency
  - Ensure approach on implementation works to protect biodiversity



# Cambodia



*"As a coastal community we are on the frontline of the never-ending influx of plastic pollution. We demonstrate that we want, need and can create positive change for our communities and biodiversity"*

– Mali Sorn, community member on Koh Sdach





# Kenya



*"We depend on fish for our livelihoods and with so much plastic increasing in our ocean everyday we are worried for our children's future. As Kenyans, we can't tell our neighbours what to do unless we are doing the right thing ourselves"*

- Bulle Abud Baadi, Bahari Moja member, mother and caretaker



Phot credit: Bahari Moja, Kenya



[www.baharimoja.com](http://www.baharimoja.com)



# Nicaragua



*‘The treaty should consider ancestral cultures and sustainable traditions of communities who live in harmony with nature, without plastic, to eradicate plastic pollution in coastal areas and protect marine fauna and flora.’*

– Heydi Salazar, Programme Manager, Marine & Turtles, Fauna & Flora







In Part II, biodiversity positive language is particularly needed in:

- *5d Alternative plastics and plastic products*
- *6 Non-plastic substitutes*
- *9 Waste management*
- *11 Existing plastic pollution*



**Fauna  
& Flora**

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**Catherine Weller, Director, Global Policy**

**Catrin Norris, Programme Officer, Marine  
Plastics**

[www.fauna-flora.org/plastics-treaty](http://www.fauna-flora.org/plastics-treaty)

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[Catherine.Weller@fauna-flora.org](mailto:Catherine.Weller@fauna-flora.org)

[Catrin.Norris@fauna-flora.org](mailto:Catrin.Norris@fauna-flora.org)



# BIODIVERSITY AND THE GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY:

## IUCN's Proposal for a Specific Article on *Biodiversity Aspects* in the Future Treaty



26 MARCH 2024 | 13:00 – 14:30 CET  
IEH I & ONLINE

>>> [tiny.cc/GEN26Mar24](https://tiny.cc/GEN26Mar24)

## AGENDA

### Opening Remarks

- Bernardo ROCA-REY | Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva

### Introduction of the Proposal and Document

- Karine SIEGWART | Senior Policy Advisor, IUCN | Chair
- Alexandra HARRINGTON | Chair, Plastic Pollution Task Force, IUCN WCEL

### Perspectives on Biodiversity in the Treaty Processes

- H.E. Amb. Giovanna VALVERDE STARK | Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to UN agencies, UNEP and UN Habitat in Kenya
- Benchamaporn WATTANATONGCHAI | Environmentalist, Senior Professional Level, Biodiversity Management Division, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Thailand (video message)
- Niklaus WAGNER | Senior Policy Advisor, International Affairs Division, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland
- Catherine WELLER | Director, Global Policy, Fauna & Flora
- Catrin NORRIS | Programme Officer, Marine Plastics, Fauna & Flora
- Tallash KANTAI | Digital Editor/Writer Earth Negotiations Bulletin

### Open Discussion

### Closing Remarks

- Musonda MUMBA | Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands



# BIODIVERSITY AND THE GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY: IUCN's Proposal for a Specific Article on *Biodiversity Aspects* in the Future Treaty



**Tallash KANTAI**

Digital Editor/Writer,  
Earth Negotiations Bulletin



Photo by IISD/ENB | Angeles Estrada



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GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES



WCEL

WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW  
A DIVISION OF THE IUCN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY CENTER





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Open  
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A MEMBER OF THE IUCN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK





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5–13 November 2022

#COPactForWetlands



## Musonda MUMBA

Secretary General, Ramsar  
Convention on Wetlands



Photo by IISD/ENB | Anastasia Rodopoulou



# BIODIVERSITY AND THE GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY: IUCN's Proposal for a Specific Article on *Biodiversity Aspects* in the Future Treaty

## THANK YOU!



**Bernardo ROCA-REY**



Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva



**H.E. Amb. Giovanna VALVERDE STARK**



Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to UN agencies, UNEP and UN Habitat in Kenya



**Catherine WELLER**



Director, Global Policy, Fauna & Flora



**Musonda MUMBA**



Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands



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Programme Officer, Marine Plastics, Fauna & Flora



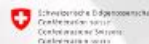
**Alexandra HARRINGTON**



Chair, Plastic Pollution Task Force, IUCN WCEL



**Niklaus WAGNER**



Senior Policy Advisor, International Affairs Division, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland



**Tallash KANTAI**



Digital Editor/Writer, IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin



# NEXT ON GENEVA **BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION** DIALOGUES



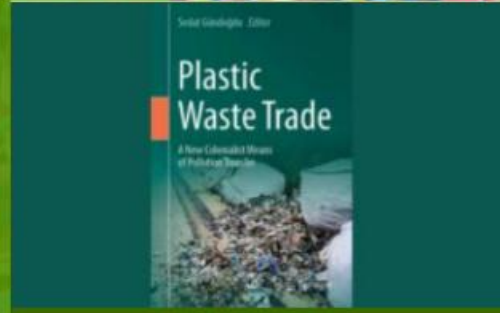
**VIRTUAL**  
**Chemicals in the Plastics Treaty: Perspectives on Protecting Human Health**  
28 MAR 2024 12:00 – 13:30  
Online | Webex  
IPEN, GEN

🕒 Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics  
🌐 SDG3 | SDG12



**VIRTUAL**  
**Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade: Call for Action**  
09 APR 2024 14:00 – 15:30  
Online | Webex  
WTO, GEN

🕒 Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics  
🌐 SDG3 | SDG12



**VIRTUAL**  
**Launch and Panel Discussion | Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer**  
15 APR 2024 15:00 – 16:30  
Online | Webex  
Basel Action Network, GEN

🕒 Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics  
🌐 SDG3 | SDG12 | SDG17



»»» [tiny.cc/GENBeatPlasticPollution](https://tiny.cc/GENBeatPlasticPollution)





ZERO  
WASTE  
DAY

BEAT  
WASTE  
POLLUTION

# The International Day of Zero Waste | Geneva Celebration

27 MARCH 2024 | 14:00 - 15:30 CET | PALAIS DES NATIONS, ROOM VIII & ONLINE

> [TINY.CC/GEN27MAR24](https://tiny.cc/gen27mar24)

With the participation of





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