GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES

www.tiny.cc/GENBeatPlasticPollution
Major Milestones for 2024

- UNEA-6
  - 26 Feb - 1 Mar | Nairobi, Kenya

- WTO DPP
  - 26 Jan | Geneva

- WTO MC13
  - 26 - 29 Feb | Abu Dhabi, UAE

- INC-4
  - 21 - 29 Apr | Ottawa, Canada

- 112th ILC
  - 2 - 13 June | Geneva

- Basel Convention OEWG-14
  - 24 - 28 June | Geneva

- SPP OEWG 3
  - 17 - 21 June | Geneva

- HRC 57
  - 9 September - 9 October | Geneva

- INC-5
  - 25 Nov - 1 Dec | Busan, Republic of Korea

Q1
- Global Criteria to Address PUA Plastic Products
  - 1 Feb
- Resource Mobilization & Financing for Systems Change & Just Transitions
  - 7 Feb
- Climate Impacts of Plastics
  - 20 Mar
- Plastic Chemicals
  - 14 Mar

Q2
- Chemicals & Health
  - 28 Mar
- Sustainable Plastics Trade
  - 9 Apr
- Biodiversity & the Plastics Treaty
  - 26 Mar
- Plastic Waste Trade
  - 15 Apr

Q3
- Plastics & Health
- SPP Briefing

Q4
- INC-5 Briefing

Sessions of the Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues
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

Karine SIEGWART
Senior Policy Advisor, IUCN | Chair

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

Catherine WELLER
Director, Global Policy, Fauna & Flora

Catrin NORRIS
Programme Officer, Marine Plastics, Fauna & Flora

Musonda MUMBA
Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

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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- Musonda MUMBA | Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
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BIODIVERSITY AND THE GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY: IUCN’s Proposal for a Specific Article on Biodiversity Aspects in the Future Treaty

Opening Remarks
BIODIVERSITY AND THE GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY:
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Bernardo ROCA-REY
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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
... 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.
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 IUCNs 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.

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.
Based on IUCN Resolutions, the IUCNs project experience and the need for GBF implementation and alignment, IUCN and IUCN WCEL propose for discussion the inclusion of a specific article on “Biodiversity aspects” in Part IV. 8ter of the RZD, following the Part IV. 8bis of the RZD, which currently addresses “Health aspects.”
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:
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Alexandra HARRINGTON
Chair, Plastic Pollution Task Force, IUCN WCEL
IUCN Proposed Biodiversity Article for the ILBI

Dr Alexandra R Harrington
Chair, IUCN WCEL Plastic Pollution Task Force
Email: arharrington@gmail.com
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;
IUCN Proposed Biodiversity Article for the ILBI

8ter 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].
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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Benchamaporn WATTANATONGCHAI

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
26th March 2024
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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
"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
"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
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
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BIODIVERSITY AND THE GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY:
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5–13 November 2022
#COPProtectForWetlands

Musonda MUMBA
Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Photo by IIID/ENB | Anastasia Rodopoulou
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Thank You!

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Tallash KANTAI
Digital Editor/Writer, IIED 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

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

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

>> tiny.cc/GENBeatPlasticPollution
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
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)