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## **UNEA 6?**

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the world's highest decision-making body on the environment. It meets every two years to set the global environmental agenda, provide overarching policy guidance and define policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges. IUCN has participated in UNEA meetings since its first session in 2012 and in the UNEP Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum before that.

Its sixth session – UNEA6 - will be convened in Nairobi at the UN Environment Programme headquarters with the theme “[effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution](#)”.

The outcomes of the meetings are expected to be a ministerial declaration, a set of resolutions on different environmental matters, and discussions on how multilateralism can help tackle the triple planetary crisis.

## ***What kinds of activities will take place in Nairobi during UNEA 6?***

Prior to UNEA, the sixth Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-6) will take place from 19 to 23 February 2024. Delegates will negotiate and deliberate the content and wording of proposed resolutions, declarations and decisions to be later approved at the Assembly.

UNEA 6 will be held from 26 February to 1 March. To reiterate the importance of joint actions and collaboration Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> will be “Multilateral Environmental Agreements Day”, where two high-level dialogues will be held on:

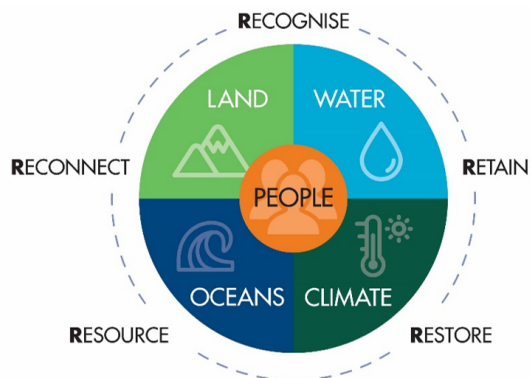
- *Strengthening the science policy interface for effective implementation of environmental commitments; and*
- *Strengthening cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs to enhance effective implementation at the national level including through means of implementation.*

The last two days of the event will be the High-Level Segment, including three leadership dialogues on Science, Data, and Digital Solutions; Finance Solutions; and on the future of environmental multilateralism.

Lastly, a wide range of side-events and the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum will take place at the margins of UNEA6.

## ***What is IUCN planning at UNEA 6?***

UNEA represents a key moment for governments, international organisations, civil society, businesses, women and youth, to gather and discuss the most pressing environmental issues. The resolutions that are brought forward shape the environmental agenda for the years to come. Below is an illustration showing how the proposed resolutions relate to the IUCN Nature 2030 Programme.



- Highly hazardous pesticides
- Combating sand and dust storms
- Strengthening international efforts to halt land degradation, restore degraded lands and increase ecosystem and communities' resilience to drought
- Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals
- Circularity of a resilient and low-carbon sugar cane agroindustry
- Effective and inclusive solutions to strengthen water policies for sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- Management of Cascades Systems
- Criteria, norms, standards and guidelines for the implementation of NbS for supporting sustainable development
- Fostering national action to address environmental challenges through increased cooperation between UNEA, UNEP, and MEAs
- Enhancing the role and viability of regional environment ministerial forums and regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges
- Promoting synergistic approaches to address the interlinked global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and support sustainable development
- Effective, Inclusive and Sustainable Multilateral Actions towards Climate Justice
- Sound management of chemicals and waste
- Environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts
- Sustainable Lifestyles
- Stepping up efforts for enhancing the circular economy transition domestically, regionally and globally
- Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth and Mother Earth Centric Actions
- Strengthening ocean and seas governance to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution
- Promoting regional cooperation to improve air quality globally
- Solar Radiation Modification (SRM)

IUCN has been following the meetings in preparation of the upcoming UNEA 6, regarding the negotiations on the ministerial declaration and on the proposed resolutions. To ensure a strategic and efficient approach to the meeting, our efforts will be focused on highlighting the [IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions](#), further discussing IUCN's inputs to the transition towards a circular economy, and on the importance of ecosystem restoration.

IUCN will also take part in several dialogues to underscore the importance of environmental multilateralism, as well as in four official side events:

- **Pathways for the consistent and high integrity application of Nature-based Solutions - the role of the IUCN Global Standard for NbS:** This side event, included in the wider NbS Hub engagement strategy for UNEA6, presents an opportunity to engage parties and non-party delegates, provide more foundational clarity about NbS integrity and how the IUCN Global standard can support the scaling up of quality NbS.
- **Ensuring that the energy transition contributes to a nature and people positive planet”:** The side event will look at opportunities and challenges associated with ensuring that the much-needed rapid transition to renewable energy also contributes to a just transition and aligns with national and global conservation, and restoration strategies.
- **Transboundary Ecosystem Restoration: Key to Addressing the Planetary Crises:** The event will provide participants with a better understanding of missions, work and practices of both the Water Convention and the Ramsar Convention, their compatibility and cooperation. It will display how transboundary ecosystem restoration supports sustainable development, livelihoods, tackling the triple planetary crisis.
- **UN Plastics Treaty: Reuse – a Climate and Plastic Solution:** The side event will focus on the consideration of plastic packaging reuse in the context of the ongoing negotiations for a legally binding instrument.

For more information and updates please consult our dedicated webpage at: <https://iucn.org/events/external-event/iucn-unea-6>