

ICENECDEV

International Centre for Environmental Education and Community Development



ICENECDEV Quarterly Newsletter January 2019 –April 2019



Group photo at the opening of the conference on Global Environment Outlook Report



Beach Clean Up West Coastline

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- **Intergovernmental Meeting on the Sixth Global Environmental Outlook Summary for Policymakers**



Lead and Contributing Authors of Sixth Global Environment Outlook Report

The Intergovernmental Meeting on the Sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) convened from 21-24 January 2019 at the UN Environment (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was attended by 251 participants from 95 countries, including 26 participants from major groups and stakeholders.

Fongoh Eric of ICENECDEV (International Centre for Environmental Education and Community) participated in the Negotiation of the summary for policy makers of the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO6) as an observer under the major group.

At this meeting, countries, experts, scientists, and development organizations negotiated and adopted the Summary for Policy Makers as mandated by the first session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEP/EA.1/Res.4 on Science Policy Interface OP 8) and adopted the revised text and forward the final summary for policy makers to the fourth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA4) for possible endorsement.

The sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6), under the theme “Healthy Planet, Healthy People”, aims to help policymakers and all of society to achieve the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals, internationally agreed environmental goals and the multilateral environmental agreements. It does so by assessing recent scientific information and data, analyzing current and past environmental policy and identifying future options to achieve sustainable development by 2050

Delegates from Member States discussed the Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) in order to reach agreement on a document that will be presented to the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4).

Member State agreed to the Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) , and requested the Assessment Report Co-Chairs to formulate and forward a summary with key messages of the SPM to UNEA-4.

ICENECDEV appreciated the support of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP),European Union and Government of Switzerland in the participation of the Negotiation of the summary for policy makers of the sixth Global Environment Outlook(GEO6).



Members State Negotiating on sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6),Report

- **Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly(UNEA4) of the United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP)**



The fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) took place from 11-15 March 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya, at the UN Offices at Nairobi (UNON), organized on the theme of “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production.” The conference attracted a record number of participants, with five Heads of State and Government, 157 ministers and deputy ministers, and almost 5,000 participants from 179 countries attending the Assembly and related events during the week. The Assembly included plenary sessions, leadership dialogues and a multi-stakeholder dialogue, and took place concurrently with many events at UNON, including the One Planet Summit convened by the presidents of France and Kenya.

Other events that took place in conjunction with UNEA-4 included the:

- Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (7-8 March);
- Science, Policy and Business Forum (9-10 March);
- Sustainable Innovation Expo (10-15 March); and
- Cities Summit (13 March).

Under the overall theme, ‘Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production,’ UNEA-4 addressed:

- environmental challenges related to poverty and natural resources management, including sustainable food systems, food security and halting biodiversity loss;
- life-cycle approaches to resource efficiency, energy, chemicals and waste management; and innovative sustainable business development at a time of rapid technological change.

- **Combating Plastic Pollution West Coast Cameroon**



Plastic collection with Local Fisher Men and Women West Coastline Cameroon

ICENECDEV with the support of SWIFT Belgium engaged in combating plastic pollution along the west coast of Cameroon through Beach Cleanup, Development of Hygiene and Sanitation infrastructure to collect plastic waste and Multi stakeholder Sensitization workshop on strategies and actions to reduce Plastic Pollution within the context of Oceans Governance.

This project contributed to the ongoing clean seas campaigns, Break Free from Plastic movement, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for Sustainable Development.

Project Outcome included:

- Sharing scientific and technical information from multilateral institutions) on Plastic Waste Pollution(with Relevant stakeholders(Including environmental Non profit organization, Companies,Businesses,local governments and academic institutions with coastal communities along the West Coast of Cameroon.
- Connecting Relevant stakeholders (Including environmental Non profit organization, Companies, Businesses, local governments and academic institutions with coastal communities along the West Coast of Cameroon.
- Suggesting to the local governments (Councils) to engage with the coastal communities in the provision of water hygiene and sanitation infrastructure (Trash cans, toilets and sound methods waste disposal), to engage in regular beach clean up, clean seas programme, community sensitization on plastic waste pollution with coastal communities.
- Suggesting to local Government in mandating hotel through the Ministry of tourism and leisure and local governments to regular implement beach clean up, clean seas programme, community sensitization on plastic waste pollution with coastal communities
- Linking Academic institutions and research Centers to engage in research on plastic waste pollution for relevant stakeholders to take action forward through consultation and integrated approach inline with legal framework.
- Coastal Communities engaged in regular beach clean up, clean seas programme, community sensitization on plastic waste pollution and provision of water hygiene and sanitation infrastructure to improving on the health of the people and marine ecosystem, ocean biodiversity.
- To increasing awareness raising of the need to reduce marine litter and the general public's awareness of the impact litter on the environment and marine ecosystem



Multistakeholder Sensitisation workshop on reduction of Plastic Pollution

- **ICENECDEV Focal points in Rwanda, Indonesia, South Korea and Nigeria.**

ICENECDEV established Focal points in the following Countries;

Nigeria

Gbazango Extension, Kubwa FCT-Abuja, Nigeria

Rwanda

Kigali , Street KK730st

South Korea

11-4 Surim-ro 71 beon-Gil Geumjeong-gu, Jangjeon-Dong 2nd floor, Room 201

(Jangjeon Hivil)

- **United Nations Secretary General Quarterly Year Report on Sustainable Mountain Development**

ICENECDEV Contributed to the United Nations Secretary General Quarterly Year Report on Sustainable Mountain Development contributing to the High Level Political Forum in July 2019 and the 74th Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly September 2019 with inputs from International Mountain Day celebration and the ICENECDEV Participation in the Technical and consultative meeting on the elaboration of Mount Cameroon National Park development Plan involving the clusters and adjacent village communities.

ICENECDEV contribution towards Advocacy and public awareness activities (International Year of Mountains, International Day of Mountains, main global events such as World Mountain Forum in Bishkek 2018)

- Building upon the existing work and approach proposed for international mountain campaign through multistakeholder collaboration and partnerships in fostering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs), ICENECDEV and relevant stakeholders including the mount Cameroon National Park supported the implementation of the international mountain day awareness raising campaigns in Cameroon between 2016 to December 2018 incorporating and local partners , with substantial information and mountain day

campaign materials produced by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, actively involved the conservation of mountains ecosystems and biodiversity

- Mountain related activities implemented by ICENECDEV and local partners included an awareness-raising workshop, Press release, Media Advocacy, mountain day -related competition for specific target groups and mountain excursion. These activities involved a broad range of multistakeholders from Academia, Central Government, Local Government, Companies, civil society organizations indigenous communities and the general public.
- ICENECDEV and partners mountain awareness raising campaigns led to the Improvement on knowledge and increase awareness on mountain resources and their link to sustainable livelihood in conservation agricultura, Forest and wildlife conservation among 200,000 in Cameroon.

- **Water Hygiene and Sanitation(WASH) in Rural Communities**

Public and community toilets are often dirty, poorly maintained and have not been designed to meet the requirements of women and girls. ICENECDEV and local partners are working to improve this situation following basic principles of universal design that ensure public and community toilets are accessible for all users, are secure and well located, include context specific menstrual health features, and are maintained for cleanliness and safety.

ICENECDEV and local partners are identifying areas that lack public and community toilets and check if existing toilets are environmentally friendly and female-friendly while also giving some practical guidance on hygiene and sanitation.

ICENECDEV provided hygiene and sanitation materials including Soaps, disinfectant and buckets to household ,disinfecting more than 100 community toilets and household and reaching more than 500 direct beneficiaries and 2500 indirect beneficiaries



Hand Washing Campaign and Toilets Disinfection

- **Implementation of the United Nations Decade for Family Farming through our Women Farmer Annual Meetings ,local , national and International Focal Points/Networks**



ICENECDEV Organized Women Farmer Annual meeting between April 22nd and 24th 2019 with the aim of contributing to the fight against hunger and poverty within the context of peace and security and promoting the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028)

ICENECDEV and local stakeholders including South West Development linked the Women Smallholder Farmers with resource persons (Extension workers and Agric Technicians) of the Government Agency for Agriculture and Rural Development ,Cameroon to assist the women farmers with advisory services with hand on training.

ICENECDEV and Partners (South West Development Authority) contributed to the following Agenda Items of the meeting.

- **United Nations Decade of Family Farming(2019 to 2018)**

ICENECDEV highlighted the importance of family farming, which raised the profile of the role of family farming, pastoralist and smallholder farming in contributing to academic research, the achievement of food security and improved nutrition.

The positive impacts of collaboration among family farmers through farmer -to -farmer cooperation as essential to the creation of environments conducive to supporting the exchange of experience and knowledge to scale up relevant, cost -effective, traditional and innovative solutions towards achieving sustainable livelihood and Sustainable Development Goals.

ICENECDEV inform the local partners on the the Global Launch of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, which will take place at FAO headquarters in Rome on Wednesday 29 May 2019, co-organized by FAO and IFAD as the Joint Secretariat of the UN Decade. The Launch will be preceded on 27 and 28 May 2019 by farmers' knowledge exchange sessions and regional dialogues on priorities for the implementation of the Decade, open to the participation of representatives of the relevant stakeholders (Governments, Civil Society Organizations, producers organizations, Academia, and the Private Sector).

- **Contribution of Women Farmers Networks to Sustainable Food Systems and One Planet Network(10 Year framework for Sustainable Production and Consumption)**



ICENECDEV advise the local stakeholders and women farmers Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFS Programme) to accelerate the shift towards more sustainable food systems, long the food value chain, from farm to market. ICENECDEV highlighted the contribution of women farmers in the promotion of sustainable diets; the reduction of food losses and waste; and strengthening resilient and diverse food production systems.

- **Contribution to Family Farming Knowledge Platform and Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition**

ICENECDEV informed the local stakeholders that one of the key challenges facing sustainable rural development is information sharing and dissemination and research findings .ICENECDEV make use of the Family Farming Knowledge Platform (FFKP Platform) to share information and experience on Agriculture and Rural Development.

ICENECDEV encouraged interested the local partners (Civil Society Organisations), such as Research Organizations, Universities, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Farmers'

Organizations, to register to become a FFKP regular contributor to have a joint statement and holistic report. It was mentioned that joining the FFKP Network, members will be given the opportunity to get international visibility for their organization/association/cooperative through the Family Farming Knowledge Platform.

ICENECDEV shared information on the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition “FSN Forum” which is an online platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on food security and nutrition facilitated by FAO’s Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA). The FSN Forum allows registered members and other stakeholders to engage in policy dialogue and knowledge sharing on food security and nutrition both globally and in targeted geographic areas.

- **E-Commerce for Women Smallholder Farmers.**

The women farmers were advised to be open to innovation and digital technology and new ways to expand market through social media platforms (Mobile phone app, Face book Page and E-commerce Platforms) with technical support from Youth entrepreneurs and start up.² Women farmers shared successful stories and challenges in using the E-commerce platforms for agribusiness.

- **Gender and Climate Smart Agriculture**

The women farmers recognized that climate change and weather pattern affect the production of local food crops (Yams and Cocoyams) and Health. The resource person from the Government Agency of Agriculture and Rural Development advised the women farmers to shift the planting season of cocoyams in the month of September and avoid weeding in the raining and Dry season in order to adapt to impact of climate change. Women Farmers requested ICENECDEV Team and agri technicians to regularly visit their farmlands to provide them with technical advice on pest and disease, sustainable land management.

- **Anti Microbial Resistance Framework (2018 to 2023).**

ICENECDEV educated the women smallholder farmers on the impact of antibiotics on livestock, crops and soils and Promoting public awareness of the harms of antimicrobial overuse and antimicrobial resistance. ICENECDEV advised the women farmer to produce food free from antimicrobial residue and antimicrobial-resistant pathogens to produce healthy food for healthy people.

- **Dissemination of the outcomes of the Research of Social and Economic Empowerment in Agricultural Entrepreneurship. A Case Study of Rural Farmers in Cameroon by Luca Castellanza.**

- The Following finding was shared among the local stakeholders and Women Farmers

Findings:

1. Women farmers in ICENECDEV are, on average, more economically empowered than women farmers in other farming groups. This can be attributed to the many donations received (wheelbarrow, spray can, clash, etc.), the trainings and the hard work.

2. Economic Empowerment of women farmers results in positive spillovers at the societal level. Empowered women may raise their status within the community, at times allowing them to cover positions within the council and take decisions with the men.

3. Women farmers in ICENECDEV are also more socially empowered than women farmers in other farming groups. This can be attributed to the group features of ICENECDEV beneficiaries (self-organizing communities, composed mostly of women) and some interventions dedicated to women rights (e.g. instructions on how to avoid upsetting the husband).

4. However, Social Empowerment is still rare among ICENECDEV beneficiaries. It is more common among women farmers who have positions of leadership within their ICENECDEV group, live closer to urban areas, happen to be widowed, are married to a non-farmer husband, or boast a high level of education.

5. Unlike Economic Empowerment, Social Empowerment is to some extent at odds with traditional logics. While a woman who works hard, raises her status, and sponsors her closed ones is well-seen within the community, a woman who speaks out, challenges the husband's authority, or takes men's tasks is likely to face negative prejudices from her peers.

6. On a policy level, Agricultural Entrepreneurship in Buea results in more Economic Empowerment than Industrial Entrepreneurship. Farmers who join a cooperative can see remarkable improvements in food security and daily working capital after only 3 months. However, business owners face more difficulties in achieving financial sustainability for themselves and their families. This can be attributed to the fertile land in Buea, the little risk involved in agriculture and the overall non-competitive business environment in the agricultural sector.

7. Nevertheless, Agricultural Entrepreneurship results in less Social Empowerment than Industrial Entrepreneurship. While farming requires hard work and limits the opportunities to connect with people or participate in quarter life, commercial activities involve more free time and social interactions. In addition, Industrial Entrepreneurship exposes women to less restrictive logics and more opportunities to speak out and take responsibilities on-the-job.

Capacity Building Youth Agriculture

ICENECDEV is building capacity of Agric Zone and Youth Groups involved in Agriculture)through advisory services, customized and tailored Trainings and provision of Agricultural publications, Magazines and Scientific Research from Technical Centre Agriculture and Rural Cooperation CTA Netherlands, Bees for Development UK and other International Partners involved in Agriculture

- **Information Dissemination on consultative status United Nations Economic and Social Councils(ECOSOC)**

Open Call for NGOs to apply for Consultative Status with the United Nations (Deadline: 1 June 2019)

NGOs interested in applying for ECOSOC consultative status should submit their application and required documents on or before the deadline 1 June 2019.

The following link provides background information, the benefits and instructions how to apply: <https://bit.ly/2ozYpVw>

- **[Upcoming International Events and Meetings 2019](#)**

18th Responsible Business Summit Europe 2019

The 18th Responsible Business Summit Europe 2019 will address six key themes: strategy, innovation and impact; climate action and investment; responsible supply chains; investor focus; measure, evidence and report; and communicate and engage.

The Summit will include a half-day Circular Economy Forum, on 10 June, as well as numerous workshops that will discuss issues such as integrating the SDGs in future business strategies, SDG reporting, and reducing, recycling and replacing plastics.

The Summit is organized by the Ethical Corporation with support from partners, including Connect4Climate, the Sustainability Consortium, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and CDP (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project).

dates: 10-12 June 2019 **location:** London, England, UK **www:**
<https://events.ethicalcorp.com/rbs/>

56th Meeting of the GEF Council

The 56th meeting of the GEF Council is tentatively scheduled to take place from 10-13 June 2019.

The Council is the GEF's main governing body. It comprises 32 Members appointed by constituencies of GEF member countries (14 from developed countries, 16 from developing countries and 2 from economies in transition). Council Members rotate every three years or until the constituency appoints a new Member. The Council meets twice annually to develop, adopt and evaluate the operational policies and programs for GEF-financed activities. It also reviews and approves the work program (projects submitted for approval), making decisions by consensus.

dates: 10-13 June 2019 **venue:** Inter-American Development Bank headquarters **location:** Washington D.C., US **www:** <https://www.thegef.org/council-meetings>

International Soil Congress 2019

The International Soil Congress on the theme, 'Successful Transformation toward Land Degradation Neutrality: Future Perspective,' will take place from 17-19 June 2019, marking the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The meeting will bring together senior scientists, academics, experts, policy makers, young researchers and students from national and international institutions to analyze the current and future trends of soil and land resources, establish new policies based on the principles of land degradation neutrality (LDN) and develop a universal message for the sustainable use of soil and land resources. The main topics will include:

- Successful transformation of agricultural sector for LDN through enhancing the soil health in the food production chain;
- Successful transformation of forest sector for LDN through preventing forest loss;
- Integrated planning approaches for sustainable use of land/soil resources;
- Unlocking the investment for LDN;
- Role of gender in LDN to achieve the SDGs; and
- Sustainable value chains for LDN.

The forum is organized by the Soil Science Society of Turkey, General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion and Konya Food and Agriculture University, under the auspices of the UNCCD and Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

dates: 17-19 June 2019 **location:** Ankara, Turkey **www:** <https://soil2019.gidatarim.edu.tr/tr>
<https://www.unccd.int/news-events/international-soil-congres...>

29th Meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS

The Meeting of the States Parties is convened in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which provides, in article 319, paragraph 2 (e), that the Secretary-General “shall convene necessary meetings of States Parties in accordance with this Convention”. Resolutions 49/28 and 52/26 requested that the Secretary-General continue “preparing for and convening the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention and providing the necessary services for such meetings, in accordance with the Convention”.

Among other things, the Meeting elects the members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (election of one-third of the member’s takes place every three years) and the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (election of all 21 members takes place every five years). It considers, annually, the report of the Tribunal, and deals with its budgetary and administrative matters. It receives information provided by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority and the Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on the activities of these bodies and also receives the Report of the Secretary-General under article 319 for the information of States Parties on issues of a general nature, relevant to States Parties, that have arisen with respect to UNCLOS.

dates: 17-19 June 2019 **venue:** UN Headquarters **location:** New York City, US **www:**
http://www.un.org/depts/los/reference_files/calendar_of_meet...

Ecosystem Services Partnership Regional Conference Africa 2019

The Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) Regional Conference Africa 2019 will convene under the theme, ‘Management of Ecosystem Services for Nature Conservation and Human Well-Being in Africa’.

The biennial conference aims to draw attention to the key role ecosystems play in the economy, human well-being and culture in Sub-Saharan Africa, and explore potential solutions to the threats they face. The conference is organized in partnership with the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment and civil society organizations.

dates: 17-20 June 2019 **location:** Togo **additional:** Kpalimé **www:**
<https://www.espconference.org/africa2019#.W3WIEgzbc>

World Day to Combat Desertification 2019

The 2019 World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) will mark the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Under the slogan, ‘Let’s Grow the Future Together,’ the Day will celebrate the 25 years of progress made by countries and people in sustainable land management (SLM), and look at the next 25 years where land degradation neutrality (LDN) “would hopefully be achieved” under SDG target 15.3.

The WDCD is observed every year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. The Day aims to raise awareness that LDN is achievable through problem solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels. The 2019 global observance of the Day will be hosted by Turkey's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Ankara. The event will be held in conjunction with the [International Soil Congress 2019](#).

date: 17 June 2019 **location:** Ankara, Turkey (worldwide) **www:** <https://www.unccd.int/actions17-june-world-day-combat-dese>

Désertif'actions 2019

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), CARI Association (France) and SPONG (Burkina Faso) are co-organizing Désertif'actions 2019, an international civil society summit on land, biodiversity and climate. Through a series of plenary sessions and four themed workshops, the event will address, *inter alia*: the Great Green Wall for Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI); land tenure and land degradation neutrality (LDN); pastoralism; and water use in drylands.

The first three days of the summit, from 19-21 June, dedicated to debate, exchange of experiences and collective knowledge production, will be followed by a public day of “cultural manifestation and awareness” on 22 June.

dates: 19-22 June 2019 **location:** Ouagadougou, Kadiogo, Burkina Faso **www:** <https://desertif-actions.org/index.php/en/desertifactions/>

International Conference on Youth, Ocean and SDG 14

World Youth Foundation (WYF) will convene an International Conference on Youth, Ocean and SDG 14.

This five-day event will provide an opportunity for young people from around the globe to come together to discuss shared challenges, find solutions, share best practices and develop innovative projects on ocean issues pertaining to marine pollution, climate change-related impacts and sustainable blue economy, among others.

Dates: 1-5 July 2019 **location:** Malacca, Melaka, Malaysia **www:** <https://wyf.org.my/overview-youth-ocean-sdg14/>

Ninth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity

The main focus of the ninth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity is to provide support for the ongoing discussions on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The meeting will be an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss the latest and best available knowledge relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, and to consider the implications of this knowledge for the development of the [post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#).

Key topics include:

- status and trends in biodiversity and ecosystem services and key drivers of change;
- the 2050 Vision for biodiversity, and potential pathways for achieving it;
- linkages between biodiversity and other societal needs and aspirations;
- lessons learned from implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
- plausible pathways to reduce, halt and reverse biodiversity loss;
- biodiversity-based solutions to societal challenges; and
- options for short- and long-term actions for achieving the level of response needed.

The conference is organized by the Norwegian Government, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP, or UN Environment), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

dates: 2-5 July 2019 **location:** Trondheim, Sor-Trondelag, Norway **www:**
<https://trondheimconference.org/>

ECOSOC Integration Segment 2019

The UN Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) Integration Segment will take place on Monday, 8 July 2019, the day before the opening of the 2019 session of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development ([HLPF 2019](#)).

By a 2018 UNGA [resolution](#) on strengthening ECOSOC, the integration segment will “consolidate all the inputs of Member States, including case studies and lessons learned, the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC, the UN system and other relevant stakeholders to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development” in order to bring together key messages on the main theme, along with action-oriented recommendations to feed into the HLPF.

Also per the resolution, the Council's integration segment, HLPF and high-level segment comprise the third group of meetings in ECOSOC's restructured annual calendar. This set of meetings aims to provide policy guidance and foster progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, contribute to the overall review of the 2030 Agenda at the HLPF and look to the future of the advancement of sustainable development.

date: 8 July 2019 **venue:** UN Headquarters **location:** New York City, US **contact:** DESA **www:**
<https://undocs.org/E/2019/L.1>
<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/unga-restructures-ecosoc-cycle-call...>

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2019 Convened by ECOSOC

The seventh session of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2019) will take place under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). According to [decision E/2019/L.1](#) of 19 October 2018, the session will take place from Tuesday, 9 July, to Monday, 15 July 2019, followed by a three-day ministerial meeting convening from Tuesday, 16 July, to Thursday, 18 July 2019, held jointly with ECOSOC's annual high-level segment.

In addition to the annual July session under ECOSOC auspices, HLPF will also convene for [one and a half days](#) in September 2019, under UN General Assembly auspices. Only one outcome document will result from the two sessions.

HLPF 2019 will address the theme, 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'. It will conduct an in-depth review of SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), in addition to SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals) which is reviewed each year.

Fifty-one countries will conduct Voluntary National Reviews ([VNRs](#)) for HLPF 2019. The following countries will conduct VNRs for the first time in 2019: Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Eritrea, Eswatini, Fiji, Ghana, Guyana, Iceland, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Serbia, South Africa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, UK, Tanzania and Vanuatu.

In addition, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Philippines, Sierra Leone and Turkey will conduct VNRs for the second time.

dates: 9-18 July 2019 **venue:** UN Headquarters **location:** New York City, US **contact:** DESA
www: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019>

Regional Technical Expert Meeting on Circular Economy and Waste-to-Energy

This meeting will focus on various solutions aimed at achieving a shift towards circular economy and the associated “triple win” – economic, environmental and employment. Circular economy solutions contribute to a number of SDGs, including SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) by helping meet the overall energy needs and SDG 13 (climate action) by enabling greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. They also advance SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) by creating job opportunities and closed loops in industries and industrial symbiosis, and recovering energy/material from waste.

The meeting is organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat, with the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). It will be held in conjunction with the [Latin American and Caribbean Climate Week 2019](#).

date: 23 August 2019 **location:** Montevideo, Uruguay **www:** http://unfccc.int/ttclear/events/2018_event7

UNCCD COP 14

The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14) is scheduled to take place from 2-13 September 2019, at the India Expo Center and Mart in New Delhi, India.

We will update this page as more information becomes available.

The SDG Knowledge Hub story on UNCCD COP 13 is available [here](#).

dates: 2-13 September 2019 **location:** New Delhi, Delhi, India **contact:** UNCCD Secretariat **phone:** +49-228-815-2800 **fax:** +49-228-815-2898/99 **e-mail:** secretariat@unccd.int **www:** <http://www.unccd.int>
<https://www.unccd.int/convention/conference-parties-cop>

SADC Groundwater Conference

The Southern African Development Community – Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI), with the International Hydrological Programme of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-IHP), International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) and South Africa’s Department of Water and Sanitation, will convene the second annual SADC Groundwater Conference under the theme ‘Groundwater Contribution to Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in SADC Region’.

Conference partners include the Groundwater Solutions Initiative for Policy and Practice (GRIPP) and Global Water Partnership (GWP) Southern Africa.

dates: 4-6 September 2019 **location:** Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa **www:** <http://sadc-gmi.org/sadc-groundwater-conference/>

14th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP 2019)

The 14th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP 2019) will convene on the theme, ‘Bridging Knowledge on Global Mercury with Environmental Responsibility, Human Welfare and Policy Response’.

The meeting will seek to assess implementation of solutions to reduce the emissions and exposure to mercury as a global environmental pollutant and test the efficiency of implementation of the Minamata Convention in various parts of the world.

The conference will bring together representatives from industry, government, research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academia to discuss, *inter alia*, options for low-mercury energy and industrial technologies and the concept of low-mercury society. The event will also showcase new equipment to measure mercury in various environmental samples, and technology to reduce mercury emissions and exposure.

The conference is organized under the patronage of the Polish Ministry of Energy and the City of Krakow, among others.

dates: 8-13 September 2019 **location:** Kraków (Cracow), Lesser Poland, Poland **www:** <https://mercury2019krakow.com/gb/information.html>

International Mountain Conference 2019

The International Mountain Conference 2019 (IMC 2019) will convene in Innsbruck, Austria, to encourage in-depth cross-disciplinary discussions towards a new understanding of mountain systems, their vulnerabilities to climate change and adaptation strategies.

The conference is organized by Innsbruck University, with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) University Twinning and Networking Programme (UNITWIN) Chair in Sustainable Mountain Development, the University of Highlands and Islands, UK, and the Mountain Research Initiative, among other partners.

dates: 8-12 September 2019 **location:** Innsbruck, Tyrol, Austria **www:** <https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/imc2019/>

3rd World Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation

The 3rd World Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation will bring together representatives from government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research and academia, the private sector and development agencies to discuss the role of climate change adaptation in addressing poverty and ensuring sustainable livelihoods. The event aims to:

- showcase climate change adaptation-related work;
- foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of climate change adaptation projects, especially successful initiatives and good practice;
- discuss methodological approaches and experiences deriving from case studies and projects that aim to show how the principles of climate change adaptation may be implemented in practice; and
- allow the participants to explore possibilities for cooperation.

The Symposium is a joint initiative by the Federal University of Technology in Akure, Nigeria, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, and the Research and Transfer Centre ‘Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management’ of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany, in cooperation with the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP).

Dates: 11-13 September 2019 **location:** Lagos {greater region}, Nigeria **additional:** Akure
www: <https://www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-nk/events/nigeria2019.html>

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