

Newsletter Issue #17, April - June 2025

United Nations Office for Sustainable Development
Quarterly Newsletter



UNOSD

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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The United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) was established in 2011 as a technical arm of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

This issue will cover UNOSD's news, activities, and events from April to June 2025. The newsletter includes not only UNOSD news, but also other useful events, tools, and frameworks related to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

UNOSD Highlights



Eastern Africa Workshop on Waste Management and Circular Economy

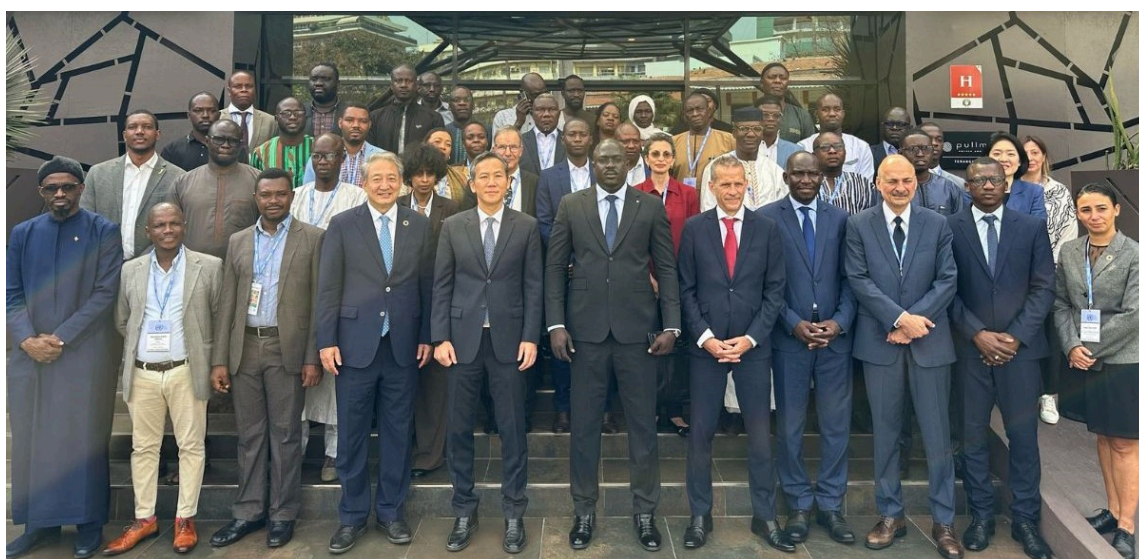
1 to 3 April 2025, Antananarivo, Madagascar

The sub-regional workshop was jointly organised by UNOSD, and the Statistics Division, of the UN DESA, UN Coordinator's Office in Madagascar, the Government of the Republic of Madagascar (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, MEDD), the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) from 1 to 3 April 2025 in Antananarivo, Madagascar. The workshop invited representatives from Eastern Africa - Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The workshop was designed to enhance foundational knowledge on waste management and resource circularity, while promoting evidence-based practices and tools to address critical barriers in the region. In addition, the workshop aimed to strengthen policy learning and multi-stakeholder engagement by fostering regional collaboration through the exchange of case studies and best practices. The workshop will support the design and implementation of sustainable waste management systems, enabling coherent, impact-driven strategies that advance circular economy initiatives across Eastern Africa through action-oriented dialogue and tailored recommendations.

All the information and presentation materials of the event can be accessed [HERE](#).

Event Page



Using SDG-6 Policy Support System (SDG-PSS) to facilitate countries in Africa for water-related sustainable development

28 to 30 April 2025, Dakar, Senegal

Since 2016, a consortium of partners has been implementing the project 'Water in the World We Want' to investigate how countries can address critical evidence gaps and deliver better policies to achieve SDG 6. The workshop was co-organized by UNOSD, UN University - Institute for Water, Environment, and Health (UNU-INWEH), UNESCO Institute for Water Security and Sustainable Management (i-WSSM), K-water, and African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW).

As UNOSD and its partners began the fourth phase of the project in 2024, engaging more countries in using SDG-PSS is crucial to promote multinational collaboration and ensure knowledge exchange for effective use of the tool while informing policy and decision-makers on the enabling environments of SDG 6. Parallel to introducing SDG-PSS to more countries, it is taking stock of the work undertaken by the project and lessons learned to ensure a more significant impact of the project. In this regard, the African regional workshop addressed the ways for the extended use of SDG-PSS while addressing challenges in accelerating the achievement of SDG 6.

Around 20-25 water professionals and policymakers from selected countries from Africa participated in the workshop.

All the information and presentation materials of the event can be accessed [HERE](#).

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Workshop and Accelerator Session at the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2025

14 to 15 May 2025, Sao Paulo, Brazil

The World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2025 was convened from 13 to 16 May 2025 at Ibirapuera Park in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In its ninth edition, WCEF 2025 explored the potential of tropical solutions for sustainable growth, the power of the regenerative economy and the strategies of a bioeconomy—alongside the indispensable role of the production sector in driving the transition toward a circular economy.

During the WCEF2025, UNOSD organized two events: **"Measuring what we waste - regional strategies and diagnostic tools for waste management and resource circularity in Latin America and the Caribbean"** on 14 May 2025 and **"WCEF2025 Accelerator Session: Measuring progress and promoting circularity through public policies in Latin America and the Caribbean"** on 15 May 2025 at the Pullman Sao Paulo Ibirapuera. The events were co-organized by UNOSD, Economic Commission for Latin

America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)/BID Invest supported by the Korea Environment Corporation (K-eco).

The workshop on 14 May gathered national government representatives on waste and circular economy to improve national data collection, compare data quality challenges and discuss current certainty levels of regional data on waste and resource circularity. The session provided an open discussion platform to assess national capacity gaps and needs on waste and resource circularity.

The accelerator session on 15 May addressed issues related to data and capacity gaps to better measure regional progress and ensure evidence-based policymaking for a circular economy. The main focus of the accelerator session was on the adoption of a comparable and replicable set of indicators to complement national strategies.

All the information and presentation materials of the event can be accessed [HERE](#).

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The Side Events at the World Environment Day 2025

4 to 5 June 2025, Jeju, Republic of Korea

The World Environment Day is a global event held every year on 5 June, jointly organized by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the host country. In 2025, World Environment Day was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea and UNEP in Jeju, Republic of Korea from 4 to 5 June 2025.

The 2025 theme, **“Beat Plastic Pollution”**, called for united global action to tackle pressing issues on plastic pollution with the slogan, “Shared Challenge, Collective Action”. Over 1,000 participants attended the event including participants from UNEP, international organizations, global environmental partners, development banks, businesses, and civic groups.

During the World Environment Day 2025, UNOSD organized two side events on **“Bridging Gaps, Empowering Change: Strengthening National Capacity, Evidence-based Policy and Finance to Implement a Global Plastics Treaty”** and **“Sustainable Future Forum: Advancing Zero Plastic Policies”** on 4 and 5 June 2025 respectively.

During the first side event held on 4 June, UNOSD launched a new publication with insights briefs from global experts and practitioners highlighting key data, gaps, and recommendations covering capacity-building needs, financial readiness, and policy frameworks—essential for treaty implementation. By addressing the hidden costs of plastic pollution, these briefs emphasized the importance of targeted development cooperation to empower countries to meet their treaty commitments and transition to sustainable

practices. The side event also aimed to strengthen awareness and collaborative action for data, financing, and policies critical for eliminating plastic pollution and advancing a circular economy in partner countries through interactive dialogues and panel discussion.

The second side event held on 5 June was jointly organized by UNOSD, Korea Environment Corporation (K-eco), and UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (UPSC) which showcased the Republic of Korea's best practices in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and evidence-based policy innovations for plastic waste management. The side event officially launched UNOSD's new Waste Management and Circular Economy Policy Support System (WMPSS) which was developed with support from K-eco as a comprehensive self-diagnostic tool for policy makers to strengthen official data on waste and self-assess challenges and progress on waste and circular economy, addressing gaps on nationally owned data and governance for waste management and circular economy (linked to SDGs 11,12, and 14.1).

All the information and presentation materials of the event can be accessed [HERE](#).

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The Side Events at the UN Ocean Conference Nice 2025

10 to 12 June 2025, Nice, France

The high-level 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (the 2025 UN Ocean Conference) was held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025 hosted by France and Costa Rica.

The overarching theme of the Conference is “Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”. The Conference aims to support further and urgent action to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and identify further ways and means to support the implementation of SDG 14. It will build on existing instruments to form successful partnerships towards the swift conclusion and effective implementation of ongoing processes that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean.

During the UN Ocean Conference, UNOSD organized three side events on "Towards Action Beyond Commitments: Regional and International Cooperation for SDG 14.4 Implementation", "Data-driven Solutions for Marine Pollution: Strengthening National Waste Management Systems through Evidence-based Policy and Finance", and "Scaling Blue Carbon Investments: Enabling Financing for Seagrass and Coastal Ecosystems".

The first side event was co-organized by UNOSD, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, the Government of Chile, and the World Resources Institute (WRI) which

focused on discussing the role of regional and international organizations in advancing sustainable fisheries and how their expertise and global collaboration can contribute to achieving SDG 14.4. It also explored the efforts of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in supporting the implementation of SDG 14.4, including how they can further strengthen sustainable fishing practices and improve scientific cooperation.

The second side event was co-organized by UNOSD, Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries of ROK, Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP), the World Economic Forum Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Indian Ocean Commission. The side event focused on innovations in data-driven policy, financing and collective action to stop pollution at source and shared success cases on improving waste systems to stop marine pollution and ensuring quality data for enhanced policy interventions and finance.

The third side event was co-organized by UNOSD, GGGI, Notre Grande Bleu, and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The event highlighted regional and global best practices and initiatives such as seagrass policy-finance roadmaps and regional ecosystem baselines. In addition, the side event explored various approaches to scaling up finance for blue carbon ecosystems and how effective policy forms the backbone of those efforts.

All the information and presentation materials of the event can be accessed [HERE](#).

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Upcoming UNOSD Programmes and Events (July - September 2025)



The 7th Greenhouse Gas Inventory System Training Workshop

15 to 18 July 2025, Almaty, Kazakhstan

UNOSD will host the 7th GHG Inventory System Training Workshop from 15 to 18 July 2025 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The workshop will provide an opportunity for countries from the Africa and the Asia-Pacific to build capacity for developing robust national inventory reports on greenhouse gases and utilizing national GHG inventories for the planning and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement with an emphasis on improving the collection of activity data in the energy sector as well as considering overlaps in the IPPU (industrial processes and product use) and waste management sectors.



The Waste Management and Circular Economy Study Tour

29 July to 1 August 2025, Incheon, Republic of Korea

UNOSD will organize the study tour on waste management and circular economy from 29 July to 1 August 2025 in Incheon, Republic of Korea for the representatives from Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, and Comoros to enhance the capacity of waste management experts by providing practical and theoretical training on effective and sustainable waste management practices, based on the Republic of Korea's development pathway.



2025 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Youth Summer Camp

19 to 21 August 2025, Seoul, Republic of Korea

UNOSD will organize the 2025 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Youth Summer Camp from 19 to 21 August 2025 Seoul, Republic of Korea. The summer camp will be co-organized by UNOSD and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). This year's summer camp will focus on the plastic pollution crisis, reflecting on the seriousness and gravity of the plastic pollution problems and continuing the discussion 2024 Summer Camp.



West Africa Regional Workshop on Waste Management Policy Support System (WMPSS)

26 to 28 August 2025, Accra, Ghana

UNOSD will organize a regional workshop for West Africa on Waste Management and Circular Economy Policy Support System from 26 to 28 August 2025 in Accra, Ghana. This sub-regional workshop seeks to enhance foundational knowledge on waste management and resource circularity data quality assurance and quality control, while promoting evidence-based practices and tools to address critical barriers to a circular economy for waste in the region.

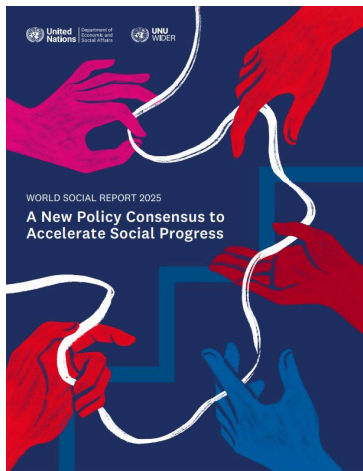


The National Wetland Inventories Training Programme Module 2

8 to 12 September 2025, Republic of Korea

UNOSD, in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the National Institute of Ecology of the Republic of Korea, will convene the second module of the national wetland inventory from 8 to 12 September 2025 in the Republic of Korea. The training programme will share best practices to support national wetland inventories, provide hands-on training for developing wetland database, and advance national capacity for utilizing national wetland inventories.

UN DESA Publications



World Social Report 2025: A New Policy Consensus to Accelerate Social Progress

The **World Social Report 2025**, reveals trends that are threatening communities and demand immediate, decisive policy action. The report calls for a new policy consensus anchored in three principles—equity, economic security for all, and solidarity—that are essential to strengthen the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The full report can be found [HERE](#).

[Read More](#)



World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2025

This review of UN DESA's foresight and preparedness efforts shows how the Department's economic and demographic forecasts, capacity development programmes, and work towards accelerating an inclusive and just transition help governments and people make strategic choices to shape and prepare for the future they want.

The full report can be found [HERE](#).

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