

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

COP28 electronic press kit

30 November – 12 December 2023

Overview

From 30 November to 12 December 2023, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ([COP28](#)) in Dubai.

The “Conference of the Parties” (COP) is the global decision-making body of the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC). The Parties meet every year to review progress and decide on the path forward.

As climate impacts are increasingly widespread, rapid, and intensifying, this year the world is at a critical juncture to meet the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, as committed to in the [Paris Agreement](#).

COP28 will be a milestone moment when the world will take stock of its progress on the Paris Agreement. The first Global Stocktake (GST) will provide a comprehensive assessment of progress since adopting the Paris Agreement and will help align efforts on climate action, including putting measures in place to bridge gaps in progress.

UNODC at the climate COP28

UNODC’s engagement at COP28 will focus on three areas:

- Climate mitigation
- Nature, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation
- Pollution and promoting a circular economy

UNODC is leading the narrative on crimes that affect the environment, which contribute to the triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change.

Crimes that affect the environment - including wildlife and forest crime, crimes in the fisheries sector, waste trafficking, marine pollution, illegal mining and trafficking in precious metals and stones - are frequently interlinked with corruption and other crimes. They have far-reaching impacts on security and human health by robbing local communities of their livelihoods and negatively impacting climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Criminal groups exploit gaps in national law enforcement and criminal justice systems, and the ultimate beneficiaries of these crimes are often not brought to justice.

To support nature’s ability to mitigate climate change, it is critical to scale up initiatives to combat crimes that affect the environment and integrate the justice system response to these crimes into biodiversity, climate and circular economy agendas.

Further information on UNODC’s mandate and work to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment is available online: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/environment-climate/>

Quote

UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly: “Global efforts to mitigate climate change must include initiatives to combat crimes that affect the environment as well as the corruption that enables the exploitation of our planet. COP28 is an opportunity to integrate justice responses into the climate agenda, for more comprehensive, impactful, and sustainable solutions.”

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Social media

Please tag @COP28_UAE | @UNODC | @UNODC_OGCCR

Please use the hashtags #COP28 #COP28UAE and #endENVcrime

Webpage links:

UNODC at COP28: www.unodc.org/climateCOP

UNFCCC COP28: <https://unfccc.int/cop28>

COP28 presidency: <https://www.cop28.com/en/>

Key messages

- COP28 provides an opportunity to highlight the current and prospective role of criminal justice in mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- COP28 Global Stocktake calls for a clear and robust plan of action. Building on COP26/27 commitments to curb deforestation and biodiversity loss, reinforce the biodiversity-climate nexus, highlighting how addressing crimes that affect the environment will increase ecosystem resilience for climate mitigation.
- Emerging messages during the COP28 Global Stocktake need to include crimes that affect the environment as a contributor to ecosystems degradation and support the measures to address it.
- Addressing deforestation, illegal timber trade and wildlife trafficking, illegal mining, marine pollution, other crimes that affect the environment increases ecosystem resilience to mitigate and adapt to climate change and accelerate progress on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- Combating waste trafficking and supporting environmentally sound management of waste contributes to reducing GHG emissions and promotes circular economy as a climate mitigation strategy.
- Waste transported illegally ends up in public ecosystems, illegal landfills or is burned in the open. Failure to safely manage it affects health and the environment, and contributes to GHG emissions (black carbon aerosols may have as much as 5,000 times global warming potential of CO₂).
- The health of ecosystems is undermined by deforestation, illegal exploitation of natural resources, wildlife and timber trafficking, crimes in the fisheries sector, and marine pollution.
- Illegal exploitation of natural resources has far-reaching impacts for economies and livelihoods, security, the environment, and contributes to biodiversity loss and climate change by destroying natural carbon sinks, altering ecosystems, and disturbing the balance of the oceans.
- The harm caused by crimes that affect the environment is increasing and as the climate impact intensifies, we must support integrated approaches to increase the resilience of ecosystems by integrating preventive and justice system measures in relation to crimes that affect the environment into the international response to climate change.
- Global efforts to mitigate climate change and biodiversity loss are undermined by criminality and unlawful activities and are likely to fail or fall short unless countries step up and improve enforcement and criminal justice responses to crimes that affect the environment.
- Healthy marine ecosystems can mitigate and promote adaptation to climate change by advancing carbon sequestration and storage and reducing risks from extreme weather events. To tackle marine pollution, we must develop sustainable production and consumption patterns, improve waste management, and enhance legal and policy frameworks for achieving stronger enforcement and compliance.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) have repeatedly released serious warnings about the continuing decline of ecosystems resilience. Destruction and degradation, including crimes that affect the environment, are the most important drivers of biodiversity loss in natural ecosystems.
- To limit global warming below 2°C, we must protect and enhance carbon sinks on land and in the oceans, while respecting human rights. Ecosystems can provide up to one third of the necessary emissions reduction, but deforestation, illegal exploitation of natural resources, and marine pollution, underpinned by corruption, contribute to the erosion of ecosystems at an alarming rate.
- Crimes in the mining sector degrade ecosystems and can threaten critical material supply chains for the green energy transition. With renewable energy components reflected across the majority of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), we must promote responsible sourcing and strengthening action for preventing and combatting criminal and illegal activities in the sector.

UNODC side events at COP28

A list of all UNODC COP28 side events is available on www.unodc.org/climateCOP



Date and time	Location	Event title	Event Details
1 December 2023 15:00-16:00	Nature Positive pavilion	Innovation, technology, and partnerships for targeting crimes that affect ocean-based climate resilience	<p>The ocean absorbs one-third of carbon dioxide produced by humans and 90 percent of heat created by global warming. The resulting acidification and rise in sea temperature, when combined with unsustainable fishing, pollution and other illegal activities taking place across the ocean, leads to detrimental impacts on marine life and ecosystem services. Despite an increase in marine conservation efforts, most coastal States still lack the basic resources and capabilities needed to adequately monitor their maritime domains and regulate the activities taking place within them. This high-level event will discuss the role of innovative partnerships and advanced technological solutions to address the illegal and criminal activities that contribute to the decline of marine biodiversity and ocean resilience. Reinforcing the need for strengthening rules-based ocean climate action through continued collaboration, panellists will deliberate on how environmental authorities, maritime actors, technology providers and the justice system can together bring forward recommendations from the conference.</p> <p>Partners: Bloomberg Philanthropies, SkyTruth, Global Fishing Watch</p>
1 December 2023 18:30-20:00	SE Room 6	The impact of crimes that affect the environment on natural carbon sinks and ecosystems resilience	<p>Environmental crime degrades ecosystems and contributes to climate change. The high-level event will provide a compelling case on biodiversity-climate-crime nexus and set actions for the Global Stocktake to integrate into approaches to reduce deforestation and marine degradation for climate mitigation.</p> <p>Partner: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity</p>
3 December 2023 09:00-10:30	Waste and Resource pavilion	International regulations and national policies driving waste management and circularity	<p>Environmentally sound management of wastes, and its responsible trade, is essential in mitigating climate change and promoting a circular economy. The waste management sector can play a vital role in climate mitigation through a multitude of actions. First, through direct GHG reductions from solid waste management and, second, indirectly through the effects of waste prevention, re-use and recycling. Waste recycling and resource recovery – which are at the core of a circular economy - offer potential GHG reductions in</p>

			<p>the magnitude of up to 20% of the global emissions. The side event will explore the role of international regulations and national actions in driving waste management and circular economies in order to respond to the climate crisis.</p> <p>Partners: Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, UN Habitat, French Solid Waste Partnership, , ASEAN Secretariat, Nokia, French Agency for Ecological Transition (ADEME), International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)</p>
<p>3 December 2023 11:30-12:30 </p>	<p>France pavilion</p>	<p>Protecting People and Planet Through a Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Lens - from Dubai (COP 28) to Abu Dhabi (2026)</p>	<p>This side event will link COP 28 with the 15th UN Crime Congress, which will be hosted by the UAE in 2026. The event aims to raise awareness about the importance of addressing the interdependent and interrelated impacts of climate change on crime prevention and criminal justice, including with regard to crime prevention; adaptability and preparedness of crime prevention and criminal justice infrastructure and actors; and enhanced multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation. It is expected that panellists and speakers will call for action in making good use of the preparatory process leading up to 2026, to ensure that the 15th Congress will become the momentum to agree on decisive steps towards successfully addressing the impact of climate change on crime prevention and criminal justice matters.</p> <p>Partners: France, United Arab Emirates, UN Women</p>
<p>3 December 2023 12:00-13:15 </p>	<p>IRENA pavilion / Global Renewables Hub</p>	<p>The impact of crime on critical material supply chains for the green energy transition</p>	<p>Technologies that enable the decarbonization of economies rely heavily on critical materials, including rare earth elements, lithium, nickel, cobalt, and others. As industries transition to clean energy technologies, demand for green minerals is set to increase exponentially. However, complex extraction processes and informal trade networks raise concerns over the environmental toll of the industry, human rights violations, corruption allegations and poor governance. Further, a recent IRENA report on “Geopolitics of the Energy Transition Critical Materials” suggests the lack of a formal structure and the wide geographical reach of artisanal and small-scale mining can result in the extraction, trade, and sale of commodities via unofficial channels. This could potentially lead to a convergence with other serious crimes and become a source of revenue for organised criminal groups thus, perpetuating impoverishment and armed violence in already vulnerable areas. This high-level event will discuss the importance of robust legal and policy frameworks as well as enforcement mechanisms, responsible sourcing practices and traceability systems to ensure sustainability, transparency, and accountability along critical material supply chains.</p> <p>Partners: International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), UN Environment Programme (UNEP)</p>

3 December 2023 13:30-14:30 	Blue Zone Room 11	Climate Resilience Ministerial Forum: Empowering Law Enforcement for a Greener Future	<p>In a historic collaboration at COP28, which marks the first-ever participation of the global law enforcement community at the climate summit, the Ministerial Forum brings together law enforcement representatives from Asia, Africa, the Americas, the Middle East, and the UN. As we tackle biodiversity protection and climate resilience, it's crucial to note that this marks the inaugural participation of the global law enforcement community in a climate summit. The Forum will address the urgent need to safeguard biodiversity and vulnerable communities, with a focus on the essential role of law enforcement. Furthermore, the Forum will unveil significant global initiatives, concluding with the adoption of the Abu Dhabi declaration.</p> <p>Partner: UAE Ministry of Interior</p>
3 December 2023 14:00-15:30 	Green Zone	Transitioning to Green Law Enforcement	<p>Join us at the forefront of global law enforcement's commitment to climate action at COP28, which marks the first-ever participation of the global law enforcement community at the climate summit. The International Initiative of Law Enforcement for Climate (I2LEC) is uniting the global law enforcement community to discuss and promote the transition to green law enforcement. Our panel discussion will bring together influential voices from organizations like UNODC, INTERPOL, Esri, UNPOL, the Department of the U.S. Homeland Security, the Executive Office of Anti Money Laundering, and the UAE MOI. Discover opportunities and challenges in supporting this crucial transition.</p> <p>More information</p> <p>Partner: UAE Ministry of Interior</p>
4 December 2023 11:30-13:00 	SE Room 7	Coordinating for greater ocean-based climate change ambition: A UN-Oceans perspective	<p>Following the recent Ocean-Climate Dialogue, and the focus on increased ambition and the Global Stocktake, this side event will showcase how UN-Oceans is building synergies at the national and international levels for ocean-based climate change mitigation and adaptation. It will highlight how collaboration for climate-smart sustainable ocean management and planning can contribute to increased ambition for a greater collective impact.</p> <p>Partner: DOALOS, UNESCO, CBD Secretariat, UNEP, FAO, IAEA, UNCTAD, Antigua and Barbuda</p>
4 December 2023 14:00-15:00 	Action Arena 1 (Al Hur)	Climate change and violence against women: zero degrees of separation	<p>Climate change and weather disasters lead to increased migration and refugees, of which women, girls and people facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are disproportionately affected. Weather-related disasters can lead to increased domestic and intimate partner violence. The extractivism model contributes to climate change and rapid environmental degradation around the world and human rights violations including gender-based violence, particularly against indigenous peoples and local communities. Gender-based violence (GBV) against women environmental human rights defenders is on the rise to discourage and silence them as they lead in the protection of natural resources, and the environment from increasing environmental threats and job loss. Climate change impacts in</p>

			<p>many countries have put more girls at risk of early marriage as families struggle to cope with impacts and see this as a way to lighten the financial burden in the household and secure their future. Spotlight Initiative and our partners work with governments to strengthen the resilience of institutions and communities to respond to violence against women and girls, and integrate GBV prevention as part of climate change readiness and response plans.</p> <p>Partners: Spotlight Initiative, UN Women, UNDP, ILO</p>
5 December 2023 10:00-11:15 	COMIFAC Initiatives pavilion	Links between climate change, biodiversity, peace, and security in Central Africa: the Congo Basin and the Lake Chad Basin	<p>Climate change is referred to as a “threat multiplier” because of its potential to exacerbate many of the current challenges and threats already being faced in some countries particularly in Central Africa. It can contribute to instability, worsen existing conflicts, threaten global security, and reshape human mobility patterns. In broader terms, climate change is an important factor threatening human security through undermining livelihoods, compromising culture and identity as well as challenging the ability of states to provide the conditions necessary for human security. In Central Africa, the Lake Chad Basin is perceived as a “basin of problems” while the Congo Basin is seen as a “basin of solutions”. The reality is that these two basins can learn from each other. Both basins have a common goal but different approaches to addressing climate change, peace, and security. The Lake Chad Basin can learn from the Congo Basin in the sense of preserving its ecological integrity, and the Congo Basin can learn from Lake Chad Basin in terms of economic development and conflict prevention activities as sustainability requires reconciling the long-term vision of national and international interests and the short-term needs of local communities. Given that the Congo Basin rainforest is currently the last terrestrial net carbon sink in the world, the subregion has a key role to play in negotiations on climate finance for the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and the prevention of security risks related to climate change that can benefit both basins.</p> <p>Partner: UNOCA, ECCAS, FAO, UNESCO, UN-DPPA, Climate Security Mechanism,</p>
9 December 2023 11:00-12:00 	WWF pavilion/Panda Hub	Promoting marine conservation and maritime security partnerships for protecting blue carbon sinks in the Galapagos	<p>World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and UNODC have launched a new partnership to advance innovative knowledge-sharing for tackling fisheries crimes in the Galapagos. The event will discuss the importance of leveraging fisheries science and targeted sector information to enable more capacity to counteract illegal fishing activities and to demonstrate how the conservation and maritime security communities can build on each other's core competencies for greater impact on blue carbon sinks. The event will highlight the UNODC-WWF joint pilot project in the Galapagos and showcase the importance of enforcing the rule at sea to curb biodiversity loss and promote resilience to climate change in coastal marine ecosystems.</p>

<p>9 December 2023 11:30-12:20 </p>	<p>Spain pavilion</p>	<p>Responsible Value Chains: New Deforestation Regulation in the European Union</p>	<p>Partners: WWF, Ecuador</p> <p>Responsible and sustainable value chains play a crucial role in combating deforestation, protecting biodiversity, and addressing climate change. The event aims to highlight the significance of these regulations in promoting ethical and eco-conscious supply chains, contributing to global environmental conservation, and encouraging businesses to adopt sustainable practices. The world is witnessing a growing global shift towards sustainable and ethical value chains. With the introduction of the new Deforestation Regulation in the European Union, there is a clear trend towards stricter oversight of supply chain activities, particularly in relation to deforestation. The event will delve into these trends, emphasizing the need for transparency and accountability throughout value chains and highlighting the increasing alignment of regulations with sustainability objectives. "Responsible Value Chains: New Deforestation Regulation in the European Union" is a platform that brings together stakeholders, policymakers, and industry experts to discuss the importance of responsible value chains and the implications of the EU's Deforestation Regulation. It provides an opportunity to explore the latest developments in supply chain sustainability, the impacts of the new regulations on businesses, and the potential benefits for forests, biodiversity, and the fight against climate change. This event is a significant step in fostering ethical and environmentally responsible value chains in line with the EU's regulatory framework.</p> <p>Partners: Spanish Chamber of Commerce, Global Canopy, Grupo FCC, Banco Santander and Oro Verde</p>
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