

Introduction to UNEP

6th Africa Animal Welfare Conference – Action
2022, Gaborone, Botswana, 31 October - 02 November, 2022

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1 November 2022

UNEP's History, Mandate and Mission



Key milestones in UNEP's history

1972: Stockholm Conference, UNEP established

UNEP is established in 1972 at the UN Conference on the Human Environment to monitor the state of the environment, inform policy making with science and coordinate responses to the world's environmental challenges.



2012: RIO+20, UNEP strengthened

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, UNEP's **mandate is strengthened**, and governance upgraded to **universal membership through UNEA** helping to define a new era of international environmental governance.



2022: UNEP@50, UNEP's contribution acknowledged

Political declaration at the UNEP@50 Special Session of UNEA acknowledged **50-year contribution** of UNEP and further strengthened the mandate.



UNEP's MANDATE (its role)

...leading global environmental authority, that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

UNEP's MISSION (the "how")

...provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by **informing**, **enabling** and **inspiring** nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future



UNEP's mission in practice

inform

SCIENCE-POLICY

- ...provides evidence about the state and health of the planet and contributes solutions
- ...identifies emerging environmental threats
- ...provides guidance on sound policies

inspire

SHOWS POSITIVE CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

- ...shares environmental success stories
- ...celebrates and awards individuals and institutions

“ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD”

- ...raises awareness and advocates for action on the environment

enable

CONVENING POWER

- ...brings people together to tackle triple planetary crisis (e.g. UNEA)

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

- ...supports strong environmental laws and institutions
- ...plays important role with regards to MEAs

ROLE IN UN SYSTEM

- ...is the voice of environmental dimension of sustainable development within the UN

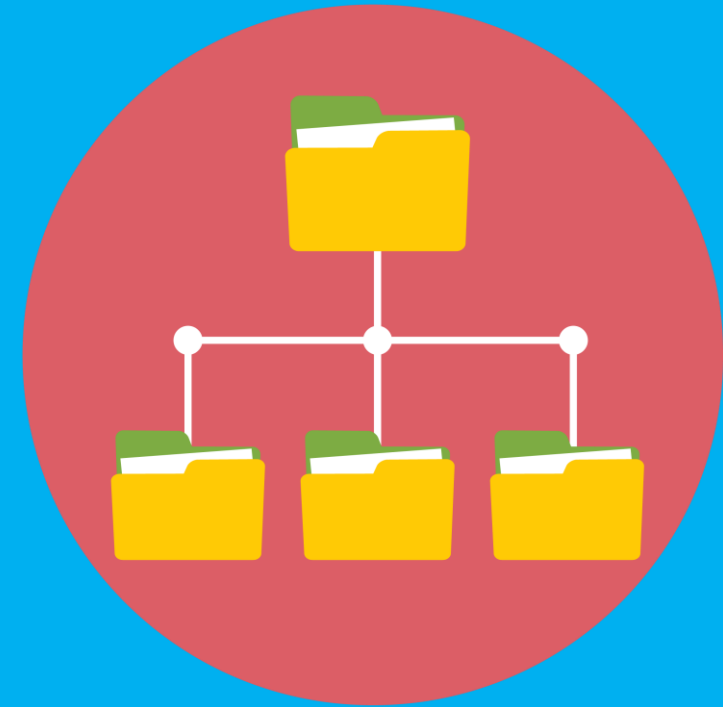
CAPACITY BUILDING

- ...helps countries deliver on their environmental commitments
- ...provides tools and facilitates transfer of technologies

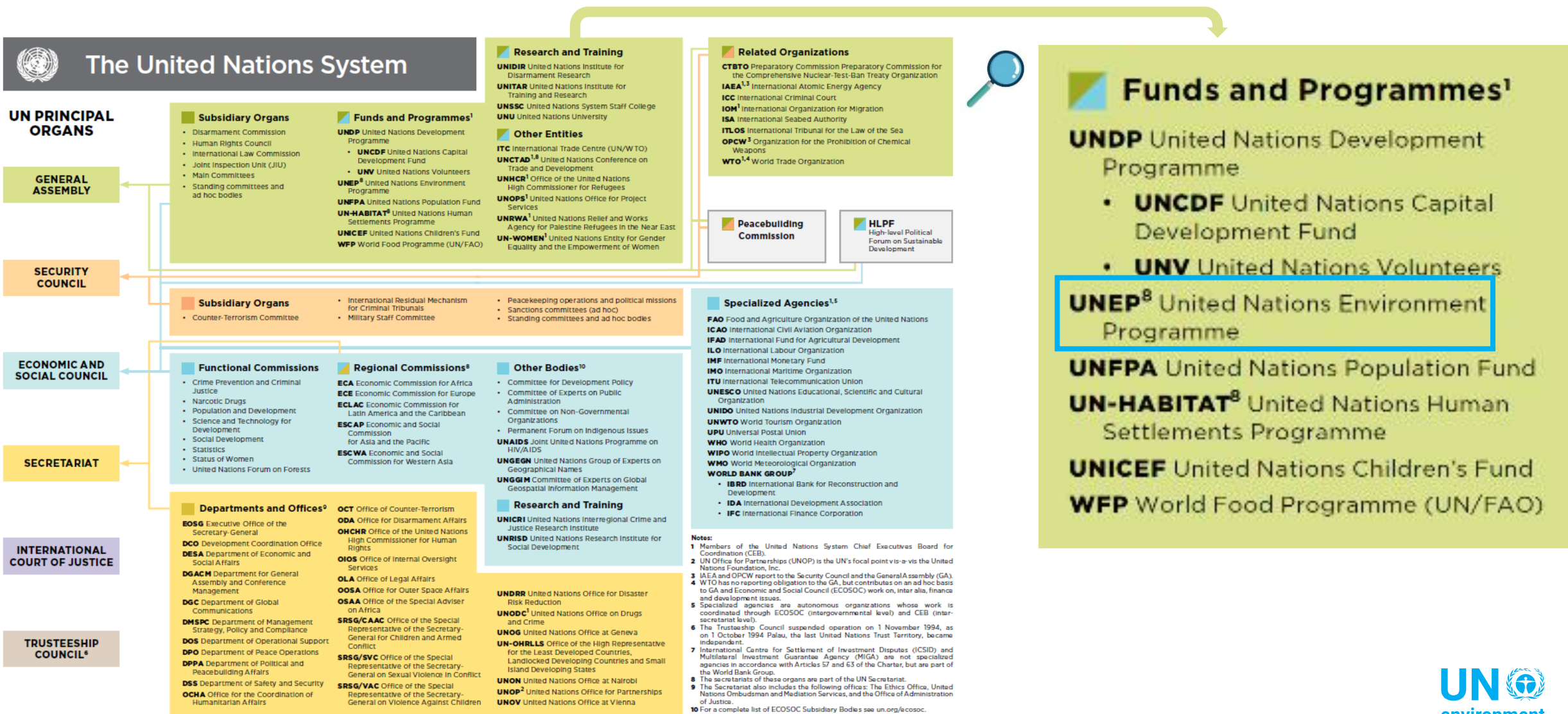
PARTNERSHIPS

- ...facilitates South-South and triangular cooperation
- ...supports partnerships and access to global funds

UNEP's role in the wider UN system



UNEP within the United Nations System



UNEP is Governed by Member States

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) – meets every two years

- Open-ended CPR (every two years to prepare UNEA)
- Annual CPR subcommittee (annually)
- CPR (quarterly)
- CPR Subcommittee (as necessary)

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) – every year

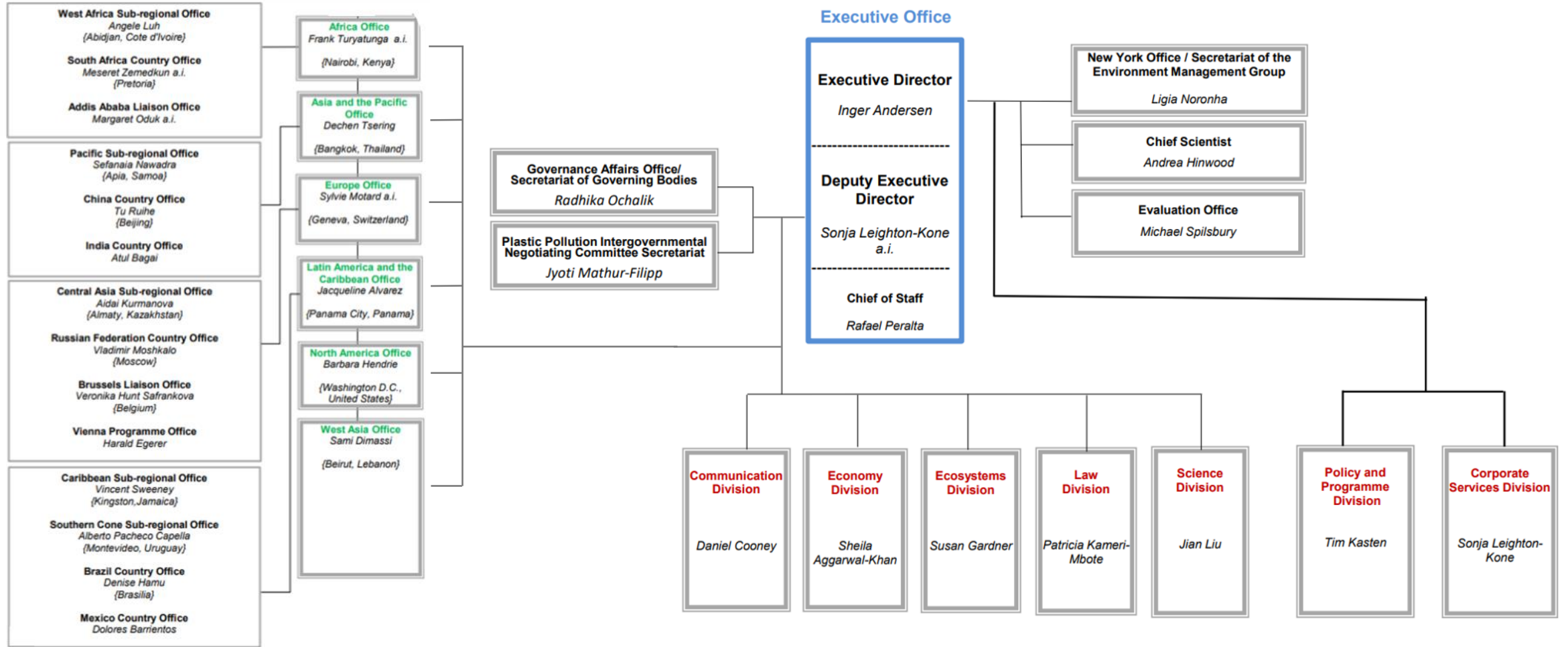
- Administrative and Budgetary Committee (5th committee)
- Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)



UNEP's Structure



UNEP's Organigram



Civil Society Unit

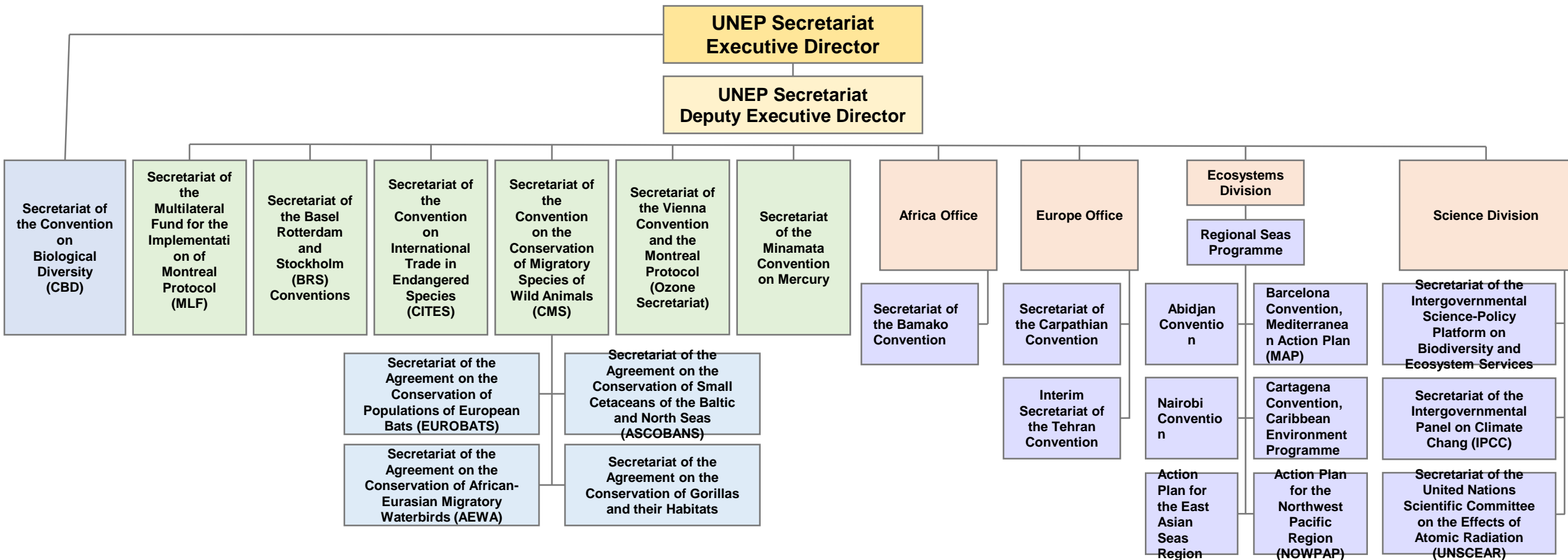
- **Part of the Governance Affairs Office**
- **Mandate:** To facilitate the engagement of Civil Society Organizations with UNEP, at the programmatic and political level by:
 - Engagement of CSOs in the work of UNEP governing bodies/United Nations Environment Assembly
 - Cooperation with UNEP Offices and Division
 - Information Exchange
 - Training and Capacity Building
 - Accreditation to UNEP
 - Cooperation with civil society counter parts
 - Providing (limited) financial support, e.g. for UNEA participation
- **Staff:**
 - Alexander Juras (alexander.juras@un.org)
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- **Civil society focal point Regional Office for Africa:**
 - Mohamed Atani (mohamed.atani@un.org)
- **Website:** <https://www.unep.org/civil-society-engagement>

UNEP and the MEAs

- UNEP supports the negotiation and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)
- UNEP hosts the secretariat of 15 MEAs that cover a wide range of regional and global environmental issues
- ...including hazardous chemicals and waste; biodiversity; oceans; migratory species; and rehabilitation of the ozone layer...



The MEAs and other entities to which UNEP provides the Secretariat or Secretariat Functions



Thank you



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