

UNEP's mandate and its organizational structure

*Orientation Session for New Members of the
Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP*

Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director
23 September 2025, Nairobi

- 1 UNEP's History, Mandate and Mission
- 2 UNEP's role in the wider UN system
- 3 UNEP's Secretariat
- 4 UNEP's Funding

1 UNEP's History, Mandate and Mission

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Key milestones in UNEP's history



1972

Stockholm Conference

UNEP 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

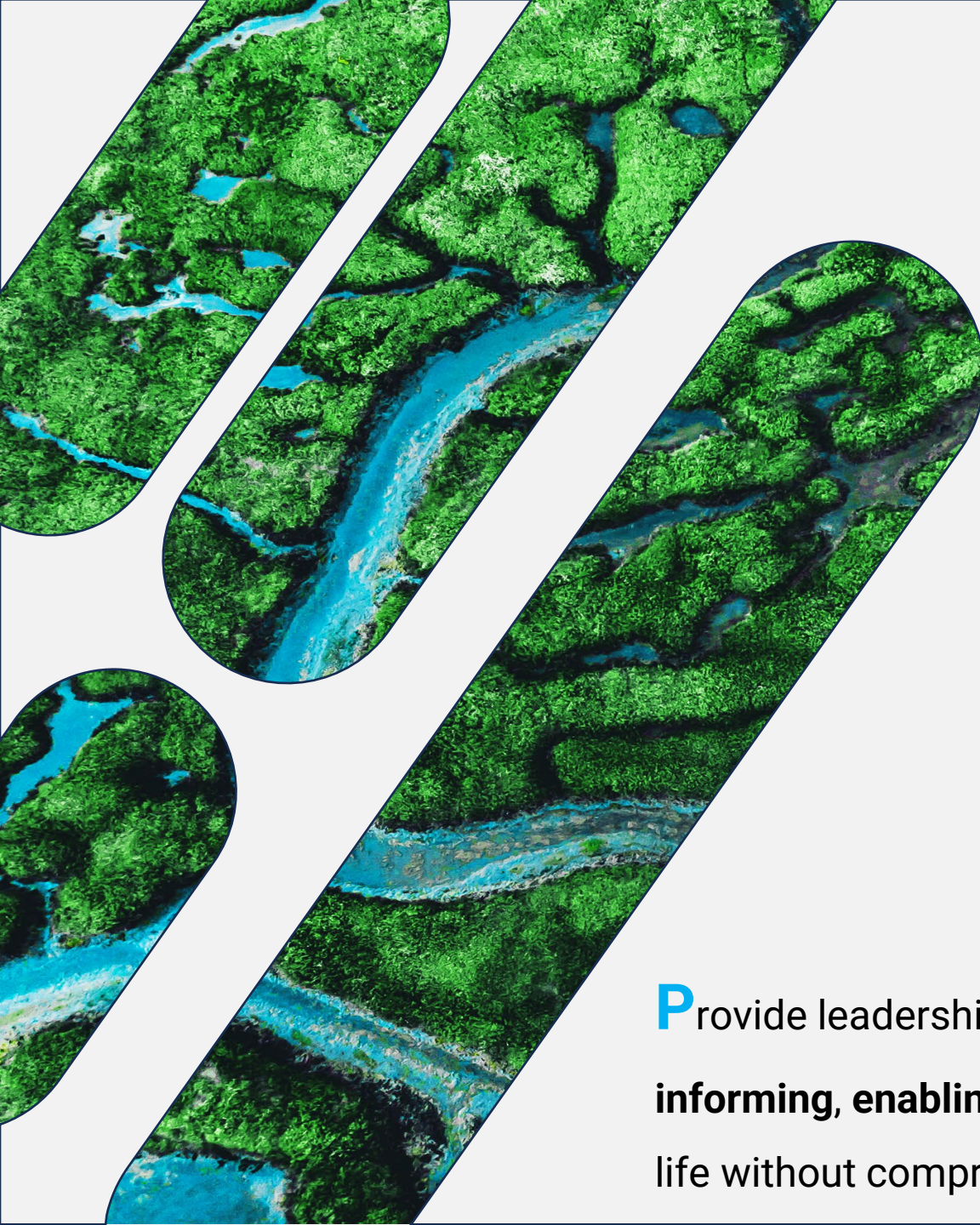
RIO+20, UNEP strengthened

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 and mission

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 generations.

SCIENCE-POLICY

Provides evidence on planetary health and solutions

Identifies emerging environmental threats

Offers guidance on sound policies

INFORM

CONVENING POWER to tackle triple planetary crisis

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Supports robust environmental laws and institutions and plays a key role in MEAs

CAPACITY BUILDING

PARTNERSHIPS

ENABLE

SHOWS POSITIVE CHANGE IS POSSIBLE
Shares environmental success stories and recognizes outstanding individuals and institutions.

“ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD”

Raises awareness and advocates for action on the environment

INSPIRE

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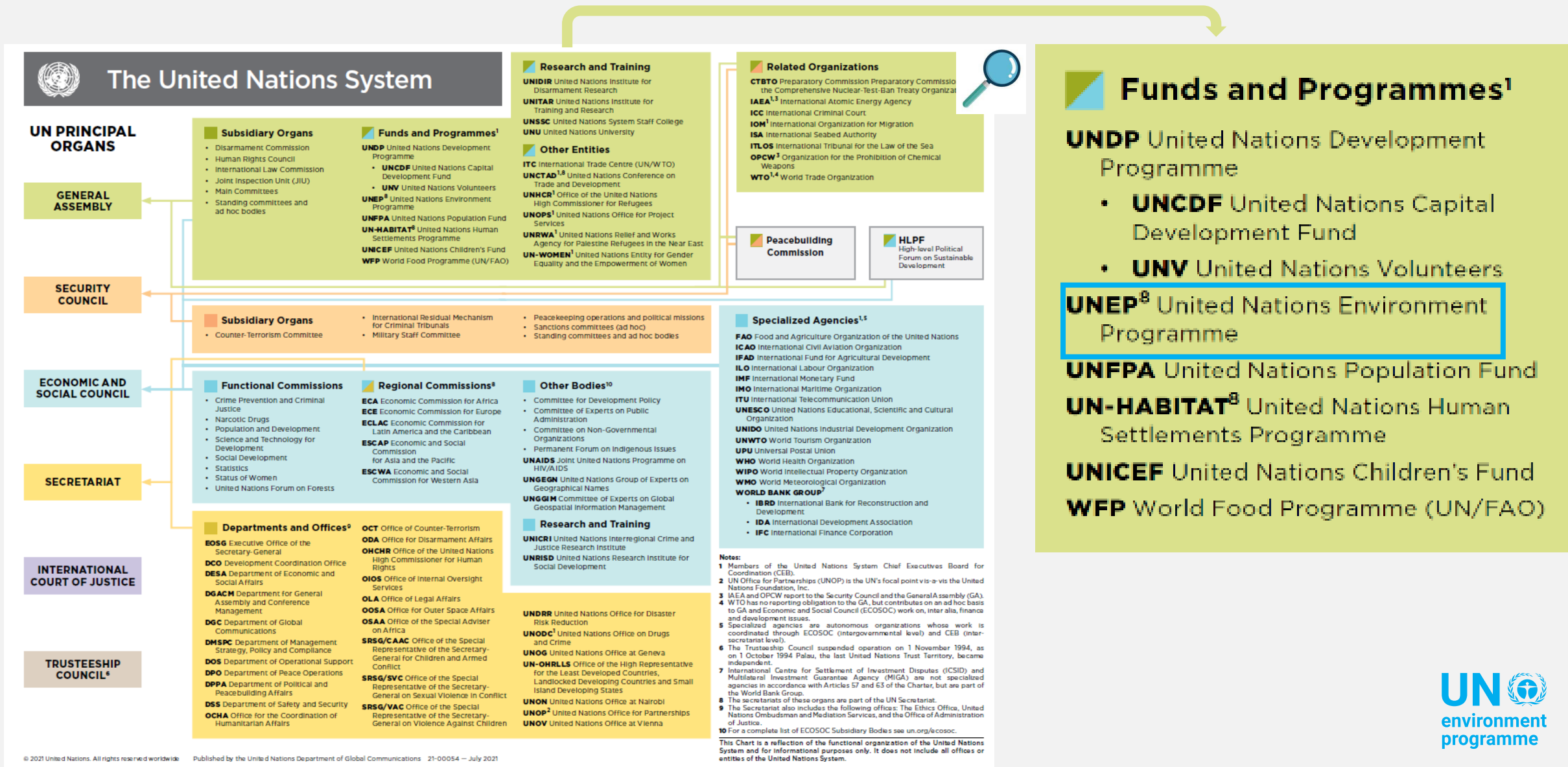
UNEP's role in the wider UN system

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UNEP within the United Nations System



UNEP's organigram

REGIONAL PRESENCE

RO for Africa
Rose Mwebaza
(Kenya)

Subregional Office for West Africa
Mohamed Atani (Cote d'Ivoire)
South Africa Country Office
Meseret Zemedkun
Addis Ababa Liaison Office
Margaret Oduk a.i.

RO for Asia and
the Pacific
Dechen Tsering
(Thailand)

Subregional Office for the Pacific
Jinhua Zhang a.i. (Samoa)
China Country Office
Qian Wang a.i (Beijing)
India Country Office
Balakrishna Pisupati

RO for Europe
**Arnold
Kreilhuber**
(Switzerland)

Subregional Office for Centra Asia
Aidai Kumanova (Kazakhstan)
Russian Federation Country Office
Vladimir Moshkalo
Brussels Liaison Office
Veronika Hunt Safrankova
Vienna Programme Office
Harald Egerer

RO for Latin
America and the
Caribbean
Juan Bello
(Panama)

Subregional Office for the Caribbean
Vincent Sweeney (Jamaica)
Subregional Office for the Southern Cone
Vacant (Uruguay)
Brazil Country Office
Vacant (Brasilia)
Mexico Country Office
Vacant (Mexico City)
Colombia Country Office
Dolores Barrientos (Bogota)

RO for West Asia
Sami Dimassi
(Lebanon)

RO for North
America
Rafael Peralta
(United States)

New York Office/Secretariat of
the Environment Management
Group
Ligia Noronha

Governance Affairs
Office/Secretariat of Governing
Bodies
Radhika Ochalik

Plastic Pollution
Intergovernmental Negotiating
Committee Secretariat
Jyoti Mathur-Fillipp

THEMATIC DIVISIONS

Industry and
Economy
Division
**Sheila
Aggarwal-Khan**

Climate Change
Division
Martin Krause

Ecosystems
Division
Susan Gardner

Law Division
**Patricia Kameri-
Mbote**

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Executive
Director
Inger Andersen

Deputy Executive
Director
Elizabeth Mrema

Chief of Staff
Nicolas Bertrand

Office of
Science
**Andrea
Hinwood**

Chief Digital
Office
Sally Radwan

Evaluation Office
Janet Wildish a.i.

CORPORATE DIVISIONS

Communications Division
Daniel Cooney

Policy and Programme Division
Jyotsna Puri

Corporate Services Division
Soomi Ro

UNEP is governed by Member States

**Reporting regularly to the UN
General Assembly (UNGA)**
yearly meetings

**United Nations Environment
Assembly (UNEA) is UNEP's
governing body**
meets every two years

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

Open-ended CPR (every two years to prepare UNEA)
Annual CPR subcommittee
Quarterly CPR meetings
CPR Subcommittee (scheduled for specific topics)



UNEP in the Secretariat



UN System Chief Executives Board (CEB)

Highest level coordination forum of UN system, chaired by UNSG.
UNEP represented by the Executive Director

High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM)

Subsidiary body of CEB, acts on behalf of the CEB on administration and management.
UNEP represented by Director of Corporate Services Division.

High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)

A system-wide coordination on policy coherence on programme.
UNEP represented by Executive Director.



UN Environment Management Group (EMG):

UNEP leverages its role as the Secretariat and Chair to better mainstream environmental issues into the work of the UN system, while coordinating the group's environmental activities for max impact and efficiency.

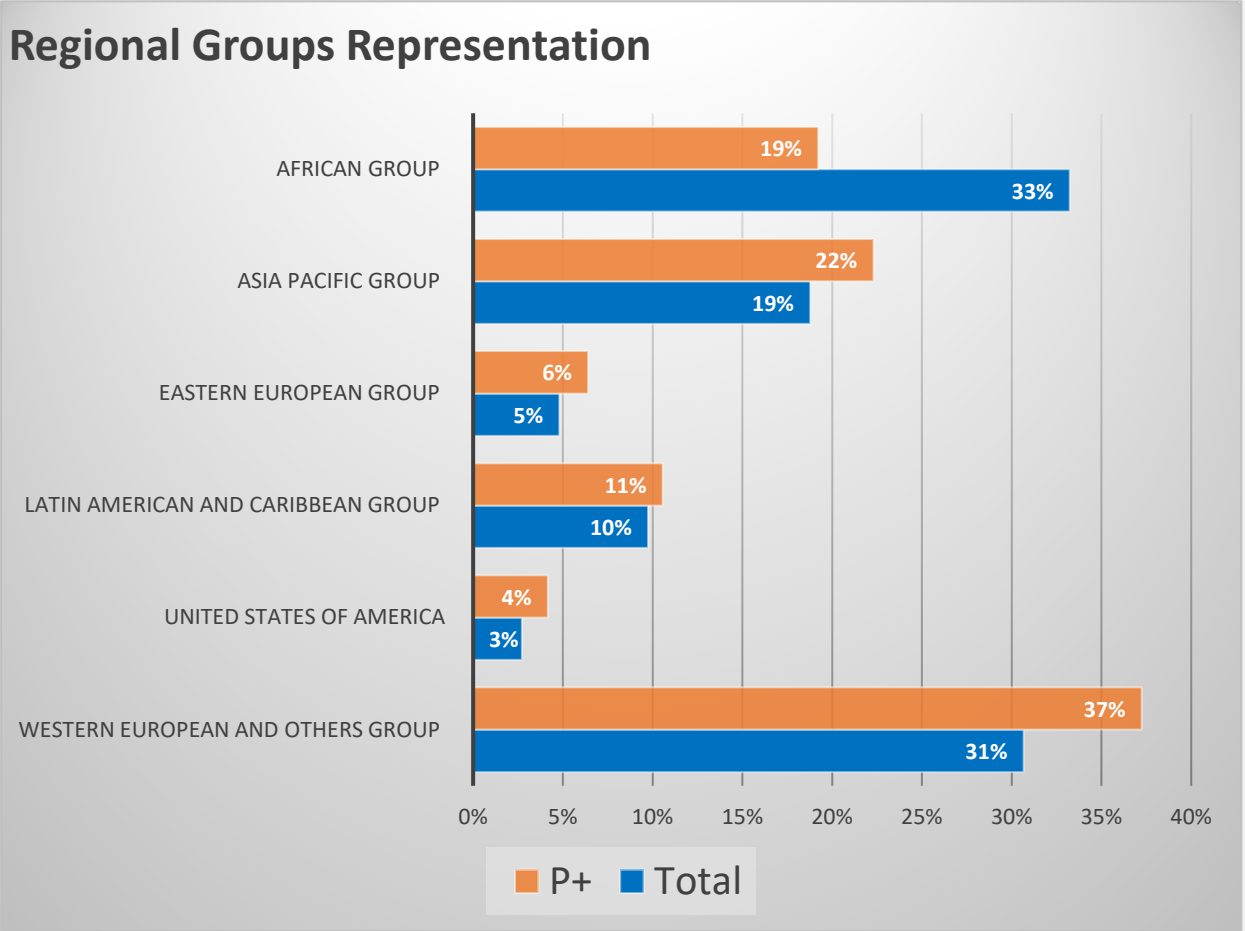
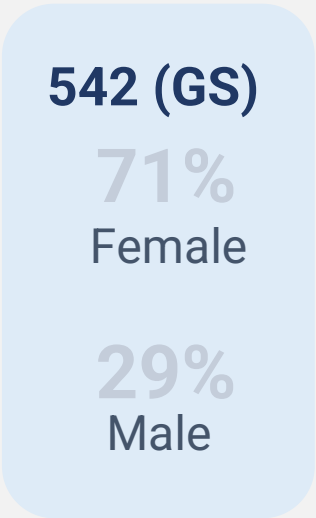
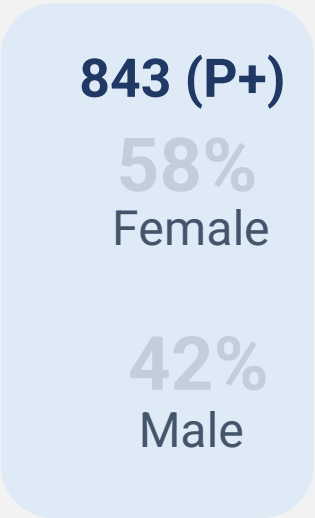
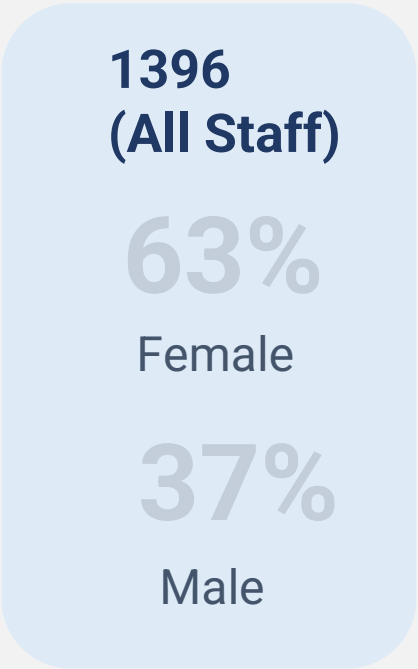
3 UNEP's Secretariat

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UNEP: HR OVERVIEW



UNEP and the MEAs

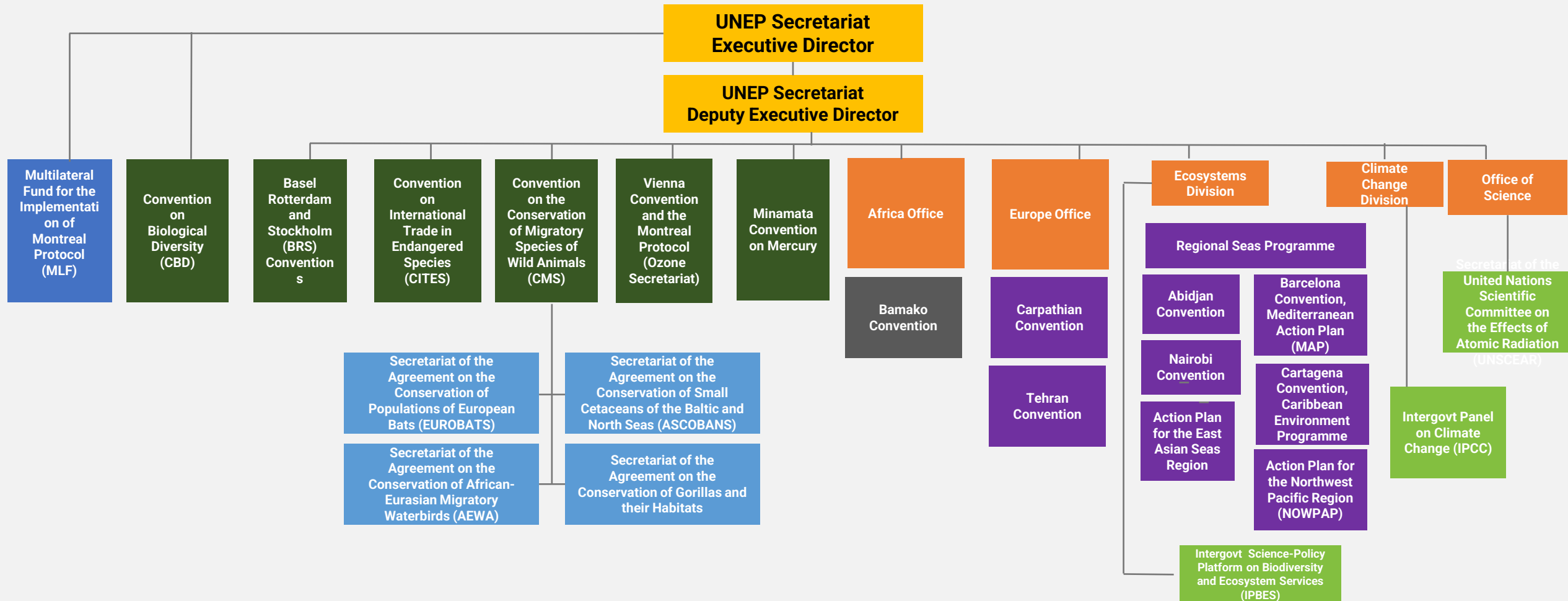


UNEP supports the negotiation and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

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



UNEP: Oversight and Accountability

Internal controls

Accountability
Statement of Internal Controls
Delegation of Authority



Evaluation

UNEP independent Evaluation Office



Audits

“Single audit principle”
External: Board of Auditors
Internal: Office of Internal Oversight
Services



Other Reviews

- Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)
- Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN)
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA/UK)



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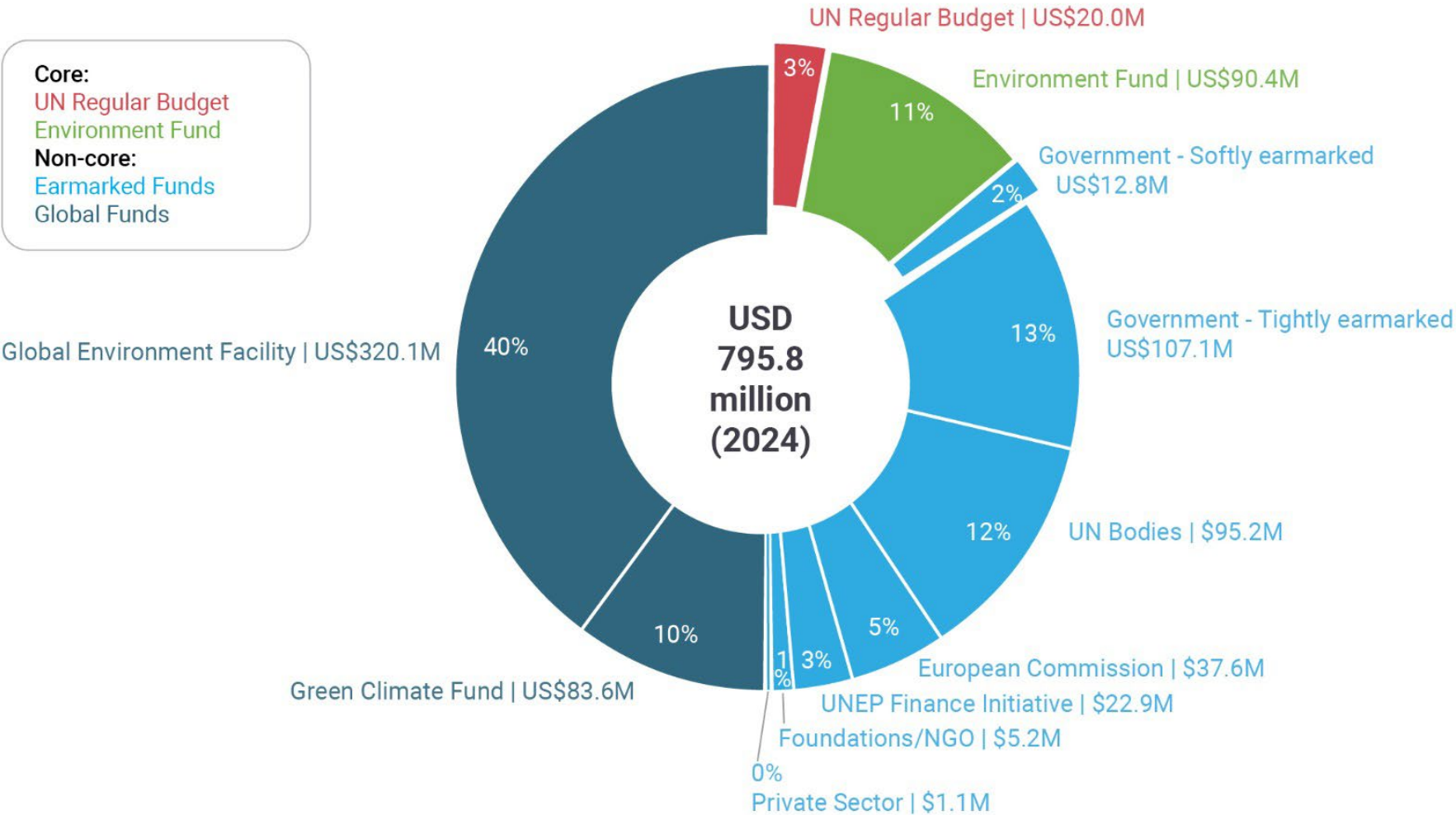
4 UNEP's Funding

How is UNEP funded ?

(in US\$ million)

Core:
UN Regular Budget
Environment Fund

Non-core:
Earmarked Funds
Global Funds



An aerial photograph showing a river meandering through a vast, dense green forest. The river is a light blue-green color, contrasting with the deep green of the surrounding trees. The forest appears to be a tropical rainforest with a thick canopy.

THANK YOU

**UNEP's mandate and its
organizational structure**

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25 September 2025