



UNEP and the BBNJ Agreement

Offer to Host the Secretariat

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global authority on the environment. UNEP's mission is to inspire, inform, and enable nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

UNEP works closely with its 193 Member States and representatives from civil society, businesses, and other major groups and stakeholders to address environmental challenges.

For over 50 years, UNEP has provided the secretariats of 15 Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), both global and regional in scope, offering unique strategic value to the international environmental governance system. With extensive institutional experience, UNEP has proven capacity and expertise in supporting MEAs secretariat functions while fully enabling their legally independent governance structures, decision-making bodies, and procedures.



UNEP Archival Photo/

UNEP offers a trusted and effective framework to facilitate the smooth operation of MEA secretariats in a well-coordinated and integrated support mechanism, ensuring cost efficiency and effectiveness for administrative matters. This includes:

- expediting the negotiation of host country agreements covering essential matters such as premises, privileges and immunities, staff status and logistical arrangements.
- swiftly establishing trust funds and financial mechanisms to support the operational needs of the secretariats.
- overseeing staff management.
- ensuring the smooth day-to-day functioning of the secretariats within the UN's robust and transparent administrative and accountability framework.
- works closely with MEA secretariats to contribute to the development of their Programmes of Work and Budgets for the governing bodies' informed decision-making that promote coherence and maximize synergies across the broader multilateral environmental agenda.

In addition, UNEP also further enhances MEA delivery by promoting knowledge exchange among secretariats and providing a stable and dynamic platform for coordinated, collective action.

For more information

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UNEP Administered MEAs

Global Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and the Disposal
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in
International Trade
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone
Layer

Regional Conventions

Bamako Convention on the Ban of the import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of
Hazardous Wastes within Africa
Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention)

Regional Seas Convention

Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the
Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern African Region (Abidjan Convention)
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona
Convention)
Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena
Convention)
Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western
Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention)
Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)

