

Regional organizations can serve as effective mechanism for dealing with environmental challenges at the domestic and regional level and enforce the web of International Environmental Governance.

Regional organizations contribute to International Environmental Governance (IEG) both through their own programs and legislation, and their participation in global accords.

ECOSOC has established five Regional Commissions: UNECE, UNESCAP, UNECA, UNECLAC and the West Asia Commission have developed and implemented environmental programs for their regions and assist the governments in the regions to promote relevant activities in the field of the environment.

Framed in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) is a declaration of principles and objectives concerning conservation and the protection of the environment as well as concrete measures to further cooperation on these matters between the member countries.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission and Bank for Investment pursue programs for the development of the region including agricultural, energy and water resources development.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) experiencing high levels of environmental degradation has developed a Strategic Development Program addressing also environmental issues.

The Organization of African States (today: African Union, AU) developed the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in 1968 which impacted the development of environmental law in Africa.

The European Union (EU) started addressing environmental matters in the 1970ies, among other things with the Wild Bird Directive in 1979. Since then the Union has developed its environmental legislation, reinforced by the ruling of the EU Court of Justice with a progressive view in terms of ensuring the EU law concerning environmental protection.

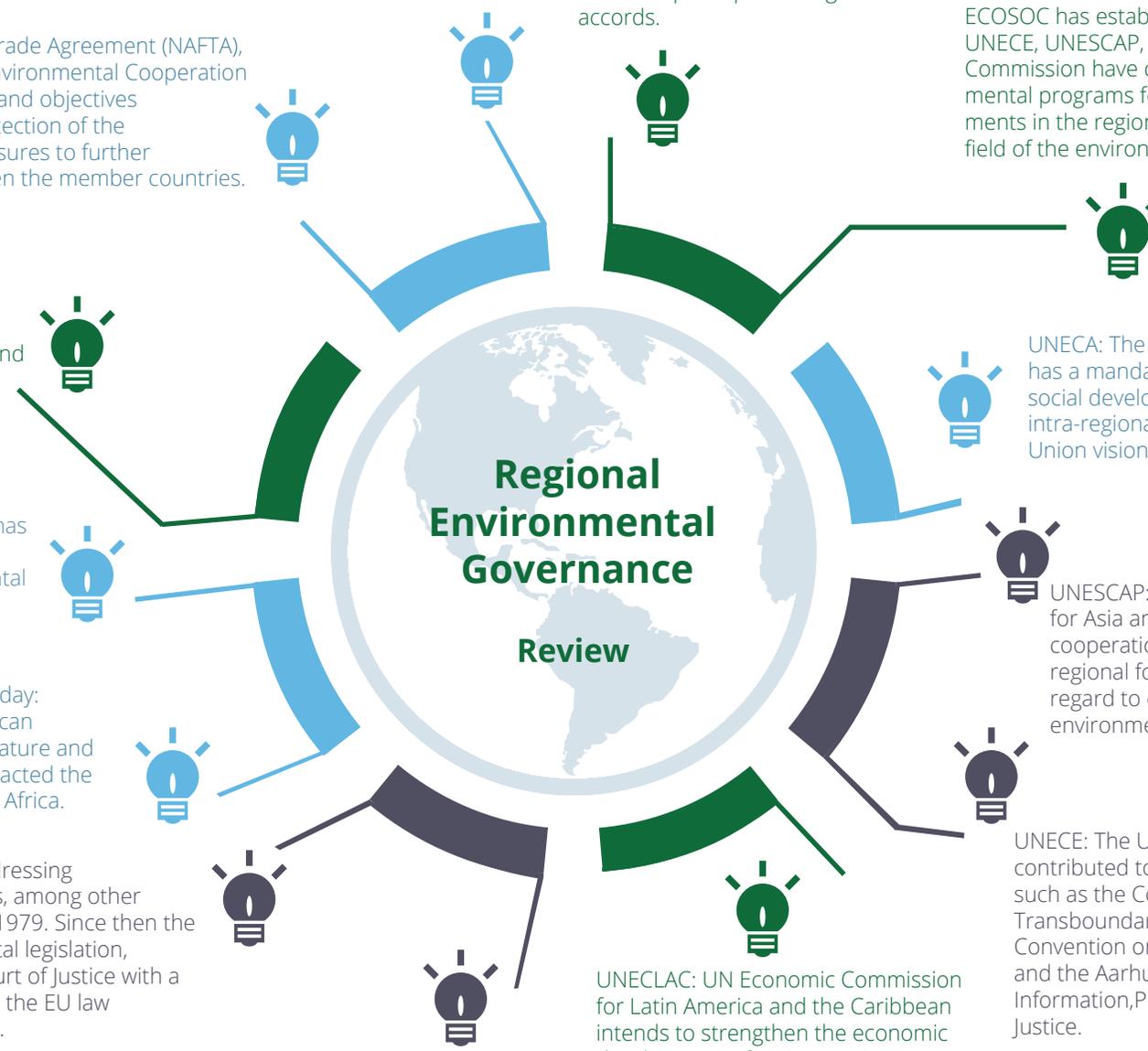
International Organizations contributing to IEG are the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and sub regional organizations on all continents.

UNECLAC: UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean intends to strengthen the economic development of Latin America, coordinates actions to promote regional social development and reinforces economic ties intra-regionally and internationally.

UNECE: The UN Economic Commission for Europe contributed to the emergence of important MEA's such as the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment and the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice.

UNESCAP: UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific encourages economic cooperation among its member states with a regional focus on promotion of cooperation with regard to energy, natural resources, the environment, agriculture and water management.

UNECA: The UN Economic Commission for Africa has a mandate to promote the economic and social development of its member States, foster intra-regional integration in support of the African Union vision and priorities.



## Regional Environmental Governance Review