

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON COSTA RICA / UNESCO COOPERATION

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** since 19 May 1950
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** no and not candidate for 2013/2017
Previous terms: 1966-1974, 1980-1985, 1989-1993, 1994-1997
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees, Commissions, etc.:** 4
 - International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere, MAB (Term expires: 38th General Conference)
 - Intergovernmental Council of the "Management of Social Transformations" Programme, MOST (Term expires: 38th General Conference)
 - Legal Committee
 - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, IOC
4. **The Director-General's visits to Costa Rica:** 1
 - May 2013: official visit and World Press Freedom Day
5. **The former Director-General's visits to Costa Rica:**
 - 2003
6. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:**
 - *Head of the Delegation:* Mr Alexander Peñaranda. Minister-Counsellor, Chargé d'Affaires *a.i.*
 - *Previous Permanent Delegates:* H.E. Mr Jacques Sagot Martino (January 2008 – August 2014).
7. **UNESCO Office:** in San José, Costa Rica.
 - In November 1981, UNESCO established a National Office in San José.
 - Member States serviced: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.
 - The 30th Anniversary of UNESCO's Office will be celebrated in 2014.
 - Director: Ms Pilar Alvarez-Laso (D-1, Mexico), since January 2014.
8. **National Commission of the Costa Rica for UNESCO:**
 - *President* (Since June 2014): Ms Sonia Martha Mora Escalante
Secretary-General: (TBC).
 - *Legislation:* The legal instrument of the National Commission (in the form of a Governmental Decree), which settles its organization; dates back to 1959 and was reorganized in 1992. The National Commission is a decentralized body, which is both governmental and private.
 - *Structure of the Commission:* The National Commission is composed of the following organs:
 - The Executive Board, comprising 25 members: Ministers involved in UNESCO areas of competence as well as persons elected among the members of the General Assembly. The Board meets every month and debates on the activity report issued by the Permanent Secretariat every month;

- Eight Specialized Committees (composed of voluntary workers) which meet once a month and which are in charge of: Education, Science and Technology, Culture, MAB, Music, Youth, Information and Communication, and MOST. All the committees deal with the labour of Human Rights and Superior Values tending to the formation of a Culture of Peace.

- *Composition of the Commission Secretariat:* There are 10 persons working for the National Commission: the Permanent Secretary; two coordination officers for the Associated Schools and the UNESCO Clubs; one professional archivist for the Documentation Center; an accountant; and five support staff.
- *Fund-Raising:* The National Commission has been involved in fund-raising activities.
- *Documentation Centre:* The Documentation Centre of the National Commission essentially gathers publications from UNESCO and national institutions. It receives more than 2000 visitors a year. One professional archivist serves the Centre.
- *Cooperation with other National Commissions and UNESCO Field Offices:* The National Commission punctually cooperates with National Commissions from Central America, through the dissemination of information and publications. The UNESCO Field Office in San José actively supports the National Commission.
- *UNESCO's contribution to the capacity building of the National Commission:*
 - Ms Diana Borrás Porrás attended the Training Seminar for National Commissions for UNESCO of Latin America, 3-5/09/2013, Quito, Ecuador.
 - Roger Coto Mora, Administrador COMINAL attended the Training Seminar for new officials of national commissions for UNESCO of Latin America, 23-25/05/2013, Quito, Ecuador
 - Ms. Marta Sanchez Gonzalez attended the Training Seminar for Officials of Latin American National Commissions for UNESCO, 03/2009, San Domingo Dominican Republic.
- *Participation in the DG's Consultations on C/4 and C/5:*
 - Ms Sanchez Marta Eugenia, Secretary General attended the Director-General's Consultation with National Commissions for UNESCO of Latin America and Caribbean Region on the Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36/C5), 07/2010, Port of Spain Trinidad and Tobago.
 - Ms Diana Borrás Porrás, Licenciada en ciencias de la educación con énfasis en orientación attended the 14th Quadrennial Conference and Director-General's Consultation with National Commissions for UNESCO of Latin America and the Caribbean on the Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5), 06/2008, Panama City Panama.
- *Priority Areas:* Education for human rights and tolerance; environmental protection; world heritage; teaching and promotion of traditional music; Associated Schools; Civic, cultural and ethical values. Theme of 2013: water.

9. Personalities linked to the UNESCO activities (e.g. Goodwill Ambassadors, Special Envoys, Chairpersons of Committees, etc): None.

10. UNESCO Chairs: 4

- UNESCO Chair in Biodiversity Informatics, established in 2006 at The Costa Rican Institute of Technology, National Institute of Biodiversity
- UNESCO Chair in Biosphere Reserves and natural and mixed world heritage sites, established in 2009 at the University for International Cooperation, San José

- UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development, established in 2012 at The Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development and the University of Peace
 - UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, established in 2011 at De La Salle University
- 11. Associated Schools:** Costa Rica joined the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) in 1981 and currently has 197 schools (11 pre-school, 147 primary, 16 primary/secondary, 18 secondary, 2 vocational/ technical education and 3 teacher-training institute) in the network
- 12. Category 2 Institutes and Centres:** None
- 13. Biosphere Reserves:** 3
- La Amistad, together with Panama (1982)
 - La Cordillera Volcánica Central (1988)
 - Aqua y Paz (2007)
- 14. World Heritage Sites:** 4
- Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís (2014)
 - Area de Conservación Guanacaste (1999)
 - Cocos Island National Park (1997)
 - Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (1983)
- 15. Tentative List:** 1
- Corcovado National Park and Isla del Caño Biological Reserve (2003)
- 16. Intangible Heritage Lists:** 1
- Oxherding and oxcart traditions in Costa Rica (2008)
- 17. Memory of the World Register:** no inscription yet
- 18. Creative Cities Network:** None
- 19. Legal instruments:** 19 ratified and 16 not ratified
- 20. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated:** none in 2012/2013 and no candidature for 2014/2015
- 21. Participation Programme:**
- 2014-2015: 4 projects submitted
 - 2012-2013: 4 projects approved for a total amount of 67,300 US\$
 - 2010-2011: 7 requests approved for a total amount of 111,950 US\$, as well as an Emergency assistance for 50,000 US\$
- 22. UNESCO Fellowships Programme:**
- 15 fellowships granted from 2000 to 2014 for a total value of US\$ 162,013 (29,000 US\$ in 2012; 40,546 US\$ in 2011; 36,250 US\$ in 2010; 15,000 US\$ in 2006; 10,717 US\$ in 2005; 10,000 US\$ in 2002; and 20,500 in 2000). Fellowships awarded to women: 14

- 23. Payment of assessed membership fees for 2014:**
Assessment rate for 2014: 0,038 %
Contributions assessed for 2014: US\$ 124,070
- 24. Representation within the Secretariat:** normally-represented
3 professional staff in geographical posts (min. 2, max. 4)
- 25. Applications to the Young Professionals' Programme (YPP):** not eligible to participate.
- 26. Associate Experts Programme:** does not participate to the programme.
- 27. Non-governmental organizations maintaining relations with UNESCO, with headquarters in San Jose: 1**
- **Servicio Paz y justicia en América Latina (SERPAJ-AL)**
SERPAJ-AL enjoys official partnership with UNESCO since 1984 in consultative status according to the new Directives concerning UNESCO's partnerships with non-governmental organizations adopted by the General Conference at its 36th session in 2011.
As an international organization inspired by Christian, ecumenical and humanist principles, SERPAJ-AL's activities are mainly oriented towards education for peace, human rights and the rights of people, drawing on the principle of non-violence.