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“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed”

UNESCO Constitution

HIGHLIGHTS

UNESCO x Kenya at 50

- The provision of quality education and training to all Kenyans is a right enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. Kenya abolished direct fees in primary and secondary schools for every citizen to ensure equity and access to education.
- Kenya hosted the 1st Africa Forum on STI for Youth Employment, Human Capital Development and Inclusive Growth in 2012. The adopted “Nairobi Declaration” has become a key instrument for STI programme implementation in Africa.
- In 50 years of membership, Kenya has ratified 15 UNESCO conventions - including, most recently, the 2003 Convention on Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- Kenya is a co-chair to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and is a co-facilitator on the negotiations that will lead to a new set of global development goals for adoption by the UN General Assembly in 2015

A Message from the Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa

“Together for peace and Sustainable Development”



Dear friends, colleagues, partners,



Mr. Mohamed Djelid, UNESCO Director engages with academia participating in the International Conference on Slavery in Africa © Masakazu Shibata

On behalf of UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, I would like to wish you a fruitful year, with 2015 marking the culmination of the MDGs.

The 2014 marked the 50 years of collaboration and partnership for Kenya and UNESCO, where Kenya joined UNESCO as the 73rd Member in 1964. At the international and regional level, Kenya has contributed to the work of UNESCO through substantive participation in the organization’s Governing Body and has played a prominent role through membership with inter-governmental commissions.

Over the years, UNESCO has supported Kenya in the development of **policies in Education** by providing technical and financial support mainly by attaining **quality education for all and lifelong learning**; supporting policy development/review in HIV and AIDS, peace and gender, and working with the government and stakeholders in major research undertakings, such as the **Kenya National Adult Literacy Survey** in 2006 and the **Education for All End Decade Assessment and National Review**. Kenya has also benefitted from UNESCO’s support to infrastructure development of primary and secondary schools.

In the area of culture, UNESCO continues to support the preservation of intangible and tangible heritage for posterity and has enlisted six sites of Outstanding Universal Value into the World Heritage List: **Lamu Old Town; Mt. Kenya; Lake Turkana National Park; Mijikenda Kayas; Fort Jesus; and the Great Rift Valley Lakes**. In addition, UNESCO has listed **Amboseli, Mt. Elgon, Mt. Kenya, Mt. Kulal, Malindi - Watamu and Kiunga** as **Biosphere Reserves**.

Other key undertaking of UNESCO in Sciences includes mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development and also the establishment of a **Category II Groundwater Centre** hosted by the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI), which will act as a regional platform for research and training on groundwater resources. In the recent past UNESCO undertook a **Ground Water mapping project in Turkana** which culminated in the discovery of large ground water reservoirs.

UNESCO has also supported Kenya to establish a **National Gender Research and Documentation Centre** which is a resource for bringing together national research and training capacities on gender equality and for developing and deepening research and teaching.

In the last few years, UNESCO worked towards a strengthened, **free, independent and pluralistic media** by **supporting journalism education institutions** to strive towards criteria of excellence. A specific emphasis was also placed on reinforcing capacities of **community radio and rural multimedia community centres** to be sustainable and be an affective platform for democratic discourse. Kenya is also supported as member state to harness **information and communication technologies** for development in supporting initiatives in **ICTs for Education**.

Finally, knowing that all of this could not be possible without efficient partnerships and mutual trust, we would like to thank the National Commission (NATCOMs) for UNESCO and all our partners and donors for another year of exceptional backup and continuous support to UNESCO.

I invite you to follow our newsletter and stay informed on our office’s latest activities and achievements as we work towards peace, reconciliation and a brighter future for Kenya.

Mr. Mohamed Djelid
Director of UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa

Feature Story: Kenya and UNESCO at 50

Together for Peace and Sustainable Development: The Nairobi Celebration

22 - 24 Oct 2014, Nairobi - Marking the 50 years of collaboration between UNESCO and Kenya, national celebrations took place in Nairobi, organized by the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa and Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM), together with the Government of Kenya. The celebration included activities such as exhibitions, cultural performances and presentations in which 23 counties and 49 exhibitors comprised of government institutions, universities, and private sectors took part showcasing UNESCO and Kenya's achievements under the theme, "Together for Peace and Sustainable Development". A Film festival was also organized in partnership with the Pan African Federation of Filmmakers (FEPAC), recognizing the importance of cinema and audio visual industries in the social, economic and cultural education. [Read more..](#)

Kenya Week in Paris: A new chapter in harnessing more gains in realizing sustainable development



Kenya's Minister for Cooperatives Development, Hon. Joseph Nyagah, EGH, MP, makes a courtesy visit to the Director-General of UNESCO, Mrs. Irina Bokova, on 10th January 2011. H.E. Dr. Mary M. Khimulu also received Hon. Nyagah in the Kenya Delegation offices where he met the staff. © Kenya UNESCO Office

"These are 50 years of movement, to strengthen the foundations for lasting peace and for sustainable development.. Kenya has given so much to UNESCO and to the world, and it has so much more to give."
- Address by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

24 -28 Nov 2014, Paris - As a continuum of the UNESCO and Kenya at 50 National Celebrations which took place in Kenya on 22-24 October, a Kenya Week in Paris event was held at UNESCO Headquarters, hosted by Kenya's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO to celebrate the achievements of the people of Kenya and the shared values and objectives that underpin our cooperation.

On behalf of the Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Getachew Engida, Deputy Director-General noted that the Republic of Kenya is today one of UNESCO's great champions. He commended Kenya for abolishing direct fees in primary and secondary schools and adopted for promulgating a Constitution that recognizes the right to education for every citizen. He also regarded Kenya's efforts in seeking to advance the STI agenda, harnessing of ground water resources, promotion of life sciences, and preservation of culture underscoring Kenya's financial contribution to the African World Heritage Fund earlier in the year. [Read more..](#)

UNESCO Roundtable on "Perspectives on Sustainable Development for the 21st century"



H.E. Jacob T. Kaimenyi Cabinet Secretary, MoEST invites students to engage in the discussion underlying Kenya's commitment to supporting UNESCO and the UN at large in realizing the sustainable development goals. © Masakazu Shibata

20 Oct 2014, Nairobi – A UNESCO Roundtable was jointly organized by UNESCO and the University of Nairobi. H.E. Jacob T. Kaimenyi Cabinet Secretary, MoEST presided as a Guest of Honour and the keynote lecture was given by Professor Bethuel Ogot, the renowned historian from Kenya. Prominent panelists also contributed to the Roundtable in the context of the current dialogue on the post-2015 Agenda and the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and by engaging with university students in a stimulate debate about the compelling issues through sustainable development thinking about policy and practice. [Read more..](#)



H.E. Deputy President William Ruto delivering the speech to mark the 50 years journey of UNESCO and Kenya © Masakazu Shibata

Ceremonial cake cut. From right, H.E. Mr. Tatsushi Terada, Ambassador of Japan to Kenya, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, MoEST, H.E. Deputy President William Ruto, Mr. Mohamed Djelid, UNESCO Director, and SG of Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, Dr. Evangeline Njoka © Masakazu Shibata



Artists, dancers, musicians, youth groups, students and school children from across Kenya come together, celebrating diversity of cultural expressions during the national event © Masakazu Shibata



Documenting the 50 year journey of UNESCO-Kenya Cooperation, 1964 – 2014

22 Oct 2014, Nairobi – UNESCO, KNATCOM, and the Government of Kenya have launched the book that reflect on long and rich processes leading to some of our now well-known and established programmes. UNESCO invites you to discover even more details on our accomplishments by reading this fascinating book. [Read more..](#)

Regional Spotlight

The L'Oreal-UNESCO Regional Fellowship for Women in Science in Sub-Saharan Africa Awards



26 Nov 2014, Johannesburg - The L'Oreal-UNESCO Regional Fellowships for Women in Science in Sub-Saharan Africa programme awarded 10 talented African Women for the quality of their research from Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and Sudan. [Read more..](#)

Breaking the Silence: Slavery in Africa History, Legacies and the Present



Participants tune-in to the remarks made by Mr. Mohamed Djelid, the Director of UNESCO at the conference touching upon UNESCO's Memory of the World programme, and the importance of research and documentation © Masakazu Shibata

27-29 Oct 2014, Nairobi - An International Conference on "Slavery in Africa: History, Legacies and Present" was organized at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Nairobi. With UNESCO as a major partner, the Conference brought together more than 100 participants comprising academia, researchers, experts, and representatives of civil society working in the area of slave trade and slavery from different regions of the world.

During the opening ceremony of the conference, Mr. Jean-Pierre Tutin, Co-operation and Cultural Counselor from the French Embassy reflected on the complex history of slavery, and the importance of how **"we always must be vigilant and aware that this heritage is about a long struggle, and that in many places in the world, many efforts remain to be done to bring about a legal framework"** against human protection. [Read more..](#)

An Africa-wide Summer School on Application of Ocean and Coastal Data and Modelling



Thousands of cargo carriers ply the world's seas and oceans each year, handling the bulk of international trade © Masakazu Shibata

18 Sept 2014, Nairobi - To enrich the professional experiences among marine scientists, experts from across Africa gathered to build African capacity to access and utilize ocean, coastal and meteorological data collected from satellite observations. The International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange ([IODE](#)) programme has assisted several institutions in Africa to access these data sets through the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA). [Read more..](#)

UNESCO Open Lecture Series: International Day of Peace Regional Interactive Panel Discussion



Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General of the UN Office at Nairobi opens the event in the remembrance of the Westgate terrorist attack that took place on 21 September, 2013 © Masakazu Shibata

"Never before has the work of the United Nations been so crucial, as part of our collective efforts to address the pressing challenges facing our world – from peace and security to climate change, and from development to human rights."

- Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General of the UN Office at Nairobi

22 Sept 2014, Nairobi - UNESCO in partnership with sister agencies from the United Nations Office in Nairobi have organized a regional discussion to celebrate the International Day of Peace. The event brought together a distinguished panelists, including Kenya's Chief Justice, Dr. Willy Mutunga, and an audience of more than 300 people, participating live, and via satellite, from Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda and Somalia. [Read more..](#)

Mapping science for sustainability in four Indian Ocean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)



Aldabra atoll in Seychelles is the world's second largest coral atoll designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, a symbol of rich marine biodiversity in the region © NASA

27-28 Aug 2014, Port Louis - UNESCO and the Adjacent Island States in partnership with the Mauritius Research Council (MRC) of the Mauritius Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science Research and Technology, organized a first High level Ministerial and Experts Consultative workshop (as a pre-conference to the [UN Conference on Small Island Developing States](#) in Apia Samoa, 1-4 September, 2014) on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy System, Governance for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Resilience of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), dubbed STI-for-SIDS sustainability.

Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles and Madagascar have valuable ecosystems which support lucrative fisheries, tourism and marine biodiversity. However, they also face common challenges as a consequence of their small size, remoteness, vulnerability to external shocks, youth unemployment, indebtedness, limited resource base, exposure to climate change and the unsustainable exploitation of ocean biodiversity. [Read more..](#)

Regional Spotlight

Preparing for extreme events: Workshop on Ocean Forecasting and Disaster Management



The effective response to a disaster includes timely information and early warning of potential hazards
© Masakazu Shibata

11 Aug 2014, Nairobi -The availability of good disaster management information will provide guidance on effective ways in addressing the vulnerability of sensitive socioeconomic sectors and sustainable resilience of the coastal communities. The IOC-UNESCO Sub-Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association ([WIOMSA](#)) and the Institute of Meteorological Training and Research (IMTR) organized a [workshop on Ocean Forecasting for the Western Indian Ocean](#) to empower scientists in ocean data management, and sea state forecasting and its modelling in the region. [Read more..](#)

International Workshop on Open Data for Science and Sustainability



Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng, UNESCO Senior Program Specialist closes the workshop, reflecting on UNESCO's work and commitment in science and technology for sustainable development in the region
© Masakazu Shibata

6-8 Aug 2014, Nairobi - UN hosted the International Workshop on Open Data for Science and Sustainability in Developing Countries at the UN Gigiri Complex in Nairobi. The 3-day workshop aimed to circumscribe the perspectives for Open Data and knowledge sharing platform in developing countries by exchanging views and concerns among policy makers, scientists and information and communication technology (ICT) experts. During the workshop, the challenges to international data access and sharing were discussed, covering issues concerning: limited access to research results published in scientific journals.. [Read more..](#)

Regional Consultative Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO in Eastern Africa

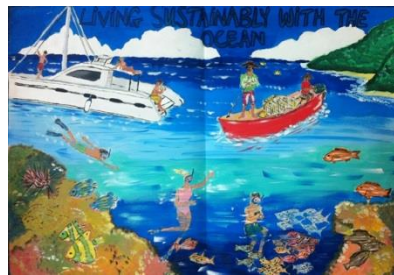
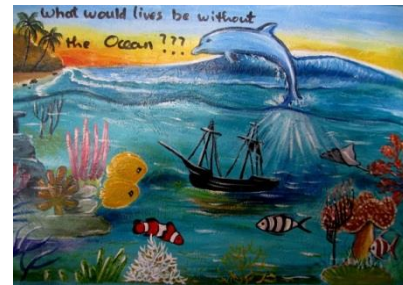
18-19 Jul, 2014, Nairobi - Together with representatives from the UNESCO Offices in the region, the Secretaries-General from NATCOMs in Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Uganda and Tanzania discussed the latest proposal on the [Post-2015 Agenda](#) as relevant to UNESCO and the regional strategy for cooperation and collaboration between UNESCO and NATCOMs, and amongst the NATCOMs. The outcomes of this meeting contributed not only to the development of the regional strategy for UNESCO and NATCOMs in Eastern Africa, but also.. [Read more..](#)

World Ocean Day: Living together with the Ocean art competition

8 Jun 2014, Nairobi – UNESCO-IOC Sub-Commission for Africa (IOC-AFRICA) initiated the Africa-wide art competition for children and youths of all ages to celebrate the World Oceans Day and African Day of Ocean and Seas. The combinations of these two days were used as an opportunity to reach out to as many people as possible to raise awareness about the oceans importance on our livelihoods and on our personal connection with the sea under the theme “*Living together with the Ocean*”. The art competition also provided children and youth of all ages the opportunity to express themselves artistically as well as scientifically.

IOC-AFRICA received a total of 75 artworks from 7 countries across Africa. The largest number of art pieces was received from Namibia, some from children as young as 6 years. The best artwork in the category above 15 years were from Angela Hoareau (School of visual arts, Seychelles), Lisette Roseline (Tourism Academy, Seychelles), and Keshni Soorkia (Windsor Girl College, Mauritius). [Read more..](#)

© UNESCO / Soorkia, Mauritius (15 years old), Winner of the competition merged under water together with landscape to show unity in diversity. A boat is seen in the ocean to see a path from the land to the sea. The colorful scenery underwater shows harmony and happiness which is depicted through a dolphin. The sunset reflects the end of the day which will give rise to a new dawn.



© UNESCO / Lisette, Seychelles (18 years old), Winner of the competition highlighted the concept of the ‘blue economy’ that is currently being promoted by the Seychelles government to all countries worldwide

© UNESCO / Emma and Nour, Tunisia (14 years old), Collage work illustrating the beauty of ocean. She stressed the need to save our ocean resources in saying that “they are all that we have, they are our world.”



© UNESCO / Angelou, Seychelles (18 years old), Winner of the competition described her artwork as representing the close relationship that the people of Seychelles have with the ocean. She explained that ocean is “inseparable” to the people of her community because she lives in an island “that are surrounded by the ocean and live very closely to it.”

Regional Spotlight

AfricaArray: Brining young knowledge together on geophysics through field research and trainings

21 Jun - 12 Jul 2014, Johannesburg - UNESCO together with Foundation of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), and Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences (OEDG) of the US National Science Foundation (NSF), has organized the 2014 [AfricaArray](#) International Geophysics Field School hosted by School of Geosciences at the University of the Witwatersrand.

A total of 33 participants (out of which 9 were women) from Botswana, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, USA, Zambia, Zimbabwe) took part in the 3-week programme, after a competitive selection process with nearly 100 applications. [Read more..](#)

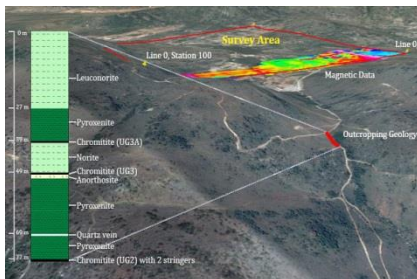


Geological field trip to the World Heritage Site at the Vredefort impact, the world's largest and oldest impact structure, hosts several important stone quarries
© Susan Webb



Students measure seismic velocity in the field at the core shed creating a geological log from several boreholes from the area. Doing the initial processing of the data in the field helps to bring home the importance of taking excellent field notes. © Susan Webb

Airborne magnetic data collected during the field assignment is overlain on Google Earth showing the locality of the field site and mapping site location.
© Susan Webb



Students sets up the seismic system and collect GPR data for analysis.
© Susan Webb

Abandoned Mines Project: Addressing environmental and health impacts



Miners look for gold at the site of Migori God Mines Belt, one of the Abandoned mines IGCP Projects site in Kenya
© Felix Sadrack

29-30 Jan 2014, Johannesburg - UNESCO-IUGS International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), together with partners have organized a workshop on the environmental and health impact of mining activities in sub-Saharan African countries with special focus on abandoned mines. To assess the scoping phase of this project, a group of academia and experts from Africa and Europe presented analytical data collected from their respective experimental sites across Sub-Saharan Africa. The results from these geological surveys provided experts with preliminary evidence of the effects that mining has on the environment. [Read more..](#)

Observing the present and considering the past to ponder our future on Climate Change



The shores of Lake Turkana, the largest desert lake in the world. Scientists believe that in just a few decades it will be reduced to a couple of puddles
© Masakazu Shibata

29 Feb 2014, Port Elizabeth - In view of promoting Earth science at school level, UNESCO has partnership with European Geoscience Union (EGU) and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's (NMMU) to equip teachers with useful tools to communicate issue related to climate changes to school students. Combining this with the concept of Earth Stewardship (which involves shaping trajectories of social-ecological change at local-to-global scales to enhance ecosystem resilience and human well-being), Maarten de Wit from AEON-ESSRI noted that we therefore **"need to apply our appreciation of culture, influencing our understanding of how to manage the Earth system."** [Read more..](#)

Education for All, Learning to Live Together

Enhancing capacity for more efficient Education Management Information System (EMIS) in harmonizing data

27 Jan 2015, Nairobi - Since the inclusion of EMIS as priority in the 2005 Kenya Education Sector Plan (KESSP), UNESCO and MoEST have been working to harmonize data collection efforts, equip districts with computers and connectivity as well as to establish data processing centers in each district. More recently in January 2015, the design of the Data Entry Screen was completed and capacity development of Data Entry Clerks was undertaken through the collaborative support of UNESCO-UIS and UNICEF. [Read more..](#)

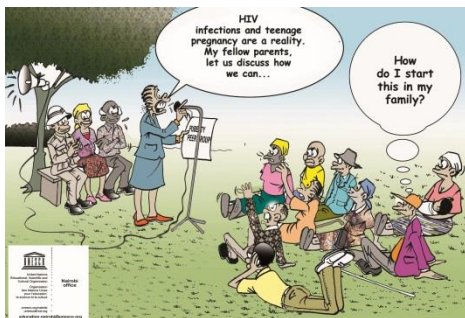
Post-2015 Education Agenda: National Consultation in preparation for the Regional Education Conference for Sub Saharan Africa



Secondary school students in Mitito Andei community, takes part in the classroom discussion
© Masakazu Shibata

16 Dec 2014, Nairobi - In preparation for the Regional Education Conference for Sub Saharan Africa scheduled for February 2015 in Rwanda, the MoEST and UNESCO, organized a National Stakeholders Consultation meeting on the post-2015 Education Agenda. The consultations enabled participants to reflect on national challenges and priorities as well as its implementation requirements. The meeting also provided a platform for dialogue on ways and means to ensure that Kenyan children and learners continue to access and participate in quality education. [Read more..](#)

Making invisible children visible for learners living with HIV to combat stigma and discrimination



UNESCO produced a communication booklet to sensitize general public on HIV/AIDS
© UNESCO

3 Dec 2014, Nairobi - In a country where over 230,000 children are reported to be HIV positive, stigma and discrimination remain a major concern. To increase the visibility of learners living with HIV in order to enhance access to treatment, care and support among the infected learners, the MoEST and UNESCO have developed a national network of young people living with HIV. [Read more..](#)

Learning to Live Together (LTLT) complements life skills education



Secondary school students commutes to and from schools at Central Business District in Nairobi
© Masakazu Shibata

29 Sept - 3 Oct 2014, Malindi - UNESCO, MoEST together with partners are piloting LTLT programme in the Tana River County, an area of Kenya where inter-ethnic conflicts have led to violence and disruption, particularly affecting the school lives of children. During the pilot, teachers will implement a number of activities aimed at promoting inter-cultural and inter-faith understanding. [Read more..](#)

Securing the young people: Enhancing access to comprehensive sexuality education

22 Jul 2014, Naro Moru - UNESCO and MoEST pushed the agenda of comprehensive sexuality education to further advocate religious leaders in developing a guideline for key stakeholders. About 100,000 new HIV infections were reported in 2013 out of which one-third (1/3) occurred among young people aged between 15-24 years age. The development of a comprehensive sexuality education is a key priority especially among young learners. [Read more..](#)

7,000 secondary school head masters sensitized on comprehensive sexuality education

23-27 Jun 2014, Mombasa - UNESCO called upon over 7,000 head-teachers to support provision of comprehensive sexuality education during their annual conference. The 2014 Kenya AIDS Indicator Survey revealed that young people aged between 15-24 years remain at high risk of HIV infection through behavior. [Read more..](#)

The 2013/4 Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report



From right: Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng, UNESCO Senior Program Specialist; H.E. Jacob Kaimenyi, MoEST Cabinet Secretary; Primary school students; and a representative from Kenya National Union of Teachers launches the GMR
© Masakazu Shibata

5 May 2014, Nairobi - The MoEST, KNATCOM and UNESCO collaborated to launch the 2013/4 EFA Global Monitoring Report. During the event, means of effectively supporting teachers were discussed among key stakeholders to ensure that quality education reaches to all children. [Read more..](#)

Science for a Sustainable Future

National Water Summit: Underground water management for sustainable livelihoods



H.E Mwai Kibaki, former President of the Republic of Kenya, calls for sustainable usage of natural resources © Mount Kenya University

9-10 Oct 2014, Turkana – UNESCO and Mount Kenya University in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and County Government of Turkana, organized a national water summit at Eliyes Springs near the Lake Turkana to deliberate on sustainable groundwater management. The summit brought together both the national and county government, industry, non-governmental agencies and universities, attended by more than 200 participants in majority from Kenya and including invitees from Ethiopia, South Sudan, Israel, Japan and Slovakia.

The Summit was officially opened H.E Mwai Kibaki called, former President of the Republic of Kenya to explore how best use of water to effectively boost agricultural production, mining, manufacturing, recreation, as well as creating awareness for the people to boost rainwater harvesting to reduce the pressure on existing water sources. [Read more..](#)

World Science Day : Mentoring Girls in STEM for a Secure Sustainable Future



Dr. Dinah Mwinzi from from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology addresses girls that the opportunities are there for them to excel © Masakazu Shibata

10 Nov 2014, Nairobi – UNESCO together with the Government of Kenya, the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), and the University of Nairobi organized a Scientific Camp of Excellence for Mentoring Girls in STEM for a Secure Sustainable Future.

Dr. Dinah Mwinzi, representing the Principal Secretary, from the MoEST informed the girls that **“attitude determines your latitude”**. She stated that **“science, technology and innovation drive the world and it is high time for the younger generation to engage and understand that the opportunities are there for them to excel.”** Also present was Mrs. Katherine Muoki, the Director of the Directorate of Gender in the Ministry of Devolution and Planning whose responsibility is to coordinate all government programs that relate to gender equality and women’s empowerment, advised the girls to aim to be the best in whatever they do and to believe in themselves as achievers. [Read more..](#)

Africa Engineering Week: Learning by doing with STEM engineers, scientists and professors

6 Sept 2014, Nairobi - The inaugural Africa Engineering Week took place with two mentoring events on Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) on 4 -5 September,. The two day event organized in partnership between UNESCO, the MoEST, the National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), the University of Nairobi and CISCO Systems, focusing on exposition of secondary school girls to the learning and working environments for engineers.

During the Africa Engineering Week, the students were invited to participate in the university course lectures and laboratory exercises. A visit to Cisco Systems Nairobi Headquarters and Safaricom mobile carrier, not only provided students to experience a real-life working environment at a hi-tech private enterprises, but also with the opportunity to interact with women system engineers on possible career designs in working with STEM. [Read more..](#)



Demonstrations for the students in a mechanical engineering laboratory © Katelyn Knapp

A student learns by doing at the University of Nairobi engineering laboratory © Katelyn Knapp



Students in discussions with the women scientists at CISCO Systems from different countries through a video link © Katelyn Knapp



Protecting our Heritage and Fostering Creativity

Spotlight on Kenyan Music: Musical waves from the Kenyan Coast



Luworo cultural group from Taveta performs during the celebration
© Alliance Francaise

6 Dec 2014, Nairobi - The coastal town of Mombasa came alive with a free concert featuring local musical groups highlighting the cultural expressions of coastal communities to Launch Volume 6 of the "Spotlight on Kenyan Music" on 23 August 2014. In Nairobi, the Launch of the Album took place at Alliance Francaise, on 5 December 2014 amid pomp and dance. For UNESCO, the project addresses the fundamental role and importance of two of UNESCO's Conventions: the 2005 Convention on the diversity of cultural expressions and development of cultural based industries and the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. [Read more..](#)

Lest We Forget: The Triumph Over Slavery, at United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON)

17-24 Nov, 2014 - UNESCO organized an unique exhibition at UNON that focuses less on enslaved Africans as victims and more on the ways in which they reshaped their destinies and place in history through the creation of distinct cultures. In addition, Lest We Forget explicitly demonstrated the economic impact of the slave trade and enslaved African labor on Americas and Europe and the concomitant disruption of Africa's economic, political and social life. [Read more..](#)

A platform for dialogue: Safeguarding traditional folk music



Artists and musicians, Daniel Mburu Muhini and Ali Tungwa Vyani performs Benga, a folk music of Kenya © Masakazu Shibata

11 Jul, 2014 - UNESCO and the Goethe Institute organized a seminar bringing together national and international cultural actors to develop a strategy for the promotion and preservation of traditional folk music. UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture contributed to the workshop by providing the current context of traditional music and the existing legislative framework touching upon the constitution, international conventions and national policies concerning traditional music. Methods of collecting and archiving traditional music were shared by ethnomusicologists who have been working in many countries in Africa including Kenya. Their presentation focused on effective identification, documentation, protection, transmission, promotion and accessibility of the traditional music. [Read more..](#)

UN.KNOWN SPACES: An artistic investigation of the UN headquarters and their host communities

8 Jul 2014, Nairobi - How is the United Nations perceived by its staff and the surrounding host-communities? What do the people from outside of the UN compounds know about the people working inside and vice-versa? Does the culture, customs and geographical situation of the host-communities influence the work of the UN in making the world a better place? The two Berlin-based artists, Janina Janke and Maurice de Martin, chose to study the UN headquarters of Vienna, New York, and Nairobi and the interactions that take place within the UN, between the UN and its host communities as well as within and between communities surrounding these locations. The Nairobi presentation was supported by UNESCO in collaboration with UN Information Center and the Goethe-Institut. The artists presented the results of their research as a stage work - a lecture performance-based interaction with music, video and sound recordings. [Read more..](#)

107 Years of the Abolition of Slavery: Contemporary challenges posed by its legacies



Mulekeni Ngulube, UNESCO's Programme Specialist engage with the audience on the slave trade legacies
© Masakazu Shibata

5 Jun 2014, Nairobi - As Kenya celebrates the 107 years of the abolition of slavery, UNESCO celebrates 20 years of notable achievements aimed at breaking the silence on the slave trade, slavery and its tragic consequences. As part of the commemorations, a [Science Café](#) was organized at Alliance Française in Nairobi's Central Business District with a screening of a documentary film "Silent memories: the unbroken chains", produced by the National Museum of Kenya. [Read more..](#)

The first International Monuments and Sites Day: Heritage places in living landscape



Hon. Anna Othoro, Minister of Tourism, Trade and Culture from Nairobi County, Dr. Ahmed Yassin, Director General of the National Museum of Kenya, and Djelid Mohamed, UNESCO Director, observes historical Nairobi landscape guided by museum volunteers
© Masakazu Shibata

17 April, 2014 - The modern city of Nairobi is at the heart of economic development in East Africa. The city also welcomes travelers from across the world for its exquisite safaris and rich wildlife reserves. However, UNESCO together with its partners invites you to re-examine this emerging African metropolis to introduce its living landscape as told through the streets, buildings and recreational parks. [Read more..](#)

Transforming societies with Media and ICTs

Capacity Building of National Librarians to enhance their ICT and e-literacy skills



7-10 Dec 2014, Nakuru - UNESCO supported Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL) and Kenya National Libraries Services (KNLS) to organize a national workshop to enable public librarians to use ICTs in new services that meet the community needs in development areas such as agriculture, education, health, culture, social inclusion and e-literacy.

During the training, Ms Ramune Petuchovaite, Manager of the [EIFL Public Library Innovation Programme](#) (EIFL-PLIP) stated that **"ICTs role in accelerating development is now widely recognized in Africa and that governments are speeding up the roll-out of ICT infrastructure and equipment to aide this developments. With these developments, it is important that public libraries be included in national ICT policies and strategies."** [Read more..](#)

Police and County Assembly Sensitized on Technology Based Violence against Women

25 Sept 2014, Nyeri - UNESCO supported the International Association for Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) in a workshop on *Technology Based Violence against Women* targeting Kenya Police Gender Desk Office, County Administration and Members of County Assembly. The workshop highlighted practical ways in which law enforcers can handle and prosecute perpetrators of technology based violence. [Read more..](#)

Innovative UNESCO's YouthMobile Initiative on mobile app development



The YouthMobile Initiative aims to empower youth with the high-level skills and confidence to create mobile apps that are locally-relevant and contribute to the reduction of chronic youth unemployment
© Martha Chumo

17 July - 28 Aug, 2014, Nairobi - A series of intensive workshops on mobile application development for sustainable development has been ongoing over the summer in Nairobi in partnership with the Dev School and Kenya National Commission for UNESCO. This initiative aims to empower youth with the high-level skills and confidence to create mobile apps that are locally-relevant.

The students were guided by peer trainers in building Android applications. Linus Onyango, Chairperson at the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO Youth Forum, said: **"The training has been the most exciting and innovative undertaking related to ICT ... The mobile Application training has been on for six weeks now and the attendance has been amazing, the class is always full and the trainers have been great in giving the learners an introduction to mobile apps development."** [Read more..](#)

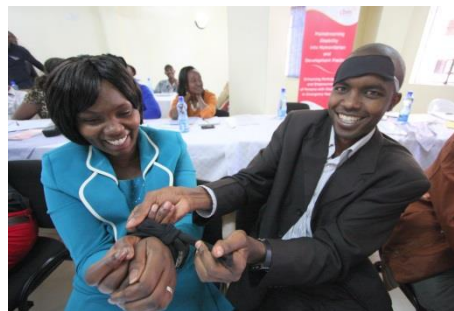
Development of an OER based course on the ICT Competency Framework



UNESCO promote the application of ICTs to enhance the quality of and access to education, including the production, sharing and access of OERs. UNESCO CI Advisor Jaco Du Toit (3rd from 1st row left) pose for the group photo with national stakeholders.
© UNESCO

22-24 Jul 2014, Nairobi - The Quality Assurance Workshop for the ICT Competency Framework (ICT CFT) was organized to support the effective use of ICTs for education, following up on the 2013 National Stakeholders' Consultation and series of preliminary workshops held in 2014 Spring. The majority of the 15 units of the Kenyan ICT CFT (KICT CFT) course were finalized during the meeting and prepared for final editing before its release on 18 August. The course materials are being developed on an open source learning management system (Moodle) to be available on mobile devices. And would be available through ePub to facilitate its accessibility to persons with disabilities. [Read more..](#)

Information saves lives: UNESCO partners with BBC Media Action on Lifeline communication



The project, Empowering local radio with ICTs, provides media practitioners with opportunities to acquire knowledge and skills to better inform and engage with listeners on issues including people living with disabilities and disasters
© Masakazu Shibata

28-30 Apr 2014, Kisumu - UNESCO partnered with BBC Media Action to enhance the capacity of media practitioners on lifeline communication to support affected communities during and after humanitarian disasters, and to improve coordination between the media and humanitarian responders during such crises.

In addition to community media practitioners under the UNESCO project [Empowering Local Radio with ICTs](#), humanitarian practitioners from Kenya Red Cross Society, UNICEF Kenya, Kenya Meteorological Service, Concern World Wide, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Kenya Meteorological Service, Plan International, World Vision, and CARE International Kenya took part in the interactive training.

Sophie Mshila, a reporter at Mwanedu FM noted that undertaking this training has enabled her to **"acquire the right knowledge and skills to produce and report objectively about and during humanitarian disasters/crisis. I am now capable of sourcing for the right factual information, package it, and report it through the radio to the local community."** [Read more..](#)

DidYOUKNOW? About Lake Turkana National Parks, UNESCO World Heritage

The most saline of Africa's lakes, Turkana contain significant biological diversity featuring habitats resulting from ecological changes over time and ranging from terrestrial and aquatic, desert to grasslands and is inhabited by diverse fauna. The site is home to variety of creatures including zebras, gazelles, oryx, topi, lion, cheetah and crocodiles. A total of over 350 species of aquatic and terrestrial bird have been recorded in Lake Turkana. Its remoteness has preserved the area as a natural wilderness, including its vegetation. The Nilotic people native to Turkana possesses intimate knowledge of medicinal properties for these plants. They are mainly semi-nomadic pastoralists.



Flamingos gather at Lake Turkana, UNESCO World Heritage © Masakazu Shibata

Lake Turkana basin is also to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features. It has been very valuable in the reconstruction of the paleo-environment from 4million to 10,000 years ago. The geology and fossil record represents major stages of earth history including records of life represented by hominid discoveries, presence of recent geological process represented by volcanic erosional and sedimentary land forms. The Lake Turkana area is regarded by many anthropologists as the cradle of humankind. These human fossils include the remains of Australopithecus robustus , Homo habilis ,Homo erectus and Homo sapiens. Lake Turkana basin have contributed to our understanding of human ancestry than any other site in the world in having over 100 archaeological sites.

upcoming events

March

- 4th -5th **Integration of ICT Essentials for teachers into Online Platform** in Rwanda
- 9th **Fact finding UNESCO-IUCN mission** at the site of the Gibe III dam on the Omo River in Ethiopia linked with UNESCO World Heritage Site
- 16th -20th **23rd session of the IOC's IODIE programme** in Belgium
- 17th -18th **Somalia Media Support Group Meeting** in Kenya
- 20th **High level policy roundtable on water for sustainable development** in Kenya
- 21st **World Poetry Day**
- 23th **Capacity Development Programme for Somalia Education officials** in Somalia
- 28th **Roundtable on Post-2015: Planning & Financing Education in Africa**, as an ECA Conference of Ministers - Side event in Ethiopia

April

- 9th **Policy Board and Management Committee Meeting** on Assistive Technology for Inclusive Education and Access to Information in Uganda
- 9th -10th **2nd Sino-Africa Forum on Marine Science and Technology** in Kenya
- 11th -13th **Forum on Sustained Ocean Observations for IOC Group V** (Africa and Arab countries) in Kenya
- 14th -15th **3rd session of IOC's Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States** in Kenya
- 19th **Nairobi Cultural Festival** in association with National Museum of Kenya
- 23rd **World Book and Copyright Day**
- 30th **Int'l Jazz Day**

May

- 3rd **World Press Freedom Day**

June

- 5th -8th **World Environment Day, World Ocean Day Celebration**
- 18th -25th **28th session of the Assembly of the IOC of UNESCO** at UNESCO HQ in Paris



CONTACT



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

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