

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON COLOMBIA / UNESCO COOPERATION
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1. **Membership in UNESCO:** 31 October 1947
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** No  
*Previous terms:* 1948-1950, 1950-1954, 1970-1974, 1980-1985, 1985-1989, 1991-1995, 1997-2001, 2005-2009, 2007-2009
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees and Commissions:** 4
  - International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (Term expires: 40th General Conference)
  - Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (Term expires : 40th General Conference)
  - Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (Term expires: 40th General Conference)
  - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
4. **DG's visits to Colombia:** None
5. **The former Director-General's visits to Colombia**  
(Koichiro Matsuura) 2001, 2007

#### 6. Permanent Delegation to UNESCO

Mr **Federico Alonso Renjifo Vélez**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Colombia to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO since January 2014. Born in Cali, Colombia, in 1953. Graduated from the Universidad Javeriana of Colombia in Social and Economic Studies. Professional experience: Secretary of the Presidency of Colombia (2011-2012); Minister of Interior (2012); Minister of Mines and Energy (2013). In the private sector, he was Executive President of the Banco de Colombia, and President of the International Finance Company.

*Previous Permanent Delegates:* Ms Sonia Sarmiento (2009-2013); Mr Luis Guillermo Ángel Correa (February 2007-December 2008); Ms María Zulema Vélez Jara (September 2003-October 2006); Mr Miguel Gómez Martínez (January 2003-September 2003); Mr Augusto Galán Sarmiento (1999-2002); Mr Pablo Gabriel Obregón Santo Domingo (1995-1999); Mr Manuel José Cepeda Espinosa (1993-1995); Ms Gloria Pachón de Galán (1989-1993); Ms Marina Uribe de Eusse (1987-1988); Mr Aurelio Caicedo Ayerbe (1985-1987); Mr Guillermo Hernández Rodríguez (1982-1985); Mr Ramiro Zambrano Cárdenas (1981-1982); Mr Daniel Arango Jaramillo (1979-1981); Mr Pedro Javier Soto Sierra (1978-1979); Mr Juan Jacobo Muñoz Delgado (1974-1977); M. Gabriel Betancur Mejía (1968-1974); M. Silvio Villegas (1967-1968).

#### 7. UNESCO Office in Quito (Ecuador)

Since February 2014, **Ms Saadia Sánchez** (D-1, Venezuela) is the Director of the Cluster Office in Quito and UNESCO Representative to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela.

The Office was established in June 1983 as a sub-regional education unit, supporting the "principal education project for Latin America and the Caribbean". As part of the reorganisation of UNESCO's field structure, the Office became the Cluster Office for the Andean sub-region in 2001.

#### 8. Colombian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (Comisión Nacional Colombiana de Cooperación con la UNESCO)

- Established in October 1947 and reorganized in 1985
- President (since August 2010): Ms María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Executive Secretary (since October 2011): Mr Luis Armando Soto Boutin

9. **Personalities linked to the UNESCO activities (Goodwill Ambassadors, Special Envoys, etc):**  
None

**10. UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks**

UNESCO Chairs: 8

- Chaire UNESCO de communication (1994), Pontifica Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá D.C.
- UNESCO Chair for Democracy and Human Rights (1994), Luis Carlos Galan Institute for Development of Democracy, Santa Fe de Bogotá
- Chaire UNESCO en matière de processus communautaires (1998), Proyecto Nasa de Toribío, Santander de Quilichao
- Chaire UNESCO en Gestion du Patrimoine Culturel (2000), L'Universidad Nacional de Colombia - Sede Manizales, Manizales, Caldas
- Chaire UNESCO de Développement de l'enfant (2002), Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas, Bogotá D.C.
- UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Violence, Public Policies and Governance (2005), University Externado de Colombia, Bogotá
- UNESCO Chair in the International Resolution of Conflicts and Peace-building (2011) The Antioquia University, Medellín
- UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Dialogue (2014), Universidad Nacional de Colombia

UNITWIN Networks: 2

- RAMLEDA Réseau ibéroaméricain pour l'enseignement du droit d'auteur et des droits voisins, établie en 1999, Santa Fé de Bogota, DC
- Chaire UNESCO/Réseau regional pour l'amélioration de la qualité et de l'équité en matière de l'éducation en Amérique latine, établie en 1996 à l'Universidad del Valle, Cali

**11. Associated Schools:** 67

Colombia joined the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) in 1976. There are at present 67 (11 primary, 13 primary and secondary, 31 secondary schools, 12 teacher training institutions).

**12. Category 2 Institutes and Centres:** 2

- *Regional Centre on Urban Water Management for Latin America and the Caribbean (CINARA), Cali*
- *Regional Centre for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC), Bogotá*

**13. Biosphere Reserves:** 5

- *Cinturón Andino (1979, reviewed in 2001 and 2011) – It is located at the Macizo Colombiano, in the Andean Chain in south Colombia. It comprises three National Parks: the Cueva de los Guacharos National Park, the Purace National Park and the Nevado del Huila National Park. The Cueva de los Guacharos National Park comprises complex and special geological formations and caves created by the Suazas River. The relief is sloped, covered by humid and cloud forests. The biosphere reserve also includes the snowy peaks of the Nevado del Huila National Park that rises to a height of 5,750 meters above sea level. Vegetation ranges from sub hygrophyte to snow levels and includes cloud forest and high barren plains. The park is specially rich in birds, as the condor (Vultur gryphus) the Colombian national emblem, the real eagle (Accipiter collaris), and the danta (Tapirus pinchaque). The volcanic chain of Purace's National Park includes seven craters, with sources of thermal waters, 30 lagoons and waterfalls and the Magdalena's, Cauca's and Caqueta's river head as a fluvial star. Eight ethnic groups (Guambianos, Paeces, Yanconas, Kokonucos, Polindaras, Totares e Ingas) (2000), with their own culture and traditional practices, live in the Andean belt. Traditional, modern peasants, and 'colons' are engaged in different activities from agriculture practices to cattle grazing and also extraction of high-value timber, affecting the mountainous ecosystems. Destruction practices of 'illicit cultures' with herbicides provoke serious impacts on natural ecosystems, increasing social conflicts. Institutions, associations of indigenous peoples and peasants start to work jointly in regional planning efforts to manage sustainable agroecosystems, recuperate river basins, and implement indigenous 'life plans'.*

- *El Tuparro* (1979, reviewed in 2001 and 2011) – It is located in the eastern plains of Colombia in Vichada county, a flat area bounded by the Orinoco River to the east, the Tomo River to the north and the Tuparro and Tuparrito to the south. The area undulates with a series of small valleys and major rivers and streams. A few areas are permanently flooded during parts of the year. Some 85% of the area is covered with natural grass savanna, dominated by plume grass. Woodlands are found along the watercourses, with different tree species. Especially notable is the 'Morichales' formation and the 'mirity areas'. Mammals of the savanna include white-tailed deer, giant armadillo, small savanna armadillo, tapir and dog fox. Peccaries, pumas, jaguars and different species of monkeys inhabit the woodlands. Noteworthy birds include guans, curassows, screamers, eagles and ducks. Giant otters as capybaras, Orinoco crocodile, caiman and turtles are found along the shores of the rivers, which abound with fish including piranha and electric eel. The biosphere reserve's most evident characteristic is its diversity in terms of local populations and indigenous communities. Participatory mechanisms are in place, but vary depending on the ethnic groups. Income and benefits to local communities are assured through the direct utilization of the resources. In the transition area, surrounding the Selva of Mataven, named 'the Forest Heart' there are 10,000 inhabitants (Sikuanis, piapocos, puinaves, piaroas, curripacos and cubeos) in 16 Indian reserves (2000). A semi nomadic group of Indians, the Guahibos, still live there.
- *Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta* (1979, reviewed in 2001 and 2011) – Most of the Reserve (675,000 hectares) lies in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and the remaining 56,250 hectares comprises Tayrona National Park. The area stretches from the Caribbean coast with a finely preserved coral reef, extensive beaches, several bays and inlets up to the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta with marked relief and steep slopes. Independent of the Andean chain, it rises to a height of 5,775 meters above sea level, at a distance of only 42 km from the Caribbean coast. The snowy peaks called 'tundra' are considered sacred. Vegetation ranges from sub-hygrophyte to snow levels and includes cloud forest and high barren plains. Three types of vegetation can be seen at Tayrona's National Park: forest/matorral with dry forest and humid forest. Some of them are being modified by peasants engaged in agriculture and cattle grazing, and also extraction of high-value timber, especially in the coffee belt. Of the estimated population of 211,000 (1999) some 26,500 indigenous peoples, particularly the Arhuaco, Kogui and Wiwa live in indigenous reserves, but also a considerable number live outside these areas. Ethnic groups try to develop a policy for the recovery of their ancestral lands in order to strengthen their culture and assist their traditional conservation practices. There is no management policy of the reserve as a whole and the zonation is not clear. However, scientific diagnosis and technical assessments have contributed to the elaboration of a sustainable development plan with programmes in the Sierra Nevada National Park, in agro-ecology, fish-farming and environmental health. The area is of great archaeological value particularly with sites as the 'Ciudad Perdida' and many artifacts of Tayrona culture.
- *Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta* (2000, reviewed in 2011) – It is located in the northern part of Colombia, not far from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta Biosphere Reserve. Ciénaga Grande is one of the largest coastal wetlands in Latin America, including both coral reefs and mangroves. It comprises Isla de Salamanca National Park, and the Flora and Fauna Sanctuary of the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta. The site lies at the interface between fresh and brackish water, shallow bays and deeper coastal waters thus creating a complex of habitats supporting a high diversity of flora and fauna. The alluvial prairies of recent origin inside the primitive delta of the Magdalena River include mud banks type formations, lagoons and channels with large mangrove associations, saw grass marshes and flooded and non-flooded forests. Some 200 people live in the Ciénaga Biosphere Reserve, engaged in fisheries, cattle grazing, banana and African palm plantations, and horticulture. These practices had affected some hydrologic ecosystems with agrochemicals, and the discharge of toxic substances. Around 1950 the road Ciénaga-Barranquilla was constructed, affecting the interface between the Magdalena River and the mangroves and marshes complexes, causing serious variations in the big wetland ecosystem. The hyper-salinization of lagoons and soils provoked the extinction of large mangrove forests and marshes. A project to recuperate the hydrologic equilibrium of the coastal hydrosphere, the socio-economic conditions of local populations and to launch institutional development, has been implemented since 1994. As a result some mangrove ecosystems sites start being recuperated with local participation, and scientific support.

- *Seaflower* (2000, reviewed in 2011) – It should be noted that the site description for the Seaflower biosphere reserve is the subject of an ongoing process of revision by the competent authorities, further to the Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 19 November 2012 establishing a new maritime boundary between Colombia and Nicaragua.

#### 14. UNESCO Global Geopark None

#### 15. World Heritage

Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List: 8

- *Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena* (Cultural) (1984)
- *Los Katíos National Park* (Natural) (1994)
- *Historic Centre of Santa Cruz de Mompo* (Cultural) (1995)
- *National Archeological Park of Tierradentro* (Cultural) (1995)
- *San Agustín Archeological Park* (Cultural) (1995)
- *Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary* (Natural) (2006)
- *Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia* (Cultural) (2011)
- *Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System* (Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) (Cultural) (2014)

Tentative List: 18

- *Buritaca 200 - Ciudad Perdida - Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta* (29/10/1993)
- *Canal del Dique - Dike Canal* (27/09/2012)
- *Catholic Doctrine Temples* (27/09/2012)
- *Chiribiquete National Park* (27/09/2012)
- *Cultural Landscape of Salt Towns* (27/09/2012)
- *Cultural Landscape of the Lower Basin of the Chicamocha River* (27/09/2012)
- *Cultural Landscape of the Vernacular Stilt Housing of Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta and of Medio Atrato* (22/10/2013)
- *Parque Nacional Natural Chiribiquete* (29/10/1993)
- *Pre-Hispanic Hydraulic System of the San Jorge River* (27/09/2012)
- *Puente de Occidente (Western Bridge)* (27/09/2012)
- *Seaflower Marine Protected Area (MPA)* (18/09/2007)
- *Sistema Hidráulico Prehispánico del Río San Jorge* (29/10/1993)
- *South of Ricaurte Province* (27/09/2012)
- *Tatacoa Desert* (27/09/2012)
- *Tayrona and Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta National Parks and their Archaeological Sites* (27/09/2012)
- *United Fruit Company Infrastructure* (27/09/2012)
- *University City of Bogotá* (27/09/2012)
- *Virgilio Barco Library* (27/09/2012)

#### 16. Intangible Heritage Lists

Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: 8

- *Carnival of Barranquilla* (2008)
- *Cultural space of Palenque de San Basilio* (2008)
- *Carnaval de Negros y Blancos* (2009)
- *Holy Week processions in Popayán* (2009)
- *Wayuu normative system, applied by the Pütchipü'üi (palabrero)* (2010)
- *Traditional knowledge of the jaguar shamans of Yuruparí* (2011)
- *Festival of Saint Francis of Assisi, Quibdó* (2012)
- *Marimba music, traditional chants and dances from the Colombia South Pacific region and Esmeraldas Province of Ecuador (Colombia and Ecuador)* (2015)

List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding: 1

- *Traditional Vallenato music of the Greater Magdalena region* (2015)

**17. Memory of the World Register:** 2

- *American Colonial Music: a sample of its documentary richness* (2007) (Submitted by Colombia Mexico, Bolivia and Peru) - The documentary collections of music from the 16th to the 18th century from different countries of the American continent are an essential part of the cultural history of the New World in all aspects: religious and lay, civil and political, cultural and popular, vocal and instrumental, mystic and dramatic, renaissance, baroque and classic. They constitute the testimony of different cultures (Indigenous, African and European) which mixed and gave birth, to a new culture, not completely western, nor Hispanic, nor purely American, for three centuries.
- *Negros y Esclavos Archives* (2005) - The archive collection, that forms part of the documentary assets of the 'Archivo General de la Nación', contains extensive and very important testimonial information about the development of the African slave trade in the 'Neogranadino' territory. The collection is composed of 55 files, equivalent to approximately 55,000 sheets of paper, that refer not only to the history of Colombia, but also that of Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela. New slaves were sent to the different Spanish colonies in South America from the port of Cartagena, which therefore documented information about slaves and their treatment. Regrettably, most documents produced in Cartagena during that period - 16th to 18th centuries, have disappeared. The 'Archivo General de la Nacion' together with the archives of the 'General de Indias de Sevilla', preserves the remaining documents on this topic.

**18. Creative Cities Network:** 3

- *Popayán, as a Creative City of Gastronomy* (2005) - Popayán is a city of 300,000 inhabitants located in the South-west of Colombia. A university city, Popayán is best known for its colonial historic center of Hispanic heritage, where numerous celebrations take place, including that of Holy week, declared intangible cultural heritage of humanity by UNESCO in 2009. Popayán also hosts numerous gastronomic activities aimed at promoting the flavors of the traditional cuisine of the region. Three culinary traditions lie at its origins: the roots of the pre-Columbian culture, those of African culture and the contributions of Spanish cuisine. The richness of the traditional cuisine of Popayán not only boasts the flavors and tastes derived from old know-how, but also the symbolism, rites, legends and customs of this heritage.
- *Bogotá, as a Creative City of Music* (2012) - Bogotá is a creative city renowned for its rich music scene. In recent decades, the city has undergone several urban, economic, social and cultural transformations that have been supported by public policies including culture as a main pillar. Music has been a notable part of this process, as illustrated by the "Festivales Al Parque" program launched in 1995, which offers free, open-air concerts by local rock, jazz, salsa, hip hop, and opera artists. These festivals contribute to the appropriation of public spaces by citizens and reinforce Bogotá's identity and cultural diversity. In addition to hosting the "Festivales Al Parque", Bogotá is also home to 60 other annual music festivals as well as 500 live music venues. Thanks to this vibrant music scene, Bogotá has become an important regional musical center where the sounds of salsa, fusion, rock, opera, classic, chamber, electronic, pop, tropical, ranchera, hip hop, experimental, bolero, gospel and Colombia's own rich musical traditions can be heard. Bogotá's cultural industries as a whole have improved with the participation of the private sector and the city's Chamber of Commerce. Other creative fields such as books, the arts, the performing arts and the audiovisual arts have become more developed. The Bogotá Music Market, created in 2012, has also become a notable platform for local and regional music agents. Additionally, the Chamber of Commerce is developing a Music Cluster in order to strengthen the city's dynamic music sector.
- *Medellín, as a Creative City of Music* (2015)

**19. Legal instruments** 15 ratified

Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention. The Hague, 14 May 1954.	18/06/1998	Accession
Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Hague, 14 May 1954.	18/06/1998	Accession
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Ramsar, 2 February 1971.	18/06/1998	Accession
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Paris, 17 October 2003.	19/03/2008	Ratification
International Convention against Doping in Sport. Paris, 19 October 2005	31/08/2009	Ratification
Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Hague, 26 March 1999.	24/11/2010	Accession
Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Paris, 20 October 2005	19/03/2013	Accession
Convention relating to the Distribution of Programme-Carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite. Brussels, 21 May 1974.	20/12/2013	Accession

**20. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2016-2017:** None

- **(2012)** - *100th anniversary of the death of Rafael Pombo, writer (1833-1912)* - José Rafael de Pombo y Rebolledo (1833-1912) was a Colombian poet, writer, translator and journalist. Trained as a mathematician and an engineer in a military school, Rafael Pombo served in the army and travelled to the United States of America as Secretary of the Legation in Washington. Rafael Pombo is mostly remembered for his contribution to children's literature. Among his most popular children's fables are Michín, Juan Chunguero, Pastorcita, La Pobre Viejecita, Simón el Bobito, El Gato Bandido, and El Renacuajo paseador. In 1905 he was recognized as Colombia's best poet and his Poesías Completas were published in 1957.
- **(2001)** - *Two hundredth anniversary of the expedition of Alexander von Humboldt to Colombia* - The celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the expedition of Alexander von Humboldt to Colombia is an important event both for the country and for the international community. Humboldt's voyage took place at an important juncture (eighteenth and nineteenth centuries) in the history of humanity marked by a deluge of fresh knowledge and new theories and scientific disciplines. His explorations, accompanied by systematic observations and measurements, of the Territory of New Granada highlighted the striking differences between the physical and biotic environments of the American tropical zone and those of Europe; at the same time, they provided a mass of information and new knowledge in an age of notable advances in world scientific knowledge.
- **(1996)** - *Centenary of the death of the Colombian poet José Asunción Silva*

**21. Participation Programme**

- 2014-2015:** 3 national projects and one regional project approved for the total amount of **US\$ 111,000**
- 2012-2013:** 2 projects approved for a total amount of **US\$ 36,000**
- 2010-2011:** 5 projects approved for a total amount of **US\$ 121.300** (including 1 project in favour of Haiti), as well as an emergency assistance of **US\$ 50,000**.
- 2008-2009:** 6 projects approved for a total amount of **US\$ 128,000**, as well as 1 emergency assistance for a total amount of **US\$ 50,000**

**22. UNESCO Fellowships Programme**

13 fellowships awarded since 2010 for a total amount of **US\$ 222,740**

**23. Payment of assessed membership fees (as at 21 April 2016)**

Assessment rate for 2016: 0.322 %;  
Last payment: 29 December 2014

**24. Representation within the Secretariat (as at 5 May 2016)**

Total staff Nationals from Colombia: 6

Professional staff in geographical posts: 4

Situation regarding the geographical distribution status (Max. 5; Min. 3): **NORMALLY-REPRESENTED**

Junior Professional Officer (JPO) /Associate Expert (AE) Programme:

Colombia does not participate in the programme.

Young Professional Programme:

As a normally-represented member state, this country is not eligible to participate in the YPP.

**25. Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) maintaining relations with UNESCO, with headquarters in Colombia: 1**

The *Executive Secretariat of the Andrés Bello Convention (SECAB)* is based in Bogotá. It was established in 1970 (amended in 1990) to promote integration, mutual knowledge and brotherhood among the countries members; complement integration efforts in the economic and trade sectors with action in the fields of educational, scientific and cultural integration; contribute to the achievement of an adequate balance in educational, scientific, technical and cultural development; secure joint efforts through education, science, technology and culture in favour of the integral development of nations involved; apply science and technology to improve living standards of the peoples in the region. Membership: Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Venezuela and Argentina in process. Agreement signed with UNESCO in 1976.

**26. Non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO, with headquarters in Colombia: 1**

Created in 1969, based in Bogota, the *Pan-American Association of Educational Credit Institutions (APICE)* maintains official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status). It aims to further the development of local, national and international programmes and systems for financing higher education through educational credit, with the financial participation of the public and/or private sectors, in order to provide equal opportunities to American students in acquiring the knowledge that will enable them to contribute more effectively to the cultural, economic and social transformation of their respective countries.