

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON ECUADOR / UNESCO COOPERATION

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** 22 January 1947
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** No
Previous terms: 1947-1948; 1954-1962; 1976-1980; 2003-2007; 2011-2015
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees and Commissions: 3**
 - Intergovernmental Council of the "Management of Social Transformations" Programme (MOST) (Term expires: 39th General Conference);
 - Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication Member (Term expires : 40th General Conference)
 - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).
4. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:**
Mr. Galo Mora Witt presented his credentials on 6 May 2015.
Previous Permanent Delegates: Since May 2010 to April 2015, Mr. Lautaro Pozo Malo. June 2007 to May 2010, Mr. Marcelo Vázquez, Chargé d'affaires, (no Permanent Delegate during 3 years);
Before: Ms Katia Murrieta Wong, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate.

Ecuador has been designated President of the GRULAC for the 1st semester of 2016 (1 January-30 June).

5. **UNESCO Office in Quito (Ecuador):**
Since February 2014, **Ms Saadia Sánchez** (D-1, Venezuela) is the Director of the Office in Quito and UNESCO representative to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela.
In June 1983 UNESCO established an Office in Quito as a sub-regional education unit, supporting the principal education project for Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2001, as part of the reorganisation of UNESCO's field structure, the Office became the **Cluster Office** for the Andean sub-region covering Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.
6. **Ecuadorian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO: (Comisión Nacional Ecuatoriana de Cooperación con la UNESCO)**
 - Established on 24 October 1947 and restructured in 1966.
 - President / Chairperson (since September 2015): Mr. Andrés Arauz, Minister of Knowledge and Human Talent
 - General Secretary and Ministerial Advisory: Ms Amparo Miranda.
 - UNESCO's contribution to the capacity building of the National Commission:
A Sub-regional seminar for Latin American National Commissions for UNESCO took place from 3 to 5 September 2013 in Quito, Ecuador. This seminar was organized in line with the recommendations of the Open-ended Tripartite Working Group for the follow-up of the review of cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO. It aimed to update the National Commissions' knowledge of UNESCO, including its challenges and reforms, to develop their skills and capacities and to share best practices among themselves. It also prepared National Commissions for the 37th General Conference.
 - Participation in the DG's Consultations on C/4 and C/5:
Ms Amparo Naranjo, Secretaria Permanente, and Ms. Guerra de Freire Susana, Ministro de la Embajada del Ecuador en Uruguay attended the Director-General's Consultation with Member States and National Commissions of Latin American and the Caribbean region on the preparation

of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4) and the Programme and Budget for 2014-2017 (37 C/5) from 14-16 September 2012, in Montevideo, Uruguay.

7. **Personalities linked to the UNESCO activities** (Goodwill Ambassadors, Special Envoys, etc): **1**
- Ms Ivonne A-Baki, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador (February 2010)
Mrs Ivonne A-Baki was designated as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador on 15 February 2010 in recognition of her outstanding commitment to UNESCO's message of peace and tolerance and her dedication to the aims and ideals of the Organization.
8. **UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks in Ecuador:** **2**
- *UNESCO Chair on indigenous peoples in Latin America*, established in 1999 at the *Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar* in Quito (Ecuador). In the field of native communities, objectives are: (i) To develop interdisciplinary research activities in order to promote an active participation of Natives in the academic process, not only as students but also as professors, in particular nationals of the Member States of the "Bolivarian" area; (ii) To support knowledge exchange between native and non-native communities; and (iii) To train the specialized staff and to strengthen the cultural information system for Latin America and the Caribbean and the reflection on the role of cultural policies in endogenous and sustainable development.
 - *UNESCO Chair in a Culture of Peace and Education*, established in 2012 at the *Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja* (Ecuador). In the field of Culture of peace and education, objectives are: (i) Promote research in disciplinary fields that contribute to the consolidation of a culture of peace, including gender and interculturalism, alternative methods of conflict resolution, environment and development; carry out research jointly with partners and disseminate results widely; (ii) Establish specialized programmes to develop the skills of various social actors in the field of a culture of peace, as well as provide training; promote the role of distance education in building enabling training environments; (iii) Establish and strengthen inter-institutional linkages and cooperation to facilitate the consolidation of common higher education spaces in the field of a culture of peace and education, as well as interaction with strategic actors for the transformation of policies and practices geared towards a culture of peace; and (iv) Collect and disseminate national, regional and international examples of good experiences and successful practices in the field of a culture of peace and education.
9. **Associated Schools:** **56**
- Ecuador joined the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) in 1953. There are at present **56** ASP member institutions (2 nursery and pre-schools, 30 primary, 14 primary and secondary, 8 secondary schools, 1 teacher training and 1 vocational and technical institutions). Activities on which the country works address the mainly the following theme: Education for Sustainable Development
10. **Category 2 Institutes and Centres:** **None**
11. **Biosphere Reserves** **6**
- *Archipiélago de Colón (Galápagos)* (1984, reviewed 1999) (also a National Park and a World Heritage site) consist of 13 islands formed 4 million years ago by volcanic processes and most represent the summit of a volcano, some of which rise over 3,000 meters from the Pacific Ocean floor. The larger islands typically comprise one or more gently sloping shield volcanoes, culminating in craters or calderas and the terrain are generally composed of uplifted marine lava flows. More than 250 species are non-native introductions occurring predominantly around human settlements. Coastal vegetation, influenced by the presence of salt, occurs along beaches, salt-water lagoons and low, broken, boulder-strewn shores. The endemic fauna includes invertebrate, reptile and bird species. There are a few indigenous mammals. All the reptiles are endemic, except two marine tortoises, and include giant tortoise (*Geochelone elephantopus*), terrestrial iguanas (*Conolophus subcristatus* and *C. pallidus*), and marine iguana (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*).

The Government of Ecuador, IUCN and UNESCO - WCH, support the Charles Darwin Research Station jointly and work in programmes, which assist in the management of the reserve.

- *Yasuni* (1989, reviewed 2001) is situated in the Amazonian region, in Napo Province in the north of the country. The terrain is very sinuous, despite of being in the Amazonian plains. With the exception of Rio Napo, which originates in the foothills of the Andean Cordillera, rivers crossing the national park originate at altitudes from 300 meters to 600 meters above sea level. The topography is represented by low plains alternating with the foothills of the Andean chain, with a softly inclined platform supported by the Guyano-Brasilian shield that extends from the south of Colombia to Peru. Three main types of vegetation occur: 'Terra firme', found on the high reliefs areas and not subject to flooding; 'Varzea', a forest type subject to periodic flooding, and 'Irapo' in the permanent or near permanent flooded forest. Cononaco is traditionally a settlement area for indigenous communities such as the Huaorani, Aucas and Quichuas.. Oil exploitation by the National Petroleum Company affects local communities' social practices and the natural ecosystem. The objectives of the biosphere reserve are to conserve natural ecosystems, to provide protective legislation, in situ conservation, encourage regional planning and rural development, encourage local participation in land use and environmental education.
- *Sumaco* (2000, extended in 2002) is located 100 km south-east of Quito in western Napo province. There are numerous watercourses in the area, such as the Suno, Coca, Pitayacu and Pusuno Rivers. The Sumaco Volcano (3,900 meters above sea level) is a rather isolated peak lying to the east of the main Andean Mountain Range. It covers a large variety of ecosystems from the tropical highlands-Andean paramour to the tropical Amazon plains. Moist broadleaf forest with an abundance of palms is the major vegetation type. The area includes well-preserved corridors of habitats from the lowlands to above the tree line. There is a highly diverse fauna. Mammals include spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and several species of bats. Birds include torrent duck (*Merganetta armata*) and Andean cock-of-the-rock (*Rupicola peruviana*).
- *Podocarpus-El Condor* (2007)
- *Macizo del Cajas* (2013), situated in the south-west of Ecuador, this biosphere reserve includes a large number of ecosystems ranging from high mountains down to coastal and marine areas along the Pacific. It includes the Las Cajas National Park and the Quimsacocha National Recreational Area, which play an important role in water provision and regulation.
- *Bosque Seco* (2014) is located in southwestern Ecuador in the provinces of Loja and El Oro. It covers 501,040 ha, approximately 317,600 ha of which comprises dry forests and scrub similar to that of the Noroeste Biosphere Reserve in Peru.

12. Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List: 5

- *City of Quito* (1978) (Cultural). Quito, the capital of Ecuador, was founded in the 16th century on the ruins of an Inca city and stands at an altitude of 2,850 m. Despite the 1917 earthquake, the city has the best-preserved, least altered historic centre in Latin America. The monasteries of San Francisco and Santo Domingo, and the Church and Jesuit College of La Compañía, with their rich interiors, are pure examples of the 'Baroque school of Quito', which is a fusion of Spanish, Italian, Moorish, Flemish and indigenous art.
- *Galápagos Islands* (1978, 2001) (Natural) (also a Biosphere reserve). Located at the confluence of three ocean currents, the Galápagos are a 'melting pot' of marine species. Ongoing seismic and volcanic activity reflects the processes that formed the islands. These processes, together with the extreme isolation of the islands, led to the development of unusual animal life – such as the land iguana, the giant tortoise and the many types of finch – that inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection following his visit in 1835.
- *Sangay National Park* (1983) (Natural). With its outstanding natural beauty and two active volcanoes, the park illustrates the entire spectrum of ecosystems, ranging from tropical rainforests to glaciers, with striking contrasts between the snowcapped peaks and the forests of the plains. Its

isolation has encouraged the survival of indigenous species such as the mountain tapir and the Andean condor.

- *Historic Center of Santa Ana de los Ríos de Cuenca* (1999) (Cultural) is set in a valley surrounded by the Andean mountains in the south of Ecuador. This inland colonial town (entroterra), now the country's third city, was founded in 1557 on the rigorous planning guidelines issued 30 years earlier by the Spanish king Charles V. Cuenca still observes the formal orthogonal town plan that it has respected for 400 years. One of the region's agricultural and administrative centres, it has been a melting pot for local and immigrant populations. Cuenca's architecture, much of which dates from the 18th century, was 'modernized' in the economic prosperity of the 19th century as the city became a major exporter of quinine, straw hats and other products.
- *Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System* (2014) (Cultural) is an extensive Inca communication, trade and defence network of roads covering 30,000 km. Constructed by the Incas over several centuries and partly based on pre-Inca infrastructure, this extraordinary network through one of the world's most extreme geographical terrains linked the snow-capped peaks of the Andes – at an altitude of more than 6,000 m – to the coast, running through hot rainforests, fertile valleys and absolute deserts. It reached its maximum expansion in the 15th century, when it spread across the length and breadth of the Andes. The Qhapac Ñan, Andean Road System includes 273 component sites spread over more than 6,000 km that were selected to highlight the social, political, architectural and engineering achievements of the network, along with its associated infrastructure for trade, accommodation and storage, as well as sites of religious significance.

Tentative List: 6

- Ciudad de Zaruma (1998)
- Sitio arqueológico de Ingapirca (1998)
- Parque Nacional Machalilla (1998)
- Bosque petrificado de Puyando (1998)
- Complejo de fortificaciones precolombinas de Pambamarca (1998)
- Lagunas de Cajas y Paredones (2003)

13. Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: 3

- *Marimba music, traditional chants and dances from the Colombia South Pacific region and Esmeraldas Province of Ecuador* (2015). Marimba music and traditional chants and dances are musical expressions integral to the family and community fabric of people of African descent in the Colombian South Pacific region and Esmeraldas Province of Ecuador. Chanted stories and poems are performed by men and women at ritual, religious and festive events as a celebration of life, a form of worship to saints or as a farewell to the deceased, and are accompanied by rhythmic movements of the body. The marimba music is played on a palm wood xylophone with bamboo tube resonators, accompanied by drums and maracas. The element is rooted in family and daily activities and the community as a whole is considered the bearer and practitioner, irrespective of age or gender. Elderly people play a crucial role in transmitting legends and stories from oral tradition, while music teachers oversee the transmission of musical knowledge to new generations. Marimba music and traditional chants and dances promote symbolic exchanges that include food and drink. Each of these expressions facilitates family and collective integration through ancestral practices that heighten the sense of belonging to a particular group connected to a shared territory and history.
- *The Oral heritage and cultural manifestations of the Zápara People* (2008) (Ecuador-Peru). The Zápara people live in a part of the Amazon jungle straddling Ecuador and Peru. The Zápara developed in what is one of the most bio-diverse areas in the world and are the last representatives of an ethno-linguistic group that included many other populations before the Spanish conquest. In the heart of Amazonia, they have elaborated an oral culture that is particularly rich as regards their understanding of the natural environment. This is demonstrated by the abundance of their vocabulary for the flora and fauna and by their medicinal practices and knowledge of the medicinal plants of the forest. This cultural heritage is expressed through their

myths, rituals, artistic practices and language. Their language is the depository of traditional knowledge and of oral tradition and constitutes the memory of the people and the region.

- *The traditional weaving of the Ecuadorian toquilla straw hat* (2012). The toquilla straw hat is woven from fibres from a palm tree characteristic of the Ecuadorian coast. Coastal farmers cultivate the toquillales and harvest the stems before separating the fibre from the green outer skin. This is boiled to remove chlorophyll and dried for subsequent bleaching with sulfur over a wood fire. The weavers are mostly peasant families and transmission of weaving techniques occurs within the home from an early age through observation and imitation. The skills and knowledge enfold a complex and dynamic social fabric including traditional techniques of cultivation and processing, forms of social organization, and use of the hat as part of everyday clothing and in festive contexts. It is a distinctive mark of the communities perpetrating this tradition and part of their cultural heritage.

14. Memory of the World Register: 1

- The Gaze of the Other: Documentary heritage of the Salesian apostolic vicariate in the Ecuadorian Amazon 1890-1930

15. Creative Cities Network: 1

- Durán (Ecuador) – Crafts and Folk Art

16. Legal instruments: 22 ratified and 13 not ratified

17. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated:

- **2016-2017:** 150th anniversary of the birth of the poet Ruben Dario (1867-1916) and 100th anniversary of his death (Nicaragua with support from Cuba and Ecuador). Rubén Darío, pseudonym of Félix Rubén García Sarmiento (born 18 January 1867, Metapa, Nicaragua – died 6 February 1916, León), influential Nicaraguan poet, journalist, and diplomat. As a leader of the Spanish American literary movement known as Modernismo, which flourished at the end of the nineteenth century, he revived and modernized poetry in Spanish on both sides of the Atlantic through his experiments with rhythm, metre, and imagery. Darío developed a highly original poetic style that founded a tradition.
- **(2015) - 50th anniversary of the death of Gonzalo Zaldumbide, writer, lawyer and diplomat (1882-1965).** His prolific work continues to be a reference on the national and international level and his contribution to literacy is recognized at the national and international level. He also had an important role as a diplomat and represented Ecuador in several international forums.

18. Participation Programme:

2014-2015: 2 requests approved for a total amount of **US\$ 58 998**

19. UNESCO Fellowships Programme:

Since 2010, 3 fellowships have been awarded to Ecuador for a total amount of **US\$28,809**

20. Payment of assessed membership fees (as at 22 January 2015): Owing

Assessment rate for 2016: 0.067 %;
Last payment: 14 April 2015

21. Representation within the Secretariat (as at 30 April 2015):

Total staff Nationals from Ecuador: 9
Professional staff in geographical posts: 2
Situation regarding the geographical distribution status (Max. 4; Min. 2): normally-represented

Junior Professional Officer (JPO) /Associate Expert (AE) Programme: Ecuador does not participate to the programme.

Young Professional Programme: As a Normally-represented Member State, this country is not eligible to participate in this Programme.

22. Use of UNESCO Coupons:

Ecuador does not participate in the Programme

23. Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) maintaining relations with UNESCO, with headquarters in Ecuador: 2

- The *Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)* (Organización Latinoamericana de Energía), based in Quito and established in 1973, is a centre for exchange of experience and information among high-level policymaking areas of the energy sector; a permanent advisory body for energy cooperation and integration among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean; a forum for exchanging viewpoints so as to achieve regional and subregional stances regarding the rational development of natural resources and the impact of their use on the region's environment;
- The *Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)* (Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur), based in Guayaquil and established in 1952, aims to coordinate maritime policy at a regional level, protect and make profitable use of the maritime resources, protect and conserve the ocean and promote scientific research and transfer of maritime.

24. Non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO, with headquarters in Ecuador: 1

Latin American Association of Radio Education (ALER), Quito, Ecuador: ALER is an educational communication network that promotes participation, inclusion, harmonic coexistence with nature; that co-ordinates radio organizations in the work of education, communication and general social betterment. It develops a Latin American radio project for the people, designed to serve the poor and underprivileged, through activities and programmes in the fields of education, communication and social organization.