

## KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON HONDURAS / UNESCO COOPERATION

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** 16 December 1947
  
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** No  
*Previous terms:* 1997-2001  
 Chairperson of the Executive Board from 1999 to 2001 (Ms Sonia Mendieta de Badaroux)
  
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees and Commissions:** 2
  - International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) (Term expires at 40<sup>th</sup> General Conference)
  - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
  
4. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO**  
 Ambassador Roberto Alejandro Ramírez Aldana, Permanent Delegate (since 16 July 2015).  
  
*Previous Permanent Delegates:* Mr Alejandro Palma Cerna (October 2010-May 2015); Ms Dessiré Flores Dubon (November 2009-golpe); Ms Sonia Mendieta de Badaroux (July 2006-August 2009); Mr Juan José Cueva (2003-2005); Ms Sonia Mendieta de Badaroux (1993-2003); Mr Sergio Zavala (1992-1993); Ms Chantal Villeda (1987-1992); Mr Napoleón Álvarez Alvarado (1983-1986); Ms Salomé Castellanos Delgado (1981-1983); Mr Carlos Deambrosis-Martins (1964-1981).
  
5. **UNESCO Office in San José (Costa Rica)**  
 Since January 2014, **Ms María del Pilar Álvarez-Laso** (D-1, Mexico) is the Director of the Cluster Office in San José and UNESCO Representative to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama.
  
6. **Honduras National Commission for UNESCO :**  
**(Comisión Hondureña de Cooperación con la UNESCO)**
  - Established in 1948;
  - President (since 2012): Mr Marlon Oniel Escoto Valerio, Minister of Education
  - Permanent Secretary (since 2010): Ms Hilda Muñoz Tábor
  
9. **Personalities linked to the UNESCO activities** (Goodwill Ambassadors, Special Envoys, etc): None
  
10. **UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks in Honduras:** None
  
11. **Associated Schools:** 35  
 Honduras joined the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) in 1967. There are at present **35** ASP member institutions (30 primary, 2 primary and secondary, 1 secondary and 2 teacher training schools). The ASPnet National Coordinator is currently Mirna Rosario Lacayo, Directora del Centro de Investigación e Innovación Educativa (CCIE). The projects and activities addressed the following themes: Climate Change; Education for Sustainable Development (ESD); Water.

**12. Category 2 Institutes and Centres:** None

**13. Biosphere Reserves:** 3

- *Río Plátano* (1979) runs along the western edge of the Gracias a Dios Province. It is also inscribed on the World Heritage List because of its biophysical, as well as cultural and historical characteristics. The biosphere reserve is one of the largest and diverse humid tropical forests in Mesoamerica. It represents habitats for a significant biological diversity and counts four ethnic groups within its limits. The area is also a historical site of archaeological importance and it has more than 200 sites with this type of resources. Nevertheless, strong social, economic and political pressures exist today for its colonization. The advance of the agricultural front and the inadequate management of its natural and cultural resources are examples of these pressures. Despite the importance of the area, it faces critical pressure from immigrating settlers in search of lands and in their wake follow timber merchants, agricultural and livestock activities.
- *Trifinio Fraternidad Transboundary Biosphere Reserve* (2011) (Multinational: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras).
- *The Cacique Lempira, Señor de las Montañas biosphere reserve* (2015) is located in the western part of the country and covers a total area of 168,634 hectares. It forms part of the ecological region of pine and oak forests as well as humid tropical forests and hosts a large number of endangered and endemic species. The high rate of endemism among the wildlife has led Conservation International to designate the eco-region an Endemic Bird Area (EBA). The total population of the biosphere reserve is over 150 000 inhabitants. The predominant economic activity is traditional agriculture (87%), mainly mais and beans, with a steady increase in coffee production. Tourism is promoted in the city of Lempira, which receives local and international tourists in growing numbers.

**14. UNESCO Global Geopark:** None

**15. World Heritage:** 2 sites inscribed

- *Maya Site of Copan* (1980) (Cultural) - The Maya site of Copan, discovered in 1570 but not excavated until the 19th century, is one of the most important sites of the Mayan civilization. The ruined citadel and imposing public squares reveal the three main stages of development before the city was abandoned in the early 10th century. The site is functioned as the political, civil and religious centre of the Copan Valley. It was also the political centre and cultural focus of a larger territory that covered the southeast portion of the Maya area and its periphery.
- *Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve* (1982) (Natural) – **Inscribed on the List of Danger since 2011** - Located on the watershed of the Río Plátano, the reserve is one of the few remains of a tropical rainforest in Central America and has an abundant and varied plant and wildlife. Situated in the Mosquita region of north-east Honduras, the site comprises a belt of approximately 15 km by 150 km which extends inland from Laguna de Ibans and Laguna de Brus on the Caribbean coast in a south-westerly direction.

**16. Tentative List:** None

**17. Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:** 1

- *Language, Dance and Music of the Garifuna* (2008) - Multinational ICH element: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua. A population of mixed origin incorporating cultural elements of indigenous Caribbean and African groups, the Garifuna settled along the Atlantic coast of Central America after being forced to flee from the Caribbean island of Saint Vincent in the eighteenth century.

18. **Memory of the World Register:** None
19. **Creative Cities Network:** None
20. **Legal instruments:** 14 ratified
21. **Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated:** None
22. **Participation Programme**  
2014-2015: 3 projects approved for a total amount of **US\$ 70 000**  
2012-2013: 4 projects approved for a total amount of **US\$ 80 800**  
2010-2011: 6 projects approved for a total amount of **US\$ 128 000** and 1 request for emergency assistance for **US\$ 19 000** for the rehabilitation of the National Commission's offices
23. **UNESCO Fellowships Programme**  
2 fellowships have been awarded to Honduras since 2010 for a total amount of **US\$ 51,500**
24. **Payment of assessed membership fees (as at 29 February 2016):** Owing  
Assessment rate for 2016: 0.008 %  
Last payment: 29 June 2015
25. **Representation within the Secretariat (as at 6 March 2016): NORMALLY-REPRESENTED (Max. 4; Min. 2):**
- |                                           |   |
|-------------------------------------------|---|
| Total staff Nationals from Honduras:      | 2 |
| Professional staff in geographical posts: | 2 |
- Junior Professional Officer (JPO) /Associate Expert (AE) Programme:  
Honduras 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.

