

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON PANAMA / UNESCO COOPERATION

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** 10 January 1950
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** No
Previous terms: 1962-1968; 1976-1979; 1979-1980
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees and Commissions:** 1
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
4. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO**
Mr Flavio Méndez Altamirano, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO since 12 June 2012.
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. **Panama National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO:
(Comisión Nacional Panameña de Cooperación con la UNESCO)**
 - Established in 1949
 - President_(since July 2014): Ms Marcela Paredes de Vásquez, Minister of Education
 - Permanent Secretary (since July 2015): Mrs Liza R. Pinzón
7. **Personalities linked to the UNESCO activities** (Goodwill Ambassadors, Special Envoys, etc): 1
 - The renowned Panamanian pianist and jazz composer Danilo Pérez was designated as a UNESCO Artist for Peace on 20 November 2012 in recognition of his efforts to provide outreach music programmes to children living in extreme poverty in Panama, especially in his capacity as President of the Danilo Pérez Foundation.
 - Born in Panama in 1965, Danilo Pérez' has influenced contemporary music through his distinctive Pan-American jazz. He currently directs the Berklee Global Jazz Institute at Berklee College of Music (Boston, Massachusetts), and is the President of the Danilo Pérez Foundation which provides outreach music programmes to children living in extreme poverty in Panama. Danilo Pérez is also the Artistic Director for the Panama Jazz Festival.
 - Moreover, Danilo Pérez has received numerous awards for his social work in Panama, including the Orden Vasco Núñez de Balboa and the Key to the City of Panama.
8. **UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks in Panama: None**
 - Panama is a Party to the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean which it ratified in 1975

- To date, there are no UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks established at higher education institutions in Panama.

9. Associated Schools: 36

There are 36 ASP member institutions (28 primaries, 7 secondary and 1 teacher-training institution).

10. Category 2 Institutes and Centres: None

11. Biosphere Reserves: 2

- *Darién* (1983 and 2000), also National Park and World Heritage site, covers the region adjacent to the Colombian border and includes parts of the Pacific coast. This reserve is a unique site, forming the bridge between the two continents of the Western Hemisphere. It comprises raised folds and high mountains with the most extensive lowland tropical forest on the Pacific coast in Central America. Darién forests have been characterized by scientists as the most diverse ecosystems of tropical America and are still relatively undisturbed. The area is both anthropologically and historically rich, with two major indigenous groups: Chocos and Kunas, and a number of smaller groups still living by traditional practices.
- *La Amistad* (2000) is located in the northwest of Panama, bordering Costa Rica and the Caribbean Sea. It comprises a variety of different habitats, ranging from low humid mountain forest to mangrove forest and coral reefs. In the highlands some important lagoons, have international recognition under the Ramsar Convention as habitats for migratory bird species. The unique volcano of Panama, Baru, is also situated in the area. La Amistad offers a considerable opportunity to promote sustainable development by using local resources: fish, flora, fauna, soil, water and landscape beauty.

12. Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List: 5

- *Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo* (1980) (Cultural). (It should be noted that this site is **included on the List of World Heritage in danger**) - Magnificent examples of 17th- and 18th-century military architecture, these Panamanian forts on the Caribbean coast form part of the defence system built by the Spanish Crown to protect transatlantic trade.
- *Darien National Park* (1981) (Natural)- The Park contains an exceptional variety of habitats – sandy beaches, rocky coasts, mangroves, swamps, and lowland and upland tropical forests containing remarkable wildlife. Two Indian tribes live in the park.
- *Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park* (1983/1990) (Natural) (Panama and Costa Rica) - The location of this site in Central America, where Quaternary glaciers have left their mark, has allowed the fauna and flora of North and South America to interbreed. Tropical rainforests cover most of the area. Four different Indian tribes inhabit this property.
- *Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá* (1997/2003) (Cultural) - The oldest European settlement on the Pacific coast of the Americas. It was laid out on a rectilinear grid and marks the transference from Europe of the idea of a planned town. Abandoned in the mid-17th century, it was replaced by a 'new town' (the 'Historic District'), which has also preserved its original street plan, its architecture and an unusual mixture of Spanish, French and early American styles. The Salón Bolívar was the venue for the unsuccessful attempt made by El Libertador in 1826 to establish a multinational continental congress.

- *Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (2005) (Natural)* - Coiba National Park, off the southwest coast of Panama, protects Coiba Island, 38 smaller islands and the surrounding marine areas within the Gulf of Chiriqui. Protected from the cold winds and effects of El Niño, Coiba's Pacific tropical moist forest maintains exceptionally high levels of endemism of mammals, birds and plants due to the ongoing evolution of new species. It is also the last refuge for a number of threatened animals such as the crested eagle. The property is an outstanding natural laboratory for scientific research and provides a key ecological link to the Tropical Eastern Pacific for the transit and survival of pelagic fish and marine mammals.

Tentative List: 1

- Archaeological Site and Historic Centre of Panamá City (19/01/2015)

13. Intangible Heritage List: None

14. Memory of the World Register: 1

Silver Men: West Indian Labourers at the Panama Canal (2011) (Submitted by Barbados, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia, United Kingdom and United States of America) - The documentary heritage concerning West Indians and their experience in and contribution to the Panama Canal represents one of the most significant movements of voluntary migration to emerge during the post emancipation period after 1838. These records document the movement of over one hundred thousand people to the Isthmus of Panama, the majority of whom never returned. The highly successful recruiting process set in motion by the Isthmian Commission was ultimately responsible, both directly and indirectly, for the extraordinary pattern of West Indian emigration to Panama to work on the Canal project and the efforts of the colonial governments to control and mitigate this phenomenon, the magnitude and scale of which had the potential to erode further the power of the British Empire.

15. Creative Cities Network: None

16. Legal instruments: 22 ratified and 13 not ratified

17. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2014-2015 and 2016-2017: None

18. Participation Programme: None

19. UNESCO Fellowships Programme: Since 2010, no fellowships has been awarded to Panama

20. Payment of assessed membership fees (as at September 2015): Owing
 Assessment rate for 2015: 0.026 %;
 Last payment: 25 September 2015

21. Representation within the Secretariat (as at 14 October 2015): 2, under-represented (Max. 4; Min. 2):

Total staff Nationals from Panama: 2
 Professional staff in geographical posts: 1

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

Young Professional Programme: Panama did not submit any candidature for the YPP 2015.

22. Use of UNESCO Coupons: Panama does not participate in the Programme