

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON SRI LANKA / UNESCO COOPERATION

I. COUNTRY PROFILE *(source: UNDP Human Development Report 2016)*

- Population, total (millions): 20.7
- Human Development Index: 0.766; Rank: 73 (out of 188 countries, between Iran which ranks 69 and Thailand which ranks 87)
- Life expectancy at birth (years): 75
- Expected years of schooling (years): 14.0
- Gross national income (GNI) per capita (2011 PPP\$): 10,789
- Internet users (% of population): 30.0
- Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (tonnes): 0.8
(UN Map of Sri Lanka at the end)

SRI LANKA /UNESCO COOPERATION

1. **Membership of UNESCO:** since 14 November 1949
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** M. Akila Viraj KARIYAWASAM (term expires in 2019)
3. **Membership of Intergovernmental Committees, Commissions, etc.:**
 - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC): Member
 - Intergovernmental Council for the International Hydrological Programme Member (Term expires : 41st General Conference)
 - Intergovernmental Council of the "Management of Social Transformations" Programme Member (Term expires : 41st General Conference)
4. **Visits of the Director-General in the country: 0**
5. **Visits of the former Director-General in the country: 1**
 - 14 – 17 August 2016
6. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:**
 - H.E. Mr Buddhi Athauda (From October 2017)
 - Ms Ruvini Munidasa, First Secretary
 - Ms Dilum Goonewardena, Liaison Officer
 - Previous Permanent Delegate: H.E. Mr Tilak Ranaviraja
7. **UNESCO Office:** none.
 - Sri Lanka is covered by New Delhi Office.
8. **National Commission for UNESCO:**
 - Date of establishment: 1988
 - Chairman: Hon Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education (since January 2015)
 - Vice-Chairman: Mr Sunil Hettiaarachchi
 - Secretary-General: Ms Dhammika Wijayasinghe
8. **Personalities linked to UNESCO's activities:**
 - FERNANDO Prof. (Ms) Anoja Indrakanthi - 2016-2019
Professor Emeritus, Pharmacology, University of Ruhuna
Chairperson, Ethics Review Committee, Sri Lanka Medical Association
Member, National Health Research Council
Member, Working Committee on Biotechnology and Bioethics, National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka
Former Chairperson, National Bioethics Committee
Former President, Asian Bioethics Association

9. **UNESCO Chairs: 1**
- UNESCO-COL Chair in Distance Education, Open University of Sri Lanka (2011)
10. **Associated schools: 25** (4 Primary/Secondary, 20 Secondary and 1 Teacher Training). Sri Lanka joined the ASP Network in 1958.
11. **Category 2 Institutes and Centres: 1**
- South Asian Centre for Teacher Development in Meepe
12. **Biosphere Reserves: 4**
- Hurulu (1977)
 - Sinharaja (1978)
 - Kanneliya-Dediyagala-Nakiyadeniya (KDN) (2004)
 - Bundala (2005)
12. **World Heritage sites: 8**
- Cultural sites:*
- Ancient City of Polonnaruwa (1982)
 - Ancient City of Sigiriya (1982)
 - Sacred City of Anuradhapura (1982)
 - Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications (1988)
 - Sacred City of Kandy (1988)
 - Golden Temple of Dambulla (1991)
- Natural sites:*
- Sinharaja Forest Reserve (1988)
 - Central Highlands of Sri Lanka (2010)
13. **Tentative List: 2 properties**
- Seruwila Mangala Raja Maha Vihara (2006)
 - Seruwila to Sri Pada (Sacred Foot Print Shrine), Ancient pilgrim route along the Mahaweli river in Sri Lanka (2010)
15. **Intangible Heritage Lists: none**
16. **Memory of the World Register: 2 elements**
- Archives of the Dutch East India Company (2003)
 - The Indian Ocean Tsunami Archives (2017)
17. **Creative Cities Network: no appointments**
18. **Legal instruments: 17 ratified and 22 non-ratified**
- Ratified:**
- Convention concerning the Exchange of Official Publications and Government Documents between States. Ratification: Paris, 3 December 1958.
 - Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Acceptance: Paris, 06/06/1980.
 - Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Acceptance: Paris, 07/04/1981.
 - Convention against Discrimination in Education. Acceptance: Paris, 11/08/1983.
 - Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas, and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific. Acceptance: Bangkok, 10/01/1986.

- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Acceptance: Paris, 21/04/2008

Not yet ratified:

- 1st Protocol of the Convention for the protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 1954) and its two Protocols (1954, 1999)
- 2nd Protocol of the Convention for the protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 1954) and its two Protocols (1954, 1999)
- UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995)
- Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)
- Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions (2005)

19. Anniversary with which UNESCO is associated in 2018-2019: None