

## KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON PANAMA / UNESCO COOPERATION

### 1. **Country indicators:**

Population: 3.9 million (2015)  
 GDP per capita: 22,192 US\$  
 UNDP HDI ranking: 60 over 168  
 Life expectancy: 78 years  
 Literacy rate, population above 15 years old: 95%

### 2. **Membership in UNESCO:** Since 10 January 1950

### 3. **Membership on the Executive Board:** No

*Previous terms:* 1962-1968; 1976-1979; 1979-1980

### 4. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees and Commissions:** Current Chairperson of the Fourth Meeting of State Parties to the 1970 Convention.

### 5. **DG's visit to Panama:** None

### 6. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:**

Mr Flavio Méndez Altamirano, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO since 12 June 2012.

- Born in Panama in 1959, Ambassador Flavio Méndez is a graduated in Business Administration of the Central American Institute of Business Administration of San José, Costa Rica. He also graduated at the Brazilian Diplomatic Academy.
- Ambassador Méndez started his diplomatic career in 1986 as Counselor for Economic Affairs at the Panamanian Embassy to the United States. He served as Ambassador to Russia opening the first Embassy of Panama in Moscow. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs he has been Director-General of Bilateral Political Affairs; International Organizations; Foreign Service and Protocol. Since 2009 he has been consultant and part-time professor at the Catholic University of Santa María la Antigua of Panama City.
- Ambassador Méndez is member of numerous national associations of his country and has been decorated by the governments of Brazil, El Salvador and Spain.

### 7. **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.

### 8. **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
- Secretary General (since October 2017): H.E. Mr Flavio Mendez

- 9. 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.
- 10. 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.
- 11. Associated Schools:** 36  
There are 36 ASP member institutions (28 primaries, 7 secondary and 1 teacher-training institution).
- 12. Category 2 Institutes and Centres:** None
- 13. 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.
  - La Amistad (2000) is located in the northwest of Panama, bordering Costa Rica and the Caribbean Sea.
- 14. World Heritage:** 5
- Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (1980) (Cultural).
  - Darien National Park (1981) (Natural)
  - Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (1983/1990) (Natural) (Panama and Costa Rica)
  - Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá (1997/2003) (Cultural)
  - Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (2005) (Natural)
- 15. Tentative List:** 2
- Archaeological Site and Historic Centre of Panamá City (19/01/2015)
  - The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá (Ruta Colonial Transístmica de Panamá) (24/01/2017)
- 16. Intangible Heritage List:** 1

- Artisanal processes and plant fibers techniques for talcos, crinejas and pintas weaving of the pinta'o hat

**17. 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)

**18. Creative Cities Network:** 1, Panama city, creative city on gastronomy

**19. Legal instruments:** 24 ratified

Convention	Date of deposit	Type of deposit
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Ramsar, 2 February 1971.	26 November 1990	Accession
Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Hague, 14 May 1954.	08 March 2001	Accession
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.	08 March 2001	Accession
Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Paris, 2 November 2001.	20 May 2003	Ratification
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Paris, 17 October 2003.	20 August 2004	Ratification

**20. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2016-2017 and 2018-2019:** None

**21. Participation Programme:**

None PP approved. Panama cannot submit Participation Programme requests since the country did not provide to UNESCO the mandatory financial and evaluation reports concerning six approved PP requests from 2006-2007.

**22. UNESCO Fellowships Programme:**

Since 2010, 2 fellowships were awarded to Panama for a total amount of US\$ 21 758.

**23. Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) maintaining relations with UNESCO, with headquarters in Panama:** None

**24. Non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO, with headquarters in Panama:** None

**25. Payment of assessed membership fees (as at January 2018):** Owing

Assessment rate for 2018: 0.034 %;  
Last payment: 21 August 2017

**27. Representation within the Secretariat (as at 6 June 2017):** 2 (Max. 4; Min. 2): under-represented

- 1 International Professional Staff in the Field (Geographical Posts)

1 General Service Staff at Headquarters

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

Young Professional Programme:

If the country will be under-represented whenever a new call for the Young Professional Programme will be launched, the National Commission will be invited to submit candidature thereafter.

